



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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

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The Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

Our mission:

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

Welcome. We enter the Epiphany season by remembering our Lord's baptism by John at the Jordan River. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and announced as God's beloved Son. This Sunday's lessons also invite us to remember our own baptism and how it connects us to God's saving power and presence in the world.

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 Four

LSB page 203



Prelude: “Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam” – J.G. Walther

Words of Welcome

Baptismal Reaffirmation

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Once our Lord came to the waters of the Jordan to usher in the beginning of the Kingdom. Standing in the waters with John, he took upon himself the burden of the law. He proved himself the obedient child we could not be, and through him God has counted us righteous. He entered the realm of sin and death in order to grant us forgiveness and life. After the crucifixion and death, he rose with new life and commanded that his disciples make disciples of all nations by baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

You and I were baptized in the name of the triune God. In fulfillment of our Lord's command and that we might receive the forgiveness and life he offered there, we were brought to this water and life and received into his Kingdom.

In Holy Baptism we are forgiven our sins and granted new life in Christ, our Lord. We renounce the devil and all his works and ways; we confess our faith in God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I invite you now to remember and renew your baptism by giving answer to the question I ask you:
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. Amen.**

(The following questions and answers are from Luther's Small Catechism.)

P: What is baptism?

C: Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word.

P: What does baptism give?

C: Baptism works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

P: How can water do such great things?

C: Certainly, it is not just water, but the Word of God in and with the water that does these things, along with the faith which trusts this Word of God in the water.

P: What does such baptizing with water indicate?

C: It indicates that the Old Adam in us---our sinful nature---should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

P: Is it your earnest purpose to continue steadfast in this faith and in the promise of your baptism?

C: It is, with the help of God.

P: Will you be diligent in the use of the means of grace and prayer to sustain the new life given you in your baptism?

C: I will.

P: 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.

Peace be with you.

C: And also with you.

Opening Hymn: 594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It (v. 1-3)

Prayer of the Day (page 205)

P: The Lord be with you.

C : And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Father in heaven,
at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River
You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son
and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit.

Make all who are baptized in His name
faithful in their calling as Your children
and inheritors with Him of everlasting life;



through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:1-5 (see back cover)

Psalm: Psalm 29



¹ Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly | beings,*
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and
strength.

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his
name;*
worship the LORD in the splendor
of | holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is over
the | waters;*
the God of glory thunders, the LORD,
over many | waters.

⁴ The voice of the LORD is | powerful;*
the voice of the LORD is full
of | majesty.

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks
the | cedars;*
the LORD breaks the cedars
of | Lebanon.

⁶ He makes Lebanon to skip | like a
calf,*
and Sirion like a young | wild ox.

⁷ The voice | of the LORD*
flashes forth | flames of fire.

⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes
the | wilderness;*
the LORD shakes the wilderness | of
Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the deer
give birth and strips the | forests bare,*
and in his temple all cry, | “Glory!”

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned o- | ver the
flood;*
the LORD sits enthroned as king
for- | ever.

¹¹ May the LORD give strength to
his | people!*
May the LORD bless his people | with
peace!

**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: Romans 6:1-11 (see back cover)

Alleluia and Verse (page 205)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:4-11

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

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 405 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

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:

Beeokie family	Death of Carol	Farley
Vaccaro family	Death of Joe	Wright

For those with health concerns:

Ekaterina	Fran Bryzinski	Kay Compton	Rich Decee
Tom Reside	Claire Haenisch	Ursula	Pat Dietz
Bob Latimer	Harry Tinsman	Phillip Trivett	Keith Riley
Marge Carr	Mina Ciqu	Brennan	

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	Mary Ann
Andrea (Andy) Hoteling	Nancy Gilliland	Anna Mantel	

For those serving in the armed forces:

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske	Jake Grube
Daniel Gewecke (in Middle East)			

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
Earthquake in Japan	Prayers for peace, stability, and provision

Birthdays

Jim Yost	Jan 12
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Offering

Instrumental Offertory: "Jesu Christe wahres licht" - W. Zachau



Order of Holy Communion (page 208)

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 Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God... Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven...

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed...

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

C: Amen.

**C: O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: 376 Once in Royal David's City

Nunc Dimittis

**C: O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace;
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

Benedicamus and Benediction (page 212)

P: Let us bless the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**
P: The Lord bless you and...

Closing Hymn: 412 The People That in Darkness Sat

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: "Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr" – J. Pachelbel



Announcements – Week of January 7, 2024
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: Tyson Wilhelm (Communion Assistant), Janice Nuneviller (Reader), Mark McAllister (Usher and Live-streaming), Liam McAllister (Acolyte), Audrey deDufour and Lesley deDufour (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

NEW Sunday Bible Study. Who Am I? What Am I Doing Here?" is the topic we'll be discussing at Sunday Bible Study. These are big questions that confront all of us at certain times in life. But God doesn't leave us to make up our own truths, or stumble blindly through life without direction. Our study will explore what God has revealed about life's biggest questions. This is a 6-week video-based study hosted by Dr. Joel Biermann from the St. Louis seminary. Join us!

Today's service will be live streamed on You Tube at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/OTLTXoSTNQE?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 will continue Wed evening on Zoom at 7:30. We will pick up at Acts 17:16. (You can find archived recordings of our studies on our church website - www.stpeternj.org)

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry. The Prayer Shawl ministry team continues to meet every other week, creating gifts to share. Consider joining them in January!

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

Mark Your Calendar! Our **Annual Voters' Assembly** is scheduled for January 28, 2024. We'd love to see everyone there to see the presentation from NJDU participants- find out what's ahead in in 2024! Details to follow...

Thank You from the Dunbars! Our family wishes to thank the congregation for the wonderfully generous Christmas gift presented to us on Christmas Eve. Your faith in Jesus and your caring support of church staff adds joy to this ministry!

Second Saturday Men's Breakfast. Don't miss the first meeting of the new year on Saturday, 1/13 at 7:30 am. Join us in the downstairs fellowship area. Looking forward to resuming this gathering!

NOAH Potluck Secret Santa Party, coming Fri, Jan 19th, noon to 2! Sign up now on the bulletin board to attend this potluck luncheon. Bring something tasty to share, along with an unwanted new, slightly used or Special gift to exchange with others. We ask that the gift be under \$20 and it be wrapped, but without any identifying names or tags. If you have any questions, please contact Jim or Shirley Yost.

Midwinter Lecture Series coming soon: Lecture on Religious Freedom. On **Sunday, February 4th at 3:00pm**, we will welcome our own Christopher Fusco, JCL, Esq. as speaker, presenting a lecture entitled, "Religious Freedom in US Law and Policy: Introduction and Recent Developments." You may not know that he serves as in-house legal counsel for the Diocese of Metuchen as well as moderator of the diocesan Tribunal, and is well-versed in this pertinent subject. The event will open with Evening Vespers and conclude with refreshments following the lecture. All are welcome, free of charge. This event is sponsored by Partners in Mission.

Operation Christmas Child. As we look forward to this year's collection, we are focusing on certain supplies during each month. For January we could use **mini spiral notebooks (need 50)**, and **6"x 9" writing tablets (need 30)**, so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex.

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. **January's collection is paper products – paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues.** You can also sign up to deliver the donations; see the bulletin board sign-up.

Faithfulness Report 12/31 Attendance: 60
Gen Fund: \$ 3636 HVAC debt relief: \$ 2000

(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 (1/9)	6am Men's Breakfast; Noon Elders Meeting; 4:30pm Confirmation Class
WEDNESDAY (1/10)	Circuit Pastors Meeting in Bordentown; 7:30pm Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (1/11)	9:40/11:50am Nursery Chapel Services
SATURDAY (1/13)	7:30am Men's Second Saturday Breakfast Fellowship
SUNDAY (1/14)	8:15am Bible Study/Sunday School; 9:30am Worship

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

This week's Bible memory verse challenge: John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1:1–5

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Epistle: Romans 6:1–11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from

sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:4–11

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”