# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter April 2025



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**Church Council** 

Dan Acree, Chairman Barb Minor, Financial Secretary Camden Jeffries, Synodical Treasurer Mike Vandercar, Gen. Fund Treasurer Michelle Schultz, Dir. of Christian Ed. Logan Hall, Recording Secretary Curt Acton, Practical Services

#### Be Uncomfortable

- Pastor Sorenson

For years I've encouraged the congregation to come to Holy Week services (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil). Yet, many people stay away from these services. The pews are never as full as they are for Easter morning or Christmas or even just a regular Sunday throughout the year. Why?

It really comes down to one thing. It's uncomfortable. The services during this most holy week of the year are different. They look different. They sound different. The flow and rhythm of them are different. Just about everything changes and people don't like change.

It's also an uncomfortable time to try to make work. Who can work all day and then even think about coming to church 5 out of 8 days, including 4 days in a row? Not to mention, the services of the Triduum (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) are all at night. It's hard to make that kind of commitment, especially when you already know how the story goes.

The season doesn't help either. The weather is starting to get nicer. You've been cooped up all winter and you can finally get outside and do all of the work and chores and play you've been wanting to do for so long. How can you give up what's bound to be a few nice evenings outside by sitting inside a church building?

But perhaps most uncomfortably of all, these services make you face very serious issues. These services aren't like cotton candy where they're sweet on the lips for a moment but have no substance to them. Rather, these services are rich and dense. These services pull no punches. These services make you face your sin and the sin of the world. Your mortality and lifelong suffering because of these sins. The brutality that's been perpetuated against your Lord and Savior, as He was beaten, mocked, and killed.

Those things are only the tip of the iceberg too. Because within this Holy Week and each of the services, the entirety of the history of salvation is delivered to you. Everything from creation and the fall into sin to the sufferings and trials of God's people to the Passion of Jesus Christ and His glorious resurrection on the third day.

But that's the point. That's why these services deserve your full attention and commitment. That's why this week is one you should make every effort, every sacrifice possible to be sure that you are in attendance. Because throughout Holy Week, God is coming to walk with you through the entire history of your salvation. He holds nothing back because He wants you to know how sure and certain your salvation is. And so, in these services, God not only gives you the story, but He actually delivers to you the gifts that He's won by His perfect life, His holy death, and His victorious resurrection.

Yes, it will be uncomfortable. Yes, it's difficult and demanding. But yes, it's also incredibly important. It's also incredibly rewarding for you. Your faith will be built up and strengthened as you spend the week absorbed by the Word of God, which brings to you the forgiveness, life, and salvation that Christ has won for you.

And your fellow Christians will be encouraged by your presence. The body of Christ will be strengthened as you hear the Word of God together. As you sing the faith together. As you receive the gifts of God together. As you join together as one, even though it's uncomfortable at times.

So, this year, as Holy Week approaches, consider all of this. Consider what's happening during this week and why the Church has always cherished these services. And join your brothers and sisters in Christ by being uncomfortable. For in this discomfort, your Lord is working to give you the comfort and the hope and the joy that's yours in Christ, your Savior.

# **Stewardship Under the Cross**

Putting It All Together

Over the past several months we have set out as a congregation to learn what God's Word has to say about stewardship. One thing we learned is that faithful stewardship is a lifestyle. So here is a review of God's Word for you to study with the year ahead in mind. No matter where you are at in your stewardship – tithing, going beyond a tithe, or still considering the concept of tithing – let this study lead you to think about pray about stewardship based on the Word.

Your heart will always go where you put God's money. Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also and as we sing each Sunday morning at the Offering: We give Thee but Thine own. God is the ultimate giver of our incomes: all these gifts come from Him. To acknowledge this gift and our dependence on the Lord, God calls us to give a portion of our income back to Him for the maintenance of His Church. Indeed, the Scriptures are very clear: God calls His people to give at least a tithe of their income (10% of whatever "comes in") back to Him at their place of worship.

This calls for faith. Do we trust God's Word? Do we trust that what He says is for our benefit, not our harm? **If you have never tithed before, it can be a scary proposition.** *Give 10% of my income away!? You've got to be kidding.* But God doesn't ever kid us in His Word. Instead, He tells us how to live holy and blessed lives full of peace and contentment. Consider these Scriptures:

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 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 (Matthew 6:19-21).

"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. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it " (Malachi 3:8-10).

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 Corinthians 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 Corinthians 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).

We do not make God poor when we fail to give money to Him properly, but we do make ourselves poor if we do not give according to the standards He sets for us in His Word, the Bible. God does not need our money, but we need to give the way the Bible tells us to in order to overcome the negative influence money and the things of this world can have on us.

God will never tell us to do something that will be to our harm – He loves us too much for that. Jesus gave His life on the cross for me. He loves me and knows what is best for me – so I can know that what He says about stewardship is meant for my benefit. He wants my heart to be with Him – and my heart will always follow where I put God's money. **Tithing is not easy: it is godly. It will change your life.** Stepping out in faith always does. You may have to change your lifestyle to accommodate following God's Word in this matter. But tithing will change your life in other ways too: it will give you a peace and contentment that can only come from actually putting yourself in the hands of the Lord.

So read through those Scriptures again. Pray through the following questions and step out in faith this year with giving that is in accord with God's Word. And just see if you are not blessed in it.

The Lord loves me and gave Himself for me on the cross. Y N

All that I have comes from the Lord. Y N

The Lord blessed me to live in the richest land in the world. Y N

If I had to start living on 90% of my current income tomorrow, I or someone in my family would starve. Y N

I / We have been making first-fruit, regular, proportionate and generous (at least 10%, a tithe) money offerings to the Lord from the heart. Y N

If "Yes", the Lord gets all the glory for that. Y N

If "No", the Lord wants me to change the way I make money offerings to him. Y N

If the Lord wants me to change, I should change now, not later. Y N

It is the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ that changes me for the better.

- Rev. Heath Curtis (coordinator, LCMS Stewardship ministry), Stewardship Under the Cross, pg. 49-51

#### **Elders' Corner**

(A monthly feature from the Board of Elders)

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

As we finish the season of Lent and come to Holy Week and Easter, we remember these words from our recent Epistle reading of 2 Corinthians 5:16-21: "16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling [c] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

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: On break until May. If you have any suggestions for possible topics, please let
- Book of Concord Study: Usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, beginning at 5:00 PM, but on break this month due to Holy Week and Easter. Next month, we will continue 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:

- Dan, Janice, Joe, Trevor, & Abigail Acree
- Curt, Jenni, Rayleigh, & Abe Acton •
- Allen & Beverly Acton
- Don Acton
- Doug Ahlemeyer
- Conner Axsom
- Julia Baxter

- Mike & Kathe Borgman
- Bekah Brown
- Mark Burbrink
- **Andrew Chapple**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Confirmation: Congratulations and God's blessings to our confirmand this year: Bella May! Please keep her in your prayers and share an encouraging word with her as she comes to this exciting time.

**Quarterly Voters' Meeting**: We will have our quarterly voters' meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> following the worship service.

Church Cleaning/Work Day: Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 12th for a cleaning/work day in preparation for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Many hands make light work!

**Easter Lilies:** Order forms are 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.

**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 April Book of the Month is *Life Under the Cross: A Biography of the Reformer Matthias Flacius Illyricus* by Wade Johnston. Here is an excerpt from the book: "Matthias Flacius Illyricus is one of the most significant and polarizing figures in Protestant history. There is no way around him. Exegetes, historians, and systematic theologians have been shaped by him, whether they realize it or not. Protestant conceptions of the relationship between church and state, including our own in the United States, have been influenced by Flacius and his comrades and supporters. The fields of hermeneutics and church history – whether Protestant or Roman Catholic – have him as a father. He is one of the single most productive and profound theologians Germany has ever produced, and he was a Croatian. He is perhaps one of the most important scholars that scholars simply do not write about."

**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!

#### **YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES**

**Youth Group:** The youth group may meet Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 5 PM for our youth night, keep an eye out for further announcements. 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

UNDER

**Golf Outing Donations**: The Youth Group is asking for donations of food items for lunch at the golf outing. If you would like to donate, please see the sign-up sheet on the conference room door. Thank you for your support towards our youth!

#### **EVENTS**

**Game Night:** Game Night will be on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5:00 PM. All ages are welcome and bring a friend too! Our dinner theme for the night will be your favorite international food (or whatever you'd like to bring). 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please have the eggs returned by April 13<sup>th</sup>. Also, be sure to invite any children or grandchildren to be part of the hunt on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Easter Breakfast:** The Youth Group will serve an Easter breakfast this year between the sunrise and Divine Service on Easter (April 20<sup>th</sup>). 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. <a href="https://www.lutheransgo.org/donations/index.php">https://www.lutheransgo.org/donations/index.php</a> Have questions or want to learn more? Contact Erin Brooks at 812-524-8547 or ebrooks@trinitycougars.org

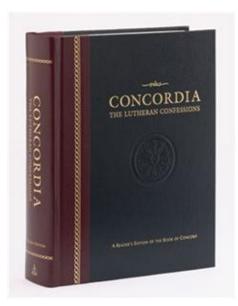
#### FROM THE OFFICE

**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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#### **Book of Concord Corner**

"I believe in the Holy Spirit... We further believe that in this Christian Church we have forgiveness of sin, which is wrought through the holy Sacraments and Absolution (Matthew 26:28; Mark 1:4; John 20:23) and through all kinds of comforting promises from the entire Gospel. Therefore, whatever ought to be preached about the Sacraments belongs here. In short, the whole Gospel and all the offices of Christianity belong here, which also must be preached and taught without ceasing. God's grace is secured through Christ (John 1:17), and sanctification is wrought by the Holy Spirit through God's Word in the unity of the Christian Church. Yet because of our flesh, which we bear about with us, we are never without sin (Romans 7:23-24)." (Large Catechism, Part 2, 54)

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**

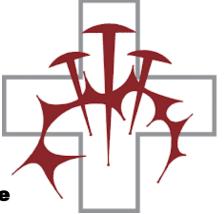
Thursday, April 17, 7:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Friday, April 18, 7:00 PM - Good Friday

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



# Easter Egg Hunt

# Saturday, April 19

At St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waymansville



Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 AM All are welcome and invite a friend too!

# Annual Waymansville Open Golf Scramble



**Prizes for:** 

**Closest to the Pin** 

**Longest Drive** 

Winning Team Members

Yardsticks and marshmallows will also be available! (\$5 each)

Saturday, April 26th, 2025

Hickory Hills Golf Course 1509 SR 135 Brownstown, IN 47220 (812) 358-4529

8:00 AM - Registration 9:00 AM - Shotgun Start

\$50/player
4 players per team
Includes: 18 holes, cart,
food, drinks, prizes

Proceeds benefit the missions of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waymansville Youth Group

To register your team, sponsor a hole for \$50, or for more information, contact Pastor Erik Sorenson at (812) 371-1151 or pastoresorenson@gmail.com

# St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Calendar

### **April 2025**

Ushers: open Acolytes: April 2 – John Nye April 6 – Noah Nye

**April 9** – Abe Acton **April 13** – John Nye **Communion Set-up & Clean-up: April 17** – Noah Nye **April 18** – Abe Acton

4/6: AJ Trimpe 4/13, 20 (6:30 AM): Judy Strasser April 19 – John Nye April 20 (6:30 AM) – Noah Nye 4/17, 20 (9 AM): Lynnette May April 20 (9 AM) – Abe Acton April 27 – John Nye

Parish Hall Cleaning: open

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Events: 5/18: End of Sunday School party		1	2	3	4	5
			6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service (with men's chorus)	6 PM – Elders meeting	6 PM – Game Night	
6 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:00 AM – Divine Service	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis			6 PM – Lenten Supper 7 PM – Lent Midweek Service	7 PM – Council meeting		10 AM – Clean-up day
13 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday 9:00 AM – Divine Service (with Confirmation) 10:15 AM – Confirmation Reception	14	15	16	17	18	19
	HOLY WEEK					
				7 PM - Holy (Maundy) Thursday Divine Service	7 PM – Good Friday Service	10 AM – Easter Egg Hunt 8 PM – Easter Vigil
20 The Resurrection of Our Lord 6:30 AM – Easter Sunrise 7:15-8:40 AM – Easter Breakfast 9:00 AM – Easter Divine Service	21	22	23	9 AM-2 PM – Pastor @ Circuit meeting	25	26  8 AM – Waymansville Open Golf Scramble
27 Second Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM – Divine Service 10:15 AM – Quarterly Voters' Meeting & Sunday School (Bible study to follow as time allows) 5:00 PM – Youth Group?	28	29	30			