

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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

Chris Fusco, Music Director

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Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director



Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Our mission:

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

Welcome. "Watch where you're going!" When we are walking across terrain that is unfamiliar or uneven, we may wisely keep our eyes fixed on the ground right in front of us so as to avoid any cause for stumbling. Yet, as we make our spiritual journey through Lent (and through life) God's Word to us today is, "Look up!" Abraham kept his eyes on God's promise of blessing as he traveled to the land of Canaan (Gen 12). Today we keep looking up - to cross where the Son of Man gave up his life so we might be saved (Jn 3). Looking down we see all the dangers to be navigated; looking up we see the One who promises to lead us safely through them!

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: “O Welt, ich muss dich lassen” - J.G. Walther

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: 722 Lord, Take My Hand

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 God,

You see that of ourselves we have no strength.

By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body
and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul;

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 12:1-9 (see back cover)

Psalms: Psalm 121



¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills.*
From where does my | help come?

² My help comes | from the LORD,*
who made | heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your | foot be moved; *
he who keeps you will not | slumber.

⁴ Behold, he who keeps | Israel*
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD is your | keeper; *
the LORD is your shade on your | right
hand.

⁶ The sun shall not strike | you by day,*
nor the | moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all | evil; *
he will | keep your life.

⁸ The LORD will keep your going out and
your | coming in*
from this time forth and for- | evermore.

**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 4:1-8, 13-17 (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: John 3:1-17 (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: 708 Lord, Thee I Love

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 who are homebound in our congregation:

Claire and Siggie Haenisch	Margaret and Michele Manura,		
Mary Beck	Janice Nuneviller	George Pfeiffer	Christine Weiland

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:

Jason Bloom	March 5	Sam Dunbar	March 6
Michele Manura	March 6		

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory: “Aus tiefer Not” – G. Bohm

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.

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth... one God now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **Our Father who art in heaven...**

P: Words of Institution

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**



C: **Agnus Dei** **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn: 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

Prayer of Thanksgiving (page 183)

Benediction (page 183)

Closing Hymn: 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

Postlude: “O Lamm Gottes unschuldig” - J. Pachelbel

BLESSED
to be a
BLESSING

G E N E S I S 1 2 : 2



Announcements – Week of March 1, 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 Fred Grube (Communion Assistant), Lydia Bloom (Reader), Sadie Bloom (acolyte), Dave deDufour and Joe Scheblein (Ushers), Judy Grube (Communion and coffee set-up), Lesley deDufour (Live-streaming and Communion and coffee clean-up)

Today's service will be live streamed at this link: <https://youtube.com/live/Cdizd-maPm8>

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 two prophetic texts - Jeremiah 4:23-26 and Hosea 2:14-20. The Old Testament prophets often warned of God's judgment on His people with the picture language of a beautiful garden being abandoned and reverting to wilderness. But they also promised restoration and redemption if the people repent and put their trust in the LORD. Then, He will make desolate lives bear fruit once again.

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 (3/1)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group
TUESDAY (3/3)	4:30p Confirmation Class
WEDNESDAY (3/4)	6:30p Soup Supper; 7:30p Lenten Service
THURSDAY (3/5)	9:45/11:15a Nursery School Chapel Services
FRIDAY (3/6)	6:30p Movie & Pizza Night: Prince of Egypt
SUNDAY (3/8)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group; 6:30p IMPACT Youth 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, or just use this sign-up genius link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B4DAAA928A4FD0-62383220-movie>

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 Ash Wednesday: 55 / 4 (combined offering both services-
2/22: 38 / 8 online Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$4471

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. **March's** collection is **breakfast items** – cereal, shelf-stable milk, pancake mix, syrup, oil, breakfast bars, pop tarts, 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 at Bethany	Friday, April 3, 12:00 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



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 12:1–9

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

Epistle: Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

⁷ “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;

⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

¹³For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith

is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Holy Gospel: John 3:1–17

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”