



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, Office Administrator

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

Our mission:

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others*

Welcome As children we loved to make a game of "hide-and-go-seek". We took pleasure in seeking out that impossible to find spot, and then squealed with glee when we were finally "found" - what fun! But there is another kind of hiding that people of all ages do that is nothing like a children's game. We see it in the Garden of Eden after a transgression has been committed (Gen. 3). People try to hide their sin and shame away from God, hoping He won't see. King David, no stranger to sin himself, proclaims that God is our true hiding place. He is our shield, shelter, and safe place (Ps. 32). Today, we rejoice that our Savior Jesus successfully said no to every temptation of Satan. Jesus had nothing to hide. And because of him, neither do we!

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 Two

LSB page 167

The Preparation



Prelude: “Ich ruf du zir, Herr Jesu Christ” – J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome

Invocation, 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 personal confession.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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.**

The Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn: 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Kyrie (page 168)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land.

Guide the people of Your Church

that following our Savior

we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come;

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: Genesis 3:1-21 (see back cover)

Psalms: Psalm 32:1-7



¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,* whose sin is | covered.

²Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,* and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.

³For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away* through my groaning | all day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;* my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my in- | iquity;* I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.

⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you | may be found;* surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not | reach him.

⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from | trouble;* you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.

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 Reading: Romans 5:12-19 (see back cover)

Lenten Verse (page 173)

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11 (see back cover)

Acclamations (sung): **Glory to you, O Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed (see inside the back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: 424 O Christ, You Walked the Road

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.)



Those in need of comfort:

Alampi family	death of Dave	Kianka
Calvin/Bloom families	death of Vance	Bloom
Scalese/Fusco families	death of Eleanor Scalese	Fusco

For those with health concerns:

Katherine Ecclesten	Eric Teschke	Bill Hotaling	Judy Dito	Carlie
Susan Miller	John O'Neill	Norma Runkle	Brennan	Claire
Don Hammond	Lynn Romano	Jeff Corelli	Zane	Beverly
Sandy Hammond	Sue Lauricella	Sue Bridenbough	Grant	Sid
Shirley Yost	John Tarlo	Pat Dietz	Noah	Jan
Pete Seronew	Rick Wright	Lorraine Van Hise	Rose	Doug
Catie Lauricella	Kay Compton	Diane Pullen	Susan	

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) Hotaling	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
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 Heebner	February 26	Lydia Bloom	February 27
Bennett Fog	February 27		

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory: “O Lamm Gottes” – J. Pachelbel

Congregational Offertory: 955 “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord”

C: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Service of the Sacrament

Order of Holy Communion (page 177)

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, Lord God of pow’r and might:

Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.



Announcements – Week of February 22, 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 Stephen deDufour (Communion Assistant and Reader), Sadie Bloom (acolyte), Kevin Lauricella (Usher), Jason Bloom (Usher and Live-streaming), Amy Van Hise and Cheryl Gewecke (Communion and coffee set-up and clean up)

Today's service will be live streamed at this link: <https://youtube.com/live/VUBw2jhPwoM>

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

Sunday 8:15 Bible Study: *The Wilderness*. This Sunday we will study Exodus 16:1-20, the account of Israel's 40-year wandering through the desert. It was a journey defined by "humbling and grumbling" for the people of God as their faith in Him was tested. We'll ask the question: How are God's people invited to trust Him in the wilderness?

Wednesday evening Zoom Bible Study will be on break throughout Lent.

Lenten Services & Meals. Lent is a 40-day season of repentance that prepares us to celebrate Easter. Join us for evening Vespers every Wednesday at 7:30pm. Come early at 6:30pm and enjoy the Lenten soup suppers with friends! Look for more information about these meals and sign up to bring a part of the meal on the church bulletin board, or talk to Leslie Klesat.

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

Weekly Schedule:

TODAY (2/22) 8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group;
6:30p Impact Youth Group

MONDAY (2/23) 5:30p Planning Council meeting

WEDNESDAY (2/25) 6:30p Soup Supper; 7:30p Lenten Service

THURSDAY (2/26) 9:45/11:15a Nursery School Chapel Services; 4:30p Confirmation Class

SUNDAY (3/1) 8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group

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.

Movie Night at St. Peter! We are bringing back a favorite fellowship event from the past - movie night! Join us on Friday, March 6 at 6:30pm. We'll enjoy a dinner of pizza and salad before starting the film at 6:45. The night's selection: The Prince of Egypt, an animated musical film voiced by an all-star cast and based on the biblical story of Moses from his birth to God's giving of the Ten Commandments. A donation basket will be put out to help offset the cost of food. Feel free to bring your own comfortable camp chair if you like. Come and enjoy a great time at the movies! Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

District Youth Game Day - March Mayhem! On Sunday, March 22nd, the New Jersey District will host its 2nd annual game day for all youth, grades 6-12. The event is being held at Somerset Hills Lutheran Church in Basking Ridge, NJ from 2:00-6:00pm. It will include indoor and outdoor games (weather permitting), such as 9-square in the Air, many classic board games, as well as food, fellowship, and devotional time. Talk to Pastor Jon if you're interested. Car-pooling is available.

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 2/15: 46 / 4 online Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$4788
Partners in Ministry Midwinter Lecture cost share: \$206

Flowers. You will notice that as part of our Lenten observance there will be no flowers on the altar.

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".

Other Important web links:

- The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod lcms.org
- NJ District LCMS njdistrict.org
- LCMS World Relief and Human Care lcms.org/ca/worldrelief
- The "Lutheran Hour" Broadcast lhm.org

Lenten/Easter Schedule at St. Peter:



Midweek Lenten Services	Wednesdays, 7:30 PM, Feb 18 – Mar 25
Lenten Soup Suppers	Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, Feb 25 – Mar 25
Palm Sunday Service	Sunday, March 29, 9:30 AM
Prayer Vigil	Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Maundy Thursday Service	Thursday, April 2, 7:30 PM
Good Friday Service	Friday, April 3, 7:30 PM
Nursery School Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 4, 9:30 AM
Easter Sunday Services	Sunday, April 5, 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Easter Breakfast	Sunday, April 5, 9:00 AM
Easter Egg Hunt	Sunday, April 5, 10:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 3:1–21

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you."

¹⁷And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your
wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your
life;

¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

²⁰The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Epistle: Romans 5:12–19

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1–11

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth
of God."

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,"

and

"On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone."

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve."

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.