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## House of Bread

- Pastor Sorenson

“O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” (LSB 361, stanza 1)

This hymn is one of many beloved Christmas hymns. It starts out by hearkening to the small town of Bethlehem, the very place where Jesus Christ was born. Even though Bethlehem wasn't a very prominent city, just about everybody knows about it because of this fact.

Some other well-known facts about Bethlehem are that it is the home of king David, that it's near Jerusalem, and that it was the home to many shepherds. Each of these are important features of Bethlehem that speak to various parts of the Christmas story.

What many people don't know, however, is what the name Bethlehem means. It comes from two different Hebrew words: *beth* which means “house” and *lehem* which means “bread.” Quite literally, then, the town is known as “house of bread.” What an odd name for a town.

That name, though, provides a wonderful backdrop for the birth of Jesus. For our Savior was born in the house of bread and that's no coincidence.

First, there's the simple fact that bread is food and it's often used as a catchall word for the basic necessity for what we need to survive. How appropriate, then, that God would be born in a town that bears the name for a basic necessity for life.

Second, there's a few Old Testament connections to bread that take on added significance in light of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Think of the manna, bread from heaven, which God used to feed His people during the Exodus. Or consider the seemingly odd request of God that “you shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before me regularly” in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:30). Now, these Old Testament details make more sense seeing that God would take on flesh and be born in the house of bread.

Third, and perhaps most significantly, the name of Bethlehem connects us to later statements of Jesus such as when He says, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35). Or later when “Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body’” (Matthew 26:26).

The Lord who was born in the house of bread now gives us His very body in, with, and under bread. This body-bread gives us life because it gives us Jesus. This body-bread is our manna from heaven and our bread of the Presence. This body-bread is the basic necessity which nourishes our faith and keeps us alive.

Truly, it's no coincidence that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the house of bread. For even as a newborn, He is the Bread of life who was born to be our everlasting light. In Him, all our hopes and fears are met because He took on flesh to die on the cross so that we may be saved. And now, every time we receive the bread in the Lord's Supper, we're connected back to this Christmas joy, because it's no longer just bread, but it's also the body of the One born in the house of bread.

## WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

**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 Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** On break until the new year.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Second Sunday of the month, December 11<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5:00 PM. We will continue our 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](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](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 and Advent devotionals 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](mailto: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.

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May these resources assist you as you continue to hear the Word of God and cry out to Him in prayer.  
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## 150<sup>th</sup> 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.

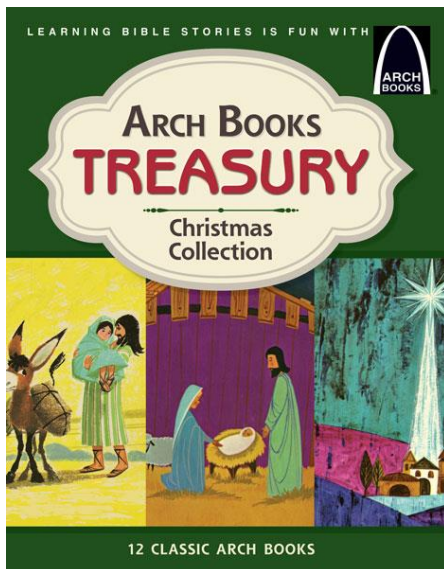
## IN OUR PRAYERS

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:

- Mark, Yvonne, Makala, Job, & Aurora Willman
- Sonya Wilson
- Dale & Ruth Woodard
- Cheryl Yearsley
- Dan, Janice, Joe, Trevor, & Abigail Acree
- Curt, Jenni, Rayleigh, & Abe Acton
- Allen & Beverly Acton
- Don Acton
- Julia Baxter
- Mike & Kathe Borgman

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**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](http://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](mailto:waymansvillestpeter@yahoo.com) or at (812)390-5980 (Camden)



**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 December Book of the Month is *Arch Books Treasury: Christmas Collection*. Here is an excerpt from the introduction to the book: “Parents and educators are given the wonderful responsibility of teaching children about God and His will for them. One of the ways we do this is by teaching them God’s Word – the Bible. Since the first Arch Books were published in the mid-1960s, the series has existed for the sole purpose of teaching the Bible to children. More than 400 different Arch Books have been published. And through them, millions of children have learned about biblical people and events, about faith and forgiveness, and about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, as this beloved series enters its sixth decade, Concordia Publishing House is rereleasing this collection of Arch Books to commemorate the series’s legacy and to celebrate its influence on Bible literacy. This collection reproduces the original words and pictures. To God be the glory!”

**Greening the Church:** This year we are planning to change things up a little. We will need a couple people to come on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM to set-up the Christmas tree. Then on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> after church we will ask our whole church family to stay and help us decorate. We will learn about the story of the Chrismons. Each of you will receive a booklet explaining each Chrismon that will decorate our tree. After the tree is decorated, we will put all of our other decorations up. Refreshments will be served. Come and join us. Thank you for supporting your church. – Verna Vandercar

**Poinsettias:** Order forms will be available in the narthex soon. Please have your orders in by Sunday, December 18th. Thank you!

**New Board Members:** We would like to thank John Dobrinski (chairman), Barb Minor (financial secretary), and Curt Acton (practical services) for agreeing to serve on the church board beginning this upcoming year. We also thank all of our returning board members and our outgoing board members for their faithful service.

**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 2023 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 for 2023 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.

**Communion Assistance:** We are looking for people who may be interested in setting up and/or cleaning up communion. No need to worry about the linens, as those will be taken care of for you. If you are interested in learning more, please speak with Lynette or Pastor. The sign-up sheet for 2023 is also on the bulletin board.

## YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

**Youth Group:** The youth group will meet on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 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:** We have a class for little kids (approximately ages 3 through 2nd grade taught by myself), a class for older kids (approximately 3rd grade through high school taught by Kevin Schultz). There is also adult Bible class with Pastor Sorenson. We would like to have a third teacher to fill the gap between the two classes. Please consider this as these children are so eager to learn about the word of God. – Michelle Schultz

**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

**Toaster Request:** If you have an unused/extra toaster, consider donating it to the church. Sunday School often has snacks that would benefit from a toaster. Thank you!

## EVENTS

**Game Night:** Game Night will be on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! Our dinner theme will be winter favorites/soup night. 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!

**Epiphany Service:** Join us for a joint Epiphany service on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM here at St. Peter. 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.

## LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

**Prince of Peace Bethlehem Walk:** Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3496 E. Morgan St., Martinsville, IN will present its tenth annual Bethlehem Walk on Saturday, December 3 from 5:00-8:00 PM. This expanded, live Nativity will take participants back in time to experience a night like no other – the night our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was born. The event will begin in the church Sanctuary with a brief introduction and end in Luther Hall (lower level of school) with optional cookies and hot chocolate. Tickets for this event, issued in 10-minute time increments, are free and may be secured online through Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/421553657337>) or by calling the church office at 765-342-2004 or emailing the church at [popchurchlcms@hotmail.com](mailto:popchurchlcms@hotmail.com).

**Redeemer Ladies Tea:** December 3, 2022 from 3:30-5:30 PM. This year our program is titled, "The 7 C's of Biblical History" and the Redeemer Evangelism Board would like to invite the ladies of your church to attend. Tickets are \$15 per person or you can buy a full table of 6 for \$80. Tickets will be \$16 at the door, so call and order your tickets. The proceeds from the Tea will go for missions that we support. They are: Heart 4 Haiti, 4 Kenya Kids, and Crosslife Ministries. Come and enjoy a delicious meal and listen to a very important program. We will also have a raffle for a handmade quilt. Contact Katrina Miller (812-522-8693) or the Redeemer Church office at (812-522-1837) for tickets or information.

**Trinity Lutheran High School SGO:** Tax credit scholarships, better known as "SGO Scholarships", are awarded by Scholarship Granting Organizations to qualifying families to help them pay for the non-public school of their choice. Donations to fund SGO scholarships feature a 50% state tax credit for the donor. Trinity families benefit from donations made to the Lutheran SGO in our name. Donations can be made in the form of cash, check, credit or debit card, marketable securities( including stocks and bonds), real estate, farming commodities (gifts of livestock or grain), qualified retirement plans, or any item where value can be easily determined. If you would like to learn more about SGOs or would like to make a donation, contact Erin Brooks at 812-524-8547 or [ebrooks@trinitycougars.org](mailto:ebrooks@trinitycougars.org).

## 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!

**Offering Envelopes:** Offering Envelopes for 2023 have been placed in mailboxes in the narthex of the church. Please note that many offering Envelope numbers have changed for next year. If you have any questions please let me know. - Camden

**Church Constitution:** If you would like to sign the church constitution, please contact Camden.

Pastor Erik Sorenson • (812) 342-4921, office • (812) 371-1151, cell • [pastoresorenson@gmail.com](mailto:pastoresorenson@gmail.com)

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

On the web: [www.stpeterwaymansville.com](http://www.stpeterwaymansville.com) • Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch)

### **Book of Concord Corner**

“1. The divine and human natures in Christ are personally united. So there are not two Christs, one the Son of God and the other the Son of Man. But one and the same person is the Son of God and Son of Man (Luke 1:35; Romans 9:5).

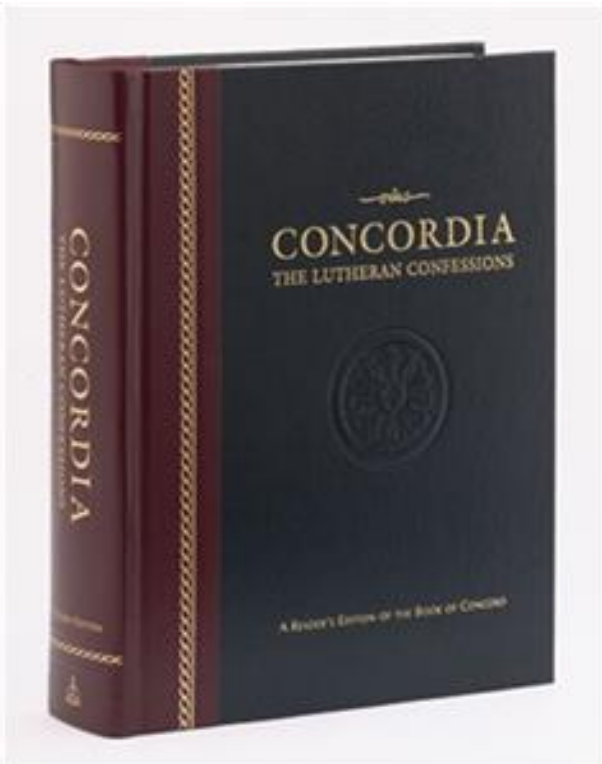
2. We believe, teach, and confess that the divine and human natures are not mingled into one substance, nor is one changed into the other. Each keeps its own essential properties, which can never become the properties of the other nature.

3. The properties of the divine nature are these: to be almighty, eternal, infinite, and to be everywhere present (according to the property of its nature and its natural essence, of itself), to know everything, and so on. These never become properties of the human nature.

4. The properties of the human nature are to be a bodily creature, to be flesh and blood, to be finite and physically limited, to suffer, to die, to ascend and descend, to move from one place to another, to suffer hunger, thirst, cold, heat, and the like. These never become properties of the divine nature.

5. The two natures are united personally (i.e., in one person). Therefore, we believe, teach, and confess that this union is not the kind of joining together and connection that prevents either nature from having anything in common with the other personally (i.e., because of the personal union). It is not like when two boards are glued together, where neither gives anything to the other or takes anything from the other....

For how could the man, the Son of Mary, in truth be called or be God, or the Son of God the Most High, if His humanity were not personally united with the Son of God?” (Formula of Concord, Epitome, VIII, 5-9, 11)



# Advent and Christmas Services

Advent is a season when the Church prepares for the coming (or advent) of Jesus Christ. This preparation is done by gathering together to hear the Word of God, repent of our sins, and receive the body and blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper.

Throughout this season, God reveals to us the three advents of Christ. First, He came in the flesh by His birth in Bethlehem. Second, He comes to us here and now in His Word and in His Sacraments. Third, He will come again on the last day to raise us from the dead.

As such, the Church uses this season to prepare for all three advents of Christ, celebrating the first, experiencing the second, and longing for the third. May this Advent and Christmas season be a blessed time of preparation for all of us here at St. Peter as we join together to delight in the Christ Child who comes to us now and will come again!

## The Midweek Services – The Apostles' Creed

**Wednesday, November 30, 7:00 PM – First Article – Father**

**Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 PM – Second Article – Son**

**Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 PM – Third Article – Holy Spirit**

## The Christmas Services

**Saturday, December 24, 7:00 PM – Children's Christmas Program**

**Saturday, December 24, 11:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight**

**Sunday, December 25, 9:00 AM – Christmas Divine Service**



Join us Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> for



When: Starting at **6:00 PM**

What: Board games, card games, video games, outdoor games, etc.

Who: Everyone! Feel free to invite a friend as well

Why: To have fun and enjoy time with fellow church members

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Feel free to bring drinks, a dish to share, or desserts, or just come and enjoy some games and fellowship!

## St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

**Ushers:** Max Thomas & Robert Stiles

**Communion Set-up & Clean-up:**

12/4 & 31 – Lynette May      12/11 – Kathy Rebber

12/18 & 25 – Judy Strasser

**Acolytes:**

**December 4** – Rayleigh Acton

**December 11** – Rayleigh Acton

**December 18** – Rayleigh Acton

**December 25** – Rayleigh Acton

## December 2022

**December 7** – Trevor Acree

**December 14** – Trevor Acree

**December 24 (11 PM)** – Trevor Acree

**December 31** – Trevor Acree

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Events: 1/6: Joint Epiphany Service (here)				<b>1</b>  10 AM – Elders meeting	<b>2</b>  6 PM – Game Night	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  7 PM – Handbell practice	<b>7</b>  6 PM – Advent Supper 7 PM – Advent Midweek service	<b>8</b>  6 PM – Music Group 7 PM – Board meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent</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	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  9 AM – 2 PM - Pastor @ Circuit meeting 7 PM – Handbell practice	<b>14</b>  6 PM – Advent Supper 7 PM – Advent Midweek service	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis  5:00 PM – Youth Group	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  7 PM – Handbell practice	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  6 PM – Music Group	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  7 PM – Children’s Christmas Program 11 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight service
<b>25</b> <i>The Nativity of Our Lord</i> 9:00 AM – Christmas Divine Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  7 PM – Handbell practice	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  7 PM – New Year’s Eve Divine Service