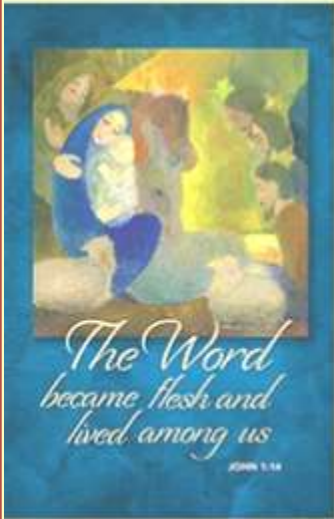


St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

December 2019

Pastor Dawn Pederson

Projecting Christ to All Generations



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

Please join us

*I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth.
(First verse)*

The Christmas carol "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" will always be near and dear to my heart. I remember singing it in Norwegian as a young girl in the children's choir at church. I don't remember how old I was, but not more than ten-years-old. The pastor's wife was our director. She painstakingly taught us how to sing the first verse in Norwegian (*Jeg er så glad hver julekveld. . . .*).

I grew up in a Norwegian community and congregation. Back then, we didn't have worship on Christmas Eve, but the church was full and overflowing on Christmas morning. We didn't have to wait until Christmas morning to hear the story of Jesus' birth. Every Christmas Eve, as far back as I can remember, we went to my grandparent's farm. After their retirement we went to their house in town. When everybody's bellies were full (some with lutefisk – not mine), when the dishes were done and mostly put away everyone gathered in the living room. The children covered the living room floor like a colorful carpet while the adults found a place on the furniture. Children and adults, all eagerly listened as Grandpa read the Christmas story according to Luke. It wouldn't be Christmas without it. He read it from the *King James Version*. Little did I realize then that I would one day be reading that same wonderful story every Christmas Eve in worship. Every Christmas Eve as I read the story of Jesus' birth, I hear my grandfather reading it with me in his Norwegian brogue. Together we join the angels' chorus in saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among people!" Oh, how I loved to hear the story then and how I love to read it now.

*And so I love each Christmas Eve,
and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ever'y day
I know so well is true.
(Last verse)*

This will be our first Christmas Eve together, I hope there will be many more to come. I eagerly anticipate sharing the old, old story that never grows old, the story of God's love came down to us in a newborn baby. Love is the gift of Christmas. Love's name is Jesus. He came to help a world in need. The world still needs him. The world will always need him. God's love has come and never will leave us. Glory to God on high!

Merry Christmas, dear ones!

Steve and Pastor Dawn

Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

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

	December 1 Sunday Hanging of the Greens 9:00 am	December 8 Sunday 9:00 am	December 15 Sunday 9:00 am	December 22 Sunday 9:00 am	December 24 Christmas Eve 4 & 7 pm	December 29 Sunday 9:00 am
Communion Assistants	Youth Group	Kim Lamb	NA	Kim Lamb	4 pm-Eve Pautsch 7 pm—Kim Lamb	NA
Scripture Readers	Youth Group	Amy Lockhart	NA	Diann Curtis	4 pm-Amy Lockhart 7 pm—TBD	Joyce Miller
Acolytes	Jordan Nuss & Corbin Hill	Will Lockhart & Kenny Lamb	Jarett Clayton & Lyla Gesme	Justice Gienau & Kenny Lamb	4pm-Carson Haase & Keaton Rothmeyer 7pm- Kenny Lamb & TBD	Kiara Michels & Miranda Thurm
Multimedia	Peyton Mueller	Jordan Nuss	TBD	Jack Mixdorf	4 pm -TBD 7 pm—TBD	TBD
Organist	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart	Sheila Mixdorf	4 & 7 pm— Sherly Moeller	Sheryl Moeller
Sound System	Steve DeVries	Larry Oltrogge	Alton Midthus	Roger Donaldson	4 pm—Steve DeVries 7 pm -Larry Oltrogge	Alton Midthus
Confirmation Parent Volunteer	Wed, Dec. 4 8th -Tanya Haase 7th -Charlie Nuss	Wed, Dec. 11 8th -Angie Meyer 7th -TBD	Wed. Dec 18 8th -TBD 7th -Amy Lockhart	Wed. Dec 25 No Confirmation	NA	Wed. Jan1 No Confirmation
Altar Guild	Marcia Ott, Vera Collins, Lynn Gielau, Kim Lamb					
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.**

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:** 4:00 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



Blessing Jar for NEIA Food Bank

The North East Iowa Food Bank is always in need of food items to help the hungry in the Cedar Valley. November and December are especially tough times of the year for those who are struggling financially. For \$10 you can purchase approximately 10 to 12 canned good items. That's great!

However, with that same \$10, if you donate it as cash to the Food Bank, they can buy \$110 dollars worth of food. Which equation makes more sense? During November, we will be collecting your monetary donations in a large glass jar outside the church offices. Give thanks for your blessings by sharing with others!

Chemo Care Kits

Sue is pictured at left delivering the Chemo Care Kits to Unity Point Cancer Center. Thank you to everyone that made a kit to donate, and to the Buss' for picking up and delivering them. Sue reports the Cancer Center was so happy to receive all 43 care kits!



Wartburg College Holiday Shoppe

Organized by the Wartburg College Social Work Department, the Shoppe provides eligible families in Bremer county with Christmas gifts for their children. Last year, Holiday Shoppe served 500 children from 200 families. St Peter will have a gift tree displayed in the Friendship Room, November 17 through December 8. There are two ways to contribute: - Gift Donation-new unwrapped gifts for children (infants through age 18); or Monetary Donations (checks payable to Wartburg College). Contact Joyce Miller, 984-5021, with questions.

Sign Up to Bring Cookies

We have a link on our website that you can access to fill in a time slot that works for you <http://www.stpeterdenver.org/volunteer.html> or contact the office and let Roxane know. Thank you to all of the people that faithfully help out with this ministry!

If you have any questions about making/serving coffee -you may contact Jan Gienau 984-5851.

December 1 - 1) Jan Gienau
2) Jan Gienau
3) Jan Gienau

Coffee maker- Jan Gienau

December 8 - 1) Kim Lamb
2) Kim Lamb
3) Kim Lamb

Coffee maker- Pat Leonhart

December 15 - 1) Sunday School
2) Christmas Pageant
3) Cookies & Coffee

Coffee maker- will be served in the lower level

December 22 - 1) Kim Lamb
2) Kim Lamb
3) Kim Lamb

Coffee maker- Donna Donaldson

December 29 - 1) Joe Teetzen
2) Joe Teetzen
3) Joe Teetzen

Coffee maker- Joyce Miller

Please check online or call the office for the latest updates to donations/volunteers.

Hanging of the Greens

The Middle & High School students will dress/decorate the sanctuary in preparation for Christmas.

The service begins with the sanctuary stripped bare, much like it is on Maundy Thursday at the close of worship. This will be a new experience for the congregation.

It takes place on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1, at our usual worship time, 9 am.



Tree Decorating

Please join us on Monday, December 2 at 9:00 am. We will gather in the sanctuary to add the Christmas decorations to the Christmas trees.



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

1
Dave & Jaime Leonhart

2
Jennifer Clayton
Joel & Jane Teetzen

3
Dalton Brinkman
Lois Miller

4
Lincoln Gustafson
Shirley Thurm
Burton & Sharon Diercks

5
Candi Nuehring
Kasey Wirtjes

6
Sharon Diercks
Cody Hougen
Linda Krueger

7
Nathan Thurm

8
Jillian Clayton
Jaime Gienau
Mia Leonhart
Linda Schult
Robert & Sharon Foelske

9
Lauren Carman
Darlys Milius

10
Alvina Koepke

11
Holly Smith

12
Lynette Renner

13
Samantha Gehrke
Garrett Wahl

14
Brooks Meyer

15
Andrew Brown
Alexandra Swanson
David & Jo VanDeberg

16
Art Kurtz
Cavin Newby

17
Sharon Robinson
Greg Thies

19
Elaine Dove
Melodie Foelske
Jack Niewoehner

20
Carolyn Becker

21
Tim Mueller

22
Jennifer Sawyer

23
Emma Haase
Morgan Smith

24
Jeremiah Kern

25
Breanna Sadler

26
Braven Beaumont
Jack Mixdorf
Greg Smith

27
Tom Lahmann
Bob Weston

28
Klair Heim
Dawn & David Lau
Amy & Richard Mortenson
Aubrey Roethler

29
Jennifer Ackerman
Cassandra Vohsman

30
Monte Nuehring

31
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

Dear Members of St Peter

We are overwhelmed and humbled at being the recipients of your love and support as you live the Scriptures. The cancer journey was long and sometimes dark; but you were such a light, a ray of hope and so uplifting and encouraging. From the very beginning of treatments when chemo and radiation prohibited swallowing and talking, when we could not venture out or welcome people in to visit, we knew we were never alone because of God's promise and also because of great folks like you. We know you stormed heaven with prayers because we could feel them. You live and practice 1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Encourage one another and build each other up" and 2 Corinthians 1:4 "comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." Yes....this is you St Peter.

We are blessed. The tumor is gone, there is no active growth of cancer cells, taste buds are waking up, and strength and wellness are more evident every day. We are so grateful we are in such a great place; St Peter IS a GREAT place!! We love and appreciate you; and are forever thankful for you. Happy Thanksgiving, dear St Peter friends!!!

Friends in Christ, *Dave & Jo VanDeBerg*

Winter Weather Policy

Please check our website www.stpeterdenver.org, Facebook, and KWWL, in the event of inclement weather for the Cancellation of Worship and or Sunday School. We will attempt to make the decision by 7:00 am; to have it posted shortly there after.



Noisy Offering

The November & December Noisy offering will go to Friends of the Family in Waverly. Their mission is to provide safe shelter, confidential services, and housing assistance to individuals in crisis due to homelessness, domestic violence sexual assault, and human trafficking. **We have an anonymous donor who will match our Noisy Offering for November & December!**

Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Kari & Gary Anfinson, they have a new grandson born November 8th. His name is Huxley Tate Piggott and his parents are Kaia & Justin. He has two older brothers Bennett 4 and Beckett 2.



"If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but still the same amount of snow." - Anonymous

Community & Mission News

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 may be feeling the impact of a 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 expending 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. This year there are a dozen new gifts in the catalog that can help you find even more ways to make a difference in the world. Christ's love is a gift. Share it with others!!! You may pick up a Good Gifts Catalog in the Friendship Room or call 1-800-638-3522 or go online at ELCA.org/goodgifts for a copy to be sent to your home.



His Hands Oran Food Pantry,

Serving families in the area that are experiencing food insecurity. Suggestions for donations —Baking mixes, boxed meals, noodles, soups, bathroom tissue, Kleenex. Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon. Served in October: 127 Households, 368 Individuals, 12,052 lbs of food distributed. Questions -319-638-4357 or Mary Burgart 563-920-3857. **A big thank you to Staci for bringing our donations to Oran. We had 84.9 lbs. this last trip!**

Helping Hands Clothes Closet

Located at 2029 Viking Ave. Sumner, provides free gently used clothes to lower income & homeless families and individuals and those affected by disaster. A ministry of St John, Sumner & St Peter, Oran. They offer women, men, and children clothing, shoes, coats, bedding & towels. Hours: Tuesdays 9-11 am, Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm, and the 1st Saturday of each month, 9-11 am. If you have any questions email or call Carolyn Mohlis, 319-279-3247 or Carolyn.mohlis@gmail.com. *Helping Hands Clothing Closet had 162 client visits in November and our volunteers gave 38 plus hours of their time. During this Thanksgiving season we want to thank all of you who have made monetary and clothing donations to Helping Hands Clothing Closet. A special thank you to our volunteers; without you the Clothing Closet could not exist.*

WELCA Board Meeting

Next WELCA Board meeting:
Sunday, January 12, at 10:15 am

Gather Bible Study -Next Meeting:

Tuesday, December 10, at 1:00 pm,
At Pat Leonhart's home.

Serving Committee for December

Jennifer Clayton	Diann Curtis	Sandra Sue Eick
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, January 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).

The Sending of the Quilts

Thank you to all who helped prepare quilts & kits which were sent from the Ingathering in November; from St Peter we sent the following. The fall totals are: 159 quilts, 126 school kits, 16 personal care kits, 21 fabric kits, 4 tie blankets.

Quilt tying will resume Monday, January 6, 2020.

Advent Gather Bible Study

Please join us for our Advent Bible Study on Tuesday, December 10, at 1:00 pm. We will Gather at Pat Leonhart's home for a time of fellowship and Bible study.



The Thanksgiving Tree, pictured at left, was full of leaves of gratitude filled in by our St Peter members!

Faith Formation

Sunday School

Sunday School follows worship at 10:15 am.
Registration is available online www.stpeterdenver.org.
Contact Todd Foelske with any questions
tfoelske@gmail.com.
There will be NO Sunday School on December 22 & 29
Classes resume Sunday, January 5, 2020.

Confirmation

Classes meet on Wednesdays.
8th Grade is at 6:30 pm
7th Grade is at 7:45 pm
Contact Pastor Dawn with any questions
(pastor@stpeterdenver.org or 641-529-6592)

Womensfest

Everyone is invited to the Ecumenical Bible Study led by Pastor Craig Henderson on Tuesdays at Willow Winds Assisted Living, from 7:30-8:30am

Mensfest

Everyone is invited to the Ecumenical Bible Study held on Thursdays, 7:00 am, at AllyCatz.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 8 - Dress Rehearsal 10:00 am until Noon

Sunday, December 15 - Christmas Program at 9:00 am Worship Service, NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
Please join us for Christmas cookies, hot cocoa and coffee, in the lower level of the church following the program.

Gifts of Love:

A big thank you to Marilyn Mueller for coordinating the gift bags that were delivered to St Peter members that may need a little love this season. AND thank you to the Sunday School Children for decorating cards! Marilyn put together 16 Gifts of Love bags this year.

Annual Reports

The reports are due for all the Boards and committees that submit annual reports. Thank you.

Four Weddings were held at St Peter this year, Congratulations and God's Blessings to the wedding couples pictured below.

*Monica Bass & Charles Benz,
June 1*



*Brad Becker & Jennifer
Curtis, August 10*



*Brody Weston & Taylor
Streicher, August 31*



*Michael Krueger & Samantha
Charley, November 9*



Christmas Offerings

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!

Christmas offering envelopes

All donations placed in the Christmas offering envelopes, will go to LDR, Not the general fund.

Resources Available

A reminder we have copies of *Christ in Our Home* on the table outside the office. Everyone is welcome to the quarterly devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a scripture reference and prayer for the day. Large print copies are available.

December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship Hanging of the Greens 10:15 am Sunday School	2 9:00 am Christmas Decorating	3 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	4 6:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation 7:45 pm 7th Grade Confirmation	5 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	6	7
8 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Sunday School Christmas Program practice	9 6:30 pm Property Management meeting	10 7:30 am Womenfest 1:00 pm Gather Bible Study 6:30 pm Council meeting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	11 6:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation 7:45 pm 7th Grade Confirmation	12 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	13	14
15 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship Sunday School Christmas Pageant Noisy Offering	16	17 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	18 6:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation 7:45 pm 7th Grade Confirmation	19 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21
22 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 & 7:00 pm Office closed	25 Merry Christmas Office closed	26 7:00 am Mensfest 10:00 am Bulletin Deadline	27	28
29 9:00 am Worship	30	31 7:30 am Womenfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon				

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Pastor Dawn Pederson 641-529-6592

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2019 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: Amy Lockhart, Eve Pautsch, Jim Jurgenson, Sue Buss, Gavin Carman, Todd Foelske, Gene Leonhart, Mary Stevens, LaVonne Westendorf

Executive Board: Jim Jurgenson, Eve Pautsch, Amy Lockhart, Gene Leonhart

Property & Management: Neil Hartmann, Gene Leonhart, Leroy Homeister, Dwight Diercks, Roxane Franzen, Jim Jurgenson

Parish Education: Todd Foelske, Jaime Leonhart, Mary Satterthwaite

Worship & Music: Sheila Mixdorf, Amy Lockhart, Jo VanDeBerg, Joyce Miller, Nancy Lamos, Sheryl Moeller

Mission: Sue Buss, Pat Leonhart, Shirley Thurm, Kelley Carman, Marcia Ott, Leah Homeister

Stewardship: Mary Stevens, Dori Jurgenson, Brenda Wolter

Youth & Family: Eve Pautsch, Krista Wahl, Connie Lobeck, Sarah Sanderson, Julie Brinkman, Lisa Michels

Evangelism: Staci Mueller, Art Kurtt, LaVonne Westendorf, Roger Donaldson

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