

# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

FROM PASTOR VERA...

## I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES

After I retired I withdrew from corporate worship and often didn't care if I attended a Sunday morning service. After twenty challenging, stressful and very busy years at Evergreen Lutheran, I needed a break. Oh to be sure, Mark and I would occasionally sit in front of the computer or TV and take in a virtual worship but for a long time I didn't step foot in a church building. Frankly, I was happy to be done for a while. However, the longer we stayed away, the weaker my faith became and my love for the church and her people diminished.

This Sunday's Gospel lesson takes place shortly before Jesus is crucified. Jesus certainly knew what was ahead of him and that serious pruning was on the horizon for himself as well as for his disciples. Although he could have been consumed with his own dark destiny, his concern instead was that his disciples would remember the importance of sticking together when those challenging times were upon them. They would need to remain grafted into the Vine even though Jesus would

no longer be physically present. And they would certainly need each other for strength to survive and courage to press ahead.

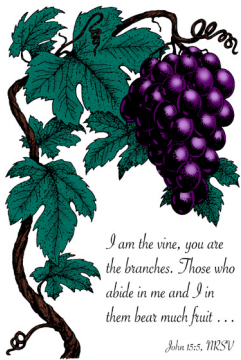
Community, interrelationship, mutuality, and dwelling together are what keep God's people alive. Jesus knew this, and he needed his disciples to trust it as well. It is the community that gives an individual their best chance at producing the powerful fruits of love.

Unfortunately, we are applauded when we make it on our own. We've been taught that we need to stand on our own two feet. Autonomy and privatism are the name of the game.

Having it your own way ... when you want it ... how you want it is terribly seductive. Susan Hedahl suggests that if we carry the autonomy and privatism into the spiritual life, that principle can have devastating results. It's what Parker Palmer once described as a "free floating spirituality." It's a spirituality that values personal faith over communal power.

In free-floating spirituality dependency and inter-relatedness are rarely valued to the extent that individualism is. Today our Gospel lesson flies in the face of such attitudes with a very different type of invitation to reliance on God. At the heart of the Johannine model is social interrelationship and corporate accountability. The vine and branches metaphor exhorts the community to steadfastness in its abiding in Jesus and in its relationship to each other. Walking away from both are life threatening. And yet so many of us walk away when things don't bend to our satisfaction, when things don't go our way. We'd rather move on than stay close to the source of our strength. We'd rather wash our hands of relational responsibility than tackle the hard work of communal life.

Brothers and sisters, the Christian community is a lifeline for our walk with Jesus. It is the touchstone of life in Christ. To those of you who have left StPLC due to the struggles of the past year, it's time to come home. The church needs you and you need the community of the body of Christ. Staying connected to the Vine and collectively receiving nourishment from it and from each other is what will sustain and grow your faith. We need each other. ☺



### LESSONS FOR TODAY

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:25-31 (27)  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8

### LESSONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Acts 10:44-48  
Psalm 98 (4)  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Family Ministries Update  
Good Stewards of God's Gifts  
Celebrate World Labyrinth Day  
Cheer Squad  
Celebrations  
Worship Servants  
Firearm Harm Reduction  
StPLC Spring Cleanup  
Sacred Choral Sunday  
First Friday  
**WELCOME**  
PASTOR MICHAEL TeKRONY  
Ron Leighton Memorial Scholarship  
Prayers  
Upcoming Week  
Welcome Guests  
Church Info

9300 BELLEVIEW AVE.  
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111  
303-770-9300  
[WWW.STPLC.ORG](http://WWW.STPLC.ORG)  
FACEBOOK • INSTAGRAM

# FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATES

## GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS

"I am not complaining about having too little. I have learned to be satisfied with whatever I have" (Philippians 4:11). We are offering each child at Saint Peter a set of 3 jars, marked Give, Save, and Spend, as well as envelopes for church giving. They are on the table closest to the Family Ministries Info Board. If this is something you would like to have at your home, please help yourself. There are many resources helping children as young as 3 years of age begin a habit of saving, giving, and spending that can pave the way to financial literacy while understanding that all we have are gifts from God. Please let Ms. Mary know if you would like resources that support this. ❖



## CELEBRATE WORLD LABYRINTH DAY AT StPLC MAY 4 AT 1 P.M.

**WHO:** Everyone! Families. Friends. All Ages.  
**WHAT:** A time of quiet, peaceful reflection.  
**WHERE:** Our Labyrinth!  
**WHEN:** 1-2:00 p.m. Drop in and stay as long as you'd like.  
**WHY:** Every year, on the first Saturday in May, thousands of people around the world participate in this moving meditation. Participants are encouraged to "Walk at 1 as One" reminding us of our connection to each other as neighbors.

Meet Ms. Mary on the labyrinth. A variety of age appropriate take-home materials will be available. Park in our lot or next door at the Village Day Care Center. Enter quietly through the gate on the Belleview side of our building. ❖

## CHEER SQUAD

You've seen Phoebe H. sing with the Saint Peter Children's Choir – now hear her with her choir at Indian Ridge Elementary School, Tuesday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Jonah H. is performing with the Laredo Middle School Orchestra, playing cello at Smoky Hill High School, Tuesday, May 14, at 6:15 p.m.

Gracie D. will perform in a voice recital at Smoky Hill High School, Saturday, May 4, at 2:00 p.m., as well as a Laredo Middle School Choir Concert at Smoky Hill High School, Tuesday, May 21, at 6:15 p.m.

Grab some peanuts and crackerjack! Matthew G. plays baseball on May 4 at 9 a.m. and May 5 at 2 p.m. at 17301 E Lincoln Ave. in Parker.

Piper G. plays softball today at 1:30 at Salisbury Equestrian Park. Come see her again on May 4 at 2 p.m. at Redstone Park, 3280 Redstone Park Circle and May 5 at 1:30 p.m. at Falcon Park, 9555 Fall Brooke Dr., Highlands Ranch. ❖

## THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

Bruce Guthals - Sunday  
Darlene Renevier - Tuesday

### BAPTISMS

None this week

### ANNIVERSARIES

None this week

## TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

### MINISTER

Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward  
Steve Haigh

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Jo Kurowski

### LECTOR

Another Wonderful Howie

### HOSTS

Guthals Family

### ALTAR GUILD

Jody Hinsey

### COUNCIL LEADERSHIP REP

Steve Haigh

### NEXT WEEK'S REP

Cathy Dundon

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement at the end of worship, please contact the day's leadership rep.

## A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR PENTECOST



### PENTECOST MAY 19!

Do you speak a language other than English? Would you share that gift with us on Pentecost?

We are seeking a variety of languages speaking the lesson from Acts on Pentecost. Please let Mary know [mpratt@sptlc.org](mailto:mpratt@sptlc.org) or 303-770-9300 if this is something you would like to do! The more the better! ❖

## BREATH PRAYERS

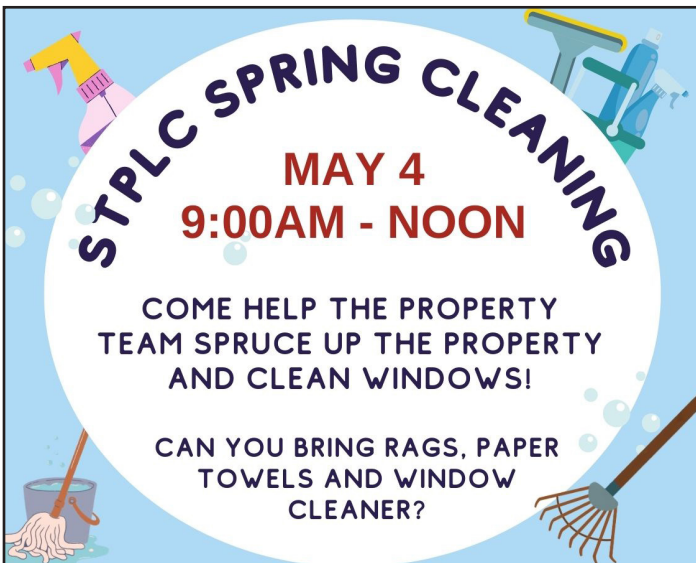
Breath Prayers are color-coded and available on the Host Table in the narthex. They are accessible for all ages as a great way to pray throughout the day. Some of our youth are keeping them in the **Blessing Bowl** they created, reminding them to pause and pray. ❖

## FIREARM HARM REDUCTION SERIES, TODAY 10:15 - 11:45 A.M.

Our Coffee and Conversation on firearm harm reduction concludes today. Last Sunday, Jessica Buck Atkinson from the Colorado School of Public Health, Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative presented information about firearms in Colorado, the types and prevalence of firearm injuries and deaths and public health approaches to reducing firearm harm. This Sunday will be focused on both learning and practicing how to have a discussion about firearms. Community Engagement Staff from the University of Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative will guide us in discussions about our personal values and opinions of firearms and how we can find common goals to prevent firearm-related harm. Two facilitators with different backgrounds and perspectives on firearms will be modeling and facilitating ways to engage in respectful dialogue.



Click to review the information presented on [April 14](#) and [April 21](#). If you would like to provide ideas and help organize future coffee and conversations, email [allisonsummerton@comcast.net](mailto:allisonsummerton@comcast.net).



**STPLC SPRING CLEANING**

**MAY 4**  
**9:00AM - NOON**

COME HELP THE PROPERTY TEAM SPRUCE UP THE PROPERTY AND CLEAN WINDOWS!

CAN YOU BRING RAGS, PAPER TOWELS AND WINDOW CLEANER?

**May 5, 2024**  
**9:00AM**  
StPLC

The Castle Rock Chorale  
&  
The StPLC Jubilate Choir present

**Sacred Choral Sunday**  
For the Beauty of the Earth

**Stay after this special musical service for fellowship and brunch!**



**MAY THE FOURTH**  
*third!* **BE WITH YOU** ...and also with you...

**StPLC FIRST FRIDAY FUN!**  
MAY 3 • 6-8ish PM  
@ SAINT PETER  
GRADES 5-9 + SIBLINGS

**RSVP TO BRITTANY -**  
**BBRJUNEBUG@GMAIL.COM**

*eat darth taters* *herd nerfs* *use the force* *watch episode IV* *do or do not—there is no try*

# WELCOME PASTOR MICHAEL TeKRONY

Saint Peter will take an important step in transition June 1 when we welcome Pastor Michael TeKrony as our intentional interim pastor. With Pastor Michael's assistance, our soon-to-be-selected transition team can get to work in earnest pulling together the congregation's reflections on how we've changed in the past two years. Pastor Michael will be with us until we call a new full-time pastor.



Pastor Michael, a South Dakota native, spent 18 years as a pastor at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lakewood. He spent most of 2023 as the interim pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cheyenne. Since that position concluded, he has been a caregiver with Visiting Angels. Pastor Michael earned his Master of Divinity degree at Pacific Theological Lutheran Seminary in Berkeley, Calif. He has a degree in psychology from Colorado State University. He is deeply interested in photography as a spiritual medium. The pastor and his wife, Linda, have been married for 35 years. They have two children.



***From his rostered minister profile, Pastor Michael shares some ideas on his pastoral competencies:***

## **PASTORAL CARE AND VISITATION**

"Words of divine wisdom from my pastoral care professor continually ring in my being when I enter into a pastoral care situation, 'Always remember, Michael: You're important ... but you're not.' Pastoral care has always been a top priority in my sense of call. I experience those moments as "Holy Places," where I am very aware that what God does in these times reaches FAR beyond any skills or abilities that I bring into the picture. AND I believe God has gifted me with the ability to be present with people in ways that give God an opportunity to transform lives."

## **PREACHING / WORSHIP / LEADERSHIP**

"As a worship leader, I strive to lead with authenticity, honesty, personal integrity all while inviting the gathered to experience the Holy. My preaching is informed by God's living word for the sake of God's people. Meaning, proclaiming God's Good News is only good news if it is heard as pertinent in the lives of the community. I'm drawn to the original form of sharing God's Word, by telling stories while continuing the story."

## **SPIRITUAL FORMATION / DIRECTION**

"While on my most recent sabbatical, I invited the congregation to embark with me, into a time intentionally utilizing a spiritual practice of their choosing. My spiritual practice was photography and through this practice I created a devotional book that was shared with the congregation."

## **MINISTRY IN DAILY LIFE**



"I believe we are called to witness to God's grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love as a family member, neighbor, citizen, in the grocery store, in class, on vacation and all those places where we LIVE. This may be why I am passionate about pastoral care, because in those situations, we are dealing with "daily life" issues and seeking God in those places."

## **SELF-CARE / FAMILY LIFE**

"The journey can be filled with ups and downs. Through tools like Weight Watchers, spiritual directors, a pastoral coach, doctors, colleagues who keep me accountable to my self care, encouraging family members, hiking boots and my camera, I attempt to care for my whole well being in order to be the best I can be for the sake of God's kingdom." ❄️

## ***The Ron Leighton Memorial Scholarship is Now Accepting Applications***

**Are you an active part of the faith life at Saint Peter? Are you pursuing an accredited academic program?**

**Visit the website [www.stplc.org/ron-leighton-memorial-scholarship](http://www.stplc.org/ron-leighton-memorial-scholarship) to learn more and apply by June 2, 2024! ❄️**

PRAYER CONCERNS (\*NEW THIS WEEK)

<b>*Sharon Stokes</b>	Saint Peter Member	Sharon fell and broke her left clavicle Friday evening Apr. 19. She is awaiting word from the surgeon regarding next steps.
<b>*Patricia and family</b>	Mother of Pam Haigh's co-worker	Comfort for Patricia and her family as she nears the end of her life.
<b>Margaret Eickhoff</b>	Saint Peter Member	Recovering from a recent fall. Prayers for healing, strength and comfort.
<b>Family and friends of Harold Uphouse</b>	Father-in-law to Judy Sickinger's daughter, Jeanette	Completed life's journey on Apr. 5 after a long battle with MS. Prayers of comfort for Harold's family.
<b>Erin</b>	Friend & Co-worker of Jodie Davis	Diagnosed with breast cancer. Prayers for healing and comfort.
<b>Family and friends of Penny Dwyer</b>	Mom of Hank & Amelia Dundon's friends, James & Becca	Completed life's journey on Apr. 7 after a long battle with cancer. Prayers of comfort, support and peace for Penny's family.
<b>Family and Friends of Stan Martin</b>	Saint Peter Member	Completed his baptismal journey on Apr. 3. Prayers for peace and comfort for his sons, Mason & Jake.
<b>Family and Friends of John Loftis</b>	Co-worker and friend of Dave Williams	Completed his life journey on Apr. 2 after struggling with several health issues. Prayers for comfort and peace for his family, especially his daughter and parents and for his friends.
<b>Garth Donato</b>	Friend of the community	An unhoused gentleman, known and loved in the community was hit by a car and died. Prayers for the community that loved him and mourns his loss.
<b>Tim O'Keefe</b>	Brother of Shawn O'Keefe	Diagnosed with a brain tumor. Prayers for healing.
<b>Tammy Johnson</b>	Friend of the Divers	Diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. Prayers for healing and comfort.
<b>Annie Heath</b>	Saint Peter Member	Recovering from Mar. 21 neck surgery to remove tumor. Prayers for healing.
<b>Sabrina Foose</b>	Friend of Allegra Reiber	Hope and strength as she continues to face emotional and physical challenges of being a parent and spouse while she needs frequent hospitalizations for lupus.
<b>Katrina &amp; Frank</b>	Friends of Allegra Reiber	Responding to new health challenges which have changed work-life balance. Prayers for strength, balance, hope & respite amidst the exhaustion & struggle.
<b>Troy Rushmore and family</b>	Friends of Allegra Reiber	Extensive health issues and recovering from surgery on Mar. 29.
<b>Mike Sherpe</b>	Saint Peter Member	Recovering from Mar. 7 open heart triple bypass surgery. Prayers for continued healing.
<b>Judy Hoyer</b>	Mother of Lori Williams	Recovering from surgery on Feb. 26 to remove a bladder tumor and ongoing health concerns. Prayers for strength and healing.
<b>Raymond Stackpoole</b>	Long time friend of Steve Leighton	Diagnosed with cancer. Prayers of support and healing.
<b>Karyl Meyer</b>	Saint Peter Member	Health concerns. Prayers for healing and comfort.
<b>Derek Meyer</b>	Son of Walt & Karyl Meyer	Struggling with health issues. Prayers for healing.
<b>Olivia</b>	9 month old daughter of Ken Gerhart's nephew	Diagnosed with a neuroblastoma. Prayers of hope, support and healing.
<b>Cherril Serdy</b>	Friend of Gerry Rasel	Cherril was recently diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Prayers for healing and strength.
<b>Nicki Sperekas</b>	Friend of Barb Hinchey	Prayers of thanksgiving for successful breast cancer surgery. Prayers for continued treatment and healing.
<b>Nina Schafer</b>	Friend of Jan McGaw	Prayers for strength after diagnosis for recurrence of breast cancer.
<b>Helen Merle</b>	Mother of Karyl Meyer	Health issues. Prayers of comfort, healing and support.
<b>Jeff Summerton</b>	Brother of Jed Summerton	Struggling with several health issues. Prayers of hope, strength and peace.
<b>Dottie Summerton</b>	Jed & Allison Summerton's sister-in-law	Prayers for peace and comfort for Dottie and her family as she nears end of life.
<b>Wil &amp; Elizabeth Vogel</b>	Saint Peter Members	Health issues. Prayers for healing, comfort and peace.
<b>Karen Koenig</b>	Judy Sickinger's Sister	Health issues due to cancer. Prayers of comfort and support.
<b>Shirlie Walters</b>	Kami Mach's Mother	Prayers for comfort and support as she continues to deal with low-functioning kidneys.
<b>Roger Hoyer</b>	Lori Williams' Uncle	Health issues. Prayers for strength and healing.
<b>Donna O'Keefe</b>	Shawn O'Keefe's Mother	Experiencing heart issues. Prayers for healing.
<b>Robert Bunke</b>	Jim Bunke's Father	Health issues from congestive heart failure. Prayers for comfort.

## OUR UPCOMING WEEK

APRIL 28	SUNDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Onsite (WC) and Online	
10:15 a.m.	Firearm Harm Reduction (FH)	
APRIL 29	MONDAY	
APRIL 30	TUESDAY	
7:30 a.m.	BNI Meeting (FH)	
MAY 1	WEDNESDAY	
11:30 a.m.	Prayers and Conversation Onsite (FH) and Online	
12:00 p.m.	Bible Study Onsite and Online (FH)	
7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal	
MAY 2	THURSDAY	
7:00 p.m.	Worship Band Rehearsal	
MAY 3	FRIDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Volunteer at Covenant Cupboard 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. ( <a href="https://tinyurl.com/2024CCFP">https://tinyurl.com/2024CCFP</a> )	
MAY 4	SATURDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Church Cleanup	1:00 p.m. Labyrinth Walk
11:00 a.m.	AI-Anon Meeting (FH)	
MAY 5	SUNDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Onsite (WC) and Online Sacred Choral Sunday	

There is a time  
for everything,  
and a season for every  
activity under heaven...



Ecclesiastes 3:1

## WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.

Worship onsite/online

See [stplc.org](http://stplc.org) for access links

## STAFF

Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward,  
*Supply Pastor*  
[vera@StPLC.org](mailto:vera@StPLC.org)

Lynn Sherpe, *Administrator*  
[lsherpe@StPLC.org](mailto:lsherpe@StPLC.org)

Beryl Fanslow Wilson,  
*Minister of Music*  
[bfanslow@StPLC.org](mailto:bfanslow@StPLC.org)

Arielle Wilson,  
*Accompanist*  
*Congregation Communications*  
[awilson@StPLC.org](mailto:awilson@StPLC.org)

Mary Pratt, *Family Ministries*  
[mpratt@StPLC.org](mailto:mpratt@StPLC.org)

Barb Hinchey, *Weekly Editor*  
[bhinchey@StPLC.org](mailto:bhinchey@StPLC.org)

## OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Steve Haigh, *President*  
[president@StPLC.org](mailto:president@StPLC.org)

Steve Leighton, *Vice President*  
[vp@StPLC.org](mailto:vp@StPLC.org)

Gerry Rasel, *Secretary*  
[secretary@StPLC.org](mailto:secretary@StPLC.org)

Cathy Dundon, *Treasurer*  
[treasurer@StPLC.org](mailto:treasurer@StPLC.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

*We are welcomed into God's love just as we are. We are sent into God's world to be a reflection of Christ.*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... God proves love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:1,8

### WELCOME GUESTS!

Thank you for visiting Saint Peter Lutheran Church in Greenwood Village. We are happy you are here.

#### ATTENDANCE

Please take a moment to fill out the attendance form that is passed around during the Children's Message. We promise not to share your information with any third parties or add you to our mailing list unless you request it.

#### CHILDREN

Children are invited to worship in the Worship Center alongside the big kids and the adults, even if they are noisy. Kids can help themselves to a "Busy Bag" that hangs on the Pencil Hook and hang out in the "Pray Ground" in the southwest corner of the Worship Center, too.

*Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.*

Mark 10:13-16

If you prefer, a staffed nursery is located next to the restroom down the hall. Nursery care during church is for infants through age 5. Care provided during Faith Forum expands to include kids in elementary school. **Guardians must sign children in and out.** Children are also welcome to take communion. A blessing can be provided in lieu of the meal if that is Mom or Dad's preference.

#### COMMUNION

You are welcome at the communion table regardless of your specific religious affiliation or age. If you choose to worship online and would also like to celebrate communion, you are invited to participate in this sacred act as well. Read more about at-home communion on our website here: <https://bit.ly/36OSW5R>