

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

(609) 466-0939 www.stpeternj.org

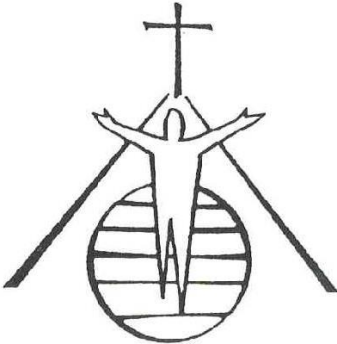
pastor@stpeternj.org secretary@stpeternj.org

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

Chris Fusco, Music Director

Amy Van Hise, Office Administrator

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director



Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

Our mission:

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

Welcome! Jesus is the vine, and we are his branches! In a world that is becoming increasingly disconnected due to technology and polarizing views, we need the deep and abiding connection that Jesus offers more than ever. As we remain close to him through Word and Sacrament, we find the sustaining strength to live purposefully in our 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 One
LSB page 151
The Preparation



Prelude “Christ ist erstanden” – H. Scheidemann

Words of Welcome

Easter Greeting (Rev 1:4b-6, 17b-18)

P: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

C: To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

P: Jesus said, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one.

C: I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Baptismal Remembrance: Confession and Absolution

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of Your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone. Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

C: Amen.

P: God so loved the world that while we were yet sinners Jesus Christ was given to die for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit God promises to heal us and forgive us. Let us then in confidence and believing in His promises confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive our sins, known and unknown, things done and things left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God looks upon us with mercy and by water and the word joins us to the saving death of Jesus Christ. God raises us with Christ to new life. I therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, declare to you the entire forgiveness of all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn: 807 When Morning Gilds the Skies

The Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: O God,

You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will.

Grant that we may love what You have commanded

and desire what You promise,

that among the many changes of this world

our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found;

through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40 (see back cover)

Psalm: Psalm 150



¹ Praise the LORD! Praise God in his
sanctu- | ary;*
praise him in his mighty | heavens!

² Praise him for his | mighty deeds;*
praise him according to his
excellent | greatness!

³ Praise him with | trumpet sound;*
praise him with | lute and harp!

⁴ Praise him with tambou- | rine and
dance;*
praise him with | strings and pipe!

⁵ Praise him with sounding | cymbals;*
praise him with loud clashing | cymbals!

⁶ Let everything that has breath | praise
the LORD!*

Praise | the LORD!

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 John 4:1-11 (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: John 15:1-8 (see back cover)

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

Nicene Creed

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 474 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen (v. 1-3)

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:

Metz family	Death of Joan	Farley
Pessalaris family	Death of Maria	Heebner
Randolph family	Death of Joan	Teschke
Greenberg family	Death of Charles	Dunbar
Helen's family	Death of Helen	Teschke
Carroll family	Death of their daughter, a student at HoVal	Dunbar

For those with health concerns:

Ekaterina	Jim Metz	Kay Compton	Stephen Gewecke
Tom Reside	Claire Haenisch	Ursula	Columba
Beverly	Pete Serone	Phillip Trivett	Maryanne Reside
Brennan	Pat McSorley	Pat Dietz	Valerie Nebbie
Jared Casper	Joe Campbell	Hank Van Beuzekom	Adam Butera

For those with cancer:

Charlie Huebner	Yolanda Piekaoskey	Rich deDufour	Lynn
Rich Knechel	Rose Bonecki	Aaron Kline	Linda (and housing)
Carol Tezla	Karen Shevchuk	Jason	Kathy
Barbara	Kathy Lamkin	Mary Ellen	Mary Ann
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Nancy Gilliland	Anna Mantel	Judy Grube
Trudy	Kaleigh Moore	Steve Saumsiegle	Doris
Gunter	Jerry	Gerry Campbell	Brad Hoppe
Rosalie Reinbacher	Lance		



For those with needs 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 God's guidance in U.S. response

For those serving in the armed forces:

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske	Jake Grube	Jim Buckman (son)
Daniel Gewecke (Returned to U.S.!)				

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For the needs of the nursery school families	For full 2024-25 enrollment
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Birthdays:

Emily Thieme	April 28	Joey Dunbar	April 30	Christine Weiland	May 1
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Anniversaries:

Jim and Shirley Yost	50 years	May 4
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The Service of the Sacrament

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory

Congregational Offertory: "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord" (LSB 955)

C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with Your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

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

C: Our Father who art in heaven...

P: Words of Institution

C: Agnus Dei 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: 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Post Communion Canticle: Thank the Lord (page 164)

C: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.

Let all who seek 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: 490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won (v. 1, 4-5)

Closing Call

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Announcements

Postlude "Interlude in D" – S. Goodwin



LCMS Memory Verse Challenge: *John 16:33*

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."



Announcements – Week of April 28, 2024

**Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week
Tues, Wed. and Thurs. from 1:00 - 3:00**

Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study

Welcome! Serving in worship today are: Tyson Wilhelm (Communion Assistant), Janice Nuneviller (Reader), Mark McAllister and Jim Steimle (Ushers), Mark McAllister (Live-streaming, Liam McAllister (Acolyte), Lillian Maguire and Leslie Klesat (Communion/coffee set-up and clean up).

Today's service will be live streamed on You Tube at the following link:
<https://youtube.com/live/DGi0arReVMg?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. Next week (5/1) we will begin at Acts 20:17. Before leaving Ephesus, Paul gathered the elders together and gave them parting instructions. This included the sobering call to "pay careful attention to yourselves, and to all the flock". It's a good reminder of how important it is to have faithful church leaders who can help God's people discern truth from falsehood. Come and join our discussion!

Spring Sunday Bible Study. This Sunday we'll continue our study of the 7 Signs (Miracles) of Jesus in the Gospel of John. Today's topic: Jesus feeds 5,000 (John 6:1-15)

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!

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

St. Peter's is Saved to Serve! The way we serve individually in our workplaces, homes, and communities is a way our whole congregation is visible to our neighbors! Check out how you are shining Christ's light at work, in civic and social organizations, in your recreation, etc. and see where God is sending us out each Sunday after worship and through the week!

Flowers. If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to do so. Suggested donation is \$25. You may take the flowers home following the service on the day you select.

Flowers are placed on the altar today in honor of Jim and Shirley Yost's 50th wedding anniversary.

Youth Member for Planning Council. One of our church's strategic goals is to mentor young people into positions of leadership in the congregation. For that reason, we're excited to share that Joey Dunbar has been appointed to serve a 1-year term as our first-ever Youth Representative on the Planning Council! In this role, Joey will help shape the mission of St. Peter by participating in discussions, providing input, and learning about the governance of our church. What a blessing to our ministry!

Operation Christmas Child. As we look forward to this year's collection, we are focusing on certain supplies during each month. To round out this year's donations, we could use **children's or costume jewelry**, and **matchbox cars**, so if you can, pick up a few and drop them in the collection box in the narthex.

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. **May's collection is Personal Products** – body wash, bar soap, liquid hand wash, shampoo, conditioner, dish detergent, pads, ...

Faithfulness Report: Attendance: 4/21/24: 50 (+6 online) Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$3432.21
Computer (live-stream): \$1500 Loan angel: \$800 Building: \$50 Missions: \$25 Flowers: \$25

Weekly Schedule.

TUESDAY (4/30) 4:30pm Confirmation Class
WEDNESDAY (5/1) 7:30 Zoom Bible Study on book of Acts
THURSDAY (5/2) 9:45/11:15am Nursery School Chapel services
SUNDAY (5/5) 8:15am Bible Study/SS; 9:30am Worship

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!

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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 8:26–40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.
³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Epistle: 1 John 4:1–11

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are

from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Holy Gospel: John 15:1–8

¹[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”