

St. Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

September 2016 Rev. Ron Mathews

Projecting Christ to All Generations

*"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, **ONE NATION UNDER GOD**, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

Sometime during the Second World War (1941-45) the American Flag was introduced into the sanctuaries here in America. For many congregations like St. Peter that were predominantly German communities the flag was displayed as a visible sign to all that those gathered here were Americans. But more than symbolizing the community's allegiances, the American Flag flew in places of worship as congregations were led to hold those serving the military in prayer as well as lifted up the needs of military families.

Fast forward to today where the flag's presence in sanctuaries has developed into a contentious issue for many congregations and pastors. One only has to Google "American flag in the sanctuary" to see the extreme polarities of this issue. And, yes, even here at St. Peter this is a topic of discussion as just last month the Congregational Council voted to move the flags to a place of prominence and permanence beside our Lord's altar.

I write to both inform the congregation of this decision by the Congregational Council and to attempt to offer a few points for understanding and clarification so that we may, as a congregation, remain focused on what our Lord has called us to do – "Project Christ to All Generations."

The question that the American Flag's presence in the sanctuary brings is this, "Why is it here?" It is in answering this question that many people have differing opinions and unfortunately there is not an established rule from either scripture or the Church to govern their presence. So each congregation is left to individually answer this question and their responses are vast and vary from locating the flags in the sanctuary, in entrances, on flag poles outside, or simply not at all.

How do we begin to answer this question?

We start with purpose. First and foremost, we gather in the House of God to worship He who made all things possible. As such, our Lord's House serves to be a house of prayer (Isaiah 56:7, Matthew 21:13). This means that all symbols in the sanctuary serve only one purpose, to direct our attention to God our Creator, Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Sanctifier. Anything that does not serve this purpose has no place in God's House.

So what is the primary issue with the American Flag's presence in church buildings?

Because it is a civic symbol, not a religious symbol, its presence and purpose in the worship space has become controversial. After all, as Christ's Body, the Church does not gather for worship as an act of civil society. To this end the American Flag, or any symbol of civil government for that matter, has no place in any worship service. And let us not forget that our worship gathering spans beyond just one small congregation in Iowa to the full collective of all Christians – a gathering of all the redeemed in all countries across the globe and across all ages (Heb 12:22-24).

So why do faithful Christians have a desire to display the American Flag in the church at all?

The American Flag is a powerful symbol that directs us to consider the sacrifices so many have made to make our country what it is today. So many have laid their lives down that they have become nameless, they were willing to die for their nation's protection, for our freedom. As such we are reminded by Christ's teaching: "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

As the saying goes, "freedom isn't free." The American Flag reminds us of this. It reminds us of the need for our continued support for our troops serving in active duty who guard our country from enemies both foreign and domestic. It reminds us of those who serve to protect and care for us and lay their lives in harm's way; not just active duty soldiers but also those in the reserves, police, fire, and medical. All put their lives and health at risk to care for our country and protect us.

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Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

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

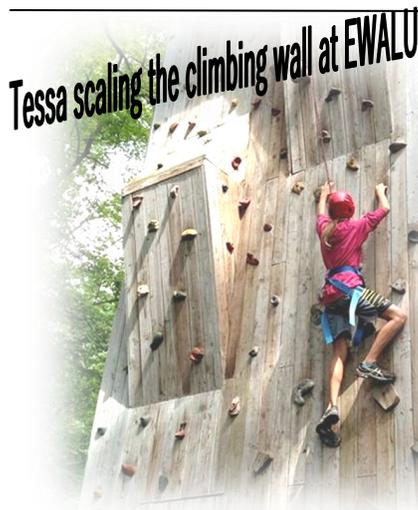
	September 4 Sunday 9 am	September 11 Sunday 9 am	September 18 Sunday 9 am	September 25 Sunday 9 am
Communion Assistants	Kelley Carman	Kelley Carman	TBD	TBD
Scripture Readers	Matthew Rector	Joyce Miller	Amy Lockhart	Julie Leisinger
Acolytes	Abbi Austin & Layne Fober	Emma Haase & Tessa Joerger	Alex Krabbenhoft & Cylee Liddle	Brooks Meyers & Isaac Schimmels
Multimedia	Jeff Bales	Jack Mixdorf	David/Johnathan Leisinger	Leah Homeister
Organist	Amy Lockhart	Sheila Mixdorf	Amy Lockhart	Matthew Rector
Sound System	Larry Oltrogge	Roger Donaldson	Steve DeVries	Alton Midthus
Video	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Altar Guild	Nancy Lamos, LaVone Westendorf			
Usher/Greeters	Lauren Milius, Art Kurtt, Doug & Gayle Eick, Dan & Gretchen Syhre			
<p>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.</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.



Denver Farmer's Market

The Farmer's Market is now open on Thursdays. Located in the parking lot of Denver Construction, 241 S State St, Denver. The market will run from 4:00 to 6:00 pm every Thursday afternoon through the season. Items include: fresh produce, baked goods, craft items, fresh eggs, misc. Contact Peggy Smith for details 319-269-9305.



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.

Continued from front page....



I would be remiss if I didn't also note that while our Freedom as Americans comes at a sacrificial cost, so too does our Freedom in Christ. God's gift of grace is freely given to all in the waters of baptism, but it too was not free. Our Lord sacrificed His life for our sake, because of the love He had for all of His children. While the American Flag reminds us of those who protect our freedoms, we gather to worship a God who protects them. While the American Flag reminds us of our great country, we gather to worship a God who makes this country possible and so we pray for those who have been called to lead our national, state, and local governments.

We hold in respect those who are willing to sacrifice their life and pray for their protection. But we place our trust, our hope, and our worship in Christ's sacrifice on the cross. For as long as the American Flag hangs in our sanctuary, may it be a symbol of those who need our Lord's continued protection and guidance. And may it strengthen you to consider the majestic power of our Lord who enables our great country to exist. There will be a day when Old Glory will yield to an older glory, when this republic surrenders to a new creation. Until this final day arrives, we gather to worship our living savior and lord, Jesus Christ.

In service to He who governs over all,
Pastor Ron

Mission & Community

Dear St Peter Church Family,

A note of sincere thanks for allowing Discoveries into your church home this summer. We feel blessed the arrangement worked out and our children had a safe and comfortable environment to be in. An extra special thanks to the St Peter staff for being so accommodating. Thanks again for everything. Sincerely, *Kathy Bohlmann, Discoveries*

Calling all moms!

You are invited to join Waverly MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers). We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month (September through May) from 8:30-10:30 a.m. A warm brunch and childcare are provided; no mother is turned away. Join us in the fellowship hall of Trinity United Methodist Church in Waverly for socialization, devotionals, crafts, community service projects, and more!

Our first meeting is September 13th and we hope to see you there as we grow in wonder, hope, and kindness through this year's theme "We are Starry Eyed".

For questions please email: waverlymops@gmail.com or visit our website <http://waverlymops.weebly.com/>

Moppets

Waverly MOPS are in search of volunteers who love playing with kids! Volunteers ("MOPPETS") spend time with children while moms have some social and devotional time with each other. Meetings are 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 8:30-10:30 at Trinity United Methodist Church in Waverly. Volunteers do not need to be available for all meetings. Benefits include lots of loving from little kids and some very appreciative moms! Contact waverlymops@gmail.com or 319-640-0139 if you or someone you know is interested!



His Hands Food Pantry

6th Annual Benefit Auction

Saturday, October 8, 2016

Tripoli City Hall, 303 South Main Street

Meal & Silent Auction 5-7 pm

Serving: Grilled pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, dessert, lemonade and coffee

Free Will Offering Accepted

Live Auction 7:15 pm

Join us for an evening of food, fellowship and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others!

In Northeast Iowa ----

1 in 5 children are food insecure

1 in 8 individuals go to bed hungry

For every \$1.00 raised, we can provide up to 4 meals to the food insecure families in our neighborhoods.

Wartburg College International Programs

office is currently seeking friendship families (previously called host families) for approximately 40 new international students arriving at Wartburg at the end of August. Friendship families do not house or act as advisers or financial sponsors to the students. They simply meet with their student(s) throughout the year to share meals or participate in a variety of cultural activities. For more information, visit: <http://info.wartburg.edu/Student-Life/International-Student-Services/Friendship-Family-Program.aspx> or call 319-352-8745. You may also email Wendy Mohlis, Friendship Family Coordinator, at wendy.mohlis@wartburg.edu.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

1

Christopher Herman
Gene & Pat Leonhart
Ella Gustafson

2

Alexandra Place
Brent & Kris Steege

3

Benjamin Foelske
Mallory Steege

4

Steve DeVries
Marian Murley
Emmett Nuehring
Emily Ruby
Cheryl Sharp
Ron & Marlys Krueger

5

Hether Gustafson
Bode McIlravy
Judy Milius
Jace Williams

7

Brian DeVries
Jay Patterson
Rick & Sharon Robinson

8

Abyr Meyer
Brian Meyer
Jeff & Kim Williams

9

Grace Upshaw
Kevin & Holly Smith

10

Lincoln Roethler

11

Derrick Bartels
Kerry Thies
Wesley & Barbara Gielau

12

Ryan Maitland
Loren & Sandra Sue Eick

13

Jayden Wolter
Gordon & Sharon Mueller

14

Gene Leonhart
Abbi Robinson
Steve & Angie Sadler

15

Kiara Michels

16

Sandra Sue Eick
Donald Elsamiller
LuAnn Emerson
Robert Foelske
Kayla Wilson

17

Jason Brinkman
Peggy Smith
Michael & Leana Place

18

Amber Leisinger

19

Keaton Rothmeyer
Tony & Trudi Schimmels

20

Alex Krabbenhoft

21

Julie Smith
Spencer Vauthier
Margaret Weikert
Michael & Judy Vauthier

22

Kurt & Julie Gleason
Chad & Carol Liddle
Lucas Thornton
Ryan & Jennifer Wirtjes

23

Amber Rader
Margaret Liddle
Mary Thurm

26

Nancy Dryer
Chalee Gienau
Michael McInroy

29

George Curtis
Karen Schwebach
Harold & Marilyn Wentz

30

Margaret Empie
Paul Empie
Elizabeth Foelske

EWALU Annual Fall Festival & Quilt Auction

Saturday, September 17,
9:00 am.



Check out the details at
camp@ewalu.org or
call 563-933-4700.

Congregational News

Council Minutes Highlights -August meeting

- Council discussed attendance numbers being down compared to last summer. Discussion around Saturday Service for next summer or all year long. This will be brought up with worship board.
- Finance committee brought up that our expenses continue to exceed giving and at the current rate our general fund cash could be depleted within a year.
- Approved Karen Henniges transfer to St. Paul in Waverly.
- Motion approved to permanently locate flags on the sides of the altar.
- Pastor Ron will record and report comp time taken as part of his Pastor highlights each month.
- Council discussed and approved motion to allow remains on lots 13, 14, 15 and 16 that were previously reserved for children. Also approved raising the price to \$200.

A thank you to St Peter & the Mission Board

Thank you very much for the delicious meal that was given to us after our daughter Mya was born! We really appreciate the thoughtfulness of the people at St. Peter's.
Grant, Erika, and Mya Benschoter

the ABC's of Praying for Students

- Attitude ... Psalm 14:14
- Boldness ... Psalm 27:1
- Courage ... John 1:9
- Discernment ... Philippians 1:9-10
- Enthusiasm ... Colossians 3:23
- Friendliness ... Proverbs 18:24
- Generosity ... 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Humility ... Philippians 2:3-5
- Initiative ... 1 John 3:18
- Joyfulness ... Philippians 4:4
- Knowledge ... Proverbs 18:15
- Listening ... Proverbs 12:15
- Maturity ... 1 Corinthians 14:20
- Neighbors ... Mark 12:31
- Overflow ... Romans 15:13
- Perseverance ... Galatians 6:9
- Quiet ... Proverbs 29:11
- Respect ... Romans 12:10
- Self-control ... 2 Peter 1:5-7
- Thankfulness ... 1 Chronicles 16:34
- Understanding ... Psalm 119:130
- Victory ... Psalm 18:29
- Wisdom ... James 3:17
- eXcellence ... Proverbs 3:4
- Youthfulness ... 1 Timothy 4:12
- Zeal ... Romans 12:11

juliesanders.org

Mission & Community

Thanks to all the folks who enjoyed the Concert in the Park with the Michael Reed Band on Sunday evening, August 14th. The Board of Mission collected \$320 at their grill-out stand where they served hot dogs, chips and beverages. The proceeds from the fundraiser will go to the Denver Sunset Home.



Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offerings for September and October are being designated for the Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach program at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. In this 729 bed hospital, where the most seriously ill patients come from all over the country, the need is great for the love and hope of Jesus Christ to be shared. Thirty to eighty-five identified Lutherans are hospitalized daily at UIHC. Your generosity will provide comfort, reassurance and strength to patients and families through the Chaplaincy Outreach.

Give Me Thirty

It's September, and a new school year has started. The past three years, the Board of Mission and Denver's Elementary principals have worked together in implementing a mentoring program. It's been a special way to share God's love with a child. Once this school year gets underway, we hope to reestablish the mentoring program. Please prayerfully consider spending thirty minutes a week with a child.....it can change his/her life and your life, too. Contact Pat Leonhart (984-6082) or Roxane in the church office (984-5648) if you're interested in participating or if you'd like additional information.

His Hands Oran Food Pantry

His Hands Oran Food Pantry, serves families in the area that are experiencing food insecurity. September wish list: Baking products (flour, sugars, PAM, cooking oils, etc.) Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon. Served in July: 77 Households, 2,649.6 lbs of food distributed.

Questions? -319-638-4357. **Staci and her boys delivered 101.1 lbs. of food donations from St Peter last month!** The food pantry coordinator indicated they had been very busy, in fact, they served 23 families one night.

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 September 17, from 9-10:30am.** Simply go to the volunteer entrance at the Food Bank, 160 Lafayette St, Any questions, call Joyce Miller 984-5021.

Women of the ELCA

WELCA Board Meeting

Monday, September 12 @ 7:00 pm

WELCA Bible Study Leaders

Available in the Gather Magazine

Ruth Circle

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 7 @ 7:00 pm

Bible Study Leader: Sheryl/Sheila

Hostess: Mary Stevens

Mary Circle

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 7, 1:30 pm @ Fireside

Room at Bartels Lutheran Retirement Home

Bible Study Leader: Barb Klemp

Hostess: TBD

Naomi Circle

Next Meeting: September 11—go out to eat with husbands

Serving Committee for September

Chairperson - Mary Circle

Kathy Bartels	Bev Diercks	Carol Everding
Janice Gienau	Tanya Haase	Becky Miller
Sheryl Moeller	Abby Roethler	Karen Schumacher
Janell Stock	Lori Thurm	Terrie Thurm
Rachel Upshaw	Judy Vauthier	Krista Wahl

Back to School

Now is the time to take advantage of back to school sales to purchase the supplies needed for Lutheran World Relief school kits. Items needed: 70 sheet spiral notebooks, 24 count Crayola brand crayons (not washable), blunt end kindergarten scissors, unsharpened pencils, ball point pens (not gel pens), 12" rulers (inches on one side and centimeters on the other), and small pencil sharpeners. School kits are especially needed by children living in refugee camps. If you'd rather not shop, cash and checks are very welcome, and will be used for the needed items and/or fabric to make the kit bags. Make out checks to St Peter WELCA with "LWR Kits" on the memo line.



Quilt tying

Beginning Monday, September 12; we will be tying quilts on Mondays, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, and evenings 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm, and on Tuesdays 9:00 am - Noon. Everyone is welcome to give it a try.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Next meeting: Thursday, September 1. 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).

Celebrations & Ministries

Pastor Ron and six St Peter confirmation students participated in EWALU's Night Camp the first week of August.



Confirmation

Confirmation will begin for 7th & 8th graders with the Family Bible Study, on Wednesday, September 7, at 6:30 pm.

4th-6th Grade Fusion

Thank you to Kim Lamb for leading this year's Fusion Youth Group. We are excited to have her and are looking forward to having your students be part of the fun.

The 4th-6th grade youth group, will meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. We will be focused on devotion, fellowship and fun! Our first meeting is September 13th.

We will need a parent volunteer for each meeting. Please let Kim know if you are able to help. Thank You, Kim Lamb - 984-5837 or kalkll@yahoo.com

Worship Celebrations

Sunday, September 11

3-Year-Old Baptismal Blessing

Rally Sunday- September 11

Mark your calendars for Rally Sunday! Please join us downstairs after worship on September 11th for songs, crafts, games and treats!

Sunday, October 1

Bible Blessing for the Kindergarten & 3rd Graders

Faith Formation

Sunday School Parents and Teachers

The countdown is on to the start of Sunday School. While it seems like just yesterday we were wrapping up our spring quarter and preparing for summer, it is now time to start looking ahead to fall and planning for a new and exciting Sunday School year!

Sunday School instruction will be provided for children aged three through 6th grade. We ask that families pre-register students for Sunday School, so we can ensure we order the correct amount of materials. Registration can be done online at <http://www.stpeterdenver.org/sunday-school.html> or at the church office.

We are also looking for volunteers to teach our youth! We would ask volunteers to sign up for a period of 8 Sundays (one "quarter"). Feel free to sign up for more than one quarter or more than one grade throughout the year! Curriculum is provided for you to follow along with, and does not require much preparation outside of Sunday mornings.

Volunteering for Sunday School is a great way to get to know the youth of our church, and to further our congregational mission: "Projecting Christ to all Generations". Volunteers can sign-up online at <http://www.stpeterdenver.org/sunday-school.html>. Speaking of volunteers - we would love our older youth to join us as helping hands with our littlest learners! If you are in 7th grade on up, consider volunteering to help in this area! Email sunday-school@stpeterdenver.org to get more information or to sign up.

Sunday School Rally Day is scheduled for September 11th! We are looking forward to meeting with all of the children and volunteers and showing off our new curriculum - WHIRL! Please make plans to join us as we kick off our year together.

If you enjoy purchasing school supplies, Sunday School would love some new pens, poster board, Play-Doh, and washable stamp pads.

Thank you to everyone who shares in the faith formation of the youth at St. Peter. We are blessed to have such an active Sunday School program!
Amity Mathews and Eve Pautsch

High School Leaders

We are looking for volunteers that are interested in helping with our high school youth. Please contact the church if you are interested.

September 2016

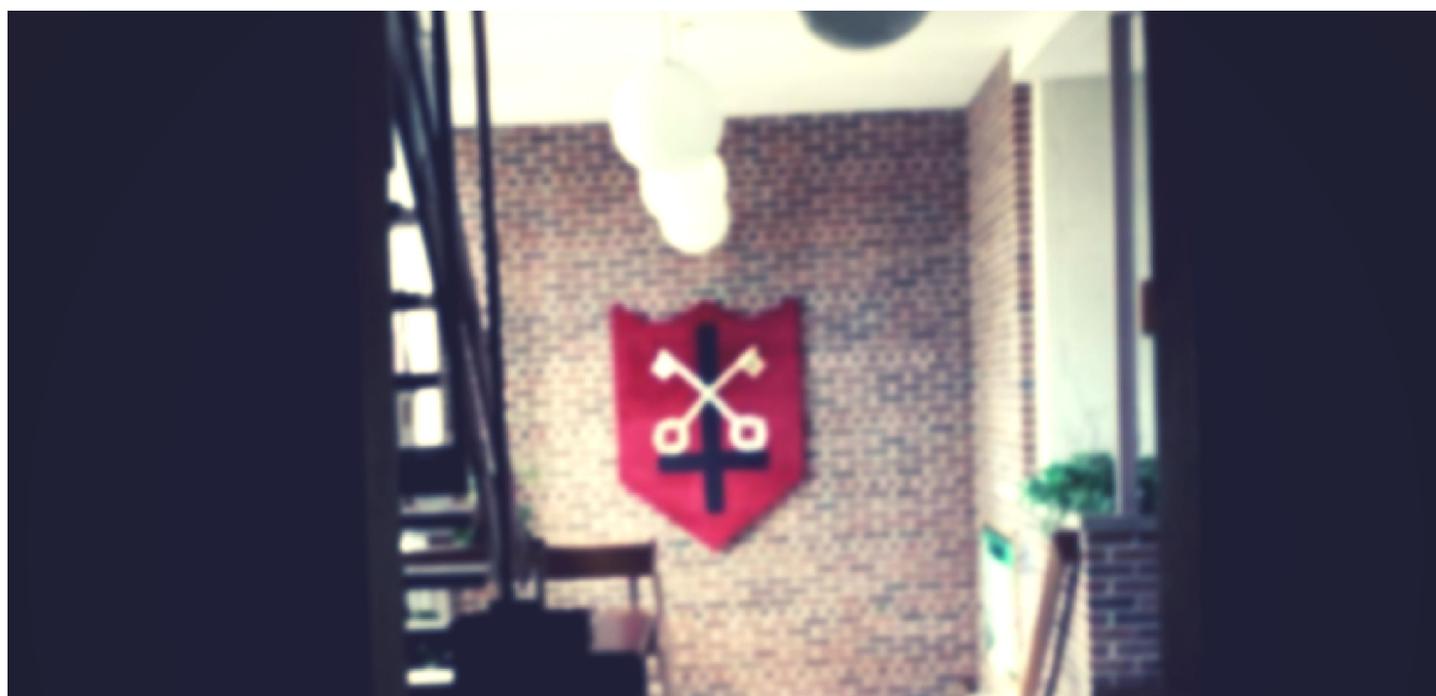
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 am Staff mtg. 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	7 1:30 pm Mary Circle 6:30 pm Family Bible Study 7:00 pm Ruth Circle	8 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline 6:00 pm Music & Worship	9	10
11 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School Rally Day	12 9:00 am-3:00 pm Quilt tying 6:30 pm Financial Committee 6:30 pm Property & Management 6:30 -8:30 pm Quilt tying 7:00 pm WELCA Board	13 7:30 am Womenfest 9:00am-Noon Quilt tying 6:30 pm Council meeting 6:30 pm Fusion 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	14 6:30 pm Confirmation	15 7:00 am Mensfest 8:30 am Staff mtg. 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 5:30 pm Rehearsal	17 :00 am NEIA Food Bank 4:00 pm Wedding
18 9:00 am Worship <i>Noisy Offering</i> 10:15 am Sunday School	19 9:00 am-3:00 pm Quilt tying 6:30-8:30 pm Quilt tying	20 7:30 am Womenfest 9:00am-Noon Quilt tying 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	21 6:30 pm Confirmation	22 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	23	24
25 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	26 10:00 am Bhingo @ Denver Sunset Home 9:00-3:00 pm Quilt tying 6:30 pm-8:30 pm	27 7:30 am Womenfest 9:00 am-Noon Quilt tying 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	28	29 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	30	

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First Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm
Beginning September 7

Family Bible Study