

St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

May 2022

Projecting Christ to All Generations

Holy Communion

This has been on my heart and mind since last August when I began at St. Peter. When small children come up with their parents for Holy Communion it truly grieves my heart that I am not allowed to let them share in the sacrament. I look into the eyes of so many and see reflected back the disappointment of being excluded from receiving God's gift of grace. Young children are just as much in need of the forgiveness of the sacrament, just ask the mother of a preschooler. And in my experience their faith in God is often deeper and more profound than many adults.

One of the major objections people raise to welcoming young children to the sacrament is that, "They don't know enough about the sacrament to understand it." My question is, do any of us? Do any of us truly understand the sacrament and what God is doing to us, for us, and through us in the eating and drinking of the bread and wine, the body and blood of Jesus Christ?

Another thing to consider is what everyone who has ever studied the Small Catechism of Martin Luther knows, it is not how much we know or understand about that sacrament that makes it effective in our lives. As Luther wrote:

Who, then, receives this sacrament worthily? Fasting and bodily preparation are in fact a fine external discipline, but a person who has faith in these words, "given for you" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sin," is really worthy and well prepared.

The sacrament is not about what our intellect tells us, but what our spirit reveals to us. Faith is the only thing we bring to the table; we have nothing to add to what God is accomplishing in the sacrament. Just as in Baptism a child is not required to pass any test to receive the sacrament or recite any profession of faith because God is the one who accomplishes all things through Holy Baptism. We are simply the receivers of God's grace through the reading and studying of scripture and that sacraments of Holy Baptism and Communion.

That's why it is called grace, because we do not earn it, merit it, or deserve it in any way; it is the free and generous gift of a loving God who desires nothing more than to bless us in Jesus Christ. God calls us by name and makes us one of God's children in Baptism and continually feeds us with God's abundant love in Holy Communion.

To that end, I invite you to talk among your family and decide if it is right for your child to receive the sacrament. If so, have them hold out their hands (palms up, one hand on top of the other) and we will place the bread in their hands, and remember the center ring of the tray has cups filled with white grape juice. What is the minimum age? As soon as your child is able to eat solid food.

Taste and See that the Lord is Good.

Scot McCluskey
Interim Pastor of St. Peter Lutheran

Making matzo balls



Mandy Gesme photos



The Seder meal was an educational and delicious experience for the attendees. Thank you to all who contributed to the Passover meal.

Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

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

| | May 1 Sunday 9:00 am | May 8 Sunday 9:00 am <i>Mother's Day</i> | May 15 Sunday 9:00 am | May 22 Sunday 9:00 am | May 29 Sunday 9:00 am <i>HS Graduation</i> |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Organist | Sheryl Moeller | Amy Lockhart | Amy Lockhart | Sheryl Moeller | Amy Lockhart |
| Acolytes | | | | | |
| Communion Assistant | Terrie Thurm | Terrie Thurm | Terrie Thurm | | |
| Scripture Reader | Jim Moeller | Jim Jurgenson | Jim Jurgenson | | Grant Pautsch |
| Multimedia | | | | | |
| Sound System | Roger Donaldson | Larry Oltrogge | Alton Midthus | Philip Michels | Steve DeVries |
| Video taping | | | | | |
| Altar Guild | Holly Smith, Joyce Schimmels, Linda Krueger | | | | |
| Usher/Greeters | Randy & Terrie Thurm, Mark & Jackie Fober | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | |

Noisy Offering

Our May and June Noisy Offering will go to EWALU. The Christian camp continues to offer all children, youth, and their parents, a chance to experience the lasting faith formation, safe outdoor adventures and healthy social development.

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.

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



Kelley Carman photo

College care packages were put together by the Mission Board to send to our college students. Fourteen bags of nourishment and prayers we sent to sustain them through finals. Thank you to all these wonderful helpers!

Quilt Tying

The tying has concluded for the season. We will restart in the fall; thank you to everyone that volunteered in the making of quilts for LWR!! The hard working group sent 170 quilts to the Spring Ingathering.

Bremwood Auxiliary Luncheon

Friday, May 20, at 1:00 pm, held this year at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2001 W Bremer Ave, Waverly. Sandwiches will be served, and bring one salad per two people. All are welcome!

His Hands Oran Food Pantry

Serving families in the area that are experiencing food insecurity. Request for May: Boxed Meals & Baking mixes. Open Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm. And Friday, 9:00 am - noon. March statistics: 80 Households, 198 Individuals, 6,403 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. Thank you to Midthus' for delivering our last donation—41.6 lbs.

2022 St. Peter High School Graduates

Congratulations to Brooke DeVries, Mitchell DeVries, Jacob Lyons, Conner Vauthier, on successfully completing your high school education! **In recognition of your achievement, we are inviting all members of the graduating class of 2022 to worship together at our 9:00 am worship service, May 29.** Please bring your graduation gown and meet in the Friendship Room at 8:45 am. Be sure to invite your family, baptismal sponsors, and friends to join you in thanking God for the wisdom, education, and memories of these past years.

The graduates will receive quilts made by members of the congregation, along with a reception following the service in the friendship room, provided by the Mission Board. We will once again have a "Graduate Recognition Board" at the back of the sanctuary. **If you would like your picture and future plans for the fall to be included, please email or bring a wallet size senior picture and note the college you will be attending and the area of study to the church office By May 15.**

Sharing Blessings

Sharing with our Neighbor money was distributed to nine different designees.. Each organization received \$200. They included the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, Lutheran Disaster Response, Habitat for Humanity, House of Hope, Momentum, Wings of Refuge, Friends of the Family, LSI, and for those affected by the tornado in Winterset, Iowa. God's love and St Peter's gratefulness shines through as we help others around the corner and around the world!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on the 1st Thursday, every other month at 1:00 pm. **Next meeting: Thursday, June 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).

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 Dori Jurgenson Megan Schmauss | 17 Virgil Buhr Rodney Diercks Erin Gustafson |
| 2 Dawn Riley | 18 Chip Flory Sara Oltrogge Rylee Renner Ben & Jill Thrasher |
| 3 Judy Vauthier Michael & Jaime Gienau Jon & Brenda Wolter | 19 Carolee Oberheu Cassandra Upshaw |
| 4 Kathy Ackerman Todd Foelske | 20 Joel & Joy Wolter |
| 5 Betty Biemann | 21 Trudi Schimmels |
| 6 Derek Gielau | 22 Tyler Corell Kris Steege Jack & Sheila Mixdorf Randy & Terrie Thurm |
| 7 Carson Haase Michael Vauthier Randy & Roxi Herman | 23 Donna Donaldson Derek & Alexandra Gielau |
| 8 Marissa Schwebach | 25 Alton Midthus Ethan Thies |
| 10 Larry Stock Kristen Wolter | 26 Austin Herman Doug Roethler |
| 11 Michelle Steffe Lori Thurm Renetta Thurm | 27 Alexis Lyons |
| 12 Amanda Swanson | 28 Ed & JoAnne Blumenshine Reagan Carman Tessa Joerger Todd & Elizabeth Foelske Zackary Satterthwaite |
| 13 Mitchell Mohlis Rachelle Nystrom | 30 Philip Michels |
| 14 Marcia Ott | 31 Richard Beckel Wesley Homeister Zack Thrasher |
| 15 Mike & Renee McInroy Garland & Heather Krabbenhoft | |
| 16 Wanda Meier Brody Wirtjes | |

*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

What is Our Mission?

Sunday April 24th we had a special meeting to study and discuss the mission of St. Peter. Our current mission statement is:

We are a community of faith focused on projecting Jesus to all generations.

It is a good mission statement and has served us well for years. Yet, we wanted to engage in conversation about our mission and discern if this statement said what we Are about as a congregation. We asked the following questions:

What is our strength as a congregation?

What Opportunities has God given us?

What Resources has God given us?

What is the Mission God has given us?

Many good ideas and insights were shared and there was a spirit of excitement as we talked about who we are and the mission to which God is calling us. And we were reminded of a few things to help guide us in our conversation.

*In **Matthew 28:18-20** we read: "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"*

We are a unique group of people, gathered together by the Holy Spirit here in Denver, IA. We share a common mission with all Christians around the world, but we also have a mission that is specific to us here and now. St. Peter is unique because you are here. And you are here because the Holy Spirit has called you to be part of this congregation.

Strengths we shared are: We are a welcoming congregation, the People, Boards, family, giving, roots, disciples, our tradition of loving and serving. The Opportunities we identified are: Serving God's people, Inviting and welcoming others, Ordinary opportunities to interact with people in our community each day.

The Resources God has given us: The people of St. Peter (You,) a variety of activities, the wonderful community of Denver, IA, Our friendly and welcoming office manager (Roxane,) and our building. Here are the ideas at which we arrived: 1) Seeking and serving in God's grace. 2) Seeking And Serving in God's Love. 3) Seeking and Sharing God's Grace. 4) Seeking and Sharing God's love. Others were variations of these four.

We would love to hear your comments and reflections on the ideas above. Please share them with Pastor Scot @ pastor@stpeterdenver.org Thank you.

Community & Mission News



Smile!

The Church Council is in the process of creating a **digital photo church directory** which will be very helpful as we prepare to call a new pastor and new members to our congregation. St. Peter "photographers" (aka members of St. Peter Church) will be taking individual and family pictures the first 4 Sundays in May, before and after church. Sign-up Sheets are on the Office Door. The dates include: May 1, 8, 15 and 22. Photos will be taken 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after church. We plan to display the pictures on the wall near the office. If you already have an individual or family picture you would like to share instead of getting your picture taken, please put them in the Church Office. We will scan them and return them to you. Please label your picture with names of everyone included in the picture. **THIS IS PRETTY EXCITING!** Get ready to put on your Sunday best and smile for the camera!

St. Peter Needs You

We are looking for people who will volunteer to fill a specific need/take on a particular task within the church. You don't have to be on a committee or go to meetings, just accomplish your ministry task and communicate with the church office. This is called Micro Volunteering. Following is a list of special tasks that need these important volunteers and a short explanation what needs to be done.

1. **Engagement Team Leader** – We are seeking to encourage active participation by members unable to attend worship in person? We are looking for someone to develop a list of people who will participate remotely through video, etc. and coordinate the schedule for these volunteers. Examples are college students, shut-ins, those with work and other responsibilities making them unable to attend worship in-person.

2. **Special Music Coordinator** - A volunteer is needed to find and schedule groups/soloists available to perform at services? They could work closely with various school music directors, piano teachers, etc. to involve students who would like this opportunity. Also, there are many talented members who could and would be willing to sing, play, act and even dance for worship. Encouragement is the important step.

3. **Hospitality Team** - Volunteers are needed to form a Hospitality Team to identify and connect with worship visitors/possible new members. All people who come to worship need to feel welcomed whether they are visitors, prospective new members or regular church goers.



Join volunteers, families, and church groups to help Ewalu get ready for summer on Saturday, May 7! Take time to explore camp and meet staff and other volunteers. Return home renewed and refreshed from your time in this special place in God's Kingdom.

A variety of projects are being prepared for all ages and abilities. If you can't be here for the weekend, we have plenty of things for volunteers at any time. Just give us a call!

• 37776 Alpha Ave, Strawberry Point, IA
(camp entrance is 3 miles west of town, on Iowa Hwy 3)

For More Info:

■ www.ewalu.org/event/spring-vww-22/

Saturday, May 7

Schedule

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | Arrival |
| 9:00 a.m. | Work Projects |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | Work Projects |
| 4:00 p.m. | Departure |

Contact with questions:

✉ Paul Frantsen,
563-933-4700

RSVP with:

✉ Diane Parker,
563-933-4700 or email
office@ewalu.org

Easter Baskets

Thanks to everyone who donated money for the Easter meals for Denver Cares. Ten bags of food items, plus a \$15 gift card for Brother's Market, were included in each of the meal bags. Through your kindness, may the recipients be blessed with the joy, hope, love and peace of Easter. *Board of Mission*



Faith Formation & Announcements

The Bell Choir graced us with ringing in Easter. We look forward to their next performance- Graduation Sunday!



Sunday School

Classes are Sundays following Worship. The **Last Day of Sunday School for this school year is, Sunday, May 8.** The Sunday School children made May baskets last week to deliver to the Nursing homes this week. We will need parents to help transport their children to Denver Sunset Home and to Willow Winds, Sunday, May 1, following worship. Thank you to Todd Foelske and Amy Oltmann for organizing and directing Sunday School and to all our teachers and volunteers!

May Confirmation Classes

The last date for confirmation classes - Wed. May 4.
6:30 pm 7th Graders and 7:30 pm 8th Graders

Across the Generations

Gather Bible Study has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th, at 1:30 pm. We will be sharing the devotional, "Across the generations" from the May/June edition of our Gather magazine. All are welcome.

Call Committee Update

Pastor Steven Bracket from the NE Iowa Synod met with the Call Committee and presented a candidate that has expressed interest in a potential call to St. Peter Lutheran Church. The Call Committee will interview this candidate by the end of April. Please continue to pray that we will be blessed with a pastor that feels called to St. Peter. We will keep the congregation updated on this process.



Grandparent Camp

at Ewalu Camp & Retreat Center,
just outside Strawberry Point

Join us for this special program for grandparents and grandchildren! Make memories as you grow in faith and enjoy fun camp activities together. Stay in the comfort of Ewalu's Stone Center and join with other families in Bible study, games, campfire, swimming and more, all led by your counselors. All ages are welcome, but the program is designed for grandchildren ages 4-12. Limit of four people per room.

When: July 13-15 or July 20-22

Cost: \$170/Adult, \$140/Child

For Details & To Register:
Visit ewalu.org/summer-camp
or call our office at 563-933-4700



May 2022



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|-----------|
| 1 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:10 am Sunday School 4:00 pm Exercise class | 2 | 3 6:30 pm Evangelism mtg 6:30 pm Worship & Music | 4 7:30 am Mensfest 6:30 pm 7th Grade Confirmation 7:30 pm 8th Grade Confirmation | 5 10:00 am Bulletin deadline 5:00 pm Exercise class | 6 | 7 |
| 8 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:10 am Sunday School 4:00 pm Exercise class | 9 | 10 7:30 am Womensfest 6:30 pm Council meeting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon | 11 7:30 am Mensfest | 12 10:00 am Bulletin deadline 5:00 pm Exercise class | 13 | 14 |
| 15 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship with Noisy Offering 4:00 pm Exercise class | 16 | 17 7:30 am Womensfest 1:30 pm Gather Bible Study 7:00 pm AA/Alanon | 18 7:30 am Mensfest | 19 10:00 am Bulletin deadline 5:00 pm Exercise class | 20 1:00 pm Bremwood luncheon Newsletter Deadline | 21 |
| 22 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Exercise class | 23 | 24 7:30 am Womensfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon | 25 7:30 am Mensfest | 26 10:00 am Bulletin deadline 5:00 pm Exercise class | 27 | 28 |
| 29 7:45 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship Graduation 4:00 pm Exercise class | 30 Memorial Day Office closed | 31 7:30 am Womensfest 7:00 pm AA/Alanon | | | | |

St. Peter Tidings is published 12 times a year by
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2022 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, Jackie Fober, Amy Oltmann, Jayson Gesme

Executive Board: Jim Jurgenson, Jayson Gesme, Marcia Joerger, Todd Foelske

Property & Management: Neil Hartmann, Gene Leonhart, Leroy Homeister, Roxane Franzen, Jim Jurgenson, Jayson Gesme

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, Staci Mueller, LaVonne Westendorf, Roger Donaldson, Marilyn Mueller

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