

St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

February 2021

Pastor Dawn Pederson

Projecting Christ to All Generations

For months we have heard what we can do to prevent contracting and spreading COVID-19. Wash our hands. Wear a mask. Keep six feet apart. Avoid gathering in groups beyond our immediate household. Cover our coughs and sneezes. Stay home when we are sick. Is there anything else we can do? How about laugh daily?

When was the last time you had a good belly laugh? You know, the kind where tears welled up in your eyes and rolled down your cheeks. The kind when your side hurts from laughing. The kind where you can't stop laughing. You may not even remember what started it all, but you just can't stop. Actually, it feels good to laugh. After a good laugh we feel a release. We may even feel lighter.

I remember my grandma Perscilla laughing until she cried. When something tickled her "funny bone" her whole body shook, and tears rolled down her cheeks. Her laughter was contagious. We laughed with her. Laughter shared is laughter multiplied. I fondly remember her putting her hand into her apron pocket and drawing out a handkerchief to dab away her tears of laughter. Just remembering her doing this brings a smile to my face and warms my heart on a cold winter snowy day in the midst of a pandemic.

We've heard it said, "Laughter is good medicine." Where does that saying come from? Does it come from scripture? Proverbs 17:22 says, "A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones." There is even scientific proof that laughter is good medicine. According to a study done at the University of California, Irvine, they concluded, "Laughter has a role in fighting viruses, bacteria, cancer, and heart disease." Notice, the first one on the list, VIRUSES. In fact, just the anticipation of laughter strengthens our immune systems.

So, here's a dose of laughter for today. These are a few of the entries in *Laughing with Lutherans*. The book is a compilation of twenty years of the "Light side" pages of the monthly magazine, *The Lutheran* (now known as *Living Lutheran*). This one about Ash Wednesday is timely with Ash Wednesday just around the corner. "I brought my neighbor to our Ash Wednesday service and explained to her the symbolism of the imposition of ashes. As they were applied to her forehead, the pastor unintentionally said, 'Remember that you are to dust.' When we sat down my friend whispered to me, 'She must have been in my house – she said, 'You are to dust.'" How about this one, "When I asked my youngest nephew, Joshua, if he would be in church that coming Sunday, he replied, 'Oh, yes. Because my brother is going to be the pilot light.'" Or this one from a choir director. "I was telling the cherub choir the story behind our song 'Moses, You Aren't Listening!' I told them about Moses seeing the burning bush and walking toward it. I asked, 'Do you know what happened next?' A six-year-old said, 'He stopped, dropped, and rolled!'" I hope these at least made you chuckle.

We have had more than our share of seriousness during this pandemic. There's a time to be serious and a time to laugh. Sometimes they are simultaneous. It's okay to laugh. Laughter is a gift from God. May we experience a dose of laughter every day as we continue this journey. Share your dose of laughter with another because laughter shared is laughter multiplied.

Let's keep doing our part to keep ourselves and others safe and healthy. And, in the words of a UnityPoint commercial, "Know how much you matter to this world!"

Know how much you matter to me!

Be well,

Pastor Dawn



*A cheerful heart is a good medicine,
but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.*

Proverbs 17:22

Worship & Music Server					
Sunday worship - online and if possible, in-person later in the month					
	February 7 Sunday online	February 14 Sunday online	February 17 Ash Wednesday TBD	February 24 Sunday TBD	February 28 Sunday TBD
Organist	Sheryl Moeller	Sheryl Moeller	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart
Multimedia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Altar Guild	*Marcia Ott, Vera Collins, Lynn Gielau, Peggy Smith, Kim Lamb				
Usher/Greeters	*Joel & Joy Wolter, Gary & LaVonne Westendorf, Randy & Roxi Herman *=(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!

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 January and February Noisy Offering will go to the Salvation Army. The following is a recent post from Waterloo/Cedar Falls The Salvation Army's fb page: *Of all of the requests for emergency services we received in December, 82% were first-time asks. The economic aspects of COVID continue to impact households in the Cedar Valley, many of whom have never faced need like this. When you make a gift to The Salvation Army, you are really making a gift to your hurting neighbors. Together we are [#DoingTheMostGood](#) for our community.*

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.

Notice

In this day and age when we are communicating more and more online, I want to caution you to check email addresses carefully before responding to a request for assistance. I was recently made aware of someone using a fake email address with my name attached saying, "I need you to handle a request discreetly." The email specifically asked for no phone calls. There was even scripture attached. If anyone responded, the "request" was to purchase gift cards. This is a scam and I do not want any of you to be taken advantage of by it. Let me make this very clear, you may **always** call me. And, if something doesn't sound right, double check the email address. *Pastor Dawn*

The Bell and Chimes at St Peter

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

Doors

To care for staff and the building, you will need to wear a mask to enter the building. - Please call the church phone number if the doors are locked 984-5648.

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



GENERAL INFORMATION

More information about public assistance and the state's response to COVID-19 can be found at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/COVID19>.

NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a 24/7, toll-free hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Call 800-273-8255 for support or go to <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

The National Domestic Violence Hotline can be reached at 800-799-7233. You can chat online with an advocate at www.thehotline.org or text LOVEIS to 22522.

FARMER CRISIS HOTLINE

Farmers who are facing challenges during the pandemic can contact Farm Aid at 800-FARM-AID. More resources can be found at the National Farmers Union's Farm Crisis Center at <https://farmcrisis.nfu.org/>.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESOURCES Iowa

UNEMPLOYMENT

Federal legislation has made unemployment benefits available to workers who may not have qualified before. To learn more and to apply, visit <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/file-claim-unemployment-insurance-benefits>.



SNAP

For more information on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in Iowa, visit <https://dhs.iowa.gov/food-assistance>. To apply for SNAP benefits and other public benefits in Iowa, visit <https://dhsservices.iowa.gov/apsspssp/ssp.portal>.



UTILITIES ASSISTANCE

Energy assistance programs are administered by community action agencies. Visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> to find your local office. Contact your local office to apply.



RENT AND EVICTIONS

Federal law has placed a moratorium on evictions from certain properties, including those backed by federal mortgages through Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. To learn more, visit https://larsen.house.gov/uploadedfiles/covid_toolkit_3.30.20.pdf. This, however, does not apply to most private residences. For rental assistance and housing help, visit <https://www.hud.gov/states/iowa>.



NUTRITION FOR WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN

For more information about WIC in Iowa, to locate your local WIC agency and to learn more about applying, visit <https://idph.iowa.gov/WIC> or call 800-532-1579. Federal law has waived the requirement for applicants to appear in person. Check with your local office to verify the application process.



CHILD CARE

Information about child care assistance can be found at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/childcare/families>. The Centralized Child Care Assistance Eligibility Unit can also be reached at 866-448-4605.



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



February Birthdays & Anniversaries

2
Travis Ackerman
Donna Hulsing
David Stevens
Dennis Thurm

3
Bev Diercks
Janice Miller

4
Jennifer Wirtjes

5
Tom Beckel
Caryl Tjaden

6
Dwight Diercks

8
Gavin Carman
Jodie Koepke
Michael Milius

12
Pat Leonhart

14
Jeff DeVries
Zachary Kern
Duane Schuldt

15
Teresa Diercks
Robert & Tammy
Weston

16
Amy Lockhart

17
Marilyn Bergmann
Angela Sadler
Brody Sanderson

18
Jessy & Janet Kern

19
Jarett Clayton
Miranda Hoey
Julie Gleason

20
Kara Bartels
Justin Elsamiller
Joyce Miller

21
Luther Hougen
Cylee Liddle
John Upshaw

23
Abby Roethler

24
Jeremy Clayton
Livi Gesme
James Kurtt

25
Lisa Michels

26
Rodney & Teresa Diercks
David VanDeBerg

27
Greg & Kerry Thies

28
Mandy Gesme



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

2021 Envelopes are ready for pick up

The offering envelope boxes are on the table outside the office and may be collected at your convenience. If your box is missing, please notify the office.

Community & Mission News



Baptism

We welcome Dawson Michael Nabholz; who was baptized on January 12. Dawson is the son of Brian and Melissa Nabholz, and brother to Bennett. His sponsors are Michael Kohagen and Hilary Stewart. We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share at St Peter.

Blessing Box Needs

Pancake mix – just add water – box or packets

Syrup

Instant potato packets

Gravy packets

Rice packets

Hamburger Helper

Tuna Helper

Cereal – cold and hot

Pop Tarts

Bear Creek Soup packets

Lipton Soup packets

Because temperatures are below freezing at night and sometimes during the day, we need more dry food items because we can't put cans in the blessing box during the winter. Thank you for your ongoing generosity to our neighbors who are food insecure.



Resources Available

The new 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.

Community & Mission News

Mashiah Foundation News

Mary Beth & Bayo Oyebade—Missionaries in Jos, Nigeria

Dear Friends,

December 2020

II Corinthians 4:7-10

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."

Life is difficult all around us; each day we simply press on with the hope that we have from knowing Jesus. We recognize that every person we meet is going through struggles of their own.

Nigeria's Economic Recession

In the past six months, life has become even more difficult than usual in Nigeria. It has been commonly said that the vast majority of Nigerians live a hand-to-mouth existence—during normal times. Now, it appears that **the hand is not even reaching the mouth** in many cases. In the past two months, multiple people have shared with us that they cannot feed their families before their money for the month runs out. Many food prices have doubled. Nigeria is in a full-fledged recession. The times are very sobering indeed.

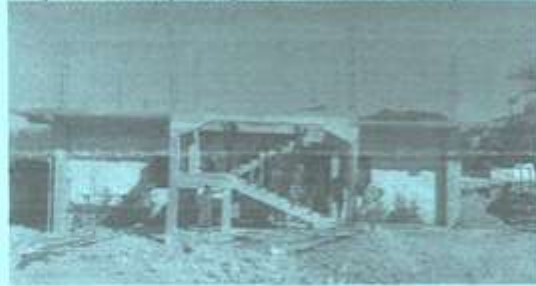
In November, by faith, we instituted a small raise for all 266 Mashiah Foundation staff members. Although it wasn't much, it has provided a little cushion to help the staff weather the current economic storm in Nigeria.

Children in Need

We have recently taken more children into Foundations Academy on full scholarship. Three of the children came from a primitive area called Koma Hills, which has been decimated by the terrorist group Boko Haram. The children are about 12-13 years old and have never been to school before. We are starting from scratch with them.

A few months ago a woman asked Bayo to take her 12-year-old son. She had re-married and her new husband would not allow the boy to live in their home. The boy has sickle cell disease and was left to wander the streets to find food for himself. At first Bayo didn't want to get involved in the case because sickle cell cases can be very costly. However, he said a day later, the Lord really rebuked him for turning the mother down. He then made arrangements to have the boy moved to Bezer Home and enrolled in the school. The mother and son were both so grateful.

Thankfully we have been working on a building project to put a second floor on the house where the Bezer Home boys live. We really need the space for the boys who have been living in close quarters. The floor for the second level has been cast. Now the walls need to go up and the roof to go on before the boys can move back in. They are currently living in a makeshift building.



School Construction

In our last newsletter, we reported on progress on the school building that we have been working on for a few years. Well, we're not done, but we moved in to part of the building on Nov. 30. We simply had to move. We will continue to work on the construction as funds are available. This is the way buildings are built in Nigeria. We are thrilled to be in a location with much more room for the students. We are currently using the classrooms on the lower level where the doors and windows have been installed as shown in the photo below.



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).

WELCA Board Meeting

Next WELCA Board Meeting: TBD

Gather Bible Study –TBD

Serving Committee for February

Kari Anfinson	Char Conway	Audrey DeVries
Sherrri Elsamiller	Janet Kern	Dixie Milius
Janice Miller	Teresa Miller	Trudie Rothmeyer
Mary Ryan	Carol Thurm	
Caryl Tjaden	Tammy Weston	

Faith Formation & Announcements

The new Camp EWALU pamphlets are in ! - pick up your copy on the table outside the office.

Greetings from Camp EWALU! Our programs are geared for youth in grades 1-12, as well as families and grandparents. Our camp activities are designed to strengthen campers' faith in God and lifelong connection with their home congregation. Our theme this summer is "Creation Renewed" which explores God's promise to be at work restoring and renewing us and all of creation. After a successful summer last year with adapted procedures, we are building on our experiences to offer many programs this summer. We are committed to providing another safe summer by following current guidelines and best practices. We will again offer full refunds and will remain in communication through our website, social media, and via email as the situation is ever-changing.

Due to its popularity, we are planning an extra Family Camp this summer mid-week. We are also adding Grandparent Camp back into the schedule for grandparents and grandchildren to experience camp together. Service Camp is a high school program held onsite and based around service projects at camp and hopefully in the local community. The Inclusive Camp Experience is an opportunity for more campers to come to camp with a little extra support. Thanks to donations, camperships are available to individuals in need of financial assistance. In Christ, *The EWALU Staff*.
www.ewalu.org | camp@ewalu.org | 563-933-4700



His Hands Oran Food Pantry

Serving families in the area that are experiencing food insecurity. Request for February- Boxed baking mixes, flour, sugar. Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon. Served in December: 85 Households, 243 Individuals, 10,228 lbs of food distributed. Questions -319-638-4357 or Mary Burgart 563-920-3857. As always, we will take any thing to fill our shelves. We greatly appreciate your support.

2020 Yearly totals- Households served 1,064; Number of individuals in household 3,109; Pounds of food distributed 121,805 lbs. The Pantry had to replace two pieces of equipment this year-11 foot chest freezer, two door stainless steel cooler.

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 in February

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

7th grade confirmation students will meet February 3 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

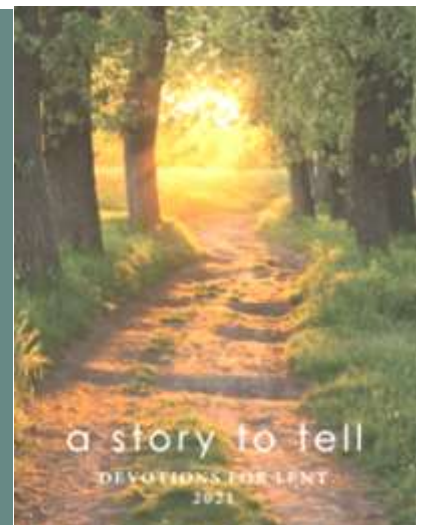
8th grade confirmation students will meet February 10 & 24 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Contact Pastor Dawn with any questions (pastor@stpeterdenver.org or 641-529-6592)

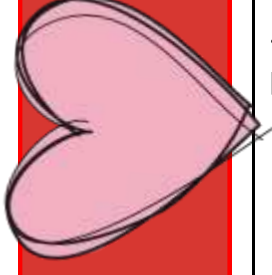
A Story to Tell

This beautiful, full-color Lenten devotional highlights readings from the gospel of Mark with 46 entries, one for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer.

The devotional should be available the second week of February. Look for it on the table outside the office.



February 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			6:30 pm 7th grade Confirmation	10:00 am Bulletin deadline		
			Tentatively Scheduled			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship online		6:30 pm Council meeting	6:30 pm 8th grade Confirmation	10:00 am Bulletin deadline		
	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship online			Ash Wednesday Worship	10:00 am Bulletin deadline	Newsletter Deadline	
	22	23	24	25	26	27
21			6:30 pm 8th grade Confirmation	10:00 am Bulletin deadline		
Worship with Noisy Offering						
28						
Worship						
*No mid-week Lenten services are scheduled, except for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week						

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«AddressBlock»

2021 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: Jim Jurgenson, Todd Foelske, Mary Stevens, Marcia Joerger, Kim Lamb, Jan Gienau, Marilyn Mueller

Executive Board: Jim Jurgenson, TBD

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

Parish Education: Todd Foelske, Jaime Leonhart, Mandy Gesme, Julie Gleason

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