

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 7, 2022
Holy Communion



Introduction

Jesus says, “It is God’s pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part of today. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God and peace, the way of the Kingdom. May fear be replaced with peace.

***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 August 7, 2022

Preaching/Presiding Pastor Molly Haggerty

Reader: Lore-Lee Walak

Musician(s): Jen Joyce, Dan Kemper, Neil Sunkel
Bennett Williams

Opening the Church for August: Andrew Wren

Masks are optional.

We ask that if you are not feeling well you worship from home via Facebook Live or listen to the service on WMSS 91.1FM.

We give thanks for your patience during this Covid season in your continued care for the health and safety of all.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENT

PRELUDE: Give Me Love by George Harrison

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Merciful God.

Our hearts are broken. We don't know how to love properly. Our trust is broken, we cannot earn it faithfully or give it freely. Our community is broken. We cannot love our neighbor as ourselves. We confess that we are both the victims and the perpetrators of our brokenness. We implore you, dear God: Break the cycle of brokenness. Provide the grace and trust that we cannot provide. Open our eyes to our neighbors who are near to us, and those who are far away. Heal our hearts. Restore our trust. Build our human community. Amen.

God created you, knows you intimately, and calls you "Good." As a minister of Christ, I proclaim that God loves you and forgives all your sins. But this absolution is not just for you. We live as forgiven in cycles of oppression. As forgiven Children of God, created in God's image, our forgiveness creates our ability to fight the unjust system we find ourselves in. Go forth as created, known, and loved people, forgiven to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim God's favor.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING SONG: Let There Be Peace on Earth by Jill Jackson & Sy Mille

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6 NRSV

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God; Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 100 (sung)

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:7-13-NRSV

⁷But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. ⁸For we cannot do anything against the truth but only for the truth. ⁹For we rejoice when we are weak but you are strong. This is what

we pray for, that you may be restored. ¹⁰ So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell.^[a] Be restored; listen to my appeal;^[b] agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of ^[c] the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Word of God; Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation: Blessed by Faith from God Above

The Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you O, Lord**

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40-Common English Bible

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

³² “Don’t be afraid, little flock, because your Father delights in giving you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to those in need. Make for yourselves wallets that don’t wear out—a treasure in heaven that never runs out. No thief comes near there, and no moth destroys. ³⁴ Where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.³⁵ “Be dressed for service and keep your lamps lit. ³⁶ Be like people waiting for their master to come home from a wedding celebration, who can immediately open the door for him when he arrives and knocks on the door. ³⁷ Happy are those servants whom the master finds waiting up when he arrives. I assure you that, when he arrives,

he will dress himself to serve, seat them at the table as honored guests, and wait on them. ³⁸ Happy are those whom he finds alert, even if he comes at midnight or just before dawn.^[a] ³⁹ But know this, if the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming, he wouldn't have allowed his home to be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Human One^[b] is coming at a time when you don't expect him."

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

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON

MEDITATION

HYMN OF THE DAY: When Peace Like a River
ELW 785 v 1,2,3

Please be seated for the prayers.

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Merciful God, **receive our prayers.**

"It is well, it is well with my soul..."

Please stand as you are able

WE BELIEVE 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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Let us share the peace with each other with a wave or a smile.

For those listening at home please share grace and peace with those around you, or call or text someone.

Please be seated.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We are an Offering ELW692

+OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,

strengthen us to labor in your field,

and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,

in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

PREFACE

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of

everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: Holy Lord (*This is new*)

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.

Come to the banquet.

Please be seated & come forward for Holy Communion as directed by our ushers. If you are unable to come forward for communion the pastor will come to you.

COMMUNION

Riverside *by the Pool Boys*

If I Had a Hammer *by Lee Hays / Pete Seeger*

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you
in true faith to everlasting life. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God,

through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,

that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; have courage; hold fast to
what is good; do no one evil for evil; strengthen the
fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all
people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the
Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Standing is optional

SENDING SONG: In the Garden

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace, to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with
God..

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Peace Train *by Cat Stevens*

**The Altar Flowers are dedicated
In memory of Loved Ones
By Ray Thompson
and
In Memory of Alice Treichler
By the Lippy Family**

**The Bulletins are dedicated to the Gift of Loved Ones
The Lamp Candle is dedicated
For the Gift of Loved Ones**

By Marie Fox

**Dear St. Peter's Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for awarding me with the \$2,500
scholarship! St. Peter's has always been a safe space for
me and has always supported me in everything I've done
since I was a little girl. I couldn't have asked for a better
church family while growing up. To receive this
scholarship is another one of the many generous ways the
congregation has supported me and I am so so thankful!
Love, Ally Evans**

We Believe by the Newsboys (full lyrics)

In this time of desperation
When all we know is doubt and fear
There is only one foundation
We believe We believe
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
So, let our faith be more than anthems
Greater than the songs we sing
And in our weakness and temptations
We believe We believe
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
Let the lost be found and the dead be raised
In the here and now, let love invade
Let the church live loud, our God we'll say
We believe, we believe
And the gates of hell will not prevail
For the power of God, has torn the veil
Now we know Your love will never fail
We believe, we believe
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
He's comin' back again He's comin' back again
We believe We believe

ST. PETER'S STAFF
Everyone Serving and Caring for Others

Rev. Molly Haggerty, Pastor

Rev. Elaine Dent, Ministry Leader

Bennett Williams, Coordinator of Music Ministry

Barry Lockard, Organist

Ellen Willenbecher, interim Coordinator of TOGETHER

Sharon Beard, interim Coordinator of Church Care &
Administration

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – noon. Monday – Thursday
(717)944-4651

Web site: www.stpetersmiddletown.org

E-mail address: ParishMail@stpetersmiddletown.org

WMSS 91.1FM broadcasts our service at 11am.

Facebook livestream: St Peter's Lutheran Church Middletown

WMSS 91.1FM broadcasts our service at 11am.

Watch the service live (10am) on our FACEBOOK page-

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Middletown, PA

Beginning in August we will celebrate all those members who have birthday in the month: (If you'd like to send a birthday card, contact the church office for the address (717-944-4651)

Allison Brognia (5), Marie Fox (5), Emilee Staub (6)
Jessica Erickson (7), Owen Evans (8), Leonardo Denardo (10), Karen Hahn (12), Sean Darrah (15), John Ponnett (16), Lynda Fitzpatrick (18), Tammy Farner (20), Allison Evans (21), Walter Heagy (22), Darryl Bower (23), Marjorie Peiffer (23), Thomas Tuffy (24), Joshua Sutherly (25), Joshua Thomas (31).

If we have missed your birthday please let Pastor Molly or Sharon know so we can get you on the list.

Our prayers and the comfort of our Christian faith are extended to the family of Connie Lohr. Connie died Sunday, July 24. Her memorial service was held at Susquehanna Valley Church, Harrisburg, PA.

Our prayers and the comfort of our Christian faith are extended to the family of Chris Green. Chris died Monday, August 1. Chris is the father of Elaina, Ethan and Elizabeth and the son-in-law of Nancy Beard.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

New to our prayer list this month:

Karen Ainsley, Diana Arnold, Hilda Hoke, Joann Hoy,
Kathleen Shutom, Corbin Stetler, Dennis Stover

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers.

Fred Harris, Perry Moreau, Tina Polito

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

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

- The ZOOM book study **has created a lending library in the hallway adjacent to Luther Hall**. Help yourself to copies. Please contact Marianne Moore to learn more about the topics/book the ZOOM discussion group is reviewing at this time at mmoore70@gmail.com or 717-329-3892.
- If you need information on Pennsylvania resources to get help with **mental health or addiction issues** call the Pa. support and referral helpline at 1-855-284-2494. Program operated by the Pa. Dept. of Human Services.
- **The Dauphin County Office of the Aging** provides a well-balanced hot lunch meal for delivery to residents of Dauphin County. *To request home delivered meals, please contact the Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging at (717) 780-6130. St. Peter's is responsible to deliver the meals the months of June and December.*

Applications are now being accepted for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a temporary emergency program to help low-income families pay overdue water bills. LIHWAP is a grant. **You do not have to repay it.** LIHWAP crisis grants may be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your water service. You can receive one crisis grant for your drinking water service and one crisis grant for your wastewater service, up to \$2,500 each. **Crisis situations include:** Past-due water bills. Termination of utility service. Danger of having utility service terminated (received a notice that service will be shut off within the next 60 days). **Apply Online:** www.compass.state.pa.us, **Phone:** Request an application by calling the Statewide Customer Service Center at 877-395-8930 or call PA Relay at

711 for the hearing impaired. **In-Person:** Applications are available at your local [county assistance office](#). You may qualify for a LIHWAP grant if: You either rent or own your home. You have an overdue water bill that you are responsible for paying. our household income meets income guidelines: for example the income limit for a family of 4 persons is \$39,750.

**FREE COVID TESTS!
CHECK WITH YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY. YOU
MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO 8 COVID TESTING
KITS EACH MONTH!**

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Household Donations - At this time the church is not in need of any household donations. If a specific need arises a notice will be put in Keynotes. However Wesley Methodist Church is doing a monthly pop-up thrift store called Threads of Hope. Anyone can come and shop for free. You can drop off donations Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30-3:00 at the backdoor on Whitherspoon Avenue. They take furniture as space allows. Call Coordinator Becky Port 717.562.9866 **(They will pick-up larger donations and furniture.)**

• FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY will be on the 1st Sunday of every month...Non-perishable food items & personal care items are needed. **Our next Food Pantry Sunday will be Sunday, August 7. You can bring food donations to the church throughout the week and place in the Food Pantry wagon.**

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 7

10:00am Church-Sanctuary

Wednesday, August 10

10:00am Church – Chapel

11:00am Bible Study

Sunday, August 14

10:00am Church-Sanctuary

11:00am Strategic Planning meeting/meal

Our next scheduled Strategic Planning meeting/meal is August 14 after worship. If you have already attended a planning meeting please come again. If you have not attended a Strategic Planning meeting yet please come, your ideas are of value to this conversation. For an idea of what we will be discussing please pick-up the Areas of Focus sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.

ART CAMP 2022

Images of Our World

Monday, August 15-Thursday, August 18

6pm-8:15pm

Free for ages 8-18 years.

Held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Contact Pastor Molly to register.

pastormolly.outreach@gmail.com or

through the brochure.