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Newsletter of St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church (LC-MS)

## Certainty in Uncertain Times

### St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)

[www.stpetersindy.org](http://www.stpetersindy.org)

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### Portals of Prayers

October - December Portals of Prayers are available around the church.

### 2020 Flower Chart

The 2020 flower chart is located in the Narthex near the front door. Flowers may be purchased for \$15/arrangement, 2 arrangements/Sunday.



Who will be POTUS in 2021? When will COVID end? Will my family be safe? These and a host of similar questions race through our minds daily. Constantly. Incessantly. As citizens of this country and the world we are anxious for answers. For a future and a hope that things in our lives and in the world will improve. These are not unimportant questions. Be careful, my friends, that such thoughts and anxieties do not consume you. For *you have been raised with Christ* and are to *seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory* (Col 3:1-4).

Christ's resurrection and ascension are the guarantee of your resurrection and eternal life. They are also the ground and certainty of your daily bread. *He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things* (Rm 8:32)? Beloved, you are God's children now. What you will be has not yet appeared. But when Christ appears, you shall be like Him (1 Jn 3:2).

Jesus says, *It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority* (Acts 1:7). You may not know what tomorrow will hold, but you do know what the future holds. You, dear Christian, are a prophet. Yes, you! For you have *stood in the Lord's council*. That is, you hear and believe His Word and catechesis. You *proclaim His words to His people* (Jer 23:22). That is you tell of His wondrous deeds for the children of man (Ps 26:7). You do this every Sunday when you confess the Christian faith using the words of the Nicene Creed, saying, "And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end." You prophecy the future every day when you confess using the words of the Apostles' Creed, "From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead."

This is the ultimate, dear Christians. This is the Last Day. When the heavens will pass away with a roar and the sun, moon and stars will be dissolved by fire (2 Pt 3:7) and the skies will be rolled like a scroll (Is 34:4). It will be terrifying and astounding, people will wail and faint with fear (Lk 21:26). *But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that Day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day* (1 Thess 5:4-5). For you who are in Christ that Day is joy (Mal 4:2); for your Redemption draws near (Lk 21:28). As Christians we yearn for the resurrection of the body and life eternal in the new heavens and new earth - the time when we will be "perfectly pure and holy people . . . free from sin, death, and all evil, in new, immortal, and glorified bodies" (LC II 58).

## Church Council

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## Board of Elders

Phil Deuser - Head Elder  
 Dave Kroger  
 Matt Frick  
 John Mierow  
 Mark Saetre  
 Chuck Wendel

## Fellowship Committee

Pam Mierow  
 Donna Wendel  
 Cynthia Kroger  
 Annette Saetre

And because you know, believe, and confess this ultimate, the Last Day, the penultimate, the here and now, is not so deadly serious. You are able to receive your daily bread - which includes devout and faithful rulers, good government, peace, health, self-control, good friends, and faithful neighbors (SC III) - with thanksgiving. Indeed, knowing, believing and confessing that *Christ Jesus is the One who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us* (Rm 8:34) we can receive from God both good as well as bad (Job 2:10). For *who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us* (Rm 8:35, 37). Given all these things, perhaps our Lord is teaching us, disciplining us, through these various trials and sufferings. *It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it* (Heb 12:7, 11).

Yes, dear Christians, we are instructed to live like lilies. To not be anxious about our lives or the lives of those near and dear to us. And to *seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness* (Mt 6:25-33). Hold fast His Word. Continue to attend the Divine Service to receive the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation in the Lord's Preaching and the Lord's Supper. Be gathered by the Holy Spirit (SC II) with the whole Christian Church for the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren. Pray, praise and give thanks. *Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself* (Mt 6:34). *The Lord is at hand. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus* (Phil 4:5, 7).

Your unworthy servant,  
 Pr Mierow  
*Last Sunday of the Church Year*

## Catechesis

**Children's Catechesis meets** on Wednesday evenings at 6p in the church basement. Whether your children have participated in catechesis in the past, are preparing for the Rite of Confirmation or First Communion Prior to Confirmation, or if you believe your child is ready to begin catechesis, please plan on attending. This year we are studying the major narratives of the OT. If you have questions please talk with Pastor.

**New Member Catechesis meets** on Sundays at 1p in the conference room. Those desiring communicant membership at St Peter's or those who would benefit from a refresher in the Small Catechism are invited to attend.

## Choir

**Sing to the Lord and bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day** (Ps 96:2)  
 The newly relaunched St Peter's Choir practices on Thursday evenings at 6p in the sanctuary. They are rehearsing for Advent and Christmas. If you are interested in joining, please talk with Lee Amstutz.

## 125th Anniversary

St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church will, by God's grace, celebrate 125 years of proclaiming Christ and Him crucified with a special Divine Service on April 26, 2021. If you are willing to serve on a committee to organize and plan a celebration for this milestone anniversary please talk with Phil Deuser.



## Advent Suppers

Wednesday Advent Dinners will not be available this year prior to the midweek Divine Services.

## Poinsettias

Look for a bulletin insert to donate



## 2020-21 Advent and Christmas Service

Su	29	Nov	Ad Te Levavi - First Sunday in Advent Divine Service	9a
W	2	Dec	Midweek Advent I Divine Service - St. Andrew	7p
Su	6	Dec	Populous Zion - Second Sunday in Advent Divine Service	9a
W	9	Dec	Midweek Advent II Divine Service	7p
Su	13	Dec	Gaudete - Third Sunday in Advent Divine Service	9a
W	16	Dec	Midweek Advent III Divine Service	7p
Su	20	Dec	Rorate Coeli - Fourth Sunday in Advent Divine Service Christmas Brunch/Decorate Church	9a 1045a
W	23	Dec	Midweek Advent IIII Divine Service - St Thomas	7p
Th	24	Dec	Eve of the Nativity Divine Service	7p
F	25	Dec	The Nativity of our Lord Divine Service	10a
S	27	Dec	First Sunday after Christmas Divine Service	9a
Th	31	Dec	Circumcision and Name of Jesus Divine Service	7p
Su	3	Jan	Second Sunday after Christmas Divine Service	9a
W	6	Jan	The Epiphany of our Lord Divine Service	7p

## Voters meeting

A Voters' Meeting was held on Sunday November 8th. The following items were on the agenda.

Voting on updates to Council Positions:

Co Financial Secretary Lee Amstutz and Hannah Marquardt

Vice President David Bernath

District Convention:

Voting Nominations for District Offices.

President (2)

Regional Vice President (2)

Lay Delegate Matt Lee

Alternate Lay Delegate Phil Deuser

Voting on 2021 budget approved

Voting on reredos Crucifix details:

Wood, Size of Corpus 36 inches

Color of wood for cross, dark to coordinate with Rafters and floor.

Hope to have installed for 125th anniversary

Discussion of New Location for current Reredos Cross

Additional Building projects

- a. Repair parking lot
- b. Paint Sanctuary
- c. Replace Sanctuary carpet/refinish floors
- d. Replace rear entrance hallway/stair carpet
- e. Remodel Church Offices

## A Bishop's Prayer

The following was written by Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin of the [Siberian Lutheran Mission Society](#) during a time of growing coronavirus infections. The references are from the Holy Bible as well as the Apocrypha.

Oh Lord Jesus Christ,

You went throughout every town and village (Luke 8:1),

healing every kind of disease

and every kind of sickness among the people (Matthew 4:23),

and all saw the miracles which You did on them that were diseased (John 6: 2).

Make haste, we cry to You, to help us (Psalm 37:22),

for the disease was severe in our land (Genesis 12:10).

Save the world from unbelief and the proud times,

that all the earth may be refreshed and may hope

for the judgment and mercy of Him Who made her (4 Esdras 11:44, 46).

Give the sick ease and remedy to prolong life (Wisdom of Sirach 38:14),

may they obtain Your help and recover (Isaiah 38:9),

may all who wait for the Lord gain new strength (Isaiah 40:31).

Remember in Your Kingdom (Luke 23:42)

the departed from this world.

For You, oh Lord, is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25),

may all who believe in You (John 14:1) inherit eternal life.

Manifest to those who cry for the dead,

the love which surpasses knowledge (Ephesians 3:19),

and protect us from disaster and despair,

so that all might have hope through perseverance

and the encouragement of the Scriptures (Romans 15:4).

Offer Your help to doctors and nurses, to searchers (Baruch 3:23)

and scientists, for from You cometh healing,

let Your peace come over all the earth (Wisdom of Sirach 38:2, 8).

Abide with those who govern the world (Wisdom of Solomon 13:2)

and fill with wisdom those who have power over nations,

to have watching care for (Wisdom of Sirach 31:2) the wellbeing of citizens, which are called upon to serve.

Do not leave us when we are in our homes

and on the streets (3 Maccabees 1:17),

on journeys and in dangers (2 Corinthians 11:26),

compassed by many with the sorrows of death (Psalm 116:3).

Stay with us (Luke 24:29), oh Lord Jesus, our Healer (Exodus 15:26),

and we will find rest for our souls (Matthew 11:29),

for You live and reign forever and ever. Amen.