

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J. (609) 466-0939

(609) 466-0939 www.stpeternj.org

pastor@stpeternj.org secretary@stpeternj.org

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

Chris Fusco, Music Director

Amy Van Hise, Office Administrator

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Our mission:

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

Welcome! Sheep are often used today as a negative symbol of mindless obedience. But the Bible gives us a very different view. God's sheep are those who humbly admit their need for divine guidance, and trust the voice of Jesus Christ -our Good Shepherd- above all other voices. Since ancient times, the fourth Sunday of the Easter season has been observed by Christians as Good Shepherd Sunday - a day to celebrate the One who gives us "life in abundance!" (John 10:10)

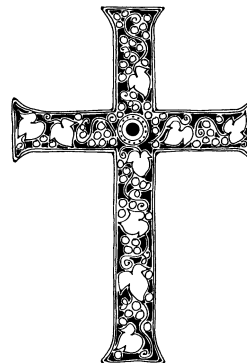
Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families 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 One

LSB page 151

The Preparation



Prelude

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution (page 151)

Opening Hymn: 458 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands (st. 1-3)

Kyrie (page 152)

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.

Hymn of Praise Gloria in Excelsis (page 154)

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, merciful Father,
since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep,
grant us Your Holy Spirit

that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd
we may know Him who calls us each by name
and follow where He leads;

through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23



¹ The LORD is my | shepherd;*
I | shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in
green | pastures.*
He leads me beside still | waters.

³ He re- | stores my soul.*
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his | name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no
evil, for you are | with me;*
your rod and your staff, they | comfort
me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my | enemies;*
you anoint my head with oil; my
cup | overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow
me all the days | of my life,*
and I shall dwell in the house of the
LORD for- | ever.

**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: 1 Peter 2:19-25

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Verse of the Day (Cantor):

*We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never / die again; *
death no longer has dominion / over Him.*

*I am the Good / Shepherd. **

I know My own and My / own know Me. (Rom. 6:9; John 10:14)

**C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

John 10:1-10

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed (found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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:

Corboy family

comfort at the death of Bill

Teschke

For those with health concerns:

Katherine Ecclesten

Eric Teschke

Bill Hotaling

Rich Mount

Doug

Susan Miller

John O'Neill

Norma Runkle

Barbara Nixon

Claire

Don Hammond

Sue Bridenbough

Jeff Corelli

Zane

Beverly

Sandy Hammond

Lorraine Van Hise

Pat Dietz

Grant

Sid

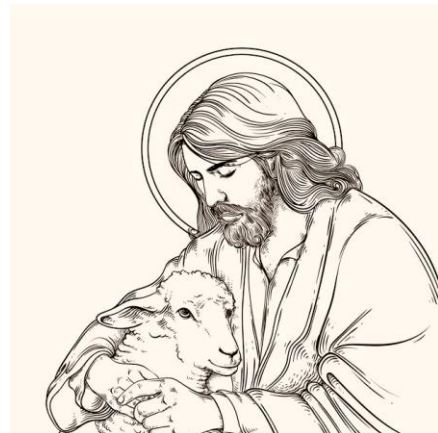
Judy Dito

John Tarlo

Asta Lynch

Noah

Jan



Pete Seronew	Rick Wright	Frank Lynch	Rose	Carlie
Diane Pullen	Kay Compton	Tony Shiron	Susan	Brennan
Jane Schroeder	Alli Watson	Marge Keen	Mara	Penny

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	Chris Legere	Joe
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Rita Piratsky	Jerry
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Mary Anne	Frank
Aaron Kline	Brad Hoppe	Judy Bacorn	Lynn J.	Lynn
Joan Rawls	Arlene Bodholt	Carol Storr	Dana	Dora
Jane Forder	Terry Dunbar	Keith Watson	Jason	
Elvis Rowsey	Debra Mueller	Dave Elison	Doris	

For those serving in the armed forces and their families:

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
Armed forces, especially those deployed	Safety and protection as they carry out their duties
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:

Daniel Gewecke	April 27	Joseph Dunbar	April 30	Christine Weiland	May 1
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Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory

Congregational Offertory: 785 We Praise You, O God (st. 1, 3)

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;

**We bless Your holy name, glad praises
we sing.**

With voices united our praises we offer

and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

**With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will
guide us,**

To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.

The Service of the Sacrament

Order of Holy Communion page 160

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 singing:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

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

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven...

P: The Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ ... This do, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of Me.

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

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace (Please share the peace with one another with the words:

“The peace of the Lord be with you.”, “And also with you.”)

Agnus Dei

C: 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.

Distribution Hymns: 711 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction

P: And now, may the God of peace, who brought back again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, all that is pleasing to Him. To Him be glory forever and ever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: 735 Have No Fear, Little Flock

Postlude





Announcements – Week of April 26, 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 Jason Bloom (Communion Assistant), Lydia Bloom (Reader), Sadie Bloom (acolyte), Joe Gallagher and Scott Garrow (Ushers), Jesse Dunbar (Live-streaming), Shirley Yost and Bonnie Jean Gallagher (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up)

Today's service will be live streamed at this link <https://youtube.com/live/EgOUa3MsKo0>
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. This Sunday we will be discussing James 1:16-25. We will talk about the importance of being, not just a hearer, but also a doer of God's Word. Join us!

Discussion Group resumes today – come dig deeper into today's readings after the service.

Wednesday 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study This Wednesday we will study **1 Corinthians 6:1-11**. We will talk about Paul's command against lawsuits among believers. All are welcome!

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

Weekly Schedule:

TODAY (4/26)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group; 6:30p IMPACT Youth Group @ St. Paul, Flemington
MONDAY (4/27)	5:30p Planning Council meeting
WEDNESDAY (4/29)	7:30p Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (4/30)	9:45/11:15a Nursery School Chapels; 4:30p Confirmation
SUNDAY (5/3)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group

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.

Seminary Workshop at St. Peter. Coming up this summer, we are excited to welcome Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky from the St. Louis Seminary. Dr. Elowsky, a Professor of Historical Theology, will lead a 3-day workshop on June 1-3, on the topic of *The Apostolic Fathers*. This event is intended for pastors, other church workers, and interested lay people. Register at csl.edu/resources/continuing-education/workshop-series/. Cost is \$160. See our bulletin board for more info, or talk to Pastor Dunbar.

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.

Operation Christmas Child. On Sunday, July 26 we will hold our annual Operation Christmas Child “Christmas in July” event. We look forward to meeting after the service and filling shoeboxes for children around the world. They will be able to hear the Good News of Jesus as they receive a special Christmas gift from our congregation. We are especially looking for donations of toddler socks and toys (e.g. squeeze bath toys), costume jewelry, girls’ hair bands and barrettes.

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: 64 / 8 online Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$3366
Debt relief: \$550 Missions: \$50 Easter flowers: \$96

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.

Food Pantry. We support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. May’s collection is **Personal Products** – soap, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, liquid hand soap, sanitary supplies etc. You can sign up on the bulletin board to deliver items by month as well. Any questions, please see Leslie Klesat.

Other Important web links:

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
NJ District LCMS
LCMS World Relief and Human Care
The “Lutheran Hour” Broadcast

lcms.org
njdistrict.org
lcms.org/ca/worldrelief
lhm.org



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 2:42–47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19–25

¹⁹This is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. ²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who

judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Holy Gospel: John 10:1–10

¹[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ²But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."