

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church



Hopewell Township, N.J.
(609) 466-0939 web site: stpeternj.org
pastor@stpeternj.org secretary@stpeternj.org
Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813
Chris Fusco, Music Director
Amy Van Hise, Admin Asst
Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

Our mission:

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

Welcome. Viewers of the popular TV program, Antiques Roadshow, get to watch ordinary people bringing in their favorite family heirlooms to have their value appraised by an expert. Is it trash...or treasure? To the untrained eye, it can be very hard to tell. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a series of parables to teach us that all our earthly possessions cannot compare with the priceless value, and costliness, of God's Kingdom. Through faith in Jesus, we have been made heirs of a real, heavenly treasure that will last forever!

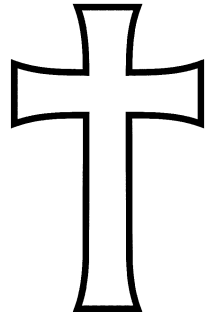
Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Chaplain Schultz, today's guest pastor, and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left 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: 821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

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.

Almighty and everlasting God,
give us an increase of faith, hope, and love,
that, receiving what You have promised,
we may love what You have commanded;
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: Deuteronomy 7:6-9 (see back cover)

Psalm 125



1 Those who trust in the LORD are like
Mount | Zion,*
which cannot be moved, but abides
for- | ever.

²As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the LORD surrounds his | people,*
from this time forth and for- | evermore.

³For the scepter of wickedness shall
not rest on the land allotted to
the | righteous,*
lest the righteous stretch out their
hands to | do wrong.

⁴Do good, O LORD, to those | who are
good,*
and to those who are upright | in their
hearts!

⁵ But those who turn aside to their
crooked ways the LORD will lead away
with evil- | doers! *
Peace be upon | Israel!

**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 8:28-39 (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 13:44-52 (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: 743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure

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 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	Doug Schorpp	Claire
Mark McCracken	Sue Bridenbough	Jeff Corelli	Liz Schorpp	Beverly
Lucy Borden	Lorraine Van Hise	Pat Dietz	Betty Bush	Sid
Judy Dito	John Tarlo	Asta Lynch	Zane	Brennan
Pete Seronew	Rick Wright	Frank Lynch	Grant	Penny
Diane Pullen	Kay Compton	Harry Naylor	Noah	Dawn R.
Jane Schroeder	Alli Watson	Marge Keen	Rose	Carlie
Neuza Smukler	Eric Teschke	Mark McCracken	Susan	

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

In thanks:

For the birth of healthy baby girl Elowyn Jane to Daniel and Lanie Gewecke

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For staff and families

For rest and productivity in preparation for fall

Birthdays:

Tim Fog	July 27	Keith Hofmann	July 27
Sue Teschke	July 28	Andy Farley	July 28
Leslie Klesat	August 1		

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: 563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

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: 763 When Peace, like a River

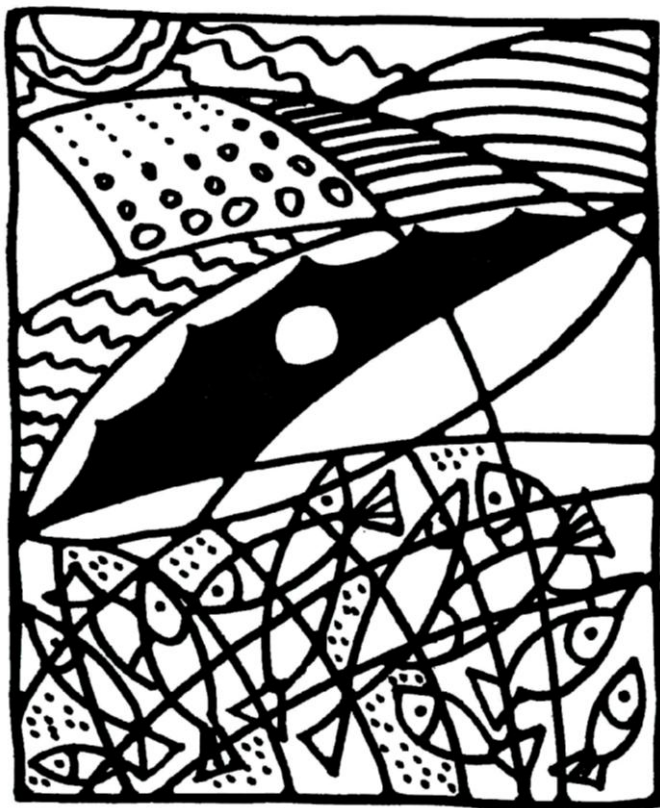
Announcements

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude



The Kingdom's treasures
R·E·V·E·A·L·E·D



Announcements – Week of July 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

Guest Preacher Today! We are pleased to welcome Chaplain Richard Schultz to lead our worship service today. Chaplain Schultz serves as the Deputy Joint Base Army Chaplain at Fort Dix.

Welcome! Serving in worship today are Steve deDufour (Communion Assistant and Reader), Nicholas Wilhelm (acolyte), Tyson and Nathan Wilhelm (Ushers), Tyson Wilhelm (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://youtu.be/i1t0-tucyVQ> 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 (7/26)	9:30a Worship, Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party 11a
SUNDAY-FRIDAY	Pastor Dunbar away July 18-31
SUNDAY (8/2)	9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group

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. Join us in the fellowship hall following the service TODAY to help us pack up our 100 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Come have fun and share the love of Christ!

Service and Other

Faithfulness Report: 7/19: Attendance: 49 / 9 Gen Fund (plate and electronic): \$
Flowers: \$ 25 Nursery school fee reimbursement: \$ 650
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 honoring Eileen Kianka's birthday by Michael Kianka.

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



NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 7:6–9

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

Epistle: Romans 8:28–39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the

love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:44–52

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind.

⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.”

⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”