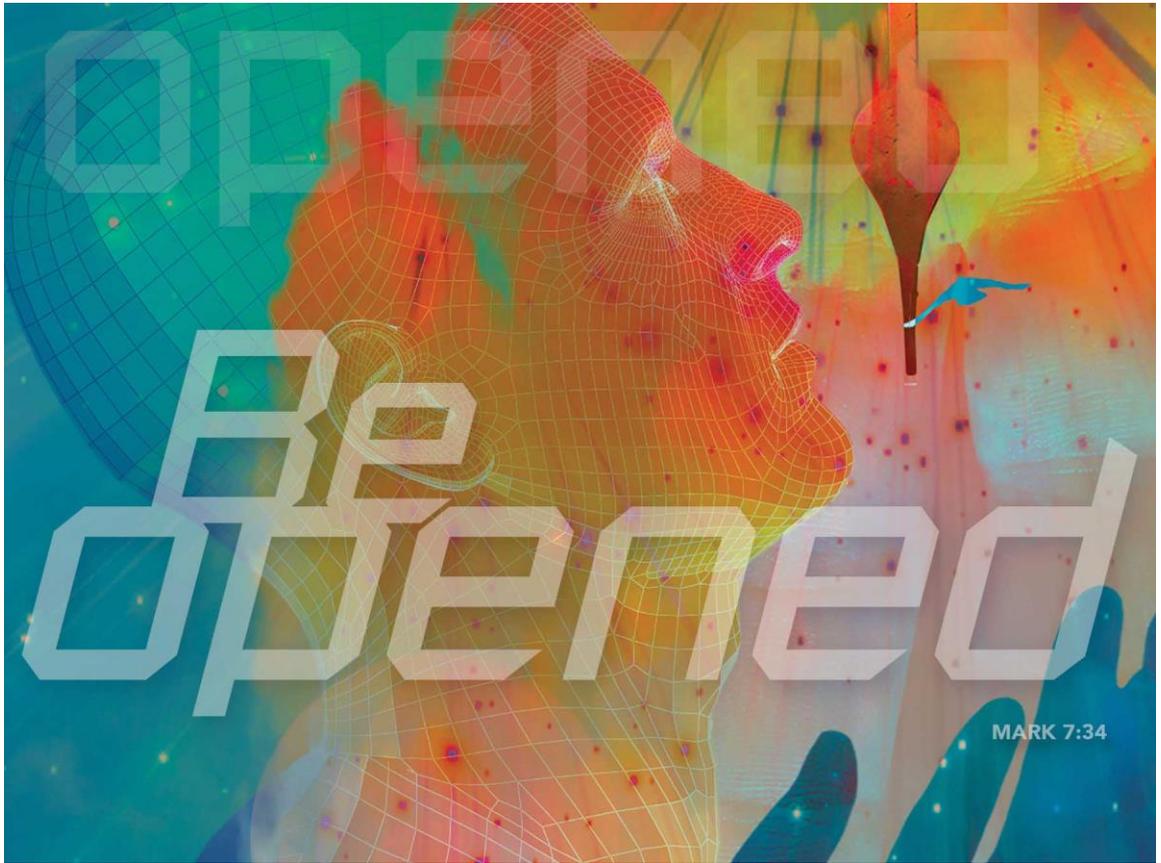


# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 9, 2018

Service of the Word

**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  
Chris Ritter LLM, Presiding Minister

September 9, 2018  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Renee Evans, organist

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**GATHERING SONG** *God, Whose Almighty Word*

**ELW 673**

**GREETING**

**KYRIE**

**ELW p. 213**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**ELW p. 213**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

*These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 146**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed  
down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

### **SECOND READING: James 2:1-17**

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW p. 216**

### **GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."  
<sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

<sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.”

<sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

**ELW 726**

## **CREED**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s beloved creation.

Gracious God, you call your church to proclaim the love of Christ to a needy world. Embolden us to be your risen body by welcoming strangers and serving our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creative God, small sprouts and tall trees proclaim your majesty. Give us clear eyes to see nature’s beauty and wise minds to protect our home, this earth, from misuse and harm. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you draw order from chaos. Watch over the nations of the world. Bless citizens and leaders who strive toward the beloved community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you give us all that we need. When your children suffer from hunger, poverty, loneliness, persecution, injury, or illness, send generous helpers and companions. We pray especially for those on our prayer list and those we mention silently in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Welcoming God, you urge us to reach out with the Good News. Lead this congregation to seek new ways of inviting others. Give wisdom to the Sunday school teachers who are sharing their love and faith in your Son, Jesus, with your children. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You bless us with throngs of saints who witness to your compassion. With gratitude, we recall the lives and deeds of those who proclaim lovingkindness to a needy world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.  
**Amen.**

**PEACE**

**OFFERING**

**CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING**

**ELW p. 219**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**BLESSING**

**SENDING SONG *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve***

**ELW 551**

**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.

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.

As council looks to fill the Youth and Family Ministry position, the Mutual Ministries team is looking for feedback regarding what our members would like to see in this ministry. **Youth and Family Ministry Survey** will be out Sunday. There will be a link to an online survey and also hard copies available for those who would prefer paper and pencil. We will also hold a **Youth and Family Ministry Open Forum** on September 23rd, right after church, for anyone who would like to provide verbal input regarding our Youth and Family Ministry.

Thank you Keri Stevens for spending many hours this week cleaning out the Sunday School storage closet. She did a wonderful job of organizing our extra supplies. Let's all try to keep this space free of unnecessary clutter!

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.

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.

If you have a son or daughter entering the 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

Holy Family Episcopal is having a Hope Rising fundraiser on Friday, September 21 from 6-9 pm at the St. Clair Golf Club. Appetizers, beer, wine and a silent auction will be part of the evening. Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$60 at the door. For more information, call 810-300-2364.

Plans are underway again for this year's Oktoberfest. The Corn hole Tournament will be on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and Oktoberfest will be on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 3-11 pm. We are looking for sponsor donations with these donation levels: Platinum, \$500; Gold, \$250; Silver, \$100, Bronze, \$50. Of course, donations of any amount would be appreciated. Checks should be made payable to St. Peter's Lutheran Church and can be provided to Marty Green, Tom Duemling or Mark Fisher. Contact Cindy Duemling to donate baskets for the basket raffle and items for the silent auction.

Trinity Lutheran in Richmond is hosting a workshop, *Transitions: Preparing End of Life Decisions with a Christian Perspective*, on September 29. See the poster in the lobby for details. You must RSVP by September 22.

**SERVING TODAY:** Greeter: Carol Vogel; Ushers: Chuck Butler & Mike Morenko; Acolyte: Zach Mathews; Scripture Reader: Katy Emerich; Projectionist: Del Vogel.

**ATTENDANCE:** Saturday 17, Sunday 54

**ANNIVERSARY:** 9/12 Mary Ellyn & Don Snyder 38 years

**IN NEED OF PRAYER** Dennis Rocker, Mary Forys, Janice Convis, Guy MacIntosh, Sue Kasemeyer, 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](mailto:stpeterelca@sbcglobal.net) to update information.)

**THIS WEEK AT ST. PETER'S**

<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Prayer 9:30 am Bible Study 10 am Ladies' Lunch 11:30 am Confirmation Meeting 6:30 pm	Choir 7 pm	Pastor's day off	Worship, Communion 5 pm	Sunday School, Worship, 9:30 am Backpack Blessing Worship Committee 10:30 am