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## Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi

- Pastor Sorenson

There's an old phrase that's been used in the Church for hundreds, if not thousands, of years that's worthy of pondering as a new year begins. That phrase is "Lex orandi, lex credendi." Translated from the original Latin, this means "the law of prayer, the law of believing."

To put it more to the point, what the phrase is really getting at is this: the way you worship/pray/act affects what you believe and vice versa.

Consider a few examples of this in other areas of life first. An athlete who doesn't take practice seriously will begin to believe that practice isn't important. Likewise, an athlete who does believe practice is important will give a great effort even at practice, thus maximizing its benefits.

An artist who takes time to make beautiful works of art will see the great value of beautiful artwork. On the other hand, an artist who believes all art is subjective and there is no such thing as an objectively beautiful piece of art will not make an effort to pursue objective beauty.

In this same way, then, the way we worship really does affect what we believe and what we believe really does affect the way we worship. This is a helpful realization that can lead you to ponder why we do what we do in worship and where our beliefs inform our worship as well as where our worship informs our beliefs.

For instance, why do we read from the Bible at every service? On the one hand, reading from the Bible every week teaches us that the Bible is the Word of God and that its value cannot be surpassed. On the other hand, our belief that the Bible is the Word of God makes us crave hearing from it whenever we gather together.

Why do we sing during worship? On the one hand, singing teaches us that God loves to hear our praises, especially as we sing about what He has done for us. On the other hand, our belief that God encourages us to sing His Word and to sing about His mighty works opens our mouths to make a joyful noise.

Why do we treat things in church, like the altar, the communion elements, the baptismal font, etc., with extra reverence and respect? On the one hand, this extra respect teaches us that these things are holy, that is set apart for God's purposes, and that God Himself is present to use these things for our good. On the other hand, our belief that God is actually with us in worship, even bodily with us on the altar via communion, encourages us to honor, respect, and rejoice that God is with us in church to give us great and wonderful gifts.

Now, think about all of this in another way. What would happen if our practices change? How might our beliefs begin to differ? If we only read from the Bible once a month, what might that make us believe about it? If we never sang anything during church, how might we feel about all the singing in God's Word? If we treated church and the things in the sanctuary in an informal way, what conclusions might we draw about God's presence in that place?

The way we worship really does affect what we believe, just as what we believe affects how we worship. It's good for us to think about this and consider this connection so that we may always be growing in the faith, receiving the gifts which God so loves to give us.

As you come to worship, then, ask yourself that question. Speak about it with your family too as well as other members of the church. How does our worship inform our beliefs and how do our beliefs inform our worship? The great thing about this is it always leads us back to Christ who is the sum and substance of both our worship and our beliefs.

## 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 Nahum and Habakkuk.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** On break until the new year. Look for more information in the weekly bulletins.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Second Sunday of the month, January 8<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

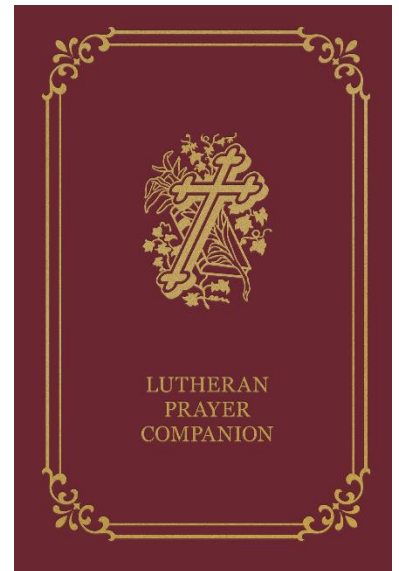
Throughout the year, this space will be used to encourage you to keep your brothers and sisters in Christ here at St. Peter in your prayers. As you pray for them, you may even ask them how you can pray for them. Families will be listed in alphabetical order throughout the year. During this month, you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

- |                       |                          |                                 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Bekah Brown         | • Louis & Bonnie Daab    | • Bill, Nikki, Amanda, & Nathan |
| • Mark Burbrink       | • Ken DeLap              | Finke                           |
| • Christopher Cox     | • John & Karen Dobrinski | • Rick & Debbie Flohr           |
| • Ron & Hannelore Cox |                          | • Paul & Jeanine Franke         |

## 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 January Book of the Month is *Lutheran Prayer Companion*. Here is an excerpt from the introduction to the book: “Although there is already such a large number of prayerbooks that to add to them by way of the present volume might seem to some superfluous, yet not a few of those now available are of rather poor quality, while others contain bad material mingled with the good, and still others are not comprehensive. For this reason, faithful pastors have up to now been quite at a loss as to which book they might in good conscience recommend when those entrusted to their charge ask them for a good prayerbook covering all kinds of situations. The collectors of the present *Lutheran Prayer Companion* hope that they have thus met a need which has become increasingly urgent. The collection before you, designed not for church use but home use, is not only as exhaustive as possible, but also includes only those prayers which both confess the doctrines of God’s Word purely and possess a language of genuine devotion devoid of anything naturalistic, diseased, or enthusiastic.”



**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.

**Board & Elder Installation:** We will install our new board members and elders during the Divine Service on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Quarterly Voters’ Meeting:** We will have our January quarterly voters’ meeting immediately after church on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Usher, Acolyte, Communion Training:** On Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 lunch provided as well!

**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 Heilers 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, January 15<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.

**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:** 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

**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, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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!

**Joint 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. An Italian dinner will be served prior to the service, beginning at 6:00 PM. There is a sign-up sheet on the conference room door for the dinner. Please consider signing up to help bring food for this dinner, or speak to Janice Acree for more information.

**Soup and Euchre:** Join us on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 PM for our Soup and Euchre party! It will be \$5 for soup and \$5 for euchre. Invite a friend or two and enjoy a night of soup, cards, and fun.

## LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

**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).

**Camp Lakeview Junior Staff:** Information regarding the Camp Lakeview Junior Staff program is available in the library for any of our youth who may be interested in this special opportunity. You can also find more information online at [lakeview.camp/juniorstaff](http://lakeview.camp/juniorstaff).

## 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)

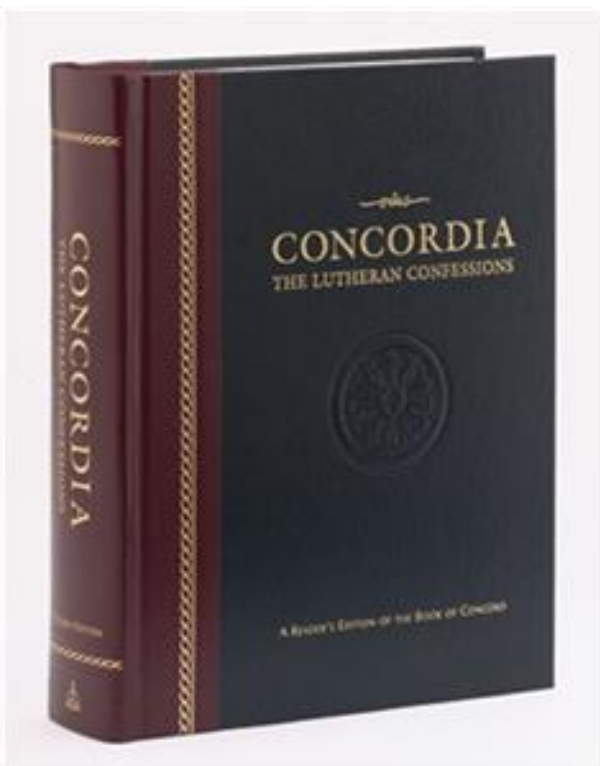
### **Book of Concord Corner**

“Our churches teach that people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or works. People are freely justified for Christ’s sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that their sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God counts this faith for righteousness in His sight (Romans 3:21-26; 4:5).

So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given (John 20:22). He works faith, when and where it pleases God (John 3:8), in those who hear the good news that God justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ’s sake. This happens not through our own merits, but for Christ’s sake.

Our churches condemn the Anabaptists and others who think that through their own preparations and works the Holy Spirit comes to them without the external Word.

Our churches teach that this faith is bound to bring forth good fruit (Galatians 5:22-23). It is necessary to do good works commanded by God (Ephesians 2:10), because of God’s will. We should not rely on those works to merit justification before God. The forgiveness of sins and justification is received through faith. The voice of Christ testifies, ‘So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty’ (Luke 17:10). The Fathers teach the same thing. Ambrose says, ‘It is ordained of God that he who believes in Christ is saved, freely receiving forgiveness of sins, without works, through faith alone.’ (Augsburg Confession, articles IV, V, and VI)



## St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

January 2023

Ushers: open

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

1/1 & 8 – Kathy Rebber

1/6, 15, 22, 29 - open

Acolytes:

January 1 – Rayleigh Acton

January 8 – Rayleigh Acton

January 22 – Rayleigh Acton

January 6 – Trevor Acree

January 15 – Trevor Acree

January 29 – Trevor Acree

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <i>Circumcision and Name of Jesus</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7 PM – Handbell practice	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10 AM – Elders meeting	<b>6</b> <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i> 6 PM – Epiphany Dinner 7 PM – Joint Epiphany Divine Service	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <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	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9 AM – 2 PM - Pastor @ Circuit meeting 7 PM – Handbell practice	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6 PM – Music Group 7 PM – Board meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 11:30 AM – Usher, Communion, Acolyte training & lunch
<b>15</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Quarterly Voters’ meeting & Sunday School (Pastor’s Bible study to follow) 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Youth Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7 PM – Handbell practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7 PM – Handbell practice	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6 PM – Music Group	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7 PM – Handbell practice				Upcoming Events: 2/3: Game Night 2/5: Soup & Euchre Party