

Breakfast Church
Sunday, November 19th, 2023
Holy Communion 10 am



Introduction

Jesus says we are the Church. This Church is not confined to the building itself; not the brick, the stained glass, or the pews, but the community of people who make this place a home. Here, every voice is important and every person is an essential piece of the mosaic. Today's exploration into the trajectory of St. Peter's relies on your voice. Thank you for dreaming into this role as a brave co-creator, led by the Spirit to the Spirit.

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
121 N. SPRING STREET, MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057
Sunday Worship 10:00am and Wednesday 10:00am

**THIS IS CHRIST'S CHURCH
THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE**

St. Peter's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ congregation joining with Reconciling Works.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome and invite all of God's people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or economic status.

SERVING OUR CHURCH

November 19th, 2023

Presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Reader:

St. Peter's Congregation

Musicians:

Spirit & Truth

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ What is Faith Formation?
- ◆ Our shared vision statement
- ◆ A community of co-creators & co-learners
- ◆ Our participation

PRELUDE: As the Deer *by Marantha! Praise Band*

All are encouraged to share this meal together. Please consider eating with someone you may not know very well and hear the story they have to share.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GREETING AND RESPONSE

The grace of Christ, the love of God, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



CENTERING

+All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. We will begin with a moment of silence to center our hearts and minds, opening them to new ideas and preparing them to listen to voices of our siblings in Christ and of God.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Dear God,

We thank you for this community. Help us to listen, really listen to our siblings in Christ with an open heart and with respect.

We know you form and reform us like clay in Your hands.

Prepare us to take new shape according to Your will.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Using the pieces of paper on your table, write down your prayers for our church. These will be read during prayers of the people.

LISTENING SESSION I: Faith Formation

SONG: Be Still Psalm 46:10 & Micah 6:8 by Bennett Williams

During the song, write down your ideas from the questions below.

Stories of WHY

- *What is our congregation's goal for children, youth & family ministry (CYF)?*
- *What is the best ministry for CYF to happen here?*
- *What limits us in inviting and engaging children, youth and families?*

GATHERING HYMN: We All are One in Mission ELW 576



WORD

FIRST READING: Corinthians 12: 12-27

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as God chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

LISTENING SESSION II: Realities & Fears

SONG: We are One by *Angélique Kidjo*

During the song, write down your ideas from the questions below.

Stories of WHAT

- *What do we need to learn about inviting people to be part of church?*
- *What are we good at in our ministries?*
- *What do we need to know more about to serve people who need us?*

GOSPEL READING: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Creator feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Creator knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

LISTENING SESSION III: Who We Are & Whose We Are
SONG: Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715 v 1, 2 & 4

During the song, write down your ideas from the questions below

Stories of WHERE

- *What are our hopes for the children, youth and families of the church?*
- *How do the children and youth teach us about our faith life?*
- *What is hard about being a church and living it out?*

LISTENING

All are encouraged to share the prayers on their hearts.

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dear God, we trust in Your will and listen for Your voice. Draw us together in this community of love and lead us closer to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous God, you provide everything that we need. Help us to share these gifts from you with each other and with our global community.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all compassion, you hear our every prayer. Bring comfort to all who need your loving care, especially Alex Joyce, Thelma Thomas, Jessica Brenizer, Dorthy Murphy. Erma Grim, Doris Arnold, Regina Heagy, Marjorie Peiffer, Jim Hurst, Lucinda Sheaffer, Ryhan Lopatic, Lenda Evans, Don Cappetta, Ben Chappell, Josie Brewster and Richard Brandt.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here you are invited to have one person from your table read the prayers that were written at the beginning of service.

Trusting in your will, we surrender all to you. Anything is possible through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able. We will sing the Creed together.

CREED *by the Newsboys*

We believe in God the Father

We believe in Jesus Christ

We believe in the Holy Spirit

And He's given us new life

We believe in the crucifixion

We believe that He conquered death

We believe in the resurrection

And He's comin' back again

We believe!



PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you all

C: and also with you

P: share that peace with one another

LISTENING SESSION IV: Inside & Outside the church

SONG: Better Together *by Jack Johnson*

During the song, write down your ideas from the questions below.

Stories of How

- *What is the spiritual health of our congregation?*
- *How do we identify leaders? What works & what doesn't?*
- *How are the children and youth used in our ministries?*
- *What is working?*
- *What is not working?*
- *Who are our community partners and how are they being used?*
- *What do we need to do outside of Sunday morning worship?*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We will sing the Lord's Prayer together.

LORD'S PRAYER *by J. Nez Marcelo*

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at Jesus' table. Take your place.

All are invited to share in communion. It is Christ's table and all are welcome.

The Pastor will give you the bread and the communion assistant will have a tray of wine. Please take one cup and drink it. An Acolyte will collect the empty cup.

COMMUNION SONGS

One Bread, One Body ELW 496

Let Us Break Bread Together ELW 471

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, your sacrifice unites us and enlivens us to live a life inspired by your perfect love and endless grace. Encourage us to move together, embolden us to move forward, and set our hearts ablaze with your inspiration. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG: Here I Am, Lord ELW 574

We will begin the Congregational Meeting after a short break. Please use this time to use the restroom and refresh your drinks.

ANNUAL MEETING

**The Altar Flowers are dedicated in memory of Dottie
Willenbecher by her family.**

We Are One

As you go through life you'll see There is so much that we
Don't understand. And the only thing we know
Is things don't always go The way we planned.

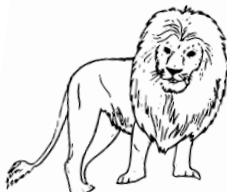
But you'll see every day That we'll never turn away,
When it seems all your dreams come undone.
We will stand by your side Filled with hope and filled with
pride. We are more than we are, We are one.

If there's so much I must be Can I still just be me
The way I am? Can I trust in my own heart
Or am I just one part Of some big plan?

Even those who are gone Are with us as we go on.
Your journey has only begun. Tears of pain,
Tears of joy, One thing nothing can destroy Is our pride, deep
inside, We are one.

We are one, you and I We are like the earth and sky.
One family under the sun. All the wisdom to lead,
All the courage that you'll need You will find when you see
We are one . . .

Written by Tom Snow, Marty Panzer & Jack Feldman



St. Peter's News

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

New to our prayer list this month:

Thelma Thomas, Jessica Brenizer, Dorthy Murphy, Erma Grim, Doris Arnold, Regina Heagy, Marjorie Peiffer, Jim Hurst, Lucinda Sheaffer, Ryhan Lopatic, Lenda Evans, Don Cappetta, Ben Chappell, Josie Brewster and Richard Brandt.

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers:

Karen Ainsley, Fred Harris, Ida Kramer, Anna Raffensburger, Betty Wise, Stephanie Kastelik, Diana Arnold, Mae Stum, Brenda Stum, George Fuoti, Linda Holmes, and Tina Polito.

****SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES****

Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane Cleckner, Edgar Lopez, John Pappas, Corbin Stetler, Colton Stone, Aaron Williams

MIDDLETOWN TREE LIGHTING EVENT

On November 25th from 6:00pm-8:00pm, we will have a tree lighting at the Kierch. Free pizza and soup will be offered by TOGETHER youth.

MITTEN TREE

Each year, we help spread a little warmth to the children and families in Middletown through our Mitten Tree. Please bring in new or handmade hats and mittens for all ages and place them on the tree in the north narthex beginning November 19th. These items will be collected until December 17th.

GIVING TREE

We will continue our tradition of giving gifts to those in need of a little Christmas. Beginning November 19th, a paper ornament with the age, gender and wish list will be on a paper ornament on the Giving tree in the north narthex. Please purchase and wrap the gifts and place them back under the Giving Tree by

December 17th for the TOGETHER Y.O.U.T.H. to deliver them. For questions, contact Alex Mabee at the church office.

VENDOR FAIR

Penn State Harrisburg is hosting a vendor fair at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Middletown on Saturday, December 2nd from 8:30am-3:30pm in Luther Hall. Proceeds from vendor fees benefit THON, a student-run philanthropy which provides emotional and financial support to families affected by childhood cancer. Please come do some holiday shopping while you support local vendors and a great cause. Admission is free!

HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus is performing a FREE holiday concert at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Middletown on Sunday, December 17th at 3pm in the sanctuary. The Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus was founded in 1987 and celebrates the LGBT experience in the central Pennsylvania region and beyond, delighting and entertaining audiences with fun, vibrant and gay-positive musical programs. It is comprised of men from diverse paths and origins, uniting in spirit with a common love of music to build bridges of understanding in our community through music and public outreach efforts.

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St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.