

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter
July 2020



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Jesus Has Overcome the World

- Pastor Sorenson

None of this should surprise us. None of this should catch us off guard or leave us scratching our heads. Viruses and riots, quarantines and unrest, are nothing new. They've happened before and they'll happen again. Times like this are to be expected in a world such as ours.

For this world is a sinful one. Contrary to our hopes and the faulty evolutionary mindset that everything progresses forward as time goes by, this world is, in fact, breaking down and decaying. Things are not getting better. They're getting worse.

Sure, technology may advance and physical comforts may be better, but days like these remind us of the problem which lurks beneath the surface destroying everything it touches. Sin. Sin only destroys. Sin only wreaks havoc. And the world is full of sin.

So, when something like Covid-19 takes hundreds of thousands of lives and forces everything to shut down and be done differently, we know that the problem is actually rooted in something more fundamental than a virus. When riots, protests, and unrest reveal the pain which some people suffer and bring destruction instead of healing, we know that the problem goes far deeper than skin color or institutions or the proper use of authority.

When we see things like these, we know that the real problem is something the world, and those in it, cannot fix on its own. We know that the real problem is sin.

Once we diagnose what the real problem is, the events of this life and their outcome should no longer surprise us. The problem is sin and the outcome of sin is death. Thus, everything in this world tends toward death. This is why we have diseases. This is why we have unrest. And this is why these things inevitably end in destruction and the loss of human life. For, as St. Paul writes, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

As the world suffers with this reality, it will naturally look for answers to the problem. Whether it be the mad scramble for a vaccine to fight Covid-19 or social justice reforms to combat racism, sexism, and other social problems, the world will do its best to combat the problem of sin.

The issue is, all of it will fail. A vaccine may stop Covid-19, but other diseases will rise up and continue to bring death. Social justice reforms may fix a few problems, but new ones will appear in years to come. For the world's solutions only treat the symptoms of the problem and not the problem itself. It will always be like placing a bandage over a gaping, infected wound. It may help for the moment, but it will never bring full healing. The world will never find the cure.

But we, the Church, do have the cure. We have the one and only thing which can overcome the trials of this life. We have the one who has defeated death itself and thus has the power to defeat all of the symptoms of death. We have Jesus Christ.

When a disease threatens our lives and our livelihoods, Jesus is there to bring us healing through the Gospel and through the promise of our resurrection from the dead. When social unrest rocks our communities, Jesus is there to bring us the peace which comes from His death and resurrection. When sin and its effects are seen in any way in our lives, Jesus is there to bring us the forgiveness of our sins and everlasting life which are ours by means of His precious blood.

As we live in this world, we will continue to see and experience all of the tribulations which arise because of sin. But, do not be afraid of these things! Because no matter what form the tribulations bring, we know that the problem is sin and

that the solution is Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection which bring us forgiveness, resurrection, and peace. For as Jesus Himself says, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

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 Online! (Note the change in schedule for the Wednesday study.)

During this period when we are unable to meet, join Pastor Sorenson online for weekly Bible studies.

- On **Tuesdays**, we will be studying a book of the Bible.
- On the **first Wednesday of each month**, we will be studying the upcoming Hymns of the Day.
- On **Thursdays**, we will be reading through portions of the Large Catechism.
- 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)
- 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). 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. 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.

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

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 July Books of the Month are *Man Up!: The Quest for Masculinity* by Jeffrey Hemmer and *Lady Like: Living Biblically* by Rebekah Curtis and Rose Adle. Here is an excerpt from *Man Up!*: "Real masculinity is not found in any individual characteristic or trait but in the intersection of male characteristics with the exercise of manly virtue. Masculinity means harnessing the natural power a man possesses and using it for the good of others around him. The essence of masculinity is not rugged independence. It is sacrificial giving." Here is an excerpt from *Lady Like*: God "made you. If you look in the mirror and think that you are wonderful, remember this is to His credit, not yours. If you look in the mirror and think that you're not wonderful, well, think again – because He said you are and He would know."

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, July 14th 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!

Cancelled Events:

Book of Concord Study & Youth Group Night

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. 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.

FROM THE OFFICE

**THE FRUITS OF OUR LABORS
June 1 – June 26, 2020**

Operating Fund Collected: \$12,548.20

Building Fund Collected: \$50.00

Operating Fund Balance as of 6/26/2020: \$23,275.55

***Of this balance, \$13,878.94 is in designated accounts.**

Building Fund Balance as of 6/26/2020: \$2,456.24

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 • Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

July 2020

Ushers: Danny Strasser & Gus Sciano

Acolytes: July 5 – Joe Acree
July 19 – Laurie Schultz

July 12 – Trevor Acree
July 26 – Jonah Sciano

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2:00 – Hymn of the Day study	2 2:00 – Large Catechism study	3	4
5 9:00 – Divine Service (Communion)	6	7 10:00 AM-Elders’ Mtg. 2:00 – Book of the Bible study	8	9 2:00 – Large Catechism study 7:00 PM-Church Board Mtg.	10	11
12 9:00 – Divine Service *Voters’ Meeting immediately following worship service	13	14 2:00 – Book of the Bible study 3:00 –Endowment Fund Mtg.	16	16 2:00 – Large Catechism study	17	18
19 9:00 – Divine Service (Communion)	20	21 2:00 – Book of the Bible study	22	23 2:00 – Large Catechism study	24	25
26 9:00 – Divine Service	27	28 2:00 – Book of the Bible study	29	30 2:00 – Large Catechism study	31	