

**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
***Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways***  
**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Father's Day, June 21, 2026**

Virtual Prayer and Preaching

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, † one God,  
living with us in love, peace, and joy,  
whose compassion and faithfulness  
are with us forever. **Amen**



We confess our sin to God, our guide and guardian.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.* Compassionate God,  
**we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

We gather as the people of God to hear words of grace,  
to be fed with love, and to go into the world  
to work for Christ's justice and peace. **Amen**

The Christ of God is with you. **And also with you.**  
Holy One, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13 Contemporary English Version**

*Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that only brings him contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.*

A responsive reading from the prophet Jeremiah, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
You tricked me, LORD, and I was really fooled.

**You are stronger than I am,  
and you have defeated me.**

People never stop sneering and insulting me.  
You have let me announce only injustice and death.

**Your message has brought me nothing  
but insults and trouble.**

Sometimes I tell myself not to think about you, LORD,  
or even mention your name.

**But your message burns in my heart and bones,  
and I cannot keep silent.**

I heard the crowds whisper, "Everyone is afraid.  
Now's our chance to accuse Jeremiah!"

**All of my so-called friends are just waiting  
for me to make a mistake.**

They say, "Maybe Jeremiah can be tricked.  
Then we can overpower him and get even at last."

**But you, LORD, are a mighty soldier,  
standing at my side.**

Those troublemakers will fall down and fail—  
terribly embarrassed, forever ashamed.

**LORD All-Powerful, you test those who do right,  
and you know every heart and mind.**

I have told you my complaints,  
so let me watch you take revenge on my enemies.

**I sing praises to you, LORD.  
You rescue the oppressed from the wicked.**

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39**

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter. Jesus said to the twelve: "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,  
and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

"Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 876 "Let the Whole Creation Cry"**

- 1 Let the whole creation cry,  
"Glory to the Lord on high!"  
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,  
"Praise to our almighty king!"  
Praise God, angel hosts above,  
ever bright and fair in love;  
sun and moon, lift up your voice;  
night and stars, in God rejoice.
- 2 Servants striving for the Lord,  
prophets burning with the word,  
those to whom the arts belong  
add their voices to the song.  
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,  
to the glorious circle draw;  
all who work and all who wait,  
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
- 3 Men and women, young and old,  
raise the anthem loud and bold,  
and let children's happy hearts  
in this worship take their parts;  
from the north to southern pole  
let the mighty chorus roll:  
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;  
glory be to God alone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt.

**MESSAGE:**        **LOYALTY**        *silence for reflection follows*

## **the CHURCH PRAYS**

### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world. *A brief silence.*

Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering. We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship Center, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, Greg, John, Lori, Mary Lue, Will, Bea, Kathy, Linda, Jimmy, Fred, our at-home worshippers, ... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Faithful God, we give thanks for saints like Onesimos Nesib who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Seeking God's will, we pray as Jesus 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**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God,  
bless, heal, and hold us, today and always. **Amen**

**PEACE**

We are sent to share Good News,  
forgiven and reconciled with all God's people.  
The peace of Christ is with you always.

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**Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931**

Onesimos was born into the Oromo people of Ethiopia. He was captured by slave traders and taken from his homeland to Eritrea, where he was bought, freed, and educated by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into Oromo and returned to his homeland to preach the gospel. His tombstone includes a verse from Jeremiah 22:29, "O land, land, land, hear the word of the Lord!"

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**Today's Sponsorships**

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

In Loving Memory of my father, Ernest Grimm,  
for his June 27<sup>th</sup> birthday and Father's Day.  
Given by his daughter, Carole Grimm.

In Honor of our daughter, Jennifer's birthday.  
Given by Cathy and Mark McQuade.

In Loving Memory of Francis Thrift's June birthday.  
Given by Nancy Barnes.

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

In Honor and Memory of our special fathers,  
grandfathers, Godfathers, and uncles on Father's Day.  
Given with love by the Mills family.

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Attendance for Sunday, June 14, 2026: 41

***Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities***

***Happy Father's Day to all the "dads" in our lives.***

**Hymn Sing Sunday:** On Sunday, July 5th, we will join together with one service at 9 am. To make this an extra special worship, we'd like to incorporate some of your favorite hymns! SUNDAY, JUNE 21<sup>st</sup> is the last day to submit your top three selections to the church office.

**The church office will be closed on Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**Save the Dates!** St. Peter's will be hosting Rainforest Falls VBS July 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> in the evening (time TBD). More information forthcoming.

**Flea Market:** Saturday, June 27 from 8am-1pm at Prince of Peace (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Come explore the great offerings or call the office to reserve your space today! All spots are at least 10'x10' (\$20 each) To reserve a spot, call the office at 410-866-8766 or email [bldejong@verizon.net](mailto:bldejong@verizon.net).

**Honey Harvest:** Sunday, June 28 at 12/12:30 pm. (after 11 am. worship) at Divinity Lutheran (1220 Providence Rd., 21286). Come learn how to extract honey from our hives and help in the harvest! All ages and experience welcome! Food, fun & Honey to take home.

**The Chalice Circle** is a place where you can share life experiences, make deep and lasting connections and deepen your spirituality through shared practices. This is a small group experience and we would love to have you with us. If you would be interested in learning more about joining us, please contact Jennifer Simms at 443-386-8469 or [jennifersimms1@gmail.com](mailto:jennifersimms1@gmail.com). We will be gathering in the Parlor of Epiphany Lutheran (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206) on Thursday, July 2nd at 6 pm., refreshments will be served.

**Christmas In July:** Saturday, July 25 from 3-7 pm. at St. John's, Essex (518 Franklin Ave., 21221). Traditional spaghetti dinner and dancing to the music of the Monaldi Brothers family band. Admission is \$20/person and a new unwrapped toy. Please call 410-687-4621 for tickets, and note that there are steps to the parish hall.

**Spa Day Creations:** Saturday, August 15 from 6-7pm at Zion (400 E. Lexington St., 21202). Take a break from the busy pace of life and treat yourself to an evening of creativity and relaxation! Join us for a hands-on Bath Salt Crafting Experience and Create your own custom bath salts using all-natural, skin-approved ingredients and design a unique blend that's perfect for you. No crafting experience is necessary—just bring your creativity! Learn a simple bath salt crafting technique, create your own unique blend, choose from a variety of colors. \$25 per person, space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

**Food Truck Nights:** Wednesdays at 5pm at Ascension Lutheran (7601 York Road, 21204). Continues weekly through August.

**Brats & Beer:** Fridays from 4-8 pm. in the Garden at Zion Lutheran (400 East Lexington Street, 21202) Continues monthly through August.

**Clothing Shed:** St. John's, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234) has a clothing shed. Please consider donating gently used clothes, linens, shoes, belts, blankets, purses, and stuffed toys (no housewares).

**Secretary Position Available:** Part time, 20 hr./week, 4 days/week. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency with Microsoft Office applications, have good organizational skills, be able to work independently and with others, and have good communication skills. Interested parties should call St. Matthew Lutheran Church office (410-335-4210).

**St. Peter's Family Goods Center:** If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Goods Center, please contact Bill Lauer. This is a great opportunity for service hours for your middle or high school student, and volunteer hours for SPES families. Please place donations in the shopping cart in the Narthex.

**Give to St. Peter's On-line!** Did you know that you can make offering donations and sponsorship payments 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. When submitting your donation or payment, you can note what it's for. It's THAT easy!

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

Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions or want to schedule a tour. Open enrollment for 2026-27 continues. Referrals are always welcome!

### ***Summer Children's Programs & Vacation Bible Schools***

To Mars & Beyond VBS: June 22-26, 5:30 pm. dinner, 6-8:15 pm. program. Epiphany (4301 Raspe Ave., 21206, 410-485-7654).

David VBS: July 10th from 5:30-7:30 pm. – Kick-off party with a movie about David. July 11th from 10 am.-3 pm. – Crafts, games, and learn more about the David story. Second Presbyterian Church (4200 St. Paul Street) Children from 4 years old to those who've just completed 5th grade are welcome to attend. A \$10 donation per child is requested. For more information and to register go to: <https://secondpresby.org/vbs-2026-registration/>.

Travel to Rome – Paul & the Underground Church VBS: July 27th-31st from 11 am. – 2 pm. Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234, 410-668-8080). For ages 4 and up. Lunch will be served.

Kids Summer Arts Camp: July 27th-August 7th (Monday-Friday) from 9 am.-3 pm. St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234, 410-444-5171). For kids who've completed 1st-5th grades. Includes lunch & snacks, fun & creative activities, music making, dance & movement, making art, dinner & closing performance. Professional staff. Registration is \$250/student and is open now!