

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

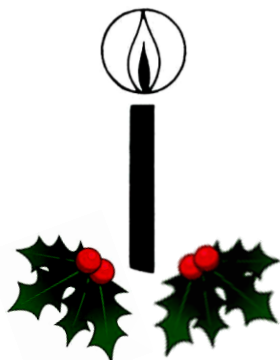
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Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813

Chris Fusco, Music Director

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First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023

Our mission:

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

Welcome! Speaking for all of God's people, the prophet says, "Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down!" (Isaiah 62:1) Just as Jesus once came into Jerusalem to sacrifice Himself for us upon the cross (Mark 11:4-8), He still comes to us today with the fruits of His Passion. By Word and Sacrament we are "enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge", gifts that will "sustain us to the end" (1 Corinthians 1:5,8).

Greetings to our Guest Pastor. Pastor Jon and his family are in Nebraska from Thursday, Nov. 30 - Monday, Dec. 4th. This morning we welcome Rev. Dr. Larry Vogel to lead us in worship. Pastor Vogel is retired and lives in Tom's River, NJ. We appreciate his coming to share God's Word with us!

Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please 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.

The Preparation

Prelude: “Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland” – J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: **And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

(Silence for personal confession.)

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Litany – see insert

The Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,
that by Your protection
we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins
and saved by Your mighty deliverance;
for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9 (see back cover)

Psalm: Psalm 80



¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!*

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Ma- | nasseh,*

stir up your might and come to | save us!

³ Restore us, | O God;*

let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

⁴ O LORD | God of hosts,*

how long will you be angry with your | people's prayers?

⁵ You have fed them with the | bread of tears*

and given them tears to drink in full | measure.

⁶ You make us an object of contention for our | neighbors,*

and our enemies laugh a- | mong themselves.

⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;*

let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

**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 Corinthians 1:3-9 (see back cover)

Advent Verse: 357 vs 1-2 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel.

Gospel Reading: Mark 11:1-10

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

Nicene Creed (inside the back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 343 Prepare the Royal Highway

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:

Garefino family	Death of Gloria	Teschke
Pittore family	Death of Spring	Teschke
Fresco family	Death of Cecilia	Teschke
McCough family	Death of Frank	Teschke

For those with health concerns:

Pastor John Babbits	Claire Haenisch	Ursula	Pat Dietz
Bob Latimer	Pat McSorley	Marge Carr	Kay Compton
Doug Meckel	Mina Ciqus	Bob Van Hise	Tom Reside
Brennan	Phillip Trivett		

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	Mary Ann

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

Birthdays

Mollie Steimle	Dec 4	Mary Beck	Dec 6
Anna deDufour	Dec 5	Shea Robinson	Dec 6
Christa Gewecke	Dec 5	Bonnie Jean Gallagher	Dec 8
Patty Barrett	Dec 6		

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory (p. 192)

Instrumental Offertory “Interlude in G Minor”

Congregational Offertory: “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation; and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament

Order of Holy Communion page 194

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 good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good, right and salutary.... Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

**C: (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.
Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

C: (spoken) Our Father who art in heaven...

Words of Institution (Consecration)

Pax Domini

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

C: And also with you.

Sharing of Christ's Peace

Agnus Dei page 198 *(sung)*

O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.

O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.

O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us Your peace. Amen

Distribution Hymn: 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Post-Communion Canticle: Lord, Now Let Your Servant Depart in Peace (p. 199 LSB)

**Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace according to Your Word,
for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people,
a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving page 200

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good,

C: and His mercy endures forever.

P: (Prayer of Thanksgiving)

C: Amen.

Salutation and Benedicamus page 201

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Benediction page 202

P: The Lord bless you...

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Announcements



P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: “Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland” – W. Zachau



Announcements – Week December 3, 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: Steve deDufour (Communion Assistant and Reader), Andy Wright (Acolyte), Fred Grube (Usher), Jason Bloom (Live-streaming), Judy Grube and Cheryl Gewecke (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Sunday Bible Study. There is NO Sunday bible study today since Pastor Jon is out of town. Join us next week as we study the Scripture lessons of Advent.

Sunday School Classes for all ages continue to 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/oZLC2lwVcN0?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. There will be NO Wednesday bible studies on December 6, 13, or 20 because of midweek Advent services. We'll resume on January 3, 2024! (You can find archived recordings of our studies on our church website - www.stpeternj.org)

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)

(Announcements cont'd)

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

Crafts, Carols, and Christ, a Nursery School and church collaboration. Come and welcome the nursery school families and enjoy a special Christmas celebration on Saturday, Dec 9 from 10-12! We can celebrate with the families we serve during this special morning program of music, crafts, and fellowship! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board with opportunities to help out as well; thanks so much!



Church Christmas Decorating. We are planning to decorate the church for Christmas (including the Christmas tree) on Saturday, December 9th starting at 1:00pm. Please come and help if you can. It's a great way to serve and get into the holiday spirit with friends!

St Peter Christmas Caroling. Sunday December 10th @ 3:00 PM – to visit some Homebound members. Come one, come all! Join us Sunday afternoon as we visit 2 homebound members, raising our Hearts and Voices in Christmas joy! See Bill Kianka or Bob Maguire for additional Caroling details

Operation Christmas Child. As we look forward to next year's collection, we are focusing on certain supplies during each month. For December we could use **small stuffed animals (need 20)**, **wiffle balls (need plenty)** and **fun Christmas tchotchkes** while they're available, so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex (next to the food pantry box).

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.

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. December’s collection is **BAKING AND COOKING PRODUCTS:** flour, sugar, salt, cooking oil, vinegar, baking powder, baking soda, etc. You can also sign up to deliver the donations; see the bulletin board sign-up.

Faithfulness Report (11/23 & 11/26) Attendance:
 General Fund: \$ Debt reduction:\$ Flowers \$

(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 (12/5) 4:30pm Confirmation Class
 WEDNESDAY (12/6) 7:30pm Midweek Advent Service
 THURSDAY (12/7) 9:45/11:40 Nursery School Chapel
 SATURDAY (12/9) 10:00am-Noon Crafts, Carols, and Christ; 1:00pm Church Christmas Decorating
 SUNDAY (12/10) 8:15am Bible Study/Sunday School; 9:30am Worship; 3:00 pm Caroling

A Look Ahead. Mark your calendars!



Wednesday, December 6 & 13	7:30 pm	Advent Services
Saturday, December 9	10–noon	“Crafts, Carols, and Christ”, <i>a Nursery School and Church collaboration</i>
	1:00 pm	Church decorating
Sunday, December 10	3:00 pm	Christmas Caroling
Wednesday, December 20	7:30 pm	Youth-led Advent Service
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 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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 64:1–9

- ¹ Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake
at your presence—
- ² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your
adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble
at your presence!
- ³ When you did awesome things that
we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains
quaked at your presence.
- ⁴ From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for
him.
- ⁵ You meet him who joyfully works
righteousness,
those who remember you in your
ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we
sinned;
in our sins we have been a long
time, and shall we be saved?
- ⁶ We have all become like one who is
unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are
like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind,
take us away.
- ⁷ There is no one who calls upon your
name,
who rouses himself to take hold
of you;
for you have hidden your face from
us,
and have made us melt in the
hand of our iniquities.
- ⁸ But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our
potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
- ⁹ Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.

Behold, please look, we are all
your people.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

³Grace to you and peace from God
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for
you because of the grace of God that
was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in
every way you were enriched in him in
all speech and all knowledge—⁶even
as the testimony about Christ was
confirmed among you—⁷so that you
are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as
you wait for the revealing of our Lord
Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to
the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord
Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom
you were called into the fellowship of
his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy Gospel: Mark 11:1–10

¹When they drew near to Jerusa-
lem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the
Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his
disciples ²and said to them, “Go into
the village in front of you, and immedi-
ately as you enter it you will find a
colt tied, on which no one has ever sat.
Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to
you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The
Lord has need of it and will send it back
here immediately.’” ⁴And they went
away and found a colt tied at a door
outside in the street, and they untied
it. ⁵And some of those standing there
said to them, “What are you doing,
untying the colt?” ⁶And they told them
what Jesus had said, and they let them
go. ⁷And they brought the colt to Jesus
and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat
on it. ⁸And many spread their cloaks
on the road, and others spread leafy
branches that they had cut from the
fields. ⁹And those who went before and
those who followed were shouting,
“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in
the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the
coming kingdom of our father David!
Hosanna in the highest!”