

St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

January 2021

Pastor Dawn Pederson

Projecting Christ to All Generations

It's that time of year again. Time to make New Year's resolutions. I wonder how many will make them? Most New Year's resolutions focus on our physical health: eat healthier, exercise regularly, lose weight, sleep better, . . . Over the years, many have made New Year's resolutions with good intentions, but have not kept them. Were their resolutions achievable or did they set themselves up for failure even before they got started? So, what might help? How about a fitbit? Kohl's Christmas flyers had many to choose from. I never knew there were so many. Apparently, one size does not fit all.

A fitbit tracks the distance someone walks, runs, swims, or cycles. It tracks calories burned and calories consumed. It can even track heart rate and sleep quality. It's a tool to help someone achieve their goal of improving their physical health. It's an electronic journal of sorts with a price tag of \$60 and up. I read that the average life expectancy of a fitbit is two years. So, what happens at the end of two years? Do we need to buy a new one or do we no longer need the fitbit to keep us on track? Is two years the amount of time it takes for eating healthy, regular exercise, sleeping better to become a lifestyle?

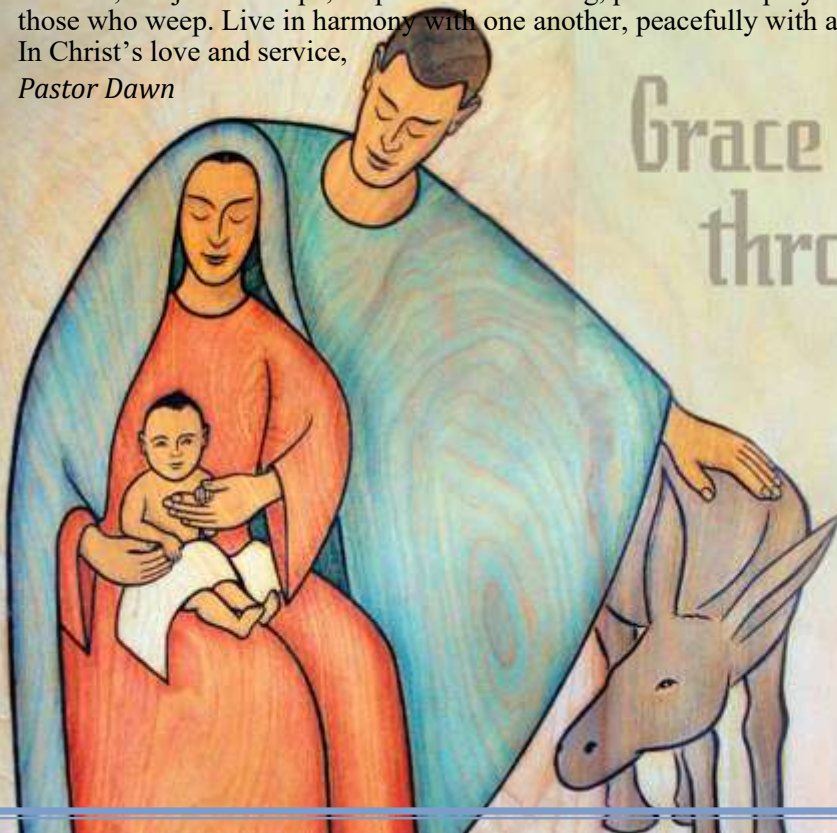
Well, all of this got me to thinking about New Year's resolutions that focus on our spiritual health. What might these be? Does attending to our spiritual health benefit our physical health? What happens to our pulse and blood pressure when we exercise our soul through daily devotions, scripture reading, prayer, or listening to beloved hymns/Christian music and singing along? For those who prefer the help of technology, there are apps for reading through the Bible. For those who prefer to hold a book in your hands, the Lutheran Study Bible has three plans for daily Bible reading. I'm sure other Bibles have something like this too. For those who don't like to read, consider listening to an audio Bible. Maybe you want to focus on prayer. How much time do we spend in conversation with God? Prayer is a two-way conversation with God. We both speak and listen. Maybe you are better at writing than speaking, consider a prayer journal. Write a prayer for yourself, for others, give thanks, share highs and lows, whatever is on and in your heart that day. God listens to our written words too.

Instead of having a fitbit for our physical health, what if we had a faith fitbit for our spiritual health? Are you one who needs the help of another to keep you accountable? Ask a family member or friend to join you. Set some achievable goals. How long will it take before these spiritual "exercises" become a lifestyle and what benefits will we see to our spiritual and physical health? Maybe your faith fitbit includes acts of kindness. There are so many possibilities. One size does not fit all.

Attending to our physical and spiritual fitness will contribute to the health and well-being of the whole body of Christ. As we turn the calendar page and begin a new year let us resolve to do as Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another, peacefully with all."

In Christ's love and service,

Pastor Dawn



Grace and truth came
through Jesus Christ

JOHN 1:17

Happy New Year!

Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - online only

	January 3 Sunday online	January 10 Sunday online	January 17 Sunday TBD	January 24 Sunday TBD	January 31 Sunday TBD
Organist	Sheryl Moeller	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart
Multimedia	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Altar Guild	*Terrie Thurm, Lori Thurm, Mandy Gesme				
Usher/Greeters	*Larry Oltrogge, Jon & Brenda Wolter, Brad & Jennifer Becker *=(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 is to be decided.

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

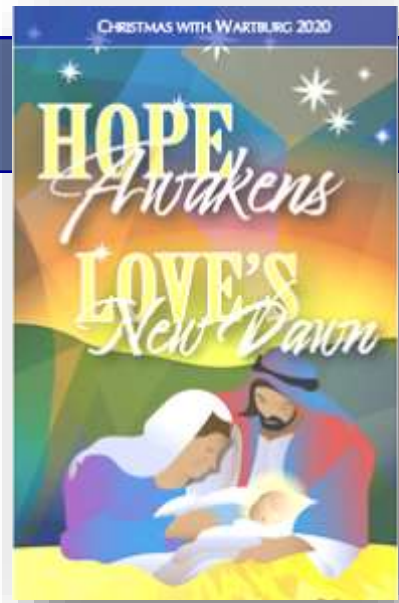
Christmas with Wartburg is online now

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

The video will be available on demand for viewing at any time.

If you have a moment I highly recommend watching this beautiful production!

Due to the pandemic, this year's concert, *Hope Awakens; Love's New Dawn*, was done on video, with friends and alumni joining online.



To all of St Peter members

Thank you for all of the thoughtful cards, flowers, and visits, while my staying at the Sunset Home. It sure is appreciated from all of you. Renetta Thurm - *A Christmas prayer that God will be ever close beside you, to bless your life with happiness, to love and help and guide you. Merry Christmas.*

A new shipment of coffee from LWR has arrived



The coffee is located on a table outside the office.

Checks or cash may be left in the coffee can on the table near the coffee.

Thank you.

Gifts of Love

A big thank you to Marilyn Mueller for coordinating Gifts of Love that were delivered to St Peter members that may have needed a little extra love this season. Due to the pandemic, instead of gift bags, cards and notes were mailed out. Marilyn reached out to 22 families this year.

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.

His Hands Oran Food Pantry

Serving families in the area that are experiencing food insecurity. Request for January - Personal Care Items (Shampoo & Conditioner, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Body Wash, Bar Soap, etc.) and Baking Supplies. Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon. Served in November: 87 Households, 250 Individuals, 11,947 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.

Thank you to Alton & Sharon Midthus for delivering our St Peter donations - 44lbs. worth.

Helping Hands Clothes Closet

Happy New Year! This year has been a challenge for everyone and for Helping Hands Clothing Closet but we have much to be thankful for. First of all; our volunteers. They give so much of their time and energy to keep the clothing closet running smoothly. We are thankful for monetary donations which cover our utility costs, some upgrades to our building like the new doors and we are able to purchase some needed items for our clients like winter coats and boots. Thank you to all who have donated new or gently used clothing, bedding and towels. In November we had 147 client visits. We are thankful that we are able to be open and continue to follow all CDC guidelines. Please stop in if you need help meeting your clothing or bedding needs. 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.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Community & Mission News

1 Ken Becker Sam Smith	15 Robert Gienau Scott Gleason
2 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 Calli Boeckmann 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 Dixie Milius Fritz & AJ Tegtmeier	23 Mark Gielau Floyd & Margaret Liddle
9 Harold Wente	24 Mark Fober Brena Huber Brandon Smith
10 Scott & Carrie Gleason	25 Angela Diercks Randy Herman
11 Colt Boeckmann Justice Gienau Tyanna Teetzen Ryan Thurm	27 Jadyn Milius
12 Karen Place	29 Natalie Fober
13 Sue Flory Anne Sickles Brody Weston	31 Jeff Schumacher Ron & Carol Nystrom
14 Clayton Liddle Tammy Weston	



Poinsettias given in *Memory of...*

James Lamos
Marcia Lashbrook
Nancy Lamos

Ruth Franzen
Sister Joselda Hageman
Jim & Roxane Franzen family

All the loved ones we've lost
Jan & Robert Gienau

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.

Annual Reports

Each board/ministry group of St Peter may go ahead and submit their annual reports to the office. Thank you.

The Congregational Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 24, following worship.

**To be determined if the meeting will be virtual or in person.*

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.

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

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

Community & Mission News



Join the fight for clean water -UPDATE!

WE DID IT!! Together, we are bringing clean, running water to TWO MORE VILLAGES in

Tanzania 🇹🇿 For those of

you that joined in the 50,000 pull-ups Nov 18-21 🍌🍌🍌, for those of you who helped spread the word, and for those of you

who donated money... THANK YOU 🙌 Thank you for joining me in the fight for clean water!!

Women and children will benefit the most. Kids will be able to spend more time in the classroom and women will have more time to add value to their families and communities. Together,

we are helping people. Together, we are making the 🌍 a better place. www.TanzaniaWaterFund.net

Justin Futrell -email jfutrell@truenorthcompanies.com or 740-525-5259

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.

WELCA Board Meeting

Next WELCA Board Meeting: TBD

Gather Bible Study -TBD

Serving Committee for January

Carol Ackerman	Jennifer Ackerman	Stacie Beem
Renee McInroy	Jaime Gienau	Roxane Franzen
Nancy Lamos	Darlys Milius	Judy Milius
Lynette Renner	Sharon Robinson	Susan Buss
Megan Schmauss	LuAnn Emerson	Kristen Wolter

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).

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.



Global Health Ministry Baby Beanies & Sweaters

A colorful array of baby hats and sweaters will be going to Global Health Ministries soon. Thanks to Carol Nystrom and Pastor Dawn's stitching skills, little bodies and noggins will stay warm. St Peter's members keep finding ways to send a little love and support during the pandemic.



Faith Formation & Announcements



Amy Lockhart photo

Confirmation restarts in January

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

7th grade confirmation students will meet January 6 & 20 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

8th grade confirmation students will meet January 13 & 27 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

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

We appreciate your generosity

St Peter's Mission Board, Thank you so much for thinking of our Ambulatory Unit, praying for each of us and providing such yummy treats for us. It brought a bright spot to our Day! *Allen Hospital Ambulatory Unit, Unity Point Health*

Family Activities for Epiphany

Epiphany is more than one day, January 6. Epiphany is a whole season. We celebrate and observe Easter and Christmas in big ways, why not Epiphany too?

Epiphany is a Greek word meaning "appearing" or "revealing." Epiphany is the observation of the arrival of the wise men (three kings) who followed a star (a light in the sky) to find Jesus (the Light of the World).

Here are some suggestions for celebrating and observing Epiphany.

Make a King's cake – a bundt cake, decorate it with "jewels" so it looks like a crown. Some bake a "surprise" in the cake and whoever gets that piece gets to be king or queen, prince or princess for a day.

Do some star gazing together.

Make stars and put them in your windows, as a symbol of Jesus, the Light of the World, who is lighting our way through this pandemic.

Light a scented candle to remember the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus – frankincense and myrrh. Carry the candle from room to room and give thanks for good food, good sleep, a warm bath, a good movie, fun etc. experienced in each room. Or sing, "This Little Light of Mine."

Give a gift to charity or an item for the blessing boxes to remember the gift of gold.

Make the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads and give this blessing, remembering your baptism, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:16*

Share a Bible verse about light. Here are some suggestions:

Genesis 1:3-5

Genesis 1:14-19

Psalms 18:28

Psalms 119:105

Isaiah 9:2

Isaiah 60:1

Isaiah 60:19

Matthew 5:14-16

John 1:1-9

John 8:12

John 9:5

John 12:46

Ephesians 5:8

1 Peter 2:9

1 John 1:5



January 2021



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

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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