

St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

December 2021

Projecting Christ to All Generations



Welcome to the Adventure of Advent

[To skip the nerdy confusing etymological details, continue reading at the *]
advent (n.) "important arrival," 1742, an extended sense of *Advent* "season preceding Christmas" (in reference to the "coming" of Christ), late Old English, from Latin *adventus* "a coming, approach, arrival," in Church Latin "the coming of the Savior," from past participle stem of *advenire* "arrive at, come to," from *ad* "to" (see *ad-*) + *venire* "to come," from a suffixed form of PIE root **gwa-* "to go, come."

Source: <https://www.etymonline.com/word/advent>

adventure (n.) c. 1200, *aventure, aventure* "that which happens by chance, fortune, luck," from Old French *aventure* (11c.) "chance, accident, occurrence, event, happening," from Latin *adventura (res)* "(a thing) about to happen," from fem. of *adventurus*, future participle of *advenire* "to come to, reach, arrive at," from *ad* "to" (see *ad-*) + *venire* "to come," from a suffixed form of PIE root **gwa-* "to go, come." Meaning developed through "risk; danger" (a trial of one's chances), c. 1300, and "perilous undertaking" (late 14c.) to "novel or exciting incident, remarkable occurrence in one's life" (1560s). Earlier it also meant "a wonder, a miracle; accounts of marvelous things" (13c.).

Source: <https://www.etymonline.com/word/adventure>

* Each year in December we observe the confusing season of Advent. For many it is a frustrating "Let's hurry up and get to Christmas." time. But the season of Advent has a deep and rich heritage for Christians who are less in a hurry to sing carols and open presents, and more in tune with Christ's promise to return and make the Kingdom of God real.

Advent is marked by waiting and anticipation (for which too many of us have no time.) Jesus tells a parable in Matthew 25:1-13 that exemplifies the heart of the season of Advent. It begins:

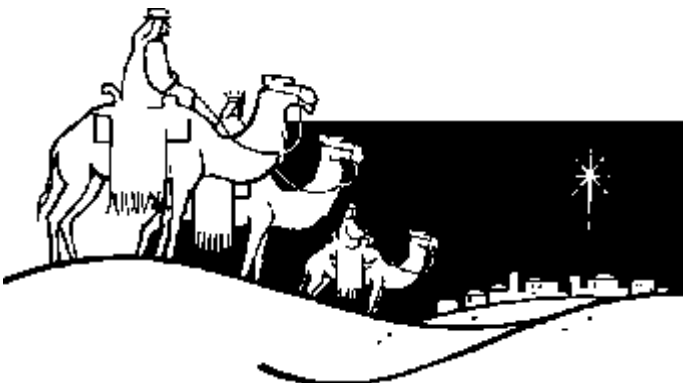
'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. Mt. 25: 1-4

How we wait, and what we do while we wait, is an important part of Advent. Many see the waiting as an annoyance to be endured like I did as a child. I could never understand why on Christmas Eve we had to wait until all the dishes were washed and put away and the kitchen was all cleaned up before I (we) could begin opening presents. (In my old age I learned that it was so mom could enjoy Christmas Eve and the opening of presents with the rest of us.)

Rather than staring at the time on our cell phones, we are called to be preparing the way for Christ in our hearts and in our world. It is a spiritual adventure that has very real consequences for our physical reality. Because while we wait our task is to be actively preparing the world to receive Christ whom we await. We are called to clear away the obstacles, bringing mountains low and lifting up valleys and making rough places plain. It is an adventure because we do not know the day or time when Christ will come again, yet by faith we know the moment will come to open the big box behind the tree.

And so we wait and anticipate, with faith in the one who promised to return with the best gift of all.

- Scot McCluskey, Interim Pastor



Christmas Eve Worship,
Friday, December 24, 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm

Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

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

	December 5 Sunday 9:00 am	December 12 Sunday 9:00 am	December 19 Children's Program Sunday 9:00 am	December 24 Christmas Eve Friday 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm	December 26 Sunday 9:00 am
Organist	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart	4-Amy Lockhart 7-Sheryl Moeller	Sheryl Moeller
Acolytes	Adalyn Gleason & Jackson Joerger	Lincoln Roethler & TBD	Austin Oltmann & TBD		
Communion Assistant			Sunday School Children		
Scripture Reader	Amy Oltmann		Sunday School Christmas Program	7-Jim Moeller	
Multimedia					
Sound System	Roger Donaldson	Larry Oltrogge	Alton Midthus	4 - Steve DeVries 7-Roger Donaldson	Larry Oltrogge
Video taping				Austin Oltmann	
Altar Guild	Nancy Lamos, LaVonne Westendorf, Kelley Carman				
Usher/Greeters	Gary & LaVonne Westendorf, Monte & Emmett Nuehring, Chuck & Trudy Essmann				
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.					

Altar Guild

Altar Guild is looking for people to join their team. Generally the altar guild sets up communion and takes it down, fills candles and changes paraments as needed. For more information contact the office or Nancy Lamos. The duties are easy to learn and can be done on your own time or with a group.

Ushers

We are also looking for more ushers to assist the already slim groups. Please contact the office if this is something you would consider. Thank you.

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

Newsletter Deadline: 4:00 pm on the 3rd Friday of each month.

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.

Mission & Community



A great time was had by all with these ladies from St Peter Lutheran Church board of mission. They entertained us last week, Tuesday afternoon. So much laughter and conversation. And Pastor Scott with his musical talent. Thanks and Godspeed, *Willow Winds*



His Hands Oran Food Pantry

Serving families in the area that are experiencing food insecurity. Request for December: Baking supplies, also any food item. Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon. Served in October: 77 Households, 223 Individuals, 7,424 lbs of food distributed. Questions -319-638-4357 or Mary Burgart 563-920-3857. As always, we will take any thing to fill our shelves. We greatly appreciate your support.

Christmas Poinsettias

We will be ordering poinsettias from Hy-Vee floral for Christmas. You may pick up an order sheet on the information table outside the office; place filled in sheet with a check for \$10.00 in the basket by December 3.



ELCA Good Gifts

Christmas is rapidly approaching and no doubt, one of the things you will be thinking about is holiday shopping. This year, many people will be feeling the impact of COVID, the financial crunch plus the stress of already busy schedules and extra December commitments. Perhaps the need to simplify seems even more appealing when you consider all the time and money you may be spending on Christmas gifts. The Board of Mission would like to make a suggestion for families to consider as an alternate plan for sharing the spirit of Christmas with others. The ELCA has published a Good Gifts Catalog that features out-reach gifts that can and will make a difference in the lives of both the giver and receiver.

What is the best gift you were ever given? It was probably given out of love. Love comes to us as a gift from God, and we are called to share it with others. The best gifts are those that deepen our relationships with one another. They are filled with love and are impossible to wrap.

Do we need more "things" and more "stuff" to clutter and complicate our lives? How would a neighbor or friend feel if you told them for Christmas this year you bought a mosquito net for a family in a malaria-prone area or six water jugs for ease in transporting clean water? Would your children find joy in knowing that a pig or goat was given in their honor to a poverty- stricken family in Africa?

You have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in your own personal lives and the lives of those in need. Take a few moments to explore the catalog and discover the life-changing difference your gifts can make. Christ's love is a gift. Share it with others!!!

You may get a Good Gifts Catalog, in addition to cards to share with your gifts, in the Friendship Room.

Serving Committee for December

Jennifer Clayton	Diann Curtis	Donna Hulsing
Dori Jurgenson	Tammy Maitland	Angie Meyer
Sharon Mueller	Sarah Sanderson	Helen Schumacher
Kerry Thies	Shirley Thurm	Nicole Valverde

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Next meeting: Thursday, December 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).

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Dave & Jaime Leonhart	16 Cavin Newby
2 Jennifer Clayton	17 Sharon Robinson Greg Thies
3 Dalton Brinkman Lois Miller	19 Elaine Dove Melodie Foelske Jack Niewoehner
4 Lincoln Gustafson Shirley Thurm Burton & Sharon Diercks	20 Carolyn Becker
5 Candi Nuehring Kasey Wirtjes	21 Tim Mueller
6 Sharon Diercks Cody Hougen Linda Krueger	22 Jennifer Sawyer
7 Nathan Thurm	23 Emma Haase Morgan Smith
8 Jillian Clayton Jaime Gienau Ames Kuecker Mia Leonhart Linda Schult Robert & Sharon Foelske	24 Jeremiah Kern Alexander Oltmann
9 Lauren Carman Darlys Milius	25 Breanna Sadler
10 Alvina Koepke	26 Braven Beaumont Jack Mixdorf Greg Smith
11 Holly Smith	27 Tom Lahmann Bob Weston
12 Lynette Renner	28 Klair Heim Kenny Lamb Dawn & David Lau Amy & Richard Mortenson
13 Samantha Gehrke Garrett Wahl	29 Tyler Nuss Aubrey Roethler
14 Brooks Meyer	30 Cassandra Vohsman
15 Andrew Brown Alexandra Swanson David & Jo VanDeBerg	31 Monte Nuehring Max Thrasher

*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



Christmas Choir

A choir will be forming for Christmas Eve. Any singers wanting to participate should notify Mary Stevens 319-252-2960. Also any bell choir members who would like to play for Christmas Eve should also notify Mary.

Offering Envelopes

The 2022 Offering Envelopes should be ready for pick up on December 5 and thereafter. Thank you.

With Appreciation

Thank you to all who sent cards, food, and other condolences to our family. It was truly appreciated. I know God will continue to love and care for me as well as you, my friends of our St Peter family.
Joyce Miller & family.

Exercise Classes at St Peter:

Join Roberta Robbins, Thursdays from 5:00-6:00 pm in the lower level of the church. There is no cost to participate in the Essentrics® class. Essentrics® is a dynamic, full-body workout suitable for all fitness levels that simultaneously combines stretching and strengthening while engaging all 650 muscles. This class will increase flexibility and mobility for a healthy, toned, and pain-free body.

The small Christmas tree in the Friendship Room has been re decorated! The ELCA ornaments give suggestions as to how you can help others around the world. What a wonderful and caring way to share the Spirit of Christmas!



Community & Mission News

Call Committee

The St. Peter Call Committee is in the process of updating the Ministry Site Profile. Our goal is to have it posted by February 1 on the synod website for prospective applicants. The committee would like to encourage members of the congregation to provide input in the completion of the site profile, such as: What is most important to you in calling a new pastor? What concerns have you had in the past regarding previous pastors that you would like the call committee to be aware of during the call process? What strengths have you experienced with previous pastors that you feel are important when calling a new pastor? What do you feel are the most important issues in the congregation that you would like a new pastor to help St. Peter address? What are strengths and/or needs of St. Peter Church?, etc.

It is important to the Call Committee that members of the congregation provide any input you feel would be helpful so we are able to represent the whole congregation in this valuable process. There is a box outside of the church office that you can place any feedback you would like. You may share your input anonymously if you prefer. If you would like a member of the Call Committee to respond to your input, please provide your name and contact information.

You may also provide input to any member of the Call Committee directly by email:

Pat Leonhart: gpleonhart@gmail.com

Amanda Gesme: amandagesme@yahoo.com>

Helen Schumacher: helen.schumacher@schumacherelevator.com>

Jackie Fober: mjfober@aol.com

Jill Nuss: jillnuss@gmail.com

Paul Meyer: paulie52@mchsi.com

Paul Empie: peowl2@yahoo.com

Mary Stevens: 319-252-2960

Members of the Call Committee will be providing updates on the process during Sunday church services.

SAVE THE DATE: We invite you to attend a meeting after church on **January 9** in which we will share a draft copy of the Ministry Profile and seek your feedback and any additional feedback.

Please continue to pray for God's support and guidance in this process.

Helping Hands Clothes Closet

We have had another busy month at Helping Hands Clothing Closet with 205 client visits. Our winter clothing is out and thank you to everyone who helped with that task. Please stop in if you need assistance meeting your clothing needs. As always the clothing closet can use donations of blankets, bedding, new underwear and socks, winter coats and boots. These items go out quickly. Thank you for all of the donations this month and thank you to our volunteers. Closet 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

Christmas Offering

This year the special Christmas offering will go to Lutheran Disaster Response. The disaster ministry of the ELCA continues to help bring God's comfort, healing and renewal to those affected by disasters. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need, throughout the U.S. and around the world. What a wonderful way to spread the Good News through your generosity and compassion!

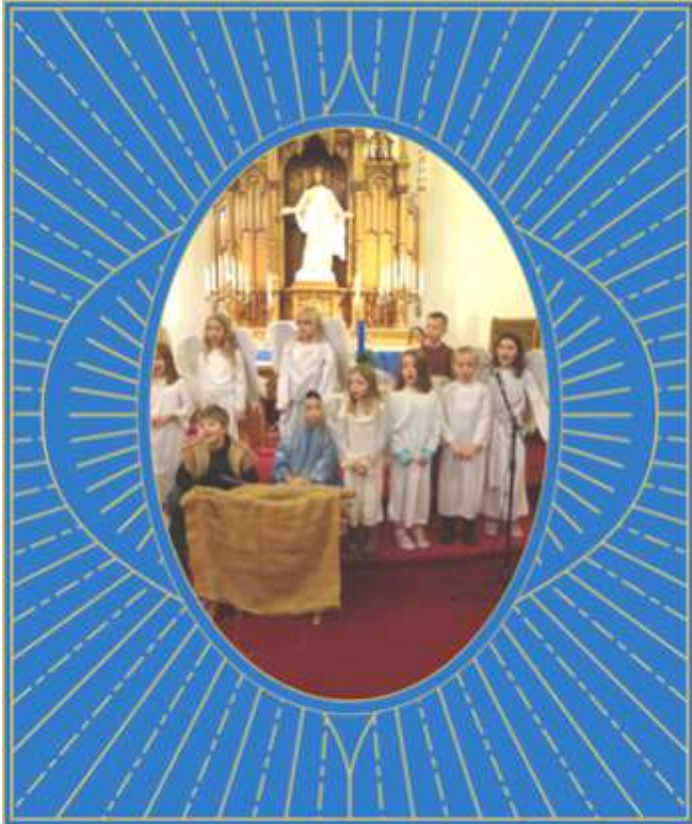


Celebrate Denver's Old-Fashioned Christmas

Saturday & Sunday, December 4 & 5. "Tidings and Tinsel" is the theme this year. Many activities are planned including residential lighting contest, Gingerbread houses, Santa, decorated tables and drawing for prizes and make sure to check out the St Peter tree as part of the festival of trees at the Denver Community Center. There are many area business joining in the celebration with specials.



Faith Formation & Announcements



Advent Worship at St Peter
December 5 & 12
9:00 am
December 26 -
Service of Lessons & Carol

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 19, 9 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 4 & 7 PM

Gather Bible Study

Gather Bible Study will be held the second Tuesday of the month, led by Pastor McCluskey. Everyone is invited to join us, **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 14, in the Friendship Room at 1:30 pm.

First Communion

The 5th Graders will make their First Communion on Sunday, December 5, at the 9:00 am service.

Mensfest

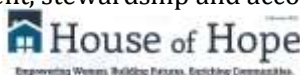
The ecumenical Men's Bible Study is lead by Pastor McCluskey. We will gather weekly in the lower level of the church at 7:30 am. All are welcome!

Womenfest

The ecumenical Women's Bible Study is lead by Pastor McCluskey. We will gather weekly in our St Peter Friendship Room at 7:30 am. All are welcome!

Noisy Offering

Our November and December Noisy Offering will go to House of Hope in Waterloo. Their mission is to provide single-mother families and women who age out of foster care with individualized support and transitional housing to achieve secure families, independence and permanent homes. The vision is to end the cycle of homelessness in the Cedar Valley with respect, empowerment, stewardship and accountability as core values.



July 24-28, 2022 | Minneapolis, MN

Gathering@elca.org

For more information on the youth gathering please contact Lisa Michels 319-464-4381.

Confirmation

Wednesday Class Schedule: 7th grade meet at 6:30 pm
And 8th grade meet at 7:30 pm.



Birth Announcement: Congratulations to Brad & Jennifer Becker on the birth of their daughter, Audrey Kay Becker, born 6 am October 22. She was 8lbs. 8oz. And has a full head of hair!



December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 am Mensfest 6:30 pm 7th Grade Confirmation 7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation	2 10:00 am Bulletin deadline 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl	3	4
5 9:00 am Worship 10:10 am Sunday School	6 4:30 pm Financial Board	7 7:30 am Womensfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	8 7:30 am Mensfest 6:30 pm 7th Grade Confirmation 7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation	9 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	10	11
12 9:00 am Worship 10:10 am Sunday School	13	14 7:30 am Womensfest 1:30 pm Gather Bible Study 6:30 pm Council meeting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	15 7:30 am Mensfest 6:30 pm 7th Grade Confirmation 7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation	16 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	17 Newsletter Deadline	18
19 9:00 am Worship with Noisy Offering Sunday School Christmas Program	20	21 7:30 am Womensfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	22 7:30 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm Office closed	25
26 9:00 am Worship	27	28 7:30 am Womensfest 3:30 pm Worship & Music mtg 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	29 7:30 am Mensfest	30 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	31 Happy New Year's Eve	

St. Peter Tidings is published 12 times a year by
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
540 East Franklin Street ~ P.O. Box A
Denver, IA 50622
Phone: 319-984-5648
Pastor Scot McCluskey 641.529.7088 ~
pastor@stpeterdenver.org
www.stpeterdenver.org ~ info@stpeterdenver.org

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2021 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: Jim Jurgenson, Todd Foelske, Mary Stevens, Marcia Joerger, Kim Lamb, Jan Gienau, Marilyn Mueller

Executive Board: Jim Jurgenson, Marcia Joerger, Todd Foelske, Marilyn Mueller

Property & Management: Neil Hartmann, Gene Leonhart, Leroy Homeister, Roxane Franzen, Jim Jurgenson, Mary Stevens

Parish Education: Todd Foelske, 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: Marilyn Mueller, Jan Gienau, Dori Jurgenson, Mary Stevens

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

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

Financial Board: Dwight Diercks, Paul Meier, Jim Moeller, Jack Mixdorf, Gene Leonhart, Jim Jurgenson