

The Saint Peter Leader

A Newsletter of Saint Peter Lutheran Church
Greenwood Village, Colorado

January
2011

**Tues., Wed. &
Thurs.**

**Labyrinth Prayer
and Meditation**

7:00 to 9:00 a.m.
Labyrinth

7-9

**CAUTION Youth
Ski Retreat**

Depart at 3:30 p.m.
Return at 2:00 p.m.
StPLC Parking lot

10 & 22

**Saint Peter
Stitchers**

1/10 at 7:00 p.m.
1/22 at 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

16

**Holly Heights
Ministry**

9:30 a.m. Holly
Heights Nursing Home

21

"Night Camp"

6:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

New Member Information Series

January 17, 24, 31 & February 7

This series of four Monday evening meetings serves as an introduction to Saint Peter and the ELCA, as well as a chance to meet others who are interested in the life of our congregation. We'll introduce ourselves, hear Saint Peter's story, discuss the Lutheran heritage that stands behind our church and denomination, and consider the gifts God has given us to be used in ministry. New members will be formally received into our congregation during morning worship on Sunday, February 13th.

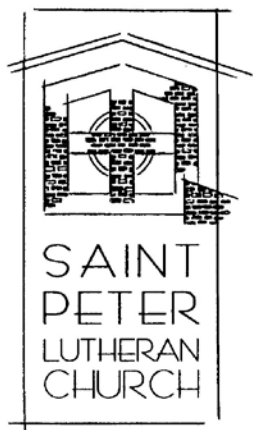
If you are interested in making Saint Peter your official church home in the south-Metro area, or if you are simply interested in learning a bit more about Saint Peter and the Lutheran Church, we'd love to have you attend this series. Please give us a call in the church office, and let us know you are interested.

StPLC Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 13th

12:00 noon in the Worship Center

Each year the members of Saint Peter gather to reflect on the ministry we've accomplished in the previous year, affirm plans made for the coming year, and elect a slate of leaders to guide our life together. All members are requested to join us on February 13th at noon in the Worship Center for this year's opportunity to do just that. Friends and Guests: you are welcome too – come and see what plans have been laid for 2011, and join with us as we celebrate what God is accomplishing among us.



Next Community Blood Drive

The next Community Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, February 12th from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at The Church of Latter Day Saints that is located on Orchard and Havana. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or contact Gaye Romcevich at (303) 741-0020.

Give the Gift of Life...



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February 2011 Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February Newsletter is Friday, January 14th.

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

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Make It Simple...Continued

The Stewardship Team would like to thank all of you for your support of Saint Peter. During these times when economic uncertainty seems to be in the news every day, it is wonderful to be part of a congregation that is willing to support our church and many other ministries. With God's help we can make a difference to the people around us, to be true salt and light. Thank you so much!

But the "Make It Simple" story is not over. Throughout this coming year the Stewardship Team wants to continue to look at ways to make our lives simpler, allowing us to be better all-around stewards of the gifts that God has given us. The gifts of time, the environment, talent and relationships. So continue to look for our "Make It Simple" messages.

By the way, our little team is not the do all end all experts in stewardship or making it simple, so if this sounds like something you would be interested in please come join our group. We meet once a month (normally at Panera Bread so we can get coffee and a bagel) for about 90 minutes so the commitment is small, and even though most people don't equate "Stewardship" with "Fun" but we really are a fun and supportive group! So if you would like to give it a try, contact Alan Okerman at 720 252-2577, alan_okerman@msn.com or Jody Hinsey at 303 221-5595, jody@tbg2i.com.

God's Peace,
Your Stewardship Team

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The Gathering Place

The Gathering Place is a shelter for women and their children and is one of the ministries supported by Saint Peter. To do this we have greeting cards available for purchase at \$2.00 each that have been created by the women at this shelter. There are many cards to choose from for all occasions. Look for them right outside the Covenant Hall.



Also, The Gathering Place is in need of toiletries for the women and children who benefit from the shelter. So, the next time you're at the store, purchase some extra toothpaste or shampoo, or if you travel, collect the shampoos, soaps, etc. from the hotels and bring them to The Gathering Place basket just outside the kitchen. If you have questions or want to be part of this ministry contact Ann Remme.



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From the Pastor

My Half-Cup of Coffee

I have carried a certain worn-out bill in my wallet since March 4, 2006. It's not there for spending. It's not the one I keep in a hidden pocket, for when I run out of cash (that one does get used now and then, and is eventually replaced). No, this bill is a 5 Euro bill – the same bill that was left over after my family and I spent a month traveling in Europe during my Sabbatical leave.

It is in my wallet to remind me of the rich experience we had on that trip. It is there to remind me of how fortunate I am to serve a congregation that is supportive of Sabbatical leave (by the way: my next one is scheduled for the Fall of 2011). It is there to remind me of how important it is to continue the habits that made my three months away so meaningful. Slow down. Be aware of the presence of God. Breathe in the beauty that surrounds you. Take time to enjoy family and friends. Stay connected with the deeper questions of life. Every time I open my wallet I see that 5 Euro bill, and am reminded...

These days there is another reminder that calls me back to my center. Every Tuesday and Wednesday morning Ron Leighton stops by my office and brings me a half-cup of coffee.

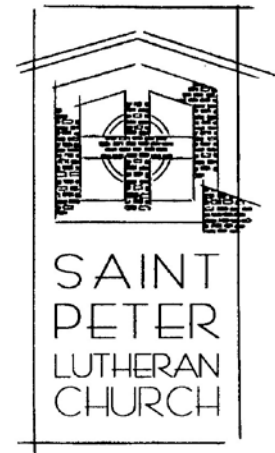
I have to tell you, if you don't already know, that coffee has fueled my mornings since the early 1970s. That's when it was my job to punch in at 4:00 a.m., help unload the truck, and re-stock the frozen foods case at the local grocery store. When it's 20 below outside, and you have a mile-long walk to work before sticking your head in a freezer for 3 hours, even a 15-year-old can appreciate the value of a hot cup of coffee. Since then my coffee intake has more often been measured by the quart than by the ounce.

So why does Ron bring me a half-cup of coffee on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings? Actually I'm not so sure why it is a half-cup (it has something to do with an old habit of his). But I know why he is there: he hosts an open house at Saint Peter every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. He is there to welcome members, friends and neighbors to make use of our labyrinth and Worship Center for a time of personal, private meditation. A quiet walk on the labyrinth in the cool morning air can be an inspiring experience. Having the darkened Worship Center all to yourself for a few minutes at the beginning of a day can be remarkable as well. Come to think of it, having a half-cup of coffee with Ron is a blessing too. Ron is gracious and kind to serve as our host, and offer these gifts to us.

He hasn't had many customers yet. (We're working on that. Perhaps you could stop by sometime soon and take advantage of his hospitality.) But I love the fact that he is there. It is a reminder to me of how important it is to take time to listen for the voice of God.

And, frankly, I'm glad it is a half-cup of coffee. There are times when it is important for us to relinquish our insatiable desire for quarts and quarts of stimulation. A half-cup can be just plenty. And it can leave room for what is more important. Slow down. Be aware. Breathe in. Take time. Stay connected.

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



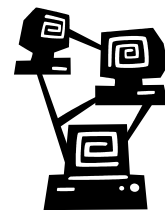
"One Little Word"

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 or check them out at www.OneLittleWord.org

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Ministry Team Leaders

Acolytes/Lectors

Karen Dehmlow

Adult Education

Discipleship Team

Altar Guild

Jan McGaw

"CAUTION" High School Youth

Karen Dehmlow

Community Blood Drive

Gayle Romceovich

Covenant Cupboard

Walt Meyer

Counters

Jo Natale

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

Ann Remme

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"Head to Heart" Catechism Ministries

January is always a busy month for Catechism Ministries. We'll lay low the first week, but then on January 9 and January 30, our first and second year Small Groups will meet in their Guide's homes to talk about The Prophets and the New Testament Gospels (January 9), and the Birth, Baptism and Wilderness Experience of Jesus (January 30).

On January 16, 23 and 30, Pastor Dave will be meeting with the third year students and their parents at church. The purpose of these gatherings will be to review the past three years, and begin to plan each student's Family Faith Project.

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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Greetings From The Discipleship Team

We are excited to share with you the many things that our team has been working on. Those who have been reading the Bible in 90 days completed the entire program mid December. Thanks to Bruce Stokes for wonderfully facilitating this group again this year. It was a powerful and inspiring spiritual journey. Adult Forum has had great attendance so far this year with many interesting topics. The inter-generational advent wreath making event was a great success. We think this is a great traditional event worth repeating annually! Thanks to our presenters Jerry Paul on Lutheran Men in Mission, and Rob Raleigh and Dave McGaw for leading us in an old-fashioned Christmas carol sing along.

We are looking forward to Walt Meyer leading us in an in-depth study of Matthew in January.

During the season of Lent, the Discipleship Team will sponsor a program as an opportunity to strengthen our discipleship of Jesus Christ by partnering with another person, in purposeful prayer. Sign-up sheets will soon be available in the Narthex. You may sign up with someone you already have in mind, or if you need to be matched with someone, our committee will help you do this also. We will make prayer resources available to you during this time.

We will keep you advised of upcoming topics for Adult Forum as we finalize the schedule for the remainder of the year. If there is anyone who has an idea for a topic, or if anyone would be willing to speak during Adult Forum, please let us know. Our thanks to all of you who helped make these events possible and to you who participated. Our hope is that you grow in faith and grow closer to one another and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Peace to each of you.

The Discipleship Team,

Bruce Stokes, Kristen Raleigh, Hayden Behnke, and Janet Okerman

Woman's Community Bible Study

All women are invited to this weekly, non-denominational Bible study that is held on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Colorado Community Church, 3651 S. Colorado Blvd., Cherry Hills. You can join the group at any time but we will be starting a new section on January 24th. For more information, talk to Deb Roth.



From the Minister of Music

What is Your Mark?

As I write this 2011 is fast approaching. First, I would like to thank all the great people at Saint Peter who have participated this past year in music ministry. You make our ministry special.

This has also been a year of growth and change for music ministries as we've added two instrumental ensembles, a 30-voice children's choir, and increased involvement in the Alleluia Ringers and Jubilate Choir, as well as many people who have sung or played solos in worship. We ended the year with around 75 people involved in Christmas Eve services. Thanks to you all!

This coming year promises even more wonderful ways to praise God and reach out through music ministry. Plans are underway for a saxophone ensemble, a large work in the spring for choir, and potentially a chime choir for younger kids.

Peace,

Steve Howie, Minister of Music

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An Afternoon with The St. Olaf Choir

Augustana Lutheran Church, January 23, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

The St. Olaf Choir, with its 75 mixed voices, is considered one of the finest college a cappella choirs in the United States. For more than three-quarters of a century, the choir has maintained its original purpose – study and preparation of a wide range of representative sacred choral literature for public performance. This concert will include works for organ and choir with music spanning the 17th – 21st centuries.

"When they opened their mouths to sing, an even wall of sound emerged: words clear, notes true. But more than that, the notes were felt..." The New York Times

"The St. Olaf Choir...amply demonstrated why it is among the nation's best." Denver Post

The concert is on Sunday, January 23rd at 3:00 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church located at 5000 E. Alameda Ave. in Denver. Tickets are: Adults, \$30; Seniors & Students, \$15.

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Ministry Team

Leaders

Habitat for Humanity

Vicky Simpson

Holly Heights

Open Position

Host Families

Marshall Roth

Property Team

Steve Haigh

Bill Hunter

Saint Peter Stitches

Carmen Faaiu

Kristen Raleigh

Selvan 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

Lynn Sherpe

Sunday School

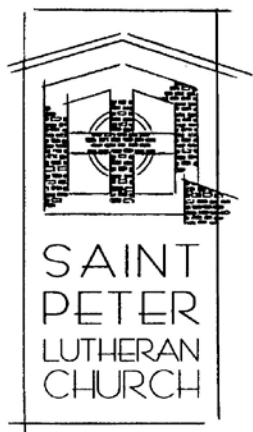
Laura Guthals

Tech Team

Steve Flessner

Rick Brydum

†



Covenant Cupboard

An Arapahoe County designated food agency located at:

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

5400 S. Yosemite St.
Greenwood Village
303 779-5400

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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RTLCL Summer Camp Update

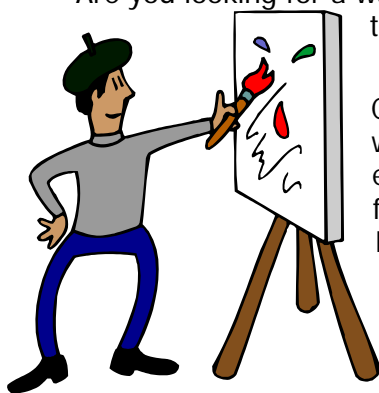
- Both confirmation camps and the Labor Day weekend camps are full.
- Family Camp beginning July 3rd has only a very few openings; the August 7th Family Camp has a few more spaces available.
- Intro Camp #1 as only a few spaces left for girls.

Most of the other camps do still have openings, but they will go fast – especially since registration will be open to those from outside our synod starting on January 1st. If you want to be assured of a spot, you will want to act BEFORE the holidays. To register go to: www.rainbowtrail.org.

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Want a Unique Valentine's Day Experience?

Are you looking for a way to express your artistic side but don't know where to start? Well search no more...



Lutheran Family Services is hosting a fundraiser at Canvas and Cocktails, one of the newest, trendiest ways to learn the basics of acrylic painting while enjoying the company of friends. The class which is for both the artistic and not so artistic will be held on Monday, February 14th at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person with \$10 being given to LFS. For more information or to register, go to www.canvasandcocktails.com or contact Erica at 303 217-5859.

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Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed

Coffee, Refreshments & Good Conversation!

Have you thought about hosting Fellowship Hour? It's fun and easy...just provide snacks for everyone to enjoy with lemonade and coffee during the Sunday School hour. You can sign-up individually, as a family or with a friend – it's a great opportunity to show our members and guests they are "Welcomed into God's Love."

Please look over your 2011 calendar and sign-up. There is a sign-up sheet on the kitchen counter. Need more information? Contact Karen Dehmlow at kdehmlow@stplc.org or Jeaneane Engel at JESE@aol.com. Thanks!

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"Colorado Gives Day" a Success!



A Big Thank You to everyone who supported Lutheran Family Services on Colorado Gives Day! It was a great success for the entire state, raising over \$8 million dollars and over \$71,000 specifically for LFS. Thank you also to everyone who helped us promote this day – we couldn't have done it without you.

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From the President of the Congregation

Even the Best Laid Plans...

New Year's Day 1998 – the day my Grandma, Marcella Hoyer died. The nurse at the nursing home had helped her that morning to wash up and get dressed, and had to step out of Grandma's room for just a few minutes to assist another resident. When the nurse returned, Grandma was gone; quickly, quietly and we hope with only a flash of pain. Grandma was tiny in

stature, big in heart, very smart, witty and had tolerated a great deal of strife during her married years. She had raised her five children on a farm in northern Indiana, had provided a home for a nephew who could have been an "embarrassment" to his prominent family, and had suffered through abuses many can never imagine. I don't image that when my Grandma was a college girl she would have ever expected to suffer as much as she did.

Grandma died on New Year's Day 1998 - it wasn't the way any of us hoped or planned to begin a New Year. The family was together at the funeral – that happens at weddings and funerals, right? We each felt a piece of our heart breaking – none of us were ready for this. Those of us with faith knew it wasn't up to us to choose the time for her to go. We knew God's plan for Grandma was for her to die on that New Year's morning so long ago. We weren't ready – not really, but we moved forward, one step at a time.

A New Year – we look to new beginnings, fresh plans, promised personal resolutions. We plot our course, plug an address into our "Lola" (GPS) and follow the directions, fairly certain we'll end up at our destination. That's the plan anyway: our plan maybe, but not necessarily God's plan for us. God's plan for us sometimes results in a big detour. Detours take time; they twist and turn, sometimes backtracking and overlapping until we are sure we'll never reach our destination.

Yet knowing there may be detours, we step forward into the New Year with high expectations. We step forward with confidence; and we are blessed to step forward with faith. Our God guides us to and through each detour, according to his plan for each of us. We are who we are because of those detours – and we are His.

As we plan for this New Year, we need to remember that we walk hand-in-hand with our God. We pray boldly – *Thy will be done* – and we need to mean it. Life's travels and detours make each of us who and what we are – and we are His.

His will – not our will. Our days on this earth are according to his will – we need to be ready for our new beginning, joining the hosts of heaven on our last day.

Happy New Year God! Here's my hand God; where are we headed today?

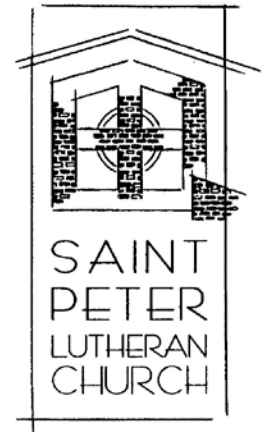
Lori Williams,
Congregation President

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January, 2011

Welcomed into God's Love; Sent into God's World



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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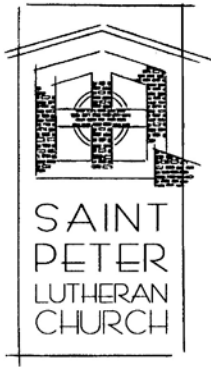
StPLC is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

If you are hurting or if you know someone who is, prayerfully consider a care receiving relationship with a Stephen Minister. For more information contact one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders:

Donna Burman
303 619-6448

Steve Onody
303 883-7826

Lynn Sherpe
303 921-5355



Saint Peter Lutheran Church

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Web: www.StPLC.org
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

8:00 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

Lori Williams, 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]