

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 4, 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, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

This is a reading from Exodus, the 16th chapter.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the cooking pots and ate our fill of meat and bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

This is the Word of God, word of life.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

This is a reading from Paul's letter to the believers at Ephesus, the 4th chapter.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the

measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 6th chapter. When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were beside the sea, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one whom God has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

HYMN of the DAY: LBW # 358 "Glories of Your Name are Spoken"

- 1 Glories of your name are spoken,
 Zion, city of our God;
 he whose word cannot be broken
 formed you for his own abode.
 On the Rock of Ages founded,
 what can shake your sure repose?
 With salvation's walls surrounded,
 you may smile at all your foes.

- 2 See, the streams of living waters,
 springing from eternal love,
 well supply your sons and daughters,
 and all fear of want remove.
 Who can faint, while such a river
 ever will their thirst assuage?
 Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
 never fails from age to age.

- 3 Round each habitation hov'ring,
 see the cloud and fire appear
 for a glory and a cov'ring,
 showing that the Lord is near.
 Thus deriving from their banner
 light by night and shade by day,
 safe they feed upon the manna
 which God gives them on their way.

- 4 Savior, since of Zion's city
 I through grace a member am,
 let the world deride or pity,
 I will glory in your name.
 Fading are the worldlings' pleasures,
 all their boasted pomp and show;
 solid joys and lasting treasures
 none but Zion's children know.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.

MESSAGE: Working *(silence for reflection follows)*

The CHURCH PRAYS

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

O Wise One, your wisdom has been present in this world since its beginning. Pour out your wisdom into the hearts of the whole church, especially the newly baptized, lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God of all creation, you are the source of all life. Where the sun blazes hard and strong, bring a gentle breeze. In the places experiencing the cold of winter, bring your warmth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, help government leaders of this world unite for peace and justice. Humble all who hold authority, that power is directed toward a more just society. Stay with those nations at war: Ukraine, Lebanon, Iran, Gaza and Israel, Sudan, Yemen and Myanmar.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Bread of life from heaven, you feed us. Fill all who hunger with needed nutrition and open our hearts to eliminate hunger in this world. May we see a day when all are fed.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O Wisdom of truth, help us to understand your will for the church. Be with congregations experiencing transition, redevelopment, and the exciting yet frightening path of newness. May your wisdom be found at every step.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We especially pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lou, Agnes, Lori, Sandy,
...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Redeeming God, we give you thanks for the lives and witness of your saints now departed. Bring your beloved into eternal glory, opening wide the gates to the heavenly banquet.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **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*

God bless the Olympics and America.  
Given by Janice Frederick.

For the Glory of God.

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

In Loving Memory of
Marie Kreisel's August 4th birthday.
Given by the Volz family.

In Loving Memory of
Uncle Herb Weinreich and Beverly Pearce.
Given by the Mills family.

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Attendance for July 28, 2024: 30

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

**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!