

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 25, 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**

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.* Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**GOD'S WORD**

**READING: Ephesians 6:10-20**

*Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.*

This is a reading from Paul's letter to the believers at Ephesus, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:56-69**

*The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter. Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.) And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**HYMN of the DAY: LBW # 475**

**"Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove"**

- 1 Come, gracious Spirit, heav'nly dove,  
with light and comfort from above.  
Come, be our guardian and our guide;  
o'er ev'ry thought and step preside.
- 2 The light of truth to us display  
and make us know and choose your way;  
plant holy fear in ev'ry heart,  
that we from God may ne'er depart.
- 3 Lead us to Christ, the living way,  
nor let us from his pastures stray;  
lead us to holiness, the road  
that we must take to dwell with God.
- 4 Lead us to heav'n, that we may share  
fullness of joy forever there;  
lead us to our eternal rest,  
to be with God forever blest.

Text: Simon Browne, 1680-1732, alt.

**MESSAGE: Teaching**                   *(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.*

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the

work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We especially pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lou, Angela, Irma, Lori, the Gahs and Kohlway families, our at-home worshippers, ...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving Sandy and all who have completed their baptismal journeys. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end.

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, Bud Gahs and the Kohlway family on the passing of his daughter Sandy 8/15, 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

For the Glory of God.

In Loving Memory of
Natalie Schinnick's August 26th birthday.
Given by Donna Shinnick.

Rose Vase

In Honor of Carlyn Thomas' August 26th birthday.
Mom-Mom, Ruth Diepold.

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

In Honor of Uncle Bunk Weinreich's birthday today.  
Given with love by the Mills family.

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Attendance for August 18, 2024: 24

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

PACE Movie Night: Saturday, August 24th at 6 pm. in the fellowship hall. Snacks provided.

Labor Day Closings: The school and church office will be closed on Monday, September 2nd. We wish everyone a safe holiday.

Sponsorships Available: Flowers for 8:45 am. service on 9/29, and bulletins on 9/1 & 29 (contact the church office). Flowers for 10:15 am. service on 9/1, 22, & 29 (contact Nancy Barnes).

Prayer Group will resume gathering on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 11 am. in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access). On September 4th, we'll start with the fruit of the spirit L-O-V-E! All are welcome!

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!

We are eager to welcome back our teaching staff, on Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, from a nice summer reprieve! The first day for students is Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Regular office hours resume on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> (M-F, 8 am.-3:45 pm.).

St. Peter's ES Day at Camden Yards: September 8th, Oriole's v. Ray's at 7:05 pm. For details, see the flier for details.

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



## St. Peter's Elementary Fundraiser at the Yard!

Join your faculty, staff, and classmates of St. Peter's Elementary School and bring your family and friends to an Orioles game on Sunday, September 8!

**Sunday, September 8 at 12:05 PM vs. Tampa Bay Rays**

Kids 4-14 Run the Bases Post-Game!

Upper Reserve (sections 342-346): \$21\*

*\$5 of every ticket sold will benefit*

St. Peter's  
Elementary School



For any questions or accessible seating, please call Gary at 410.547.6115

### To Purchase Tickets:

1. Click on the link or QR code below
2. Click the "Get Tickets" button, select your section, and place your seats in the cart.
3. After checkout, you will receive an email with instructions on accessing your mobile tickets.
4. Share this offer with your friends, family, and fellow RPBL teammates.

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Stpeters2024>



\*There is an additional 10% service charge per ticket.