



**BACK
TO THE FUTURE**



St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings April 2024

Pastor Pedersen's Points – Back to the Future

Growing up I remember watching a “Back to the Future” marathon on TV. I quite enjoyed the adventures of Marty McFly and Doc Brown as they traveled through time. I have had a few pet peeves about their treatment of time and space, but being science fiction I am quite sure that the science part of time travel is not meant to be taken seriously. The main pet peeve I have with the movie is its title. In the original movie Marty McFly gets stuck in the past and tries to figure out how to get back to the time he is from. This plot line does not suggest “Back to the Future”, but rather “Back to the Present.” While “Back to the Future” is not necessarily an accurate title for the movie trilogy, I do find it to be a good title for the Christian church today.

In the first month of my first call our church had Vacation Bible School. I was not there to help plan it, so I was not assigned an official role. Instead, my role was to float around and see what VBS was like. I also set a goal to learn all the kids’ names by the end of the 4-day VBS. Throughout those four days I heard from many different volunteers about how big VBS used to be. 29 kids were participating in my first year and back in the 90’s it was easily around 100. There was some lamenting about what used to be. These members had grown up in the church and missed what it used to be. I didn’t see it that way.

I did not have the same history of being a long member at my church. I did not have a nostalgic time that I missed. I hadn’t even been there for a month. What I did see was what was going on in the present. I saw 29 children having fun learning about Jesus in a church. I saw 29 kids who got to sing, dance, play, and hear stories from the Bible. I got to see the smiles on all their faces as they received a diploma congratulating them on successfully completing VBS. During pining for what used to be, I believe many people lost sight of the work being done in God’s name in the here and now.

In 2004, the band Pear Jam put out a greatest hits album and named it *rearviewmirror* after one of their hit singles. When the lead singer, Eddie Vedder, was asked about the reasoning for picking their title he said it was very intentional. Looking in the rearview mirror of a car is not without its uses. Just like in life, it is nice to look back and see what is behind us. It is nice to recall all the great and happy stories. It is nice to see how you have overcome the bad things in life as well, but it is not safe to drive forward with your eyes stuck staring at the rearview mirror. Pear Jam had great hits, but they were not done writing songs. Churches can have great histories and great memories we cherish, but we are not done doing ministry.

As Christians we are called to look to the future. When we look to the future considering the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, we will see that life is an unending path. Both the life of us as individuals and the life of the universal Church live in that promise. Jesus did that. In doing that, Jesus made his church a people of hope. Hope, in itself, is a term that points to the future. We live in the hope of the Resurrection to eternal life. As people who live in hope, that affects how we look at the present. We are called to see what parts of it don’t fit with our future image in which there is no pain, hunger, sorrow, or death, and do our best to work towards healing, feeding, providing joy, and life. We are called to see what parts of it are in fact working towards spreading and living out the good news of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate them with fervor. My first call, Augustana Lutheran Church, relearned that in my time there. They judged themselves less for who they used to be and instead focused better on the present and future ministry it had to offer.

I want to invite anyone reading this to look ahead of you. I want to invite you to see the blessings God has placed in your lives in the here and now. I want to invite you to see where God’s needs for other might be met with your help. I want to invite you to know that Jesus loves you, died and rose for you, and will never leave you. I want to invite you to look “Back to the Future” you have in the Risen One.

Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

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

	April 7 Sunday 9:00 am	April 14 Sunday 9:00 am	April 21 Sunday 9:00 am	April 28 Sunday 9:00 am
Organist	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart
Acolytes				
Communion Assistant	Sue Buss &		Sue Buss & Marcia Ott	
Scripture Reader	Sue Buss	Diann Curtis	Gene Leonhart	
Multimedia	Todd Foelske	Todd Foelske	Todd Foelske	Todd Foelske
Sunday School Helper				
Sound System	Roger Donaldson	Larry Oltrogge	Alton Midthus	Steve DeVries
Altar Guild	Nancy Lamos, LaVonne Westendorf, Kelley Carman			
Usher/Greeters	Gene & Pat Leonhart, Blair & Sarah Sanderson 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.				

St Peter Directory

Congregational members will be receiving an email in a couple weeks with notification of the upcoming launch of our Online Directory. The first email will contain information, and the date of the second email to watch for, that will allow you to set up access to the directory. Members without emails may request a printed directory. Thank you.

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.

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.



E-giving through Vanco

This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online.



Wellness Testing Event

April 24, 2024, 6:30-8 a.m.

St. Peter Church Lower Level

(540 East Franklin St, Denver)

Cost is \$30 for Basic Wellness Panel, which includes blood counts, blood salts, blood sugar and cholesterol levels, kidney function tests and liver enzymes. Optional add-ons include:

Blood Typing \$15 ■ Hemoglobin A1c (diabetes monitoring) \$25
PSA (prostate cancer screening) \$25 ■ TSH (thyroid screening) \$20
Vitamin D level \$40 ■ Hepatitis C \$30 ■ T4 Free \$15

- A 12 hour fast is recommended (No alcohol 24 hours prior). Participants may drink water or take medications prior to testing.
- Payments must be received at time of service (cash, check or card). Insurance won't be billed.
- Results will be mailed to you by USPS mail.
- Refreshments will be available.
- Sponsored by St. Peter Church and Community Memorial Hospital.
- Open to the public.

unitypoint.org/summer



"Buck-a-Chick"

The Board of Mission would like families to share a spring blessing with those who are in need throughout the world. It's called "Buck-a-Chick"!! Ten little chicks can make a BIG difference! Within a few months of birth, chicks begin laying eggs. Eggs make nutritious meals for growing children, and the extra eggs generate income to grow a small business. Please look for the cute chicks and the donation baskets at the back of the church and in the Sunday School area. Children are encouraged to pick up a coloring book, "God's Global Barnyard", in the Friendship Room or at Sunday School throughout April. Your gifts carry God's love to others and keep on giving for years to come.



His Hands Food Pantry

Serving families in the area that are experiencing food insecurity. Current Request: Canned vegetables, Soups, Pasta, Cereal. Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon. February Statistics, Household Served-101. Individuals Served-310. Food Distributed-7,352 lbs.

Questions -319-638-4357 or Mary Burgart 563-920-3857. *Thank you to the Midthus' for delivering our last donation of 69# worth of food.*

EWALU Annual Meeting Recap

The Annual Meeting for Camp EWALU was held Saturday, March 16th. 2023 was a great year for the camp with roughly 870 campers and 44 staff during the summer camping season. The theme was "Holy Trinity, Wholly Love" which explored the Trinity and provided insight into God's love. The spring and fall educational retreats totaled 1,428 kids and adults from 22 different schools, churches, colleges, and various organizations. Altogether, over 5,000 individuals connected with the camp!

An A-Frame bridge across the Maquoketa River was built to replace the 50 year old one. The annual Quilt Auction topped \$60,000 in proceeds. There were 370+ quilts and handcrafted items donated. The 2024 Quilt Auction will take place Saturday, September 21. (Our St. Peter Church will be sending four quilts.). The biggest ongoing project is the renovation of the Cedar Lodge with a solar array portion. A new Trail Run & Walk event was added in the fall. A big Thank You went out to all for supporting Camp EWALU.

Minutes submitted by Mary Stevens

Easter and Lenten Offerings

The Lenten Meal Offerings went to the Youth Mission Group, and the regular Lenten and Easter Offerings will go to the Synod Fund for Leaders. The Fund for Leaders Endowment was established to help seminary students from NEIA Synod with the costs of education and to encourage more people to enter ministry.

Linens for Lent

Thanks to all those who donated items for the Board of Mission's "Linens for Lent" project. Comforters, sheet sets, blankets, throws, pillows, towels and washcloths were shared with the House of Hope in Waterloo and Friends of the Family in Waverly. Both organizations were thankful for St. Peter's continued relationship with them. Our donations and prayers allow them to transform the lives of women and children in need.

Soup Totals are In

Thanks to everyone who generously shared 114 cans of soup during February. \$466.50 was also collected on Souper Bowl Sunday. The soup and your monetary gifts will be shared with the Salvation Army. Our fun and kind hearts have touched the lives of those in need!

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Staci Mueller	17 Jordan Wolter Henry Pautsch Miles Pautsch Sydney Sanderson Harry Miller
3 Tyler Sawyer Jill DeVries Kellen Westendorf	18 Nicholas Mohlis Lindsay Mujica
5 Roger Blankenship Virgil & Shirley Buhr	19 Amy & Adam Oltmann
6 Cayce Lanning Saylor Kuecker Wendy Mohlis Jo VanDeBerg	22 Neil Hartmann Madisyn Leisinger Nichole Valverde Don & Donna Hulsing
7 Pastor Reed Pedersen LaVonne Westendorf	23 Rowen Smith
8 Olivia Niewoehner	24 Derek Franzen Zach Kuecker Max Leonhart Lindsay Seegers
9 Julie Sawyer Opal Miller	25 Anna Everding Noah Foelske Jeff & Karen Schumacher
10 Jacob Lanning	27 Garland Krabbenhoft Stryder Pickett
11 Terrie Thurm	28 Trudie Rothmeyer Riley Schumacher Alvin & Dorothy Eggena
13 Cory Arians Rachel Gielau Brian Haase Hannah Thies Tyler Vauthier	29 Butch & Dixie Milius
14 Dawn Lau	30 Tom & Lynette Lahmann Mitchell Schumacher Mylee Thurm
15 Jeanette Coontz Lydia Gleason	

Church News

Easter Lilies in Memory of...

Sam Smith
from Peggy Smith & family

**Arlene & Lester Matthias
Wilbert Lobeck &
Nelson Gaede**
from Jerry & Connie Lobeck

Terry Miller
from Joyce Miller, Mike, Noelle
& Emily Andrew
Ryan, Jennifer, Lindsay & Nathan
Miller

Art & Millie Kurtt
from Gene & Pat Leonhart family

**J.W. & Valesca Donaldson
Harold & Minnie Michelson**
from Roger & Donna Donaldson

Our loved ones we have lost
from Jan & Robert Gienau

**Bill Tjaden, Ben & Amy
Tjaden,
Lavern & Joyce Sigler**
from Caryl Tjaden

**Our parents and
Norman, Dean, Mary & Pat**
from Helen & Marv Schumacher

**James Lamos
Marcia Lashbrook**
from Nancy Lamos

Vern & Marge Moeller
from Jim & Sheryl Moeller family

**Roger Kittle,
Gus & Claribel Koeff,
Virgil Wallace,
Donald Miller**
from Donna Kittle

Ned Johnson
from Julie Gleason

Mike & Brady Schult
from Linda Schult

Tom Stevens
From Mary Stevens family

**Charles Krumwiede, Craig &
Dorothy Campbell,
Willard Homeister**
From Elaine Dove

**Leo & Darlene Reuter
Fred & Hilma Schimmels**
From The Schimmels family



BINGO

Bingo at the Denver Sunset Home Friday, April 19, at 10:00 am. We are looking for three volunteers to assist the residents. Please contact Joyce Miller if you can help.

Parents of College Students

Would your young person like a Kollege Kare Kit filled with goodies prior to finals' week? St. Peter Board of Mission will be putting bags together that will keep your child fortified during a stressful time of his/her life. If you'd be able to deliver the bag, we would appreciate it. Please let the church office know by Monday, April 10th if your child would like a bag and if you're able to help with delivery.

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

Community & Mission News

Shipping Fund for LWR Quilts

The Quilters have been gathering on Mondays [and Tuesday mornings], with busy hands to create beautiful quilts for people in need. Blessing of our quilts, before sending them off, will be April 7th during our church service. School kits will be sent in the fall.

Approximately 300,000 quilts are given worldwide through Lutheran World Relief (LWR) each year. The cost to deliver each quilt is \$2.80 (\$28 delivers 10 LWR Quilts where needed most.) Shipping cost for each school kit is \$2.85.

Your gifts help make sure the LWR Mission Quilts and Kits of Care reach people coping with poverty, hunger, drought, conflict and more. Please watch for a display this Spring giving you an opportunity to contribute to the shipping costs. Your caring is greatly appreciated.

Quilt Tying

Please join us for quilting, meeting on Mondays, 9 am - 3 pm, and Tuesdays, 9 am - Noon.

Quilting will conclude April 9.

The Ingathering is April 13. Thank you to all who contributed to the LWR Quilt Mission.

Womenfest

The ecumenical Bible Study gathers weekly on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 am in the Friendship Room. All are welcome.

Mensfest

The men's bible study group meets on Wednesday mornings in the church basement at 8:00 am, all are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Next meeting: Thursday, May 2.

If you know of someone who is in need of a Prayer Shawl, please take one from the closet in the Friendship Room. Please make sure you fill out a form (located next to the new shawls).

Helping Hands Clothing Closet

Helping Hands Clothing Closet had 216 client visits during March and our volunteers gave 37.5 hours of their time. We are ready for warm weather at the clothing closet thanks to Readlyn 6th graders and several of our volunteers. Thank you all so much; you all did a great job and we appreciate your help. If you or someone you know needs assistance with their clothing needs; please stop by. Thank you for the many donations of clothing.

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



Bring on the Cans!! (NO glass bottles please) St Peter Youth that are attending the gathering are having a Can Drive. Keep all your cans for redemption and donate them to the bin in St Peter's Parking Lot. Thanks for supporting the youth at St Peter.



The crosses are located on the bench near the south-west church entrance.

Faith Formation



2024 Sunday School Dates

April 7

April 14

April 21

April 28

May 5

Save the date: August 2, Vacation Bible School

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

Parents may sign-up via the Worship Servers

Volunteer Sign-up <http://www.stpeterdenver.org/volunteer.html>

Re-Do Cards

We have all occasion cards available on a card rack near the office. Please feel free to come to the church and choose greeting cards. All proceeds go to the ELCA Youth Gathering funds, at this time. LaVonne welcomes used cards to redo.

Camp EWALU

It's not too late to save on summer camp at Camp Ewalu! **Register by April 18 to get \$20 off** all full-week youth programs for grades 1-12. Go to www.ewalu.org/summer-camp to see all the programs, check out the 8-week schedule, and to register. Ewalu also has Family Camp and Grand-parent Camp (no discount).

This year, the **Sibling Discount** has increased to \$50 off for each additional child from the same family registering for a full-week program (after the first child) —and that's ON TOP of the Early Discount! Call Diane at Ewalu for more information at 563-933-4700. **Questions about pricing and registration?** Please contact the Ewalu office at the phone number above or email camp@ewalu.org. *You may pick up pamphlets on the table outside the office. Reminder: St Peter offers \$300 per student to attend a Lutheran camp. Please contact the office for the campership.*



The Prom dresses arrived in Kyle, South Dakota last week, thank you to Jo & Dave for transporting the items and Schumachers for the use of the van! And thank you to everyone that donated a dress, shoes, makeup, or jewelry for the spring prom at the Little Wound School on the Lakota Indian Reservation in Kyle, SD.



Noisy Offering

Our March and April Noisy Offering will go to Denver Cares Easter Meals. In past years, the Board of Mission has provided ten to twelve Easter meals for Denver Cares. Your Noisy Offering donations in March and April will once again be used to feed people in our community. Remember the verse from Mark 12, "Love your neighbors as yourself". Sharing with others is an act of love. Please give so that you can touch lives in our community. Noisy offering is the third Sunday of the month—April 21.

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30 am Womensfest 6:30 pm Property & Management	3 8:00 am Mensfest 4:15 pm Financial meeting	4 10:00 Bulletin deadline	5	6
7 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Welca Board mtg	8 9:00 am- 3:00 pm Quilting	9 7:30 am Womensfest 9:00 am—Noon Quilting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	10 8:00 am Mensfest 6:45 pm Council	11 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	12	13 Ingathering
14 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:15 Sunday School	15	16 7:30 am Womensfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	17 8:00 am Mensfest	18 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	19 10:00 am Bingo @ Denver Sunset Home Newsletter Deadline	20
21 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship and With Noisy Offering 10:15 am Sunday School	22	23 7:30 am Womensfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	24 6:30-8:00 am Wellness Event 8:00 am Mensfest	25 10:00 Bulletin deadline	26	27
28 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	29	30 7:30 am Womensfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon				

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2024 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: Jackie Fober, Amy Oltmann, Jayson Gesme, Jill Nuss, Linda Schult, Kyle Niemann, Sara Sanderson, Krista Olson, Andy Drewelow

Executive Board: Jill Nuss, Andy Drewelow, Kyle Niemann,

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, Bri Drewelow

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, Donna Kittle

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