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**Church Council**  
John Dobrinski, Chairman  
Barb Minor, Financial Secretary  
Camden Jeffries, Synodical Treasurer

Nikki Finke, General Fund Treasurer  
Michelle Schultz, Dir. of Christian Ed.  
Logan Hall, Recording Secretary  
Curt Acton, Practical Services

## The Year Is the Lord's

- Pastor Sorenson

As our calendars turn from 2023 to 2024, we are reminded that the earth isn't 2024 years old. Rather, it is 2024 years since our Lord's birth. We, rightfully, number our years around this most important event because the birth of Jesus is the turning point in history. It's the time when the Lord of all creation entered into His creation to save it from sin and death.

This turning point has long been marked by our use of the acronyms BC and AD. Technically speaking we are entering into the year 2024 AD. Most people have heard of these and use these terms, but often times they don't understand what they mean.

The meaning of BC is fairly well known as it stands for "Before Christ." By using this phrase, we are reminded that everyone who lived during those years was looking ahead to the coming of the Savior. Likewise, everything that happened during those years was preparing for the coming of Christ.

AD, on the other hand, is less well known. It's often said that this acronym stands for "After Death," as in after the death of Christ. That's not quite true, however. Instead, AD stands for the Latin phrase "Anno Domini," which translates to "in the Year of the Lord."

What a wonderful phrase this is! For this phrase reminds us that ever since the birth of Christ, we are now living in the year of our Lord. Or, to say it another way, after the birth of Christ, every year is the Lord's.

That's not to say that the BC years didn't belong to God, but it is to say that, in Christ, all time belongs to God. His birth, life, death, and resurrection redeemed everything. By His holy life and precious death, Jesus has subjected all things to Himself.

This is a blessed thing to keep in mind as a new year begins. Though the year ahead is filled with unknowns, though the year ahead will contain good times and bad, we know that the year is the Lord's. He will be with us every second of the year, guarding us and keeping us in Christ, our Savior.

Therefore, we have nothing to fear. 2024 AD will bring many new things into our lives and it will keep some things the same. Some of that will be good and some of that we may wish we could change. But through it all one thing won't change. Jesus Christ. He will remain our rock and our fortress, our Savior and our God.

May the Lord richly bless 2024 AD for us and for all people! For this year is the Lord's, as is every other year. And this year, He will be with us to bring us His forgiveness, life, and salvation through Christ, who suffered, died, and rose again for us. The year is the Lord's and so are we. Thanks and praise be to God!

## **Elders' Corner**

*(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)*

"Rejoice the Lord is born." – Luke 1:14 The Lord's richest blessings be upon you and your families as we celebrate this truly glorious season.

Welcome to the year of our Lord, 2024! As Epiphany is close at hand, let us all gather in love for each other. The Magi brought gifts to baby Jesus so should we bring our gifts of faith and repentance to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Mark 1:15).

The turning of the calendar to a new year brings more time of fellowship in the month of January. Our monthly Fellowship Friday @ 5 will take place on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The Elders have planned on a pre-season/warm-up euchre evening to ready for our annual Soup Supper & Euchre party upcoming in early February. Please, a sincere invitation is extended to our congregation to enjoy an evening of non-competitive cards and of course other games or just enjoying time together. We are working on a menu and will announce it very shortly. As always, any suggestions for the menu or activities are greatly appreciated by the Elders. We are also planning another training session for usher, acolyte, and communion duties in January. More information is forthcoming as our monthly meeting is 1/04/24. Also see for this season Mark 1:18-Mark 3:17.

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:** Begins again on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. We will be studying the upcoming hymns of the day.
- **Book of Concord Study:** January 14<sup>th</sup> 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 page - [https://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page\\_id=1965](https://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page_id=1965))
- 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](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.

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May these resources assist you as you continue to hear the Word of God and cry out to Him in prayer.  
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## **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:

- |                                      |                          |                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| • Kevin, Amy, Jackson, & Holly Nagel | • Tom & Pegi Owens       | • Tom & Kathy Rebber |
| • Bob & Linda Nagel                  | • Larry & Sandra Phelps  | • Skyler Rebber      |
| • Ben Otte                           | • Francis & Karen Probst |                      |

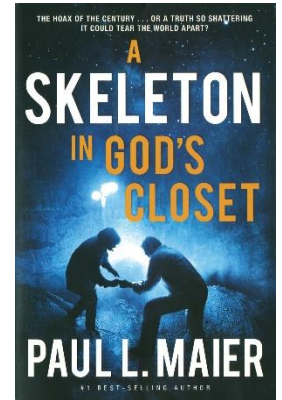
## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**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 January Book of the Month is *A Skeleton in God's Closet* by Paul L. Maier. Here is an excerpt about the book: "An ancient skeleton is discovered in Israel. Will it shed new light on the life of Jesus or plunge the world into darkness and chaos? Dr. Jonathan Weber, Harvard professor and biblical scholar, is looking forward to his sabbatical year on an archaeological dig in Israel. But a spectacular find that seems to be an archaeologist's dream come true becomes a nightmare that could be the death rattle of Christianity. Carefully researched and compellingly written, *A Skeleton in God's Closet* explores the tension between doubt and faith, science and religion, and one man's determination to find the truth - no matter what the cost."



**Council Installation:** We will install our new council members during the Divine Service on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**Quarterly Voters' Meeting:** We will have our January quarterly voters' meeting immediately after church on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

**Usher & Communion Sign-Up Sheets:** The 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.

**Usher, Acolyte, Communion Training:** On Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 12 PM, we will meet together to brush up on usher duties, acolyting, and communion assistance. Come on out to learn more about each of these unique ways to serve in the church. You won't be obligated to serve if you attend, so if you've ever had interest in learning more about these roles this is the perfect opportunity. We will have a lunch provided as well!

**Music Group:** Will be on break until January. Check upcoming bulletins for more information.

**Altar Flowers:** If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, there is a sign-up sheet for 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 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:** We will be taking down the Christmas decorations after Bible study and Sunday School on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to stick around to lend a hand. Many hands make light work!

## YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

**Youth Group:** The youth group will meet on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 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.

**Gingerbread Houses:** The congregation is invited to check out the different gingerbread house displays the youth group made last month. They are on display in the Parish Hall. There will also be a basket next to them for you to vote for your favorite one.



### EVENTS

**Fellowship Friday @ 5:** Join us on Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> for Fellowship Friday @ 5. That evening we will be doing a Euchre night in preparation for our upcoming Soup & Euchre party. Come out to learn how to play or to sharpen your skills, all while enjoying fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Epiphany Service:** Join us for a joint Epiphany service on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 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. A meal will be served beforehand at White Creek beginning at 6:00 PM.

**Soup and Euchre:** Join us on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5 PM for our Soup and Euchre party! It will be \$5 for soup and \$5 for euchre. Invite a friend or two and enjoy a night of soup, cards, and fun.

### 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](mailto:ebrooks@trinitycougars.org)

**Camp Lakeview is looking for a new staff member:** Who do you know that might be interested in joining our team as our Retreats and Registrations Coordinator? This person will serve the ministry at camp by providing Christ-filled customer service while handling retreat group reservations, summer camp registrations, and office administration tasks. This is year-round, full-time role with benefits. For more details and to submit your resume, go to [lakeview.camp/work](http://lakeview.camp/work).

### 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:** Everyone's 2024 contribution envelopes are 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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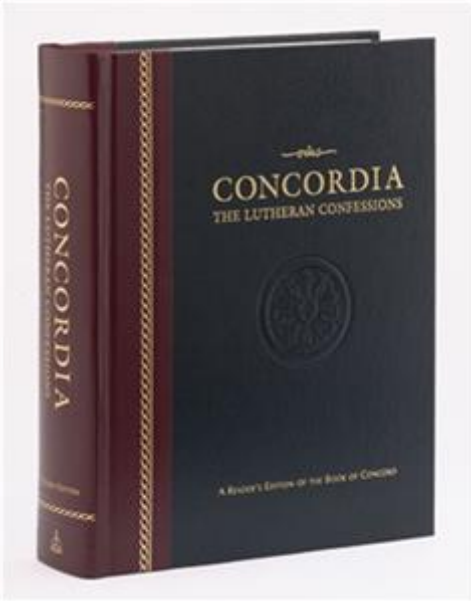
Camden Jeffries • (812) 342-4921, office • (812) 390-5980 cell • [waymansvilvestpeter@yahoo.com](mailto:waymansvilvestpeter@yahoo.com)

On the web: [www.stpeterwaymansville.com](http://www.stpeterwaymansville.com) • Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch)

### Book of Concord Corner

“But deliver us from evil....

In the Greek text this petition reads, ‘Deliver or preserve us from the evil one,’ or ‘the hateful one.’ It looks like Jesus was speaking about the devil, like He would summarize every petition in one. So the entire substance of all our prayer is directed against our chief enemy. For it is he who hinders among us everything that we pray for: God’s name or honor, God’s kingdom and will, our daily bread, a cheerful good conscience, and so forth. Therefore, we finally sum it all up and say, ‘Dear Father, grant that we be rid of all these disasters.’ But there is also included in this petition whatever evil may happen to us under the devil’s kingdom: poverty, shame, death, and, in short, all the agonizing misery and heartache of which there is such an unnumbered multitude on the earth. Since the devil is not only a liar, but also a murderer (John 8:44), he constantly seeks our life. He wreaks his vengeance whenever he can afflict our bodies with misfortune and harm. Therefore, it happens that he often breaks men’s necks or drives them to insanity, drowns some, and moves many to commit suicide and to many other terrible disasters (e.g., Mark 9:17-22). So there is nothing for us to do upon earth but to pray against this archenemy without stopping. For unless God preserved us, we would not be safe from this enemy even for an hour.” (Large Catechism, Part III, 113-116)



## **Soup Supper & Euchre Party**

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**11750 W 930 S**  
**Waymansville, Indiana**

**Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Soup Supper begins at 5:00 PM**

**Euchre Party begins at 6:00 PM**

**Soup Supper \$5**

**Euchre Party \$5**



# 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

January 2024

**Ushers:** Max Thomas & Barb Minor

**Acolytes:** **January 7** – Rayleigh Acton

**January 14** – Trevor Acree

**Communion Set-up & Clean-up:**

**January 21** – Abe Acton

**January 28** – Rayleigh Acton

1/7: Lynnette May

1/14, 21, 28: Open

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Upcoming Events:</i>                      2/2: Game Night                      2/4: Soup &amp; Euchre Party                      2/14: Ash Wednesday</p>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  10 AM – Elders Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i>  7 PM – Joint Epiphany Divine Service (White Creek)
<p><b>7</b> <i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i>                      9:00 AM – Divine Service                      10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study &amp; Sunday School                      11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis</p>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  9 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit meeting	<b>10</b>  6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	<b>11</b>  7 PM – Council Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<p><b>14</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</i>                      9:00 AM – Divine Service                      10:15 AM –Quarterly Voters’ Meeting &amp; Sunday School (Bible study to follow as time allows)                      11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis                      5:00 PM – Book of Concord study</p>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  12 PM – Usher, Communion, Acolyte training & lunch
<p><b>21</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</i>                      9:00 AM – Divine Service                      10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study, &amp; Sunday School                      11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis                      5:00 PM – Youth Group</p>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  5 PM – Fellowship Friday @ 5	<b>27</b>
<p><b>28</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</i>                      9:00 AM – Divine Service                      10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study, &amp; Sunday School                      11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis</p>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study			