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On Christian Thanksgiving

- Pastor Sorenson

On the fourth Thursday of November, our nation will stop in order to give thanks. You know, of course, all about the festivities surrounding Thanksgiving and may even be quite looking forward to them. These festivities are wonderful because they remind us of the importance, uniqueness, and focus of this day. This day is a day to give thanks.

The turkey on the table, the family gathered together, the parades, and whatever other traditions you may have all give witness to the thanksgiving that is happening. These are visible objects and real actions that show your thanksgiving with more than just words.

While the world may pause for a day to give thanks in these ways, however, the Church gives thanks to God always. Our Christian thanksgiving, while certainly present on Thanksgiving day, goes far beyond one day. Indeed, the Christian gives thanks to God in many different ways, and not just by moving the mouth.

A Christian gives thanks to God by praying to Him. Whether in joy or in sorrow, in need of assistance or in words of praise, prayer for all things in all circumstances is truly a thanksgiving to God's ears.

A Christian gives thanks to God by hearing His Word. His Word gives us life and when we rejoice to hear the Word of God, it is an expression of thanks for this wondrous gift.

A Christian gives thanks to God by going to Bible study. Not only is Bible study for deeper learning of the Word of God, but it is also a way that God brings His people together to love and care for each other even more. It's a way that God builds up the family of the congregation. Going to Bible study is truly giving thanks to God.

A Christian gives thanks to God by forgiving other people. Proclaiming the forgiveness that Christ has won for another person brings peace and reconciliation to them, but it also shows how we truly understand this forgiveness as the greatest gift we have. Forgiving is thanksgiving.

A Christian gives thanks to God by giving tithes and offerings. These tithes and offerings flow out from the joy of the Gospel and are an acknowledgment that God has given us every good gift. As we rejoice in the salvation Christ has won for us, we give our offerings back to God (for that's truly where the offering goes!) so He may continue to proclaim the Gospel throughout all the world. Giving tithes and offerings is thanksgiving.

A Christian gives thanks to God by receiving His body and blood in the Lord's Supper. Another name for Holy Communion is Eucharist, a Greek word that literally means "Thanksgiving." So, as we receive Christ's body and blood, God is giving us forgiveness, life, and salvation, and we are offering thanks to God for these wonderful gifts. His serving us brings forth our thanksgiving.

As you pause for Thanksgiving day this month of November, consider how your life as a Christian is full of thanksgiving that goes far beyond one day a year. And as you consider all these ways of giving thanks, consider also where your thanksgiving to God could be even more full and joyful.

Maybe that's by going to Bible study again or for the first time. Maybe that's by using the words "I forgive you" more often with family, friends, and even strangers. Maybe that's by starting up devotions with your family at home so you can hear the Word of God every day.

Whatever it may be, do it all with joy, dear saints. For Christian thanksgiving truly flows first from God Himself, who suffered and died on the cross so that you may have life and salvation. God works to bring you this great gift and He also works to bring these many ways of giving thanks to you, who give thanks to God because of the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

May the Lord's richest blessings be upon you all. The calendar has turned to fall and harvest. The harvest is not only a time of field work, but as always it's a time of renewing fellowship and love. "And (Jesus) said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest'" (Luke 10:2).

We are called to healing and forgiveness of all through fellowship and faith. The elders are planning another Fellowship Friday @ 5 on December 1st. Along with game night that night, we are planning on having a special holiday dinner for our congregation. More details will be coming on that dinner in the next few weeks.

"That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3).

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 prophet Zephaniah.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Meets at 6:30 PM each Wednesday. We are currently studying the rite of Holy Matrimony.
- **Book of Concord Study:** November 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!

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:

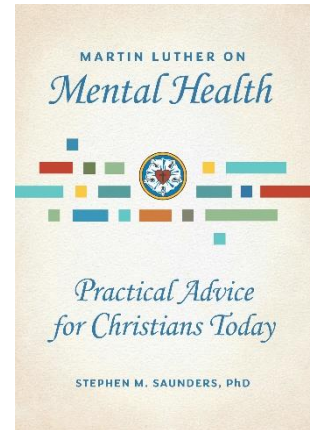
- | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------|
| • Luella Holle | • Camden Jeffries | • Steve & Jeanne Loesch |
| • Roger, Colleen, Miley, & Alex Hughes | • Connie Johnson | • David & Donna Losey |
| | • Damon Lee | • Teresa Lucas |

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. The November Book of the Month is *Martin Luther on Mental Health: Practical Advice for Christians Today* by Stephen M. Saunders. Here is an excerpt from the book: "This book primarily focuses on Luther's kind, compassionate, prescient advice to those experiencing emotional distress. Reading his letters, I was astonished to realize that Luther was dispensing modern mental health advice. He understood and administered counsel that is essentially indistinguishable from what was developed in the twentieth century and used widely today. He focused on the way people think, understood how thinking could cause emotional distress, pointed out how thinking is often incorrect, and advised correct thinking. We now call such counsel cognitive therapy – one of the most effective health care interventions ever developed. In addition, he dispensed advice about behavior. He counseled against isolation and for doing enjoyable things. We now call that behavior therapy – another effective treatment against emotional distress."



2024 Calendar Planning: What are some activities, events, long-range plans, outreach opportunities, fundraising events, etc. you would like to see here at St. Peter in 2024 and beyond? Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 9th at 6:00 PM to help plan a tentative calendar for the upcoming year and share any ideas you have. This will be a great opportunity for us to come together as a church and prepare for another fantastic year at St. Peter!

Usher & Communion Sign-Up Sheets: The 2023 & 2024 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: Will be on break until January.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, there is a sign-up sheet for 2023 & 2024 in the hallway between Pastor's study 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 & 2024 is also on the bulletin board.

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet on Sunday, November 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.

Sunday School News: We are off to a great start to our year! Our older class (currently we have junior high and high school kids), taught by Kevin Schultz, is doing a study called "We the People", which is about whether the United States Constitution is Biblically based or not. Our younger class (currently we have children age three to five years old) has been learning about God's creation, which gives us the opportunity to do lots of fun crafts, learn our numbers and improve fine motor skills! We have also been working on singing "Jesus Loves Me". If you have a child that is three years old (or close to it) or older, please bring them to Sunday School! Or if anyone would like to volunteer to do a special project or craft with the children, please let me know! – Michelle Schultz

EVENTS

Fish Fry: Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Fish Fry this year!

Fellowship Friday @ 5: Join us on Friday, December 1st starting at 5 PM for Fellowship Friday @ 5! We will be combining this with game night as well and plan on having a special holiday meal for our congregation. More information will be available in the coming weeks. Mark your calendar as we look forward to this fun event.

Cookie Exchange: We will be having a cookie exchange on Sunday, December 17th. If you have cookies that you'd like to share, please plan on bringing two dozen. We will enjoy some cookies during fellowship and Bible study and you will also be able to take a dozen (or more!) home to enjoy in the days leading up to Christmas.

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Lutheran SGO: Take full advantage of all the benefits of donating to the Lutheran SGO and support the students and families of Trinity Lutheran High School. For their generosity, donors may receive a 50% state tax credit. Donations can take many forms, from cash to credit cards to commodities. <https://www.lutheransgo.org/donations/index.php> Have questions or want to learn more? Contact Erin Brooks at 812-524-8547 or ebrooks@trinitycougars.org

FROM THE OFFICE

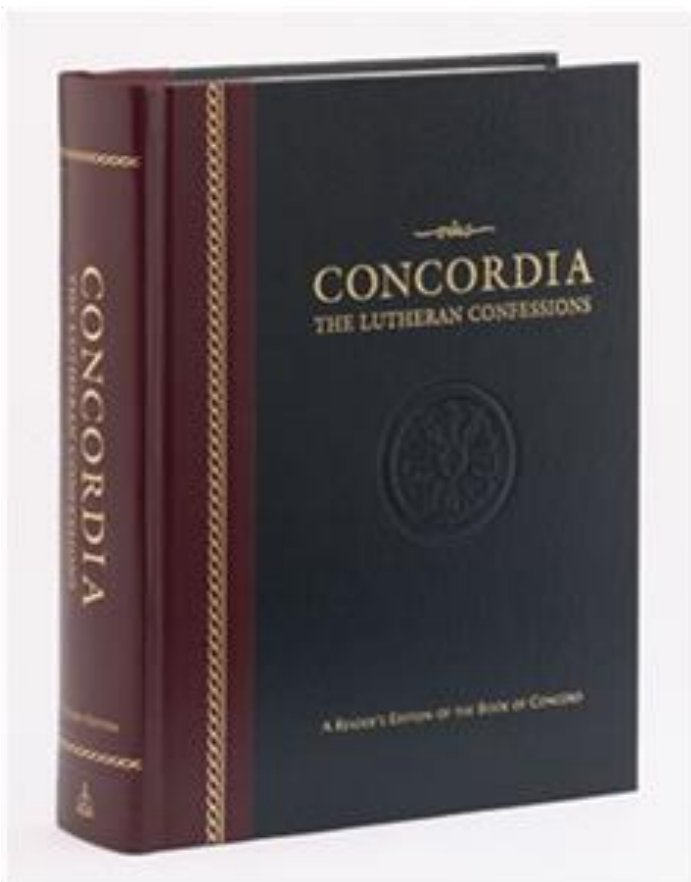
Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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

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



Book of Concord Corner

“And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us....
There is here attached a necessary, yet comforting addition: ‘As we forgive.’ He has promised that we shall be sure that everything is forgiven and pardoned, in the way that we also forgive our neighbor. Just as we daily sin much against God, and yet He forgives everything through grace, so we, too, must ever forgive our neighbor who does us injury, violence, and wrong, shows malice towards us, and so on. If, therefore, you do not forgive, then do not think that God forgives you (Matthew 18:23-25). But if you forgive, you have this comfort and assurance, that you are forgiven in heaven. This is not because of your forgiving. For God forgives freely and without condition, out of pure grace, because He has so promised, as the Gospel teaches. But God says this in order that He may establish forgiveness as our confirmation and assurance, as a sign alongside of the promise.” (Large Catechism, Part III, 93-96)

Advent and Christmas Services

Advent is a season when the Church prepares for the coming (or advent) of Jesus Christ. This preparation is done by gathering together to hear the Word of God, repent of our sins, and receive the body and blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper.

Throughout this season, God reveals to us the three advents of Christ. First, He came in the flesh by His birth in Bethlehem. Second, He comes to us here and now in His Word and in His Sacraments. Third, He will come again on the last day to raise us from the dead.

As such, the Church uses this season to prepare for all three advents of Christ, celebrating the first, experiencing the second, and longing for the third. May this Advent and Christmas season be a blessed time of preparation for all of us here at St. Peter as we join together to delight in the Christ Child who comes to us now and will come again!

The Midweek Services – Holy Baptism

Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 PM – What Is Baptism & Its Benefits?

Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 PM – How Can Water Do Great Things?

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 PM – What Does It Indicate?

The Christmas Services

Sunday, December 24, 7:00 PM – Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 24, 11:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight

Monday, December 25, 9:00 AM – Christmas Divine Service



St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

November 2023

Ushers: Bill Finke

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

11/5: AJ Trimpe

11/12: Kathy Rebber

11/19: Judy Strasser

11/22 & 26: open

Acolytes:

November 5 – Rayleigh Acton

November 12 – Trevor Acree

November 19 – Abe Acton

November 22 – Rayleigh Acton

November 26 – Trevor Acree

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Upcoming Events:</i> 12/1: Fellowship Friday @ 5 12/3: Advent begins 12/17: Cookie Exchange</p>			<p>1 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 <i>All Saints' Day (Observed)</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 11 AM – Elders meeting 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study</p>	<p>9 6 PM – Calendar Planning meeting 7 PM – Council meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 <i>24th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5 PM – Book of Concord study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit meeting</p>	<p>15 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 <i>25th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5 PM – Youth Group</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 7 PM – Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service</p>	<p>23 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i></p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 <i>Last Sunday of the Church Year</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>		