

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter  
August 2021



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## Blessings of Weekly Communion

- Pastor Sorenson

As Christians, we cherish and value the Means of Grace, namely the Word of God, Holy Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. Every week we gather together to hear the Word of God read, preached, and taught. Every week our service begins with a remembrance of our baptism as we hear again "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," the very words placed upon us in Holy Baptism.

But we do not receive the Lord's Supper every week. Perhaps, however, we should. For the Lord's Supper, along with the Word of God and Holy Baptism, is God's way of bringing us His grace, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation.

What follows here is a wonderful case by Rev. Christopher Amen (pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Pipestone, Minnesota) concerning why we should celebrate the Lord's Supper every Sunday here at St. Peter. Rev. Amen writes:

**"1. We are an historic church and having Holy Communion every Sunday is the historic practice of the Church.** From the 1st century until the 18th, every congregation offered the Lord's Supper at each service. Not having the Lord's Supper each week has only been the past 1/10th of church history, and only in some areas. And the past 100 years have seen the Church gradually returning to more frequent reception of it. Many of you remember Holy Communion being offered only four times a year. Then churches moved to offering it once a month. Then they offered it twice a month. Over time, the Lutheran Church has been returning to this historic practice. Now, over 1/3 of LCMS congregations have weekly communion, with nearly 1/2 having communion each week including with alternating services.

**2. Our Lutheran Confessions tell us that Holy Communion should be every Sunday.** All LCMS congregations and pastors are bound to the teachings of our Lutheran doctrinal writings. In the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article XXIV, the reformers wrote, "At the outset, we must again make this preliminary statement: we do not wish to abolish the Mass (Holy Communion), but religiously keep and defend it. Masses are celebrated among us every Lord's Day and on the other festivals. The Sacrament is offered to those who wish to use it, after they have been examined and absolved." (Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, pg. 320)

**3. We are sinners in need of forgiveness every Sunday.** Someone once said to me, "Am I really that bad of a sinner that I need Holy Communion every Sunday?" The answer is "Yes!" All of us are! As the Small Catechism teaches us, the Lord's Supper gives us forgiveness of sins. There is not a Sunday that goes by that we are not desperately in need of what Christ gives in His Holy Meal.

**4. As a pastor, I am duty-bound to give God's gifts to those who desire them.** At a recent conference, one of our LCMS seminary professors made the following statement: "It's very selfish to say 'I don't need the Lord's Supper every Sunday.' Maybe you don't. But do you know what's going on in the life of the person next to you? You may think you don't need it, but what about that other person?" People come to church on Sunday hurting and broken. Many are desiring to receive what Christ gives them in His Sacrament. Without it offered, they are in effect told no, while offering it does not require someone to participate but gives the freedom and option.

**5. Having Holy Communion every Sunday is a benefit to those who work on Sundays.** The reality is that some people cannot be in church every Sunday. We have nurses who must work on Sunday morning. Sometimes there's an incident on the farm that requires the farmer's attention. Sometimes parents have to stay home with sick children. If they miss out on Holy Communion on a given Sunday, they have the assurance that it will be there for them the very next time they get to church.

**6. Holy Communion every Sunday teaches that this Sacrament is important.** One of the common arguments—and one that I used to believe myself—is that by only having the Lord’s Supper semi-regularly, we make it more common and less special. However, the answer to people treating Holy Communion too lightly isn’t having it less frequently...it’s teaching them not to treat it lightly! Consider a husband telling his wife, “I love you.” He would never consider saying it only twice a month to “make it more special!” He does it often...and he should learn to do it with meaning. His wife learns to receive it as a joy when her bridegroom says those wonderful words to him. And vice versa. In the same way, Holy Communion is where God communicates His love to us through the body and blood of His Son. It is the tangible and visible, I love you from God as He gives the body and blood shed on the cross in His love for us. He does so intentionally and with meaning. Why on earth would we ever not want to receive what he there gives us?

There are numerous other reasons to give that show the benefits of receiving Holy Communion every single Sunday. Next month, I’ll use this space to address some of the objections and concerns that people have regarding every-Sunday Holy Communion. Please feel free to discuss and share. It is the desire that we grow in our faith and reception of Christ’s gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.”

I encourage you to consider how every Sunday communion is a great blessing for us, discuss the topic with each other, come to Bible study where we will be learning even more about this great gift, and talk to me with any questions you may have.

### 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:**

- **Sundays:** We are studying the minor prophets Sunday mornings after worship. This month we will begin our study of the prophet Joel.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesday Night Bible Study will return on August 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. We will begin a study on weekly communion using the book *The Blessings of Weekly Communion* by Kenneth W. Wieting, as well as some other sources. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend too!
- **Book of Concord Study:** We will meet a week earlier than normal on the first Sunday of the month, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](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](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](mailto: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.

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May these resources assist you as you continue to hear the Word of God and cry out to Him in prayer.  
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## 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOLLOW-UP

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on July 11<sup>th</sup> a success! It was a wonderful day to give thanks to God for all of His grace and mercy toward us while enjoying fellowship with one another. To God alone be the glory!

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

**Cat's Meow:** Cat's Meow cutouts of the church to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary are available for \$20 each. You can pick one up on Sunday mornings or during the week.

## 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 August Book of the Month is *The Blessings of Weekly Communion* by Kenneth W. Wieting. Here is an excerpt from the book: "The watchword in this recovery must continue to be *opportunity*. The Lord's Supper is the Gospel, not the Law. In fact, as Luther said, it is the sum and substance of the Gospel! We are not advocating that people be made to commune. In harmony with the scriptural, historic, and confessional witness, we are encouraging that they not be denied the opportunity to commune when they come for regular weekly worship."

**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. Be sure to check it out and keep Matt and his family in your prayers.

**Usher & Communion Sign-Up Sheets:** This is a need in our church. We need additional people interested in filling these roles. Please 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 CLASSES

**Youth Group:** The youth group will meet on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> 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! If you would like to be added to the text group to receive those notifications, please let Pastor know.

**Youth Catechesis:** Youth Catechesis (confirmation) classes will be beginning on August 15. If you have a child who has already begun Catechesis, or if you have a child you would like to start this year, please contact Pastor Sorenson as soon as possible. If your child will be going through classes at White Creek, please contact Pastor Sorenson as well, as he would like to have all of our catechumens (confirmands) together in class so they may grow with one another and so he may get to know them and they may get to know him. Thank you!

**Sunday School Teachers:** As we approach a new school year, it is time to start planning for Sunday School! We are in need of people to volunteer to help teach our Sunday School classes. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to be a part of teaching the Word of God to our children, to dive into the Word yourself, and to build up the entire church. If you are interested in teaching in any capacity (weekly, twice a month, once a month, substitute, etc.), please contact Kevin Schultz or Pastor Sorenson. Thank you for supporting our youth in this way!

## EVENTS

**Game Night:** Game Night will be on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 PM. Hot dogs will be provided. If you would like to bring anything else, feel free to bring a side, dessert, or drinks. Mark your calendars and invite your friends and family!

**Fish Fry Meeting:** Join us on Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM for a Fish Fry meeting. We will discuss how we want to run the Fish Fry this year and begin planning for the event. The Fish Fry is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 PM. Please prayerfully consider coming to this meeting to help make the Fish Fry a success!

**College Outreach and Care:** As a new school year begins, we will be beginning a new college outreach and care program for our college students. If you are going to college (or know a member who is going to college), please let Pastor Sorenson know so he can add you to the list. Be on the lookout for more details in the months to come.

## 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](http://www.stpeterwaymansville.com) • Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch)

## St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

**Ushers:** Max Thomas & Kyle Thomas

**Communion Clean-up:** Volunteers Needed

**August 2021**

**Acolytes:**

**Aug. 1** – Trevor Acree

**Aug. 15** – Rayleigh Acton

**Aug. 29** – Laurie Schultz

**Aug. 8** – Max Hoene

**Aug. 22** – Anslee Hawkins

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM –Bible Study  5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00 AM – Elders’ Mtg.	<b>6</b>  6:00 PM – Game Night	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM –Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  2:00 PM – Online Devotion	<b>11</b>  6:30 PM – Bible Study	<b>12</b>  6:00 PM – Fish Fry Mtg. 7:00 PM – Church Board Mtg.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM –Bible Study 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis  5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group Night	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM – Pastor @ Circuit Mtg. 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	<b>18</b>  6:30 PM – Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM –Bible Study 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  2:00 PM – Online Devotion	<b>25</b>  6:30 PM – Bible Study	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM –Bible Study 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  2:00 PM – Online Devotion				