

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

September 15, 2024

**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.* Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

## **GOD'S WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah, the 35<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

    "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

    He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

    and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,

    and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

    and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,

    and the thirsty ground springs of water.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **SECOND READING: James 2:1-10, 12-17; 5:13-16**

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

This is a reading from James, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

My friends, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the realm that God has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever

keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my siblings, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

*James concludes his letter with this exhortation.*

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37**

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

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

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged Jesus to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then Jesus said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then Jesus returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was

released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**MESSAGE: Works of Love & Faith**      *(silence for reflection follows)*

**HYMN of the DAY: # 620 "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"**

- 1      How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
        in a believer's ear!  
        It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,  
        and drives away all fear.
- 2      It makes the wounded spirit whole  
        and calms the heart's unrest;  
        'tis manna to the hungry soul  
        and to the weary, rest.
- 3      Dear name! The rock on which I build,  
        my shield and hiding place;  
        my never-failing treasury, filled  
        with boundless stores of grace.
- 4      By thee my prayers acceptance gain  
        although with sin defiled.  
        The devil charges me in vain,  
        and I am owned a child.
- 5      O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,  
        my prophet, priest, and king,  
        my Lord, my life, my way, my end,  
        accept the praise I bring.
- 6      How weak the effort of my heart,  
        how cold my warmest thought;  
        but when I see thee as thou art,  
        I'll praise thee as I ought.
- 7      Till then I would thy love proclaim  
        with every fleeting breath;  
        and may the music of thy name  
        refresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, 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.*

Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We especially pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lou, Bärbel, Doris, Angela, Lori, our at-home worshippers, ... Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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**

With the confidence of the children of God, 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**

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 my grandfather,  
Ernest Grimm's September 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Given by his granddaughter, Carole Grimm.

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

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

In Loving Memory of Wilhelmina Weinreich.  
Given by the Mills family.

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Attendance for September 8, 2024: 52

**Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities**

**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!

**Sponsorships Available:** 2 flower sponsorships for 9:30 am. service on 9/29, and bulletins on 9/29 (contact the church office). Flowers for 10:15 am. service on 9/22 (contact Nancy Barnes).

**Hiding in Plain Sight** is a youth mental awareness documentary that will be presented in 2 parts on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at Christus Victor Lutheran (9833 Harford Rd., 21234) beginning at 10:30 am. Counselors will be in attendance as the content of the documentary may evoke strong, emotional reactions. Attendees under 18 years of age must have a parent/guardian in attendance. To register, contact the church at 410-668-8089.

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show:** Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://baltimorecancersupportgroup.org).

**Crab Feast:** Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm. at St. Luke (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). Menu includes crabs from Parkville Crabs, chicken, corn, salads, tea, lemonade, sodas. Bring your own beverage (adult beverages okay). Tickets are \$65 in advance and \$75 at the door (if available). Call the church office at 410-444-5171 or Kim at 443-415-5824 to reserve tickets or for more information. Proceeds benefit the church’s community outreach in Parkville and Hamilton.

**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bullroast Fundraiser for Baltimore Cancer Support Group:** Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 pm.-12 midnight at Columbus Gardens (4301 Klosterman Ave., 21236). See attached flier for more details.

**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).

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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!



**BALTIMORE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP  
32ND ANNUAL**

# **BULLROAST FUNDRAISER**

**TICKETS \$65**

**PURCHASE DEADLINE 10/31/2024**

**PAY PAL ACCEPTED AT  
BALTIMORECANCERSUPPORTGROUP.ORG  
OR  
CASH-CHECK-VENMO-ZELLE**



**COLUMBUS GARDENS  
4301 KLOSTERMAN AVE, BALTIMORE, MD 21236**

**NOV 9TH, 2024 - 7:30PM-12:00AM**

**DJ DANNY JAHN OPEN BAR - BUFFET  
AUCTION - RAFFLES - PHOTOBOOTH  
DOOR PRIZES**



**CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION  
GERI BOOKER (410) 852-3688  
KAREN HAUGHEY (410) 960-1148**

