

# St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

## December 2017

Projecting Christ to All Generations

Pastor Alan Schulz

O Holy Night

Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 & 7:00 pm

-please join us -

*Pastor Larry Trachte will be leading our services in December AND Pastor Noelle Andrew will be leading our Christmas Eve Services. Thank you to both Pastors for leading us in worship!*

### The Sundays of Advent - 9:00 am Worship

December 3 - *Advent Service*

December 10 - *Blue Christmas*

December 17 - *Sunday School Christmas Pageant*

December 24 - *Advent Service*

### Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

### New Year's Eve Day Worship

Sunday, December 31, 9:00 am

### NEW BEGINNINGS FOR ADVENT—THE SPIRIT IS UP TO SOMETHING IN DENVER AND BEYOND

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Christ our Lord.

*Evening Prayer, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p 316*

The season of Advent takes on new meaning this year as the people of St Peter begin a new interim. Pastor Alan Schulz' last day was November 30<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Schulz is moving to Columbus, Ohio where his wife, Kathryn Kleinhans, has been called to be the Dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. Plans for new pastoral leadership have yet to be determined at the time of this writing.

It is easy to talk about waiting, hoping, and preparing when you don't actually have to do it. It's a whole 'nother thing when you are living it. But we go into Advent secure that the Holy Spirit is leading us into a future beyond our imagination. The prophets, Elizabeth, and Mary will support us and reassure us as we face the issues of our present advent. There are surprises ahead, for sure, but a new day is ready to dawn. Advent's call to us is, "Wake up! Get ready! Be stirred up! The Lord is up to something."

This interim didn't go as planned or as hoped for. There is a lot of unfinished business. This isn't the way I would plan to end an interim. These are the very clues that lead me to believe that this advent is bringing a new beginning to the people of St Peter. Birthing is neither pain-free nor timely.

I appreciate your kind words, thoughts, and prayers as we move onto our separate advent pathways. I look forward to see where these paths take us.

Yours in Ministry,  
Alan Schulz

# Worship & Music Server

**Sunday worship - 9:00 am**

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

	<b>December 3 Sunday 9:00 am</b>	<b>December 10 Blue Christmas Sunday 9:00 am</b>	<b>December 17 Sunday School Christmas Pageant Sunday 9:00 am</b>	<b>December 24 Sunday 9:00 am Christmas Eve 4:00 &amp;7:00 pm</b>	<b>December 31 Sunday 9:00 am</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Connie Lobeck	Pat Leonhart	NA	9am-TBD 4pm-Pat Leonhart 7pm-Kim Lamb	TBD
<b>Scripture Readers</b>	James Jurgenson	Gavin Carman	Gavin Carman	9am-TBD 4 pm-Joyce Miller 7pm- TBD	Julie Leisinger
<b>Acolytes</b>	Brooke & Mitchell DeVries	Brooke & Mitchell DeVries	Clayton Liddle & Jacob Lyons	9am Kasey Wirtjes & Mia Leonhart 4pm-Mitchell & Brooke DeVries 7pm Emmett N.& Klair Heim	TBD
<b>Multimedia</b>	Jeff Bales	Jonathan Leisinger	Megan Lyons	9am-Jeff Bales 4pm-TBD 7pm-TBD	TBD
<b>Organist</b>	Sheryl Moeller	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	9 am- 4 pm-Sheryl Moeller 7pm-Matt Rector	Amy Lockhart
<b>Sound System</b>	Larry Oltrogge	Larry Oltrogge	Alton Midthus	9am-Roger D. 4 pm -Steve D. 7 pm-Harold W.	Steve DeVries
<b>Video</b>	Dwight Diercks	Roger Thurm	Dwight Diercks	Roger Thurm	Dwight Diercks
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Shirley Thurm, Mary Thurm, Marilyn Mueller, Phyliss Plaster				
<b>Usher/Greeters</b>	Gary & LaVonne Westendorf, Chuck & Trudy Essmann				
<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.

## Annual Reports

Year end annual reports from boards and committees are due to the office by December 15. Thank you

## Offering Envelopes

Please stop by the information table outside the office, after December 5th, to pick up your 2018 offering envelopes.



# Mission & Community

## Wartburg College Holiday Shoppe

Thank you to everyone that bought gifts for the Holiday Shoppe.

The Holiday Shoppe is a program to help low income families provide Christmas presents for their children, and is offered by the Wartburg College social work program. It serves families all over Bremer County who are referred through the Iowa Department of Human Services. Last year, Holiday Shoppe served 602 children from 249 families and our goal is to serve even more children and families this Christmas.

## Christmas Offerings

This year the special Christmas offering will go to Lutheran Disaster Response. The disaster ministry of the ELCA continues to help bring God's comfort, healing and renewal to those affected by disasters. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need, throughout the U.S. and around the world. What a wonderful way to spread the Good News through your generosity and compassion!

## Need help with your heating bill?

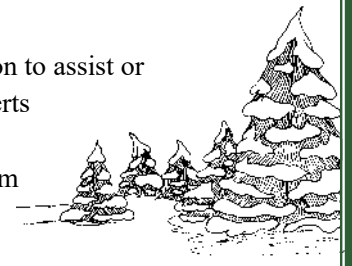
The 2017-2018 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. Applications for elderly (60 & older) and/or disabled may be completed October 2, 2017 to April 30, 2018. All other households may complete an application November 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018. For more information call your local Northeast Iowa Community Action Partnership office in Waverly 319-352-4532.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY AT ST PETER

**5:00 pm Sunday, December 10**

We will be enjoying food, crafts, games and holiday cheer. Everyone is invited to partake in the merriment.

Please contact Krista Olson to assist or donate appetizers or desserts for this event.  
kristaolson810@gmail.com  
Or 319-429-3399



## 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 the 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.

## Winter Weather Policy

Please check our website or Facebook page in the event of inclement weather for the Cancellation of worship.

**The Sunday School policy:** is if we decide that we need to cancel Sunday School due to weather, it will be announced by 7:30 am that Sunday morning and posted on the St Peter Website home page, [www.stpeterdenver.org](http://www.stpeterdenver.org), Facebook, and KWLL.

## NEIA Food Bank Fund Drive

At the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, your donation helps feed families in crisis. The Food Bank distributes food directly to those in need through local agencies and programs including emergency food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens and elder care centers Christmas will be here soon and your help is urgently needed. At the food bank, they are able to take every \$10 you donate and turn it into approximately 40 meals. Your donation will truly be a gift that matters for those in need. A table will be set up near the office to collect money for the Food Bank. Each dollar makes a huge difference!

1 in 6 face hunger  
5 in 6 can help



Please donate to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. A jar for donations is outside Pastor Al's office. Thanks for sharing your blessings with others!

# December Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Dave & Jaime Leonhart	16 Art Kurtt Cavin Newby
2 Jennifer Clayton Joel & Jane Teetzen	17 Sharon Robinson Greg Thies
3 Dalton Brinkman Julie Diercks Lois Miller	19 Elaine Dove Melodie Foelske
4 Lincoln Gustafson Shirley Thurm Burton & Sharon Diercks	20 Carolyn Becker
5 Candi Nuehring Casey Wirtjes	21 Tim Mueller Frank & Roberta Merrill
6 Sharon Diercks Cody Hougen Linda Krueger	22 Jennifer Sawyer
7 Nathan Thurm	23 Emma Haase Morgan Smith
8 Jillian Clayton Jaime Gienau Mia Leonhart Linda Schult Robert & Sharon Foelske	24 Jeremiah Kern
9 Lauren Carman Darlys Milius	25 Breanna Sadler
10 Alvina Koepke	26 Jack Mixdorf Greg Smith
11 Holly Smith	27 Tom Lahmann Bob Weston
12 Lynette Renner	28 Klair Heim Dawn & David Lau Amy & Richard Mortenson Aubrey Roethler
13 Samantha Gehrke Garrett Wahl	29 Jennifer Ackerman Cassandra Vohsman
14 Brooks Meyer	30 Monte Nuehring
15 Andrew Brown Alexandra Swanson David & Jo VanDeberg	31 Max Thrasher



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

# Congregational News



Join me in wishing this special lady a Happy 90th Birthday! Elaine Dove 's birthday is December 19; Elaine and her family are providing birthday treats after our December 10th worship service.



## Gather Bible Study

The Bible study normally held the first Wednesday of the month, will be held one week later on the 13th of December, at 1:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

## 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, January 4.** If you know of someone who is in need of a Prayer Shawl, please take one from the closet in the Friendship Room. Please make sure you fill out a form (located new shawls).

## Songs of the Season...

That is the theme for this years' Old Fashioned Christmas event to be held December 2 & 3, sponsored by the Denver Betterment Committee. Look for St Peter's tree at the Denver Community Center! It will be exciting to see what songs will be featured by the various decorated trees. So mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

## Grief Support Group

The meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm, St Paul Lutheran Church, Waverly. Led by Pastor Trachte; All are welcome.

## Bell Choir

Come be part of this fun group-Practices are on Sunday mornings at 7:45 am. Contact Jo VanDeBerg 515-238-7483.

## Special Music

If you are interested in sharing your musical talents with the congregation for Christmas; we would love to have you! Contact the office or sign up online.



# Community & Mission News

## His Hands Oran Food Pantry,

Serving families in the area that are experiencing food insecurity. **December wish list:** baking products and personal care items such as shampoo, soap, deodorant, tooth paste, bathroom tissue, etc.

Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon.

Served in October: 69 Households, 179 Individuals, 5,699 lbs of food distributed. Questions? -319-638-4357.

*Last month's donation total came to 74 lbs. The Food Bank was very busy when Staci delivered the items and they were happy to see another great donation from St Peter!*

## Noisy Offering

The November and December noisy offerings will be shared with Cedar Valley Hospice. The focus of the Cedar Valley Hospice team of compassionate professionals is the comfort and care of each patient. The team of doctors, nurses, aides, spiritual counselors, social workers and volunteers listen to the specific needs of each patient and their family members. Care from Cedar Valley Hospice can be provided in the patient's home, at an assisted living facility, nursing home or hospital. Hospice care can also be provided at the Cedar Valley Hospice Home. Your contributions will help make a significant difference in the lives of Hospice patients and their families.

## Northeast Iowa Food Bank

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

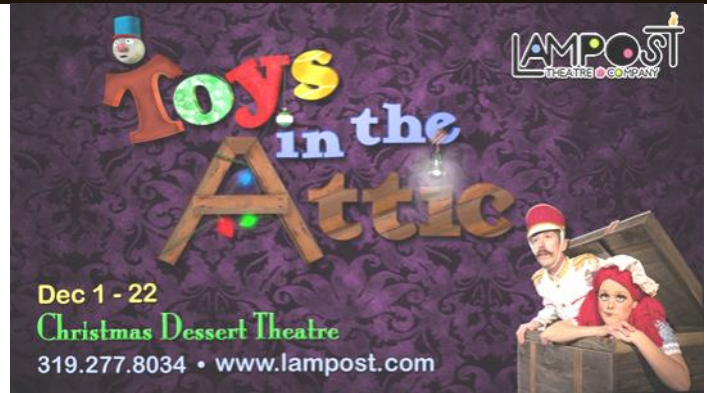
## BLUE CHRISTMAS

*Longing for Hope, Longing for God*

*We pray that you find  
solace, peace, and hope  
during this holiday season*

*Sunday, December 10th  
9:00 am at St Peter*

*You are invited to stay after worship for a  
group meeting with Pastor Trachte*



Celebrate the season with Lampost Theatre Co.'s annual Christmas dessert theatre! A handful of forgotten toys come to life for a Christmas Eve adventure in "Toys in the Attic," a high energy, heartwarming musical-comedy. This special event is also a great opportunity to share the Light with friends and neighbors as this show brings a fresh look at the heart of the Christmas message. Performances run Dec. 1-Dec. 22, and for tickets or information, call (319) 277-8034 or visit [www.lampost.com](http://www.lampost.com). Tickets are \$18 and include the show, a gourmet dessert, and coffee or cocoa.

## Helping Hands Clothes Closet

Located at 2029 Viking Ave. Sumner, provides free gently used clothes to lower income & homeless families and individuals and those affected by disaster. A ministry of St John, Sumner & St Peter, Oran. They offer women, men, and children clothing, shoes, coats, bedding & towels. Hours: Tuesdays 9-11 am, Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm, and the 1st Saturday of each month, 9-11 am. If you have any questions email or call Carolyn Mohlis, 319-279-3247 or [Carolyn.mohlis@gmail.com](mailto:Carolyn.mohlis@gmail.com).

*The clothing closet had 163 clients visits in October and 53 volunteer hours.*

## WELCA Board Meeting

March 2018

## Gather Bible Study

Typically Gather Bible Study is held the first Wednesday of the month, but will be held one week later on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm

**Next Meeting: December 13**

## Serving Committee for December

Jennifer Clayton	Diann Curtis	Sandra Sue Eick
Donna Hulsing	Dori Jurgenson	Tammy Maitland
Angie Meyer	Joanne Milius	Sharon Mueller
Sarah Sanderson	Helen Schumacher	Kerry Thies
Shirley Thurm	Nicole Valverde	

# Faith Formation

## Confirmation

*Wednesdays in December*

- Dec 6 Family Bible Study, 6:30 pm  
13 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Class, 6:30 pm  
20 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Class, 6:30 pm

## 4th-6th Grade Fusion

The 4th-6th grade youth group, will meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. We will be focused on devotion, fellowship and fun!

**Our next meeting is December 12.** We will need a parent volunteer for each meeting. Please let Kim know if you are able to help. Thank You,  
Kim Lamb - 984-5837 or [fusion@stpeterdenver.org](mailto:fusion@stpeterdenver.org)

## Sunday School

Thank you for sharing your children with us each week! Bringing your children regularly to Sunday School teaches them the importance of growing their faith and sharing Jesus with those around them.

Our Sunday School children shared offerings will be donated to Lutheran Disaster Response "Hurricane Response."

We have a few very important dates coming up in December:

### Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

**Saturday, December 16** - Dress Rehearsal 10:00-11:30 am  
(K -6<sup>th</sup> grade ONLY, not preschool)

**Sunday, December 17** - Christmas Program at 9:00 am  
Worship Service, NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Please join us for Christmas cookies, hot cocoa and coffee, in the lower level of the church following the program.*

**There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on December 24 & December 31 due to the Christmas Holiday.**

If you have any questions please contact  
Lisa Michels, [lisa@mcsupport.com](mailto:lisa@mcsupport.com) or 319-427-2088.



## Baptism

We welcome Isaac Kurt Gleason, who was baptized at St Peter on Sunday, October 29, into our church family. Ike's parents are Kurt & Julie Gleason, and sisters, Adalyn, Lydia and Isabel. His sponsors are Jeff & Susan Stirling



## Womensfest

Ecumenical Bible Study (Womensfest), We are studying Paul's letter to the Romans on Tuesdays through Dec. 19, a chapter a week. We continue to meet at St. Paul UCC on Tuesday mornings, 7:30-8:30 AM. All are welcome.



*Merry Christmas*

*to our*

*St Peter Family!*



# December 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 am Decorating the church for Christmas
<b>3</b> 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm Property Management meeting	<b>5</b> 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Family Bible Study	<b>7</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <i>Blue Christmas</i> 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 5:00 pm St Peter Christmas Party	<b>11</b> 8:30 am Financial Board meeting	<b>12</b> 7:30 am Womenfest 6:30 pm Fusion 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	<b>13</b> 1:00 pm Gather Bible Study 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>14</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm Worship & Music mtg.	<b>15</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>16</b> 9:00 am NEIA Food Bank 10:00-11:30 am SS Christmas Program practice
<b>17</b> 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Sunday School Christmas Pageant Noisy Offering	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>21</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship	<b>25</b> <b>Merry Christmas</b> Office closed	<b>26</b> 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:00 am Worship						

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### 2017 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 The Congregational President. Thank you!

**Church Council:** Staci Mueller, Doug Miller, Amy Lockhart, Garland Krabbenhoft, Eve Pautsch, Jim Jurgenson, Connie Lobeck

**Executive Board:** Garland Krabbenhoft, Eve Pautsch, Amy Lockhart, Jim Jurgenson

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

**Parish Education:** Eve Pautsch, Lisa Michels

**Worship & Music:** Sheila Mixdorf, Amy Lockhart, Jo VanDeBerg, Joyce Miller, Nancy Lamos, Connie Lobeck

**Mission:** Pat Leonhart, Bev Diercks, Shirley Thurm, Gretchen Syhre, Kelley Carman, Cameron Wahl

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

**Youth & Family:** Kim Lamb, Krista Wahl, Connie Lobeck

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

**Financial Committee:** Dwight Diercks, Paul Meier, Jim Moeller, Jack Mixdorf, Jim Jurgenson