

Welcome to St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Living together in Christian love

- Romans 12:9-21 -

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

10:15 Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

BELL RINGING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928

Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song, c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music (ASCAP).

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Kate Johns

Jesus, the Savior

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8 (*Read Responsively*)

¹Give judgment for me, O Lord, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

²**Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence, O Lord,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸**Lord, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

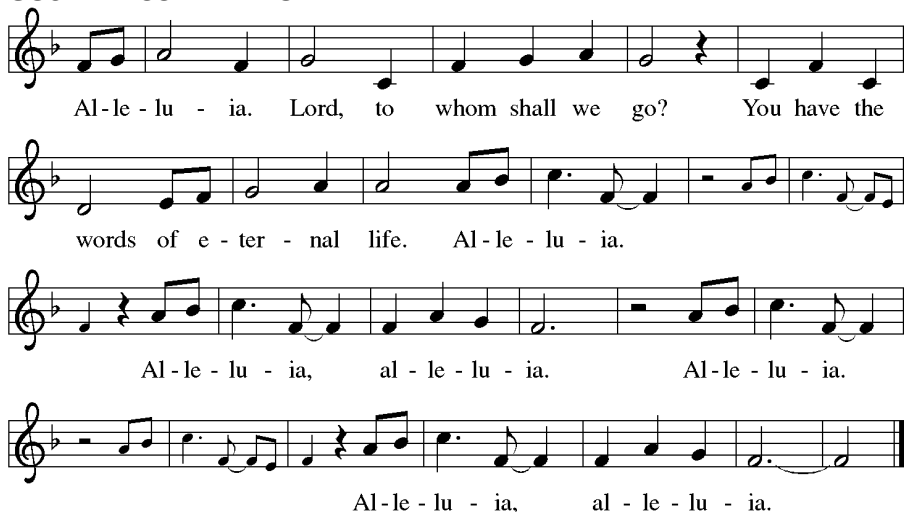
¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. *The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Take My Life, That I May Be

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church,
those in need, and all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is
anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise,
teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith.

The response for each petition is:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All
this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

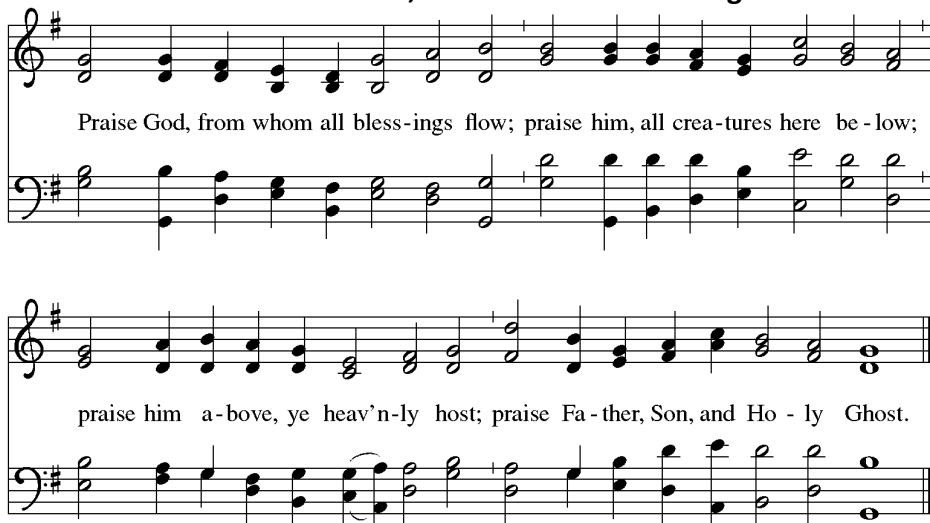
PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Our offerings are made processionally, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the nave.

OFFERTORY SONG: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. *(silence)* Merciful God, **you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

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.

THE PROPER PREFACE *(It is indeed right...join their unending hymn)*

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.



LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord 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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Let us join together in the heavenly banquet that has no end.

LAMB OF GOD (sung as the distribution of the sacrament begins)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

The Sacrament will be offered with these words:

The body of Christ, given for you. *And* The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Optional responses **Amen or Thanks be to God or Renew us, Lord**

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim with joy your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:



Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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SHARING FOR SERVING: Mission Notices and Birthdays

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Chorus of Praise

Lani Smith

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley	Luke Clawson	Donna Daugherty
Berty McMillen	Stephanie Hogan	Annastyn Hogan
Debbie Beahm	Nancy Zattiero	Margaret Clawson
Rick Reifenstein	Ken Nagle	Gary Miller
Sherill Roberts	The Family of Charles Harbaugh	

*The Altar Flowers are given by
Robin VanDyke
in honor of Benson’s 2nd birthday
& in memory of her father Joseph*

*Today’s Eternal Candle is presented
by Teresa O’Malley
in celebration of the birthdays
of her sons John & Timothy Barron*

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for September:

Passavant Retirement, Zelig

If you would like to support this cause, please mark the “Other” line on your contribution envelope Passavant.

Featured August Food Cupboard Donation – Tissues & Paper Towels

Apple Dumpling Making – Thank you to everyone who has already helped with preparing for Applefest. **Saturday, September 5**, our apple dumpling making continues. We will share a potluck lunch as part of the day. Please bring something to share.

School Supplies – We received a wonderful response from the congregation of school supplies for the W/ELCA school kit assembly. If you signed up to donate, but have not yet brought in your supplies, please have them to the church by **next Sunday, September 6**.

Rally Day – Our kick-off to a new Sunday School year starts on **Sunday, September 13 at 9:00 am**. We have something for all ages, so please plan to be a part of Rally Day. We will gather all together in the picnic shelter that morning.



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
*is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).*

ELCA Presiding Bishop

SWPA Synod Bishop

Pastor

Organist & Music Director

Sexton

Acolyte

Asst. Minister

Bell Ringer

Greeters

Lector

Ushers

Nursery

Tech Support

The Rev. Yehiel Curry

The Rev. Melissa Stoller

The Rev. Brandon Johns

Marlene Domhoff

Joe Ludwik

Gus Mossor

Teresa O'Malley

Ryan Bonicky

Brenda & Vic Pepper

Cheryl Thomas

Rob Burr & Adam Price

Staci Bettencourt

Adam Price

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon. – Friday	4 – 6:00 pm	After School Program
Tues. Sept. 1	7:00 pm	Property Meeting
Wed. Sept. 2	10:00 am	Community Quilters
	12:00 pm	Lunch Bunch
Thurs. Sept. 3	10:00 am	Quilters Group
Fri. Sept. 4	12:00 pm	Lunch & 500 Club
Sat. Sept. 5	8:00 pm	Apple Dumplings

Apple Fest: Sept. 18th & 19th

Dumpling Making: Sat. Sept. 5th at 8:00 am

Apple Cutting for Apple Butter: Fri. Sept. 11th at 8:00 am

Apple Butter Making: Sat. Sept. 12th at 5:00 am - ?

Apple Dumpling & Apple Butter Orders – Hopefully you have found a way to take part in the process of making our delicious apple treats, but don't forget to get an order form if you also want to eat or share the finished products!

Welcome to St. Peter's

We are thankful that you are here to worship with other Christians today. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that your worship experience will fill you with the grace and mercy of Almighty God through his Holy Spirit.



Newcomers and Guests

New to St. Peter's? Please sign the GUEST REGISTER behind the last pew. You are welcome to commune with us if that is your practice. A handicapped accessible RESTROOM is located near the Van Buren Street entrance (through Luther Hall, past the kitchen, restroom is on the left in the foyer).

Nursery – is staffed by a volunteer and available for children and caregivers. Exit the rear of the nave and follow the steps to the basement, the nursery is on the left. The service can be heard through an intercom in the nursery. There are activity bags in the back of the sanctuary and children's bulletins geared for children ages 5 and up are at the nave entrances.

Offering – Thank you for supporting our ministries! Plates are available at the front and rear of the nave to receive offering, or you if you prefer, we have Venmo as an option. If you choose to use Venmo, please note how you would like the funds to be designated, like for Current Fund, etc.

Peters LCEC

@Peters-LCEC



venmo

Staying in Touch:

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am until noon.

Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

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Pastor Email: rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com

Church Website: www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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