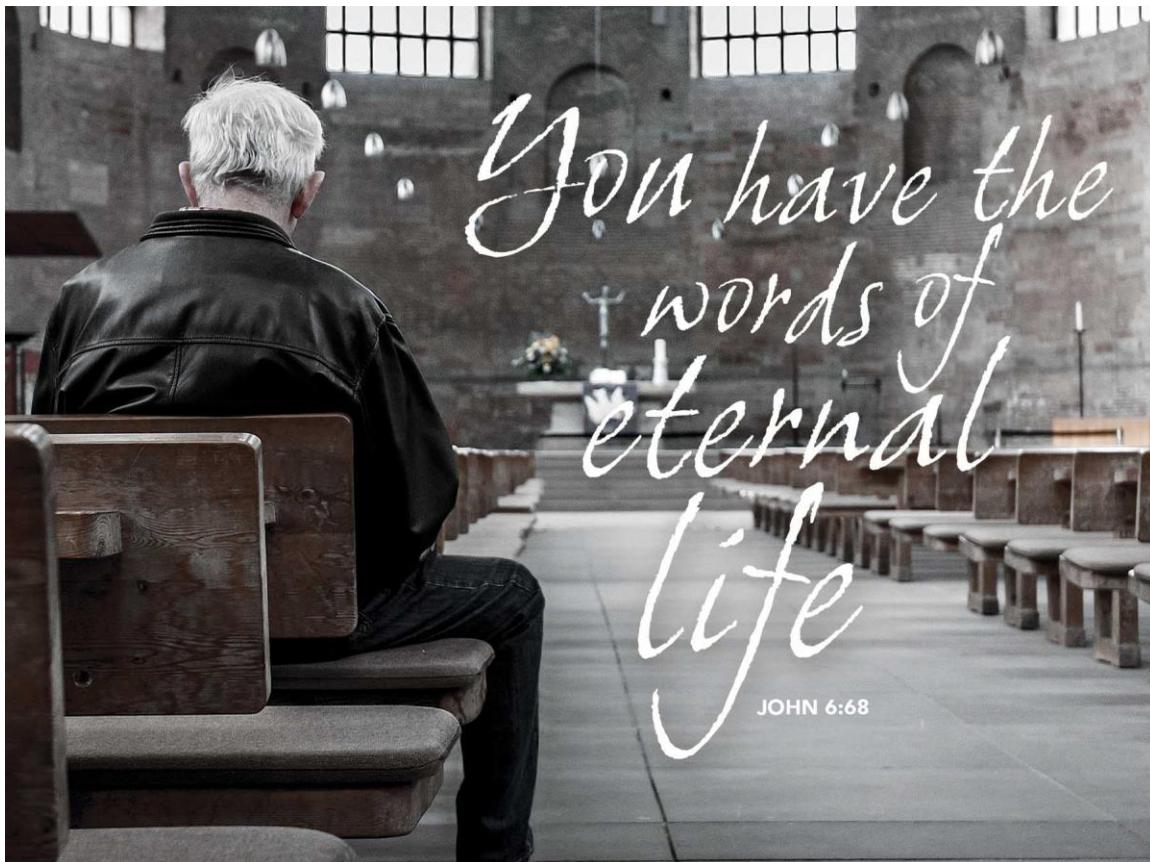


Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 26, 2018

Holy Communion

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcoming all to know and love Jesus.

123 South Seventh Street

St. Clair, Michigan

810-329-2174

Rev. Ken Staib, Pastor
586-648-6955 home
stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net

August 26, 2018
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Marilyn Tackaberry, organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING SONG *Gather Us In*

ELW 532

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, covenant means agreement or alliance. It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight.

He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,
and God’s ears are open | to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe | all their bones;
not one of them | shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death | to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

²²O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim

the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p.124

GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Jesus, I Have Promised*

ELW 810

CREED

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of the church, we pray all the baptized, that you would give us the strength and courage to boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of creation, we pray for wild animals and family pets, forests and gardens, beaches and sandboxes, mountains and valleys, lakes and ponds, that all creation would be given what is needed to live and thrive. Bring new life to places scarred by fire, drought, or flood. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of the nations, we pray for your good news to spread throughout the world. Bring peace to nations and communities torn apart by violence and war. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of healing, we pray for the poor, the brokenhearted, the sick, the lonely, the dying, and all who are in need. Satisfy their needs, and grant them healing and peace. We pray especially for those on our prayer list, and those we name before you in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of wisdom, we pray for the ministries of this congregation. Thank you for Tamara Howes and her ministry with youth and families. Guide her in this time of transition, and direct the youth and family life ministries of St. Peter's in the months ahead. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of resurrection, we give you thanks for your faithful servants who have died and are now at rest. Give us hope until the day when we, with all your saints, will be raised to new life and join in the feast that has no end. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust, knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

DIALOGUE

ELW p.129

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 130

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 135

COMMUNION

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

ELW p. 135

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THANKSGIVING AND FAREWELL

BLESSING

SENDING SONG *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

ELW 543

DISMISSAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome those who are visiting with us. Please take time to sign the registration book or the guest register in the lobby and introduce yourself to Pastor Ken. We hope that you will find our worship edifying and our congregation warm and receptive. We are glad that you are here.

DVD copies of the 9:30 a.m. worship service can be produced for those who are shut-in or others who would like a copy. Let us know in advance if there is a service that you would like recorded.

Join us Sunday after worship to say THANK YOU to Tamara Howes for her service to our St. Peter's family. We're planning a brunch following the 9:30 service. There will be a basket for greeting cards and notes expressing your thanks. If you cannot be present, you can send them to the church office. We've invited the other local churches Tamara worked with, so this is an opportunity for some ecumenical fellowship.

The Outreach Ladies Luncheon will be at the River Crab on Wednesday, September 12. Meet in the parking lot at 11:30 am to carpool.

The newsletter is available in your mailbox along with the worship assistant schedule. Please note the days you are scheduled and put them on your calendar. If you have a conflict, try to switch with someone and let the office know so we can put the update in the bulletin. Thank you to all who are willing to serve.

Join us for St. Peter's Sunday School Rally Day and Welcome Back party! Sunday, September 9, at 9:30 am. All kids and youth are invited!

Choir rehearsals resume on Thursday, September 13 at 7 pm. If you like to sing, come and join us for some fun and fellowship! All are welcome.

As a new Sunday School year begins, we will bless our Sunday School teachers in worship on Sunday, September 9. Thank you to all who are giving of their time and talents to teach Sunday School this year!

If you have a son or daughter entering the 6th grade, your child is invited to begin confirmation classes this fall. An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm. Please see Pastor Ken for more information.

Come join Pastor Ken for prayer on Wednesday mornings in the sanctuary at 9:30 am, starting on September 12. This an opportunity to pray with others. There is no advance preparation required. Simply come and pray.

Wednesday morning Bible study will resume on September 12 at 10:00 am. We will begin a five week study of *What the Prayers of Jesus Tell Us About the Heart of God*, by Shane Stanford. This study examines the prayer of life of Jesus and how it relates to our relationship with God and one another. Cost of the book is \$11. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside of Pastor Ken's office if interested.

McLaren Hospice is having a fundraiser at Pot Belly Sandwich shop in Fort Gratiot on August 31 from 11 am-2 pm. Mention the fundraiser to the cashier and 25% of the proceeds will be donated to McLaren Hospice.

SERVING TODAY: Greeter: Robin Bell; Ushers: Jerry Hall & Ron Meiselbaugh; Scripture Reader: Mark Fisher; Communion Assistant: Sue Daniels; Projectionist: Chris Jebrael.

ATTENDANCE: Saturday 21, Sunday 83

ANNIVERSARIES: 8/26 Amy & Gary Wiegand 18 years

BIRTHDAYS: 8/26 Betty MacIntosh 90 years
9/1 Carl Eisen 88 years

IN NEED OF PRAYER Dennis Rocker, Mary Forys, Janice Convis, Guy MacIntosh, Sue Kasemeyer, Dick Guyott, Paul & Ruth Reyelts, Delores Cook, Vi Dunn, Will Tanner, Clyde Moore, Louis Eisen, Loretta Lukasak, Suzanne Morris, Elizabeth MacDonald, Sharon Ann Wheeler, Patty Armstrong, Adeline Harsch, Pat Greenwood, Don Schroeder, Patricia Jones, Marc Dease, Stacey Yax, Ruth Morris, Bernie Nummer, Carole Stiefvater, Ed Myers, Jeremy Bryan.

(Please call or email the office at stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net to update information.)

THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Attic Angels 9 am Mutual Ministry 7:30 pm	Pastor's day off	Worship, Communion 5 pm	Worship, Communion 9:30 am