

# The Saint Peter Leader

A Newsletter of Saint Peter Lutheran Church  
Greenwood Village, Colorado

**January  
2010**

**4**

**Pray & Crochet**  
7:00 p.m. in the  
Fellowship Hall

**10, 24 & 31**  
**Catechism Final  
Year Students &  
Parents**

6:00 p.m. in the  
Worship Center

**15**

**"Parents' Night  
Out"**

6:00 p.m. in the  
Fellowship Hall

**15-17**

**RMS Middle  
School Youth  
Gathering**

Colorado Springs

**17**

**Holly Heights  
Ministry**

9:30 a.m. at the  
Holly Heights Nursing  
Home

**29**

**"Sports  
Improve"**

Sponsored by  
CAUTION Youth  
6:30 p.m. in the  
Fellowship Hall

## 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. During this time together, we will reflect on the ministries that took place in 2009, and consider ministries and a spending plan proposed for 2010. We'll approve a budget for the coming year, and elect a number of new members to our Leadership Teams.

Our Nominating Committee is currently working to identify potential leaders for Saint Peter. If you (or someone you know) would be interested in serving as an Administrative Team member (serving on our governing board), a Ministry Team Leader, or a Ministry Team member, please give the church office a call. We'd love to explore with you how you might become involved.

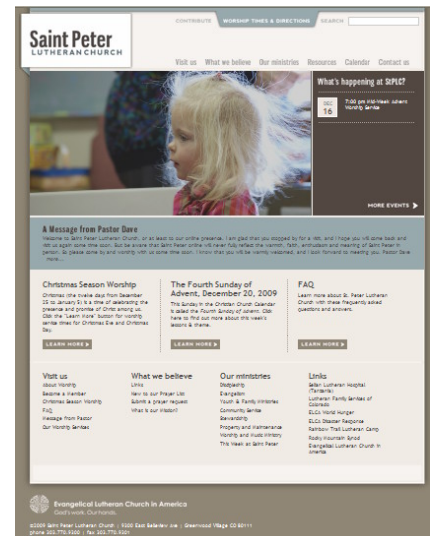
Every confirmed member of Saint Peter (generally: ninth graders and older) is granted voice and vote at our Annual Meeting. An activity and snack will be provided for those who are younger. We hope to see many of you after the second service on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

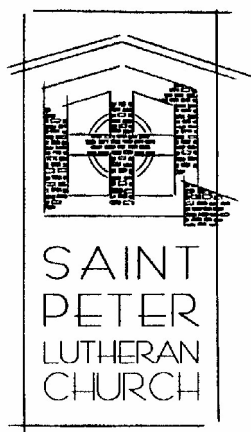
## New Web Site

**We Invite You to Visit  
[www.StPLC.org](http://www.StPLC.org)**

Thanks to the continued efforts of a number of Saint Peter members, especially Brittany and Adam Hass, we have a new web site for our congregation. Stop by some time soon, and browse around a bit.

If you have comments or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you, choose "Contact us" at the top of the page.





## Help Un-Decorate the Church

On Sunday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 12:00 p.m. the  
DESIGN Team will  
need much help taking  
down all of the  
Christmas decorations.  
Please plan on staying  
after second service to  
help. Thanks!

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## Change of Address?

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

Thanks!

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## February 2010 Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the  
February Newsletter is  
Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

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## What is Stewardship?

Every Fall (and sometimes during the year) we have a Stewardship Campaign. The campaign varies in the presentations, but there usually is some type of appeal for time, talents, and treasure, followed by the collection of the pledges for the next year's giving. This is, of course, a necessary process in order for the church to plan the upcoming year's budget for staffing, programs, and ministries. And this often is what first comes to mind when we think of Stewardship.

Our larger and expanded Stewardship program strives to inspire and motivate our members to become involved with our ministries. We believe that the more involved we are, the more committed we become, the deeper our faith will be, and the better we can do God's work. This allows us to support and expand our church, to be welcomed and to be sent. This is the "Circle of Stewardship", which is the title of this year's Stewardship Campaign.

Here at Saint Peter, we are a relatively small church, not a "Mega"-church. Here you can get to know many of the members, and there are opportunities to get involved. Here, you can make a difference. We believe that you will benefit from your involvement, and that you will be spiritually enriched as you join in our ministries.

"Each one should use whatever gift he or she has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." [1 Peter 4:10]

And of course, our financial support is critical. We do understand that some of our members' employment situations have changed and that giving at previous levels is not possible. So it is important for those who can give, to do so generously, in order for our staff and ministries to grow and reach out.

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." [1 Timothy 6:18-19]

God asks us to give with "Thanks Giving", the type of giving which says, "I want to give because I am grateful to God for all of the blessings I have received." Not "Grudge Giving" which says, "I suppose I have to give even though I have a hundred other obligations to meet;" or "Dutiful Giving" which says, "I will do my share because that is what is expected of me." When we give with a joyful heart we are truly blessed.

So, in answer to the question "What is Stewardship?" Stewardship is using the gifts God has given us (our time, talents and treasure) to do the work God has given us to do – with joy and thanks giving. We pray that each and everyone will get involved, stay involved, and "contribute" to the stewardship of Saint Peter Lutheran Church.

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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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 the 28<sup>th</sup>.



From the Pastor

## To My Bible Reading Partners

### On a New Year, and New Year's Resolutions

Who would have imagined that during the Fall of 2009, more than fifty members of Saint Peter Lutheran Church (a congregation numbering about 275 adults) would read the entire Bible, cover-to-cover? But we did it: beginning on September 13<sup>th</sup>, and continuing through the middle of December, we traveled together through the pages of this sacred text. Friends: I congratulate you for your persistence, and for your desire to allow God's word to play a larger role in your life and in your faith.

It was a remarkable journey in many ways. Reflecting on the experience, some were pleased to have set a high goal and to have met it. Some described new insights into their God and their faith. Some cited the ability to read the New Testament (especially the Gospels) with deeper insight. Some expressed a fondness for books in the Bible that they previously knew little about, or perhaps didn't even know existed. Some even came to feel closer to God, and more engaged with their faith, through this reading.

**To those of you who have now read all the way through the Bible:** you have carved out some new patterns in your lives. You have discovered that you can find 40-60 minutes a day to spend time with God and nurture your faith. It will be easy to slip quickly into old habits, but I encourage you to resist that. Many of you described this effort as a very rich experience. It might be that this could also be, for you, a new beginning. As we embark on a new year, how will you resolve to continue making time in the rhythm of your days for God's word?

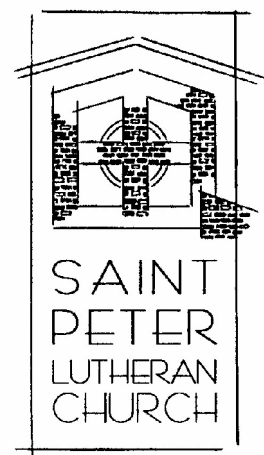
**To those of you who have not yet done this:** I hope the sight of a few dozen people carrying their Bibles around in lime green bags caught your attention. I hope a 14 week sermon series on the Bible caused you to be intrigued about what is actually in that holy book. There is a strong sense that we should do this again as a congregation. Will you be among those who join us for a future attempt to read the Bible in 90 days?

The structure for this reading project came from outside our Lutheran community – but it proved to be a particularly good fit for us Lutherans. At the heart of the reforming movement that began with Martin Luther and his colleagues in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, was a belief in the power of God's word. They taught, and we believe, that when faithful people make the effort to study and reflect on God's word, the Holy Spirit can enlighten us in powerful ways about what it means to be a child of God.

A key verse for the creators of this reading project is 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17 – "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." I am also fond of St. John 20: 30-31 – "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."

The Bible commends itself to us. May we each give it a larger role in our lives. Good reading to you all. And know that God will bless you.

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



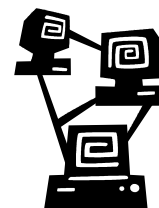
### "One Little Word"

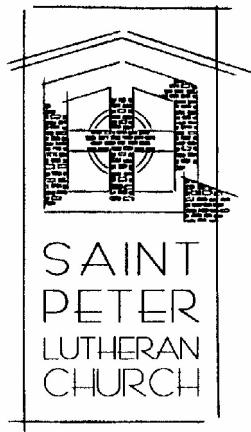
#### Weekly Internet Devotions

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](mailto:drisendal@StPLC.org) or check them out at [www.OneLittleWord.org](http://www.OneLittleWord.org)

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## Happy New Year! From your Discipleship Team

We hope you had a blessed Christmas season and are looking forward to new opportunities to learn together in our 2010 Adult Education Classes that take place every Sunday in the Narthex at 9:40 a.m.

In January, Walt Meyer will be guiding us through a study of the Crusades. We will meet on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> between services. We look forward to seeing you there!

Bruce, Janet, and Hayden,  
Discipleship Team

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### 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

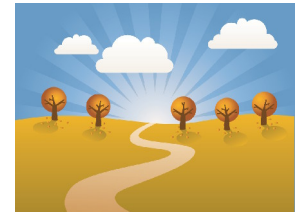
Open Position

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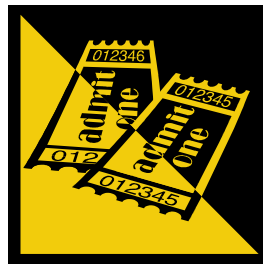
## 2010 Spiritual Direction Annual Conference

January 15-16 at the Arvada Center

"Discovering and Following Your Sacred Path," The Search for Authentic Spirituality with Dr. Lauren Artress, January 15-16, 2010 at the Arvada Center. The Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress, pioneer of the contemporary worldwide labyrinth movement, will use the image of the The Path to help draw participants into the depths of their spiritual journeys. The conference features presentations by Dr. Artress, Global Cafe small group discussions, and a variety of labyrinths to walk (several are accessible to wheel chairs). For more information or to register, go to [spiritualdirectioncolorado.org](http://spiritualdirectioncolorado.org).



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## Amy Grant Concert in February

Lutheran Family Services presents....Amy Grant at the Paramount Theatre on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$40 to \$150 (\$150 are limited tickets that include a meet and greet dessert reception). To purchase tickets go to [www.tickethorse.com](http://www.tickethorse.com) or phone 1 (866) 461-6556. You can also purchase tickets at the

Paramount Box Office, Pepsi Center or Dick’s Sporting Goods Park.

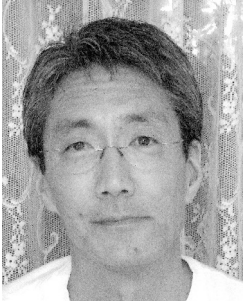
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## Next Community Blood Drive

The next Community Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.bonfils.org). Give the gift of life...Give Blood!



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From the President of the Congregation

## It's the End, It's the Beginning

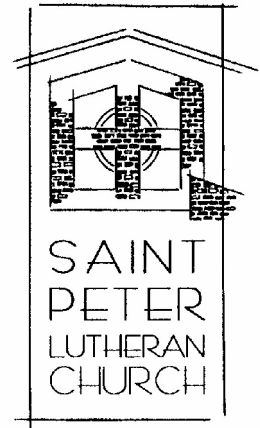
We have made it through Advent and depending upon when you read this, we've also enjoyed the Christmas season and are now entering the time after the Epiphany. The passing of these holidays mark the approaching end of my tenure serving as your congregational President. While we've faced some unusual challenges these past two years, we've also seen some remarkable accomplishments. Our Youth and Family Ministries have developed a core of high school youth and established new traditions of service opportunities. In the future I would love to see this ministry continue to expand their programs to involve other age groups, young people and families. Our Evangelism Team has helped us to become more aware of our guests and each other every week. I know that our name tags have helped us to get to know each other better and they help us in our introductions to new guests. And I continue to hear stories of how the ministry of giving a loaf of freshly baked bread has made a great impression on our first time visitors. I would love to see Evangelism expand the scope of its work to include helping each of us to become more familiar and comfortable with sharing the Good News and to promote and publicize Saint Peter more widely via various media-- the Internet, local newspapers, etc. The Discipleship Team made quite a hit with "The Bible in 90 Days" project and also with some very interesting Adult Forum sessions. I understand that they plan to support another cycle of "The Bible in 90 Days" and I look forward to seeing what new devotional and study resources will arise as a result of the interest of the people who've participated in this ministry. I am thrilled to see that we now have a Community Service Team. We've made good progress this past year in our support of Selian Lutheran Hospital and the Metro Denver Habitat for Humanity. I would love to see our contributions grow to these excellent causes and for us to attain such a mentality of serving others that we will marvel at how well we take care of each other and the world around us. Our Administrative Team faced financial challenges of a lifetime. They've helped us to keep a close watch on our budgetary issues and stay fiscally afloat. They were also able to help make our property look much better this past year and they've pushed forward our capital improvements project. I would love to see their efforts to manage our budget and funding our key ministry areas continue to improve and to help us actually complete the first phases of our Miracle Sunday improvements.

I have visions of an exciting and productive 2010 for Saint Peter, yes? And you know that none of these aspirations can come true without God's blessings and the prayerful support of all of you! So, I ask that every one of you get involved somehow, someday this year. Support your ministry team leaders and give them the funding and volunteer support needed to accomplish those things I'd love to see get done in 2010.

God's peace and Godspeed!

Andy Nakatani,  
Congregation President

†



## 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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## Share Your Talents!

It's just plain selfish to not share your talent!!!! Offer your musical gifts to God and to the Saint Peter congregation during our offering time. Please contact either Mariko Murase or Steve Howie if you would like to sing or play for an offering – we'd love to have you bless our worship through your talent!



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## Sunday School Bible Lessons

Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>

John 1:1-18

Through Jesus We Can Know God

Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>

Luke 4:1-13

God Helps Us Do the Right Thing

Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>

John 2:1-11

Jesus Cares About My Problems

Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>

Luke 4:14-21

Jesus Came for All of Us

Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>

Luke 4:22-30

Trust Jesus



# Worship & Music

## “Head to Heart” Catechism Ministries

January is a busy month for our Catechism group. Pastor Dave will be meeting with the final-year students and their parents during January. They will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays, January 10, 24, and 31, to prepare for the end of their Catechetical journey.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year small groups will be meeting in their Guides' homes on January 10<sup>th</sup> (to review the Ten Commandments, and begin their study of the Lord's Prayer) and on January 31<sup>st</sup> (to continue with the Lord's Prayer).

If your student is interested, there is still time to register for the Confirmation Retreat at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp on February 19-21. Please give the office a call for registration costs and materials.

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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## RMS Middle School Youth Gathering

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Rocky Mountain Synod Middle School Youth Gathering takes place January 15-17, 2010, at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs. For more information or to register, contact Karen Dehmlow.

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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 and 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.rmselca.org](http://www.rmselca.org).

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# Ministries at StPLC



From the Minister of Music

## Reflections of 2009

2009 has been quite a year, both in the world and in music ministry at Saint Peter Lutheran Church. Many people are experiencing tough times financially, jobs are hard to find and easy to lose, and many people have altered plans or even postponed dreams due to the uncertainty. Indeed, we all surely know someone, or are someone, who has been affected negatively by events over the past year.

Recently, we heard the words of John the Baptist challenge our notions of our place in the world, as well as, give the good news of Jesus' arrival in our lives. The famous phrase "you brood of vipers" always catches me a bit by surprise, and gives me quite a wake-up call that my expectations of life on this earth are just that; mine, and not necessarily God's.

Well, looking at this past year in music ministry, I feel incredibly blessed to be part of Saint Peter Lutheran Church. Although we've experienced the pain of job losses, family illnesses, even the passing of longtime friends such (Hank Sickinger comes to my mind), we've also experienced the joy of new birth, new members joining, and the growing sense of community within our congregation. It may be part of the times we're in, but I feel that people are once again looking for what may be missing in their lives. Money is so tempting an idol that it sometimes takes a wake-up call such as a bad economy to remind us that everything we have in this world is of God.

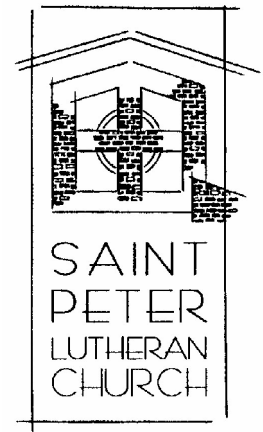
I have also felt this renewed sense of community through the many music ministry events we've had this past year. For example: The Variety Show & Benefit, David Mporampora & his Sifa, Sifa Band, and visiting bell choirs. I still receive comments about the powerful presence of God in our worship service during the Haydn Mass, Lenten and Easter services, as well as our Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Newcomers have been able to connect with more seasoned members of the Jubilate Choir and Alleluia Ringers to create a more robust musical community of God. Although we might experience some adversity in our daily lives, it is wonderful to see people come through our doors excited to be part of the ministries, worship, and outreach of Saint Peter Lutheran Church. We not only renew ourselves and receive the hope that God is with us through good times and bad, we also get to help each other and make the world a better place in the process.

What a year! I wish for you the blessing that comes from the grace of Jesus Christ this coming year and look forward to working with you to help change our world for the better through music ministry.

Peace,

Steve Howie, Minister of Music

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## Join the Jubilate Choir

Rehearsals resume on Wednesday evenings, beginning on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Worship Center.

### Choir Schedule

Jan. 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> service

Jan. 17 – 1<sup>st</sup> service

Jan. 24 – 2<sup>nd</sup> service

Jan. 31 – 1<sup>st</sup> service

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## Alleluia Ringers Schedule

We ring each Thursday at 6:40 p.m. in the Worship Center starting January 7<sup>th</sup>.

All are Welcome!!!

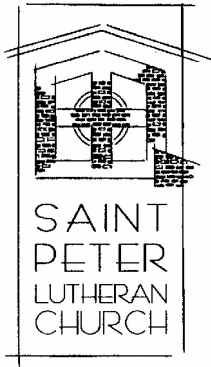


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## Holly Heights Ministry

The third Sunday of each month. Please contact Steve Howie if you are interested in helping with this ministry.

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# Saint Peter Lutheran Church

9300 East Belleview Avenue  
Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111  
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Web: www.StPLC.org

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## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

### **September – May**

8:30 a.m. Traditional Communion Service  
9:40 a.m. Youth & Adult Education  
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Communion Service

### **June – August**

8:30 a.m. Outdoors Communion Service  
10:00 a.m. Indoors Communion Service

## MINISTRY TEAM

**David J. Risendal, Pastor**  
drisendal@StPLC.org

**Lynn Sherpe, Administrator**  
lsherpe@StPLC.org

**Steve Howie, Minister of Music**  
showie@StPLC.org

**Nadine Nakatani, Receptionist**  
nnakatani@StPLC.org

**Karen Dehmlow, Youth/Family Ministry**  
kdehmlow@StPLC.org

**Mariko Murase, Accompanist**  
mmurase@StPLC.org

## OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

**Andy Nakatani, President**  
president@StPLC.org

**Rhonda Sinnema, Vice President**  
vp@StPLC.org

**Bruce Guthals, Secretary**  
secretary@StPLC.org

**Lynn Sherpe, Treasurer**  
treasurer@StPLC.org

## Our Mission Statement

**We Are Welcomed** into God's Love  
just as we are

**We Are Sent** into God's World  
to be a reflection of Christ's love

*Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... God proves love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* [Romans 5:1, 8]

*Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* [St. Matthew 28:19-20]