

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, Admin Asst

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

January 25, 2026

Our mission:

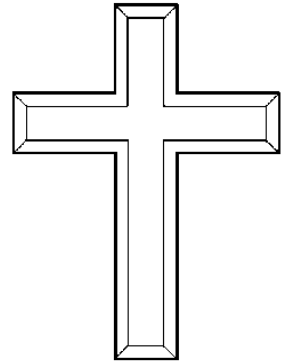
*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

Welcome. Epiphany is a season of growing light. And today's readings remind us that God's Light shines in some very dark places. Jesus began his ministry in a region that was believed to be lost and forsaken by God. And he called humble fishermen to join him in his mission to that place. We rejoice that the light of Christ still shines into forsaken circumstances today, and we have a part to play in bringing it there.

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.

PREPARATION



PRELUDE “Jesu Christe wahres licht” - W. Zachau

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen

P If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy name. 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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN 873 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

KYRIE *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

Pastor: In peace, in peace,

Assistant:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - cy.

Congregation:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - cy.

Pastor: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

Pastor: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word...
(Refrain)

Pastor: *Assistent:*



Help, save and de - fend us, O God.

Cong: *Congregation:*



A - - - men.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1:

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great
peo - ple of God.

To refrain

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er.

To refrain

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new.

To refrain

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P
C
P

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,
mercifully look upon our infirmities

and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us;
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 9:1-4 (see back)

PSALM 27:1-9



¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom | shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my
life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

² When evildoers assail me to eat | up my
flesh,*

my adversaries and foes, it is they
who stum- | ble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart | shall not fear;*
though war arise against me, yet I
will be | confident.

⁴ One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek | after: *
that I may dwell in the house of the
LORD all the days of my life, to gaze
upon the beauty of the LORD and to
inquire in his | temple.

⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter in the
day of | trouble; *
he will conceal me under the cover of
his tent; he will lift me high up- | on a
rock.

⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices
with | shouts of joy; *

I will sing and make melody | to the
LORD.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I | cry aloud; *
be gracious to me and | answer me!

⁸ You have said, | “Seek my face.” *
My heart says to you, “Your face,
LORD, | do I seek.”

⁹ Hide not your face from me. Turn not
your servant away in | anger; *
O you who have been my help. Cast
me not off; forsake me not, O God of
my sal- | vation!

**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 1:10-18

ALLELUIA VERSE:



HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 4:12-25

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.



APOSTLES' CREED (Inside the back cover of the hymnal.)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY 856 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P ...Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

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

Carlie
Claire
Beverly
Sid
Jan

For those with cancer:

Isla Brummel
Carol Tezla
Kim McCollough
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling

Robert Miller
Steve Saumsiegle
Nancy Gilliland
Kaleigh Moore

Gerry Campbell
Joe Campbell
Aunt Jean
Sally Ashmen

Howard Zahn
Rich Knechel
Mary Anne
Arlene Bodholt

Trudy
Lance
Joe
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
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
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Birthdays:

Jennifer Lorenzi	Jan 28
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Anniversaries:

Fred and Judy Grube	Jan 27
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GATHERING OF THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Instrumental Offertory "Erhalt uns Herr" – J.S. Bach

Congregational Offertory:

Refrain

Congregation:

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in-to one to be-come our bread;

so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be

gath-ered in-to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst, _____
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

To refrain

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C And also with you.
C We lift them to the Lord.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...
C Amen.

SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy (LSB p. 208)*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

Sharing of the Peace

(Please greet one another, saying: "The peace of the Lord be with you", responding "And also with you.")

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God:

Congregation or Assistant:



Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the
you are the bread of life for us
you are the way of jus - tice and

Congregation:



world:

all:

peace:

have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,



mer - cy on us.

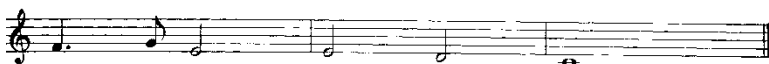
Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sin of the world:

grant us peace,



grant us peace,

grant us

peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN 638 Eat This Bread

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE "Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott" – J. Vetter





Announcements – Week of January 25, 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 Tyson Wilhelm (Communion Assistant), Nicholas Wilhelm (acolyte), Cheryl Gewecke (Reader and Communion/coffee clean up), Jesse Dunbar (Usher and Live-streaming), Jim Steimle (Usher), Jason Bloom (Live-streaming), Amy Van Hise (Communion and coffee set-up).

Today's service will be live streamed at this link: <https://youtube.com/live/ZXqfy117YNY>

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 Jesus' call of the disciples as recorded in Matthew 4:18-22. Come and dig deeper into how this call is relevant in our lives as disciples of Christ as well. Join us!

The Zoom Bible Study does not meet on Jan 26, but will resume on **WEDNESDAY, FEB 4 at 7:30**. Our Zoom Bible study will again meet every **Wednesday 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 today 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 (1/25)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11a Annual Voters Meeting; 6:30p IMPACT Youth Group @ St. Paul, Flemington
MONDAY-FRIDAY	Pastor Away on Vacation
MONDAY (1/26)	NO Confirmation; NO Zoom Bible Study
SUNDAY (2/1)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group

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 1/18: 15 / 22 Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$2108
(SNOW!) Flowers: \$25 Debt relief: \$50

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.

Food Pantry. We continue to support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. **February's** collection is **canned fruits, juices and condiments** – juice boxes, cans or individual serve fruit packs, ketchup, mustard, mayo, relish, canned tuna, 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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:1–4

¹There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

- ² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep
darkness,
on them has light shined.
- ³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide
the spoil.
- ⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of
Midian.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10–18

¹⁰I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. ¹²What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." ¹³Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to

those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:12–25

¹²When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "The land of Zebulun and the land
of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond
the Jordan, Galilee of the
Gentiles—

¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region
and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned."

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

¹⁸While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.