



4th Sunday of Easter First Communion Weekend

May 10th & 11th, 2025
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
201 S Michigan St.

Mission Statement:

To worship and praise God boldly, witness to God's Goodness, and serve God with joy.

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

THE CHURCH IS GATHERED TOGETHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**You are invited to stand as you are able.*

PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of † the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters
of baptism, waters that make a people your
own, that restore to wholeness, and empow-
er us to be witnesses in your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of bap-

tism, waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your
church; waters that extend your boundless
love and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in cap-
tivity; waters that set your people on a new
path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Cruci-
fied and Risen One. **Amen.**

*GATHERING SONG

"The Lord Almighty Reigns"

By Terry Butler

Verse: Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! The Lord Reigns. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

The Lord Almighty reigns!

Repeat Verse

Chorus: He has shown his awesome power
He has triumphed mightily
He's the victor over darkness and the grave
He has broken the chains that bound us
He has set the prisoners free
By his own great mercy we are saved

Verse, Chorus, Verse

* GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is Our God" By Phil Wickham

Verse 1: Remember those walls that we called sin and shame? They were like prisons that we couldn't escape.

But He came, and He died, and He rose
Those walls are rubble now.

Verse 2: Remember those giants we called death and grave? They were like mountains that stood in our way.

But He came, and He died, and He rose
Those giants are dead now.

Chorus: This is our God, this is who He is
He loves us. This is our God, this is what He does. He saves us. He bore the cross, beat the grave. Let Heaven and Earth proclaim
This is our God, King Jesus.

Verse 3: Remember that fear that took our breath away?

Faith so weak that we could barely pray
But He heard every word, every whisper.

Verse 4: Now those altars in the wilderness
Tell the story of His faithfulness.

Never once did He fail, and He never will

Chorus

Bridge: Who pulled me out of that pit? He did, He did. Who paid for all of our sin? Nobody but Jesus. Who pulled me out of that pit? He did, He did. Who paid for all of our sin? Nobody but Jesus. Who rescued me from that grave? Yahweh, Yahweh. Who gets the glory and praise? Nobody but Jesus. Who rescued me from that grave? Yahweh, Yahweh. Who gets the glory and praise? Nobody but Him. **Chorus**

Tag: He bore the cross, beat the grave
Let Heaven and Earth proclaim
This is our God, King Jesus

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORD IS PROCLAIMED

First Reading: Acts 9:36-43

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

³⁶ Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and

acts of charity. ³⁷ At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 23 (*read together*)

¹ **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.**

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³ **You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.**

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

⁹ After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹ And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might

be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple,

and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶ They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷ for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

KID TALK

* GOSPEL: John 10: 22-30

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²² At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³ and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵ Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶ but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ The Father and I are one."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Miranda

SERMON SONG

"Goodness of God"

Verse 1

I love You Lord

Oh Your mercy never fails me

All my days

I've been held in Your hands

From the moment that I wake up

Until I lay my head

I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus: All my life You have been faithful

All my life You have been so so good

With every breath that I am able

I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice

You have led me through the fire

In darkest night, You are close like no other

I've known you as a father

I've known you as a friend

I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus

Bridge (two times)

Your goodness is running after

It's running after me

Your goodness is running after

It's running after me

With my life laid down

I'm surrendered now

I give You everything

Your goodness is running after

It's running after me

Chorus x 2

* NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from

the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each prayer, please respond with the words "Your mercy is great".

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring.

Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

CHRIST'S MEAL IS SHARED

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This weekend, we are excited to celebrate alongside our youth that are receiving their First Communion today:

Kayden Brooks, Addison Buckley, Will Erdenberger, Jasmin Halverson, Micah Paul Klosterboer, Luke Charles Mathies, and Avery Taylor Thomas

We invite our First Communion families to come forward to receive Holy Communion together. Then, the rest of the congregation will be ushered forward.

DISTRIBUTION (CONTINUOUS)

COMMUNION SONG

"Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"
ACS #966

- 1 Loaves were broken, words were spoken
by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of life from heaven,
was their food forevermore.

Refrain

By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

- 2 Loaves were broken, words were spoken
in a quiet room one night.
In the bread and wine you gave them,
Christ, you came as Light from Light.

Refrain

- 3 Loaves are broken, words are spoken,
as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages:
"I am with you; do not fear!" *Refrain*

- 4 By the loaves you break and give us,
send us in your name to share
bread for which the millions hunger,
words that tell your love and care. *Refrain*

*** COMMUNION BLESSING**

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his peace. Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO BE THE
CHURCH

* BLESSING

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. Amen.

*SENDING SONG

"Is He Worthy"

Do you feel the world is broken? **We do**
Do you feel the shadows deepen? **We do**
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? **We do**
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? ... **We do**

Is all creation groaning? **It is**
Is a new creation coming? **It is**
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? **It is**
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? ...
It is

Chorus: **Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?**
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? He is

Does the Father truly love us? **He does**
Does the Spirit move among us? **He does**
And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves? **He does**
Does our God intend to dwell again with us?
... **He does**

Chorus

From ev'ry people and tribe
Ev'ry nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Is He worthy of this? ... He is
Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is. He is . He is worthy. He is worthy. He is.

* DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 11: 1-18,
Psalm 148, Revelation 21: 1-6, John 13: 31-
35

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Our Prayers This Week:

Robert "Bud" Mertz, Chris Bohlen, Sheryll Bunders, Fawn-eyes LaVelle, Creighton Groom, Rose Adkins, Jenny Sylvester, Joseph Ricco, Christine Olson and family, Kristen Bailey, Kristy Nelson, Heather Mask, Wes Bohlen, Bruce Smrcina, Linda Day, Nickolas McCullick, Ruth Anderson, Joyce Novey, Christopher Bailey, Brian Slaght, Aria Koenig, Mike Skaife, Joyce Thornton, Frank Weeks and Daniel Day.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

For all those receiving First Communion this weekend: ***Kayden Brooks, Addison Buckley, Will Erdenberger, Jasmin Halverson, Micah Paul Klosterboer, Luke Charles Mathies and Avery Taylor Thomas***

Saturday Worship Volunteers:

Ushers— Tom & Bev Cornford
Acolyte— Matthew Kramer
Reader— Marilyn Hackett
Assisting Minister— Jackie Eckert

Sunday Worship Volunteers:

Ushers— Denny & Alice Kirschbaum
Acolyte— Ames Thomas & Andrew Peterson
Easy Worship— Warren Peterson
Camera— Mary Peterson
Reader— Lynda Beaty
Communion Servers— Lynda Beaty & Ellie Kramer

Coffee Hour:

May 11th: Lisa Mink
May 18th: Koeller Family

FREE EASTER LILIES

If you would like to take any of the Easter lilies, please feel free to do so.

This Week's Events

SATURDAY, MAY 10TH 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 5:15 p.m. Contemporary Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, MAY 11TH 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Communion and First Communion Sunday. Worship also broadcast on the radio and Facebook.

MONDAY, MAY 12TH

- Pastors day off. Pastor Miranda is on call.
- 4:00 p.m. NA Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 13TH

- 9-1 South Conference Pastors Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. WELCA Meeting
- 2:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH

- 9:15 a.m. (approx.) Weekly Radio Devotion
- 10:00 a.m. Rachel Circle at Bluff Haven
- 6:30 p.m. End of Year Party for Confirmation
- 7:45 p.m. High School End of Year Party

THURSDAY, MAY 15TH

- 10:00 a.m. Stewardship Meeting
- 5-6 p.m. Come for Supper
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice

SATURDAY, MAY 17TH 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 5:15 p.m. Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, MAY 18TH 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 9 a.m. Worship with Communion and Senior Recognition. Worship also broadcast on the radio and Facebook.

SENIOR RECOGNITION WEEKEND

We will be recognizing our high school seniors during worship on May 18th. If you or a family member is graduating, please reach out to the church office, and send a picture and a brief bio regarding your future plans that we can share in worship and in the upcoming church newsletter. Following Worship on the 18th we will gather for a special time of celebration for our Seniors.

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

Inter-Generational Ministry (1mo-101yrs)

- **June 1st**—End of Year Party- with picnic and games for all ages after Outdoor Worship at the River on June 1st.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY **for 6TH-8TH grades**

- **May 14th**—End of Year Party—6:30 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Time to connect, serve, pray, have fun, grow in faith, and build friendships.

- **May 14th**—End of Year Party— 7:45 p.m.
- **May 18th**—Graduate Recognition Sunday

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR VBS 2025!

Children going into grades K-5 are invited to join in our VBS programming, led by young adult counselors from Sugar Creek Bible Camp, June 29-July 3rd. A volunteer is needed to host the counselors for an evening meal on Monday, June 30th.

Contact Pr. Hillary to volunteer or with any questions regarding VBS.

PRAYER PALS

The Engaging Children Initiative and Inter-Generational ministry teams are introducing a new worship tool to help busy hands, bodies and minds to connect better with prayers during worship. Our Prayer Pals will be housed up front, around the communion railing. All those interested will be invited to come up front to pray with a Prayer Pal at the railing beginning with the Creed, through the Lord's Prayer. Members of the Engaging Children Initiative (ECI) team and worship leaders will be up front to assist anyone interested in using this method of prayer.

WELCA FOOD STAND TO SUPPORT CAMPERSHIPS FOR ST. PETER YOUTH

On June 21st, the Women of the ELCA are hosting a bake sale and food stand at Ace Hardware. Proceeds go to camperships for the St. Peter youth.

SYNOD NIGHT AT THE LOGGERS

Sunday, June 15th at 5:00 p.m. Let's gather for an evening of family fun and fellowship at Copeland Park! Tickets include seating as a group on the Topper Terrace which provides some shade, all you can drink pop/water, the ballpark classic dinner at the concession stand and 3 beers for adults 21+.

Ticket Prices:

- Children Ages 0-3: **FREE**
- Children Ages 4-12: **\$15**
- Age 13-Adult: **\$27**

Register by visiting lacrosseareasynod.org or calling 608-788-5000

**SAVE THE DATES FOR
OUTDOOR WORSHIP!**

Our Worship and Music committee has set the dates for services near the river; once a month June—October. We invite you to bring your chair and a friend! Mark your calendars for

- June 1st
- July 6th
- August 3rd
- September 7th
- October 5th

**DISCIPLESHIP MATTERS 2025
SUMMER COURSES – VIA ZOOM & FREE!**

Summer Courses – all FREE & via ZOOM

***Dates: June 26 & July 10th & 17th,
6:30 – 7:45***

***All summer courses are offered via ZOOM,
on-line and are FREE***

June 26th – Home from the Borderlands
(Over-view of what our Synod's Border Immersion Trip folk saw and learned)

July 10th & 17th – At the Intersection of Faith & Politics (Conversation with Retired Republican Representative and State Senator Brian Rude and Democratic State Senator Brad Pfaff)

Register: office@lacrosseareasynd.org
(608) 788-5000

OR sign-up on-line at: <https://lacrosseareasynd.org/discipleship-matters>

OR sign-up in person at the Discipleship Matters table at Synod Assembly

Deadline (minimum of 5): June 12th

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

201 S Michigan St.

Welcome! We are happy that you are worshipping with us today. Join us again soon.

Worship with us Saturdays at 5:15 p.m. & Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship is also broadcast live on the radio at WPRE 104.3 FM and 980 AM radio and Livestreamed on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/stpeterpdc>.

Visitors— We are so glad that you can join us today! We invite you to fill out a blue welcome card (found in the pew pocket) and place it in the offering plate at the back.

We practice open Communion here — All who seek the forgiveness that Jesus Christ offers in this meal are welcome. Those not yet receiving Communion or those choosing not to today are invited to come forward to receive a blessing (we invite you to cross your arms in front of you to indicate your desire to receive a blessing). If you would like to receive Communion or a blessing and it is best for you to remain seated, please indicate this to the usher; and we will come to you.

Pastoral Care- If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, would like home communion, would like to visit with one of the pastors, or is in need of pastoral care; please call the church office at (608-326-6411). Or reach out to the pastors directly via a call or text: Pastor Miranda's cell phone number is 815-291-5793 and Pastor Hillary's cell phone number is 319-290-8641.

Sharing Your Offering- Thank you for your generosity that supports our ministries here at St. Peter and our mission partners. There are multiple options for sharing your offering.

- For in-person worship, we have an offering plate available on the usher table. We invite you to place your offerings there as you come or as you leave.
- You can mail your check to church: PO Box 37, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821.
- You can give through Simply Giving, an automated online giving program we have used successfully for years here at St. Peter. An authorization form can be found online on our website www.stpeterpdc.org/Donate or you can call the church office at (608) 326-6411.
- You can set up an offering at your bank using free Bill Pay service to have the bank print and mail your check to the church.
- You can give online at www.stpeterpdc.org on the Home page, scroll down to the "Give" button or select the Give tab at the top to be directed to Vanco/Simply Giving.

The Hungry May for May is: ***Sugar Creek Bible Camp Wish List.*** Children are invited to help collect the Hungry Jar offerings during the Offering.

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite: (319) 290-8641 & stpeterpdcpastorhillary@hotmail.com