

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.
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Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813
Chris Fusco, Music Director
Amy Van Hise, Admin Asst
Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 2, 2025

Our mission:

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

Welcome. "But I'm just a youth!" The prophet Jeremiah was feeling underqualified and ill equipped to speak the Word of God to an older and more experienced crowd. The LORD told him not to be afraid, but to trust that the Word itself would be enough, and the LORD would use him as a vessel for the blessing of Israel (Jer. 1). Centuries later, another young teacher would walk into a synagogue in Capernaum and speak with such authority that even the unclean spirits had to obey him (Luke 4). Lord, when we are not feeling up to the task of being Your representatives in the world, remind us that all power and authority relies on You!

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 cry room 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.

PREPARATION



PRELUDE

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. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Most merciful God,
C have mercy on us.

All: We confess that 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 trusted You with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In Your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by Your Spirit that we may live and serve You in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and truth. Amen.

P With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.
C Thanks be to God!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN 412 The People That in Darkness Sat (st. 1-4)

KYRIE *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

Pastor: In peace, in peace,

Assistant: Congregation:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - cy.

The musical score consists of three staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff is for the Assistant, and the second and third staves are for the Congregation. The lyrics are: "Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the word "cy."

Pastor: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

Pastor: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)

Pastor: Assistant:
Help, save and de - fend us, O God.

Cong: Congregation:
A - - - men.

The musical score consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff is for the Assistant, and the second staff is for the Congregation. The lyrics are: "Help, save and de - fend us, O God." and "A - - - men." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the word "men."

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1:


Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great
peo - ple of God.


To refrain

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:




Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and



might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ

To refrain




for ev - er.

Verse 3

Congregation:




3. For God has come to dwell with us,



to make us peo - ple of God; to make

To refrain



all things new.

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P
C
P

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

You know we live in the midst of so many dangers
that in our frailty we cannot stand upright.

Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations.

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: Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” ⁷But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.”

⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me,

“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”



PSALM: Psalm 71:1-6 (read responsively)

P: In You, O LORD, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame!

**C: In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline Your ear to me, and save me!**

P: Be to me a rock of refuge,
to which I may continually come;
You have given the command to save me,
for You are my rock and my fortress.

**C: Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.**

P: For You, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

**C: Upon You I have leaned from before my birth;
You are He who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.**

**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: 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.



ALLELUIA VERSE:

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Repeat optional

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 10th chapter. **C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Luke 4:31-44

³¹ And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³² and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³ And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ “Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. ³⁶ And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” ³⁷ And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

³⁸ And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. ³⁹ And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

⁴² And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” ⁴⁴ And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED (Inside the back cover of the hymnal.)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 462 All the Earth with Joy is Sounding

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

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	Greg

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	Roz	

For those with needs around the world:

Government officials and people of our nation	Prayers for peace, unity, safety, and wisdom
Those coping with fire/disaster – Himes family	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	Emily Arndt
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
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Birthdays:

Jim Steimle	Feb 2	Anneliese Thieme	Feb 3
Nicholas Wilhelm	Feb 4	Linda Steimling	Feb 5

GATHERING OF THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Instrumental Offertory

Congregational Offertory:

Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be



gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst, _____
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P
P
P

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C
C
C

And also with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P
C

It is truly good, right, and salutary...
Amen.

SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy* (LSB p. 208)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

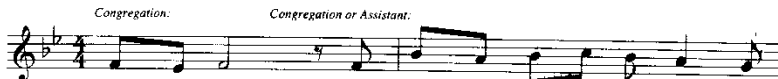
Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

PAX DOMINI *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

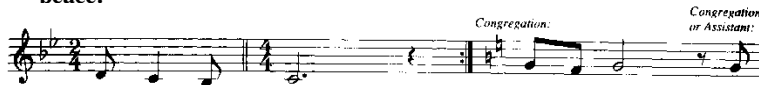
AGNUS DEI *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you are the bread of life for us
you are the way of jus - tice and



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
all:
peace:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN 727 On Eagles' Wings

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

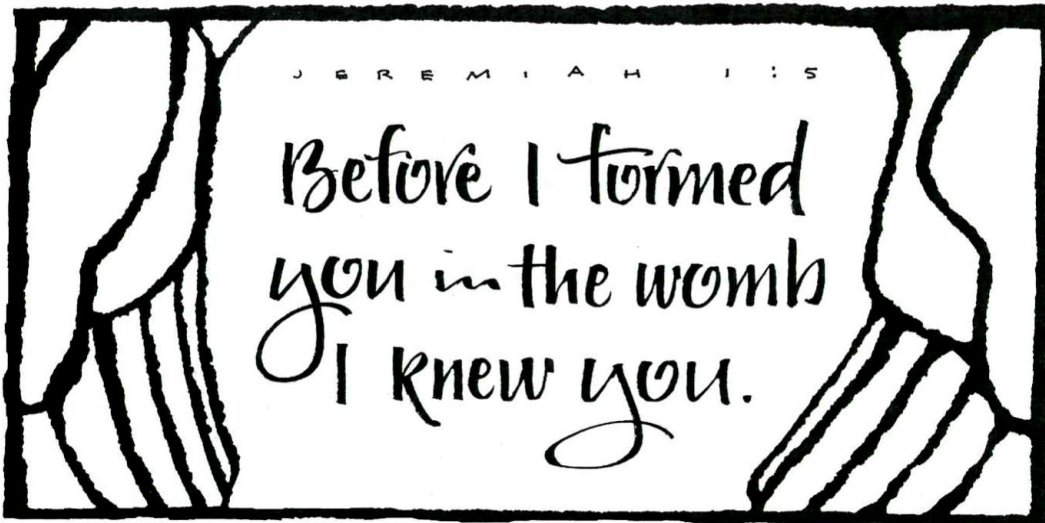
ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE





Announcements – Week of February 2, 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: Fred Grube (Communion Assistant and Reader), Andy Wright (Acolyte), Joey Dunbar and Joe Scheblein (Ushers), Amy Van Hise (Live-streaming), Judy Grube (Communion/coffee set-up), and Hope Dunbar (Communion/coffee clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed on You Tube at the following link:
<https://youtube.com/live/KDgfyWtUeKU?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 8:15 Bible Study: Angels and Demons. Beginning TODAY, 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 (Feb 5) at 7:30pm, we will continue our study of Colossians. **Our focus will be on Colossians 3:1-11.** Here Paul exhorts the believers at Colossae to live out the calling of their baptism into Christ by setting their minds on heavenly (and not earthly) things. A life of sanctification requires a daily "putting to death" our old sinful desires, and "putting on" the virtues of Christ including his peace and his love. How does this relate to the idea that Christians are to be "in the world, not of the world"? All are welcome to join our discussion!

Annual Voters Meeting. St. Peter will hold its rescheduled annual Voters' meeting **TODAY** 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!

Midwinter Lecture Series: Luther's Teaching on Vocation. TODAY, 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.

Weekly Schedule:

WEDNESDAY (2/5)	7:30pm Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (2/6)	9:45/11:15am Nursery School Chapels
SATURDAY (2/8)	7:30am Men's Breakfast
SUNDAY (2/9)	8:15 Sunday School/Bible Study; 9:30 Worship; 6:30pm Impact Youth @ St. Paul, Flemington

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

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.

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 1/26: 39 /5 online Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$ 2,996

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, LSB 462 All the Earth with Joy is Sounding

Another contemporary hymn, this piece was written in 1995 by Rev. Stephen Starke (b. 1955) in Middletown, Connecticut. He relates Jesus to Jonah, the only prophet Jesus likened to himself. At Jesus’ resurrection after three days in the tomb, the whole earth broke forth in joyful celebration, as Psalm 148 makes clear. The themes in this hymn echo those of the canticle “This is the Feast,” both in the joy they express and the acknowledgement of the beginning of the reign of Christ.

-Concordia Publishing House. *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns.* (2019), p. 342-345

Memory Verse Challenge: 1 Corinthians 14:4-6

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

JOIN US TODAY

- 11:00, following the service

St. Peter Annual Voters' Assembly

Don't miss this critical meeting

and

- 3:00 PM



Rev. Greg Jans
presenting

Luther's Doctrine of Vocation

as part of our Midwinter Lecture Series-
includes Evening Vespers, light refreshments to follow
(sponsored by Partners in Mission)