

St Peter Lutheran Church Tidings

September 2023



Pastor Pedersen's Points

One thing my wife, Megan, and I were looking forward to when we moved back to Iowa was getting vanity Wartburg license plates for our vehicles. We wanted to sport the orange and black everywhere we went, but we never actually took the time before moving to figure out what we wanted our plates to say.

There were just so many options! What I can tell you is that after consulting many friends we ended up with 'BURGFAM' and 'FSTEBRG'. BURGFAM is an easy one to figure out. We are a Wartburg family (In fact, Megan is a 3rd generation Wartburg graduate who happened to also marry their college sweetheart). FSTEBRG is a little trickier. It is a double reference to both Festeburg, one of the choirs I sang in at Wartburg, and a reference to Martin Luther's Hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" which the choir was named after whose original German title is "Ein **feste Burg** ist unser Gott". How much more Lutheran could I get?

I am sure telling you the meaning of my license plates is the equivalent to telling you about my fantasy football team, NOT INTERESTING, but I will tell you that my original plate that I wanted was 'REVITUP'. How catchy, right? I felt it a fun play on the job title I so cherish. Alas, someone else has taken that license plate, so I could not get it.

As I look ahead to September for St. Peter Lutheran Church, I feel REVITUP takes on an honest observation about the busyness coming and passionate call to our members to help lead and participate in our various church opportunities. Quilting has already started on Mondays and Tuesdays. September 10th we begin Sunday School. Confirmation will be starting soon. Our Men's Bible Study will get started back up on Wednesdays as our Women's Bible Study continues on Tuesdays. I also know that our many committees are *revvin'* it up to have some great projects this fall.

From this Reverend to each and everyone of you reading this I invite you to participate as you can. The more we do as a church, the more that is being done in God's name as a community. That is a wonderful thing!

Rally Sunday - September 10th

Please join us on September 10th as our Sunday School year begins. We will start with worship at 9:00am where we will bless and pray for the upcoming school year, hand out bibles to our Kindergarteners, 3rd Graders, and 7th Graders, and pray for those about to have their Bible year for confirmation. Sunday School will begin after worship @10:10am. During that time there will also be a meeting with Sunday School children's parents followed by a meeting with the confirmation students and their parents. See you there!



Worship & Music Server

Sunday worship - 9:00 am

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

	September 3 Sunday 9:00 am	September 10 Sunday 9:00 am	September 17 Sunday 9:00 am	September 24 Sunday 9:00 am
Organist	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart	Sheryl Moeller	Amy Lockhart
Acolytes		Miles & Henry Pautsch		
Communion Assistant	Kelley Carman	Aubrey & Lincoln Roethler	Kelley Carman	
Scripture Reader	Jim Moeller	Grant Pautsch	Donna Kittle	Amy Lockhart
Multimedia				
Sound System	Philip Michels	Roger Donaldson	Larry Oltrogge	Alton Midthus
Video taping		Lincoln Roethler		
Altar Guild	Nancy Lamos, LaVonne Westendorf, Kelley Carman			
Usher/Greeters	Butch Milius, Marcia Ott & 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.				

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.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Next meeting: Thursday, October 5.

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).

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.

Community

Chemo Care Kits

The Mission Board is seeking volunteers to assemble Chemo Care Packages to be delivered to the Unity Point Community Cancer Center. You can easily assemble a care package: pick up a tote containing the list of items needed from the basket by the church office, fill the bag with those items, and return it to the church. These care packages will not only be practical, comforting, and entertaining, but will project Jesus to cancer patients in our community. Please consider participating in our project!

Cancer Care Packages suggested items

Please include all of these items:

Chap stick
Hard candy
Hand sanitizer
Small Kleenex packs
Small container of lotion
Fuzzy socks



Please include a couple of these items:

Magazines
Small pad of paper with pen
Puzzle books/word search books
Adult coloring book with colored pencils

Noisy Offering: September and October Noisy Offering will go towards supplementing the Chemo Care Kits.

Helping Hands Clothing Closet

We are ready to help families with getting ready for the start of school. Our needs at this time are girls size 10, 14, 18 underwear, boys size 14 & 16 underwear, women's size 4-6 underwear, and small girls socks.

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



BINGO

Bingo at the Denver Sunset Home Friday, September 15, 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 or contact Joyce Miller.



Camp Ewalu's 36th Annual

QUILT AUCTION



Saturday, Sept. 16
at Ewalu, 3 miles west of Strawberry Point
Free admission & family fun. All are welcome for live music, food & fellowship!

EVENT SCHEDULE
9 a.m. - Quilt Review, Opening of Country Store & Live Music
11 a.m. - Devotional Service
12 p.m. - Freewill Lunch
1 p.m. - Live Auction Bidding Begins



Bring your lawn chair

Don't miss the Online Auction: Sept. 11-17
Scan code or go to www.Ewalu.org



More than 100 quilts & items auctioned live on Sept. 16, plus dozens more online!
Take part in either auction ... or both! Proceeds benefit the ministry at Camp Ewalu.



EVALU
Camp & Retreat Center

37776 Alpha Ave, Strawberry Point, IA 52076 | 563-933-4700 | www.ewalu.org

Baptismal Buddies

is a new project that the Board of Mission is planning to implement at St. Peter. Whenever a child is baptized, the child will be assigned a Baptismal Buddy. This adult will take a special interest in the assigned child over the years by connecting with him or her on birthdays, holidays, baptismal anniversary, or any other time the adult finds a meaningful and appropriate way to interact with his/her Buddy. Children who are under three years of age will be eligible to participate in this program. If you would like your young child to have a Buddy, please contact the church office or Pat Leonhart (319-404-3490). Adults are a crucial part of this special program. We're looking for adults volunteers. If this is something you would like to do, you can also contact Roxane or Pat. Baptism is a lifelong journey of faith, often called faith formation. The St. Peter community of intergenerational believers can help with this journey at various ages and stages in children's lives. Together in mission; marked, claimed, gathered and sent, our goal is to journey with God in faith formation, as our children learn to live out the love of Jesus.

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

1
Christopher Herman
Gene & Pat Leonhart
Ella Gustafson

2
Lars Gesme
Alexandra Place
Brent & Kris Steege

3
Benjamin Foelske
Marcia Joerger
Mallory Steege

4
Steve DeVries
Marian Frey
Emmett Nuehring
Emily Ruby

5
Hether Gustafson
Bode McIlravy
Judy Milius
Jace Williams

6
Jeff Joerger
Sam Joerger
Zach & Karly Kuecker

7
Brian DeVries
Rick & Sharon Robinson

8
Jeff & Kim Williams

9
Jacob Lyons
Grace Upshaw
Kevin & Holly Smith

10
Lincoln Roethler

11
Kerry Thies
Wesley & Barbara Gielau

12
Ryan Maitland

13
Jayden Wolter

14
Gene Leonhart
Abbi Robinson
Steve & Angie Sadler

15
Kiara Michels

16
LuAnn Emerson
Robert Foelske

17
Jason Brinkman
Peggy Smith
Michael & Leana Place

18
Amber Leisinger

19
Keaton Rothmeyer
Tony & Trudi Schimmels
Paige Sickles

20
Alex Krabbenhoft

21
Maris Drewelow
Julie Smith
Spencer Vauthier
Michael & Judy Vauthier

22
Kurt & Julie Gleason
Chad & Carol Liddle
Brady & Megan Schmauss
Ryan & Jennifer Wirtjes

23
Margaret Liddle
Mary Thurm

25
Bailey Nuss

26
Nancy Dryer
Chalee Gienau
Michael McInroy

30
Margaret Empie
Paul Empie
Elizabeth Foelske

*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



Bell Choir

We will meet to re-organize for the 2023-24 Bell Choir season on Sept. 10, 7:30 a.m.; with rehearsals beginning on Sept. 17. If you are interested in ringing this year, contact Jo VanDeBerg at 515-238-7483.

Quilting

Quilt tying has begun. Please join us Mondays from 9:00 am -3:00 pm, and Tuesdays 9:00 am—Noon, in the lower level of the church. The quilters encourage anyone that is interested in tying or sewing quilts to join them. All are welcome.

Name Tags

Thank you for wearing your name tags as Pastor Reed and new members are becoming more familiar with St Peter members. Name tags that have not been picked up or worn yet are located on the small table near the main entrance at the bottom of the stairs. Once you have picked up your name tag, after church/fellowship please stick/hang your name tag to the magnetic board that is located at the church entrance you typically use. If you do not have a name tag, please inform an usher so we can make one for you!



Thank you for sharing in our new process to get to know each other better!

Blessing of Tractors

Our worship service on October 1 will include a special blessing of the tractors as we pray for a safe and bountiful harvest. We invite those who would like to drive their tractors to church that day to park along Franklin Street. If you have any questions contact Mary Stevens.



Community & Mission News

Save the Date - "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday

On Sunday, October 8th, our church will celebrate the call to love our neighbor. We will worship together and gather afterwards for service activities, with lunch to follow.



Like 8,700 other congregations participating in "God's Work, Our Hands." we will be making a positive change in sharing God's love. You may ask how we are going to do this? After a shortened Sunday worship service our whole congregation children, youth and adults will be participating in various stations. These service stations are:

1. Tying fleece blankets that will go to Bremwood,
 2. Fabric painting conveying God's love on white pillowcases will go to House of Hope & Friends of the Family,
 3. Decorating cookies for shut-ins,
 4. Making cards. These will go to members in our church who have a hard time venturing out of their homes, Willow Winds Assisted Living, and the Denver Sunset Nursing Home,
 5. Planting trees to help the environment,
 6. Cleaning up our parks,
 7. Finishing the packing of Lutheran World Relief school bags with collected school supplies,
 9. Joining in a freewill offering with a lunch of beef burgers, chips, veggie finger food, plus cookies and bars that will be donated to the Lutheran Disaster Response.
- The congregation members will get to choose which station (s) they want to participate in. Please plan on joining us as we do God's work with our hands on October 8th.

LWR School Kits

School Days, School Days, it's time to think about and gather supplies for Lutheran World Relief School Kits.

Items needed:

- 1-Subject Notebooks, College or Wide Ruled
- Boxes of 16 or 24 Crayons (Crayola brand requested as other brands may melt during transport)
- Single Pencil Sharpeners
- Standard Ruler
- Blunt tip child scissors
- No. 2 Pencils with erasers, unsharpened
- Black or Blue Ballpoint Pens
- Big Pink Eraser (2 1/2" Eraser)



There will be a laundry basket outside the office for collection. If you'd rather not shop, cash and checks are very welcome, Make out checks to St Peter WELCA with "LWR Kits" on the memo line. *Thank you.*

Bremwood Auxiliary Luncheon

All are welcome to the luncheon on Friday, September 15, 1:00 pm, Bremwood Chapel/Gathering Hall, Waverly. Anyone interested may contact Joyce Miller 319-984-5021.

SEPTEMBER
needs you

75 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES

Denver/Readlyn Community Blood Drive

Denver Community Center
100 Washington St. | Denver

Friday, September 8

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Text: LIFESERVE to 999.777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: lifeserve.info/schedule

LifeServe BLOOD CENTER
YOUR BLOOD. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR NEIGHBORS.

Denver Fall City-Wide
GARAGE SALES

Advertise your sale in the Denver Forum!
50 words or less
\$700

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023
8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Registration begins Aug. 1 & the ad deadline is Friday, Aug. 25

Sponsored by:
DESTINATION I A DENVER

All registrations must include: • Name • Sale address • Contact phone number • Brief listing (50 word max.)
All listings will be included in the Denver Forum and maps will be available at local businesses. Make checks payable to **Destination Denver IA** and submit your registration:
• On-Line at: www.localshopspace.co/destinationdenver
• By Mail: City Wide Garage Sale, PO Box 512 Denver, IA 50522
• Or drop off at: Denver Savings Bank, Local, Gift Shop or JRS Photo Scanning

For more information, check out our Facebook page.

GARAGE SALE



Faith Formation

A Note on 1st Communion

The common practice for many years at St. Peter Lutheran Church is for children in 5th grade to take a first communion class with the pastor and then partake in 1st Communion on Maundy Thursday. Last January the practice of having a minimum age for children to take 1st Communion instruction was removed. This was a faithful and prayerful action to make sure our Communion table is truly open.

The meaning behind this move was to take away the arbitrariness of picking the right age someone could understand communion, and instead put it in the hands of the pastor, child, and parents. This is in full accordance with our church constitution. In BYLAW II.2 it says, "Baptized children begin to commune on a regular basis at a time determined through mutual conversation that includes pastor, the child and the parents or sponsors involved." You can see there was never meant to be a specific age put on when someone could commune. Most congregations set an age in the name of uniformity, but not all children learn and mature at the same age.

So as 1/3 of the people making the decision whether or not your child is ready for 1st communion, I want to emphasize that there is no minimum age. I am wanting my son, Ezekiel, to take the next 1st communion class, so that he can start taking communion on Sundays. If you are thinking to yourself, "My kid is too young," please know that my son is 3 years old. While this may be a shift to how things have been done in the past, please hear me out on what it takes for someone to be ready to come to the Lord's Supper.

Martin Luther, the founding father of faith tradition, wrote a small book for families to use in their home to learn more about the faith. This is what many of us know as Luther's *Small Catechism*. In his catechism he teaches that when people hear the words "given for you (bread)" and "shed for you for the forgiveness of sin (wine/grape juice)" it shows us that the Sacrament's benefit is forgiveness, life, and salvation. Pairing these words with the eating and drinking is how this great action of forgiveness, life, and salvation takes place. In conclusion, Martin Luther specifies who receives the sacrament worthily: "...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." (ELW pg. 1166)

With Martin Luther's teaching in mind and the fact that Holy Communion is instituted and made holy and real by the work of Jesus Christ, not a pastor, all I ask for a child to understand is that when they come up to receive the elements, they come to receive Jesus. The child simply needs to understand the wafer and wine/grape juice is Jesus for them.

With such a big change to our congregation the worship board and myself felt it was worthwhile to offer First Communion training this fall. 1st Communion education will be in October. The specific day and time will be decided at a later date. Depending on the chosen date for the class, children in that class will take their 1st communion in either a worship service in October or November. One final note, if a parent is unsure when the right time is for their child feel free to talk to me, Pr. Reed. If you think they should wait until 5th grade. That is perfectly fine, too. That is your role as a parent. Lastly, if you are someone who has never received 1st communion training and are older than 11, please reach out to me as well. I would love to talk to you about the wonderful sacrament of Holy Communion.



A big thank you to all of our Vacation Bible School volunteers and donations! We had 50 students participate this year.



September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 am Worship	4 Labor Day Office closed	5 7:30 am Womensfest 9:00 am WELCA Board mtg 9:00 am—Noon Quilting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	6	7 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	8	9
10 7:30 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship Sunday School Rally Day	11 9:00 am—3:00 pm Quilting	12 7:30 am Womensfest 9:00 am—Noon Quilting 6:45 pm Council meeting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	13	14 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	15 10:00 am Bingo @ Denver Sunset Home 1:00 pm Bremwood Aux Lunch Newsletter Deadline	16
17 7:30 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship With Noisy Offering 10:10 am Sunday School	18 9:00 am—3:00 pm Quilting	19 7:30 am Womensfest 9:00 am—Noon Quilting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	20	21 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	22	23
24 7:30 am Bell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:10 am Sunday School	25 9:00 am—3:00 pm Quilting	26 7:30 am Womensfest 9:00 am—Noon Quilting 7:00 pm AA/Alanon	27	28 10:00 am Bulletin deadline	29	30

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Pastor Reed Lee Pedersen 515-370-5114

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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, Jill Nuss

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

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