

# 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

## The Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026

### **Our mission:**

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

**Welcome Message.** We enter the Epiphany season by remembering our Lord's baptism by John at the Jordan River. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and announced as God's beloved Son. This Sunday's lessons invite us to remember our own baptism and how it connects us to the saving work of Christ on 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 Four***

## ***LSB page 203***

**Prelude:** “Christ, unser Herr, zum Jordan kam” - J.G. Walther

### **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:** 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (st 1-3)

### **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.

Father in heaven,  
at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River

You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit.

Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children

And inheritors with Him of everlasting life;

through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever.

## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9 (see back cover)

### Psalms 29



<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly | beings,\*  
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and  
strength.

<sup>2</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his  
name;\*  
worship the LORD in the splendor  
of | holiness.

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is over  
the | waters;\*  
the God of glory thunders, the LORD,  
over many | waters.

<sup>4</sup> The voice of the LORD is | powerful;\*  
the voice of the LORD is full  
of | majesty.

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks  
the | cedars;\*  
the LORD breaks the cedars  
of | Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> He makes Lebanon to skip | like a  
calf,\*  
and Sirion like a young | wild ox.

<sup>7</sup> The voice | of the LORD\*  
flashes forth | flames of fire.

<sup>8</sup> The voice of the LORD shakes  
the | wilderness;\*  
the LORD shakes the wilderness | of  
Kadesh.

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the deer  
give birth and strips the | forests bare,\*  
and in his temple all cry, | "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> The LORD sits enthroned o- | ver the  
flood;\*  
the LORD sits enthroned as king  
for- | ever.

<sup>11</sup> May the LORD give strength to  
his | people!\*  
May the LORD bless his people | with  
peace!

**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:** Romans 6:1-11 (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):      You are my be- / loved Son;  
with You I am / well pleased. (Mark 1:11b)*

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

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 3:13-17

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:** 405 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

**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.)



Whitehead family	<b>For comfort:</b> death of Carol	Teschke
------------------	---------------------------------------	---------

**For those with health concerns:**

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

***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	Frank

***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:**

Jim Yost	Jan 12	Jeanne Hoppe	Jan 15
Richard deDufour	Jan 15	Amy Van Hise	Jan 15

**Offering**

**Instrumental Offertory:** "Interlude" – S. Goodwin

**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: 412 The People That in Darkness Sat

### **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:** 400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

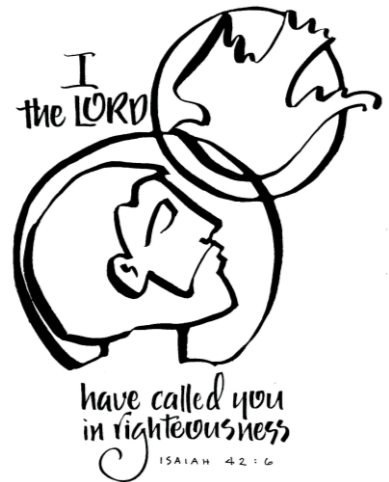
### **Announcements**

### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude:** "Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr" – J. Pachelbel





## **Announcements – Week of January 11, 2026**

**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: Steve deDufour (Communion Assistant and Reader), Liam McAllister (Acolyte), Joe Gallagher and Mark McAllister (Ushers), Mark McAllister (Live-streaming), Shirley Yost and Amy Van Hise (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/itWN0EtgDEM>  
If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The services are also posted to the church's website.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study.** This morning at our 8:15a Bible study we'll be studying the Gospel reading for this Sunday --Matthew 3:1-17. This is the account of Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan River. How was the baptism John offered different from Christian baptism? Why was John reluctant to baptize Jesus, and what does this key moment in Christ's life tell us about his mission to save the world from sin? Join our discussion!

**NEW Monday Evening Zoom Bible Study.** Start off the new year right by diving into God's Word! Our Zoom Bible study meets every **Monday evening at 7:30pm** to read and discuss the book of 1 Corinthians. This letter written by the apostle Paul tackles a variety of issues that troubled the early church, including cliques that formed around certain church leaders, conflicting ideas about what makes a person "wise", confusion about matters of sexuality and marriage, and much more. Talk to Pastor Jon if you'd like to be added to his email list with readings and Zoom link.

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

**Annual Voters Meeting.** St. Peter will hold its annual Voters Meeting on **Sunday, January 25** after the worship service. We invite and encourage all to attend! It's an important time to review the past year, discuss future plans for 2026, elect new leadership and approve a budget for implementing our goals. We'll give thanks for God's guidance and ask His blessing on all future endeavors. To God be the glory!

### **Weekly Schedule:**

TODAY (1/11)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group; 2p District Youth After Christmas Party
MONDAY (1/12)	5:30p Planning Council; 7:30p Zoom Bible Study
TUESDAY (1/13)	4:30p Confirmation
THURSDAY (1/15)	9-2p Circuit Pastors Meeting @ Calvary, Medford;
SATURDAY (1/17)	Baptism of Callie Steimle
SUNDAY (1/18)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group



**Thank-You from the Dunbars.** *We wish to thank the congregation for the incredibly generous Christmas gift we were presented with. How blessed we are to have such support from our St. Peter family! God has been very good to us throughout the past year, and we look forward to what exciting plans lie in the year ahead!*

**District Youth: After-Christmas Party!** Today our district is hosting a post-Christmas party for all students in the 8th-12th grades. There will be games, food and fun galore! The event runs from 2:00-6:00pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Westfield, NJ. Pastor Jon will be driving his van to this event. Talk to him if you're interested in attending and need a ride. See the bulletin board poster for more details.

**Mid-winter Lecture: Christianity, Technology, and Education.** On Sunday, February 15th at 3:00pm, St. Peter will be hosting a lecture entitled, "Shifting Sands, Stable Faith: Navigating Today's Technological & Educational Confusion". Our speaker will be Joshua Pauling. He is the headmaster & teacher at All Saints Classical Academy and vicar at All Saints Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC. In two sessions, Vicar Pauling will talk about recent cultural changes in technology and education, and how our Christian faith can help us navigate through potential confusion around these topics. This event is sponsored by Partners in Mission. See the bulletin board poster for more details.

**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 1/4: 48 / 6      Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$4765  
Loan angel: \$325      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.

**Flowers are placed on the altar this week in honor of Jim Yost's birthday!**

**Food Pantry.** We continue to support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. **January's** collection is **paper products** – paper towels, toilet tissue, facial tissue, etc. You can sign up on the bulletin board to deliver items by month as well. Any questions, please see Leslie Klesat.

**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".



## THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

### Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> Behold my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul  
delights;  
I have put my Spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the  
nations.  
<sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his  
voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a faintly burning wick he  
will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth  
justice.  
<sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be  
discouraged  
till he has established justice in  
the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his  
law.  
<sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and  
stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and  
what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and spirit to those who walk in  
it:  
<sup>6</sup> "I am the LORD; I have called you in  
righteousness;  
I will take you by the hand and  
keep you;  
I will give you as a covenant for the  
people,  
a light for the nations,  
<sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the  
dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in  
darkness.  
<sup>8</sup> I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to carved idols.  
<sup>9</sup> Behold, the former things have  
come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth  
I tell you of them."

### Epistle: Romans 6:1-11

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

### Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."