

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship
First Sunday in Lent, March 9, 2025

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**WELCOME** *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns, & Praise time:*

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen**



Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. *Silence is kept for reflection.* Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

God's abundant mercy, love, and strength  
are with you always. **And also with you.**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* God, O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Romans 10:8b-13** *Contemporary English Version*  
*Paul reminds the Christians in Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.*

This is a reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Moses said a person could become acceptable to God by obeying the Law. He did this when he wrote, "If you want to live, you must do all the Law commands."

But people whose faith makes them acceptable to God will never ask, "Who will go up to heaven to bring Christ down?"

Neither will they ask, "Who will go down into the world of the dead to raise him to life?"

All who are acceptable because of their faith simply say, "The message is as near as your mouth or your heart." And this is the same message we preach about faith. So you will be saved, if you honestly say, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe with all your heart that God raised him from death. God will accept you and save you, if you truly believe this and tell it to others.

The Scriptures say no one who has faith will be disappointed, no matter if that person is a Jew or a Gentile. There is only one Lord, and God is generous to everyone who asks for his help. All who call out to the Lord will be saved.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13**

*After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be call "the Son of God."*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter. Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished.

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."

Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.'"

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,' and

'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 810 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.
- 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.
- 3 Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.
- 4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

**MESSAGE: BELIEVE** *silence for reflection follows*

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill. We pray for John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, George, our at-home worshippers, ... God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray for Christ's forgiveness, as he has taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as  
we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and  
ever. Amen**

### **SPIRIT'S SENDING**

#### **PRAYER for MISSION**

Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, we return to you. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen**

**BLESSING**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one,  
God † the reconciling Spirit, bless you now  
and forever. **Amen**

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At the time of this writing, please keep the following in your prayers: ELCA
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Synod Bishop Bill Gohl, those hospitalized or at
home recuperating, and our at-home worshippers.

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*Today's Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Honor of Brian and Jade Mills  
on their 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on March 14<sup>th</sup>.  
We love you both so much! Mom and Dad.

In Loving Memory of  
Frank and Gloria Barnes' March birthdays.  
Given by Nancy Barnes.

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Today's Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God

In Loving Memory of
Gilbert Kreisel's March 9th birthday.
Given by the Volz family.

In Honor of Lois and Fred Volz
on their March 13th anniversary.
Given with love by the Mills family.

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Attendance for March 2, 2025: 38

## ***Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities***

*The family of Genevieve Sacker would like to thank Pr. Lans and our spiritual family of St. Peter's for all the prayers, love, and support you have given us through this past year and her passing. The calls, cards, and visits were very appreciated and made her feel still part of her beloved church.*

**Game Day at St. Pete's!** Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am. in the lower level fellowship area. Bring a favorite game. Beverages will be available, it's optional to bring a snack to share. The game day is in honor of Mrs. Genevieve Sacker, who loved to play games!

**Lent 2025:** Lent mid-week services will continue on Wednesdays, at 11:30 am. in Grace Chapel, through April 9<sup>th</sup>. Our gatherings will be followed by fellowship and lite lunch. If you're staying for lunch, please bring your sandwich, we'll provide the drinks and side dish. Pr. Lans will upload a mid-week message on our YouTube channel and Facebook page in lieu of an evening mid-week service.

**Easter Flower Order Forms** are on the "Welcome" table in the back of the church. Orders and payment are due to the church office by Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 3/30, and bulletins for 3/23 & 30 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 3/16, 23, & 30 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**PLEASE NOTE:** In 2025, pricing on floral arrangements will increase to be more in-line with pricing from the florist. Until pricing is finalized, please "pay as you go" using current pricing for floral sponsorships. Also, when you return the vases for Rose Vase sponsorships, the church receives a discount!

**Indoor Flea Market:** April 5 & 6 from 9 am.-noon at Prince of Peace Lutheran (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Everything must go!

**Used Book Sale:** March 9<sup>th</sup> after the 8:30 & 10 am. worship services at Prince of Peace Lutheran (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Have books you want to donate? Call the office at 410-866-8766.

**Noah at Sight & Sound:** Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> through Overlea Fullerton Senior Center. Total cost is \$185 and includes show, lunch at Shady Maple (taxes & gratuity included), and transportation. \$75 deposit due by 3/21 and final payment due 4/4. Bus leaves at 8 am. and returns at 5:30 pm. For more information and to reserve a seat call the senior center travel office at 410-887-5220 (M-F 11a -2p) or email [overleatravel@gmail.com](mailto:overleatravel@gmail.com).

**A MEAL FOR A CAUSE-Supporting LMS Compassion Place:** Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. at St Paul Lutheran (31 Rowe Blvd, Annapolis, 21401). Tickets are \$20 and must be purchased by March 21<sup>st</sup>. For Tickets call Sharon or Lisa at 410-636-0123. There will be a freewill offering for LMS Compassion Place at the dinner.

**Studio Apartment for Rent:** First floor of a two-story brick house. Studio has two-rooms, includes full bathroom and a full kitchen. It has a private laundry room/utility room and a parking pad. Rent includes utilities: heat, air conditioning, water & internet. Security Deposit \$1,250 and first month's rent \$1,250 due up front. Located in Parkville section of Baltimore. Interested: 410-444-5171.

**For every NEW regular deposit account** opened at Eastern Savings Bank (Fullerton branch only) St. Peter's Lutheran Church receives \$5! Visit the Fullerton branch at 4113 Wholesale Club Drive, Suite 130 or go to [EasternSavingsBank.com](http://EasternSavingsBank.com).

**On-line Giving:** As an alternate way of submitting your offering, you can make donations on-line through PayPal! Login to your PayPal account and search for our tag: @Spl367 or St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Christian Day School.

### ***News from St. Peter's Elementary School***

Enrollment for the 2025-26 school year has begun! Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!

Scholastic Book Fair (on-line) runs through March 16<sup>th</sup>. Shop on-line at <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/stpeterselementaryschool>. 25% of every **on-line** purchase during the Fair directly benefits our school! Browse a selection of over 3,000 items! On-line orders ship home and book-only orders over \$25 ship free. Buy One, Get One and 25% Off pricing is not applicable online.

Texas Roadhouse fundraiser night is Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 3-10 pm. See the attached flier for details.



(410) 933-6620

8207 Town Center Dr.  
Nottingham, MD 21236

# FUNDRAISING

**DINE-IN OR TO-GO**

»» *Support* ««

**St. Peter's Elementary School P.A.C.E**

Wednesday, March 12

3pm – 10pm



# 10%

**DONATION NIGHT**

Support **St. Peter's Elementary School**  
**P.A.C.E** by presenting this flyer to the  
**White Marsh, MD**

Location and Texas Roadhouse will  
donate **10%** of your total food purchases  
to **St. Peter's Elementary School P.A.C.E!**