

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter
August 2026



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Church Council

Dan Acree, Congregational Chairman	Michelle Schultz, Education Chairman
Kyle Thomas, Financial Secretary	Logan Hall, Recording Secretary
Camden Jeffries, Synodical Treasurer	John Dobrinski, Practical Services
Mike Vandercar, Gen. Fund Treasurer	Greg Trimpe, Head Elder

Why a Playground?

- Pastor Sorenson

For many years, the playground that the Lord blessed our congregation with has served its duty well. Time, weather, and activity, however, have all taken a toll on it, making it not as pristine as it used to be. Indeed, the time is coming when a new playground will need to take its place to serve the congregation and the community to the praise and glory of God.

This brings up a question. Why do we even need a playground at all? On one hand, of course, the answer is we don't. The congregation exists to serve God's people through the proclamation of the Word of God and the faithful administration of God's Sacraments. Neither of those tasks require a playground.

On the other hand, though, a playground is great tool in support of this purpose. In fact, the topic of a playground opens up a broader point. There are lots of things we do as a congregation that don't immediately have to do with proclaiming the Word of God or administering His Sacraments. Think for instance of the fish fry, game nights, euchre parties, or the upcoming trivia night.

So why do we do all of these things? It's helpful when we consider this to remember what the purpose of each one of them is in the first place. This is usually something we forget as we ponder this question and whether or not we should do something as a congregation.

To that end, there are four main purposes for why we as a congregation of Christ's Church may do something. These are worship/education, fellowship, outreach, or fundraising. If an event or an action of our congregation isn't toward one of these ends, we may want to reconsider what we are doing. Likewise, as we plan for things, it's good to be clear about what the main intention of that thing is.

Sometimes the purpose is easy to spot. Sunday morning worship and Bible study is obviously for worship and education. The fish fry is a wonderful fundraiser for the congregation. Game nights provide great fellowship for the congregation.

When we come to the question of the playground, we must be clear that this is a great tool for outreach. Seldom does a day go by when there isn't somebody from the community or from the congregation making use of it. This often leads to conversations and interactions between myself or someone else from the congregation and the people enjoying the playground.

It may seem like a small thing, but simply having a good structure which people enjoy using opens up doors that otherwise would remain closed. Many times, in fact, people didn't even know anything about the church and they receive our witness and invitation to come and join our family here.

This isn't to say that we shouldn't do outreach in other ways. We absolutely should and we do. But it is helpful for us in remembering why a playground is such a blessing for us as a congregation.

As with any of the other things or events, there can be other purposes as well, but the primary one is quite important. Of course there is fellowship at the fish fry, but fundraising is still our main goal. Of course game nights can be times for outreach too, but building bonds within our church is front and center. So it is for the playground. It may do many things, but outreach is at the heart of it all.

As we remember this, and everything else we do as a congregation, may the Lord continue to bless us with all of His gifts. For we know that our fellowship, fundraising, and outreach, is all done in service of the reason we exist as a congregation: to serve God's people through the proclamation of His Word and the faithful administration of His Sacraments.

Define Your Life by How You Give

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For, giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living have on us. When we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others?” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the Divine Nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

Elders’ Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We remember these words from St. Paul in Romans 8:28-39: “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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, beginning on August 12th. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future topics, please speak to Pastor.
- **Book of Concord Study:** 2nd Sunday of the month, August 9th, beginning at 5:00 PM. 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:

- Danny & Judy Strasser
- Phil & Margie Trimpe
- Dennis Wessel
- Max, Kelly, Kyle, & Jenna Thomas
- Justin, Anna, & Bradley Turner
- Mark, Melessa, & Trevor Wiesehan
- Tom & Brenda Tracy
- Brenda Turner
- Greg & AJ Trimpe
- Mike & Verna Vandercar

GENERAL INFORMATION

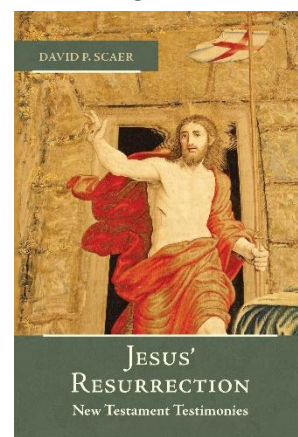
Missions: This year we will be supporting two missions: a new playground for the church and a seminary student (Rick Crain). May God continue to bless these missions as Christ is proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

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 August Book of the Month is *Jesus' Resurrection: New Testament Testimonies* by David P. Scaer. Here is an excerpt from the book: "God is inherently Creator, and his participation in creation continues by redeeming it. By the resurrection, he raises the creation beyond its perfection in Genesis so that Christ can be all in all (Col. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:28). Resurrection is the linchpin that holds together all that we believe about God. It permeates everything we hold to be true. Remove the resurrection from the Creed, and the entire Christian enterprise collapses."

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!



Council & Other Positions: At our October voters' meeting, we will elect new council members for the positions of congregational chairman, recording secretary, and synodical fund treasurer. We will also elect an elder and an auditing committee member. If you would be willing to serve in any of these roles or would like more information about them, please speak to a current council member, elder, or Pastor.

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.

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!



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.

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet on Sunday, August 16th beginning at 5 PM. 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.

Sunday School Teachers: As we approach a new school year, it is time to start planning for Sunday School! We are in need of people to volunteer to help teach our Sunday School classes. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to be a part of teaching the Word of God to our children, to dive into the Word yourself, and to build up the entire church. If you are interested in teaching in any capacity (weekly, twice a month, once a month, substitute, etc.), please contact Michelle Schultz or Pastor Sorenson. Thank you for supporting our youth in this way!

Youth Catechesis: Youth Catechesis (confirmation) classes will be beginning on August 16th. If you have a child who has already begun Catechesis, or if you have a child you would like to start this year, please contact Pastor Sorenson as soon as possible.

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! The Elders will provide chili dogs as part of Fellowship Friday @ 5. Feel free to bring your favorite games, a deck of cards, or a dish to share. 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

FROM THE OFFICE

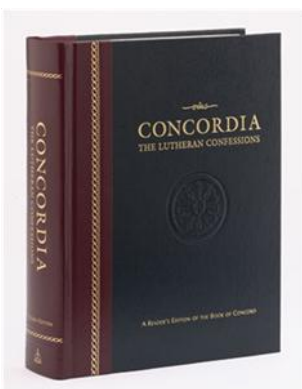
Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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

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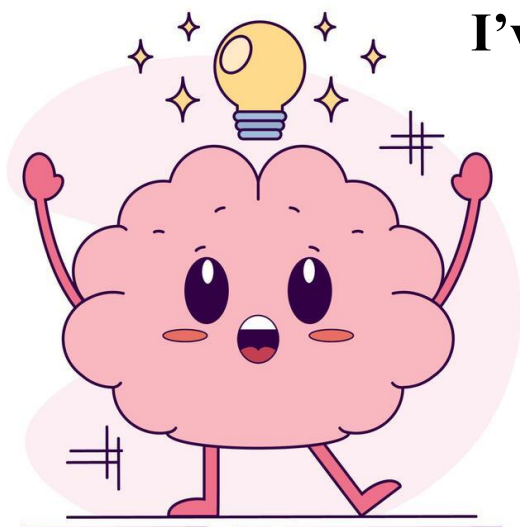
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On the web: www.stpeterwaymansville.com • Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch



Book of Concord Corner

On the Lord's Prayer: "Let this be said as encouragement, so that people may learn, first of all, to value prayer as something great and precious and to make a proper distinction between babbling and praying for something. For we by no means reject prayer. We reject the bare, useless howling and murmuring, as Christ Himself also rejects and prohibits long idle talk (Matthew 6:7). Now we shall most briefly and clearly explain the Lord's Prayer. Here there is included in seven successive articles, or petitions, every need that never ceases to apply to us. Each is so great that it ought to drive us to keep praying the Lord's Prayer all our lives." (Large Catechism, Part III, 33-34)



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

August 2026

Ushers: Max Thomas

Acolytes: **August 2** – John Nye
August 23 – John Nye

August 9 – Noah Nye
August 30 – Noah Nye

August 16 – Abe Acton

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

8/2: Judy Strasser

Parish Hall Cleaning: Nye family

8/9, 16, 23, 30: needed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Upcoming Events:</i> 9/13: Sunday School begins						1
2 <i>10th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study	3	4	5	6 10 AM – Elders Meeting	7 6 PM – Game Night	8
9 <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study 5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	10	11 10 AM – 2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit Meeting	12 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	13	14	15
16 <i>12th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Youth Group	17	18	19 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	20 6 PM – Council Meeting	21	22 6 PM – Trivia Night
23 <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor's Bible Study 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	24	25	26 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	27	28	29
30 <i>14th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 – Pastor's Bible Study 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	31					