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Church Council
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What Is a Cemetery?

- Pastor Sorenson

This may seem like a weird question to be asking and thinking about during the month of December as the Church prepares to celebrate Christmas. Yet, as you dig into what the word “cemetery” means and why we continue to use that term today, you’ll see a wonderful connection between our Savior’s birth and the use of the term “cemetery.”

Let’s start with the language. Reading about where a word comes from may not be your favorite thing to do, but this one is pretty straightforward and awesome. The word “cemetery” comes from the Greek words “koiman” and “koimeterion.” “Koiman” is the root word and it means “to put to sleep.” “Koimeterion” is the noun and it means “a dormitory/resting place of those who sleep.”

Quite literally, then, to call something a “cemetery” is to call that place a resting place. A place for people to sleep. Now, that’s exactly what our cemeteries are! They are places where people are sleeping.

For we know that God all throughout the Bible calls earthly death “sleep.” For instance, Daniel 12:2 says, “And many of those who sleep in the dust of earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Jesus, in John 11:11 and 11:14, says, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.’... Then Jesus told them plainly, ‘Lazarus has died.’”

When we place a body in our cemetery, we do so in the absolute assurance that the person will wake up again on the Last Day. Jesus will return and raise that body from the dust of the earth and it will be just as if they were waking up in the morning. They closed their eyes in death and they open their eyes again in the resurrection.

Now, what does this have to do with Christmas? A big connection, of course, is that Jesus Christ is born in order to go to the cross and rise again from the dead to win this forgiveness and resurrection for us. This is ultimately our main joy, even as we celebrate His birth.

But there’s another connection that may not appear quite as obvious. Consider some of these lines from beloved Christmas hymns: “For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.”

“Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.”

“Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.”

We marvel at Christmas at how our God took on human flesh and became like us in every way. At Christmas, one thing we especially take note of is how He sleeps, just like us. Of course, this is immediately referring to physical sleep, as a baby will do, but it also points us to the fact that Jesus did fall asleep in death only to wake up on the third day.

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior who came to sleep in the hay, we also celebrate the birth of our Savior who came to sleep in the tomb. For by His rest in the tomb and by His waking up on the third day, we have the peace, comfort, and assurance that though we may fall asleep in death, Jesus will return to wake us up from our resting place.

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Greetings and the Lord's richest blessings upon you as we prepare to celebrate the greatest birthday! As it is written in Luke 2:10-11, "And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'" What a truly glorious birth we celebrate each year!

Friday, December 1st we will gather for Fellowship Friday at 5 PM. This occasion will include a holiday meal for our congregation prepared by the elders of St. Peter at 6 PM. This evening will also include our bi-monthly game night. Please plan to attend this gathering for a time of fellowship, food, and games. It has been mentioned, Friday night would be a great time to sharpen euchre skills or to even learn the game for our annual Soup Supper & Euchre Party upcoming in a couple of months.

As Advent quickly approaches, let us take time to celebrate our Savior's birth. Together we can all rejoice. Psalm 66:1-2, "Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!"

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:** On break until after the new year.
- **Book of Concord Study:** December 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:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| • Tim & Carol Luker | • Rick & Lynnette May | • Brittani Montgomery |
| • Gregory Marshall | • Jennifer Milan | • John & Beth Muntzinger |
| • Michael, Cindy, Mackenzie,
Tristan, Danica, & Bella May | • Barb Minor | |

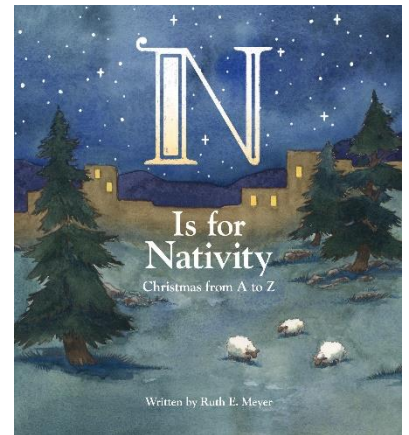
GENERAL INFORMATION

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 December Book of the Month is *N Is for Nativity: Christmas from A to Z* by Ruth E. Meyer. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Advent is our letter A, a fitting place to start. For these four weeks, our prayer is this: 'O Lord, prepare my heart.'... Old Testament believers waited; Y brings us to Yearn. They yearned for their Messiah's birth; we long for His return."



Advent Suppers: There is a sign-up sheet on the conference room door for our Advent suppers this year. If you would like to provide a part of our meal, please see the sheet or talk to Janice Acree. Advent midweeks begin on December 6th, with supper at 6 PM and service at 7 PM.

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.

Church & Parish Hall Cleaning Volunteers: If you are interested in helping to clean the Church and Parish Hall, there is a sign-up sheet in the hallway in the Parish Hall. You can sign-up for a month at a time and you can sign-up with another person/couple/family too. Prayerfully consider lending a hand in this way. You may also speak to Janice Acree or Jenni Acton for more information about the cleaning duties.

Greening the Church: All are invited to come out on Saturday, December 2nd beginning at 10 AM as we green the church in preparation for Advent and Christmas. We will be putting up all the inside and outside decorations and the Chrismons on the tree.

Poinsettias: Order forms will be available in the narthex soon. Please have your orders in by Sunday, December 17th. Thank you!

New Council Members: We would like to thank Camden Jeffries (synodical fund treasurer) and Logan Hall (recording secretary) for agreeing to serve on the church council beginning this upcoming year. We also thank all of our returning council members and our outgoing council members for their faithful service.

Cemetery Bylaws: In our January voters' meeting, we will be reviewing the cemetery bylaws and considering the proposed changes. Those changes are listed later in this newsletter.

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet on Saturday, December 16th, at 5 PM 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

Fellowship Friday @ 5: Join us on Friday, December 1st for a congregation holiday meal. The evening will begin at 5 PM with game night/Fellowship Friday @ 5. Then at 6 PM we will come together for a holiday meal and fellowship. All food will be provided, so come out and enjoy good food and conversation with your brothers and sisters in Christ. The menu will include: ham, turkey breast, pork loin, mashed potatoes, green beans, sausage, and potatoes, mac & cheese, rolls, salad, veggie tray, and pies.

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.

Epiphany Service: Join us for a joint Epiphany service on Saturday, January 6th at 7:00 PM at St. John's (White Creek). We will join with the saints from St. Paul's (Jonesville) and St. John's (White Creek) to worship our Lord and celebrate this festival day.

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.

Offering Envelopes: Greetings from the office! What a busy few months this has been! With school work, planning the fish fry, and preparing for the birth of my nephew, time has been crazy for me! On that note, we have some business to discuss, I have disbursed everyone's 2024 contribution envelopes in your mailboxes. Please let me know if you did not receive envelopes, I have plenty left over. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Have a blessed month everyone! - Camden

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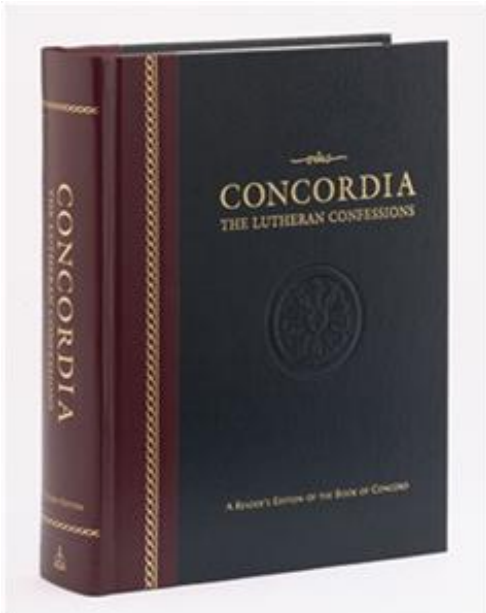
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On the web: www.stpeterwaymansville.com • Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch

Book of Concord Corner

“And lead us not into temptation....

This, then, is what ‘lead us not into temptation’ means. It refers to times when God gives us power and strength to resist the temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). However, the temptation is not taken away or removed. While we live in the flesh and have the devil around us, no one can escape his temptation and lures. It can only mean that we must endure trials – indeed, be engulfed in them (2 Timothy 2:3). But we say this prayer so that we may not fall and be drowned in them. To feel temptation is, therefore, a far different thing from consenting or yielding to it. We must all feel it, although not all in the same way. Some feel it in a greater degree and more severely than others. For example, the young suffer especially from the flesh. Afterward, when they reach middle life and old age, they feel it from the world. But others who are occupied with spiritual matters, that is, strong Christians, feel it from the devil. Such feeling, as long as it is against our will and we would rather be rid of it, can harm no one.” (Large Catechism, Part III, 106-108)



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



THE LUTHERAN CEMETERY

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

WAYMANSVILLE, INDIANA

Dating from the rise and growth of St. Peter congregation, the Lutheran Cemetery originated and has been maintained out of a desire to provide a common burial place for the loved ones of our congregation. The cemetery and those whom it has served, have testified to a strong and mutual faith in Jesus Christ, the Resurrection, and the Life.

Any member of this congregation should feel free to address questions, suggestions and comments to the Church Board or its members at any time. The Board wishes to serve the best interests of the congregation and its members.

Burial space will be provided for:

1. Any baptized child and any communicant member of this congregation, grave lot cost-none.
2. Any spouse of the above, and who is not communicant member of this congregation, grave lot cost-2.5 times same as a similar lot (10 ft) at Garland Brook Cemetery.
3. Any non-member child under the age of 18, who is a child of a member of this congregation, and who is being ministered unto by this congregation, grave lot cost-none.
4. Any former baptized or communicant member of this congregation who is now a member of another Lutheran Church or another Christian Church, grave lot cost-2.5 times same as similar lot (10 ft.) at Garland Brook Cemetery.
5. Any non-member who is being ministered unto by this congregation; burials under this category must be approved by the Church Council, grave lot cost-2.5 times same as similar lot (10 ft) at Garland Brook Cemetery.
6. Any non-member who is be ministered unto by this congregation and who is taking instruction with the intent of becoming a member of this congregation, grave lot cost-none.

All burial fees are to be paid in advance. If for any reason the pastor of this congregation would refuse to take part in a burial service of someone eligible, who is eligible for burial in our cemetery, the burial may be performed by someone else. In such case, the pastor may suggest that a memorial service be conducted in the church following the burial.

Grave lot reservations may be made with the two cemetery superintendents, who shall be appointed by the Church Board. Grave lot reservations may be made when one of the immediate family dies or grave lot reservations may be made at any time, if and when a tombstone is properly placed within twelve months and is in accordance with all other cemetery regulations and the approval of the cemetery superintendents and the Church Board. Grave lot fees are payable to St. Peter Lutheran Church. Such fees are handled by the General Fund Treasurer.

All grave lots are non-transferable. If one desires to relinquish his grave lot reservation, he must make written notification of such to the cemetery superintendents.

If a grave lot is abandoned, it becomes the property of the congregation. If the abandoned grave lot is purchased, there will be no reimbursement by the congregation. (Abandoned means: non-use of grave lot by the one who has it reserved.)

In our cemetery, the graves are dug in rotation. A row of graves begun will be finished before a new row is started. The graves in the various rows are to be equal in size, in order that the tombstones can be placed in a straight line. All graves shall be leveled to natural grade. All tombstones must have a standard foundation. Those desiring to place monuments must secure permission and instructions from the cemetery superintendents.

~~Currently the cemetery superintendents are Don Schafstall and Wayne Darlage.~~

The above cemetery policy shall be reviewed at least every five years by the Church Board.

This policy was adopted by the Voters' Assembly on April 9, 1972; and amended on October 8, 1972; April 13, 1975; and July 7, 1985.

Funeral Service Guidelines

The pastor should be contacted immediately upon the death of one for whom the family wishes the pastor to conduct the funeral service.

In such a case, no funeral arrangements should be made without the pastor's consent. The family is urged to include the pastor when speaking with the funeral director concerning the funeral arrangements.

The pastor makes the final decision as to which funerals he will conduct.

Financial payment for the pastor conducting the funeral service is not required; nor is financial payment required for the organist when the funeral service is conducted in our church.

Although funeral services under the auspices of the congregation may be conducted in the funeral home, it is recommended that such services be held in our church.

The family is encouraged to allow the casket to be closed before the service begins. It should then remain closed.

Funeral services should be such that they allow for congregational participation.

A reasonable amount of flowers may be brought to the church. Too many flowers only detract from the service.

~~It is wise to practice to offer financial memorials for causes other than flowers. The following is a partial list for such memorials:~~

~~St. Peter General Fund Synod Mission Fund Music Fund~~

~~The Lutheran Hour Bethesda Lutheran Home~~

~~Lutheran Child and Family Services Lutheran World Relief~~

~~Camp Lakeview~~

~~"This Is The Life" TV program Detroit Lutheran Deaf School Mission Federation~~

~~Lutheran Community Home, Seymour St. Peter Building Fund~~

~~Lutheran Bible Translators~~

Memorials may be given to the funeral director. All memorials are forwarded to this congregation and distributed as indicated.

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

Ushers: Max Thomas

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

12/3, 25, 31 (7 PM) – Judy Strasser

12/17: Lynnette May

12/10, 24 – Kathy Rebber

12/31 (9 AM) - Open

Acolytes:

December 3 – Abe Acton

December 10 – Trevor Acree

December 17 – Rayleigh Acton

December 24 (9 AM) – Abe Acton

December 31 (9 AM) – Trevor Acree

December 2023

December 6 – Rayleigh Acton

December 13 – Abe Acton

December 20 – Trevor Acree

December 24 (11 PM) – Rayleigh Acton

December 31 (7 PM) – Abe Acton

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Upcoming Events:</i> 1/6: Joint Epiphany Service, 7 PM @ White Creek</p>					<p>1</p> <p>5 PM – Fellowship Friday @ 5/Game Night 6 PM – Holiday Meal</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10 AM – Church Greening</p>
<p>3 <i>First Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis</p>	4	5	<p>6</p> <p>6 PM – Advent Supper 7 PM – Advent Midweek service</p>	7	8	9
<p>10 <i>Second Sunday in Advent</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>	11	<p>12</p> <p>9 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6 PM – Advent Supper 7 PM – Advent Midweek service</p>	14	15	<p>16</p> <p>5 PM – Youth Group</p>
<p>17 <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Cookie Exchange, Pastor’s Bible Study, & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis</p>	18	19	<p>20</p> <p>6 PM – Advent Supper 7 PM – Advent Midweek service</p>	21	22	23
<p>24 <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 7 PM – Children’s Christmas Program 11 PM – Lesson & Carols Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25 <i>Nativity of our Lord</i> 9 AM – Christmas Divine Service</p>	26	27	28	29	30
<p>31 <i>First Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 7 PM – New Year’s Eve Divine Service</p>						