



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

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

Our mission:

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

Welcome. Because God, our Savior, “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2), He urges us to pray for all people. God does not forget “the poor of the land” (Amos 8). He remembers them according to the foolishness of the cross. “For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God” (Luke 16). Though we try to justify ourselves “before men,” God knows our sinful hearts and calls us to repentance. He justifies us by His grace and welcomes us into His “eternal dwellings”. More shrewd than even “the sons of this world”, He requires His stewards of the Gospel to bestow forgiveness freely.

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: “Cornet Voluntary” – Anonymous

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: 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

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.

O Lord,
keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy;
and because without You we cannot but fall,
preserve us from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
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: Amos 8:4-7 (see back cover)

Psalm 113



¹Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants | of
the LORD,*
praise the name | of the LORD!

²Blessèd be the name | of the LORD*
from this time forth and for- | evermore!

³From the rising of the sun to its | setting,*
the name of the LORD is | to be praised!

⁴The LORD is high above all | nations,*
and his glory above the | heavens!

⁵Who is like the | LORD our God,*
who is seated | on high,

⁶who looks | far down*
on the heavens | and the earth?

⁷He raises the poor | from the dust*
and lifts the needy from the | ash heap,

⁸to make them sit with | princes,*
with the princes of his | people.

⁹He gives the barren wom- | an a home,*
making her the joyous mother of
children. | Praise the LORD!

**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 2:1-15 (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): For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men,
the man Christ / Jesus*
who gave himself as a ran- / som for all. (1 Timothy 2:5-6a)*

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:1-15

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: 783 Take My Life and Let It Be

Sermon

Welcome of New Members

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 Van Beuzekom Family
The Kirk family

death of Hank
death of Charlie

Dunbar
Lauricella

For those with health concerns:

Tom Dorsett
Hank Van Beuzekom
Fran Byrzkinsky
Don Hammond
Wendy Beckerman
George DiCostanzo
Katherine Eccleston
Linda Wright
Kay Compton
Monica Benesch

Sandy Hammond
Bill Akers
Pete Serone
John O'Neil
Marge Keen
Tony Shiron
Kay Compton
Pat Dietz
Mary Cobriere
John Bonasera

Carla Behnfeldt
Lolly Hoagland
John Tarlo
Phil Unetic
Catie Lauricella
Rick Wright
Ursula Chirico
Noah
Beverly
Kristin

Greg
Noah
Grant
Adel
Claire
Barbara
Zane
Anna
Irene
Brennan

Sid
Susan
Chris
Rose
Jan
Mary
JoAnne
Joanne

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:

Jesse Dunbar September 26 Andrew Hicks September 26

Anniversaries:

Kevin and Sue Lauricella September 22

Offering

Instrumental Offertory: "Air" – H. Purcell

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: 638 Eat This Bread

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: 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns (st. 1-2, 5)

Announcements

Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: "Jesu, meine Freude" – J. S. Bach





Announcements – Week of September 21, 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: Kevin Lauricella (Communion Assistant), Lydia Bloom (Reader and Acolyte), Joe Gallagher and Jason Bloom (Ushers), Jason Bloom (Live-streaming), Amy Van Hise and Hope Dunbar (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/eSQraAE88k> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted to the [church's website](#).

Sunday Bible Study: Jonah - God's Reluctant Prophet. Today we continue the 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. Ask Pastor Jon to add you to his email list to receive the Zoom link if you'd like to join in.

Weekly Schedule:

TUESDAY (9/23)	6:00a Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's; 9:45/11:15a Nursery School Chapels
WEDNESDAY (9/24)	4:30p Confirmation Class; 7:30p Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (9/25)	Noon NJ March for Life @ Trenton
SUNDAY (9/28)	8:15a Adult Bible Study and Sunday School; 9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group; 6:30p IMPACT Youth Group @ St. Paul, Flemington

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

Jam Afternoon: Country and Folk Tunes today from 3-5! - 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.

You are invited to a free architectural walking tour of the Princeton University campus, led by University Architect Emeritus Jon Hlafter, member of the Lutheran Church of the Messiah in Princeton: **Sunday, Oct. 12, at 1:30pm.** Meet at the FitzRandolph Gate at the intersection of Nassau & Witherspoon Streets in Princeton. Parking is available in the nearby Spring Street parking garage behind the Princeton Public Library building. There is a limit of ~20 participants -- to register, email the name of each participant to Messiah's pastor, Martin Erhardt, at LCMprinceton@gmail.com . Please include one cell phone number per household. If you need to cancel, email Pastor Erhardt by 8:30am on Oct. 12 (no-shows will be on his Naughty List.) The tour will end at approximately 3:30pm.

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 9/14: 62/ 10 online	Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$ 7308
Debt relief: \$75	Operation Christmas Child: \$4

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> . 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
NJ District LCMS njdistrict.org
LCMS World Relief and Human Care lcms.org/ca/worldrelief
The "Lutheran Hour" Broadcast lhm.org

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Amos 8:4–7

- ⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,
⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over,
that we may sell grain?
And the Sabbath,
that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great
and deal deceitfully with false balances,
⁶ that we may buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and sell the chaff of the wheat?"
⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
"Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1–15

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrel; ⁹likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵Yet

she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1–15

¹[Jesus] also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' ³And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' ⁷Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' ⁸The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings."

¹⁰"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."