



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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

Our mission:

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

Welcome. How precious is God's gift of sight! In giving us a visual sense God opened a door to the particular delights of golden morning sunlight, green daffodil buds, and the smiling faces of our dear ones. But even more precious is the gift of spiritual sight - eyes to see in the face of the crucified Jesus, our Savior from sin and death. When Jesus restored the sight of man born blind, it caused controversy and division. Some believed while others objected (Jn 9). Lord, help us to walk as Your children of Light! (Eph 5)

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: “Aus tiefer Not” – 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: 744 Amazing Grace

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.
Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
Your mercies are new every morning;
and though we deserve only punishment,
You receive us as Your children
and provide for all our needs of body and soul.
Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness,
give thanks for all Your benefits,
and serve You in willing obedience;
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 42:14-21 (see back cover)

Psalm 142



¹ With my voice I cry out | to the LORD;*
with my voice I plead for mercy | to
the LORD.

² I pour out my complaint be- | fore him;*
I tell my trouble be- | fore him.

³ When my spirit faints within me,
you | know my way! *
In the path where I walk they have
hidden a | trap for me.

⁴ Look to the right and see: there is none
who takes notice | of me;*
no refuge remains to me; no one
cares | for my soul.

⁵ I cry to you, | O LORD;*
I say, "You are my refuge, my portion
in the land of the | living."

⁶ Attend to my cry, for I am brought | very
low! *
Deliver me from my persecutors, for
they are too | strong for me!

⁷ Bring me out of prison, that I may give
thanks | to your name! *
The righteous will surround me, for
you will deal bountifully | with me.

**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: Ephesians 5:8-14 (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 9:1-41 (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: 428 Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow

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:

Reinbacher family	comfort at the death of Pastor Otto	Klesat
Lynch family	comfort at the death of a son	Farley
Gaspari Family	death of Ed	Teschke

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	Beverly
Sandy Hammond	Lorraine Van Hise	Pat Dietz	Grant	Sid
Judy Dito	John Tarlo	Asta Lynch	Noah	
Pete Seronew	Rick Wright	Frank Lynch	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) 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	Dave Elison		

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:

Stephen deDufour	March 17	Hope Dunbar	March 18
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Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory: “Was Gott tut das ist wohlgetan” – 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.

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: 550 Lamb of God

Prayer of Thanksgiving (page 183)

Benediction (page 183)

Closing Hymn: 798 The God of Abraham Praise (st. 1-4)

Postlude: “Aus tiefer Not” – G. Kaufmann



Announcements – Week of March 15, 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 Kevin Lauricella (Communion Assistant and Reader), Liam McAllister (acolyte), Bob Maguire (Usher), Mark McAllister (Usher and Live-streaming), Lillian Maguire and Jeanne Hoppe (Communion and coffee set-up and clean -up)

Today's service will be live streamed at this link: <https://youtube.com/live/aAk8A8IqA3E> 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 examine Jesus' miracle of feeding 5,000 people with bread from heaven. (Mark 6:34-44 & John 6:30-51). How does this wilderness feast echo God's provision for Israel in the desert? And what lessons can we learn for our own walk with Christ? 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.

(Continued on blue insert)

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

Weekly Schedule:

TODAY (3/15)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group
WEDNESDAY (3/18)	6:30p Soup Supper; 7:30p Lenten Service
THURSDAY (3/19)	9:45/11:40a Nursery School Chapel Services
SUNDAY (3/22)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group; 2-6p March Mayhem District Youth Event @ Somerset Hills, Basking Ridge

You are invited! Come support our East Amwell Middle School students and confirmation class members as they perform in the school's presentation of the musical *Annie Jr!* The performance will take place on **Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 pm** – no tickets necessary! Location: East Amwell Middle School, 43 Wertsville Rd, Ringoes. See our own Emma as one of the talented orphans, Sadie as Miss Hannigan, and Nicholas as Rooster. Don't miss it - you're in for a real treat!

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.

Prayer Vigil: Wednesday, April 1st. On Wednesday of Holy Week, St. Peter will be holding a prayer vigil from 7am-7pm in the church sanctuary. Shifts are 1 hour in length, but any commitment of time is welcome. You may also participate at home or work if you're unable to make it to church. More than one person may sign up for the same time slot. Suggested petitions, Scripture readings for meditation, and other prayer resources will be provided. Our hope is to engage as many of us as possible in lifting up the needs of our congregation, community, and world to the Lord in prayer. "Watch and pray!" (Mark 14:38)

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!

Calling all golfers! LCMS NJ District presents its 20th Annual Mission Classic Golf Outing, taking place on Thursday, May 7. It will benefit the NJ District Outreach Missions, for which nearly \$250,000 has been raised since the Missions Classic began. There are many opportunities to participate or sponsor - see the brochure on the narthex table for details. Come for a fun day! Registration can be mailed in, with payment due by the day of the event.

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.

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.

Service and Other

Faithfulness Report: Attendance: Midweek: 47 / 2 online (combined offering both services-
3/8: 52 / 5 Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$7935

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:14–21

- ¹⁴ For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.
- ¹⁵ I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.
- ¹⁶ And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.
- ¹⁷ They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”
- ¹⁸ Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
- ¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?
- ²⁰ He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
- ²¹ The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Holy Gospel: John 9:1–41

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I

am the man.” ¹⁰So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”