



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

The Names of Jesus

- Pastor Sorenson

Advent and Christmas bring with them many names, and not just the ones on the presents under the tree or on the stockings on the mantle. You may notice throughout these two seasons that God Himself receives many different names. And it's true. In the hymns and the readings, God will receive more names during this time frame than in any other time of the Church Year.

It may seem like there's too much focus on names, but consider that throughout the Bible names mean so much. God is always using names to show what He is going to do for His people. The names of the prophets are a great example of this as each of their names actually reveal quite a bit about the message God gives them to carry. Ezekiel, for instance, means "God strengthens." Daniel means "God is my judge."

And so it is that the names of Jesus, likewise, reveal so much about who He is and what He has come to do. With that in mind, consider the following names that you will hear during these seasons and how they bring great joy and comfort to you.

Jesus: This name means "Yahweh (the Lord) saves." The angel even gives this meaning to Joseph when he says, "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21b). Jesus has come to save us from our greatest enemy, sin. This is His primary and greatest work.

Christ: This name means "Anointed one." This is the Greek version of the Hebrew word "Messiah" which has the same meaning. To be anointed means to be chosen by God to do a work that no one else could do. The kings were anointed to rule over the nation of Israel, for instance. Jesus, then, is the Anointed One, chosen by the Father to do what no one else could, namely, to suffer, die, and rise again for the sins of the world.

Immanuel: This name (and its other spelling "Emmanuel") means "God with us." The fact that the Child born of Mary receives this name (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23) shows that even as an infant in the womb and in the manger, Jesus is God. More than that, Jesus is God who has come in the flesh to be with us. Not over us or with us in a spiritual way only, but with us in the flesh.

There are also many other names that Jesus receives that are more easily understood, but nevertheless reveal who He is and what He has come to do. Lamb of God. Savior. King of kings. Wisdom. Key of David. Root of Jesse. Dayspring. The Word. The Alpha and the Omega.

These names, and many others which are not included here, show that Christmas is about more than just celebrating the birth of a baby. Christmas is about pondering who this baby is and what He's come to do. Christmas is about celebrating that God has come in the flesh to save us by being the sacrificial Lamb who rises again like the sun to rule forevermore as our King who holds the keys of death itself so that we may have life.

May these names of Jesus be a joy to you during this season of Advent as you prepare yourself through repentance and hearing the Word of God to celebrate the birth of Jesus. And may these names of Jesus be a comfort to you during the 12 days of Christmas as you receive the gifts that the Christ Child now brings you. Because He is your Savior. Your King. The Anointed One who is with you always to save you from sin and death. O Come, Emmanuel and ransom us, your chosen Israel, so that we may rejoice at your salvation!

Stewardship Under the Cross

Do I have to tithe?

That is an interesting question: do we have to tithe under the New Testament? After all, tithing, that is, giving 10% of our income to God's work in the Church, is a regulation of the Old Testament. We live under Christ in the New Testament so does this apply to us today?

We might approach our answer to this question by asking whether or not we have to keep the Third Commandment – which reads in full from Exodus 20:8-11

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

So do we have to keep this commandment? Should we cease from all labor on Saturday as the people of the Old Testament did? Of course not! That was one of the Old Testament prophecies of Christ – and since Christ has fulfilled the Sabbath rest by resting in the tomb on Holy Saturday, we are free from the Old Testament Sabbath regulations. Thus St. Paul writes, “Let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ” (Col. 2:16-17).

And yet, there the Third Commandment stands in our Small Catechism: Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy! What's going on here? Well, look at Luther's explanation of the third commandment: “What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but gladly hear and learn it.” So the form of the commandment, the letter of the law, has passed away as a shadow: but the spirit still remains. We are to honor God by our worship, by gladly receiving His Word and Sacraments in His Church.

So it is with tithing. The New Testament nowhere lists the precise regulations about giving this tithe and that tithe to the Levites and the Temple and so on. Those precise regulations were to point us to Christ: who represents the fullness of humanity though He is one Man, just as the tithe represented the fullness of the income of the people of Israel though it was only 10% thereof. We are in no way bound to these precise legal regulations of Old Testament Israel.

And yet, just as the fulfilling of the Sabbath Day doesn't mean that going to the Lord's House for worship once a week is obsolete – so also the New Testament does not make faithful financial stewardship obsolete. Rather, the New Testament is full of admonitions on this point: “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as each one of you may prosper .” (1 Cor.16:2); “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 .” (2 Cor. 8:7); “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 and may provide in abundance for every good work” (2 Cor. 9:6-8).

So just as the Old Testament's once a week worship became the benchmark for New Testament worship, so also the Old Testament's tithe becomes the benchmark for New Testament stewardship. Not in the way of inflexible, minute regulations – but in the way of pattern and fulfillment. If in the New Testament we are called to give proportionally (“as each one may prosper”), weekly (“on the first day”), and “generously” - then surely the Old Testament tithe is the floor level of Christian giving, not the ceiling. As our worship in the New Testament is a greater fulfillment of the Old Testament Sabbath, so also our New Testament stewardship is called to be an even greater sacrificial fulfillment of the Old Testament tithing regulations.

- Rev. Heath Curtis (coordinator, LCMS Stewardship ministry), *Stewardship Under the Cross*, pg. 38-39

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 Hebrews 10:11-25, ¹¹ "And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. ¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds," ¹⁷ then he adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." ¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. ¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

In the love of our Savior,
Elders of St Peter

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Bible Studies:

- **Sundays:** We are finishing a study on the minor prophets Sunday mornings after worship. This month we will begin to study a book of the New Testament.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** On break until after Christmas. If you have any suggestions for possible topics, please let Pastor know.
- **Book of Concord Study:** 2nd Sunday of the month, December 8th, 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:

- | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|
| • Brandon, Logan, Maggie, & Emery Hall | • Roger, Colleen, Miley, Alex, Braden, Cody, & Chase Hughes | • Chris Littiken |
| • Sue Anne Heilers | • Camden Jeffries | • Steve & Jeanne Loesch |
| • Judy, Ellie & Olivia Hoene | • Connie Johnson | • David & Donna Losey |
| • Luella Holle | • Damon Lee | |

GENERAL INFORMATION

Advent Suppers: There is a sign-up sheet on the conference room door for our Advent suppers this year. If you would like to provide a part of our meal, please see the sheet or talk to Janice Acree. Advent midweeks begin on December 6th, with supper at 6 PM and service at 7 PM.

Greening the Church: All are invited to come out on Saturday, November 30th beginning at 9 AM as we green the church in preparation for Advent and Christmas. We will be putting up all the inside and outside decorations and the Chrismons on the tree.

Poinsettias: Order forms available in the narthex. Please have your orders in by Sunday, December 15th. Thank you!

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 December Book of the Month is *The Night before Jesus* by Herbert Brokering. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Twas the night before Jesus, when all through the earth, every creature was stirring for a new baby's birth. The people were looking straight up and then down, to the left and the right, both in country and town. Some faces were watching far out in the sky, believing God's Son would be soon coming by. In Bethlehem, children were snug in their beds, with dreams of olives and figs in their heads."

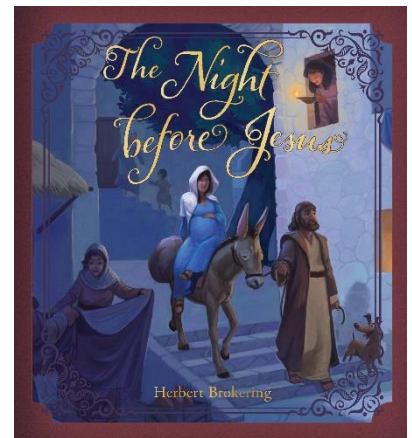
Luella's 100th Birthday: Luella Holle would like to thank everyone who made her milestone 100th birthday such a happy one. Luella and her family thank you for coming to her open house celebration and for all the birthday wishes, cards, kind notes, donations and prayers. Your kindness and love are truly appreciated.

New Council Members: We would like to thank Dan Acree (chairman) and Mike Vanderkar (general fund treasurer) for agreeing to serve on the church council beginning this upcoming year. We also thank all of our returning council members and our outgoing council members for their faithful service. The Sunday School superintendent position is still vacant. If you would like to volunteer for this position, please speak to a council member.

Elder & Auditing Committee Position: In our January quarterly voters' meeting, we will elect one man for the position of elder and one person for the auditing committee. If you would like to volunteer for either of these positions, please speak to a council member.

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!

Kenya Mission: In January, I will be joining a mission team from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Seymour, to travel to Kenya, Africa, where we plan to extend our love, support, and strengthen our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Point of Grace Academy. This school and orphanage program supports the education of over 700 orphans through a child sponsorship program, strengthens widows and extended families to care for vulnerable children and operates a Family Based Care Rescue Center for children in desperate need. We will be doing some projects to help their cause. Some of these include building mud huts for families (\$3,000 each), providing a meal for students (\$1,000-\$2,000), supplying and installing smoke detectors in the new girls' dorm, and raising funds for bunk beds and bedding for the dorm. In order to raise funds for these projects, we are doing two fundraisers in December, Cookies for Kenya and Coffee for Kenya. I have order forms in the Parish Hall and you can text me at 812-764-3034 with your orders. BOTH fundraisers will have pick-up and payment at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Dec. 14 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Just let me know what you would like and I will the orders in for you. Thank you in advance for your love, support, and prayers for this mission trip. – Kathy Rebber

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet Sunday, December 15th, 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.

Christmas Present Wrapping: The youth group is planning on doing a Christmas present wrapping fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering in December. Keep an eye on the bulletin and Facebook for more information.

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!

Cookie Exchange: We will be having a cookie exchange on Sunday, December 22nd. If you have cookies that you'd like to share, please plan on bringing two dozen. We will enjoy some cookies during fellowship and Bible study and you will also be able to take a dozen (or more!) home to enjoy in the days leading up to Christmas.

Epiphany Service: Join us for a joint Epiphany service on Monday, January 6th at 7:00 PM at St. Paul's (Jonesville). We will join with the saints from St. Paul's (Jonesville) and St. John's (White Creek) to worship our Lord and celebrate this festival day. There will also be a supper served starting at 6:00 PM.

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

Athletic Director: The WCLS Board of Education is seeking applicants for Athletic Director for next School Year. The position is being offered as three separate roles: Fall Sport Athletic Director (\$1,500 stipend); Winter Sport Athletic Director (\$1,500 stipend); and Concessions Manager (\$1,000 stipend). Alternatively, an individual may choose to apply to take on the entire role (\$5,000 stipend). Please contact Mrs. Vandercar or athleticdirector@whitcreek.org for job descriptions. Interested parties should complete this form and return it to the school office (marked to the attention of the Board of Education) by January 6. Thank you for considering how you could help. Our school's athletic program is not possible without this type of leadership!

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!

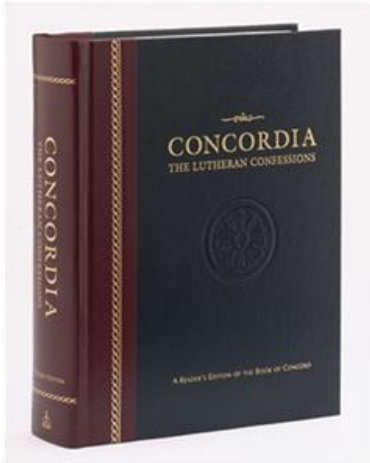
2025 Offering Envelopes: Hello everyone! I wanted to inform you that 2025 envelopes are now in your mailboxes, or sitting, in the narthex of the church. Please let me know if I did not provide you with them, and if you would like to have envelopes. Hope everyone has a great month!

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... Further, it explains that He suffered, died, and was buried so that He might make satisfaction for me and pay what I owe (1 Corinthians 15:3-4), not with silver or gold, but with His own precious blood (1 Peter 1:18-19). And He did all this in order to become my Lord. He did none of these things for Himself, nor did He have any need for redemption. After that He rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death (1 Corinthians 15:54), and finally ascended into heaven and assumed the government at the Father’s right hand (1 Peter 3:22). He did these things so that the devil and all powers must be subject to Him and lie at His feet (Hebrews 10:12-13) until finally, at the Last Day, He will completely divide and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, death, sin, and such (Matthew 25:31-46; 13:24-30, 47-50).” (Large Catechism, Part 2, 31)

Join us Friday, December 6th for



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

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



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

December 2024

Ushers: Max Thomas & Curt Acton

Acolytes: December 1 – Abe Acton

December 4 – John Nye

December 8 – Noah Nye

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

December 11 – Abe Acton

December 15 – John Nye

December 18 – Noah Nye

12/1: Judy Strasser 12/15: AJ Trimpe

December 22 – Abe Acton

December 24 (11 PM) – John Nye

12/8, 22, 25, 29, 31: open

December 25 – Noah Nye

December 29 – Abe Acton

December 31 – John Nye

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>First Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	2	3	4 6 PM – Advent Supper 7 PM – Advent Midweek service	5 6 PM – Elders meeting	6 6 PM – Game Night	7
8 <i>Second Sunday in Advent</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	9	10 9 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit meeting	11 6 PM – Advent Supper 7 PM – Advent Midweek service	12 7 PM – Council meeting	13	14
15 <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5 PM – Youth Group	16	17	18 6 PM – Advent Supper 7 PM – Advent Midweek service	19	20	21
22 <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Cookie Exchange, Pastor’s Bible Study, & Sunday School	23	24 7 PM – Children’s Christmas Program 11 PM – Lessons & Carols Candlelight Service	25 <i>Nativity of Our Lord</i> 9 AM – Christmas Divine Service	26	27	28
29 <i>First Sunday after Christmas</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School	30	31 7 PM – New Year’s Eve Diving Service		<i>Upcoming Events:</i> 1/6: Joint Epiphany Service @ Jonesville 1/10: Fellowship Friday @ 5		