

**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**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 31, 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.* O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

**GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

This is a reading from Hebrews, chapter 13.

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep



your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

### **SECOND READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a**

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.*

This is a reading from Proverbs, chapter 25.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence

or stand in the place of the great,

for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"

than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14**

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.*

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

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Jesus said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

**HYMN of the DAY: # 522 "As We Gather at Your Table"**

- 1 As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's vict'ry known.
- 2 Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.
- 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.

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**MESSAGE**                      ***Humility***                      *silence for reflection follows*

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near. *A brief silence.*

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. 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, Joel, George, Joe, our at-home worshippers, .... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **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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***Today's Sponsorships***

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*Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

In Loving Memory of Patty Erck  
for her September 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Given by her sister, Irma.

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*Worship Folders are Given to the Glory of God*

For St. Peter's!

Given by Janice Frederick.

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Attendance for August 24, 2025: 30

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

**Please Note: The church and school offices will be closed on Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> for the holiday.**

**Regular Office Hours** for the church and school offices begin Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Church: M-F 9a-3p; School: M-F 8a-3:45p.

**Cruise & Crabs:** TWO FREE tickets (can't be used by purchaser) for a cruise and crabs on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Gunther Tours bus leaves from White Marsh Park & Ride in the morning, travels to Hurlock for the cruise, arrives back in White Marsh early evening. Call the church office at 410-665-7300 for contact information.

**Make a Joyful Noise:** Do you enjoy singing, especially praising the Lord?? The choir and praise team are looking for YOU! Contact Bärbel for the choir or Richard for the praise team.

**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.

**Installation of Staff & Volunteers:** Join us in blessing those who serve the Lord through St. Peter's Sunday school and Elementary School. At the 8:45 am. worship we will be installing Sunday school teachers and support staff. At the 10:15 am. worship we will be installing the Elementary School staff, school board members, and PACE officers.

**Chairs:** We have some stackable cushioned chairs up for grabs – FREE to a good home. If you're interested in taking a few, call the church office at 410-665-7300. This offer won't last long!

**Help Wanted:** Elderly community neighbor is in need of heavy-duty cleaning/repair work (to start) and on-going light duties. If you are available and able, please call the church office for contact information.

**Sponsorships Available:** Altar flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 9/28, and bulletins on 9/28 (contact the church office). Altar flowers for 10:15 am. worship on 9/14 & 28 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**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.

**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).

**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***

We are excited to be opening for the 2025-2026 school year on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>! It's not too late to enroll. Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!

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!