

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
15th Sunday after Pentecost, Harvest Time

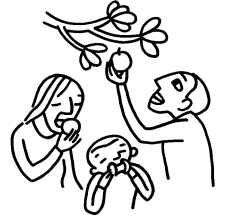
September 1, 2024 – 8:45am

Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship

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**The CHURCH'S GATHERING**

**WELCOME** *Theme of the day, Prayer concerns, & Praise time:*



**CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

*We make the sign of the cross, which was marked on us at baptism.*

We bless the holy Trinity, Sovereign, Savior † and Spirit,

who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen**

In hope, we confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.* Gracious God, have mercy on us. **We confess**

**that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior. Amen**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen**

**CALL to WORSHIP** *from James, ch 1*

Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above.

**These gifts come down from the Father,  
the creator of the heavenly lights,  
in whose character there is no change at all.**

God chose to give us birth by the true word,  
and here is the result: **we are like the first crop  
from the harvest of everything God created. Amen**

**PRAYER of the DAY**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**GOD'S WORD**

**PSALM 15** *(read responsively)*

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

they do not slander with the tongue,

they do no evil to their friends;

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**In their sight the wicked are rejected,  
but they honor those who fear the Lord.**

They have sworn upon their health

and do not take back their word.

**They do not give their money in hope of gain,  
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.**

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

**READING: James 1:17-27**

*The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

This is a reading from James, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose God gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**      *Common English Bible*  
*Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Mark, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

The Pharisees and some legal experts from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They saw some of his disciples eating food with unclean hands. (They were eating without first ritually purifying their hands through washing. The Pharisees and all the Jews don't eat without first washing their hands carefully. This is a way of observing the rules handed down by the elders. Upon returning from the marketplace, they don't eat without first immersing themselves. They observe many other rules that have been handed down, such as the washing of cups, jugs, pans, and sleeping mats.) So the Pharisees and legal experts asked Jesus, "Why are your disciples not living according to the rules handed down by the elders but instead eat food with ritually unclean hands?"

Jesus replied, "Isaiah really knew what he was talking about when he prophesied about you hypocrites. He wrote,

This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far away from me.

Their worship of me is empty

since they teach instructions that are human words.

You ignore God's commandment while holding on to rules created by humans and handed down to you."

Jesus called the crowd again and said, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing outside of a person can enter and contaminate a person in God's sight; rather, the things that come out of a person contaminate the person.

"It's from the inside, from the human heart, that evil thoughts come: sexual sins, thefts, murders, adultery, greed, evil actions, deceit, unrestrained immorality, envy, insults, arrogance, and foolishness. All these evil things come from the inside and contaminate a person in God's sight."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**MESSAGE: True Religion**      *(silence for reflection follows)*

**HYMN of the DAY: # 772 "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"**

- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways  
to keep his statutes still!  
Oh, that my God would grant me grace  
to know and do his will!
- 2 Order my footsteps by your word  
and make my heart sincere;  
let sin have no dominion, Lord,  
but keep my conscience clear.
- 3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,  
a stricter watch to keep;  
and should I e'er forget your way,  
restore your wand'ring sheep.
- 4 Make me to walk in your commands,  
'tis a delightful road;  
nor let my head or heart or hands  
offend against my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

**The CHURCH PRAYS**

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We especially pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lou, Angela, Bärbel, Doris, Irma, Lori, Agnes, ... Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed. We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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**

Holy God, hear our prayer. *A brief silence.* Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen**

#### **BLESSING and PEACE**

Receive the blessing. *A brief silence.*

God all mighty, God most merciful

bless you, keep you, † and give you peace. **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*

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

In Loving Memory of Louis Welsh and Helen Baumann  
on their September 7<sup>th</sup> birthdays.  
Given by his daughter and her niece, Betty Harry.  
And in Honor of Amelia Grace Thompson's  
15<sup>th</sup> birthday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Given by her grandmother, Betty Harry.

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

For the Glory of God.

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A donation to the organ fund has been made  
In Loving Memory of my mother, Dora Von Munchow,  
for her August 29th birthday.  
Given by Ruth Diepold.

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Attendance for August 25, 2024: 37

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

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

St. Peter’s ES begins a new school year on Tuesday, September 3rd. Please pray for our school families and staff.

Church Office Hours: Beginning Wednesday, September 4th, the church office will be open Monday-Friday from 9am-3pm. The office will be open in the morning only on Tuesday, September 3rd.

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!

Rally Day Sunday is September 8th! Please join us in celebrating a new year of learning with the installation of our Sunday school teachers and staff at the 8:45 am. worship, and installation of the St. Peter’s ES teachers and staff, school board members, and PACE officers at the 10:15 am. worship. Students attending may bring their backpacks for a special blessing (both services).

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

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**

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!

School Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 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.

PACE/Church Picnic is 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.