

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter
January 2021



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

Church Board
Rick Flohr, Chairman
Tom Rebber, Financial Secretary
Connie Stiles, Synodical Treasurer

Barb Minor, General Fund Treasurer
Kevin Schultz, Dir. of Christian Ed.
Camden Jeffries, Recording Secretary
Practical Services, Max Thomas

The 12 Days of Christmas

- Pastor Sorenson

There is a common misconception in the world that the twelve days of Christmas begin on December 13th, twelve days before Christmas. This is, in fact, not true. The twelve days of Christmas actually begin on Christmas itself, December 25th, and they end on January 5th. Thus, the twelve days of Christmas make up the liturgical season of Christmas.

For the world, this does not make sense. After all, Christmas begins for many people as soon as the turkey is off the table on Thanksgiving (if they can even wait that long!). The whole month of December, then, is filled with Christmas music and decorations, shopping and Christmas cards, and everything else that has come to be associated with Christmas.

The unfortunate side effect of this is that many people are ready to be done with Christmas as soon as the presents are opened. Instead of patiently waiting and preparing for the celebration of Christmas, as the season of Advent pushes us to do, many people will rush the celebration. Since they could not wait to celebrate, they arrive to Christmas day thankful that Christmas is finally over. They hurry up with their traditions in the morning to check the last item off the list, not even making time to worship the Lord in His house on the day of His birth. What a sad situation this becomes!

This is why it is all the more important for us in the Church to remember that Christmas begins, not when the radio stations turn on Christmas music, but once we have gone through the full season of Advent, waiting and preparing for the birth of our Savior. Christmas begins on that morning when we gather around the Lord's table to receive the body and blood of our Lord who took on that very human flesh in order to save us.

As we do this, we arrive to Christmas morning ready to burst forth in joy. Our hearts and minds are turned away from the idols of this world and back to our God who became man and dwelt among us. Our patience is rewarded as our faith grabs hold once again of the Christ Child and the wonder that is His incarnation.

But our joy doesn't stop there. Instead, the season of Christmas follows. For eleven more days, we continue to marvel and rejoice that our God broke into this creation in order to save us and give us the gift of the resurrection. While the world puts the decorations away and moves onto the next holiday, the Church lets the beauty of Christ's incarnation continue to shine and lets the message of the angels ring out even louder, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:14)

After all, it would be silly to fill ourselves up in the hours leading up to a big feast. Instead, we come to a feast hungry so we may be filled with the wonderful food on the table. For this same reason, let us not fill ourselves up on Christmas before Christmas has arrived. Instead, let us arrive to Christmas starving for it, prepared and ready to celebrate on December 25th.

For our celebration will not end on December 25th. Rather, it will continue on for a full twelve days, with each and every one of them bringing us the joy and peace which are ours because our Lord took on flesh to dwell among us and, ultimately, to suffer, die, and rise again so that we too may live.

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY 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.
- We will begin **Wednesday Night** Bible Study again on January 13 at 6:30 PM. If you have any topics you would like to study on Wednesday nights, please let Pastor know.
- **Book of Concord Study** will meet on the second Sunday of the month, January 10, beginning at 5:00 PM and continue studying the Smalcald Articles. A pitch-in dinner will follow the study as well. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Online Bible Study:

- We will continue having a short devotional video on **Tuesdays** 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.
- 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. 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.

SPECIAL SERVICE

Joint Epiphany Service: Join us Wednesday, January 6th at 7:00 PM for a joint Epiphany Divine Service at St. John, White Creek as we join together with the saints from St. John, 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 anticipate being able to meet in person, but please check the bulletins and the Facebook page for further announcements should that change and to see if there is a virtual option as well.

INFORMATION, NEWS & EVENTS

Library:

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 January Book of the Month is *Day by Day: 365 Devotional Readings from Martin Luther*. Here is an excerpt from the book: “Even after nearly 500 years, what you will read in this book sounds as though it were written yesterday. Martin Luther’s writings have a poignancy and power that continue to captivate readers. A daily dose of Luther is good for the soul, because Dr. Luther points us directly to Jesus Christ and the Gospel.... We pray this book is a blessing to all who use it and all who are touched by the passionate enthusiasm demonstrated by Luther for what we need the most, day by day, our dear Lord Christ!”

Usher & Communion Sign-Up Sheets:

The 2021 sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. We are always looking for additional people interested in filling these roles. Please feel free to sign up even if you have never before helped in these ways. Someone will be happy to show you the ropes.

(At this time, communion assistance will be clean up only. Pastor will continue to set up communion so that there is only one contact prior to communion distribution.)

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. The Indiana District President, Rev. Daniel Brege will be our guest preacher that day. 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.

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.

YOUTH EVENTS

Youth Group :

The youth group will meet on Sunday, January 17 for our youth night. We will have a meal, time to study God’s Word, and a fun activity.

FROM THE OFFICE

	Nov. 29	Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Midweek Services Seminary Student
Attendance	79				
Op. Fund	\$2,169.00	\$4,624.11	\$3,572.00	\$1,366.63	
Synodical Fund:	\$100.00	\$215.00	\$125.00	\$20.00	
Building Fund	\$100.00	\$250.00		\$250.00	
Total	\$2,369.00	\$5,089.11	\$3,697.00	\$1,636.63	\$683.00

Other December Contributions:

\$5000.00 – Cemetery Fund

\$6,300.00 – Landscaping

\$10,000.00 – Parsonage

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
Amy Sciano • (812) 342-4921, office • (812) 390-2318, cell • amy@stpeterwaymansville.com
On the web: www.stpeterwaymansville.com • Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

Ushers: Max Thomas & Kyle Thomas

Communion Clean-up: Jan. 3 - Lynnette May
Jan. 17 - Amy Sciano

Acolytes:

Jan. 3 – Laurie Schultz

Jan. 17 – Jenna Thomas

Jan. 10 – Jonah Sciano

Jan. 24 – Rayleigh Acton

January 2021

Jan. 31 – Joe Acree

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School	4	5 Pastor at Circuit Mtg. until 1:00 PM 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	6 7:00 PM – Joint Epiphany Service @ White Creek	7 10:00 AM – Elders’ Mtg.	8	9
10 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Quarterly Voters’ Mtg. Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	11	12 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	13 6:30 PM – Bible Study	14 7:00 PM – Church Board Mtg.	15	16
17 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group Night	18	19 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	20 6:30 PM – Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	25	26 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	27 6:30 PM – Bible Study	28	29	30
31 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis						

