

St. Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

January 2016

Rev. Ron Mathews

Presiding Bishop Eaton's New Year message:
the following excerpt was taken from the January issue of *The Lutheran*

Putting the pieces together

2016 dedicated to setting directions, priorities across all the church.....

At its November 2015 meeting, the ELCA Church Council received the report of the Theological Education Advisory Council. One of the striking revelations in this report was the number of ways we deliver theological education in the ELCA. We do this through seminaries, of course, but also through colleges and universities, lay schools, certificate programs, synodical schools and congregational schools.

This can be seen as a rich flourishing of creative and diverse delivery of theological education, or it can be seen as a symptom of a disconnected approach. With the best intentions, groups within the church see a need and develop a solution for a particular issue without considering what else might be in place or even how the solution fits in with the mission of the whole. We have one synod that has two lay academies and neither one knew the other existed.

The ELCA constitution states: "The congregations, synods and churchwide organization of this church are interdependent partners sharing responsibility in God's mission." This is constitutional language for "We are church together." Some days we are, but many days and in many ways we aren't. I'm not singling out theological education as an egregious example, but as one instance among many where we aren't really connected with each other. This exposes the cultural sense that the church is a voluntary association like the Rotary or the Girl Scouts, where one can come and go as one chooses, and not a new creation joined to Christ in baptism.

As Peter wrote to the churches in Asia Minor: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" ([1 Peter 2:9-10](#)). God created the church. God has put us together through baptism as the body of Christ. You just don't opt in or out of that.

Looking through the lens of Martin Luther's explanation of the eighth commandment, I believe that good and faithful members, congregations, synods and the churchwide organization have tried to carry out God's mission. The issue, I think, is that the mission has become at once universal and very particular. We are doing everything and we are doing it in pixels — pixels that don't come together to make a complete picture.

Throughout 2016 we — all of us — are going to take a look at the future directions and priorities of this church. We will build on the work already done on this issue. We will engage all the expressions of this church, it will be part of the work of the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, and it will clarify and sharpen our mission.

*Thank you to all who
helped with the St Peter
Christmas Party*



Apart from God our work is in vain. This process must depend on the Spirit's guidance. This isn't merely a technical problem to be solved, but a time for this church to engage intentionally and consistently in a process of communal spiritual discernment. We aren't just inviting God into this process at the beginning and thanking God at the end. Instead we, as a church, will open ourselves up to the invitation of God to be part of God's reconciling work through Christ in the world. Join me.

Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

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

	January 3 Sunday 9 am	January 10 Sunday 9 am	January 17 Sunday 9 am	January 24 Sunday 9 am	January 31 Sunday 9 am
Communion Assistants				Pat Leonhart	
Scripture Readers	Joyce Miller				Gene Leonhart
Acolytes				Lilah Skaar	
Multimedia	Chadron Beem	Leah Homeister	Jeff Bales	Johnathan Leisinger	
Organist	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart
Sound System	Harold Wente	Steve DeVries	Gary Anfinson	Alton Midthus	Harold Wente
Video	Trevor Thurm	Roger Thurm	Trevor Thurm	Roger Thurm	Roger Thurm
Altar Guild	Kari Anfinson, Staci Mueller, Anne Mueller				
Usher/Greeters	Larry Oltrogge, Jon & Brenda Wolter, Brad Becker, Neil Hartmann				
<p>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.</p>					

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 and the **Newsletter Deadline:** 4:30 pm on the 3rd Friday of each month.

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.

Reminder

The property & management, mission, evangelism, stewardship, worship & music, WELCA, mutual ministry board minutes, Pastoral highlights and Council minutes are posted in the Friendship Room for your perusal.

Winter Weather Policy

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

Sunday School policy: if it is decided 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, Facebook, and KWWL.

Offering Envelopes

Please stop by the information table outside the office to pick up your 2016 offering envelopes.

Mission & Community

St Peter's

Magical Tree:

A big thanks to Holly Smith for sharing her creative talents once again this holiday season. She decorated the annual St Peter tree at the Community Christmas Event the first weekend of December. It was "magical" and a favorite of many attendees.



Christmas is the Season of Hope

Iowa children and families have hope, thanks to you! Thank you for St Peter's generous gift of \$1,001.47 to Lutheran Services in Iowa. Your gift send us into homes, schools and many other settings to walk with people during their most difficult moments and to help them build healthy lives. Pastor & members, thank you for responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. With gratitude, *Jason Lee, VP of Church Relations*

Greetings

On behalf of Mary Beth and Bayo, thank you for your memorial gift of \$1,001.46 to Mashiah Foundation. Developing quality education at Foundations Academy continues to be a big focus for Mary Beth and Bayo. They now have two schools that operate on the Nigerian schedule, and two schools that run on an American schedule. The total enrollment is now nearing 400. Your generosity in remembering this ministry is a great encouragement, as they continue to meet the needs of these people affected by HIV/AIDs. Thank you for your involvement & prayers, *Sandi Wallestad*

Dear Friends

Thank you for your recent holiday gift of \$1,002.46 to the Salvation Army. You are on of our most faithful and generous friends, and you have my heartfelt gratitude for your kind contribution to help hungry and suffering people at Christmastime. Your support means so many different things to the hurting neighbors we help. *Major Harold Poff*

Noisy Offering

The January & February noisy offering will go to the Salvation Army.



Ordination

Congratulations to Pastor Joel Becker, ordained on Saturday, Dec 19th and called to serve St. John, Buck Creek and St. Peter, Oran.

Friends of St Peter Church

On behalf of the Wartburg Theological Seminary Community, it is my privilege to thank you for your recent gift of \$437.49 to the Student Scholarship Fund. In Christ, *Janelle Koepke, VP for Mission Support.*

Thank you to Denver Savings Bank

for the generous gift of \$1,500 to be used to advance our ministries to care for those in need.

Mentor Needed

The Denver Elementary School principal has inquired about getting an adult mentor for a first grader. The "Give Me Thirty" program connects children with adults for 30 minutes a week. It's a time when you can make a positive difference in the life of a child. And guess what? It can make a difference in your life as well. Please contact Pat Leonhart at 984-6082 if you would be willing to volunteer and share God's love in this special

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 January 16, from 9-10:30 am.** Simply go to the volunteer entrance at the Food Bank, 160 Lafayette St, Any questions, call Joyce Miller 984-5021.

His Hands Food Pantry

The Pantry is looking for a 10 to 15 hour per week coordinator. Coordinator is responsible for staffing the Pantry with volunteers and keeping the shelves stocked with food. Send resume to Box C2, Oran, Iowa 50664 or hishandsoran@gmail.com by January 4, 2016.

EWALU
Camp & Retreat Center

www.ewalu.org

2016

The Jesus Way

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us."
Ephesians 5:1-2

Email: camp@ewalu.org
Phone: 563-933-4700
Fax: 563-933-6022
Address: 37776 Alpha Ave, Strawberry Point, IA 52076
Website: www.ewalu.org

EWALU Camp and Retreat information for 2016 is located on the information table outside the office or on their website: ewalu.org

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Ken Becker Sam Smith	15 Robert Gienau Scott Gleason
2 Virgil Fasse Grant Pautsch	16 Kaia Anfinson Kenna Rothmeyer
3 Stacie Beem	17 Kari Anfinson Warren Miller Ruth Niemann Rhonda Wilson
4 Charles Essmann Heather Krabbenhoft	19 Esther Canfield Calli Landenberger Tonia Thurm
5 Gary Everding Ethan Krabbenhoft	20 Tony Schimmels Mary Stevens
6 Dean Milius Lauren Milius Becky Miller Dixie Unangst	21 Hayden Arians
7 Jill Thrasher	22 Miranda Thurm
8 Darwin Larson Dixie Milius Fritz & AJ Tegtmeier	23 Brian Bartels Loren Eick Mark Gielau Floyd & Margaret Liddle
9 Harold Wente	24 Mark Fober Ron Foelske Brena Huber Brandon Smith Jeff & Carol Wagner
10 Scott & Carrie Gleason	25 Angela Diercks Randy Herman
11 Justice Gienau Tyanna Teetzen Ryan Thurm	27 Sterling Edgar Jaydn Milius
12 Karen Place	29 Natalie Fober
13 Sue Flory Anne Mueller Brody Weston	31 Dennis Ott Jeff Schumacher
14 Annette Geary Clayton Liddle Tammy Weston	

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

December Council Minutes Highlights

- Approved Property & Management Boards proposals for 2016 to be paid out of Strottman Fund.
Landscaping around church
Painting interior of church
Replacing windows on front of church and other areas that are needed.
- Discussion on effectiveness of Mutual Ministry Committee.
- Highlights from Personnel Reviews.
- Continued review of Board of Financial Management Proposal.
- Approved carrying over 1-year of unused Continuing Ed for Pastor Ron.
- Weber-Heideman Fund - Will start an application process for people seeking money for projects and programs. This will be reviewed at the annual meeting.

Annual Reports

The reports are due for all the Boards and committees that submit annual reports. Thank you.

St Peter Lutheran Church

Thank you so much for your contributions to Holiday Shoppe this year. Thanks to all of the donations we received we were able to serve over 300 children and spread left over donations to other agencies around Waverly. Happy Holidays, *Senior Social Work Majors Wartburg College.*

Gifts of Love

As we approach the Christmas season of God's gift to us in his son Jesus Christ we gift those on our heart with Gifts of Love. This year we remember 15 recipients. The Gifts of Love sacks are taken to people in nursing homes, those confined to their homes, those who have lost a family member in the past year, and those with special needs. Thank you to Connie Lobeck for coordinating this project for the last 10 years and to Marilyn Mueller for continuing this ministry of the church this year.

With Much Appreciation

Thank you for the Gifts of Love sacks, including the lovely Christmas ornament. I will treasure it always. God Bless you all. *Verna Harms*

St Peter family

To everyone who helped make the pretty holiday sack & goodies - thank you! When you lose a loved one the holidays are harder because they are not there to share them. It was so helpful to know I was being thought of. That's what makes St Peter and it's people so special & why I'm so happy to belong to St Peter. God bless you all, *Marlyn Wolter.*

Gifts of Love

Thank you for the Gifts of Love Bag, we appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness. *Alvin & Dorothy Eggena*

New Member Class

Thursday, January 7th 6:30-8:30pm, If you are interested in joining St Peter please contact Pastor Ron. Reception of new members Sunday, January 17th.

Mission & Community

Fleece Blankets

The Board of Mission will be collecting fleece blankets to be taken to the Veterans Hospital in Iowa City for Valentine's Day. These blankets will be used by soldiers returning to the states from active duty. Many of these current military people will have lengthy and difficult recuperations while aging veterans also have a host of medical needs. A warm blanket will be a special reminder of God's love and concern surrounding them from our congregation. If you would rather make a monetary contribution to this project, we will purchase blankets with your donations. Please place your gifts on the table outside the offices. Thanks!

Northeast Iowa Food Bank

Many thanks to those who contributed food and monetary gifts to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in November. Multiple pounds of items were picked up at the church by the agency in early December. These items will be distributed to those who are hungry in the Cedar Valley during the holidays. Your generous donations will reach out as a special ministry to those in need.

Backpack Program

Currently 11 students at Denver Schools are receiving supplemental food through the NEIA Backpack Program that the area churches support. St Peter is collecting lotion for the months of January & February, to be included in the backpacks.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Next meeting: Thursday, January 7. 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).

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!

Quilt Tying

The quilt tying will resume January 4. Meeting again on Mondays, 9 am - 3 pm, and 6:30 - 8:30 pm. And Tuesdays, 9 am - Noon. In case of bad weather, use your own judgment.

Women of the ELCA

WELCA Board Meeting

Saturday, January 9, at 9 am
The meeting will be in the Friendship Room

WELCA Bible Study Leaders

Available in the Gather Magazine

Ruth Circle

Next Meeting: January 6, at 7 pm
Bible Study Leader: Sheryl
Hostess: Mary

Mary Circle

Next Meeting: January 6, at 1:30 pm
Bible Study Leader: Elaine
Hostess: Barb

Naomi Circle

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 10, at 10:15 am
Bible Study Leader: Gretchen

Serving Committee for January Chairperson - Naomi Circle

Carol Ackerman	Jennifer Ackerman	Stacie Beem
Laurie Bierschenk	Jaime Gienau	Roxane Franzen
Nancy Lamos	Darlys Milius	Judy Milius
Lynette Renner	Sharon Robinson	Tammy Swanson
Laura Wolfensperger	Kristen Wolter	Susan Buss

Womenfest

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

Scrip Gift Cards

We now have gift cards that can be ordered through the new St Peter Scrip program. There are many businesses to choose from and St Peter gets a percentage of the gift cards sold. Stop by the office or go to our website (www.stpeterdenver.org) to get instructions on how to order the gift cards online or have the office order for you.

Poinsettias

If you ordered a poinsettia in memory of a loved one and haven't already picked it up, you may do so at your earliest convenience.



Faith Formation

Happy New Year from St. Peter's Sunday School Program!

We finished up 2015 with our annual Christmas program. The kids did a wonderful job sharing the story of Jesus' birth with us! Thank you to everyone who helped make our program a huge success!

During the months of November and December our Sunday School children's weekly offering went to purchase Christmas gifts for the Denver Sunset Home. During those 5 Sundays we collected \$166.01! Thank you for your generosity! Our purchases with the funds included board games, a cornhole set, personal care items, and more. During the month of January, our offerings will go to support Cedar Valley Friends of the Family. On their list of needed donations, they have a request for Family Starter Kits – kits that allow families the freedom to move out on their own with many supplies they need already in place. It will be fun to see how many rooms we can "purchase"!

This month, our Quarter 2 Sunday School teachers will be wrapping up. A big thank you to Erika Benschoter, Eve Pautsch, Mary Satterthwaite, Heather Krabbenhoff, Lisa Michels, Cassie Upshaw, and Todd Foelske for spending your Sunday mornings with our youth! Do YOU feel called to teach one of our Sunday School spots? We have a few spots open for this winter and spring. These commitments are for roughly 8 weeks, and the curriculum is easy to use. Please contact Amity or Anna to sign-up.

Speaking of new people, we are excited to share that Cody Birely, from Wartburg College, will be joining Britni as they continue to share the gift of music with our students. Thanks Cody and Britni for your help preparing our Christmas program!

One more way you can help with Sunday School is to donate cookies and/or donuts to share with our students. We have openings right away in January. Sign up by following the link from our Sunday School webpage (<http://www.stpeterdenver.org/sunday-school.html>). Thanks in advance!

Thank you for continuing to share your children with us as we learn more about our faith!



Pictured are some of our Christmas program shepherds & angels.



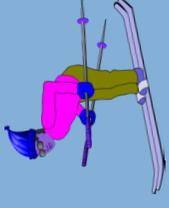
Graham cracker nativities were made at the MS/HS Christmas party



Christmas program 2015



January 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Naomi Circle 11:15 am Bell practice	4 Quilt tying 9:00am-3:00pm 6:30 pm Property & Management Quilt tying 6:30-8:30 pm	5 7:30 am Womenfest Quilt tying 9:00 am-Noon 6:00 pm Stewardship Board 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	6 1:30 pm Mary Circle 6:00 pm Family Bible 7:00 pm Ruth Circle	7 7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 am Staff mtg. 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm New Members Class	1 3:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal	2 4:30 pm Wedding
10 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Bells	11 Quilt tying 9:00 am-3:00 pm 6:30 pm Youth & Family Quilt tying 6:30-8:30 pm	12 7:30 am Womenfest Quilt tying 9:00 am-Noon 6:30 pm Council meeting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	13 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm HS Youth Group	14 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm Worship & Music	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 9:00 am NEIA Food Bank
17 9:00 am Worship Noisy Offering 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Bells	18 Quilt tying 9:00-3:00 pm Quilt tying 6:30-8:30 pm	19 7:30 am Womenfest Quilt tying 9:00 am-Noon 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	20 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Fusion	21 7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 am Staff mtg. 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	22	23
24 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Bells Annual meeting	25 Quilt tying 9:00-3:00 pm 10:00 am Bingo @ Denver Sunset Home Quilt tying 6:30-8:30 pm	26 7:30 am Womenfest Quilt tying 9:00 am-Noon 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	27 6:30 pm EPIC	28 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	29	30
31 9 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Bells						

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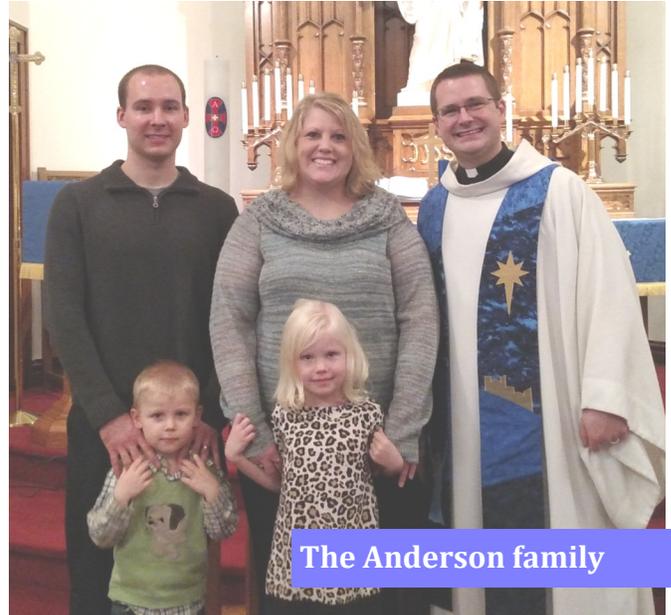
WELCOME to our new members that joined our St Peter family the first Sunday of December!



The Austin family



The Roethler family



The Anderson family