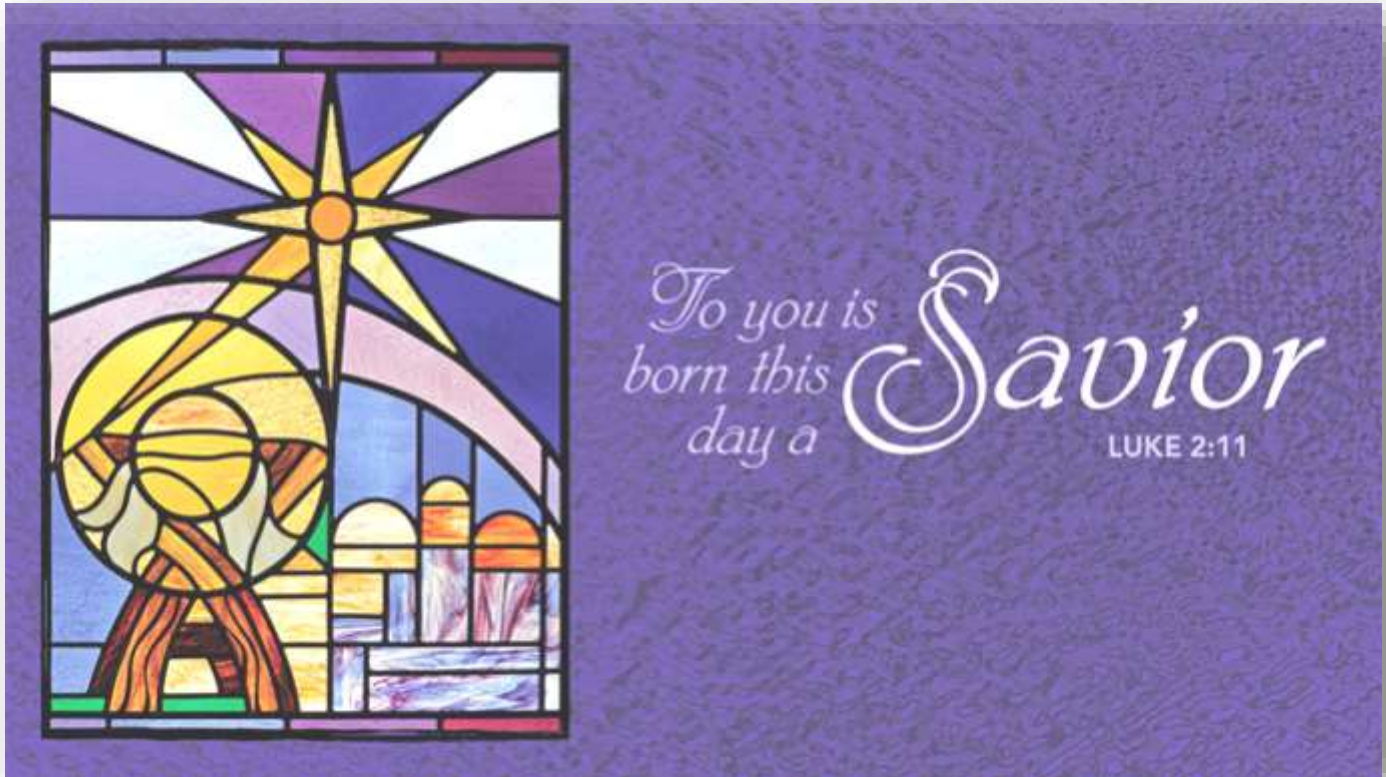


St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

December 2020

Pastor Dawn Pederson
Projecting Christ to All Generations



What is Christmas?

We began 2020 like we normally do, but everything changed in March. When we recorded online Holy Week and Easter worship services, we never thought we would be recording online Christmas Eve worship, but here we are eight months later. We remember Christmases past and we hope for more Christmases to come, but this year will be different and yet, I wonder how will Christmas still be the same?

I remember Christmases past. Every Christmas Eve the extended family would gather at Grandpa and Grandma's house. The driveway on the farm was long enough to hold all of the cars. Later when Grandpa and Grandma moved into town the cars spilled out from their driveway lining both sides of the street. The house was aglow, warm and bursting at the seams with family and food. Upon entering Grandpa and Grandma's house, you immediately smelled the lutefisk (I'm pinching my nose), turkey, stuffing, and all of the fixings (yum). Many had fasted all day in anticipation of this great Christmas smorgasbord, what a feast. It was a delight to our noses, eyes, and bellies. After feeding our physical hunger, when we were so full our clothes were literally bursting at the seams, we all gathered to feed a different kind of hunger. That's when Grandpa opened his well-worn leather covered King James Bible. His Bible seemed to fall open to the second chapter of Luke's gospel. It didn't matter how many times we had heard it before, we were hungering and thirsting to hear it once more.

This Christmas the sanctuary won't be full, bursting at the seams, but nothing, not even a pandemic, will stop us from gathering to hear the Christmas story. Oh, somethings will be different for sure, but not what Christmas is all about. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." As it is written in Matthew's gospel, "She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. . . . Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'God is with us.'" And, from the gospel of Luke, the one my grandfather read every Christmas Eve, the angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

What is Christmas? Christmas is the Christ child born for all. Jesus is God's most wonderful, indescribable gift given to you, to me, to the world. Let us join heav'n and nature singing with joy this Christmas for Jesus, God's love, has come and will never leave us. So, this Christmas, like every Christmas past "O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord."

Merry Christmas! *Pastor Dawn and Steve*

Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - online only

	December 6 Sunday 9:00 am	December 13 Sunday 9:00 am	December 20 Sunday 9:00 am	December 24 Christmas Eve Thursday 9:00 am	December 27 Sunday 9:00 am
Organist	Sheryl Moeller	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart
Multimedia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Altar Guild	*Connie Lobeck, Judy Gleason, Diann Curtis, Janice Gienau, Carol Moon				
Usher/Greeters	*Gary & LaVonne Westendorf, Monte & Emmett Nuehring *=(only if comfortable participating)				
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.					

Offerings

Thank you so much to our St Peter members for the donations that have continued to come in. We appreciate your support!

The Bell and Chimes at St Peter

Listen for the chimes at St. Peter every night at 8:00 pm. This is both a call to prayer and a daily blessing.

Bulletin Requests

Each week the church office emails the bulletin to church members with email addresses. We also mail out to members that have indicated an interest in receiving one through the mail. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please let the office know.

Noisy Offering

The November & December Noisy offering will go to Friends of the Family in Waverly. Their mission is to provide safe shelter, confidential services, and housing assistance to individuals in crisis due to homelessness, domestic violence sexual assault, and human trafficking.



Derecho Donations

Thank you for your generous support of \$3,445 in response to the 2020 Iowa Storm Fund! Because of you, the Lutheran Disaster Response Fund is able to wrap care around our neighbors who have been impacted by the derecho storm. Thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!
John Twardos, President and CEO of Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI)

Helping Hands Clothes Closet

We have switched over to winter clothing now. Anyone in need of clothing assistance is welcome to come to Helping Hands Clothing Closet. We do not have income guidelines or restrictions to the area we serve. Hours: Tuesdays 9-11 am, Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm, and the 1st Saturday of each month, 9:00-11:00 am. If you have any questions email or call Carolyn Mohlis, 319-279-3247 or Carolyn.mohlis@gmail.com.

From the Church Office

Check out the online church calendar. The link is on the opening page of our website -

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

Newsletter Deadline: 4:00 pm on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Assistance During the Pandemic

One day at a time is our new normal. As we continue to navigate through this pandemic there may be new needs that arise. St Peter is here as a resource for you. We may be able to meet the need, and if not, we will look for and share other possible resources with you. Please contact the church office or Pastor Dawn on her cell phone (641-529-6592) with questions or needs.

Mission & Community

Christmas with Wartburg will be online this year

<https://www.wartburg.edu/christmas/>

We hope you will join us Friday, December 4, at 7:00 pm (CST) for the virtual premiere of last year's Christmas with Wartburg production, *Behold the Mystery*. In addition to the premiere, the video will be available on demand for viewing at any time.

Due to the pandemic, this year's concert, *Hope Awakens; Love's New Dawn*, will be on video, with friends and alumni joining us online either for the virtual premiere or watching on demand whenever convenient for them. Christmas with Wartburg 2020 will premiere online Wednesday, December 23, at 7:00 pm (CST).

St Peter Lutheran

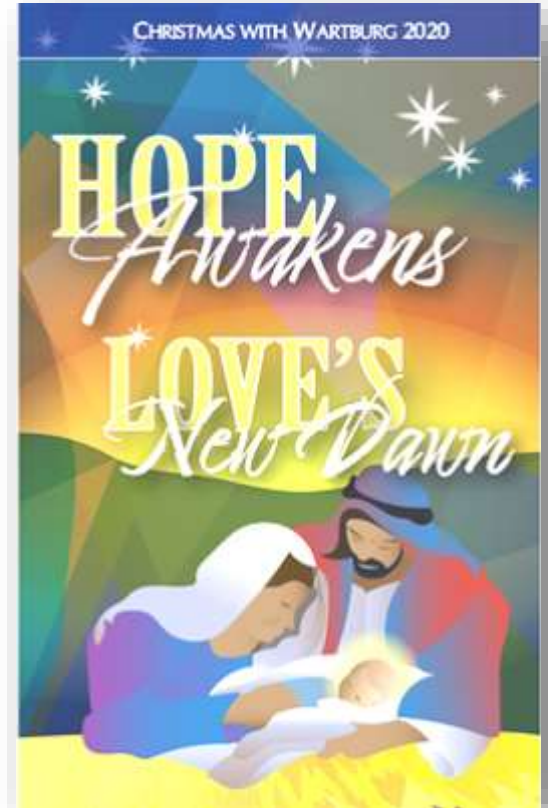
Thank you for sharing your noisy offering with Helping Hands Clothing Closet. With the continued pandemic, your help is very appreciated and needed. *Helping Hands Clothing Closet*

Worship will be online only, through December

At the November council meeting an informed and difficult decision to resume online only worship through the end of 2020 was made. As our county and country experience alarming rates of Covid-19 spread, we find it necessary for the health and well being for all to worship online.

Notice

To care for staff and the building, you will need to wear a mask and call the church number (984-5648) to enter the building.



CHRISTMAS AT LUTHER

The online premiere of "Christmas at Luther 2020: For Everyone Born" will be at **7:30 p.m. Friday, December 4**. Newly formatted for this unique time in history, this magical performance will be available to view from the comfort of home, free of charge."

Our goal is to bring the same spirit and energy of a Christmas at Luther production and couple it with an opportunity to showcase our student musicians in a very different format," said Andrew Last, director of choral activities and artistic director of Christmas at Luther. "In addition to featuring individual ensembles, we are hoping to showcase our musicians collaborating with the Luther community in a couple of hallmark moments."

One of those memorable moments is the traditional Christmas at Luther candle-lighting, which will be included in the 2020 event. Despite being apart, this moment will spark a feeling of togetherness.

Last says the theme "For Everyone Born" speaks to the unique times we are in. Audience members can expect to hear music that is both relevant and celebratory of the holiday season.

"Our world is weathering the storms of the coronavirus and grappling with the challenges of social and racial injustice in our country. The theme of Christmas at Luther this year harkens to Christ's birth story and how on the night he was born, his family was told there was no room for them at the inn," said Last. "'For Everyone Born' is taken from a hymn of the same name that reminds us that there is a place at the table for each and every one of us."

Visit luther.edu/christmas2020 to register and receive a viewing link.



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Community & Mission News

1
Dave & Jaime Leonhart

2
Jennifer Clayton
Joel & Jane Teetzen

3
Dalton Brinkman
Lois Miller

4
Lincoln Gustafson
Shirley Thurm
Burton & Sharon Diercks

5
Candi Nuehring
Kasey Wirtjes

6
Sharon Diercks
Cody Hougen
Linda Krueger

7
Nathan Thurm

8
Jillian Clayton
Jaime Gienau
Mia Leonhart
Linda Schult
Robert & Sharon Foelske

9
Lauren Carman
Darlys Milius

10
Alvina Koepke

11
Holly Smith

12
Lynette Renner

13
Samantha Gehrke
Garrett Wahl

14
Brooks Meyer

15
Andrew Brown
Alexandra Swanson
David & Jo VanDeberg

16
Art Kurtt
Cavin Newby

17
Sharon Robinson
Greg Thies

19
Elaine Dove
Melodie Foelske
Jack Niewoehner

20
Carolyn Becker

21
Tim Mueller

22
Jennifer Sawyer

23
Emma Haase
Morgan Smith

24
Jeremiah Kern

25
Breanna Sadler

26
Braven Beaumont
Jack Mixdorf
Greg Smith

27
Tom Lahmann
Bob Weston

28
Klair Heim
Dawn & David Lau
Amy & Richard Mortenson
Tyler Nuss
Aubrey Roethler

29
Jennifer Ackerman
Cassandra Vohsman

30
Monte Nuehring

31
Max Thrasher



Birth Announcement

Kari & Gary Anfinson are happy to announce they have a new Granddaughter. Zyla Rose was born November 13th 6 lbs. 5 oz. and 19". Parents, Abby & Jordan and big sisters Zearley & Zaylin and little brother Zaith. Congratulations to all!

To my St Peter church family

Thank you so very much for your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time for us. My daughter, Lora was diagnosed with aggressive B-cell Lymphoma with acute kidney injury. She is undergoing chemo and dialysis at the present time. Chemo is once every 3 weeks and dialysis being twice a week. Hopefully by next May we'll be able to say she is cancer free. She has a long way to go, she is in God's arms and he's taking good care of her. A special thank you to my Mission Board family for the bag of goodies. All of those things are perfect; the candle, chocolates, tea, body wash and beautiful star tree ornament. You're the best! Love and blessings, *Marcia*

Re-Do Cards Available

We have many cards for all occasions; feel free to come to the church and choose from the card rack. All proceeds go to Prayer Shawl at this time.

Confirmation

Online classes are scheduled and the dates and times, can be found on our website calendar.

Resources Available

The current issue of *Christ in Our Home* is located on the table outside the office. Everyone is welcome to the quarterly devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a scripture reference and prayer for the day. Large print copies are available.



Please let the office know if you would like us to mail a copy of *Christ in Our Home* to you.

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



The Sending of the Quilts

Quilts and school kits for Lutheran World Relief were delivered to the Fall Ingathering at St. Timothy Church in Hudson on Saturday, November 7. Many thanks to those who helped prepare the 197 quilts and 24 school kits that were contributed by St. Peter Church. We are grateful for the van provided for transportation by Schumacher Elevator, our faithful driver, Neil Hartmann, and those who helped load the boxes, Larry Oltrogge, Neil Hartmann, Gene Leonhart and Jim Moeller.

Gather Bible Studies- Fall 2020

“Holy Time”, written by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, has been our Gather Bible Study series this fall. While we have missed being together in person to share the study of God’s Word, I am happy to share with you that our author has created a video for each fall lessons. The videos can be found online at www.gathermagazine.org under the heading - Resources. May God’s peace be with you until we are able to study together again.

House of Hope Upcoming Event



Festival of Lights

December 17-20 5:00 - 8:00 pm
439 N Division St, Cedar Falls 50613

Hop in the car and enjoy our family friendly, drive through light display. There will be music and Santa and it will be a jolly good way to support House of Hope!

Order tickets online for a hands-free experience at www.houseofhopeccd.org/events or call 319.232.3823

WELCA Board Meeting

Next WELCA Board Meeting: TBD

Gather Bible Study -TBD

Serving Committee for December

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the 1st Thursday, every other month at 1:00 pm. **Next meeting: TBD**

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 next to the new shawls).

Christmas Poinsettias:

Since we are not having in person worship for Christmas, we will not be ordering poinsettias as a church. If you would still like to order a poinsettia on your own and share it with the church you are more than welcome to do so. We can still include the “in memory of a loved one” in the bulletin for Christmas Eve, but you will be responsible for getting it to the church. The poinsettias will be set around the altar for our video taped worships services that we post online.

These gifts do a lot of good!

**ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS**
CATALOG



Wondering how to make a positive impact in the world right now? With ELCA Good Gifts, you can choose from 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones. Each one of these gifts makes a real impact in the world, sharing the love of Christ — one goat, water well or school uniform at a time.

Start your holiday shopping now and order free, customized cards for each gift you give. Please give by December 10, 2020, to ensure that your cards arrive in time for Christmas. <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

Faith Formation & Announcements



Well, if these two don't make you smile !.....what a great job the Gleason children did on their Lutheran Rose project.

ADVENT PREACHING SERIES

The Northeastern Iowa Synod staff will provide a recorded sermon for every Sunday in Advent, based on the ELCA World Hunger Advent Study [God With Us](#).

Advent 1 – November 29, 2020

“Keep Awake” by Pastor Joelle Colville Hanson, Director for Evangelical Mission

Advent 2 – December 6, 2020

“Prepare” by Interim Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl

Advent 3 – December 13, 2020

“Comfort” by Pastor Steve Brackett, Assistant to the Bishop

Advent 4 – December 20, 2020

“Presence” by Pastor Mark Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop

First Sunday of Christmas – December 27, 2020

Interim Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl

Videos of the sermons will be posted each week on the Northeastern Iowa Synod YouTube channel, and part of our St Peter weekly worship.

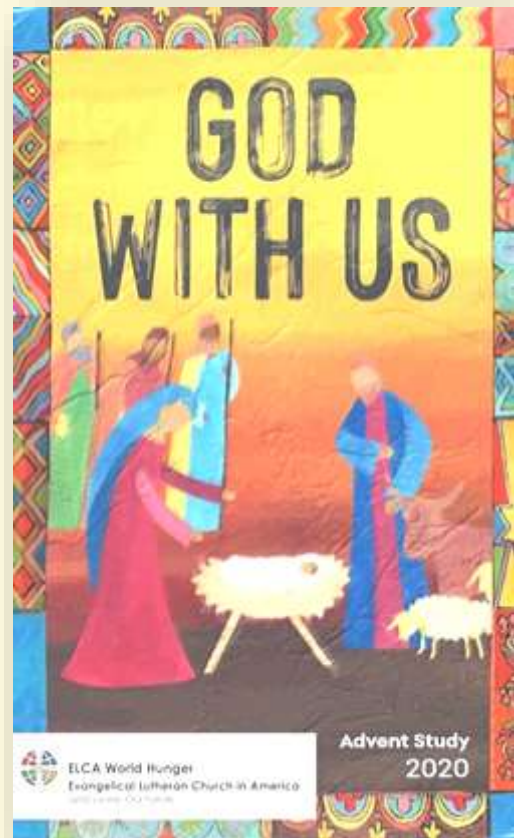
Join the fight for clean water

Imagine waking up in the morning and not being able to turn on the faucet to brush your teeth. Did you know that the average person in the United States uses 80 gallons of water per day? Now imagine having to walk miles, each day, just to fill up a bucket of water. Here's the thing... we can help people by providing them with access to clean water. So why not? The Tanzania Water Fund was founded by Dean Riesen and has been a part of more than 36 water projects. Partners include WorldServe International and Chris Long's foundation, The Waterboys. Since 2018, Justin Futrell has led a “Pull-ups for Tanzania” annual fundraiser to bring awareness to this issue. Our purpose is to bring clean water to villages in rural Tanzania.

Our efforts focus on the Singida region because we have strong, reliable relationships with local government leaders. These trusted connections are vital to our work because they help representatives of the Tanzania Water Fund identify villages that need access to water, and the villages' people desire to support our efforts. People in the village help with each water project to feel empowered and have skin in the game. Naturally, education and ongoing maintenance are crucial for each project's sustainability, and we consider that cost in our fundraising efforts.

To donate or questions contact Justin Futrell via email jfutrell@truenorthcompanies.com or 740-525-5259

There is a link on St Peter Facebook page or a check can be mailed to Tanzania Water Fund, attn: Justin Furtrell, 2219 S Williams St, Denver CO 80210



December 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:30 pm 7th grade Confirmation	3 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	4	5
Tentatively Scheduled						
6 Worship online	7	8 6:30 pm Council meeting	9 6:30 pm 8th grade Confirmation	10 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	11	12
13 Worship online	14	15	16 6:30 pm 7th grade Confirmation	17 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	18 Newsletter Deadline	19
20 Worship online with Noisy Offering	21	22	23 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	24 Christmas Eve Office closed	25 Merry Christmas Office closed	26
27 Worship online	28	29	30	31 10:00 am Bulletin deadline		

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Denver, IA 50622
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www.stpeterdenver.org ~ info@stpeterdenver.org
Pastor Dawn Pederson 641-529-6592

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2020 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: Amy Lockhart, Jim Jurgenson, Gavin Carman, Todd Foelske, Gene Leonhart, Mary Stevens, LaVonne Westendorf, Marcia Joerger, Kim Lamb

Executive Board: Jim Jurgenson, Gavin Carman, Amy Lockhart, Gene Leonhart

Property & Management: Neil Hartmann, Gene Leonhart, Leroy Homeister, Roxane Franzen, Jim Jurgenson

Parish Education: Todd Foelske, Jaime Leonhart, Mary Satterthwaite

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

Mission: Sue Buss, Pat Leonhart, Shirley Thurm, Kelley Carman, Marcia Ott, Leah Homeister, Linda Schult, Kim Lamb

Stewardship: Mary Stevens, Dori Jurgenson, Brenda Wolter

Youth & Family: Eve Pautsch, Krista Olson, Sarah Sanderson, Julie Brinkman, Lisa Michels, Marcia Joerger

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

Financial Board: Dwight Diercks, Paul Meier, Jim Moeller, Jack Mixdorf, Gene Leonhart, Gavin Carman, Jim Jurgenson