

The Saint Peter Leader

A Newsletter of Saint Peter Lutheran Church
Greenwood Village, Colorado

February
2010

1

Pray & Crochet

7:00 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall

5

Catechism
“Friday Night
Blast”

5:00 p.m. at StPLC

7

Annual
Congregation
Meeting

12:00 p.m. in the
Worship Center

19–21

Catechism
Retreat

Rainbow Trail Lutheran
Camp

28

Worship Servant
Workshop

12:00 p.m. in the
Worship Center

2/24–3/24

Soup Supper &
Mid-Week Lent
Worship

6:00 p.m. Soup Supper
7:00 p.m. Mid-Week
Lent Worship

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

February 7, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.

All Saint Peter members are requested (and all Saint Peter friends are invited) to attend this year's Annual Congregation Meeting. We will reflect on the ministries that took place in 2009, and consider ministries and a spending plan proposed for 2010, as well as elect a number of new members to our Leadership Teams.

Every confirmed member of Saint Peter (generally: ninth graders and older) is granted voice and vote at our Annual Meeting. An activity and snack will be provided for those who are younger. We hope to see many of you after the second service on Sunday, February 7th.

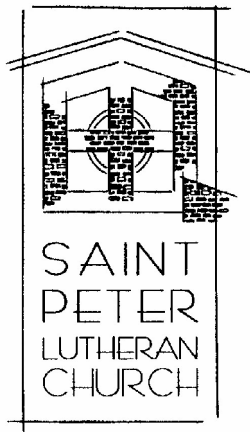
Mid-Week Lent Worship

Prepare With Us for the Easter Season

Lent is a forty day season (not counting Sundays) that begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17th this year), and ends as Holy Week begins. It is a time of considering those ways in which we've fallen short of God's will for us, experiencing the forgiveness God loves to share with us, and inviting the Holy Spirit to enter into our lives and create a new beginning in us.

We begin on Ash Wednesday with a Communion Service that includes the imposition of ashes – set for 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center. People of all ages are invited to come and be marked by ashes, a sign of our human frailty and our need for forgiveness.

Then on Wednesday evenings in Lent, (February 24 – March 24) we will be holding worship services that come from the Community of Taizé near Cluny, France. Join us for Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m. and mid-week worship at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday.



New StPLC Web Site

We have a new web site for our congregation. Go to www.StPLC.org and browse around. If you have comments for suggestions, we'd love to hear from you, just choose "Contact us" at the top of the page.

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Change of Address?

If you have had a change of address, email, or phone number, please contact the church office and help us keep the membership database current.

Thanks!

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March 2010 Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March Newsletter is Monday, Feb. 15th. Please email your article to Nadine at nakatani@StPLC.org

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Have some Fun with Stewardship!

Can you say "Super Bowl"?

We know you are thinking Fun Stewardship is an oxymoron... Isn't stewardship about sacrifice, hard work, tithing, you know, things that aren't normally related to fun? Well that can be true but it doesn't have to be that way. Why not have some fun AND have some stewardship at the same time. So here are some ideas related to the biggest football game of the season, the Super Bowl that will be held on February 7, 2010. This idea came from a group named "Souper Bowl of Caring" that is utilizing Super Bowl weekend to mobilize youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. If you want more information about them, go to www.souperbowl.org. Here are a few ideas you could have some fun with.

If you are having a Super Bowl party:

1. Sell tickets to your party. Make the tickets fun, cheap (like a buck) and let everyone know the money is going to a specific charity. We're guessing your friends might pitch in a little more if they know it is going to a good cause.
2. Have everyone bring a toy football and donate them to a boys or girls organization.
3. Have everyone come early or just miss those commercials during half time, and do a random act of kindness such as, pick-up trash in a park, if it is snowing shovel the walks for as much of the neighborhood as you can, find an older neighbor that needs some help with their house.
4. Go with the Souper Bowl theme, serve soup at your party and have everyone bring a can or two of soup to be donated to a local food bank.

If you are having a football pool or betting on the game:

1. Charge an extra buck for each square and donate that to a charity.
2. Bet a friend or another family on the game but make the wager a donation.

The point is, have some fun and do some good at the same time. You might inspire your friends and your kids. Stewardship doesn't have to be boring, be creative and make it fun!

Peace – Your Stewardship Team

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Thank You Saint Peter Lutheran Church

A sincere and heart felt thank you to all of Saint Peter for the very generous staff Christmas gift. We really appreciate it and you!

Blessings to all of you,

Pastor Dave, Lynn Sherpe, Steve Howie, Nadine Nakatani & Mariko Murase

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From the Pastor

Welcomed

What does it mean to be a member of Saint Peter Lutheran Church? Based on Romans 5 and St. Matthew 28, we have chosen to declare it means to be welcomed into God's love, just as we are; and sent into God's world, to be a reflection of Christ's love.

I especially like the first half of this mission statement, because I believe that in Jesus Christ, God is offering a radical welcome to any and all who hear the proclamation of his death and resurrection. Paul got it right in his letter to the Romans: "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Before we could earn it, deserve it, even ask for it, Christ died for us, and God welcomed us into salvation. This is not a deal, offered to us, that we will receive if we hold up our end of the bargain. It is a reality proclaimed to us. It is God's reality for us.

This is radical stuff. While we were yet sinners! In other words, nobody is beyond the bounds of God's grace. This is the message that welcomes us into the heart of God. And this must be the message with which we welcome others into an experience of God's grace.

What will that look like for us at Saint Peter? How will we offer, not just a warm reception to those who happen to stumble into our worship area, but a radical welcome to all the people of the world? It may begin with a Pastor who stands at the entrance to the driveway of our church on Sunday mornings, waving to cars that pass by, visiting with early-morning walkers, and greeting those who turn in to worship with us. It may continue with hosts who meet us at the curb in the parking lot to convince us that they are glad to have us here today. It may also continue with an expanding core group of members who are aware of newcomers, attentive to any special needs they may have, and intent on introducing them to other members of our community.

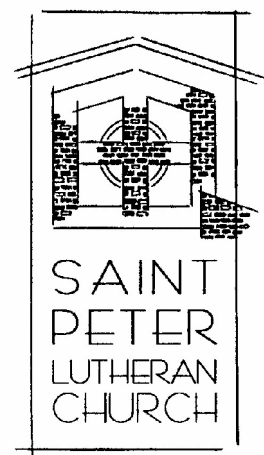
But extending God's radical welcome to the world will also press us to stretch and grow in our efforts to invite others. It will mean making room in our hearts and in our community for those who come from different socio-economic surroundings, those who disagree with our politics, those whose skin color may not match ours, those whose sexual orientation contrasts with ours, those who grew up in different religious systems, those who battle addictions, those the rest of the world may prefer to ignore. God's radical welcome calls us to take the risk of reaching out, even when we ourselves are a bit reluctant to do so.

This is radical stuff. If it doesn't offend us at some level, we do not understand it. Everyone must be included in God's forgiveness – because if even one is excluded, then perhaps you or I might be excluded as well. At the climax of the liturgy, the Pastor proclaims: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin." All means all. We are called to proclaim this truth: that all are welcomed into the love of God; just as we are.

The radical nature of God's welcome gives it the power to capture our hearts and transform our lives, the power to make Godly choices and live Godly lives. The more radical our embrace of that message, the more radical (and the more positive!) the change in our lives – and in the lives of those we touch – will be.

God's peace to you all,

Pastor Dave



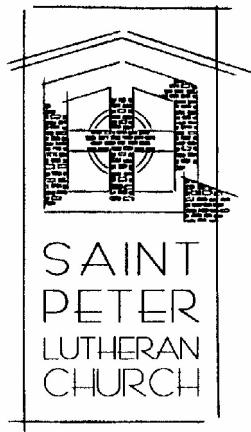
"One Little Word"

Weekly Internet Devotions

Pastor Dave sends out a devotional message every Wednesday, entitled "One Little Word" (from Martin Luther's Hymn, "A Mighty Fortress"), which is based on one of the lessons 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.OneLittleWord.org





Ministry Team Leaders

Acolytes/Lectors

Mary Ann Steiner

Adult Education

Discipleship Team

Altar Guild

Jan McGaw

“CAUTION” High School Youth

Karen Dehmlow

Community Blood Drive

Gayle Romcevich

Covenant Cupboard

Walt Meyer

Counters

Janet Weinz

DESIGN Team

Verna Leighton

Fellowship Hour

Jeaneane Engel

Five Habits of Discipleship

Ed Hardey

For Pete’s Sake Players

Verna Leighton

Karyl Meyer

Gathering Place Card Project

Open Position

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Faith Advocacy Day: Budgetary Apocalypse

February 15th at the Colorado Historical Society

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry – Colorado, in conjunction with The Colorado Council of Churches, the Episcopal Jubilee Ministries Office, and Voices for Justice will sponsor the annual Faith Advocacy Day on Monday, February 15th (President’s Day) from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Colorado Historical Society. Cost is \$20 and includes lunch. The day will include Colorado legislative updates and breakout sessions on health care reform, homelessness, poverty, potential ballot measures, all from a faith-based perspective. Bishop Allan Bjornberg will also host a breakfast at 8:00 a.m. discussing advocacy as evangelism, cost is \$10. For more information, contact Brad Wood at Lutheran Advocacy Ministry – Colorado, bwood@rmselca.org or call 303 777-6700. Registration and information is also available online at www.lam-co.org.

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Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp

Men’s Fly Fishing Retreat

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp is hosting their Spring Men’s Fly Fishing Retreat April 22-25, 2010. There will be fabulous food, meaningful worship, and great fellowship. It will be worth taking a few days off from work to be recharged in your faith. The Rev. Dave Risendal will be our spiritual guide for the weekend. This retreat will include some of the finest fishing on the Arkansas River. For more details and a registration form, go to www.rainbowtrail.org. Register soon!



Woman’s Spring Retreat

April 15-18, 2010, Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp will host its annual Spring Women’s Retreat. Michelle Okes, the keynote speaker, will be leading a thought provoking Bible study while sharing her experiences as a mom and life coach. This is a perfect time to strengthen bonds with the women in your life. There will be time for study as well as enjoying the fabulous surroundings of Rainbow Trail. This retreat will fill quickly. For more details and a registration form, go to www.rainbowtrail.org. Register soon!

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Next Community Blood Drive

The next Community Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, February 20th from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Church of Latter Day Saints located on Havana St. (just south of the fire station on Orchard Rd. & Havana St.). Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or contact Gayle Romcevich at 303 741-0200 or you can sign-up on line at www.bonfils.org. Give the gift of life...Give Blood!

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2010 RMSWO North Colorado Cluster of Women of the ELCA Spring Event

Planning is well underway for the 2010 RMSWO North Colorado Cluster of Women of the ELCA Spring Event. There's an unusual twist to the event this year, it's being planned in collaboration with the Eben Ezer Auxiliary Board and will be an interdenominational women's gathering hosted in Brush, Colorado by Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center on April 17, 2010. The beautiful auditorium and the historic All Saint's Lutheran Church (on the Eben Ezer grounds) will be the site for registration, breakfast, program, luncheon, and worship.

The theme for the event is Renewal in Christ - Refreshing God's Women, and Pastor Barb Lemke (Bethel Lutheran, Aurora) has agreed to speak and to lead us in the afternoon meditation. Other features of the day will include presentations by Eben Ezer CEO Barbara Bradshaw and a member of the auxiliary, a Scandinavian luncheon, entertainment, afternoon fellowship and dessert, and RMSWO President's update. The organization receiving our in-kind support will be the Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center. For more information, go to www.rmsselca.org.

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Worship Servant Workshop

February 28, 2010 at 12:00 noon in the Worship Center

All Assisting Ministers, Acolytes, Altar Guild members, DESIGN Team members, Host families, Fellowship Hosts, Lectors and Worship Coordinators are asked to attend a workshop after the second service on February 28th. Lunch will be provided. Please join us as we strengthen our approach to leading God's people in worship. Thank you for your willingness to serve – we hope to see you on February 28th.

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Adult Forum for February

Each Sunday at 9:40 a.m. in the Narthex

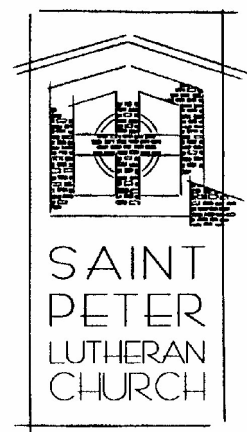
We hope that the New Year is going well for each one of you and that your new year's plans include participation in Sunday morning Adult Education. We are truly excited about the sessions being offered in January and February including:

- January 31: The ever-popular "Ask the Pastor"
- February 7, 14, 21 and 28: Ron Leighton on Christian Spirituality

If you have ideas on topics that you would like to see covered this spring or next fall, please let one of our team members know.

Your Discipleship Team: Bruce Stokes, Hayden Behnke and Janet Okerman

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Ministry Team

Leaders

Habitat for Humanity

Vicky Simpson

Holly Heights

Open Position

Host Families

Marshall Roth

Pray & Crochet

Jenny Von Stroh

Carmen Faaiu

Property Team

Max Steiner

Refugee Family

Mentor Team

Open Position

Selian Lutheran

Hospital Team

Susan Howell

Servant Events

Laura Guthals

Sharing Our Suppers (S.O.S.)

Annie Harnett

Stephen Lay Caring Ministry

Donna Burman

Steve Onody

Sunday School

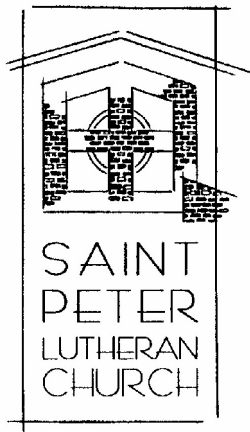
Laura Guthals

Tech Team

Steve Flessner

Rick Brydum

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Covenant Cupboard

An Arapahoe County designated food agency located at:

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

5400 S. Yosemite St.
Greenwood Village
720 841-5129

Volunteer Ministry Opportunities

Pick up Produce

Various times during the week:

Call Walt Meyer
303 740-6989

Pack Produce

Friday's
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Help with Distribution

Fridays
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Many thanks to all who have donated items to Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry. They continue to welcome your donations and are always looking for more volunteers; especially drivers as well as children's books.

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Symbols of the Season

Lent begins with ashes; ashes on our forehead that speak to our mortality. The mood of the season begins restrained. We limit our decorations just as many limit themselves through spiritual disciplines. There are no altar flowers, things are kept simple during the season. Arrangements of dried branches could be used to decorate the gathering places. As we approach Easter, branches that bud then bloom such as forsythia and pussy willows appear.



Care is taken to focus on the table, the cross, the font. On Ash Wednesday, burlap replaces the usual fine linen on the altar. Ceramic communion vessels with a duller more simple finish are used during our Wednesday evening worship. The paraments are purple; the color represents the penitent nature of the season. Purple was also the color of royalty. Jesus is King, but as our Lenten banner depicts, he is mocked and humiliated. Jesus brings life, but he must die.

From its earliest beginnings, Lent was a time of preparation for baptisms at Easter. For the already baptized, Lent was a season of baptismal renewal. The font is moved to the center of the chancel to give it a greater visual significance. It is kept empty to remind us of the great Easter joy to come. Other furniture may be arranged differently to symbolize the turning that we are invited to do as we repent.

Lent, then, is not a season of applied sorrow or forced sadness, but a time of growth for Christians as they uncover the mysteries of baptismal living.

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“Head to Heart” Catechism Ministries

During January, our Third Year Catechists began to prepare for their family faith projects, and our First and Second Year Catechists met in the homes of their guides. Now, this month, we are all back together again.

On February 5th beginning at 5:00 p.m. we'll start the month out with the first “Friday Night Blast” of the year. We're going to blast our way through four petitions of the Lord's Prayer. Then, over the weekend of February 19-21, some of us will gather at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp for their annual Confirmation Retreat. Our leaders will huddle in the Herholds' home on the 21st, at 6:00 p.m. And we'll continue our study of the Lord's prayer during a workshop on the 28th, also at 6:00 p.m.

Students: keep up on your Sunday Morning Review Sheets. By the end of this month, you should have ten of them completed and submitted.

Catechism is a three-year course of study for youth entering their teenage years, and leads to welcoming them into adult membership in our church. We welcome any young people grades 6-8 to enroll in this program. If you are interested, please call the church office for additional information.

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From the President of the Congregation

2009 Gone, but Not Forgotten

You know, 2009 went quite well for Saint Peter Lutheran Church, all things considered. We were actually ahead of budget in the beginning of the year, which, as I'd hoped, freed us up from devoting time towards raising money, and instead we were able to focus on the work of the church.

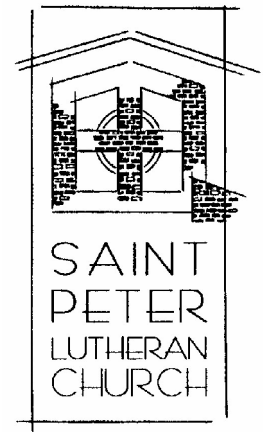
We held ministry recruitment campaigns in February, which resulted in new efforts to support ministries outside of our walls, like Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, The Gathering Place, Inter-Faith Community Services, Youth Mission Trips, and Selian Lutheran Hospital. We formed a team that spent much of the year on a project to update our mission statement. We tried to clarify and prioritize our activities related to glorifying God and serving our community. In the Fall, we finally introduced "Welcomed Into God's Love; Sent Into God's World." It's been a recurring topic in Pastor Dave's sermons and all of our Leadership Teams are using it to guide their plans and ministry activities in 2010. We also saw a unique project (Selian Hospital 5K Walk/Run) led by Pastor Dave to raise funds for the Selian Lutheran Hospital and he and a group of Saint Peter members and friends traveled to Tanzania to personally deliver a check for the amount of contributions that were collected. In response to the impact of our global financial crisis, the "Next Opportunity" group was created comprising members and non-members who meet regularly for networking and mutual support as those who are under-employed or unemployed seek job opportunities. And what a remarkable blessing and journey of faith was made by the more than fifty people who completed "The Bible in 90 days" project? Although the Exterior Makeover project encountered significant obstacles during the year with regards to obtaining the necessary construction permits, we now appear to be well on our way for work to begin on the courtyard, playground, and some updated landscaping early in 2010.

As my term as Congregational President draws to a close may I thank you for the privilege of serving you for the past two years. I am excited and optimistic about the opportunities that lie ahead for our Leadership Team and be assured that I will be among you to support their efforts!

Go in peace and serve the Lord!

Andy Nakatani,
Congregation President

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Useful Links

Rocky Mountain Synod
rmselca.org/

ELCA Disaster
Response
www.elca.org/disaster/

ELCA World Hunger
www.elca.org/disaster/

LFS
www.lfsc.org/

Rainbow Trail
rainbowtrail.org/

Selian Hospital
selianlh.habari.co.tz/

ELCA
elca.org/

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Stephen Ministry

If you are hurting or if you know someone who is, we hope you'll prayerfully consider a care receiving relationship with a Stephen Minister. For more information contact Donna Burman at 303 619-6448

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