



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 2026

Our mission:

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

Welcome! "Let the vineyards be fruitful" is a song we sing many Sunday mornings as the offerings are brought to the altar. Today's readings use that same imagery of a vineyard to teach us about the importance of bearing spiritual fruit. The key to this is Christ. When his love and lordship are standing in the center of God's vineyard, the Church will be fruitful. When other things crowd in to take his place, the fruit disappears. Lord, help us to keep Jesus at the center of our lives!

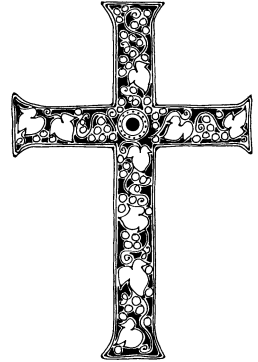
Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families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

LSB page 151

The Preparation



Prelude

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution (page 151)

Opening Hymn: 575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Kyrie (page 152)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise Gloria in Excelsis (page 154)

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C: **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:**

We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

Gracious God,

You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men
who killed Him.

Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love,
and grant us the fullness of Your salvation;
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 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-19



⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
let your face shine, that we | may be
saved!

⁸ You brought a vine out of | Egypt;*
you drove out the nations
and | planted it.

⁹ You cleared the | ground for it;*
it took deep root and | filled the land.

¹⁰ The mountains were covered | with its
shade,*
the mighty cedars with its | branches.

¹¹ It sent out its branches | to the sea*
and its shoots to the | River.

¹² Why then have you broken | down its
walls,*
so that all who pass along the
way | pluck its fruit?

¹³ The boar from the forest rav- | ages it,*
and all that move in the field | feed on it.

¹⁴ Turn again, O | God of hosts!*
Look down from | heaven, and see;
have regard for this vine, ¹⁵ the stock
that your right hand | planted,*
and for the son whom you made
strong | for yourself.

¹⁶ They have burned it with fire;
they have | cut it down;*
may they perish at the rebuke | of
your face!

¹⁷ But let your hand be on the man of
your | right hand,*
the son of man whom you have made
strong | for yourself!

¹⁸ Then we shall not turn | back from you;*
give us life, and we will call up- | on
your name!

¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts!*
let your face shine, that we | may be
saved!

**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: Philippians 3:4b-14

Alleluia Verse page 156

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Verse of the Day (Cantor):

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the / cornerstone; *
this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous / in our eyes.*

(Matthew 21:42b)

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

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

Matthew 21:33-46

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed (found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

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.)

The Schmitt family

For comfort:

death of father

Newton

Those who are homebound in our congregation:

Mary Beck
Janice Nuneviller

Clair Haenisch
George Pfeiffer

Margaret and Michele Manura,
Christine Weiland



For those with health concerns:

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

For those with cancer:

Bob Maguire	Hilda Summers	Gerry Campbell	Herb Johns	Mary Anne
Howard Zahn	Steve Saumsiegle	Joe Campbell	Rich Knechel	Lance
Arlene Z.	Nancy Gilliand	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	Arlene Bodholt	Carol Storr	Lynn J.	Dora
Jane Forder	Terry Dunbar	Keith Watson	Trudy	Doris
Elvis Rowsey	Debra Mueller	Dave Elison	Dana	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

Matthew Heebner	Oct 4	Margaret Manura	Oct 5
Cathy Hicks	Oct 10	Andy Wright	Oct 10

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Special Music "Goodness of God" by Bethel Music

sung by Hope Dunbar

The Service of the Sacrament

Order of Holy Communion page 160

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 singing:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven...

P: The Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ ... This do, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of Me.

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

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace (Please share the peace with one another with the words:
"The peace of the Lord be with you.", "And also with you.")

Agnus Dei

C: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn: 638 Eat This Bread

Prayer of Thanksgiving

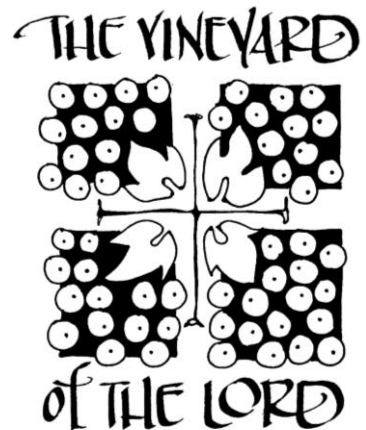
Benediction

P: The Lord bless you...

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: 912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

Postlude





Announcements – Week of October 4, 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 Steve deDufour (Communion Assistant), Jesse Dunbar (Reader), Thomas Cresap (acolyte), Mark and Liam McAllister (Ushers), Mark McAllister (Live-streaming), Leslie Klesat and Jeanne Hoppe (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live-streamed at this link: https://youtu.be/RyJorJb_OYk 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 14:1-12. Here, Paul challenges the way the Corinthian church was practicing the spiritual gift of tongues in worship. Lessons for today include not speaking just for our own benefit, and the uselessness of speech that can't be understood. Join us!

Sunday Bible Study: Desert Spirituality. This Sunday at 8:15am we'll continue our 10-part series on Desert Spirituality as we talk about the common vice of anger and its counterpart, serenity. We'll learn about the life of Abba Moses and how he found serenity through times of silence and stillness listening to the voice of Christ. All are welcome!

Introducing Children's Church at St. Peter! We are currently putting together plans for a children's ministry that will take place during the 9:30 worship service. Children's Church is an opportunity for children, age 2 thru 5th grade, to sing songs, pray and learn Bible stories together. During the opening hymn, children will be ushered into the fellowship hall by their teachers for Children's Church and return to the sanctuary prior to Communion. Our goal is to minister to young families and give their little ones age-appropriate access to God's Word on a weekly basis. Children's Church will begin next week, Sunday, October 11th. If you have questions, please visit with Pastor Jon.

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

Weekly Schedule:

TODAY (10/4)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11a Discussion group
MONDAY (10/5)	6:00p Planning Council
TUESDAY (10/6)	6:00a Men's Breakfast @ Orlando's; 7:00p Confirmation class
WEDNESDAY (10/7)	8-2pm Pastor @ Circuit Meeting; 7:30p Zoom Bible Study
THURSDAY (10/8)	11a March for Life in Trenton
SATURDAY (10/10)	7:30a Men's Breakfast
SUNDAY (10/11)	8:15a Bible Study; 9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion group; 4-7pm IMPACT Hike @ Flemington

Celebrate Life and Parents at the 2026 NJ March for Life. You are invited to join other New Jersey LCMS congregations at the 2026 NJ March for Life on Thursday, October 8, at the State House Annex in Trenton. Marching is a concrete way that together we can stand up for human dignity and encourage parents in their noble and challenging vocation of raising children. People from several central Jersey LCMS congregations will meet at 10:00 that morning at Messiah in [Princeton \(407 Nassau St;](#) plenty of parking available on Cedar Lane) and ride the bus to Trenton together. If you'd like to do that or if you have questions, email Pastor Martin Erhardt at LCMPrinceton@gmail.com . Roundtrip bus fare will be covered by Messiah. Hope to see you there!

"Loudly Lutheran" District Youth Event. Join us on Sunday, October 18 from 2-6pm at Somerset Hills Lutheran in Basking Ridge for a Reformation-themed party. This event is open to grades 6-12. There will be games, worship, a service project, new friends to meet, and (as always) great food! Please see the sign up on the church bulletin board. And talk to Pastor Jon if you need a ride to the event.

Service and Other

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.

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.

Faithfulness Report: Sep 27: Attendance: (Zoom) Gen Fund (plate and electronic): \$717
Weekly giving needed for budget: \$6890

Food Pantry. We support the Lambertville Food Pantry with donations of food and other needs. **October's** collection is **Pasta** – any varieties of pasta, sauce, mac 'n' cheese, 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.lcms.org/ca/worldrelief)

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 5:1–7

- ¹ Let me sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
- ² He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
- ³ And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
- ⁴ What more was there to do for my
vineyard,
that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
- ⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
- ⁶ I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and briars and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
- ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice,
but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness,
but behold, an outcry!

Epistle: Philippians 3:4b–14

^{4b}If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which

comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33–46

³³[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes?’

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.