

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School**  
**Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Reign of Christ ~ Blanket Blessing, End Time**

November 24, 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 and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of 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: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14**

*To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.*

This is a responsive reading from the prophet Daniel, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

As I watched, thrones were set in place,  
**and an Ancient One took his throne,**  
his clothing was white as snow,  
**and the hair of his head like pure wool;**  
his throne was fiery flames,  
**and its wheels were burning fire.**

A stream of fire issued  
**and flowed out from his presence.**

A thousand thousands served him,  
**and ten thousand times ten thousand  
stood attending him.**

The court sat in judgment,  
**and the books were opened.**

As I watched in the night visions,  
**I saw one like a human being  
coming with the clouds of heaven.**

And he came to the Ancient One  
**and was presented before him.**

To him was given dominion and glory and rule,  
**that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him.**

His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
**that shall not pass away,  
and his reign is one  
that shall never be destroyed.**

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8**

*The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.*

This is a responsive reading from the Revelation of John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

Grace to you and peace from the One who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus

Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the sovereigns of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a realm, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. **Amen**

**Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.**

So it is to be. **Amen**

**"I am the Alpha and the Omega,"** says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is the Word of God, word of life.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: John 18:33-38a**

*In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.*

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to John, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My realm is not from this world. If it were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the council leaders. But as it is, my realm is not from here."

Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?"

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

### **HYMN of the DAY: # 434 "Jesus Shall Reign"**

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

- 2 To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.
- 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.
- 4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.
- 5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
peculiar honors to our king;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

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

### **The CHURCH PRAYS**

#### **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Revive our congregations, synods, and national church body to reflect the love, justice, and kinship of your kingdom. Raise up diverse leaders like Justus Falckner, Jehu Jones, and William Passavant, whom we commemorate today who teach and serve your people. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Nourish parched lands and bring relief to flooded places. Protect wildlife habitats and endangered species, that the chorus of creation's praise resounds with joy. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Grant wisdom to the leaders who govern, legislate, and deliberate on our behalf. Advance your nonviolent reign of justice-seeking love through their work. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated. Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration. Empower activists who advocate for change. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Remind us of your enduring love in all seasons. Guide the planning efforts of worship leaders and volunteers who usher our congregation into a meaningful Advent. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We especially pray for John, Greg, Mary Lou, Kathy, Lori, Jack, Jill, David, our at-home worshippers, ... Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In your eternal presence the saints sing of your majesty. Join our voices with theirs in praise to the one who loves us and frees us from sin. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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, 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 Max's November 1<sup>st</sup> birthday,  
Leo's November 15<sup>th</sup> birthday,  
Mae's November 18<sup>th</sup> birthday,  
and Tyler's November 29<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
All my love, Mom-Mom Harry.

In Celebration of Amanda Smith's  
and Mark McQuade's November birthdays.  
Given by the family.

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

In appreciation of our amazing secretary, pastor, musicians,  
janitor, teachers (elementary and Sunday school), school staff,  
and the many volunteers that keep St. Peter's running.  
From the Sykes family.

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Attendance for November 17, 2024: 48

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

**Blanket Blessing Sunday** is TODAY! Thank you for joining us in saying blessings over the blankets donated to and made by St. Peter's quilters over the last year. Once blessed, the blankets are sent all over the world to people in need.

**Christmas Poinsettias:** The church is taking orders for red, white, and marble poinsettias to decorate the altar for Christmas Eve. Each 6" plant is \$8. Order forms are available on the church website or by calling the church office at 410-665-7300. Order forms and payment should be returned to the church office by Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Thanksgiving Worship** will be held on Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator access). Lite refreshments will be served in the open area after the service. Let's all give thanks with a grateful heart!

**Thanksgiving Closings:** The school will be closed November 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, and the church office will be closed November 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. We wish you all a blessed and thankful Thanksgiving holiday!

**WELCA Christmas Candy:** The women of St. Peter's are taking orders for their homemade candy! Orders and payment are due by Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Orders will be available for pickup on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Call the church office at 410-665-7300 for an order form.

**Prayer Group:** So, people, if you've been paying attention, the next "Fruit of the Spirit" is PATIENCE. Hmm, would that be reflected in harried shoppers and burnt Christmas cookies?? Certainly NOT!! Come and chat out this theme on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Join our prayer family at 11 am. in Grace Chapel (lower level, elevator accessible). No experience necessary.

**The SPES/PACE Penny Wars** began November 18<sup>th</sup> and runs through December 18<sup>th</sup>. The church has its own collection jar! Points are earned with each penny, \$1 bill, \$5 bill, \$10 bill, and wrapped roll of pennies. But beware, points can be subtracted if nickels, dimes, or quarters are found in the collection jar. See the fliers posted at the red awning door and hallway by the church office for point values.

**Semi-Annual Meeting Booklets:** A limited number of booklets are available at the "Welcome" table in the back of the church. Please call the church office if you prefer an electronic copy.

**Christmas Bazaar:** Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 am.-4 pm. at St. Luke's (7001 Harford Rd., 21234). Handmade gifts, holiday crafts, local artisans, food sampling, vintage clothing, festive food, Fair Trade gifts, 50/50, gift wrapping station, kid's craft table, and more! Interested in being a vendor? Call 410-444-5171 for details.

**Cookies & Crafts with Santa:** Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am.-12 noon at St. Michael Lutheran (9534 Belair Rd., 21236). Bring the whole family for a cozy morning of holiday cheer! Enjoy creating a festive winter craft, indulge in delicious cookies & hot cocoa, and snap a memorable photo with Mr. & Mrs. Claus. This free, family-friendly event is open to all ages, so come ready to spread joy and make holiday memories together.

**Sponsorships Available:** Flowers for 8:45 am. worship on 12/15 & 22, and bulletins for 12/8 & 22 (contact the church office).

**On-line Giving:** As the holidays and travel to family near and far approaches, remember that 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.

**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 & PACE***

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!

Help Stock Santa's Workshop! The magic of Christmas is just around the corner, and we're excited to announce PACE's annual Santa's Workshop on December 12th and 13th! We're asking for donations of new gifts that our students can purchase for Christmas for family members. Items are needed by December 1st and can be dropped off to the school office anytime. Remember, no new gift is too small for our workshop. Questions? Contact PACE at stpeterspace@gmail.com.

Join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month for a delicious fundraiser at Frank's Pizza & Pasta (6620 Belair Rd., 21206). Fliers with additional details are posted at the red awning door and the church office lobby. You can also obtain a flier through the school office (410-665-4521).