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## The Blessings of Weekly Communion

- Pastor Sorenson

Below, Rev. Christopher Amen (pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Pipestone, Minnesota) addresses some of the concerns with having communion offered every week.

He begins: "While not able to address them all, here are some of the most common and a little response.

**1. Having Holy Communion every Sunday will make the services too long.** Several people listed this concern. On the one hand, the people of God must guard themselves against treating the Divine Service as another thing on the schedule to complete as quickly as possible. Yet there are valid reasons for being mindful of the length of service. Already attention has to be paid to the length of the service due. It is very reasonable to set a goal of keeping the service as close to 60 minutes in length as possible without discarding essential parts of the service. There are certainly measures that can be taken to ensure that Holy Communion is offered to those who desire to receive it and that it does not unnecessarily make the service too long.

**2. People will come to Holy Communion unprepared.** Obviously we always want people to be prepared to receive Holy Communion. Over the past 300 years, this has been one of the factors that has led to offering Holy Communion less frequently. This was done with a misunderstanding of what it means to "prepare" for the Sacrament. Martin Luther said in the Small Catechism, "Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We have Confession and Absolution every Sunday. Confessing our sins and receiving absolution is our preparation for Holy Communion. In the hymnal it is even separate from the Service of the Word for this reason.

**3. Holy Communion will be treated as "too common" and not special enough.** The way people regard something as special and sacred is by being taught to regard it as special and sacred. One could argue that having Holy Communion only occasionally teaches that it is something we're not willing to invest the time every week to do. On the contrary, the Bible teaches us that Holy Communion is central to the life of God's people. If doing something less often teaches people to appreciate it more, should we only have the sermon twice a month? Should we only gather an offering occasionally? Of course not. We teach people these things are important by our taking the time to be present and participating in them regularly. A better approach to teaching that Holy Communion is special and sacred is to encourage Christians to receive it, as our Lord Jesus said, "often." Or think of it as you would a meal. Communion is not an elegant dessert but rather is the meat and produce of the diet.

**4. I may not feel like having it.** Then don't, but still be present to receive God's Word. No one ever says at any time that anyone must go for communion when offered. Though Martin Luther notes that if you do not desire the Sacrament then perhaps you ought to pinch yourself to ensure that you are alive, for as long as you are alive you should have need for the forgiveness given. Also note, while you may not, there may be others present who do desire it. By not offering it, the person who may desire communion is being told they cannot have the Lord's gifts at that time.

**5. What does the Synod or church at large think or do?** In 1995, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, gathered in its convention, adopted a resolution entitled "To Encourage Every Sunday Communion." It read:

Whereas, the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day was a reality cherished by Luther and set forth clearly with high esteem by our Lutheran Confessions (Article XXIV of the Augsburg Confession and of the Apology); and

Whereas, our synod's 1983 CTCR document on the Lord's Supper (p.28) and our Synod's 1986 [1991] translation of Luther's Catechism both remind us that the Scriptures place the Lord's Supper at the center of worship (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20,23), and not as an appendage or an occasional extra; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in convention encourage its pastors and congregations to study the scriptural, confessional, and historical witness to every Sunday communion with a view toward recovering the opportunity for receiving the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day.

Since then, the LCMS has been actively encouraging congregations toward this practice. Our seminaries teach it to their students. Our synod publisher, Concordia Publishing House, has published an entire book teaching the merits of having Holy Communion every Sunday. It has been encouraged by our Synod's pastors and theologians in its journals and publications. Over the last 25 years church's that offer communion each week has gone from less than 10% to over 35% (as we tend to be slow to adjusting.)

Martin Luther wrote in his Small Catechism, "These words, 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation." Holy Communion is a source of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Note especially the use of the word life. All around today's churches we see evidence of spiritual death. Attendance plummets. Offerings aren't enough to meet the budget. People aren't participating or helping in the church's work as they once did. Members are embracing sinful lifestyles. Some churches try to adopt clever and innovative methods and programs to combat these things. But this is ultimately foolishness. The Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions teach us where we receive life: in our Lord Jesus Christ and His gifts of Word and Sacrament. A congregation that is centered on these gifts and makes them the center of their existence assures they have the promise of life given to them. What a wonderful promise and assurance you and I have been given in this blessed Meal!"

I encourage you to consider these words, as well as the article last month from Rev. Amen, to see 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 continue our study of the prophet Joel. Sunday School will begin on September 12th.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. We will continue our 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:** Second Sunday of the month, September 12th, beginning at 5:00 PM. We will continue studying the Smalcald Articles. A pitch-in dinner will follow. Everyone is welcome to attend and invite a friend!

**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 150th anniversary celebration on July 11th 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 150th Anniversary Cookbooks are here! They are available for \$20 each. 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!

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

**Free Materials:** A table in the Parish Hall has free materials on it. Please take what you would like as the remaining will be disposed of in September.

**Confirmation Photos:** Group Confirmation pictures with names are missing for the following years: 1948-1951 and 1992-present. The church would like to have a copy to include in the church history. See Barb or email a copy to You can email a copy to [bjtminor@yahoo.com](mailto:bjtminor@yahoo.com). You can also give a hardcopy to Barb or put one in her church mailbox. Please include the names and year of confirmation.

### 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 September Book of the Month is *Male & Female: Embracing Your Role in God's Design* by Jonathan and Christa Petzold. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Something else is unique about the creation of Eve. Adam was created out of the dusts, like all the other living creatures, signifying that humanity is part of creation at large. But Eve is created *from Adam*. The woman is created from the man, signifying that they share a closer bond than any of the other creatures. This is important because it shows her worth as being equal to Adam's. God wanted to see that Eve was not just another kind of creature but was one that was compatible with him and like him. She and Adam are *of the same substance*."

**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:** We are in need of volunteers for both of these roles. 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 CLASSES

**Youth Group:** The youth group will meet on Sunday, September 26, 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 youth group notifications, please let Pastor know.

**Youth Catechesis:** Classes have begun. 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:** Sunday School begins on September 12<sup>th</sup>. We are still 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, October 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 6:00 PM. If you have an idea for dinner that night, please let Pastor know. Mark your calendars now and invite your friends and family!

**Fish Fry Meeting:** We will have a Fish Fry planning on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. We will be finalizing all the details for the Fish Fry at this meeting, including getting supplies, volunteers, set-up, schedule, etc. The Fish Fry is scheduled for Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 PM. It will be a drive-thru like last year. 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.

**Auction Concessions:** We will be providing concessions for the auction at Carolyn's house on September 11<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the Parish Hall for food donations as well as for volunteers on auction day. Please prayerfully consider donating food or time for this event.

## LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

**White Creek Fall Dinner:** St. John's, White Creek, will be hosting a carry-out dinner on Saturday, September 11 from 4-7 PM. For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin in the Parish Hall.

**Christian Education Skating Day:** Let's Roll! St. Paul's, Jonesville, invites you to celebrate Christian Education with us as we kick off another school year and Sunday School season. All are invited to our annual "Christian Education Gets Rolling!" event at Skateland in Columbus on Sunday, September 12th from 4:30-6:30 PM. Admission is free, skate rental is \$2.00. We hope to see you there!

**Trinity Lutheran High School Substitutes Needed:** Trinity Lutheran High School is looking for candidates who are interested in serving as a substitute teacher. Applicants should have a high school diploma. Teaching experience is valuable but not required. Applicants can submit their name and resume to [info@trinitycougars.org](mailto:info@trinitycougars.org) or [cdarlage@trinitycougars.org](mailto:cdarlage@trinitycougars.org).

**Faith Lutheran Preschool Director:** Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool in Columbus Indiana has an opening for a full-time preschool director to carry out the day to day administration of the preschool and parish education. Ideally they would hold a bachelors degree in early childhood education or a closely related field. They should also have experience working with and managing staff in a professional capacity. Please email your resume to [preschool@faithontheweb.org](mailto:preschool@faithontheweb.org) by September 30.

## FROM THE OFFICE

### New Secretary:

Greetings Everyone!!!

Hope that everyone is doing well!!! Especially during the times that we are in. This year has brought many difficulties, however, has also brought many enjoyments. I know that my life is full of excitement and change! As many of you probably already know, Amy has stepped down as Church Secretary to take on a Full-time Position Job at Columbus East. With that being said, I have taken on her role for the time being.

Please bear with me as we are making this transition, I still hold a Full-Time position myself, but I intend to make it work!! I want to do and be the best that I can for our church, just as Amy and Margie have done. I would like to take the time to thank both of them for their hard work during the past years.

If you need to get a hold of me, please feel free to message\call me anytime. Like I said before, I do have a Full-Time Job so if I don't answer, I will get back with you! I wish everyone the best of luck and can't wait to see what God's plans are not only for myself, but also for the church.

God's Blessings!

Camden Jeffries  
Church Secretary  
Phone:(812)390-5980  
Email:waymansvillestpeter@yahoo.com

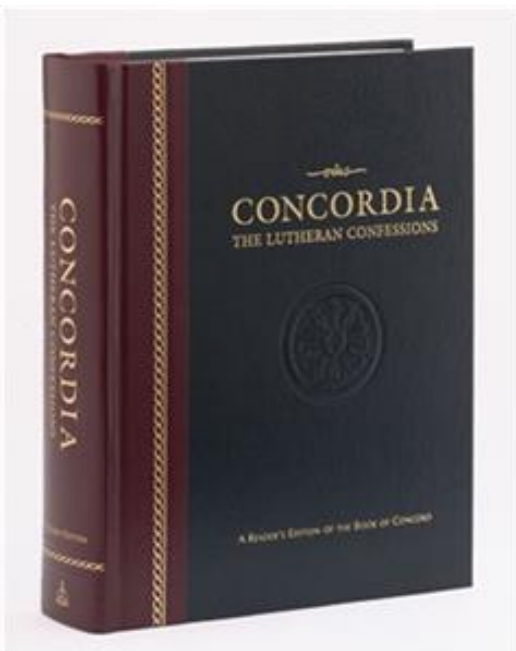
### Contact Information:

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 Camden 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](mailto:pastoresorenson@gmail.com)

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### Book of Concord Corner

“At the outset, we must again make this preliminary statement: we do not abolish the Mass,” (Mass meaning the Lord’s Supper/the Service of the Sacrament) “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. And the usual public ceremonies are observed, the series of lessons, of prayers, vestments, and other such things.” *Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article XXIV, 1*

# St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

**September 2021**

**Ushers:** No sign-ups

**Communion Clean-up:** No sign-ups

**Acolytes:**

**September 5** – Jonah Sciano

**September 19** – Trevor Acree

**September 12** – Joe Acree

**September 26** – Rayleigh Acton

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Upcoming Dates:</b> 10/1: Game night, 6:00 PM			<b>1</b>  6:30 PM – Bible Study	<b>2</b>  10:00 AM – Elders' Mtg.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  2:00 PM – Online Devotion	<b>8</b>  6:30 PM – Bible Study	<b>9</b>  6:00 PM – Fish Fry Meeting 7:00 PM – Board Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  Concessions at Trimpe auction
<b>12</b> 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis  5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>16</b> <b>17</b> <b>18</b> Pastor Sorenson on vacation. Call Pastor Jung (812-764-8664) for pastoral care.			
<b>19</b> 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>23</b> <b>24</b> <b>25</b> Pastor Sorenson on vacation. Call Pastor Jung (812-764-8664) for pastoral care.			
<b>26</b> 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:15 AM – Adult Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis  5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group Night	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  2:00 PM – Online Devotion	<b>29</b>  6:30 PM – Bible Study	<b>30</b>		