

St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

March 2024

Pastor Pedersen's Points – The Destination and the Journey

During March we continue our Lenten season. Oftentimes Lent is spoken of as a journey. Within the liturgy of the Ash Wednesday worship service there is an invitation:

"As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection." (ELW LDE, page 617)

The phrase that comes to mind when I hear 'journey' is, "It's not about the destination. It's about the journey." This popular phrase speaks of the importance of appreciating and living out each day and moment. It is during the journey that we grow and learn, not necessarily when we reach where we are trying to go. For example, a doctor does not immediately know what they need to know to do their job. They went through schooling, internships, residencies, and had to pass their medical exams. The occupation was the destination, but it was the journey to becoming a doctor that makes and equips them to save lives.

So what is the destination of Lent? We will worship that on March 31st, Easter Sunday. This is the day where we shout, "Hallelujah!" because Jesus is risen. His love has conquered death for himself and for us. As followers of the Risen Jesus Christ, we can know that God's love and life will not abandon us when our body does. When we die, we are promised to be raised and live just as Jesus did. (Romans 6:3-11)

This destination is important because it already happened. What does that mean for our Lenten journey 2024? What does it mean to better ourselves and grow while fully knowing that Jesus has died and has been raised for me? My hope is that it encourages you to keep going. I hope that it keeps you faithful to your Lenten disciplines. I hope that you stay strengthened and pray to God when you need more to try to be the most loving sibling in Christ you can be. I hope it brings you to our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services as we walk through the last nights of Jesus life. I hope that this allows you the ability to join worship on Easter Sunday and shout loudly and joyfully, "He is risen, indeed. Hallelujah!"

Our Season of Lent Continues -

Lenten Services (Holden Evening Prayer)
will be held Wednesdays at 7:00 pm -
March 6, 13, 20

Lenten Meals will be served prior to the Worship -5:30 - 6:30 pm

March 6 - Taco Bar - Hard & soft shell tacos with all the toppings
and desserts, *provided by the Youth Group*

March 13 - Hot Dogs and Chili and the fixings, *made by Womensfest*

March 20 - Randy's pork loin and all the trimmings, *brought to you
by Board of Mission and Welca*



Holy Week

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday—March 24 with a Palm Sunday
Breakfast following worship
Maundy Thursday Potluck, March 28, 5:30 –6:30 pm
Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 pm
Good Friday, March 29 at 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday, March 31 at 9:00 am

Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

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

	March 3 Sunday 9:00 am	March 6 Lent Wed. 7:00 pm	March 10 Sunday 9:00 am	March 13 Lent Wed. 7:00 pm	March 17 Sunday 9:00 am	March 20 Lent Wed 7:00 pm	March 24 Palm Sunday 9:00 am	March 28 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm	March 29 Good Friday 7:00 pm	March 31 Easter Sunday 9:00 am
Organist	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	Nancy Kohagen	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller	Sheryl Moeller
Acolytes										
Communion Assistant	Pat Leonhart		Sue Buss & Marcia Ott		Pat Leonhart & Garrett Wahl			Kelley Carman & Pat Leonhart		Pat Leonhart
Scripture Reader	Jim Jurgenson		Sue Buss		Dori Jurgenson		Reading Of The Passion	Gavin Carman	Gavin Carman	Jim Jurgenson
Multimedia										
Sunday School Helper										
Sound System	Roger Donaldson	Larry Oltrogge	Alton Midthus	Steve DeVries	Phillip Michels	Roger Donaldson	Larry Oltrogge	Alton Midthus	Steve DeVries	Phillip Michels
Video taping										
Altar Guild	Staci Mueller & Anne Sickles									
Usher/ Greeters	Bill & Judy Milius, 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.										

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.



Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

March 12 - May 2
9:00 - 9:45 am
Tuesday and Thursday

Community Memorial Hospital
- UnityPoint Health
909 W. 1st St. - Sumner, IA 50674

Classes are offered on a \$4.00 per class suggested contribution for those aged 60 and over. For participants under age 60 there will be a \$4.00 per class charge.

To register contact Missy Anders at 319-874-6893 or email manders@nei3a.org by March 5.



"Buck-a-Chick"

March is the month of Easter and the beginning of spring. It's a time to think of new life, a time of going from darkness into light. The Board of Mission would like families to share an Easter 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.

Dear St. Peters Lutheran Church,

Today at the Waterloo Mercy One Cancer Center my husband Loren received a wonderful caring surprise, the care package from your church. So thoughtful with your words of faith. All the items are useful for the situation of his receiving chemo. You made him smile. Your kindness is appreciated. We are members of the Zion Lutheran Church in Dysart. In faith, *Loren and Lu... Traer, IA*

Linens for Lent

We will be collecting twin size sheets, pillowcases, blankets, comforters, towels and washcloths for the following organizations.

House of Hope

Twin size sheets & pillowcases
Twin size blankets, comforters & bedspreads
Towels & washcloths
Your donations can be placed outside the office.

Friends of the Family

Twin XL size sheets & pillowcases
Twin size blankets, comforters & bedspreads
Also, any size soft blankets
Towels & washcloths
Twin XL can be purchased at Walmart or Target or online.

Palm Sunday Breakfast

The youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering are hosting a delicious breakfast after the Palm Sunday Worship on **Sunday, March 24**. Please save the date and support the youth's fundraiser.

Maundy Thursday Potluck

In the spirit of Jesus having supper with his disciples, please join us as we have a good ole fashioned potluck on **March 28, starting at 5:30pm**. Following the potluck will be our Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 pm.



March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Church News

1

Marlyn Wolter

2

Jackie Fober

3

Mark Jurgenson
Ronald Sawyer

4

Neil & Jan Hartmann

5

Maverick Wagner

7

Jade Gienau

9

Keith Oltrogge
Joshua Vauthier

10

Marvin Schumacher

11

Jonathan Empie
Larry Oltrogge
Greg & Julie Smith

13

JoAnne Blumenshine
Janice Gienau

15

William Milius
Annabella Place Sheilds

16

Kalyn Kurtz
Josie Wolter

17

Libby Michels
Sharon Midthus
Carol Staley
Lilyana Upshaw

18

Shirley Buhr
Connie Lobeck
Jeff & Dawn Riley
Danelle Elsamiller

19

Doug Eick
Izaak Shedenhelm
Braeden Weston
Susan & Ronald Sawyer

21

Lynn Gielau

22

Matthew Eick

23

Kim Williams

24

Audrey DeVries
Ryan Gleason
Jim Moeller

25

Renee McInroy

27

Dean Gleason
Karly Kuecker
Bennett Nabholz
Matthew Rector
Sutton Smith
Larry & Janell Stock

28

William & Judy Milius
Jen Smith

29

John Maitland
Diane Miller
Carol Nystrom

30

Taylor Beem
Amy Mortenson

Mission in Search of Formal Wear

A 'prom room' is being set up at the Lakota Indian Reservation in Kyle, SD to give all Jr. and Sr. girls at Little Wound School the opportunity to attend their spring prom. Rose Fraser, Native American organizer of this project, is seeking dresses, shoes, make up, and jewelry to make this dream come true for these young women.

If you have any of these items, they can be dropped off in the basement (clothes rack at bottom of stairs) at St. Peter Lutheran Church by March 31. Help make a difference in someone's life, and allow her to attend this important high school event in style.



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.

Easter Lilies:

We will order lilies from Hy-Vee again this year. Please fill out an "in memory of" order form located on the information table if you would like to purchase a lily. Cost \$11.00 Deadline: March 17.

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—March 17.



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

BINGO

Bingo at the Denver Sunset Home Friday, March 15, at 10:00 am. We are looking for three volunteers to assist the residents. Please contact Joyce Miller if you can help.

Community & Mission News



This free event is especially for church groups and individuals who have donated quilts and hand-crafted items to Ewalu's annual Quilt Auction, and this special day is our way of saying thanks for supporting Ewalu with your talents!

When: Quilting presentation will start at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, March 25, with luncheon to follow

Location: Main Site – Creation Center Chapel (with lunch in Cedar Lodge)

Guest presenter: Sarah Ottesen, owner of Farmer's Daughters Quilts, Oelwein

After a wonderful Ewalu Quilters Luncheon in 2022, Sarah is back for this year's event! She is known for her energetic Facebook videos at FDQ and will help inspire your projects for Ewalu's Quilt Auction with topics like:

- Time-saving techniques & tools
- Patterns that go together quickly
- Patterns that "go for the gold"

A luncheon in Cedar Lodge will follow the presentation. RSVP by March 18 if you can attend. **Seating limited to 80, so sign up today!** call at (563) 933-4700 or email: office@ewalu.org

Quilt Tying

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

The quilters are in need of bed sheets for quilt backs - full, queen, or king size sheets would be most welcomed and keep them quilting.

Singers Needed

Our Easter choir will have rehearsals on Wednesdays at 6:15 pm. We will be doing a newly published anthem that is filled with the excitement of our risen Lord. Please join us after eating the special Lenten meals for our half hour of practice in the sanctuary. All are welcome. *Mary*

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Next meeting: Thursday, March 7.

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).

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 Grandparent 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.



Join us at Ewalu's Creation Center and learn about Seeds Savers Exchange, based in Winneshiek County. Michael Washburn, SSE's preservation director, will give a presentation from 1 to 3 p.m. about what the nonprofit organization does to preserve heirloom seeds and how you can be involved.

Based just outside Decorah, [Seed Savers Exchange](#) stewards America's culturally diverse and endangered garden and food crop legacy for present and future generations. The organization educates and connects people through collecting, regenerating, and sharing heirloom seeds, plants, and stories. Today, SSE houses the nation's largest nongovernmental seed bank of its kind at Heritage Farm, 890 scenic acres in Winneshiek County, Iowa. Michael Washburn and the preservation department work to preserve and distribute a collection of over 20,000 seed varieties. They also manage over 1000 varieties of apples trees, an allium collection and 700 plus varieties of potatoes and sweet potatoes. Michael most recent gardening work was as the culinary garden manager at Blackberry Farm in Walland, TN. There, he worked alongside the long-time SSE member John Coykendall. Together they grew an array of southern crop varieties for the two on-site kitchens and worked on increasing rare and endangered heirloom varieties for several individuals and organizations. Michael has a passion for traditional farming techniques and focuses much of his own work on preserving heritage grains.

Faith Formation



From washing their feet, to making wine and bread out of play dough, to practicing their song to sing in church March 3, and ending with some balloon madness. It was a memorable Sunday School lesson!

Mandy Gesme photos

2024 Sunday School Dates

- March 3
- April 7
- April 14
- April 21
- April 28
- May 5



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> The Education Team simply can not continue without helpers.

Sunday School Reminders

- Kids sing in church Sunday, March 3rd
- March 24th is Palm Sunday... Children will be waving palms in church. Please stay for the Palm Sunday Breakfast the Youth Group is having. On the menu is Egg bake, and delicious breakfast goodies! Enjoy a brunch while supporting the youth.
- No Sunday School March 10th & 17th (due to Spring Break), 24th due to Palm Sunday events, nor the 31st so families can celebrate Easter.

First Communion Class Offered - Wednesday, March 27

Pastor Reed will be leading First Communion instruction for those who desire for their child to commune. Save the instructional date of Wednesday, March 27, at 5:00 pm, in the church basement. The ceremony will take place the next evening during Maundy Thursday Service, March 28, 7:00 pm. Please contact the office if your child plans to attend, walk-ins are welcome as well. Reminder, we do not have a minimum age requirement.



The SOUPer Bowl Totals are In

Thanks to everyone who generously shared canned soups and donations for the Salvation Army on Super Bowl Sunday. **Over \$466 was collected** and the tins are over flowing with soup cans! Items and money that were collected in the green tins outside the offices and in the elevator entrance will conclude March 1. Our fun and kind hearts have touched the lives of those in need!

March 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 7:00 pm Confirmation	4 9:00 am– 3:00 pm Quilting	5 7:30 am Womensfest 9:00 am—Noon Quilting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	6 8:00 am Mensfest 5:30 pm Lenten Supper 6:15 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Lenten Service	7 10:00 am Bulletin deadline 1:00 pm Prayer Shawl	8	9
10 9:00 am Worship 10:15 Weica Board mtg	11 9:00 am– 3:00 pm Quilting	12 7:30 am Womensfest 9:00 am—Noon Quilting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	13 8:00 am Mensfest 5:30 pm Lenten Supper 6:15 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Lenten Service	14 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	15 10:00 am Bingo @ Denver Sunset Home Newsletter Deadline	16
17 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship and With Noisy Offering 7:00 pm Confirmation	18 9:00 am– 3:00 pm Quilting	19 7:30 am Womensfest 9:00 am—Noon Quilting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	20 8:00 am Mensfest 5:30 pm Lenten Supper 6:15 pm Choir practice 7:00 pm Lenten Service	21 10:00 Bulletin deadline	22	23
24 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship Palm Sunday with Breakfast after 7:00 pm Confirmation	25 9:00 am– 3:00 pm Quilting	26 7:30 am Womensfest 9:00 am—Noon Quilting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	27 8:00 am Mensfest 5:00 pm 1st Communion Instruction	28 10:00 Bulletin deadline 5:30-6:30 pm Potluck 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service Receiving of 1st Communion	29 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	30
31 7:45am Bell Choir 9:00 am Easter Worship						

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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

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