

# St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

## June 2020

Pastor Dawn Pederson

Projecting Christ to All Generations



One of my favorite rooms in the parsonage is the four-season room. There is a bank of windows around the room that allows us to see north, west, and south. Steve has tried his best to make our yard into a sanctuary welcoming birds with multiple feeders offering a variety of food: suet, seed, nectar, and grape jelly. He hung a bird house on a shepherd's staff on the west side of the four-season room in hopes that a wren couple would take up residence and raise a family there. I read somewhere that the male wren builds multiple nests and the female wren chooses which one to raise a family in. Last year there wasn't much activity, but this spring there has been SO much activity including so much beautiful music. The wrens have chosen Steve's bird house as their home, a place to raise their family.

The windows are no barrier to the song of the wrens. Their music permeates through the bank of windows filling the four-season room and filtering into the kitchen and dining room. What joyous songs they sing. We enjoy not only hearing them sing, but also watching them sing. How can something so small make such big wonderful music? Only God could have created such a marvel. We've laughed as we watch them lift their beaks heavenward and sing while roosted on the top of the house or the shepherd's staff. They are so full of song their whole bodies shake from the top of their heads to the tip of their tails.

Well, one day I was birdwatching from the four-season room when I heard a different song. Roosted on the shepherd's hook was a sparrow. I watched as the sparrow sang and then flew to the bird feeder for a snack. As I watched this scene unfold, I had what I will call an epiphany, a vision of God. It was both visual and auditory. The song of the sparrow reminded me of a hymn written in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by Civilla Martin, "His Eye is on the Sparrow." As the sparrow sang, I heard the refrain of this hymn, "I'll sing because I'm happy. I'll sing because I'm free. His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me." I visualized God watching over the sparrow, the wren, you and me. And then, I recalled these words of Jesus, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So, do not be afraid." God who values the sparrows also values each of us and watches over us.

While the singing inside the church is on pause, the singing outside in God's good creation seems more vibrant and abundant than ever. I officiated at a private outdoor wedding recently. Before the ceremony, I paused. "Do you hear the birds singing?" I asked. A chorus of birds sang a prelude, only they didn't stop with a prelude, no, they kept on singing during the ceremony and then they sang a postlude. Hearing them made my heart sing too.

It will soon be three months since we last gathered for in-person worship. In my April newsletter article I wrote, "Long before the current health crisis that keeps us apart began, I planned our Easter worship. Whenever these necessary restrictions are lifted, when we can once again come together for worship, I am ready. We look forward to that day." A lot has changed since I wrote these words. The world around us has changed. We have changed. In-person worship will need to change for a time. For how long? We do not know. To be honest with you I'm concerned about returning to in-person worship for many reasons.

There are many opinions about when and how to resume in-person worship. We are not ready to resume in-person worship just yet. The council is working on a plan and will discuss it at our next council meeting, June 9. We ask for your prayers and your patience as we complete this important work.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Dawn



# Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

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

*\* We are working on a plan to resume in-person worship and will publish more when we have the information.*

	<b>June 7 Sunday 9:00 am</b>	<b>June 14 Sunday 9:00 am</b>	<b>June 21 Sunday 9:00 am</b>	<b>June 28 Sunday 9:00 am</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Scripture Readers</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Acolytes</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Multimedia</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Organist</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Sound System</b>	Larry Oltrogge	Alton Midthus	Roger Donaldson	Steve DeVries
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Terrie Thurm, Lori Thurm, Mandy Gesme			
<b>Usher/Greeters</b>	Jerry & Connie Lobeck, Jim Kurtt, Jim Moeller, Jack Mixdorf			
<b>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.</b>				

## 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.

## The Bell and Chimes at St Peter

Listen for the chimes at St. Peter every night at 8:00 pm. This is both a call to prayer and a daily blessing. Pastor Dawn will ring the bell at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings as an invitation for all to join in praying the Lord's Prayer together.

## 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 the 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.

**\*Meetings are suspended at St Peter for the time being.**

### 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.

# St Peter High School Graduates



**HAYDEN ARIANS**



**MARISSA LEISINGER**



**SAM LOCKHART**



**LEXI LYONS**



**LOGAN MEYER**



**BREANNA SADLER**



**LILAH SKAAR**



# CONGRATULATIONS

# June Birthdays & Anniversaries

# Community & Mission News

1  
Charles & Trudy Essmann

2  
Keira Gehrke  
Don Hulsing  
Sophia Sanderson  
Kenneth & Carolyn Becker

3  
Roberta Merrill

4  
Lisa Diercks  
Steve Sadler  
Jane Teetzen  
Dean & Judy Gleason  
Dean & Jackie Milius

5  
Wayne Buss  
Trudy Essmann

7  
Timothy Arians

8  
Hannah Smith

10  
Chadron Beem  
Al Eggena  
Jessy Kern

11  
Dakota Beem

12  
Julie Leisinger  
Jerry & Connie Lobeck

13  
Nicholas Kurtz  
Ron Nystrom

14  
Allison Maitland  
Brandon Maitland  
Blake Steege  
Janell Stock  
Paul & Margaret Empie

15  
Diann Curtis  
Joy Wolter

16  
Peyton Mueller  
Jim & Sheryl Moeller  
Larry & Sara Oltrogge

17  
Luke Milius  
Britta Weston  
Tim & Staci Mueller

18  
Brooke DeVries  
Mitchell DeVries  
Michael Krueger  
Sheila Mixdorf

19  
Jeff Bales  
Jacob DeVries  
Maxwell Gielau

20  
Dean Elsamiler  
Emma Jacoby  
Todd Wolter

21  
Roger Donaldson  
Sophia McInroy  
Brian & Tanya Haase  
Marvin & Helen Schumacher

22  
Char Conway  
Tom & Karen Place

23  
Abigail Foelske

24  
Jocelyn Milius  
Conner Vauthier  
Ann Zwetzig

25  
Dave Leonhart  
Jeff Riley

26  
Jackson Joerger  
Alton & Sharon Midthus

27  
Darrel Brandt

28  
Sharon Foelske

29  
Sarah Sanderson  
Janet Kern  
Angie Meyer  
Rachel Upshaw  
Amy & Richard Gehrke

30  
Dorothy Eggena  
Chad Liddle  
Dave & Linda Krueger

## With Appreciation

We sincerely thank you for your thoughtfulness in memory of Roger. Whether it was comforting words, prayers, cards, flowers, gifts or memorials, we so appreciate your kindness. We are truly blessed to have been shown such compassion and love. *The family of Roger Thurm*

## Evangelism Board & St Peter

Thank you so much for thinking of Kaiser- Corson and offering us each a care package. We have enjoyed a great working relationship with the church members and clergy over the years. The care packages lifted our spirits which was especially needed during this pandemic. Thanks again & God bless!

*Ryan Tucker and all of the Kaiser-Corson staff*

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

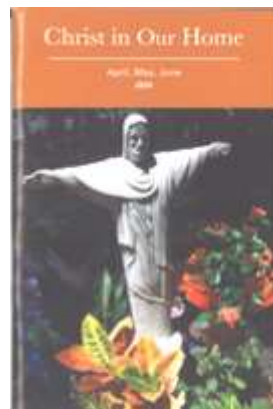
The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, every other month at 1:00 pm. **Next meeting: TBD**

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).

## Noisy Offering

The May and June Noisy Offering will go towards I HOPE, a chapter of AMBUCS, a national nonprofit charitable organization with the mission of inspiring people to conquer challenges related to mobility and independence. I Hope is a local chapter of AMBUCS. Our name I HOPE stands for Iowans Helping Others Participate Everyday.

**I Hope Focus:** The Amtrykes program of AMBUCS helps provide adaptive tricycles for children and adults who are unable to ride a two wheeled bike.



## Resources Available

A reminder we have copies of *Christ in Our Home* 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



## Blessing Box

The Blessing Box is now up; it is located along the south side of our church parking lot. Thank you to Brad & Jennifer Becker for building the boxes! The contents of the little box are provided for anyone with our blessing. The Mission Board will be restocking the box with current supplies, as needed.

## His Hands Oran Food Pantry

Serving families in the area that are experiencing food insecurity. Request for June—Baking mixes, soup, personal care items. Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon. Served in April: 80 Households, 238 Individuals, 9,699 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

## Re-Do Cards Available

If you are in need of any all occasion cards; feel free to come to the church and choose from the card rack. All proceeds go to Prayer Shawl at this time. The last donation to Prayer Shawl was \$48.50

## Helping Hands Clothes Closet

*We are closed but will open by appointment to anyone needing immediate assistance with clothing, shoes or bedding. We are also asking that donations be held until we can be open again. Stay safe and we all hope that we are back to regular schedules soon.*

Located at 2029 Viking Ave. Sumner, provides free gently used clothes to lower income & homeless families and individuals and those affected by disaster. A ministry of St John, Sumner & St Peter, Oran. They offer women, men, and children clothing, shoes, coats, bedding & towels. Hours: Tuesdays 9-11 am, Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, 9:00-11:00 am. If you have any questions email or call Carolyn Mohlis, 319-279-3247 or

## Dear Friends

Please accept this letter of confirmation of your generous “gift in kind” donation of many cloth face masks. (Sheryl M, and Mary S, made and donated 60 face masks for Bartels) We are grateful for the influence your gifts have on our programs and the lives of our residents and staff. Thank you for your partnership in ministry to strengthen the mission of Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community. Your support helps us meet our mission of enriching lives through quality services and Christian care. *Sincerely, Angela Daniels*

## Notice

To care for staff and the building you will need to wear a mask and call the church number (984-5648) to enter the building.

**NEIA Synod Assembly 2020** - postponed until August 22, 2020, at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls

## WELCA Board Meeting

Next WELCA Board meeting: TBD

Gather Bible Study -Next Meeting: TBD

**SWO (Synodical Women’s Organization) scheduled for June, has been postponed to a later date.**

## Serving Committee for June

Kathy Ackerman	Margaret Empie	Trudy Essmann
Kari Foelske	Pat Leonhart	Marge Liddle
Connie Lobeck	Amy Lockhart	Sheila Mixdorf
Ruth Niemann	Carol Nystrom	Sara Oltrogge
Leana Place	Tonia Thurm	Kayla Tucker
Kim Williams		

## Dear members of St Peter

Thank you so much for the generous donation to Kaden’s Kloset in the amount of \$451.74. Due to COVID-19, the Kloset is not currently open except for curbside pickups. But please know your gift will be put to good use. It was a pleasure to worship with you. Please be safe! *Kathy Porter, Kaden’s Kloset Waterloo*

## New Shipment of Coffee

We received a new shipment of coffee through DeLa Gente, our Guatemala coffee distributor. We are also marking down our current supply of LWR coffee to move it, since we have not had worship. Both brands are available for purchase in the Friendship Room. You can leave a check or cash in the coffee can with a lid on the rolling cart next to the coffee bags.



# Faith Formation



## **Vacation Bible School has been Canceled August 3-7, 2020**

We were contacted by EWALU and informed that they will not be able to go ahead with our VBS programming this year. Though we are saddened that St Peter will not be able to provide Vacation Bible School this year, we understand the decision.

## **Dear Friends of the NEIA Food Bank**

It's no secret that we are in the middle of experiencing some very troubling times here in northeast Iowa and around the world. On behalf of the board, staff, and volunteers of the NEIA Food Bank, I would like to thank you for your recent contribution of \$135 (the amount collected in Nov/Dec Blessing Jar put out by the Mission Board) as it affirms your confidence in the value of our work feeding northeast Iowa's vulnerable populations. Amidst a growing unemployment rate, an overshadowing fear for public health and safety, and no clear timeline on when we, as a community or nation, might begin to recover from the effects of COVID-19, your support in our mission empowers us to continue doing the work that we are meant to do and are passionate about doing. Your donation will continue to help us acquire more food in a time when shelves dry up and large-scale food donations dwindle.

*With appreciation, Barbara Prather*

## **WELCA Updates**

WELCA Bible Studies for June, July and August have been canceled.

The WELCA Board meeting for June will be postponed until further notice.

## **Womensfest & Mensfest**

At this time we do not have a date to share on when and how Womensfest and Mensfest will resume.

## **2020 St. Peter High School Graduates**

Congratulations to Hayden Arians, Marissa Leisinger, Sam Lockhart, Alexis Lyons, Logan Meyer, Breanna Sadler, Lilah Skaar. on successfully completing your high school education!

**In recognition of your achievement, we are inviting all members of the graduating class of 2020 to worship together at our 9:00 am worship service, May 24.**

If you have been provided with your cap and gown, we would like for you to wear your gown on celebration Sunday. However we understand that the distribution of those may not be organized yet. We will meet in the Friendship Room at 8:45 am. Be sure to invite your family, baptismal sponsors, and friends to join you in thanking God for the wisdom, education, and memories of these past years.

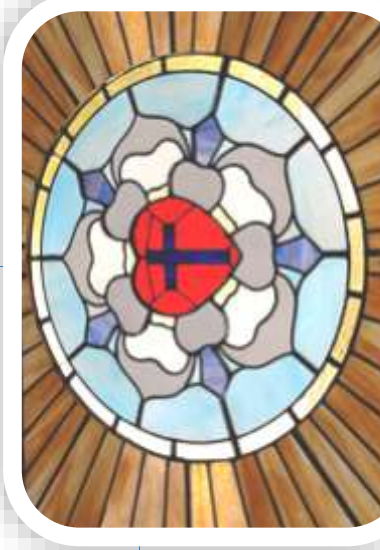
The graduates will receive quilts made by members of the congregation, along with a reception following the service in the friendship room.

We will once again have a "Graduate Recognition Board" at the back of the sanctuary, thanks to Amy!

*Congratulations to Derek Gielau and Alex Lane who were married in a private outdoor wedding on May 23. Pastor Dawn officiated. They hope to renew their vows in a church ceremony next May.*



# June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
		Tentatively Scheduled				
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm Council meeting vis Zoom	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Happy Father's Day!	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				
			<p>Bishop Eaton, "I've heard even from some in my own denomination that it's a faith versus fear, and that's a false dichotomy. Protecting others is a faithful response."</p> <p>Bishop Eaton's full interview is found on our Facebook page or <a href="http://www.elca.org">www.elca.org</a>  <i>Navigating a return to in-person worship/ ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on CNN</i></p>			

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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