

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

Our mission:

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

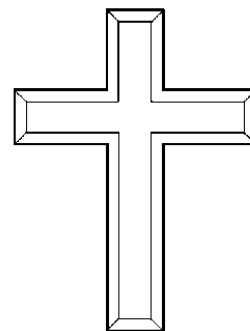
Welcome Message. Who is Jesus? Ask that question to people passing by on the street, and you're likely to hear answers like "a religious teacher", "a very moral man", or even "not a real person". Likely there will be a precious few who call him their Savior. There is a great deal of confusion and disbelief around the subject of Jesus today, just as there was 2,000 years ago. Today's readings speak the truth in perfect clarity. Jesus is the One in whom God's righteousness and salvation come near to us (Is.51:5). He is the One in whom all Christians find unity as one Body (Rom.12:5). Jesus is God's Son and Chosen Servant, the Rock upon which we stand (Mt.16:18).

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: 802 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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 God, whom to know is everlasting life,
grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life
that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ
and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6 (see back cover)



Psalm 138



¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with | my
whole heart;*
before the gods I | sing your praise;

² I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your
steadfast love and your | faithfulness,*
for you have exalted above all things
your name | and your word.

³ On the day I called, you | answered me;*
my strength of soul | you increased.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall give you
thanks, | O LORD,*
for they have heard the words | of
your mouth,

⁵ and they shall sing of the ways | of the
LORD,*
for great is the glory | of the LORD.

⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards
the | lowly,*
but the haughty he knows | from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you pre- | serve my life;*
you stretch out your hand against the
wrath of my enemies, and your right
hand de- | livers me.

⁸ The LORD will fulfill his pur- | pose for
me;*
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures
forever. Do not forsake the work | of
your hands.

**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 11:33-12:8 (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): You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the house- /
hold of God,*
built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Christ Himself being the / cornerstone.*

(Eph. 2:19b-20)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning in the 16th chapter.

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

Matthew 16:13-20

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 645 Built on the Rock

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 Launchbaugh family	death of Lexi	Dunbar
The Shivers/Watson families	death of Paul	deDufour
The Troast family	death of Cathy	deDufour

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:

Herb Johns	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) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Rita Piratsky	Jerry
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Barbara Holzhauser	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	John Farley			

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

John deDufour	Aug 23	Cheryl Gewecke	Aug 23	Kevin Lauricella	Aug 24
Janice Nuneviller	Aug 24	Evan Fog	Aug 26	Rick Wright	Aug 26
Jane Heebner	Aug 27	Jeffrey Jamison	Aug 29		

Offering

Offertory

"House on the Rock,"

written by The Songwriter Initiative
sung by Hope Dunbar

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: 644 The Church's One Foundation

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: 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Announcements

Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude





Announcements – Week of August 23, 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 Jason Bloom (Communion Assistant), Lydia Bloom (Reader), Sadie Bloom (acolyte), Bob Maguire and Joe Scheblein (Ushers), Jason Bloom (Live-streaming), Lillian Maguire and Jeanne Hoppe (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed at this link: <https://youtu.be/SHwSJ-SQAnE> 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 (8/23)	9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group
MONDAY (8/24)	5:30p Planning Council
SUNDAY (8/30)	9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group



JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL ST. PETER PICNIC ON SEPTEMBER 13. Our annual picnic will take place following the service on Sunday, September 13. Sign up to bring specific needs (see list on the bulletin board) or just bring a side dish or dessert. It promises to be lots of fun - hope to see you there!

Back-to-School Blessing for Teachers and Students. Join us on Sunday, September 13th during our 9:30 service for a special Blessing of the Backpacks! As the new school year gets under way, we invite all students, teachers, and school staff to bring their backpacks, briefcases, or school bags to be blessed. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray for God's protection, guidance and wisdom over all who are returning to school. Let's lift up our students and educators as they embark on another year of learning and growth!

Saturday Outdoor Vespers Service. On Saturday, September 26 at 6:30pm 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 fall season into God's hands with His beautiful creation.



****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 Lutheran 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.

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.

Flowers are placed on the altar in honor of Patricia Scalese’s birthday!

Service and Other

Faithfulness Report: Aug 9 & 16: Attendance: 48/49, 11/7 online

Gen Fund (plate and electronic): \$5355, \$4399

Debt relief: \$50 Flowers: \$25

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.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 51:1–6

- ¹ “Listen to me, you who pursue
righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were
hewn,
and to the quarry from which you
were dug.
- ² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply
him.
- ³ For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
- ⁴ “Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to
the peoples.
- ⁵ My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.
- ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a
garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in
like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be
dismayed.”

Epistle: Romans 11:33–12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom
and knowledge of God! How unsearchable
are his judgments and how inscrutable his
ways!

- ³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the
Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”
- ³⁵ “Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and
to him are all things. To him be glory
forever. Amen.

^{12:1}I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by
the mercies of God, to present your bodies
as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to
God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do
not be conformed to this world, but be
transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that by testing you may discern what is the
will of God, what is good and acceptable
and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to
everyone among you not to think of him-
self more highly than he ought to think,
but to think with sober judgment, each
according to the measure of faith that
God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body
we have many members, and the mem-
bers do not all have the same function,
⁵so we, though many, are one body in
Christ, and individually members one of
another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according
to the grace given to us, let us use them:
if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;
⁷if service, in our serving; the one who
teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who
exhorts, in his exhortation; the one
who contributes, in generosity; the one
who leads, with zeal; the one who does
acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:13–20

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district
of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,
“Who do people say that the Son of Man
is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John
the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others
Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said
to them, “But who do you say that I am?”
¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus
answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-
Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed
this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.
¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this
rock I will build my church, and the gates
of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will
give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven,
and whatever you bind on earth shall be
bound in heaven, and whatever you loose
on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then
he strictly charged the disciples to tell no
one that he was the Christ.