



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

(609) 466-0939 www.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 of Easter (Good Shepherd)

May 11, 2025

Our mission:

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

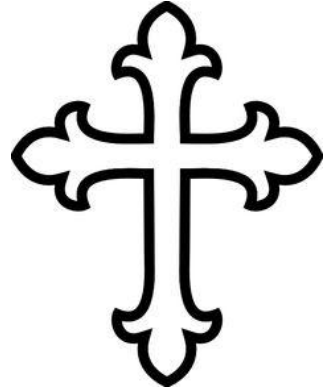
Welcome. Jesus is our Good Shepherd. What an encouraging picture! Like sheep, we are vulnerable creatures, prone to spiritual wandering into dangerous environments. But the Good Shepherd's voice calls out to keep us safe and close to Him. In today's Gospel Jesus gives us the sweet assurance that no one is strong enough to snatch us out of our Father's care. These words of Christ refresh and sustain us; they are like green pastures and quiet waters!

A special welcome to all our visitors this morning. 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: As Lutheran Christians we practice "close communion." This means that all who participate in this holy meal are affirming the Lutheran understanding of the Lord's Supper; that Christ's body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine and that the forgiveness of sins is given to those who trust him as their Savior and desire to serve him with a holy life. Baptized believers who share this faith with us are welcome at the Lord's Table. If you are uncertain about the teachings on the Lord's Supper we encourage you to speak with the Pastor before participating.

Divine Service, Setting One
LSB page 151

The Preparation



Prelude: “Christ ist erstanden” – H. Scheidemann

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution (page 151)

Entrance Hymn: 458 Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands (st. 1-3)

Kyrie (page 152)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise Gloria in Excelsis (page 154)

P: Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to His people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father,
since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep,
grant us Your Holy Spirit
that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd
we may know Him who calls us each by name
and follow where He leads;
through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



First Reading: Acts 20:17-35 (see back cover)

Psalm: Psalm 23



¹ The LORD is my | shepherd;*
I | shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in
green | pastures.*
He leads me beside still | waters.

³ He re- | stores my soul.*
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his | name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no
evil, for you are | with me;*
your rod and your staff, they | comfort
me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my | enemies;*
you anoint my head with oil; my
cup | overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days | of my life,*
and I shall dwell in the house of the
LORD for- | ever.

**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.**

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17 (see back cover)

Alleluia Verse (page 156)

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

John 10:22-30 (see back cover)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (see inside of the back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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:

Hogan family

Death of Jim

Farley

For those with health concerns:

Pat McCann	Janice Nuneviller	Cole Garrow	Barbara Nixon	Sid	Greg
Gordon Anderson	Donna Poucel	Lolly Hoagland	Rick Wright	Susan	Zane
Fran Byrzkinsky	Pete Serone	John Tarlo	Grant and Noah	Chris	JoAnne
Claudia Zucker	John O'Neil	Claire Haenisch	Monica Benesch	Rose	
Hank Van Beuzekom	Carl Lauricella	Terry Farley	Barbara	Beverly	
George DiCostanzo	Freda Potts	Dave Yost	Brennan	Mary	
Linda Wright	Pat Dietz	Phil Unetic	Anna	Claire	
Kay Compton	Drew Klesat	Mary Cobriere	Bill Akers	Kristin	

For those with cancer:

Rosalie Reinbacher	Aaron Kline	Holly Bray	Joan Rawls	Trudy
Rich Knechel	Karen Shevchuk	Gerry Campbell	Judy Bacorn	Lance
Carol Tezla	Steve Saumsiegle	Brad Hoppe	Jerry	Linda
Nico Benesch	Nancy Gilliland	Aunt Jean	Sonia	Henry J.
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Dora	Jason
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Doris	
Jane Fry	Marci Fehlhafer	Gerry Campbell	Barbara	
Barbara Howard	Dick Butterfoss	Dave Bond	Lynn	
Lexi Launchbaugh	Frumi C	Kim McCollough	Mary Anne	

For those with needs around the world:

Persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ	For protection, strength, comfort, spread of Gospel
Government officials and people of our nation	For peace, unity, safety, and wisdom
Those coping with disasters	For provision and help
Those in need of employment	For provision of jobs
Wars in Europe and Middle East	For peace, forgiveness, and guidance
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	For health, safety, and provision
Roman Catholic friends and neighbors	For comfort and wisdom as new leader is chosen

For those serving in the armed forces:

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Emily Arndt	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 '25-'26

Birthdays:

Joseph Wright	May 12	Christina Grube	May 13	Susan Miller	May 15
Bob Van Hise	May 15	Tyler Barrett	May 17	Gina Behnfeldt	May 17

The Service of the Sacrament

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory: 785 We Praise You, O God (v. 1 & 3)

**We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, We kneel and adore You; We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

**With voices united our praises we offer And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us. To You, our great Redeemer,
forever be praise.**

Order of Holy Communion (page 160)

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 pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth... one God now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Lord remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven...

P: Words of Institution

Pax Domini (page 163)

Sharing of the Peace: (Please share the peace with one another with the words:
“The peace of the Lord be with you.”, “And also with you.”)

C: Agnus Dei **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn: 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Post Communion Cantic: Thank the Lord (page 164)

C: Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction (page 166)

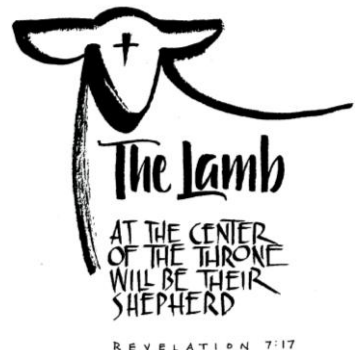
Closing Hymn: 480 He's Risen, He's Risen (st. 1-3)

Announcements

Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD! **C: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: “Christ lag in Todesbanden” – S. Scheidt



TAKE IT FURTHER: Today's Distribution Hymn, LSB 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

This hymn is attributed to Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), but its authorship is not certain. It was written for the purpose of teaching the children of the congregations of the Church of England during the early nineteenth century, a time when there was not a great deal of involvement in congregational hymn singing. Women, often daughters or spouses of clergy, were inspired to “pursue the religious education of the young by writing, publishing, and teaching songs of faith.” Many of these songs were included in a children’s hymnal in 1832, entitled *Hymns for the Young, selected for the purpose of being committed to memory*. Its message, drawing on the shepherd imagery of Psalm 23, is a fitting praise on Good Shepherd Sunday for us all.

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

Memory Verse Challenge: *John 10:27-28*

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand.



Announcements – Week of May 11, 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), Nathan Wilhelm (Acolyte), Bob Maguire and Kevin Lauricella (Ushers), Mark McAllister (Live-streaming), Lillian Maguire (Communion/coffee set-up).

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

<https://youtube.com/live/7B9GZU74gtg> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted to the church's website.

8:15am Sunday Bible Study. This Sunday we will study the 8th commandment: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Ex. 20:16). God commands us to speak truthfully and charitably about our neighbors so that others view them in the best possible light. Why is a good reputation so important? What are some ways that peoples' reputations are damaged or destroyed in our society?

Join us for the after-service Discussion Group. Dig deeper into today's scripture readings following the service in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study. Our evening classes are on break; Bible studies resume on May 14th!

Weekly Schedule:

MON-WED	Pastor Away for Tri-District Conference
TUESDAY (5/13)	6:00a Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's
WEDNESDAY (5/14)	7:30p Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (5/15)	9:45/11:15a Nursery School Chapels
SUNDAY (5/18)	8:15a Sunday School/Adult Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group; 6:30 IMPACT Youth Group @ St Paul, Flemington

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

Operation Christmas Child. In May we will continue collecting plastic tumblers (dollar store 3/\$1 are perfect), washcloths, and note-pads. Place in the box in the narthex. There is also a jar in the narthex to make donations toward the shipping costs - thanks so much!

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. Join us in making special blankets to bless those in need of comfort or in celebration of a life event! Please speak with Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928.

Service and Other

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. May's collection is Personal products: bar soap, bodywash, shampoo, conditioner, sanitary needs, dish soap, etc

Faithfulness Report: Attendance 5/4: 49/7 online Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$3452 +

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 today in honor of Joe & Bonnie Jean Gallagher's 33rd anniversary!

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> .

St. Peter YouTube Channel. Increase St. Peter's online visibility by liking and subscribing to our YouTube channel (where we live-stream and record our worship services and Wednesday Zoom bible studies. It is linked to our church website, or go to YouTube and search "Saint Peter Lutheran Church".

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

Keep Up with District News. Twice per month, the New Jersey District electronic newsletter - The Grapevine - publicizes events taking place among all the LCMS congregations in our state. It's a great way to keep up with District initiatives, hear what our sister churches are doing in the way of outreach to their communities, publicize our own events, and perhaps glean some ideas for St. Peter! The Grapevine comes out the first and third weeks of every month. Sign up is easy. Go to the district website - www.njdistrict.org , follow the link to sign up, and provide your email address.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 20:17–35

¹⁷Now from Miletus [Paul] sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. ¹⁸And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. ²⁴But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. ²⁶Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, ²⁷for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. ²⁸Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. ³²And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. ³⁵In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every

nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Holy Gospel: John 10:22–30

²²At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, ²⁶but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰I and the Father are one.”