

The Saint Peter Leader

A Newsletter of Saint Peter Lutheran Church
Greenwood Village, Colorado

**January
2008**

**4, 5 & 6
Catechism
Retreat**

Rainbow Trail Lutheran
Camp

**6, 13 & 27
Final Year
Catechism
Student/Parent
Meetings**

6:00 p.m. in the
Worship Center

**14
Via de Cristo
Interest
Gathering**

7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in
Ed Hardey's home

**25 & 26
Our Life**

**Together in
Christ Retreat**

Friday, January 25th
from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
and Saturday, January
26th from 8:00 a.m. to
6:00 p.m. in the
Worship Center

**February 10
Annual
Congregation
Meeting**

12:15 p.m. in the
Worship Center

Via de Cristo

Interest Gathering: January 14th

Via de Cristo is a Christian movement to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. It is intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The *Via de Cristo* experience begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay people and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship, and daily celebration of Holy Communion. The "Via de Cristo Community," made up of those who have already attended a *Via de Cristo* weekend, support the 72-hour experience with a prayer vigil, by preparing and serving meals, and through other acts of love and self-giving. *Via de Cristo* is non-denominational, welcomes any and all baptized Christians to attend, and uses Lutheran theology as its faith cornerstone. (from www.coloradovdc.org)

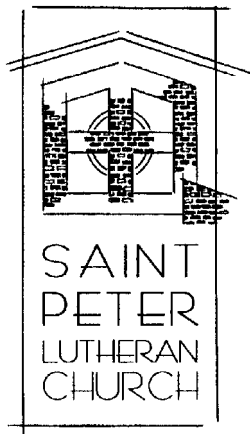
At Saint Peter, we are making plans to affiliate with the Colorado Chapter of Via de Cristo. If you have attended a Via de Cristo weekend in the past (or Lutheran Cursillo), we would like to hear from you – please give us a call in the office. And if you are interested to learn more about Via de Cristo, or if you might be interested in attending a retreat during this coming year, you are invited to join us:

in
Ed Hardey's home (call the church for directions)

on
Monday, January 14th

from
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Come join us for an evening of conversation about this opportunity. If you are looking to grow spiritually, and to deepen your relationships with other Christian men and women, this could be just what you're after. For more information, please call Ed Hardey or speak with Pastor Dave. We'd love to tell you a bit more about Via de Cristo, and our hopes for how it might bring strength and depth to our congregation.



Next Community Blood Drive

Saturday, Feb. 23rd at
The Church of Latter
Day Saints, 8:00 a.m.
to 12:00 noon. Look
for a sign up sheet in
the Narthex or contact
Gayle Romcevich at
303 741-0022 to
schedule your
appointment.



Adult Forum

Join us on Sunday
mornings at 9:40 a.m.
in the Narthex.

February 2008 Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the
February newsletter is
Monday, January 14th.

Please email your
article to Nadine at
nnakatani@StPLC.org.

Our Life Together in Christ

A Retreat for Everyone!

Take a break from your many activities to feed your soul.

Join us for this enlightening retreat at Saint Peter Lutheran Church.

Friday, January 25th, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and
Saturday, January 26th, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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 teenagers. We especially encourage all who are interested in becoming members at Saint Peter to join us for this time of worship, study, and fellowship. If you haven’t attended one of these retreats (or even if you have!) we strongly encourage you to join us January 25th and 26th to study and celebrate “Our Life Together in Christ.”

“Our Life Together in Christ” retreat includes snacks and drinks on Friday evening, and all three meals on Saturday. The final meal is a dinner for all attendees, including families, and welcomes those who will be joining our congregation. Child care will be provided for those who need it. Please contact the church office to register for the retreat and reserve child care if needed.

There are many ways you can participate in “Our Life Together in Christ” retreat – as a small group member, presenter, potential new member, new member sponsor, or on the hospitality team. Please contact the church office for more information or to volunteer or register.

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Annual Congregation Meeting

February 10, 2008 – 12:15 p.m. in the Worship Center

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 2007, and consider ministries and a spending plan proposed for 2008. We are currently seeking individuals who would be willing to serve on our leadership teams (Executive Team, Mission Team and Administrative Team). If you, or someone you know, is interested in a leadership position at Saint Peter, please contact Pastor Dave, Stephanie Keller (President) or Jim Dumler (Vice President).

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 you on February 10th.

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From the Risendals

A New Year (At Last!)

This has been a challenging year for the Risendal family. In the first half of 2007 we experienced the contamination of our entire home, the abatement of asbestos in our kitchen and the decontamination process, the monumental task of cleaning up after the hazardous materials crew, the marketing and selling of our home, the task of finding a different place to live, and the prospect of having to replace almost everything we owned. As we think back on the year, we've learned a great deal about what it means to start over from scratch, and we find ourselves very empathetic with those who,

The Risendals at Seven Falls, near Colorado Springs. June 16, 2007.

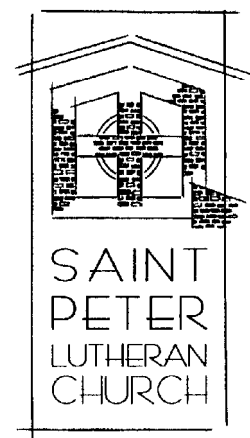
through natural or human disasters, lose everything.

We have also learned a great deal about the love of God and the importance of Christian community. It is not an exaggeration to say that if it weren't for our God, and for our friends in this congregation, we can't imagine how we would have made it through this year. From the very beginning, many Saint Peter members were instrumental in supporting us. Many offered prayers, and sent cards expressing their love and concern for us. Many spent countless hours in our old home, helping us clean and paint and repair – without their efforts, we could never have turned our home around as quickly as we did. And the gifts were so heartwarming: gift cards, clothing for the boys, help with furnishing our new home... If the purpose of a Christian community is to become a vehicle of God's grace, you indeed fulfilled that purpose for our family during our challenges this past year.

We live, as many of you do, in a covenant community. Ours has a regular newsletter, which the homeowners association uses to communicate with its members. We've noticed, in the past couple of years, that the articles in that newsletter have taken a turn for the worse – with leaders in the community continually complaining about whose home needs painting, and whose flower beds aren't weeded well enough. We've heard of residents who, rather than ask a neighbor if there is anything wrong, will leave an anonymous note on the door, demanding that they do a better job of watering their lawn or fixing their shutters. It is as if some of our neighbors have forgotten what it means to love one's neighbor as one's self. But you, friends, demonstrated neighbor-love time and time again this past year – you were kind enough and faithful enough to reach out and give us a hand when it was needed most.

Now we begin a new calendar year – a new beginning in all of our lives. We are excited to anticipate a year without the particular struggles we faced in 2007. Even more so, we are excited to anticipate a year in which we can once again be in the position of giving instead of receiving. It was humbling to know that our well-being was dependent on the generosity of so many others in 2007. Now, grateful to God and to you, we look forward to the ways God will work through us to reach out to others, as an expression of our thanksgiving for what we have received. Many thanks to those of you who have been part of that!

this month from all the Risendals,
Pastor Dave, Betsy, Brady and Landon



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.

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StPLC Podcast and Blog

Saint Peter will soon be sponsoring both a podcast and blog, related to the text for the coming Sunday. Stay tuned on Sunday mornings, and in this newsletter, for how you can become part of the conversation.

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