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Valentine's Day: A Church Holiday!

- Pastor Sorenson

February 14th every year, the world celebrates Valentine's Day. Stores are filled with heart-shaped boxes. Kids are busy writing Valentine's Day cards to their classmates. Couples make plans for a romantic evening with the one they love very much.

If you asked most people what Valentine's Day is, they'd mention all of that and probably not much else. If you asked them where it came from, they'd most likely say that it's another one of those "Hallmark holidays" invented to sell more cards, or something to that effect.

What most people don't realize is that Valentine's Day began as a Church holiday. February 14th is when the Church commemorates (that is, honors, celebrates, remembers) St. Valentine. Below is a writing concerning Valentine from William Weedon in his book *Celebrating the Saints: The Feasts, Festivals, and Commemorations of Lutheran Service Book* (pg. 38-39):

"The story of the man commemorated this day is in large part unknown. Some centuries after Valentine's death, Pope Gelasius would write that Valentine is among those 'whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God.' What is known is that Valentine ended life confessing Christ to the last, dying a martyr's death in Rome under Emperor Claudius II around AD 270.

Although we cannot know with any kind of certainty, later tradition suggested that he was both a doctor and priest. He was thus a man marked by his kindness and tender care of others in body and in soul. In this, he mirrored our Lord Jesus Christ, who healed the ailments of the body and yet more wondrously brought peace to the soul with His words of promise and hope.

The very day that Valentine was to face his martyrdom, he is said to have brought consolation to the daughter of his jailer by writing to her a small note of encouragement. The young girl had reportedly come to love this godly man and was grieved at the thought of his death. But Valentine knew that death was a defeated enemy because of Christ's death and resurrection. So he comforted the young lady. Hence, the custom of St. Valentine's day notes arose, which has spread far and wide.

From the relative obscurity of his life, we may learn a valuable lesson: God remembers what people forget. Baptized into Christ, marked with the holy cross as the Lord's own, fed with the body and blood of the Savior, Valentine lived and served, loved and died a witness to the invincible love of God in Christ Jesus. God remembers His saints across the ages, even the multitude of His own who never end up with a commemoration in the Church's calendar (other than All Saints' Day). Not one is forgotten. This will be apparent on the Last Day when Christ will call the dead to life and remember the deeds of all, crowning His grace in the lives of His own. Among the saints gathered before Him that day will be faithful Valentine, whose trust in Christ's promises was not in vain. For your holy martyr St. Valentine, all glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ!"

As February 14th comes this year (and especially as it falls on Ash Wednesday), remember the reason for this day. Yes, it's a great day to show love for your loved ones, to write them a card, or give them a gift.

But even more so, it's a great day to give thanks to God for the witness of those, like Valentine, who have come before us. It's a great day to gather with other beloved children of God to hear His Word and receive His Sacrament. It's a great day to come to church where God remembers you and comes to you with the great gifts of Christ.

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

A writing from 2 Peter 1:2-11:

“² May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹ For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

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:** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. We will be studying the upcoming hymns of the day.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Usually second Sunday of the month beginning at 5:00 PM. We will be on break this month, but will meet again on March 10th to continue our study of the Formula of Concord and we will have a pitch-in dinner following the study.

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)
- 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:

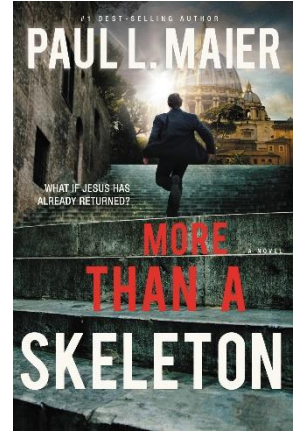
- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Phil & Christopher Schaefer | • Charlie & Janet Spurgeon | • Carla Strasser |
| • Kevin, Michelle, & Laurie Schultz | • Robert & Connie Stiles | • Max, Kelly, Kyle, & Jenna Thomas |
| • Pastor, Michelle, Seth, Lucy, & Anna Sorenson | • Danny & Judy Strasser | |

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 February Book of the Month is *More than a Skeleton* by Paul L. Maier. Here is an excerpt about the book: “Joshua Ben-Yosef attracts a huge following. He was born in Nazareth to parents name Mary and Joseph and speaks more than a dozen languages—fluently and without accent. His words ripple with wisdom and authority. And the crowds that follow him are enthralled as he heals the sick, gives sight to the blind, casts out demons, and even raises the dead. Is Dr. Merton, the well-known leader and author of end-times books, correct about the return of Christ? It seems everyone is a believer in this “Messiah”—including Jonathan Weber’s wife, Shannon—especially when Joshua performs the ultimate sign by raising a disciple from the dead. Plagued by skepticism, Jonathan faces the ultimate challenge in uncovering whether this is the actual return of Christ or the most devious betrayal ever carried out.”



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.

Music Group: 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.

Puzzle Sharing: 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!

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet on Sunday, February 18th, 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.

Golf Outing: The Youth Group will be hosting our annual Golf Outing on Saturday, April 27th at Hickory Hills Golf Course in Brownstown. If you would like to play or be a sponsor for the outing, please speak to Pastor Sorenson. Additional information can be found on the flyers on the bulletin boards.

Higher Things Trip: Any youth interested in going to the Higher Things youth gathering, please let Pastor Sorenson know and keep an eye out for more information to come in the weekly bulletins.

EVENTS

Fellowship Friday @ 5: Join us on an upcoming Friday for Fellowship Friday @ 5. The exact date and activity will be determined soon, but typically it is on the last Friday of the month. All are invited to come out and enjoy fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, February 2nd, beginning at 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! Our dinner theme will be your favorite tailgating/football food. 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!

Soup and Euchre: Join us on Sunday, February 4th 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

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.

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!

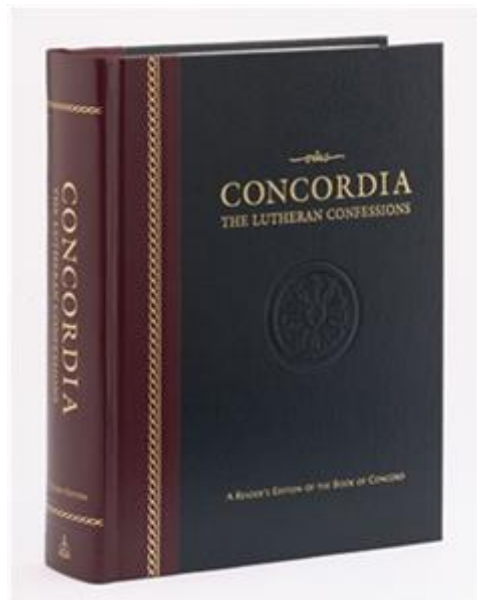
Church Constitution: If you would like to sign the church constitution, please contact Camden.

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



Book of Concord Corner

“Our churches teach that the history of the saints may be set before us so that we may follow the example of their faith and good works, according to our calling. For example, the emperor may follow the example of David (2 Samuel) in making war to drive away the Turk from his country. For both are kings. But the Scriptures do not teach that we are to call on the saints or to ask the saints for help. Scripture sets before us the one Christ as the Mediator, Atoning Sacrifice, High Priest, and Intercessor (1 Timothy 2:5-6). He is to be prayed to. He has promised that He will hear our prayer (John 14:13). This is the worship that He approves above all other worship, that He be called upon in all afflictions. ‘If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father’ (1 John 2:1).” (Augsburg Confession, Article XXI, 1-4)

Join us Friday, February 2nd for



When: Starting at **6:00 PM**

What: Board games, card games, video games, outdoor games, etc.

Who: Everyone! Feel free to invite a friend as well

Why: To have fun and enjoy time with fellow church members

Feel free to bring drinks, a dish to share, or desserts, or just come and enjoy some games and fellowship!

Soup Supper & Euchre Party

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

11750 W 930 S

Waymansville, Indiana

Sunday, February 4th

Soup Supper begins at 5:00 PM

Euchre Party begins at 6:00 PM

Soup Supper \$5

Euchre Party \$5



Lent and Holy Week Services

Lent is a special 40-day season during which the Church reflects on her sin and on her need for a Savior. It is a time for us to turn our focus away from the things of this world and toward Christ, our dear Lord. As such, it is most appropriate for the Church to gather together more often during this season as we wait with anticipation for the joy of Easter. It is my prayer that all of us here at St. Peter would join together during this special season as we repent of our sin and look for the death and resurrection of Christ.

The Start of Lent

Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 PM – Ash Wednesday

The Midweek Services – The Lord's Prayer

Wednesday, February 21 7:00 PM – The Introduction

Wednesday, February 28, 7:00 PM – 1st & 2nd Petitions

Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 PM – 3rd & 4th Petitions

Wednesday, March 13, 7:00 PM – 5th & 6th Petitions

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 PM – 7th Petition & Conclusion

The Start of Holy Week

Sunday, March 24, 9:00 AM – Palm Sunday and Confirmation

The Triduum

Thursday, March 28, 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday

Friday, March 29, 7:00 PM – Good Friday

Saturday, March 30, 8:00 PM – Easter Vigil

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, March 31, 6:30 AM – Easter Sunrise

Sunday, March 31, 9:00 AM – Easter Divine Service



St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

February 2024

Ushers: Allen Acton & Curt Acton

Acolytes:

February 4 – Trevor Acree
February 14 – Rayleigh Acton
February 21 – Abe Acton
February 28 – Trevor Acree

February 11 – Abe Acton
February 18 – Trevor Acree
February 25 – Rayleigh Acton

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

2/4: Lynnette May 2/14: Judy Strasser
 2/18: Kathy Rebber 2/11, 25: open

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Events: 3/24: Palm Sunday & Confirmation 3/28-30: Holy Week Services 3/30: Easter Egg Hunt 3/31: Easter				1	2 6 PM – Game Night	3
4 5 th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Soup & Euchre Party	5	6	7 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	8 10 AM – Elders Meeting 7 PM – Council Meeting	9	10
11 The Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	12	13 9 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit meeting	14 Ash Wednesday 7 PM – Ash Wednesday Divine Service	15	16	17
18 1 st Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Youth Group	19	20	21 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	22	23	24
25 2 nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	26	27	28 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	29		