

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 9, 2026

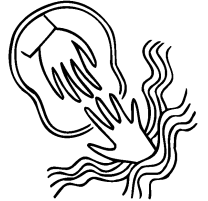
Virtual Prayer and Preaching

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**the CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We bless the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who pours love into our hearts  
and healing upon the earth. **Amen**



Confident that God justifies us by grace through Christ's faithfulness,  
we confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*  
Compassionate God, **we confess that we struggle to give witness to  
your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans  
from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.  
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your  
call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you.  
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live  
as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen**

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in  
whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of  
eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen**

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

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, **and do what is right,**  
for soon my salvation will come **and my deliverance revealed.**  
For my house shall be called **a house of prayer for all peoples.**

The God of mercy is with you. **And also with you.**

Holy One, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* O God our defender, storms  
rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people  
from despair, deliver your children from fear, and preserve us in the faith of  
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: 1 Kings 19:8b-18** *Contemporary English Version*

*On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of  
God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in  
"sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer.  
Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two  
men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.*

This is a reading from 1 Kings, the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Elijah reached Mount Sinai, the mountain of God, and he spent the night there in a cave. While there, the LORD asked, "Elijah, why are you here?"

He answered, "LORD God All-Powerful, I've always done my best to obey you. But your people have broken their solemn promise to you. They have torn down your altars and killed all your prophets, except me. And now they are even trying to kill me!"

"Go out and stand on the mountain," the LORD replied. "I want you to be there when I pass by."

All at once, a strong wind shook the mountain and shattered the rocks. But the LORD was not in the wind. Next, there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. Then there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire.

Finally, there was a gentle breeze, and when Elijah heard it, he covered his face with his coat. He went out and stood at the entrance to the cave.

A voice asked, "Elijah, why are you here?"

Elijah answered, "LORD God All-Powerful, I've always done my best to obey you. But your people have broken their solemn promise to you. They have torn down your altars and killed all your prophets, except me. And now they are even trying to kill me!"

The LORD said, "Elijah, you can go back to the desert near Damascus. And when you get there, appoint Hazael to be king of Syria. Then appoint Jehu to be king of Israel, and Elisha to take your place as my prophet.

Hazael will start killing the people who worship Baal. Jehu will kill those who escape from Hazael, and Elisha will kill those who escape from Jehu.

But 7,000 Israelites have refused to worship Baal, and they will live.

This is God's Word, the seed and soil of faith.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33**

*Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Matthew, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, Peter became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: # 756 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"**

- 1     Eternal Father, strong to save,  
      whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
      who bade the mighty ocean deep  
      its own appointed limits keep:  
      oh, hear us when we cry to thee  
      for those in peril on the sea.
- 2     O Savior, whose almighty word  
      the winds and waves submissive heard,  
      who walked upon the foaming deep,  
      and calm amid the storm didst sleep:  
      oh, hear us when we cry to thee  
      for those in peril on the sea.
- 3     O Holy Spirit, who didst brood  
      upon the chaos dark and rude,  
      and bid its angry tumult cease,  
      and give, for wild confusion, peace:  
      oh, hear us when we cry to thee  
      for those in peril on the sea.
- 4     O Trinity of love and pow'r,  
      all trav'lers guard in danger's hour  
      from rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
      protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
      thus evermore shall rise to thee  
      glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt.

**MESSAGE:**       **FAITH**                   *silence for reflection follows*

## **the CHURCH PRAYS**

### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide council members, elders, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer. We pray for ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship Center, St. Peter's Elementary School, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, Greg, John, Lori, Mary Lue, Bea, Fred, Linda, Donna, Bud Gahs and family on the passing of his son Bill, our at-home worshippers, ... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for Bill and all the faithful who have gone before us. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Seeking our daily bread, 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**

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **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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***Today's Sponsorships***

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

In Honor of all the women at St. Peter's Church.

Given by Janice Frederick.

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

In Honor of Jade Mills on her August 12<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given with love by Mom and Dad (Donna and Joe Mills).

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Attendance for Sunday, August 2, 2026: 28

Learning, Serving, and Fellowship Opportunities

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, 8/11.

Sponsorship Needed: Altar flowers and bulletins for 9/27. Contact the church office to sponsor.

Free Firewood: If you, or someone you know, is in need of firewood for summer evenings around the fire pit or the upcoming winter season, please call the church office for contact information. Pick up only; may need a chainsaw to cut before transporting.

Steak Shack Fundraiser: Wednesday, August 12th from 10 am. – 11 pm. at Steak Shack (1 East Joppa Road, Towson, 21286). Just mention Donation Day at the register or drive-thru at checkout and 25% of your total meal purchase will be donated to Christus Victor!

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!

Crab Feast: Saturday, August 22nd from 2-6 pm. at Annapolis Evan. Lutheran (38 W. Central Ave., Edgewater, 21037). Get ready to pick some crabs while supporting the ongoing work of Lutheran Mission Society Compassion Place! Tickets are \$70 pre-purchased (\$75 at the door), \$25 for kids 9-13, and kids 8 and under are free. Call 410-636-0123 to order tickets and for more information.

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

Brats & Beer: Friday, August 28th from 4-8 pm. in the Garden at Zion Lutheran (400 East Lexington Street, 21202).

Grab Bag Bingo: Saturday, August 29th from 6-9 pm. (doors open at 5 pm.) at Prince of Peace (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). \$20 for 20 games. Raffles, door prizes, and food available for purchase. Proceeds support the church's 2027 Scholarship Fund. For tickets call the church at 410-866-8766 or Linda DeJong at 410-979-7645.

Community Yard Sale: Saturday, September 12th from 8 am.-1 pm. at St. John's, Parkville (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Spaces are \$20 for 1 or \$30 for 2. Vendors should bring their own table/chairs and submit registration and payment by 9/6. Questions, contact Amanda Hartman at 443-271-3291 or amandaportera1@verizon.net.

Flea Market: Saturday, September 19th from 8am.-1pm. at Prince of Peace (8212 Philadelphia Rd., 21237). Household items, clothes, kid's corner & retail vendors. For information or reserve a spot contact the church at 410-866-8766. All spots are at least 10'x10' (\$20 each). Breakfast available 8am.-1pm. Join us for Live Music in the picnic area 11am.-1pm. Lunch available.

Annual Crab Feast: Saturday, September 26th from 2-5pm. at Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234). Cost \$50 (or \$35 with no crabs). Menu: Steamed crabs, crab soup, pit beef, pit turkey, potato salad, macaroni salad, tomato & cucumber salad, baked beans, cole slaw, deviled eggs, Caesar salad, soda, iced tea & lemonade. BYOB. Music, quilt raffle, door prizes. Tickets on sale: August 30-September 20. Call 410-668-8089 to reserve your tickets.

BRCA/Previvors Group: This is an off-shoot of Baltimore Cancer Support Group where previvors discuss navigating the ins and outs of receiving their cancer diagnosis. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 pm. at St. Peter's. For more information, contact Geri (410-852-3688) or Molly (410-227-4692).

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

Parent Orientation is for all returning and new families and will be held on Tuesday, August 18th at 6 pm. in the hall.

Volunteer Training is open to anyone interested in helping with lunch, recess, reading a story to classes, and much more! Training will be offered on Tuesday, August 18th at 6:30 pm. in the hall. Please RSVP with the school office (410-665-7300).

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!