

The Saint Peter Leader

A Newsletter of Saint Peter Lutheran Church
Greenwood Village, Colorado

**February
2007**

2-3

**Our Life
Together in
Christ Retreat**
StPLC Narthex

9

**Silent Auction /
Supper (HSY)**
5:30 p.m.
Castlewood Grange

11

Annual Meeting
noon in the
Worship Center

21

**Ash Wednesday
Service**
7:00 p.m.
Worship Center

28

**Lenten
Mid-week
Services Begin**
5:45 Soup Suppers
6:40 Evening Prayer
Worship Center

23-24

**Leadership
Retreat**
Woodspur Lodge
Winter Park

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

February 11, 2007 at 12:00 noon

All Saint Peter members are requested (and all Saint Peter friends are invited) to attend this year's Annual Congregation Meeting. During this time together, we'll reflect on the ministries that took place in 2006, and consider ministries and a spending plan proposed for 2007. Of special interest this year will be a review of the changes we will be introducing during 2007 in our leadership teams, and the election of individuals to be involved on those teams.

Every confirmed member of Saint Peter (generally: ninth graders and older) is granted voice and vote at this meeting. An activity and snack will be provided for those who are younger. We hope to see many of you on February 11th.

Leadership in Spiritual Communities

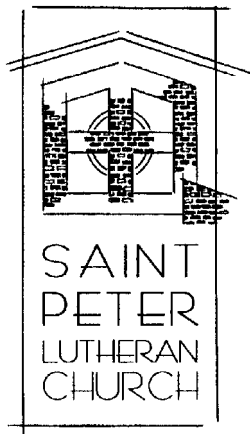
A Retreat – February 23-25, 2007

Woodspur Lodge in Winter Park, Colorado

This year marks a return to the old Saint Peter tradition of "off-site" weekend retreats for leaders. We'll gather at Woodspur Lodge, site of many Saint Peter adult retreat weekends, and consider them: "Leaders in Spiritual Communities." During a weekend with plenty of time for work, play, relaxation and reflection, we'll consider questions like:

**What is unique about leading in a Christian congregation?
What resources are helpful in supporting strong leaders?
How can leaders continue to grow in discipleship?**

All participants at Saint Peter are invited to join us for what we hope will be a refreshing and inspiring weekend together. Please call the church office for specific information related to this event.



“Our Life Together in Christ” Retreat

Friday, February 2nd
from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
and Saturday,
February 3rd from
8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
here at Saint Peter



Share a Photo

Place your photo in the
mailbox marked
“Photos” by March 11th
Contact Linda O’Bryan
for more information



The Gathering Place

Help support this
important ministry by
purchasing greeting
cards at \$1.00 each



March 2007 Newsletter

The deadline for the
March newsletter
is Thursday,
February 15th. E-mail
your news article to
Nadine at
nnakatani@stplc.org



“Our Life Together in Christ” A Retreat for Everyone!

**Friday, February 2nd, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and
Saturday, February 3rd, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Take a break from your many activities to feed your soul.
Join us for this 24 hour retreat at Saint Peter Lutheran Church.

The purpose of “Our Life Together in Christ” – a retreat for membership in the Christian church – is to provide a time for people to hear the essential message of the Christian faith and to share the significance of that message with other believers. Participants will discuss aspects of faith, share stories, deepen friendships, and grow spiritually. This retreat is valuable for everyone in the Saint Peter community, including teens, members and friends. Contact Karyl Meyer or the church office for more information or to volunteer.



Share a Photo

The Design Team would like to thank all who helped “Deck the Halls” and “Un-deck the Halls” of Saint Peter this Christmas Season.

Now that the decorations are down, we would like to fill those blank walls again. We would like every member of Saint Peter to share a special photo that shows how Christ has touched their lives – through a person, place or an event. Include a short paragraph explaining your photo and place it in the mailbox in the Narthex marked “Photos” by March 11th. Then watch for the walls of Saint Peter to be filled again – sharing our stories of Christ making a difference in our lives. Contact Linda O’Bryan if you have questions or need more information.



The Gathering Place

The Gathering Place is a shelter for women and one of the ministries supported by Saint Peter. To do this we have greeting cards available for purchase at \$1.00 each that have been created by the women at this shelter. There are many cards that are specific to the season and others for all occasions. Look for them right outside the Fellowship Hall. Questions about the Gathering Place ministry can be asked of Toni Mathiasen or Sue Hardey.





From the Pastor

Thank You So Much!

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

[The Apostle Paul, writing to the Christians in Philippi (1:3-6)]

As I write this newsletter in the middle of January, I want you to know that your Pastor and his family are among the most fortunate people in the world, and have so much for which to be grateful – especially including you, the people of Saint Peter Lutheran Church.

As many of you know, the past month has been a difficult one for my family. On December 18th a local flooring contractor, whom we had hired to replace the tile floor in our kitchen with hardwood, tore up the tile and the linoleum floor that lay underneath it. The backing on the linoleum proved to be 85% asbestos (it should have been tested before it was disturbed). The heating system was contaminated, and spread asbestos throughout our entire house. The Colorado Department for Public Health and the Environment has determined it to be what they call a “major asbestos spill.” As of this writing (January 15th), we have still not been allowed back into our home, and are facing the prospect of eventually having most of our possessions disposed of by an asbestos abatement company.

It has been a trying month, but we are thankful that Betsy and the boys were visiting her family in Arizona when this all took place, and she had the presence of mind to instruct me to not go back into the house, so our health has not been jeopardized in any way.

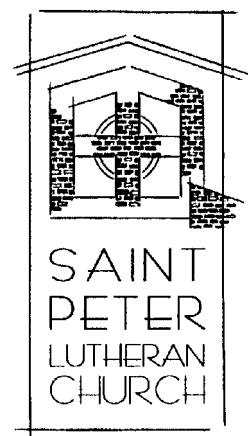
We are also deeply grateful for the amazing support we have received from you, our friends at Saint Peter. During the first week after the spill, Andy and Nadine Nakatani graciously welcomed me into their home (even putting up with me on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!). During the following week, Bill, Shelly and Jordan Hunter hosted me. These families provided me with food and shelter – but also with enough companionship and encouragement to help me through the challenging first few days of this experience – a very significant gift!

On December 30th, Darrel and Darlene Thomas (the grandparents of one of the boys on my soccer team) gave us the keys to their home in Centennial, to use until they return from Phoenix in May. We have been overwhelmed with the generosity of this gift – something they describe as a ministry, and a way for them to thank God for the many blessings in their lives.

So many of you, our friends at Saint Peter, have also been incredibly generous in offering prayers and encouraging words and clothes and financial support during these days of putting the pieces of our lives back in order.

As the Apostle Paul did for his friends in Philippi, I give thanks for you all in my prayers every day. Your thoughtful support of my family has been the very presence of Jesus Christ in our lives, and it has made all the difference in the world! Thank you all so very much. You have helped us to stay hopeful in a difficult time, and have shown us again what it means to be the people of God.

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



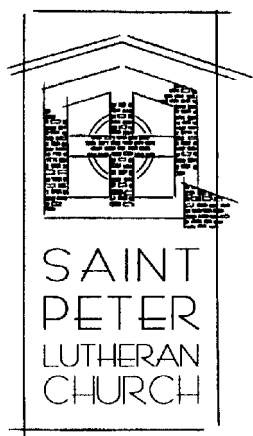
Weekly Internet Devotions

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.



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.





Lutheran Day at the Legislature and Bishop's Luncheon

Save the Date!

The Lutheran Day at the Legislature & Bishop's Luncheon will be on Monday, March 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Colorado History Museum in Denver.

The topics for the day will be:

- Faith & Politics: a Lutheran Perspective
- Caring for Creation: Environmental Issues
- Issues Impacting Seniors
- 2007 Advocacy Priorities

Watch for registration materials in early February.

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Crossways

All are welcome to join us every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

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Lutheran Day at the Legislature & Bishops Luncheon

March 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Colorado History Museum in Denver
Watch for registration material

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Next Blood Drive

February 24th at The Church of Latter Day Saints on Havana St.
Call Gay Romcevich at 303 741-0020 to sign up

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January was National Blood Donor Month

Did You Know That Every Two Seconds Someone in the United States Receives a Blood Transfusion of Donated Blood?

You can still "Save the Date, To Save a Life" at our next drive on February 24th at The Church of Latter Day Saints on Havana Street just south of Orchard Road. Call Gay Romcevich at 303 741-0020 to sign up or watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

On December 17, 2006 Saint Peter hosted the "Ryan Taylor Replenishment Drive". The whole Taylor family was there to greet people, which added a wonderful personal touch. Ryan was feeling well and wanted to come and thank everyone for their participation. Ryan had on his 'WDW' t-shirt, which we all learned stood for Walt Disney World. This warm, effervescent Cottonwood Creek 5th grader told us all about the 'Make a Wish' trip to Walt Disney World he took earlier last year. We collected 57 units of blood from 69 donors which will help up to 171 patients. Thank you to all who donated.

Again, call Gay Romcevich at 303 741-0020 to schedule your appointment to donate on February 24th.

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Crossways – An In-depth Bible Study

Walt Meyer will be leading as we explore the Gospels. Anyone is welcome to join us every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to the adventure of studying the Word of God together.

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From the Coordinator of Lay Ministers

Leadership Gifts – part 3

For two months I've been writing about gifts and characteristics which support strong congregational leadership. We work to identify people with a passion for Saint Peter and the time to serve who also possess strong practical leadership skills. Over the past two months we considered four Spiritual Gifts which will enhance the work of those leading our congregation – Leadership, Administration, Knowledge and Wisdom. This month we'll look at two more powerful Spiritual Gifts which are important in congregation leaders – Faith and Discernment. As you will notice, they are related qualities.

Faith enables a person to see the Spirit at work and to trust the Spirit's guidance without knowing where it all might lead. It's the ability to recognize what God wants accomplished and to sustain a stalwart belief that God will see it done despite what others perceive as barriers. Someone with this type of faith believes that God is active in our lives and faithful, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable difficulties. Often people think of faithful people as optimists. A wonderful Biblical example is the Centurion who asks Jesus to heal his servant. When Jesus says he will come, the Centurion says, "I am not worthy to have you under my roof. But only speak the word and my servant will be healed." (Matthew 8:5-10) May the leaders of Saint Peter, and all of us, be blessed with such a faith!

Discernment motivates a believer to seek God's will and purpose and to apply that understanding to congregational situations. Persons with this gift are adept at recognizing what is pleasing to God and what is not pleasing to God. The entire book of Acts tells the story of the early leaders of the Christian movement, including many stories of their searching to discern and accomplish the will of God. One of their first issues was whether to care for widows, orphans and the needy (or were they simply called to teach and baptize?). They decided to select seven people dedicated to this caring ministry. Soon they had to deal with the issue of gentiles: could they be baptized and join in the mission of the Christians? Would circumcision be necessary for Gentile males? And hundreds of other issues... Acts 8:14-24 tells how the disciples preached to and baptized the formerly shunned Samaritans and an Ethiopian court official known as a eunuch. It also tells of Simon, a magician who wanted to receive the power of the Holy Spirit for his own selfish purposes – Peter recognized this in him and refused his request. The 21st century church faces seemingly different issues, but at the heart of all ministry is discerning and doing the will of God.

Each month I've concluded with **Intercession**, the Spiritual Gift which enables us to pray with the certainty that prayer is heard, and that when requests are made, answers will come. Like all Spiritual Gifts, this prayer gift becomes stronger the more we practice it. Our leaders will be praying for guidance and insight to lead our congregation to more fully serve the Lord. We ask that you join in these prayers for the leaders, the vision and the ministries of Saint Peter.

Peace,

Karyl Meyer
Coordinator of Lay Ministers

Spiritual Gifts Supporting Church Leaders

Each gift is followed by
a biblical example.

Leadership

John 1:1-9

Administration

Genesis 41:33-57

Knowledge

Saint Luke, who wrote
both the Gospel of
Luke and Acts

Wisdom

Acts 15:5-19

Faith

Matthew 8:5-10

Discernment

the Book of Acts
Acts 8:14-24

Intercession

many examples –
from Noah through
the disciples

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Next month – Spiritual Gifts Supporting our Ministries

Evangelism

Giving

Hospitality

Pastoring/Shepherding

Teaching

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