



**Pastor Erik Sorenson**

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**Church Board**

Rick Flohr, Chairman

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**The Great Confession of Christian Burial**

- Pastor Sorenson

When it comes to caring for the body after death, many people have one question on their mind: how much is it going to cost? Whether it is planning for the care of your own body or for the body of a loved one, money inevitably seems to be the driving force in the decision making. Few people stop to think, not about money, but about the confession they are making in how the body is treated after death. Instead of pondering the confession being made with a burial, people ponder how they can cut a few dollars off the bottom line.

Before going any further, two things must be made clear. First, this discussion is not to suggest that money is no object and should be ignored. The cost should be considered and the Christian should make wise decisions in regards to money for a funeral. Second, this discussion is not to condemn cremation or those who have chosen or may choose cremation. The cremated body will be resurrected just as sure as the buried body will be resurrected.

Yet, with these things in mind, consider the great confession of Christian burial. First, by burial, the Christian confesses creation. God created your body, just as He created Adam and Eve who bore the image of God. By burying the body, instead of cremating it or leaving it in the open, the Christian confesses that this body was no accident. It was formed in the womb by the Creator Himself.

Secondly, the burial of the body points to the Incarnation of Christ. Jesus came to this earth and took on flesh. He has a physical body, like your body. He is not some other form or creature. He has a human body which, when He died, was buried. By burying the body, the Christian confesses this Incarnation of Christ. God bore your flesh and saw it fit to be buried in the tomb. Your burial, then, confesses belief in the Incarnation.

Finally, the Christian buries the body as a confession of the resurrection of the dead. The body is put into the ground because it will rise from that ground again when Christ returns. What better confession can there be of the resurrection than burial? You are not done with your body. You do not discard it or dismember it because you will spend eternity in that very body which now sleeps in the grave. It will be a glorified, perfected body, but it will be the same body nonetheless.

Burial, then, presents a bold confession against the various other religions and heresies in this world. The Evolutionist sees no need to bury the body because it is simply the result of evolution, not creation. A Muslim does bury his body, but he does it while denying the Incarnation. A Gnostic would never bury his body, because he believes that salvation is the soul finally escaping the body and discarding it forever. Pious Jews, like the Sadducees, would never bury their bodies, because they believe there is no resurrection of the body. Eastern religions, like Hinduism, would never bury bodies, because they believe in reincarnation, not resurrection.

In the midst of all of these other confessions, consider the confession which a Christian burial makes. The very body which God created, the very flesh which God took upon Himself in Christ, sleeps in the grave awaiting the day of resurrection. Death has no hold on your body because Christ has already burst the bonds of your grave. What a wonderful confession!

## 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.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study** will resume again on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Keep an eye on the bulletin announcements and on the bulletin boards for more information about our topic of study. If you have anything you would like to study, please contact Pastor.
- This month we will resume our monthly **Book of Concord Study**. We will meet on the second Sunday of the month, September 13, beginning at 5:00 PM. Our first study back will be a recap of where we left off in the Smalcald Articles. Everyone is welcome to attend!

### 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.
- Portals of Prayer are 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

### Scam Alert

I wanted to alert you that someone has been sending out texts and emails pretending to be me. Please do not respond to these attempts. As a reminder, my phone number is 812-371-1151 and my email is [pastoresorenson@gmail.com](mailto:pastoresorenson@gmail.com). If you receive something with my name that is not from this phone number or email address, please disregard it. As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. – Pastor Sorenson

### Altar Flowers:

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 payment can be put in the offering plate or in the mail rack outside the church office door. The flowers are yours for the taking after the worship service.

**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 September Book of the Month is *Faith in the Shadow of a Pandemic* by John T. Pless and Jacob Corzine. Here is an excerpt from the book: "This pandemic has prompted us to become reacquainted with Luther's letter to Pastor Johann Hess during a time of plague in 1527. Things were bad in Wittenberg when Luther wrote that letter. Luther referred to his own house as a hospital, as he and Katie were caring for Karlstadt's gravely ill sister-in-law (Karlstadt was Luther's continuous colleague and would-be reformer). Katie was pregnant with Elizabeth, and their son Hans was seriously ill. These were uncertain and strange days for Luther and his colleagues, no doubt. No wonder that after the epidemic was past, Luther would describe his situation as hanging on to Christ by a thread even as Satan had bound his ankles with chains and was pulling him into hell. But faith will not let go of Christ."

**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 Group :**

The youth group will resume our monthly Youth Group Night this month. We will meet on Sunday, September 20 from 5:00-7:00 PM for night of fun, fellowship, and study. All youth are welcome to attend!

**FROM THE OFFICE****THE FRUITS OF OUR LABORS**

July 31 – August 26, 2020

**Operating Fund Collected: \$12,504.00****Attendance: 8/2: 61    8/9: 68****Building Fund Collected: \$5,186.30****8/16: 61    8/23: 53**

\*Of these collected funds, \$410.00 was given in memory of Donna Thomas.

**Operating Fund Balance as of 8/26/2020: \$20,741.31**

\*Of this balance, \$11,560.94 is in designated accounts.

**Building Fund Balance as of 8/26/2020: \$2,877.72**

\*Lutheran Church Extension Fund Loan Balance as of 8/26/2020: \$103,867.02

**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!

Pastor Erik Sorenson • (812) 342-4921, office • (812) 371-1151, cell • [pastoresorenson@gmail.com](mailto:pastoresorenson@gmail.com)

Amy Sciano • (812) 342-4921, office • (812) 390-2318, cell • [amy@stpeterwaymansville.com](mailto:amy@stpeterwaymansville.com)

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

Voters' Meeting

July 12, 2020

29 members present

The meeting was called to order by Rick Flohr and prayer was led by Pastor Sorenson.

Minutes from the January meeting have already been distributed via the newsletter and emails. To save time during the meeting, the minutes were deemed accepted and approved.

**Financial Report:** Barb Minor provided the financial reports and thanked everyone for their continued support during these unprecedented times.

**New Business:** Debbie Flohr asked to seek a bid to revamp our landscaping to work towards making it low maintenance.

A.J. Trimpe is working on a cookbook project for the church.

An engraved wooden trivet is in the works for fundraising.

Kevin Schultz requested an update on the parsonage financial status.

**Elders' Report:** Rev. and Stella Beabout transferred out of membership. Gus Sciano was confirmed. Abigail Acree was baptized, and a funeral was held for Dottie Acton.

**Old Business:** Barb Minor spoke about our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration approaching. An anniversary meal will be hosted on July 11, 2021 and a meet and greet will be held on July 10, 2021.

Work continues towards updating our membership contact information.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

# St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

September 2020

Ushers: Michael May & Camden Jeffries

Acolytes:

Sept. 6 – Jonah Sciano

Sept. 13 – Jenna Thomas

Sept. 20 – Rayleigh Acton

Sept. 27 – Joe Acree

| Sunday   | Monday    | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|-----------|---|--|--|--|-----------|
|  |           | <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b><br>2:00 PM – Hymn of the Day study (online) | <b>3</b><br>10:00 AM-Elders' Mtg.                                    | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>6</b><br>9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion)<br>10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study<br>11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis                                    | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br>9:00-1:30 PM – Pastor at Circuit Metting<br>2:00 PM – Online Devotion | <b>9</b><br><br>6:30 PM - Bible Study                | <b>10</b><br><br>6:00 PM – Fish Fry Mtg.<br>7:00 PM-Church Board Mtg | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b> |
| <b>13</b><br>9:00 AM – Divine Service<br>10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study<br>11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis<br><br>5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study        | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br><br>2:00 PM – Online Devotion  | <b>16</b><br><br>6:30 PM - Bible Study               | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b><br><br>8:00 PM –Movie Night (Tentative: Watch bulletin for more info.) | <b>19</b> |
| <b>20</b><br>9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion)<br>10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study<br>11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis<br><br>5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br><br>2:00 PM – Online Devotion  | <b>23</b><br><br>6:30 PM - Bible Study               | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b> |
| <b>27</b><br>9:00 AM – Divine Service<br>10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study<br>11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis   | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br><br>2:00 PM – Online Devotion  | <b>30</b><br><br>6:30 PM - Bible Study               |  |  |           |

