

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
23rd Sunday after Pentecost ~ Reformation Sunday, End Time

October 27, 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 Hebrews, ch 9, CEV*

We die only once, and then we are judged.

**Christ died only once to take away the sins of many people.**

But when he comes again, it will not be to take away sin.

**Christ will come to save everyone who is waiting for him.**

Lord, have † mercy. **Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen**

**PRAYER of the DAY**

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **GOD'S WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

This is a reading from the prophet Jeremiah, the 31<sup>st</sup> chapter.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28**

*Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.*

This is a reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For no human will be justified before God by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance God had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to demonstrate at the present time his own

righteousness, so that God is righteous and God justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

**HOLY GOSPEL: John 8:31-36**

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Jesus said to the Judeans who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**MESSAGE: *Knowing***                      (*silence for reflection follows*)

**HYMN of the DAY: # 517 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"**

- 1     Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;  
      curb those who by deceit or sword  
      would wrest the kingdom from your Son  
      and bring to naught all he has done.
- 2     Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,  
      for you are Lord of lords alone;  
      defend your holy church, that we  
      may sing your praise eternally.
- 3     O Comforter of priceless worth,  
      send peace and unity on earth;  
      support us in our final strife  
      and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

## **The CHURCH PRAYS**

### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation. *A brief silence.*

Lord of all, we give thanks for the whole church throughout the world. Open wide the paths toward unity between denominations so that all followers of Christ may join in shared worship and mission. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, as the dying leaves display their beauty, we are reminded that nature's cycle of life includes and requires both life and death. Instill in your people a mission of preservation and appreciation for trees, animals, and waterways threatened by climate collapse. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, in the spirit of reformation we pray for all who cry out for relief from systemic oppression. May the hearts of those who occupy seats of power be reformed so that peace becomes the center of our life together. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Comforting God, be with all who are sick, suffering, or grieving in our own community and beyond. Surround them with the promise of your love, comfort, and grace that never ends. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Divine Guide, continue to challenge this community to be ever reforming in our ministries and outreach efforts. Inspire creative ideas among us so that the communal, grace-filled word of God remains at the heart of our ministry. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We especially pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lou, Kathy, Lori, Jack, Jill, the family of Kenneth Grammer, the family of Pr. Ron Reaves, our at-home worshippers, ... God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Almighty God, we remember Kenneth and Pr. Ron. In Christ's resurrection you ensure that though life be wrenched away, death cannot win the day. May the truth of your saving grace through faith sustain our hope for life in you. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

We pray that God's rule will appear, 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.* Gracious God, you have welcomed us. 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.

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, Donna Grammer and family on the passing of her husband Kenneth (10/21), 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 Honor of Benjamin's birthday, October 30th.
Given by Siegfried and Bärbel Otto.

In Celebration of my 39th wedding anniversary!!
Given by Anita Gladstone.

Rose Vase

Happy Birthday to Heather Rezek
for her November 1st birthday.
Love, Mom-Mom Diepold.

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

In Loving Memory and In Honor of parents and grandparents,  
Phillip and Genevieve Sacker.  
Given by Mr. and Mrs. James Lynch, and family.

In Honor of Joey's and Jennie's  
1<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary, November 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Given with love by Mom and Dad.

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Attendance for October 20, 2024: 39

Learning, Serving, & Fellowship Opportunities

Thank you for joining us on this Reformation Sunday!

"Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times." –Martin Luther

All Saints' Sunday is November 3rd. During the worship services we remember those who have passed away through the year, since November 1st, and others who are remembered fondly in our hearts. If you would like to include someone on our "List of Remembrance" please contact the church office by Wednesday, October 30th. If you would like to bring a framed photo (up to 8x10) of your loved one to be displayed, please bring it on 11/3.

Sponsorships Available: Flowers for Thanksgiving service on 11/26 and bulletins for 11/3, 10, & 24 (contact the church office).

Your Help Needed in Sunday school! We're looking for volunteers to help as teaching assistants and/or substitute teachers. As little as once a month or as much as weekly is greatly appreciated. See/contact Janice Frederick or Heather Frederick for details.

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

PACE Trunk-or-Treat: Saturday, October 26th from 2-5 pm. (on the back parking lot by the blue awning). Join us for fun, games, and a trunk decorating contest! To register your trunk, email stpeterspace@gmail.com.

Prayer Group: On November 6th, we'll pray about the fruit of "PEACE," and ALL prayers are welcome! We will meet at 11 am. in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access). If you are not able to join us, consider leaving your prayer request in the jar (school lobby) or basket (church lobby). Join us for mid-week Hopefulness, Kathy Shull, Patty Read, Bill Lauer, Pastor Lans, Karen Yelovich & Y-O-U!

Holiday Bazaar: Saturday, November 9th from 9 am.-1 pm. at Christus Victor (9833 Harford Rd., 21234). Shop for unique handmade crafts and seasonal decorations! For more information, call 410-668-8089.

Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, November 9th from 9 am.-2 pm. at St. John's (8808 Harford Rd., 21234). Food, crafters, jewelry table, bake table, homemade candies, jams/jellies, handmade items, white elephant table, quilt raffle, and more!

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). Call Geri Booker at 410-852-3688 or Karen Haughey at 410-960-1148 for tickets and information.

November Annual Meeting: The November annual meeting, to discuss and vote on the 2025 budget, council members, and investment committee members, is scheduled for Sunday, November 17th between the worship services. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

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!

Let's Raise Some Dough! PACE invites you to this delicious dine-in or carry out fundraiser on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Frank's Pizza and Pasta (6620 Belair Rd., 21206) from 12-8 pm. The school will earn 15% of your pre-tax total, and an extra \$1 for each cannoli purchased. Just present the flier (copies on the table at the back of the church) or specify "St.Pete" when ordering online.

News from Baltimore Lutheran/Concordia Prep School

Concordia Prep School Theatre Program presents "Peter and the Dream Catcher". Performances will be in the Black Box Theatre November 1st at 7 pm., November 2nd at 2 pm. and 7 pm., and November 3rd at 2 pm. Tickets are \$10 for students and senior citizens and \$15 for adults. Seating is general admission; doors open 30 minutes prior to the show. Tickets can be purchased on the school website, concordiaprepschool.org.

2024 Saints Bingo: Friday, November 15th at Concordia Prep School Gym (1145 Concordia Dr., Towson 21286). Doors open at 6 pm. and Bingo begins at 7 pm. The bingo will offer 20 bingo games and raffles with the opportunity to win bags from a variety of brands. All proceeds raised through this year's event will support the student experience here at Concordia Prep School. Tickets are \$35 each (\$320 for table of 10) and can be ordered through the school website or by calling 410-825-2323.