



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

Church Council
Dan Acree, Chairman
Kyle Thomas, Financial Secretary
Camden Jeffries, Synodical Treasurer

Mike Vandercar, Gen. Fund Treasurer
Michelle Schultz, Sun. School Superint.
Logan Hall, Recording Secretary
John Dobrinski, Practical Services

New Year: Get Involved

- Pastor Sorenson

As another year begins, it's a good time to look ahead and consider what the next year may hold. As you know, people often use this time as a chance to make a change for the better. To identify an area they want to focus on and work on.

Along with that, a common question people have is "how can I be involved in church?" Sometimes people presume that unless they are up front in the worship service, they aren't really involved in the life of the church. This can lead to feeling like all you can do is sit in the pew on Sunday morning and not much else.

But that can't be further from the truth. There are so many different ways that you can be involved in the life of the church. And the best news is God has blessed the church, like a body, with many different members who all have unique gifts and strengths. That means that it really comes down to finding ways to be involved that suit your own particular gifts and strengths.

To that end, below are just a few of the many different ways you can get involved here at St. Peter. They are presented in no particular order, and there are many other ways that may not even be mentioned here. But, if you are interested in getting involved in the life of the congregation beyond joining together in worship each week, here are a few places you can start:

Ushers: You can assist with handing out bulletins, passing the offering plates, ushering during distribution of the Lord's Supper, and the other various tasks that ushers do. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

Acolytes: Typically for kids, but don't let any age range prevent you from helping in this way. You would light and extinguish the candles and assist during processions at certain services throughout the year. Speak to pastor if interested.

Communion set-up and clean-up: Involves putting out the vessels for communion and putting them away after the service. As simple as filling up the cups and counting the wafers and washing the items. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

Cleaning: Both the church and the parish hall require routine cleaning, which you can volunteer for as you are able. Vacuuming, taking out trash, tidying up, and cleaning bathrooms are the main tasks for this role. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

Folding bulletins: Something you can do at anytime during the week, which is a great help for the whole congregation as they arrive for worship and receive their bulletin. Speak to pastor if interested.

Council, Elders, Auditing Committee: Various positions that help keep the entire congregation running in good order. Speak to anyone on these if interested.

Musicians: Whether you play for a whole service, are willing to play an instrument or sing a song from time to time, or have any other musical talent you wish to offer, the joyful noise you make to the Lord is also a great joy to the congregation. Speak to pastor if interested.

Bible studies and other events: Simply attending these studies and events serves as a great encouragement to your fellow congregation members. Come and be a part of these any time!

Others: If there is any other way you'd be interested in getting involved, or even if you aren't sure what you can do, talk to me. No matter what gifts or strengths you have, there are so many ways to be involved that would be just right for you.

As this new year begins, then, I pray you would make it a point to get involved more with the life of the congregation here at St. Peter. In doing so, not only is the name of God glorified, but your neighbor is also helped and encouraged as we are all the body of Christ here in this place.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Lcms.org/stewardship

"And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true'" (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of "new" talk. Parties are held to ring in the "new" year. "New" year's resolutions are made to set a "new" course of life in the "new" year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the "new" year on the dateline.

We use all this "new" talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the "new" resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That "new" person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The "new" habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The "new" person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need "new" talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of "new" is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This "new" comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of "new" is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary's cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ's body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God's creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the Elders we hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. Now we enter the Christmas season.

There is so much to do this time of year, but we would please ask you to take time to come and worship and celebrate the birth of our Lord. It is easy to get caught up in the busyness of the season, but we ask you not to forget the reason for the season: the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas from the Elders.

Yours in Christ,

Elders of St Peter

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Bible Studies:

- **Sundays:** We will continue a study on the book of James.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Resuming on January 14th. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future topics, please speak to Pastor.
- **Book of Concord Study:** 2nd Sunday of the month, January 11th, beginning at 5:00 PM. We will continue our study of the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, with 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=2796)
- 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:

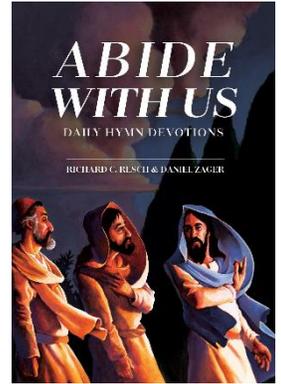
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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| • Ben Otte | • Tom & Kathy Rebber | • Pastor, Michelle, Seth, Lucy, & Anna Sorenson |
| • Jacob Otte | • Phil & Christopher Schaefer | • Charles & Janet Spurgeon |
| • Tom & Pegi Owens | • Kevin, Michelle, & Laurie Schultz | • Robert & Connie Stiles |
| • Larry & Sandra Phelps | | |

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 January Book of the Month is *Abide with Us: Daily Hymn Devotions* by Richard C. Resch and Daniel Zager. Here is an excerpt from the book: "This single example of the richness of our hymnody suggests the premise of this book – that our hymnic heritage deserves to be used on a *daily* basis. Whether we sing, speak, or read silently these miniature sermons of the church, our faith is strengthened for daily living and in anticipation of the sure and certain hope of eternal life. Our hymns proclaim the Gospel by pointing us to Jesus. They help each of us to recall our Baptism and to anticipate with deep reverence and holy joy the presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Our hymns teach us, encourage us, and console us."



New Council Members: We would like to thank Kyle Thomas (Financial Secretary) and John Dobrinski (Practical Services) 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.

Elder Position: In our January quarterly voters' meeting, we will elect one man for the position of elder. If you would like to volunteer for this position, please speak to a council member or elder. Current nominees: Doug Ahlemeyer.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting: Will be immediately after church on Sunday, January 11th.

Usher, Acolyte, Communion Training: We will meet together soon 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. Keep an eye on the bulletins and Facebook page for more information on date and time.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, there is a sign-up sheet for 2025 & 2026 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 Barb Minor (812-372-4193) 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 & 2026 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 Sunday, January 18th, at 5 PM for our youth night. We will have a meal, time to study God's Word, and our annual gingerbread building competition. 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

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, February 6th, 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!

Epiphany Service: Join us for a joint Epiphany service on Tuesday, January 6th at 7:00 PM. 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 supper will also be served prior to the service, beginning at 6:00 PM.

Fellowship Friday @ 5: Join us on Sunday, January 18th for biscuits and gravy after the Divine Service. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Soup and Euchre: Join us on Sunday, February 1st beginning at 5 PM for our Soup and Euchre party! It will be \$5 for soup and \$5 for euchre. Invite your family and friends 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

FROM THE OFFICE

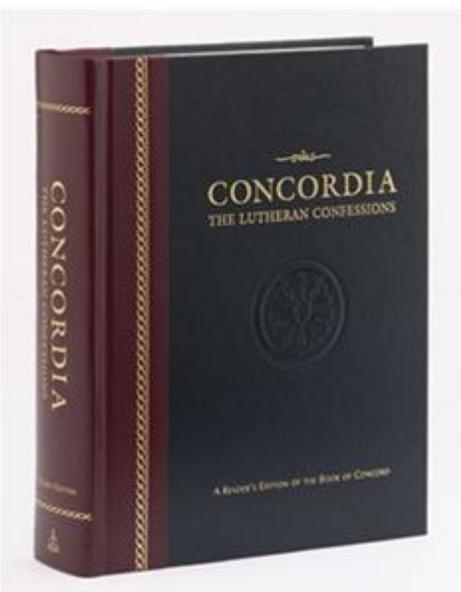
Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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

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

On the Lord's Prayer: "You should say, 'My prayer is as precious, holy, and pleasing to God as that of St. Paul or of the most holy saints. This is the reason: I will gladly grant that Paul is personally more holy, but that's not because of the commandment. God does not consider prayer because of the person, but because of His Word and obedience to it. For I rest my prayer on the same commandment on which all the saints rest their prayer. Furthermore, I pray for the same thing that they all pray for and always have prayed. Besides, I have just as great a need of what I pray for as those great saints; no, even a greater one than they.' Let this be the first and most important point, that all our prayers must be based and rest upon obedience to God, regardless of who we are, whether we are sinners or saint, worthy or unworthy. We must know that God will not have our prayer treated as a joke. But He will be angry and punish all who do not pray, just as surely as He punishes all other disobedience. Furthermore, He will not allow our prayers to be in vain or lost. For if He did not intend to answer your prayer, He would not ask you to pray and add such a severe commandment to it." (Large Catechism, Part III, 16-18)

Soup Supper & Euchre Party

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

11750 W 930 S

Waymansville, Indiana

Sunday, February 1st

Soup Supper begins at 5:00 PM

Euchre Party begins at 6:00 PM

Soup Supper \$5

Euchre Party \$5



Quarterly Voters Meeting Agenda. 1-11-2026

- Opening devotion and prayer- Pastor
 - Verify quorum (21 voting members)
 - Constitution available for signatures
- Reading of minutes from the previous meeting
- Council reports:
 - Treasurer's Reports
 - Practical Services Report
 - Director of Christian Education Report
 - Elder's Report
 - Pastor's Report
 - Youth Group Leader Report

Unfinished Business:

- Bylaws committee update
- Culvert replacement update
- Audit committee update

New Business:

- Elder position election
- LCMS nominations for President and Vice President
- Playground Equipment
- Missions for 2026 (2025 Missions: Seminarian Student, Clarity, St. Peter Youth group, Orphan Grain Train, Lakeview Ministries, Lutheran Bible translators, Tanzania project.)

Next meeting date:

Adjournment

Close with the Lord's Prayer

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

January 2026

Ushers: Bill Finke

Acolytes: **January 4** – Noah Nye
 January 18 – Noah Nye

January 6 – Abe Acton
January 25 – Abe Acton

January 11 – John Nye

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

January 4, 6, 11, 18, 25 – open

Parish Hall Cleaning: open

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Upcoming events:</i> 2/1: Soup & Euchre Party 2/6: Game Night				1	2	3
4 <i>Second Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School	5	6 <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i> 6 PM – Supper 7 PM – Joint Epiphany Divine Service	7	8 10 AM – Elders Meeting 6 PM – Council Meeting	9	10
11 <i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting & Sunday School (Bible study to follow as time allows) 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Book of Concord study	12	13 10 AM – 2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit Meeting	14 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	15	16	17
18 <i>Second Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Youth Group	19	20	21 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	22	23	24
25 <i>Third Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	26	27	28 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	29	30	31