

# 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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## Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*September 8, 2024*

### **Our mission:**

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,  
honor God, serve others*

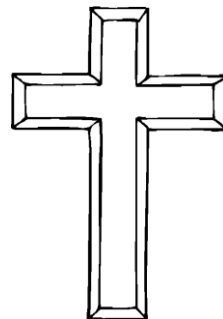
**Welcome! !** "Ephphatha". "Be opened." With this single Aramaic word, our Lord opened the ears of the deaf man and also enabled him to speak. Each time the word of God is offered, spiritual deafness can be a problem. It is possible to hear without understanding. It is possible to understand and yet be incapacitated by sin. Ask the Lord's blessing upon each heart, beginning with your own, that it may "be opened" to receive the Word, and that your lips may be "opened" to sing his praises.

**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 Two***  
***LSB page 167***

***The Preparation***



**Prelude:** “Gavotte” – M. Camidge

**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: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(Silence for personal confession.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

***The Service of the Word***

**Entrance Hymn:** 807 When Morning Gilds the Skies

**Kyrie** (page 168)

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 171)

P: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

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

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O Lord,

Let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants  
and grant that what they ask

may be in accord with Your gracious will;  
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 35:4-7a (see back cover)

**Psalm:** Psalm 146 (spoken responsively by whole verse)

<sup>1</sup> Praise | the LORD!\*  
Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;\*  
I will sing praises to my God while I  
have my | being.

<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in | princes,\*  
in a son of man, in whom there is no  
sal- | vation.

<sup>4</sup> When his breath departs he  
returns | to the earth;\*  
on that very day his plans | perish.

<sup>5</sup> Blessèd is he whose help is the God  
of | Jacob,\*  
whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the sea,  
and all that is | in them,\*  
who keeps faith for- | ever;

<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for | the oppressed,\*  
who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; <sup>8</sup> the  
LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.\*  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed  
down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the sojourners; he  
upholds the widow and the | fatherless,\*  
but the way of the wicked he brings  
to | ruin.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD will reign for- | ever,\*  
your God, O Zion, to all  
generations. | 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:** James 2:1-10, 14-18 (see back cover)

**Gospel Reading:**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

*Mark 7:14-23* (see back cover)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Apostles' Creed** (see inside the back cover of the hymnal)

**Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day:** 848 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

**Sermon**

**Consecration of Teachers and Students**

**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:*

The Howard family	Death of Mio	Manura
The Robinson family	Death of Ryan (nephew)	Robinson
The Schmidt family	Death of Fred	Yost
The Baer family	Death of Rich	Teschke

*For those with health concerns:*

Roger Newton	Janice Nuneviller	Jared Casper	Carol Farley
Robert Wilson	Zane	Brennan	Valerie Nebbie
Beverly	Pete Serone	Carol Yost Band	Grant and Noah
Ursula	Betty Kay Foster	Barbara Greenberg	Phillip Trivett
Kay Compton	Michele Manura	Rose	

*For those with cancer:*

Rosalie Reinbacher	Lance	Rich deDufour	Lynn
Rich Knechel	Rose Bonecki	Aaron Kline	Dick Butterfoss
Carol Tezla	Karen Shevchuk	Jason	Kathy
Barbara	Kathy Lamkin	Mary Ellen	Mary Ann
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Nancy Gilliland	Anna Mantel	Linda
Trudy	Kaleigh Moore	Steve Saumsiegle	Doris
Jane Fry	Jerry	Gerry Campbell	Brad Hoppe
Barbara Howard	Dottie	Dave Bond	

*For those with needs around the world:*

Government officials and people of our nation	Prayers for peace, unity, safety, and wisdom
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	James Bannon	Harper Usiskin	Jesse Sowell	

*For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:*

For preparation for the new school year	For continued last minute enrollment
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**Birthdays**

Jenna Bloom	Sep 8	Brian Lange	Sep 14
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**Gathering of the Offering and Offertory**

**Instrumental Offertory:** "Liebster Jesu" – J. G. Walther

**Congregational Offertory:** "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord" (page 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.**





## Announcements – Week of September 8, 2024

Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week

**\*MON, TUES and WED from 1:00 - 3:00\***

### Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study

**Welcome!** Serving in worship today are: Norm Klesat (Communion), Joey Dunbar (Reader), Nathan Wilhelm (acolyte), Tyson Wilhelm and Joey Dunbar (ushers), Tyson Wilhelm (live-streaming), Audrey deDufour and Leslie Klesat (coffee and communion set-up and clean-up).

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

<https://youtube.com/live/tG2dUROxo98?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.

**NEW Sunday Bible Study: How We Got the Bible.** This morning we began a new 5-week study called How We Got the Bible. Each week we'll watch and discuss a video by Dr. Paul Maier that answers important questions like: Where did the Bible come from? Who wrote it, and why? Who decided which books to include? What about critics who question its reliability? Participants in this study will gain a new appreciation of God's Word as our primary source of truth and "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (1 Timothy 3:16b).

**A Study of the Psalms - NEW on Wednesdays via ZOOM.** Join us on **Wednesdays at 7:30pm** as we dive into the Old Testament Book of Psalms. In this 12-week study, we'll learn how to read and appreciate Hebrew poetry as God's inspired Word. We'll also learn about the different kinds of psalms (e.g. praise, confession, royal, lament) and how they express the wide spectrum of emotions we feel as followers of Christ living in a broken - but still beautiful - world. This Zoom study is open to all - look for the link that was emailed out this week, or ask Pastor. Invite your friends!

**Impact High School Youth Ministry.** Our first youth group meeting of the year will be held **TONIGHT from 6:30-8:30pm** at St. Paul, Flemington. We are very excited to continue in our spiritual growth and have more opportunities for fellowship among high schoolers. We have a lot of big plans for this year and we hope you are as excited as we are. Our most notable change for this year will be Joey Dunbar, Ava Komorowski, and Sophia Fenco taking on leadership roles in the youth group and becoming responsible for organizing games and devotions among other things. We've given our group a new name -**Impact: NJ Youth Ministry.** We hope the changes we have planned will create more interest in the youth group and give the youth group more of a presence in the community.

**After-Service Sermon Discussion continues next week!** Join us after service in the fellowship hall for a lively discussion!

### Weekly Schedule:

MONDAY (9/9)	First Day for St. Peter Nursery School
TUESDAY (9/10)	6:00am Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's
WEDNESDAY (9/11)	7:30pm Zoom Bible Study of Psalms
THURSDAY (9/12)	9:30-Noon Circuit Pastors Meeting @ Medford
SATURDAY (9/14)	7:30am Men's Breakfast
SUNDAY (9/15)	8:15am Bible Study; 9:30am Worship; 11:00am Readings Discussion Group

## *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*

**JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL ST. PETER PICNIC AFTER SERVICE TODAY!** Come enjoy food, fellowship, and fun as we kick off the fall schedule. It promises to be lots of fun – See you there!

**New Jersey March for Life.** On **Thursday, September 26** you can add your voice to this important issue by attending the New Jersey March for Life at the state capitol in Trenton. The event runs from 11:00am to around 1:00pm. Parking will be difficult, so participants are strongly encouraged to use public transportation. Those who wish to carpool with Pastor Jon should meet at 9:30am at the church. Please let him know if you're interested in attending!

**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 Jenna Bloom's birthday by Connie Hofer.**

**Lambertville Food Pantry.** Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. **September's collection is Breakfast** - cereal, pancake mix, syrup, cereal bars, pop tarts, etc

**Faithfulness Report:** Attendance: 9/1: 46/5 online      Gen Fund (plate and elec): 3676  
Operation Christmas Child postage: \$250

**Website and Facebook.** Come online to check us out! 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>.

### **Other Important web links:**

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod [lcms.org](http://lcms.org)      NJ District LCMS [njdistrict.org](http://njdistrict.org)  
LCMS World Relief and Human Care [lcms.org/ca/worldrelief](http://lcms.org/ca/worldrelief)      The "Lutheran Hour" Broadcast [lhm.org](http://lhm.org)

### **TAKE IT FURTHER: Today's Closing Hymn, LSB 861 Christ Be My Leader**

In a reprise from last week, today's Closing Hymn is another written by Timothy Dudley-Smith (*Dec 26, 1926- Aug 12, 2024*), the prolific writer of hymns who passed away only last month. Showing again the biblical clarity he strongly favored in his hymns, this selection embodies the attitude we can embrace as we set out to face new challenges and uncertainties in this season of new beginnings. Thank You, Jesus, for being our leader as we carry out what You have for us to do!

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 1333-1334

### ***Memory Verse Challenge:      John 8:12***

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*



## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

- <sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."  
<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall  
be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf  
unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like  
a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing  
for joy.  
For waters break forth in the  
wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a  
pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs  
of water.

### Epistle: James 2:1-10, 14-18

<sup>1</sup>My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. <sup>2</sup>For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Are not the

ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

<sup>8</sup>If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. . . .

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

<sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup>So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup>But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

### Holy Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."