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How to Read the Bible

- Pastor Sorenson

Have you ever tried to read the Bible, only to become discouraged because it seems too difficult to understand? Honestly, every Christian ever has had that experience. That is especially true when it comes to parts of the Old Testament. With all the odd names and places, with the prophets speaking about events that happened so long ago, the Bible can present some challenges as you try to read it.

This has led people to come up with all kinds of tools or tricks to make the Bible easier to read and understand. Sometimes that's simply skipping those parts that are unclear in favor of the parts that make more sense. Sometimes that's paraphrasing the Word of God to give a general theme of each section, instead of the literal words God inspired.

The most popular method today, however, to read and try to understand the Bible is to ask a simple question after you finish reading. What does this text mean to me?

That question invites you to reflect the text back on yourself. It opens up discussion and leads to thinking about how God may be speaking to your unique situation and circumstances. It's no wonder that it's a popular question to ask as you read the Bible.

But it's the wrong question. In fact, it can be quite harmful to you as you try to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest God's Word. Because this question makes you the master over the Bible. This question makes every word of God's Word all about you.

While it certainly is true that God's Word is for you and speaks to you, it isn't all things to all people. That is to say, the meaning of the text doesn't change based on who is reading it.

Rather, the text is always all about Jesus Christ. Period. Every single letter of Holy Scripture reveals Jesus to you. There's an old saying that Jesus is the golden thread that weaves through the tapestry of Scripture. Well, if that's true, then the tapestry is entirely made of golden thread.

Therefore, a far better question to ask whenever you read any part of the Bible is this: What does this text reveal about Jesus Christ?

Not only does this unlock the true meaning of every word in the Bible, but it also helps to apply it to you. If the text reveals that Christ has wrath against sin, it draws you to repent. If the text reveals Christ's steadfast love and forgiveness, it comforts you with the Gospel. If the text shows how Christ is working to keep His promises, it assures you that He will never leave you or forsake you.

No matter what your situation or circumstance is, then, when you see first how the text is revealing Jesus Christ to you, you can then see how Christ is working through that Word for you. For the answer to everything always goes back to Jesus Christ, the Creator and Redeemer of all things.

As you read the Bible, dear saints, always have that question in mind. What does this text reveal about Jesus Christ? It will take some practice and there are some texts that may take some work to find the answer, but this question truly will help you as you seek to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest God's Word. And it will bring you to see how Christ is working through that Word in whatever your situation or circumstance may be.

Elders' Corner

(A new monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

The Lord's richest blessings to the congregation of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church. The end of summer is fast approaching even with the extreme heat as of the writing of this note. The elders have been in conversation about our members and visitors that worship with us. The consensus is that moving forward the opportunity is here to devote more time to fellowship with our congregation.

As written in 1 Corinthians 1:9, "God is faithful, by whom you were called into fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." We also, as friends and family can be in fellowship spending time together with the Lord and with each other.

At this time, the elders have agreed upon a gathering on September 29th, Fellowship Friday at 5. Catchy title!

There will be a simple chili supper at our fire pit (weather permitting) to enjoy time together as well as a movie or two for all to enjoy. As always, all are welcome: members, family, friends, to a time of unity.

A biblical writing corresponding to this from Acts 2:42, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers."

More information will be available in the future about the meal and activities. Please know that any ideas and suggestions are truly welcome for this and for future opportunities to gather together

In the love of our Savior,
Elders of St Peter

2 Corinthians 13:14: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Amen.

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 the rites of Holy Baptism and Confirmation
- **Book of Concord Study:** September 10th 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:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| • Julia Baxter | • Mark Burbrink | • Christopher Cox |
| • Mike & Kathe Borgman | • Andrew Chapple | • Ron & Hannelore Cox |
| • Bekah Brown | | • Louis & Bonnie Daab |

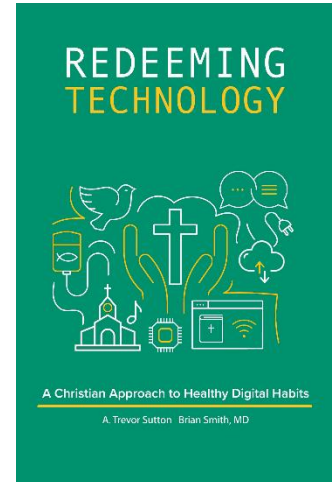
GENERAL INFORMATION

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.

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 September Book of the Month is *Redeeming Technology: A Christian Approach to Healthy Digital Habits* by A. Trevor Sutton & Brian Smith. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Our excessive technology use comes with a cost. Technology is distracting and not the time-saver it is promised to be; although we may try to multitask, our brains are not built for this level of distraction. The fallout from these distractions ranges from taking twice as long to finish work projects to dying in a car crash from texting while driving. Increased screen time is also costing us our health: poor physical and mental health, excessive weight gain linked to sedentary lifestyles, and increased rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide are all associated with excessive technology use. Worshiping technology requires us to sacrifice more than just our focus and well-being. Spending our lives staring at screens also means sacrificing face-to-face conversations, physical contact, exercise, family time, spiritual practices, and sleep. It is obvious that devotion to technology comes at a cost. What is less obvious is this: enslavement has the hope of freedom."



Council Positions: At our October voters' meeting, we will elect new council members for the positions of Synodical Fund Treasurer and Recording Secretary. If you would be willing to serve in either of these roles, please let a current council member know.

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 Lynnette or Pastor. The sign-up sheet for 2023 is also on the bulletin board.

College Outreach and Care: As a new school year begins, we will continue our college outreach and care program for our college students. If you are going to college (or know a member who is going to college), please let Pastor Sorenson know so he can add you to the list.

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet on Sunday, September 17th, 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 Teachers: As we approach a new school year, it is time to start planning for Sunday School! We are in need of people to volunteer to help teach our Sunday School classes. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to be a part of teaching the Word of God to our children, to dive into the Word yourself, and to build up the entire church. If you are

interested in teaching in any capacity (weekly, twice a month, once a month, substitute, etc.), please contact Michelle Schultz or Pastor Sorenson. Thank you for supporting our youth in this way!

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, October 6th, 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!

Fish Fry: The Fish Fry is scheduled for Sunday, October 15th from 4:00-7:00 PM. We will have a brief meeting to plan for the Fish Fry right after church on Sunday, September 17th.

Fellowship Friday @ 5: Join us on Friday, September 29th beginning at 5 PM for our first Fellowship Friday. Come at 5 or anytime later. We will have a bonfire with chili and a movie or two in the shelter house (weather permitting). The Parish Hall will also be open for any other things you may like to do (playing cards, talking, etc.). Everyone is invited to come out to enjoy some fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

White Creek Fall Dinner: Saturday, September 9. Carry out only/drive thru from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Adults \$15, children (ages 3-10) \$6, extra meat \$3, extra dessert \$3. Menu: baked ham or turkey, sage dressing, real mashed potatoes & gravy, homemade noodles, green beans, home grown corn, pumpkin pie, apple pie, cherry pie, chocolate pie, sugar cream pie, Robert Redford dessert.

FROM THE OFFICE

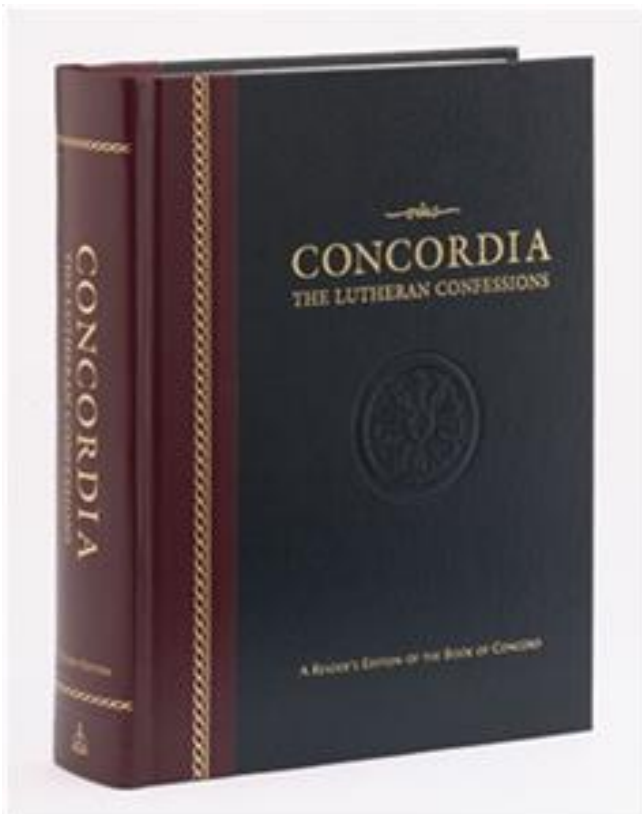
Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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

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Camden Jeffries • (812) 342-4921, office • (812) 390-5980 cell • waymansvilvestpeter@yahoo.com

On the web: www.stpeterwaymansville.com • Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch



Book of Concord Corner

“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

If we would be Christians, therefore, we must surely expect and count on having the devil with all his angels and the world as our enemies (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:9). They will bring every possible misfortune and grief upon us. For where God’s Word is preached, accepted, or believed and produces fruit, there the holy cross cannot be missing (Acts 14:22). And let no one think that he shall have peace (Matthew 10:34). He must risk whatever he has upon earth – possessions, honor, house and estate, wife and children, body and life. Now, this hurts our flesh and the old Adam (Ephesians 4:22). The test is to be steadfast and to suffer with patience (James 5:7-8) in whatever way we are assaulted, and to let go whatever is taken from us (1 Peter 2:20-21). So there is just as great a need, as in all the other petitions, that we pray without ceasing, ‘Dear Father, Your will be done, not the devil’s will or our enemies’ or anything that would persecute and suppress Your holy Word or hinder Your kingdom. Grant that we may bear with patience and overcome whatever is to be endured because of Your Word and kingdom, so that our poor flesh may not yield or fall away because of weakness or sluggishness.” (Large Catechism, Part III, 65-67)

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
11750 W. 930 S. – Waymansville

Fish Fry

Menu:
Fish Sandwiches, Hot Dogs,
Coleslaw,
Mac N Cheese, Chips,
Pie,
Drinks

** Freewill Donation*



**Dine in
Or Carryout**

Sunday, October 15th

4:00-7:00 PM

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

September 2023

Ushers: Dan Acree & Nathan Finke

Acolytes: **September 3** – Rayleigh Acton
September 10 – Trevor Acree
September 17 – Abe Acton
September 24 – Rayleigh Acton

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

9/3: Judy Strasser
 9/10: Lynnette May
 9/17, 24: Open

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Events: 10/6 – Game Night 10/15 – Fish Fry					1	2
3 14 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	4	5	6 10 AM – Elders meeting 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	7	8	9
10 15 th Sunday after Pentecost 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	11	12 9 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit meeting	13 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	14 6 PM – Music Group 7 PM – Council meeting	15	16
17 16 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Youth Group	18	19	20 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	21	22	23
24 17 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	25	26	27 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	28 6 PM – Music Group	29 5 PM – Fellowship Friday	30