



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

Church Council
John Dobrinski, Chairman
Barb Minor, Financial Secretary
Camden Jeffries, Synodical Treasurer

Nikki Finke, General Fund Treasurer
Michelle Schultz, Dir. of Christian Ed.
Logan Hall, Recording Secretary
Curt Acton, Practical Services

Be a Martyr

- Pastor Sorenson

In April, we had the joy and pleasure of having the men of the men's gathering join us for worship on the second Sunday of Easter. The theme for their gathering was on Christian martyrs and we heard a piece of that in the sermon for that Sunday.

Just the mention of martyrs is probably enough for many people to stop reading here. After all, who really wants to be a martyr? Who wants to die, sometimes in horrifying ways, because of their faith in Christ?

There are two problems here, however. First, that's not what it means to be a martyr. Second, God calls every Christian to be a martyr and you are already one whether you know it or not.

To see that, you have to begin with what a martyr actually is. As mentioned earlier, most people think the definition of a martyr is someone who is killed on account of their faith. Certainly, this definition fits with most of the people who bear the name martyr most often.

But that's not actually an accurate definition. Rather, the word *martyr* comes directly from the Greek word which simply means "witness." That's it. A martyr is a witness. A martyr bears witness to something, that it's true and real. Death on account of that witness may or may not come, but it doesn't define who is a martyr.

For instance, Jesus uses the term on several occasions with the disciples. In Luke 24:48, after His resurrection, Jesus says to them, "You are witnesses (martyrs) of these things." In Acts 1:8, just prior to His Ascension, Jesus says, "You will be my witnesses (martyrs) in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

These are just two of many examples where that term martyr is used throughout the Bible. Notice that in each case, as in the rest of them too, they are simply to bear witness about the truth of Christ and His death and resurrection. Death may or may not come, but Christ calls them to bear witness no matter what.

That leads to the second point. You, as a Christian, are called to be a martyr and already are one. From the moment God joined you into the death and resurrection of Jesus in the waters of Holy Baptism, He sent you out into the world as a witness that truly Christ died and rose again.

Don't be afraid, though, of what this means. Being a martyr doesn't mean given big, impassioned speeches to a crowd of unbelievers. Being a martyr doesn't mean you have to preach to everyone all the time and in every place. And being a martyr certainly doesn't mean that you have to choose between a tortuous death and not sharing the Gospel.

Instead, being a martyr means bearing witness about Christ in everyday life. God has given you many different vocations in your life and in each of those vocations God provides opportunities to bear witness of the Gospel. That may be by doing devotions at home with your family. Or praying for a coworker. Or saying a quick word of forgiveness to the person you bumped into at the store.

So, no. Don't be afraid to be a martyr! Boldly bear witness to Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection in whatever ways God prepares for you. For that's the great comfort in being a martyr. You don't do it alone. God calls you to it. God equips you for it, even if you don't feel like you're prepared. And God will give you the words to say whenever the situation arises.

Because truly, being a martyr is simply being a Christian here in this fallen and sinful world. Bear witness to Christ, who has overcome sin and death, and know that He is at work through that witness to accomplish His good and gracious purposes. To God alone be all the glory as He opens your lips to be a martyr.

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Greetings and blessings to all as we enter the summer months.

As we enter a new season in the church, we remember these words from 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1: ¹³“Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. ⁵ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

In the love of our Savior,
Elders of St Peter

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Bible Studies:

- **Sundays:** We are studying the minor prophets Sunday mornings after worship. This month we will study the prophets Haggai and Malachi.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. Currently studying the Office of the Holy Ministry and the Divine Call. If you have a study or topic you would like to do, please speak to Pastor.
- **Book of Concord Study:** 2nd Sunday of the month, June 9th, beginning at 5:00 PM. We will continue our study of the Formula of Concord 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=1965)
- 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:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • John & Karen Dobrinski | • Brandon, Logan, & Maggie Hall | • Roger, Colleen, Miley, Alex, |
| • Bill, Nikki, Amanda, & Nathan Finke | • Sue Anne & Chris Heilers | Braden, Cody, & Chase Hughes |
| • Rick & Debbie Flohr | • Judy, Ellie, & Olivia Hoene | • Camden Jeffries |
| • Paul & Jeanine Franke | • Luella Holle | • Connie Johnson |

GENERAL INFORMATION

Missions: This year we will be supporting a variety of missions. The missions we will support include Clarity, Lakeview Ministries, Orphan Grain Train, Tiffany Smith (missionary for Lutheran Bible Translators serving in Tanzania), and a seminary student. If you would like to submit a name of a seminary student to receive this support, please speak to an elder or to Pastor. 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 June Book of the Month is *Jesus Said What?* by Christopher M. Kennedy. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Jesus doesn't always tell us what we want to hear. But He always tells us what we need to hear. Through His words recorded in the Bible, He is speaking to you and me just as much as He was speaking to His original hearers. Every word He spoke, in fact, was an act of grace. The God of the universe did not have to communicate with us. He chose to. He chose to take on human flesh and speak into our lives. Even the hard words are a gift given to us in love."

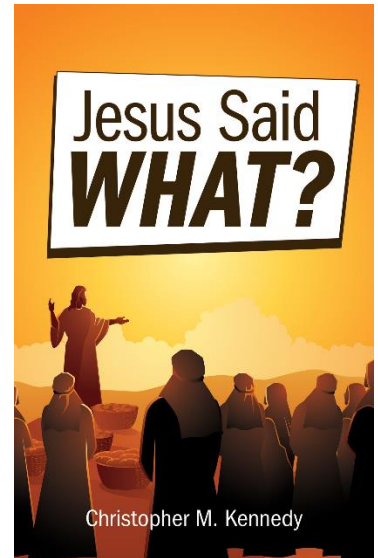
Usher & Communion Sign-Up Sheets: The 2024 sign-up sheets are up now on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. We are always looking for additional people interested in filling these roles. Please feel free to sign up even if you have never before helped in these ways. Someone will be happy to show you the ropes.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, there is a sign-up sheet for 2024 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 Sue Anne Heilers at (812) 717-0167 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 2024 is also on the bulletin board.

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 Monday, June 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.

Sunday School: Thank you to Kevin & Michelle Schultz for a wonderful year of Sunday School!

VBS: Children ages 3+ are invited to join us for VBS July 8-11 from 5:00-8:00 PM each night. Our theme this year is Celebrate the Savior: Jesus Gives Us Joy. For more information or to register a child, please see the information in the narthex or talk to Michelle Schultz.

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, June 7th, beginning at 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! Our dinner theme will be your favorite summer dish. Feel free to bring a dish to share, 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

FROM THE OFFICE

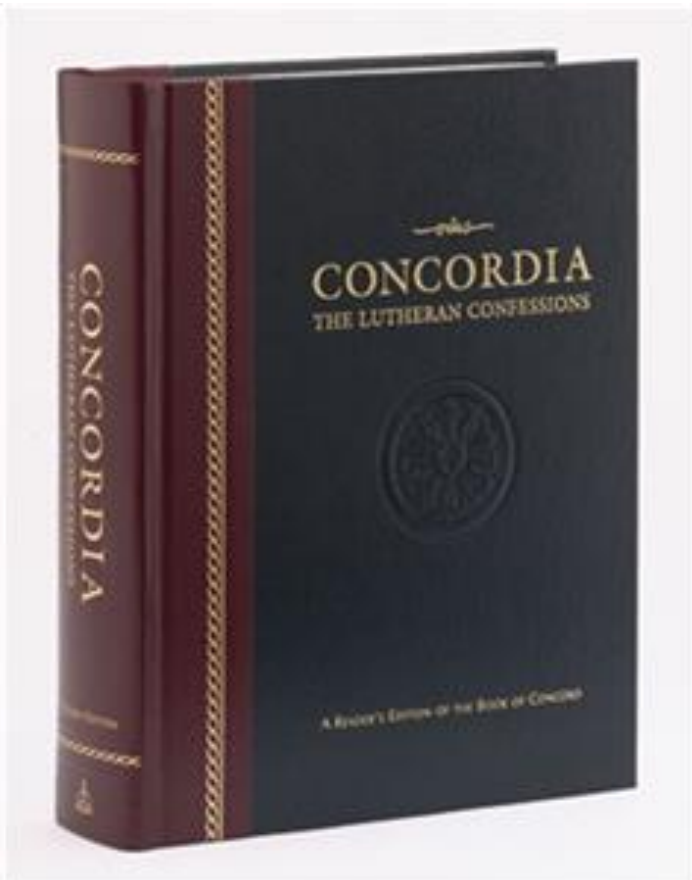
Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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

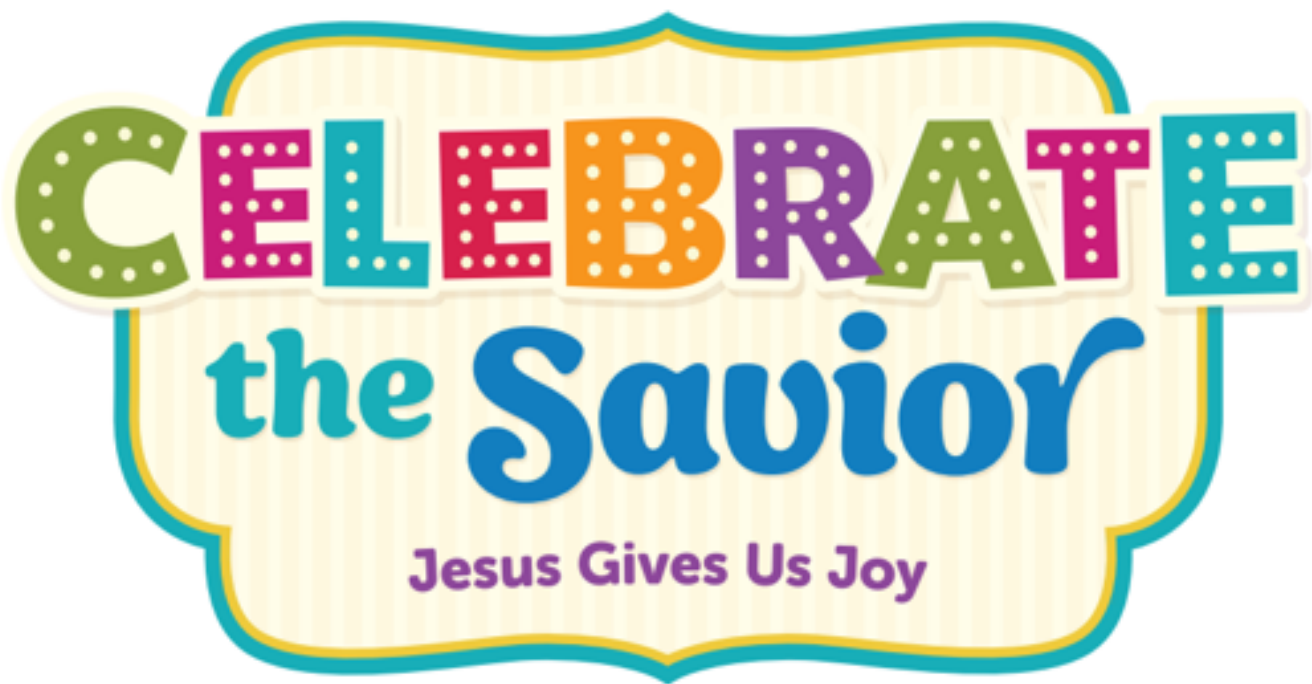


Book of Concord Corner

“The Gospel assigns those who preside over the Churches the command to teach the Gospel (Matthew 28:19), to forgive sins (John 20:23), to administer the Sacraments, and also to exercise jurisdiction (i.e., the command to excommunicate those whose crimes are known and to absolve those who repent.) Everyone confesses, even our adversaries, that this power is common to all who preside over churches by divine right, whether they are called pastors, elders, or bishops.” (Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, 60-61)

Join us for VBS!

July 8th-11th



5:00-8:00 PM

Children ages 3+ welcome

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

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

June 2024

Ushers: open

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

6/2: Judy Strasser

6/9: AJ Trimpe

6/16, 23, 30: open

Acolytes:

June 2 – Abe Acton

June 16 – Noah Nye

June 30 – John Nye

June 9 – John Nye

June 23 – Abe Acton

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Events: 7/8-11: VBS						1
2 2 nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study	3	4	5 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	6	7 6 PM – Game Night	8
9 3 rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 5 PM – Book of Concord Study	10	11	12 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	13 9 AM – Elders meeting 7 PM – Council meeting	14	15
16 4 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study	17 5 PM – Youth Group	18	19 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	20	21	22
23 5 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study	24	25	26 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	27	28	29
30 6 th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study						