

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 15, 2022
Holy Communion



Introduction:

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

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

God's Purpose for St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to listen to God and one another, to invite, welcome, and serve our neighbors in the community.

(Purpose statement adopted by Church Council 10/2016)

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

May 15, 2022

Preaching:	Pastor Molly Haggerty
Presiding:	Pastor Elaine Dent
Reader:	Jeff Thoms
Organist:	Barry Lockard
Opening the Church for May:	Jeannie Dunaway

May 1 we will begin singing during worship.

We understand and affirm that some who attend church will be more comfortable wearing a mask.

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.

GATHERING

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Fugue in C Major – G.F. Handel

Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Source of all life,

Forgive us, when in our full and busy days we fail to share your love and grace with those around us.

Forgive us, when we fail to focus on the person speaking to us.

Forgive us, when we pass a neighbor and do not acknowledge them.

Forgive us, when the bounty you have given us, we fail to share with those in need.

Forgive us and guide us Lord, as we continue to live and grow into the people you are forming us to be.

Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ✠ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Kyrie (ELW Setting three, pg 140)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Now All the Vault of Heaven
Resounds ELW367

WORD

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

¹Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹At that very moment three men,

sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹²The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 148 (read responsively)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,**

tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle,**

creeping things and flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth
and heaven.

¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and
praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near
the LORD. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these

words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Word of God; Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Page 142, ELW setting three

HOLY GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

The Gospel according to St. John

Glory to you O, Lord

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: Jesus Loves Me ELW595

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.**

Please be seated for the prayers.

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Please stand as you are able

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING/OFFERTORY RESPONSE

+OFFERING PRAYER

Living God,
you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together
in your peaceable reign,
and you welcome us all at your table.

Reach out to us through this meal,
and show us your wounded and risen body,
that we may be nourished and believe
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 (ELW pg 144 Setting 3)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.

**Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is
he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

The risen Christ dwells with us here.

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

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

Lamb of God (ELW Setting three pg 146)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, generous God,

for in this bread and cup

we have tasted the new heaven and earth

where hunger and thirst are no more.

Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,

that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

Amen.

BLESSING

God, the Author of life,

Christ, the living Cornerstone,

and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: The Church's One Foundation ELW654

DISMISSAL:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Now Rejoice Together, Dear Christians –

J.S. Bach

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: 8:30 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

We remember in our prayers those 80 years and older celebrating their birthdays in May: William George (22),
(If you'd like to send a birthday card, contact the church office for addresses 717-944-4651)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Scott Fahnestock, Tracy Fahnestock, Fred Harris,
Perry Moreau, Tina Polito

Please pick up a copy of our Prayer Partners list.
You will find the list on the table in the north narthex.

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

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

****FAITH CONVERSATIONS****

WEDNESDAY EVENING THROUGH MAY 25

You are invited to any one or combination of these opportunities:

6:00PM Contemplative prayer circle.

6:30PM Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

7:00PM Faith conversations

We will offer faith conversations reflecting on five chapters from the book "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Kimmerer. In this book Kimmerer combines her indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants that to stir in us love and care for creation. Her stories also shed light on our own community of faith.

We have books available at a cost of \$18. If you'd like a copy let Pastor Molly, Pastor Elaine, or Sharon know.

□ 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.*

SEVERAL DAYS are still available in June for delivery to Middletown / Royaltown residents, please talk with Gail or Don Hossler. Thank You

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 Witherspoon Avenue. They take furniture as space allows. Call Coordinator Becky Port 717.582.9866 **(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, JUNE 5.** You can bring food donations to the church throughout the week and place in the Food Pantry wagon.

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Treasurer Report for Keynotes 5/2/2022 to 5/6/2022

Needed weekly = \$5,832

Needed Y T D (1) = \$104,976

Offerings last wk = \$3,249.60

Offerings Y T D = \$58,865.04

Total Received last wk = \$6,324.39

Total Received Y T D = \$95,771.57

Expended last wk = \$4,136.40

Expended Y T D = \$110,913.43

YTD Receipts less Exp (\$15,141.86)

We will worship at the Kierch on Memorial Day Weekend, Sunday, May 29 at 10am. Due to maintenance and safety issues we will not be hanging the large flag from the front of the church as we have in the past.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 15 –

10:00am – Worship-Sanctuary

11:30am – Worship at Hoffer Park – and Church

Picnic-church will supply the hamburgers/hot dogs, you are asked to bring a covered dish to share.

The picnic will be followed by Family Art Day in collaboration with Pastor Chad's churches.

Wednesday, May 18

10:00am Worship-Luther Hall

11:00am Faith Conversations

6:00PM Contemplative prayer circle.

6:30PM Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

7:00PM Faith conversations

Sunday, May 22 –

10:00am Worship-Sanctuary

11:00am Strategic Planning Mtg.

Wednesday, May 25

10:00am Worship-Luther Hall

11:00am Faith Conversations

6:00PM Contemplative prayer circle.

6:30PM Evening Prayer with Holy Communion

7:00PM Faith conversations

Sunday, May 29 –

10:00am Worship-Kierch