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Devoted to the Lord

- Pastor Sorenson

During the season of Easter (which runs from Easter morning until the day of Pentecost 50 days later), you may notice one slight change on Sunday mornings. Instead of having an Old Testament reading, we have a reading from the book of Acts. This has been an ancient custom of the Church which we follow to this day.

The reason for this is simple. Easter changes everything. Our Lord's resurrection from the dead changes how we live our lives and how we think about the Church. With that in mind, we begin our set of readings with what the apostles and the Christians of the day were doing in the days immediately following Christ's resurrection.

In many ways, the book of Acts serves as a great example and reminder of what the Church is all about and how our lives should look as members of the Church. The apostles went from cowering in fear to standing confidently even in the face of death as they confessed their Lord. The Christians were willing to lose everything in order to meet together to hear God's Word and receive His Sacraments. God didn't cease working even though Jesus ascended into heaven. Rather His miracles, most especially of creating faith, continued in and through His Church.

All of this is summed up best by this reading from Acts 2:42-47, which we heard on the fourth Sunday of Easter. Following Peter's sermon and the baptism of 3000 people, the Holy Spirit records through St. Luke:

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

Here is how our life changes in light of Christ's resurrection. Here is what the Church is and how the members of the Church behave knowing that Jesus has removed death's sting forever. They were devoted.

Devoted to the apostles' teaching. And so are we, because the apostles' teaching is recorded for us as the New Testament and their teaching is the same as the teaching of the Old Testament. Thus, we are devoted to the apostles' teaching by being devoted to God's Word.

Devoted to the fellowship, which, Luke writes, is the breaking of bread and the prayers. And so are we, because the breaking of bread is the Lord's Supper and the prayers is Luke's way of speaking of the liturgy, that is our public worship together. Thus, we are devoted to the fellowship by receiving the Lord's Supper and praying together every week.

Devoted to providing for others. And so are we, because we do not regard our money and possessions as ours alone, but as belonging to God. Thus, we are devoted to providing for others, which includes providing for the congregation itself since it is through the Church that God provides the greatest treasure of all: salvation and eternal life.

They were devoted to the Lord and all that He was doing for them and through them. So may we be as well. Devoted, not to our own selfish pride or arrogance or greed or preferences, but to the Lord, who calls us to hear His Word, receive His gifts, and provide for His Church. For Jesus Christ is risen indeed and that changes everything, including how we live our lives.

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

Elders’ Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Good day, prayers for you and your loved ones for peace and fellowship. Spring is in full bloom in southern Indiana, with times of horse races, race cars, and graduations on the calendar. As believers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ a glorious day of the year is Thursday, May 14th, Ascension Day. Our brothers and sisters in Christ at Jonesville, St. Paul Lutheran will be hosting an Ascension Day service at 7 PM on that day, preceded by a meal at 6 PM. The words of our Lord’s Ascension are found in Acts 1:6-11.

The month of May brings joy to our congregation with activities and fellowship in the Word. This year the Southern Pastors Conference will take place 5/4-6 and St. Peter will host a Divine Service on 5/4 at 4:30 PM for this conference. Sunday School closing and the placement of flags in our cemetery for our departed veterans will take place Sunday, May 17th after our church service. The Elders will prepare a lunch of deep-fried breaded tenderloins, French fries, dessert, and other items to be considered, serving the meal around 11:30 AM. Please join us! Our joys and gifts are great and unnumbered from our Lord, Nehemiah 8:9-12. (See also Psalm 9:11, Psalm 43:4, John 15:11, Galatians 5:22)

In Christ,

Elders of St Peter Wavmansville

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. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future topics, please speak to Pastor.
- **Book of Concord Study:** 2nd Sunday of the month, May 10th, 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)
- 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:

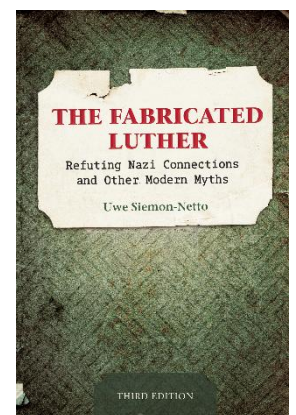
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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Sue Anne Heilers | • Roger, Colleen, Miley, Alex, | • Sydney Johnson |
| • Judy, Ellie, & Olivia Hoene | Braden, Cody, and Chase Hughes | • Damon Lee |
| • Luella Holle | • Camden Jeffries | • Chris Littiken |
| | • Connie Johnson | • Steve & Jeanne Loesch |

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 May Book of the Month is *The Fabricated Luther: Refuting Nazi Connections and Other Modern Myths* by Uwe Siemon-Netto. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Nearly eight decades ago, scores of Germans were rounded up and tortured to death, hanged, guillotined, or executed by firing squads for their attempt to overthrow the National Socialist tyranny. Almost all of them were Christians; some were Roman Catholic, and some were Lutheran. The most famous among the latter group were Dietrich Boenhoeffer, the theologian, and Carl Friedrich Goerdeler, the former mayor of Leipzig. Goerdeler would have become Germany's chancellor had the July 20, 1944 coup attempt against Adolf Hitler succeeded. This study will show that they acted in accordance with Martin Luther's teachings on how and when to resist secular authority. Yet since the end of World War II, eminent scholars and scribes have promoted the cliché that Luther was somehow to blame for Hitler's rise to power and for the Germans' subservience to this evil ruler."



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!

Graduation Party: The congregation is invited to attend an open house for Joe Acree, 2026 Columbus North graduate, to be held Saturday, May 23rd at the Acree house. Stop by anytime 3-8 PM and enjoy food and fellowship as we celebrate Joe's accomplishments!

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, May 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: Thank you to everyone who donated, helped with, and attended the golf outing in support of our youth!

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, June 5th, beginning at 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! The dinner theme will be your favorite summer dish. 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!

Memorial Day Flags & Sunday School celebration: Sunday, May 17th 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.

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 4th 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 Day Service: Join us on Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 PM for a joint Ascension Day Divine Service at St. Paul's, Jonesville. We will join with the saints of St. Paul's, Jonesville and St. John's, White Creek, to celebrate our Lord's Ascension. A dinner will be served before the service as well starting at 6:00 PM.

3v3 Basketball Tournament: A 3v3 basketball tournament will be held here at St. Peter on Saturday, June 6th beginning at 9 AM. It will be \$45 per team with divisions for 18 years old and under and 18+ years old. Concessions will be sold during the event as well. Look for more information in the weeks to come. For more information, to see how you can help, or to register a team, please speak to Kyle Thomas or Pastor.

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.

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.

Trinity Lutheran High School: Mrs. Jackie Stuckwisch and Mr. Bryan Schroer are retiring after years of dedicated and faithful service to Trinity Lutheran High School! As we celebrate the lasting impact they have made on our students and school community, we invite you to help us honor them by sharing your well wishes through a card shower. Students, families, faculty, alumni, and friends of Trinity are encouraged to send notes of gratitude, encouragement, and memories to Mrs. Stuckwisch and Mr. Schroer. Cards will be collected through the end of the school year and presented during the closing chapel service on Friday, May 22. You may mail them to the school or drop them off in the office. Join us in giving thanks for their service and celebrating all they have meant to Trinity. Well done, good and faithful servants! Cards may be mailed to
Trinity Lutheran High School
C/O Mrs. Stuckwisch or Mr. Schroer
1 Trinity Way
Seymour, IN 47274

FROM THE OFFICE

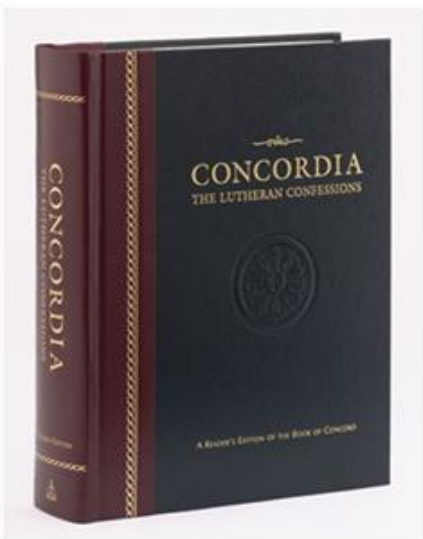
Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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 • waymansvilvestpeter@yahoo.com

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



Book of Concord Corner

On the Lord's Prayer: "Every one of us should form the daily habit from his youth of praying for all his needs. He should pray whenever he notices anything affecting his interests or that of other people among whom he may live. He should pray for preachers, the government, neighbors, household servants, and always (as we have said) to hold up to God His commandment and promise, knowing that He will not have them disregarded. This I say because I would like to see these things brought home again to the people so that they might learn to pray truly and not go about coldly and indifferently. They become daily more unfit for prayer because of indifference. That is just what the devil desires, and for which he works with all his powers. He is well aware what damage and harm it does him when prayer is done properly." (Large Catechism, Part III, 28-29)

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

May 2026

Ushers: needed

Acolytes: **May 3** – Abe Acton
May 24 – Abe Acton

May 10 – John Nye
May 31 – John Nye

May 17 – Noah Nye

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

5/3: Judy Strasser 5/17, 24: AJ Trimpe
5/10, 31: needed

Parish Hall Cleaning: needed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Upcoming Events:</i> 6/5: Game Night 6/6: 3v3 Basketball Tournament					1	2
3 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School	4 4:30 PM – Pastors’ Conference Divine Service	5	6 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	7	8	9
10 <i>Sixth 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	11	12	13 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	14 <i>Ascension Day</i> 10 AM – Elders Meeting 7 PM – Joint Ascension Service (@ Jonesville w/ supper at 6 PM)	15	16
17 <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Flag Ceremony, Tenderloin Lunch, & Sunday School Celebration 5:00 PM – Youth Group	18	19 6 PM – Council Meeting	20 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	21	22	23
24 <i>The Day of Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School	Pastor on vacation. Contact Pastor Jung (812-764-8664) or Pastor Haugen (440-376-6275) for pastoral care.			28	29	30
31 <i>Festival of the Holy Trinity</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 2:00 PM – Lutheran Community Home Chapel						