

Justice Worship
led by Youth from St. Peter's, Middletown,
St. Peter, Highspire and Trinity, Steelton
July 31, 2022
Holy Communion



TOGETHER
Change through Community

Introduction:

We welcome the youth and congregations of St. Peter's, Highspire, Trinity Lutheran, Steelton and our congregation members as the youth lead us in worship today. The youth of the three congregations will lead us in a Justice themed worship to help us focus on ways to love, invite and include all God's people. We look at ourselves first, then walk along side others as we try to live a life closer to Christ. Thank you for all who have made today's worship special.

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.

**TODAY WE WELCOME ST. PETER'S HIGHSPIRE
AND TRINITY STEELTON AS WE WORSHIP
TOGETHER.**

**WE ARE GLAD TO BE THE BODY OF CHRIST
TOGETHER**

SERVING OUR CHURCH July 31, 2022

Preaching	Pastor Molly Haggerty
Presiding:	Pastor Chad Butz
Reader:	Youth
Musician(s):	Jen Joyce, Dan Kemper, Bennett Williams
Opening the Church for July	Sharon Beard
Opening the Church for August	Council volunteer needed

Masks are optional.

We ask that if you are not feeling well you worship from home via Facebook Live or listen to the service on WMSS 91.1FM.

We give thanks for your patience during this Covid season in your continued care for the health and safety of all.

PRELUDE: Wren and Avery Heckman

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENT

MUSICAL REFLECTION:

Jesus Loves Me ELW 595 V 1,2

Old Testament Books Of The Bible by Dale Stipe and Bennett Williams

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Merciful God.

Our hearts are broken. We don't know how to love properly. Our trust is broken, we cannot earn it faithfully or give it freely. Our community is broken. We cannot love our neighbor as ourselves. We confess that we are both the victims and the perpetrators of our brokenness. We implore you, dear God: Break the cycle of brokenness. Provide the grace and trust that we cannot provide. Open our eyes to our neighbor who ar near to us, and those who ar far away. Heal our hearts. Restore our trust. Build our human community. Amen.

God created you, knows you intimately, and calls you "Good." As a minister of Christ, I proclaim that God loves you and forgives all your sins. But this absolution is not just for you. We live as forgiven in cycles of oppression. As forgiven Children of God, created in God's image, our forgiveness creates our ability to fight the unjust system we find ourselves in. Go forth as created, known, and loved people, forgiven to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim God's favor.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart; that the barriers dividing us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING SONG: Lord I Lift Your Name on High
ELW 857

WORD

FIRST READING: Micah 6:6-8

How can I stand up before GOD
and show proper respect to the high God?
Should I bring an armload of offerings
topped off with yearling calves?
Would GOD be impressed with thousands of rams,
with buckets and barrels of olive oil?
Would he be moved if I sacrificed my firstborn child,
my precious baby, to cancel my sin?
But God's already made it plain how to live, what to do,
what GOD is looking for in people.
It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,
be compassionate and loyal in your love,
And don't take yourself too seriously—
take God seriously.

Word of God; Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25 Higher Than The Mountains

To You oh Lord I lift up my soul, in You I trust oh Lord
To You oh Lord I lift up my soul, in You I trust oh Lord

Higher than the mountains, deeper than the sea
Wider than the ocean is Your love for me
You're with me in the mountains and the valley below
You're right here beside me everywhere that I go

I get down, He lifts my up
I get down, He lifts my up
I get down, He lifts my up
I get down!

(Repeat)

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (Common English Bible)

¹⁶ So then, from this point on we won't recognize people by human standards. Even though we used to know Christ by human standards, that isn't how we know him now. ¹⁷ So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived!

¹⁸ All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation.

²⁰ So we are ambassadors who represent Christ. God is negotiating with you through us. We beg you as Christ's representatives, "Be reconciled to God!" ²¹ God caused the one who didn't know sin to be sin for our sake so that through him we could become the righteousness of God.

Word of God; Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

The Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you O, Lord**

Gospel: Luke 6:36-42 (Common English Bible)

³⁶ Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

³⁷ “Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.”

³⁹ Jesus also told them a riddle. “A blind person can’t lead another blind person, right? Won’t they both fall into a ditch? ⁴⁰ Disciples aren’t greater than their teacher, but whoever is fully prepared will be like their teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you see the splinter in your brother’s or sister’s eye but don’t notice the log in your own eye? ⁴² How can you say to your brother or sister, ‘Brother, Sister, let me take the splinter out of your eye,’ when you don’t see the log in your own eye? You deceive yourselves! First take the log out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother’s or sister’s eye.

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

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S SERMON “Sticky Sin” led by Youth

MEDITATION

MUSICAL REFLECTION: Don’t Laugh At Me

By Peter, Paul And Mary

Please be seated for the prayers.

+PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let there be justice. **Hear our prayer.**

Please stand as you are able

WE BELIEVE by the Newsboys

We believe in God the Father

We believe in Jesus Christ

We believe in the Holy Spirit

And He's given us new life

We believe in the crucifixion

We believe that He conquered death

We believe in the resurrection

And He's comin' back again

We believe

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Let us share the peace with each other with a wave or a smile.

For those listening at home please share grace and peace with those around you, or call or text someone.

Please be seated.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We are an Offering ELW692

+OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance:

you have set before us a plentiful harvest.

As we feast on your goodness,

strengthen us to labor in your field,

and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,

in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

PREFACE

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS Holy Lord

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your Glory

Hosana in the highest

Blessed are they who come in the name of the Lord

Hosana in the Highest

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.
Come to the banquet.

Please be seated & come forward for Holy Communion as directed by our ushers. If you are unable to come forward for communion the pastor will come to you.

COMMUNION

Jesus Loves the Little Children/Everything is Beautiful
by Ray Stevens

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you
in true faith to everlasting life. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; have courage; hold fast to
what is good; do no one evil for evil; strengthen the
fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all

people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Standing is optional

SENDING SONG: Lift Every Voice and Sing ELW 841

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace, to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God..

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Trumpet Sounds

**The Altar Flowers are dedicated
In memory of
John & Pauline Quaca
and
John & Helen Staub
by Gerald Staub & Family**

**The Bulletins are dedicated in memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Sherwood Jacobs
by their Family**

**Dear St. Peter's Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for awarding me with the \$2,500 scholarship! St. Peter's has always been a safe space for me and has always supported me in everything I've done since I was a little girl. I couldn't have asked for a better church family while growing up. To receive this scholarship is another one of the many generous ways the congregation has supported me and I am so so thankful!
Love, Ally Evans**

ELCA JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Advocacy

Doctrine of Discovery

Economic Justice

Ecumenical and Inter-religious Relations

Environmental Justice

Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries

Gender Justice

Immigration Justice (AMMPARO)

LGBTQIA+ Justice

Racial Justice

Strategy for Authentic Diversity

Toward Justice Against Violence

To read more about the Justice Ministries of the ELCA go to the Lower Susquehanna Synod Website at lss-elca.org

ST. PETER'S STAFF

Everyone Serving and Caring for Others

Rev. Molly Haggerty, Pastor

Rev. Elaine Dent, Ministry Leader

Bennett Williams, Coordinator of Music Ministry

Barry Lockard, Organist

Ellen Willenbecher, interim Coordinator of TOGETHER

Sharon Beard, interim Coordinator of Church Care &
Administration

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – noon. Monday – Thursday
(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

WMSS 91.1FM broadcasts our service at 11am.

Watch the service live (10am) on our FACEBOOK page-

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Middletown, PA

Beginning in August we will celebrate all those members who have birthday in the month: (If you'd like to send a birthday card, contact the church office for the address (717-944-4651)

Allison Brognia (5), Marie Fox (5), Emilee Staub (6)
Jessica Erickson (7), Owen Evans (8), Leonardo Denardo (10), Karen Hahn (12), Sean Darrah (15), John Ponnett (16), Lynda Fitzpatrick (18), Tammy Farner (20), Allison Evans (21), Walter Heagy (22), Darryl Bower (23), Marjorie Peiffer (23), Thomas Tuffy (24), Joshua Sutherly (25), Joshua Thomas (31).

If we have missed your birthday please let Pastor Molly or Sharon know so we can get you on the list.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

New to our prayer list this month:

Karen Ainsley, Diana Arnold, Hilda Hoke, Joann Hoy,
Kathleen Shutom, Corbin Stetler,

Those friends and members in need of continued prayers.

Chris Green, Fred Harris, Perry Moreau, Tina Polito

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

Gabriel Goldsborough, Jordane Cleckner, Edgar Lopez,
Hunter Magaro, John Pappas, Corbin Stetler,
Colton Stone, Aaron Williams

□ The ZOOM book study **has created a lending library in the hallway adjacent to Luther Hall.** Help yourself to copies. Please contact Marianne Moore to learn more about the topics/book the ZOOM discussion group is reviewing at this time at mmoore70@gmail.com or 717-329-3892.

□ If you need information on Pennsylvania resources to get help with **mental health or addiction issues** call the Pa. support and referral helpline at 1-855-284-2494. Program operated by the Pa. Dept. of Human Services.

□ **The Dauphin County Office of the Aging** provides a well-balanced hot lunch meal for delivery to residents of Dauphin County. *To request home delivered meals, please contact the Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging at (717) 780-6130. St. Peter's is responsible to deliver the meals the months of June and December.*

**FREE COVID TESTS!
CHECK WITH YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY. YOU
MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO 8 COVID TESTING
KITS EACH MONTH!**

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Household Donations - At this time the church is not in need of any household donations. If a specific need arises a notice will be put in Keynotes. However Wesley Methodist Church is doing a monthly pop-up thrift store called Threads of Hope. Anyone can come and shop for free. You can drop off donations Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30-3:00 at the backdoor on Whitherspoon Avenue. They take furniture as space allows. Call Coordinator Becky Port 717.562.9866 (**They will pick-up** larger donations and furniture.)

• FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY will be on the 1st Sunday of every month...Non-perishable food items & personal care items are needed. **Our next Food Pantry Sunday will be Sunday, August 7. You can bring food donations to the church throughout the week and place in the Food Pantry wagon.**

APARTMENTS FOR RENT: Two church owned apartments are becoming available for rent in the Metzger House 37 N Union St next to church. Both units are two bedroom, 1 on third floor and 1 on second floor. Please contact the property manager at American Heritage Property Management (877) 931-7368. Website ahpm.biz

SUMMER FUN & FREE LUNCH

We will host the Middletown Area School District Free Summer Food Program. Lunch will be served for children ages 18 and under Monday thru Friday through August 5. Lunch at St. Peter's will be between 11:15am -12:45pm. Join us for Summer Fun activities from 10:30-11:30am.

**The Library Program (Luther Hall) for Wednesday,
August 3, 10:30-11:30 is
Grins and Grins**

A fast-paced variety show that incorporates magic, ventriloquism, whip-cracking, "daring" feats of balance, circus skills and more to create a family-friendly show that is WAAAY more than just another juggling act!

Prepare to be entertained!

Come for the show stay for the lunch.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 31

10:00am Church-Sanctuary-Youth Led Justice Theme

Wednesday, August 3

10:00am Church – Chapel

11:00am Bible Study

Sunday, August 7

10:00am Church-Sanctuary

Wednesday, August 10

10:00am Church – Chapel

11:00am Bible Study

Our next scheduled Strategic Planning meeting/meal is August 14 after worship. If you have already attended a planning meeting please come again. If you have not attended a Strategic Planning meeting yet please come, your ideas are of value to this conversation. For an idea of what we will be discussing please pick-up the Areas of Focus sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Friday, August 5 – We will prepare brown bag lunches (beginning at 9am in the church kitchen) to be taken to Hoffer Park. We will share the lunches with the adults present at the Summer Finale (10:30-1:00) sponsored by Middletown Area Recreation Association, Together, and Middletown Area Library. (Children will be provided lunches prepared by the school district.)

If you can help prepare the lunches and/or hand them out at Hoffer Park please let Pastor Molly or Sharon know. Thank you.

ART CAMP 2022-Images of Our World
Monday, August 15-Thursday, August 18
6pm-8:15pm

Free for ages 8-18 years.

Held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Contact Pastor Molly to register.

pastormolly.outreach@gmail.com or
through the brochure.