

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter
June 2021



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We Are Evangelical

- Pastor Sorenson

As we prepare to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, it's a good time to reflect upon the name of the congregation. Most of the name is understandable and quite appropriate. There's St. Peter, not because we worship Peter, but because we honor one of our Lord's own personally chosen apostles. Lutheran, not because we worship Luther, but because we confess the same faith which Luther and the other reformers confessed as well. Church because we are called by God to join together in this blessed communion.

But then there's the term evangelical. Some Lutheran churches still keep that term as part of their name, but sadly many have abandoned the term. They have done so because in America the term evangelical has some baggage.

Today if you hear the term "evangelical" it most often refers to a group of non-Roman Catholic denominations who proclaim themselves to be conservative. Theologically, evangelicals come from many different denominations, which means there is nothing really that binds them together except their status as non-Roman Catholics. Politically, evangelicals view themselves as occupying the right side of the political spectrum. Sometimes the term "evangelical" and "republican" are even used as synonyms in political commentary.

It's easy to see why many Lutheran churches have dropped the term evangelical from their name. For theologically, we are not in agreement with other "evangelical" denominations on things like Holy Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and even human nature and conversion. Politically, we do not pick sides as a church. Being a Lutheran is not a synonym for being a republican, a democrat, or anything else.

All this brings up the question, then, why do we keep "evangelical" as part of our church name? The answer has its roots both in the term itself and in the history of the Lutheran church. First, the word "evangelical" simply means "of the Gospel/Good News." It comes from the Greek word euangelion which is used throughout the New Testament. Jesus, for instance, says in Mark 16:15, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel (euangelion) to the whole creation."

Second, understanding what this word actually means, Luther and the other reformers were very clear that they didn't like being known as "Lutherans" but greatly preferred being called "Evangelicals." The reasoning was simply enough: the main thing Luther and the earliest Lutherans did was proclaim the good news, the Gospel. Therefore, unlike the Roman Catholics who stressed works and the Law, they were the proclaimers of the Good News of Christ.

Clearly, with these two points, retaining the term "evangelical" as part of our church's name is a most wonderful thing! Sure, there will still be confusion. Yes, we will still need to teach what the term really means. Absolutely, we will be known primarily as Lutherans. But what a great heritage it is for us to be reminded that everything we do is of the Gospel. Everything we do is concerned with the Good News of Christ and Him crucified for our salvation.

As we celebrate 150 years of this congregation, let us joyfully say we are St. Peter *Evangelical* Lutheran Church. For without the Gospel, we would have nothing at all. Without the Gospel, we would still be lost in our sins. Without the Gospel, we would find our identity in the things of this world.

But we are not without the Gospel. We are evangelical. We are of the Gospel. May God continue to grant us His grace so that this would always be the case here in this congregation until our Lord comes again to wake us from our graves to live with Him forevermore.

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 continue meeting on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM as we study the 12 Apostles and important women of the Bible. If you have any topics you are interested in studying, please let Pastor Sorenson know.
- **Book of Concord Study** will meet on the second Sunday of the month, June 13th, 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.

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.

Special Presentation: To celebrate our 150th anniversary, there will be a special presentation on Wednesday, June 16th at 7:00 PM by Rev. Arthur Schwenk. He will be discussing immigration from Germany to the local area, including how that affected our congregation.

Anniversary Service Invitations/RSVP: 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.

The schedule for July 11th is as follows:

*10:30 Morning worship *12:00 Luncheon *2:00 Anniversary worship service (Reception to follow)
Please call the church office at (812) 342-4921 or email at amy@stpeterwaymansville.com to RSVP for the luncheon.

CHURCH HISTORY

In preparation for our 150th anniversary celebration, some church members are looking through historical church documents. Barb Minor has compiled a list of interesting excerpts from old board meeting minutes. Some of these excerpts will be included each week in our bulletins and compiled in our monthly newsletters leading up to the celebration in July. These excerpts are from Board Minutes from April 2, 1871 to October 6, 1912 and were written in German and translated by Rev. A. A. Mueller. It is worth noting how important church attendance and voter meeting attendance was and that being in church and living a life according to God's Word was extremely important. Christian life was to be lived every day.

October 4, 1874: It was further resolved that each congregational member shall bring 30 good fence rails to the parsonage land.

The congregation was reminded that since the pastor has not received half of his salary for the year that has now passed, the members, if at all possible, should pay their contribution very soon because the pastor already finds himself in great money difficulties.

Since our congregational constitution states that all men in the congregation of the age of 21, are to sign it and have already been reminded of this repeatedly in the meetings, therefore the assembly must express its surprise at this that in spite of this several still fail to attend. It was resolved that all those young men over the age of 21 who have not signed by the next quarterly meeting are to be summoned in writing by the congregation to explain themselves concerning this matter before the assembly why they do not wish to do so.

Since Mr. F. S---, because of his dipsomania, has already been admonished and pleaded with many times by the pastor and by the elders to desist from this but all of this has been fruitless. Therefore, the congregation resolved to summon him in writing to appear in the congregational meeting next Sunday so that he may be admonished according to God's Word by the whole congregation.

With sadness we again had to realize that also in this meeting so many members were absent. It was pointed out that a Christian cannot absent himself from our meetings unnecessarily with a conscience. For God's Word says: "Let us not forsake the assembling etc." And it states furthermore: "Let everything be done decently and in order." And surely no one will claim that this is "decent and in order" when one comes seldom or not at all to the meetings and accordingly is not concerned about the congregation's affairs. What would become of the congregation if all would do thus! It was resolved that in the future the names of the members of the congregation be read.

October 18, 1874: In the previous meeting Mr. H B--- was instructed to find out why Mr. V--- has not attended the meetings, since he had been asked in writing to vindicate himself in the meeting concerning his neglect of congregational duties. The said Mr. V--- did indeed come to church on this day, but did not remain for the congregational meeting, but left. That he would do this he had already told Mr. B--- in his house. Through such behavior, everyone had to realize that he has deliberately despised the admonition of the congregation. That he is a malicious and obstinate sinner, he has proven also by this that for years he has hardly ever come to church in spite of the fact that he had been admonished concerning thus. Therefore, the congregation declared that Mr. V--- has excommunicated himself from the congregation by his behavior (attitude). We, therefore, must look upon him as a heathen and a publican and not as a Christian brother. May the Lord, however, grant that the eyes of this despiser of God's Word may be opened, so that he may not die in his blindness and goes to hell.

November 29, 1874: Since Mr. S--- has shown himself to be an obstinate sinner with respect to his drunkenness, the congregation resolved to excommunicate him from the congregation until he shows improvement. May God grant that he will do so before he dies in his sins.

April 2, 1877: It was further resolved that the congregation join the Ev. Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States.

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 June Book of the Month is *Speaking Boldly: Sharing God's Word Every Day* by Edward O. Grimenstein. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Let's be very clear: this book is about speaking. It is about assisting you to feel more comfortable, confident, and relaxed in speaking God's Word to other people. Those 'other' people may be your family, your friends, fellow members at church, co-workers, or even your four-year-old son. As we progress through these chapters, I am confident you will become more comfortable in speaking God's Word with others precisely for that reason – it is *God's Word*, not yours."

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, June 20th, for our youth night. We will have a meal, time to study God's Word, and a fun activity.

EVENTS

Game Night Returns!: Game Night will be returning in the month of June! We will host a night of games and fun on Friday, June 4th beginning at 6:00 PM. Hot dogs will be provided. If you would like to bring anything, feel free to bring a side, dessert, or drink. Mark your calendars and invite your friends and family!

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!

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On the web: www.stpeterwaymansville.com • Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

June 2021

Ushers: No sign-ups

Communion Clean-up: Amy Sciano

Acolytes:

June 6 – Rayleigh Acton

June 13 – Laurie Schultz

June 20 – Jonah Sciano

June 27 – Joe Acree

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	2 6:30 PM – Bible Study	3 10:00 AM – Elders' Mtg.	4 6:00 PM – Game Night	5
6 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Bible Study	7	8 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	9 6:30 PM – Bible Study	10 6:00 PM – 150 th Ann. Mtg. 7:00 PM – Church Board Mtg.	11	12
13 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Bible Study 5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	14	15 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	16 7:00 PM – Rev. Arthur Schwenk presentation (no Bible Study)	17	18	19
20 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Bible Study 5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group Night	21	22 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	23 6:30 PM – Bible Study	24	25	26
27 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Bible Study	28	29 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	30 6:30 PM – Bible Study	Upcoming Dates: July 11: 150 th Anniversary Celebration		