

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter
February 2020



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Why Cover the Cross?

- Pastor Sorenson

At the end of the month of February, the Church again enters into the season of Lent as she observes Ash Wednesday (February 26th this year). Beginning on that night, things begin to look a little bit different in the church. The paraments are black and will quickly change to purple. The altar is no longer adorned with flowers. The alleluias are entirely omitted as we fast from that joyous word for a time. And, of course, God's people will bear on their foreheads black ashes in the shape of a cross, reminding us that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

Yet, there is one other thing that will look a little bit different and it may catch you off guard when you see it. The processional crucifix and the altar cross will be veiled with black and then purple veils. At first glance, this is a rather jarring sight. That's a good thing! That's part of why the crosses are veiled during the season of Lent.

Lent has historically been a season for fasting. This has included, of course, fasting from food, but it has also included fasting with the mouth (such as not using the word alleluia) and fasting with the eyes (such as veiling the crosses in the church). The point of all fasting is to draw our attention back to God and His Word and away from the things of the world. When we veil the crosses, we are fasting with our eyes and looking not to the beautiful decorations in the church but towards the Word and the Sacraments.

There is also some Biblical precedence for veiling the crosses during this season. For instance, the face of Moses was veiled as he came down from Mt. Sinai. Likewise, a veil was hung in the temple to separate the holy of holies from the people. These instances, as well as the veiling of our crosses during Lent, show us that the glory of God is sometimes hidden from our sight for a time. But, by veiling the crosses during Lent, we also are reminded of what St. Paul says, "When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:4).

This really gets to the heart of the matter. For, by veiling the crosses, we are reminded visually that Christ crucified is our glory and when He appears on the third day from the tomb, He appears to bring us life. Thus, veiling the crosses sharpens our minds and our senses to eagerly anticipate Easter. It trains us to remember that Christ's death and resurrection are the most important things in all the world and in them true glory and beauty are seen.

Think about how glorious the sight will be when the veils finally come off those crosses at the Easter Vigil! We will have completed our fast and the cross will look more beautiful to us than it did before we entered Lent. What a beautiful thing that is to see the beauty and glory of Christ's cross anew as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection!

While veiling the crosses may seem odd initially (as indeed it should), it all makes sense when the veils come off and your eyes behold again the glory of the Lord. For truly, in this life there are times of repentance and fasting and hardship as we eagerly await the return of Christ to raise us from the dead. But these times make us appreciate all the more the great glory that is ours who have been joined into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So, why cover the cross? Because Easter is just that beautiful!

Bible Studies



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: Join us for Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 PM. In February we will continue and conclude our study on creation. Come on out and learn about our confession of creation, objections that are raised and how the Bible answers them, and what the confession of creation means in our daily lives as God's children.

BOOK OF CONCORD: Join us on Sunday, February 9th at 5:00 PM for the Book of Concord study. We have finished the Augsburg Confession and will be beginning the Smalcald Articles, a confession of Martin Luther which was included in the Book of Concord because it is in accord with the Word of God.

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES

Ash Wednesday service will be on February 26th at 7:00 PM.

EVENTS, NEWS &

Library:

In an effort to build up our library and provide good theological resources for the congregation, beginning in January we will have a special Book of the Month. The Book of the Month will be available in the Parish Hall library for you to look through and read. You may take the book home to read as well, but we ask that you please do not hold onto it for too long so other people can enjoy it as well. The February Book of the Month is *The Spirituality of the Cross: The Way of the First Evangelicals* by Gene Edward Veith Jr. Here is an excerpt from the book: "This book is about 'spirituality,' not theology as such. On one level, this is a misleading distinction. Many people today say that they are not interested in religion, with its doctrines, creeds, and institutions, but they are very interested in spirituality... The fact is, there can be no spirituality without theology, no religious experience apart from religious belief."

150th Anniversary:

Next year, 2021, will be the 150th anniversary of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church! We will have a special service on Sunday, July 11th, 2021 to give thanks to God for 150 years of our life together here in His Church. Make sure to keep an eye out for all of the special things that will happen in regards to this anniversary and if you would like to volunteer to help in any capacity please speak to Barb Minor or Pastor Sorenson.

YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group:

Our next meeting is February 16th from 5:00-7:00 PM. Also, any confirmed youth who would like to go to the Higher Things Youth Gathering please get your information in to Pastor as soon as possible. Please let him know if you have any questions. Thank you!

MUSIC GROUPS

Handbell practice will continue on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. through the Lent and Easter season. The group always welcomes new players. Please text or call Debbie Flohr at (812) 341-4724 if you are interested.

NOTES

Weather Statement from Pastor and the Elders:

With Pastor Sorenson living in the parsonage, church will be held every Sunday as Christ delights to come to us with His gifts. In the event there is inclement weather, please heed any travel advisories and use good judgment on whether or not it is safe for you to come to St. Peter. There is no obligation for anyone to come to church in inclement weather and there is no shame or guilt in not attending church if it is unsafe for you to travel.

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

February 2020

Ushers: Allen Acton & Dan Acree

Acolytes:

Feb. 2 – Jenna Thomas

Feb. 9 – Danica May

Communion Set-Up: 2/2: Amy Sciano

Feb. 16 – Rayleigh Acton

Feb. 23 – Joe Acree

2/16: Amy Sciano

Feb. 26 (Ash Wednesday) – Trevor Acree

2/26 Amy Sciano

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Dates:						1
2 9:00 – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 11:30 – Youth Catechesis	3	4 7:00 -Handbell Practice	5 6:30 PM-Bible Study	6	7 6:00 PM-Game Night	8
9 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 11:30 – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Book of Concord	10	11 9:00 AM-Elders’ Mtg. 7:00 -Handbell Practice	12 6:30 PM-Bible Study	13 7:00 PM-Church Board Mtg.	14	15
16 9 – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group	17	18 7:00-Handbell Practice	19 6:30 PM-Bible Study	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22
23 9:00 – Divine Service 10:15-11:15 – Adult Bible Study Sunday School Classes 11:30 – Youth Catechesis	24	25 7:00-Handbell Practice	26 7:00 PM-Ash Wednesday Service (C)	27	28	29