

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter
July 2026



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Church Council

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America 250

- Pastor Sorenson

July 4, 2026 marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Effectively, this is the birthday of our nation, though many years of war followed before the United States of America was finally and completely free from Great Britain.

This provides a great chance for us as Christians to reflect on several things concerning our nation and our faith. After all, God has something to say about it Himself and it's all too easy for Christians to make mistakes one way or the other when it comes to the nation and the faith.

One mistake is to raise the nation and our citizenship of it to the same level or of higher importance than the faith and our citizenship in God's eternal kingdom. A mistake on the other side is to despise our nation or at least think less of it while claiming that this isn't our home and we are merely strangers here.

The truth, of course, lies in the middle. To see that, consider what God has to say about nations and our citizenship. The best place to begin this is in Romans 13. The whole chapter is worth reading on this topic, but here are a few of the highlights.

"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God" (Rom. 13:1). "For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad" (Rom. 13:3a). Concerning government leaders, "he is God's servant for your good" (Rom. 13:4a).

Our country, then, is instituted by God, as is every country in the world. God has given us rulers in our government not to be terrors, but to promote good for the nation. Likewise, God has given us a nation for our own good.

In fact, we pray for this in the Lord's Prayer. As we pray the fourth petition, "give us this day our daily bread," Luther reminds us in the Small Catechism that this includes home, land, faithful neighbors, "devout and faithful rulers, good government,... and the like."

Truly, then, we should be patriotic for the nation that the Lord has given to us. It's His good gift and, like all of God's gifts, we are right to rejoice in it and give Him thanks for it. We are right to cherish our citizenship in the place that God has instituted for us.

At the same time, we must remember our other citizenship as well. St. Paul says, "you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19) and "our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body" (Philippians 3:20-21a).

This is why we often speak of two kingdoms. There is the kingdom of the world and the kingdom of the Church. We are citizens of both of them as we live in this world, yet we are reminded that they share the same King. God alone rules over both kingdoms, but the way He rules in each one is different.

In the kingdom of the world, He rules through earthly governments and rulers. In the kingdom of the Church, He rules through the Gospel and His means of grace. It's good to remember this distinction because it allows us to fully cherish and celebrate all of the gifts that God has given us.

Like the 250th birthday of our nation. Let us celebrate with great joy this good gift of God as citizens of the United States, giving thanks to God and praying for our country and our rulers whoever they might be. Yet, let us also rejoice in the good gifts of God within His Church, which knows no country or nation. For God instituted the Church for every nation and makes all who believe in Christ citizens of His unending kingdom.

Go... Sell All You Have?

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And he replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me” (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, “No!” But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn’t excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the Means of Grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What’s more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don’t let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We remember these words from St. Paul in Romans 6:12-18: "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness."

In Christ,
Elders of St Peter Waymansville

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Bible Studies:

- **Sunday Mornings:** We will continue a study on the book of Romans.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. On summer break through July. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future topics, please speak to Pastor.
- **Book of Concord Study:** On break in July, but usually 2nd Sunday of the month, beginning at 5:00 PM. In August, we will begin a study on the Large Catechism 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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|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| • Jacob Otte | • Phil & Christopher Schaefer | • Pastor, Michelle, Seth, Lucy, & Anna Sorenson |
| • Tom & Pegi Owens | • Kevin, Michelle, & Laurie Schultz | |
| • Larry & Sandra Phelps | • Sharon Schurman | • Charlie & Janet Spurgeon |
| • Tom & Kathy Rebber | | • Robert & Connie Stiles |

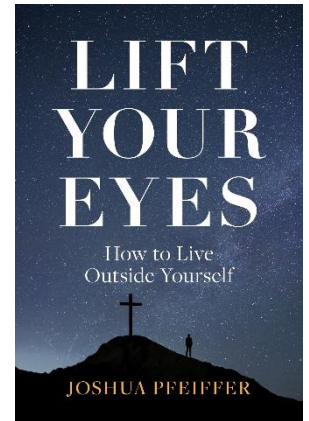
GENERAL INFORMATION

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.

Thrivent Choice Dollars: If you have any Thrivent policies, you may have Thrivent Choice Dollars which can be directed to benefit the congregation. You can do this online on the Thrivent website or by contacting your Thrivent agent. Thank you for supporting the church in this way!

Book of the Month: The Book of the Month will be available in the Parish Hall library. The July Book of the Month is *Lift Your Eyes: How to Live Outside Yourself* by Joshua Pfeiffer. Here is an excerpt from the book: "In this book, I use this spiritual posture of looking to explore the Christian life in the context of today's world. While there are powerful forces at work encouraging us to look inward for hope, identity, purpose, and meaning – indeed, for life itself – Christians are fundamentally to look elsewhere, to lift our eyes from ourselves. We look *up* to God in faith, and we look *out* to our neighbor in love. Martin Luther was insistent on this point. God and neighbor. Faith and love. Looking up and looking out. When we get that right, we do truly look forward in joyful anticipation to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come, and there is even a sense in which we can rightly look in at ourselves."



Quarterly Voters' Meeting: We will have our quarterly voters' meeting on Sunday, July 12th.

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 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 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 in the cabinet in the Conference Room closest to the white board. Enjoy a variety of puzzles and fellowship with your fellow members!

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet this month for our youth night, with the day and time to be decided. 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.

VBS: Children ages 3+ are invited to join us for VBS June 29-July 2 from 5:30-8:30 PM each night. Our theme this year is Tropical Trek. We also are in need for volunteers to provide a meal each night and for any tropical decorations. To volunteer, for more information, or to register a child, please talk to Michelle Schultz.

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, August 7th, beginning at 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! 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!

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

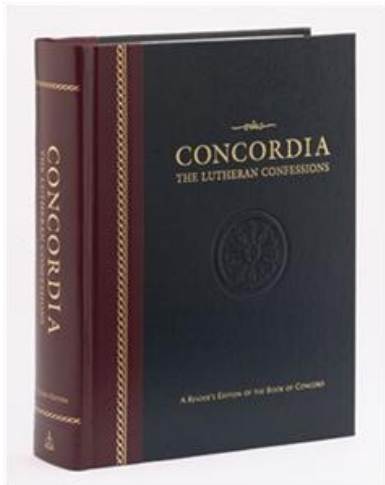
Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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: "For what do you imagine has done such great things up till now? What has stopped or quelled the counsels, purposes, murder, and riot of our enemies, by which the devil thought he would crush us, together with the Gospel? It was the prayer of a few godly people standing in the middle like an iron wall for our side. Otherwise they would have witnessed a far different tragedy. They would have seen how the devil would have destroyed all Germany in its own blood. But now our enemies may confidently ridicule prayer and make a mockery of it. However, we shall still be a match both for them and the devil by prayer alone, if we only persevere diligently and do not become slack. For whenever a godly Christian prays, 'Dear Father, let Your will be done' (see Matthew 6:10), God speaks from on high and says, 'Yes, dear child, it shall be so, in spite of the devil and all the world.'" (Large Catechism, Part III, 31-32)

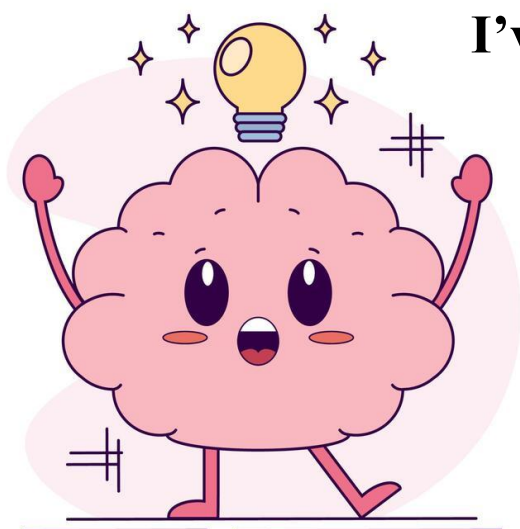
Join us for VBS!
June 29th-July 2nd



5:30-8:30 PM

Children ages 3+ welcome

**Sign-up sheet in narthex or email
pastoresorenson@gmail.com**



I've got this!

TRIVIA NIGHT

**St. Peter Lutheran Church
Waymansville
11750 W 930 S
Columbus, IN 47201**

**AUGUST 22, 2026
6:00 PM**

Registration: \$10/individual or \$38/group of 4
Walk-ins welcome (payment at door)

To register call or text:

www.stpeterwaymansville.com

waymansvillestpeter@yahoo.com

(812)371-1151

Barb Minor (812)372-4193

Popcorn and a movie for participants' children

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

July 2026

Ushers: Bill Finke

Acolytes: July 5 – Abe Acton
July 19 – Noah Nye

July 12 – John Nye
July 26 – Abe Acton

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

7/5: Judy Strasser

7/12, 19, 26: needed

Parish Hall Cleaning: Camden Jeffries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Upcoming Events:</i> 8/7: Game Night 8/22: Trivia Night			1	2	3	4
	Vacation Bible School – 5:30 – 8:30 PM each night					
			10 AM – Elders Meeting			
5 6 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor's Bible Study	6	7	8	9	10	11
				6 PM – Council Meeting		
12 7 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Quarterly Voters' Meeting (Pastor's Bible study to follow as time allows)	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Pastor on vacation. Contact Pastor Jung (812-764-8664) or Pastor Haugen (440-376-6275) for pastoral care.					LCMS Synodical Convention
19 8 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor's Bible Study	20	21	22	23	24	25
	LCMS Synodical Convention. Follow along at https://www.lcms.org/convention-triennium					
26 9 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor's Bible Study	27	28	29	30	31	