

# St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

## August 2023

### Pastor Pedersen's Points – Worship is important: An Invitation to Find Rest

The summer is ending. The school year is just around the corner, and yet sometimes it feels like there is still a ton to do! In the hassle of everyday life attending worship can seem like an annoyance. It can seem like another thing on the To-Do list that keeps us from enjoying life and rest. I understand that not everyone feels this way. I also understand that there are certain things such as work and other commitments that get in the way of attending worship on a weekly basis. I also should mention our homebound and those like them who cannot make it to worship.

Worship is important for many reasons, but I find one of its main purposes is to find rest in each other and God. When God commanded us to remember the Sabbath day it does not have to mean that God was giving us another strenuous thing to do. It could mean that God is trying to save God's people from their own over-functioning and give them a opportunity to rest.

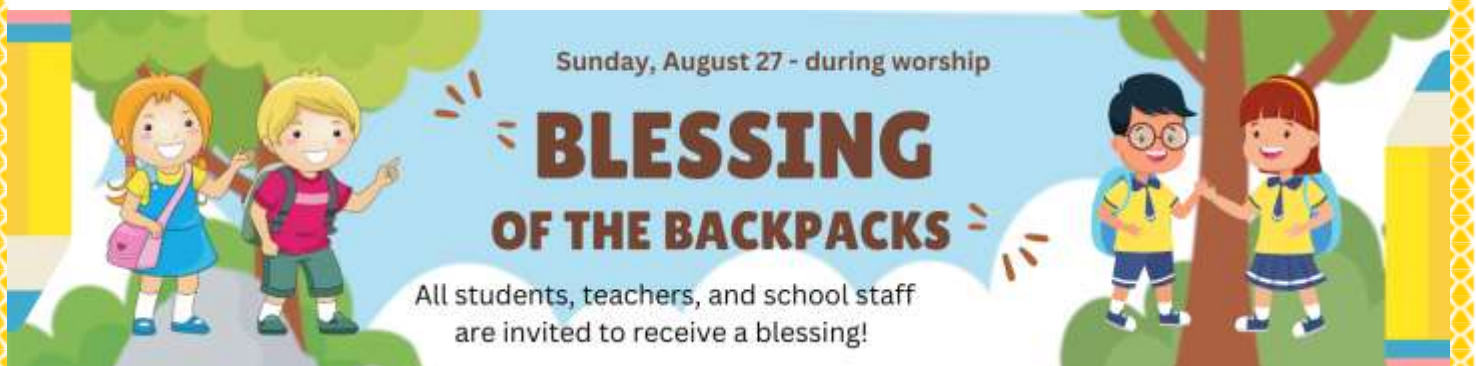
Worship is wrapped around God's Word. We hear it read from the Bible and hear it spoken from the pulpit. We taste it in the body given for you and the blood shed for you. All these are acts centered on acknowledging the forgiveness and eternal life we receive from God's Son, Jesus, who conquered death for us.

I find it helpful looking through the lens of Jesus when thinking of worship. Jesus invites. Jesus invites us to salvation which he has already given, invites us to the waters of baptism to be washed anew, and invites us to feast on him so as to receive forgiveness and renewal of faith. Jesus invites.

It's not easy being a casual church goer when you can feel the judgment from the regular members or the jabs about not seeing you in a while. Even hearing the words, "It's good to see you," can be received as a dig at the randomness of your church attendance. As a pastor I would always love to see your faces more, but I do understand the concept of busyness, readiness, and guilt. It is also not easy being a regular worship goer and watching the number of empty seats increase on a weekly basis.

This article is meant to encourage people to come find rest in Jesus through worship more often. If you cannot make it to a Sunday service, we livestream our worship services so that anyone with a connection can worship with us when it works for them. This encouragement is not meant to be condemning for those who have not been to church in a while. To do so would be to go against the loving, welcoming, and inviting nature of Jesus. This is an invitation to relax, refuel, and recharge yourself while gathered among God's people.

In Jesus you will find peace. In worship, when done in light of Christ, you will find peace. My prayer for everyone reading this is that the peace of Christ, which surpasses our thoughts and imaginations, guards each and every one of you and gives you rest.



# Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

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

	August 6 Sunday 9:00 am	August 13 Sunday 9:00 am	August 20 Sunday 9:00 am	August 27 Sunday 9:00 am
<b>Organist</b>	Nancy Kohagen	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller	Sheryl Moeller
<b>Acolytes</b>				
<b>Communion Assistant</b>				
<b>Scripture Reader</b>				
<b>Multimedia</b>				
<b>Sound System</b>	Roger Donaldson	Larry Oltrogge	Alton Midthus	Steve DeVries
<b>Video taping</b>				
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kari Anfinson, Staci Mueller, Anne Sickles			
<b>Usher/Greeters</b>	Richard & Sarah Beckel, Dave & Linda Krueger			
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](http://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.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

**Next meeting: Thursday, August 3.**

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).

### 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



## Save the Date for 2023

The 2023 Ewalu Quilt Auction will be held in-person at Camp Ewalu's main site on Saturday, Sept. 16. The Online Auction will be held Monday, Sept. 11, through Sunday, Sept. 17. (Link will be live in September.) If you have a quilt you would like to donate to the 2023 Quilt Auction, we request that it be delivered to our camp office by Friday, Aug. 25, so it can be included online when quilt viewing begins and included in our Quilt Book. Each donation must have an **Item Donation Form** with it; you can find the form on Ewalu website: [www.ewalu.org/quilt-auction/](http://www.ewalu.org/quilt-auction/)

## Quilting is Starting in August!

Quilt tying will be on Mondays and Tuesdays beginning August 21. Please join us Mondays from 9:00 am –3:00 pm, and Tuesdays 9:00 am—Noon, in the lower level of the church. The quilters encourage anyone that is interested in tying or sewing quilts to join them. All are welcome.

## Noisy Offering

Our July and August Noisy Offering will go to Buck Creek Clothing Closet for purchasing undergarments for school children. The closet offers assistance for a variety of clothing needs. Anyone is welcome and they do not require income guidelines.

## Undies Sundays

When August arrive, summer vacation is in full swing. However, within a few weeks, kids and parents will be planning their school list for both clothes and supplies. There are many families in our area that will have to stretch their personal budgets to provide essentials for their

children. Many of these families will use the Clothes Closet at Buck Creek Church to help get their kids ready for a new school year. The Clothes Closet is in dire need of new underwear to fill their closet. This includes boys' and girls' socks and undergarments. The Board of Mission will be collecting new underwear items in the laundry basket outside the church offices. Thanks for your help with this special project.



## August Worship Servers

We have many slots to fill for August Worship Servers. Please check out our website: [www.stpeterdenver.org](http://www.stpeterdenver.org) - under volunteer—and fill in a slot that would work for you, or call the office. Thank you!

## BINGO

Bingo at the Denver Sunset Home Friday, August 18, 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.



# August Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Ezekiel Pedersen	19 Jordan Elsamiller Clifford Schimmels
2 Ryan Pautsch Brooke Wolter James & Dorothea Jurgenson	Colby Tucker Lilah Skaar
3 Jordan Nuss	20 Gary Anfinson Jaquelyn Gielau Marissa Leisinger Grayler Michael Cole Wilson Brandon & Megan Smith
5 Ashlea Jurgenson Jalen Williams	21 Sarah Beckel Susan Wille Paul & Stacie Beem Brent Steege
6 Matthew Herman Hether & Derek Gustafson Craig Merrifeild	23 Jackie Milius William Richards Jayson & Mandy Gesme
7 Chloe Weston	26 Emily Gielau
8 Deidre Franzen Marilyn Mueller Jeffrey & Jill DeVries	28 Kelley Carman Kiptyn Drewelow
10 Brad & Jennifer Becker Gary & Carol Everding Ryan & Eve Pautsch	29 Verna Harms David Krueger Jaime Leonhart Isaac Schimmels John & Tammy Maitland Norman & Carolee Oberheu
11 Susan Sawyer	30 Wayne & Sue Buss LuAnn & Mark Emerson Elvira Hebell Gordon Mueller Karen Schumacher
12 Jayson Gesme	31 Brody & Taylor Weston
13 Sydney Elsamiller Tanner Vohsman	
15 Adam Oltmann	
16 Kevin Smith Megan Smith	
17 Jeremy & Jennifer Clayton	
18 Ronald Krueger Pearce Schmauss Randy Thurm	

*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

## Important Reminder: St. Peter Lutheran Church will no longer be bulk mailing.

For many years St. Peter has used bulk mailing to get the newsletter and other important information out to your homes. Bulk mailing is a wonderful way for people to mail to many people for an affordable price. All you need is at least 200 items to mail at a time. Unfortunately, St. Peter is below the threshold to meet that number. Because of this, we will no longer be bulk mailing the church newsletter.

Starting this month, St. Peter will be printing out the newsletter for people to take home. We will also be emailing the newsletter for people to read. The current plan is to mail out only a select number of newsletters to our homebound members.

The church would like to apologize for the abruptness of this change in bulk mailing. Our bulk mailing certificate was ended in July, and the church council unanimously decided to save the expense of re-upping it since we were already below the 200 mailing address threshold that we needed.

If you have any questions please call the church office. If you are not sure if we have your email address, please call or email us to make sure we have it.

## Backpack Blessing

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 27; during worship we will bless the backpacks. All students, teachers, and staff are encouraged to bring their school essentials for a special blessing.

## Name Tags

Please find your name tag upon coming to church and wearing it as Pastor and new members are becoming more familiar with St Peter members. Then after church please stick/hang your name tag to the magnetic board that is located at the church entrance you typically use.

Please Note: we do not have everyone's name tag done yet, please let Jackie or the office know if yours is missing, and wear a sticky name tag until we print another batch.

Thank you for your efforts in forming this new habit and thanks to Jackie for her time in putting together the name tags!



# Community & Mission News



## We are excited to invite you to LSI's 2nd annual Sips for Service event!

Join us on Thursday, September 28th at Waverly Area Veterans Post for the second year of this action-packed event. At Sips for Service, you can look forward to tasty appetizers, sampling local craft beer and wine, entertainment, and participating in a live and silent auction.

As you sip your drinks, you'll learn more about the services that LSI provides for Iowans. Thank you for generously supporting the work we do!

Tickets include four beer and/or wine tastings and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Individual reservation(s) are \$45 per person until Friday, September 15th

\$50/person from September 16th – September 21st.

Tables of 6 are \$240 and available until September 15th.

**Questions? Contact us! Reserve tickets online**

Mike Knipp, Director of Philanthropy 319.610.3202

## Helping Hands Clothing Closet

The closet helped 226 (120 adults, 106 kids) clients in June from 13 communities. Our volunteers gave 63 hours of their time. We have received many wonderful donations this past month and we are ready to help families get kids ready to return to school in August.

Please stop by if you or someone you know could use our services. We are always in need of school age kids clothes, towels and blankets. 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](mailto:carolyn.mohlis@gmail.com)

## Womenfest

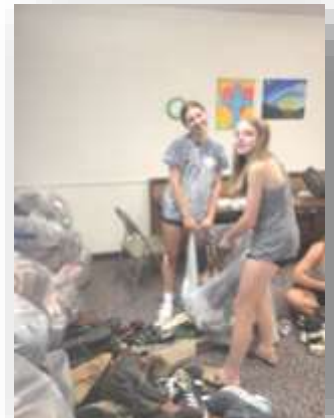
The ecumenical Bible Study gathers weekly on Tuesday mornings at 7:30 am in the Friendship Room.

## Mensfest

The men's bible study group is taking a break for the summer, they will reconvene in the fall.

## His Hands Oran Food Pantry

June His Hands Pantry Statistics, Household Served-118. Individuals Served-372, Food Distributed-8,607lbs. *Suggested Donations*—"I usually suggest donations, but we can use any kind of food or personal care items. The demand has gone up substantially and we are feeding many more people. So thank you in advance for anything you can donate". For more information -319-638-4357 or Mary Burgart 563-920-3857. Please note, the collection box is now located in the library.



## Got Shoes?...

The youth are raising money to go to the National ELCA gathering in New Orleans in 2024. St Peter high school youth will be collecting gently used shoes; Kids and Adults shoes are accepted of any season. , ..they will have a plastic bin outside the church office, where you can drop them off. Or if you would like us to pick them up, we can do that too. Text 319-464-4381 for pickup. Collecting through August.



# Faith Formation

## God Made Everything, Including Me!

St. Peter Lutheran Summer Day Camp

Vacation Bible School

Songs, Stories, Crafts, Games and Adventure!

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4**

CHECK IN 8:00-8:30 am

Camp Ingawanis Adventure Base  
2482 Grand Avenue, Waverly

CLOSING CEREMONY: 5:30pm  
POTLUCK: 6pm

Registration fee is \$10 which includes lunch  
and two snacks.

AGE GROUP: Kids entering TK-6th Grade

WHAT TO BRING:

Backpack, water bottle, sunscreen (please apply  
some before coming to camp, but bring extra), bug  
spray, swimsuits for water games and a towel

REGISTER AT:

<http://www.stpeterdenver.org/>  
(Under family tab)

Or call Roxane at the church  
office  
319-984-5648



# VBS

- \* Sign-up online [Vacation Bible School '23 \(stpeterdenver.org\)](http://www.stpeterdenver.org/)
- \* Cost \$10 per student, check or cash may be dropped off at the church office or mail to St Peter, PO Box A, Denver
- \* Please check out Sign-ups for craft and food supplies –now available on our website
- \* Families are asked to bring a backpack with water bottle, swim clothes, towel, sunscreen (& have applied before drop-off), bug spray (& have applied before drop-off)
- \* Any helpers interested in volunteering, including middle or high schoolers, parents, & any congregational member, are welcome! [AmyOltmann@hotmail.com](mailto:AmyOltmann@hotmail.com).

### Youth Mission Trip

ELCA National Youth Gathering in NEW ORLEANS, July 16-20,2024. All are eligible to attend that are currently in 7th-11th grade.

For more information  
please contact Lisa Michels  
(319-464-4381).



# August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 7:30 am Womensfest 7:00 pm AAI/Alanon	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 am Bulletin deadline 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl	<b>4</b> 8:00 am VBS @ Camp Ingawanis 6:00 pm Potluck	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00 am Worship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:30 am Womensfest 7:00 pm AAI/Alanon	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Basement Reserved
<b>13</b> 9:00 am Worship	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:30 am Womensfest 6:45 pm Council meeting 7:00 pm AAI/Alanon	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Bingo @ Denver Sunset Home <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:00 am Worship With Noisy Offering	<b>21</b> 9:00 am –3:00 pm Quilling	<b>22</b> 7:30 am Womensfest 9:00 am—Noon Quilling 7:00 pm AAI/Alanon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00 am Worship Blessing of the Backpacks	<b>28</b> 9:00 am –3:00 pm Quilling	<b>29</b> 7:30 am Womensfest 9:00 am—Noon Quilling 7:00 pm AAI/Alanon	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10:00 am Bulletin deadline		

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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