

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Tidings

May 2014
Rev. Ron Mathews

Over the past two months Church Council has been engaged with the book "Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear: nurturing disciples in home and congregation." Our plan is to study this book throughout the year, reading one chapter a month. Over the past two months we have read the first two chapters and I wanted to share some insights and significant quotes that are shaping how we are talking about the future ministries here at St. Peter.

"Faith is the flow and energy of our lives in a never-ending process of integrating what we see, experience, learn, feel, sense, and wonder" (p15). Faith is the flow, it is an action word. So the question we must ask is "how do we engage in learning, having intentional experiences, and utilize our entire lives to grow in faith?" What experiences/events do we provide for our members to grow their faith?

"Faith is the God-given vision of engaging the world through Jesus' eyes" (p17). Faith is not something we have at a chosen moment, but something which we live through. Every action we make and every decision we think of is processed and experienced through faith. Faith is a way of life, the question is: are we intentional about living a life of faith? And more to the point, how can we as a congregation help others to live out their faith intentionally?

Church can be defined as a lively, "interdependent partnership between the ministry of the congregation and the ministry of the home" (p23). Parents are without question the primary teachers of faith. So how do we shift the paradigm of the church as the source of faith formation and instead shine the light where it truly happens - in the home. How do we encourage and support our parents to raise their children in faith? How do we equip our members to be confident in their faith to teach our younger and newer members? This lends to Martin Luther's quote that a cross generational bond is an essential requirement for faith formation and socialization (p24).

Lastly, "the vision of the church recalls what at times has been forgotten: that Christianity is first and foremost a lay movement supported by the trained and committed leadership of clergy and laity alike" (p25). Ephesians 4: 11-12: "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ." What would a St. Peter Lutheran Church look like if every member (over 500 people!) lived out our belief in the priesthood of all believers by connecting people's passions and gifts with needs in the community? What would the Denver area look like if each of our more than 500 active members were engaged in faith forming conversations each week? What does a church look like whose primary function for its staff is to support the ministries of the people?

In conclusion as we discern the future ministries and staffing needs of St. Peter we must consider our context and current culture. As we discuss these and other questions about our congregation and the Denver community, we can find solace that we are not alone. In fact every issue and question noted above hits the core of almost every congregation in America today. Our challenge, like every other congregation, is to embrace a new age and a new culture. Unlike the culture 30 or arguably 15 years ago, "contemporary culture has entered into a post-Christian era in which the faith, language, symbols, rituals, and stories of Christianity can no longer be assumed to provide central core themes and values for society. No longer can one assume that people understand the basic biblical stories or teachings of the Christian faith." (p. 24-25) How do we reach out to a culture that doesn't know the major stories of our faith? What is the role of a congregation when churches are no longer the center of social life? How do we effectively pass on the significance and relevance of our faith? These are the core questions which we are now discerning how to answer. Have any thoughts or insights? Want to join the conversation? Let me now!

Pastor Ron



Worship & Music Server

Sunday Worship 9 am

*TBD = we still need volunteers

*NA = not applicable, (we do not need the particular server for this worship)

	May 4 Sunday 9 am	May 11 Sunday 9 am	May 18 Sunday 9 am	May 25 Sunday 9 am
Communion Assistants	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Scripture Readers	Jo Vandenberg	Chip Flory	Joyce Miller	Jim Jurgenson
Acolytes	Blake Steege & TBD	Bethany Sadler & TBD	Sophia McInroy & Blake Steege	TBD
Multimedia	Leah Homeister	Jonathan Leisinger	Jeff Bales	Chadron Beem
Organist	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller	Sheila Mixdorf
Sound System	Steve DeVries	Roger Donaldson	Alton Midthus	Harold Wente
Video	Trevor Thurm	Roger Thurm	Trevor Thurm	Roger Thurm
Altar Guild	Nancy Lamos, Karen Henniges, LaVonne Westendorf, LaVonne Emkes			
Usher/Greeters	Randy & Terrie Thurm, Gary & Cheryl Sharp, Joe Koepke, Mark & Jackie Fober family			
<p>Please find a replacement if you are unable to serve at the time you are scheduled. Also, as soon as possible, let the office know who will replace you. If you cannot find someone to replace you, please call the church office (984-5648) and let Roxane know. 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.

Worship Survey

Please remember to take the online survey OR turn in the paper copy that was mailed in your first quarter statements, to the office. There are extra copies on the information table.

Voice your Opinion



The church council is holding listening posts for input on the potential of adding a Youth Director position to our church staff. We would like your ideas and suggestions on duties, tasks and characteristics of this staff person. Please join us in the library immediately following worship on April 27th and May 4th.

Grocery Delivery

If you would like grocery delivery during the transition between Bender's closing and the new Denver market opening, please contact Kari Foelske at 319-269-3378. Call her with your order by 3 pm on Tuesdays for free delivery on Wednesday or Thursday. A \$20 minimum order is suggested.

Community



Bring Your Tractor to Worship

Sunday, May 4 during the 9 am worship we will have a Tractor Blessing.

Everyone is invited to bring their tractors to worship and park on Farrington Street. *Lawn tractors accepted!*

Blood Drive

Denver/Readlyn Communities Blood Drive, Friday, May 2, 1:30-5:30 pm, Denver Community Center, 100 Washington St. If you'd like to make an appointment, go to www.lifeservebloodcenter.org or call 800.287.4903.

Wellness Screening

We are pleased to announce the wellness screening on April 22, had 84 participants. Thank you to the volunteers that assisted in this health promoting event.

Prayer for Memorial Day

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please hold our service men and women in your strong arms. Cover them with your sheltering grace and presence as they stand in the gap for our protection.



We also remember the families of our troops, and ask for your unique blessings to fill their homes and your peace, provision and strength to fill their lives.

May the members of our armed forces be filled with courage to face each day and may they trust in the Lord's mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Easter Offering

The Easter offering this year, \$1,485, went to Lutheran Services of Iowa, in celebration of their 150th anniversary.



The children getting ready to lead the Palm Sunday processional.

Iowa State Fair

Award-winning Christian artists Newsboys and special guest Matthew West will entertain crowds in the Iowa State Fair Grandstand on Thursday, August 7 at 8 pm.

Tickets are \$30, plus a convenience fee, and are available through any Ticketmaster outlet, online at ticketmaster.com or by phone at 1-800-745-3000.



Walk a Mile

Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging's 5th Annual One Mile Walk. Thursday, May 22, Denver Athletic Complex Walking Trail, (rain location: American Legion Building). Check-in begins at 9 am., Short program at 9:45 am, Walk starts at 10 am. The walk is free and open to all ages. Register by May 2 to guarantee a free t-shirt! Registration forms available at local Senior Centers or www.nei3a.org, or 1-800-779-8707.

An Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group will meet at Waverly Health Center -

Tendrils Rooftop Garden (4th floor), 312 9th St SW, Waverly, IA 50677. The group will meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 12-1 pm. Caregivers, family, and friends with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia are welcome. The Support Group focuses on providing information, education, and support. The meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information, call Cathryn Baumgartner, MSW, at 319-352-4951. This group is offered in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter.

His Hands Oran Food Pantry

In March we served 41 households, 107 individuals, and dispersed 2073.9 pounds of food. Thank you to all who donate to help those in need. As the weather gets warmer, we are in need of grilling and picnic items such as pork & beans, baked beans, condiments. We can always use such things as toilet paper and dish soap.

Donations may be placed in box outside the office.

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.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Dori Jurgenson	17 Virgil Buhr Rodney Diercks Erin Gustafson
2 Dawn Riley	18 Chip Flory Sara Oltrogge Roger & Shirley Thurm Ben & Jill Thrasher
3 Judy Vauthier Michael & Jaime Gienau Jon & Brenda Wolter	19 Carolee Oberheu Cassandra Upshaw
4 Kathy Ackerman Todd Foelske	20 Emily Flory Joel & Joy Wolter
5 Betty Biemann	21 Trudi Schimmels
6 Derek Gielau	22 Bruce Thurm Kris Steege Jack & Sheila Mixdorf Randy & Terrie Thurm
7 Carson Haase Ella Mathews Sonja Steege Nick Syhre Michael Vauthier Randy & Roxi Herman	23 Donna Donaldson Scott & Sonja Steege
8 Marissa Schwebach	24 Jade Diercks
10 Larry Stock Kristen Wolter Robert & Marlyn Wolter	25 Alton Midthus Ethan Thies
11 Elberta Schroeder Michelle Steffe Lori Thurm Renetta Thurm Tricia & Dennis Kurtz	26 Austin Herman
12 Amanda Swanson	27 Michael Steege
13 Mitchell Mohlis Rachelle Nystrom	28 Ed & JoAnne Blumenshine Todd & Elizabeth Foelske
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.

Congregational News



2014 St. Peter High School Graduates

Congratulations to Miranda Fober, Michael Krueger, Jacob Lanning, Michael Milius, Zachary Oberheu, Mitchell Schumacher, and Braeden Weston, on successfully completing your high school education! **In recognition of your achievement, we are inviting all members of the graduating class of 2014 to worship together at our Sunday worship service, May 25, at 9:00 am.** 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, thanks to Jackie Fober. **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 6.**

Bell Choir

Bell choir practice has started, new ringers are always welcome. Practice is 7:00 pm on Tuesdays.

Fill the Backpack

We are collecting sunscreen for the month of May to supplement the backpack program through the NEIA Food Bank. Place items in the backpack outside of church office.

With Gratitude

Many thanks to St Peter congregation for the prayers and cards while I was a patient at Allen Hospital and since my return home. A special thank you to Pastor Ron for the visits and prayers while I was in the hospital. All have been very much appreciated. Gods Blessings to all of you.
Esther Canfield.

Thank you for the many phone calls, visits, cards and food brought to the house after my foot surgery. *Connie Lobeck.*

Thank you to the Mission Board for organizing and delivering 22 care packages to our St Peter college students. Also, thanks goes to the people that adopted boxes and donated supplies. Your office administrator can attest to how much the care packages are appreciated by the students during finals week.

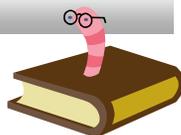


Thank you to all who helped with the St Peter Spring clean-up day.

Mission & Community

Bundle Up Your Books

The Board of Mission will be collecting gently used or new books to be shared with children at the People's Community Health Clinic in Waterloo. Many children who are patients at the clinic do not have access to books and hence, have lower reading skills and are never able to develop a love for reading. As many of us think of spring cleaning and perhaps attending the Denver All-City Garage Sales in May, children's books might be something that are readily available to donate and purchase. Please consider reaching out to God's children in our neighborhood. Show your thanks by giving to others! There will be baskets near the office during the month of May for the book collection.



Noisy Offering

May and June Noisy offering will go to support the Birthday Cake Project, headed by Lisa McKinstry of Waterloo. She bakes hundreds of cakes each year for students in Waterloo who would otherwise not receive a cake. Lisa will speak about her special ministry at our May 18, worship service.

Global Café

Global Cafe is a non-profit coffee shop located next to Duane's Barbershop on Main Street in Denver. The café exists to raise awareness of local, national, and international mission opportunities. Café hours are Monday-Friday from 6:30-10:30 am

School Desks

The church is cleaning out the garage and has about 35 children's desks they plan to give away. If anyone would like one or more, you are welcome to them. There is a sample desk outside the office for your perusal.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the 1st Thursday of the following months at 6:30 pm January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 1.

If you know of someone who is in need of a Prayer Shawl, please take one from the pew in Friendship Room. Please make sure you fill out a form (located in basket on pew).

Spring In-Gathering

Cluster Spring In-Gathering took place at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Greene on April 12, 2014. This was a joint gathering for Clusters C (Jubilee), E (Tree of Life) and H (Three Rivers). The following were gathered: 5,053 quilts, 76 blankets, 406 sewing kits, 894 personal care kits, 435 baby care kits, 81 fabric kits, and 232 pounds soap. Total boxes: 912. Total pounds - 18,357. The program was given by David Smolik-Hagen about his Carter Build for Habitat for Humanity in Haiti. Of which St Peter contributed 182 quilts, 10 school kits and 40 baby care kits.

Women of the ELCA

WELCA Board Meeting

Next meeting Monday, May 12 @ 7:00 pm

WELCA Bible Study Leaders

Sunday, May 25 @ 10:15 am

Ruth Circle

Meets first Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Next Meeting: May 7

Bible Study Leader: Sheila Mixdorf

Hostess: Shirley Thurm

Mary Circle

Meets first Wednesday at 1:30 pm in Library

Next Meeting: May 7

Bible Study Leader: LaVonne Emkes

Hostess: Bonnie Gielau

Naomi Circle

Meets first Sunday after worship

Next Meeting: May 4

Bible Study Leader: Gretchen Syhre

Serving Committee for May Chairperson - Ruth Circle

Doris Blankenship	Trina Cheever	Teresa Diercks
Gayle Eick	Melodie Foelske	Jan Hartmann
Leah Homeister	Barb Klemp	Janise Mauer
Lisa Michels	Opal Miller	Wendy Mohlis
Joyce Schimmels	Crystal Shedenhelm	
Karen Thurm	Marlyn Wolter	

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 the WELCA Board has decided to send 1/4 of the Love offering to the ELCA Malaria Campaign for Namibia and 1/4 to the EWALU Bible Camp. The remaining 1/2 will be retained for our St Peter Christmas gift list that last year included: Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community, Denver Sunset Home, Denver Cares, Cedar Valley Friends of the Family, Cedar Valley hospice, ELCA Good Gifts and Fund for Leaders, New Life School in Guatemala, and many more. The Love Offering begins on Sunday, April 27 and will continue through the end of May. A special envelope for April 27 is included with your regular offering envelopes, or you may use a plain envelope and mark it "Love Offering." The people of St Peter have been blessed in so many ways. In recognition of God's blessings to you, please respond to this opportunity to share with others through this Love Offering.

Act Boldly - Give Generously,
St Peter Women of the ELCA Board



Parish Ed and Youth and Family

Middle School Dance

The Mission Trip Youth are sponsoring a Middle School Dance, Saturday, May 3, at the Denver American Legion Hall from 7 - 10 pm. All middle school students (including current 5th graders) are encouraged to come out and enjoy the festivities. Admission \$5.

Don't miss the Boat!

Join us for VBS and bring your friends!

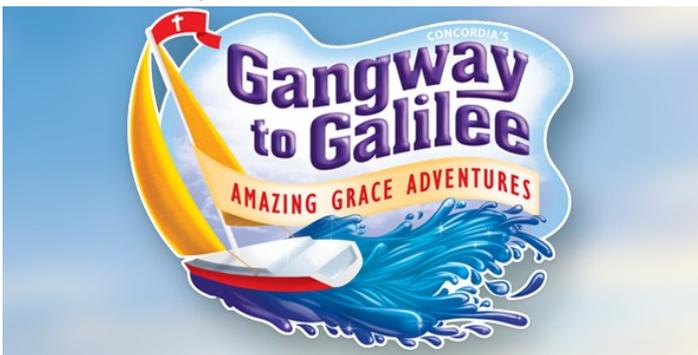
July 7th - 11th

5:00-8:00pm

Gangway to Galilee! VBS will take us on and around the Sea of Galilee with five accounts of Jesus' ministry there. By grace through faith, Jesus calls us, teaches us, keeps us safe, saves us, and provides all we need now and forever. That's amazing grace!

Registration will open MAY 1st for children currently in preschool through 6th grade. Don't miss the boat! Set sail with us to sing fun songs, do crazy crafts, eat a yummy dinner, play awesome games, and *more*. Plus, you'll learn all about Jesus our Savior and His amazing grace! Can't wait to see you there!

Register online at www.stpeterdenver.org or fill out a form located on the information table.



Sunday School

The last day of Sunday School will be May 18. The children will enjoy decorating their own cupcake, getting a sneak peak into what is in store for VBS this summer and more!

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation

A pizza party will be held for the Sunday School teachers and their families Sunday evening, 5:30 pm, May 18, at the Pizza Place, Denver.

Confirmation Camp at EWALU is Night Camp

Come for a week of nocturnal fun and exploration of God's creation June 8th - 13th. To learn more, or register, go to www.EWALU.org or talk with Pastor Ron.

Campership

As we prepare for warmer weather you may be making plans for summer camps. We want to remind you St Peter does offer camp scholarships (the church will pay a portion of the fee) for children and adults. Contact the church office with any questions.

Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you to everyone that donated plastic eggs and candies for the Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt. The kids had a great time! *Pictured below were a few of the egg hunters.*



2014 First Communion Class

First Communion was celebrated on Maundy Thursday, for the good looking group below.



Making First Communion Bread



May 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 am Staff mtg. 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	2	3 7 pm MS Dance
4 Tractor Blessing 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Naomi Circle 10:15 am Listening Post 11 am - 1 pm New Members class	5 6:30 pm Property & Management 7:30 pm Youth & Family	6 7:30 am Womenfest 10:00 am Rostered Leaders 6:00 pm Stewardship Board 6:30 pm Worship & Music 7:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	7 1:30 pm Mary Circle 6:30 pm 7th Grade Confirmation 7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation 7 pm Ruth Circle	8 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	9	10
11 Happy Mother's Day 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	12 7 pm WELCA Board	13 7:30 am Womenfest 6:30 pm Council meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	14 6 pm 7th & 8th Confirmation	15 7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 am Staff mtg. 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	16 1 pm Bremwood luncheon NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17
18 9 am Worship Noisy Offering Last Day of Sunday School 11 am - 1 pm New Members class	19	20 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	21 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Family Bible Study	22 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	23	24
25 9 am Worship High School Graduation 10:15 am WELCA Bible Study 11 am - 1pm New Members class	26 Memorial Day Office closed	27 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	28 6:30 pm 7th Grade Confirmation 7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation	29 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	30 5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal	31 2:00 pm Wedding

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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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So I was thinking....

A response to questions and concerns heard here at St. Peter. If you have a question, please put it in writing and deliver it to the Church Office or email it to: pastorron@stpeterdenver.org.

Question: I hear we are adding youth staff?

Response: St. Peter has a true blessing in the number of families who are involved here. In fact, we have about 150 children in engaged in the faith life here at St Peter. Thanks to the amazing group of volunteers some of the events we currently offer our youth and families are:

- Weekly Sunday School for Preschool thru 6th Grade
- Weekly Confirmation classes
- Monthly Middle School events
- Bi-Monthly High School group / Mission trip meetings
- cross+generational events like midweek worship services last summer and Advent
- FAITH5 events like the Family Bible Study held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month
- Faith Milestone events like first communion for 5th Graders, giving of Bibles for 3rd Graders, and baptismal remembrance for preschoolers.
- Week-long Vacation Bible School during the summer

To put it simply, youth matter here at St. Peter. That is evident by the list above and the many other events and programs that I didn't mention here for the sake of space. Our actions as a congregation are a testament in how we are advancing our mission of "Projecting Jesus to All Generations" as we nurture the faith of our children and equip our volunteers to serve out of their passions to make these things possible. There is a limit, however, to what one pastor and volunteers are able to accomplish. As we continue to grow so are the needs of our families. Adding additional staff would increase our capacity to serve by increasing our trained leadership staff to equip even more volunteers for ministry.

As we discern the future which God is calling us into and what we require to serve into that future, we need your input. If we are to grow our staff, there are many options which Council is considering: part-time or full-time, type of degree required, using an undergrad intern from Wartburg College or graduate intern from seminary, second pastor, and intern pastor to name a few of the options. By the publishing of this newsletter we will have had one listening post on Sunday April 27th. We will also have another one on Sunday May 4th following worship. If you are not able to attend either of these events, I want to invite you to talk with any Council member or myself about this new staffing vision as we discern where God is calling us to go as His congregation called to reach out to the families of our Denver Community.

So the short answer is maybe. The need is clearly there, but there are many details we need to figure out first. We look forward to working together as a congregation to come up with the best solution to serve all of our families.