

**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
**Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.**  
**Virtual Preaching and Prayer Worship**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, August 10, 2025**

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

We begin our worship as we began our life in the body of Christ:

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Baptized into Christ, we call to him to confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.* Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen**

You belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen**

**GREETING and PRAYER of the DAY**

God's kindness, Jesus' peace, and Spirit's joy are always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6**

*God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

This is a reading from Genesis, chapter 15.

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O LORD God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."



God brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

This is a reading from Hebrews, chapter 11.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, God has prepared a city for them.

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40**

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the realm of God. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing

treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

**HYMN of the DAY: # 802 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"**

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,  
through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in his footsteps treading, trav'lers here, our home above,  
full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior's bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where you guide.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy:  
all discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death,  
he will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;  
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heaven.  
Jesus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
- 4 Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead  
that to life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head,  
we are your own living members; where you live, there we shall be  
in your presence constantly, living there with you forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be; life eternal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626-1681; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, alt.

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**MESSAGE**      **Trust**      *silence for reflection follows*

## **The CHURCH PRAYS**

### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world. *A brief silence.*

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentive to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened, with fires, flooding, extreme heat earthquakes here and throughout the world. Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. We pray for Ukraine and Russia, Israel, Gaza and Palestine, and civil wars throughout the world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be on those in need: all those on the world's battlefields and where disaster has cost our neighbor's properties and lives. Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. We pray for ELCA Bishop Elect Yehiel Curry and Secretary Rev. CeCee Mills, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl, Ebenezer Grace Worship, those hospitalized or recuperating at home, John, Greg, Lori, Mary Lue, Lynn, George, Joe, Nancy and the Thrift family, our at-home worshippers, .... God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We celebrate Francis and all the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance especially Lawrence, deacon and martyr. Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray for daily bread, 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.* Mothering God, **send us out by  
your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love  
in Jesus' name. Amen**

#### **BLESSING**

The love of God ☩ overflow in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the life of Spirit bless you and give you peace. **Amen**

#### **SENT OUT for MISSION**

Our worship has ended. Our service begins.

Live by the Spirit of hope and joy!

**We will Learn God's Truth.**

**We will Share Spirit's Healing.**

**We will Follow Jesus' Way. Amen**

We go in the peace of Christ to love and serve all. **YES, we will!**

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#### **Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258**

Lawrence was one of the seven deacons of the congregation at Rome and, like the deacons appointed in Acts, was responsible for financial matters in the church and for the care of the poor. Lawrence lived during a time of persecution under the emperor Valerian. The emperor demanded that Lawrence surrender the treasures of the church. Lawrence gathered lepers, orphans, the blind and lame. He brought them to the emperor and said, "Here is the treasure of the church." This act enraged the emperor, and Lawrence was sentenced to death. Lawrence's martyrdom was one of the first to be observed by the church.

***Today's Sponsorships***

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*Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Honor and In Memory of our faithful members.  
Given by Janice Frederick.

In Celebration of Daniel Barnes' birthday.  
Given by Nancy Barnes.

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*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.

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Attendance for August 3, 2025: 35

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

**Games & Goodies:** Join St. Peter's families Sunday, August 10th at 11:15 am. in the open area of the lower level (elevator access). Bring a favorite game. Goodies and beverages will be provided (bring a snack to share if you'd like to).

**SPES Open House:** If you, or someone you know, is looking for quality Christian education, please attend the open house on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> from 5-6:30 pm. Can't attend? Call the school at 410-665-4521 to schedule a tour.

**SPES night at Camden Yards** is Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>! Join the SPES families as the O's take on the Houston Astros. Ticket prices: Upper reserve (section 348) \$29 and Lower reserve (section 61) \$33. See the flier on the "Welcome" table in the back of the church. Any additional questions, call Gary at 410-547-6115.

**Blessing of Backpacks:** Students are invited to bring in their school backpacks to either worship service on Sunday, August 24th to receive a special blessing!

**Back To School Picnic Party!** SPES invites you to celebrate the start of a new school year on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> from 11am. to 1 pm. Meet staff and make new friends! Bring a chair or blanket, food and drinks provided. Kona Ice will be available for purchase.

**Flea Market:** Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 8 am.-12 pm. at Christus Victor Lutheran (9833 Harford Rd., 21234). To reserve a space, call 410-668-8089. Indoor spots are \$25 (table and 2 chairs provided) or outdoor spots are \$20 (provide your own table/chairs/tent/canopy).

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for bulletins on 8/31 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 8/24 & 31 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**Summer Sunday School** is available for children who've just completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under! We gather for Bible stories, songs, games, and crafts at 10 am. in the Sunday school classrooms (lower level). If you're interested in helping on August 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>, please contact Mark McQuade or Ashley Kane.

**St. Peter's Family Goods Center:** Because there are many pantries and BCPS schools who offer food to the community, we are repurposing our former food pantry to distribute other needed items like toiletries, diapers, and paper products. If you are interested in volunteering for the Family Goods Center, please contact Bill Lauer. A list of needed items will be available soon. This is a great opportunity for service hours for your middle or high school student, and volunteer hours for SPES families.

**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).

**On-line Giving:** As an alternate way of submitting your offering, you can make donations 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.

### ***News from St. Peter's Elementary School & PACE***

Save the Date! SPES invites you to join them at the Beachmont Corn Maze on Saturday, October 4th from 5-9 pm. at Beachmont (6433 Mt. Vista Rd., Kingsville, 21087). More details to come!

We are currently accepting registrations for the upcoming school year. Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!