

Sunday, October 26, 2025
Lectionary 30, Year C
Holy Communion 10 am



INTRODUCTION

Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For this we worship and glorify God forever.

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

October 26, 2025

Preaching & Presiding:

Pr. Molly Haggerty

Musicians:

Jordan Williams, Dan Allegar, Wren,
Avery & Amy Heckman, Gerry Leonard

Reader:

Julie Starliper

PRELUDE: All My Fountains *by Chris Tomlin*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSIC MEDITATION: I Will Sing of Your Mercy *by Jars of Clay*

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: Lift High The Cross ELW 660 v1-3

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Holy God, our righteous judge, daily
your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our
hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their
glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

*In a time of drought, the people pray for mercy, repenting of their sins and the sins
of their ancestors. They appeal to God to remember the covenant, to show forth
God's power, and to heal their land by sending life-giving rain.*

⁷ Although our iniquities testify against us,
act, O Lord, for your name's sake;
our rebellions indeed are many,
and we have sinned against you.

⁸ O hope of Israel,
its savior in time of trouble,
why should you be like a stranger in the land,
like a traveler turning aside for the night?

⁹ Why should you be like someone confused,
like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?
Yet you, O Lord, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by your name;
do not forsake us!

¹⁰ Thus says the Lord concerning this people:
Truly they have loved to wander;
they have not restrained their feet;
therefore the Lord does not accept them;
now he will remember their iniquity
and punish their sins.

¹⁹ Have you completely rejected Judah?

Does your heart loathe Zion?

Why have you struck us down

so that there is no healing for us?

We look for peace but find no good,

for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

²⁰ We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord,

the iniquity of our ancestors,

for we have sinned against you.

²¹ Do not spurn us, for your name's sake;

do not dishonor your glorious throne;

remember and do not break your covenant with us.

²² Can any idols of the nations bring rain,

or can the heavens give showers?

Is it not you, O Lord our God?

We set our hope on you,

for it is you who do all this.

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

PSALM: Psalm 84:1-7 (*will be read responsively*)

Happy are the people whose strength is in you. (Ps. 84:5)

¹ How dear to me ¹ is your dwelling,

O ¹ Lord of hosts!

² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts ¹ of the Lord;**

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the ¹ living God.

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may ¹ lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king ¹ and my God.

⁴ **Happy are they who dwell ¹ in your house!**

They will always be ¹ praising you.

⁵ Happy are the people whose strength ¹ is in you,

whose hearts are set on the ¹ pilgrims' way.

⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a ¹ place of springs,**

for the early rains have covered it with ¹ pools of water.

⁷ They will climb from ¹ height to height,

and the God of gods will be ¹ seen in Zion.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

The conclusion of this letter to a young minister offers a final perspective on life from one who faced death. Though others let him down, Paul was sure of his faith in the Lord, who stood by him and lent him strength.

⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Camp Alleluia ALLELUIA, GIVE THANKS

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His Name. (Repeat)

The Gospel according to Luke the eighteenth chapter.

Glory to you O, Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 18:9-14

The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.

⁹ [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man

went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

YOUTH TALK

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: How Firm a Foundation ELW 796

+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:

Every Move I Make *by The David Crowder Band*

Na Na's

VERSE

Every move I make, I make in You
You make me move, Jesus
Every breath I take, I breathe in You
Every step I take, I take in You
You are my way, Jesus
Every breath I take, I breathe in You

CHORUS

Waves of mercy, waves of grace
Everywhere I look, I see Your face
Your love has captured me
Oh my God, this love, how can it be?

Na Na's

REPEAT

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, 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: 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 SONGS:

Let Us Break Bread Together ELW 471

Jesus! Lamb of God

(Confirmation Camp)

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

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 SONG: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God ELW 504 v1-3

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

POSTLUDE: Make a Difference *by Rachel Kurtz*

**The altar flowers are dedicated in memory of Bob & Karen
Mrakovich.**

Nappy 74th wedding anniversary to Leroy & Bev

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

**The time change will happen on November 2nd.
Make sure to turn your clocks back so you are
not an hour early for church!**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: New to our prayer list this month: Gary Fichthorn, Jaiden Mullins, Josie Brewster, Neal Kresge, Ruth Shireman, Jimmy & Cece Abromitis, Larry Lingle Jr., Richard Brandt, Sue Stetler, Michelle, Milton, Bruce, Betty Wise, Jim White, Lynda Fitzpatrick **Those friends and members in need of continued prayers:** Jenny Dimeler, Marie Fox, Dianne Breininger, Tina Polito, Patty & John Stewart, Charles Brooks, Mitchell Hahn, Karen Eckles, Barbara Henry, Emily Booth, Lucinda Sheaffer.

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

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

FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! 4 spots left!
We need volunteers for meals, drivers and hosts for our Family Promise week November 2-9. There is a sign-up sheet in the conference room or you can sign up at
<https://tinyurl.com/FPvoluteer>. See Pr. Molly of Shannon if you have any questions.

Lutheran Camping Corporation Annual Quilt Auction

Sunday, November 2, 2025 at Camp Nawakwa.

Please register for the in- person event by October 29. This is a free event and includes evening meal. 2pm Silent Auction of hand-made craft items. 3pm Live auction of quilts. Dinner following the live auction **Preview quilts & items and bid online at**
LutheranCamping.org/quiltauction

Women's Craft Retreat November 7-9 at Nawakwa

Projects are provided and you may bring your own to work on. To register please call 717-677-8211 or visit LutheranCamping.org by November 1. Meals, lodging, and most supplies provided. Registration fee: \$185.

This past month The Sewing Circle group sent 10 personal care kits, 78 quilts and 27 school kits to Tree of Life with Lutheran World Relief. We thank them for their hard work and all they do to help other communities!

Craft Fair and Vendor show Saturday November 15 9am-1pm

There will be a fall craft and vendor show in Luther Hall. Come start your holiday shopping and support local vendors!

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

