



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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

Chris Fusco, Music Director

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Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

Our mission:

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

Welcome. Our world is a spiritual battle ground, with every inch being contested by an invisible Enemy we know as Satan. In his Parable of the Weeds, Jesus teaches his disciples about the source of unbelief and evil in the world. He also promises a coming day of judgment when Satan and all who follow him will be punished. But Jesus gives us cause to rejoice, for those who live by faith will "shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father." Thank you, Lord Jesus, for keeping us safe from the Evil One.

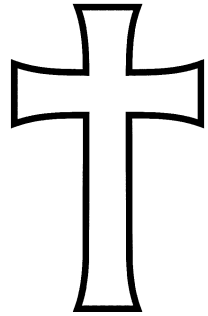
Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Mather, today's guest pastor, and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left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

LSB page 184

The Preparation



Prelude

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution page 184

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: 575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Kyrie page 186 (*sung*)

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Hymn of Praise: Gloria in Excelsis page 187 (*sung*)

P: Glory be to God on high:

C: and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.**

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

**Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day page 189

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray.

O God,
so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit,
that, ever mindful of Your final judgement,
we may be stirred up to holiness of living here
and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter;
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 44:6-8 (see back cover)

Psalm 119:57-64



⁵⁷ The LORD is my | portion;*
I promise to | keep your words.
⁵⁸ I entreat your favor with | all my heart;*
be gracious to me according to
your | promise.
⁵⁹ When I think | on my ways,*
I turn my feet to your testi- | monies;
⁶⁰ I hasten and do | not delay*
to keep your com- | mandments.
⁶¹ Though the cords of the wicked
en- | snare me,*
I do not for- | get your law.

⁶² At midnight I rise to | praise you,*
because of your just and righ- | teous
decrees.
⁶³ I am a companion of all who | fear you,*
of those who keep your | precepts.
⁶⁴ The earth, O LORD, is full of
your | steadfast love;*
teach me your | statutes!
**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: Romans 8:18-27 (see back cover)

Triple Alleluia page 190 (*sung before and after the Verse of the Day*)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Verse of the Day (Cantor): I will open my mouth in / parables**

*I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation / of the world..
(Matthew 13:35)*

Gospel Reading:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (see back cover)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed (page 191 or the inside back cover of the hymnal)

Hymn of the Day: 761 Rock of Ages

Sermon

Prayer Response after each petition 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
The Piratsky family	death of Rita	Teschke
The Boag family	death of Elinor	

For those with health concerns:

Carol Farley	Pastor Ben Mallepalle	Emma Finan	Barbara Nixon	Jan
Rich Mount	Olivia Moorhead	Bill Hotaling	Robert Mason	Doug
Susan Miller	John O'Neill	Norma Runkle	Penny	Claire
Mark McCracken	Sue Bridenbough	Jeff Corelli	Dawn R.	Beverly
Lucy Borden	Lorraine Van Hise	Pat Dietz	Zane	Sid
Judy Dito	John Tarlo	Asta Lynch	Grant	Brennan
Pete Seronew	Rick Wright	Frank Lynch	Noah	
Diane Pullen	Kay Compton	Harry Naylor	Rose	
Jane Schroeder	Alli Watson	Marge Keen	Susan	
Neuza Smukler	Eric Teschke	Mark McCracken	Charlie	

For those with cancer:

John Farley	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	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
Conflicts and disease throughout the world
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine
Seeing Eye program

For provision of wisdom and jobs
For wisdom, healing, peace, and forgiveness
For health, safety, and provision
For successful training and placement

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For staff and families

For rest and productivity in preparation for fall

Birthdays:

Tyson Wilhelm	July 19	Carol Staats	July 20	Jenn Garrow	July 21
Thomas Dorsett	July 22	Lillian Maguire	July 22	Quinn Hofmann	July 23
Dominic Martinez	July 24				

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory

Congregational Offertory: Create In Me page 192 -193 *(sung)*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.**

The Service of the Sacrament

Order of Holy Communion page 194

P: The Lord be with you.	C: And with thy spirit.
P: Lift up your hearts.	C: We lift them up unto the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God	C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right and salutary....evermore praising You and saying:
**C: *(sung)* Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**C: *(spoken)* Our Father who art in heaven... deliver us from evil.
(sung) For Thine is the kingdom...forever and ever. Amen.**

Words of Institution (Consecration)

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace (please greet one another with the words: “The peace of the Lord be with you.”,
responding “And also with you.”)

Agnus Dei page 198 *(sung)*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymn: 622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

Post Communion Canticle: Nunc Dimittis page 199 *(sung)*

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving page 200

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, **C: and His mercy endureth forever.**

P: (Prayer of Thanksgiving) **C: Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus page 201

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Benediction page 202

P: The Lord bless you... **C: Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 921 On What Has Now Been Sown

Announcements

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

IN ALL THINGS
WE ARE
MORE
THAN
CON-
QUERORS
THROUGH
HIM WHO
LOVES US



R O M A N S 8 : 3 7



Announcements – Week of July 19, 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

Guest Preacher Today! We are pleased to welcome Pastor Woody Mather to lead our worship service today. Pastor Mather formerly served Bethany Lutheran Church in Ewing before retiring to Delaware.

Welcome! Serving in worship today are Fred Grube (Communion Assistant and Reader), Thomas Cresap (acolyte), Jesse Dunbar and Joe Gallagher (Ushers), Jesse Dunbar (Live-streaming), Judy Grube and Jeanne Hoppe (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed at this link: https://youtu.be/Tmew_G2h33U 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 (7/19)	9:30a Worship
SUNDAY-THURSDAY	LCMS Convention in Phoenix (Pastor Dunbar away July 18-31)
SUNDAY (7/26)	9:30a Worship

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. NEXT WEEK, 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. squeeze bath toys), costume jewelry, girls’ hair bands and barrettes.

Service and Other

Faithfulness Report: 7/12: Attendance: 57 / 5 Gen Fund (electronic only): \$4870
LCMS National Offering: \$500 Flowers: \$55 Missions: \$35
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 Chase, Cole, and Jenn Garrow’s birthdays!

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.

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> .

St. Peter YouTube Channel. Increase St. Peter's online visibility by liking and subscribing to our YouTube channel (where we live-stream and record our worship services and Wednesday Zoom bible studies. It is linked to our church website, or go to YouTube and search "Saint Peter Lutheran Church".

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



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 44:6–8

- ⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
“I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.
Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.
Let them declare what is to come,
and what will happen.
⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old
and declared it?
And you are my witnesses!
Is there a God besides me?
There is no Rock; I know not any.”

Epistle: Romans 8:18–27

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who

searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

²⁴[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” . . .

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”