



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Chris Fusco, Music Director
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Second Sunday after Christmas

January 5, 2025

Our mission:

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

Welcome. The Bible's definition of wisdom is knowing God's will, trusting His will is good, and (insofar as it applies to our own behavior) doing His will. And thankfully, we don't have to try and read the mind of God to know what is His will - because He has revealed it to us in Christ. Christ is the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:24). This is the wisdom sought by King Solomon, which could only come from God, through prayer. This is the wisdom Jesus displayed as a 12-year old boy in Temple. And this is the wisdom we seek as we spend time in God's Word!

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: “In Dulci Jublio” – J.S. Bach

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution (page 203)

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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 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.**

Opening Hymn: 373 See amid the Winter’s Snow

Kyrie (page 204)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord...

C: **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

(The congregation sings this in response to each petition.)



Hymn of Praise To God on High Be Glory (page 204)

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth.
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav’nly King.

To You, O sole begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior; You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.



Prayer of the Day (page 205)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.
Almighty God,

You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word.
Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives;
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: 1 Kings 3:4-15 (see back cover)

Psalm 119: 97-104



⁹⁷ Oh how I | love your law! *
It is my meditation | all the day.

⁹⁸ Your commandment makes me wiser
than my | enemies, *
for it is ever | with me.

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all
my | teachers, *
for your testimonies are my
medi- | tation.

¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the | aged, *
for I keep your | precepts.

¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every | evil
way, *
in order to | keep your word.

¹⁰² I do not turn aside from your | just
decrees, *
for you have | taught me.

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words | to my taste, *
sweeter than honey | to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ Through your precepts I get
under- | standing; *
therefore I hate every | false way.

**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: Ephesians 1:3-14 (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: Luke 2:40-52

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

Apostles' Creed

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 410 Within the Father's House

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 those with health concerns:

Ellie	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	Janis

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 Gilliland	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:

John Miller Jan 5

Offering

Instrumental Offertory

Offertory Hymn: 894 For the Fruits of His Creation (st 1&3)

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: 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

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.**



Post-Communion Collect p. 212

P: Let us pray...

C: Amen

Benedicamus and Benediction (page 212)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless you and...

C: Amen

Closing Hymn: 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory (st. 1-2, 5)

Announcements

Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: "Noel" – L. D'Aquin





Announcements – Week of January 5, 2025

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 and Live-streaming), Cheryl Gewecke (Reader and Communion/coffee clean-up), Joey Dunbar and Steve deDufour (Ushers), Audrey deDufour (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/UNCz-Z1CExM> 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 2:39-52, "The Boy Jesus in the Temple".** In these verses, Jesus is revealed to be filled with Messianic wisdom from a young age. We see what a challenge this was for his parents to understand at times. We'll discuss what this means for our understanding of Jesus, his wisdom, and what it means to be obedient to God and our parents. Come and join the discussion!

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

NEW Study of Colossians: Wednesdays via Zoom. Our Wednesday evening Zoom Bible Study begins again this week, January 8th at 7:30pm. We will start a new study of the New Testament book of Colossians. Paul wrote this letter from prison to a church that had lost its focus on the Gospel of Jesus. Its people had become distracted by heresies and issues that had nothing to do with Christ. This book has much to teach Christians today about keeping Christ and his Gospel at the center of our faith. Join us!

Weekly Schedule:

TUESDAY (1/7)	Noon Elders Meeting; 2pm Pennington Clergy Meeting
WEDNESDAY (1/8)	7:30pm Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (1/9)	9:30-1pm Circuit Pastors Meeting @ Tinton Falls
SATURDAY (1/11)	7:30am Men's Breakfast
SUNDAY (1/12)	8:15 Sunday School/Bible Study; 9:30 Worship; 11:00 Discussion Group; 6:30pm Impact Youth Group @ St. Paul, Flemington

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

Midwinter Lecture Series coming soon: Luther's Teaching on Vocation. On **Sunday, February 2nd at 3:00pm** we will welcome retired Airforce chaplain and current pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Somerset, Rev. Greg Jans, as our guest lecturer. Pastor Jans will speak on the topic of Martin Luther's doctrine of vocation (or "calling from God"). This important biblical teaching had a great impact during the Reformation on how Christians saw their daily work inside and outside the home, and at church. Pastor Jans will share insights from his own vocation as a chaplain, pastor, and current campus chaplain at Rutgers University. He will also help us gain a better understanding and appreciation for how God works through us in our own vocations. 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.

NOAH Potluck Secret Santa Party, coming Fri. Jan 17th, 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 contact Jim or Shirley Yost.

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!

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

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.

Thank you from the Dunbars! The Dunbar family wishes to thank the members of St. Peter for the extraordinarily generous gift we received on Christmas Day. Your love and support means so much to us! May God's grace abound in the New Year ahead!

Pastor Jon, Hope, Sam, Jesse, and Joey

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. **January's collection is Paper Products** – paper towels, toilet tissue, facial tissue, etc

Faithfulness Report: Attendance 12/29: 57/2 online

Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$ 3800

HVAC debt relief: \$ 5000

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 Closing Hymn, LSB 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

This well-known carol has a history which includes an unexpected controversy. It was originally published as a poem entitled “Nativity” in a Sheffield, England newspaper called *The Iris*. It was written in 1816 by the publisher himself, James Montgomery (1771-1854). It was later included in Thomas Cotterill's *Selection of Psalms and Hymns for Public and Private Use*, with which Montgomery assisted him, providing 50 original hymns. Unfortunately, some people in Cotterill's parish were opposed to the singing of hymns in churches, and ultimately took Cotterill to ecclesiastical court to stop the use of the book! However, their finding was that since the singing of psalms had been authorized by the Church of England, and they could find no difference between hymns and metrical psalms, the book could be cleared for publication. We enjoy celebrating the birth of Christ with this beautiful hymn to this day.

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*. (2019), p. 100-103

Memory Verse Challenge: Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

E P H E S I A N S 1 : 8



AND HE HAS
SHOWERED
DOWN UPON
US ^{the} RICHNESS OF
H·I·S G·R·A·C·E

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 3:4–15

⁴And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Epistle: Ephesians 1:3–14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:40–52

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.