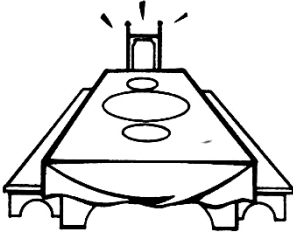


Saint Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church



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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

Our mission:

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

Welcome! “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,” Jesus proclaims, but “he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 14:11). When we reflect on all that our Savior sacrificed for us and the depth of love he showed us, in his suffering and his glory, how could we not be humbled. Then, as he has dealt so graciously with you, “do not neglect to do good and to share what you have” (Heb. 13:16), and “do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers” (Heb. 13:2). Humble yourself and exalt your neighbor.

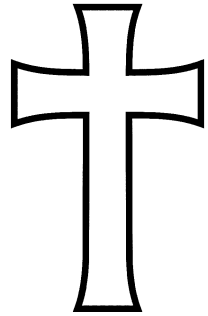
Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families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

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: 807 When Morning Gilds the Skies

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 of grace and mercy,

Teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility,
that we may withstand the temptations of the devil

and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 25:2-10 (see back cover)

Psalm: Psalm 131



¹ O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my
eyes are not | raised too high; *
I do not occupy myself with things too
great and too marvel- | ous for me.

² But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its | mother; *
like a weaned child is my soul
with- | in me.

³ O Israel, hope | in the LORD *
from this time forth and 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 Reading: Hebrews 13:1-17 (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): Everyone who exalts himself will be / humbled, *
and he who humbles himself will be ex- / alted. (Luke 14:11)*

Gospel Reading:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Luke 14:1-14 (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: 832 Jesus Shall Reign



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 with health concerns:

Tom Dorsett	Sandy Hammond	Carla Behnfeldt	Greg	Sid
Hank Van Beuzekom	Bill Akers	Lolly Hoagland	Noah	Susan
Fran Byrzkinsy	Pete Serone	John Tarlo	Grant	Chris
Claudia Zucker	John O'Neil	Phil Unetic	Adel	Rose
Gordon Anderson	Marge Keen	Catie Lauricella	Claire	Jan
George DiCostanzo	Tony Shiron	Rick Wright	Barbara	Mary
Katherine Eccleston	Kay Compton	Ursula Chirico	Zane	JoAnne
Linda Wright	Pat Dietz	Joanne	Anna	
Kay Compton	Mary Cobriere	Beverly	Irene	
Monica Benesch	Drew Klesat	Kristin	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

Brad Hoppe	August 31	Matthew Cudmore	September 1
Julius Mallepalle	September 3	Jill Grube	September 4
Morgyn Johnson	September 5	Jonathan Yost	September 6

Greg and Patty Barrett September 6

Instrumental Offertory: “Interlude” - Anonymous
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.**

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... deliver us from evil.
(sung) For Thine is the kingdom... forever and ever. Amen.

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.

Distribution Hymn: 641 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

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: 738 Lord of All Hopefulness

Announcements

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: "Trumpet Tune" – S. Stubleby







Announcements – Week of August 31, 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: Norm Klesat (Communion Assistant and Reader), Andy Wright (Acolyte), Kevin Lauricella and Joe Scheblein (Ushers), Jesse Dunbar (Live-streaming), Shirley Yost and Leslie Klesat (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/3nZQI6nv4n4> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted to the church's website.

NEW Sunday Bible Study: Jonah - God's Reluctant Prophet. Next Sunday, September 7 at 8:15am, we'll begin a new study of the book of Jonah. You probably know the prophet best from Sunday School as the man who tried to run away from God and got swallowed by a big fish! We'll dig deeper into the text and talk about God's mercy toward non-believers, the power of His Word to change hearts, and how Jonah's life bears a typological resemblance to Christ.

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:

WEDNESDAY (9/3)	7:30p Zoom Bible Study
SATURDAY (9/6)	9:30a Partners in Mission Meeting @ Princeton Seminary Library
SUNDAY (9/7)	8:15a Adult Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11a Church Picnic

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

JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL ST. PETER PICNIC NEXT WEEK, SEPTEMBER 7! Yes, our annual picnic will take place following the service next week. 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 next week, 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!

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.

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.

JamAfternoon:Country and Folk Tunes, coming soon - Sunday, September 14, 3-5pm! Are you a lover of music, singer of songs, player of instruments? Or do you just enjoy a fabulous get-together with folks who are ready to spend an afternoon lifting their voices together? Leave the stress behind and come share in good old fashioned Country and American Folk sing/play-along!

IMPACT High School Youth Group starts up again this fall, beginning on Sunday, September 28 from 6:30-8:30pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Flemington. This group meets twice monthly and brings together high school youth from area churches. It is entirely youth-led and includes food, games, devotions and time to hang out and build Christian friendships. Talk to Juliet Behnfeld or Pastor Jon if you'd like to learn more or are interested in carpooling.

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!

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. September's theme is *Breakfast Items*: cereal, breakfast bars, Pop Tarts, pancake mix, syrup, etc.

Faithfulness Report:

Attendance 8/24: 41/ 5 online

Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$2735

Flowers: \$30

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



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 25:2–10

- ² It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things
out.
³ As the heavens for height, and the earth for
depth,
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
⁴ Take away the dross from the silver,
and the smith has material for a vessel;
⁵ take away the wicked from the presence of
the king,
and his throne will be established in
righteousness.
⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's
presence
or stand in the place of the great,
⁷ for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a
noble.

- What your eyes have seen
⁸ do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?
⁹ Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,
¹⁰ lest he who hears you bring shame upon
you,
and your ill repute have no end.

Epistle: Hebrews 13:1–17

¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve

the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

¹⁷Obeys your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:1–14

¹One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ²And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" ⁴But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" ⁶And they could not reply to these things.

⁷Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."