

**I consider that our present sufferings
are not worth comparing with the glory
that will be revealed in us.**

- Romans 8:18 -



St. Peter's Lutheran Church & School

7710 East State Boulevard
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815
749-5816

July 18, 2026 – 5:00pm
July 19, 2026 – 10:30am
July 20, 2026 – 7:00pm

Rev. Danny Eggold, Senior Pastor
Rev. Adam McDowell, Associate Pastor
Rev. Nathan Widener, Associate Pastor & Director of Community of Care
Rev. James Sharp, Missionary to Puerto Rico
Tim Degen, Director of Music & Organist
Chris Brune, Principal
Barb Christian, Preschool Director

THE EIGHTH WEEKEND AFTER PENTECOST

July 18, 2026 – 5:00pm

July 19, 2026 – 10:30am

July 20, 2026 – 7:00pm

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG “Better is One Day”

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere,
than thousands elsewhere.

One thing I ask and I would seek – to see Your beauty.
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.
One thing I ask and I would seek – to see Your beauty.
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.

Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere

My heart and flesh cry out for You, the Living God
Your Spirit's water for my soul
I've tasted and I've seen; come once again to me
I will draw near to You. I will draw near to You.

Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere

Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere.

Better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere,
than thousands elsewhere.

(10:30 & 7:00 – We rise.)

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the **✠** Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

(The 10:30 and 7:00 services continue with the Confession & Absolution on page 7.)

✠ ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM ✠

(5:00)

P Our Lord commanded Baptism when He said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

God’s Word tells us that we are all conceived and born sinful and are in need of forgiveness. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But Jesus took away our sin through His death on the cross. In Baptism He clothes us with the robe of His righteousness and gives us a new life.

Nicholas and Lindsay: In obedience to Christ’s command and trusting in His promise, you have brought yourself, as well as MacKenzie and Brody, to be baptized. As they grow in years, will you place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, bring them to the services of worship in God’s house, and provide for their further instruction in the Christian faith, that abiding in his baptismal grace and in communion with the Church, they may grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ? If so, then answer by saying, “Yes.”

R Yes.

P MacKenzie Akey, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ, the crucified.

P Brody Akey, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ, the crucified.

P Lindsay Akey, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your forehead and upon your heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ, the crucified.

P Let us join in the prayer our Lord has taught us:

C **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.

RITE OF BAPTISM

P Let us all, together with the sponsors and parents, faithfully speak in testimony of the forgiveness of sins and the birth of the life of faith which God our Father bestows in and through Baptism.

P Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

C I do renounce them.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

C Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

C Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

The Baptism of MacKenzie Akey

MacKenzie is the daughter of Nicholas and Lindsay (Kemery) Akey.

Her sponsors are Jackie Akey, Lindsay Akey, and Robert Justice.

P MacKenzie Akey, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The Baptism of Brody Akey

Brody is the son of Nicholas and Lindsay (Kemery) Akey.

His sponsors are Jackie Akey, Lindsay Akey, and Robert Justice.

P Brody Akey, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The Baptism of Lindsay Akey

Lindsay is the mother of MacKenzie and Brody Akey.

P Lindsay Akey, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P May the Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins; strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

C Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

- P** Lindsay, MacKenzie, and Brody: receive these burning lights to show that you have received Christ who is the light of the world. Live always by the Light of Christ, for Jesus said, “Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will always have the light of life.”

SPONSOR’S PLEDGE

- P** Jackie, Lindsay, and Robert: Having witnessed MacKenzie’s and Brody’s baptisms, will you remember them in your prayers, remind them that they are baptized children of God, and, as much as you are able, give your counsel and aid, especially if they should lose their parents that they be brought up in the true knowledge and worship of God? If so, then answer by saying, “Yes.”
- R** Yes.

CONGREGATION’S PLEDGE

- P** Fellow Members of God’s Kingdom: Through Baptism, God has made Lindsay, MacKenzie, and Brody His own precious children. Will you welcome them into the Lord’s family? Will you receive them as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and help them grow in the faith of their baptisms, so they may join us in proclaiming the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light? If so, then answer by saying, “Yes.”
- C** Yes.
- P** May God enable us all to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.
- C** Amen.

BLESSING

- P** Lindsay, MacKenzie, and Brody: Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, by your Baptism has made you His dear children. May He strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

C Amen.

(The 5:00 service continues with the Psalmody at the bottom of page 7.)

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION *(10:30 & 7:00)*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

P Almighty God,
C Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(5:00 – We rise.)

PSALMODY

Psalm 119:57-64

P The LORD is my portion;
I promise to keep your words.

- C** I entreat your favor with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to your promise.
- P** When I think on my ways,
I turn my feet to your testimonies;
- C** I hasten and do not delay
to keep your commandments.
- P** Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,
I do not forget your law.
- C** At midnight I rise to praise you,
because of your just and righteous decrees.
- P** I am a companion of all who fear you,
of those who keep your precepts.
- C** The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes!
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
- P** Let us pray. O God,
C Rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful
of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell
with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(We are seated.)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first

and I am the last; besides me there is no god. ⁷Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. ⁸Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:18-27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(We rise.)

VERSE TO WELCOME THE GOSPEL

(Tune: “To God Be the Glory”)

**Sing praise to the Father, sing praise to the Son,
Sing praise to the Spirit, great God Three in One;
The God of salvation, of glory, of grace,
Who wrought our redemption – my soul, sing His praise!**

Bless the Lord, bless the Lord, bless the Lord, O my soul,
For the grace that redeems, for the love that makes whole;
O come and adore Him, His glories proclaim,
And worship before Him – the Lord is His name!

HOLY GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED *(10:30 ☞ 7:00)*

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both
the living and the dead,
Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(We are seated.)

SERMON HYMN

“For the Fruits of His Creation”

#894

SERMON

“A Little Groaning Going On”

Text: Romans 8:18-27 – Pastor Nathan Widener

**RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and
GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P** Merciful Father,
C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(We rise.)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P** Trusting in God’s steadfast love for all He has made, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all creation.

(A brief silence.)

- P** Lord God, Maker and Keeper of Your Church, protect Your people from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us; and where we are lost among the complexities of life, guide us in the truth of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,
C Hear our prayer.
- P** Lord God, Creator of heaven and earth, sustain Your creation in places not easily seen: the depths of the oceans, plants and animals, and galaxies beyond our own. Teach us to share creation’s patient hope for what we do not yet see. Lord, in Your mercy,
C Hear our prayer.

P Lord God, Giver of every good gift, grant that we may live upon Your lands and waters with justice and righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, especially President Trump and Governor Braun, that leaders may govern wisely and seek the flourishing of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, our Rock and Refuge, be near to those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness against their character, illness, or injury. Strengthen, comfort, and uphold them according to Your mercy (*especially for those we have named and those we name in our hearts...*). Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, the giver of wisdom and understanding, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, and teachers preparing for the coming academic year. Grant them patience, safety, joy, and faithful care for those entrusted to them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

P Lord God, our Hope and Salvation, Your saving Word is planted among us in every time and place (*especially...*). We give You thanks for the witness of all the saints, who now shine in Your presence like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Grateful for Your abundant provision and trusting in Your goodness, we cast all our cares upon You through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *(10:30 & 7:00)*

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

(We are seated.)

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION SONG and HYMNS “Rock of Ages”

There is no rock; there is no god like our God.
No other name worthy of all our praise.
The Rock of Salvation that cannot be moved.
He’s proven Himself to be faithful and true.
There is no rock; there is no god like ours.

Rock of Ages; Jesus is the rock.
Rock of Ages; Jesus is the rock.
Rock of Ages; Jesus is the rock.
There is no rock; there is no god like ours.

There is no rock; there is no god like our God.
No other name worthy of all our praise.
The Rock of Salvation that cannot be moved.
He's proven Himself to be faithful and true.
There is no rock; there is no god like ours.

Rock of Ages; Jesus is the rock.
Rock of Ages; Jesus is the rock.
Rock of Ages; Jesus is the rock.
There is no rock; there is no god like ours.

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

“What is This Bread”

#629

(We rise.)

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION and DISMISSAL

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(We are seated.)

CLOSING SONG

“Bring Forth the Kingdom”

You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the kingdom of God!

Refrain:

Refrain: Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the city of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the kingdom of God!

Refrain:

You are a seed of the word, O people:
Bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the kingdom of God!

Refrain:

We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the kingdom of God!

Refrain:

POST-SERVICE MUSIC