



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

(609) 466-0939 web site: stpeternj.org

pastor@stpeternj.org secretary@stpeternj.org

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

Chris Fusco, Music Director

Amy Van Hise, Office Administrator

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 18, 2026

Our mission:

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

Welcome Message. "What are you seeking?" Jesus poses this penetrating question in today's Gospel reading. And it's a question we are wise to ponder for ourselves. What is it we are looking for...in this life, from ourselves, from others, and (most importantly) from Jesus? John's words testify clearly who Jesus is and why he came. He is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"!

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: Ach Gott, vom Himmel sieh darien" - J. Pachelbel

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: 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed (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)

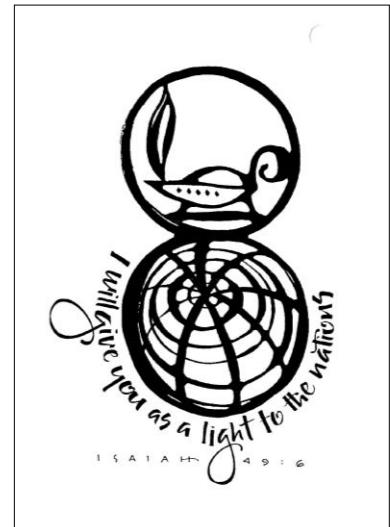
P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,
who governs all things in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the prayers of Your people
and grant us Your peace through all our days;
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: Isaiah 49:1-7 (see back cover)

Psalm 40:1-11



¹I waited patiently | for the LORD;*
he inclined to me and | heard my cry.
²He drew me up from the pit of
destruction, out of the | miry bog,*
and set my feet upon a rock, making
my | steps secure.
³He put a new song in my mouth, a song
of praise | to our God.*
Many will see and fear, and put their
trust | in the LORD.
⁴Blessèd is the man who makes
the | LORD his trust,*
who does not turn to the proud, to
those who go astray af- | ter a lie!
⁵You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and
your thoughts toward us; none can
com- | pare with you! *
I will proclaim and tell of them, yet
they are more than | can be told.
⁶Sacrifice and offering you have
not desired, but you have given me
an | open ear.*
Burnt offering and sin offering you
have | not required.

⁷Then I said, “Behold, | I have come;*
in the scroll of the book it is
writ- | ten of me:
⁸I desire to do your will, | O my God;*
your law is with- | in my heart.”
⁹I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congre- | gation;*
behold, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, | O LORD.
¹⁰I have not hidden your deliverance
within my heart; I have spoken of your
faithfulness and your sal- | vation;*
I have not concealed your steadfast
love and your faithfulness from the
great congre- | gation.
¹¹As for you, O LORD, you will not
restrain your mer- | cy from me;*
your steadfast love and your
faithfulness will ever pre- | serve me!
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 Corinthians 1:1-9 (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): Behold, the / Lamb of God, **
who takes away the sin / of the world!

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

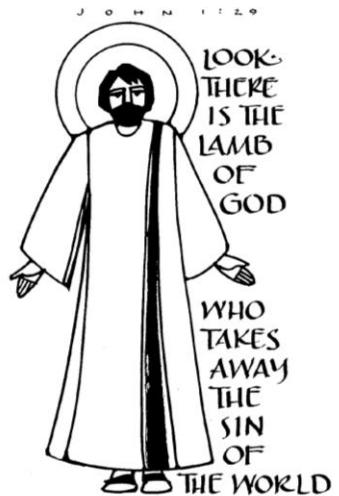
Gospel Reading: John 1:29-42a

Apostles' Creed (see the inside back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 534 Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

Sermon



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

For comfort:

Cudmore/Pietz families
Aneskievich family
Whitehead family

death of Warren “Skip”
death of Bob
death of Carol

Cudmore
Teschke
Teschke

For those with health concerns:

Norm Klesat
Katherine Ecclesten
Don Hammond
Sandy Hammond
Shirley Yost
Pete Seronew
Catie Lauricella

Eric Teschke
John O'Neill
Lynn Romano
Sue Lauricella
John Tarlo
Rick Wright
Kay Compton

Bill Hotaling
Norma Runkle
Jeff Corelli
Sue Bridenbough
Pat Dietz
Lorraine Van Hise
Diane Pullen

Judy Dito
Brennan
Zane
Grant
Noah
Rose
Susan

For those with cancer:

Isla Brummel
Carol Tezla
Kim McCollough
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling
Rich deDufour
Aaron Kline
Joan Rawls
Tom Sullivan

Robert Miller
Steve Saumsiegle
Nancy Gilliland
Kaleigh Moore
Logan Mattessich
Brad Hoppe
Rosalie Reinbacher
Terry Dunbar

Gerry Campbell
Joe Campbell
Aunt Jean
Sally Ashmen
Frank Cignus
Judy Bacorn
Carol Storr
Keith Watson

Howard Zahn
Rich Knechel
Mary Anne
Arlene Bodholt
Doris
Lynn J.
Dana
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
Conflicts throughout the world	For wisdom, guidance, peace, and forgiveness
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:

Stephen Behnfeldt Jan 20 Scott Garrow Jan 20

Offering

Instrumental Offertory: "Interlude in D" - 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: 606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus

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: 809 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Announcements

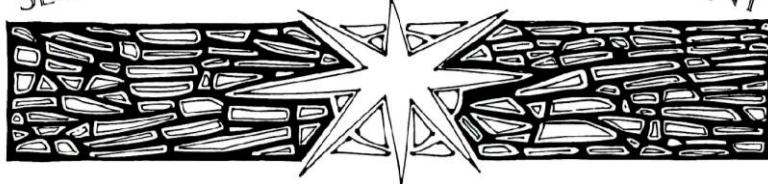
Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: "Vater unser im Himmelreich" – J.S. Bach

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY





God is faithful. by him you



were called into the fellowship of his



Son. Jesus Christ our LORD



I CORINTHIANS 1:9



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: Kevin Lauricella (Communion Assistant and Reader), Scott Garrow and Jason Bloom (Ushers), Jason Bloom (Live-streaming), Shirley Yost and Jeanne Hoppe (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed at this link: <https://youtube.com/live/g2PURadVNX8>

If you miss the service live, watch it on YouTube 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 Temptation of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 4:1-11. While not included in this year's Sunday Gospel readings, the account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness is another key revealing event in his life. What do the particular kinds of temptations Jesus faced tell us about our own battles with Satan? How can Jesus' responses equip us for this kind of spiritual struggle? Join us!

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 next week 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 (1/18)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group
MONDAY (1/19)	4:30p Confirmation; 7:30p Zoom Bible Study
TUESDAY (1/20)	6am Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's; 6:30p NJDU Planning Reunion
THURSDAY (1/22)	9:45/11:15 Nursery School Chapel services
SUNDAY (1/25)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Annual Voter's Meeting; 6:30p IMPACT Youth Group @ St. Paul, Flemington

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 1/11: 57 / 7

Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$3150
Memorial gift: \$40

From Norm Klesat – GOD Bless us all!! My surgery and re-hab is moving along nicely. Thanks to my wonderful St. Peter family for all the prayers, cards, and kind thoughts. GOD is Good, and so are you.

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 the birthday of Carolyn Miller,
niece of Chris Fusco and Trish Scalese!**

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".

Important web links:

NJ District LCMS

njdistrict.org

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

lcms.org

LCMS World Relief and Human Care

lcms.org/ca/worldrelief

"The Lutheran Hour" Broadcast

lhm.org

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 49:1–7

- ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands,
and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name.
- ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
- ³ And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”
- ⁴ But I said, “I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing
and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God.”
- ⁵ And now the LORD says,
he who formed me from the womb
to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the
Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
- ⁶ he says:
“It is too light a thing that you should
be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of
Israel;
I will make you as a light for the
nations,
that my salvation may reach to the
end of the earth.”
- ⁷ Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy
One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the
nation,
the servant of rulers:
“Kings shall see and arise;
princes, and they shall prostrate
themselves;
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has
chosen you.”

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:1–9

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth,

to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy Gospel: John 1:29–42a

²⁹The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.”

³²And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). ^{42a}He brought him to Jesus.