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On Repentance and Forgiveness

- Pastor Sorenson

The season of Lent is a season of repentance. You see that in the color purple that adorns the church this time of year. You hear that in the readings and the hymns. You read about that in special Lenten devotions. As such, Lent is a perfect time to consider what repentance really is.

The word “repent” literally means “to turn around.” The picture for repentance, then, is the process of turning from facing one direction to the opposite direction. More specifically, repentance is going from facing sin and the ways of the devil to facing God and His ways. It’s recognizing the destruction of sin and desiring instead the things of God.

This is the proclamation of Lent. “Return to the Lord your God.” Turn back from sin and face the Lord once again. Practically speaking, repentance begins with contrition, that is sorrow over sin. This contrition doesn’t have to be an intense feeling of sorrow, however. Sometimes contrition is simply acknowledging that you have sinned. That even your best works in this life are done in sin. Sometimes this leads to a stricken conscience and intense sorrow. Sometimes it leads to a confession without much emotion, but the sorrow over sin remains.

This helps to clarify a point that is often missed with repentance. Repentance, properly speaking, is God’s action. He is the One who starts repentance in you. His Word comes to you, striking at your heart, convicting you of your sins. From here, God begins to turn you around away from these sins and back to Himself.

That is so important to know. Otherwise, you could never be sure if your repentance was genuine. But it is, because God is the One who works it in you. It is also quite comforting, because no matter how many times you turn yourself around to face sin once again, God goes to work to spin you back around, away from sin, and back to Himself.

Just as repentance begins with contrition, then, it finds its end in faith and forgiveness. Martin Luther says it well in the Small Catechism as he writes, “Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.”

This knowledge is not only a great comfort for you, but it’s a great encouragement for you as well. It’s a comfort because when you feel the sting of the God’s Law, when His Word cuts right to your heart, you know that God has done that in order to bring you forgiveness. Your sins are placed before your eyes because God is about to turn you away from them and back to Jesus who has already taken those sins to the cross in His very own flesh.

Repentance ending with forgiveness is an encouragement for you as well, because God calls you to forgive just as He has forgiven you. When your brother or sister in Christ sins against you and as God brings him or her to acknowledge that sin, you boldly proclaim Christ’s forgiveness. You serve as the mask of God in that moment as He turns your fellow believer back to Himself.

When you understand repentance and forgiveness in this biblical way, what a great joy this call to repent is during Lent! Likewise, when you see the connection between repentance and forgiveness, what a great weight is lifted off of your shoulders as you interact with one another. For when God calls His people to repent, you know that His forgiveness will have the final word.

So, repent, dear Christians! For by Christ’s death and resurrection, your sins are forgiven and by God’s grace, you live in His forgiveness all the days of your life.

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Bible Studies:

- **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 after Easter. Look for more information in the weekly bulletins.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Second Sunday of the month, March 12th 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. Everyone is welcome!

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 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. 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.

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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|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • David & Donna Losey | • Michael, Cindy, Mackenzie, | • Barb Minor |
| • Teresa Lucas | Tristan, Danica, Isabella May | • John & Beth Muntzinger |
| • Tim & Carol Luker | • Rick & Lynette May | • Kevin, Amy, Jackson, & Holly Nagel |
| • Gregory Marshall | • Jennifer Milan | |

GENERAL INFORMATION

Missions: This year we will be supporting a variety of missions. The missions we will support include Clarity, Lakeview Ministries, Orphan Grain Train, Tiffany Smith (missionary for Lutheran Bible Translators serving in Tanzania), and a seminary student. If you would like to submit a name of a seminary student to receive this support, please speak to an elder or to Pastor. May God continue to bless these missions as Christ is proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

Puzzle Sharing: A puzzle share has recently started here at St. Peter. If you would like to borrow a puzzle or donate a puzzle, they can be found or placed in the cabinet in the Conference Room closest to the white board. Enjoy a variety of puzzles and some fellowship with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!

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.

Car & Tractor Show Meeting: There will be a meeting on March 9th at 6 PM to begin planning a Car & Tractor Show. Everyone is invited to come and help plan for a great event!

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 *The Choir Immortal* by Katie Schuermann. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Emily walked the block and a half to Zion Lutheran Church in what appeared to be a snowstorm, only there wasn't a single cloud above in the pristine sky. Thousands of snowy white crab apple petals, plucked from a nearby tree and swept up by a rather gregarious gust of wind, billowed and swirled around Emily in an aromatic cloud. She threw back her head and laughed, spreading wide her arms to embrace the serendipitous sight. She absolutely loved Bradbury, Illinois, and she never, ever, ever wanted to leave."



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.

Easter Lilies: Easter lily order forms are available in the narthex. There is a suggested donation of \$8 per lily, which you can include in the offering plate or give to Camden or Pastor. After services on Easter, you may pick up your ordered lily/lilies.

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, March 19th, 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.

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, April 14th, 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!

Easter Egg Hunt: The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 8th at 10:00 AM. We will meet in the shelter house (weather permitting). Eggs will be available in the narthex to pick up and fill with individually wrapped candy beginning on March 12th. Please have the eggs returned by April 2nd. Also, be sure to invite any children or grandchildren to be part of the hunt on April 8th.

Easter Breakfast: The Youth Group will serve an Easter breakfast this year between the sunrise and Divine Service on Easter (April 9th). 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 29th 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

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.

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.

Camp Lakeview Registration: Every year thousands of kids, youth, and families come to Lakeview Ministries. Why? It’s because they know you belong at camp. Coming to camp gives you an all-access pass into life-changing fun. It builds life skills and reduces levels of stress and anxiety. It allows for deeper friendships, and most importantly, it lets you experience Jesus in a way that connects with your everyday life. Online registration for the 2023 summer season at Camp Lakeview and Lakeview Villages is currently open. Programs are available for students and families of ALL AGES. For more information, visit camp’s website at www.lakeview.camp or call the camp office at 812-342-4815. Come and experience the power of camp this summer!

FROM THE OFFICE

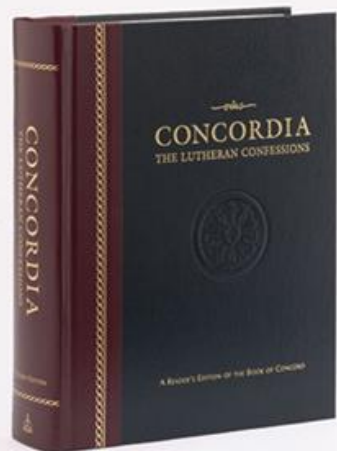
Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Keep an eye on the church Facebook page for the most up-to-date information. Thank you!

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

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

“This is what true repentance means. Here a person needs to hear something like this, ‘You are all of no account, whether you are obvious sinners or saints in your own opinion. You have to become different from what you are now. You have to act differently than you are now acting, however great, wise, powerful, and holy you try to be. Here no one is godly.’ But to this office of the Law, the New Testament immediately adds the consoling promise of grace through the Gospel. This must be believed. As Christ declares, ‘Repent and believe in the gospel’ (Mark 1:15). That is, become different, act differently, and believe my promise. ... Whenever the Law alone exercises its office, without the Gospel being added, there is nothing but death and hell, and one must despair, as Saul and Judas did (1 Samuel 31; Matthew 27:5). St. Paul says, through sin the Law kills. (See Romans 7:10.) On the other hand, the Gospel brings consolation and forgiveness. It does so not just in one way, but through the Word and the Sacraments.” (Smalcald Articles, Part III, Article III, 3-4, 7-8)

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, February 22, 7:00 PM – Ash Wednesday

The Midweek Services – The Ten Commandments

Wednesday, March 1 7:00 PM – 1st & 2nd Commandments

Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 PM – 3rd & 4th Commandments

Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 PM – 5th & 6th Commandments

Wednesday, March 22, 7:00 PM – 7th & 8th Commandments

Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 PM – 9th & 10th Commandments

The Start of Holy Week

Sunday, April 2, 9:00 AM – Palm Sunday and Confirmation

The Triduum

Thursday, April 6, 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday

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

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

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 9, 6:30 AM – Easter Sunrise

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



Annual Waymansville Open Golf Scramble



Prizes for:

Closest to the Pin

Longest Drive

Winning Team Members

Yardsticks and marshmallows
will also be available! (\$5 each)

Saturday, April 29th, 2023

Hickory Hills Golf Course
1509 SR 135

Brownstown, IN 47220
(812) 358-4529

8:00 AM - Registration
9:00 AM - Shotgun Start

\$50/player

4 players per team
Includes: 18 holes, cart,
food, drinks, prizes

Proceeds benefit the
missions of St. Peter
Evangelical Lutheran
Church, Waymansville
Youth Group

To register your team, sponsor a hole for \$50, or
for more information, contact Pastor Erik Sorenson
at (812) 371-1151 or pastoresorenson@gmail.com

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8

At St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran
Church, Waymansville



Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 AM
All are welcome and invite a friend too!

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

Ushers: Max Thomas & Bill Finke

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

3/5 & 19 – AJ Trimpe

3/12 – Eric & Brenda Turner 3/26 – Kathy Rebber

Acolytes:

March 1 – Rayleigh Acton

March 12 – Rayleigh Acton

March 22 – Rayleigh Acton

March 5 – Trevor Acree

March 15 – Trevor Acree

March 26 – Trevor Acree

March 2023

March 8 – Abe Acton

March 19 – Abe Acton

March 29 – Abe Acton

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	2	3	4
5 <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	6	7 10 AM – Elders meeting 7 PM – Handbell practice	8 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	9 6 PM – Car & Tractor show meeting 7 PM – Council meeting	10	11
12 <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 PM – Book of Concord study	13	14 9 AM – 2 PM - Pastor @ Circuit meeting 7 PM – Handbell practice	15 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	16	17	18
19 <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 5:00 PM – Youth Group	20	21 7 PM – Handbell practice	22 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	23 6 PM – Music Group	24	25
26 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	27	28 7 PM – Handbell practice	29 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	30	31	Upcoming Events: 4/2: Palm Sunday 4/2-9: Holy Week 4/8: Easter Egg Hunt