

# St. Peter's Lutheran Church



## Important Updates

As we launched into a new work week this past Monday, we looked at each other and asked, "Well, what wheels shall we reinvent today?" In the last two weeks, it feels a little like we have had to reinvent "church." Many of you are also reinventing "home" as it becomes a workplace or "family" as you adjust to increased time together. It's been a little overwhelming at times, but one thing never changes. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. He has us all wrapped in His loving arms, and He will guide us through this unique and challenging time.

One other thing has also remained the same: the love and support of our St. Peter's family. "Church" isn't a building or the programs and events we run. "Church" is all of you, in community together, worshiping and serving our Lord and Savior. On behalf of the pastors, leaders, and staff of this ministry, I thank you all for your prayers, your grace, and your love as we continue to find the best way to minister to one another.

**Please note some additional adjustments  
we have had to make this week:**

**Church and school offices are closed until further notice.**

Your staff are, however, continuing to work from home.

We are checking voicemails daily and have access to our email if you need anything.

**The buildings are also closed during this time.**

The key card system has been deactivated until we are able to reopen.

**The church calendar has also been locked for the time being.**

We are going to have many things to reschedule in the coming months, and we need to do this with care. If you have something you would like to schedule, please email the information to [Michelle Leahy](#).

**A special page on our website ([www.stpetersfw.org](http://www.stpetersfw.org)) has been created**

with all the latest information concerning life and ministry during the pandemic. Please check this page often for updates. [Click here to access that page.](#)



## Worship

Worship will continue online until further notice. We are so blessed to have this opportunity to gather virtually to worship our faithful God and to be fed by His comforting Word. It was so uplifting to chat with so many of you during the live stream this past weekend.

**Midweek:**

Our final Wednesday Lenten service will be posted to our Facebook page on April 1 at noon.

**Weekend:**

We will live stream our Saturday 5:00 and Sunday 10:30 services on our Facebook page.

[Click here for links to all our worship opportunities.](#)

Special thanks to Pastor Don Nord who had the vision so many years ago for recording and sharing our worship services. Because of his vision and leadership, we already had the equipment and expertise in place to move to online worship. Special thanks also to our Technology Team that has been putting in extra hours making all this possible.

Church Facebook Page

## Tithes & Offerings

Thank you for your continued faithful giving to this ministry. Last week, we reviewed the variety of ways you can give from home. To view this list (along with complete instructions), [click here](#).

**You can still mail your offering envelopes to the church office.**

We have someone checking the mail daily.  
7710 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46815

**You can also text in a donation.**

It's easy to do. Simply text the amount you wish to contribute to 888-397-0456. The first time you do this, you will receive a link to register your payment information. After the registration is complete, you will receive a text to confirm your contribution. After this, you can contribute at any time by sending the amount to that same number.

[Click here for instructions.](#)

# From Your Board of Directors

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I hope this message finds you well and in good health. These are certainly strange and difficult times. The current COVID-19 pandemic has caused our nation to change how we live and operate on a daily basis. It has also affected things at St. Peter's ministry. We have had to make many adjustments, even beyond cancelling worship and school. As Chair of the Board of Directors, I have some additional information that I would like to share with all members.

First, the ministry created a task force to oversee the day-to-day operations of the ministry. This team includes both Pastors, the Parish Administrator, the Principal, the Pre-School Director, 2 representatives from the Board of Elders, the Chair of the Board of Directors, and various other staff members within the ministry. This team has been responsible for making decisions about changes to school and worship attendance, as well as managing the various government directives from the state. The Board of Directors fully supports this team. They have the authority to make decisions within the bounds of the constitution and by-laws and the governing policies of the ministry. The BOD is also still meeting. Using technology, we will still hold our monthly meetings until life returns to normal.

There have also been questions about the cancelled voter's meetings. These meetings were to vote on extending calls for our two teacher openings at the day school. At this time, we are unable to hold those meetings. Members have contacted the church, school, and members of the BOD with suggestions as to how we might hold these meetings. While the BOD appreciates all the input, we did not feel that the constitution and by-laws allowed us to change how we hold a Voter's Meeting. Therefore, a recommendation was made to offer a contract to these teachers until such a time that the congregation can hold an appropriate Voter's Meeting and vote to extend calls to these individuals. The constitution and by-laws enables the Principal, with a recommendation from the School Board, to offer a contract to a teaching candidate. This was the best way to move the process forward without violating the constitution and by-laws. There are several reasons why the ministry made this decision. First, we wanted to show both the candidates and their congregations the proper respect. This enables the teachers to make a decision about where they will be teaching next year. It also allows the congregations to begin their own search for replacements, if the teachers accept the position. This also helps our school because our Principal will be able to solidify his teaching staff for next year before the school year officially ends. It is extremely important for Mr. Brune in terms of planning for next year. The Indiana Superintendent of Lutheran Schools, Dr. Kevin Brockberg, was also in favor of our decision.

I know that there are probably many questions about the aforementioned information. When we are able to hold a Voter's Meeting, I will answer all questions and concerns. Unfortunately, the current situation has made it very difficult for the ministry to operate in an efficient manner. In the meantime, I ask that you all continue to pray for the ministry as well as the nation during this unprecedented time. Please stay safe and stay healthy.

In His Service,

Ben Hartman  
Chair, Board of Directors  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



## Devotions

Isolation isn't anything new. There are many accounts in the Bible of times when God's people have faced isolation: Jacob and his escape to safety; Joseph separated from his family in Egypt; David on the run from King Saul; and Jesus during His 40 days in the wilderness. Today, Jonah comes to mind and his 3 days and nights in the belly of a big fish. Now that is social distancing! Jonah couldn't do anything in that belly but turn to God, and he did. He prayed, "I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered me...When my life was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple..." (Jonah 2:1b, 7)

While we aren't as isolated as Jonah, we do have the perfect opportunity before us to draw nearer to the Lord. The Coronavirus has cleared most of our schedules, so we can't use lack of time as an excuse. Now is the perfect time to explore new spiritual practices that strengthen your faith. Below are some of the devotions we have collected that you could use for either personal and/or family devotional times each day. Try them out, and see what works best for you. (Soon we will have resources for you on digging deeper into God's Word.)

### **Portals of Prayer**

The April issues are in. If you would like us to mail you a copy, please contact the [church office](#). You can also download a copy of the special *Portals of Prayer: Where is God Now* for distressing times by [clicking here](#).

### **Today's Light**

*Today's Light* is a devotional Bible from Concordia Publishing House that takes you through the entire Bible in two years. [Click here](#) to access a free month of this devotional Bible.

### **Around the Word Devotions**

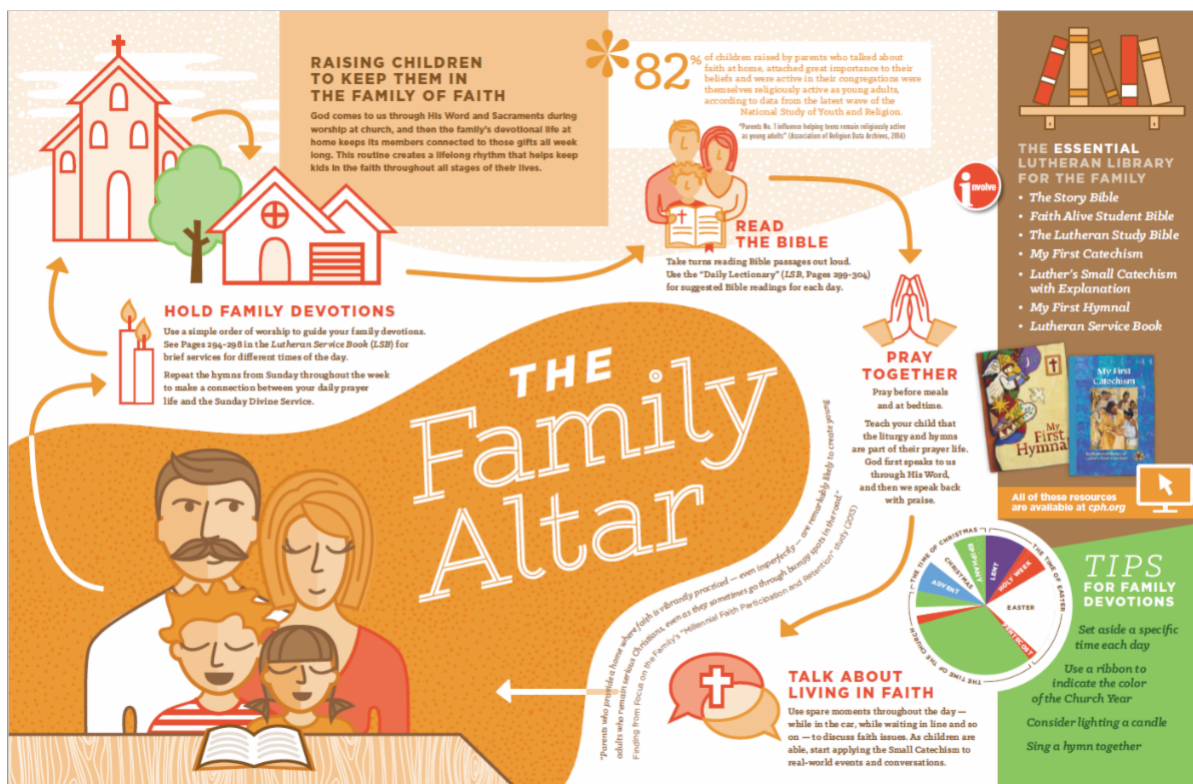
This resource is great for couple or family devotions. It includes full instructions for daily devotions. These can be accessed at [www.whatdoesthismean.org](http://www.whatdoesthismean.org). [Click here](#) for next week's devotions.

### **Everyday Faith Calendar**

This monthly calendar is a great, quick resource for families with children. Each day contains a short passage to read followed by a discussion question. [Click here](#) to download the April calendar.

### **My Devotions**

Concordia Publishing House has shared their *My Devotions* for children spring edition for free. [Click here](#) to download your copy that runs March-May.



## Managing Anxiety

*The anxiety is normal. Managing it is possible.*

With this crisis going on, it's understandable and expected that everyone's level of anxiety is increased to some degree. For those who struggle with anxiety during ordinary times, this can be all the more magnified during challenging and unprecedented times.

Click the link below for an easy to read, yet helpful, article on anxiety and Coronavirus written by Brad Hoefs, from Fresh Hope for Mental Health.

[Managing Coronavirus Anxiety](#)

## Follow us on Social Media



St. Peter's Lutheran Church & School | 7710 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46815

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by [churchoffice@stpetersfw.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpetersfw.org) in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!