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Don't Vacation from Church

- Pastor Sorenson

School is out and summer vacations are beginning. Even if you do not have any children in school, summer is still a time of travel and vacation for many people. These vacations are times of much needed rest and relaxation, allowing you to unplug from your normal day-to-day life and take a break from the usual hustle and bustle.

Sadly, however, this often includes taking a vacation from church. The reasons for this are many. It's hard to find a church to go to away from home. It's awkward to go to a church you don't know, where you won't know anybody. There's no room in the suitcase for church clothes. You go to church every other week at home, so why not take a break for just one week while on vacation?

But it's not just taking a vacation from church while traveling that's a problem during summer. That same mindset creeps in even at home. The weather's so nice, so why not take a Sunday morning off? If I go to church, I may be too tired to do my fair work or the leisure activities I want. If our service time was earlier, then I would go so I wouldn't be wasting a whole summer morning by going to church.

I'm sure you could add on other reasons (or if you're being honest, excuses) why you might skip church during the summer, whether at home or on vacation. We all have them and we all have either used them before or have seriously thought about it.

That's why I want to encourage you: don't vacation from church.

At home, don't take a week or two off just because it's summer. All those activities you have, all the things you hope to do, will still be waiting for you after church and Bible study are over. It may not seem like it, but even taking a week or two off can quickly become a habit. Once you start vacationing from church at home, it gets easier and easier to be separated from God's life-giving Word and Sacraments. It gets easier and easier to remove yourself from the place where God lavishes His grace and mercy and forgiveness upon you.

While on vacation away from home, make an effort to go to church anyway. Yes, this can be difficult or awkward, but try it! If you are going somewhere, look up churches in the area ahead of time. I would even be more than happy to look up churches for you and help you find a great place to go so you can hear God's Word and be fed His body and blood while you vacation. What better refreshment and rest can there be than that?!

If you can't find a church near your vacationing spot, do a devotion with your family. Husbands/fathers/heads of the household, bring a hymnal with you (or use the devotional resources on the church website – <http://stpeterwaymansville.com/>) and lead your family through a devotion. Read a passage of Holy Scripture. Read a part of the Catechism. Listen to my sermon online (also posted every Sunday on the church website). It doesn't have to be big or fancy, but stay in the Word of God. Hear His Word and receive His gifts with your family. It may even be one of the highlights of your vacation!

Yes, church can sometimes slip into being just another piece of the routine for you, becoming another thing you feel you just need a vacation from, but remember what Jesus says: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

So, when it comes time for you to rest this summer, or anytime, don't vacation from church. Rather, go to church because you know that Jesus is there to give you rest. In Him and in the gifts He brings in worship, you will indeed find rest and relaxation unlike anything else this world has to offer.

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Adult Catechism Class: Do you know anyone who may be interested in learning more about what we believe, teach, and confess? Do you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a member of our church? Invite them to come to Adult Catechism Class beginning on Sunday, June 26th from 3:30-5:00 PM. This class will last approximately 6 weeks. Members are also invited and encouraged to attend!

Worship Service Update: 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 study the prophet Jonah.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** We will meet Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM as we continue studying the book "A Little Book on Joy" by Matthew Harrison.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Second Sunday of the month, June 12th, 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:

- Sue Anne & Damon Lee
- Phillip & Sona Lee
- Steven & Jeanne Loesch
- David & Donna Losey
- Joan Lovelace
- Butch & Rebecca Lowe
- Teresa Lucas
- Tim, Carol, Quinn, & Shelby Luker
- Gregory Marshall

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 June Book of the Month is *"Lutheran Bible Companion: Volume 2: Intertestamental, New Testament, and Bible Dictionary."* Here is an excerpt from the book: "For thousands of years, people have turned to the Bible for wisdom, comfort, and hope; the Bible has changed their lives. Lutherans read the Bible, or hear it read at church, because they believe that through Holy Scripture God answers essential questions about life, death, and eternal life. They believe that God works through the message of the Scripture to call them to repentance and take away their sins."

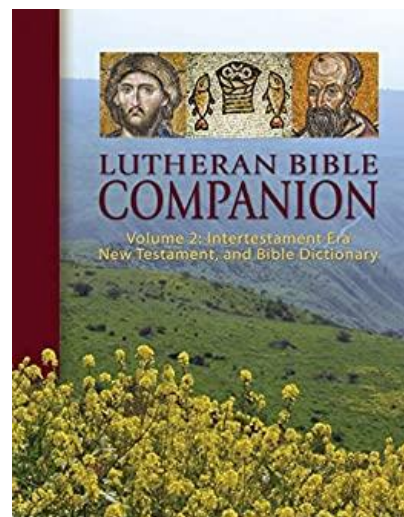
Weekly Communion Resources: There are some free resources on the topic of weekly communion in the narthex of the church. If you would like to learn more about this topic, feel free to pick up a book or the articles any time.

From Matt Riley: This past year we have been supporting seminarian Matt Riley. 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. Also, Matt just received his vicarage assignment to Saint James Lutheran Church in Quincy, Illinois.

Usher & Communion Sign-Up Sheets: 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.

Music Group: The music group is meeting again every Sunday at 6:00 PM. Come on out with any instrument you may have to learn, play along, and have fun! (No experience or expertise necessary)

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 either Saturday, June 18th (at 12 PM), Sunday, June 19th, or Monday, June 20th for our youth night. Please let Pastor know which of those days/times would work best for you. 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.

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 few weeks so the children can continue to enjoy them. – Michelle Schultz

Vacation Bible School is back!!!: Our theme this year is *"I Love to Tell the Story"*. It will be June 6th through June 9th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Dinner will be included every evening. Children should be three years old to attend, but no child is too old to attend. Our music group will be providing the music for the kids to sing. We are in need of an adult to cook a meal for Wednesday night. The food will be provided but we just need someone to cook and serve. Also, if anyone would like to donate any deserts for our meals, please let me know. To register your child or for more information, contact Michelle Schultz at 812-371-2137.

Sunday School Thank You: A big thank you to Kevin & Michelle Schultz for teaching Sunday School this last year! What a great joy it is for our children to learn about Jesus and enjoy fellowship with one another. Sunday School will return after Labor Day.

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, June 10th beginning at 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! Our dinner theme will be your favorite summer dish/treat. 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!

Golf Outing Thank You: Thank you to everyone who donated, played, worked, and/or supported the golf outing! Thank you for supporting our youth!

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Teacher's Assistants Needed: St. Paul Lutheran Early Childhood Ministry is looking for individuals interested in a part time position as a Teacher's assistant. The school is currently looking for help on: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the morning; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the afternoon; Tuesdays and Thursdays in the morning. If you are interested in the position, please fill out an application and send/drop it off at the school (6045 E. State Street, Columbus, 47201). Applications need to be submitted by the end of June. For additional information, please contact director@stpaulcolumbus.org.

White Creek Foundation: We are excited to share that a foundation has been established to provide for the long term financial stability of White Creek Lutheran school so that future generations can be raised in the truth of our Lord. This foundation is a stand alone 501(3c) nonprofit and your church has members on the board. A poster has been placed in the narthex with informational packets. We ask that you prayerfully consider making a gift to support the foundation. If you have any questions Or would like to speak to your congregation's representatives about the foundation please contact: Verna Vandercar momvandercar@yahoo.com or Kelly Thomas kmtho4@yahoo.com.

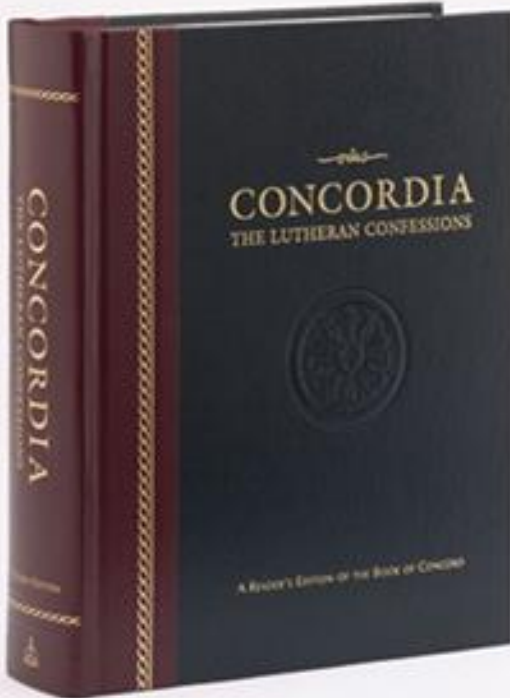
FROM THE OFFICE

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

“The word *holiday* is used for the Hebrews word *sabbath*, which properly means ‘to rest,’ that is, to cease from labor.... On this day of rest (since we can get no other chance), we have the freedom and time to attend divine service. We come together to hear and use God’s Word, and then to praise God, and to sing and to pray (Colossians 3:16).... People must have holidays. Therefore, such observances should be devoted to hearing God’s Word so that the special function of this day of rest should be the ministry of the Word for the young and the mass of poor people (Nehemiah 8:2-3, 8). Yet the resting should not be strictly understood to forbid any work that comes up, which cannot be avoided.” (Martin Luther, *Large Catechism Part I*, 79, 84, 86)

Adult Catechism Class



Are you or someone you know interested in learning more about what we believe, teach, and confess?

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming a member of our church?

Come to **Adult Catechism Class!**

What is it? A **6 week course** learning about the Christian faith

When? Beginning **Sunday, June 26th** from 3:30-5:00 PM

Why? To learn what we **confess as Lutherans**

Who? Any **prospective new member, any member** who wants to learn more, anyone who **wants to be confirmed** in the Lutheran church

Where? St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

LUTHER'S
SMALL
CATECHISM



with Explanation

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

June 2022

Ushers: Allen Acton

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

June 5 – Schultz

June 12 - Strasser

June 19 & 26 - Open

Acolytes: June 5 – Rayleigh Acton

June 19 – Max Hoene

June 12– Anslee Hawkins

June 26 – Trevor Acree

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	2 10 AM – Elders meeting	3	4
5 <i>The Day of Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 6:00 PM – Music Group	6 Vacation Bible School: 5:00-8:00 PM each night	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Festival of the Holy Trinity</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	13	14	15 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	16 7:00 PM – Board meeting	17	18 <i>12:00 PM – possibly Youth Group</i>
19 <i>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study <i>5:00 PM – possibly Youth Group</i> 6:00 PM – Music Group	20 <i>5:00 PM – possibly Youth Group</i>	21	22	23 Pastor at Indiana District Convention	24	25
26 <i>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 3:30 PM – Adult Catechism Class 6:00 PM – Music Group	27	28	29	30		