

The Saint Peter Leader

A Newsletter of Saint Peter Lutheran Church
Greenwood Village, Colorado

September

2006

8

**3rd to 5th
Graders Get
Together**

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Silo Park

10

**Sunday School
Rally Day**

Between Services
Worship Center

10

**Fall Musical
Auditions**

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Worship Center

10

**Worship
Services Return
to Fall Schedule**

8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

16

**Estes Trio
Concert**

7:30 p.m.
Worship Center

17

**Catechism
Orientation**

6:00 p.m.
Worship Center

Saint Peter Ministry Renewal is Underway

**With a Renewed Focus on
Mission and Leadership**



Capital Campaign 2006

Last month this newsletter reported that work had begun on some of the "Extreme Makeover Church Edition" projects planned for this year. To date, the roof has been replaced, interior and exterior painting has been completed, and an air conditioning system has been installed for areas of the facility that had

previously not been cooled. We are hopeful for the impression this will make on newcomers (and passers-by), as they notice the vibrancy of this congregation. And we are hopeful that Saint Peter members will invite friends and acquaintances who don't have a church home to come by and see our new look.

As we renew our facilities, we also are hopeful to renew our ministries. Pastor Dave made a presentation to the congregation on July 18th, detailing how he would like to begin that process. His presentation can be viewed at:

www.StPLC.org/Congregation_Council

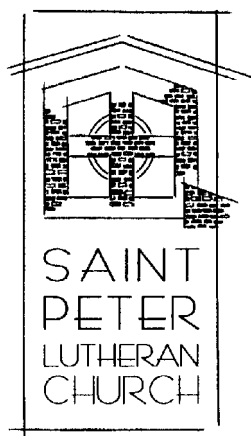
(look under Renewed for Mission)

In short, he is calling for a larger central leadership group, elected by the congregation, and directly responsible for the development and implementation of key ministry areas. During September, members and supporters of Saint Peter will be encouraged to become involved in one of these five ministry areas, selected for renewal efforts in the coming months:

**Discipleship Formation
Evangelism
Prayer**

**Youth & Families Ministries
Stewardship**

If you are interested in finding a place to serve, please contact Pastor Dave or Karyl Meyer. We ask each of you to keep our congregation and its leaders in your daily prayers, that God might lead us and inspire us as we seek to be faithful in all that we do as Saint Peter Lutheran Church.



Selian Hospital Small Group

First Meeting: Monday, September 11, 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Trip to Tanzania: June, 2007 (tentative)

A number of Saint Peter participants have contacted us regarding Pastor Dave's proposed trip to Tanzania next spring. The trip will take place in June (after school lets out, and before Dr. Jacobson takes his July trip to the United States for visits with supporting congregations).

Those planning to be part of this experience will meet monthly between September and June for planning, study and preparation. If you are interested in becoming part of this small group, please contact Pastor Dave at the church office, or plan to attend this September 11th evening meeting.

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October 2006 Newsletter

Deadline for the October newsletter is Friday, September 15th
E-mail your news to Nadine at nnakatani@stplc.org

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Sunday School Rally Day

Come join us on September 10th, between services in the Worship Center

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Ministry Fair

Will be held between worship services on Sunday, October 8th in the Worship Center. There will be more information on this event in the October newsletter.

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Sunday School Rally Day

We will kick-off the new Sunday School year on September 10th between services. We would like all students to bring their parents to the Worship Center to start the year off with music and fun. The year promises to be full of Bible stories, crafts, music and lots of fun with classes for Preschool and Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade, 3rd 4th and 5th Grade, Middle School and High School. Please join us on Rally Day, September 10th. If you have questions or ideas about Sunday School, please contact John Perry at 303 829-2437.

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Ministry Fair – Sunday, October 8th

A celebration of all the ministries of Saint Peter Lutheran Church! The Ministry Fair will be held between worship services, and after the late service, featuring displays, handouts, and surprises. Displays at the fair will include:

- Ministries for children and young people.
- Learning ministries for everyone.
- Serving others – ministries at Saint Peter, throughout the metropolitan area and across the world.
- Worship Ministries – more than 15 ways to serve in worship.
- Plus ministries focusing on fellowship, leadership and many other areas.

The October newsletter will share more news and plans for this joyous event. Plan to join us!

Ministry Leaders – be sure your team is included in the ministry fair – register now with Karyl Meyer. Make sure information about your ministry team is included in the Ministry Fair Passport!

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From the Pastor

How's Your Eyesight?

Something has changed in the past year or so. I can still do a reasonable job with those charts on the wall: F Z W O X T U. And I don't think the drivers in front of me are in danger of having me end up in their trunk because I didn't see them stopping. But my eyesight just isn't what it used to be. Small, light-colored text that used to be quite clear is now just a blur.

If I don't have my eyeglasses with me, one of my family members tells me what the total is on the restaurant bill, or how much air pressure we're supposed to put in the bike tires. I've had to adapt. I try to keep my prescription lenses close by at all times. I have a couple of those "emergency" magnifying eyeglasses tucked away at home and at work. And on Sundays when I preach from notes, the fonts are much larger than they ever used to be.

I wonder how many of you are experiencing the same changes.

It seems equally challenging to see, with much clarity, what it means to be the church today. When I was growing up, being church meant doing what God's people had done for the past fifty years or so. We used the same liturgy. We sang the same hymns. We sponsored the same assortment of programs. We had the same expectations of our pastor and our leaders. It wasn't always easy. It took some faith and some effort. But we knew what it meant to be church, and we went about it with some confidence.

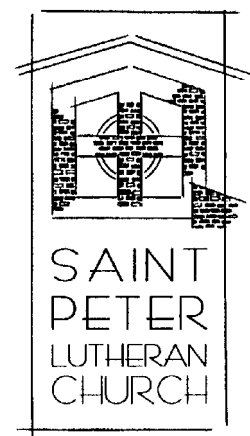
Much of that has changed. Some of what we took for granted in the 50s and 60s is no longer reality in today's world. Fewer of our neighbors have a relationship with a local congregation (many of them have no evident relationship with God). The voices of other religions play a more prominent role in the culture surrounding us – a culture that once was predominantly Christian in background. People are busier these days than they ever have been, and involvement in a faith community is often squeezed in between many other interests and obligations. Voices from the media surround us daily, promoting values and ideals that are inconsistent with a Biblical worldview. Access to information has made us much more aware of how complicated it is to address issues like poverty and hunger and homelessness and warfare.

It is much harder to see, with clarity, what it means to be the church today. So we have to adapt. We read what faithful authors are saying about congregational life and leadership. We study churches where ministry is making a difference in people's lives. We attend seminars and workshops designed to open our eyes, and to help us see beyond our own biases and assumptions.

Most importantly, we hold up all of this new information alongside the authority of scripture and the wisdom of our tradition, asking, "What does it mean to be faithful today?"

God needs faithful, creative, inquisitive, courageous leaders for the church today. How's your eyesight? What insights are you gathering about what it means to be church today? I'd love to hear from you.

God's peace to you all,
David J. Risendal, Pastor



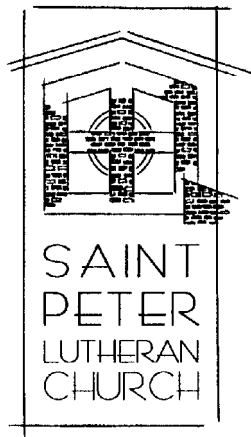
Weekly Internet Devotions

Pastor Dave sends out a devotional message every Wednesday, which is usually based on the Gospel Lesson appointed for the coming Sunday, and is intended to help readers prepare themselves for Sunday worship.

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If you are interested in receiving these weekly devotional messages, please send him a note to that effect at drisendal@StPLC.org or check them out at www.StPLC.org.

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Donations for Refugee Families Suspended

Until further notice, we are not collecting furniture, etc. for LFS Refugee Families. Our storage unit is no longer available.

Thanks for your generous support of Refugee Ministries.

We'll let you know when the situation changes and donations will again be needed.

A National Refugee Issue

Certain provisions in the Patriot Act and the Real ID Act make vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers unintended victims of the war on terrorism. In practical terms, our government is denying safety and freedom to refugees and asylum seekers who, before the current provisions, would clearly have qualified for protection.

For more information and suggestions on how you can help, visit:

www.lirs.org/Action/20060807MS-Pitts.htm

Partnership Ministries

Saint Peter has established ongoing partnerships with two service ministries. Below are monthly updates on these programs. We encourage you to become involved in either of these service opportunities.

Selian Lutheran Hospital Update: Hospice Program

The ministry of hospice care, begun in 1999 as the first such program in Tanzania, continues to expand. The program is home-based; the hospice team does home visiting to provide palliative and spiritual care to those who are terminally ill. Most hospice patients have AIDS (65%) or advanced cancer.

The program has expanded into many surrounding villages and congregations where volunteers are being trained to provide hospice care to those in need in their communities. In addition to the hospital staff and clergy, over 130 lay volunteers have been trained in home hospice care.

The hospice team provided an introductory workshop on hospice care to other church hospitals from Northern Tanzania. Following that, they became a training center for other hospitals in hospice care, introducing the Selian Hospice model to nine hospitals, including three in Kenya. Plans to provide training to all Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Tanzania hospitals and other faith-based medical facilities are being implemented.



Clinical Officer Frida Njotto, right, is Selian Hospice's medical officer and nurse Paulina Natema is the hospice administrator.

Refugee Family Support Team

Maryan Ahmed and Fatuma Aden, our refugee family, have now moved to Tennessee to join their son and brother, Mahad Aden. We wish them the best as they settle into new surroundings and pray that they may build a satisfying family life in America.

We were blessed by our time with Maryan and Fatuma, developing a real friendship with them. In the past three months our main task was teaching them to speak English, and many team members participated in this. This ministry was especially blessed by the addition of Laura Romceovich to our team this summer while she was home from college. She spent several hours each week with Maryan and Fatuma, introducing them to parks and playgrounds as well as providing effective English tutoring. Thanks, Laura!

Our team will not support another refugee family for several months, which provides us with a time of rest and a chance to participate in other ministries. Please consider joining this group when we prepare to welcome another refugee family to the Denver area.

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From the Coordinator of Lay Ministers

Springtime in September

I love springtime! After the long winter, warmth and moisture signal that wonderful things are about to happen in the garden. Grass will green up; buds on trees will swell and open; crocus, daffodils, and tulips will bloom – soon everything in the garden will show signs of renewed life.

In the church, springtime happens in September. After a summer rest cycle, all the ministries of the church bloom with renewed life. The education ministries for all ages begin a new season. The choir sings again, drama returns, 3-Square fellowship groups meet. Many ministry teams which continue through the summer recruit new members and experience growth. And new ministries appear – a Selian Hospital small group begins meeting in September and a new musical, written by Mallory Mayer, will rehearse this fall.

Two special events are planned to celebrate the reborn and revitalized ministries of Saint Peter – mark them on your calendar and plan to participate.

Sunday School Rally Day: Sunday, September 10th, 9:40 a.m. in the Worship Center. All children, youth, and adults are invited to the Worship Center to celebrate and support the beginning of a new year of education ministry!

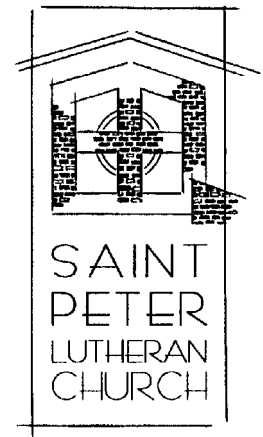
Ministry Fair: Sunday, October 8th, between worship services and after the late service, in the courtyard area. Come to celebrate, learn about, and support the many ministries led and/or supported by our congregation!

Just as springtime gardens thrive and bloom in response to care and nurture, so do our ministries. What water and fertilizer provide to plants, you can give our ministries through prayer and encouragement. Pray for these ministries, their leaders, and their missions. After all, they are serving God's mission. Can you imagine the possibilities if our entire congregation held up these ministries in prayer? I urge us all to try it. Encouragement can also be an incredible boost to ministry participants. Do any of us thrive when our work seems to be unnoticed for endless months? Take the time to speak or write a word of encouragement to those involved in ministry, and you'll truly make their day.

Ministry support through prayer and encouragement is powerful. And actually, God asks more of us. We are all Christ's ministers, called to carry out his mission in the world. We are called to evangelism, teaching, leadership, service, helping and more, and for this we are given spiritual gifts and practical skills and abilities. September is a great time to find out where God is calling you to ministry. But how do we discover this? Look to your passions, interests, and skills; and explore your spiritual gifts. A simple on-line spiritual gifts inventory can be taken at home – details are in the sidebar at the right. I would like to help you explore the results of your spiritual gifts inventory – its part of my calling, and enables us to "plant" you in a ministry where you will thrive and find joy and satisfaction in serving God. May your participation in ministry be a blessing for you and for those you serve.

Peace and blessings,

Karyl Meyer
Coordinator of Lay Ministers



Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

What ministry participation areas will bring you the most satisfaction & success?

Take a Spiritual Gifts inventory and begin exploring your giftedness. Online Spiritual Gifts inventories for adults and youth:

Adults:

<http://www.elca.org/evangelism/assessments/spiritgifts.html>

Teens:

<http://www.elca.org/youth/resource/inventory.html>

Print 2 copies of your inventory "score" and give 1 to Karyl. She'll prepare a Gifts Cluster diagram and explore your gifts with you. It's a joy to discover how you've been blessed and consider ways you can be a blessing in God's family.

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