



19th Sunday After Pentecost

October 18th & 19th, 2025

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
201 S Michigan St.

Mission Statement:

To worship and praise God boldly, witness to God's Goodness, and serve God with joy.

There is a striking image in today's parable of the father, seemingly anticipating his son's return, running to meet him on the way. For Jesus' audience the image of this wealthy man running, robes hiked up, would have been silly, scandalous, or both. But the reckless love of the father is a vision of God as the seeker, the pursuer, and the love-stricken parent. In our moments of grief, guilt, shame, and struggle, we can be sure that Jesus is seeking us out, ready to run out to meet us in a saving embrace.

God's love is freely shared with all: we cannot earn

it, we cannot deserve it. We respond to God's grace and mercy with our own feeble attempts to emulate God's perfect love. Let us seek to welcome others as we have been welcomed by Christ, so that we can all celebrate and rejoice as the family of God. Let us join in God's feast of mercy today.

THE CHURCH IS GATHERED TOGETHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

** Throughout worship we invite you to find a posture for prayer, singing, and listening that is comfortable for you. At the places in the worship service that are marked with an *, you are invited to stand if that is comfortable for you.*

MISSION MOMENT ON FALL THEME AND 2026 MISSION GOALS

"BOLD BELIEF + CREATIVE WELCOME"
(On Sunday) from Linda Shihata

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **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.

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** **ELW #856**
"How Great Thou Art"

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!

- 2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain*
- 3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin;
Refrain

- 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *Refrain*

*** 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.**

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of compassion, **you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC BY CHOIR (on Sunday)
"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

THE WORD IS PROCLAIMED

Psalms: 121 (*read responsively*)

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**
³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸ The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

First Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 15:7

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

KID TALK

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (On Sunday)**

Setting Ten- ELW pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*** GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable:

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his

father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.'²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate,²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing."²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.'²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.'³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.'³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Miranda

During this time, children and adults have the option to come forward to the altar rail to pray. Prayer Pals, prayer labyrinths, and other prayer tools are available. We will gather at the railing now through the Prayers of Intercession.

*** SERMON HYMN ACS #1062 V. 1, 3, 4** *"Build a Longer Table"*

1. Build a longer table, not a higher wall,
feeding those who hunger, making room for all.

Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,
Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.

3. Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.

Love protects all people, sparing no expense.
When we embrace compassion more than fear,
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

4. When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.

So must our tables welcome those who roam.
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

*** 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, suf-
fered 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**

After each prayer, please respond with the words **"receive our prayer"**.

* SHARING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

* 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.**

CHRIST'S MEAL IS SHARED

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(ELW pg. 206 on Sunday)

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

* 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

DISTRIBUTION (CONTINUOUS)

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Lamb of God" ELW pg. 208

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;

you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;

eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

"Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am" **ELW #814** 4x

Take, oh, take me as I am;

summon out what I shall be;

set your seal upon my heart

and live in me.

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" **ELW #608**

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he's waiting and
watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,)

come home! (come home!)

You who are weary, come home."

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his
mercies,
mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and
pardon,
pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

*** COMMUNION BLESSING**

*** 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.**

WE ARE SENT TO BE THE
CHURCH

*** 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.**

*** SENDING HYMN**

(On Saturday)

"For the Beauty of the Earth" ELW #879

(On Sunday)

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" ELW #859

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!
My heart is longing to offer up sweet adoration.
Melody make; dulcimer, harp, now awake.
Sound forth your praise, ev'ry nation.
- 2 Praise the Almighty, o'er all life so wondrously reigning,
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting,
sustaining.
Have you not seen? All that is needful has been
sent by God's gracious ordaining.
- 3 Praise the Almighty, who prospers your work and defends you;
see from the heavens the showers of mercy God sends you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do;

Infinite Love here befriends you.

- 4 Praise the Almighty! In wonder my spirit is soaring!

All that has life and breath, come now with praises outpouring.
Let the amen sound from God's people again,
gladly forever adoring.

*** SUNG BENEDICTION "Go Now in Peace"**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.

*** DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

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Next Sunday's Readings:

Romans 3:19-28, Psalm 46, 1 John 4:7-12,
John 8:31-36

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Our Prayers This Week:

Robert "Bud" Mertz, Chris Bohlen, Sheryll Bunders, Fawn-eyes LaVelle, Creighton Groom, Jenny Sylvester, Christine Olson and family, Wes Bohlen, Linda Day, Nickolas McCullick, Frank Weeks, Daniel Day, Greg Tangeman, Mike Bohlen, Karen Kvalheim, and Keven Walter.

Saturday Worship Volunteers:

Ushers— Linda Smrcina

Acolyte— Reggie Nichols

Reader— Linda Smrcina

Assisting Minister—Terri Natwick

Sunday Worship Volunteers:

Ushers— Sandy Nagle & Jan Weisensale

Acolyte— Caycen Erickson & Will Erdenberger

Reader— Michael Douglass

Camera— Bentley & Alexis Stanek

Easy Worship—David & Garrett Dehart

Communion Servers— Michael Douglass & John Kite

Coffee Hour:

October 19th: Cheryl Trentin

October 26th: Joe Bailey

ALL SAINTS WORSHIP on November 1st and 2nd

All Saints Worship is the first weekend of November at both Saturday and Sunday Worship. We will continue in our pattern, as we have the past many years by having a lighting of candles and reading of names of those who have died, both in the last calendar year and beyond. If you have had a loved one pass away since last All Saints Day, please contact the church office with the name.

This Week's Events

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH 19TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

- Synod WELCA Fall Renewal at Trinity, LaCrosse
- 5:15 p.m. Worship with communion

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH 19TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

- 9 a.m. Worship with Communion. Worship also broadcast on the radio and Facebook.
- 10:20 a.m. B.O.B. Ministry and Adult Discipleship
- Pastors Fall Theological Conference 19th -21st

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20TH

- Pastors Fall Theological Conference 19th -21st.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST

- Pastors Fall Theological Conference 19th -21st

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

- 9:15 a.m. (approx.) Weekly Radio Devotion
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Food for Confirmation
- 6:45 p.m. Confirmation Ministry/9th Grade Confirmation Rehearsal
- 7:45 p.m. HS Youth Group: Large Group Game Night

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

- 5 p.m. Book Club
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH REFORMATION SUNDAY

- 5:15 p.m. Worship with communion

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH REFORMATION SUNDAY

- 9 a.m. Worship with Communion. Worship also broadcast on the radio and Facebook.
- 10:20 a.m. B.O.B. Ministry and Adult Discipleship

“BOLD BELIEF + CREATIVE WELCOME”
STEWARDSHIP 2026

How do we welcome others as we have been welcomed by God? How do we respond to the abundance, love, and generosity of God that we receive in Christ? We will respond with bold faith, courage, creativity, and generosity.

Our 1st Mission Goal for 2026: Modify and improve our facilities in ways that will make our worship space more inviting and easier to navigate:

- Expand our fellowship space by removing and repositioning several pews in the Sanctuary to provide more flexible seating
- Resurface and level our parking lot
- Improve Sanctuary lighting
- Adapt the main Fellowship Hall bathrooms to improve accessibility

Sunday Morning Discipleship Discussion
for Youth and Adults:
Sundays at 10:20 a.m.

Join us on October 19th for a Bible discussion with other youth and adults following worship. We will dive deeper into the Gospel reading. Grab a chair, a coffee, and a treat and bring your ideas and questions to a meaningful discussion. We will meet at the front of the Sanctuary at approximately 10:20. a.m.

QUILTING CHANGE FOR OCTOBER

Quilting will be the 5th Thursday, October 30th instead of October 23rd this month. We will take November and December off.

B.O.B. Ministry (Building on the Bible)
a.k.a. Intergenerational Sunday School

We hope you will join, following worship today, for a special guest presentation from Alex Mathies, as we continue our two week lesson on Joshua and the city of Jericho. Also, we want to inform our church family of the recent naming of our intergenerational ministry; moving forward it will be known as B.O.B. Ministry. All are invited to join us; we welcome all Children of God, from 3 yrs to 103 yrs. B.O.B. Ministry meets regularly following Sunday coffee hour, in the fellowship hall, beginning around 10:20am.

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP
B.O.B. Ministry (Building on the Bible)
1 month—101 years

- Oct. 19th Special Guest, Alex Mathies
- Oct. 26th Kids Music for Worship at 9 a.m.
- Nov 16th Christmas Program Parts to be distributed

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY
for 6th-8th grades

Confirmation class from 6:45-7:45 p.m., with optional meal at 6:00 p.m.

- **Oct 22nd—9th Grade confirmation rehearsal**
- **Oct 26th—Confirmation Sunday** with 9th grade students sharing Faith Statements.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Time to connect, serve, pray, have fun, grow in faith, and build friendships.

- **Oct 22nd—Youth Group Night at 7:45 p.m. Large group games at St. Peter.** (Following the 6:45 p.m. 9th Grade Confirmation rehearsal.)
- **Oct 29th—Youth Group Night- 7:45 pm**

LIVING LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

Anyone wishing to receive the Living Lutheran Magazine, please let Robbie in the church office know by November 5th. St. Peter will pay for the subscription.

CALLING ALL LADIES

We would like to get a group of ladies together to travel to Viterbo College in La Crosse and see the play Menopause the Musical 2. It's a comedy and the show is at 3:00 on Tues Oct 28. There are two levels of tickets - Main Floor/Lower Balcony cost \$67/seat and the Upper Balcony cost \$47. If we get 10 or more tickets we can get a 10% discount. If you are interested please let Linda Shihata know at 563-880-2209 no later than 10/21 so we can get our seating. Depending on the number of ladies we can arrange carpooling.

BOOK CLUB

New readers are always welcome! For our October read, we have chosen "Beartown" by Fredrik Backman. Book club meets the fourth Thursday of the month at the public library, from 5-6 p.m. We will combine November and December's meetings, we will meet on Thursday, December 11th, and will be reading Kristin Hannah's book, "Comfort & Joy". For more information contact Kay Wessling; 608-412-1815.

CONNECTING FAITH AND GENEROSITY FOR GENERATIONS

October is National Estate Planning Awareness Month, a reminder that faithful planning today can bless the ministries we love tomorrow. Many people believe you must be wealthy to leave a legacy, but that's not true. Planned gifts are about values, not dollar amounts.

Through our partnership with the ELCA Foundation, you can create a gift that strengthens St. Peter and ensures our mission continues for years to come. The Foundation's professional regional gift planners provide clarity, simplicity and trustworthy guidance — helping you connect your faith and generosity in lasting ways.

You already give faithfully. Planned giving is one more way to shape your story of faith, ensuring St. Peter is sustained long into the future. ***Please see the handouts on the Usher's Table for more information.***

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

201 S Michigan St.

Welcome! We are happy that you are worshipping with us today. Join us again soon.

Worship with us Saturdays at 5:15 p.m. & Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship is also broadcast live on the radio at WPRE 104.3 FM and 980 AM radio and Livestreamed on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/stpeterpdc>.

Visitors— We are so glad that you can join us today! We invite you to fill out a blue welcome card (found in the pew pocket) and place it in the offering plate at the back.

We practice open Communion here — All who seek the forgiveness that Jesus Christ offers in this meal are welcome. Those not yet receiving Communion or those choosing not to today are invited to come forward to receive a blessing (we invite you to cross your arms in front of you to indicate your desire to receive a blessing). If you would like to receive Communion or a blessing and it is best for you to remain seated, please indicate this to the usher; and we will come to you.

Pastoral Care- If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, would like home communion, would like to visit with one of the pastors, or is in need of pastoral care; please call the church office at 608-326-6411. Or reach out to the pastors directly via a call or text: Pastor Miranda's cell phone number is 815-291-5793 and Pastor Hillary's cell phone number is 319-290-8641.

Sharing Your Offering- Thank you for your generosity that supports our ministries here at St. Peter and our mission partners. There are multiple options for sharing your offering.

- For in-person worship, we have an offering plate available on the usher table. We invite you to place your offerings there as you come or as you leave.
- You can mail your check to church: PO Box 37, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821.
- You can give through Simply Giving, an automated online giving program we have used successfully for years here at St. Peter. An authorization form can be found online on our website www.stpeterpdc.org/Donate or you can call the church office at (608) 326-6411.
- You can set up an offering at your bank using free Bill Pay service to have the bank print and mail your check to the church.
- You can give online at www.stpeterpdc.org on the Home page, scroll down to the "Give" button or select the Give tab at the top to be directed to Vanco/Simply Giving.

The Hungry Jar for October is: *Children of Peace International*. Children are invited to help collect the Hungry Jar offerings during the Offering.

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite: (319) 290-8641 & stpeterpdcpastorhillary@hotmail.com