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All Your Heart

- Pastor Sorenson

Doing something half-heartedly is hardly a good thing. In fact, this term is used to indicate that somebody is doing something even though they don't really want to do it. He's just going through the motions, checking the boxes, trying to do the bare minimum to meet the requirements so he can move on to what he really wants to do. I've done it and I'm sure you have too.

It's seen in all areas of life, but increasingly it's seen in the things of the Church. It's a growing problem everywhere and we certainly aren't immune to it here at St. Peter. People act half-heartedly when it comes to the things of God. Whether that be in infrequent attendance at worship, not coming to Bible studies, not volunteering to assist in various roles, smaller offerings, inconsistent devotional life at home, or whatever else.

No one is innocent in this. We all act in half-hearted ways towards the things of God, in some way or another. And, like in the many other areas of life, it can take someone pointing this out to us and calling us to do better for us to finally wake up and give it our all.

This is where the season of Lent comes in. On the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday (March 5th this year), we will hear these words from our Lord: "'Yet even now,' declares the Lord, 'return to me with all your heart.'"

With all your heart. As this season of repentance and preparation begins, God is calling us to wake up from our stupor. To recognize how we can be lulled into half-hearted practice. To shake off the desires of our sinful nature and to return to Him with all our heart.

Instead of hearing this as an attack from God, may we hear and receive this as a loving reminder and encouragement from our Lord. May we repent of our half-hearted ways and return to God who has prepared these good works for us to do in love and service to our neighbor and to His glory.

Maybe you've been worn out from years of service in the church. Maybe you've been hurt by someone. Maybe you really don't want to put in the effort to attend to the things of God in this congregation and in your home the way you should. Maybe you've fallen into the trap of thinking you can just go through the motions because it only affects you.

Whatever it may be, return to the Lord with all your heart. Come to worship every Sunday, every Wednesday, on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. Volunteer as an usher or with communion or with cleaning. Attend Bible study with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Do devotions with your family at home every day.

Yes, it will take work. Yes, it will be difficult. Yes, you will mess up and fail here and there. But do it with all your heart. Don't just go through the motions. Awaken from the sloth of sin and be active within Christ's Church. Because not only is this good for you, but it's truly a greater blessing to your brothers and sisters in Christ than you will ever realize. They miss it when you aren't here. They miss it when you aren't in Bible study. They miss it when you don't do those small acts of love and service.

May we, as the saints of God here in this place, shine as a light in this world by taking the faith so seriously that we would never approach it half-heartedly again. May we, in this Lenten season and forevermore, return to the Lord our God with all our heart, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Stewardship Under the Cross

Luther on Tithing and Stewardship

Martin Luther had much to say about being a good steward of God's gifts. Below are a series of quotations from the great Reformer about faithful, Biblical stewards.

On Vowing to Support the Church with Tithes

Thus it is said (Prov. 3:9): "Honor the Lord with your substance." This must be understood not only of words and of the worship of the mouth or genuflection but of the deed itself.... Gal. 6:6: "Let him who is taught in the Word share all good things with him who teaches." Therefore when God wants to be honored, then He wants sacrifices to be offered, not only sacrifices of the mouth but also the reverence of the heart, yes, the deed itself. He wants us to help the ministry, and He wants everyone to contribute for the purpose of supporting the studies of the pupils and of propagating the doctrine. Then God is truly praised and glorified there. Make a vow there, and say: "I promise that I am willing to contribute something for the assistance of the churches." That is St. Jacob's vow. Therefore this example should be diligently inculcated, namely, that Jacob vows tithes, not in order that God Himself may eat or be enriched; but he gives them to the poor ministers and to those who are always the least of the brethren or disciples of Christ on earth. For all other arts are gainful and have their profits. This profession alone is in need of bountiful giving. We must live from the altar, as Paul says (1 Cor. 9:13). Accordingly, he who is godly and loves the Word of God contributes something. He who hates the doctrine along with those who teach and learn it robs and despoils.

Otherwise God has so ordained that we should live from the vows, sacrifices, and alms that are owed to us by divine right. When the godly see the poverty and need of the ministers of the church and the school, they make vows and obligate themselves to give tithes, as Jacob gave them. (LW v.5)

On Tithing to Support God's Work in the Church

Therefore this text shows that Jacob did not make such a foolish and godless vow, but that it was a vow of thanksgiving. For he says: "If I come again, etc." It is as though he were saying: "I shall now obligate myself to pay a debt, and I shall make satisfactory reparation when I return. What? I shall build a school and a church here, and I shall give a tithe of bulls and goats and fruits for its establishment and upkeep, likewise a tenth part of the milk and the butter." Of course, God does not need these things. For He does not eat bread or drink wine, as He says in Ps. 50:13: "Do I eat the flesh of bulls?" What, then, are you doing? I answer that Jacob is already righteous. Accordingly, he does not make a vow to placate God by making it; but he wants to do this to give thanks, to glorify God, in order that He may conduct him and bring him back according to the promise. Who will receive these tithes? Not the angels, not the sun, not the moon. But he will perform that extraordinary and glorious work for the purpose of preserving the ministry and founding churches and schools. . . . This is how Moses should be understood when he says (Deut. 23:21): "When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not be slack to pay it." What does it mean to make a vow to God, or whom is Moses addressing when he says: "The Lord your God"? It means to give tithes to the disciples, sons, and wives of the prophets, to the poor and needy. These are the ones who are to be supported by the tithes offered to God, and through these tithes God is supported. For God says: "Whatever you give to the children of the priests and prophets through whom the doctrine is propagated you must regard as given to Me, not that I may justify you through this work, but it should be a thanksgiving and a sacrifice of praise because I have justified you and have also blessed you in temporal matters. In addition, I shall bless you even more if you give ear to, support, and cherish the poor sons of the prophets." (Luther's Works, vol. 5)

On Abraham's Stewardship

This was not the first time that Abraham gave tithes of these to the priest Melchizedek; he did so every year. Even before that victory Abraham conducted himself humbly, acknowledged Shem as a priest of the Most High, and gave him tithes, as did Lot and the other fathers who lived at that time. (LW vol. 2)... To be sure, Abraham had property; but he did not love it, since he showed that he was a manager and knew that by God's will he had been appointed a steward of his goods. (LW vol. 30).

- Rev. Heath Curtis (coordinator, LCMS Stewardship ministry), *Stewardship Under the Cross*, pg. 47-48

Elders' Corner

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

As we continue in the season of Epiphany, we remember these words from our recent Epistle reading of 1 Corinthians 15:1-11: "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed."

In the love of our Savior,
Elders of St Peter

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Bible Studies:

- **Sundays:** We will continue a study on a synopsis of the Gospels.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** We are studying faith of our fathers, as we read some writings from Church fathers throughout history. If you have any suggestions for possible topics, please let Pastor know.
- **Book of Concord Study:** 2nd Sunday of the month, March 9th, beginning at 5:00 PM. We will begin a study on the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope 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:

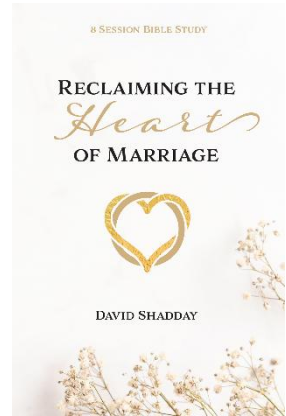
- | | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| • Greg & AJ Trimpe | • Mike & Verna Vandercar | • Mark & Yvonne Willman |
| • Phil & Margie Trimpe | • Dennis Wessel | • Sonya Wilson |
| • Paul & Kathy Trotta | • Mark, Melessa, Sydney, & Trevor Wiesehan | • Dale & Ruth Woodard |
| • Eric & Brenda Turner | | • Cheryl Yearsley |

GENERAL INFORMATION

Missions: This year we will be supporting a variety of missions. The missions we have supported include Clarity, Lakeview Ministries, Orphan Grain Train, Tiffany Smith (missionary for Lutheran Bible Translators serving in Tanzania), a seminary student, and our youth group. If you would like to submit a name of a seminary student or any other organization for consideration this year, 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 March Book of the Month is *Reclaiming the Heart of Marriage* by David A. Shadday. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Within the following lessons, you will look at marriage as a reflection of the relationship between Jesus and His Bride, the church. A husband and wife are to reflect their marital relationship in the same pattern as Jesus and the church. This will be a new viewpoint for most of you. Normally, we view relationships between men and women as the relationships we should reflect instead of the relationship between Christ and the church. In this discussion, you will see yourselves as reflecting a greater reality – the marriage covenant of salvation between Christ and the church."



Training Day: On Saturday, March 1st, beginning at 12 PM, we will meet together to brush up on usher duties, acolyting, communion assistance, and more. Come on out to learn more about each of these unique ways to serve in the church. You won't be obligated to serve if you attend, so if you've ever had interest in learning more about these roles this is the perfect opportunity. A lunch will be served too.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, there is a sign-up sheet for 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 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!

Easter Lilies: Order forms will be available in the narthex. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per lily, which you can place in the offering plate or give to Camden or Pastor. After services on Easter, you may pick up your ordered lily/lilies.

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will meet Sunday, March 16th, 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.

Golf Outing: The Youth Group will be hosting our annual Golf Outing on Saturday, April 26th at Hickory Hills Golf Course in Brownstown. If you would like to play or be a sponsor for the outing, please speak to Pastor Sorenson. Additional information can be found on the flyers on the bulletin boards.

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, April 4th, beginning at 5:00 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!

Easter Egg Hunt: The Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 19th at 10:00 AM. We will meet in the shelter house (weather permitting). Eggs will be available in the narthex to pick up and fill with individually wrapped candy beginning on March 23rd. Please have the eggs returned by April 13th. Also, be sure to invite any children or grandchildren to be part of the hunt on April 19th.

Easter Breakfast: The Youth Group will serve an Easter breakfast this year between the sunrise and Divine Service on Easter (April 20th). We will be serving breakfast from 7:15-8:40 AM.

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. Also, there are proposed changes that we will be discussing and voting on in our April voters' meeting. There are copies available in the narthex and a summary of them is included in this newsletter.

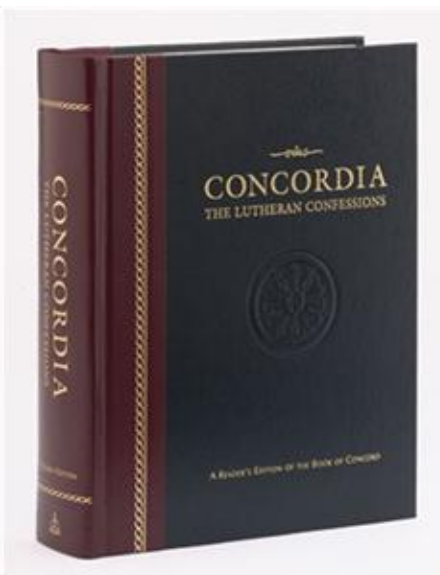
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Camden Jeffries • (812) 343-1688, office • (812) 390-5980 cell • waymansvillestpeter@yahoo.com

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

Book of Concord Corner

"I believe in the Holy Spirit... 'But how is such sanctifying done?' Answer, 'The Son receives dominion, by which He wins us, through His birth, death, resurrection, and so on. In a similar way, the Holy Spirit causes our sanctification by the following: the communion of saints or the Christian Church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. That means He leads us first into His holy congregation and places us in the bosom of the Church. Through the Church He preaches to us and brings us to Christ.' Neither you nor I could ever know anything about Christ, or believe on Him, and have Him for our Lord, unless it were offered to us and granted to our hearts by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 12:3; Galatians 4:6). The work of redemption is done and accomplished (John 19:30). Christ has acquired and gained the treasure for us by His suffering, death, resurrection, and so on (Colossians 2:3). But if the work remained concealed so that no one knew about it, then it would be useless and lost. So that this treasure might not stay buried, but be received and enjoyed, God caused the Word to go forth and be proclaimed. In the Word He has the Holy Spirit bring this treasure home and make it our own. Therefore, sanctifying is just bringing us to Christ so we receive this good, which we could not get ourselves (1 Peter 3:18)." (Large Catechism, Part 2, 37-39)



Review and Summary Worksheet

prepared by a member of the Committee on Constitutional Matters
of the Indiana District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Date prepared: April 8, 2024

Reviewer's name: Rev. Samuel Wirgau

Reviewer's email and phone: samuel.wirgau@gmail.com 260-273-7595

Congregation's name and location: St. Peter Waymansville (Columbus) IN

Edits suggested by reviewer:

Article VI – Signing the Constitution

Revisions suggested by reviewer:

Article XV-Amending the Constitution

- A. Alteration or repeal of any ~~alterable or repealable~~ articles or sections of this constitution and its bylaws . . .
- B. **Any dispute on** Article III of this constitution and such other articles or sections as pertain to Scriptural doctrine and practice shall be ~~unalterable and irrepealable~~ **brought to the LCMS Indiana District or directly to the LCMS office for resolution.**
- C. **All revisions shall be submitted to the president of the district for review by the district's constitution committee and favorable action by the district's board of directors prior to final adoption by the congregation by a two-thirds affirmative vote.**

Additions and subtractions by the congregation:

Correction of scriptural citation in Preamble from 1 Corinthians 14:40 to 1 Corinthians 1:10

Article V-Communicant Membership – subtraction of “in a divine service and” in both the reception and termination of communicant membership leaving the announcement only in the Voters' Assembly.

Article VIII-Authority of the Congregation

The Word of God and the symbols of the Church shall have supreme authority and the Voters' Assembly as a body shall have ~~supreme~~ authority and power . . .

Reviewer's recommendations:

[Recommendations for B.O.D.]

Lent and Holy Week Services

Lent is a special 40-day season during which the Church reflects on her sin and on her need for a Savior. It is a time for us to turn our focus away from the things of this world and toward Christ, our dear Lord. As such, it is most appropriate for the Church to gather together more often during this season as we wait with anticipation for the joy of Easter. It is my prayer that all of us here at St. Peter would join together during this special season as we repent of our sin and look for the death and resurrection of Christ.

The Start of Lent

Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 PM – Ash Wednesday

The Midweek Services – The Sacrament of the Altar

Wednesday, March 12 7:00 PM – What is it?

Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 PM – What is the benefit?

Wednesday, March 26, 7:00 PM – How can it do great things?

Wednesday, April 2, 7:00 PM – Who receives it worthily?

Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 PM – Why do you wish to go?

The Start of Holy Week

Sunday, April 13, 9:00 AM – Palm Sunday and Confirmation

The Triduum

Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM – Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 18, 7:00 PM – Good Friday

Saturday, April 19, 8:00 PM – Easter Vigil

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 20, 6:30 AM – Easter Sunrise

Sunday, April 20, 9:00 AM – Easter Divine Service



St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

March 2025

Ushers: open

Acolytes:

March 2 – John Nye
March 9 – Abe Acton
March 16 – Noah Nye
March 23 – John Nye
March 30 – Abe Acton

March 5 – Noah Nye
March 12 – John Nye
March 19 – Abe Acton
March 26 – Noah Nye

Communion Set-up & Clean-up:

3/2: AJ Trimpe 3/5, 16, 23: Kathy Rebber 3/9, 30: Judy Strasser

Parish Hall Cleaning: Nye family

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Upcoming Events:</i> 4/13: Palm Sunday 4/17-19: Holy Week Services 4/20: Easter						1 12 PM – Training Day
2 <i>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	3	4	5 7 PM – Ash Wednesday Divine Service	6 6 PM – Elders meeting	7	8
9 <i>First Sunday in Lent</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	10	11 9 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit meeting	12 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	13 7 PM – Council meeting	14	15
16 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study, & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5 PM – Youth Group	17	18	19 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	20	21	22
23 <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	24	25	26 6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	27	28	29
30 <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i> 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Pastor’s Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	31					