

St. Peter Tidings is published 12 times a year by
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
540 East Franklin Street ~ P.O. Box A
Denver, IA 50622
Phone: 319-984-5648 ~ Fax: 319-984-5649
www.stpeterdenver.org ~ info@stpeterdenver.org
pastorron@stpeterdenver.org

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PERMIT NO. 11
DENVER, IA 50622

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Tidings

February 2013

Rev. Ron Mathews

We are a community of faith who, for the time being, is focused on planning our future in order to call leaders who will guide us there.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

«First Name» «Last Name»
«Address 1»
«Address 2»
«City», «State» «Zip»

So I was thinking....

A response to questions and concerns heard here at St. Peter. If you have a question, please put it in writing and deliver it to the Church Office or email it to: pastorron@stpeterdenver.org.

Question: "I've heard a lot about the owner's meeting we had in January, but wasn't able to make it. What was it about?"

Response: We had over 40 members of St. Peter attend the Owner's Meeting on January 18th and 19th. The purpose of this event was to answer three questions: "Where are we now?", "Where is God leading us?" and "How do we get there?". We started our time looking at how different generations have different core values. We then discussed how those values shape our faith and expectations of church. Looking at our core values, we looked at the strengths and weakness of St. Peter and the opportunities and threats of the Denver community (SWOT analysis).

On Saturday we built on this conversation by first talking about predicted trends for churches in America for the year 2018. Then we applied these trends to a historical perspective going back to our reformation roots with Martin Luther. At the end of this conversation we noted the reasons why the meaning of "birthday party" has changed from the 1950 to today and what was done then is no longer viewed the same way today. Similarly, the way Sunday School was done is no longer received the same way as it is today. Our time together then concluded with four exercises. 1) Writing personal mission statements for St. Peter began applying what we had talked about and setting the tone for the purpose of St. Peter. 2) Asset mapping helped us identify the many gifts of our faith community. 3) Visioning what St. Peter will look like in 2 years set the stage for what will be. 4) Strategic planning isolated key objectives and then utilized SMART goals to accomplish those objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time bound goals). Our time bounds were 6 to 12 months.

The next step is perhaps the hardest. We have our objectives, our goals, and even some thoughts on how to accomplish them. But in the end we need people willing to serve in these areas. We are Disciples, called by God to go out into the world and teach, preach, and baptized. We are called to be His church, to be His "sent out ones" (this is the meaning of the Greek word for church). The end result of our Owner's Meeting is that in the next 6 to 12 months St. Peter has been given the objectives, identified by its own members, to:

- Invest in youth and family ministries
- Establish new member ministry, including hospitality teams for visitors
- Consider our building, its current condition, and determine if renovations or a building expansion is where we are being called
- Establish a clear compass for St. Peter by creating a congregationally approved mission statement and vision
- Create a music ministry that would consist of vocal choirs and bell choirs
- Create a second service to invest in our growing church community
- Create a nursery space to invest in our growing family needs.



February is here and you know what that means, love is in the air. That's right, Valentine's Day. But love is something to celebrate more than one time a year. Any person who has ever been in a relationship will tell you that it is work. Relationships require investment of time and thoughtful energy that goes beyond what your significant other's favorite ice cream is, though an important thing to know! Relationships demand more from us than knowing significant dates like anniversaries and birthdays, again important things to remember. Relationships are all about the investment. The popular love passage of 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 reads:

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; a but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. (NLT)

Love is a verb, it is an action, it is a behavior. Without love as our foundation our actions are meaningless. So when you say you love someone, what does that mean to you? What do you do to show that person you love them? God has claimed you as His beloved children. How has God demonstrated His love for you?

Relationships require investment, an investment of grace which is rooted in love. Without love, our egos would prevent us from ever ending an argument because we would not live a life of forgiveness. And let's face it, without forgiveness how many people would ever get into a relationship of any kind?! The writer of Proverbs puts it more succinctly: "Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs." (10:12) Love "never gives up" and "endures through every circumstance."

This month as we celebrate the love we share with friends and family let us keep in mind what that love means. As we go out and ask others to "be my valentine" let us remember that it is because of God's love for us that we have love to share with others. And it is by God's love, always enduring and never giving up on us, that we are encouraged to live in love towards others.

Living in Faith through Service,
Pastor Ron

Worship & Music Servers Sunday Worship 9:00 am

	February 3 Sunday 9am	February 10 Sunday 9 am	February 13 Ash Wednesday 7 pm	February 17 Sunday 9 am	February 20 Lenten service Wed. 7 pm	February 24 Sunday 9 am	February 27 Lenten service Wed. 7 pm
Communion Assistants	Jocelyn Milius	Annie Place	Tyler Vauthier	Pat Leonhart	n/a	Jayden Wolter	n/a
Scripture Readers	Amy Lockhart	Bev Diercks	Trevor Thurm	Kara Bartels	Zack Thrasher	Gene Leonhart	Nicholas Krabbenhoft
Acolytes	Chalee Gienau Jenna Haase	Bethany Sadler Nick Mohlis	Ryan Maitland Jenna Haase	Mallory & Blake Steege	n/a	Bethany Sadler Chalee Gienau	n/a
Multimedia	David Leisinger	Mitchell Mohlis	Randy Herman	Leah Homeister	n/a	Jeff Bales	n/a
Organist	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	TBD	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart
Sound System	Steve DeVries	Roger Donaldson	Larry Oltrogge	Gary Anfinson	Harold Went	Alton Midthus	Steve DeVries
Video	Roger Thurm	Trevor Thurm	Roger Thurm	Trevor Thurm	n/a	Roger Thurm	n/a
Altar Guild	Barb Klemp, Kari Anfinson, Staci Mueller, Anne Mueller						
Usher/Greeters	Joel & Joy Wolter family, Gary & LaVonne Westendorf, Randy & Roxi Herman, Dennis Thurm						
<p>Please find a replacement If you are unable to serve at the time you are scheduled. Also, as soon as possible, let the office know who will replace you. If you cannot find someone to replace you, please call the church office (984-5648) and let Roxane know. Your ministry is vital and we give thanks for your willingness to serve.</p>							

← From the Church Office →

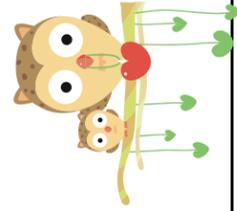
Check out the online church calendar. The link is on the opening page of our website - www.stpeterdenver.org. Click on church calendar; you will be able to see the activities scheduled for the year. If you would like to add something to the calendar please contact the office.

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

2013 Offering Envelopes: Please pick up your **2013 Offering Envelopes** located on the bench outside the office.



Worship & Challenging Weatheryou make the call. During stormy winter days, we encourage you to use your best judgment as you decide whether or not it is safe for you to come to worship on Sunday mornings or evening events. We understand if you are unable to join us for worship. When it is safest for you to stay home, please do so. If you would like to receive a DVD of the worship service you missed, please call the church office, 984-5648.



February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Naomi Circle	4 5:30 am Fitness class Quilt tying 9-3 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm	5 7:30 am Womenfest Quilt tying 9-noon 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	6 5:30 am Fitness class 1:30 pm Mary Circle 6 pm Confirmation Bowl EWALU confirmation camp mtg 7 pm Ruth Circle	7 7:00 am Menifest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 7 pm Parish Ed/VBS mtg.	8 5:30 am Fitness class	9 9:00 am Weica Board mtg.
10 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School 10:15 am Annual Congregational meeting 2 pm Prairie Grace Conf @ St Peter 4 pm Middle School Youth group	11 5:30 am Fitness class Quilt tying 9-3 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm 7:30 pm Trust Fund	12 7:30 am Womenfest Quilt tying 9-noon 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	13 5:30 am Fitness class Ash Wednesday Worship 7 pm	14 7:00 am Menifest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 	15 5:30 am Fitness class NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16
17 9:00 am Worship with Noisy Offering 10:00 am Sunday School 6 pm Mission youth group @Fobers	18 5:30 am Fitness class Quilt tying 9-3 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm	19 7:30 am Womenfest Quilt tying 9-noon 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	20 5:30 am Fitness class 5:45 pm Lenten meal 7 pm Lenten Service	21 7:00 am Menifest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	22 5:30 am Fitness class	23
24 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School Bold Women's Day 10:15 am Weica Bible Study Leaders	25 5:30 am Fitness class Quilt tying 9-3 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm	26 7:30 am Womenfest Quilt tying 9-noon 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	27 5:30 am Fitness class 5:45 pm Lenten meal 7 pm Lenten Service	28 7:00 am Menifest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline		

Parish Ed and Youth and Family Boards

Middle School Youth Group

Next meeting Sunday, February 10 @ 4 pm in the church basement.

High School Mission Youth

Next meeting will be Sunday, February 17 @ 6 pm at Fobers house for students and parents.



Vacation Bible School

Please join us for planning vacation bible school for this summer. There will be a meeting Thursday, February 7 at 7 pm in the church basement. We would love to hear your input.

Confirmation

7th Grade Confirmation @ 6:30 pm
8th Grade Confirmation @ 7:30 pm

All confirmands and their parents are requested to attend: Join us on Wednesday, February 6th at St. Peter Lutheran Church, for a night of fun, games & information. Students & parents, please be at the church by 6 pm for the "Confirmation Bowl." Then at 7 pm, representatives from Camp Ewalu will discuss the opportunities available to us at Camp Ewalu this next summer, specifically confirmation camp!

Sunday School

Sunday school is after worship, at 10:00 am.
The Sunday School children will be singing during worship Sunday, February 10.



Mission Board

We will be serving a meal at the Catholic Worker House in Waterloo, on March 7th. The Catholic Worker House provides meals to all people in need of a meal. This includes adults and children. We would encourage you to volunteer your time to serve a meal or donate food items to serve. Items needed are 4 dozen hamburger buns, potato chips, large food service cans of sliced cling peaches, cookies or bars. We usually leave Denver at 5:00 pm to serve and we are back in Denver by 7 or 7:30 pm. If you are interested and can help in any way, please contact Bev Diercks (279-3819) or Pat Leonhart (984-6082).

"Noisy Offering" for the month of February will be donated to New Life School. New Life School is in the village of Santa de Maria, Guatemala, and provides an education for children not able to attend the Guatemalan public schools. Please view more information on this mission partner at <http://www.newlifeguatemala.com/>.



The adorable thank you card pictured above was received from the children of Sacred Heart School, Waterloo. The morning fitness class learned from one of their participants that many children in the school had no mittens, snowpants or boots. In one teacher's classroom alone, 11 of the 15 students had no winter apparel. The fitness class donated \$125 to the school and the school secretary wrote down the sizes and purchased as many of the needed items as she could. The children signed the thank you and their teacher delivered it to St Peter last week. It is in the office if you would like to see it.

Thank you for your gift of \$3,874.25 to Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). Your gift positively impacts children who have suffered abuse and neglect, families struggling to stay together, people with disabilities seeking independence and acceptance, refugees who have overcome unimaginable violence and persecution and senior adults looking for a better quality of life. LSI is grateful you have trusted us to use your generous donation to make a real and measurable difference in the lives of our neighbors in need.

We delivered 204 lbs of food and paper products to the Food Bank in Waterloo. Thanks so much for your generosity in helping others.

Community News and.....



Daffodil Days

By supporting Daffodil Days, you help make the American Cancer Society's services and progress possible, and that helps us all move closer to our ultimate goal: a world with less cancer and more birthdays. Contact Marlys Krueger, 984-5444, if you would like to order any of the following: Bunch of daffodils \$10; bunch and a vase \$15; dainty daffodils \$15; gift of hope \$25; sunshine bouquet \$75; bear and a bunch \$25; bear hugs for hope \$25; orders must be placed by February 17. See posters in back of church for more details. Also, if interested, Daffodils will be displayed during the March 17th church service in "honor" or "memory" of, and can be picked up after the service. Please contact Roxane or Marlys with the names.

Prayer Notes: Please check out the new selection of *Prayer Notes* outside Pastor's office. Some of the current titles are as follows: *Discovering Simple Ways to Pray*, *When Your Prayers Go Unanswered*, *Why Prayer is Good Medicine* and my personal favorite, - *Squeezing Prayer Into a Busy Life* :) You may take one for yourself or give one to a friend you feel may be interested.



Advocate for children and families in need

Save the date for Lutheran Services in Iowa's Lutheran Day on the Hill on **Monday, March 11, 2013**. This day is essential for giving a voice to those who are not heard, for seeking social justice and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process.

Lutheran Day on the Hill is held in Des Moines and is a time for people to discuss the well-being of Iowa's most vulnerable populations, and the services that assist them, with their legislators at the Iowa Capitol.

Please join us for this powerful day in support of social justice for our brothers and sisters in Christ. For more information, go to www.LSIowa.org/LDH or call [866.584.5293](tel:866.584.5293).

Thank you!

Mission Opportunities

His Hands Food Pantry

St. Peter Church will be collecting food and non-food items for His Hands Food Pantry, Oran. **The donations suggestion this month is personal care items** (shampoo, conditioner, band aids, feminine products, etc.) Please place your donations outside the church office.

Helping Hands Clothing Closet provides free, gently used clothes, coats, hats, shoes, blankets, and towels to those who can not afford to buy these items for their families. Open Tuesday mornings 9-noon, Thursday evenings 4-8 pm and the first Saturday of each month 9-noon. Donations may be dropped off at the closet during any of the hours they are open. **Currently they are only accepting winter apparel due to limited space.** The closet is in need of volunteers to sort clothing and help clients find what they need. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Laure Meyer 563-578-8333 or 319-239-1739. **If you bring clothing donations to the church, please take items to room #6, in the lower level.**



Global Café

Global Cafe is a non-profit coffee shop located next to Duane's Barbershop on Main Street in Denver. The café is a ministry of Denver Baptist Church and exists to raise awareness of local, national, and international mission opportunities. Café hours are Monday -Saturday from 6:30-10:30 am.



AA/Alanon

Step Class: Tuesday nights at 7 pm in lower level
Meeting: Tuesday nights at 8 pm in lower level
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.

An Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group will meet at Waverly Health Center - Tendrils Rooftop Garden (4th floor), 312 9th St SW, Waverly, IA 50677. The group will meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 12-1 pm (with the exception of January 2013, due to the holiday). Caregivers, family, and friends with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia are welcome. The Support Group focuses on providing information, education, and support. The meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information, call Cathryn Baumgartner, MSW, at 319-352-4951. This group is offered in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 Travis Ackerman Donna Hulsing David Stevens Dennis Thurm	15 Teresa Diercks Robert and Tammy Weston
3 Bev Diercks Herman Emkes Janice Miller	16 Amy Lockhart Brian and Jenise Mauer
4 Jennifer Wirtjes	17 Marilyn Bergmann Edward Blumenshine Angela Sadler Brody Sanderson
5 Tom Beckel Caryl Tjaden	18 Jessy and Janet Kern
6 Dwight Diercks Marci Kemp	19 Jarett Clayton Miranda Fober Julie Gleason Skyler Ramos
8 Ethan Fernau Jodie Koepke Michael Milius	20 Kara Bartels Justin Elsamiller Joyce Miller
9 Teresa Isaacson	21 Luther Hougen Cylee Liddle John Upshaw
10 Dean Bierschenk	24 Jeremy Clayton James Kurtz
12 Pat Leonhart	25 Lisa Michels
13 Robert Wolter	26 Rodney and Teresa Diercks
14 Jeff DeVries Zachary Kern Chase Lyons Duane Schuldt Craig Staley Marcia and Dennis Ott Laurie Bierschenk	27 Greg and Kerry Thies



We apologize if your birthday or anniversary are not listed or listed incorrectly. This indicates we DO NOT have record of the dates on file or on filed correctly. Please notify the office with additions or corrections. Thank You!

Congregational News



The Bible is an epic five-week, 10 hour television mini-series premiering March 3, 2013 on the History Channel from Emmy Award winning Executive Producers Roma Downey and Mark Burnett. Viewers will see the Bible from Genesis to Revelation come to life in breathtaking scope and scale through powerful performances, exotic locales and dazzling visual effects that breathe spectacular life into the dramatic tales of faith and courage from Genesis through Revelation.

If you are interested in joining others to watch this 5 week series and discuss these great stories of our faith, please contact the church office to join a conversation group at info@stpeterdenver.org.



CONGRATULATIONS to Jeff and Carol (Crandall) Wagner who were married January 24, 2013.

Congregational news continued

The Annual Congregational meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 10, following worship.

February schedule for Fitness classes - Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings @ 5:30 am, in the St Peter church basement: Join us for a variety of workouts. Zumba, boot camp and strength & aerobic style classes are instructed by a certified fitness instructor. Free will donation.



Meals for Eight. If you are interested in joining the small group fellowship, please contact Joyce Miller 984-5021, by March 1st. Have fun getting together in each others homes or restaurants. Everyone shares in meal preparations and fellowship, all couples and singles are invited. New groups are forming now.



Women of the ELCA

WELCA Board Meeting

Saturday, February 9 at 9:00 am in church library

WELCA Bible Study Leaders

Sunday, February 24 at 10:15 am

Ruth Circle

Meets first Wednesday at 7:00 pm
Next Meeting: February 6
Bible Study Leader: Sheryl/Sheila
Hostess: Dori Jurgenson

Mary Circle

Meets first Wednesday at 1:30 pm in Library
Next Meeting: February 6
Bible Study Leader: Barb Klemp
Hostess: Barb Klemp

Naomi Circle

Meets first Sunday after worship
Next Meeting: February 3
Bible Study Leader: Caryl Tjaden

Serving Committee for February

Men - coffee

Chairperson - Naomi Circle

Kari Anfinson	Char Conway	Audrey DeVries
Sherri Elsamiller	Ruth Fasse	Angie Fernau
Janet Kern	Marlys Krueger	Dixie Milius
Teresa Miller	Janice Miller	Trudie Rothmeyer
Mary Ryan	Carol Thurm	Caryl Tjaden
Tammy Weston	Michelle Wolfensperger	

Bold Women's Day, Sunday February 24.

WELCA continued

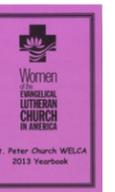
Supplies needed this month for the Lutheran World Relief quilts include dark colored sheets for quilt backs and warm materials for fillers—blankets, sheet blankets and double knit fabric. Especially welcome are non-working electric blankets—we remove the controls and wiring. Bath size towels approximately 27 x 52 are needed for the personal care kits to be sent in April, they can be found for about \$3 each. Bath size bars of soap are also needed for the personal care and baby care kits. Watch for sales of multi-bar packs of soap. Place materials in the baskets near the entrance doors or in the elevator closet on the lower level. If you prefer not to shop, you may place cash or checks in an envelope marked LWR Kits.

LWR Quilt Campaign - 500,000 quilts in 2013 - that's the challenge from Lutheran World Relief for this new year. Why? Because the need is so great, and quilts change lives, for those who receive and for those who give. Those who receive quilts get warmth for the body, and knowledge that someone cares for them and they are not forgotten. For the quilters there is the growth of friendship and the satisfaction of sharing talents and skills with those in need. People of St Peter: Help to meet the challenge of 25% more quilts in 2013. If you haven't helped before please make this the time you begin. There are many kinds of tasks besides tying, some are "sit-down" jobs. As always - come and go as it fits your schedule.

Quilting News

Quilt tying will continue Mondays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, and from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm; also, on Tuesdays from 9 am to noon. Come when you can, leave when you need to. Use your own judgment in case of snow or bad roads.

The 2013 St Peter Welca Yearbooks are in. All the ladies of the parish may pick one up on the table outside the office.



There is a new supply of quilt kits ready to sew in the Friendship Room. Take one and sew at your convenience.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the 2nd Thursday of the following months at 6:30 pm January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Next meeting: March 14

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