

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School
Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.
1st Sunday in Advent, December 1, 2024
Virtual Prayer and Preaching Worship



The CHURCH'S GATHERING

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

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

We bless the God † of Incarnation, Advent, and Epiphany:
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen**



We confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection. God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**
God of might, **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**
God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen**

GREETING

Almighty God, who is, who was, and who is to come
is with you, now and always. **And also with you.**

PRAYER of the DAY

Holy God, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GOD'S WORD

READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

This is a reading from the prophet Jeremiah, the 33rd chapter.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at

that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

This is the Word of God, word of life.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

This is the Holy Gospel as the Word was given to Luke, the 21st chapter.

Jesus said: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then Jesus told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the realm of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

HYMN of the DAY: #244 "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

- 2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

MESSAGE: *(silence for reflection follows)*

The CHURCH PRAYS

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, we pray for all people
and places that long for God's presence. *A brief silence.*

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your
coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and
deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in
our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us
sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and
bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering from illness, trauma, and sorrow. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. We pray for John, Greg, Genevieve, Mary Lou, Kathy, David, Maren, Lori, Agnes, ... Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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.* Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for our salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen**

BLESSING from 1 Thessalonians, ch 3

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may Spirit so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our † Lord Jesus with all his saints. **Amen**

PEACE

The peace of Christ is always with you. **And also with you.**

Please greet your household and friends online with Peace.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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.

~~~~~

*Today's Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God*

*Advent Wreath*

The Advent Wreath has been given  
In Loving Memory of George and Dorothy Biemer  
by the Biemer family.

In honor of the birth of Alaina Mills,  
and her parents, Brian & Jade, and big sister, Olivia.  
From Aunty Kathy and Uncle Steve.

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

~~~~~

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

In Loving Memory of my parents,
Mr. & Mrs. James Frederick, Jr.
Given by their daughter, Mary Lue Frederick.

~~~~~

Attendance for November 24, 2024: 38

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

**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** continue through December 18<sup>th</sup>, and the church has its own collection jar! Points are earned with each penny (loose or rolled), \$1 bill, \$5 bill, and \$10 bill. 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.

**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 12/22 (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 2025-26 school year will begin on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> when the school reopens after Christmas break. Contact the office at 410-665-4521 if you have questions, want to schedule a tour, or to register. Referrals are always welcome!

Join us on **Wednesday, December 4th** 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).