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Free to Be One

- Pastor Sorenson

July, of course, brings with it the celebration of our nation's independence. The 4th of July is a time when we all remember and cherish the freedom that was won for all who call America home. Our great enemy was defeated and we were free at last.

This freedom has long been a hallmark of our country and its citizens. In many ways, this is a wonderful thing. Sadly, however, this focus on freedom too often becomes a "me vs. them" kind of ideal. That is to say, we can use this freedom to put a fence around ourselves. We can use this freedom to create a new enemy of all those around me against me as an individual.

This mindset, unfortunately, bleeds over into the Church as well. Divisions appear on large scales with different denominations, on smaller scales with fights within congregations, and on even smaller levels with friction between individual members.

Because, after all, we've been set free not just as Americans, but as Christians. Just think of Jesus' words, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). Or St. Paul's words, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17) and again, "For freedom Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5:1a).

We can take this precious gift of freedom and insist on our own ways. We can use this freedom to create enemies out of anyone who says or does something we don't like. We can make this freedom be the reason why we are angered by or hate the very same people who sit in the pews with us, whether in our own congregation or anywhere across the world.

But is this really why Christ has set us free? Has Jesus freed us from our greatest enemy of sin, death, and the devil so that we can now view each other as our enemies?

Certainly not! In fact, it's just the opposite. St. Paul writes just a few verses later in Galatians, "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

There you have it. Jesus Christ has set us free not as an opportunity to serve our flesh, but rather as an opportunity to love and serve one another.

This is something that can be easy to say, but much harder to do. However, it becomes much easier when we remember that we are not simply individuals. We're not all separate from each other. Instead, we are one in Christ Jesus. We are members of His body. Those people that you see in church, from the youngest to the oldest, are people that Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross for in order to save.

Disagreements may come. We may not like how someone acts or behaves. We may even be hurt by the actions of our fellow church members. But may we never view each other as enemies. May we never hate or scorn those whom God Himself has created and whom God Himself has redeemed by shedding His precious blood for them.

For we are free in Christ Jesus. Free to be One in Him, who died for us and for all other people. May this freedom that we have in Christ always drive us and inspire us to love and serve one another. To put down our weapons that we aim at each other and instead to put on the full armor of God to defend ourselves and each other in Christ from every assault of sin, death, and the devil.

Because we are all covered by the blood of Christ. We are all precious in the sight of the Lord. We are all brothers and sisters in our Savior. And we are all free to work together as one to the praise and glory of God alone.

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Good day and the Lord's richest blessings be upon you and your families. Rejoice, as the Son of God shines on us as the sun of summer time warms us with joy. Psalm 50:1-2.

The season of summer in Southern Indiana: heat, drought, storms, and rain, but yet blue skies prevail from the Lord's mighty hands. We must remember in all times the love of God during this busy month. I know many are involved with vacation, fairs, sports, occupations, and tribulations, yet one constant remains, our Redeemer lives! Job 19:23-27.

Our blessings are immense at St. Peter, worshipping together in the Lord's house, fellowship with each other and evangelism with family, friends, and strangers in our everyday lives given to us by our Father. We grow in love and understanding with God's guidance during happiness and sorrow. Jeremiah 17:7-8.

Also read 2 Corinthians 13:11-14.

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 prophet Malachi.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. We will resume after the week of VBS. If you have a topic you would like to study, please let Pastor know.
- **Book of Concord Study:** 2nd Sunday of the month, July 14th, 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:

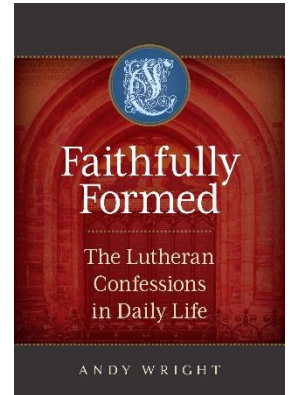
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|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| • Damon Lee | • Teresa Lucas | • Jennier Milan |
| • Chris Littiken | • Michael, Cindy, Mackenzie,
Tristan, Danica, & Isabella May | • Barb Minor |
| • Steve & Jeanne Loesch | • Rick & Lynnette May | • John & Beth Muntzinger |
| • David, Donna, & Mia Losey | | • Kevin, Amy, Jackson, & Holly Nagel |

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 July Book of the Month is *Faithfully Formed: The Lutheran Confessions in Daily Life* by Andy Wright. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Doctrine is practical. The Lutheran Confessions show this well as we think about confessing the faith to one another in our homes, churches, schools, jobs, communities, and anywhere else God has placed us. The Lutheran Confessions organize and summarize the truths of God's Word in ways in which we can study and discuss with one another and give answer to the world around us. Questions like 'Who is God?' can be answered with 'I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth...' We give answer based on what God has revealed to us about who He is in the Bible and the Creeds. These foundational sources form and aid what we confess. We are not alone in our answer. The Lutheran Confessions unfurl the flag, so to speak, and identify us as those who believe what we do about justification, the church, and everything else. What does a Lutheran believe about the church? The Lutheran Confessions answer this by asking a similar question: What does the Bible teach about the church? What the Lutheran Confessions teach is what the Scriptures teach because they are normed by the Scriptures themselves."



Quarterly Voters' Meeting: We will have our quarterly voters' meeting on Sunday, July 21st.

Baby Shower: We rejoice with Brandon and Logan Hall at the birth of their baby girl. We will have a diaper/wipes/gift card shower and desserts reception to celebrate with them on Sunday, July 21st after the voters' meeting. If anyone wishes to gift them a meal in the meantime, they politely ask for gift cards to area, kid-friendly restaurants.

Lutheran Community Home Chapel: Pastor will be leading chapel at Lutheran Community Home on Sunday, July 7th at 2 PM. All members of the congregation are invited to come. Also, if you would like to assist with helping the residents that would be greatly appreciated (pushing wheelchairs, handing out bulletins, etc.). You're also invited to join us at Pizza Palace for lunch at 12:30 PM prior to heading over to LCH.

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 Sunday, July 28th, at 5 PM for our youth night. We will have a meal, time to study God's Word, and a fun activity – water balloons! 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.

Youth Go-Karts: The youth group is planning a go-kart trip during the week of July 15th. Please let Pastor know (or see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board) if you are planning to go, what days and times work best, and if any adult could assist as a chaperone.

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, August 2nd, beginning at 6:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! 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

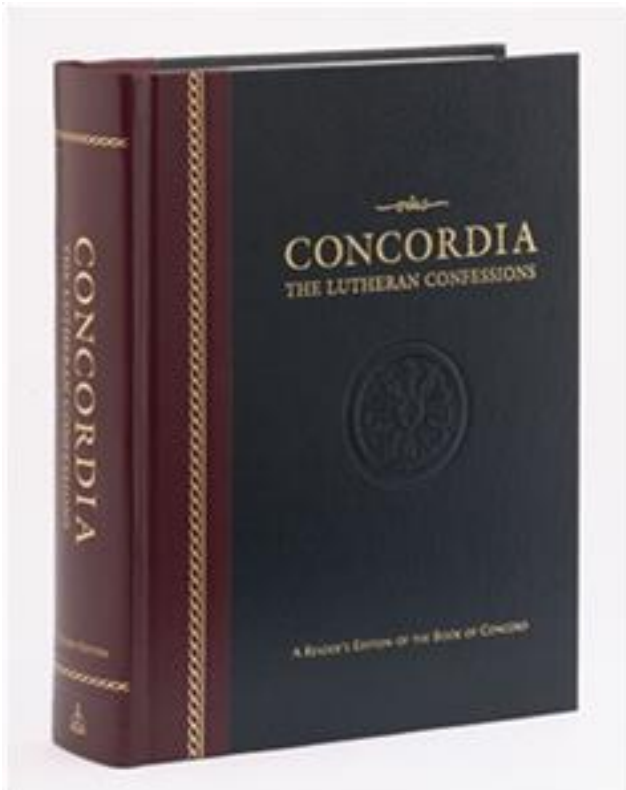
Contact Information: We would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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

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Camden Jeffries • (812) 343-1688, office • (812) 390-5980 cell • waymansvillestpeter@yahoo.com

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

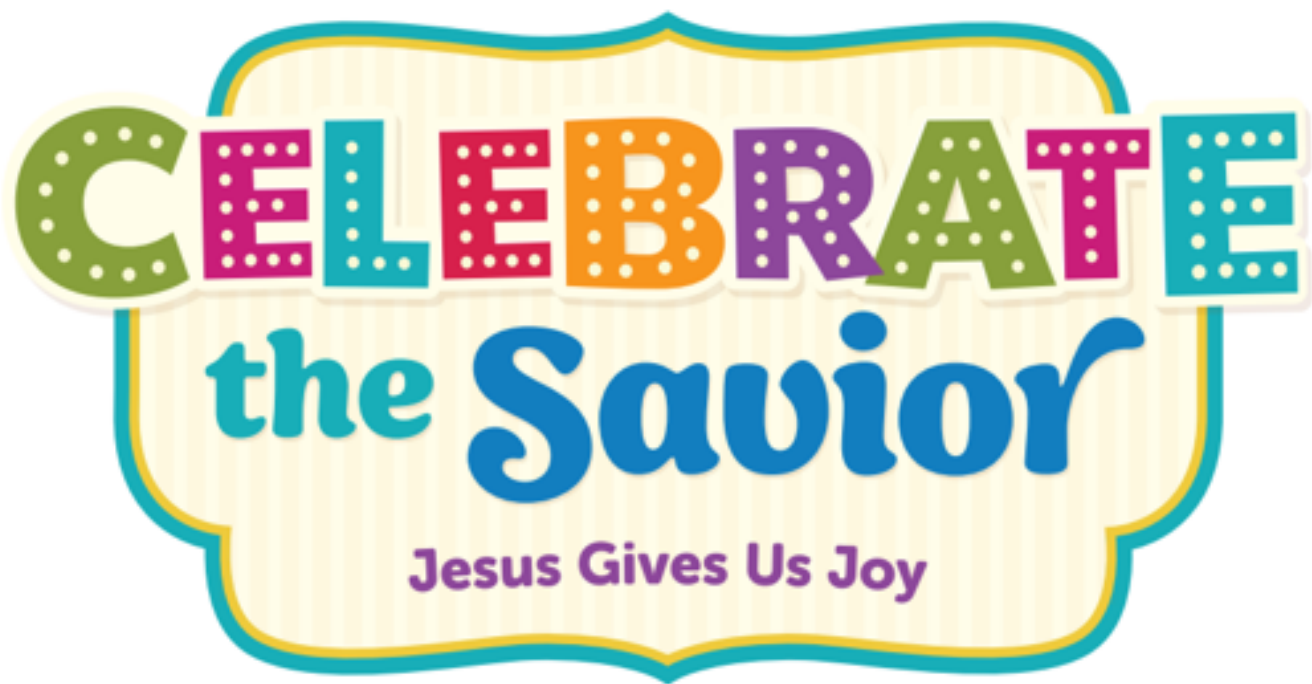


Book of Concord Corner

“Our churches teach that a person’s will has some freedom to choose civil righteousness and to do things subject to reason. It has no power, without the Holy Spirit, to work the righteousness of God, that is, spiritual righteousness. For ‘the natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God’ (1 Corinthians 2:14). This righteousness is worked in the heart when the Holy Spirit is received through the Word (Galatians 3:2-6).” (Augsburg Confession, Article XVIII, 1-3)

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

July 2024

Ushers: Bill Finke

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

7/7: Judy Strasser

7/14, 21, 28: open

Acolytes: July 7 – Noah Nye
July 21 – John Nye

July 14 – Abe Acton
July 28 – Noah Nye

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Upcoming Events:</i> 8/2: Game Night @ 6 PM</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>7 7th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 12:30 PM – Church Lunch @ Pizza Palace 2:00 PM – Lutheran Community Home Chapel</p>	8	9	10	11	12	13
Vacation Bible School – 5:00 – 8:00 PM each night						
<p>14 8th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 5 PM – Book of Concord Study</p>	15	16	17	18	19	20
			6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	8 AM – Elders meeting 7 PM – Council meeting		10 AM – Hall Baptism
<p>21 9th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Quarterly Voters’ Meeting 11:15 AM – Church Baby Shower for Hall family</p>	22	23	24	25	26	27
			6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study			
<p>28 10th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study 5 PM – Youth Group</p>	29	30	31			
			6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study			