



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

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Children in God's Church

- Pastor Sorenson

The topic of children in church is always an important one, but one where the Bible is oftentimes not involved in the discussion. What follows are some Bible verses that speak to how God views children and how He wants them in His Church. These are by no means all the verses on this topic, but are a good starting point.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 – “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

Deuteronomy 31:12 – Moses commanded the people of Israel, “¹² Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, ¹³ and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”

Psalms 8:1-2 – “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. ² Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.”

Psalms 127:3-5 - ³ Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. ⁵ Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.”

Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Matthew 18:10 – Jesus said, “¹⁰ See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 19:13-15 – “¹³ Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, ¹⁴ but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” ¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them and went away.”

Matthew 21:15-16 – “¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant, ¹⁶ and they said to him, “Do you hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read, ““Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise’?”

Mark 10:13-16 - ¹³ And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Ephesians 6:1-4 – “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

2 Timothy 3:14-15 – “¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Thanks be to God for all of the children of the Church with which He blesses us. For though children will misbehave and cause distractions, God welcomes them with into His arms and desires for them to be in church. Pray for these children and for the parents who are bringing them up in the instruction of the Lord.

Elders' Corner

(A new monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Distractions abound in our lives today. Even to the point of causing us to miss the blessings God has lavished on us in so many aspects of our lives.

Many families have been so distracted by the business of the world that they aren't willing to say no to things that keep them from hearing the Word of God, or receiving His gifts of forgiveness and life-sustaining body and blood.

Any one of us can dwell on the injustices of the world and forget that we are only called saints because of the actions of our Savior Jesus - not because we know the law so well.

Sometimes we might even let some of the good things distract us, sometimes even in church. Noisy and unruly children, neighbors boisterously greeting one another can distract us from God calling us to pray and care for those very people that might be deeply hurting inside while dealing with challenging children, or hurting because of loneliness, isolation or poor health that others aren't aware of. Sometimes the worship service itself can be a distraction for us- a hymn that we don't particularly care for, a sermon that just doesn't click with us or maybe hits too close to the heart, or sometimes the service just goes too long for our liking and in our distracted state of mind just didn't help us much.

It is important to be respectful to others and to have reverence of the worship service, some of us need some quiet preparation before worship, or have limited hearing and miss important parts of the service because of noisy children or people talking loudly - no, God's house isn't a playground.

We should do our best to help those families with troubles, praying for them, offering help where we can, or kind advice that we hopefully have learned from our own loving families who were patient with us at some points in our lives when we were less than manageable. We should remember that God saw us as redeemable just like everyone He has called to worship Him. We are blessed to have such a church that we have. We are blessed to have a God who saw fit to take us sinners and make us His saints through His Son's atoning sacrifice.

Hopefully we will all remember that the ultimate answer to distractions in our lives is knowing that God is in control. Participating in His blessings: worship, prayer, hearing His Word, and receiving the sacraments, loving God and loving our neighbor can be our diversion from distraction!

In the love of our Savior,
Elders of St Peter

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Bible Studies:

- **Sundays:** We are studying the minor prophets Sunday mornings after worship. This month we will study the prophets Habakkuk and Zephaniah.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Meets at 6:30 PM each Wednesday. We are currently studying people of the Passion accounts.
- **Book of Concord Study:** June 11th 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!

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.

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:

- Ron & Diana Toburen
- Tom & Brenda Tracy
- Greg & AJ Trimpe
- Carolyn Trimpe
- Chris Trimpe
- Doris Trimpe
- Kevin Trimpe
- Phil & Margie Trimpe
- Matthew Trimpe
- Vicki Trimpe

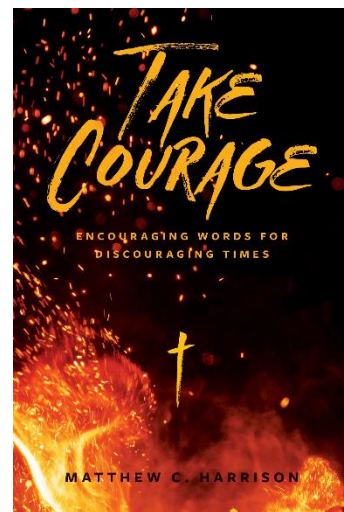
GENERAL INFORMATION

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.

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 June Book of the Month is *Take Courage: Encouraging Words for Discouraging Times* by Matthew C. Harrison. Here is an excerpt from the book: "The church is not and never has been a social club – though in the last century, especially in North America, it might have been confused for one. You could conduct business after the voters' meeting, unofficially govern the affairs of the city from the church parking lot, and use your Sunday morning bulletin to get a discount at the buffet. In the middle of the twentieth century, it was normal for people to be members of a Christian church. Pastors could regularly get a 'clergyman's discount' at retail stores. Being a member of a Christian denomination was expected, even American. These are the halcyon days for which people pine when they lament the loss of 'the good ol' days.' Those days are gone. Thanks be to God."



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.

From Grace Wolfgram: “Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, thank you so much for welcoming me into your congregation. I really needed a community outside of work to lean on this past year, and you definitely became that for me! Time spent in the Word, playing guitar on Thursday nights, and fellowship over meals were such a blessing for me. I miss you all and hope to visit in the future. God’s blessings, Grace Wolfgram. ‘O grant that each of us, Now met before Thee here, May meet together thus When Thou and Thine appear And follow Thee to heaven, our home. Even so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!’ On What Has Now Been Sown (LSB 921, v. 3)” Her card is also posted on the bulletin board.

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet on Sunday, June 25th, 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: Thank you to Kevin & Michelle Schultz for a wonderful year of Sunday School!

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, June 2nd, beginning at 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! Our dinner theme that night will be your favorite summer dish. 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!

Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser: We will be having a Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser on Monday, June 12th from 4:00-9:30 PM. 10% of all purchases that night from people who have our flyer will be donated back to the church. Flyers are available in the narthex or on the table by the library. Take as many as you want and hand them out to family and friends!

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.

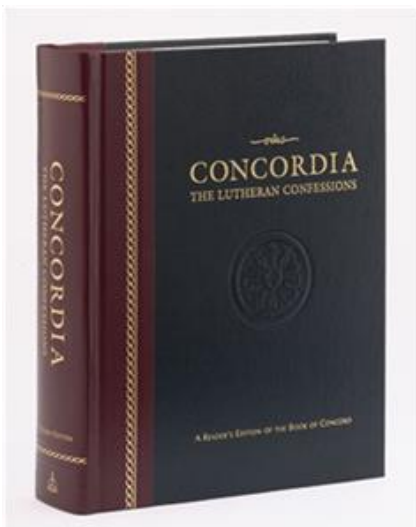
Pastor Erik Sorenson • (812) 342-4921, office • (812) 371-1151, cell • pastoresorenson@gmail.com

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

“Our churches teach with common consent that the decree of the Council of Nicaea about the unity of the divine essence and the three persons is true. It is to be believed without any doubt. God is one divine essence who is eternal, without a body, without parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness. He is the maker and preserver of all things, visible and invisible (Nehemiah 9:6). Yet there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). These three persons are of the same essence and power. Our churches use the term *person* as the Fathers have used it. We use it to signify, not a part or quality in another, but that which subsists in itself. Our churches condemn all heresies (Titus 3:10-11) that arose against this article.” (Augsburg Confession, Article I, 1-4)





(812) 378-4632

2780 Merchant Mile | Columbus, IN

FUNDRAISING

DINE-IN OR TO-GO

⇒ *Support* ⇐

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 12th

4:00pm – 9:30pm

10%

DONATION NIGHT

Support the **St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church** by presenting this flyer to the Columbus Location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases!



St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

June 2023

Ushers: Kevin Schultz

Acolytes: **June 4** – Abe Acton
June 11 – Rayleigh Acton
June 18 – Trevor Acree
June 25 – Abe Acton

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

June 11 – AJ Trimpe

June 18 – Judy Strasser

June 4 & 25 - open

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming events: VBS in July (dates TBD)				1	2 6 PM – Game Night	3
4 <i>Festival of the Holy Trinity</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study	5	6	7 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	8 6 PM – Music Group 7 PM – Council meeting	9	10
11 <i>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 5:00 PM – Book of Concord study	12 4:00-9:30 PM – Texas Roadhouse fundraiser	13	14 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	15	16	17
18 <i>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study	19	20	21 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	22 6 PM – Music Group	23	24
25 <i>4th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 5:00 PM – Youth Group	26	27	28 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	29	30	