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## Why Easter?

- Pastor Sorenson

The day the Church celebrates the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ has come to be known as Easter. As you know, the date of Easter changes each year. The reason has to do with calculating the date for Passover, as directed by God in the book of Exodus. To make a long story short, the Israelites followed a lunar calendar, so Passover was to be celebrated on the first Sabbath after the first full moon after the spring equinox.

With that in mind, the Church, since the early 300s AD, has celebrated the Lord's resurrection on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. After all, Jesus was crucified on the Friday before the Passover Sabbath and He rose from the dead on the Sunday after that. We retain this timing each year, remembering the events that surround the Lord's death and resurrection.

This led Christians to give the name Pascha to the celebration of the Lord's resurrection. Pascha is a Greek word for the Hebrew term of Passover. This name, then, kept that connection between the Passover and Jesus' resurrection front and center.

Within the next few centuries, no later than the 800s AD, many Christians began to refer to this feast as Easter. Today, this term has inspired many to attack our celebration of the Lord's resurrection, claiming that the term comes from a pagan goddess (Eostre/Ostara) and her spring festival.

Those who argue this will point to a brief mention by the Christian monk Venerable Bede in the 800s AD. He mentions this pagan goddess and festivals in her honor and that the month in which Easter occurs bears her name.

The problem with this, however, is that there is no other evidence for this goddess anywhere else. This is the one and only reference to her and no shrines or idols have been found either. On top of that, Christians were already using the phrase Easter before Bede mentions this goddess for the first time ever. This alone debunks the claim.

But it does still leave this question. Why Easter? Why does the Church still use this term? To begin to see why, go to the meaning of that term, which is actually as simple as it sounds. Easter means "East" or "from the East." It's lineage traces back to old German and even into Latin where it has always meant "East" and was not the source of a pagan god or goddess.

From here, the term and its connection with the Lord's resurrection opens up beautifully. First, in the Gospel accounts of that resurrection morning, they all note that Jesus rose very early in the morning, noting that the women found an empty tomb as they approached it "at early dawn" (Luke 24:1) and "when the sun had risen" (Mark 16:2). The sun, of course, rises in the east.

Second, the sunrise itself is a confession of the resurrection. God so orders creation that every day begins with darkness which is overcome as the sun rises in the east. In the same way, we were in the darkness of sin, until Christ rose from the dead and drove away this darkness forever.

These connections, then, led the early Christians to quickly associate "East" with Christ's resurrection. It even led them to carry this confession over to cemeteries, where traditionally bodies are buried with the feet to the east as a sign of our hope in the resurrection on the Last Day.

This is why the term Easter has been used and continues to be used with this glorious day. Not because it's a stolen pagan festival, but because our God has risen from the dead, just as the sun rises in the East. And His resurrection drives away the darkness of sin and death, assuring us that we too will rise from death to live with Him who is the Light of the world.

# LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Lcms.org/stewardship

## A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn’t necessary because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won’t be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one’s income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism’s Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we’re ecstatic that you’re giving, and that you’re giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

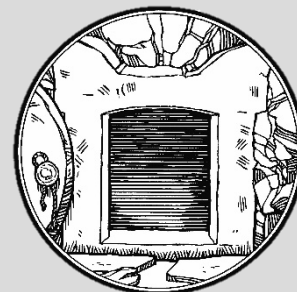
## **Elders' Corner**

*(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)*



Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
Happy Easter! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Yours in Christ,  
Elders of St Peter



### **WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION**

#### **Bible Studies:**

- **Sunday Mornings:** We will begin a study on the book of Romans.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. On break until after Easter. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future topics, please speak to Pastor.
- **Book of Concord Study:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 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=2796](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](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.

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May these resources assist you as you continue to hear the Word of God and cry out to Him in prayer.  
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### **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:

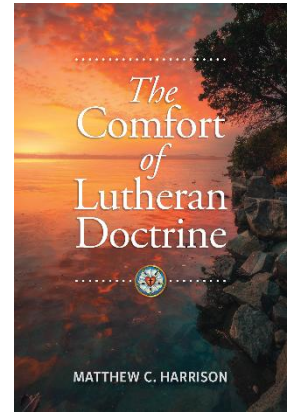
- |                 |                                 |                                   |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Julia Baxter  | • Hannelore Cox                 | • Rick & Debbie Flohr             |
| • Mike Borgman  | • John & Karen Dobrinski        | • Paul & Jeanine Franke           |
| • Bekah Brown   | • Bill, Nikki, Amanda, & Nathan | • Brandon, Logan, Maggie, & Emery |
| • Mark Burbrink | • Finke                         | • Hall                            |

### **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 April Book of the Month is *The Comfort of Lutheran Doctrine* by Matthew C. Harrison. Here is an excerpt from the book: "The perfect work of Jesus on the cross is our full confidence and perfect comfort. His death is my comfort in the face of the devil's accusations. And His resurrection is my comfort in the face of death and suffering. This is the beating heart of Lutheran doctrine. Jesus was crucified *for you*. He rose from the dead *for you*. Have you ever noticed how many first-person singular pronouns are all throughout the Small Catechism's meaning of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed? 'My Lord... redeemed *me* ... purchased and won *me* ... that *I* may be His own.' The death and resurrection of Jesus is not abstract; it's not for someone else. It is for me, for you!"



**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.

**Quarterly Voters' Meeting:** We will have our quarterly voters' meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> following the worship service.

**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!

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

**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, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Golf Outing Donations:** The Youth Group is asking for donations of food items for lunch at the golf outing and prizes for winning teams, longest drive, and closest to the pin. If you would like to donate, please see the sign-up sheet on the conference room door or speak with Pastor. Thank you for your support towards our youth!

## EVENTS

**Game Night:** Game Night will be on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! The Elders will be providing a taco bar that night as well. Feel free to bring your favorite games or a deck of cards. Mark your calendars and invite your friends and family to come along as well!

**Easter Egg Hunt:** The Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 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. Please have the eggs returned by March 29<sup>th</sup>. Also, be sure to invite any children or grandchildren to be part of the hunt on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Easter Breakfast:** The Youth Group will serve an Easter breakfast this year between the sunrise and Divine Service on Easter (April 5<sup>th</sup>). We will be serving breakfast from 7:15-8:40 AM and collecting a freewill offering for the youth group.

## 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](mailto: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](http://stpaulcolumbus.org) or contact our director, Jennifer Probst, by phone 812-376-6504 or email [director@stpaulcolumbus.org](mailto:director@stpaulcolumbus.org).

**Trinity Is Hiring:** Trinity Lutheran High School is seeking dedicated educators to join our Cougar family. Current Openings: • Full-Time Math Teacher • Full or Part-Time Science Teacher. At Trinity, our mission is to educate, develop, and prepare Christian servant leaders, and our teachers play an important role in fulfilling that mission each day. If you or someone you know may be interested, we would welcome the opportunity to begin a conversation. Interested applicants should send a letter of interest and resume to Clayton Darlage at [cdarlage@trinitycougars.org](mailto:cdarlage@trinitycougars.org).

**LWML Spring Gathering:** Ladies, please join us at St. John's, White Creek, for our LWML Spring Gathering on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Theme: *Loving Our Neighbors Around the World*. 8:30-9:00 Registration, Food, & Fellowship (Registration donation is \$10.00) 9:00-9:15 Devotion—Pastor James Haugen 9:15-10:15 Speaker: Pastor Andrew Currao 4KenyasKids 10:15 10:30 Break 10:30 – 11:30 Zone meeting -all are invited 11:45-Lunch-provided by St. John's LWML In-gathering for 4KenyasKids: Money – It costs \$70, per month to support one student. Funds for baby chicks-\$1.50 buys one chick. School supplies: pencil bags, pencils, pens, Hygiene items: nail clippers, nail files, hair shower bonnets, toothbrushes, underwear

## FROM THE OFFICE

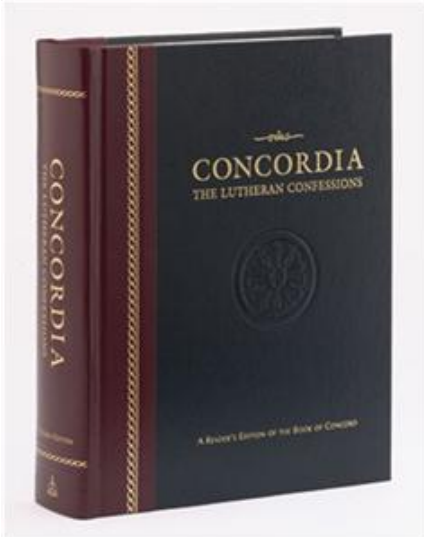
**Contact Information:** We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

**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](mailto:pastoresorenson@gmail.com)

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

On the web: [www.stpeterwaymansville.com](http://www.stpeterwaymansville.com) • Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch)



#### Book of Concord Corner

On the Lord's Prayer: "This (the Lord's Prayer) is a great advantage indeed over all other prayers that we might compose ourselves. For in our own prayers the conscience would ever be in doubt and say, 'I have prayed, but who knows if it pleases Him or whether I have hit upon the right proportions and form?' Therefore, there is no nobler prayer to be found upon earth than the Lord's Prayer. We pray it daily (Matthew 6:11), because it has this excellent testimony, that God loves to hear it. We ought not to surrender this for all the riches of the world." (Large Catechism, Part III, 23)

## 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 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**



# Easter Egg Hunt

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**Saturday, April 4**

**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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

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

\$55/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 \$100, or  
for more information, contact Pastor Erik Sorenson  
at (812) 371-1151 or [pastoresorenson@gmail.com](mailto:pastoresorenson@gmail.com)

Join us Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 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

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A taco bar will be provided by the Elders as well. Join us for a night of fun, food, and fellowship!

# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

**April 2026**

**Ushers:** needed

**Acolytes:**

**April 2** – John Nye

**April 3** – Noah Nye

**April 4** – Abe Acton

**April 5** (6:30 AM) – John Nye

**April 5** (9 AM) – Noah Nye

**April 12** – Abe Acton

**April 19** – John Nye

**April 26** – Noah Nye

**Communion Set-up & Clean-up:**

4/2: Kathy Rebber      4/5: Judy Strasser

**Parish Hall Cleaning:** Nye family

4/12, 19, 26: needed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Upcoming Events:</i> 5/4: Pastors Conference Divine Service @ 4:30 PM 5/17: End of Sunday School Party			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>HOLY WEEK</b>					
				<b>7 PM – Holy (Maundy) Thursday Divine Service</b>	<b>7 PM – Good Friday Service</b>	10 AM – Easter Egg Hunt <b>8 PM – Easter Vigil</b>
<b>5</b> <i>The Resurrection of Our Lord</i> 6:30 AM – Easter Sunrise 7:15-8:40 AM – Easter Breakfast 9:00 AM – Easter Divine Service	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10 AM – Elders Meeting	<b>9</b> 6 PM – Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 6 PM – Game Night	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting & Sunday School (Bible study to follow as time allows) 5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10 AM – 2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 5:00 PM – Youth Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8 AM – Waymansville Open Golf Scramble
<b>26</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		