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The Opportunity

- Pastor Sorenson

As we prepare to begin celebrating the Lord's Supper weekly starting with the new Church year, there is one word we should all have on our minds: opportunity. Weekly communion is by no means something that is forced on anyone. Rather, it is all about having the opportunity to receive it whenever someone may desire it.

With this in mind, please know that you will never be forced to take the Lord's Supper when you do not want it. If you do not desire the Sacrament on a given Sunday, you do not have to receive it. There is no judgment in doing so.

If you choose to leave prior to the Service of the Sacrament, you may do so with the peace of the Lord. If you choose to stay to continue meditating upon God's Word in the pew during the distribution, you may do so knowing there is no judgment from any of your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. If you choose to stay to praise God with your fellow saints as you sing the hymns, you may do so with the full joy of the Lord.

No one will ever be forced to take the Sacrament against their will. Nor will anyone ever be looked down upon for choosing not to receive the Sacrament. Every one of us has different needs, different temptations, different consciences, and different lives. Instead of fostering a spirit of coercion, this is an opportunity for us to foster the Spirit of God, a spirit of humility and understanding. A spirit of love and bearing with one another.

It is also an opportunity for us to show love to our neighbor. While you may not feel the need to receive the Sacrament on a given Sunday, your neighbor might. Your brother or sister in Christ may need the Lord's body and blood desperately.

By having Holy Communion weekly, we are loving our neighbor in the best way possible. We are giving them an opportunity to receive the Lord's body and blood for their forgiveness, life, and salvation whenever they need it. We are letting them know that we love them so much that we desire for them to receive God's gifts as often as they desire.

In this way, you can see that weekly communion is one of the greatest acts of service we can give to our fellow saints. For some saints may only be able to come on certain Sundays because of their jobs. Now they will be able to receive the Sacrament even if they have to work on the 1st or 3rd Sunday of the month. Some saints may miss a Sunday due to illness. Now they will not have to wait three or sometimes four weeks before the Sacrament will be offered again. Some saints may feel the darts of the devil after them every week. Now they will be able to receive the strengthened faith the Sacrament affords them every week so they may be able to withstand those attacks of the devil.

For weekly communion does not make the decision for you that you must receive it weekly. Rather, weekly communion gives you and all your brothers and sisters the opportunity to receive it as often as you need it. And as we are ever surrounded by sin, death, and the assaults of the devil, our need for the Sacrament is far greater than we could ever comprehend. Thanks be to God, then, that He is present with us in His flesh and blood in this most sacred meal and that He gives us the opportunity to receive it whenever two or three are gathered in His name.

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 studying the prophet Amos. Sunday School will also meet every week, beginning at 10:15 AM.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. We will be studying the book *5 Things You Can Do to Make Your Congregation a Caring Church* by Paul J. Cain. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend too! Wednesday Night Bible Study will be on break for Advent starting with Thanksgiving Eve.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Second Sunday of the month, November 14th, 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: Resources, including full Bible studies and devotional videos are available on our church Youtube page (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzA1mStTKU8Sb0ia1OjDrPg>).

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 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.

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 November Book of the Month is *5 Things You Can Do to Make Your Congregation a Caring Church* by Paul J. Cain. Here is an excerpt from the book: “Who wants to hang out with the poor? Jesus does. He proclaims the Gospel to them. Jesus proclaims true freedom to captives and the oppressed. He delivers sight to those formerly blind. He announces that in Him, now is the time of salvation and the Lord’s favor. Jesus cared for those He was given to care for.... We should care for others because Jesus still cares for others like we once were.”

Weekly Communion Resources: There are some free resources on the topic of weekly communion in the narthex of the church. If you would like to learn more about this topic, feel free to pick up a book or the articles any time.

From Matt Riley: This past year we have been supporting seminarian Matt Riley. We will also be supporting him this year with our midweek Advent and Lent offerings. 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 and the 2022 sign-up sheets will be up soon as well. 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.

Circuit Meeting Meals and Worship: Tuesday, December 7th, we will be hosting a circuit meeting. If you would be willing and able to organize and/or head up serving a light breakfast and a lunch, please let Pastor know. Also, we will have a worship service that day at 10:35 AM which is open to the whole congregation.

2022 Calendar Planning: What are some activities, events, long-range plans, outreach opportunities, fundraising events, etc. you would like to see here at St. Peter in 2022 and beyond? Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 11th at 6:00 PM to help plan a tentative calendar for the upcoming year and share any ideas you have. This will be a great opportunity for us to come together as a church and prepare for another fantastic year at St. Peter!

Greening the Church: In preparation for Advent and Christmas, we will be greening the church on Saturday, November 27th beginning at 10:00 AM. Please consider coming out and lending a hand with some decorations. Many hands make light work!

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet on Sunday, November 21st, 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.

Sunday School Teachers: If you would like to volunteer to help teach or be a substitute teacher, please speak to Kevin Schultz or Pastor.

Children's Christmas Program: If you are interested in leading or helping with the children's Christmas program, please speak to Kevin Schultz or Pastor.

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, December 3rd beginning at 6:00 PM. We will do a soup night for supper as well as a hot chocolate bar. Feel free to bring a dish to share, your favorite games, or a deck of cards. Mark your calendars and invite your friends and family to come along as well!

Fish Fry: Thank you to everyone who made the Fish Fry a wonderful success!

Trunk or Treat: We will have a Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 31st from 4:00-5:30 PM. All trick-or-treaters are welcome to go car trunk to car trunk gathering treats. If you would like to participate by handing out treats, come to the church parking lot shortly before 4:00 PM. Feel free to dress up and/or decorate your trunk any way you would like. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to reach out to our community, so spread the word and invite people to come out and have fun!

College Outreach and Care: We will be sending a care package to our two college students (Holly Nagel and Kyle Thomas) on November 12th. If you would like to donate to this care package, please bring your donations to the box in the narthex. Below is a list of suggested items for donation:

Travel size hand sanitizer	Bottled water flavor packets	Breath mints
Disposable face masks	Beef jerky	Post-it notes
Clorox wipes	Chapstick	Flash Drive
Tissues	Small disposable lint brush	*Notes of encouragement are really appreciated.
Salty and sweet snacks	Gift cards (Amazon, food, gas, etc.)	
Hair ties		

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Lakeview Opening: Lakeview Ministries is in search of their next Director of Operations to join the incredible team already in place. They are seeking a strong leader to supervise the staff at Camp Lakeview and Lakeview Villages and lead all aspects of the summer camp and retreat season programming. This is a year-round, full-time position with competitive salary and full benefits. To view the job description and submit a resume, visit www.lakeview.camp/work.

Trinity High Musical: Trinity Lutheran High School will be presenting “The Seuss Odyssey” and “All Together Now” on November 12, 13, and 14, 2021. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday will be at 3:00 p.m. All tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased in the school office. 812-524-8547 Come enjoy a hilarious comedy in Dr. Seuss style and a newly commissioned musical revue with 15 excerpts from 15 great musicals!

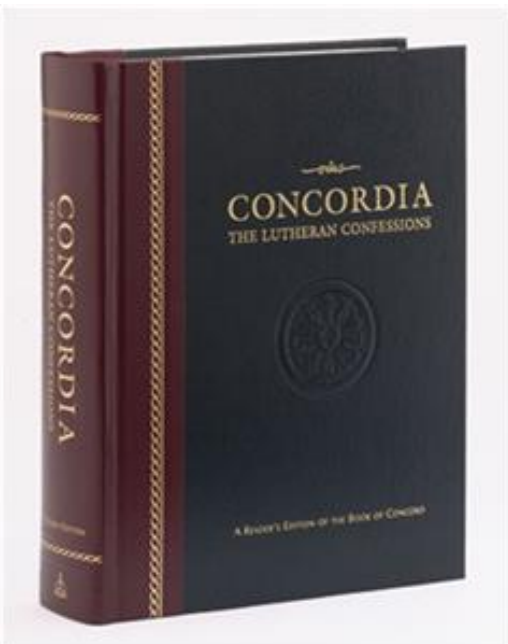
Sauers Supper: St. John’s Sauers ham and turkey supper & ladies aid bazaar will be Sunday, November 7th from 4:00-7:00 pm. A free will offering will be collected. Supper will be served in the school gym. Carry-outs will be available.

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 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!

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



Book of Concord Corner

Concerning the Lord’s Supper: “We believe, teach, and confess that all the worthiness of guests of this heavenly feast is and is founded on Christ’s most holy obedience and perfect merit alone. We receive these for ourselves by true faith, and by the Sacrament we are assured of them. Our worthiness is not at all in our virtues or inward and outward preparations.” (Formula of Concord, Epitome, Article VII, 20)

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

Ushers: Curt Acton & Brandon Hall

Communion Clean-up: No sign-ups

Acolytes:

November 7 – Trevor Acree

November 14 – Rayleigh Acton

November 21 – Anslee Hawkins

November 24 – Max Hoene

November 28 – Laurie Schultz

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Dates: 12/1: Advent Midweek begins	1	2 9 AM – 2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit Meeting	3 6:30 PM – Bible Study	4 10:00 AM – Elders’ meeting	5	6
7 <i>All Saints’ Day observed</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	8	9	10 6:30 PM – Bible Study	11 6:00 PM – Calendar Planning Meeting 7:00 PM – Board Meeting	12	13
14 <i>25th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	15	16	17 6:30 PM – Bible Study	18	19	20
21 <i>Last Sunday of the Church Year</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group night	22	23	24 7:00 PM – Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service (Communion)	25	26	27 10:00 AM – Church Greening
28 <i>1st Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	29	30				