

# St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

December 2016 Rev. Ron Mathews

Projecting Christ to All Generations

*"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" ~ Matthew 25:40*

This Advent season we are journeying through the Gospel of Matthew in a shared story of hunger. A people's hunger for salvation, the fleeing holy family's hunger for safety and the world's hunger for a new dawn. Advent hope draws us into the world as people of promise, people for whom the "shadow of death" cast by deep hunger and poverty around the world is not God's final word to God's people. In Advent, we reflect on how far the Lord has led us and how far we have yet to go toward a world in which all are fed. As we prepare for the arrival of God's Son, this season offers us an important opportunity to reflect on the mystery and excitement of the promise from God. A promise born to us. A promise that died for us. A promise that will return to be with us. (Adapted from the "Advent Study")

This Advent season we are focusing our worship services and mission efforts on the ELCA World Hunger's "Advent Study." I want to encourage you to take one of the booklets from the information table to read along each week. As part of this emphasis, we are also encouraging our community to support those in need through purchasing "Good Gifts" which help to create a sustainable living for families. The ornaments are located on our giving tree in the Friendship Room.

As people of promise, we have been called to serve the least of those around us. For some, hunger takes the form of clothing, housing/shelter, or food. And still, especially during the holidays, others share a hunger deep in their hearts due to a loss, struggle, or grief. This year the entire Church community will be encouraged to attend our Blue Christmas worship service on Sunday Dec 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. This service of healing will draw us towards the manger in a light that is not usually shown amidst the holiday glisten.

**ADVENT**

We have much to be thankful for and we have much to give. May this season of Christ's coming be a season of both blessing and renewal.

Serving Christ With You,  
Pastor Ron

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

December 4 - *Bearing Fruit*

December 11 - *Healing of the Whole World*

December 18 - *Sunday School Christmas Pageant*

## Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm, 7:00 pm & 11:00 pm

## Christmas Day

December 25, 9:00 am

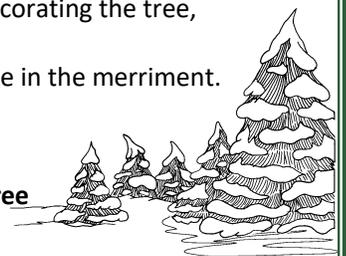
## CHRISTMAS PARTY AT ST PETER

6:00 pm Wednesday, December 7

We will be enjoying food, decorating the tree, games and holiday cheer.

Everyone is invited to partake in the merriment.

7:00 pm Blessing &  
Lighting of the Christmas Tree





# 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*

	December 4 Sunday 9 am	December 11 Sunday 9 am	December 18 Sunday 9 am	December 24 Christmas Eve Saturday 4, 7 & 11 pm	December 25 Christmas Day Sunday 9 am
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Pat Leonhart	Connie Lobeck	NA	4 pm-Kim Lamb 7 pm-Connie Lobeck	Susan Buss
<b>Scripture Readers</b>	Gene Leonhart	Joyce Miller	NA	4pm-Amy Lockhart 7pm-TBD 11pm-TBD	Susan Buss
<b>Acolytes</b>	Mitchell & Brooke DeVries	Max Thrasher & Conner Vauthier	Layne Fober	TBD	TBD
<b>Multimedia</b>	Parker Mueller	Jack Mixdorf	Jacob Lyons	TBD	TBD
<b>Organist</b>	Sheryl Moeller	Sheila Mixdorf	Amy Lockhart	4pm-Sheila Mixdorf 7pm-Matthew Rector 11pm-Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller
<b>Sound System</b>	Steve DeVries	Alton Midthus	Larry Oltrogge	4pm-Roger Donaldson 7pm-Steve DeVries	Alton Midthus
<b>Video</b>	Dwight Diercks	Roger Thurm	Dwight Diercks	Roger Thurm	Roger Thurm
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Terrie Thurm, Lori Thurm, Michelle Steffe				
<b>Usher/Greeters</b>	Gary & LaVonne Westendorf, Chuck & Trudy Essmann, Monte & Emmett Nuehring				
<p><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></p>					

## 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.

### Reminder

Board minutes, Pastoral highlights and Council minutes are posted in the Friendship Room for your perusal.

**BOARD REPORTS ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE BY DECEMBER 5. THANK YOU.**

### Offering Envelopes

Please stop by the information table outside the office, after December 5th, to pick up your 2017 offering envelopes.

### Winter Weather Policy

We will not cancel worship due to inclement weather, but encourage you to stay home if that is safest for you.

**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 KWWL.

### 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.

# Martin Luther: Monk to Reformer



## ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

*October 2017 marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. As we prepare for this celebration, we want to invite you into a time of learning. Martin Luther and many of his reforming companions were teachers after all. Every month we will publish a new article on one of the many diverse aspects of the Lutheran church. We hope you enjoy and learn a little bit more by reading these articles.*

We live in an era when fame is highly desired. Whether it's getting hits on social media, getting invited to desirable gatherings, or making it big in Hollywood or Nashville, people want to be known, to be memorable—often for the wrong reasons. It's noteworthy, then, that in 2017 the Lutheran church—and the world—marks a big anniversary involving one of our own (our founder, actually). Martin Luther didn't intend to become famous, and yet he changed the world, helping to usher in the modern era.

This little sheet doesn't have room to detail Luther's life and accomplishments, and you will probably be hearing a lot about them from many sources, so this will just provide a brief overview.

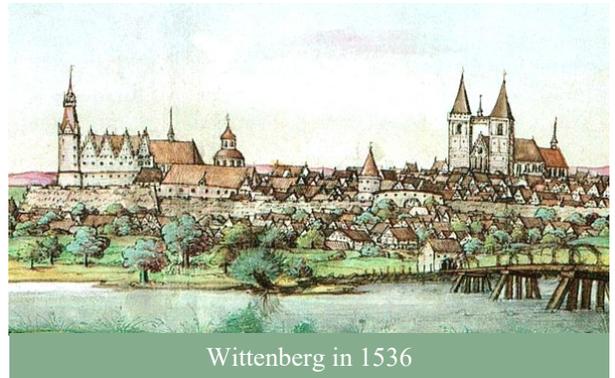
Martin Luther was born in 1483 in what is now central Germany but then was a separate principality called Saxony. His parents tried to give him a good education and hoped he would become a lawyer. Instead, when he was twenty-one he became a Catholic monk. He wanted to earn God's love but was tormented by the sense that he could never be good enough. He punished himself mercilessly until finally a wise mentor sent him to study and teach Bible at the then new University of Wittenberg.

Not long after he arrived there, he became incensed by the church saying, in effect, that if people bought a certain document—an indulgence—it would provide God's forgiveness for their (or a loved one's) sins. Being a university professor, he wrote a list of ninety-five sentences to debate about the topic. That list, the Ninety-Five Theses, stirred up a hornet's nest in the church and began the Reformation. He made them public on October 31, 1517—coming up on five hundred years ago.

For challenging the church and refusing to back down, Luther was called before the Holy Roman emperor, Charles V, at a meeting in the imperial city of Worms. Asked to take back what he had written, he refused and was declared an outlaw. Anyone could have captured him and killed him or turned him in to authorities, in which case his death was likely. Fortunately, his own prince protected him, hiding him out in a castle where he began translating the Bible into German. In the process, he helped create the standard German language.

Luther wrote many influential books, most of which are still valued today. He created the Small Catechism to guide ordinary people in learning about God. He wrote hymns such as "A mighty fortress is our God." He was a passionate, sometimes crudely mannered man, and in later life he wrote terrible, cruel things about the Jewish people, statements for which the Lutheran church has apologized.

Yet Luther was a remarkable man, helping to create the modern notion of what it means to be an individual, not just an atom in a sea of molecules, and, of course, reviving and reforming the church. He is a man worth celebrating!



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## Mission & Community

### His Hands Oran Food Pantry,

Serving families in the area that are experiencing food insecurity. December wish list: Canned goods (tuna, chicken, soup, pineapple and mandarin oranges, etc.) Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon. Served in October: 74 Households, 5,113.7 lbs of food distributed. Questions? -319-638-4357.

*St Peter's total for last months donation was 80.7 lbs. They were very glad to see Staci and the boys again!*

### Coats for Kids

Coat drive for local kids and families. Please drop off any slightly used or new coats at the Denver Baptist Church, 725 S Schneider St, Tuesday-Friday 8:30-Noon or call 319-984-5947. All coast will be given to Denver Elementary Students or Denver Cares.



# December Birthdays & Anniversaries

# Congregational News

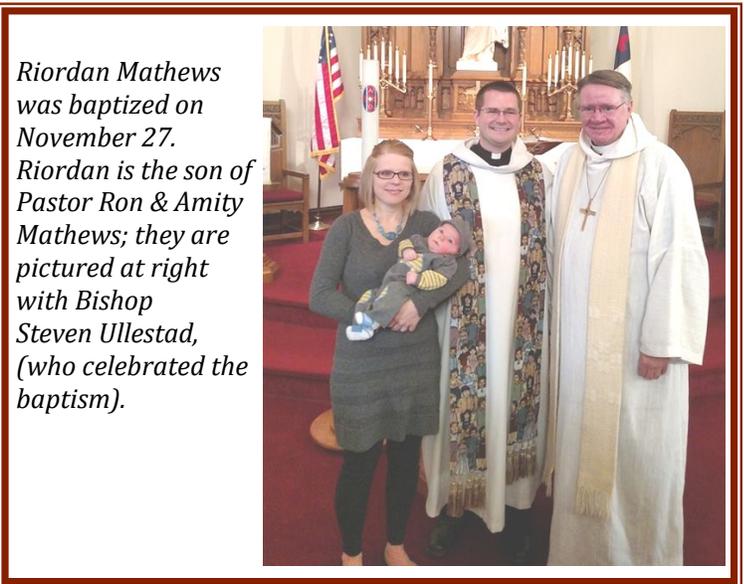
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1<br>Dave & Jaime Leonhart  | 16<br>Art Kurtt<br>Cavin Newby   |
| 2<br>Jennifer Clayton<br>Joel & Jane Teetzen  | 17<br>Sharon Robinson<br>Greg Thies  |
| 3<br>Dalton Brinkman<br>Julie Diercks<br>Lois Miller  | 19<br>Elaine Dove<br>Melodie Foelske   |
| 4<br>Lincoln Gustafson<br>Shirley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



*Congratulations to Anna (Moeller) & Kellen Schultz, who were married at St Peter on November 12.*



*Riordan Mathews was baptized on November 27. Riordan is the son of Pastor Ron & Amity Mathews; they are pictured at right with Bishop Steven Ullestad, (who celebrated the baptism).*

## Vocal Music Leaders

To enhance our worship experience we are adding vocal music leaders to our worship servers list. If you are interested in leading the congregation in singing please sign up or contact the office with questions. We are in particular looking for someone to lead the Christmas 7 pm worship and starting in January we will hopefully schedule people for each of the 9:00 am services.

## 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!

## 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.

# Mission & Community

## Let's Do the Math!

The North East Iowa Food Bank is always in need of food items to help the hungry in the Cedar Valley. November and December are especially tough times of the year for those who are struggling financially. For \$10 you can purchase approximately 10 to 12 canned good items. That's great! However, with that same \$10, if you donate it as cash to the Food Bank, they can buy \$110 dollars worth of food. Which equation makes more sense? During November, the Board of Mission will be collecting your monetary donations in a large glass jar outside the church offices. Give thanks for your blessings by sharing with others!

## 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. *There are brochures & calendars from Hospice on the little table in the Friendship Room—help yourself.*

## GIFTS OF THE SEASON



Check out the St Peter tree at the Denver Community Christmas event at city hall, December 3 & 4. Thank you to Holly Smith for decorating our tree! The tree will be set up in the Friendship Room after the event. The ELCA Good Gift Ornaments will be available, so you may take the animal/ornament of your choice, off the tree and make a donation.

# Women of the ELCA

## WELCA Board Meeting

Sunday, December 11 @ 10:15 am

## WELCA Bible Study Leaders

Available in the Gather Magazine

## Ruth Circle

Next Meeting: No meeting in December

## Mary Circle

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 7, @12:00 pm,

In the church basement

Hostess & Bible Study Leader: TBD

## Naomi Circle

Next Meeting: No meeting in December

## Serving Committee for December

### Chairperson - Ruth Circle

### Coffee - Men

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

## Thank You

Thanks to those who donated monetary gifts to help Alysia Roths, our former church secretary, and her family with flood expenses they experienced this fall. \$405 has been sent to her to help off-set costs of materials needed to repair the damaged lower level of their home. Your contributions display the love of Christ shining through your generosity! *Board of Mission*

## 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 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).

## 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 December 10, from 9-10:30am.** Simply go to the volunteer entrance at the Food Bank, 160 Lafayette St, Any questions, call Joyce Miller 984-5021.

## Womenfest

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

# Service Opportunities

# Faith Formation

## Flood Recovery Benefit Dinner at St Peter Lutheran Church

It has only been a couple months since the flood waters devastated our area and there are many families who are still unable to sleep in their homes. After the waters subsided about 75 families were determined to be "in dire need." Now that the waters are gone, the Long-Term Recovery Coalition of Butler County is assessing damages and identifying needs. Right now, the best way we can help is through cash donations.



*Thank You to Thrivent Action Teams who helped make this event possible!  
All proceeds will go to benefit the work of the Butler County Long-Term Disaster Recovery efforts via Lutheran Disaster Response.*



## NEIA Food Bank

We are heading to the Food Bank to offer our support this holiday season on Saturday, December 17, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Meet at St Peter Lutheran Church by 8:30 am if you would like a ride. Contact Cameron Wahl if you need a ride or have questions 319-830-3984. Children 6-14 must have parent accompanying. We have a sign up online or in the entry way of the church.

## 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.

Through December, our offering monies will be collected to support the Denver Sunset Home's Activity Department.

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

### Christmas Pageant Rehearsals

**Wednesday, December 14** - Practice 3:45-5:15 pm  
(1st-6th grade ONLY)

**Saturday, December 17** - Dress Rehearsal 1:00-4:00 pm  
(1st -6th grade ONLY)

**Sunday, December 18** - Christmas Program at 9:00 am  
Worship Service, NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

**There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on December 25 & January 1 due to the Christmas Holiday.**

If you have any questions please contact Eve Pautsch, eve.pautsch@gmail.com or 319-939-5229.  
Lisa Michels, lisa@mcsupport.com or 319-427-2088.

## 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 13.** 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

## Confirmation Christmas Party

December 21, at 6:30 pm  
Meeting in the lower level of the church.  
*Please bring a \$5 "white elephant" gift.*



*Merry Christmas*

*to our*

*St Peter Family!*



# December 2016



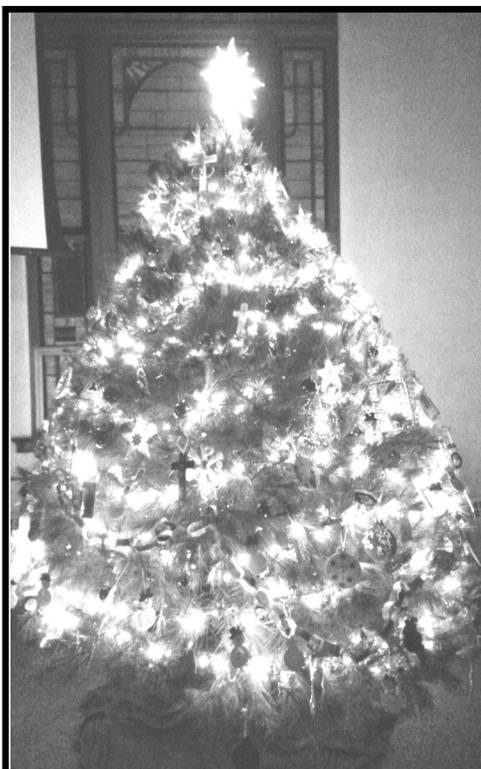
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 pm Staff meeting 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Basement Reserved	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Property & Management meeting	<b>6</b> 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	<b>7</b> 12:00 pm Mary Circle 6:00 pm Christmas Party	<b>8</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 am NEIA Food Bank
<b>11</b> 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship <i>Blue Christmas</i> 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am WELCA Board	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:30 am Womenfest 6:30 pm Council meeting 6:30 pm Fusion 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	<b>14</b> 3:45 pm SS Christmas Practice 5:00 pm LDR Supper	<b>15</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 pm Staff meeting 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>16</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>17</b> 9:00 am NEIA Food Bank 1:00 pm SS Christmas Program Practice
<b>18</b> 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship <i>Sunday School Christmas Program</i> Noisy Offering 3:30 pm Basement Reserved	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	<b>21</b> 6:30 pm Confirmation Christmas Party	<b>22</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>4:00, 7:00 &amp; 11:00 pm Worship</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 am Worship NO Sunday School	<b>26</b> 10:00 am Bingo @ Denver Sunset Home	<b>27</b> 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

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## JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP AT 9:00 am!

Christmas morning tends to bring the kid out in all of us. So join us, the children of God, as we gather as Christ's family around the Christmas tree to sing our favorite carols, hear the story of the wonderful gift given to us in Jesus Christ, and share together in our Lord's holy table. Christmas goodies, hot chocolate, and coffee will be served following the service.

**Come as you are! Pajamas, casual clothes, or Sunday best!**

