

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter
April 2021



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Holy Week Is Inconvenient

- Pastor Sorenson

Holy Week is inconvenient. The idea of coming to church on Palm Sunday and then again on Thursday and Friday and Saturday seems overwhelming. Not to mention, it seriously changes how the flow of your week will go.

Maybe in order to get to church on Thursday and Friday you have to come straight from work. Maybe you wouldn't be able to have dinner before you come. Maybe those times are when you just need to sit down, take a deep breath, and relax after a long day. Maybe there's any number of other reasons why Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil are simply inconvenient days and times for you to come to church.

Good. Holy Week should be inconvenient. It should be a week which alters your weekly routine. It should stand out as a different week from the other 51 weeks of the year. It should be a week where you're uncomfortable and having to shuffle things around in order to be at church. It should be a time where you make absolutely every effort to be at church for each service, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, letting no other excuses keep you away.

For in this week, you come face to face with sin, death, and salvation like no other week in the year. On Palm Sunday, you see a picture of Christ in triumph even as He comes humbly to lay down His life on the cross.

On Maundy Thursday, you hear of Christ's betrayal at the hands of one of His disciples before you see the altar stripped bare, giving you a vivid picture of the humiliation Christ suffers because of your sins.

On Good Friday, you sit in darkness as you contemplate in full measure Christ's suffering and death on the cross all for your salvation, seeing what a great Savior you have.

At the Easter Vigil, you hear the complete story of salvation, from the fall into sin until the present day, before ending with the triumphant proclamation of Christ's resurrection.

These really are important services for every Christian to attend. Without these, you go from the triumph of Palm Sunday to the triumph of Easter without ever really confronting your sin and what your sin has done. Without these, Easter becomes just one more high point in a world with no valleys. Without these, you don't really delve into the depth of your sin, which means you also don't really understand the depth of Christ's salvation. Your sin becomes small and so too your Savior becomes small.

This world does its best to convince you that comfort and convenience are king. But Holy Week snaps you back to reality. This world does its best to convince you that sin is no big deal. But Holy Week forces you to see the truth of what sin is and what sin does. This world does its best to convince you that you can have Easter joy without Holy Week suffering. But Holy Week teaches you that true Easter joy is only known when you've walked with Christ through suffering into death and back to life again.

Count it as joy, then, to be inconvenienced for a week. So what if dinner has to wait a little bit longer? So what if you have to come to church straight from work? So what if Holy Week is inconvenient? Because that inconvenience is nothing compared to the great gifts which Christ is giving you during that week. That inconvenience is nothing compared to the joy that Holy Week prepares you for on Easter morning. That inconvenience is nothing compared to the strength you receive from hearing God's Word and receiving His Sacrament with your brothers and sisters in Christ during that most Holy Week.

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** will plan to meet again starting on Wednesday, April 14 at 6:30 PM. We will review our study on church membership and conclude that study before moving on to our next topic.
- **Book of Concord Study** will meet on the second Sunday of the month, April 11, 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 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

Joint Ascension Day Service: This year we will be hosting a joint Ascension Day service with the saints from St. John, White Creek and St. Paul, Jonesville. The service will be on Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 PM.

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 April Book of the Month is *Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality for Today* by John W. Kleinig. Here is an excerpt from the book: "If we have problems in living the life of faith, if we have challenges in the practice of prayer, the solution is not to be found in what we do, our self-appraisal, or our performance. The solution to our problems is found in what we receive from God Himself, in His appraisal of us, and in His gifts to us. Like our physical life and health, our spiritual life is something that is given to us, something that is to be received and enjoyed and celebrated. Our piety is all a matter of receiving grace upon grace from the fullness of God the Father."

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, April 18, 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!

Golf Outing: The Youth Group will be hosting our annual Golf Outing on Saturday, May 1st at Hickory Hills Golf Course in Brownstown. If you would like to play or be a sponsor for the outing, please speak to Pastor Sorenson. Additional information can be found on the flyers on the bulletin boards.

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. 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). We will plan on serving the breakfast from about 7:15-8:40 AM.

Lord's Supper on Easter: Please take note that this year the Lord's Supper will be offered at both the 6:30 AM Sunrise service and the 9:00 AM service.

Easter Sunday: If you have family coming on Easter Sunday, please feel free to sit together in consecutive pews, moving the dividers as needed. This will allow for maximum capacity while also maintaining proper distancing. Likewise, if the church is starting to fill, consider sitting with someone else if and only if you and they are comfortable sitting together. We want to ensure that everyone who wishes to attend on Easter will be able to while also allowing everyone to be spaced apart as they desire.

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, making a banner, making Christmas ornaments, and many other things. 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 Pastor Sorenson.

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.

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!

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: Max Thomas & Kyle Thomas

Communion Clean-up: April 1 – Lynnette May
 April 4 – Lynnette May
 April 18 - Amy Sciano

Acolytes:

April 1 – Jonah Sciano
April 4 (SR) – Trevor Acree
April 18 – Rayleigh Acton

April 2 – Rayleigh Acton
April 4 (9 AM) – Laurie Schultz
April 25 – Joe Acree

April 2021

April 3– Joe Acree
April 11 – Jonah Sciano

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Dates: 5/1: Youth Group Golf Outing 5/13: Joint Ascension Day Service @ Waymansville				1 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday (C)	2 7:00 PM – Good Friday	3 10:00 AM – Easter Egg Hunt 8:00 PM – Easter Vigil
4 6:30 AM – Easter Sunrise (Communion) 7:15-8:40 AM – Easter Breakfast (Sunday School offered during this time.) 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion)	5	6 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	7	8 6:00 PM – 150 th Ann. Planning Mtg. 7:00 PM – Church Board Mtg.	9	10
11 9:00 AM – Divine Service *Voters’ Meeting immediately after worship service with Adult Bible Study to follow. 10:15 AM – Sunday School 5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	12	13 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	14 6:30 PM – Bible Study	15	16	17
18 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group Night	19	20 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	21 6:30 PM – Bible Study	22	23	24
25 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School	26	27 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	28 6:30 PM – Bible Study	29	30	