

# St. Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

April 2016

Rev. Ron Mathews

## An Easter Message from Bishop Easton



Easter is early this year, and in many places across this church trees will still be bare and fields barren. It might even snow. But on Easter morning we will gather to greet the risen Son and give thanks to God for the new life we have in Jesus Christ.

Two things come to mind this Easter when there is still only the hint of spring: Jesus' words to his disciples just before his crucifixion and a hymn.

Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Jesus was talking about his death, but he was also assuring his disciples and us that death is not the end, that, though it might seem impossible and even terrifying to step into the void, God brings life out of death.

The hymn is ELW 379.

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

The tune is actually a French Christmas carol. How perfect that, in the bleak midwinter, the promise of spring was planted.

St. Paul wrote, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?" We have already fallen into the earth and died. "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." We will not remain alone. We will bear fruit.

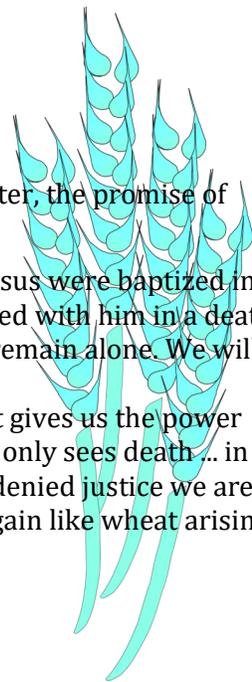
The seed has been planted in all the barren places in the world and in our lives. That gives us the power and the hope – especially in the face of our brokenness – to see life where the world only sees death ... in refugee camps and hospice units, in parched earth and in floods, in oppression and denied justice we are bold to confess. Now the green blade rises. Now love lives again. Now love comes again like wheat arising green.

Christ is risen.

*Elizabeth A. Easton*

*Presiding Bishop*

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



## Worship & Music Server

**Sunday worship - 9:00 am**

*We still need volunteers for April - Please call the office or go to our website to sign up*

	<b>April 3 Sunday 9 am</b>	<b>April 10 Sunday 9 am</b>	<b>April 17 Sunday 9 am</b>	<b>April 24 Sunday 9 am</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Kelley Carman	Kim Lamb	TBD	Kim Lamb
<b>Scripture Readers</b>	Gene Leonhart	TBD	Joyce Miller	TBD
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Multimedia</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Organist</b>	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller	Sheila Mixdorf	Amy Lockhart
<b>Sound System</b>	Steve DeVries	Gary Anfinson	Alton Midthus	Larry Oltrogge
<b>Video</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Connie Lobeck, Judy Gleason, Diann Curtis, Janice Gienau			
<b>Usher/Greeters</b>	Terry & Joyce Miller, Gene & Pat Leonhart, Blair & Sarah Sanderson family			
<b>Please find a replacement if you are unable to serve at the time you are scheduled. Your ministry is vital and we give thanks for your willingness to serve.</b>				

### From the Church Office

**Check out the online church calendar. The link is on the opening page of our website - [www.stpeterdenver.org](http://www.stpeterdenver.org).**

Under "Most Popular" click on calendar; you will be able to see the activities scheduled for the year. If you would like to add something to the calendar please contact the office.

**Bulletin Deadline:** Thursdays 10:00 am and the **Newsletter Deadline:** 4:30 pm on the 3rd Friday of each month.

### AA/Alanon

**AA/Alanon Step Class:** Tuesday nights at 7 pm in lower level (second & fifth Tuesdays of the month) **Meeting:** Tuesday nights at 7 pm in lower level (first & fourth Tuesdays - round table format) **Open Meeting:** 3rd Tuesday of each month. Anyone who has an interest in or questions about the disease of alcoholism or anyone who fears that a loved one may be dealing with alcoholism is welcome to attend the monthly open meeting.

### Reminder

The property & management, mission, evangelism, stewardship, worship & music, WELCA, mutual ministry board minutes, Pastoral highlights and Council minutes are posted in the Friendship Room for your perusal.

### Bells

Welcome our new Bell Choir director, Gail Sexton. Practices are Mondays, at 6:30 pm, please contact Gail if you are interested in joining or have questions, at [gsmsexton@gmail.com](mailto:gsmsexton@gmail.com) or call or text 319-231-3269.

# Mission & Community

## It's time to **TP** the church!

Yes, that's right! We're going to be collecting toilet paper during April and May for the His Hands Food Pantry. It's **T**otally **P**urposeful. Watch for an incredible structure to be designed and built by St. Peter kids with the rolls of donated toilet paper. Help make this a fun project and one that will make a daily essential available to people in our area.



**T**hanks **P**rovided!! *Board of Mission*



## Wellness Screening

**Wellness Screening, Tuesday, April 12, 6:30-8:00 am**, in the lower level of St Peter.

**The Wellness Screening includes:**

23 test panel for \$20.00 (a 12 hour fast is recommended)

Cholesterol Screen for \$5.00

PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) for \$10.00

TSH (Thyroid Stimulating Hormone) for \$5.00

Complete Blood Count for \$5.00

A1C (Monitors glucose level for diabetes) for \$10.00

Free blood pressure check

Participants can drink water or take medications prior to the testing. The screening is hosted by St. Peter Church with Allen Hospital and is open to the public.

## National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, more than 7,400 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2014. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety and stability services and mental and behavioral health treatment.

LSI's early childhood programs prevent child abuse by giving parents support and resources to build a healthy, stable home environment for their children. In 2015, LSI made more than 15,000 home visits to parents of infants, toddlers and preschoolers!

LSI's Family, Safety, Risk and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's residential programs at Beloit and Bremwood serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. Thank you!

*LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

## His Hands Oran Food Pantry

**January totals: 68 families served, 177 individuals served and 4,378 lbs of food was distributed.** April wish list: Baking products (flour, sugar, brown sugar, powdered sugar, Pam, cooking oils) Thank you for your continuing support. Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon. Questions? -319-638-4357.

**The Pantry reports that they have doubled their clientele, and have a few items they are always in need of: pork & beans, ketchup, and bathroom tissue.**

## Northeast Iowa Food Bank

Please join us at the food bank to pack elderly nutrition boxes. You do not need to notifying the food bank; there are several groups there each week and we can just join in, **Next scheduled Saturday, is April 16, from 9-10:30 am.** Simply go to the volunteer entrance at the Food Bank, 160 Lafayette St, Any questions, call Joyce Miller 984-5021.

## College Care Packages

We are looking for donations for the college care packages we send to our St Peter students during finals week. Suggestions for items would be: granola bars, fruit snacks, rice krispie bars, ramen noodles, snack crackers, trail mix, microwave popcorn, cookies, peanut butter, M&M's, licorice, suckers, gum, drink mix, Chex mix, etc. Donations can be brought to the church office.

## Womenfest

The Ecumenical Bible study meets at St Paul, UCC Church, Denver, on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 am, join us!

## Free Screenings

When was the last time you had a pap smear AND/OR Mammogram? If you are 40-64 yrs old you might qualify to get services FREE. If you have no insurance or insurance deductible or co-pay is more than you can afford you may be eligible. We service Butler, Floyd, Bremer, and Franklin counties. Please contact Patty Nordmeyer at Butler Co. Public Health, 319-267-2934.

## Noisy Offering

The March & April noisy offering will benefit Denver Cares. This year 10 families received an Easter Dinner, through Denver Cares, thanks to your donations.



# April Birthdays & Anniversaries

# Congregational News

1  
Staci Mueller  
Rachel & John Upshaw

2  
Lyle Judas

3  
Tyler Sawyer  
Dean Brandt  
Jill DeVries

4  
Melissa Johnson

5  
Roger Blankenship  
Virgil & Shirley Buhr

6  
Cayce Lanning  
Wendy Mohlis  
Jo Vandenberg

7  
LaVonne Westendorf

8  
Samantha Thornton

9  
Julie Sawyer  
Bertha Bishop  
Opal Miller

10  
Jacob Lanning

11  
Barb Klemp  
Terrie Thurm

13  
Cory Arians  
Rachel Gielau  
Brian Haase  
Hannah Thies  
Tyler Vauthier

14  
Dawn Lau

15  
Jeanette Coontz  
Lydia Gleason

17  
Jordan Wolter  
Henry Pautsch  
Miles Pautsch

18  
Nicholas Mohlis  
Alex Sharp  
Lindsay Williams  
Amity Mathews

19  
Dan Syhre  
Eleanor Stumme

22  
Neil Hartmann  
Madisyn Leisinger  
Nichole Thurm  
Don & Donna Hulsing  
Gary & Cheryl Sharp

23  
Rowen Smith

24  
Derek Franzen  
Max Leonhart  
Lindsay Seegers

25  
Dalton Austin  
Anna Everding  
Noah Foelske  
Jeff & Karen Schumacher

27  
Garland Krabbenhoft

28  
Sarah Diercks  
Trudie Rothmeyer  
Riley Schumacher  
Alvin & Dorothy  
Eggena  
Mark & Jackie Fober

29  
Andrew Diercks  
Brian & Kathy Bartels  
Butch & Dixie Milius

30  
Mitchell Schumacher  
Mylee Thurm

*We apologize if your birthday or anniversary are not listed or listed incorrectly. Please notify the office with additions or corrections. Thank you.*

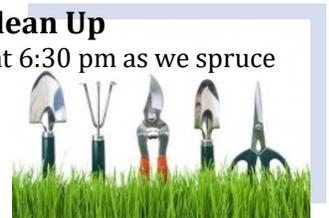


## March Council Minutes Highlights

- Council approved to pay the yearly Benevolence to Bremwood and Bartels
- Discussion on Financial Committee still needs three congregational members
- Jeff Bales has resigned from Council, council to bring suggested nominations.
- Council approved Pastor Ron to return early from the "The Dirty Feet Retreat" Confirmation Weekend Event from April 8th thru Sunday April 10th to lead worship on April 10th.
- Council approved the use of the church space by Discoveries for 4-6 weeks starting on June 13th given they will work around any and all conflicts that arise such as funerals and VBS.
- Council approved to allow St. Paul to use our sanctuary for a wedding as long as Pastor Ron officiates the ceremony.

## St Peter Spring Clean Up

Please join us Wednesday, April 27, at 6:30 pm as we spruce up the church grounds. Rakes, gloves, shovels and other yard tools are encouraged.



## Easter, Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Offerings

These offerings will be shared with Bremwood in Waverly. It is a structured and intensive rehabilitative environment that provides psychiatric treatment through individualized plans to help children and teens with severe emotional and behavioral disorders. Thank you for helping young people who are struggling with issues in their lives. They would definitely benefit from your demonstration of God's love through your offerings.

## Video Recording

We are looking for volunteers to tape our St Peter worship services. If you are interested in this ministry of the church, please contact the office for further information.

## Scrip Gift Cards

We now have gift cards that can be ordered through the new St Peter Scrip program. There are many businesses to choose from and St Peter gets a percentage of the gift cards sold. Stop by the office or go to our website ([www.stpeterdenver.org](http://www.stpeterdenver.org)) to get instructions on how to order the gift cards online or have the office order for you.

## WELCA Yearbook 2016

The books are printed and available on the table outside the office. All families are welcome to the Yearbook.

## Quilt Tying

Join us on Mondays, 9 am -3 pm, and 6:30 - 8:30pm. And Tuesdays, 9 am - Noon. We will be tying through April 19. Tied-197 Quilts so far!

# Mission & Community

## Backpack Program

Currently 11 students at Denver Schools are receiving supplemental food through the NEIA Backpack Program that the area churches support. St Peter is collecting **Shampoo for the month of April**, to be included in the backpacks.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, every other month at 1:00 pm.

**Next meeting: Thursday, May 5.** If you know of someone who is in need of a Prayer Shawl, please take one from the pew in the Friendship Room. Please make sure you fill out a form (located in basket on pew).

## Energy Assistance

Low income home energy assistance program is still taking applications for energy assistance. Contact Karen Henry, at Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation, 563-382-9608 or the Bremer county office 352-4532.

# Faith Formation

## Family Bible Study

Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00-7:30pm. This study is interactive and engaging for 4th graders and older as it dives deep into the core teachings of our faith, why they matter, and how to apply them to our lives. Utilizing a FAITH 5 format, this study is designed to not only help you grow in your faith, but also to help you grow closer in faith as a family.

**7th & 8th Grade Confirmation - April 11 & 20**



## Youth Bowling

The Fusion group and the Confirmation students will be going to the Waverly Bowl Inn on Saturday, April 2, from 11 am to 1pm. We are leaving St Peter at 10:30 am and returning at 1:30 pm. Pizza and bowling cost \$5, all friends and family welcome. RSVP to Pastor Ron or Anna.

## Dirty Feet Retreat

Our confirmands and Pastor Ron will be getting their feet dirty as they follow Christ out into the world! April 8-10, they will spend two nights at EWALU; learning and practicing living out their faith in spite of the world's pressures, because of God's awesome love and grace.

## EWALU

Camp and Retreat information for 2016 is located on the information table outside the office or on their website: ewalu.org

# Women of the ELCA

## WELCA Board Meeting

Monday, April 11, at 7:00 pm

## WELCA Bible Study Leaders

Available in the Gather Magazine

### Ruth Circle

Next Meeting: April 6 at 7:00 pm  
Bible Study Leader: Dori Jurgenson  
Hostess: Pat Leonhart

### Mary Circle

Next Meeting: April 6 at 1:30 pm  
Bible Study Leader: Elaine Dove  
Hostess: LaVonne Emkes

### Naomi Circle

Next Meeting: Sunday, April 3 at 10:15 am  
Bible Study Leader: TBD

## Serving Committee for April Chairperson - Mary Circle Coffee - Men

Pat Bietz	Julie Brinkman	Roxann Brown
Dorothy Eggena	Jackie Fober	Sharon Foelske
Amy Gehrke	Sandra Greenley	Rhonda Wilson
Julie Leisinger	Lois Miller	Eve Pautsch
Jill Thrasher	Jo Vandeberg	LaVonne Westendorf

## Love Offering

### Sunday, April 10

Each year the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) at St. Peter Lutheran Church conduct a spring Love Offering. The Love Offering begins on Sunday, April 10 and will continue through the end of May. This year the board decided to send one-fourth of our Love Offering to the ELCA Fund for Leaders and one-fourth to University of Iowa Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach and the other half will support the WELCA Christmas gifts to missions & organizations. We will apply for a Thrivent Choice Dollar match also. A special envelope for April 10 is included with your regular offering envelopes, or you may use a plain envelope and mark it "Love Offering." Thank you for your support of the Love Offering. Act Boldly-Give Generously!

## Spring LWR Ingathering

Save the date -Saturday, April 23, from 8:00 - 11:00 am, the Spring Ingathering will be held at St Paul Lutheran Church, Waverly.

This year's program will begin at 9:30 am. Pastor Deborah Wise of Trinity United Methodist Church in Waverly will be the main speaker, sharing her recent experiences with Syrian refugees on the Greek Island of Lesvos. A light luncheon will be served following the program. Everyone is welcome!



# Faith Formation



Come on down to our  
**BARNYARD ROUNDUP**  
where we will learn that  
"Jesus Gathers Us Together!"

Mark your calendars for a week of fun crafts, fun games, fun storytelling, fun songs, fun food, and fun with God!

**June 20-24 - 5 pm-8 pm**

VBS Programming with dinner provided!

Get more info and register online at

<http://www.stpeterdenver.org/vacation-bible-school.html>

Registration opens in May.



**Jump in and help with our VBS program!**  
**Here's how...**



- We are currently signing up volunteers! We have a variety of jobs, with a variety of time commitments. Visit the VBS table or see Amity Mathews.

- We are in need of LARGE pieces of cardboard, previously loved white sheets, and foam board. These items can be brought to Sunday School Room #6. Thanks!

- Make plans to attend our next planning meeting—April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the church library.

## Mission Trip Updates

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the entire congregation for your support of the high school mission trip. We had four fundraising events in the past six weeks and were blessed once again with your great generosity.

In April the youth are hosting a middle school dance and yard clean up. If you would like to sign up for yard clean up, please do so in the office. We are also starting a new Bible study specific to the trip in April and will meet monthly until our send off in June.

*Congratulations to our First Communion Class of 2016!  
They were welcomed to the Lord's table for the first time during the  
Maundy Thursday Service.*



## Sunday School

We are springing forward to more fun in Sunday School!

The month of March went VERY quickly, with all of the busy-ness of Lent and Holy Week. Thank you to the kiddos who joined us on Palm Sunday to lead the processional through the church. You did a great job!

During Lent, our offerings were collected to support the ELCA's "40 Days of Giving" campaign, to help solve world hunger. Our offering totals during February and March were roughly \$125 – thank you for your generous giving! During April and May, our offerings will go to support the Allison Area Foster Parent Support Group. This group serves as a resource for foster and adoptive families in Bremer, Butler, Franklin, and Grundy Counties in Iowa.

We are thankful to have gotten to know our Wartburg students, Britni and Cody, who have been with us for music time this year! Their time with us is wrapping up, as they are soon headed off to travel the world... or at least Europe with their music program at Wartburg! As we bid them adieu, the Sunday School children will be singing during our 9am worship service – please join us! And please thank Britni and Cody for sharing their time with us!

Thank you for continuing to share your children with us as we learn more about our faith!

## Upcoming Youth Events

April 3 - Mission Trip Meeting 6:00 pm at St. Peter

April 6 - Family Bible Study at 6:00 pm

April 10 - the Sunday School kids are singing during the service.

April 13 - Confirmation Class at 6:30 pm

April 16 - Middle School Dance at 7:00 pm

April 20 - Confirmation Class at 6:30 pm

April 20 - Fusion at 6:30 PM

*Thank you for continuing to share your children with us as we learn more about our faith!*

Anna Johnson

[anna@stpeterdenver.org](mailto:anna@stpeterdenver.org)

515.520.0172

Amity Mathews

[schmmity418@yahoo.com](mailto:schmmity418@yahoo.com)

319.883.9084

## Fusion

The 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Fusion group is going bowling on April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11 am – 1:00 pm! Please RSVP to attend this event. We will also be meeting April 6<sup>th</sup> for family Bible study and April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 to continue our discussion on forgiveness.

# April 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 11:00 am Youth Bowling
<b>3</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Naomi Circle 1:00 pm Council Retreat 6:00 pm Mission Trip meeting	<b>4</b> Quilt tying 9:00am-3:00pm 6:00 pm Youth & Family 6:30 pm Property & Management Quilt tying 6:30-8:30 pm 6:30 pm Bell practice	<b>5</b> 7:30 am Womenfest Quilt tying 9:00 am-Noon 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	<b>6</b> 1:30 pm Mary Circle 6:00 pm Family Bible Study 7:30 pm Ruth Circle	<b>7</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 am Staff mtg. 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>8</b> Dirty Feet Retreat	<b>9</b> Dirty Feet Retreat
<b>10</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Mutual Ministry 6:30 pm VBS meeting Dirty Feet Retreat <i>Love Offering Begins</i>	<b>11</b> Quilt tying 9:00 am—3:00 pm Quilt tying 6:30-8:30 pm 6:30 pm Bell practice 7:00 pm WELCA Board	<b>12</b> 6:30-8:00am Wellness Screen 7:30 am Womenfest Quilt tying 9:00 am-Noon 6:30 pm Council meeting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>14</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm Worship & Music	<b>15</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>16</b> 9:00 am NEIA Food Bank 7:00 pm Middle School Dance @ Legion
<b>17</b> 9:00 am Worship Noisy Offering & Bell Choir playing 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>18</b> Quilt tying 9:00-3:00 pm Quilt tying 6:30-8:30 pm	<b>19</b> 7:30 am Womenfest Quilt tying 9:00 am –Noon 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Fusion 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>21</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 am Staff mtg. 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:30 am Ingathering @ St Pauli, Waverly
<b>24</b> 9:00 am Worship <i>with Baptism</i> 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>25</b> 10:00 am Bingo @ Sunset Home 6:30 pm Bell practice	<b>26</b> 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm St Peter Clean Up	<b>28</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

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### 2016 MINISTRY BOARDS

**Ministry Boards are a vital part of the congregational system. Lay members are currently needed for each of these boards to function as intended. Please consider where you might share your gifts in these important ministries of the congregation. If you would like to know more about a board please contact Pastor Ron Mathews or Doug Miller, Congregational President. Thank you!**

**Church Council:** Steve DeVries, Jon Wolter, Philip Michels, Jeff Bales, Staci Mueller, Doug Miller, Amy Lockhart, Garland Krabbenhoft, Eve Pautsch

**Executive Board:** President - Doug Miller; Vice President –Garland Krabbenhoft; Secretary - Philip Michels; Treasurer - Steve DeVries

**Property & Management:** Jon Wolter, Randall Satterthwaite, Neil Hartmann, Gene Leonhart, Leroy Homeister, Dwight Diercks, Roxane Franzen, Ryan Lockhart

**Parish Education:** Eve Pautsch, Amity Mathews

**Worship & Music:** Jeff Bales, Sheryl Moeller, Sheila Mixdorf, Amy Lockhart, Jo VanDeBerg, Joyce Miller, Nancy Lamos

**Mission:** Philip Michels, Pat Leonhart, Bev Diercks, Shirley Thurm, Gretchen Syhre

**Stewardship:** Doug Miller, Helen Schumacher, Dori Jurgenson

**Youth & Family:** Amy Lockhart, Kim Lamb, Krista Wahl, Garland Krabbenhoft

**Evangelism:** Staci Mueller, Art Kurtt, LaVonne Westendorf, Roger Donaldson

**Mutual Ministry:** Staci Mueller, Linda Krueger, Gene Leonhart, Ryan Pautsch, Julie Brinkman

*2016 council and board members - thank you for your willingness to serve!*