

Sunday, August 31, 2025
Lectionary 22, Year C
Holy Communion 10 am



INTRODUCTION

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

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 31, 2025

Preaching & Presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Spirit & Truth

Reader:

John Ponnett

PRELUDE: I'm Getting Ready *by Michael Kinvanuka*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC MEDITATION: You've Got a Friend in Me *by Randy Newman*

GATHER

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

We gather together as God's people, grateful for all that is created.

We celebrate the Good News of Jesus' love for all.

We welcome the guidance of the spirit to lead us towards grace, forgiveness and love.

Amen.

Let us take time to let go of the things we have done wrong, to open our minds to God's way in the world and apologize to our neighbors for what we have not yet done on their behalf.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others,

but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness,

and generosity,

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds,

and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ

and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of ✝ Christ,

and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: Gather Us In ELW 532 v 1, 3, 4

PRAYER OF THE DAY: O God, you resist those who are proud
and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your
Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,

^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

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

PSALM: Psalm 112 *(will be spoken)*

The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. (Ps. 112:4)

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who ¹ fear the Lord
and have great delight in ¹ God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty ¹ in the land;
the generation of the upright ¹ will be blessed. R**

³ Wealth and riches will be ¹ in their house,
and their righteousness will ¹ last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness ¹ for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full ¹ of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be gener- ¹ ous in lending
and to manage their af- ¹ fairs with justice.

⁶ **For they will nev- ¹ er be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlast- ¹ ing**

remembrance. R

⁷ They will not be afraid of any ¹ evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting ¹ in the Lord.

⁸ **Their heart is established and ¹ will not shrink,
until they see their desire up- ¹ on their enemies.**

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness
stands ¹ fast forever;

they will hold up their ¹ head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their
teeth and ¹ pine away;**

the desires of the wick- ¹ ed will perish. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: I Saw the Light *by Tod Rundgren*

Verse 1:

It was late last night

I was feeling something oh so right

There was not another soul in sight

Only You, only You

Verse 2:

So I walked along,
though I knew that there was nothing wrong
And the feeling hit me oh so strong about You

Chorus:

Then I gazed up at You and the answer was plain to see
'Cause I saw the light In Your eyes in Your eyes
The Gospel according to Luke the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1,7-14

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Be Thou My Vision ELW 793 v 1, 2, 3

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We will say the response together.

Hear us O God. **Your Mercy is great.**

Let us confess our faith through the Apostles' Creed together:

APOSTLES' CREED *(will be spoken)*

**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

P: The peace of Christ be with you all

C: and also with you

P: share that peace with one another

MEAL

MUSICAL OFFERING: For the First Time *by Matt Wertz*

Trouble finds me without warning
Standing in the light of morning
Wanna grab my things and hit the road
Must have done it a thousand times
All the leaving that would make things right
I've gone so far there's nowhere left to go

CHORUS

For the first time I'm changing my mind
And I'm gonna stay You opened my eyes
Finally realized I'm what's in the way

I never knew when I quit bending
I hit the bottom but I keep on digging
Now I'm running out of things to take the pain
Here I stand with my white flag waving
Hoping you can believe what I'm saying
I was wrong I don't wanna stay the same

CHORUS

For the first time
I'm changing my mind
And I'm gonna stay (I'm gonna stay)
You opened my eyes
Finally realized
I'm what's in the way
What's in the way

OFFERING PRAYER:

Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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 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.

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 *(will be spoken)*

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

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.

COMMUNION SONGS:

Let Us Break Bread Together ELW 471

Make You Feel My Love *by Bob Dylan*

VERSE 1

When the rain is blowing in your face
And the whole world is on your case
I could offer you a warm embrace
To make you feel my love

VERSE 2

When evening shadows and the stars appear
And there is no one there to dry your tears
I could hold you for a million years
To make you feel my love

BRIDGE

I know you haven't made your mind up yet
But I would never do you wrong
I've known it from the moment that we met
No doubt in my mind where you belong

VERSE 3

I'd go hungry, I'd go black and blue
I'd go crawling down the avenue
You know there's nothing that I wouldn't do
To make you feel my love

BRIDGE

The storms are raging on the rollin' sea
And on the highway of regret
The winds of change are blowing wild and free
You ain't seen nothing like me yet

VERSE 4

I could make you happy, make your dreams come true
Nothing that I wouldn't do
Go to the ends of the earth for you
To make you feel my love
To make you feel my love

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.

Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SEND

BLESSING:

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit

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

Standing is optional.

SENDING SONG: Amigos De Cristo *by Jack Yivisaker*

Refrain:

Amigos de Cristo; we're friends of the Lord;
Amigos de Cristo; we're friends of the Lord.
For we've been forgiven, and we've been restored,
Amigos de Cristo; we're friends of the Lord.

Friends of the covenant renewed each morn;
baptized and loving it, we've been reborn.
Gift of the dove is ours for evermore.
Amigos de Cristo; we're friends of the Lord.

(Refrain)

2. Born of a family, the young and old,
we'll be on hand to see new life unfold.
We understand the need to be made whole.
Amigos de Cristo; we're friends of the Lord.

(Refrain)

DISMISSAL: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: I'm A Believer *by The Monkees*

The altar flowers are dedicated in memory of Guy E. Wise by Betty,
Molly & Jim

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: Larry Lingle Jr., Dianne Breininger, Phil Melisco, Richard Brant, Mary Houser, Chad Schatz, Alex Norden-Mabee, Sue Stitler, Michelle, Milton, Bruce, Linda Carpen, Vicki Mitchell, Marie Fox, Betty Wise, Jenny Dimeler, Jim White, Lynda Fitzpatrick

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers: Rig Boyer, Tina Polito, Patty & John Stewart, Charles Brooks, Mitchell Hahn, Karen Eckles, Barbara Henry, Emily Booth, Lucinda Sheaffer, Ben Chappell.

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

Justin Polito, Corbin Stetler, Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane Mondeaux, Anthony Mondeaux, Edgar Lopez, John Pappas, Colton Stone, Aaron Williams

Dear Sharon and your crew,

The Women of the ELCA thank you profusely for all that you did on Saturday for Convention. The food was outstanding! The set up was just what we needed. Your hard work was appreciated by all.

And then you had to do it all again for the Ordination! You are all heroes in my book.

Thanks again,
Linda Heiny
LSS SWO Secretary

There will be a craft fair & vendor show in Luther Hall on Saturday September 6, 2025, from 9am to 1pm. Spread the word!

Volunteers are needed to help unload the MidWest Food bank items every other Tuesday through the summer. Volunteers meet at the church at 11:45am to help unload the boxes of food out of the vehicles and into the church. If you are available any of the following Tuesdays, we would appreciate your help! September 9 & 23.

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits St. Peter's is participating in providing health and school kits for Lutheran World Relief. We have all the items needed and have assembled the kits! 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.

Food Pantry Donation Days will be the first Sunday and first Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in supporting the food pantry, please bring canned goods (canned veggies, fruit, soups, baked beans etc.) or hygiene items (soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant etc.) to the Worship Service the first Sunday or Wednesday of the month. Thank you for your generosity!

Hope Academy PA is so excited for the start of our 3rd year! We are offering a 2-day morning class (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am-11:30am) for children turning 3 by 12/31/25, a 3-day class (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9am-11:30) and a pre-Kindergarten class Monday-Friday, 9:15am-1:15pm. **We have scholarships and financial aid still available and space available in each of the 3 classes. Please help us spread the word and register at www.wearehopeacademy.org.**

Church Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – noon. Monday – Thursday

Enter through the Community Center doors

Phone Number: (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