



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

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

Our mission:

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

Welcome. It is common knowledge that human beings cannot survive long without food and water. We even know the standard rule -- 2 weeks without food or just 3 days without water (!) -- and our life is in peril. Today's readings invite reflection on what is needed for our soul's survival. The Israelites' complaints of thirst in the desert became a spiritual issue when she stopped trusting - and starting testing - the LORD (Ex 17). Jesus offers the Samaritan woman "living water" to redeem her life from sin and deliver her people into God's eternal kingdom.

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: “Was Gott tut das ist wohlgetan” – J. Pachelbel

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: 437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

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, whose glory it is always to have mercy,
be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways
and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith
to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word;
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: Exodus 17:1-7 (see back cover)

Psalm 95 (Please join in singing Psalm 95 as found in the Venite on LSB page 220)

Epistle Reading: Romans 5:1-8 (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 4:5-26 (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: 699 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



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:

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Grady Family | comfort at the death of John | Teschke |
| Lynch family | comfort at the death of a son | Farley |

For those with health concerns:

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

Birthdays:

| | | | |
|----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Sharyn Johnson | March 8 | Sadie Bloom | March 9 |
| Joe Gallagher | March 10 | Fran McAllister | March 11 |
| Ed Heebner | March 12 | Sarah Esterby | March 14 |

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory: “Interlude in D minor” – Anonymous

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: 637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

Prayer of Thanksgiving (page 183)

Benediction (page 183)

Closing Hymn: 763 When Peace, like a River

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



Those who
worship him must
worship in spirit
and truth

JOHN 4:24



Announcements – Week of March 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 Tyson Wilhelm (Communion Assistant), Allison Fog (Reader), Nicholas Wilhelm (acolyte), Joe Gallagher and Jim Steimle (Ushers), Shirley Yost (Communion and coffee set-up), Amy Van Hise (Live-streaming and Communion and coffee clean-up)

Today's service will be live streamed at this link: <https://youtube.com/live/QBDpO5uX-oQ>
If you miss the service live, watch it on YouTube! The services are also posted to the [church's website](#).

Sunday 8:15 Bible Study: The Wilderness. This Sunday we will take another look at the Gospel reading from several Sundays ago -- Matthew 4:1-11 (Jesus' Temptation in the Wilderness). We'll talk about how Jesus' experience in the wilderness parallels Israel's 40 years of wandering. And we'll discuss the difference between God's testing and the devil's tempting us into sin. Come and join the discussion!

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 (3/8) | 8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group; 6:30p IMPACT Youth Group |
| TUESDAY (3/10) | 6a Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's |
| WEDNESDAY (3/11) | 6:30p Soup Supper; 7:30p Lenten Service |
| THURSDAY (3/12) | 9:45/11:15a Nursery School Chapel Services; 4:30p Confirmation; 5:45p Elders Meeting |
| SATURDAY (3/14) | 7:30a Men's Breakfast |
| SUNDAY (3/15) | 8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group |

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.

MARCH NOAH. I am very excited to announce our March event. We will experience "CHAPEL TIME" with Pastor Jon and our Nursery School at 11:00AM on Thursday, March 26, in the Sanctuary. Following, we will have Pizza and fun in the fellowship hall. You will not want to miss this blessed opportunity to experience how St. Peter is bringing Jesus' love to our children. Please sign up on the bulletin board, or let the Yosts, the Klesats, or Bill Kianka know you are coming.

Easter Egg Hunts. Yes, it's that time of year again! We will be holding two Easter Egg Hunts again this year, one on Sat, April 4 at 9:30 for our Nursery School families, and one on Easter Sunday morning at 10. There is a sign-up sheet to be a 'hider' at one or both on the bulletin board – we could use your help for these fun events. Also, if you'd like to donate eggs, please grab a dozen or two from the box in the narthex, fill with individually-wrapped candies, stickers, or tchotchkes, and return by Palm Sunday. They're always a blast! Thanks for your help!

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: Midweek: 28 / 5 (combined offering both services-
3/1: 55 / 8 online Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$5060

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 |
| Easter Egg Hunt | Sunday, April 5, 10:00 AM |



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 17:1–7

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Epistle: Romans 5:1–8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Holy Gospel: John 4:5–26

³[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given

to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."