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Ashes to Ashes

- Pastor Sorenson

Lent begins as it always does with Ash Wednesday, which will be on February 18th this year. On that day, the Church gathers together in worship to repent of sin and to receive the gifts of God. But the service begins unlike any other. After an opening litany of prayer, everyone is invited forward for a solemn moment.

As you approach the chancel, you stop to receive ashes on your forehead while you hear the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" (from Genesis 3:19). The church is quiet. Over and over again you hear those words, "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." It's the same for everybody. Everyone hears those words and then walks back with a smudge of ashes on their foreheads.

Of course, it's not just a smudge (even if sometimes it ends up looking that way). Rather, the ashes, which remind you that you will die, are placed upon you in the sign of the cross. And even though you don't see your own without looking into a mirror, as you look at everyone else, you can see the message. You are dust. You will die. But so did your God. And He rose again from death. So you will too.

This symbolism is quite apparent on the night of Ash Wednesday. It's somber and it's serious, because the effects of sin and the need for repentance are somber and serious. Yet, the Gospel is apparent too. Even in the lows of repentance and death, Christ comes to lift you up to faith and everlasting life.

But there's a symbolism on Ash Wednesday that's not quite as apparent. And it's about where the ashes come from for this night. It's not just any old ashes that we use. The ashes for Ash Wednesday are from the burned remains of the palms from Palm Sundays in years past.

This certainly isn't a command and not every congregation does it or is able to do it. But here, we do. The palms that remain after Palm Sunday are gathered up, dried out, and burned. The pile of palms then becomes a small amount of ash, which is stored up and brought out only for Ash Wednesday.

Yes, it's just a tradition and not one that God commands, but it's a tradition that teaches something very important nonetheless. As the Church begins a new Lenten season, a season of repentance and preparation, we do so while being marked with the beginning of Holy Week. That is to say, we do so already being connected to Christ's triumphal entry, His death, and His resurrection.

As those ashes mark your forehead, reminding you that you are dust, the fact that they come from Palm Sunday reminds you that Christ has come to redeem the dust. Christ has come to raise up children even from the stones (Luke 19:40, Matthew 3:9). Christ has come to lay in the dust of death Himself, after enduring the cross, and to rise up from that dust to life everlasting.

Even in the midst of one of the most solemn days of the Church Year, then, this joy of Palm Sunday and Holy Week is present. Even in one of the most stark reminders of sin and death, black ashes on your forehead, God is there to give you joy and triumph. For He is your King who comes humbly to save you. Hosanna to the One who redeems even those who are dust and who return to it, giving them resurrection and life everlasting through the forgiveness of all of their sins.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Lcms.org/stewardship

Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards. The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings and many blessing be upon you and your family. The cold winter weather has reached its seasonal mid-point in south central Indiana. As children of God we turn our attention to the ending of the Epiphany season to the approaching Lenten season. February will start with the Purification of Mary (Leviticus 12) and the Presentation of the Lord (Luke 2:22-38). In the middle of February, the feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord occurs (Matthew 17:1-8). The penitential season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 18th (read Joel 2:12-17).

We all have been blessed with a Savior, Jesus Christ. Repent of our sins and trust in the Lord. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Upcoming events in February:

- 1) Soup Supper and Euchre Party – Feb. 1st @ 5 PM
- 2) Game Night – Feb. 6th @ 6 PM
- 3) Youth Group Super Bowl Subs – Feb. 8th
- 4) Training Day – Feb. 14th @ 10 AM (with brunch)

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. We continue our study on the sacrifices in the Old Testament. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future topics, please speak to Pastor.
- **Book of Concord Study:** On break this month, but usually 2nd Sunday of the month beginning at 5:00 PM. We will continue our study of the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope in March.

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:

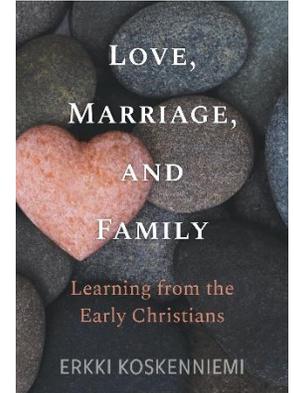
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|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Danny & Judy Strasser | • Phil & Margie Trimpe | • Mike & Verna Vandercar |
| • Max, Kelly, Kyle, & Jenna Thomas | • Paul & Kathy Trotta | • Dennis Wessel |
| • Tom & Brenda Tracy | • Justin & Bradley Turner | |
| • Greg & AJ Trimpe | • Brenda Turner | |

GENERAL INFORMATION

Missions: This year we will be supporting two missions: a new playground for the church and a seminary student (Rick Crain). 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 *Love, Marriage, and Family: Learning from the Early Christians* by Erkki Koskenniemi. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Our first Christian sisters and brothers lived as a minority in the cities and among the people of the Roman Empire. In many ways, the lives they lived are of interest to contemporary Christians. What kind of difficulties, for instance, did a young Christian mother in Corinth face when explaining her family choices to her neighbors? What were the differences a Christian pupil at school had to repeatedly explain to his friends, who still did not quite understand him? What was life like for a Christian slave girl, a stranger in her own city?"



Training Day: We will meet together on Saturday, February 14th beginning at 10 AM 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. The Elders will also serve a pancake breakfast that morning.

Bylaws: In our April voters' meeting we will be discussing and potentially voting on proposed changes to our bylaws. Copies of these proposed changes are available in the narthex.

Playground: As we look to a new playground for the church, there is a matching grant of up to \$10,000 available to us. If you would like to contribute to the playground and utilize this matching grant, please speak to a council member or to Camden. Thank you!

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, February 15th, 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.

Super Bowl Subs: The St. Peter Youth Group will be selling subs for Super Bowl Sunday (2/8). If you would like to order subs, please see the youth group members, talk to Curt & Jenni Acton for more information, or order online here: <https://forms.gle/ds6UNP8wysoyRZbw8>

Golf Outing: The Youth Group will be hosting our annual Golf Outing on Saturday, April 25th 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

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, February 6th, beginning at 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! Our dinner theme will be your favorite winter dish. 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 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

St. Paul ECM: Registration for the 2026-2027 school year at St. Paul Lutheran Early Childhood Ministry has begun! St. Paul Lutheran ECM (6045 E State Street) is a fully accredited early childhood center. The Word of God is the foundation of our instruction as we provide for the developmental needs of the whole child. We offer preschool classes for three and four-year-olds, as well as a comprehensive half-day kindergarten program. Kindergarten students can participate in a complimentary, flexible pickup time until 2:30 PM. Before and after school care is offered to all classes on the days their classes meet. Tuition for kindergarten is free at St. Paul, and needs-based scholarships are available for preschool families. Our program also offers a weekly, after-school STEM enrichment class. To register or find out more about our Christ-centered ECM, please visit stpaulcolumbus.org or contact our director, Jennifer Probst, by phone 812-376-6504 or email director@stpaulcolumbus.org.

FROM THE OFFICE

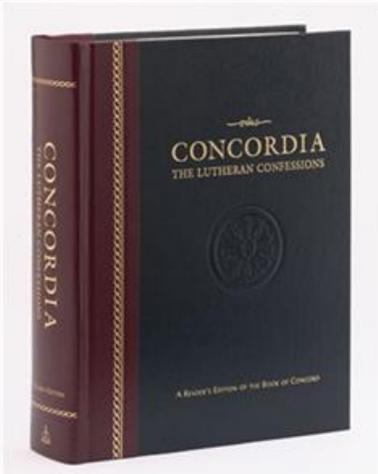
Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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: "In the second place, we should be more encouraged and moved to pray because God has also added a promise and declared that it shall surely be done for us as we pray. He says in Psalm 50:15, 'Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you.' And Christ says in the Gospel of Matthew, 'Ask, and it will be given to you;... for everyone who asks receives' (7:7-8). (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



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 18, 7:00 PM – Ash Wednesday

The Midweek Services – Jesus in the Servant Songs

Wednesday, February 25 7:00 PM – 1st Song: Isaiah 42:1-9

Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 PM – 2nd Song: Isaiah 49:1-6

Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 PM – 3rd Song: Isaiah 50:4-9

Wednesday, March 18, 7:00 PM – 4th Song (pt. 1): Is. 52:13-53:3

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 PM – 4th Song (pt. 2): Isaiah 53:4-12

The Start of Holy Week

Sunday, March 29, 9:00 AM – Palm Sunday

The Triduum

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 3, 7:00 PM – Good Friday

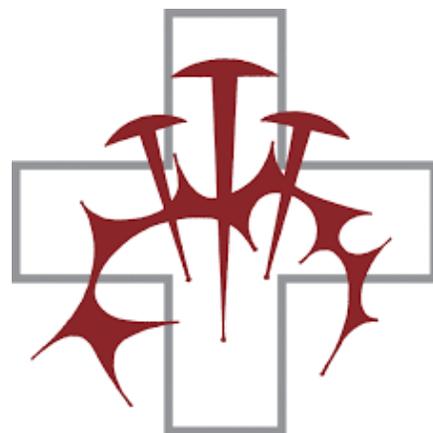
Saturday, April 4, 8:00 PM – Easter Vigil

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 5, 6:30 AM – Easter Sunrise

Easter Breakfast between services (7:15-8:45 AM)

Sunday, April 5, 9:00 AM – Easter Divine Service



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

February 2026

Ushers: Max Thomas

Acolytes: February 1 – John Nye
February 18 – John Nye

February 8 – Noah Nye
February 22 – Noah Nye

February 15 – Abe Acton
February 25 – Abe Acton

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

2/1: Kathy Rebber 2/8, 18: Judy Strasser
2/15, 22: open

Parish Hall Cleaning: Nye family

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 2:00 PM – Lutheran Community Home Chapel 5:00 PM – Soup & Euchre Party	2	3	4 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	5	6 6 PM – Game Night	7
8 <i>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	9	10 10 AM – 2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit Meeting	11 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	12 10 AM – Elders Meeting 6 PM – Council Meeting	13	14 10 AM – Training Day
15 <i>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Youth Group	16	17	18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00 PM – Ash Wednesday Divine Service	19	20	21
22 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	23	24	25 6:00 PM – Lent Supper 7:00 PM – Lent Midweek Service	26	27	28