

St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

May 2017 Rev. Ron Mathews

Projecting Christ to All Generations

College Care Packages



First Communion bread making

May is a season filled with endings and new beginnings. The farmers are now beginning to plant their fields, ready to care for the earth as they nurture the seeds into harvest producing plants. Their planters in the field remind me of Christ's example to us of becoming a new creation. When we die, we will become a new creation in Christ. And when we are baptized our sins are put to death, drowned in the water, where we become a new living creation in Christ. You see we must first die to sin in order to live. Scripture is filled with great analogies about this, but here are two about seeds:

John 12:24 "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

1 Corinthians 15:36 "Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies."

Both of these texts help to make the point that in order for something new to take place the old must cease to exist. The seed must stop being in order for the plant to come forth. Or, as my mom always said, you can't have your cake and eat it to. If you want the plant, you cannot keep the seed. Sometimes this change is inevitable, like a child growing up and leaving the house. No matter how desperately we (parents) may desire it to not happen. And other times this change is welcomed, the completion of a task or getting a promotion.

This month is filled with ending and new beginnings. As the seeds of Confirmation begin to grow, we celebrate Affirmation Sunday on May 21st where our Confirmands will declare the end of their life as children of the church and claim their faith to be their own. In similar fashion, on May 28th our Seniors will celebrate their graduation from High School. Thus announcing the end of their childhood as they begin a new journey as adults of society by either college education or employment.

Where there is an end, there is a new beginning. As Spring comes into full swing, winter comes to an end, the animals return and the plants begin to grow again. The seeds all die and most will grow into producing plants. Other plants will grow but then be destroyed in a storm or drought. And yet other plants will grow but not produce. This uncertainty causes us to hold even more tightly to the seeds. We don't know what will happen. It is a big and scary world out there with a lot of potential causes for disaster. But we are also reminded in the midst of potential storms that we are never alone. The Church remains despite all of life's storms. The Church remains because it is grounded with the foundation of Christ who has not abandoned us in the midst of problems. But rather the opposite. Christ was born in the midst of pain and misery to suffer and die in pain and misery. And through his death on the cross, in the uncertainty of what was to come, Christ conquered sin, death, and devil himself. It is in the Easter promise that we boldly face change and uncertainty. It is in the Easter promise that find comfort in hard times, strength to endure, and hope through the storms. It is in the Easter promise that we find cause to celebrate all the joys of this life.

In this season of change and new beginnings may you find joy in the Lord.

Serving Christ With You, Pastor Ron



Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

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

	May 7 Sunday 9:00 am	May 14 Sunday 9:00 am	May 21 Sunday 9:00 am	May 28 Sunday 9:00 am
Communion Assistants	Kim Lamb	Kim Lamb	TBD	TBD
Scripture Readers	Kevin Smith	Dori Jurgenson	Brian Haase	Julie Leisinger
Acolytes	Emily Ruby & Morgan Smith	Alex Krabbenhoft & Isaac Schimmels	Hunter Ackerman & Conner Vauthier	Abbi Austin & Layne Fober
Multimedia	Jeff Bales	Johnathan Leisinger	Leah Homeister	Jack Mixdorf
Cantor	Mary Stevens	Mary Stevens	TBD	TBD
Organist	Sheryl Moeller	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	Sheila Mixdorf
Sound System	Roger Donaldson	Steve DeVries	Larry Oltrogge	Alton Midthus
Video	Dwight Diercks	Roger Thurm	Dwight Diercks	Roger Thurm
Altar Guild	Shirley Thurm, Mary Thurm, Marilyn Mueller, Phyllis Plaster			
Usher/Greeters	Randy & Terrie Thurm, Joe Koepke, Gary & Cheryl Sharp, Mark & Jackie Fober family			
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.

With Appreciation

Thank you to everyone that came out to support the Mission Trip fundraisers- Lenten Suppers & Palm Sunday Breakfast. We appreciate your continued support of our Mission Trip to New Orleans, June 10-17. Mark your calendars for our pie auction: May 7 after worship, and the Middle School Dance at Legion Hall on May 20, 7-10pm. Contact Alex Place with questions 319-269-0794 or aplace17@cornellcollege.edu.

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.

Statue of Olaus and Laurentius Petri



the Lutheran church. We hope you enjoy and learn a little bit more by reading these articles.

ABOUT THE LUTHERANS

October 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. As we prepare for this celebration, we want to invite you into a time of learning. Martin Luther and many of his reforming companions were teachers after all. Every month we will publish a new article on one of the many diverse aspects of the Lutheran church. We hope you enjoy and learn a little bit more by reading these articles.

Martin Luther is, deservedly, receiving most of the attention as we mark the beginning of the Reformation in Saxony. But with remarkable speed, those teachings spread to other countries in Europe. How did that occur? Largely through the work of some courageous leaders. Let's look at how the Reformation came to a few countries whose descendants have helped shape the ELCA.

In Sweden, two brothers, Olavus and Laurentius Petri, spearheaded the Reformation. Both had studied theology with Luther in Wittenberg. They returned to Sweden around the same time King Gustav I Vasa was creating an independent nation. He made Olavus pastor of the city church in Stockholm, where he translated the New Testament into Swedish, created a catechism, published an order of worship, and provided a Swedish hymnal. Meanwhile his younger brother, Laurentius, was made the first Lutheran archbishop of Sweden; he and Olavus jointly produced a complete Bible in Swedish.

In Denmark, too, the Reformation came early. As in Sweden, it was led by a young man who had studied under Luther in Wittenberg—Hans Tausen. The ruler at the time, Frederick I, was formally opposed to Reformation ideas, but he protected Tausen and tolerated Lutheran writings. The next king, Christian III, stripped the Roman Catholic Church of its wealth, and Luther's pastor, Johannes Bugenhagen, made a journey from Wittenberg to crown the king and help organize the Danish church.

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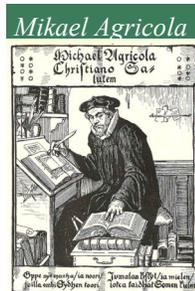
The Reformation Spreads in Europe

Norway was, at the time, ruled by Denmark, and initially the spread of the Reformation there was slower. Christian III tried to encourage its growth there, but at first there wasn't much popular support; it was more of a topdown reformation. Nevertheless, pastors such as Jorgen Eriksson, who would become bishop of Stavanger, preached Lutheran teachings, and the Reformation gradually took hold.

Mikael Agricola was yet another student of Luther, and it was he who led the Reformation in Finland. At that time, Finland was ruled by Sweden. The first Lutheran bishop of Turku (and thus of Finland), Martinus Skytte, left most Roman Catholic orders in place. Agricola's ministry as the next bishop, though, mirrored much of Luther's: he translated the New Testament into Finnish, and in the process created the Finnish literary language. He prepared a prayer book in Finnish, created a vernacular order of communion, and collected Finnish hymns. He was also the first married bishop of Turku.

Moving southeast from Wittenberg, Slovakia is another area where the Reformation took hold. Two visionary people must receive much of the credit. Jan Hus lived about a century before Luther and ministered in neighboring Bohemia (now the Czech Republic), but his reforming teachings influenced Slovak Christians, as they did Martin Luther himself. So the way was prepared for the Reformation from Wittenberg. And in the early seventeenth century, another graduate of the University of Wittenberg, Jir̃ı (or Juraj) Tr̃anovský, helped cement the Reformation in Slovakia by translating many hymns and collecting them into a hymnal called Cithara Sanctorum ("Lyre of the Saints").

Lutherans from these lands and many others came to America, establishing first separate enclaves, but gradually merging with other Lutherans into church bodies, including our current Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Mission Opportunity

Noisy Offering

The noisy offering for May & June will go to Wings of Refuge. **For One More Girl—** Wings of Refuge is a Christ Centered restorative home that focuses on the restoration of the survivors of domestic sex trafficking.

Recover: Wings of Refuge networks with other organizations that are on the frontline, recovering survivors of domestic sex trafficking.

Restore: Wings of Refuge is a safe place for female survivors. This home provides an atmosphere of healing and restoration for each survivor that addresses the entire person; body, soul and mind.

Rise: Wings of Refuge equips survivors to heal at their own pace while developing their individual gifts, educational needs, talents and abilities, empowering them to a life of hope and possibilities.



Wings of Refuge

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Dori Jurgenson Megan Schmauss	17 Virgil Buhr Rodney Diercks Erin Gustafson
2 Dawn Riley	18 Chip Flory Sara Oltrogge Rylee Renner
3 Judy Vauthier Michael & Jaime Gienau Jon & Brenda Wolter	Roger & Shirley Thurm Ben & Jill Thrasher
4 Kathy Ackerman Todd Foelske	19 Carolee Oberheu Cassandra Upshaw
5 Betty Biemann	20 Joel & Joy Wolter
6 Derek Gielau	21 Trudi Schimmels
7 Carson Haase Ella Mathews Nick Syhre Michael Vauthier Randy & Roxi Herman	22 Tyler Corell Bruce Thurm Kris Steege Jack & Sheila Mixdorf Randy & Terrie Thurm
8 Marissa Schwebach	23 Donna Donaldson
10 Larry Stock Kristen Wolter	25 Alton Midthus Ethan Thies
11 Michelle Steffe Lori Thurm Renetta Thurm Tricia & Dennis Kurtz	26 Austin Herman Doug Roethler
12 Amanda Swanson	27 Alexis Lyons
13 Mitchell Mohlis Rachelle Nystrom	28 Ed & JoAnne Blumenshine Reagan Carman Tessa Joerger Todd & Elizabeth Foelske Zackary Satterthwaite
14 Marcia Ott Marlys Patterson	29 Ruth Fasse
15 Matt Krueger Mike & Renee McInroy Garland & Heather Krabbenhoft	30 Philip Michels
16 Amy Gehrke Wanda Meier Brody Wirtjes	31 Richard Beckel Wesley Homeister Teresa Miller Zack Thrasher

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

2017 St. Peter High School Graduates

Congratulations to Johnathan Leisinger, Ryan Maitland, Jocelyn Milius, Hannah Smith, Mallory Steege, Tyler Vauthier, on successfully completing your high school education! **In recognition of your achievement, we are inviting all members of the graduating class of 2017 to worship together at our 9 am worship service, May 28.** Please bring your graduation gown and 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. **If you would like your picture and future plans for the fall to be included, please bring a wallet size senior picture and note the college you will be attending and the area of study to the church office by May 15.**



Love Offering

Each year the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) at St. Peter Lutheran Church gather a spring Love Offering to help support the causes and needs of the current year. This year it was decided to send 1/4 to the Phebe Hospital Solar Project, 1/4 to the NEIA Food Bank and 1/2 for the Christmas gift list. We will also apply for a Thrivent match. The Love Offering continues through the end of May. A special envelope is included with your regular offering envelopes, or you may use a plain envelope and mark it "Love Offering." Thank you for your support of the Love Offering. Act Boldly-Give Generously!

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Offerings

-\$1,951 collected thus far: These offerings will be shared with the Synod's Fund for Leaders (FFL), which helps to raise up and financially support students studying at ELCA seminaries who have demonstrated outstanding leadership potential and exceptional gifts for ministry. Our Synod's vision is to one day support every candidate for rostered ministry with a full-tuition scholarship to an ELCA seminary, to empower and enable our leaders to serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Next meeting: Thursday, May 4. 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 new shawls).

Roller Skating Party

All the Fusion and confirmation students are invited to join us for an eve of roller skating, Saturday, May 13, from 5-7pm at the Crystal Ball Roller Rink, 703 N Sherman St, New Hampton, IA.

Community & Mission News



Pie Auction

Get your sweet tooth on, the Mission Trip students are having a homemade pie auction, Sunday, May 7, following worship in the Friendship Room. This tasty fundraiser will support their ministries in New Orleans, this June.

Hungering for Renewal

All ELCA women of this synod are invited to attend the Synodical Women's Organization Convention, Saturday, June 17, 8:15am-4:00pm, at Wartburg College, Waverly, IA. The theme, "Hungering for Renewal," is based on the verse Psalm 34:8-"O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him."

Early bird registration is due May 25, \$45 fee includes at least two workshops, a muffin and coffee buffet and a great luncheon!

Make check payable to WELCA and send form (available in the office) with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Bev Sheridan, 701 Serenity Dr, Decorah, IA 52101

"All Anew" Triennial Gathering

DATE: July 14-15, in Minneapolis. The registration fee for the Triennial would be covered by WELCA funds; one day registration is available. If you are interested in checking out the gathering, please contact the office or for more information go to their website <http://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca/> or linked from our WELCA page (stpeterdenver.org -> Get Involved -> WELCA).

Quilt Tying has concluded for the season

Thank you to all that have helped to make the following totals possible: Quilts -178; School Kits -31; Baby Care Kits -67; Fabric Kits -14, all boxed and sent to the Spring In-Gathering in Sheffield.

WELCA Board Meeting

Sunday, June 11 @ 10:15 am

WELCA Bible Study Leaders

Available in the Gather Magazine

Gather Bible Study

The first Wednesday of the month at 1:00 & 7:00 pm

Next Meeting: May 3

Serving Committee for May

Karla Anderson	Doris Blankenship	Erika Benschoter
Trina Cheever	Teresa Diercks	Gayle Eick
Melodie Foelske	Jan Hartmann	Leah Homeister
Lisa Michels	Opal Miller	Wendy Mohlis
Joyce Schimmels	Crystal Shedenhelm	
Karen Thurm	Marlyn Wolter	

**Fellowship after worship will be done on a sign-up basis. If you would be willing to supply cookies, make or serve coffee; please sign up at the office or online. www.stpeterdenver.org.*

Kollege Kid's Kare Kits



Thank you to our Thrivent action team/Mission Board, (pictured above), for packing & delivering the care packages for our St Peter college students to have during finals week. The extra nourishment is much appreciated during a stressful time!

Denver/Readlyn Communities Blood Drive,

Friday, May 5, 12:30-4:30 pm, Denver community Center, 100 Washington St, Denver. To make an appointment, contact LifeServe Blood Center at 800-287-4903 or visit www.lifeservebloodcenter.org.

Northeast Iowa Food Bank

Please join us at the food bank to pack elderly nutrition boxes. You do not need to notify the food bank; there are several groups there each week and we can just join in, **Next scheduled Saturday, is May 13, from 9-10:30am**. Simply go to the volunteer entrance at the Food Bank, 160 Lafayette St, Any questions, call Joyce Miller 984-5021.

His Hands Oran Food Pantry,

Serving families in the area that are experiencing food insecurity.

May wish list: personal care items such as shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash/soap, lotion, etc. Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon. Served in March: 79 Households, 5,684.5 lbs of food distributed. Questions? -319-638-4357.

St Peter's last donation came to 97.7 lbs. The food pantry volunteers were very appreciative and send their thanks!

Wellness Screening

We had over 70 participants; thank you to Allen Lab, Pat Leonhart, Nancy Lamos, Terry Miller and Joyce Miller for making this ministry to the community possible.



Gather Bible Study

Wednesday, May 3, at 1:00 pm and at 7:00 pm. Generally the Gather Bible studies will be the first Wednesdays of each month, all are invited.

Faith Formation

F.R.O.G. Fully Rely on God



Vacation Bible School 2017

Mark your calendars for Friday, July 28. 8:30am -3:30 pm. We will have VBS day camp out at Camp Ingawanis, located west of town. This will be a day long camp for our kindergarten through sixth grade friends and a morning camp for our 3 year-old/preschool friends (children who turned 3 prior to January 1, 2017).

If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact Eve Pautsch.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 pm

Sunday School

Sunday School follows worship, at 10:15 am. If you have any questions please contact Eve Pautsch, sundayschool@stpeterdenver.org or 319-939-5229.

Dates to Remember: May 14 will be the last day of Sunday School & Teacher Appreciation, and the children will be singing in church.

We really appreciate the volunteers we've had for Sunday School, our program would not be possible without you.

EWALU

Camp and Retreat information for 2017 is located on the information table outside the office or on their website: ewalu.org A reminder that St Peter will pay half the cost of the camp up to \$175. Please contact the office for the scholarship.



Some of the confirmands are pictured above participating in the 2017 retreat activity.

Dirty Feet Retreat

Our confirmands spent two nights at the EWALU Dirty Feet Retreat, March 31-April 2. They enjoyed learning and practicing living out their faith in spite of the world's pressures, because of God's awesome love and grace.

Confirmation

May 3: Public Witness Event & Potluck 6:00 pm

May 10: 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 6:30 pm

May 17: 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation-6:30 pm

Affirmation of Baptism pictures 6:30 pm

May 20: 8th grade Affirmation of Baptism rehearsal, 9 am

May 21: Affirmation of Baptism, arrive by 8:30 am.

The following young disciples:

Abbi Austin, Layne Fober, Emma Haase, Tessa Joerger, Alex Krabbenhoft, Cylee Liddle, Brooks Meyer, Jadyn Milius, Parker Mueller, Emily Ruby, Isaac Schimmels, Morgan Smith, Max Thrasher; will make public profession of their faith to continue in the covenant God made with them in their holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus.



Pictured at left- our lay communion ministry team assisted the First Communion students in making bread.

First Communion Class

The following students completed their First Communion instructions and received communion for the first time at the Maundy Thursday Service, congratulations to: Jarett Clayton, Carson Haase, Kenny Lamb, Abry Meyer, Peyton Mueller, Grant Pautsch, Keaton Rothmeyer, Tyanna Teetzen.

May 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 pm Property Management meeting	2 7:30 am Womenfest 9:00 am - Noon Quilt tying 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	3 1:00 pm Gather Bible Study 6:00 pm Public Witness Event 7:00 pm Gather Bible Study	4 7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 am Staff meeting 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl	5	6
7 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Pie Auction	8 6:00 pm Financial Board	9 7:30 am Womenfest 6:30 pm Fusion 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	10 6:30 pm Confirmation	11 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm Worship & Music	12	13 9:00 am NEIA Food Bank 5:00 pm Roller Skating Party @ New Hampton
14 <i>Happy Mother's Day</i> 9:00 am Worship with Noisy Offering 10:15 Last Day of Sunday School	15	16 7:30 am Womenfest 1:00 pm Evangelism 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	17 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm YBS meeting	18 7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 pm Staff meeting 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	19 1:00 pm Bremwood Luncheon NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 9:00 am Affirmation of Baptism Rehearsal 6:00 pm Basement reserved 7:00 pm MS Dance @ the Denver Legion
21 9:00 am Worship Affirmation of Baptism 10:15 am Basement reserved	22 10:00 am Bingo @ Denver Sunset Home	23 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	24	25 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	26 Office closed	27
28 9:00 am Worship with Baccalaureate	29 <i>Memorial Day</i> Office closed	30 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	31 6:30 pm Council meeting			

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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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2017 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 Pastor Ron Mathews or Congregational President. Thank you!

Church Council: Staci Mueller, Doug Miller, Amy Lockhart, Garland Krabbenhoft, Eve Pautsch, Jim Jurgenson, Connie Lobeck

Executive Board: Garland Krabbenhoft, Eve Pautsch, Amy Lockhart, Jim Jurgenson

Property & Management: Randall Satterthwaite, Neil Hartmann, Gene Leonhart, Leroy Homeister, Dwight Diercks, Roxane Franzen, Ryan Lockhart

Parish Education: Eve Pautsch

Worship & Music: Sheila Mixdorf, Amy Lockhart, Jo VanDeBerg, Joyce Miller, Nancy Lamos, Connie Lobeck

Mission: Pat Leonhart, Bev Diercks, Shirley Thurm, Gretchen Syhre, Kelley Carman, Cameron Wahl

Stewardship: Doug Miller, Helen Schumacher, Dori Jurgenson

Youth & Family: Kim Lamb, Krista Wahl, Connie Lobeck

Evangelism: Staci Mueller, Art Kurtt, LaVonne Westendorf, Roger Donaldson

Financial Committee: Dwight Diercks, Paul Meier, Jim Moeller, Jack Mixdorf, Jim Jurgenson