



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, Admin Asst

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

Our mission:

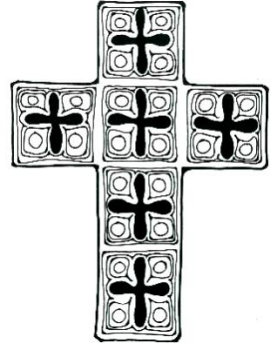
*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

Welcome. When we find something really, really good, we often say, "I couldn't resist it!" What could be better than the good news of Jesus and his Kingdom? And yet, people do resist the Gospel all the time and for many reasons. This has confounded believers since Bible times. Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower to help his disciples understand that the power of God's Word is not a coercive or controlling power that forces people into believing it. Many factors can cause a person to resist God's invitation to trust in Him for eternal life. But God is a generous sower who never stops casting His seed, hoping to see it take root and grow.

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.

PREPARATION



PRELUDE

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 reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN 725 Children of the Heavenly Father

KYRIE *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47

Pastor: In peace, in peace,

Assistant: Congregation:

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - cy.

Pastor: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (Refrain)

Pastor: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word...
(Refrain)

Pastor: *Assistent:*
Help, save and de - fend us, O God.

Cong: *Congregation:*
A - - - men.

NOW THE FEAST

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1:

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great
peo - ple of God.

To refrain

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *To refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *To refrain*

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P
C
P

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning,
grant that we may so hear them,

read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them
that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life;
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 55:10-13 (see back)

PSALM 65:9-13



⁹ You visit the earth and water it; you
greatly enrich it; the river of God is full
of | water; *
you provide their grain, for so you
have pre- | pared it.

¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its | ridges, *
softening it with showers, and
bless- | ing its growth.

¹¹ You crown the year with
your | bounty; *
your wagon tracks overflow with
a- | bundance.

¹² The pastures of the
wilderness | overflow, *
the hills gird them- | selves with joy,

¹³ the meadows clothe themselves
with flocks, the valleys deck
them- | selves with grain, *
they shout and sing together | for joy.

**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: Romans 8:12-17

ALLELUIA VERSE: (to be sung before and after the Verse of the Day)

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

Verse of the Day (Cantor): *The grass withers, the / flower fades, *
but the word of our God will stand for- / ever.*
(Isaiah 40:8)

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED (Inside the back cover of the hymnal.)

HYMN OF THE DAY 584 Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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:

The Hoppe/Henning families

death of Barbara

Hoppe

For those with health concerns:

Carol Farley
Rich Mount
Susan Miller
Mark McCracken
Lucy Borden
Judy Dito
Pete Seronew
Diane Pullen
Jane Schroeder
Neuza Smukler

Pastor Ben Mallepalle
Rita Piratzky
John O'Neill
Sue Bridenbough
Lorraine Van Hise
John Tarlo
Rick Wright
Kay Compton
Alli Watson
Eric Teschke

Emma Finan
Bill Hotaling
Norma Runkle
Jeff Corelli
Pat Dietz
Asta Lynch
Frank Lynch
Harry Naylor
Marge Keen
Mark McCracken

Barbara Nixon
Robert Mason
Olivia Moorhead
Dawn R.
Zane
Grant
Noah
Rose
Susan
Jan
Doug
Claire
Beverly
Sid
Brennan
Carlie
Penny
Mara

For those with cancer:

John Farley
Carol Tezla
Kim McCollough
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling
Rich deDufour

Robert Miller
Steve Saumsiegle
Nancy Gilliland
Kaleigh Moore
Logan Mattessich

Gerry Campbell
Joe Campbell
Aunt Jean
Sally Ashmen
Frank Cignus

Howard Zahn
Rich Knechel
Chris Legere
Rita Piratsky
Barbara Holzhauer
Trudy
Lance
Joe
Jerry
Frank



...the person who hears
the word and under-
stands it. MATT. 13:23

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	Christopher Ryan Callahan
Daniel Gewecke	James Bannon	Jim Buckman	Mike Bahney	

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 and disease throughout the world	For wisdom, healing, peace, and forgiveness
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	For health, safety, and provision
Isla and the Seeing Eye program	For successful training and placement

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For staff and families

For rest and productivity in preparation for fall

Birthdays:

Juliet Behnfeldt	July 16	Allison Cudmore	July 16	Sarah Cudmore	July 16
Cole Garrow	July 18	Chase Garrow	July 18	Connie Hofer	July 18

GATHERING OF THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Instrumental Offertory

Congregational Offertory:

Refrain

Congregation:

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;

so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be

gath-ered in - to one in you.





Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst, _____
 2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



To refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P
P
P

The Lord be with you.
 Lift up your hearts.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C
C
C

And also with you.
 We lift them to the Lord.
 It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P
C

It is truly good, right, and salutary...
 Amen.

SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy (LSB p. 208)*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
 Heaven and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
 Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
 Truly blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

P
C

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 And also with you.

Sharing of the Peace

(Please greet one another, saying: "The peace of the Lord be with you," responding "And also with you.")

AGNUS DEI *Lamb of God*

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you are the bread of life for us
you are the way of jus - tice and

Congregation:



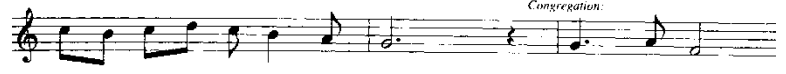
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
all:
peace:

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



mer - cy on us, Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN 638 Eat This Bread

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Announcements – Week of July 12, 2023
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 NormKlesat (Communion Assistant and Reader), Emma Crasup (acolyte), Scott Garrow and Dave deDufour (Ushers), Lesley deDufour (Live-streaming), Amy Van Hise and Lesley deDufour (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed at this link: <https://youtu.be/O0VU02zWMqg> 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 and Wednesday Zoom Bible Study- These bible studies are now on break for the summer. We'll resume in September.

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

Weekly Schedule:

TODAY (7/12)	9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group
TUESDAY (7/14)	6:00a Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's
THURSDAY (7/16)	District Youth Float Trip
SATURDAY (7/18)	Synod Convention in Phoenix begins; Pastor away 7/18-7/31
SUNDAY (7/19)	9:30a Worship

LCMS National Offering - Today we will be collecting a door offering for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's 2026–2029 National Offering. These gifts will directly benefit ongoing domestic work carried out at the local level by LCMS congregations, districts and others. Personal checks should be made out to St. Peter Lutheran Church with "2026 National Offering" in the memo line.

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.

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 4x6 or 6x8 **pads of paper**, or even unlined steno pad style, toddler socks and toys (e.g. squeezie bath toys), costume jewelry, girls’ hair bands and barrettes.

Service and Other

Faithfulness Report: 7/5: Attendance: ZOOM, no electricity Gen Fund (electronic only): \$3845
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.

Flowers are placed on the altar today in honor of Connie Hofer’s birthday!

Food Pantry. We support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. July’s collection is **Paper Products** – paper towels, facial tissue, toilet tissue, etc. You can sign up on the bulletin board to deliver items by month as well. Any questions, please see Leslie Klesat.

“SOWER, SEED, SOIL”



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 55:10–13

- ¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow
 come down from heaven
 and do not return there but
 water the earth,
 making it bring forth and sprout,
 giving seed to the sower and
 bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out
 from my mouth;
 it shall not return to me empty,
 but it shall accomplish that which
 I purpose,
 and shall succeed in the thing
 for which I sent it.
- ¹² “For you shall go out in joy
 and be led forth in peace;
 the mountains and the hills before
 you
 shall break forth into singing,
 and all the trees of the field
 shall clap their hands.
- ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up
 the cypress;
 instead of the brier shall come
 up the myrtle;
 and it shall make a name for the
 LORD,
 an everlasting sign that shall not
 be cut off.”

Epistle: Romans 8:12–17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors,
not to the flesh, to live according to
the flesh. ¹³For if you live according
to the flesh you will die, but if by the
Spirit you put to death the deeds of the
body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led
by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of
slavery to fall back into fear, but you
have received the Spirit of adoption as
sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”
¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with
our spirit that we are children of God,
¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs
of God and fellow heirs with Christ,
provided we suffer with him in order
that we may also be glorified with him.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

¹That same day Jesus went out of
the house and sat beside the sea. ²And
great crowds gathered about him, so
that he got into a boat and sat down.
And the whole crowd stood on the
beach. ³And he told them many things
in parables, saying: “A sower went out
to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds
fell along the path, and the birds
came and devoured them. ⁵Other
seeds fell on rocky ground, where
they did not have much soil, and
immediately they sprang up, since
they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when
the sun rose they were scorched. And
since they had no root, they withered
away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns,
and the thorns grew up and choked
them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil
and produced grain, some a hundred-
fold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who
has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the
sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the
word of the kingdom and does
not understand it, the evil one
comes and snatches away what
has been sown in his heart. This is
what was sown along the path. ²⁰As
for what was sown on rocky ground,
this is the one who hears the word
and immediately receives it with
joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself,
but endures for a while, and when
tribulation or persecution arises on
account of the word, immediately
he falls away. ²²As for what was sown
among thorns, this is the one who
hears the word, but the cares of
the world and the deceitfulness of
riches choke the word, and it proves
unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on
good soil, this is the one who hears
the word and understands it. He
indeed bears fruit and yields, in one
case a hundredfold, in another sixty,
and in another thirty.”