

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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Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2024

Our mission:

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

Welcome! The greatest leaders in the Bible were also the most humble. King David knew his faults very well and wasn't afraid to admit them. "Remember not the sins of my youth!" (Psalm 25:7). Israel would wait many centuries before meeting the Righteous Branch from David's family tree, the leader who was finally capable of saving his people (Jeremiah 33). But even this Savior King was humble, as seen by the way he entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Luke 17). The joy he brought to earth still resounds today among His people (1 Thessalonians 3). Rejoice!

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.

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 unto God our Father, beseeching 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 unto the Lord.

C: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. 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.

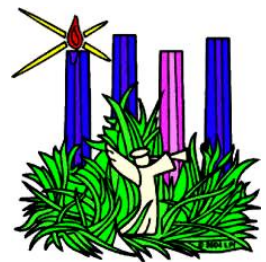
P: Let us pray.

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: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (see back cover)



Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10 (spoken responsively)

P: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**C: O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.**

P: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**C: Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;
teach me Your paths.**

P: Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are Son the God of my salvation;
for You I wait all the day long.

**C: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

P: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

**C: Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.**

P: He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble His way.

**C: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep His covenant and his testimonies.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (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 thee, O Israel.

Gospel Reading: Luke 19:28-40

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

The Yoder family

Death of Betty

Yoder/Zelkovsky

For those with health concerns:

Janis

Janice Nuneviller

Barbara

Carol Farley

Chris

Zane

Brennan

Valerie Nebbie

Beverly

Pete Serone

Carol Yost Band

Grant and Noah

Ursula

John O'Neil

Sid

Allison

Kay Compton

Claire

Rose

Jamie

Cambria

Robert Bauer

John Tarlo

Steve Hauptman

Carrick Porter

Gordon

Joe

Suzanne

Nicholas Wilhelm

Mariah Martinez

Gerry

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 Anne

Andrea(Andy) Hoteling

Nancy Gilliand

Anna Mantel

Linda

Trudy

Kaleigh Moore

Steve Saumsiegle

Doris

Jane Fry

Jerry

Gerry Campbell

Brad Hoppe

Barbara Howard

Dottie

Dave Bond

William

Sonia

Barbara

Henry J.

Logan Mattessich

Linda

Karen Radcliffe



For those with needs around the world:

Government officials and people of our nation	Prayers for peace, unity, safety, and wisdom
Those coping with hurricane/drought/disaster	Prayers for provision and help
Those in need of employment	Provision of jobs
Wars in Europe and Middle East	Prayers for peace, forgiveness, and guidance
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	Prayers for health, safety, and provision

For those serving in the armed forces:

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Nate Fiske	Jake Grube	Jim Buckman
Daniel Gewecke	James Bannon	Harper Usiskin	Jesse Sowell	Mike Bahney

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For staff and families of the school

For enrollment

Birthdays:

Mollie Steimle	Dec 4	Patty Barrett	Dec 6
Anna deDufour	Dec 5	Mary Beck	Dec 6
Christa Gewecke	Dec 5	Shea Robinson	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 Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

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

The Service of the Sacrament

Order of Holy Communion page 194

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with Thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God **C: It is meet 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 Thy glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.

Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh 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, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; grant us Thy 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 lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all
people,**

a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy 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 endureth forever.**

P: (Prayer of Thanksgiving) C: **Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus page 201

P: The Lord be with you. C: **And with Thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction page 202

P: The Lord bless you... C: **Amen, amen, amen.**

Closing Hymn: 341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Announcements

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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





Announcements – Week of December 1, 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: Tyson Wilhelm (Communion assistant), Joey Dunbar (Reading), Dave deDufour and Bob Maguire (Ushers), Nathan Wilhelm (Acolyte), Lesley deDufour (Live-streaming and Communion/coffee clean-up), Lillian Maguire (Communion/coffee set-up)

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

<https://youtube.com/live/FX2PuwNavxw?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.

Bible Study on Gospel of Luke. This Sunday at 8:15am we continue a 12-week study of selections from Luke's Gospel. **Our study lesson for this Sunday will be Luke 1:1-25, "The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold"**. Did you know the Biblical account of Christmas contains TWO miraculous births!? We'll read about God's gracious intervention in the lives of two faithful Israelites - Zechariah and Elizabeth. Long after their child-bearing years, they would become the parents of John the Baptist - prophet and forerunner of Christ.

After-Service Sermon Discussion today! Join us after service in the fellowship hall for a lively discussion!

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study. Our Wednesday evening Bible study is now on break until January 8 of the New Year.

Weekly Schedule:

WEDNESDAY (12/4) - 7:30pm Midweek Advent Service

FRIDAY (12/6) - 11:30am NOAH Seniors @ Hunterdon Hills Playhouse

SUNDAY (12/8) - 8:15am SS/Bible Study; 9:30 Worship; 11:00 Discussion Group

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

Caroling for friends and shut-ins – Sunday, Dec 15, 3 pm. Join us as we bless our shut-ins and friends of the congregation singing some familiar Christmas carols and spreading good cheer! All are welcome – let Pastor Jon know if you can come along! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Jamafternoon TODAY, 3:30 pm! Join us for a holiday sing along! Bring an instrument, bring your voice, bring a friend for a great time of making music and having fun. National Youth Gathering youth will be providing snacks for a free will donation as a fundraiser for their upcoming New Orleans trip!

Nursery School Crafts, Carols and Christ Party Sat. Dec. 7th. The St. Peter Nursery School is celebrating their Christmas program and party on Sat, Dec. 7th from 10am-12pm and could use some church volunteers to greet families, help with the potluck, extra hands at the crafts, and be all around goodwill St. Peter congregational ambassadors on the day. It's always a wonderful event. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Youth Candlelight Service Wednesday Dec. 18th. This year's final midweek Advent service will be led by the youth of our congregation. The group rehearsal for our service will be held after church on Sunday December 15th. Lunch will be provided. Please let Hope Dunbar know if you have a son or daughter interested in participating. All ages are welcome. Also, if you plan to prepare a musical piece, let Hope know that as well. There will be a group choir piece, but also many speaking parts to fill!

The Prayer Shawl/Lap Blanket Ministry is a prayerful ministry which reaches out to those in need of comfort, and also to share the joy of those celebrating a marriage or the birth of a child. Blessings are prayed into the items for the recipients. These items are meant to be given away unconditionally and are NOT to be sold. Since the beginning of the ministry in 2015, we have given away a total of 384 items which include shawls, lap blankets, baby caps, and baby blankets. In addition to individuals, we have contributed lap blankets and shawls to the Disabled American Veterans Hospital; baby caps to hospitals; fidget blankets to Alzheimer patients; and red, white and blue blankets to Hospice in honor of WWII veterans. Finally, we would like to thank those of you who have contributed to this ministry for the purchase of supplies.

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

Christmas Poinsettias. We will once again have red, white and pink poinsettias in front of the Christmas altar. If you would like to sponsor (\$10) one or more poinsettias (that you can take home after Christmas Day service), there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Opportunity to give toward Helene Disaster Relief through NJ District. The NJ District continues to match dollar for dollar any individual/family gift given through the District up to \$250. A designation has been set up on the District website (njdistrict.org) where people can give online. Once you are on the website scroll down and click on the "Give Now" button. Scroll down and click on the Hurricane Helene Disaster relief icon.

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.

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. **SPECIAL NEED – toilet paper! December's collection is Baking and Cooking** – flour, sugar, salt, cooking oil, vinegar, baking powder, baking soda, spices...

Faithfulness Report: Attendance 11/24: 62
Apple of His Eye: \$60

Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$5055
Memorial:\$100

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

Other Important web links:

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod lcms.org

NJ District LCMS njdistrict.org

LCMS World Relief and Human Care lcms.org/ca/worldrelief

The “Lutheran Hour” Broadcast lhm.org



TAKE IT FURTHER: Today’s Hymn of the Day: 343 Prepare the Royal Highway

This hymn was written by Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847), who was a Lutheran priest in the Church of Sweden. It “exudes the hopeful joy of Advent” with its lilting melody and message of the coming of Christ. It became a popular Advent hymn not only in Sweden but throughout Scandinavia. It was first introduced to English-speaking congregations after being translated by a Swedish immigrant, Augustus Nelson, in 1819. He is the one who added the refrain “Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s word.” An interesting fact – the hymn never mentions Jesus by name, but there is no denying that it is focused on His coming into this world with His life-saving work as the Word made flesh! It is a perfect fit for today’s Gospel as well.

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 31-36

***Memory Verse Challenge:* Luke 19:38**

...”Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”





Advent and Christmas at St. Peter

December:

<i>Sun</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>9:30 am</i>	<i>Advent begins</i>
		<i>3:30 pm</i>	<i>JamAfternoon Song Circle: Christmas Songs</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7:30 pm</i>	<i>Midweek Advent Service</i>
<i>Thurs</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1 pm</i>	<i>Christmas Decorating</i>
<i>Sat</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>10 am</i>	<i>Nursery School Christmas Celebration</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>7:30 pm</i>	<i>Midweek Advent Service</i>
<i>Sun</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>3:00 pm</i>	<i>Christmas Caroling for shut-ins/friends</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>7:30 pm</i>	<i>Youth-led Advent Service</i>
<i>Tues</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>5:00/7:00 pm</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Services</i>
<i>Wed</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>10:00 am</i>	<i>Christmas Day Service</i>



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 33:14–16

¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

⁹What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Holy Gospel: Luke 19:28–40

²⁸When [Jesus] had said these things, he went on ahead,

going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, “Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you shall say this: ‘The Lord has need of it.’” ³²So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?” ³⁴And they said, “The Lord has need of it.” ³⁵And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ³⁹And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ⁴⁰He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”