

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 14, 2024
Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**



**WELCOME** *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns*

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

*We make the sign of the cross, which was marked on us at baptism.*

We bless the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna,  
the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, we confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.* God, our provider, help us. **It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen**

**CALL to WORSHIP and PRAYER of the DAY**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us from heaven!

**The Father treated us with undeserved grace  
because of the Son God dearly loves,**

**and so we should praise God. Amen** [*from Ephesians, ch 1, CEV*]

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

This is a reading from Paul's letter to the believers at Ephesus, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. God destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that God freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of the grace that Christ lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight God has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that God set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29**

*As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Mark, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

King Herod heard of the disciples' preaching, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter

Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 812 "Faith of Our Fathers"**

1 Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.  
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
whene'er we hear that glorious word.

*Refrain*

Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
we will be true to thee till death.

2 The martyrs, chained in prisons dark,  
were still in heart and conscience free;  
and blest would be their children's fate  
if they, like them, should die for thee. *Refrain*

3 Faith of our fathers! We will love  
both friend and foe in all our strife;  
proclaim thee too, as love knows how,  
by saving word and faithful life. *Refrain*

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

**MESSAGE: *Martyred*** (silence for reflection follows)

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer. *A brief silence.*

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. Help wars to cease in all the world.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities, especially our school and our quilters. Nurture our partnerships with our international organizations: Global Refuge and Lutheran World Relief.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We especially pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lou, our at-home worshippers, Lara, Lynn, Tim, Maren, those attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, ...

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you. In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Blessing God's holy name, we pray as Jesus 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**

We join in prayer. *A brief silence.* O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Leader and Savior. **Amen**

**BLESSING and PEACE**

Receive the blessing. *A brief silence.*

The blessing of † God, who provides for us, feeds us,  
and journeys with us, rest upon you now and forever. **Amen**

The peace of Christ is always with you. **And also with you.**

*Please greet your household and friends online with Peace.*

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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 Sarah and Phil Thacker's 20th wedding anniversary, July 17th, Phil's birthday, July 8th, and Sarah's birthday, July 16th.
Best wishes and love from Mom-Mom Diepold.

In Loving Memory of Duane Barnes.
Given by Nancy Barnes and family.

Rose Vase

In Honor of Jacob Frederick's 8th birthday.
Given by his grandmother, Irma.

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

In Honor of Jacob Frederick for his July birthday.  
Given by Mom-Mom, Janice Frederick.

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Attendance for July 7, 2024: 33

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

Congratulations to Pr. Sandy Carlson Alexis on the 33rd anniversary of her ordination (7/11/91)!

Church & PACE Picnic: Event postponed. Details to follow.

Sponsorships Available: Flowers for 8:45 am. service on 8/4 & 11, and bulletins on 8/25 (contact the church office). Flowers for 10:15 am. service on 8/4 (contact Nancy Barnes).

11th Annual Car Show: Sunday, October 6th from 10 am.-2 pm. (rain date 10/20) at Joppatowne Plaza (Rt. 40/Pulaski Hwy. and Joppa Farm Rd.). Music by DJ Danny and food by Town Grill & Pub. Proceeds benefit Baltimore Cancer Support Group. For more information or to register your car, call Geri at 410-852-3688 or baltimorecancersupportgroup.org.

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.

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

"Open Enrollment" for the 2024-25 school year continues. Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!

PACE Movie Night on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. in the fellowship hall.