

Sunday, September 21, 2025  
Lectionary 25, Year C  
Holy Communion 10 am



### INTRODUCTION

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

***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**

**September 21, 2025**

**Preaching & Presiding:**

Pr. Molly Haggerty

**Musicians:**

Dan Allegar, Dave Thompson,  
Bennett Williams, Gerry Leonard

**Reader:**

Don Hossler

**PRELUDE: House of Gold** *by Hank Williams*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MUSIC MEDITATION: Gospel Shoes** *by Watchhouse*

## **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,  
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 formed 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.**

**GATHERING HYMN: What a Friend We Have in Jesus ELW**  
**742 v 1, 2, 3**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

<sup>5</sup> saying, “When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain,  
and the Sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier  
and practice deceit with false balances,

<sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

<sup>7</sup> The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

**PSALM: Psalm 113** (*will be read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord;  
praise the name of the Lord.

<sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the Lord be blessed,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its going down  
let the name of the Lord be praised.

<sup>4</sup> **The Lord is high above all nations;  
God’s glory above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Who is like the Lord our God,  
who sits enthroned on high,

<sup>6</sup> **but stoops to behold  
the heavens and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup>The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust  
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

<sup>8</sup>**enthroning them with the rulers,  
with the rulers of the people.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord makes the woman of a childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

## **SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all  
—this was attested at the right time.<sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

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

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: You've Got a Friend** *by James Taylor*

You just call out my name, and you know wherever I am,  
I'll come running to see you again.

Winter, spring, summer, or fall, all you got to do is call  
and I'll be there, yes I will.

You've got a friend.

The Gospel according to Luke the sixteenth chapter.

**Glory to you O, Lord**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13**

*Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.*

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a

manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup> He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup> "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: Let Streams of Living Justice ELW 710**

**v 1, 2, 3**

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

*We will say the response together.*

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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: Instrumental**

**OFFERING PRAYER:**

Lord of the harvest,  
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.  
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,  
but on you, who richly provides for us.  
Multiply what we have gathered  
to bless all who are suffering and in need,  
through Jesus Christ our 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 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:** Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

*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 SONG: We Are an Offering ELW 692

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

O God,  
through this meal you have strengthened us  
and appointed us to be your servants.  
Send us to do good and to share our possessions  
with all in need.  
We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### SEND

### BLESSING:

The God of righteousness,  
who gives justice to the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry,  
who sets the prisoners free,  
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Standing is optional.*

### **SENDING: Morning Train** *by David Francey*

I met Jesus in the morning He was waiting for a train  
He said He thought it might be time  
To come down and explain  
How wrong it was to do some things  
And do them in His name  
He said, "After all, everybody's Riding on this train"  
I met Buddha on the subway  
On the subway underground Saw his smile slowly fade  
I saw him look around  
He said He wished we'd understand  
And do so in His name  
He said, "After all, everybody's Riding on this train"  
Met Allah on the El train Above the city streets  
We rattled down the railway line  
And we looked down on the meek  
He said He wondered why it was  
Some never feel the pain  
He said, "After all, everybody's Riding on this train"  
I saw the Devil standing At the station in the rain

He had a smile upon his face Self satisfied and vain  
Said, "Heaven is its own reward  
I don't have to explain"  
He said, "After all, everybody's Riding on this train"

**DISMISSAL:** Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: Paradise** *by John Prine*

The bulletins and altar flowers are dedicated in memory of Jeffrey  
Baumbach by Sharon Beard.

From sundaysandseasons.com.  
Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
*Printed with permission from One License A-72871*  
**Church Copyright License®**  
21960089 Size A

*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, Richard Brant, Mary  
Houser, Alex Norden-Mabee, Sue Stetler, Michelle, Milton, Bruce,  
Marie Fox, Betty Wise, Jenny Dimeler, Jim White, Lynda Fitzpatrick  
**Those friends and members in need of continued prayers:** 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

### **Welcome Picnic: Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 5:00 pm**

Are you new or curious about our ministries? Please come to an  
informal meal and conversation about the ministries of the church.

This is a time to ask questions and for us to spend more time getting to know each other. RSVP to the office at 717-944-4651

### **The Community Band Trick-or-Treat Concert-**

A festive trick-or-treat themed concert will be held in Luther Hall on Sunday, October 5 from 1-2:15pm. Guests are invited to join The Community Band by dressing in costumes!

### **Capture The Flag Spectacular at Kierchenwald**

**Sunday, October 5 3-5:30pm** Invite your friends and family (parents too) to join in this CTF summer reunion event. Campfire worship to follow. This is a free event, but please RSVP by September 26 to 717-677-8211 or online at [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)

### **Next food pantry donation days are Sunday October 5 and Wednesday October 8.**

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. Thank you!

### **Fall Craft & Vendor Show October 4, in Luther Hall**

**9am-1pm** Come shop local and support our community.

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](http://www.stpetersmiddletown.org)

E-mail address: [ParishMail@stpetersmiddletown.org](mailto:ParishMail@stpetersmiddletown.org)

WMSS 91.1FM broadcasts our service at 11am.

Facebook livestream: St Peter's Lutheran Church Middletown

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

## WORD FIND

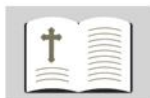
V V O O T F K H X W S Q L V S O I S J G X O I  
 L X G H H A C I M F O G P E T E R Z F R E Z O  
 S T G S E A P H W R Z B T K O O G K A S K D B  
 N G B M D E T F H E L K W S C P Y O V N U J A  
 A G C X L S H M E V D S L E I K E Z E A L Q D  
 I A L R D O N J B E M N A H U M C T W I E A I  
 H L E H E H H A R L R A S M I Q O O Z P R G A  
 T A I A T G O M E A G I N U O I L U V P H L H  
 N T N I K M J E W T D S A F L S O H C I A H U  
 I I A R R Q F S S I Y E M S L P S M N L N P N  
 R A D A A P P D F O Q H O A E R S V X I O Y Y  
 O N W H M Y R F Q N W P R M O H I O K H J B B  
 C S C C H A G G A I P E H B J U A G K P B Z J  
 V O K E X Z E P H A N I A H O S N S M K R R R  
 H D M Z Q Z V B H A B A K K U K S P B W W X Q  
 Y N R X C B G T S W E H T T A M G E X F X G Y

PHILIPPIANS  
 CORINTHIANS  
 REVELATION  
 COLOSSIANS  
 ZECHARIAH  
 ZEPHANIAH  
 GALATIANS

HABAKKUK  
 OBADIAH  
 MATTHEW  
 HEBREWS  
 EZEKIEL  
 DANIEL  
 ROMANS

JAMES  
 PETER  
 HOSEA  
 JONAH  
 MICAH  
 NAHUM  
 MARK

AMOS  
 JOHN  
 LUKE  
 JOEL  
 HAGGAI  
 EPHESIANS



**COOL2BKIDS**

