



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, Office Administrator

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

Our mission:

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

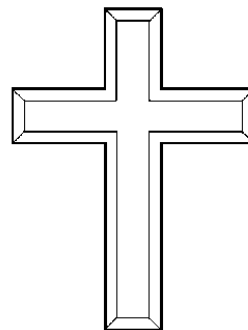
Welcome Message. How often do we endure unnecessary difficulty because we're afraid to ask for help? Jesus taught his disciples, "Ask, and you shall receive." (Mt. 7:7) The apostle James chided early believers: "You do not have, because you do not ask." (Js. 4:2) Today's Gospel tells of the remarkable faith of a Canaanite woman who would not give up asking Jesus for help, even when he seemed to be putting her off. Isaiah proclaimed long ago God's desire to bring people of every nation into His holy house. God grant us a persevering faith that never stops asking Him for help, or expecting it!

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 Four

LSB page 203



Prelude

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution (page 203)

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

C: Amen.

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

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

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

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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: 901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Kyrie (page 204)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord...

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

(The congregation sings this in response to each petition.)

Hymn of Praise To God on High Be Glory (page 204)

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth.
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior; You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

Prayer of the Day (page 205)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting Father,
You give your children many blessings
even though we are undeserving.
In every trial and temptation
grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy;
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 56:1, 6-8 (see back cover)



Psalm 67



¹ May God be gracious to us and | bless us*
and make his face to shine up- | on us,

² that your way may be | known on earth,*
your saving power among all | nations.

³ Let the peoples praise you, | O God;*
let all the peoples | praise you!

⁴ Let the nations be glad and | sing for
joy,*
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations up- | on earth.

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, | O God;*
let all the peoples | praise you!

⁶ The earth has yielded its | increase;*
God, our God, shall | bless us.

⁷ God shall | bless us;*
let all the ends of the earth | fear him!

**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 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32 (see back cover)

Triple Alleluia page 205 (*sung before and after the Verse of the Day*)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Verse of the Day (Cantor): The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of / Israel. *
He heals the brokenhearted and binds / up their wounds.*

(Psalm 147:2-3)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning in the 15th chapter.

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

Matthew 15:21-28

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed (see the inside back cover of the hymnal)

Hymn of the Day: 720 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

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:

The Miller family

death of Joyce

Teschke

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	Valentina Teschke	Brennan
Pete Seronew	Rick Wright	Frank Lynch	Zane	Penny
Diane Pullen	Kay Compton	Harry Naylor	Grant	Dawn R.
Jane Schroeder	Alli Watson	Marge Keen	Noah	Carlie
Neuza Smukler	Eric Teschke	Mark McCracken	Rose	Susan

For those with cancer:

John Farley	Hilda Summers	Gerry Campbell	Howard Zahn	Mary Anne
Carol Tezla	Steve Saumsiegle	Joe Campbell	Rich Knechel	Lance
Kim McCollough	Nancy Gilliland	Aunt Jean	Chris Legere	Joe
Andrea(Andy) Hotaling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Rita Piratsky	Jerry
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Barbara Holzhauer	Frank
Aaron Kline	Brad Hoppe	Judy Bacorn	Trudy	Lynn
Joan Rawls	Arlene Bodholt	Carol Storr	Dana	Dora
Jane Forder	Terry Dunbar	Keith Watson	Jason	Lynn J.
Elvis Rowsey	Debra Mueller	Dave Elison	Doris	Michael B.
Robert Miller				

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

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For staff and families

For rest and productivity in preparation for fall

Birthdays:

Janet Reside O'Connor Aug 22

Anniversaries:

John and Margaret Manura Aug 16 Tim and Allison Fog Aug 17

Pastor Steve and Cheryl Gewecke Aug 20

Offering

Instrumental Offertory

Order of Holy Communion (page 208)

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 saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God... Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven...

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed...

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

C: Amen.

C: O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn: 633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Post-Communion Collect p. 212

P: Let us pray...

C: Amen

Benedicamus and Benediction (page 212)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless you and...

C: Amen

Closing Hymn: 878 Abide with Me (st. 1-2, 5-6)

Announcements

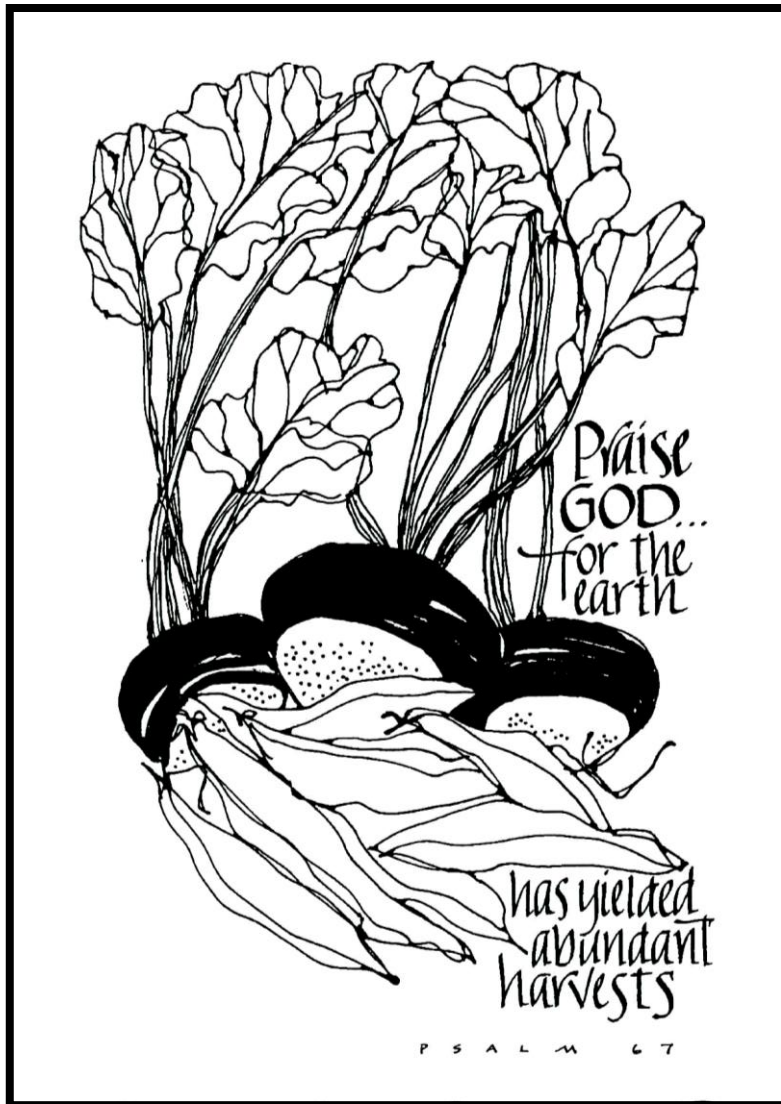
Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude





Announcements – Week of August 16, 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 Jim Steimle (Communion Assistant and Reader), Emma Cresap (acolyte), Scott Garrow and Dave deDufour (Ushers), Lesley deDufour (Live-streaming), Leslie Klesat and Cheryl Gewecke (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed at this link: <https://youtu.be/MUeE6smfAtQ> 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 (8/16)	9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group
SUNDAY (8/23)	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.

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.

****Attention Lutheran Witness subscribers, and those who might want to try it out:**

It is time to renew, or initiate a subscription for, the Lutheran Witness, "the official flagship periodical of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Published 11 times a year, it provides news, feature articles, and commentary intended to help readers interpret contemporary life and culture from a traditional confessional Lutheranism perspective. **Regular Features** include synod updates, Q&A sections, theological columns, and deep dives into Christian ethics and practice." There are several copies on the table in the narthex if you'd like to look it over.

The cost is \$25 for a 2026-27 subscription, which will begin with the November issue. Please put your payment in a labeled envelope in the offering basket, or you can put it on Amy's desk. Payment is due by September 15.

Service and Other

Faithfulness Report: 8/9: Attendance: N/A Gen Fund (plate and electronic): N/A at printing
Weekly giving needed for budget: \$6890

Food Pantry. We support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. August's collection is **Fruits and juices, condiments, and lunch bag stuff** – canned and individual serve fruits, juice bottles or cans, mayo, mustard, ketchup, canned tuna, treats for a lunch bag, 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

You're invited to a Baby Care Package Assembly Event to benefit ChoiceOne Pregnancy Resource Centers!



When: Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026, 10am - 12:30pm (lunch provided)

Where: The Lutheran Church of the Messiah, 407 Nassau St, Princeton, NJ 08540
(park on Cedar Lane)

Who: **You** and many others. Bring family and friends -- people of all ages can help assemble the care packages, which will be donated to ChoiceOne.

What a great opportunity to join other NJ Lutherans in supporting new parents and their babies!
The care package supplies will be purchased ahead of time, so no need to bring any with you.

***However, if anyone would like to contribute supplies to benefit the families served by ChoiceOne, unopened packages of diapers (any size) or infant wipes are always welcome.
For information on obtaining volume discounts on diaper purchases, contact Messiah's project coordinator, Debbie Baer.

This project is funded by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church LWML (Somerset NJ), The Lutheran Church of the Messiah, the 2025 Partners in Mission Reformation service offering, and a generous matching grant from LCMS Life Ministry.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

- ¹ Thus says the LORD:
“Keep justice, and do
righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be
revealed. . . .
- ⁶ “And the foreigners who join
themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the
name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath
and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—
- ⁷ these I will bring to my holy
mountain,
and make them joyful in my
house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their
sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a
house of prayer
for all peoples.”
- ⁸ The Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of
Israel, declares,
“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already
gathered.”

Epistle:

Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. . . .

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if

their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .

²⁸As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 15:21–28

²¹Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.