



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

Church Board
Rick Flohr, Chairman
Tom Rebber, Financial Secretary
Connie Stiles, Synodical Treasurer

Nikki Finke, General Fund Treasurer
Michelle Schultz, Dir. of Christian Ed.
Camden Jeffries, Recording Secretary
Max Thomas, Practical Service

New Year's Resolution: Bible Study

- Pastor Sorenson

As we come to the start of a new year, perhaps you've been working on some new year's resolutions. Let me offer one up to you and encourage you to make it a resolution for yourself. Come to Bible study.

It's no secret in the world today that Bible study attendance in the Church universal is shockingly low. People will come to worship services, but rarely will they stay to study and learn the Word of God. There are any number of reasons for this, but truth be told none of them are adequate.

For the study of God's Word with your brothers and sisters in Christ is one of the single most important things you can do with your time.

Not only is it good for you to read, hear, study, and learn the Word of God, but it also is good for your brothers and sisters in Christ. To see their fellow church members gathered around the Word gives them strength and joy. It builds up the body of Christ and strengthens the congregation in a way that nothing else can.

The Bible even speaks to this reality, of how important the study of the Word of God in a corporate setting is:

Acts 2:42 – "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Hebrews 10:24-25 – "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch speak to this too as the eunuch needed Philip to teach him what the prophet Isaiah was saying.

Even Jesus went to Bible study, as we hear in the account of Him as a 12 year old boy in the temple, listening to the Word of God, asking questions, learning and growing in wisdom and stature.

All this is to say, the congregation and the Church suffers when the people of God do not study the Word together. Likewise, the congregation and the Church are strengthened when the people of God do study the Word together.

If you don't think you have the time for Bible study, make time. Set Bible study as a top priority and you'll be surprised to learn you do have time for it. If you think you don't need Bible study, come anyways. Your wisdom and knowledge can be a great help to others. I find myself learning from Bible study attendees every week! You also may just learn a thing or two as well. If you're afraid you'll be called on or asked to read, do not fear. You will never be pressured to speak or to read.

At the moment, we have Bible studies on Sunday mornings, once a month on Sunday evenings, and on Wednesday evenings. If none of these days or times work for you, let me know! The goal is to offer Bible studies at different times and days to fit any schedule. You don't have to commit to every Bible study, but try making at least one a regular commitment.

Make it a resolution this year to start attending Bible study and stick to it. Not only will you learn the Word of God, which as Paul writes to Timothy is “profitable for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16), but you will also be able to spend time with your brothers and sisters in Christ, building them up and encouraging one another. Now that’s a resolution worth keeping.

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:** Will begin on January 19th. If you have any suggestions on topics to study, please let Pastor know.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Second Sunday of the month, January 9th, 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

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

Book of the Month: 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 January Book of the Month is *The Hammer of God* by Bo Gierta. Here is a description of the book: “The author unveils the dramatic confrontation between the Faith of the Church and the many beliefs (and disbeliefs) that battle for the human soul, which basically remains constant even as cultural settings are changed. Faith comes down to a matter of relying either on our own accomplishments to be right with God or on receiving as a free gift by grace the righteousness Christ gained for us. The situation for us today is the same as in generations past, at the three eras covered in the book attest.”

New Board Members: We would like to thank Nikki Finke (general fund treasurer) and Michelle Schultz (director of Christian education) for agreeing to serve on the church board beginning this year. We also thank all of our returning board members for their service.

Board and Elders Installation: We will have an installation for the church board and the elders during our worship service on Sunday, January 9th.

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 2022 sign-up sheets are up now 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.)*

Usher, Acolyte, Communion Training: On Saturday, January 8th, beginning at 11:30 AM, we will meet together to brush up on usher duties, acolyting, and communion assistance. Come on out to learn more about each of these unique ways to serve in the church. You won't be obligated to serve if you attend, so if you've ever had interest in learning more about these roles this is the perfect opportunity. We will have a pizza lunch provided as well! Everything should be over within an hour.

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.

Thank You: "Thank you so much for thinking of me while I am away at school. Your box of goodies was so thoughtful and I am so thankful to belong to such a supportive church. See you when I am home for the holiday season! Thanks again, Holly Nagel."

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet on Sunday, January 16th, 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.

Gingerbread Houses: The congregation is invited to check out the different gingerbread house displays the youth group made last month. They are on display in the Parish Hall. There will also be a basket next to them for you to vote for your favorite one.



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

EVENTS

Epiphany Service: Join us for a joint Epiphany service on Thursday, January 6th at 7:00 PM at St. Paul's (Jonesville). We will join with the saints from St. Paul's (Jonesville) and St. John's (White Creek) to worship our Lord and celebrate this festival day.

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, February 4th beginning at 6:00 PM. If you have a suggestion for a meal theme, please let Pastor know. 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!

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Trinity High School: Trinity Lutheran High School is asking for donations to our SGO program as we end the calendar year. Our SGO program helps make a Christ Centered Education possible for many families each year through direct financial aid/scholarships. Please prayerfully consider if you are able to support our ministry as we seek to continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Donations may be eligible for Indiana state income tax credits for you and/or your business. Please contact Ryan Cremeans for questions at: rcremeans@trinitycougars.org or by calling the school office at 812-524-8547.

School Choice Program: Recent legislative changes mean that many more Indiana households may qualify for the state's school choice program. These scholarships can provide thousands of dollars in financial aid per child and have become widely available. You are invited to an informative session to learn more about timetables and options that may be available to you. Representatives from Zion, Immanuel, and Trinity Lutheran schools will be available to answer specific questions. Parent Information Session Wednesday, January 12th @ 7 PM, Immanuel Lutheran School, 520 S. Chestnut St, Seymour, IN 47274. RSVP at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/immanuel-lutheran-school-information-session-tickets-220110254697> Or contact Zach Smith at zach.smith@myschooloptions.org By Phone at (317) 409-3961

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.

FROM THE OFFICE

Offering Envelopes: Happy holidays! I hope everyone is enjoying their holidays so far! I have set out the new 2022 contribution envelopes for the new year in the Parish Hall. I have gone through and depleted a lot of people who have not taken theirs or who no longer are members of the church. If you are a new member, and wish to have contribution envelopes, please get in contact with me so we can get you added. God's blessings! – Camden Jeffries

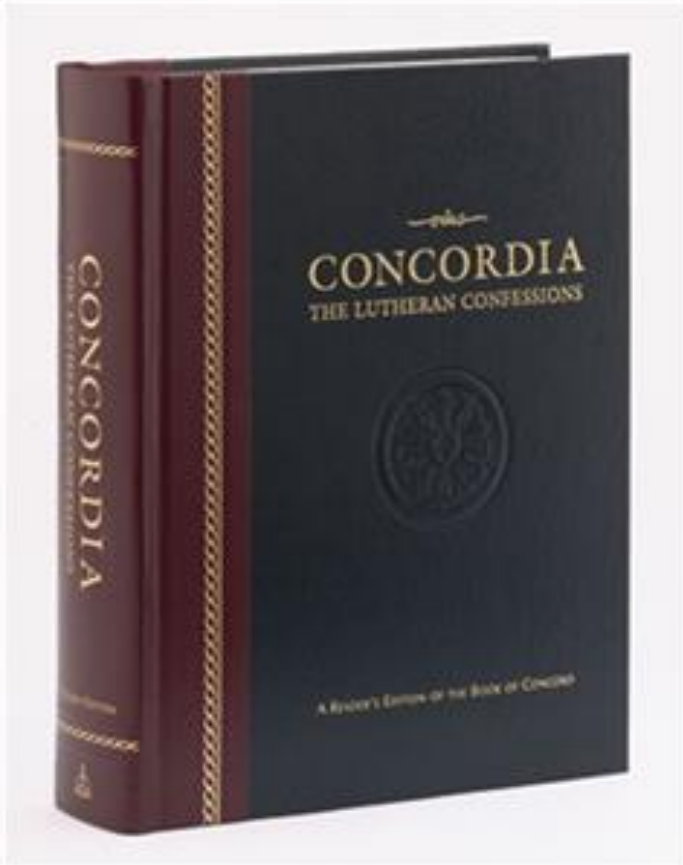
Offering Envelopes: Please notice some of the envelope numbers have changed for 2022. To be sure that your account is credited correctly use the 2022 envelope as the envelope color has not changed.

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

Camden Jeffries • (812) 342-4921, office • (812) 390-5980 cell • waymansvillestpeter@yahoo.com

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



Book of Concord Corner

(Concerning the 3rd Commandment) "So much depends on God's Word. Without it, no holy day can be sanctified. Therefore, we must know that God insists upon a strict observance of this commandment and will punish all who despise His Word and are not willing to hear and learn it, especially at the time appointed for the purpose.

It is not only the people who greatly misuse and desecrate the holy day who sin against this commandment (those who neglect to hear God's Word because of their greed or frivolity or lie in taverns and are dead drunk like swine). But even that other crowd sins. They listen to God's Word like it was any other trifle and only come to preaching because of custom. They go away again, and at the end of the year they know as little of God's Word as at the beginning. Up to this point the opinion prevailed that you had properly hallowed Sunday when you had heard a Mass or the Gospel read. But no one cared for God's Word, and no one taught it. Now that we have God's Word, we fail to correct the abuse. We allow ourselves to be preached to and admonished, but we do not listen seriously and carefully.

Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining God's Word in memory. Do not think it is optional for you or of no great importance." (Large Catechism, Part 1, Third Commandment, 95-98)

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

Ushers: Allen Acton

Communion Clean-up: Lynette May (2nd)
Danny & Judy Strasser (9th)

Acolytes: January 2 – Rayleigh Acton

January 23 – Laurie Schultz

January 9 – Anslee Hawkins

January 30 – Jonah Sciano

January 2022

January 16 – Max Hoene

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Dates: 2/4: Game Night						1
2 <i>2nd Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study	3	4 9 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit meeting	5	6 10 AM – Elders meeting 7 PM – Joint Epiphany Service @ Jonesville	7	8 11:30 AM – Usher, Acolyte, Communion training with pizza lunch
9 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	10	11	12	13 7 PM – Board meeting	14	15
16 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group night	17	18	19 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	20	21	22
23 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	24	25	26 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	27	28	29
30 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	31					