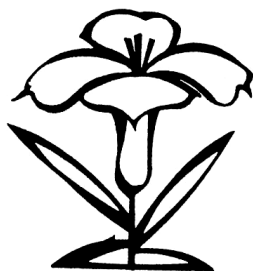


St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church



Hopewell Township, N.J.

(609) 466-0939 web site: 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

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

Our mission:

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

Welcome! Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth is an occasion for both women to receive blessing through prophetic words inspired by the Holy Spirit. Like them we are blessed...to have Christ dwelling inside us and to receive from God the gift of faith that trusts His promises. Joy and love abound in this week's readings as our celebration of Christmas draws very near!

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” – Zachaw

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 and help us by Your might,
that the sins which weigh us down
may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy;
for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2-5a (see back cover)

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7 (spoken responsively)

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

C: Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your might and come to save us!

P: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

C: O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry with your people's prayers?

P: You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**C: You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

P: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**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: Hebrews 10:5-10 (see back cover)

Advent Verse: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v 6-7)

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. (Refrain)

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45

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: 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 Gering/McCarthy families Death of Larry Dunbar

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	Nicholas Wilhelm
Kay Compton	Claire	Rose	Lolly Hoagland
Cambria	Robert Bauer	John Tarlo	Steve Hauptman
Mariah Martinez	Judy Nanni	Joe	

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	Lexi Launchbaugh	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	Marci Fehlhafer	Dora

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:

Robert Maguire	Dec 23	Don Hammond	Dec 28
Stephen Gewecke	Dec 25	Mariah Martinez	Dec 28

Anniversaries:

Siegfried and Claire Haenisch	Dec 23	Don and Sandy Hammond	Dec 28
-------------------------------	--------	-----------------------	--------

Gathering

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory (p. 192)

Instrumental Offertory: “Prelude in B-flat Major” – J. S. Bach

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.

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: 376 Once in Royal David's City

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 *(sung)*

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

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

Benediction page 202 *(sung)*

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

Closing Hymn: 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Announcements

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: "Nun komm der Heiden Heiland" – Walther





Announcements – Week of December 22, 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: Kevin Lauricella (Communion assistant and reader), Nathan Wilhelm (Acolyte), Tyson Wilhelm (Usher and Live-streaming), Scott Garrow (Usher), MaryAnne Reside and Cheryl Gewecke (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/gXXp7Ex008E> 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 2:1-21, "The Birth of Jesus Christ"**. We'll give attention to the way Luke emphasizes the human nature of Jesus and the humble circumstances of his birth.

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:

TUESDAY (12/24)	5:00pm & 7:00pm Christmas Eve Services
WEDNESDAY (12/25)	10:00am Christmas Day Service
SUNDAY (12/29)	9:30 Worship; 11:00 Discussion Group (no Sunday School or 8:15 Bible study)

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

Youth Candlelight Service on Wednesday Dec. 18th was such a blessing to all! Many thanks to the youth who participated, and to Hope for sharing all her gifts in putting together a very special service!

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.

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.

Service and Other

January Voters Meeting. St. Peter will hold its annual Voters meeting on **Sunday, January 19th** after the worship service. We invite and encourage all to attend! It's an important time to review the past year, discuss future plans for 2025, elect new leadership and approve a budget for implementing our goals. We'll give thanks for God's guidance and ask His blessing on all future endeavors. To God be the glory!

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 12/15: 52/4 online 12/18: 42 Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$23157.25
Flowers: \$250 Memorial: \$237 Poinsettias: \$50

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: 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), a renowned Episcopalian preacher of the nineteenth century, wrote this lovely carol based on his own pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1865! He traveled by horse from Jerusalem to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve of that year, stopping by the field where the shepherds were reputed to be “keeping watch over their flocks by night”, and then on to Bethlehem’s Church of the Nativity. This experience made such a great impression on him that three years later he wrote about the “little town” in a hymn that would be included in the children’s Christmas program at Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia. Lewis Redner, responsible for the music, and Brooks never thought that the little hymn would live beyond that Christmas of 1868, but happily that was certainly proven wrong.

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 84-87

Memory Verse Challenge: Micah 5:4

And He shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.





Christmas Celebrations at St. Peter

Tues, Dec. 24 5:00/7:00 pm Christmas Eve Services

Wed, Dec 25 10:00 am Christmas Day Service



