



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 26, 2025

Our mission:

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

Welcome. You've probably heard the saying, "Familiarity breeds contempt." It's a sad fact of human nature that when we know (or think we know) someone really well, we can become bored with them and stop giving them our attention and respect. Jesus was rejected by the people in his hometown the moment he began to challenge their ideas about Gentiles having faith in God and receiving His grace. The people of Nazareth couldn't see beyond their own prejudices. They refused to listen to the truth because it came from an unexpected source (Luke 4). Lord, open our eyes to see, and our ears to hear the wisdom of Your Word - even when it says something to us that we did not expect!

Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Holsten, 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: “Jesu Christe wahres licht” - W. Zachau

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: 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

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.

Praise
the Lord

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 and everlasting God,
 mercifully look upon our infirmities
 and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us;
 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: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (see back cover)

Psalm 19:7-14



⁷The law of the LORD is perfect,
 reviv- | ing the soul; *
 the testimony of the LORD is sure,
 making wise the | simple;

⁸the precepts of the LORD are right,
 rejoicing | the heart; *
 the commandment of the LORD is
 pure, enlightening | the eyes;

⁹the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring
 for- | ever; *
 the just decrees of the LORD are true,
 and righteous alto- | gether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold,
 even | much fine gold; *
 sweeter also than honey and drippings
 of the | honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover, by them is your | servant
 warned; *
 in keeping them there is | great
 reward.

¹²Who can dis- | cern his errors? *
 Declare me innocent from | hidden
 faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from
 presumptuous sins; let them not have
 dominion | over me! *
 Then I shall be blameless, and
 innocent of great trans- | gression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and
 the meditation of my heart be
 acceptable | in your sight, *
 O LORD, my rock and my re- | deemer.

**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 Corinthians 12:12 – 31a (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 4:16-30

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

Apostles' Creed

Hymn of the Day: 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

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:

Pat McCann	Janice Nuneviller	Barbara	Carol Farley	Mariah Martinez
Chris	Zane	Brennan	Valerie Nebbie	Susan
Beverly	Pete Serone	Carol Yost Band	Grant and Noah	Robert Bauer
Ursula	John O'Neil	Sid	Monica Benesch	John Tarlo
Kay Compton	Claire	Rose	Lolly Hoagland	

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
Aunt Jean	Karen Radcliffe	Marci Fehlhafer	Dora
Linda	Nico Benesch		



ALL WERE AMAZED AT
THE GRACIOUS WORDS
THAT CAME FROM HIS MOUTH
LUKE 4:16

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: 629 What Is This Bread

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: 917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

Announcements

Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: "Ach Gott, vom Himmel sieh darien" - J. Pachelbel





Announcements – Week of January 26, 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

Guest Preacher - Rev. Bob Holsten. This Sunday we welcome Pastor Holsten to preach God's Word and lead our worship while Pastor Jon is out of town. Pastor Holsten has provided this service for St. Peter in the past, and we are always glad when he can join us!

Welcome! Serving in worship today are: Jim Steimle (Communion Assistant and Reader), Juliet Behnfeldt (Acolyte), Dave deDufour and Stephen Behnfeldt (Ushers), MaryAnne Reside (Communion/coffee set-up), and Lesley deDufour (Communion/coffee clean-up and Live streaming)

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

<https://youtube.com/live/TcGnZRX08yM> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted after the fact to the [church's website](#).

Sunday Morning Bible Study & Discussion Group. There will be NO Sunday morning Bible study or Discussion Group after worship today because Pastor Jon and his family are in Nebraska attending a family wedding this weekend. We'll resume Bible study NEXT Sunday, February 2nd!

NEW Sunday 8:15 Bible Study: Angels and Demons. Beginning on **Sunday, February 2nd**, Pastor Jon will lead us in a study of angels and demons. Much of what people think they know about them comes from popular books and movies. But what does the Bible actually tell us? We will search God's Word for answers, and dispel some misconceptions along the way. Bring your questions! Why did God make angels? How (and when) did some of them fall and become demons? What is spiritual warfare? Will I become an angel when I die? We'll discuss these and more, and discover the blessed comfort and encouragement God intended us to have in giving us these "ministering spirits".

Zoom Study of Colossians: Next Wednesday evening (Jan 29) at 7:30pm, we will continue our study of Colossians. **Our focus will be on Colossians 2:16-23.** Here, Paul warns the believers in Colossae about those who would pass judgment on their simple faith or try to convince them that faith in Jesus isn't enough for salvation. Man-made commandments and insistence upon severe forms of self-denial have always been a part of the "self-made" religion that lures people away from God's Word. What is the appeal of these, and how do they contradict the Gospel of Christ?

Weekly Schedule:

TUESDAY (1/28)	6:00am Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's
WEDNESDAY (1/29)	7:30pm Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (1/30)	9:45/11:15am Nursery School Chapels
FRIDAY (1/31)	6pm NJDU Strategic Planning for 2025
SUNDAY (2/2)	8:15 Sunday School/Bible Study; 9:30 Worship; 11:00 Voters' Meeting , 3pm Midwinter Lecture

Annual Voters Meeting. St. Peter will hold its rescheduled annual Voters' meeting **NEXT SUNDAY, February 2** 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!

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

Midwinter Lecture Series: Luther's Teaching on Vocation. Next 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.

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. We have blessed many hospital patients, veterans, hospice patients, babies, and others with these comforting gifts. These items are meant to be given away unconditionally and are NOT to be sold. If you would like to join us in the making of these special items, please speak with Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928.

Service and Other

St. Peter YouTube Channel. You can help increase St. Peter's online visibility by liking and subscribing to our YouTube channel. This is the platform we use to live-stream and record our worship services as well as Wednesday Zoom bible studies. You can find it linked to our church website or by going to YouTube and searching "Saint Peter Lutheran Church". Thanks!

Help our LCMS fellow-congregations in California suffering the effects of the wildfires:

For those who want to donate to the relief efforts you can go to the Pacific Southwest District website, <https://www.psd-lcms.org> (or just search for Pacific Southwest District LCMS). You will find updates there (churches and workers affected) and a button where you can give to the relief efforts. Most importantly, please remember all victims and especially our LCMS brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers.

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 this week in honor of Joyce by the deDufour family.

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. **February’s collection is Fruits, Juices, and Condiments** – canned fruit and juices, mayo, mustard, ketchup, tuna, lunch bag stuff

Faithfulness Report: Attendance 1/19: 49/ 11 online Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$ 2,383
Loan Angel: \$ 650 Flowers: \$ 50 Bldng: \$ 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

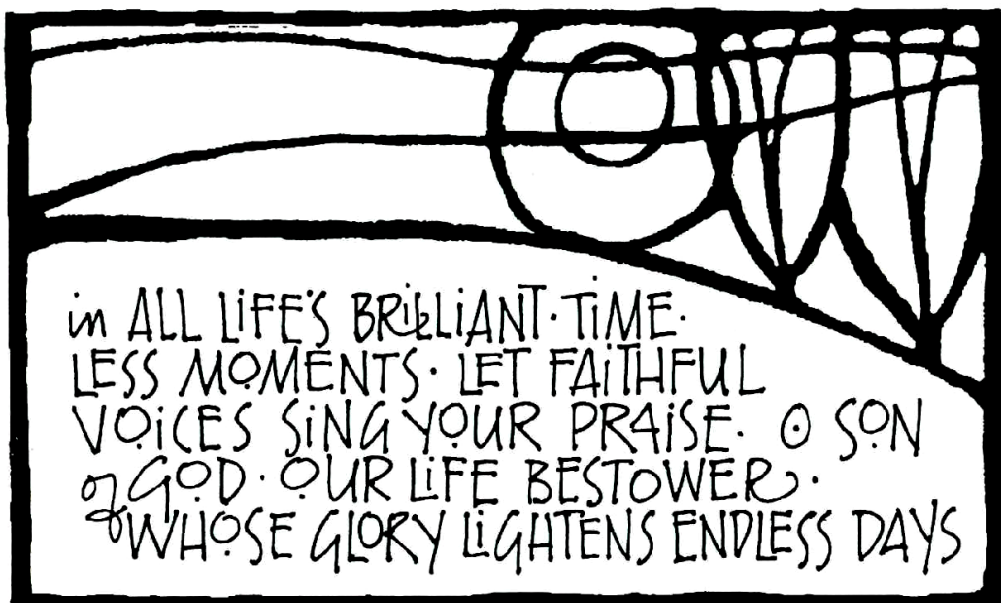
TAKE IT FURTHER: Today’s Distribution Hymn, LSB 629 What Is This Bread

This contemporary hymn was written in 1990 by Pastor Frederic Baue (b. 1946) and his wife Jean (b. 1951) when he was serving at Messiah Lutheran Church in Tucson, Arizona. Because it was a mission church, many members were converts to Lutheranism. Pastor Baue wanted to give them a hymn that would help them prepare to take the special sacrament of Holy Communion, teaching them the important truths they needed to know. While it was a struggle to put the words of Luther’s Small Catechism into rhymed verse, Jean, a practiced musician, wrote the music in ten minutes. It is a fine example of a Lutheran catechetical hymn.

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns.* (2019), p. 758-760

Memory Verse Challenge: Luke 4:20-21

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”



G R E E K H Y M N · 3 R D C E N T U R Y



Third Sunday After The Epiphany

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Old Testament Reading: Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

¹All the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. ²So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. . . . ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. . . . ⁸They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor,

and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:16–30

¹⁶[Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to
the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Physician, heal yourself.' What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well." ²⁴And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰But passing through their midst, he went away.