

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, Admin Asst

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 8, 2026

Our mission:

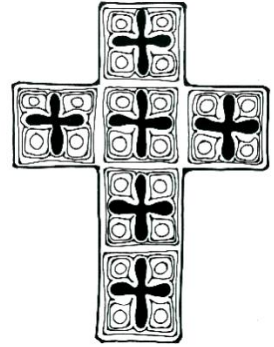
*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

Welcome. "I am the light of the world," Jesus says (John 8:12). And then he says, "You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14). The first statement is a sweet word of promise and blessing. The second is also a promise...but with an accompanying challenge. The Light of the World has shined his light upon us in order that his light might also shine through us. This calling from Jesus may sound daunting, even impossible, given our sinful stubborn natures. But the Holy Spirit is stronger than our sin. We can reflect the grace-filled light of our Savior by our words and actions. And when we do, we become part of Christ's epiphany to 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.

PREPARATION



PRELUDE “Voluntary in A minor” – Anonymous

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: *Assistant:*



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.

O Lord,

keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith
that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace,
we may ever be defended by Your mighty power;
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 58:3-9a (see back)

PSALM 112:1-9



¹ Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man
who | fears the LORD,*
who greatly delights in his
com- | mandments!

² His offspring will be mighty | in the
land;*
the generation of the upright | will be
blessed.

³ Wealth and riches are | in his house,*
and his righteousness endures
for- | ever.

⁴ Light dawns in the darkness for
the | upright;*
he is gracious, merciful, and | righteous.

⁵ It is well with the man who deals
generous- | ly and lends;*
who conducts his affairs with | justice.

⁶ For the righteous will nev- | er be
moved;*
he will be remembered for- | ever.

⁷ He is not afraid of | bad news;*
his heart is firm, trusting | in the LORD.

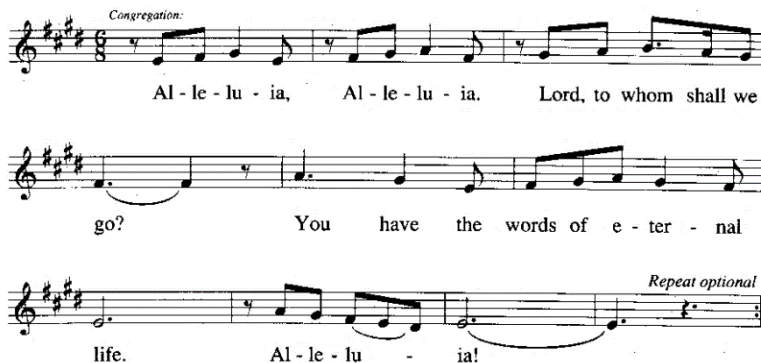
⁸ His heart is steady; he will not | be
afraid,*
until he looks in triumph on his
adver- | saries.

⁹ He has distributed freely; he has given
to the poor; his righteousness endures
for- | ever;*
his horn is exalted in | honor.

**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 2:1-12

ALLELUIA VERSE:



HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 5:13-20

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 578 Thy Strong Word (st 1-4)

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.)

Those in need of comfort:

Calvin/Bloom families
Scalese/Fusco families

death of Vance
death of Eleanor Scalese

Bloom
Fusco

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
Susan Miller
Zane
Grant
Noah
Rose
Susan

Carlie
Claire
Beverly
Sid
Jan
Brennan

For those with cancer:

Isla Brummel
Carol Tezla
Kim McCollough
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling
Rich deDufour

Robert Miller
Steve Saumsiegle
Nancy Gilliland
Kaleigh Moore
Logan Mattessich

Gerry Campbell
Joe Campbell
Aunt Jean
Sally Ashmen
Frank Cignus

Howard Zahn
Rich Knechel
Mary Anne
Arlene Bodholt
Doris

Trudy
Lance
Joe
Jerry
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
Elvis Rowsey	Debra Mueller			

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	Christopher Ryan Callahan

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:

Robert Dorsett	February 9	Lynda Newton	February 9
Nicole Lorenzi	February 11	Thomas Reside	February 11

GATHERING OF THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Instrumental Offertory

“Diapason Movement” – W. Boyce

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



To refrain

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

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P
P
P

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

C
C
C

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

P
C

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


The peace of the Lord be with you always.
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: *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,

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



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 702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE "In Dulci Jublio" – J.S. Bach

WHAT NO EYE HAS SEEN
NOR EAR HEARD
NOR HUMAN HEART
CONCEIVED... THESE
THINGS GOD HAS
REVEALED TO US



THROUGH THE SPIRIT
1 CORINTHIANS 2:9,10



Announcements – Week of February 8, 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 Joe Scheblein (Communion Assistant), Liam McAllister (acolyte), Jesse Dunbar (Reader), Joe Gallagher (Usher), Mark McAllister (Usher and Live-streaming), Lillian Maguire and Amy Van Hise (Communion and coffee set-up and clean up)

Today's service will be live streamed at this link: https://youtube.com/live/4-B5BE_9ls0

If you miss the service live, watch it on YouTube whenever you like! The services are also posted to the church's website.

NEW Sunday 8:15 Bible Study: The Wilderness. No food, no water, no shelter—harsh wilderness land brings suffering and turns living things back into dust. But God also meets people there, and wilderness stories in the Bible show people experiencing divine love and provision as God guides and protects them. Individuals and entire nations are transformed in the wilderness, as they learn to trust God's instruction and receive life as a gift that only God can give. Join us starting Sunday, Feb 8th for this 7-week series on an important Biblical theme!

The Zoom Bible Study will meet on **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 (2/8) - 8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; **11:00a Voters Assembly**

WEDNESDAY (2/11) - 7:30p Zoom Bible Study

THURSDAY (2/12) - 4:30p Confirmation Class; 6:00p Elders Meeting

SATURDAY (2/14) - 7:30a Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY (2/15) - 8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group; 3:00p Midwinter Lecture

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.

Mid-winter Lecture: Christianity, Technology, and Education. Only one week away, 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.

Lenten Services & Meals. Lent is a 40-day season of repentance that prepares us to celebrate Easter. Beginning **February 18th (Ash Wednesday)**, join us for evening Vespers every Wednesday at 7:30pm. **Starting on February 25, come early at 6:30pm and enjoy our Lenten soup supper with friends!** Look for more information about these meals on the church bulletin board or talk to Leslie Klesat.

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 2/1: 68 / 4 online Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$5522
Debt relief: \$50 Flowers: \$50 Loan Angel: \$325

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 today in thanksgiving for the life of Eleanor Scalese
by Trish Scalese and Chris Fusco.**

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58:3–9a

- ³ “Why have we fasted, and you see it not?
Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?”
Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure,
and oppress all your workers.
- ⁴ Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to hit with a wicked fist.
Fasting like yours this day
will not make your voice to be heard
on high.
- ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day for a person to humble himself?
Is it to bow down his head like a reed,
and to spread sackcloth and ashes
under him?
Will you call this a fast,
and a day acceptable to the LORD?
- ⁶ “Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
- ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into
your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your
own flesh?
- ⁸ Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up
speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your
rear guard.
- ^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will
answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here
I am.’”

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1–12

¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man imagined,
what God has prepared for those who
love him”—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13–20

¹³[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”