



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

Church Board
Eric Turner, 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

The Church Is Not a Business

- Pastor Sorenson

There's a very common sentiment today that the Church is a business (or at least, it's like a business). The thinking goes that if the Church wants to be successful, she must run things like a successful business. We must have mission and vision statements. We must cater to our customers. We must market ourselves in a way that's attractive to non-customers. We must prioritize running a surplus, etc.

While this sentiment is well-meaning because it comes from people wanting the Church to succeed, it's ultimately misguided and dangerous for the Church. It's misguided because it makes the Church focus on earthly success, particularly when it comes to numbers like attendance and budgets. It's dangerous because it tempts the Church to forsake Christ and His Word if that's not what the "customers" want.

Now, this isn't to say the Church doesn't need a budget or that the Church should do nothing to bring in new people. We do need to budget in order to faithfully use what God has given us. We do need to reach out to non-members and pray that they will join the Church. When these things become our only or primary focus, however, the driving force for everything we do, we're headed in a dangerous direction.

Because the Church is not a business. And if it was, it would be the worst business of all time, because everything the Church has, she gives away for free. The Word and the Sacraments are given by the Church to all, whether they give abundantly or give nothing at all.

So, no. The Church is not a business. Rather, the Church is the faithful people of God who listen to His voice and receive His gifts together.

The number one task, then, for the Church is to remain faithful. In our worship, in our teaching, in our life together, we are to remain faithful. If we remain faithful, clinging to the whole counsel of God in all its truth and purity, we have nothing to fear. Not even the gates of hell will overcome a faithful Church (Matthew 16:18).

From here, everything else will fall into place. A faithful Church will know its mission and vision is to proclaim the Gospel to all the world. A faithful Church will care for people in the best way possible, by giving them the forgiveness of sins and eternal life that Christ has won for all people. A faithful Church will reach out to non-members because she desires for them to hear of Christ and receive His salvation. A faithful Church will give joyfully and abundantly to support this work and mission, because she sees and knows how much God has given to her.

And then, a faithful Church will rest. She will do the work God has given her to do, but in the end, she will rest knowing that God alone is in charge of the results. If the Church grows, all praise and glory and credit to God. If the Church shrinks, all praise and glory and credit to God. Because He is the Lord of the Church and He will watch over and care for her in all things, doing what's best for her at all times.

This runs against so much of our experience. This doesn't make sense to our business-oriented minds. This upsets us because it takes the Church out of our control. And that's precisely the point. The Church is unlike anything else in all the world. It's not the goal of the Church to succeed, because our success is found in Christ alone. It's not the goal of the Church to be profitable, because our greatest riches are God's free gifts of forgiveness and salvation. It's

not the goal of the Church to be in control, because our Lord and Savior sits on the throne and is Himself the head of the Church.

The Church is not a business. It's the body of Christ. Let us always look to our Head and follow where He leads us.

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 prophets Jonah and Micah.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** We will be on break through the month of July.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Second Sunday of the month, July 10th, beginning at 5:00 PM. We will begin a study of the Formula of Concord 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!

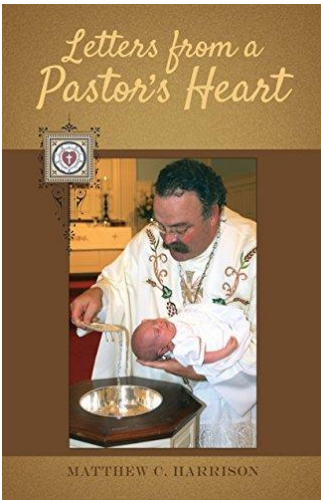
Cat's Meow: Cat's Meow cutouts of the church to celebrate the 150th anniversary are available for \$20 each. You can pick one up on Sunday mornings or during the week.

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:

- Michael, Cindy, Mackenzie,
Tristan, Danica, & Isabella May
- Rick & Lynette May
- Hannah Milan
- Jennifer Milan
- Barb Minor
- John & Beth Muntzinger
- Kevin, Amy, Jackson, & Holly Nagel
- Bob & Linda Nagel
- Michael & Sheryl Newkirk

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 July Book of the Month is *“Letters from a Pastor’s Heart”* by Matthew C. Harrison Here is an excerpt from the book: *“The greatest eras in the history of the Church have all begun with repentance. Those times when the Gospel of free forgiveness by faith in Jesus Christ has shone brightest in missionary witness and expansion – in a burning desire to care for the weak and needy with Christ’s own mercy, and in zealous and creative endeavors in church life and organization – have all begun with the preaching of repentance. It’s hardly a coincidence that John the Baptizer’s first recorded words were ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’ (Matthew 3:2).”*

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.

Quarterly Voters’ Meeting: We will have our quarterly voters’ meeting on Sunday, July 17th.

Catechesis Retreat: July 30th 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM, with fruits and pastries in the morning, lunch, and fruit snack in the afternoon all provided. Day seminar at Lake View Retreat Center for one day Home Catechesis training for the family. Presenter: Rev. Seth Mierow, STM, Pastor of St. Peters Indianapolis, and Circuit Visitor of Southern Indianapolis, as taught to his congregation. Child care will be provided for families with children under 8 years old. Hosted by St. John’s White Creek, St. Peter Waymansville, and St. Paul’s Jonesville. Signup sheet is in the back of the Narthex. Please include the total number of children attending conference and children needing child care.

Amazon Smile: St. Peter is now on Amazon Smile! Amazon Smile is a donation platform for different organizations. When you go onto Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com), you can order items that are on Amazon just like normal and .05% of your purchase will be matched by Amazon and donated to the church! Just make sure to select our church as the donation, and they do the rest! If anyone has any questions, please contact the office at waymansvillestpeter@yahoo.com or at (812)390-5980 (Camden)

Thrivent Action Teams: If you have any Thrivent policies or products, you are eligible for two action teams a year. An action team includes \$250 seed money and may be used for a fundraiser, an educational event, or a service activity. As a church, we have used action teams for the fish fry, the youth golf scramble, Bible studies, etc. If you are interested in using your action teams for events at church or anywhere else, you can look for more information and help signing up on the Thrivent website or by speaking to Pastor.

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 on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month 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.) We are also in need of singers who can sing along while we play.

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, July 17th. 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 Thank You: Thank you so much to everyone who helped out with our VBS this year! We had a wonderful week sharing the Good News of Christ with our children. It would never be possible without our fantastic volunteers!

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, August 5th beginning at 6:00 PM. 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!

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

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.

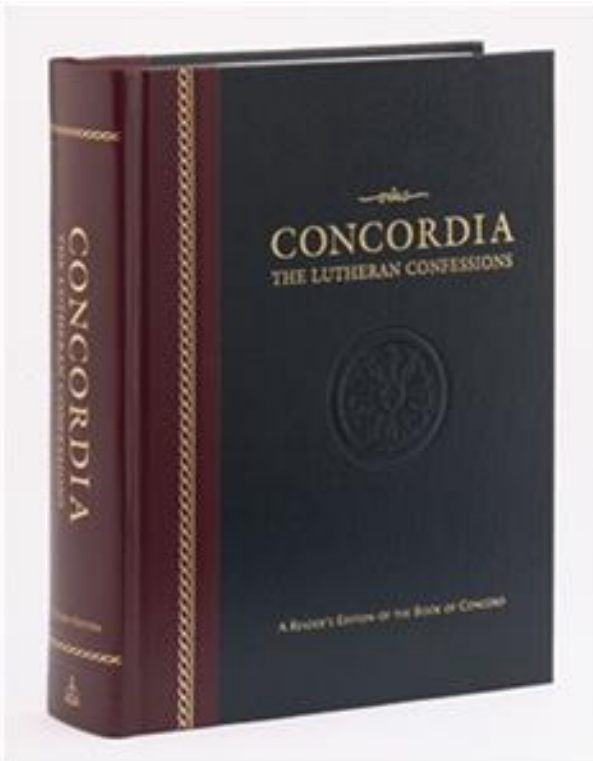
FROM THE OFFICE

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!

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

“We believe, teach, and confess that the only rule and norm according to which all teachings, together with all teachers, should be evaluated and judged (2 Timothy 3:15-17) are the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the Old and New Testament alone. For it is written in Psalm 119:105, ‘Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.’ St. Paul has written, ‘even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed’ (Galatians 1:8). However, other writings by ancient or modern teachers – no matter whose name they bear – must not be regarded as equal to the Holy Scriptures (1 Corinthians 14:32). Other writings should not be received in any other way or as anything more than witnesses that show how this pure doctrine of the prophets and apostles was preserved after the time of the apostles, and at what places.” (Formula of Concord, Summary, 1-2)

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

July 2022

Ushers: Open

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

July 3 – Schultz

July 10, 17, 24, & 31 - Open

Acolytes:

July 3 – Rayleigh Acton

July 17 – Max Hoene

July 31 – Rayleigh Acton

July 10 – Anslee Hawkins

July 31 – Trevor Acree

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Events: 8/5 – Game Night @ 6 PM					1	2
3 4 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 3:30 PM – Adult Catechism Class	4	5	6	7 10 AM – Elders meeting	8	9
10 5 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 3:30 PM – Adult Catechism Class 5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	11	12	13	14 6:00 PM – Music Group 7:00 PM – Board meeting	15	16
17 6 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting (Pastor’s Bible Study to follow as time allows) 3:30 PM – Adult Catechism Class 5:00 PM – Youth Group	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 7 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 3:30 PM – Adult Catechism Class	25	26	27	28 6:00 PM – Music Group	29	30 9 AM – Catechesis Retreat
31 8 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 3:30 PM – Adult Catechism Class						