



**Pastor Erik Sorenson**

Office: (812) 342-4921  
Cell: (812) 371-1151  
pastoresorenson@gmail.com

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## A New Christmas Tradition

- Pastor Sorenson

Christmas morning is always an exciting time, whether you are a child anxiously anticipating the presents under the tree or an adult settling in for the joy of spending another holiday with those you love. Every family has their own traditions when it comes to Christmas Day. Some families begin with a family breakfast before moving on to the presents. Some rip open the wrapping paper as soon as everyone is awake. Others spend the day going from house to house, seeing grandparents, aunts, uncles, and any other family within driving distance.

No matter what, Christmas morning always has something going on, some tradition the family sees as important and worth doing, even if it is just sitting around in pajamas watching Christmas movies. There is one Christmas tradition, however, which has seemingly been lost for many people. One Christmas tradition which is so often the first to be cut out in favor of something else. One Christmas tradition which every family should have, but so few actually do. It is the tradition of coming to church on Christmas morning.

Throughout her history, Christmas Day has been seen and celebrated as the second biggest feast day in the Church's entire year. To miss church on Christmas Day would be like missing church on Easter morning. It was completely unthinkable. Christmas is the day, after all, when the Church gathered to celebrate the birth of Christ! Christmas is the day when all of our hope and anticipation from Advent finds its fulfillment!

Gradually, however, the emphasis moved away from Christmas morning and onto Christmas Eve. Today, many people come to Christmas Eve and think that covers it. They come to Christmas Eve and think they have received the fullness of Christmas. While the Christmas Eve service is certainly important and should by no means be neglected or belittled in any way, only going to Christmas Eve service is like setting the table but never actually eating the feast. It's like counting down to the new year, but stopping with one second to go.

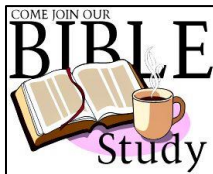
For our hope, our joy, our anticipation, which all build up throughout the season of Advent, find their fulfillment not on Christmas Eve, but on Christmas Day. It is on Christmas Day that our celebration finds its highest peak. It is on Christmas Day that we marvel at the mystery of the Word made flesh. It is on Christmas Day that we actually eat that very flesh and drink Christ's very blood. On Christmas Eve, the table is set. On Christmas Day, the feast is served!

Dear saints of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, as we approach our yearly celebration of Christmas, consider starting a new tradition. Come to church on Christmas morning. Join with your fellow saints who delight to receive the gifts of Christ in His Word and in His Sacrament. Celebrate this most holy day by coming to where God promises to be with you and where He gives out the bests presents of all.

Yes, it may alter your plans on Christmas Day. Yes, it may throw off your timing just a little bit. Yes, it may be a change for you. But there is no greater reason to change your plans, no better reason to have your timing thrown off, than to come to church and be served by God, who took on flesh to save you from all your sins. So, be bold! Start a new tradition this year, a tradition which you can pass down to children and grandchildren, a tradition that is worth far more than any present under the tree could ever be. Come to church and rejoice in your Savior who took on flesh for you!

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:**

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



EVENTS, NEWS &

**BOOK OF CONCORD:** There will be no Book of Concord Study the month of December. Please see the announcement about Cheer Fund boxing on December 8<sup>th</sup>!

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:**

Wednesday night Bible study will be on a break through the Thanksgiving and Advent seasons. It is set to resume on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**NOTES****CIRCUIT MEETING MEALS AND WORSHIP:**

The Columbus circuit pastors will be meeting here at St. Peter on Tuesday, December 3 from 9:00-12:30. If anyone would be willing to help provide light breakfast, snacks, and a lunch for the pastors, please let Pastor Sorenson know so we can begin planning. Also, the congregation is welcome to join the pastors in worship. We will have a service with the Lord's Supper starting at 10:35 AM.

**GAME NIGHT:**

Our next game night will be held Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00 PM. Our pitch-in dinner that evening will be a soup supper. There is a sign-up sheet on the church office door. Looking forward to seeing everyone!

**CHEER FUND BOXING:**

The youth group will be boxing Cheer Fund gifts again this year on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM. The boxing location this year is in the old JCPenny location in the Fair Oaks Mall. Anyone in the congregation is invited to come along and help with this effort. Working with the Cheer Fund is such a fulfilling holiday tradition.

**SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES**

**12/3:** Divine Service with communion will be held at 10:35 AM during the pastors' circuit meeting.

**12/4, 12/11 & 12/18:** December 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of the Advent season. Our midweek Advent services will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM followed by worship at 7:00 PM.

**12/24:** The children's program will be held on Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM. Candlelight service will be held at 11:00 PM.

**12/25:** Divine Service with communion will be held at 9:00 AM on Christmas Day.

**12/31:** New Year's Eve service will be held at 7:00 PM.

**Joint Epiphany Service:**

Join us Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM for a joint Epiphany Divine Service as we join together with the saints from St. John's, White Creek and St. Paul, Jonesville to celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. This will be a wonderful opportunity to join in worship with fellow Lutherans in the area on a very special day in the Church Year. We will also be serving a dinner beforehand, starting at 6:00 PM. If you would like to help with the dinner, please let Pastor know.

**YOUTH CLASSES**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** will host a movie night for all Sunday School children on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-8:30 PM. We will watch a Christmas movie, listen to Christmas music, make ornaments, and enjoy dinner and cookies. Hope to see everyone there!

**YOUTH GROUP** will meet on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 PM. We will have a fun Christmas-themed activity that night.

**YOUTH CATECHISES CLASSES** will not be held on Dec. 22, Dec. 29, and Jan. 5. They will resume on Jan. 12.

## MUSIC GROUPS

**HANDBELL PRACTICE** will continue to be held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. The group is still accepting new players. Please text or call Debbie Flohr at (812) 341-4724 if you are interested.

## FROM THE OFFICE

Pastor Erik Sorenson  
(812) 342-4921, office  
(812) 371-1151, cell  
pastoresorenson@gmail.com

Amy Sciano, Office Manager  
(812) 342-4921, office  
(812) 390-2318, cell  
amy@stpeterwaymansville.com

Visit our church website at [www.stpeterwaymansville.com](http://www.stpeterwaymansville.com) for daily announcements and information about events.

# St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

**December 2019**

**Ushers:** Kevin Nagel

**Communion Set-Up:** 12/1: Amy Sciano  
 12/15: Amy Sciano  
 12/25: Amy Sciano  
 12/31: Lynnette May

**Acolytes:**

**Dec. 1** – Tristan May    **Dec. 4** – Mackenzie May    **Dec. 8** – Laurie Schultz  
**Dec. 11** – Gus Sciano    **Dec. 15** – Jonah Sciano    **Dec. 18** – Jenna Thomas  
**Dec. 22** – Danica May    **Dec. 24** – Rayleigh Acton 7pm    **Dec. 24** – Gus Sciano 11pm  
**Dec. 25** – Joe Acree    **Dec. 31** – Trevor Acree

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 – Advent</b> 9 – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 11:30 – Youth Catechesis	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0e0e0;">                         9-12:30-Pastors' circuit mtg. hosted here.                          10:35-Divine Service (C)                     </div>	<b>4</b> 6:00-Dinner 7:00-Midweek Advent Service	<b>5</b> 7:00-Elders' Mtg.	<b>6</b> 6:00-Game Night	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 11:30 – Youth Catechesis 7:00 – Cheer Fund Boxing @ JCPenny location in Fair Oaks Mall	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00-Handbell Practice	<b>11</b> 6:00-Dinner 7:00-Midweek Advent Service	<b>12</b> 7:00-Church Board Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 11:30 – Youth Catechesis 5:00-7:00pm – Youth Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00-Handbell Practice	<b>18</b> 6:00-Dinner 7:00-Midweek Advent Service	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00-Children's Christmas Program 11:00-Candlelight	<b>25</b> 9:00 – Divine Service (C)	<b>26</b> January Newsletter Deadline	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:00-New Year's Eve Service (C)	<b>Upcoming Dates:</b> <b>1/6: Dinner (6pm), Epiphany Service (7pm)</b> <b>1/17 &amp; 1/18: Rummage Sale</b> <b>1/26: Soup Supper &amp; Euchre Party</b>			

