

Happy New Year 2015

St. Peter Lutheran Church Tidings January 2015

Rev. Ron Mathews

New Year Reflections

If I were to list all the ways St. Peter Lutheran Church has made a Kingdom impact last year our newsletter would be quite extensive. In fact, last year we sat down and wrote out every ministry that happens in our congregation and that alone resulted in a list 3 pages long with well over 100 ministries! One of the ways we, as a congregation, make an impact is through generous financial gifts. Because of your dedication to our mission to "Project Christ to All Generations" and by your passion to do so on a global scale, we gave numerous memorial gifts to organizations in November. Some of the notes of appreciation are featured in this newsletter.

We also supported ELCA ministries with a \$2,500 gift to benefit Global Missions. I am pleased to report that that money did not sit long in the Synod office. \$1,000 of our memorial contribution went to support two youth from our Companion Synod, the Lutheran Churches in Namibia. The other portion of this gift, \$1,500, went to support Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM), Katerina Canter who is serving in Szombathely, Hungary where she teaches English and is working with the Roma. You can learn more about both of these projects and our relationship by going to our website <http://www.stpeterdenver.org/companion-synods.html>.

Katerina is pictured below cooking goulash at the Roma Festival.

In December I received the following email from Katerina:

Greetings from Szombathely, Hungary!

As a Young Adult in Global Mission, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to you and the members of St. Peter for your memorial gift to the global mission fund. A portion of your gift is supporting me as I currently serve the Szombathely community in teaching English at Reményik Lutheran Primary School as well as support the Roma community through working at a Roma job center called Hárofit. Check out Katerina's blog to learn more about YAGM and her ministry: <http://kcanteryagm.blogspot.com>.

This is but only the recent celebration that I, as your pastor, have the honor to experience with you. As we begin this New Year together, I pray that your year be filled with our Lord's blessings, that He may find favor in your work, and that we, the congregation of St. Peter Lutheran Church, continue to serve others out of the generosity God has blessed us with and seek how He is calling us to serve others for His glory.

Pastor Ron



Worship & Music Server
Saturday worship 5:30 pm Sunday worship 9 am
**TBD = we still need volunteers*

	January 4 Sunday 9 am	January 11 Sunday 9 am	January 18 Sunday 9 am	January 25 Sunday 9 am
Communion Assistants	TBD	Gene Leonhart	TBD	TBD
Scripture Readers	Monte Nuehring	TBD	TBD	Joyce Miller
Acolytes	Riley Schumacher Allison Maitland	Chadron Beem Brandon Maitland	TBD	TBD
Multimedia	Chadron Beem	Leah Homeister	Jonathan Leisinger	Jeff Bales
Organist	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller
Sound System	Harold Wente	Roger Donaldson	Alton Midthus	Steve DeVries
Video	Trevor Thurm	Roger Thurm	Trevor Thurm	Roger Thurm
Altar Guild	Shirley Thurm, Mary Thurm, Marilyn Mueller, Phyllis Plaster			
Usher/Greeters	Larry Oltrogge, Jon & Brenda Wolter, Brad Becker, Neil Hartmann			
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.				

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.

Annual Congregation Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2015, after the 9:00 am worship service.

The 2014 Annual Report will be available two weeks prior for you to pick-up at the church.

Weather and Church

A reminder that worship at St Peter does not close for inclement weather. We do strongly advise you to use your best judgment; if it is safer for you to stay home, please do so.

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.

Community

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank

The Food Bank could use our volunteer help once a month. We will be working with members of St Timothy's Church, Hudson. **The upcoming date is January 17.** The time slot is 9-11 am. If you would like to help out, go to the volunteer entrance at the Food Bank, 1605 Lafayette St, Waterloo. You do not need to notify the Food Bank or St Peter. Any questions, call Joyce Miller 984-5021.

His Hands Oran Food Pantry

In November we served 52 households, 139 individuals, and dispersed 2609.9 pounds of food. At this time of year we wait - we wait for cookies to get done, we wait in line, we can't wait to see how people react to our gifts. Some people wait for their next meal. Thank-you to those who during the year have made the wait shorter. With the New Year approaching consider donating regularly of gifts and also of your time. The Food Pantry wishes everyone a safe and healthy Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If you would like to help please contact the pantry or Linda Ferguson. 319-638-4357 or 319-231-0262 please leave a message and someone will call you back.



Denver Community Christmas

Thank you to Holly for decorating the St Peter Christmas tree for our town's annual holiday event at the Denver Community Center. The tree (pictured at left) was beautifully displayed with b&w photos from long ago in old window panes set around the base of the tree. Along with other old relics, including a Bible, were brightened and highlighted by the aqua blue ornaments.

It's SOUPer Bowl Month!!

Please share canned soups or soup mixes with those in need throughout January. Items will be collected in the green tin outside Pastor Ron's office. Soups will be donated to the Salvation Army in Waterloo.

We will also be collecting money for the Salvation Army in a fun way to celebrate SOUPer Bowl Sunday on February 1st. For a five dollar donation, you can wear your favorite high school, college, or pro team shirt. Let's see who people cheer for on game days, and let's cheer for the money raised to help those in need through our gifts to the Salvation Army!

Community Coffee

You're invited to the Denver Sunset Home's Community Coffee, the first Friday of each month at 10:00am. Enjoy coffee, treats, and fellowship with our residents. We hope to see you on January 2nd for our next Community Coffee! 

Denver / Readlyn Communities Blood Drive

Friday, January 9, 2015 from 1:30 - 5:30 pm at the Denver Community Center, 100 Washington St. To make an appointment, contact LifeServe Blood Center at 800-287-4903 or visit www.lifeservebloodcenter.org.

Gifts of Love

This year we had 20 recipients. Gifts of Love Sacks are taken to our members in the nursing homes, shut-ins, families that have lost a loved one, and those with special needs. The Lay Ministry members and Pastor delivered the sacks and gave communion to the recipients. Thank you Pastor Ron, Nancy Lamos, LaVonne Westendorf, Sandra Sue Eick and Connie Lobeck for your ministry. Thank you to Josh & Laura Larson and the high school youth for baking the variety of cookies that were included in the sacks. They also received a ceramic cross with a Bible verse and a card made by the confirmation students.

Food Donation

Last year 1 in 6 residents within the 16 counties that the Northeast Iowa Food Bank serves seeks assistance. Each Mobile Food Pantry provides 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of nutritious food to an average of 100 households. Our recent collection weighed 488 pounds. THANK YOU for your help to ensure that families who are struggling do not go hungry.

One Year to Live Retreat

Feb. 6-8, 2015, Camp EWALU, Strawberry Point. Men, 18 & older, are encouraged to register early for the "One Year to Live" men's retreat. Early registration is open through Jan. 7 with a fee of \$175, after that date the fee is \$200. Presented by Lutheran

Men in Mission, the retreat is an opportunity for men to rethink how they set their priorities and discover how God has equipped them to live. Men leave with a new mission statement for life and a plan centered on how they would live their lives if they had only one year to live. To learn more and download a registration brochure, visit www.neiasynod.org/ministries/mens-ministry or pick one up from the information table. Contact Pastor Ron with questions.



Men's ministry presentation by Kent Davis, January 6 at 6:30 pm, held at St Peter.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Congregational News

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 Wentz	24 Mark Foer 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 Foer
13 Sue Flory Anne Mueller Brody Weston	31 Dennis Ott Jeff Schumacher
14 Annette Geary Clayton Liddle Tammy Weston	



Offering Envelopes

You may pick up your envelopes on the information table outside the church office. And the counting ministry team would like to remind members, that have chosen to receive offering envelopes, to use them for their offering, as it provides a more efficient counting process. Thank you.

Thank You Letter Excerpt from Mashiah Foundation



On behalf of Mary Beth & Bayo, thank you for your gift of \$5,000 to Mashiah Foundation. Developing quality education at Foundations Academy continues to be a big focus for Mary Beth and Bayo. The enrollment in their school jumped to over

200 this year because many people were seeing the excellent education offered by MF. They also started a second school, which has over 75 students. It is run on an American schedule much like Hillcrest School where Mary Beth first taught when she went to Nigeria, while the first school is run on the Nigerian schedule. Your generosity in remembering this ministry is a great encouragement to them as they continue to meet the needs of these people affected by HIV/AIDS. Thank you for your involvement and prayer. Blessings, *Sandi Wallestad*

With Gratitude

A few Thank You's from AA/Alanon for the cookies the Mission Board supply monthly: Thank you all so very much. You folks are awesome. Merry Christmas, how nice it is to see a Christmas spirit. Thank you for the support you give to us. Many thanks for your generosity and making our meetings sweet. Your cookies & caring are great. Prayers for blessed holiday. It's nice that you do this so often! Much appreciated, Merry Christmas and thank you!

Matching Funds

This year the special Christmas offering went to Lutheran Disaster Response. We collected roughly \$4,047.50. Thrivent Choice Dollars will supplement St Peter's Christmas offering for Lutheran Disaster Response, with an additional dollar for every \$3 dollars given to the Christmas offering.



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

Thank you to all who decorated the church and made Christmas services possible!

Mission & Community

Noisy Offering

The January and February Noisy Offering will go to support the Cedar Valley Friends of the Family's shelter house in Waverly. CVFF was founded in 1992 to provide victim services to people in Bremer and Butler county. They now provide a 24/7 confidential crisis line for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault. They run the only shelter exclusively for domestic violence and sexual assault victims in Northeast Iowa. In addition to providing shelter, they also offer housing assistance through a permanent and transitional housing programs to combat homelessness. Finally, CVFF have a prevention educator who goes to area schools to provide presentations on violence prevention.

New Life School, Guatemala

Please thank all at St Peter for the generous donation! Another year is coming to a close. The 2014 graduation and fifteenth anniversary celebration was held November 11th. There will be needed additions at school in 2015. A missionary couple, Jerry and Diana Bush, is coming down from Illinois to work at New Life. He is a pastor with a business background. She plans to teach English to the students. They will be a huge help to me spiritually, in technical support, promotion and in administration of the school. I have never had this type of assistance so I will be blessed by all they can contribute. Their first priority will be learning Spanish. Their coming is an answer to prayer. Please pray for God's provision in all areas needed as they begin their new lives in Guatemala. I feel nothing but peace and joy, not frustration, which only comes from the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ. I thank God for all of you. You are what makes New Life possible. Your prayers and support are priceless. The last fifteen years I have learned and lived the truth of Philippians 4:19, "And God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Donations may be mailed to: Commission to Every Nation, PO Box 291307, Kerrville, TX 78028-1307

To donate online go to newlifeguatemala.com

GOD BLESS YOU WITH CHRIST'S LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON, JUDY KERSCHNER



With Appreciation

Thank you to Denver Bank for the generous gift of \$2,000 to be used to advance our ministries to care for those in need.

Women of the ELCA

WELCA Board Meeting

Saturday, January 17 @ 9:00 am

WELCA Bible Study Leaders

Sunday, January 25 @ 10:15 am

Ruth Circle

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 7 at 7:00 pm

Bible study leader: Sheryl

Hostess: TBD

Mary Circle

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 7 at 1:30 pm

In the library.

Bible study leader & hostess: Barb

Naomi Circle

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 4 at 10:15 am

Bible study leader: TBD

Serving Committee for January Chairperson - Naomi Circle

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the 1st Thursday, every other month at 6:30 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 8 (due to the holiday)

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).

Quilt Tying

After Christmas we will resume quilt tying. Beginning January 5 & 6. Mondays will be from 9 am to 3 pm and again in the evenings, 6:30-8:30 pm. And Tuesdays from 9 am to Noon. All are welcome.

BackPack Program

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank program is at 123 sites throughout NE Iowa and serves over 4,000 kids. We currently have 15 kids in the Denver Schools that receive a bag of food weekly. We are able to add hygiene/toiletry items to the bags. St. Paul UCC and the Baptist Church collected items in addition to the items collected at St Peter. For the months of January & February we are gathering lotion. If you have any questions or would like to help distribute bags contact Bev Diercks at 319-279-3819.

Parish Ed and Youth & Family

Sunday School

Classes resume Sunday, January 4

Sunday School class will follow worship, at 10:15 am in the lower level of the church. If you would like to help in the Pre-K room, please contact Lisa Michels 319-427-2088.

6th Grade Bible Study

The next class will be January 7. Held on the first Wednesday of the month, the Bible Study will be from 7:30-8:30 pm, for both students & parents, in the center Sunday School classroom in the lower level of the church.

Family Bible Study

Dinner served at 5:30pm; Study 6:00-7:00pm
Held on the third Wednesday of the month. Join us January 21, as explore the core teachings of our faith.

High School Mission Trip

We are pleased to announce that the high school youth will be going on a mission trip, location TBD. There are still openings if any students would like to join. Questions? Contact Jackie Fober 319-242-1128.

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation

The confirmation students meet every Wednesday, the next classes will be:

GIFT Worship, January 7 @ 6:30 pm; Prayer Mentors @ 7:30pm

EPIC 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation, Jan. 14 @ 6:30 pm

Family Bible Study, Jan. 21, Dinner @ 5:30 pm, Class @ 6:00 pm

7th Grade Confirmation Classes - January 28 @ 6:30 pm

8th Grade Confirmation Classes - January 28 @ 7:30 pm

2014 ST PETER CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.



Thank you to Lisa Michels, Eve Pautsch and all who help keep the St Peter Christmas program tradition alive.



St Peter carolers pictured above at the Sunset Nursing Home and below, outside a members home.



Pictured above are Santa's helpers at the Middle School Holiday Dance, put on by the high school youth last month.



A big Thank You to the group doing the Christmas caroling. We were surprised to find you at our door. You made it feel more like Christmas with your gift.
George & Diann Curtis.

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Naomi Circle</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9 am—3 pm Quilt tying 6:30-8:30 pm Quilt tying 6:30 pm Property & Management</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30 am Womenfest 9 am—noon Quilt tying 6:00 pm Stewardship Board 6:30 pm Men's Ministry 7:00 pm Hand Bells 7:00 pm AA/Alanon</p>	<p>7</p> <p>1:30 pm Mary Circle 6:30 pm GIFT Worship 7:00 pm Ruth Circle 7:30 pm 6th grade Bible Study</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Office Closed</p>  <p>7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm Worship & Music 6:30 pm Prayer Shawl 9:00 pm Wburg College Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 am Community Coffee @ Denver Sunset Home</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9 am—3 pm Quilt tying 6:30-8:30 pm Quilt tying</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 am Womenfest 9 am—noon Quilt tying 6:30 pm Council meeting 7:00 pm Hand Bells 7:00 pm AA/Alanon</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 pm EPIC 7th & 8th grade 7:00 pm HS Youth Group</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 am Staff mtg. 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 9:00 pm Wburg College Bible Study</p>	<p>16</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 am WELCA Board 9:00 am NEIA Food Bank</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 am Worship Noisy Offering 10:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9 am—3 pm Quilt tying 6:30-8:30 pm Quilt tying</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 am Womenfest 9 am—noon Quilt tying 7:00 pm Hand Bells 7:00 pm AA/Alanon</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Family Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 9:00 pm Wburg College Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:00 am Worship 10:15 Congregational Annual Mtg. 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15am WELCA Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9 am—3 pm Quilt tying 6:30-8:30 pm Quilt tying</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 am Womenfest 9 am—noon Quilt tying 7:00 pm Hand Bells 7:00 pm AA/Alanon</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 pm 7th grade confirmation 7:30 pm 8th grade confirmation</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 9:00 pm Wburg College Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

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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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A letter from the Northeastern Iowa Synod Bishop, Steven Ullestad

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We will be gathering on February 22, 2015 to give thanks to God for over 45 years of active ministry by the Rev. Darrel Gerrietts. A reception will be held from 2-4 p at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2001 West Bremer Ave, Waverly, IA. A brief program will begin at 3 pm.

I hope that you will be able to attend this day of thanksgiving. You are also invited to write a letter of appreciation to be included in a book of memories. Letters may be sent to Ms Linda Hudgins, PO Box 804, Waverly, IA 50677 or email: hudginsl@neiasynod.org by February 1, 2015.

Pastor Garrietts has been instrumental in initiating many new synod ministries. One of the most important ministries for the future of our synod is the NE IA Synod Fund for leaders. This fund provides scholarships for seminarians from our synod. Please consider a gift to this fund in honor of Darrel and his ministries. Checks may be made payable to "Northeastern Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders."

Thank you for being a part of this celebration.

