



Pastor Erik Sorenson

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The Eucharist? Give Thanks!

- Pastor Sorenson

Perhaps you have heard the word “Eucharist” and wondered what exactly it was. The quick and simple answer is that the Eucharist is another name for the Lord’s Supper. It’s a synonym of sorts, much like Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Altar, the Breaking of the Bread, etc. This is a fine place for your mind to go when you hear the term “Eucharist.”

For a fuller understanding of the term, however, consider what the word means. The word “Eucharist” comes from a Greek word which means “thanksgiving” as a noun and “to give thanks” as a verb. In this way, using the term “Eucharist” in connection with the Lord’s Supper reveals that thanksgiving is a major part of receiving the Sacrament.

This makes sense when you understand what’s happening in the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper is not some sort of empty ritual, nor is it something which you are doing as an act of service to God. If it were either of these, giving thanks would make no sense because there would be nothing to give thanks for. You either received nothing or did all the work yourself.

Rather, in the Lord’s Supper, God is coming to serve you, giving you His very flesh and blood. As He serves you this wondrous food, you receive real forgiveness, real life, real salvation. Again, these are not empty platitudes or things you receive only in spirit. No. The forgiveness, life, and salvation you receive in the Lord’s Supper is as real as the wafer of bread and the sip of wine that you physically eat and drink. For that, you can’t help but give thanks to God!

Yet, that is not the main reason why the Lord’s Supper is rightly called the Eucharist. Instead, this term has its origin in the Old Testament, specifically in the sacrificial system of the Old Testament. One of the sacrifices which God instituted for His people was the thank offering. In this thank offering, translated as “eucharist” in the Greek, God’s people would sacrifice an animal, most often a lamb. The purpose of this offering was to celebrate the fact that God’s people were once again at peace with God.

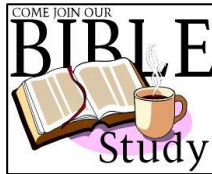
The sacrifice, however, was just the beginning of the thank offering. Following the sacrifice, the main part of the thank offering would take place. Moses records, “And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving” (eucharist) “shall be eaten on the day of his offering” (Lev. 7:15a, emphasis added). God made it clear that eating the thank offering was the most important part of this offering.

So, after offering the sacrifice, God’s people would gather together to eat a marvelous feast of thanksgiving. They would do so because they recognized that this feast was doing something. The feast indicated that those who ate the feast were indeed at peace with God, while also giving them all of the benefits of the sacrifice.

This Old Testament thank offering, then, provides a wonderful shadow of the Lord’s Supper. For in this Feast, this Eucharist, we, God’s faithful people, gather together to eat a marvelous feast of thanksgiving. In this Eucharist, we eat the flesh of the sacrifice which brings us peace because we eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ. In this Eucharist, we give thanks to God as He comes to serve us with His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. What better thanksgiving feast could there ever be than this Eucharist? Thanks be to God!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:

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



BOOK OF CONCORD: Pastor's study on the Book of Concord will meet on Sunday, November 10th, at 5:00pm. Please bring a dish to share for a light supper following our study.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:

The Church Year will be the focus of Bible study this fall on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. The final Wednesday will be November 20th, as we will take a break starting with our Thanksgiving Eve service and continuing through Advent and Christmas. Wednesday night Bible study will resume on January 8th.

NOTES & NEWS

Pastor, Michelle, and Seth would like to thank everyone who helped them move into the new parsonage. "We are so grateful for all of the help and the time everyone gave up to help us make the move."

Our annual fish fry was blessed with beautiful weather and a great crowd again this year. We served over 350 people and profited over \$2000 for our general fun. Thank you to everyone who came together to make this a successful fellowship event for our church!

YOUTH CLASSES

YOUTH GROUP will meet on Sunday, November 17th from 5:00-7:00 PM. Weather permitting, we will be having a bonfire that night.

SUNDAY SCHOOL classes are offered for children ages preschool through high school. We give our thanks to the teachers and helpers that are volunteering their time each week.

MUSIC GROUPS

The **MUSIC GROUP** for singers and musicians will work to reconvene in January.

HANDBELL PRACTICE will begin on Monday, November 4th, at 6:30pm. The group is still looking for two or three more players. Please text or call Debbie Flohr at (812) 341-4724 if you are interested.

CHURCH EVENTS

2020 Calendar Planning: What are some activities, events, long-range plans, outreach opportunities, fundraising events, etc. you would like to see here at St. Peter in 2020 and beyond? Join us on Thursday, November 14th at 6:00 PM to plan a tentative calendar for the upcoming year and share any ideas you have. This will be a great opportunity for us to come together as a church and prepare for another fantastic year at St. Peter!

Parsonage Open House: Pastor, Michelle, and Seth would like to invite the congregation to an open house at the parsonage on Saturday, November 16th from 1:30-3:30 PM. We will have a house blessing at 1:45 PM. Following the house blessing, there will be time to see the new parsonage and enjoy fellowship with one another. Light snacks and drinks will be provided.

Church Greening: With Advent starting on December 1st, we will meet on Saturday, November 30th starting at 9:00 AM to green the church. We will be putting up the Christmas trees, wreaths, nativity set, and other decorations. Many hands make light work!

FROM THE OFFICE

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Visit our church website at www.stpeterwaymansville.com for daily announcements and information about events.

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

November 2019

Ushers: Curt Acton

Acolytes: Nov. 3 – Jenna Thomas
 Nov. 17 – Jonah Sciano
 Nov. 27 – Trevor Acree

Nov. 10 – Dainca May
 Nov. 24 – Joe Acree

Communion Set-Up: 11/3: Jenni Acton
 11/17: Amy Sciano
 11/27: Michelle Sorenson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Dates: 12/1: Advent Starts 12/4: First midweek Advent Service (7pm) 12/6: Game Night (6pm)					1	2
3 9:00 – Divine Service, All Saints (Communion) 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 11:30 – Youth Catechesis	4 6:30-Handbell Practice	5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Pastor at Circuit Meeting </div>	6 6:30-Bible Study	7 7:00-Elders' Mtg.	8	9
10 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 11:30 – Youth Catechesis 5:00 – Book of Concord Study	11 6:30-Handbell Practice	12	13 6:30-Bible Study	14 6:00-Church Calendar Planning Mtg. 7:00-Church Bd. Mtg.	15	16 1:30-3:30pm – Parsonage Open House
17 9 – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 11:30 – Youth Catechesis 5:00-7:00pm – Youth Group	18 6:30-Handbell Practice	19	20 6:30-Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 11:30 – Youth Catechesis	25 6:30-Handbell Practice	26	27 7:00-Thanksgiving Eve Service (Communion)	28	29	30 10:00am – Church Greening

