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Easter Every Sunday - Pastor Sorenson

Good news! Easter isn't over! Far from being just one day in the year, the Church celebrates Easter for 50 days, from the day of the Lord's resurrection to the day of Pentecost. This Easter season has come to also be called, then, the great 50 days.

Yet, even that season only scratches the surface. Maybe you've heard this before, but it's often said that every Sunday is a little Easter. Every Sunday is a celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead.

This is more than just some saying, though. Or, to put it another way, this statement is pointing you to a better understanding and confession of what happens whenever we gather together in worship.

To begin with, saying that every Sunday is a little Easter reminds us that the reason we gather and the focus of our gathering is Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected. We don't gather to hear a motivational speech or to get good life advice or life hacks. We gather because Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again from the dead for us.

That leads into the next point. In worship, we receive all of the gifts of God. Those gifts, though, were won by Christ's death and resurrection. Everything that God gives us goes back to that. Everything that God does for us flows from it. So, every Sunday we celebrate Christ's resurrection and the gifts that He has won for us because of it.

The day of the week is also important here. It was no accident that Jesus died on a Friday and rose again on a Sunday. The reason why goes back to creation. God takes seven days to create. Our calendar stills bears a confession of this, noting especially that the week begins properly with Sunday.

Friday, therefore, is the sixth day of the week and reminds us of the sixth day of creation. On that day, God created the animals, but most importantly He created man and woman. Christ dies on a Friday, because by His death man is being recreated. By His death man and woman find new and everlasting life.

Then, Jesus rises on Sunday, the first day of the week, showing how His resurrection ushers in this new creation. He makes all men and women knew even right now because the new creation has already begun and it began with His resurrection.

The earliest Christians recognized this and decided to worship on this special day. The third commandment is to remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. That is, God commands us to have a day set apart from the rest of the week to hear His Word and receive His gifts. Thus, there's freedom in which day to observe as the Sabbath, as the day to gather together in worship.

So, those early Christians made it a habit to gather on Sunday, the day of the Lord's resurrection, the first day of the week, the day of the new creation. Because, after all, this is exactly what's going on in worship. God comes to us through His means of grace to give us the gifts of Christ's death and resurrection so He may join us into the new creation.

All of this, and even more than space allows here, is behind this phrase that every Sunday is a little Easter. May this fact lead us all to appreciate first what our Lord is doing for us in worship and second how it all is tied back to the most important event in all of the world. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Lcms.org/stewardship

“By the Mercies of God”

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Rom. 12:1)

These words from Romans 12:1–2 set stewardship in its rightful place. Here, St. Paul shows us stewardship in its proper relationship to the Lord, and what stewardship should look like in our faithful service to Him. These are good words for the faithful steward to consider on a regular basis.

Notice from whence comes the appeal! The mercies of God are the defining factor, shaping both the steward and all subsequent actions. It all begins with the mercies of God. This beginning is not some esoteric, philosophical consideration either. The mercies of God, poured out upon the faithful steward, find one anchor point in human history. The mercies of God are on full display at the cross.

On Calvary, our Lord Himself, bearing human vesture and carrying our sins and griefs, lowered His holy, crown-encircled brow. But Christ’s death on the cross should not be taken as a sign of defeat. Rather, by the mercies of God, Christ’s death grants fallen sinner/stewards like us new life! We trace this journey each year through the season of Lent and Easter. Amid the bloody sweat of Gethsemane, the injustice of the kangaroo court in Jerusalem, the ruthless and spineless acquiescence of Pilate, and the gore of Golgotha, we see exactly what the mercies of God look like.

Everything Jesus endured should have been ours. When Jesus is forgiving and promising paradise even as He is being forsaken for us, we see true mercy! This mercy is what redefines who we are, a redefinition which happens when we are baptized. Once dead and deserving of condemnation, in Baptism we are given new life in Christ. This new life in Christ changes how we see ourselves. It also changes how we see the world.

By viewing ourselves and the world in this new way, we can start to live out St. Paul’s oxymoronic call to be “living sacrifices.” We know from the Old Testament that sacrifice means something dies. The bulls and goats, lambs and rams came at a high price. In the waters of Holy Baptism, something also dies — the old Adam. In our Baptism, we have already died and have been raised. This is how the mercy of God works on us. In the dying and rising, we can be a daily sacrifice that has been made holy and acceptable to God. This is not by our action, but by His!

Paul talks about this as our “spiritual worship.” The Greek word here is leitourgos, which is where we get the word “liturgy.” It is this view of the mercies of God that forms our daily stewardship, and our daily worship. The mercies of God define all you do in the course of a week as a steward of the Gospel worship. It is not limited to the Divine Service. In fact, the mercies you receive in the Divine Service are what you carry out to share with the world as your living sacrifice. After spending time with Jesus, you bear His image and His glow out into the world that is full of darkness and death. You have been made holy and acceptable to Him for the purpose of showing His mercy to others. This is what makes our “daily liturgy” so important. As we live and serve, and as we seek and share forgiveness and life with those around us, we are walking billboards of God’s mercy in Christ.

This is what your stewardship puts on display. None of it is about you. It is about Jesus in and through you. You can’t get to this by your own efforts. It is only about the mercies of God. These mercies are the treasure that you steward in your daily life of worship!

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have just finished another joyous and rewarding Lenten season. Our hope is that you were able to join with the congregation in attending the joyous and uplifting services of the season.

We, the elders of the congregation of St. Peter, would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that made this special time a great success.

Everyone who provided food for the Wednesday night dinners. Our acolytes. Our ushers. The ones who set up communion. The ones who provided the wonderful music for all the services.

And last, but certainly not least, Pastor Sorenson for the great messages he brought to us during our Lenten journey.

I know that I have probably forgotten someone. If so, please forgive me. We now look forward to a busy month of May with many great and fun things coming up.

Yours in Christ,
Elders of St Peter

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Bible Studies:

- **Sundays:** We will continue a study on a synopsis of the Gospels.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Beginning on May 14th. If you have any suggestions for possible topics, please let Pastor know.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Usually 2nd Sunday of the month, but on May 4th this month, beginning at 5:00 PM. We will continue a study on the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope 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:

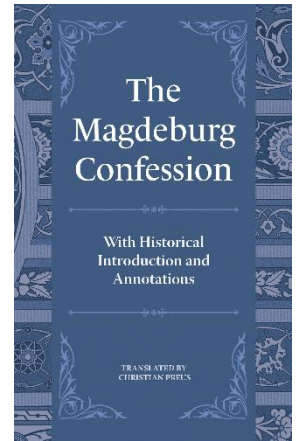
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|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| • Ron & Hannelore Cox | • Paul & Jeanine Franke | • Luella Holle |
| • John & Karen Dobrinski | • Brandon, Logan, Maggie, & Emery Hall | • Roger, Colleen, Miley, Alex, Braden, Cody, & Chase Hughes |
| • Bill, Nikki, Amanda, & Nathan Finke | • Sue Anne Heilers | • Camden Jeffries |
| • Rick & Debbie Flohr | • Judy, Ellie, & Olivia Hoene | |

GENERAL INFORMATION

Missions: This year we will be supporting a variety of missions. The missions we have supported include Clarity, Lakeview Ministries, Orphan Grain Train, Tiffany Smith (missionary for Lutheran Bible Translators serving in Tanzania), a seminary student, and our youth group. If you would like to submit a name of a seminary student or any other organization for consideration this year, 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 May Book of the Month is *The Magdeburg Confession: With Historical Introduction and Annotations* translated by Christian Preus. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Grounded in the timeless teachings of the Scriptures and the Augsburg Confession, the Magdeburg Confession both transcended the crisis of 1550 and also provided prudent advice for that same emergency. It reaffirmed the historic Christian teachings confessed by Luther's followers at the Diet of Augsburg in 1530 and further articulated a theology of political resistance on the basis of Scripture, natural law, and both sacred and secular history. Just as a Christian should gladly hear the pure preaching of the Gospel and gladly receive the pure administration of the Sacraments but avoid those congregations that teach or practice contrary to God's Word, so also a citizen is obligated to obey civil governments that punish the evildoer and protect the innocent but resist when, in the name of civil authority, a tyrant punishes the innocent and praises the evildoer."



T-Shirts: The Youth Group is taking pre-orders for a new church t-shirt. See attached flyer for more information.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, there is a sign-up sheet for 2025 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 2025 is also on the bulletin board.



Vanco: A new, online offering method is now available. You can find more information by scanning the QR code in the bulletin or by going to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZMRA>.

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 May 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: Thank you to everyone who donated and helped with the golf outing!

Marion Kay Fundraiser: We will be selling Marion Kay spices until May 18th. Please speak to Pastor, Jenni Acton, or any of the youth group members if you are interested in buying any spices in support of the youth group.

EVENTS

Fellowship Friday @ 5: Join us on Sunday, May 19th for Fellowship Friday @ 5. See below for more information.

Memorial Day Flags & Sunday School celebration: Sunday, May 18th we will have the Memorial Day flag ceremony at the cemetery. We will have a tenderloin lunch and games to follow as we also celebrate the completion of another year of Sunday School. Finally, we will have an appreciation on this day for our organist, Debbie Flohr.

Pastor's Conference Worship: The congregation is invited to join the pastors of the southern part of the Indiana District in worship on Monday, May 5th at 4:30 PM. The service will be held here at St. Peter and we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper that evening. President Stuckwisch will be our guest preacher for the service.

Ascension Eve Service: Join us on Thursday, May 29th at 7:00 PM for a joint Ascension Eve Divine Service at St. John's White Creek. We will join with the saints of St. John's, White Creek and St. Paul's, Jonesville to celebrate our Lord's Ascension. This is a wonderful opportunity to join in worship with fellow Lutherans in the area on a very special day in the Church Year. A dinner will be served before the service as well.

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, June 6th, beginning at 5:00 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

Trinity Youth Football League: Trinity Youth Football League is seeking coaches for the 5th/6th grade and 7th/8th grade tackle teams. If you have any questions, please contact Brad Boas at bboas@trinitycougars.org. Also registration for Trinity Youth Football League's upcoming season will open on May 1, 2025. TYFL offers flag football, cheerleading, and tackle football ranging from grades K-8. Register online at www.trinityyouthfootball.com.

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!

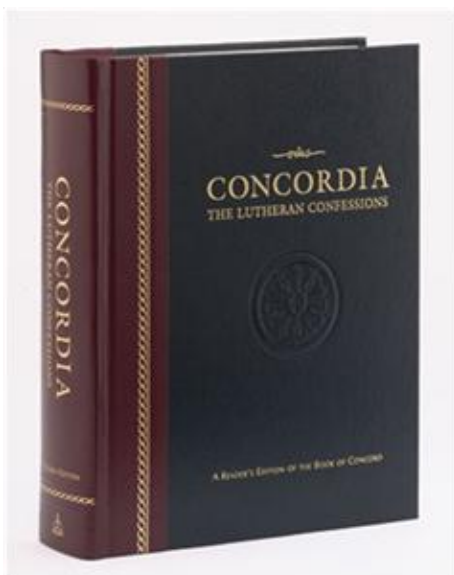
2025 Offering Envelopes: Hello everyone! I wanted to inform you that 2025 envelopes are now in your mailboxes, or sitting, in the narthex of the church. Please let me know if I did not provide you with them, and if you would like to have envelopes. Hope everyone has a great month!

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

Pastor Erik Sorenson • (812) 343-1688, office • (812) 371-1151, cell • pastoresorenson@gmail.com

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

"I believe in the Holy Spirit...

Everything, therefore, in the Christian Church is ordered toward this goal: we shall daily receive in the Church nothing but the forgiveness of sin through the Word and the signs, to comfort and encourage our consciences as long as we live here. So even though we have sins, the grace of the Holy Spirit does not allow them to harm us. For we are in the Christian Church, where there is nothing but continuous, uninterrupted forgiveness of sin. This is because God forgives us and because we forgive, bear with, and help one another (Galatians 6:1-2)."

(Large Catechism, Part 2, 55)

St. Peter T-Shirts

Front



**\$24
Or
2 for \$40**

Back



**Sizes:
Youth XS-XL
Adult XS-5XL**

**Pre-orders now
available**

**See Pastor or a
youth group
member to order**

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

May 2025

Ushers: Allen Acton & Curt Acton

Acolytes: **May 4** – Noah Nye
May 18 – John Nye

May 11 – Abe Acton
May 25 – Noah Nye

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:
 5/4, 11, 18, 25: open

Parish Hall Cleaning: Jenni Acton

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Upcoming Events:</i> 6/6: Game Night				1 6 PM – Elders meeting	2	3
4 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study & Sunday School 5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	5 <div>Pastor @ Pastors Conference (Lakeview)</div> 4:30 PM – Pastors' Conference Divine Service	6	7 7 PM – Council Meeting	8	9	10
11 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study & Sunday School	12	13	14 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	15	16	17
18 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Flag Ceremony, Tenderloin Lunch, & Sunday School Celebration 5:00 PM – Youth Group	19	20	21 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	22	23	24
25 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study	26	27	28	29 <i>Ascension Day</i> 7 PM – Joint Ascension Service (@ White Creek)	30	31