

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Ascension of Our Lord

May 17, 2026

Our mission:

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

Welcome! Graduation time is upon us. Young men and women toss their caps into the air with shouts of joy. We clap and cheer their achievements, and ask them about future plans. Jesus' ascension into heaven 40 days after his resurrection was, for him, a graduation day of sorts. As modern-day disciples of Jesus, we praise him for the salvation he won for us through his time on earth. We also rejoice that our future is securely with him, as he reigns over us and all creation for our benefit!

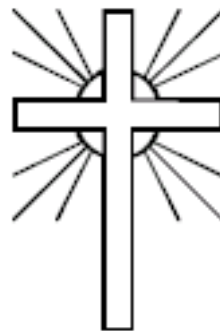
Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families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

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.**

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

C: **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.**

Opening Hymn: 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns (st. 1-2, 5)

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 This Is the Feast (page 155)

C: *(Refrain)* **This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. *(Refrain)*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *(Refrain)*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *(Refrain)*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. *(Refrain)*

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,

as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
ascended into the heavens,

so may we also ascend in heart and mind
and continually dwell there with Him,

who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**



First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Psalm 47



¹ Clap your hands, all | peoples! *
Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!

² For the LORD, the Most High, is | to be
feared, *
a great king over | all the earth.

³ He subdued peoples | under us, *
and nations un- | der our feet.

⁴ He chose our heritage | for us, *
the pride of Jacob | whom he loves.

⁵ God has gone up | with a shout, *
the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

⁶ Sing praises to God, sing | praises! *
Sing praises to our King, sing | praises!

⁷ For God is the King of | all the earth; *
sing praises | with a psalm!

⁸ God reigns over the | nations, *
God sits on his | holy throne.

⁹ The princes of the peoples gather as the
people of the God of | Abraham. *
For the shields of the earth belong to
God; he is highly ex- | alted!

**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 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Alleluia Verse page 156

**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.*

Behold, I am with you / always
to the end / of the age.*

(Rom. 6:9; Matt. 28:20b)

**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. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Luke 24:44-53

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 491 Up through Endless Ranks of Angels

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.)

For those in need of comfort:

Kianka family	death of Valerie	Kianka
Hammond/Loftus families	death of Gary Loftus	Hammond
McCann family	death of Pat	Farley
Logue family	death of Clyde	Teschke
Heebner/Eccleston families	death of Katherine (Jane's mom)	Heebner

For those with health concerns:

Harry Naylor	Neuza Smukler	Mark McCracken	Barbara Nixon	Jan
Rich Mount	Eric Teschke	Bill Hotaling	Carlie	Doug
Susan Miller	John O'Neill	Norma Runkle	Penny	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	Brennan
Pete Seronew	Rick Wright	Frank Lynch	Rose	
Diane Pullen	Kay Compton	Tony Shiron	Susan	
Jane Schroeder	Alli Watson	Marge Keen	Mara	

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	Barbara Holzhauer	Frank
Aaron Kline	Brad Hoppe	Judy Bacorn	Hilda Summers	Lynn
Joan Rawls	Arlene Bodholt	Carol Storr	Dana	Dora
Jane Forder	Terry Dunbar	Keith Watson	Jason	Mary Anne
Elvis Rowsey	Debra Mueller	Dave Elison	Doris	Lynn J.

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 with employment and career needs	For provision of wisdom and 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:

Gina Behnfeldt May 17

Tyler Barrett May 17

Charlie Grube May 22

Anniversaries:

Peter and Sharyn Johnson May 23

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: 821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Benediction (p. 166)

Closing Hymn: 493 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (st. 1, 5-6)

Postlude





Announcements – Week of May 17, 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 Norm Klesat (Communion Assistant and Reader), Nicholas Wilhelm (acolyte), Mark and Liam McAllister (Ushers), Mark McAllister (Live-streaming), Hope Dunbar 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/D0bXSD5SV-4>
 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 1:18-26**. Building on his previous warning against having a "dead" faith, James teaches on the relationship between our faith and our works. How do we square James' assertion that we are "justified by works" with the apostle Paul's statement that we are justified by "faith alone, apart from works" (Rom. 3:28)? We'll address this apparent contradiction by learning how the two apostles used these terms in different ways to proclaim the same Gospel truths. Join us!

Discussion Group today – come dig deeper into today's readings after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study. This Wednesday we will study **1 Corinthians 7:17-40**. Paul's conviction that Christ could come again at any moment strongly shaped his advice to those contemplating marriage. How can we apply Paul's teaching to today? Join our conversation!

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

Weekly Schedule:

TODAY (5/17)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group; 3:00p NOAH Seniors @ Blawenberg Band Concert; 6:30p IMPACT Youth Group @ St. Paul, Flemington
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY	Pastor Away @ Spring Pastors Conference in Princeton
WEDNESDAY (5/20)	7:30p Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (5/21)	9:45/11:15a Nursery School Chapels; 4:30p Confirmation; 5:45p Elders Meeting
SATURDAY (5/23)	7:00p Outdoor Vespers Service & Ice cream @ Church Parsonage
SUNDAY (5/24)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group

Saturday Outdoor Vespers Service. On **Saturday, May 23rd at 7pm** we'll have an outdoor vespers service on the parsonage lawn. Bring your own chair and a flashlight (or phone). Join us as we set aside this special time of worship and fellowship to dedicate the spring season into God's hands with His beautiful creation. After the service we will enjoy ice cream!



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.

Gering Gift Suggestion Form & Church-wide Meeting. At the January Voters Assembly, St. Peter's leadership shared with the congregation that we are the beneficiaries of a generous bequest from Larry Gering. As we await the final disbursement of funds, the Planning Council is inviting input from the congregation on how this gift might be used. All are invited to fill out a suggestion form available on the round table in the narthex. **These are due back to the church office by June 21.** Additionally, a church-wide meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 14th** after the service to discuss ideas in person. Let's all consider together how this wonderful gift can be used for the greater glory of God!

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 : 5/10 Attendance: 63 / 5 online Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$4050
Weekly giving needed for budget: \$6890

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