

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter
October 2026



Pastor Erik Sorenson

Cell: (812) 371-1151
Office: (812) 343-1688
pastoresorenson@gmail.com

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

Not Spectators

- Pastor Sorenson

At the end of October, we celebrate the Reformation. It's important to remember that the Reformation was never about starting a new church or breaking the Church apart. Rather, the Reformation was, as its name applies, an attempt to reform the Church. That is, to bring the Church back to the beliefs and practices which were in agreement with God and His Word.

Things like indulgences and the Sacraments often get most of the attention when it comes to the Reformation, and rightly so. But one area of it that often gets overlooked, but which we still experience to this day, is the effect of the Reformation on worship.

During the days of Martin Luther and for many, many years before him, worship had become little more than a spectator event. People went to church to see the priests perform some sort of rituals and then to leave when it was all done.

However, that is not how the Church is meant to worship. Nor is it the way the Church had worshiped for centuries. Rather, worship is an active thing. God is working to bring His gifts to His people and His people respond with praise and thanksgiving. If all the congregation does is sit and watch, as was the case before the Reformation, none of this happens.

This led Luther to do three main things when it came to worship. First, he translated it from Latin into the language of the people (German in his case, but he said it should be in whatever language people already speak).

Second, Luther encouraged every Christian to be active in worship. They were to sing, to give their "amen" to the prayers, to listen actively to the readings and sermons, and to receive the Lord's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.

Third, to help make this happen, Luther authored many hymns. Since worship had become a spectator activity for so long, there were not many hymns for the people to sing that were not in Latin. So, Luther wrote hymns like "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" and others to encourage Christians everywhere to sing in praise and thanksgiving to God.

It may seem small to us today, but this was a massive shift away from an unfaithful practice that had developed and toward the faithful practice which our Lord encourages us to have. Now worship was an active thing, with Christians focused on what God was doing and on responding in faith to these good gifts of God.

Let us be aware, then, of this trend creeping back in to the Church. It's not uncommon to see many places where people go, listen to the music without singing along, and hear the prayers, readings, and sermon without actively listening to it. It's not uncommon for Christians to view worship as the pastor performing some rituals up front until it's time to leave.

But that's not what worship is at all. Instead, be active in worship. This is your God-given vocation as a Christian. That God would come to you in worship to give you His gifts in His Word and Sacraments. And that you, in faith, would respond in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving to God, not individually or just in your heart, but collectively with a united voice in word and song.

So, when it comes to worship, be active! Sing the hymns and the liturgy, even if you don't sing well. Listen actively to the readings and sermon, gladly hearing and learning it. Give your "amen" boldly to the prayers. After all, worship is not a spectator event. It is God coming to give us His gifts which causes our faith to respond in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

It's in the Way that You Use It

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Well summer is fast coming to an end. The kids are back in school. We now look forward to the World Series and the football season. And soon the leaves will be turning color and falling. The weather will be cooling down. Snow will start to fall. Ugh. I don't like cold weather or snow. I always worry about what comes next!

But Jesus tells us that we should leave the worries to Him. Matthew 6:25-35. The one thing to help us is our church attendance, no matter the weather. And if you are troubled about anything, do not understand the message, or have questions about anything in the Scriptures, Bible study after church and Wednesday nights are your best bet. Also, it is a great way to fellowship with other church members.

Yours 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. We will continue our study of the life and times of Martin Luther. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future topics, please speak to Pastor.
- **Book of Concord Study:** 2nd Sunday of the month, October 11th, beginning at 5:00 PM. We will continue 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:

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

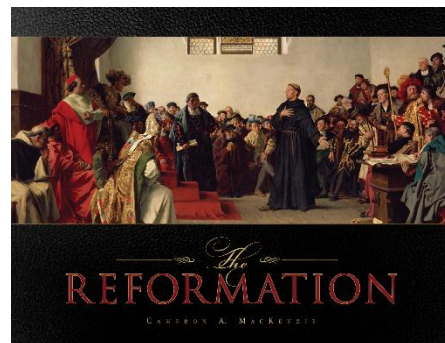
GENERAL INFORMATION

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.

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 October Book of the Month is *The Reformation* by Cameron A. MacKenzie. Here is an excerpt from the book: "'History' and 'story' are connected by more than spelling. The events of the Reformation make for entertaining reading, but my hope is that readers of this book will also find them edifying. Although there is much to criticize in the words and actions of those who made history in the sixteenth century, there is also much to admire, especially the commitment of so many to Jesus and therefore to the Christian faith (in whatever form). In a society like ours, in which Christian commitment is withering, perhaps Reformation history will lead readers to think again about their own relationship with God and the place of Jesus Christ in their own lives."



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. So far, we have raised just over \$5,000. Thank you!

Quarterly Voters’ Meeting, Council, & Other Positions: At our October voters’ meeting on October 11th, 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 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 see the sheet on the bulletin board.

College Outreach and Care: We will be sending a care package to our three college students (Joe Acree, Nathan Finke, & Jenna Thomas) shortly after October 11th. If you would like to donate to this care package, please bring your donations to the box in the narthex. Below is a list of suggested items for donation:

Travel Kleenex packs	Candy	Salty & Sweet snacks
Chapstick	Bottled water flavor packets	Beef jerky
Gift cards (Amazon, food, grocery, gas, etc.)		

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet Sunday, October 19th to help work at the Fish Fry.

Fish Fry Drink Donations: The Youth Group is asking for donations of drinks for the Fish Fry. If you would like to donate any drinks (Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, or bottled water) please speak to a youth group member. Thank you!

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, October 2nd, beginning at 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! 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!

Fellowship Friday @ 5: Join us on Friday, November 6th starting at 5 PM for a fall party. We will be having a bonfire, chili, hot dogs, s’mores, and more. All are welcome!

Fish Fry: Hello everyone! Our annual Fish Fry is upon us. I plan to head the Fish Fry again this year, and I am asking for any pie or money donations from the congregation. If you would like to make pies, give a donation, or help during the event, please let me know as soon as you can. I look forward to this every year and can’t wait to put on this event that brings everyone together. Any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at any time! Thank you in advance to everyone who plans to help! – Camden Jeffries



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

Lakeview Dinner Auction: Join the Lakeview family on Saturday, November 21, 2026, at Primo Banquet Hall & Conference Center in Indianapolis for an evening of great food, fellowship, fun, and support for the ministry of Lakeview! Enjoy dinner, live and silent auctions, the Dessert Dash, raffles, and plenty of camp fun for grown-ups. Early Bird Special: Register by October 3 for a chance to win a VIP Night Of Package featuring preferred table seating, first dinner dismissal, and a free raffle ticket for each guest at your table. Tickets are \$85 per person or \$600 for a table of eight. Learn more and register at www.lakeview.camp/auction.

St. Paul Wegan Dinner: Sunday, October 11 from 4-7 PM, drive-thru only. Ham, turkey, and all the trimmings. Ladies Aid online auction: <https://www.32auctions.com/2026weganladiesaid>

FROM THE OFFICE

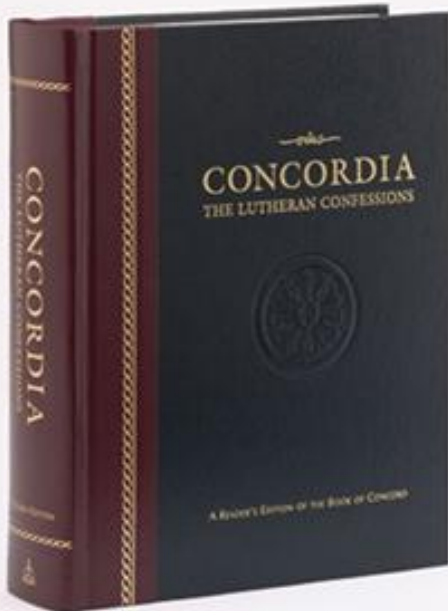
Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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: "'But how does it become holy among us?' Answer, as plainly as it can be said: 'When both our doctrine and life are godly and Christian.' Since we call God our Father in this prayer, it is our duty always to act and behave ourselves as godly children, that He may not receive shame, but honor and praise from us. Now, God's name is profaned by us either through our words or in our works. (For whatever we do upon the earth must be either words or works, speech or act.) In the first place, then, God's name is profaned when people preach, teach, and say in God's name what is false and misleading. They use His name like an ornament and attract a market for falsehood. That is, indeed, the greatest way to profane and dishonor the divine name. Furthermore, men, by swearing, cursing, conjuring, and other such actions, grossly abuse the holy name as a cloak for their shame (1 Peter 2:16)." (Large Catechism, Part III, 39-42)

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

11750 W. CR. 930 S. – Waymansville



FISH FRY

Menu:

Fish Sandwiches, Hot Dogs,
Coleslaw,
Mac N Cheese, Baked Beans, Chips,
Pie,
And Drinks.



OCTOBER 18th

From 4:00pm-7:00pm



Dine in,



Carryout, or



Drive Through

Join us Friday, October 2nd 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

Join us for a night of fun, food, and fellowship!

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

October 2026

Ushers: Allen Acton

Acolytes: **October 4** – John Nye
October 18 – Abe Acton

October 11 – Noah Nye
October 25 – John Nye

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

10/4, 11: AJ Trimpe

10/18: Judy Strasser 10/25: needed

Parish Hall Cleaning: needed

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