

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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The Baptism of Our Lord

Jauary 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)

Psalm 29



¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly | beings,*
 ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and
 strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his
 name;*
 worship the LORD in the splendor
 of | holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is over
 the | waters;*

the God of glory thunders, the LORD,
 over many | waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is | powerful;*
 the voice of the LORD is full
 of | majesty.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks
 the | cedars;*
 the LORD breaks the cedars
 of | Lebanon.

⁶He makes Lebanon to skip | like a
 calf;*
 and Sirion like a young | wild ox.

⁷The voice | of the LORD*
 flashes forth | flames of fire.

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes
 the | wilderness;*
 the LORD shakes the wilderness | of
 Kadesh.

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

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned o- | ver the
 flood;*
 the LORD sits enthroned as king
 for- | ever.

¹¹May 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

Prayer Request List (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

For comfort:

Whitehead family

death of Carol

Teschke

For those with health concerns:

Norm Klesat
Clara McMahon
Don Hammond
Sue Lauricella
Shirley Yost
Pete Seronew
Catie Lauricella

Eric Teschke
John O'Neill
Lynn Roman
Bob Aneskie
John Tarlo
Rick Wright
Kay Compton

Bill Hotaling
Norma Runkle
Jeff Corelli
Sue Bridenbough
Pat Dietz
Lorraine Van Hise
Judy Dito

Grant	Carlie
Noah	Claire
Zane	Beverly
Brennan	Sid
Susan	Jan
Rose	Bob



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

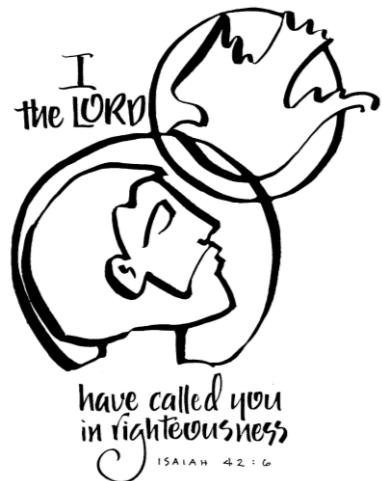
Announcements

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

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, 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

- 1 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.
- 2 He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
- 3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- 4 He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.
- 5 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:
- 6 “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,
- 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.
- 8 I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.
- 9 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

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We 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.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We 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. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13–17

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And 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; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”