



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

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Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

Our mission:

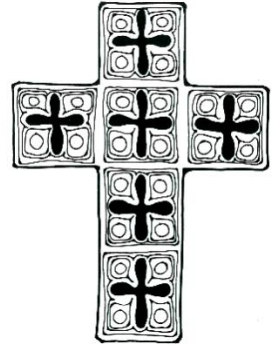
*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others, and grow in faith.*

Welcome. "That's not fair!" Even as young children, you and I had a strong sense of fairness (i.e. justice), especially when we perceived ourselves to be on the losing end of a deal! A love for justice is one of God's essential attributes. But this Sunday's readings remind us that our understanding of what's fair doesn't always match His. "My ways are not your ways, declares the Lord." (Is.55:8) Jesus' Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard invites us to consider God's definition of fairness, and to think differently about our labors in His Kingdom. (Mt.20)

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.

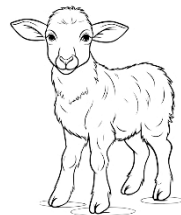
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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 749 I am Jesus' Little Lamb



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: *Assistant:*
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.

Lord God, heavenly Father,
since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done,
help us trust in Your abiding grace
and live according to Your Word;
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 55:6-9 (see back)

PSALM: Psalm 27:1-9 (Spoken responsively)

P: The LORD is my light and
my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my
life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**C: When evildoers assail me to eat up
my flesh, my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.**

P: Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

**C: One thing have I asked of the
LORD, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of
the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the
LORD and to inquire in his
temple.**

P: For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover
of his tent; he will lift me high
upon a rock.

**C: And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices
with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to
the LORD.**

P: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

**C: You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you,
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."**

P: Hide not your face from me. Turn not
your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the
Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever.**

Amen.

EPISTLE: Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

ALLELUIA VERSE:

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*

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Matthew 20:1-16

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

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 783 Take My Life and Let It Be

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 with health concerns:

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

For those with cancer:

Bob Maguire	Hilda Summers	Gerry Campbell	Herb Johns	Mary Anne
Howard Zahn	Steve Saumsiegle	Joe Campbell	Rich Knechel	Lance
Rita Piratsky	Nancy Gilliland	Aunt Jean	Chris Legere	Joe
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Robert Miller	Jerry
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	John Farley	Frank
Aaron Kline	Brad Hoppe	Judy Bacorn	Michael B.	Lynn

Joan Rawls
Jane Forder
Elvis Rowsey

Arlene Bodholt
Terry Dunbar
Debra Mueller

Carol Storr
Keith Watson
Dave Elison

Lynn J.
Trudy
Dana

Dora
Doris
Jason

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:

Seeing Eye program	For dogs' successful training and placement
Victims of flooding and weather disasters	For safety and provision

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For staff and families	For the strong start of school year
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Birthdays

Christian Haenisch	Sept 20	Jesse Dunbar	Sept 26
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Anniversaries

Kevin and Sue Lauricella	Sept. 22
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GATHERING OF THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

OFFERING (continues on next page)

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.

OFFERING (cont'd)

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 727 On Eagles' Wings

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 549 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (st. 1-3,7)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE





Announcements – Week of September 20, 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 Norm Klesat (Communion Assistant), Jenna Bloom (Reader), Sadie Bloom (acolyte), Dave deDufour and Jason Bloom (Ushers), Leslie deDufour (Live-streaming), Shirley Yost and Leslie deDufour (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live-streamed at this link: <https://youtu.be/jvO29gbs5to> If you miss the service live, watch it on YouTube! The services are also posted to the church's website.

Wednesday Zoom Bible Study on 1 Corinthians. Our passage for study this week will be 1 Corinthians 12:1-13. In this section Paul talks about the wide and beautiful variety of spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to God's people. These are meant to strengthen and unify, not divide, God's people. Which of these gifts are familiar, and which are we less familiar with today? Join us!

NEW Sunday Bible Study: Desert Spirituality. Join us this Sunday at 8:15am as we begin a new study on a group of ancient Christian teachers known as the Desert Fathers. This 10-part series includes a short video each week that's followed by discussion. It's a very practical study looking at common vices that Christians struggle with (e.g. anger or pride), teaching habits that lead to a deeper life of virtue (e.g. serenity or humility), and grounding everything in the grace of Christ. Come grow with us!

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

Weekly Schedule:

TODAY (9/20)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion Group
TUESDAY (9/22)	6:00a Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's
WEDNESDAY (9/23)	7:30p Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (9/24)	9:45/11:20a Nursery School Chapels; 6:00p Wedding Rehearsal
FRIDAY (9/25)	4:00p Wedding
SATURDAY (9/26)	10:00a Baby Package Service Event; 6:30p Outdoor Vespers service
SUNDAY (9/27)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group; 4:00p IMPACT Youth Fun Hike

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.

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.



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. After the service we will enjoy ice cream and conversation. Don't miss it!

Baby Care Package Assembly Event to benefit ChoiceOne Pregnancy Resource Centers! On Saturday, Sept. 26 from 10am - 12:30pm (lunch provided) we will help assemble baby care packages, which will be donated to ChoiceOne. Held at The Lutheran Church of the Messiah, 407 Nassau St, Princeton, NJ 08540 (park on Cedar Lane). Sign up on the bulletin board. Lunch provided, rides available! All are welcome!

Impact Student Ministry Kickoff - Sun, September 27 - Calling all students in **8th–12th grade!** Join us September 27 from **4–7 PM** as we kick off the new ministry year walking the Point Mountain Peak Trail near Washington, NJ. We will walk the trail, enjoy the beauty of God's creation, and share a devotion together by the river. If you have questions or need a ride, contact Pastor Jon. Come ready to hike, have fun, and connect with friends as we begin a new year of **Impact Student Ministry!**

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.

Service and Other

Faithfulness Report: Sep 13: Attendance: 77 / 4 online Gen Fund (plate and electronic): \$3380
Weekly giving needed for budget: \$6890

Food Pantry. We support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. **September's** collection is **Breakfast items** – cereal, shelf-stable milk, breakfast bars, Pop Tarts, pancake mix, syrup, 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

The "Lutheran Hour" Broadcast lhm.org

[LCMS World Relief and Human Care lcms.org/ca/worldrelief](http://LCMSWorldReliefandHumanCare.org/ca/worldrelief)

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:6–9

- ⁶ “Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his
thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he
may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will
abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your
thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,
declares the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the
earth,
so are my ways higher than your
ways
and my thoughts than your
thoughts.”

Epistle: Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that
what has happened to me has really
served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it
has become known throughout the whole
imperial guard and to all the rest that my
imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of
the brothers, having become confident in
the Lord by my imprisonment, are much
more bold to speak the word without fear.

...

¹⁹For I know that through your prayers
and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ
this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as
it is my eager expectation and hope that
I will not be at all ashamed, but that with
full courage now as always Christ will be
honored in my body, whether by life or
by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ,
and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the
flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet
which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am
hard pressed between the two. My desire
is to depart and be with Christ, for that is
far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is
more necessary on your account. ²⁵Con-
vinced of this, I know that I will remain
and continue with you all, for your prog-
ress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me
you may have ample cause to glory in
Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you
again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be
worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that

whether I come and see you or am absent,
I may hear of you that you are standing
firm in one spirit, with one mind striving
side by side for the faith of the gospel,
²⁸and not frightened in anything by your
opponents. This is a clear sign to them
of their destruction, but of your salva-
tion, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been
granted to you that for the sake of Christ
you should not only believe in him but
also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the
same conflict that you saw I had and now
hear that I still have.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1–16

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven
is like a master of a house who went out
early in the morning to hire laborers for
his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the
laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them
into his vineyard. ³And going out about
the third hour he saw others standing
idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he
said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and
whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they
went. Going out again about the sixth
hour and the ninth hour, he did the same.
⁶And about the eleventh hour he went
out and found others standing. And he
said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle
all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no
one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You
go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when
evening came, the owner of the vineyard
said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and
pay them their wages, beginning with
the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those
hired about the eleventh hour came, each
of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when
those hired first came, they thought they
would receive more, but each of them also
received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it
they grumbled at the master of the house,
¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one
hour, and you have made them equal to
us who have borne the burden of the day
and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied
to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you
no wrong. Did you not agree with me for
a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you
and go. I choose to give to this last worker
as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do
what I choose with what belongs to me?
Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So
the last will be first, and the first last.”

