

# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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

Chris Fusco, Music Director

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## Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

*November 12, 2023*

### **Our mission:**

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

**Welcome!** "Semper Paratus" is a Latin motto, used by the U.S. Coast Guard; it means "always ready". In light of Scripture's promise that Jesus WILL come again, and on a day and hour that no one but God knows, all people on earth would be wise to adopt "Semper Paratus" as their personal motto! The month of November signals the approaching end of the Church year. And with that, we'll hear readings that focus on the End of the Age and Christ's return. Lord, teach us how to be "always ready" for your appearance in glory.

**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:** “Lobe den Herren” – J.G. Walther

**Words of Welcome**

**Invocation, Confession, and Absolution** (page 151)

***The Service of the Word***



**Opening Hymn:** 516 Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

**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.**



**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25:1-13 (see back cover)

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

**Nicene Creed** (see inside back cover of hymnal)

**Hymn of the Day:** 515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

**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:*

Beck family	Death of Ed	Dunbar
Weiss family	Death of Chickie	Teschke
Pittore family	Death of Spring	Teschke

*For those with health concerns:*

Pastor John Babbits	Claire Haenisch	Jim Steimle	Pat Dietz
Bob Latimer	Judy Grube	Emma	Kay Compton
Linda	Mina Ciqus	Bob Van Hise	Tom Reside
Brennan	Phillip Trivett	Joe Sansone	Sue Nelson
Ursula	Gloria Garefino		

*For those with cancer:*

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

*For those serving in the armed forces:*

Jake Grube	LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske	Daniel Gewecke
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*For those suffering around the world:*

War in Europe	Prayers for peace and forgiveness
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	Prayers for health, safety, and provision
War in Middle East	Prayers for peace and forgiveness



## *The Service of the Sacrament*

### Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory: “Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier” - J. G. Walther

Congregational Offertory: LSB 785 We Praise You, O God (st. 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**

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: 490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

Post Communion Canticle: 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:** 802 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

### **Announcements**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord;

C: Thanks be to God!



**Postlude:** “Vater Unser in Himmelmreich” - J. S. Bach



## **Announcements – Week November 12, 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: Norm Klesat (Communion Assistant and Reader), Lydia Bloom (Acolyte), Jason Bloom (Usher and Live-streaming), Leslie Klesat and Shirley Yost (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

**Sunday Bible Study.** In week 6 of our Ecclesiastes study, the Preacher offers wisdom on a balanced life of work and pleasure. We'll also discuss his teaching about the importance of having mature leadership in all spheres of life. Read Ecclesiastes 9:7 - 10:20 to prepare. Find the study guide at <https://stpeternj.org/archives/2853>

**Sunday School Classes.** Sunday School classes for all ages are going strong! Elementary through High School 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!

**Today's service will be live streamed** on You Tube at the following link <https://youtube.com/live/AL03s2POLpU?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.

**Wednesday Zoom Bible Study.** Our discussion will cover Acts 16 and Paul's second missionary journey to plant churches in places like Philippi and Thessalonica. Their adventures included converting a businesswoman named Lydia, being thrown in jail, and then being miraculously broken out of jail! . (You can find archived recordings of our studies on our church website - [www.stpeternj.org](http://www.stpeternj.org))

**Service of Healing: Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00pm.**

*"He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3*

Join us on Tuesday, Nov. 14th at 7:00pm in the sanctuary for an evening of singing, devotion, and prayer around the theme of healing. This service is an interactive experience that includes laying on of hands, anointing with oil, baptismal remembrance, and candle lighting. All are welcome. Fellowship time with refreshments will follow the service.

**Community Churches Thanksgiving Potluck - you're invited!** The Pennington Clergy Association (to which St. Peter belongs!) is hosting an Interfaith Potluck and Community Celebration on Thursday, November 16th from 6:00-7:30PM at Pennington Presbyterian Church, 13 South Main Street. The event will include food, fellowship, singing, and expressions of gratitude. Please see the poster on the bulletin board for more info and let Pastor Jon know if you're interested in attending.



**Midweek Advent Services:** Advent is a season in the church year that helps prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas. With so many distractions this time of year, the world needs Advent more than ever! In this year's midweek Advent services we'll learn about three historical figures who carried the hope of Christ in their hearts and helped manifest His Light in the world:

Wed. Dec 6 at 7:30pm - Nicholas of Myra

Wed. Dec 13 at 7:30pm - Lucia of Syracuse

Wed. Dec 20 at 7:30pm - Katharina von Bora Luther (Youth-Led Service)

**Youth-led Advent Service:** Young people of all ages are invited to participate in our youth-led Advent service on Wednesday, Dec.20th at 7:30pm. We'll have a couple practices in December to get organized so look for more info coming on that. Ways to be involved include:

- ushering and acolyting
- solo/group music and singing
- reading
- sharing a written reflection on a reading
- other creative ideas??

Talk to Pastor Jon or Hope if you're interested in participating. All are welcome!

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

**Prayer Shawl Ministry.** The Prayer Shawl ministry team has distributed 18 prayer shawls during the month of October. Twelve of those were given to the Veteran's Hospital. What a blessing!

**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.

### *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 November we could use **washcloths (need 70)** and **toddler socks (need 30 pr)** and **toddler bath toys (need 25)**, so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex (next to the food pantry box).

**Lambertville Food Pantry.** Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. November's collection is **PERSONAL PRODUCTS**: body wash, shampoo, conditioner, pads, liquid hand soap, bar soap, and dish detergent. You can also sign up to deliver the donations; see the bulletin board 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** (11/5) Attendance: 58

General Fund: \$ 5849

(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](http://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.**

MONDAY (11/13)	Noon Elders Meeting
TUESDAY (11/14)	6am Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's; 4:30pm Confirmation; 7:00pm Service of Healing
WEDNESDAY (11/15)	9-Noon Circuit Meeting @ Bordentown; 7:30pm Zoom Bible study
THURSDAY (11/16)	9:45/11:45am Nursery Chapel Services; 12 pm NOAH luncheon at Yardley Inn; 6pm Pennington Community Thanksgiving Event
SATURDAY (11/18)	9-2:30pm FINAL NJDU Session #7 HERE @ St. Peter
SUNDAY (11/19)	8:15am Bible Study/Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; 6:30-8:30pm H.S. Youth Group at St. Paul, Flemington



**A Look Ahead.** Mark your calendars!



Tuesday, November 14	<b>7:00 pm</b>	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 Service
Saturday, December 9	10–noon	Nursery School Christmas
Sunday, December 24	9:30 am	Sunday Advent Service
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

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

LCMS World Relief and Human Care

“The Lutheran Hour” Broadcast

[njdistrict.org](http://njdistrict.org)

[lcms.org](http://lcms.org)

[lcms.org/ca/worldrelief](http://lcms.org/ca/worldrelief)

[lhm.org](http://lhm.org)

St. Peter Lutheran Church  
invites you to a

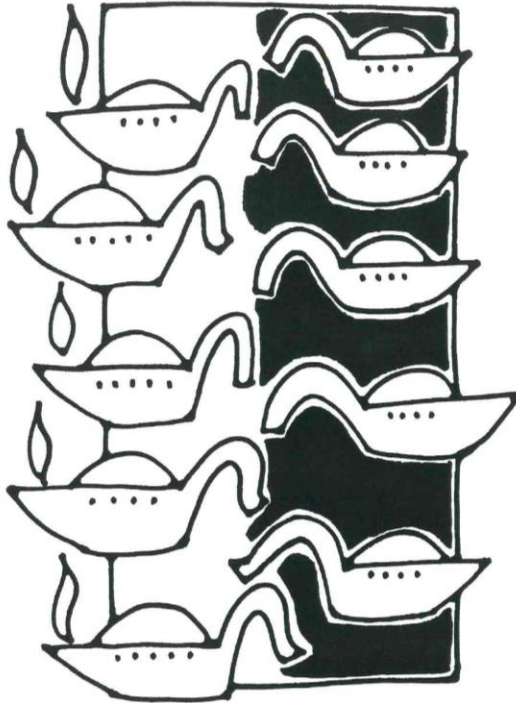
**SERVICE OF HEALING**  
Tuesday November 14th, 7:00pm

**“Come all you who are weary and  
I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28**

**Join us for an evening of song, devotion,  
and healing prayer--  
an interactive worship experience.**

[www.stpeternj.org](http://www.stpeternj.org)

KEEP AWAKE



THEREFORE

MATTHEW 25:13

## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Old Testament Reading: Amos 5:18–24

<sup>18</sup> Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why would you have the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, and not light,  
<sup>19</sup> as if a man fled from a lion,  
and a bear met him,  
or went into the house and  
leaned his hand against the wall,  
and a serpent bit him.  
<sup>20</sup> Is not the day of the LORD darkness,  
and not light,  
and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup> "I hate, I despise your feasts,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;  
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,

I will not look upon them.

<sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

<sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

### Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who

are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1–13

<sup>1</sup> [Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup> And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup> But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup> Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."