

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 21, 2024
Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship



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

Now to the One who by the power at work within us is able
to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,
to God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
to all generations, forever and ever. Amen *(from Ephesians, ch 3)*

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Jeremiah prophesied before the exile in 587 BCE. In this passage, he uses the metaphor of a shepherd to describe the bad kings who have scattered the "flock" of Israel. God promises to gather the flock and to raise up a new king from David's line to save Israel and Judah.

This is a reading from the prophet Jeremiah, the 23rd chapter.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

This is the Word of God, word of life.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

**You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways
for your name's sake.**

**Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house
of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:11-22

Common English Bible

The author of this letter reminds his audience that originally they were not part of God's chosen people. Through Jesus' death, however, they are included in God's household of faith, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.

This is a reading from Paul's letter to the believers at Ephesus, the 2nd chapter.

Don't forget that you are Gentiles. In fact, you used to be called "uncircumcised" by those who take pride in being circumcised. At that time you did not know about Christ. You were foreigners to the people of Israel, and you had no part in the promises God had made to them. You were living in this world without hope and without God, and you were far from God. But Christ offered his life's blood as a sacrifice and brought you near God.

Christ has made peace between Jews and Gentiles, and he has united us by breaking down the wall of hatred that separated us. Christ gave his own body to destroy the Law of Moses with all its rules and commands. He even brought Jews and Gentiles together as though we were only one person, when he united us in peace. On the cross Christ did away with our hatred for each other. He also made peace between us and God by uniting Jews and Gentiles in one body. Christ came and preached peace to you Gentiles, who were far from God, and peace to us Jews, who were near God. And because of Christ, all of us can come to the Father by the same Spirit.

You Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens with everyone else who belongs to the family of God. You are like a building with the apostles and prophets as the foundation and with Christ as the most important stone. Christ is the one who holds the building together and makes it grow into a holy temple for the Lord. And you are part of that building Christ has built as a place for God's own Spirit to live.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

When Jesus sends his disciples out to teach and heal, they minister among large numbers of people. Their work is motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need.

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

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and Jesus had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

Jesus went on to feed the crowd of over 5000, sent his disciples on ahead, then walked on the water toward them on a windy sea, which he proceeded to make still.

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.*

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land: Through the One who is the cornerstone of a firm foundation, join us together and build us up as a temple of mercy and peace.

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

For the creation: Cause new trees to be planted. Restrain the melting of polar ice caps. Save land from destruction. Like a shepherd tends her sheep, raise up from among us caretakers of all you have made.

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

For the leaders of nations and heads of tribes: Where peace seems far off, bring it near. Where justice seems fleeting, bring it to light. Where discord seems relentless, bring harmony.

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

For the health and well-being of family, friends, and neighbors: Heal those who are sick. Give courage to all who struggle with addiction. Touch with your tender care all who reach out to you in pain.

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

For this assembly and for the faith communities represented this week at the ELCA Youth Gathering: Nurture the faith of young people as they encounter new experiences and people. Break down dividing walls and inspire collaboration among people of every age.

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

P: We especially pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lou, our at-home worshippers, Lynn, Tim, Maren, ...

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

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for those who have died. Make us certain that in Christ we are no longer strangers and aliens but citizens with the saints in the household of God.

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 Loving Memory of my father,  
Bill May, for his July 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.  
Given by his daughter, Ruth May.

In Loving Memory of Thurley Gahs  
for her July 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.  
Given by Bud and family.

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

In Honor of Carole Grimm's July 22nd birthday.
Given with best wishes from her cousin, Ruth.

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Attendance for July 14, 2024: 32

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

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

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show:** Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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 24th at 6 pm. in the fellowship hall. Snacks provided.

PACE/Church Picnic rescheduled for Sunday, September 22nd after the 10:15 am. worship. Bring a favorite dish to share. All are welcome to come!