

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter
March 2021



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God Has Not Changed

- Pastor Sorenson

One year ago, in the month of March, the sad and difficult decision was made to stop holding in-person worship services at St. Peter due to the new coronavirus. At the time, none of us knew what the future would look like.

There was some hope that we may be able to meet in some capacity for Easter services. That did not happen. When we did start meeting two months later, we met in the parking lot in our cars, listening to the service over the radio. When we finally moved back into the sanctuary, there were ribbons marking off pews so we could maintain proper distancing. Those ribbons still adorn our pews.

Through this all, many members of the congregation have stayed healthy. For that, we give thanks and praise to God. Some, however, have not stayed healthy, contracting the virus at different points in time. For them, we prayed for the Lord's healing and rejoiced when that healing came.

Time and space do not permit going through all of the trials and difficulties we as a church have faced over the last year. Nor does it permit to go through all of the trials and difficulties each of us have faced in our personal lives with changes to school, work, and countless other things.

Yet, as we look forward to celebrating the 150th anniversary of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church this year, let us not lose sight of an important fact in all of this. As difficult as the last year has been, as many trials as we have all gone through due to the virus, God has not changed.

In fact, just think about everything that this congregation has been through over the last 150 years. St. Peter was founded within a decade after the Civil War. St. Peter survived the trying times of World War I, the Great Depression, the Spanish Flu, World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and so many other wars and disasters. Locally, there have been countless floods, snowstorms, tornadoes, lightning strikes, and other dangers that have made gathering for worship difficult or impossible. Yet, God never changed.

No matter what has happened in the world, no matter what challenges or difficulties the saints at St. Peter have faced, God has always been here to feed and care for us through His Word and His Sacraments.

He has never let this pulpit go silent, but has always provided a faithful man to shepherd this flock with the Word of God. He has never let this altar go empty, but has always set His table with the body and blood of Christ. He has never let this baptismal font go dry, but has always filled it with the life-giving waters of Holy Baptism.

As we face the difficulties of these days, then, we do so knowing that God will continue to come to us and serve us in the same ways He always has. He will not withhold His gifts from us because we may be afraid. Instead, He will continue to richly and lavishly supply us with everything we need for this body and life even in the midst of our fear and concern.

For 150 years, He's been doing just that in this very place, in this very congregation. No war has changed that. No economic hardships have changed that. No disease or virus has changed that. Let us, then, rejoice and celebrate, meeting together in the house of the Lord to receive the unchanging gifts of Christ crucified and risen for us. For, indeed, as Scripture says and as these last 150 years at St. Peter have shown and as the days to come at St. Peter will continue to show, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

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.
- **Wednesday Night** Bible Study is breaking until after Easter.
- **Book of Concord Study** will meet on the second Sunday of the month, March 14, 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 SERVICES

Lent is a special 40-day season during which the Church reflects on her sin and on her need for a Savior. It is a time for us to turn our focus away from the things of this world and toward Christ, our dear Lord. As such, it is most appropriate for the Church to gather together more often during this season as we wait with anticipation for the joy of Easter. It is my prayer that all of us here at St. Peter would join together during this special season as we repent of our sin and look for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Remaining Lent & Holy Week Services:

The Midweek Services – Sacrificial Foreshadowing

Wednesday, **March 3, 7:00 PM** – Sacrifice of Isaac

Wednesday, **March 10, 7:00 PM** – Sacrifice of Passover

Wednesday, **March 17, 7:00 PM** – Sacrifice of Day of Atonement

Wednesday, **March 24, 7:00 PM** – Sacrifice of Elijah

The Start of Holy Week

Sunday, **March 28, 9:00 AM** – Palm Sunday and **Confirmation**

The Triduum

Thursday, **April 1, 7:00 PM** – Maundy Thursday

Friday, **April 2, 7:00 PM** – Good Friday

Saturday, **April 3, 8:00 PM** – Easter Vigil

Easter

Sunday, **April 4, 6:30 AM** – Easter Sunrise

Sunday, **April 4, 9:00 AM** – Easter Divine Service

GENERAL INFORMATION

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 March Book of the Month is *Dying to Live: The Power of Forgiveness* by Harold L. Senkbeil. Here is an excerpt from the book: "In Jesus Christ, God walked the earth in human flesh. That body of His was the antidote to the death of humanity. Crucified, risen, and ascended in glory, His human flesh is still the remedy for the death of man, for it contains the Life of God. Enclosed within His physical flesh, God's deathless power entered this terminally ill world. And today Jesus Christ remains the medicine of Life for our death."

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.)

Altar Flowers: If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, there is a sign-up sheet in the hallway between Pastor's office and the church office. 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. Please contact Sue Anne Lee at (812) 717-0167 if you have any questions.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group : The youth group will meet on Sunday, March 21 for our youth night. We will have a meal, time to study God's Word, and a fun activity. We will also be planning for the Easter breakfast, so please be sure to come!

EASTER EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt: The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 3 at 10:00 AM. We will meet in the shelter house (weather permitting) to allow for better spacing. Eggs will be available in the narthex to pick up and fill with individually wrapped candy beginning on March 17. Please have the eggs returned by April 1. Also, be sure to invite any children or grandchildren to be part of the hunt on April 3.

Easter Breakfast: The Youth Group will serve an Easter breakfast this year between the sunrise and Divine Service on Easter (April 4).

150th ANNIVERSARY UPDATES

150th Anniversary: This year is 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.

150th Chairperson: If anyone would be interested in being the chairperson for the 150th anniversary celebration, please speak to Pastor Sorenson. We could really use someone, or a small group of people, who can keep things organized and on schedule. Thank you for considering serving in this way!

Anniversary Service Invitations: We are developing our mailing list of members, past and present. If you have a family member or friend that you want to receive an invitation to our church anniversary, please let Debbie know at debraflohr5@gmail.com or text to (812) 341-4724.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

St. Peter Lutheran Church 150th Anniversary Cookbook

This process is mostly done online and by our church. If you are able to assist in any of these areas, please do!!

We need to design our cover for the cookbook! If you are artistic or great with photo apps, get with us.

We need to do a title page about our church and its history. If this is your area of knowledge, let us know!

A few folks are needed to help select the layout and page formats we want to use. Help us choose what will be representing our church!

We would like to start collecting recipes around 2/15/21. A website will be started, and you directly submit your recipes there. If any members are not able to submit them online, they can be given to the committee to enter. The deadline will be around 4/6/21.

All the standard categories for recipes that are traditionally included will be represented. We will also be adding the following categories: Keto, Instant pot, Air Fryer, Vegetarian, and Gluten Free. If another category emerges, we will be happy to add to this list.

Plans are to order the books by 5/4/21 and have them on hand around 6/15/21 in plenty of time to be a part of our anniversary celebration!

Based upon the choices and type of book we design, we will also need to decide how much to charge for the books and then designate where the profits will be distributed.

Please see Pastor, Michelle Sorenson, or AJ Trimpe to join this fun committee!!



To place recipes into the 150th anniversary cookbook for our church:

Go online to typensave.com

Our user ID is: 150cookbook393

Password is: apple763

If you prefer to email the church your recipe (amy@stpeterwaymansville.com, pastoresorenson@gmail.com) or give it to Pastor. Michelle Sorenson, or AJ Trimpe, that will work also.

Please have recipes submitted by the beginning of April.

Thank you!

FROM THE OFFICE

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: Curt Acton

Communion Clean-up: March. 7 – Jenni Acton
 March. 21 – Amy Sciano
 March 28 - Amy Sciano

Acolytes:

March 3 – Trevor Acree
March 14 – Jenna Thomas
March 24 – Trevor Acree

March 7 – Laurie Schultz
March 17 – Rayleigh Acton
March 28 – Laurie Schultz

March 2021

March 10 – Jonah Sciano
March 21 – Joe Acree

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Pastor at Circuit Mtg. 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	3 7:00 PM – Lent Midweek Service	4 10:00 AM – Elders' Mtg.	5	6
7 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	8	9 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	10 7:00 PM – Lent Midweek Service	11 6:00 PM – 150 th Ann. Planning Mtg. 7:00 PM – Church Board Mtg.	12	13
14 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	15	16 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	17 7:00 PM – Lent Midweek Service	18	19	20
21 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	22	23 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	24 7:00 PM – Lent Midweek Service	25	26	27
28 9:00 AM – Divine Service (C): Palm Sunday & Confirmation 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School	29	30 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	31 7:00 PM – Lent Midweek Service	Upcoming Dates: 4/1: Maundy Thursday @ 7:00 PM 4/2: Good Friday @ 7:00 PM 4/3: Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00 AM Easter Vigil @ 8:00 PM 4/4: Easter Sunrise @ 6:30 AM Divine Service @ 9:00 AM		

