



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

First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

Our mission:

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

Welcome Message. From the earliest days of his arrival into the world, the newborn Christ child was a target of evil, violent intentions. Today's Gospel of the wicked King Herod reminds us that Satan is always sowing seeds of wickedness into the world in an effort to thwart God's plan of salvation. But he is no match for our Almighty God. Angels guide the Holy Family safely to Egypt, then home to Nazareth where the child Jesus will grow to become a man. We rejoice that God still protects us from danger today - both physical and spiritual.

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: “In dulci jublio” - J.S. Bach

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: 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

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 God, our Maker and Redeemer,
You wonderfully created us
and in the incarnation of Your Son
yet more wondrously restored our human nature.
Grant that we may ever be alive in Him
who made Himself to be like us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 63:7-14 (see back cover)

Psalms 111



¹ Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to
the LORD with my | whole heart,*
in the company of the upright, in the
congre- | gation.

² Great are the works | of the LORD,*
studied by all who de- | light in them.

³ Full of splendor and majesty | is his work,*
and his righteousness endures
for- | ever.

⁴ He has caused his wondrous works to
be re- | membered;*
the LORD is gracious and | merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who | fear
him;*
he remembers his covenant for- | ever.

⁶ He has shown his people the power | of
his works,*
in giving them the inheritance of
the | nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faith- | ful
and just;*
all his precepts are | trustworthy;

⁸ they are established forever and | ever,*
to be performed with faithfulness and
up- | rightness.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant
for- | ever.*

Holy and awesome | is his name!

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning
of wisdom; all those who practice it
have a good under- | standing.*

His praise endures for- | ever!

**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 4:4-7 (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): My eyes have seen your sal- / vation,
A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people / Israel. (Luke 2:30, 32)*

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

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: 389 Let All Together Praise Our God (v. 1-3, 7)

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.)

Potts/Lauricella Families	For comfort: death of Freda	Lauricella
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For those with health concerns:

Columbia McDevitt	Eric Teschke	Bill Hotaling	Grant	Carlie
Clara McMahon	John O'Neill	Norma Runkle	Noah	Claire
Don Hammond	Carla Behnfeldt	Jeff Corelli	Zane	Beverly
Sue Lauricella	Bob Aneskievich	Sue Bridenbough	Brennan	Sid
Shirley Yost	John Tarlo	Pat Dietz	Susan	Jan
Pete Seronew	Rick Wright	Judy Dito	Rose	
Catie Lauricella	Kay Compton			



For those with cancer:

Isla Brummel	Robert Miller	Gerry Campbell	Howard Zahn	Trudy
Carol Tezla	Steve Saumsiegle	Joe Campbell	Rich Knechel	Lance
Kim McCollough	Nancy Gilliland	Aunt Jean	Mary Anne	Joe
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Arlene Bodholt	Jerry
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Doris	Dawn
Aaron Kline	Brad Hoppe	Judy Bacorn	Lynn J.	Lynn
Joan Rawls	Rosalie Reinbacher	Carol Storr	Dana	Dora
Tom Sullivan	Terry Dunbar	Keith Watson	Jason	

For those serving in the armed forces:

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Emily Arndt	Jake Grube	Jim Buckman
Daniel Gewecke	James Bannon	Harper Usiskin	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 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

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

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

Birthdays:

<i>Belated:</i>	<i>Bob Maguire</i>	<i>Dec 23</i>	<i>Stephen Gewecke</i>	<i>Dec 25</i>	
Don Hammond	Dec 28	Mariah Martinez	Dec 28	Christine Dorsett	Jan 2

Anniversaries:

Don and Sandy Hammond Dec 28

Offering

Instrumental Offertory: "In dulci jublio" - J. Vetter

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: 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

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: 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory (v. 1-3)

Announcements

Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

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





Announcements – Week of December 28, 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), Amy Van Hise (Reader), Sadie Bloom (Acolyte), Joe Gallagher and Jason Bloom (Ushers), Jason Bloom (Live-streaming), Amy Van Hise and Cheryl Gewecke (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed on You Tube at this link: <https://youtube.com/live/tC1Tf5TcrSA>
If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted to the church's website.

Sunday Bible Study is on break this week. See you next Sunday at 8:15.

(Wednesday evening ZOOM bible study is on break during the holiday season.)

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

Weekly Schedule:

THURSDAY (1/1)

New Year's Day

SUNDAY (1/4)

8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group

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

Faithfulness Report: Attendance 12/21: 78 / 5

Gen Fund from 12/10 (plate and elec): \$7394.99

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.

Flowers are placed on the altar this week by the Maguires in honor of Christine Dorsett's birthday!

Food Pantry. We continue to support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. December's collection is baking and cooking products – flour, sugar, salt, baking powder, baking soda, oil, vinegar, etc. You can sign up on the bulletin board to deliver items by month as well. Any questions, please see Leslie Klesat.

Samaritan's Purse Update. This year's boxes were sent to Tanzania and South Africa! Continue to pray that the recipients would come to know more about Jesus' love for them through these gifts.

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".

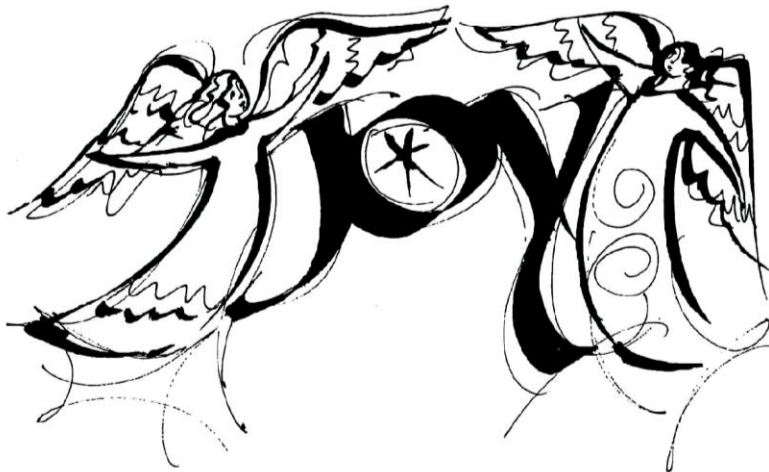
Other Important web links:

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



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 63:7–14

- ⁷ I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD,
the praises of the LORD,
according to all that the LORD has
granted us,
and the great goodness to the house
of Israel
that he has granted them according to
his compassion,
according to the abundance of his
steadfast love.
- ⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my
people,
children who will not deal falsely."
And he became their Savior.
- ⁹ In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved
them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed
them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.
- ¹⁰ But they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy,
and himself fought against them.
- ¹¹ Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.
Where is he who brought them up out
of the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is he who put in the midst of
them
his Holy Spirit,
¹² who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for himself an everlasting
name,
¹³ who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.
- ¹⁴ Like livestock that go down into the
valley,
the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.
So you led your people,
to make for yourself a glorious
name.

Epistle: Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come,
God sent forth his Son, born of woman,

born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who
were under the law, so that we might
receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because
you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of
his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba!
Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave,
but a son, and if a son, then an heir
through God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13–23

¹³Now when [the wise men] had
departed, behold, an angel of the Lord
appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
"Rise, take the child and his mother, and
flee to Egypt, and remain there until I
tell you, for Herod is about to search
for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he
rose and took the child and his mother
by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and
remained there until the death of Herod.
This was to fulfill what the Lord had
spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I
called my son."

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that
he had been tricked by the wise men,
became furious, and he sent and killed all
the male children in Bethlehem and in
all that region who were two years old or
under, according to the time that he had
ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then
was fulfilled what was spoken by the
prophet Jeremiah:

- ¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted,
because they are no more."

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an
angel of the Lord appeared in a dream
to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Rise, take
the child and his mother and go to the
land of Israel, for those who sought the
child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and
took the child and his mother and went
to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard
that Archelaus was reigning over Judea
in place of his father Herod, he was afraid
to go there, and being warned in a dream
he withdrew to the district of Galilee.
²³And he went and lived in a city called
Nazareth, that what was spoken by the
prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be
called a Nazarene."