

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, June 28, 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.* O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9**

*Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv.16-17).*

This is a reading from the prophet Jeremiah, the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD,

and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

This is holy Wisdom, God's holy Word.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 10: 16-23, 40-42**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter. Jesus said to the twelve: "I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their meeting places, and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in this town, flee to the next, for truly I tell you, you will not have finished going through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Humanity comes.

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 719 "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"**

- 1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
where sound the cries of race and clan,  
above the noise of selfish strife,  
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

- 2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,  
from paths where hide the lures of greed,  
we catch the vision of your tears.
- 3 From tender childhood's helplessness,  
from human grief and burdened toil,  
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,  
your heart has never known recoil.
- 4 The cup of water giv'n for you  
still holds the freshness of your grace;  
yet long these multitudes to view  
the strong compassion in your face.
- 5 O Master, from the mountainside  
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
among these restless throngs abide;  
oh, tread the city's streets again;
- 6 Till all the world shall learn your love,  
and follow where your feet have trod;  
till glorious from your heav'n above  
shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850-1935, alt.

**MESSAGE:**            **REWARD**            *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.*

Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division: in Ukraine and Russia, and throughout Southwest Asia and North Africa. Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work through world leaders to foster understanding, justice, and peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new ministries and endeavors, renew established ones, and strengthen our welcoming presence to our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Provider God, give your children what they need physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Bless caregivers as they show God's hospitality through their generous service. 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.*

Eternal God, we remember the faithful departed of this community and of the wider church and world. We give thanks for saints of all times and places, like Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons whom the church remembers today. 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.



**Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202**

Irenaeus believed that the way to remain steadfast to the truth was to hold fast to the faith handed down from the apostles. He believed that only Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were trustworthy gospels. Irenaeus was an opponent of gnosticism and its emphasis on dualism. As a result of his battles with the gnostics, he was one of the first to speak of the church as "catholic." By catholic he meant that local congregations did not exist by themselves but were linked to one another in the whole church. He also maintained that this church was not contained within any national boundaries. He argued that the church's message was for all people, in contrast to the gnostics and their emphasis on "secret knowledge."

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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 sister, Phyllis,
on her June 28th birthday.
Given by her sister and best friend, Doris Alkire.

Happy 102nd birthday to Bud Gahs!
Given with love by your family.

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

In Memory of the June 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
of Henry and Catherine Milke.  
Given by their daughter, Arlene Roth.

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Attendance for Sunday, June 21, 2026: 19

Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities

The church office will be closed on Monday, June 29th.

Save the Dates! St. Peter's will be hosting Rainforest Falls VBS July 27th-30th 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.

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. 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.

Sponsorships Needed: Altar flowers for July 12th. Contact the church office to sponsor.

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

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!