



Pastor Erik Sorenson
Office: (812) 343-1688
Cell: (812) 371-1151
pastoresorenson@gmail.com

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Easter Needs Good Friday

- Pastor Sorenson

It's no secret that the most joyous day for Christians is Easter Sunday. Joining together with your brothers and sisters in Christ to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a marvelous and joy-filled thing that every Christian looks forward to every year. Throw on top of that things like Easter egg hunts and Easter breakfasts and it's easy to see by these actions how much Easter means.

But here's the sad and sobering thing about Easter. Many people celebrate this joyous feast with only a small amount of the joy they could have. That's because many people celebrate Easter without celebrating Good Friday. This has been an issue ever since Jesus rose from the dead. People can't miss joining together in worship on a joyous day like Easter, but they want nothing to do with a day like Good Friday.

There are many reasons people give as to why they don't like Good Friday. It's too sad and church is supposed to be happy. It's dark and depressing when I want worship to be uplifting. I've read and heard about the crucifixion before, I don't need to go over it again when I already know all the details. My life's just too busy to have to go to church on Friday night (along with Thursday and Saturday too).

That list could go on and on, but the central point tying all of these excuses together is a belief that you don't need Good Friday to have Easter. That you can bypass the cross and still have the empty tomb. That, however, dear saints, couldn't be further from the truth.

Easter needs Good Friday. You need Good Friday.

Because Good Friday, isn't about being sad or dark or depressing. Good Friday isn't about tugging on your heartstrings and bringing you to tears for the sake of experiencing that emotion. Good Friday isn't a time for God or the Church to whip you for what you've done to Jesus.

Instead, Good Friday is about the most joyous and hope-filled event the world has ever seen. Good Friday is about facing the truth of sin and death head-on along with all the emotion that brings, but doing so by fixing your eyes on Christ, your Savior. Good Friday is a time for you to really ponder and appreciate what Jesus has done for you.

Yes, you may experience a service of darkness and emotion. Yes, you may be brought to tears as you hear the account of your Lord's suffering and death. Yes, you may have God's Law hard at work to break your sinful heart of stone to pieces.

But, dear saints, you will also experience a service of joy (restrained joy, perhaps, but joy nonetheless). You will behold anew what your Lord has done for you, and do so while being surrounded by your brothers and sisters in Christ. You will experience how God takes even that which seems saddest and darkest and uses it to bring about your salvation and life everlasting.

For that is why this day is called "Good." Because Good Friday isn't a sad day, nor is the service filled with sorrow and sadness. Rather, Good Friday is the day when your sins were atoned for once and for all. Good Friday is the day when your death met its match and was swallowed up by life forevermore. Good Friday is the day when you see Christ being God for you in the most wondrous, awe-inspiring, love-filled, and joyous way.

And once you've walked with your Lord to His cross and to His tomb, the explosion of joy on Easter morning (even beginning with the start of Easter at the Easter Vigil!) is unparalleled. Because the empty tomb needs the cross. Your sin and death need a crucified Savior. Easter needs Good Friday, and so do you.

So, come to behold your Savior on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter morning and experience true joy each and every day.

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church. The month of March has arrived, and with it many of us are starting to feel the excitement of spring. Soon the grass will be greening, trees will end their time of winter's dormancy, and new life will be springing forth. It is also a season of reflection and anticipation of Jesus' triumphal entry.

During this season of reflection and anticipation, Lent as we know it, there are many opportunities to come together as a church family. Midweek Lent services are underway as Pastor is walking us through The Lord's Prayer. We come together each Wednesday at 6pm for a meal and fellowship with worship beginning at 7pm. We will end Lent with the celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where shouts of "Hosanna" ring out. We will celebrate this day with the Rite of Confirmation with Rayleigh Acton and Trevor Acree as they confirm their faith in the crucified and risen Lord.

We slow down and walk with Jesus through his passion account of Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Saturday Easter Vigil, and finally Alleluia He is Risen on Easter morning. Good Friday is the date of our normally scheduled Fellowship Friday's at 5 and instead of food at 5, we will gather together in the Sanctuary at 7pm to remember our Lord's crucifixion.

Don't forget to join our Youth Group Saturday morning at 10am for the Egg Hunt and back to witness the silence of Saturday while Jesus laid in the tomb with the Easter Vigil.

6:30am Easter Sunday witness the sunrise with your church family followed by an Easter Breakfast prepared by the Youth Group families and the Divine Service at 9am.

What great opportunities to join in God's Word & Sacraments this March at St. Peter! We look forward to being with you!

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 & Haggai.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. On break until after Easter.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Second Sunday of the month, March 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.

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:

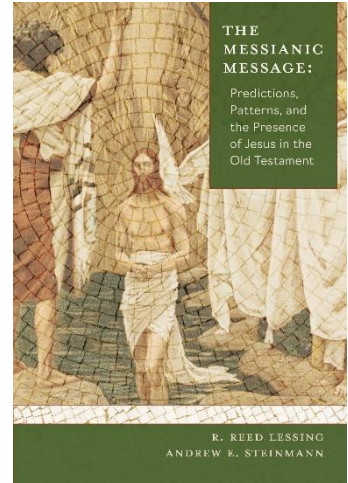
- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Thomas & Brenda Tracy | • Christopher Trimpe | • Matthew Trimpe |
| • Greg & AJ Trimpe | • Kevin Trimpe | • Paul & Kathy Trotta |
| • Carolyn Trimpe | • Phil & Margie Trimpe | |

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 March Book of the Month is *The Messianic Message: Predictions, Patterns, and the Presence of Jesus in the Old Testament* by R. Reed Lessing and Andrew E. Steinmann. Here is an excerpt from the book: "The books from Genesis to Malachi are like beautiful stained glass windows with different shapes and colors. They portray a wonderful portrait of the world's most important figure: Jesus, the Messiah and Savior of the world. Our primary reason for writing this book is to help you see Jesus in the Old Testament so that your relationship with Him deepens and your knowledge of God's Word increases. Then you will see what the New Testament sees – that Israel's Scriptures not only speak of the Messiah but also identify Jesus as the Christ. Thus, the Messiah did not appear unannounced. His cross and empty tomb are declared in advance throughout the pages of Israel's sacred texts. After rebuking Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus for their slowness to learn, Jesus opened the Scriptures – the Old Testament – for them (Lk 24:27). He will do the same for you."



Easter Lilies: Easter lily order forms are available in the narthex. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per lily, which you can include in the offering plate or give to Camden or Pastor. After services on Easter, you may pick up your ordered lily/lilies.

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 or the sheet on the bulletin board.

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, March 17th, 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.

EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt: The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 30th at 10:00 AM. We will meet in the shelter house (weather permitting). Eggs will be available in the narthex to pick up and fill with individually wrapped candy beginning on March 3rd. Please have the eggs returned by March 24th. Also, be sure to invite any children or grandchildren to be part of the hunt on March 30th.

Easter Breakfast: The Youth Group will serve an Easter breakfast this year between the sunrise and Divine Service on Easter (March 31st). We will be serving breakfast from 7:15-8:40 AM.

Fellowship Friday @ 5: Join us on Friday, March 29th at 7 PM for fellowship as we worship together on Good Friday.

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, April 5th, 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!

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!

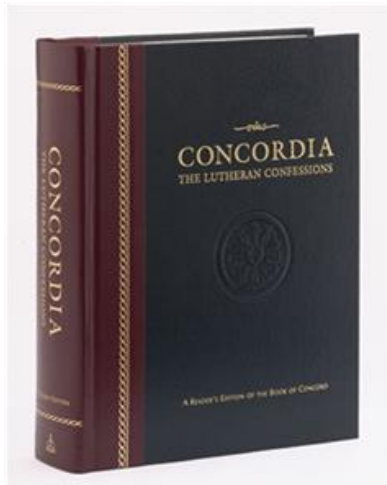
Church Constitution: If you would like to sign the church constitution, please contact Camden.

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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Camden Jeffries • (812) 343-1688, office • (812) 390-5980 cell • waymansvillestpeter@yahoo.com

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



Book of Concord Corner

“To receive the forgiveness of sins is to be justified, according to Psalm 32:1, ‘Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven.’ By faith alone in Christ – not through love, not because of love or works – we receive the forgiveness of sins, although love follows faith. Therefore, by faith alone we are justified. We understand justification as the making of a righteous person out of an unrighteous one, or that a person is regenerated.” (Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article IV (II), 76-78)

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



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30

**At St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran
Church, Waymansville**



Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 AM
All are welcome and invite a friend too!

Annual Waymansville Open Golf Scramble



Prizes for:

Closest to the Pin

Longest Drive

Winning Team Members

Yardsticks and marshmallows will
also be available! (\$5 each)

Saturday, April 27th, 2024

Hickory Hills Golf Course
1509 SR 135
Brownstown, IN 47220
(812) 358-4529

8:00 AM - Registration
9:00 AM - Shotgun Start

\$50/player
4 players per team
Includes: 18 holes, cart,
food, drinks, prizes

Proceeds benefit the
missions of St. Peter
Evangelical Lutheran
Church, Waymansville
Youth Group

To register your team, sponsor a hole for \$50, or
for more information, contact Pastor Erik Sorenson
at (812) 371-1151 or pastoresorenson@gmail.com

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

March 2024

Ushers: Nathan Finke

Acolytes:

March 3 – Abe Acton

March 6 – Rayleigh Acton

March 10 – John Nye

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

March 13 – Noah Nye

March 17 – Trevor Acree

March 20 – Abe Acton

3/3, 10, 17, 24, 28, 31 (6:30 & 9 AM) - open

March 24 – John Nye, Joe Acree (crucifer)

March 28 – Abe Acton

March 29 – Trevor Acree

March 30 – Rayleigh Acton

March 31 (6:30 AM) – Noah Nye, Trevor Acree (crucifer)

March 31 (9 AM) – Abe Acton, Joe Acree (crucifer)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Events: 4/5: Game Night					1	2
3 3 rd Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	4	5	6 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	7 9 AM – Elders Meeting	8	9
10 4 th Sunday in Lent 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	11	12 9 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit meeting	13 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	14 7 PM – Council Meeting	15	16
17 5 th 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	18	19	20 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	21	22	23 8 AM – Church cleaning/work day
24 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday 9:00 AM – Divine Service (with Confirmation) 10:15 AM – Confirmation Reception	25	26	27	28	29	30
HOLY WEEK						
				7 PM – Holy (Maundy) Thursday Divine Service	7 PM – Good Friday Service	10 AM – Easter Egg Hunt 8 PM – Easter Vigil
31 The Resurrection of Our Lord 6:30 AM – Easter Sunrise 7:15-8:40 AM – Easter Breakfast 9:00 AM – Easter Divine Service						