

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter**  
**August 2020**



**Pastor Erik Sorenson**

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**Church Board**

Rick Flohr, Chairman  
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**Mask Mandate**

- Pastor Sorenson

As you may have heard, beginning on Monday, July 27, 2020, a mask mandate will be in effect throughout the state of Indiana. As of the writing of this letter, the executive order has not yet been signed and so the exact details of the mandate are not fully known. What the governor has revealed about the order is as follows:

- Everyone age 8 or older is required to wear a face mask in indoor public spaces.
- Masks are required in indoor public spaces as well as outdoor public spaces where social distancing is not possible.
- Exceptions to wearing a mask are as follows:
  - While eating or drinking
  - While participating in strenuous activity
  - If you have a medical condition preventing you from wearing a mask

As far as enforcement goes, Governor Holcomb said, "Please know that the mask police will not be patrolling Indiana streets."

So, what does this mean for our church? The first point which must be made is that the Church is not an agent of the state. What this means is that it is not the duty of the Church to enforce state laws or executive orders. While the Church is called to be good citizens and obey the government when it does not go directly against God and His Word, the Church is not the authority in carrying out the enforcement of laws and executive orders. As such, we will recommend everyone heed the laws and orders of the land, but we will not be in the business of enforcing them. To paraphrase Governor Holcomb, "Please know that the mask police will not be patrolling St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church."

The second point to be made is that we as Christians are called to uphold the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16). The Small Catechism instructs us that the 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment means we should "defend (our neighbor), speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way."

This point must not be understated. Whether someone wears a mask or not, we ought always to defend his decision, speak well of him and his decision, and explain his reasoning for his decision in the kindest way. Perhaps he is wearing a mask to protect others around him and because he is trying to be a good citizen. Perhaps he is not wearing a mask because he has a medical condition that prevents it or because his mask may be contaminated and he may be exposing himself to the virus by wearing it.

Never have we as Christians been called to question people's motives or suggest someone isn't loving his neighbor, even if we have strong suspicions that may be true. Instead, we are always to defend our neighbor and his actions, speak well of him and his decisions, and explain everything in the kindest way because, in truth, we never know all the details behind our neighbor's actions.

In this way, we here at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church will proceed as follows. We will continue to join in worship at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings. We will continue to broadcast the service over the radio. The readings and the sermons will continue to be posted online. Pastor will continue to make other arrangements to bring you the Lord's Supper and to serve you in any of your needs in as safe a way as possible. And we will continue to recommend wearing masks, but not enforce a requirement. After all, it is not our duty to enforce it and we know that our brothers and sisters in Christ will do what is best for them and for all those around them.

## WORSHIP INFORMATION

### Worship Service Update:

We are now back to having one service each Sunday at 9:00 AM. As we do so, we will continue to follow the state guidelines regarding social distancing and other safety measures. For each service, the radio transmitter will still be used and the sermon and readings will be posted on the website.

### Bible Studies In-Person:

We have begun meeting again on Sunday mornings after worship.

### Online Bible Study:

- The first Wednesday of each month, we will continue having our Hymn of the Day study for the hymns of the next month. Also, keep an eye out for a shorter devotional video on Tuesdays moving forward.
- Each study begins at **2:00 PM** on the church Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch>) and is also available to view in its entirety even after the study concludes.

### Sermons and Devotional Resources:

- Weekly sermons will be posted on our church website (<http://www.stpeterwaymansville.com>) on the sermon page under the "At St. Peter" tab. (Direct link to that page - [http://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page\\_id=417](http://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page_id=417))
- You can also find helpful resources for your home devotions on the "Devotional Resources" page under the "Resources" tab ([http://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page\\_id=489](http://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page_id=489)). Now is a great time to begin, continue, and strengthen a home devotional pattern by yourself and with your family.
- The April-June Portals of Prayer are still available in the narthex. You can drop by and pick one up or contact Pastor or the church office to have one delivered.

**Lord's Supper:** If you would like to receive the Lord's Supper during this time, please contact Pastor Sorenson via call, text, or email. His phone number is 812-371-1151 and his email is [pastoresorenson@gmail.com](mailto:pastoresorenson@gmail.com). He would be happy to meet you at the church for this purpose or to bring it to your home, making sure at all times to take the necessary safety precautions.

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May these resources assist you as you continue to hear the Word of God and cry out to Him in prayer.  
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## EVENTS & NEWS

### Library:

In an effort to build up our library and provide good theological resources for the congregation, 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 August Book of the Month is *Without Flesh: Why the Church Is Dying Even Though Jesus Is Still Alive* by Johnathan Fisk. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Jesus sends Christians into the world with the insistence that they are sheep among wolves. He did not give us a product to market or an ideology to debate. He gave a truth to be believed. He also told us that the world would hate that truth. Whether we are in the midst of the most bountiful new-Pentecost harvest the world has ever seen, or in the midst of a drought so bone-deep and out of season that even the tares are asking where the water might be, what is needed is not the doubt-riddled lunacy that we must 'change or die.'" What is needed is the old-fashioned faithful grit that believes that no matter what we see, Christianity will never die."

### Cancelled Events for August:

Book of Concord Study, Youth Group night, Game Night

**Altar Flowers:**

Our intention was to resume with live altar flowers each week after Lent. However, as you all know, we have been met with some challenges. At this time, if you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please contact Sue Anne Lee at (812) 717-0167. The cost to sponsor the flowers is \$20, and the flowers are yours for the taking after the worship service.

**Endowment Fund Meeting:**

Join us on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM for a special meeting regarding endowment funds and estate planning. We will have a presenter who will discuss various ways to use memorial funds, both personally and for the church, and who will answer any questions you may have. Everyone is welcome to attend!

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

Next year, 2021, will be the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church! We will have a special service on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to give thanks to God for 150 years of our life together here in His Church. As part of our celebration we will be putting together a new directory, a new cookbook, and having various other events throughout the year. 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 or if you have any ideas for how we can celebrate this special occasion, please speak to Barb Minor or Pastor Sorenson.

## YOUTH EVENTS

**Youth Catechesis:**

Youth Catechesis (confirmation) classes will be beginning soon. If you have a child who has already begun Catechesis, or if you have a child you would like to start this year, please contact Pastor Sorenson as soon as possible. If your child will be going through classes at White Creek, please contact Pastor Sorenson as well, as he would like to have all of our catechumens (confirmands) together in class so they may grow with one another and so he may get to know them and they may get to know him. Thank you!

**Attention Youth Group:**

The Higher Things Youth Gathering which we had tentatively planned to attend is now going to be done virtually. Currently, we will plan to meet on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM to watch and participate in this gathering. If you are interested in attending the gathering, please grab a registration form from the back of the church and return it to Pastor as soon as possible. More details will follow. Please let Pastor know if you have any questions.

## FROM THE OFFICE

### THE FRUITS OF OUR LABORS

June 27 – July 30, 2020

**Operating Fund Collected:     \$13,994.61**

**Building Fund Collected:     \$385.00**

*\*Of these collected funds, \$1577.00 was given in memory of Donna Thomas.*

**Operating Fund Balance as of 6/26/2020: \$24,656.22**

*\*Of this balance, \$14,267.94 is in designated accounts.*

**Building Fund Balance as of 6/26/2020: \$2,666.32**

**Contact Information:**

As the situation around us continues to change daily, we would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Amy or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Keep an eye on the church Facebook page for the most up-to-date information. Thank you!

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On the web: [www.stpeterwaymansville.com](http://www.stpeterwaymansville.com) • Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch)

# St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

**August 2020**

**Ushers:** Max Thomas & Kyle Thomas

**Acolytes:** **Aug. 2** – Jenna Thomas

**Aug. 9** – Rayleigh Acton

**Aug. 16** – Joe Acree

**Aug. 23** – Trevor Acree

**Aug. 30** – Laurie Schultz

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<b>2</b> 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	<b>5</b> 2:00 PM – Hymn of the Day study (online)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00 AM-Elders’ Mtg. 2:00 PM – Online Devotion 3:00 PM –Endowment Fund Mtg.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00 PM – Fish Fry Mtg. 7:00 PM-Church Board Mtg.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM – High Things virtual conference
<b>16</b> 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM-1:30 PM – Pastor at Circuit Mtg. 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
			<b>Pastor &amp; family on vacation</b>			
<b>23</b> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Pastor &amp; family on vacation</b>						
<b>30</b> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study	<b>31</b>					

