

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter
July 2021



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

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150 Years: Make a Joyful Noise!

- Pastor Sorenson

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.” That’s how Psalm 100 begins. The entire psalm is our theme for this special 150th anniversary celebration and it is an excellent psalm for such a celebration and a remembrance.

It begins with this exhortation to make a joyful noise. Certainly, we will be making a joyful noise on July 11th, but this verse also reminds us of what has been happening here at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church for the last 150 years. Ever since this congregation came into existence, the saints who have come together to worship the Lord have been making a joyful noise, singing praises to God who comes to them with all of His gifts.

“Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!” Verse 2 further captures the life of the Church. For 150 years this congregation has served the Lord by gladly coming into His presence just as He has invited us.

“Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.” Verse 3 moves us into doctrine, which is to say our shared beliefs as they come from Holy Scripture. Our life together is all about knowing God to be our Lord and Creator. Not only has He made each and every one of us, but He has also made this congregation, making it a green pasture for all God’s sheep throughout the ages who find here the true knowledge and teaching of who God is.

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!” Here again, verse 4 shows us what the Church is. The Church is the body of Christ who gathers together within His courts to give Him thanks and to call upon His name. While many different things have happened in this place for 150 years, this one alone is central. This congregation has always and will always revolve around gathering together before the Lord within His courts.

“For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.” Verse 5 brings the psalm to a close with a wonderful reminder and a promise. As we look back on the history of this congregation, we see in abundance the goodness of the Lord. There have certainly been periods of trial and hardship, but through it all the Lord has guarded and kept this congregation.

As He has in the past, so too do we know that He will in the present and in the future. Why? Because His steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations. This is where our anniversary celebration hits a high note. For we are not simply remembering the past or trying to relive the golden days of old, but we are rejoicing in the promises of God to continue to show us His love and faithfulness for generations to come after us.

Psalm 100, then, is quite a fitting psalm for our 150th anniversary celebration. As we join together on July 11th, we will hear these words once more, making a joyful noise while being surrounded by our brothers and sisters in Christ who all have received God’s love and faithfulness in this very place.

For indeed, an anniversary celebration is not really about what we have done or even what this congregation has done, but rather about what God has done, is doing, and will do. After all, He has made us. He’s provided the courts for us to gather. He’s shown us His goodness and love through the gifts of Christ. For all of this, then, let us make a joyful noise for all the world to hear! To God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, alone be the glory now and into the ages of ages. Amen!

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 are studying the minor prophets **Sunday mornings** after worship.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Our study on the 12 Apostles and important women of the Bible will conclude on July 7th at 6:30 PM. After that, we will take a break for the month of July before restarting in August.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Due to the 150th anniversary, we will meet again on Sunday, August 1st 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.

Two letters we have received regarding our anniversary are included in this newsletter.

Please call the church office at (812) 342-4921 or email at amy@stpeterwaymansville.com to RSVP for the luncheon.

The schedule for July 11th is as follows:

*10:30 Morning worship

*12:00 Luncheon

*2:00 Anniversary worship service (Reception to follow)

150th Anniversary Clean-up Days: With the 150th anniversary celebration almost here, now is a great time to do some clean-up around the church grounds. A list of cleaning needs is provided here in the newsletter (next page) and will also be posted in the Parish Hall. Feel free to come anytime July 5th-8th to check off an item or two on the list. If you would prefer to do clean-up with a group, we will meet on Monday, July 5th from 4:00-6:00 PM. Please consider helping out as you are able. Many hands make light work!

Clean up List

Church

Clean windows and sills (inside)
Clean debris from between windows and screens (outside)
Vacuum and mop floors
Wipe down pews
Refill card slots
Sharpen pencils, as needed
Tidy hymnal racks
Polish balcony railing
Clean front doors
Touch up paint, as needed

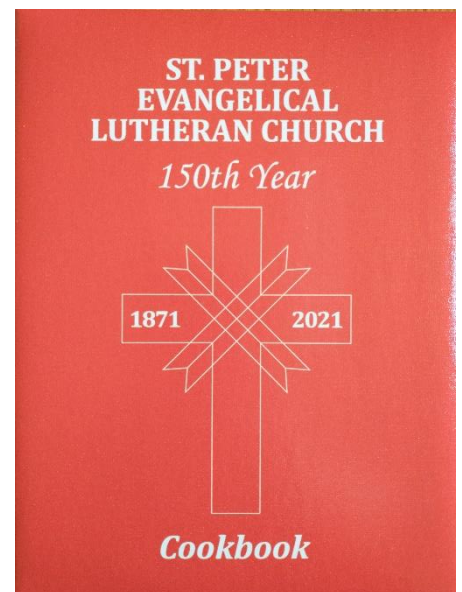
Parish Hall

Paint ceiling in women's bathroom
Clean windows inside and out
Vacuum and mop floors
Clean bathrooms
Refill soap, paper towels, toilet paper
Clean water fountain
Wipe down tables
Dust, including knocking down webs from the ceiling, around doors, etc.

Outside

Fix playground and swings
Clean-up fire pit
Attend to landscaping, as needed
Wash picnic tables

Cookbook: The 150th Anniversary Cookbooks are here! They will be offered beginning Sunday, June 27th for \$20 each. We will also have them available at the anniversary celebration on July 11th. Proceeds will benefit the 150th anniversary celebration events and the general fund. Grab one for yourself, your family, and your friends! They also make great birthday and Christmas gifts!



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.

January 6, 1878: It was resolved that the pastor shall have an increase of \$30.00 in his salary.

It was further resolved that those members who have children in the school and are not paying the designated school money (\$2.00) are to work two days for one child each year for the pastor.

June 30, 1878: Now followed a discussion of the fact that several parents send their children to school so irregularly. Some children have been in school only 50 or 60 days. If this continues in this way, what will become of these children? It would be impossible for them to come to a proper Christian understanding. In such a sad situation they would later be in great danger of becoming a prey either to sin or to the unbelieving world. Here in this country where there are so many sects and fanatics, it is much more necessary that they are thoroughly grounded in God's Word as in Germany. If all the children would acquire only the most necessary knowledge of the Word of God, there would be great danger that the congregation would be swept apart like chaff by the smallest storm that would strike it. We, therefore, owe it to the children and to the entire congregation to see to it that the children are firmly grounded in the Word of God. But this can be achieved only if the children attend the school regularly.

The following resolution was therefore adopted: Each child from the age of 7 to 14 shall attend the parochial school. In the last 4, that is from age 10 to 14. Each child must attend the school at least 100 days in each year. And if a child did not attend school for 100 days in each year of the last 4 years, then it should not be confirmed at the age of 14.

September 22, 1878: The meeting was opened with prayer. Then the admonition of Mr. --- took place. He, together with his wife, who had separated herself from him, had been summoned before the congregation. The woman had not appeared. She had already earlier stated that she would not come, saying it is no concern of the congregation or of the pastor when there are quarrels between marriage partners, etc. She had expressed herself before the pastor in an ungodly manner. And by the fact that she did not appear before the congregation, she has thereby excommunicated herself from the congregation. Mr. --- was then reproached with his sin, namely that he was living in disharmony with his wife and that he even mistreated her, also that he hardly ever comes to church on Sunday. He promised to do better and to make an attempt to be reconciled with his wife and to persuade her to return.

October 10, 1880: Since the old church is too large and therefore too cold for school purposes in winter, the school room is to be partitioned by a board wall. Flooring boards are to be used for this purpose.

Since it is not decent to dirty the church with tobacco juice, it is not permitted to use tobacco in the church during services or in congregational meetings.

It was further resolved to beautify the church grounds by planting trees. Accordingly, each member is to plant 2 or more maple trees on a certain day either at the end of this month or the beginning of next month.

It was also resolved that all hard bricks that are left over from the building of the church be brought up to the parsonage so that they may be used, as soon as feasible, for a necessary cistern.

January 2, 1881: It was resolved to exempt the widow S--- from the \$13.00 which had been subscribed by her deceased husband but had not yet been paid.

It was resolved to pay the pastor this money from the congregation. The pastor stated that he would want his money only when once there is a surplus in the treasury.

It was further resolved to support the family of H. B--- because of the need they have at this time. The New Year's collection (\$4.10) is to be used for this purpose and it is hoped that everyone who has a heart for this cause, bring his gift to the pastor, who should then deliver them.

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 July Book of the Month is *Law & Gospel: How to Read and Apply the Bible* by C.F.W. Walther. Here is an excerpt from the book: "When we compare Holy Scripture with other writings, we notice that no book seems to be as full of contradictions as the Bible. And this seems to be true not only in minor points but also even in its main point, namely, regarding the doctrine of how we may come to God and are saved.... This riddle can be solved when we consider that there are two entirely different doctrines in Scripture: the doctrine of the Law and the doctrine of the Gospel."

From Matt Riley: This past year we have been supporting seminarian Matt Riley. It is a wonderful thing for us to support a future pastor in Christ's Church! Each month he has been sending us a letter, which is posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Upon receiving our latest gift, he sent the following thank you: "Saints of St. Peter Lutheran, Thank you so much for your generous gift! Our family is truly blessed by the love and brotherhood of the Body of Christ. Your gift came at just the right time. God's richest blessings to you. In Christ alone, Seminarian Matt Riley & Jenn, Kati, Elli, Nate."

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:

- We will be setting up tables for the 150th anniversary on Friday, July 9th beginning at 3:30 PM. This should take us less than an hour. Please come out if you are able!
- The youth group will meet on Sunday, July 18th for our youth night. We will have a meal, time to study God's Word, and a fun activity. Feel free to bring a friend! Also, be on the lookout for more weekday youth events during the month of July. If you would like to be added to the text group to receive those notifications, please let Pastor know.

EVENTS

Game Night: Our next Game Night will be on Friday, August 6th beginning at 6:00 PM. More information will be available in the weeks to come regarding the meal. 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!

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

July 2021

Ushers: Robert Stiles

Communion Clean-up: 7/4: Lynnette May
 7/11: Need Volunteer
 7/18: Amy Sciano

Acolytes:

July 4 – Trevor Acree **July 11 (10:30)** – Rayleigh Acton
July 11 (2:00) – Laurie Schultz **July 18** – Jonah Sciano
July 25 – Joe Acree

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Dates: 8/6: Game Night				1	2	3
4 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Bible Study	5 4:00-6:00 PM – Group clean-up	6 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	7 6:30 PM – Bible Study	8 10:00 AM – Elders’ Mtg. 6:00 PM – 150 th Ann. Mtg. 7:00 PM – Church Board Mtg.	9 3:30 PM – Youth Group table set-up	10
11 10:30 AM – Anniversary Morning Service 12:00 PM - Anniversary Luncheon 2:00 PM – Anniversary Service (Communion) Reception	12	13 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	14	15	16	17
18 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Bible Study 5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group Night	19	20 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	21	22	23	24
25 9:00 AM – Divine Service Quarterly Voters’ Meeting Bible Study (as time allows)	26	27 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	28	29	30	31

