

The Saint Peter Leader

A Newsletter of Saint Peter Lutheran Church
Greenwood Village, Colorado

August
2007

7 & 8

**“Caution” Lockin
& Trip to
Waterworld**

11

Blood Drive

8:00 a.m. to
12:00 noon in the
Fellowship Hall

12

**Juarez Youth
Service**

Both services in the
Worship Center

14

**All Ministry
Team Meeting**

7:30 p.m. in the
Worship Center

20

LFS Golf

Tournament

6:30 a.m. registration
7:30 a.m. play begins
Hiwan Golf Club

26

**Navajo Youth
Service**

Both services in the
Worship Center

Celebrate Youth; Celebrate Service

Presentations from Saint Peter Youth who Participated in Service Trips to Mexico & Arizona

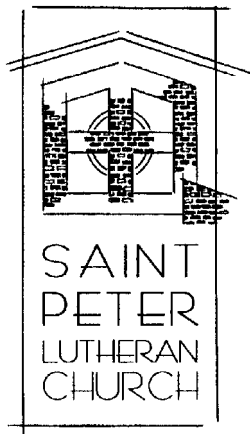
Join us on August 12th and August 26th, as our Middle School and High School students share some pictures, stories and lessons learned during their two summer service trips. The first group spent two weeks in Juarez, Mexico the weeks of July 8 and July 15, and the second group spent one week on the Navajo Reservation in northern Arizona from July 28th through August 4th. It has become a tradition to invite them to share their stories with us at worship upon their return – and those services have been very inspiring.

Come on the 12th and 26th (both services) to show your support for our young people, and to be stirred by the Spirit. These youth are a powerful example of what it means to live the Christ-life; and there is much that we can learn from them!

Rally Day **September 9th**

Our annual Rally Day is scheduled between services on Sunday, September 9th. Please plan to join us as we kick off a new fall schedule of events and activities. Sunday School will resume at 9:40 a.m. for all ages. For information regarding Saint Peter's Children's Sunday School, please call the church office.

You need not be a member of Saint Peter to participate. Come, join us as we seek to be “Growing together in faith and understanding.”



Consider Crossways

If you are interested in this comprehensive study of the Bible, contact Ron Leighton at 303 220-8431 or Walt Meyer at 303 740-6989.



Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed

For more information or to sign-up, contact Sandra Pequette at 303 773-9332



Saint Peter Fall Retreat

Join us at Woodspur Lodge in Winter Park the weekend of September 28th. For more information, contact Karyl Meyer.



Crossways - An Unforgettable Bible Study

We have received some interest in offering the two year, comprehensive study of the Bible, starting in September. However, we don't have enough to commit to the class. So the purpose of this article is to encourage anyone who has an interest in not only looking at Scriptures from cover to cover, but also in establishing a daily habit of Bible reading. The latter is one of the habits of discipleship that is being encouraged at Saint Peter.



For those of you not familiar with the course, here is a little background information. Crossways is a comprehensive course on the Bible, designed for adults and mature youth who want to work through the Scriptures in detail. It is a two year commitment with 40 units covering the Old Testament and intertestamental period, and 20 units on the New Testament. Crossways will help you make the connections between the Old and New Testaments as never before. You will gain insights into the culture and traditions of Jesus' day, so that his message virtually explodes with radical new relevance to our own time. We cover 30 units each year, starting in September, breaking for Thanksgiving through Christmas and finishing in late May.

Ron Leighton and Walt Meyer have agreed to teach the class but would like commitments from at least 15 (20 preferred) people before proceeding with ordering materials and scheduling the dates. As a group we will pick a day and time that works for a majority of the participants of this year's class.

So, take a look at your schedule, evaluate your interest in studying the scriptures, and consider Crossways. Ron and Walt will have a brochure available in August. We hope you will plan on joining us this fall. It will be an adventure that you will not forget. If you are interested and/or willing to commit, please contact Ron Leighton at 303 220-8431, Walt Meyer at 303 740-6989 or call the church office. Thanks!



Coffee, Refreshments and Good Conversation!

It's time to start thinking about Fall Fellowship Hour. Please look over your 2007/2008 calendar and sign-up early. You can sign-up individually, as a family or with a friend. Its fun and easy. . . just provide snacks for everyone to enjoy with lemonade and coffee during the Sunday School Hour. Please call Sandra Pequette at 303 773-9332 if you'd like to reserve a date. Thanks for your help!



From the Pastor

Don't Just Do Something: Sit There!

This morning at the Pastors' text study I attend, one of the participants used a twist on an old phrase to sum up the story of Mary and Martha. The sisters of Lazarus, and dear friends of Jesus, they invite him over to dinner one night. It is a special time with this Jesus, and both of them know it. Mary responds to the opportunity by sitting at the feet of Jesus and drinking in his every word. Martha responds to the opportunity by tending to the details of hosting this group, making sure that everything is absolutely perfect.

Mary rests in the presence of her Lord, and one can only imagine how deeply the experience touches her heart and her soul. But Martha gets so caught up in the details of her household work that she ends up filled with anger and frustration (which reaches the point of boiling over every time she sees Mary sitting there at the feet of Jesus). Jesus commends Mary, but chastises Martha for being "worried and distracted by many things."

Serving, hospitality, charitable actions – these are at the heart of our response to God, and Jesus commends them to us time and time again in the New Testament. But as Ecclesiastes teaches us, there is a time for everything. A time to serve, and a time to rest in the presence of God. Martha isn't scolded for serving – only for letting her commitment to service distract her from a remarkable opportunity: the chance to sit at the feet of Jesus and be transformed by his love and grace and power.

A dear friend of mine used to describe the neighborhoods where many of us live as "places where people are trying to squeeze three lives into one." I am afraid that he is right. Our lives are busy. So busy. Way too busy! We race from event to event, from appointment to appointment, perhaps even from ministry to ministry – hurrying to check one more thing off the "to do" list. In doing so, we also, like Martha, become "worried and distracted by many things."

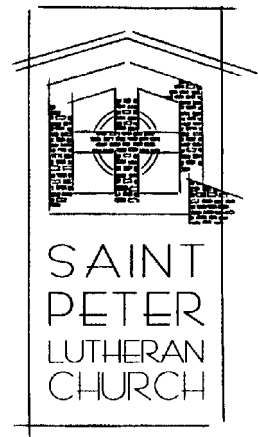
And so Jesus calls to us, saying, "Don't just do something. Sit there!" Sit there at my feet and receive my word. Sit there at my feet and be renewed. Sit there at my feet and allow your lives to be so firmly grounded in my presence that your serving takes on an entirely different character.

Jesus calls us to craft a wise and faithful balance between action and reflection in our lives. In response to that call, the leaders of our congregation have taken a risk. We have rented an entire hotel in Winter Park for the weekend of September 28th. Our hope is that the majority of our congregation, from infants to senior citizens, will set aside that weekend as a time to rest at the feet of Jesus together. It will be a relaxing and refreshing time. Every day will begin and end with God's word, and there will be plenty of time in between for conversation, hiking, bike rides, games, crafts... whatever it is that makes it possible for you to be renewed and refreshed for the work God has called us to do.

I hope each of you will block this weekend open in your schedules and plan to join us. Let's take this opportunity to respond to Jesus' call, and be renewed for lives of service. I do hope to see you there!

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

August, 2007



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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September 2007 Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the September newsletter is Monday, August 13th

Please email your news article to Nadine at nnakatani@StPlc.org

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