

# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

(609) 466-0939 web site: [stpeternj.org](http://stpeternj.org)

[pastor@stpeternj.org](mailto:pastor@stpeternj.org) [secretary@stpeternj.org](mailto:secretary@stpeternj.org)

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

Chris Fusco, Music Director

Amy Van Hise, Office Administrator

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025

### **Our mission:**

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

**Welcome.** “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15). This wonderful news is powerfully illustrated in our readings by the image of Jesus as a shepherd who seeks out the lost sheep. As He had mercy on Paul, in order to “display his perfect patience”, so also does He seek out His sheep “from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness” (Ezek. 34). And when Jesus finds the lost one and brings it home rejoicing, “the angels of God” and all the company of heaven rejoice with Him, with great joy (Luke 15).

**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 Four***

***LSB page 203***

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

### **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.

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

**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:** 686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

### **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 Jesus,

You are the Good Shepherd without whom nothing is secure.

Rescue and preserve us

that we may not be lost forever but follow You,

rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life;

For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-24 (see back cover)

### Psalm 119:169-176



<sup>169</sup> Let my cry come before you, | O LORD; \*  
give me understanding according | to  
your word!

<sup>170</sup> Let my plea come be- | fore you; \*  
deliver me according | to your word.

<sup>171</sup> My lips will | pour forth praise, \*  
for you teach me your | statutes.

<sup>172</sup> My tongue will sing | of your word, \*  
for all your command- | ments are  
right.

<sup>173</sup> Let your hand be ready to | help me, \*  
for I have chosen your | precepts.

<sup>174</sup> I long for your salvation, | O LORD, \*  
and your law is | my delight.

<sup>175</sup> Let my soul live and | praise you, \*  
and let your just decrees | help me.

<sup>176</sup> I have gone astray like a lost sheep;  
seek your | servant, \*  
for I do not forget your  
com- | mandments.

**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:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17 (see back cover)

**Triple Alleluia** page 205 (*sung before and after the Verse of the Day*)

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Verse of the Day (Cantor): I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God\*  
over one sinner / who repents. (Luke 15:10)*

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 15:1-10

Acclamations: **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:** 711 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

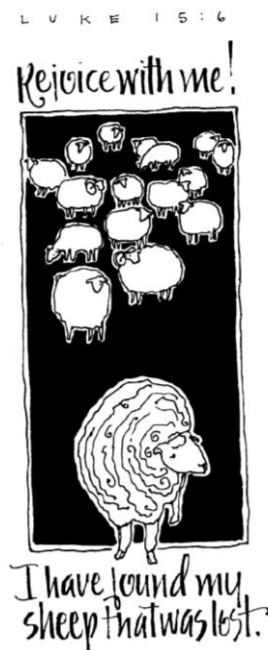
**Sermon**

**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 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	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	Don Hammond	Anna	Joanne
Kay Compton	Mary Cobriere	Wendy Beckerman	Irene	Noah
Monica Benesch	John Bonasera	Kristin	Brennan	Beverly



***For those with cancer:***

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

***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

**Birthdays:**

Brian Lange	Sept 14	Siggy Haenisch	September 20	Christian Haenisch	September 20
-------------	---------	----------------	--------------	--------------------	--------------

**Offering**

**Instrumental Offertory:** “Liebster Jesu” – J. G. Walther

**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: 550 Lamb of 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:** 506 Glory Be to God the Father

### **Announcements**

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude:** "Vater unser in Himmelreich" - J. S. Bach

*Glory  
to  
God*



## Announcements – Week of September 14, 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), Cheryl Gewecke (Reader), Liam McAllister (Acolyte), Bob Maguire and Mark McAllister (Ushers), Mark McAllister (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/LFyk8h3kEfc> 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.** Today we 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 - Wednesdays via ZOOM.** Join us on Wednesdays at 7:30pm 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.

**\*\*\*Special Service September 20 - Outdoor Vespers.** Saturday, September 20 at 7pm on the parsonage lawn. Bring your own lawn chair and a flashlight (or phone). Join us as we set aside this special time for worship and fellowship to dedicate the fall season into God's hands within His beautiful creation.

### **Weekly Schedule:**

MONDAY (9/15)	5:30p Planning Council Meeting
WEDNESDAY (9/17)	4:30p Confirmation Class; 7:30p Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (9/18)	9:45/11:15a Nursery School Chapels; NOAH @ Buttonwood Grill/Peddlers Village
SATURDAY (9/20)	7p Outdoor Vespers Service
SUNDAY (9/21)	8:15a Adult Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group; 3p Jam Afternoon: Country/Folk Tunes

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

**Jam Afternoon: Country and Folk Tunes, coming soon** - Sunday, September 21, 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!

**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.

**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 Behnfeldt 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!

**Seeking a Delegate to 2026 Synodical Convention.** Next summer the LC-MS will be holding its triennial convention, to be held **July 18-23 in Phoenix, AZ.** St. Peter's has the opportunity to nominate a layperson from our membership who would *potentially* serve as a delegate representing NJ circuits 5 & 6. If elected by the circuits, this delegate would be responsible to attend the convention and report back on its proceedings. All expenses for the trip are covered by the NJ District. Please visit with Pastor Jon if interested.

**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.

### **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 9/7: 67/ 5 online

Debt relief: \$25

Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$ 6755

Flowers: \$25

**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](http://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> . Don't miss the **St. Peter YouTube Channel**, which 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](http://lcms.org)

NJ District LCMS [njdistrict.org](http://njdistrict.org)

LCMS World Relief and Human Care [lcms.org/ca/worldrelief](http://lcms.org/ca/worldrelief)

The "Lutheran Hour" Broadcast [lhm.org](http://lhm.org)



## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11–24

<sup>11</sup>"For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

<sup>17</sup>"As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. <sup>18</sup>Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? <sup>19</sup>And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

<sup>20</sup>"Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

### Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:12–17

<sup>12</sup>I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, <sup>13</sup>though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup>The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

### Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1–10

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."