

St. Peter's Lutheran Church



This week we conclude our Lenten journey that began with Ash Wednesday back on February 26. It seems like a lifetime ago. So much has changed since we began this journey, and Holy Week certainly didn't turn out the way we imagined it back in February.

Perhaps this is a bit how the disciples felt as they watched Jesus suffer and die upon that cross. The week had started out with so much promise... a grand entrance into Jerusalem... preparations to spend the Passover with Jesus... Peter vowing he would never deny his Lord. Then the soldiers arrived in Gethsemane, and everything changed.

As Jesus breathed his last breath, were the disciples in shock?
Could they even comprehend all that had transpired?
Did they wonder how it all went so wrong so quickly?

This year we're getting a tiny glimpse into the confusion, fear, and uncertainty the disciples likely felt. I'm sure they were wondering what would happen next. What would each new day bring? What about all those promises Jesus made?

Thanks be to God, we know the rest of the story.
Good Friday was not the end; Jesus' resurrection was coming.
What was so confusing (and probably terrifying) was all a part of
God's loving plan for each of us.

That same loving God has today firmly in His hands as well. No, this week looks nothing like what we had intended, but it is exactly as God knew it would be. He knew His saving Gospel message would still be proclaimed. He knew his children would still love and care for one another. He knew He could use this uncertain time to strengthen us and to draw us closer to Him. Praise be to God for His infinite wisdom and grace.

A special page on our website (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. These services can be accessed through our Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/StPetersFW). You are not required to have a Facebook account to view the videos.

[Click here for a letter from our pastors concerning Holy Communion during this time.](#)

Maundy Thursday

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

In case you missed this yesterday, our Maundy Thursday service included and explored our tradition of stripping the altar in remembrance of Jesus' great sacrifice for us.

Good Friday

Video posting @ noon; 7:00 watch party

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

This special time of worship explores the seven last words of Christ from the cross. This is a collaborative effort between St. Peter's, Concordia, Holy Cross, and St. Peter - Portage, IN. What a blessing to come together as a community of believers.

Easter Saturday: Hymn Reflections

Live Saturday @ 5:00 pm

Grab a comfy seat and sit down with our pastors as they spend a reflective time discussing and listening to their favorite Easter hymns. This time will definitely prepare your heart for Easter morning.

Easter Sunday

Live Sunday at 10:30 am

Hallelujah, Christ is Risen! St. Peter's, Concordia, and Holy Cross will join together for Easter worship, including a special children's message, live streamed from our Sanctuary.

We can celebrate Easter Part 1 online...
Easter Part 2 will be celebrated when we can all gather again.

Next Weekend

We will live stream worship on Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 10:30 am.

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

Church Facebook Page

Send Us Easter Photos

Admit it... did anyone else get a little choked up when watching the Palm Sunday Processional last week? We miss you all so much!

Palm Sunday was so much fun, we thought we would try this again. We would love it if you would take a picture of yourself or your family this Easter...
whether you are dressing up...
whether you are worshipping in your comfy clothes...
whether you have a fun activity or tradition you would like to show us.

It can be anything really. We just want to see those smiling faces.

Email your photos to Michelle Leahy through the church office email.
Once we have enough, we will include them in a worship service.

Tithes & Offerings

Our ministry continues and so do our financial commitments. Thank you for continuing to support your church through your tithes, offerings, and Faithfully Forward pledge payments. Please know, your staff is working tirelessly to find the best ways to reduce costs and to keep our ministry financially stable.

There are a variety of ways you can submit your contributions. To view a complete list of options (along with 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 give via Automatic Withdrawal.

You can have your tithe/offering, and your Faithfully Forward pledge contribution, automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account. You can determine the amount and the frequency of the withdrawal. Click the link below for an authorization form. Then, email or mail your authorization form to the church office who will direct it to Rhonda Scott, Director of Finance.

[Automatic Withdrawal Authorization Form](#)

Stewardship Corner as of 3/29/20

| | <u>Month to Date</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Total Giving | \$95,447 | \$804,820 |
| Budget | \$118,092 | \$797,692 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (\$22,645) | \$7,128 |
| Loan Balance | \$2,456,762 | |

Devotions & Bible Study

Devotions - Reading the Bible with Pastor

Pastor McDowell has created a great library (131 videos and counting) of his Reading the Bible with Pastor videos. During these short videos, he reads a passage of the Bible while adding some explanations along the way. He has read through the Gospel of John, Genesis, and many of the Psalms. He is currently working his way through Exodus.

Many of our members have shared that they use these videos in their personal devotions and with their families. What a great addition to your personal time with Jesus.

You can access the complete library of videos from the link below:

[Reading the Bible with Pastor YouTube Playlist](#)

Free Video Bible Studies from Concordia Publishing House

CPH FaithCourses® is an online learning platform where you can dive deeper into studies with exclusive author-led videos. Courses are created to guide personal devotion time or group Bible study - or anything in between. Many of their great studies are completely free for you to use for individual study or study with a family or virtual small group. Click the link below to learn more:

<https://cphfaithcourses.com/>

Easter Activities for Families

Check out some of these great resources your family can use this Easter.

Sunday School Lesson

God instructed parents of all generations to teach their children about Him, about his Word, about His love. Click the link below for an Easter lesson you can do at home. There are a variety of activities in the lesson. Just go with the ones that you already have supplies on hand to complete. You certainly do not have to do it all.

[Easter Lesson](#)

Easter Activities

This website has some creative activities to keep small hands doing creative things this Easter weekend. Click the link below to access the ideas:

[7 Quarantine-Friendly, Uplifting Easter Activities for Families](#)

Easter Coloring Page

You can download, print, and color this free coloring sheet:

[Easter Coloring Page](#)

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

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