

# St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

## February 2023

Cheer Up Christian!

*"A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death, than the day of birth. It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting; for this is the end of everyone, and the living will lay it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of countenance the heart is made glad. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools."* (Ecclesiastes 7:1-5, NRSV)

Things are getting serious for the writer of Ecclesiastes ("the Preacher"), and sometimes confusing for us, as we follow him through the labyrinth of his discourse on the meaning of life. Death is better than birth, mourning is better than feasting, and sorrow is better than laughter? What happened to his "eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil" statements from earlier (Eccl 5:18)?

The Preacher might sound like he's contradicting himself, but the twist in his argument is meant to show us exactly what folly we may be inadvertently embracing. It's easy to brush over these verses while thinking in terms of standard, run-of-the-mill folly, or obvious sins.

But folly can even look like a daily routine: goals, successes, and our happy, fulfilling lives. It can take the form of anything that skims the surface of life, but keeps us from confronting our greatest need and the reality of eternity.

When life is good, it's tempting to gloss over our need for God. Everything is going as planned, and it's easy to rely on ourselves—not on Him. But the Preacher wants us to address this temptation. It might take death, or times of extreme pain and sadness, to help us realize the truth. Only when we attend a funeral or lose a family member does the veneer start to chip; then, we get a glimpse of the turmoil bubbling under the surface. Only when we're convicted of our great need can we admit that we truly need a Savior.

Are your successes causing you to diminish your need for Christ?

It's a new year. With new people in leadership positions. A new person in the pulpit. New babies to be baptized and new members standing at heaven's door. Hopefully this year will be better than last year and we won't have to deal with pandemics and politics, but likely not. Still the Word of God remains the same and we can depend on it for our direction and consolation. As the church meets to make plans for 2023 let us first seek God's will and his wisdom going forward. Pray, pray, and then pray some more for all of these people this year. And then Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Amen.

*Rev. David Powers*

**Our Season of Lent Begins -**

**Wednesday, February 22—Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm**

**Lenten Services (Holden Evening Prayer)**  
will be held Wednesdays at 7:00 pm—March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

**Lenten Meals will be served prior to the Worship.**



*"It is better to hear the rebuke of  
the wise, than for a man to hear the  
song of fools."  
Ecclesiastes 7:5*

*Deidre Franzen photo*

# Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

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

|                            | February 5<br>Sunday<br>9:00 am                | February 12<br>Sunday<br>9:00 am  | February 19<br>Sunday<br>9:00 am | February 22<br>Ash<br>Wednesday<br>7:00 pm | February 26<br>Sunday<br>9:00 am   |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>Organist</b>            | Amy Lockhart                                   | Sheryl Moeller                    | Amy Lockhart                     |  | Sheryl Moeller                     |
| <b>Acolytes</b>            | Tyler Nuss & Dalton Brinkman                   | Jackson Joerger & Danica Brinkman | ?                                |  | Tyler Nuss & Dalton Brinkman       |
| <b>Communion Assistant</b> | Henry & Miles Pautsch                          | Dalton Brinkman                   | ?                                | ?  | Libby Michels & Sydney Krabbenhoft |
| <b>Scripture Reader</b>    | Danica Brinkman                                | Jim Moeller                       | ?                                | ?  | Joyce Miller                       |
| <b>Multimedia</b>          | Jackson Joerger                                | Austin Oltmann                    | ?                                |  | Jackson Joerger                    |
| <b>Sound System</b>        | Steve DeVries                                  | Alton Midthus                     | Larry Oltrogge                   | Larry Oltrogge                             | Philip Michels                     |
| <b>Video taping</b>        | Austin Oltmann                                 | Tyler Nuss                        | ?                                |  | Danica Brinkman                    |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>         | Nancy Lamos, LaVonne Westendorf, Kelley Carman |                                   |                                  |  |                                    |
| <b>Usher/Greeters</b>      | Gary & LaVonne Westendorf and TBD              |                                   |                                  |  |                                    |

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.



*Nobody can do everything,  
but everyone can do something.*

Scripture Reader  
Multi Media Ushers  
Communion Assistants  
Altar Guild Video Taping

### 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, February 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).

### 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.

### 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

## Water & Spirit: Devotions for Lent 2023

By Meghan Johnston Aelabouni (contributor)...

*Water and Spirit* provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (traditionally known as Holy Saturday). Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from the Gospel of John. The writers then bring their unique voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

For year A the Revised Common Lectionary assigns texts from John's gospel to the second through fifth Sundays in Lent, as well as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter. These texts are included in this devotional. Several of them are unique to John: Jesus urges Nicodemus to be born again "of water and spirit," offers "living water" to a Samaritan woman at the well, raises Lazarus from the dead, washes the disciples' feet, and surprises Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb. As you read the daily devotions, pause to think about how John describes water and the Spirit, and how water and the Spirit are at work in your life.



*You may pick up the Lenten Devotional from the table outside the office.*

## It's Time for the SOUPER Bowl!!



The Board of Mission will be collecting cans of soup or monetary donations during February, Super Bowl month. Please put your donations on the table outside the office. All the soup and cash contributions will be given to the Waterloo Salvation Army.

## Wear Your Jersey to Church Sunday

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 12th, for the low price of a five dollar donation to the Salvation Army, you can wear any team logo shirt of your choice, from any sport (hockey, football, soccer, basketball, track) and from any high school, college, or professional team! A new twist will also be available this year for additional donations! There will be three buckets on SOUPER BOWL Sunday labeled with the two participating teams and one labeled "I don't care!". Vote with your dollars! Let's have fun, show our team spirit and continue our support of the Salvation Army ministries.



## Helping Hands Clothing Closet

2022 was a very busy year at Helping Hands Clothing Closet. We had 2572 client visits; 1,283 adults and 1,229 children. Our volunteers gave 558 hours of their time. The 2572 client visits is an increase of 400 client visits from 2021. Our busiest month was August with 429 client visits. Our clients come from all over northeast Iowa. We have been able to help families following a fire or other disaster again this year. Almost each week we have new families seeking help with their clothing and bedding needs. Many of these families have just come to the United States but we are also seeing more local families needing some help. 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)

## Thank You to DSB

Once again, thank you to Denver Savings Bank for the "Sharing with our Neighbor" donation (\$1,000). This gift, at the start of the New Year, is a meaningful way to allow St Peter to reach out to those in need throughout 2023.

The many ways DSB contributes to the community doesn't go unnoticed and is sincerely appreciated.  
*St Peter Board of Mission*

## Thank You

Hello Pastor Powers,  
Hope all is well and that your holidays were full of joy.  
Writing you to thank you for St Peter's recent donation and continued support of the LSI Mission.

I look forward to meeting you someday down the road. Many blessings upon you and your congregation.  
Warmest regards, Mike Knipp  
*(Our November & December Noisy Offering went to LSI)*

## Re-Do Cards Update

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

# February Birthdays & Anniversaries

2  
Travis Ackerman  
Donna Hulsing  
David Stevens  
Dennis Thurm

3  
Bev Diercks  
Janice Miller

4  
Jennifer Wirtjes

5  
Tom Beckel  
Caryl Tjaden

6  
Dwight Diercks

8  
Gavin Carman  
Jodie Koepke  
Michael Milius

12  
Pat Leonhart

14  
Jeff DeVries  
Zachary Kern  
Duane Schuldt

15  
Teresa Diercks  
Robert & Tammy  
Weston

16  
Amy Lockhart

17  
Marilyn Bergmann  
Angela Sadler  
Brody Sanderson

18  
Jessy & Janet Kern

19  
Jarett Clayton  
Julie Gleason

20  
Kara Bartels  
Brianna Drewelow  
Justin Elsamiller  
Joyce Miller

21  
Luther Hougen  
Cylee Liddle  
John Upshaw

23  
Abel Gienau  
Ariella Gienau  
Abby Roethler

24  
Jeremy Clayton  
Livi Gesme  
James Kurtt

25  
Lisa Michels

26  
Rodney & Teresa Diercks  
David VanDeBerg

27  
Greg & Kerry Thies

28  
Mandy Gesme

## Church Directory

Thank you to all that submitted photos, they will be displayed in the near future and more information on the directory will be forth coming.



## St Peter Valentine Mail Station

The Mission Board invites you to share some love this Valentine's day and send a card to those in our congregation that cannot worship with us in person. There are labels, envelopes, and cards available on the table by the office to make this easy for you.

## Wellness Screening

Allen Hospital is replacing the community screening that we use to hold at St Peter in April with a walk-in service. A 23 test wellness screening is available to anyone for \$40 (cash or check) during regular hours at the Allen Hospital Laboratory. Any further questions; please contact the Allen Lab Department.



## Noisy Offering

January and February Noisy Offerings will go to the former New Life School, in Guatemala, which is now known as Nueva Vida which means, "New Life" in Spanish and is the result of a God-directed union between two ministries with hearts for families and children affected by disability. With a full staff of teachers, therapists, and administrative support, Nueva Vida focuses on three key areas: Therapy (occupational & physical therapies, speech and psychology), Education (Christian primary education, K-6th grade) and Community (early intervention therapies, parent support groups, Community education.)



*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



EWALU Summer camp registration is OPEN! Brochures are on the table outside the office.

Now is the time to register for youth and family programs for summer 2023 at Camp Ewalu! A week in Christian community at Ewalu provides campers with a positive, fun and life-changing faith experience. As a Lutheran outdoor ministry, Ewalu offers a variety of programs all summer for youth in grades 1 to 12, guided by trained college-age counselors. Adults and younger kids can join in with Family Camp and Grandparent Camp! To see all the program options and to register online, go to [www.ewalu.org/summer-camp](http://www.ewalu.org/summer-camp). No child is turned away for reasons of financial need; contact our camp office at 563-933-4700 or [office@ewalu.org](mailto:office@ewalu.org) for details about a camp scholarship.

## CAMP DISCOUNTS:

Register for camp by Feb. 28 for our Early Discount! You'll save \$40 per camper for a full-week program (\$10-\$20 discount for shorter programs). A Sibling Discount of \$15 applies to additional children from the same family after the first child is registered. Discounts applied automatically, no code needed!

*St Peter encourages student participation by offering to pay for part of the camp. Please contact the office for the camp scholarship.*



## Quilt Tying

Join us for quilting on Mondays, 9 am - 3 pm, and Tuesdays, 9 am - Noon. The quilters report 123 quilts finished and boxed at this time!

## His Hands Oran Food Pantry

December His Hands Pantry Statistics, Household Served-94. Individuals Served-261. Food Distributed-7,155 lbs.

*Suggested Donations—Baking Items*

For more information -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.

## Paint Pick-Up

Recently, volunteers spent many hours cleaning out two areas in the lower level that are dedicated to the Sunday School office and supplies. During that time, a number of partially used quarts and/or gallons of latex paint were discovered. Following services on Sunday, February 5 & 12, these containers will be on display outside of the church offices. Members can take one or more of the paints for their personal use or help the staff by taking a can home and drying out the contents. All paints will be on a first come/first serve basis! By using or disposing of the paints, you will be helping our efforts to be green by saving the environment from material that might otherwise have to be landfilled.

## Bingo

Bingo at the Denver Sunset Home Friday, February 17, 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 door or contact Joyce Miller.



## Womenfest & Mensfest

The ecumenical Bible Study gathers weekly.

Tuesday mornings for women - 7:30 am in the Friendship Room.

And Wednesday mornings for men -7:30 am in the lower level of the church.

Please join us!

# Faith Formation & Announcements

## Confirmation

Reminder: please go to sign-up to help with snacks and parent help and Worship Servers: [Confirmation](#)

[\[stpeterdenver.org\]](http://stpeterdenver.org) Many thanks to all of you!

Pastor David Powers will be available to lead the majority of the spring Confirmation classes and I am planning to partner with him to substitute for conflicts. Parent help is still required to meet ELCA 2-Adult requirement.

Please encourage/assist your students in signing up online for service opportunities and then document the worksheet outside of Roxane's office so that the service can be tracked towards their 15-count requirement. Trying everything at least once is the goal!

Reminder to please notify me if your student will be absent via text or email. Homework will be sent as a follow-up to any missed class with requested return deadline.

As we get to the Lent season, there may need to be changes due to service but we will discuss and announce as determined.

Current remaining class schedule:

February 1<sup>st</sup> - Regular 6:30 PM 7<sup>th</sup>/7:30 PM 8<sup>th</sup>

February 8<sup>th</sup> - Regular 6:30 PM 7<sup>th</sup>/7:30 PM 8<sup>th</sup>

February 15<sup>th</sup> - Regular 6:30 PM 7<sup>th</sup>/7:30 PM 8<sup>th</sup>

February 22<sup>nd</sup> - Ash Wednesday, Youth Group schedule to be Determined

March 1<sup>st</sup> - Lent, class schedule to be determined

March 8<sup>th</sup> - Lent, class schedule to be determined

March 15<sup>th</sup> - **No Class** - Spring Break

March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Lent, class schedule to be determined

March 29<sup>th</sup> - Youth Group schedule to be determined

April 5<sup>th</sup> - Lent, class schedule to be determined

April 12<sup>th</sup> - Regular 6:30 PM 7<sup>th</sup>/7:30 PM 8<sup>th</sup>

April 19<sup>th</sup> - Regular 6:30 PM 7<sup>th</sup>/7:30 PM 8<sup>th</sup>

April 26<sup>th</sup> - Youth Group 6:30 - 8 PM both 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, supper served

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Regular 6:30 PM 7<sup>th</sup>/7:30 PM 8<sup>th</sup>

May 10<sup>th</sup> - Regular 6:30 PM 7<sup>th</sup>/7:30 PM 8<sup>th</sup>

May 17<sup>th</sup> - Regular 6:30 PM 7<sup>th</sup>/7:30 PM 8<sup>th</sup>

May 24<sup>th</sup> - Youth Group 6:30 - 8 PM both 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, supper served

For winter weather cancellations, we will follow the Denver school district so if school is let out early due to bad weather, or if there is no school due to bad weather, confirmation would also be cancelled. We will try to email and post on Facebook. If you aren't already following, please find us on Facebook as St. Peter Lutheran Church to stay current on fun happenings.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you,

Amy Oltmann

319-464-448 [amyoltmann@hotmail.com](mailto:amyoltmann@hotmail.com)

Sunday school 2023, We are learning a new song to sing at the Palm Sunday service - "I Will Call Upon the Lord." We learned about creation from the book of Genesis, and we made bracelets and talked about how we are all a part of Gods family.



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE  
the table BE MYLE  
Young Adult Gathering

## Youth Mission Trip Meeting

February 5 at 10:15am.

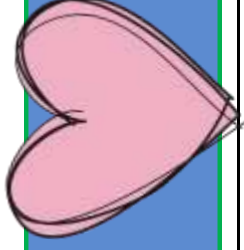
ELCA National Youth Gathering in NEW ORLEANS, July 16-20,2024.

All are eligible to attend that are currently in 7th-11th grade.

If interested please come to the informational meeting in the sanctuary on Feb. 5 @ 10:15am

If you cannot make the meeting and your child wants to attend PLEASE notify the church or Lisa Michels (319-464-4381).

# February 2023



| Sun   | Mon                                     | Tue  | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat       |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|-----------|
|   |   |  | <b>1</b><br>7:30 am Mensfest<br>6:30 pm 7th Grade Confirmation<br>7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation  | <b>2</b><br>10:00 am Bulletin deadline<br>1:00 pm Prayer Shawl | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>5</b><br>9:00 am Worship<br>10:10 am Sunday School<br>10:15 am Youth Gathering Meeting | <b>6</b><br>9:00 am - 3:00 pm Quilting  | <b>7</b><br>7:30 am Womensfest<br>9:00 am - Noon Quilting<br>7:00 pm AA/Alanon                             | <b>8</b><br>7:30 am Mensfest<br>6:30 pm 7th Grade Confirmation<br>7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation  | <b>9</b><br>10:00 am Bulletin deadline                         | <b>10</b><br>10:00 am Bingo @ Denver<br>Sunset Home | <b>11</b> |
| <b>12</b><br>9:00 am Worship<br>10:10 am Sunday School                                    | <b>13</b><br>9:00 am - 3:00 pm Quilting | <b>14</b><br>7:30 am Womensfest<br>9:00 am - Noon Quilting<br>6:30 pm Council meeting<br>7:00 pm AA/Alanon | <b>15</b><br>7:30 am Mensfest<br>6:30 pm 7th Grade Confirmation<br>7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation | <b>16</b><br>10:00 am Bulletin deadline                        | <b>17</b><br><b>Newsletter Deadline</b>             | <b>18</b> |
| <b>19</b><br>9:00 am Worship<br>With Noisy Offering<br>10:10 am Sunday School             | <b>20</b><br>9:00 am - 3:00 pm Quilting | <b>21</b><br>7:30 am Womensfest<br>9:00 am - Noon Quilting<br>7:00 pm AA/Alanon                            | <b>22</b><br>7:30 am Mensfest<br>7:00 pm Ash Wednesday<br>Service                                 | <b>23</b><br>10:00 am Bulletin deadline                        | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b> |
| <b>26</b><br>9:00 am Worship<br>10:10 am Sunday School                                    | <b>27</b><br>9:00 am - 3:00 pm Quilting | <b>28</b><br>7:30 am Womensfest<br>9:00 am - Noon Quilting<br>7:00 pm AA/Alanon                            |   |  |   |           |

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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

**Property & Management:** Gene Leonhart, Leroy Homeister, Roxane Franzen, Jim Jurgenson, Jayson Gesme, Steve DeVries

**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