



Liv Gesme photo

St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

November 2023

Pastor Pedersen's Points – Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

While Thanksgiving falls in November, I find that the whole month of November seems to be a time when we as people are meant to look at all we have and give thanks. It is about appreciating what we have and adopting an aura of generosity so that those without are not left that way. This is especially important for the Christian tradition, because all throughout the Bible God stresses the necessity to care for the poor, disenfranchised, widows, and orphans. I want you to think about what you are thankful for this month. I also want to encourage you to speak your words of thanks out loud to others. Never assume someone knows you are grateful or thankful for having them in your life. In the words of Billy Joel, "Tell [them] about it! Let [them] know you need [them]. Let [them] know how much [they] mean." In the spirit of speaking words of thanks, I want to extend my own thanks to you, the loving and faithful people of St. Peter Lutheran Church on behalf of myself and my family.

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for all that you do for this church. Thank you for being faithful servants of Jesus Christ. Thank you for supporting me, your pastor, and my entire family during this short time we've had together so far. You welcomed me as your shepherd with open arms. At every turn I feel such warmth, love, and support. As you may know, Megan and I celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary on the last Thursday in October. I also celebrated 6 years of ordination on the last Sunday in October. So many people of the congregation showered us with cards, treats, gifts, and words of gratitude that it became almost overwhelming (in the best of ways)! I would also like to give a great thanks to everyone who made October 29th Reformation/Confirmation Sunday so special. The music from our bell choir, brass quartet, and children really filled the space with joy. Our ELEVEN confirmands faithfully affirmed their baptisms. What a day to worship God!?

I look forward to the ministry we will continue to do for our community and world in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In humble service,
Pastor Reed Lee Pedersen

Happy
Thanksgiving



Dates to remember ♦

- ♦ Thanksgiving Worship, Sunday, November 19, 6:30 pm
- ♦ First Sunday of Advent, November 26
- ♦ Sunday School Christmas Program, during worship, December 17 at 9:00 am
- ♦ Blue Christmas, December 17, 6:30 pm
- ♦ Christmas Eve Worship, Sunday, December 24, 4:00 & 7:00 pm
- ♦ No Christmas Day Worship



Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

** Volunteers needed – please sign-up online or contact the office*

	November 5 All Saints Day Sunday 9:00 am	November 12 Sunday 9:00 am	November 19 Sunday 9:00 am	November 19 Thanksgiving Sunday 6:30 pm	November 26 Sunday 9:00 am
Organist	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller
Acolytes	Henry & Miles Pautsch	Tyler Nuss & Brody Sanderson	Tyler Nuss & TBD	Henry & Miles Pautsch	
Communion Assistant		Kelley Carman & TBD		NA	
Scripture Reader	Grant Pautsch	Sophie Sanderson	Diann Curtis	Sheryl Moeller	
Multimedia				NA	
Sunday School Parent Helper		Kelley & Gavin Carman		NA	
Sound System	Steve DeVries	Philip Michels	Roger Donaldson	Larry Oltrogge	Alton Midthus
Video taping				NA	
Altar Guild	Connie Lobeck, Diann Curtis, Janice Gienau, Carol Moon				
Usher/Greeters	Steve & Audrey DeVries and family, Jim & Dori Jurgenson				
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. 319-984-5648 **Bulletin Deadline:** Thursdays 10:00 am
Newsletter Deadline: 4:00 pm on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Noisy Offering

November & December Noisy Offering will go to the Salvation Army. We will have a representative from the organization share a temple talk on Sunday, November 12; please join us.

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.



Community



St Peter Choir

The holidays are coming upon us. There are two opportunities for those who would sing. Here at St. Peter we will celebrate with other community churches an evening Thanksgiving Service, Sunday, November 19. A choir is being formed to sing. This choir will practice here Wednesday, November 15, at 7:00 pm. Our Holiday Christmas Choir will sing Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm. Please also consider singing in this choir. We will practice at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, December 13 and 20. If wished, music can be picked up for either choir from Mary Stevens.

Helping Hands Clothing Closet

Helping Hands Clothing Closet had 306 client visits in September; 157 adults and 149 kids. Our volunteers gave 39 hours of their time plus St. John, Sumner, and St. Francis of Assisi, Fayette, helped put out winter clothes. Thank you all for your time. Throughout the winter our needs will be for school aged kids winter coats and boots. Also thank you for donations of new or gently used clothing. If you or someone you know needs help with clothing needs please stop by. Hours: 9:00 - 11:00 am Tuesday mornings, 6:30 - 7:30 pm Wednesday evenings, and 9:00 - 11:00 am the first Saturday of the month. Located at 2029 Viking Ave. Sumner, IA. Carolyn Mohlis 319-279-3247 or carolyn.mohlis@gmail.com

Holiday Shoppe Tree

Once again St. Peter will have the opportunity to partake in the Bremer County Holiday Shoppe at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waverly. Holiday Shoppe will collect and distribute gifts for 500 children. This project is successful because of caring people like you, at St Peter. Our tree will be set up in the Friendship Room with tags for suggestions for gifts November 5. We will collect unwrapped gifts thru Nov 26. Cash, checks and gift cards are also welcome. Checks should be made out to United Way. Thank you for your continued support of this worthwhile and much needed project. Any questions please contact Roxane at the church office or Joyce Miller 319-984-5021.

Pie Auction

Save the date, Sunday, November 19, after worship the youth group going to the ELCA Youth Gathering will be auctioning off pies to raise funds for their trip. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy homemade pies and have some on hand for holiday guests.

Blessed by Books Box

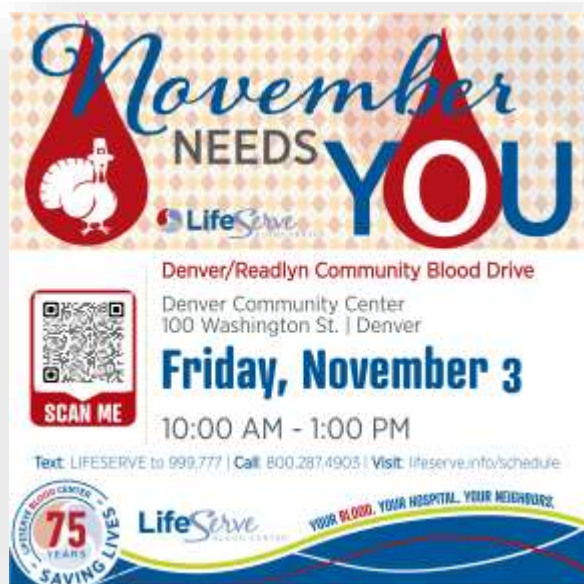
The Blessing Box that was built and used during Covid for food items for those in need, is no longer viable. It will be converted into a "BLESSED BY BOOKS BOX". St Peter members and community people are welcome and encouraged to put children and adult books in the box for other people to read and return. It will be like a mini drive-up library in the north parking lot. What a wonderful way to recycle books and provide literary food for the mind and soul!

His Hands Food Pantry

Serving families in the area that are experiencing food insecurity. Current Request: canned fruit and any variety of pasta. Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon. September Statistics, Household Served-93. Individuals Served-263. Food Distributed-9,374 lbs. Questions -319-638-4357 or Mary Burgart 563-920-3857. The donation box is located in the library. Last donation totaled 50# Thank you to Midthus for delivering.

BINGO

Bingo at the Denver Sunset Home Friday, November 17, at 10:00 am. We are looking for three volunteers to assist the residents. St Peter will be helping with Bingo at the Denver Sunset Home every 3rd Friday of the month. Sign up on the office or contact Joyce Miller.



Quilting

Quilting has ended for this year, see you in January! Thank you to all who help with this ministry.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Tammy Maitland Cora Schmauss	12 Adam Gielau Tricia Kurtz Helen Schumacher
2 Gary and Kari Anfinson Lyla Gesme	13 Bradley Franzen
3 Steven Moon Doug and Gayle Eick	14 Paige Corell Katelyn Mortenson
4 Blair Sanderson Philip and Lisa Michels	15 Nicholas Krabbenhoft
5 Trent Weber Jerry Lobeck Clifford and Joyce Schimmels	16 Marcia & Jeff Joerger
6 Paul Beem Roxanne Herman Dawson Nabholz Landry Petersburg Gary and LaVonne Westendorf	18 James Jurgenson
7 Richard and Sarah Beckel Dennis and Mary Thurm	20 Joyce Schimmels
8 Zildjian Seehase	21 Carol Everding
9 Gayle Eick Michael & Samantha Krueger Troy Midthus Trevor Thurm	22 Corbin Hill Jon Wolter
10 Kari and Eric Foelske Johnathan Leisinger Harry & Diane Miller	25 Kade Williams
11 Nicole Eick Layne Fober	26 Roger and Doris Blankenship
	27 Nathaniel Brown Carol Moon
	29 Brenda Wolter Sheryl Moeller

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



Church News

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday, November 5, the church's traditional time to remember those who have died in the past year and those born into our faith community. We celebrate and remember their lives and how we are knit together with them in the victory of Jesus' resurrection. We will remember those from St Peter that have passed since last year's All Saints Day—*Darlene Rath, Rachel Foelske Upshaw, Duane Schuldt, Verla Wright, John Cheever, Jeff Wolter, Lois Miller, Harold Wentte, Carol Thurm, Renetta Thurm, Alvina Keopke, Sam Smith, LaVonne Emkes*. We also remember -*Roberta Williams, Irma Hageman, Johnathan & Ruth Ells, Donald & Luella Jurgenson*. Hear our prayer O God as we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you here on earth, and who now rest from their labors. We remember in celebration those who are young and beginning their life in you: *Grayler Michael, Otis Niemann, Emery Krueger, Davis Becker*.

Friends in Christ

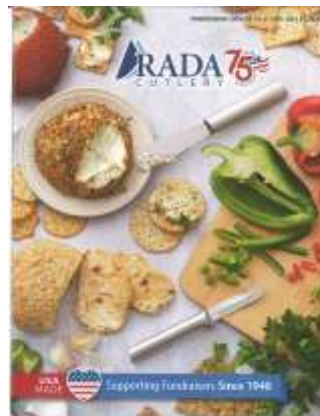
Thank you for your generous gifts of love in the form of prepared food these past few months through the Mission Board members and others. It has been greatly appreciated. Many hands are doing God's Work to remind us of God's enduring love for us. Also, thank you for including us with beautifully decorated cookies and notes of cheer-unforgettable and sweet! God's work done by strong and sincere hands! Thank you, again, *Dean & Judy Gleason*

Cantors are needed!

A new liturgical setting will be used starting in December. It needs a singing leader for minor parts during the service. Anyone who would like sing is asked to let Roxane know by November 15th so that a schedule rotation can be set.



Rada Fundraiser



The St Peter Youth Group are selling Rada products to raise money for their trip. There are catalogs and order forms in the office. You must pay when you place the order. Christmas shopping made easy:) orders placed with Lisa or the office will save on shipping costs. You may order online also; the link can be found on our Facebook page.

Community & Mission News



What a successful and purposeful event 'God's Work, Our Hands' was on Sunday, October 8th. We had a meaningful start off with the blessing of our Lutheran World Relief quilts and school kits. Sheryl Moeller explained how they were being used and shipped. Pastor's sermon set the stage as to what our goals should be.

The stations were extremely popular. Twenty four more LWR school bags were quickly filled. Four tied fleece blankets will be given to Bremwood. Thirty-two pillowcases were wonderfully decorated by all ages. Both Friends of the Family and House of Hope will receive sixteen pillow cases along with twelve new pillows. Four dozen cookies were brightly frosted and sprinkled. Cards were written and many were decorated with stickers and drawings. Both cookies and cards were delivered to our homebound and residents at Willow Winds and the Denver Sunset Home. Two trees were planted in Forrest Avenue Park, while three parks were raked, cleaned and swept. The Cyclone City Park playground equipment was power washed. A delicious lunch of beef burgers, chips, baked bean, carrots and bars was served with a free-will offering of \$300 being donated to Lutheran Disaster Response.

A sincere thanks to all the leaders, volunteers and participants. Everyone's hands doing God's work made a difference around the corner and around the world.

FOOD FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS

At a time of year when families gather at tables filled with holiday favorites, some families will be wishing they had enough food to feed their family. Seniors on fixed-incomes won't have enough money to buy both food and medication. And hungry children in our community will be wishing that their stomachs would stop aching from hunger. Having food to eat shouldn't be anyone's wish during the holidays. But the fact is that one in eight of our neighbors in Northeast Iowa is at risk of hunger right now. At the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, your donation helps feed families in crisis. The Food Bank distributes food directly to those in need through local agencies and programs including emergency food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens and elder care centers. Thanksgiving will be here soon and your help is urgently needed. At the food bank, they are able to take every \$10 you donate and turn it into approximately 40 meals. Your donation will truly be a gift that matters for those in need.

A table will be set up near the office to collect money for the Food Bank. Each dollar makes a huge difference! Ask God to open your heart and be humbled by your wealth. May your deep sense of gratefulness encourage you to find generosity and wonder in all aspects of your life.

Faith Formation

Congratulations to our Confirmands

Students Affirming their Baptism, October 29, were:
Front row: Dalton Brinkman, Kenna Rothmeyer, Calvin Beem, Libby Michels, Cannen Beaumont, Sydney Krabbenhoft, Austin Oltmann.
Back row: Max Leonhart, Lincoln Roether, Pastor Reed Lee Pedersen, Jackson Joerger, Adalyn Gleason.



Lisa Michels photo



First Communion Worship for the students that finished First Communion instruction - November 12 or 19

Pastor Reed led First Communion instruction in October; thank you to our participants. We have two dates set for the families to be welcomed to the table during Sunday Worship, Nov. 12 or 19.



Mandy Gesme photos

2023 Sunday School Dates

November 5th *Christmas program practice will start.*
November 12th
November 19th
November 26th NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
December 3rd
December 10th
December 17th *Christmas Program during church - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL following.*
December 24th NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
December 31st NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the education team. Amy Oltmann on behalf of the Education Team
Jaime Leonhart, Julie Gleason, Mandy Gesme, Bri Drewelow

An Education Team member will Lead the Sunday School each week. Pastor will meet with all of the kids for song practice & Sunday School Collection, the Education Team member will read the bible story and be prepared to direct the games/crafts being completed that day. The program does require a minimum number of adults be involved to be successful.

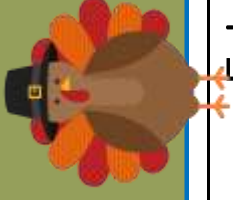
Parents are being asked to assist as a Parent Helper two times throughout the 2023-24 year per Sunday School student. This will allow the Education Team to continue to provide a strong Sunday School program. Thank you to those who signed up already. Moving forward, you may sign-up via the Worship Servers Volunteer Sign-up <http://www.stpeterdenver.org/volunteer.html>

Grandparents, friends, confirmation & high school students, congregation members are all welcome to sign-up but it is expected the slots be filled. The Education Team simply can not continue without helpers.

What does a Parent Helper do? The parent... if you see a child whose attention is waning, remind them to be quiet, help direct focus, and assist in whatever the Education Team Leader asks for Game or Craft assistance. Your kids will LOVE having you be part of the days you sign-up for!



November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:00 am Mensfest	2 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	3	4
5 All Saints Sunday 7:30 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 7:00 pm Confirmation	6	7 7:30 am Womensfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	8 8:00 am Mensfest	9 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	10	11
12 7:30 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 7:00 pm Confirmation	13	14 7:30 am Womensfest 9:00 am Welca Board mtg 6:45 pm Council meeting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	15 8:00 am Mensfest 7:00 pm Choir Practice	16 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	17 10:00 am Bingo @ Denver Sunset Home Newsletter Deadline	18
19 7:30 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship With Noisy Offering 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Welca General mtg 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Worship	20	21 7:30 am Womensfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	22 8:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	23 Happy Thanksgiving Office closed	24 Office closed	25
26 7:30 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship	27	28 7:30 am Womensfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	29 8:00 am Mensfest	30 10:00 am Bulletin deadline		

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540 East Franklin Street ~ P.O. Box A
Denver, IA 50622
Phone: 319-984-5648
www.stpeterdenver.org ~ info@stpeterdenver.org
Pastor Reed Lee Pedersen 515-370-5114

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2023 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: Todd Foelske, Mary Stevens, Marcia Joerger, Jackie Fober, Amy Oltmann, Jayson Gesme, Jill Nuss, Linda Schult, Donna Kittle

Executive Board: Jayson Gesme, Marcia Joerger, Todd Foelske, Jill Nuss

Property & Management: Gene Leonhart, Leroy Homeister, Roxane Franzen, Jim Jurgenson, Jayson Gesme, Steve DeVries, Jim Moeller

Parish Education: Amy Oltmann, Jaime Leonhart, Mandy Gesme, Julie Gleason

Worship & Music: Mary Stevens, Amy Lockhart, Jo VanDeBerg, Niki Skaar, Nancy Lamos, Sheryl Moeller

Mission: Sue Buss, Pat Leonhart, Shirley Thurm, Kelley Carman, Marcia Ott, Leah Homeister, Linda Schult, Kim Lamb

Stewardship: Jackie Fober, Jan Gienau, Dori Jurgenson, Mary Stevens

Youth & Family: Eve Pautsch, Krista Olson, Sarah Sanderson, Julie Brinkman, Lisa Michels, Marcia Joerger

Evangelism: Jan Gienau, LaVonne Westendorf, Roger Donaldson, Marilyn Mueller

Financial Board: Dwight Diercks, Paul Meier, Jim Moeller, Todd Foelske, Jim Jurgenson