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The Great 50 Days

- Pastor Sorenson

Alleluia! Christ is risen! What a great joy it was to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with you last month. Easter is always such a joyous time of year as the victory of Christ over sin, death, and the devil is laid before us. This joy is even greater when you consider the season of Lent and the services of Holy Week which were preparing us for Easter morning. Yet, Lent and Holy Week were not just preparing us for Easter morning. They were also preparing us for the entire season of Easter, which is commonly referred to as the Great 50 Days.

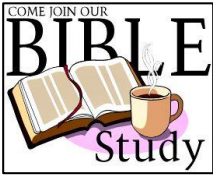
To be sure, you will not see or hear this in the world. The stores will have long ago put away all of their Easter decorations. There will be no Easter egg hunts after Easter Sunday. Memorial Day sales will begin as soon as the Easter signs are taken down. This should not surprise you. The world is always quick to celebrate for a single day, but it does not want you to dwell on the that celebration any longer than that.

This is why it is so important to understand the seasons of the Church year. For Easter did not end on Easter Sunday. It was just beginning. From Easter Sunday until Pentecost Sunday, the Church will continue to consider and celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Our readings will reflect this, as we hear of the various events which occurred following our Lord's resurrection. Our hymns will reflect this, as we sing of Christ's victory again and again. Our paraments will reflect this, as the color for the next 50 days will be white, reminding your eyes of Easter morning.

The length of this season is no accident either. For, after His resurrection, Christ walked this earth for 40 days. Then, on the 40th day after His resurrection, He ascended into heaven. This year, Ascension Day falls on May 30th, which is 40 days after April 21st. The final 10 days of this great 50 day season of Easter are those days following the Lord's ascension until His promise of sending the Holy Spirit is accomplished on the day of Pentecost. In this way, the Church rightly celebrates all of the events of Christ's resurrection even as the apostles would have experienced them over those 50 days.

This may just seem like a nice touch on the Church calendar. This may seem like it means something to theologians, but not to ordinary people, but this should most certainly not be the case. Instead, let the Church year, and in particular this Great 50 Days, start to change and mold your mind away from the ways of the world and into the ways of Christ.

For the effects of Christ's resurrection are not to be confined to a single day, as the world will try to teach you, but rather they are to be lived out every day of your life. For the next 50 days, you, as a member of the Church, will have a chance to experience this. You will see how Christ's resurrection shapes everything we think, say, and do. You will see how Christ's resurrection is not just His victory, but your victory. You will see how 50 short days can truly be great, if, indeed, they are joined to Christ's resurrection. For He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:

From 10:15-11:15 a.m. following our worship service, join us for study of the Gospel of Matthew.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:

Wednesday night Bible study - Handling the Word of Truth - Join us, starting May 8th at 6:30 PM, as we learn about Law and Gospel. Understanding the Law and the Gospel is key to understanding God's Word and any sermon you will ever hear. As such, this will be a wonderful opportunity for us to gather together, learn about these most important articles of the faith, and have a common language when discussing Scripture and sermons.

BOOK OF CONCORD: Pastor's study on the Book of Concord will meet on Sunday, May 12th, at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share for a light supper following our study.

"What is the value of group Bible study?"

Christianity was never intended to be a spectator sport, group Bible study is not just valuable; it is invaluable. Small group study is so effective that Jesus used it to train the men who would be known as the apostles ([Luke 6:12](#)).

-stewardshipadvisors.org



The youth group **ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE** is fast approaching!

Who: Sponsors & teams still being accepted, 6th-12th grade students invited to help

When: Saturday May 11th @ 9:00 a.m. (day-of registration @ 8:00 a.m.)

Where: Hickory Hills golf course in Brownstown

Please see Janice Acree if you are interested. If you wish to donate food items, there are sign-up sheets posted on the conference room door in the Parish Hall.

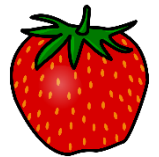


Our first annual **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL** will be held Saturday, May 18th from 3:00-7:00 p.m.

Fliers are available for advertising, and sign-up sheets for workers are posted on the bulletin boards.

Much participation is needed and greatly appreciated!

The proceeds from this event will benefit our Building Fund.



FFA PLANT SALE

Spring is in full swing in the Trinity Lutheran High School greenhouse. Flowers of various colors are making beautiful blooms. We have a wide variety of plants such as, petunias, succulents, impatiens, zinnias, geraniums, and foxtail plants. We also have the perfect Mother's Day gift - hanging baskets! Not only does the greenhouse have flowers, there are also tomatoes, herbs, sweet potatoes, and peppers. The flowers and plants will sell May 8-10 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Our **LAST SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** for this school year will be held on Sunday, May 19th. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Sunday School Lake Party at the Hoeltkes' after church on June 2nd.

If you are looking for **CHURCH PUBLICATIONS** such as Portals of Prayer and other church magazines, they can be found in the library of the Parish Hall.

OFFICE UPDATE:

Amy has a new email address. It is amy@stpeterwaymansville.com. Because this address is new to your inbox, you may need to check your spam folder and mark it as safe so that you will receive emails from the church office.

St. Peter Lutheran Church & Preschool Calendar

May 2019

Ushers: Michael May

Acolytes:

May 5 – Joe Acree

May 12 – Tristan Crowe

Communion Set-Up: 5/5 - Amy Sciano

May 19 – Mackenzie May

May 26 – Laurie Schultz

5/19 - Amy Sciano

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 6:00-Music Group 7:00-Elders' Meeting	3	4
5 9 – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15-11:15 - Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	6 Pastor Sorenson at Pastors' Conference	7	8 6:30: Bible Study	9 6:00-Music Group 7:00-Church Board Meeting	10	11 9:00 am Youth Golf Scramble 
12 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 5:00 p.m.-Book of Concord Study	13	14	15 6:30: Bible Study	16 6:00-Music Group	17	18 3-7 pm Strawberry Festival 
19 9:00 – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15-11:15 – Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	20	21	22 6:30: Bible Study	23 June Newsletter Deadline 6:00-Music Group	24	25
26 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Class	27	28	29 6:30: Bible Study	30 6:00-Music Group	31	Upcoming Dates: June 2 nd - Sunday School Lake Party @ the Hoeltkes' after church 

