

Saint Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813

Chris Fusco, Music Director

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Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025

Our mission:

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others*

Welcome! In times of cultural and political divisiveness, the hope of common ground for people from all nations and walks of life can sound like an impossible dream, a naive fantasy. But this is precisely what God intended to do when He sent His Son to the cross. In the victory of our Messiah, God announces that the time has come “to gather all nations and tongues” (Is. 66:18). Jesus promises that many “will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God” (Luke 13:29), but only by the narrow way of the cross.

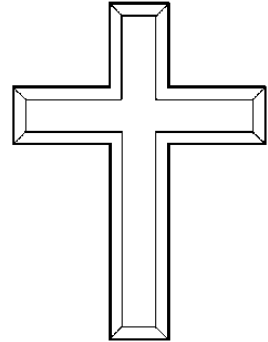
Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families 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 Three

LSB page 184

The Preparation



Prelude: “Voluntary in A minor” - J. Stanley

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution page 184

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

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 186 (*sung*)

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Hymn of Praise: Gloria in Excelsis page 187 (*sung*)

P: Glory be to God on high:

C: and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.**

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day page 189

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray.

O Lord,

You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door.
Guide us by Your Word and Spirit,

and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 66:18-23 (see back cover)

Psalm: Psalm 50:1-15



¹ The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks
and sum- | mons the earth*
from the rising of the sun to its | setting.

² Out of Zion, the perfection of | beauty,*
God | shines forth.

³ Our God comes; he does not
keep | silence;*
before him is a devouring fire, around
him a mighty | tempest.

⁴ He calls to the heav- | ens above*
and to the earth, that he may judge
his | people:

⁵ “Gather to me my | faithful ones,*
who made a covenant with me
by | sacrifice!”

⁶ The heavens declare
his | righteousness,*
for God him- | self is judge!

⁷ “Hear, O my people, and I will speak;
O Israel, I will testify a- | gainst you.*
I am | God, your God.

⁸ Not for your sacrifices do I re- | buke
you,*
your burnt offerings are continually
be- | fore me.

⁹ I will not accept a bull | from your
house*
or goats | from your folds.

¹⁰ For every beast of the for- | est is mine,*
the cattle on a | thousand hills.

¹¹ I know all the birds | of the hills,*
and all that moves in the | field is mine.

¹² “If I were hungry, I would not | tell you,*
for the world and its full- | ness are
mine.

¹³ Do I eat the | flesh of bulls*
or drink the | blood of goats?

¹⁴ Offer to God a sacrifice of
thanks- | giving,*
and perform your vows to the | Most
High,

¹⁵ and call upon me in the day
of | trouble;*
I will deliver you, and you shall
glo- | rify me.”

**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: Hebrews 12:4-24 (see back cover)

Triple Alleluia page 190 (*sung before and after the Verse of the Day*)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse of the Day (Cantor): People will come from east and west, and from / north and south,
And recline at table in the king- / dom of God. (Luke 13:29)*

Gospel Reading:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Luke 13:22-30 (see back cover)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (page 191 or the inside back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 516 Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Sermon

Prayer Response after each petition P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Prayer Request List (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

For those in need of comfort:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Myers family | death of Mary | Teschke |
| Lemp family | death of Josh | Van Hise |
| Cousins/Weiland/McAllister families | death of James | McAllister |

For those with health concerns:

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------|---------|
| Tom Dorsett | Sandy Hammond | Carla Behnfeldt | Greg | Sid |
| Hank Van Beuzekom | Bill Akers | Lolly Hoagland | Noah | Susan |
| Fran Byrzkinsky | Pete Serone | John Tarlo | Grant | Chris |
| Claudia Zucker | John O'Neil | Claire Haenisch | Adel | Rose |
| Gordon Anderson | Marge Keen | Catie Lauricella | 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 | Janice Nuneviller | Mary Cobriere | Irene | Kristin |
| Monica Benesch | Drew Klesat | Tony Shiron | Brennan | |

For those with cancer:

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

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 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/flooding | 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 |

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For staff and families for '25-'26 school year enrollment

Birthdays:

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Kevin Lauricella | August 24 | Janice Nuneviller | August 24 |
| Evan Fog | August 26 | Rick Wright | August 26 |
| Jane Heebner | August 27 | Jeffrey Jamison | August 29 |
| Mika Ryan | August 29 | | |

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory: "Interlude in G" - S. Stublely

Congregational Offertory: Create In Me page 192 -193 (*sung*)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament

Order of Holy Communion page 194

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| P: The Lord be with you. | C: And with thy spirit. |
| P: Lift up your hearts. | C: We lift them up unto the Lord. |
| P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God | C: It is meet and right so to do. |

P: It is truly meet, right and salutary....evermore praising You and saying:

C: (*sung*) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

C: (*spoken*) **Our Father who art in heaven...**

Words of Institution (Consecration)

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: Amen.**

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

Agnus Dei page 198 *(sung)*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Post Communion Canticle: Nunc Dimittis page 199 *(sung)*

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving page 200

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, **C: and His mercy endureth forever.**

P: (Prayer of Thanksgiving) **C: Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus page 201

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Benediction page 202

P: The Lord bless you... **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

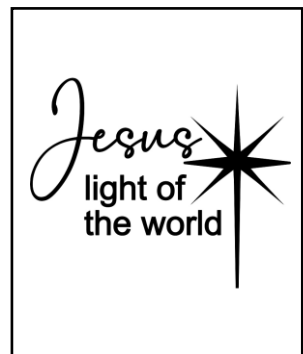
Announcements

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: “Vater unser in Himmelreich” - J. S. Bach





YOU HAVE
COME TO
MT. ZION.
THE CITY of
the LIVING GOD

H E B R E W S 1 2 : 2 2



Announcements – Week of August 24, 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: Stephen Behnfeldt (Communion Assistant and Reader), Sadie Bloom (Acolyte), Scott Garrow and Jason Bloom (Ushers), Jason Bloom (Live-streaming), Lillian Maguire and Cheryl Gewecke (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/1xmOWxoG8Ys> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted to the church's website.

Bible studies and Sunday School on break for the summer. Wednesday and Sunday morning bible studies and children's Sunday School are on break now through the month of August. You're encouraged to continue growing in God's Word by using Portals of Prayer or another favorite devotional.

A Study of The Epistle of 1 John - NEW on Wednesdays via ZOOM. Join us on Wednesdays at 7:30pm -- starting September 3rd -- as we read together 1 John. We'll discuss its main themes which include the perennial newness of Christ's "old" command to love one another, the source of a Christian's assurance of salvation, and the distinction between genuine and spurious faith. Look for an email with the Zoom link that will be sent out one week prior to our start date, or ask Pastor Jon to add you to his current email list.

Weekly Schedule:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| TUESDAY (8/26) | 6:00a Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's |
| FRIDAY (8/29) | 7:00p Ministry Calendar Meeting |
| SUNDAY (8/31) | 9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group |

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

JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL ST. PETER PICNIC ON SEPTEMBER 7. Yes, our annual picnic will take place following the service on Sunday, September 7. Sign up to bring specific needs (see list on the bulletin board) or just bring a side dish or dessert. It promises to be lots of fun - hope to see you there!

Back-to-School Blessing for Teachers and Students. Join us on Sunday, September 7th during our 9:30 service for a special Blessing of the Backpacks! As the new school year gets under way, we invite all students, teachers, and school staff to bring their backpacks, briefcases, or school bags to be blessed. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray for God's protection, guidance and wisdom over all who are returning to school. Let's lift up our students and educators as they embark on another year of learning and growth!

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.

New Jersey March for Life - September 25. On Thursday, September 25 you have the opportunity to show your support for parents, children and God's love for life at every stage by attending the New Jersey March for Life at the state capitol in Trenton. The event runs from 11:00am to around 1pm. Parking will be difficult, so participants are strongly encouraged to use public transportation. Pastor Jon welcomes you to carpool with him to Messiah, Princeton where we will meet up with a group from our Lutheran partner churches and ride the bus into Trenton. We did this last year, and it worked very well!

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. August's theme is *fruit, juices, and condiments*: canned fruits, fruit juices, mayo, mustard, ketchup, canned tuna, lunch bag items.

Faithfulness Report: (information for 8/17 unavailable at time of printing)

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".

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



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 66:18–23

¹⁸“For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, ¹⁹and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. ²⁰And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. ²¹And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

²²“For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain.

²³ From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.”

Epistle: Hebrews 12:4–24

⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

¹²Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³and make

straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

¹⁸For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Holy Gospel: Luke 13:22–30

²²[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, ²⁴“Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ ²⁶Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ ²⁷But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ ²⁸In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”