

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813

Chris Fusco, Music Director

Amy Van Hise, Office Administrator

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023

Our mission:

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

Welcome! We're all familiar with the saying, "Money talks", which refers to the influence it often has on people and their behavior. But our money also "talks" in another sense -- because what we do with it silently expresses who and what we love or fear. Jesus' admonition to "render under Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's" is a challenge, not just to the Pharisees' value system, but also to our own. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for providing us with treasure in heaven that nothing on earth can touch!

Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon, sign the guest book next to the front doors, and let us know how we can be of service to you. The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

Communion Note: We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

Divine Service, Setting One
LSB page 151

The Preparation



Prelude: “Gavotte” – M. Camidge

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession, and Absolution (page 151)

The Service of the Word

Opening Hymn: 940 (v. 1-3) Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Kyrie (page 152 - sung)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise This Is the Feast (page 155)

C: **This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: O God, the protector of all who trust in You,
have mercy on us
that with You as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not the things eternal;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7 (see back cover)

Psalms: Psalm 96



¹ Oh sing to the LORD a | new song;*
sing to the LORD, | all the earth!

² Sing to the LORD, | bless his name;*
tell of his salvation from | day to day.

³ Declare his glory among the | nations,*
his marvelous works among all
the | peoples!

⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly | to be
praised;*
he is to be feared a- | bove all gods.

⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are
worthless | idols,*
but the LORD made the | heavens.

⁶ Splendor and majesty are be- | fore him;*
strength and beauty are in his
sanctu- | ary.

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of
the | peoples,*
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and
strength!

⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his
name;*
bring an offering, and come in- | to
his courts!

⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor
of | holiness;*
tremble before him, | all the earth!

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (see back cover)

Alleluia Verse (page 156)

**Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22 (see back cover)

Acclamations (sung): **Glory to you, O Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed (inside back cover of hymnal)

Hymn of the Day: 783 Take My Life and Let It Be

Sermon

Prayers After each petition of the prayer P: Lord in your mercy,
C: **Hear our prayer.**

Prayer Request List (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

For comfort:

| | | |
|----------------------|---|----------|
| Basile famile | Death of Paris | deDufour |
| Fog/ Bahn families | Death of Andrew Bahn, Allison's cousin | Fog |
| Melton/Yost families | Death of Mrs. Melton, Jon's grandmother | Yost |
| Reetz family | Death of Betty in a car accident | Hofer |

For those with long-term health concerns:

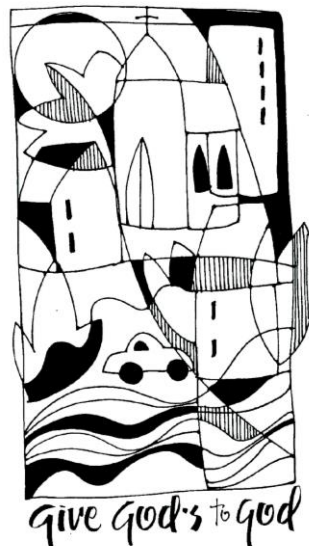
| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Sue Nelson | Claire Haenisch | Kay Compton | Pat Dietz |
| Karen Nelson | Judy Grube | Art Garrow | Kay Compton |
| Nathan Wilhelm | Mina Ciquis | Bob Van Hise | Bob Latimer |
| Brennan | Phillip Trivett | Martin Boczur | |

For those with cancer:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Charlie Huebner | Yolanda Piekaoskey | Rich deDufour | Lynn |
| Rich Knechel | Rose Bonecki | Aaron Kline | Linda |
| Carol Tezla | Karen Shevchuk | Jane Chmieleski | Kathy |
| Edward Keenan | Kathy Lamkin | Mary Ellen | |

For those serving in the armed forces:

| | | | | |
|------------|--------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Jake Grube | LJ Lupinacci | Carrick Porter | Nate Fiske | Daniel Gewecke |
|------------|--------------|----------------|------------|----------------|



For those suffering around the world:

War in Europe
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine
War in Middle East

Prayers for peace and forgiveness
Prayers for health, safety, and provision
Prayers for peace and forgiveness

Birthdays:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Carol Farley | Oct 17 | Michael Hicks | Oct 26 |
| Allison Fog | Oct 18 | Kairi Martinez | Oct 26 |

The Service of the Sacrament

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory: “Interlude in D” – S. Goodwin
Congregational Offertory: LSB 785 We Praise You, O God (v. 1,3)

**C: We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

**With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**



Order of Holy Communion (page 160)

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising you and saying:
**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth... one God now and forever.
C: Amen.

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C: Our Father who art in heaven...

P: Words of Institution
Pax Domini (page 163)

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

Sharing of the Peace

Agnus Dei C: **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Distribution Hymn: 629 What Is This Bread

Post Communion Cantic: Thank the Lord (page 181)

**C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of
thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction (page 166)

Closing Hymn: 850 God of Grace and God of Glory

Postlude: "Voluntary in G" – H. Heron



Announcements – Week of October 22, 2023
Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week
Tues, Wed. and Thurs. from 1:00 – 3:00 to help.



Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study

Welcome! Serving in worship today are: Joe Scheblein (Communion Assistant), Cheryl Gewecke (Reader), Juliette Behnfeldt (Acolyte), Stephen Behnfeldt (Usher), Jason Bloom (Live-streaming), Leslie Klesat and Cheryl Gewecke (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Sunday Bible Study. Week 3 of our Ecclesiastes study will address the fact that life is full of unavoidable frustrations. All that we can control is how we react to them. In what ways are human beings no different from animals? How should Christians respond to grave injustices in the world? Read Ecclesiastes 3:16 - 6:12 to prepare. Find the study guide at <https://stpetermj.org/archives/2836>

Sunday School Classes. Sunday School classes for all ages are going strong! Amy Van Hise is our elementary teacher, and Hope Dunbar teaches our high school youth. Classes meet during the adult bible study hour from 8:15-9:15am in the lower level of the church. Let's grow together in God's Word this year!

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study. Our discussion will cover Acts 14 where Paul and Barnabas travel to Lystra. A healing miracle in that city led the crowds to treat these men as gods. Our culture today still puts mere mortals on a pedestal and idolizes them instead of giving glory to God. What can the Church learn from this? (You can find archived recordings of our studies on our church website www.stpeternj.org)

Special Reformation Service. St. Peter is once again joining with three other area LCMS congregations to sponsor a joint Reformation Commemoration Service. It will be held on Sunday, October 29th at 4:00pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lawrenceville. The service will be followed by a potluck dinner. All are invited to attend! If you'd like to participate in our Reformation choir, please talk to Chris Fusco or Pastor.

This service will be live streamed on You Tube at the following link: <https://youtube.com/live/SM4NUIDDNyo?feature=share> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the church's website.

Men's, Women's, Senior's, Youth and Family Ministry

Volunteers needed! On November 4th from about 8:30am-10:30am at Rosedale Park in Pennington, St. Peter will again be passing out water to runners at the Meadow Miler, a race that benefits the Princeton Child Development Institute, a school for individuals with autism. There are over 500 runners and it is a great event to get involved in our community. Plus it's fun - and you don't have to run! Let Jenna or Jason know if you can help out!

Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.



St. Peter's Ladies Fall Tea. What fun the attendees at the St. Peter Ladies' Tea had on Saturday! We enjoyed a great time of fellowship with members and friends, having delicious goodies, music, a craft, and a special devotion together. Thanks to everyone who came, and to those who organized this special event!

Service and Other

Operation Christmas Child. As we look forward to next year's collection, we are focusing on certain supplies during each month. For October we could use combs (need 50) and toothbrushes (need 80), so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex (next to the food pantry box).

Food Pantry. If you can, please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. October’s collection is PASTA: penne, rigatoni, spirals, bow ties, spaghetti, linguini, lasagna, and pasta sauce. You can also sign up to deliver the donations; see the hall sign-up.

Flowers. A Flower sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Flower contributions can be made in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God’s grace, or for a special occasion. The suggested donation is \$25.

Faithfulness Report (10/15) Attendance: 52
 General Fund: \$ 3710 Missions: \$25 Debt reduction: \$25
 (Weekly contributions of approx \$6,000 are needed to meet our Congregation-approved 2023 budget.)

Website and Facebook. Our website is at www.stpeternj.org, and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church - the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612>. Come check us out!

Weekly Schedule.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| TUESDAY (10/24) | 12:00pm | Planning Council; 4:30pm Confirmation Class |
| WEDNESDAY (10/25) | 11:45am | Nursery School Chapel; 7:30pm Zoom Bible study |
| THURSDAY (10/26) | ALL DAY | Pastor @ New Jersey District Pastors Conference |
| SUNDAY (10/29) | 8:15am | Bible Study/Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; |
| | 4:00pm | Special Reformation Service & Pot-luck Dinner at Holy Trinity, Lawrenceville |

A Look Ahead. Mark your calendars!



| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Saturday, November 11 | 8 am – noon | Fall clean-up |
| Tuesday, November 14 | 7:00 pm | Service of Healing |
| Wednesday, November 22 | 7:30 pm | Thanksgiving Eve Service |
| Wednesday, December 6, 13 | 7:30 pm | Advent Services |
| Wednesday, December 20 | 7:30 pm | Youth-led Advent Celebration |
| Saturday, December 9 | 10–noon | Nursery School Christmas |
| Sunday, December 24 | 5 pm & 7 pm | Christmas Eve Services |
| Monday, December 25 | 10:30 am | Christmas Day Service |

Other Important web links.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| NJ District LCMS | njdistrict.org |
| The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod | lcms.org |
| LCMS World Relief and Human Care | lcms.org/ca/worldrelief |
| “The Lutheran Hour” Broadcast | lhm.org |

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 45:1–7

- ¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to
Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
- ² “I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of
bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
- ³ I will give you the treasures of dark-
ness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the
LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by
your name.
- ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not
know me.
- ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not
know me,
- ⁶ that people may know, from the
rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is
none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no
other.
- ⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make well-being and create
calamity,
I am the LORD, who does all these
things.”

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians
in God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all
of you, constantly mentioning you in

our prayers, ³remembering before our
God and Father your work of faith and
labor of love and steadfastness of hope
in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know,
brothers loved by God, that he has cho-
sen you, ⁵because our gospel came to
you not only in word, but also in power
and in the Holy Spirit and with full con-
viction. You know what kind of men we
proved to be among you for your sake.
⁶And you became imitators of us and of
the Lord, for you received the word in
much affliction, with the joy of the Holy
Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example
to all the believers in Macedonia and in
Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the
Lord sounded forth from you in Mace-
donia and Achaia, but your faith in God
has gone forth everywhere, so that we
need not say anything. ⁹For they them-
selves report concerning us the kind of
reception we had among you, and how
you turned to God from idols to serve
the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for
his Son from heaven, whom he raised
from the dead, Jesus who delivers us
from the wrath to come.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15–22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plot-
ted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk.
¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him,
along with the Herodians, saying,
“Teacher, we know that you are true
and teach the way of God truthfully,
and you do not care about anyone’s
opinion, for you are not swayed by
appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you
think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar,
or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their mal-
ice, said, “Why put me to the test, you
hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the
tax.” And they brought him a denarius.
²⁰And Jesus said to them, “Whose like-
ness and inscription is this?” ²¹They said,
“Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “There-
fore render to Caesar the things that are
Caesar’s, and to God the things that are
God’s.” ²²When they heard it, they mar-
veled. And they left him and went away.