

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Way.
18th Sunday after Pentecost, Harvest Time

September 22, 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 teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **GOD'S WORD**

### **READING: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a**

*The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.*

This is a reading from James, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and the devil will flee from you. Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-50**

*Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Mark, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house Jesus asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name

welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the realm of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

This is the Good News of Christ’s Victory.

**MESSAGE: *Great Debate***    (*silence for reflection follows*)

**HYMN of the DAY: # 781 “*Children of the Heavenly Father*”**

- 1     Children of the heav'nly Father  
      safely in his bosom gather;  
      nestling bird nor star in heaven  
      such a refuge e'er was given.
  
- 2     God his own doth tend and nourish,  
      in his holy courts they flourish.  
      From all evil things he spares them,  
  
      in his mighty arms he bears them.
  
- 3     Neither life nor death shall ever  
      from the Lord his children sever;  
      unto them his grace he showeth,  
      and their sorrows all he knoweth.

- 4     Though he giveth or he taketh,  
      God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
      his the loving purpose solely  
      to preserve them pure and holy.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958

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### **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.*

Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer. Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. 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.*

Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in 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 mother, Betty Darney,
and my grandfathers, Frank Darney Sr. and Clarence Stevens,
for their September birthdays.
Given by Marcia Darney.

In Honor of Dustin Tanasescu's birthday, September 23rd.
Given by Linda Heinbaugh.

Rose Vase

In Honor of Harlan Donald Read
for his 12th birthday, September 27th.
Given by his grandmother, Patty Read.

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

In Loving Memory of Lorraine Volz's September 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.  
Given by the Volz family.

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Attendance for September 15, 2024: 37

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

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

Sponsorships Available: Flowers for 10:15 am. service on 10/13, 20, & 27 (contact Nancy Barnes).

Just a reminder: As we enter the final quarter of the calendar year, please confirm your sponsorship payments are up to day for bulletins and 8:45 am. flowers are up-to-date (contact Joy in the church office), and/or for 10:15 am. flowers (contact Nancy Barnes).

Hiding in Plain Sight is a youth mental awareness documentary that will be presented in 2 parts on Saturday, October 5th 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.

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.

Crab Feast: Sunday, October 13th 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.

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

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**

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**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**