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Psalm 118 and Holy Week

- Pastor Sorenson

Psalm 118 ends with these words: "Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar! You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"

In so many ways, the ending of this psalm speaks to the events of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Easter morning. What's amazing, though, is not only that this psalm speaks of Holy Week in such vivid detail, but that it also makes the connection back to us. Mixed in with the proclamation of salvation is the reminder that this is for us and the encouragement for us to be a part of what the Messiah has done for us.

The clear references to the events of Holy Week include speaking of the stone being rejected, yet becoming the cornerstone. The cries of "save us, we pray, O Lord," or "hosanna" in the original Hebrew. The exclamation of binding the festal sacrifice and taking it to the altar, and so on.

You can hear in this psalm a wonderful proclamation of Christ. For He rode into Jerusalem to those very shouts of "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" He was rejected by His people, being arrested, tried, and crucified. He was bound up and placed upon the altar of the cross as the festal sacrifice to atone for the sins of the world. By His death and resurrection, He has become the Cornerstone.

All throughout this proclamation of Christ, however, the psalmist makes reference to God's people. Most notably, you hear him say, "We bless you from the house of the Lord," in addition to the repeated admonitions to praise the Lord and give Him thanks. It's almost like there is a proclamation of the account of salvation combined with the worship of God's people.

This is a wonderful reminder for us, therefore, of what Holy Week is all about. In Holy Week, we aren't just sitting around reminding ourselves of events that happened long ago, we're actually being joined by God into these events of our salvation.

We walk with our Lord, following Him from outside of Jerusalem on a donkey to the Upper Room to the Garden of Gethsemane to His trial in the temple and before Pontius Pilate to His cross on Golgotha to His tomb and, finally, to His glorious resurrection.

Sadly, many people skip these events, jumping from the Triumphal Entry to the triumphant resurrection. But this psalm shows us the great joy of following our Lord through the whole week. For every service in Holy Week is more than a reminder of historical events. It's actually God joining us into the very events of our salvation.

If you've never come to Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Easter Vigil services before, or if it has been awhile since you have, make it a priority to come this year! If you do come to these services every year, make it a priority once again to come this year!

For during this week, God shows us how He opens the gates of righteousness to us and, what's more, how we enter them through Christ our Lord. During this week, we rejoice in our Lord's salvation, which involves far more than Easter morning. During this week, we give thanks to God that not only has Christ done this all for us, but that He lets us walk with our Lord into death and the grave so that we may also follow Him into resurrection and life everlasting.

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Bible Studies:

- **Sundays:** We are studying the minor prophets Sunday mornings after worship. This month we will study the prophet Habakkuk.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** On break until after Easter. Look for more information in the weekly bulletins.
- **Book of Concord Study:** April 23rd 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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|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Bob & Linda Nagel | • Francis & Karen Probst | • Ernie Rotert |
| • Ben Otte | • Tom & Kathy Rebber | • Phil & Chris Schaefer |
| • Tom & Pegi Owens | • Skyler Rebber | • Don Schafstall |
| • Larry & Sandra Phelps | | |

GENERAL INFORMATION

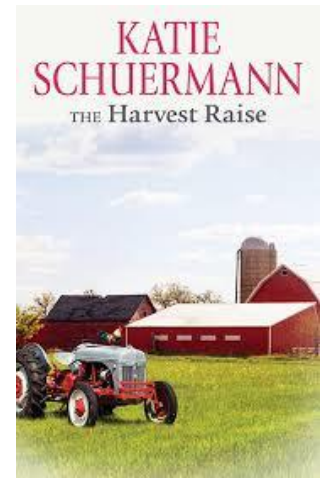
Missions: This year we will be supporting a variety of missions. The missions we will support include Clarity, Lakeview Ministries, Orphan Grain Train, Tiffany Smith (missionary for Lutheran Bible Translators serving in Tanzania), and a seminary student. If you would like to submit a name of a seminary 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.

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.

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 April Book of the Month is *The Harvest Raise* by Katie Schuermann. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Caroline Bradbury opened the front door of her family's historic home to find Ben Schmidt standing on the grant front porch, all smiles. He was wearing a crisp button-down shirt, tan slacks, and the watch she had given him for Christmas. She reached out to brush back a stray lock of his golden-brown hair – still damp from his recent shower – but he caught her hand midair and pulled her outside for a more private greeting. 'Sorry I'm late.' He leaned his nose against hers. 'Someone dumped a truckload of aluminum siding in one of the ditches I was mowin'. Took me an' Irv a bit to get it all cleared.' Caroline didn't mind. She'd wait for her whole life for Ben Schmidt if need be. She'd been in love with him since the sixth grade, and she didn't see herself stopping anytime soon."



Confirmation: Congratulations and God's blessings to our confirmands this year: Alex Hughes, Danica May, and Alexis Wooten! Please keep them in your prayers and share an encouraging word with them as they come to this exciting time.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting: We will have our quarterly voters' meeting on April 23rd following the worship service.

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, April 16th, 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

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! Our dinner theme for the night will be a taco bar. 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.

Golf Outing Donations: The Youth Group is asking for donations of food items for lunch at the golf outing. If you would like to donate, please see the sign-up sheet on the conference room door. Thank you for your support towards our youth!

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.

FROM THE OFFICE

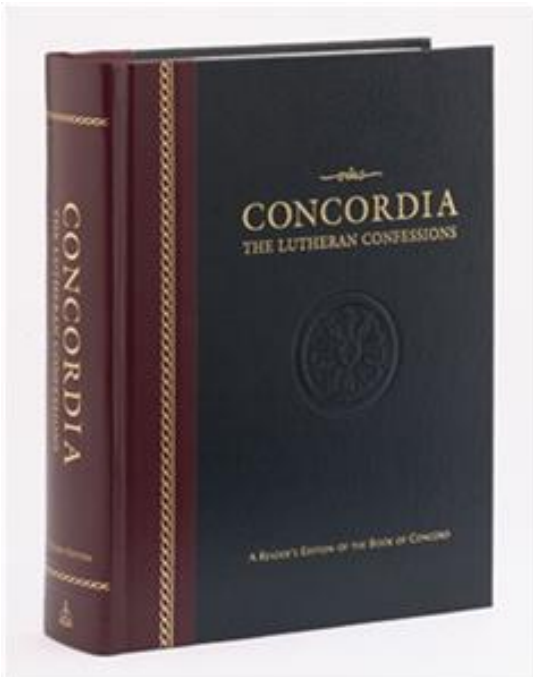
Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Keep an eye on the church Facebook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

“We also believe, teach, and confess that it was not a mere man who suffered, died, was buried, descended to hell, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and was raised to God’s majesty and almighty power for us. But it was a man whose human nature has such a profound (close), indescribable union and communion with God’s Son that it is one person with Him. God’s Son truly suffered for us. However, He did so according to the attributes of the human nature, which He received into the unity of His divine person and made His own. He did this so that He might be able to suffer and be our High Priest for our reconciliation with God, as it is written in 1 Corinthians 2:8, they ‘crucified the Lord of glory.’ And Acts 20:28 says, with God’s blood we have been redeemed. We believe, teach, and confess that the Son of Man really is exalted. He is (in deed and truth) exalted according to His human nature to the right hand of God’s almighty majesty and power. For He was received into God when He was conceived of the Holy Spirit in His mother’s womb, and His human nature was personally united with the Son of the Highest.” (Formula of Concord, Epitome, VIII, 13-15)

Holy Week Services

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

April 2023

Ushers:
 4/2, 30 – Judy Strasser
 4/6, 23 – Lynnette May

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:
 4/9 (6:30 & 9 AM), 4/16 - open

Acolytes:
April 2 – Acton, Acree (crucifer)
April 9 (6:30 AM) – Acton, Acree (crucifer)
April 16 – Trevor Acree

April 6 – Acton
April 23 – Abe Acton

April 7 – Acton
April 9 (9 AM) – Acton, Acree (crucifer)
April 30 – Rayleigh Acton

April 8 - Acree

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Confirmation Reception						8
HOLY WEEK						
		7 PM – Handbell practice		7 PM – Holy (Maundy) Thursday Divine Service	7 PM – Good Friday Service	10 AM – Easter Egg Hunt 8 PM – Easter Vigil
9 <i>The Resurrection of Our Lord</i> 6:30 AM – Easter Sunrise 7:15-8:40 AM – Easter Breakfast 9:00 AM – Easter Divine Service	10	11 9 AM – 2 PM - Pastor @ Circuit meeting 7 PM – Handbell practice	12	13 6 PM – Music Group 7 PM – Council meeting	14 6 PM – Game Night	15
16 <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 5:00 PM – Youth Group	17	7 PM – Handbell practice	19	20	21	22
23 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Quarterly voters’ meeting & Sunday School (Bible study to follow) 5:00 PM – Book of Concord study	24	7 PM – Handbell practice	26 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	6 PM – Music Group	28	29 8 AM – Youth Group Golf Scramble
30 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School						