



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, Office Administrator

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 29, 2025

Our mission:

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

Welcome. When the prophet Elijah became discouraged and despaired of his life, the Lord made Himself known — not in the impressive power of gale force winds, or in an earthquake, or in the fire, but in “the sound of a low whisper” (1 Kings 19:12). Today God reveals Himself to us through the simple preaching of the Gospel. The Son of Man sends “messenger ahead of him ... to make preparations for him” (Luke 9:52). Putting their hand to that plow of preaching, they “go and proclaim the kingdom of God,” and they do not look back (Luke 9:60, 62). What they preach is not the power of the Law with its “yoke of slavery,” but the power of God unto salvation through the Gospel of forgiveness, by which “Christ has set us free” (Gal. 5:1).

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: “Gavotte” – M. Camidge

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: 837 Lift High the Cross (st 1-4)

Kyrie (page 204)

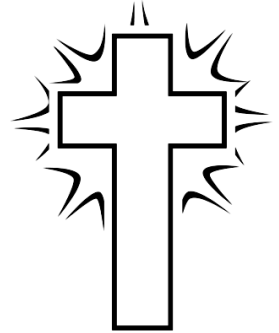
P: In peace let us pray to the Lord...

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.

Lord of all power and might
 author and giver of all good things,
 graft into our hearts the love of Your name
 and nourish us with all goodness
 that we may love and serve our neighbor;
 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: 1 Kings 19:9b-21 (see back cover)

Psalm 16



¹ Preserve me, | O God,*
 for in you I take | refuge.

² I say to the LORD, "You | are my Lord;*
 I have no good a- | part from you."

³ As for the saints | in the land,*
 they are the excellent ones, in whom
 is all | my delight.

⁴ The sorrows of those who run after
 another god shall | multiply;*
 their drink offerings of blood I will
 not pour out or take their names | on
 my lips.

⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion | and
 my cup;*
 you | hold my lot.

⁶ The lines have fallen for me in
 pleasant | places;*

indeed, I have a beautiful in- | heritance.

⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me | counsel;*
 in the night also my heart in- | structs
 me.

⁸ I have set the LORD always be- | fore me;*
 because he is at my right hand, I shall
 not be | shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my
 whole being re- | joices;*
 my flesh also | dwells secure.

¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul | to
 Sheol,*
 or let your holy one see cor- | ruption.

¹¹ You make known to me the | path of
 life;*
 in your presence there is fullness of
 joy; at your right hand are pleasures
 for- | evermore.

**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: Galatians 5:1, 13-25 (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 9:51-63

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

Praise to you, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed (see the inside back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 578 Thy Strong Word (st. 1,3,5-6)

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 Benesch family

death of son Nico

VanBeuzekom

For those with health concerns:

Tom Dorsett

Pat McCann

Bill Akers

Grant

Sid

Hank Van Beuzekom

Donna Poucel

Lolly Hoagland

Noah

Susan

Fran Byrzkinsy

Pete Serone

John Tarlo

Greg

Chris

Claudia Zucker

John O'Neil

Claire Haenisch

Brennan

Rose

Gordon Anderson

Carl Lauricella

Terry Farley

Claire

Beverly

George DiCostanzo

Freda Potts

Rick Wright

Barbara

Mary

Katherine Eccleston

Kay Compton

Ursula Chirico

Zane

Joanne

Linda Wright

Pat Dietz

Phil Unetic

Anna

JoAnne

Kay Compton

Drew Klesat

Mary Cobriere

Irene

Kristin

Monica Benesch



For those with cancer:

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

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

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
Those who are traveling	For safety and provision

Birthdays:

James Lauricella	June 29	Gillian Lorenzi	June 30	Annie Wilhelm	June 30
Josh deDufour	July 1	Greg Robinson	July 1	Catie Lauricella	July 2
Pat Lorenzi	July 3	Kerstyn Johnson	July 4		

Offering

Instrumental Offertory: "Interlude in D" - Anonymous

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: 657 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

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: 493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (st 1,5-6)

Announcements

Dismissal

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

Postlude: "Trumpet Tune" – G. Corelli





Announcements – Week of June 29, 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: Joe Scheblein (Communion Assistant), Allison Fog (Reader), Lydia Bloom (Acolyte), Scott Garrow and Jim Steimle (Ushers), Jason Bloom (Live-streaming), MaryAnne Reside and Jeanne Hoppe (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

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

<https://youtube.com/live/TWvCQRvApQc> 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 (6-29) we will finish our study of selections from the book of Romans. Our focus will be on Romans 12:1-21. Paul draws on Old Testament concepts of sacrifice to say that New Testament Christians are a "living sacrifice". We practice a new kind of obedience to God's will, rooted not in an attempt to prove ourselves righteous, but in gratitude to Christ who makes us righteous by his supreme sacrifice on the cross.

Wednesday Zoom Bible study on break for the summer. Wednesday Zoom bible study is on break now through the month of August. We look forward to starting up again in September!

Weekly Schedule:

TUESDAY (7/1)	6p NJDU Ministry Planning Event @ Mountain Lakes, NJ
FRIDAY (7/4)	Independence Day
SAT – FRI (7/5-7/11)	Pastor on vacation
SUNDAY (7/6)	9:30a Worship

Recognition for our Music Director - Chris Fusco



Last month marked ten years that Chris Fusco has so ably and faithfully served as St. Peter's music director. What a blessing he has been to our congregation with his many gifts! **Today** we express our appreciation to him with a presentation after the service and cake reception following. Join us!

Thank you, Chris!

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

Operation Christmas Child. Pick up the gold sheet on the narthex table with a list of the things we still need before the **July 31 packing party**. 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. July's theme is Paper products: paper towels, facial and toilet tissue

Faithfulness Report:

Attendance 6/15: 57/5 online
6/22: 58/5 online

Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$3668
Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$4865

Op Christmas Child: \$7
Debt Relief: \$100

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.

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



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading:

1 Kings 19:9b–21

^{9b}Behold, the word of the LORD came to [Elijah], and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ¹¹And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹²And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. ¹³And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." ¹⁵And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. ¹⁶And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. ¹⁷And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

¹⁹So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. ²⁰And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" ²¹And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

Epistle: Galatians 5:1, 13–25

¹For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm

therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. . . .

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:51–62

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶And they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ⁶⁰And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

⁶¹Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home."

⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."