



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

On Miracles

- Pastor Sorenson

The miracles of Jesus always have this way of captivating our attention and imagination. In the last few weeks, we've heard several of Jesus' miracles. The feeding of the 5000. Jesus walking on water. Jesus calming the sea. The resurrection of Jairus' daughter and healing the woman with the flow of blood.

One thing that comes up quite a bit with any miracle is the idea that seeing that miracle had to create faith in people. After all, how do you see a crowd of 5000 be fed with only five loaves of bread and two fish and not believe that Jesus is God? Or how can you see Jairus' daughter be raised from the dead and not confess that Jesus is Savior of the world?

And yet, many people saw these miracles happen and they didn't believe. In fact, on many occasions people like the Pharisees witness these miracles and it drives them to want to kill Jesus. They not only don't believe, but they react in great hostility to what Jesus does.

Even though this is obvious, even though God routinely in His Word shows us that miracles don't create faith, still we often fall into the trap of thinking that if only God would do more miracles today more people would believe. Likewise, we can even be tempted to base our own faith on miracles that we've witnessed in our lives.

When this temptation comes, however, remember what the purpose of these miracles are and where faith is actually created and founded.

For the purpose of miracles, both the ones in the Bible and the miracles that God still works today, are to glorify God and to bear witness to Jesus. You see this, for instance, in the healing of the paralytic when Jesus says, "But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" – he said to the paralytic – 'I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.'...they were all amazed and glorified God." (Mark 2:10-12)

Therefore, miracles may certainly inspire us to glorify God and give Him thanks and praise. They may also bear witness to who Jesus is and what He does, but they are not intended to create faith nor can they. That is to say, miracles will not turn unbelievers into believers on their own.

Rather, faith is created and founded always by the Word of God. Paul says exactly this in Romans 10:17, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Without the Word of God, there simply is no faith.

If we forget this and rest our faith, or the faith of others, on miracles, beware. For then we will be tossed back and forth from believing and unbelieving when miracles occur and when they don't. Or, to say it another way, our faith may be strong when we see a miracle, but it will quickly disappear the next time we need a miracle and it doesn't happen.

But, when we rest our faith on God's Word, when we look to His Word alone as the source of our faith, then we can appreciate miracles rightly as God intends them. We may recognize the hand of our Lord working in this sinful world to bring the fruits of salvation into our lives in the present moment and glorify Him. We may give thanks for God's miraculous works and use them to drive us back to His Word where all His miracles are pointing us.

For truly, every miracle bears witness to Jesus Christ. Because every miracle is possible only since He suffered and died on the cross, rising again on the third day, so that our sins may be forgiven and so we may have eternal life and resurrection. Thus, every miracle is really an encouragement to hear God's Word and to rejoice in Him.

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

As we concluded reading 2 Corinthians as our Epistle reading, we remember these words from 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15: "We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ²for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, ⁴begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— ⁵and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. ⁶Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. ⁷But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

⁸I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich... ¹³For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness ¹⁴your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. ¹⁵As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

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 are currently doing a study on responding in faith. Please let Pastor know if you have a suggestion for a topic to study.
- **Book of Concord Study:** 2nd Sunday of the month, August 11th, 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:

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| • Linda Nagel | • Tom & Pegi Owens | • Kevin, Michelle, & Laurie Schultz |
| • Jeremy, Mandy, Audrey, John, Noah, Emma, & Ella Nye | • Larry & Sandra Phelps | • Pastor, Michelle, Seth, Lucy, & Anna Sorenson |
| • Ben Otte | • Tom & Kathy Rebber | |
| • Jacob Otte | • Skyler Rebber | |
| | • Phil & Chris Schaefer | |

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 August Book of the Month is *Day 7: For Work, Rest, or Play* by Joel Biermann. Here is an excerpt from the book: "The inexplicable thing about the Third Commandment is that Luther seemed to move in the exact opposite direction; instead of infinitely and impossibly expanding the commandment's import, he narrowed and contracted it. He even seemed to redirect it, ignoring entirely the prohibition against work. For Luther, keeping the sabbath basically means going to church and paying attention – at least, that's the boiled-down version that came through to me in my youth. This was welcome news to a junior high boy for whom faithful Sunday church attendance was never in question; if there was a service, I was there. The Third Commandment was a virtual gimme. Just as long as I didn't allow my mind to wander into too much daydreaming during the sermon, I was golden."



Council Positions: At our October voters' meeting, we will elect new council members for the positions of Chairman, General Fund Treasurer, and Sunday School Superintendent. If you would be willing to serve in either of these roles or would like more information about them, please let a current council member know.

Circuit Meeting Hosting: We will be hosting the Columbus circuit meeting on Tuesday, August 20th. If you would like to join us for worship that day, it will be from 11:30-12:15. Also, if you would like to assist in providing breakfast and lunch for the circuit, please let Pastor know. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

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!

College Outreach and Care: As a new school year begins, we will continue our college outreach and care program for our college students. If you are going to college (or know a member who is going to college), please let Pastor Sorenson know so he can add you to the list.

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet Sunday, August 18th, 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.

VBS: Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with VBS! It was a fantastic week!

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 18th. 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. If your child will be going through classes at White Creek, please contact Pastor Sorenson as well, as he would like to have all of our catechumens together in class so they may grow with one another and so he may get to know them and they may get to know him. Thank you!

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! Our dinner theme for the night will be Italian night. 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!

Fellowship Friday @ 5: Returns on Friday, August 9th with a fish fry. Come out for a night of good food and good fellowship!

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!

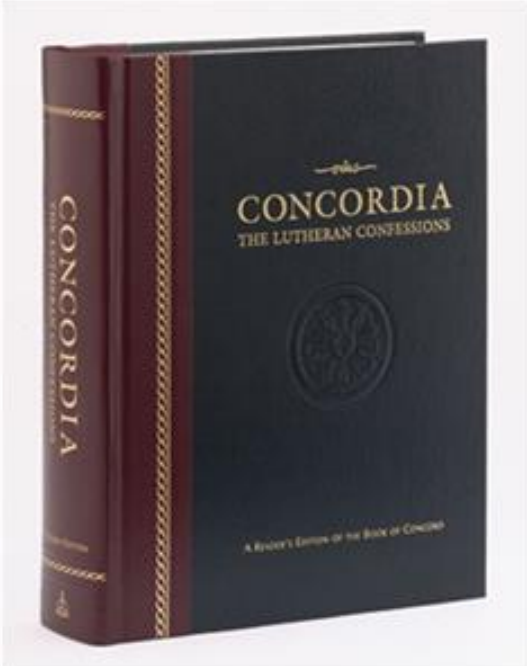
2025 Offering Envelopes: Hello everyone! I wanted to inform you that 2025 envelopes are now in your mailboxes, or sitting, in the narthex of the church. Please let me know if I did not provide you with them, and if you would like to have envelopes. Hope everyone has a great month!

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

“So far we have heard the first part of Christian doctrine. We have seen all that God wants us to do or not to do. Now there properly follows the Creed, which sets forth to us everything that we must expect and receive from God. To state it quite briefly, the Creed teaches us to know Him fully (Ephesians 3:19).” (Large Catechism, Part 2, 1)

Dear Congregation Members,

We want to start by expressing gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity towards our church. Your contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our community.

We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our new e-giving platform, Vanco. This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation.

You can give now at this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZMRA>

Or you can scan the QR code on the bottom of this page that will also lead you to our page.

Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

Thank you again for all that you do.

Blessings,

The Church Council



St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

August 2024

Ushers: Max Thomas & Joe Acree

Acolytes: **August 4** – Abe Acton
August 18 – Noah Nye

August 11 – John Nye
August 25 – Abe Acton

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

8/4, 25: Open

8/11: Judy Strasser

8/18: Lynnette May

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