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The President Does Not Save

- Pastor Sorenson

With another presidential election upon us, it's important to stop and gain some perspective. It's all too easy to be drawn into the hysteria surrounding this national event. No doubt you've heard the lines about how this is the "most important election ever" or how "this election will change everything."

The candidates, along with their supporters, cast themselves as the ones who can and will solve all of the nation's problems and maybe even the world's problems. Conversely, their opponent is the one who will destroy the nation and, perhaps, even the world. Voting for one or the other, then, is equal to voting for a savior or the devil himself, or so they make it seem.

Of course, we know there will be consequences from this election and we most certainly ought to be aware of these, both for ourselves and even more importantly for our neighbors. It's important for us to be involved in our democratic process. It's even more important for us to be involved as informed citizens who care and love for our neighbors, even those in the womb.

The temptation we must avoid, however, is believing that the candidate we are voting for will be the savior of our nation. No matter how much you may like and agree with one candidate or another, the truth is the president of the United States does not save.

God's Word speaks to this so clearly in Psalm 146. In verse 3, the psalmist writes, "Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation." Every candidate who has ever run for president and every candidate who will run for president in the future is indeed a sinner, a son of man in whom there is no salvation.

This does not disqualify anyone from running for president, nor is it meant to imply we shouldn't vote because we would be voting for a sinner. Rather, it helps give us perspective about who and what we are voting for in any election.

We are not voting for someone who we believe will save us. We are not voting for someone who we believe has never sinned and will never sin. We also do not put our full trust in any elected leader simply because we voted for them. Nor do we fear, love, and trust in the president above all things.

Instead, we recognize that, whether our preferred candidate wins or loses, the Savior of our nation is not on the ballot. This is a great joy! For no matter how good or bad things are here in this world, our salvation is not in question. Our salvation is sure and certain in the Son of Man, Jesus Christ, in whom there is salvation.

We do not elect Him, but He elects us (i.e. Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:3-6). He cast His ballot for us on the cross by taking our sins upon Himself and putting them to death once and for all. In Holy Baptism, the results of this election are shown as God, through water and the Word, marks us as ones who've inherited eternal life.

Let us not put our trust in princes, then, for there is no salvation to be found there. Let us instead put our trust in Jesus Christ alone, for in Him there is salvation. After all, the president of the United States does not save, but Jesus Christ does. And, as Psalm 146:10 reminds us, "The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!"

Stewardship Under the Cross

God's Word on How We Use His Gifts What is Stewardship?

Christian stewardship is the faithful management of our financial resources and all we have. It begins with the understanding that all we have is God's (Ps. 24:1 "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it") and that "we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world" (1Tim 6:7). Since all we have is God's, we should use it for His purposes. God's purpose for us in our lives is expressed in the various vocations, or callings, that we have. So, for example, a father and mother use their income to feed, clothe, and protect their children.

Besides the vocations that each of us have in our family life and in society, we are also all Christians and members of this parish. How do we use our income faithfully in regard to this vocation? To learn this we must look to God's Word.

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

Luke 16:13 Jesus said, "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Malachi 3:8-9 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me.

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9:6-8 But just as you excel in everything- - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving.. . .The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything.

What does this mean?

Your heart always goes where you put God's money. Stewardship is not an optional subcategory of the Christian life; it is the living out of a Christian's dependence on God. As such, faith and finances are inseparable. True joy is found not in storing up the things of this world, for the things of this world won't last. True joy is found in clinging to Christ who poured out His life for you on the cross and now gives you His Life in Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. The things of this world are temporarily given to us by God to see and we will be called to account for how we manage the Owner's things (Rom.14:10-12, 2 Cor. 5:10).

THIS NOVEMBER: Prayerfully Consider Your Giving

In this month of Thanksgiving, prayerfully consider your giving to God's work in His Church. Are you faithfully giving a first-fruits tithe (10%) of your income to the work of God? Are you, as St. Paul says, "excelling in this grace of giving"? If not, why not? In next month's newsletter we'll consider more of what God says about Stewardship – specifically more about tithing (the Biblical practice of giving a tenth of our income to God's work in the Church) – and provide steps for planning your giving for next year.

- Rev. Heath Curtis (coordinator, LCMS Stewardship ministry), *Stewardship Under the Cross*, pg. 36-37

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Greetings and the Lord's richest blessings to all members and guests of St. Peter Lutheran.

The Word given to us in Psalm 95:2, "Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise." A truly fitting verse for the month of November. Many will gather on the 28th of this month to give thanks, but, as we know what our Savior has given us is to be celebrated every day, everywhere with thankfulness.

Our continuation of Fellowship Friday @ 5 will be on 11/8/2024 with a supper of firehouse chili, hot dogs, chips, and desserts around the campfire, weather permitting. Philippians 4:4-7

As always, together let us walk with Jesus our Lord and Savior. This is truly a wonderful time of the year to shine with the love of our Lord. Colossians 2:6-7, "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Also read: Psalm 147.

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. Continuing a study on the history of Lutherans in America. Please let Pastor know if you have a suggestion for a topic to study.
- **Book of Concord Study:** 2nd Sunday of the month, November 10th, 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:

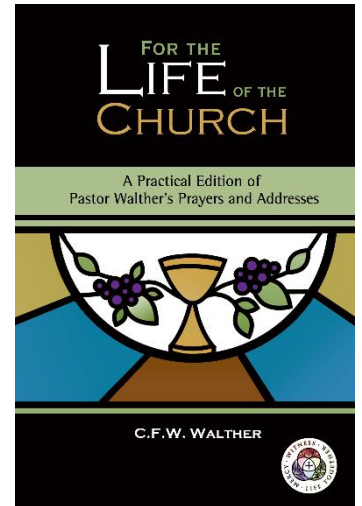
- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Doug Ahlemeyer | • Mark Burbrink | • Bill, Nikki, Amanda, & Nathan |
| • Julia Baxter | • Andrew Chapple | Finke |
| • Mike & Kathe Borgman | • Ron & Hannelore Cox | • Rick & Debbie Flohr |
| • Bekah Brown | • John & Karen Dobrinski | • Paul & Jeanine Franke |

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 November Book of the Month is *For the Life of the Church: A Practical Edition of Pastor Walther's Prayers and Addresses* by CFW Walther. Here is an excerpt from the book: "And still today it is the Lord alone who adds souls to a Christian congregation. Indeed, it is no longer the fear of bloody persecution that makes it necessary for the Lord to do so, but something even worse. To begin with, we are living in an age of almost universal falling away and unbelief. Millions who have been baptized into the name of Christ now care nothing about God, about religion, or about the Church. They regard Christianity as superstition and fanaticism or even as willful deception on the part of the clergy. In view of such a situation, who today would join a Christian congregation if it were not for the drawing power of God? In addition, even the love of Christians has grown cold, and even the wise virgins are beginning to get sleep (Matthew 25:1-12). Therefore, who today would join a Christian congregation if the Lord did not open his eyes?"



Luella's 100th Birthday: Luella Holle will soon be turning 100 years old! To honor her and her milestone birthday you are invited to an Open House celebration on Saturday, November 2nd. It will be at Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1501 Gaiser Drive, Seymour, IN from 1:00-3:00 PM. In lieu of gifts but should you feel inclined to give, Luella would be honored if you considered a donation to a charity of your choice. If you cannot attend, please help us celebrate Luella's special occasion by sending her a card. Luella will enjoy hearing from her friends and church family. Luella is now living in Assisted Living at Lutheran Community Home in Seymour. Her address is: Luella M. Holle. 1503 S. Walnut Street Apt. 506 Seymour, IN 47274

2025 Calendar Planning: What are some activities, events, long-range plans, outreach opportunities, fundraising events, etc. you would like to see here at St. Peter in 2025 and beyond? Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 14th at 6:00 PM to help plan a tentative calendar for the upcoming year and share any ideas you have. This will be a great opportunity for us to come together as a church and prepare for another fantastic year at St. Peter!

Altar Flowers: If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, there is a sign-up sheet for 2024 and 2025 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 and 2025 is also on the bulletin board.

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.



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, November 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.

National Youth Gathering: If any youth (currently 8th grade through high school senior) are interested in attending the National Youth Gathering next year (July 19-23) in New Orleans, please fill out and return the youth attendee sheet to Pastor as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the Gathering or registration, please speak to Pastor.

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, December 6th, 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!

Fellowship Friday @ 5: Join us on Friday, November 8th beginning at 5 PM for Fellowship Friday @ 5. We will have a bonfire, chili, and movies playing in the shelter house. All are welcome to come and enjoy a night of fellowship.

Fish Fry: Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Fish Fry this year!

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!

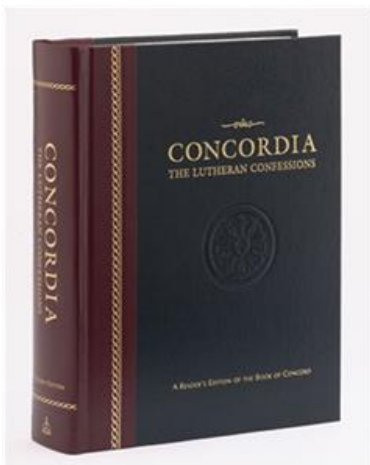
2025 Offering Envelopes: Hello everyone! I wanted to inform you that 2025 envelopes are now in your mailboxes, or sitting, in the narthex of the church. Please let me know if I did not provide you with them, and if you would like to have envelopes. Hope everyone has a great month!

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

“And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord... Let this, then, be the sum of this article: the little word *Lord* means simply the same as *redeemer*. It means the One who has brought us from Satan to God, from death to life, from sin to righteousness, and who preserves us in the same. But all the points that follow in this article serve no other purpose than to explain and express this redemption. They explain how and by whom it was accomplished. They explain how much it cost Him and what He spent and risked so that He might win us and bring us under His dominion. It explains that He became man (John 1:14), was conceived and born without sin (Hebrews 4:15), from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:35), so that He might overcome sin.” (Large Catechism, Part 2, 31)

Advent and Christmas Services

Advent is a season when the Church prepares for the coming (or advent) of Jesus Christ. This preparation is done by gathering together to hear the Word of God, repent of our sins, and receive the body and blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper.

Throughout this season, God reveals to us the three advents of Christ. First, He came in the flesh by His birth in Bethlehem. Second, He comes to us here and now in His Word and in His Sacraments. Third, He will come again on the last day to raise us from the dead.

As such, the Church uses this season to prepare for all three advents of Christ, celebrating the first, experiencing the second, and longing for the third. May this Advent and Christmas season be a blessed time of preparation for all of us here at St. Peter as we join together to delight in the Christ Child who comes to us now and will come again!

The Midweek Services – Confession

Wednesday, December 4, 7:00 PM – What Is Confession?

Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 PM – What Sins Should We Confess?

Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 PM – Office of the Keys

The Christmas Services

Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 PM – Children's Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 24, 11:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight

Wednesday, December 25, 9:00 AM – Christmas Divine Service



Join us Friday, December 6th for



When: Starting at **6:00 PM**

Friday, November 8th



Come enjoy fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ! We will have a bonfire, chili, and more.



St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

November 2024

Ushers: Joe Acree & Nathan Finke

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

11/17 & 27: Kathy Rebber 11/3, 10, & 24: open

Acolytes:

November 3 – John Nye

November 17 – Abe Acton

November 27 – Noah Nye

November 10 – Noah Nye

November 24 – John Nye

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Events: 12/1: Advent Begins 12/4: Advent Midweek & Supper 12/6: Game Night					1	2 1-3 PM – Luella’s 100 th birthday party (Zion, Seymour)
3 <i>All Saints’ Day (Observed)</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	4	5	6 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	7 6 PM – Elders meeting	8 5 PM – Fellowship Friday @ 5	9
10 <i>25th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5 PM – Book of Concord study	11	12 10 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit Meeting	13 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	14 6 PM – Calendar planning meeting 7 PM – Council meeting	15	16
17 <i>26th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5 PM – Youth Group	18	19	20 6:30 PM – Wednesday Night Bible Study	21	22	23
24 <i>Last Sunday of the Church Year</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	25	26	27 7 PM – Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service	28 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	29	30