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Lent: A Time for Learning

- Pastor Sorenson

Usually, the season of Lent is associated with repentance, and rightfully so. This season is, after all, a time to prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter. Thus, this repentant season begins with ashes placed on the foreheads of the faithful while they hear the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Repentance is front and center as you see the sanctuary clothed in purple, the color of repentance. It's even the focus of so many of the biblical texts you'll hear on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

There is, however, another aspect of Lent that should be taken seriously and that is that Lent is a time for learning. Even from ancient times, that is from the earliest years of the Church, this has been a major focus of Lent.

On the one hand, the Church would use this season to catechize new members in the one, true faith. Those who were previously not Christian would undergo 40 days filled with Scripture and learning from their pastor and their fellow saints. The season would culminate with them being baptized, confirmed in the faith, and/or welcomed to commune at the altar of God for the very first time.

On the other hand, the Church would use this season to come together as those who were already in the faith to learn further the Word of God. This is where the practice of midweek Lenten services originated. These services were meant to provide the whole church a chance to be in the Word of God even more and to learn things that may not ordinarily come up on a normal Sunday morning.

Along with this, several other practices developed to teach the things of God. This is the point of doing things like encouraging devotions even more during these 40 days, omitting the Gloria in Excelsis from the Divine Service, and veiling the crosses in the church. Each of these practices are not simply traditions for tradition's sake, but each of them seeks to teach something important about Christ and the faith.

As we begin our Lenten journey this year (Ash Wednesday is on March 2nd), let us together strive to use this time for learning. After all, Scripture encourages us to never be content, but to always long to learn more of God's Word.

Proverbs says, "Let the wise hear and increase in learning," (1:5) and "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning" (9:9). Psalm 1 speaks to this reality. Christ speaks repeatedly of abiding in Him and in His Word. St. Paul encourages Christians to continuously be trained up by the Word.

Of course, there is no one way to do this and it's not a Law you must follow. Consider, however, how you might be able to learn and grow during this season of Lent. Consider how you might be able to appreciate something you may never have appreciated before in the church.

Perhaps it's by coming to the midweek services. Perhaps it's by coming to Bible study with your fellow saints. Perhaps it's by doing devotions at home with your family. Perhaps it's by asking questions about why we do what we do while being willing to listen and learn.

I encourage you, therefore, to step out of your comfort zone this Lenten season. Don't just use this season to give something up or to eat more fish. Instead, use this time to learn and grow. To ask questions and receive

instruction. To be part of what Scripture says in Proverbs 27:17, “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”

For truly, even the wisest person among us still has much he or she can learn regarding the faith and God’s Word. So let us learn together, sharpening one another with the Word of God. Let us learn together, growing up in Christ, who is our true Teacher. Let us learn together, and all the more as we prepare to celebrate our Lord’s resurrection!

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:** Currently on break until after Easter.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Second Sunday of the month, March 13th, beginning at 5:00 PM. We will continue our study of the Smalcald Articles and we will have a pitch-in dinner following the study.

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.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Throughout the year, this space will be used to encourage you to keep your brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. Peter in your prayers. As you pray for them, you may even ask them how you can pray for them. Families will be listed in alphabetical order throughout the year. During this month, you are encouraged to pray for:

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|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Dan, Janice, Joe, Trevor, & Abigail Acree | • Curt, Jenni, Rayleigh & Abe Acton | • Mike & Kathe Borgman |
| • Allen & Beverly Acton | • Benjamin, Henry, & Leana Baxter | • Mark Burbrink |
| • Don Acton | • Julia Baxter | |
| | • Lisa, Jeff, Adam, & Ethan Bergman | |

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 March Book of the Month is *Bearing the Cross: Devotions on Albrecht Durer's Small Passion* by Carolyn Brinkley. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Jesus' kingdom is not an earthly one. He rules men's hearts with the truth of God's saving love. He is the King who was born to die on a cross, to destroy the evil that began in the Garden of Eden. Pilate asks: "What is truth?" And the truth is we are all sinners who have rejected God. We deserve nothing but punishment and death. The truth is the innocent Son of God who came to take our punishment and death into His own body. He came to exchange our sin and guilt for His innocence. Pilate's words are true: "I find no guilt in Him." And yet Christ bears the guilt of all!"

Make a Joyful Noise!:

- **Easter Choir:** There is interest in forming a choir to celebrate the Easter season. On Tuesday, March 1st at 6:00 PM we will have an organizational meeting in the sanctuary. At that time we will decide on a rehearsal schedule.
- **Handbell Choir:** Resumes on Tuesday, March 1st at 7:00 PM. If you are interested in ringing, please contact Debbie. No prior experience is needed – just a basic sense of rhythm and the desire to have a lot of fun!
- For either choir, please contact Debbie Flohr at 812-341-4724 if you have any questions.

Lent Midweek Snacks: Following each of our midweek services (except Ash Wednesday), everyone is invited to gather in the Parish Hall for snacks and fellowship. You are encouraged to bring a snack, if you desire, or just come and enjoy!

Butter Braid Pick-up: Butter braids will be delivered on Monday, March 7 at 10:00 AM. If you can't be there that morning, they will be in the Parish Hall freezer with your name on your order.

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.

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, March 20th, 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. Also, we will be planning the Easter breakfast, so please plan to have at least one parent attend about the first 15 minutes for this purpose.

Activity Bags: I have placed bags in the back of the church for your little ones replacing the old smaller bags. I will try to add to them or replace things in them every couple of weeks so the children can continue to enjoy them.

Sunday School Update: I would like to update everyone on Sunday School. We have two classes this year. Our younger class has four students ranging from age two and a half to age six. So far, we have learned about the creation,

Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, Abraham and Joseph's coat taking a break during Advent to learn about the birth of our Savior. Our lessons include a story, songs with sign language and art practicing fine motor skills for little hands. Our older class has six students ranging from age eight to age fourteen. They are learning about gory deaths in the Bible. Sunday School is for ANY age so if your child does not attend, and you have questions, please let me know. I would love our classes to grow. I would also love to have another teacher come aboard so that we can have a third class. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 812-371-2137 or email me at mreeneeschultz@gmail.com.

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, April 1st beginning at 6:00 PM. If you have an idea or request for the dinner theme, please let Pastor know. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! 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!

Easter Egg Hunt: The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 16th at 10:00 AM. We will meet in the shelter house (weather permitting) to allow for better spacing. Eggs will be available in the narthex to pick up and fill with individually wrapped candy beginning on March 17. Please have the eggs returned by April 1. Also, be sure to invite any children or grandchildren to be part of the hunt on April 3.

Easter Breakfast: The Youth Group will serve an Easter breakfast this year between the sunrise and Divine Service on Easter (April 17th). We will be serving breakfast from 7:15-8:40 AM.

Golf Outing: The Youth Group will be hosting our annual Golf Outing on Saturday, April 30th at Hickory Hills Golf Course in Brownstown. If you would like to play or be a sponsor for the outing, please speak to Pastor Sorenson. Additional information can be found on the flyers on the bulletin boards.

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Set Apart to Serve: Do you know any young man who would make a great pastor? How about someone who would be a great Lutheran school teacher, deaconess or DCE? Jesus gives His church people who work full time in service to the Gospel. He told us to pray for such workers. The LCMS continues to pray, and has begun *Set Apart to Serve (SAS)*, an intentional effort to encourage young people to consider church work as their career. Your opinion can help improve SAS. Please fill out a brief survey at lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve-survey by March 15, and let us know how you think SAS can be beneficial to your congregation. Thank you.

Trinity Parent Night: Trinity Lutheran High School will be hosting our 8th Grade Parent Night on Thursday, March 10th beginning at 7:00 PM in the TLHS commons. Please plan to join us as we share information about academics, athletics, extracurriculars, scholarships and financial aid, and more. The presentation will last approximately one hour with time for questions to follow. This meeting is strongly encouraged for parents, guardians, and students who will be new to Trinity next year. This includes 8th graders already enrolled and those wanting to learn more about Trinity. Contact Erin Brooks ebrooks@trinitycougars.org with any questions.

Trinity Job Postings: Trinity Lutheran High School is seeking a Science teacher starting the 2022-23 school year. Primary teaching responsibilities include Biology and Dual Credit or AP Biology. Standing alone, this is a part-time position; however, if combined with other teaching content areas or responsibilities it may become full-time. Trinity Lutheran High School is seeking a Special Education teacher starting the 2022-23 school year. This is a full-time position. Additional details or job descriptions upon request. Positions will be posted until filled. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to Principal Clayton Darlage at cdarlage@trinitycougars.org

White Creek EAT Night: WCLS will host an E.A.T. (Eat Around Town) Night on Tuesday, March 1st from 5:00-8:00pm at Chicago's Pizza in Columbus. Families just need to mention WCLS and our school will receive a percentage of their purchase. This offer is good for dine-in and carry-out. Please join us for an evening of good food and fellowship!

White Creek Basket Bingo: Bingo night is Friday, March 4! Doors open at 5:30 and games begin at 6:00. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Come out for lots of fun and fantastic prizes! Must be 18 or older to play.

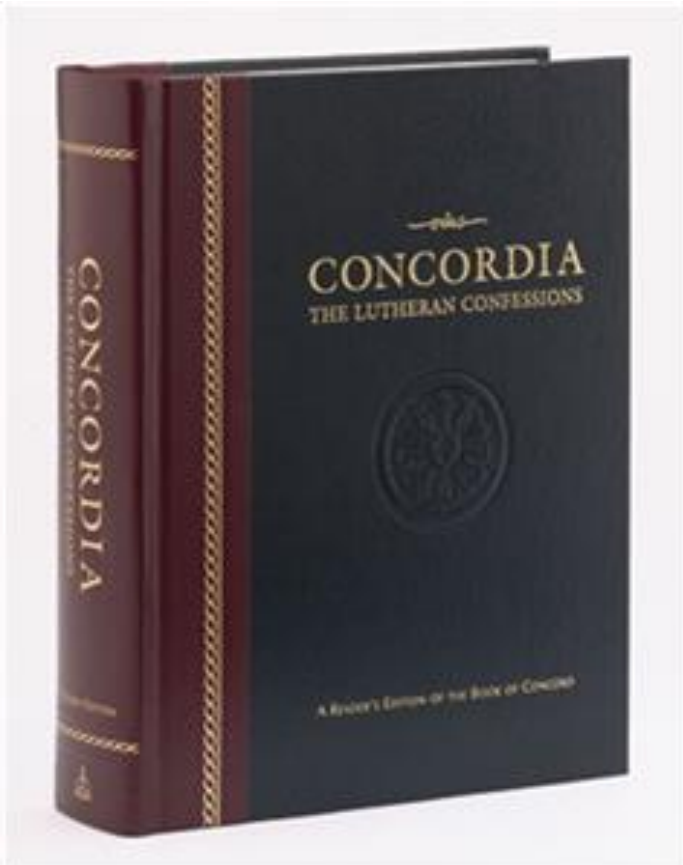
FROM THE OFFICE

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!

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

“Now, whoever does not highly value the Sacrament shows that he has no sin, no flesh, no devil, no world, no death, no danger, no hell. In other words, he does not believe any such things, although he is in them up over his head and his ears and is doubly the devil’s own. On the other hand, he needs no grace, no life, no paradise, no heaven, no Christ, no God, nor anything good. For if he believed that he had so much evil around him, and needed so much that is good, he would not neglect the Sacrament, by which such evil is remedied and so much good is bestowed. Nor would it be necessary to force him to go to the Sacrament by any law. He would come running and racing of his own will, would force himself, and beg that you must give him the Sacrament.” (Introduction to the Small Catechism, 23)

Lent and Holy Week Services

Lent is a special 40-day season during which the Church reflects on her sin and on her need for a Savior. It is a time for us to turn our focus away from the things of this world and toward Christ, our dear Lord. As such, it is most appropriate for the Church to gather together more often during this season as we wait with anticipation for the joy of Easter. It is my prayer that all of us here at St. Peter would join together during this special season as we repent of our sin and look for the death and resurrection of Christ.

The Start of Lent

Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 PM – Ash Wednesday

The Midweek Services – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

Wednesday, March 9 7:00 PM – Christ Suffers for Our Sin

Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 PM – Christ Takes Our Punishment

Wednesday, March 23, 7:00 PM – Christ Does It Out of Love

Wednesday, March 30, 7:00 PM – Christ Leads Us to Repentance

Wednesday, April 6, 7:00 PM – Christ Leads Us to Live a Christian Life

The Start of Holy Week

Sunday, April 10, 9:00 AM – Palm Sunday and Confirmation

The Triduum

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday

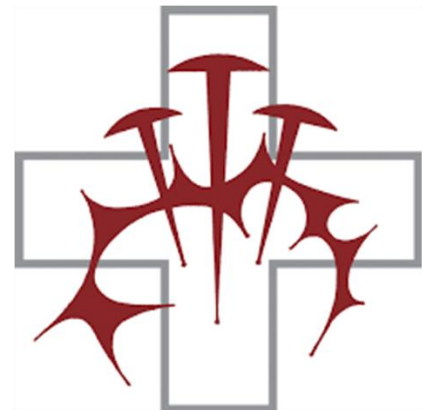
Friday, April 15, 7:00 PM – Good Friday

Saturday, April 16, 8:00 PM – Easter Vigil

Easter

Sunday, April 17, 6:30 AM – Easter Sunrise

Sunday, April 17, 9:00 AM – Easter Divine Service



St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

Ushers: Max Thomas

Communion Clean-up: March 2 – Kathy Rebber

March 6, 20 – Open

March 13, 27 – Kathy Rebber

Acolytes: March 2 – Max Hoene

March 13 – Joe Acree

March 23 – Anslee Hawkins

March 6 – Laurie Schultz

March 16 – Trevor Acree

March 27 – Max Hoene

March 2022
March 9 – Jonah Sciano
March 20 – Rayleigh Acton
March 30 – Laurie Schultz

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Dates: 4/1: Game Night 4/10: Palm Sunday & Confirmation 4/14-16: Holy Week Services 4/16: Easter Egg Hunt 4/17: Easter	<i>Feb 28</i> 10 AM – Elders meeting	1 9 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit meeting 6 PM – Easter Choir 7 PM – Handbell Choir	2 7 PM – Ash Wednesday Divine Service	3	4	5
6 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	7 10 AM – Butter Braid Pick-up	8	9 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	10 7 PM – Board meeting	11	12
13 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</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	14	15	16 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	17	18	19
20 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</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	21	22	23 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	24	25	26
27 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	28	29	30 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	31		