

Sunday, September 15, 2024  
Worship at the Kierch  
Praising God through Hymns & Psalms



Introduction

We celebrate the music of the church that spans the time from the first service in the Kierch to today. As we sing some of our favorite hymns, we explore how the rituals of our Lutheran faith have been anchored in the music. A “Kierch Choir” has been formed led by Bennett Williams, our Director of Music, to help us bring the Word to life through song. We praise God through singing hymns and psalms. (*ephesians 5:19*)

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

**This is a 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 CHURH**

**September 15, 2024**

**Preaching & Presiding:**

Pr. Molly Haggerty

**Musicians:**

Bennett Williams and the Kierch Choir

**Reader:**

Stephanie Ponnett

**PRELUDE:** Musical Selection

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MEDITATION:** ELW 779 Amazing Grace (1725-1807)

**GATHER**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of  $\text{✝}$  Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

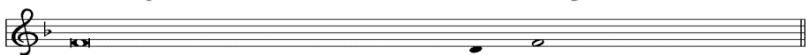
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn:** ELW 532 Gather Us In (1950)

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Abundance, you have given us the gift of joy! Christ came to make your Word come alive through the gifts of music, song and prayer. Today we give you thanks for gathering as the body of Christ and filling us with the spirit. We thank and praise you for the generations that surround us in this celebration of faith!

### Kyrie:



## **Canticle of Praise**

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## WORD

Deuteronomy 7:9,12-14 (CEB)

<sup>9</sup> Know now then that the Lord your God is the only true God! God is the faithful God, who keeps the covenant and proves loyal to everyone who loves God and keeps the commandments—even to the thousandth generation! <sup>12</sup> If you listen to these laws and follow them carefully, the Lord your God will keep the covenant and display the loyalty that is promised your ancestors. <sup>13</sup> God will love you, bless you, and multiply you. God will bless the fruit of your wombs and the fruit of your fertile land—all your grain, your wine, your oil, and the offspring of your cattle and flocks—upon the very fertile land that God swore to your ancestors to give to you. <sup>14</sup> You will be more blessed than any other group of people.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Musical Offering: You Are My All in All** *Duet by Paige and Gerry*

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 5: 1, 15-20

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, imitate God like dearly loved children. <sup>2</sup> Live your life with love, following the example of Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us. He was a sacrificial offering that smelled sweet to God. <sup>15</sup> So be careful to live your life wisely, not foolishly. <sup>16</sup> Take advantage of every opportunity because these are evil times. <sup>17</sup> Because of this, don't be ignorant, but understand the Lord's will. <sup>18</sup> Don't get drunk on wine, which produces depravity. Instead, be filled with the Spirit in the following ways: <sup>19</sup> speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts; <sup>20</sup> always give thanks to God for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> and submit to each other out of respect for Christ.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Celtic Alleluia** ELW 174

*Please stand as you are able.*

The Gospel according to St. John the fourth chapter.

**Glory to you O, Lord**

## **GOSPEL: John 4: 31-42**

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to complete this work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving<sup>¶</sup> wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

## **YOUNG WORSHIPERS’ MESSAGE SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 367 Now All the Vaults in Heaven  
Resound (1876-1947)

### **+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We will say the response together.*

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

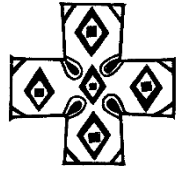
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always  
**And also with you**  
Let us give each other that sign of peace.



## MEAL

### OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.  
By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

### 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 INTSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the  
remembrance of me. *Body of Christ given for you.*  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all  
to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for



you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. *Blood of Christ shed for you.*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come.

*All are invited to share in communion. It is Christ's table and all are welcome. The Ushers will bring you forward. 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. You can go to the rail for a silent prayer or return to your seat.*

### **COMMUNION SONGS**

ELW 807 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (1735-1790)

ELW 595 Jesus Loves Me (1820-1915)

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **SEND**

### **BLESSING**

God all mighty, God most merciful

✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

*Standing is optional.*

**SENDING HYMN:** ELW 660 Lift High Cross (1827-1912)

### **DISMISSAL:**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God**

## POSTLUDE: ELW 290 Go Tell It On the Mountain (1872-1925)

The candle, altar flowers and bulletins are dedicated to the gift of  
friendship.

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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 place their home.*

## St. Peter's News

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

**New to our prayer list this month:** Gail Hossler, Chad Butz, Nancy Swartz, Art Wiand, Chancel Ilunga, Cheryl Schlum, Anthony Mondeaux, Barbara Henry, Nevin Lingle, Emily Booth, Josie Brewster, Lucinda Sheaffer, Ben Chappell, and Mary Houser. **Those friends and members in need of continued prayers:** Emily Eckert, Kate Haggerty, Karen Ainsley, Ida Kramer, Stephanie Kastelik, Brenda Stum, Kiersten Kwiatkowski, Linda Holmes, Tina Polito, Doris Arnold, Thelma Thomas, and Richard Brandt.

### **\*\*SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES\*\***

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

**Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits** St. Peter's is participating in providing health and school kits for Lutheran World Relief. We would appreciate any donations to help with the shipping costs associated with mailing them. See Sharon Beard if you would like to donate to this cause.

**Church work day September 12th, 2024, 9am-12pm-** We will be completing projects around the church including weeding, cleaning, organizing files, Kierch cleaning etc. We could use helping hands to get this work completed. Thank you!

**Pr. Eckert's 50th anniversary of ordination worship service**  
September 29th, 2024, Hosted by Good Shepherd and St. Peter's  
Coffee hour- 10 am Special Music- 10:30 am Worship- 11 am  
Luncheon- 12:15 pm If you would like to attend, please RSVP by  
September 20th, 2024, to [Skelly@stpetersmiddletown.org](mailto:Skelly@stpetersmiddletown.org) or by  
calling 717-944-4651

**Community Meals have begun!** TOGETHER is hosting a community meal every Tuesday night in Luther Hall. The meal is served from 6-7pm followed by fun and fellowship 7-8pm

**St. Peter's is hosting families from Family Promise October 13th-20th. We are seeking volunteers for the following:**

**AM drivers-** 5:30-6:30 am St. Peter's to Family Promise Day Center  
**PM drivers-** 5:30-6:30 PM Family Promise Day Center to St. Peter's  
**Meals-** 6:30pm provide a meal for 15 people  
**Meal Hosts-** 6:30PM -9 PM Spend time with families and help them with any needs.