

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

FROM PASTOR VERA...

SAY GOODBYE. STAY PUT. WAIT PATIENTLY.

Mark and I have not had the privilege of having our own children. To be sure, I have nurtured and pastored lots of babies, children and youth but none that I have had to send into the world like parents do when their kids are grown.

It must take amazing fortitude and courage for you to entrust your children to their own selves as you send them into the world. While I know how excited kids are for their futures to unfold, I don't know how those of you who are parents muster the strength to say goodbye. And you must wonder as you bid them farewell if they remember everything you taught them...all the values and morals you have spent years instilling in their hearts and souls. Will they remember the ethics of their childhood home...will they continue to know how deeply they are loved?

During a continuing ed program I did some years ago on Family Systems, we talked about interdependence and self-differentiation and the importance of achieving both. As I listened to the lecture it occurred to me that we must let our children go or they will never become what they are supposed to become. My tendency would be to hang on to my loved ones with all my might.

Christi Himmelfahrt's **Tag in the Protestant Church in Germany** is a pretty big deal. How in the world can we welcome the Spirit without saying goodbye to Jesus first? The Ascension is the goodbye that Jesus and his disciples experience before the Day of Pentecost and the powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Ascension was Jesus' farewell and provides a memorable conclusion to Luke's gospel only to be reiterated at the beginning of the book of Acts. It functions a bit like the way a television show will show you scenes from the previous week before a new episode begins.

As Jesus ascends, the disciples are told to wait. "Stay in the city," he says. "Wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father." It's a funny request from someone who is about to leave you. Stay. Wait. And in one sure sign that they are already maturing in their faith, the disciples actually listen to Jesus.

Secondly, they are told what they are waiting for – power. "Stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high ... You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." The disciples are promised the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And finally, that power, when it comes, will hurl them out as witnesses to all they have seen and heard. Acts makes it perfectly clear – "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." They will be sent to tell the story to every corner of the known world.

In some ways the Ascension is like a child learning to ride a bike. Just after the training wheels come off, a parent or friend runs behind for a while to steady the bike, making sure they maintain their balance. But eventually, in order for the new bike rider to take off, one needs to let go. Unless the teacher lets the learner go, they will never become what they are supposed to become...they will never learn to ride unless the teacher sends them down the road and into the world.

You know this scenario well. Once your children are grown, you send them out with your blessing and hope they will become all that you nurtured them to be and all that God hopes they will be. But they are not sent alone nor are we. They and you and I have been called to be Christ's witnesses of love, grace and joy...not just where you are comfortable like in our beautiful church but as Jesus commands it...to the ends of the earth.

I can't wait for Pentecost Sunday and the Feast Day we will celebrate next Sunday. But first we must say goodbye, stay put, and wait patiently to receive power from on high. ☺

LESSONS FOR TODAY

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

LESSONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Acts 2:1-21
or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (30)
Romans 8:22-27
or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

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FACEBOOK • INSTAGRAM

THE BAPTISM OF BENJAMIN NATHAN KNOLL

We are blessed to celebrate with **Benjamin Nathan Knoll** as he is welcomed into the faith and hope that we share through the waters of baptism. Ben is presented for the sacrament by his parents Jesse & Mallory Knoll, his godparents Andrew & Amy Knoll, and by his grandparents Jerry & Carol Mayer and Mark & Mary Knoll. Welcome to our family of faith, Ben, and to the promises of Christ. *"You have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."* ❖



FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATES

SUNDAY FUNDAY

Today we are celebrating Jesus' Ascension into heaven. Next Sunday, we celebrate the birthday of the church, Pentecost! Remember to wear **RED** to church next Sunday! ❖

BREATH PRAYERS

Be sure to help yourself to the breath prayers in the basket on the Host Table in the narthex! Put one or several in your pocket and keep them with you wherever you go! Pausing and slowing down your breath while praying is a way to stay connected to God. With so much going on at the end of the school year, we can find calm and stillness, even in our busy schedules. ❖

NURSERY

A reminder that our wonderful attendant Reese loves to have kids come to be with her each week. We are fortunate to have her at Saint Peter all summer. ❖

CHEER SQUAD

JONAH H. is performing with the Laredo Middle School Orchestra, playing cello at Smoky Hill High School on Tuesday, May 21 at 6:15.

MATTHEW G's final baseball games are listed below. Ms. Mary especially loved seeing Matthew pitch on Sunday! May 18 at 3 p.m. and May 19 at 12 noon. Both games are at the Parker Recreation Center, 17301 E Lincoln Ave. Parker. June 1 at 11 a.m., 9651 S Quebec St Highlands Ranch and June 2 at 2 p.m. at the Parker Recreation Center. ❖

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Following the Sacred Choral Sunday worship, we served Brunch to over 65 attendees. The planners, bakers, set-up and clean-up crews were extraordinary. The servers were our Saint Peter youth. They were attentive to the needs of all, and never stopped moving. They joyfully served others before serving themselves. *Thank you* Mila, Piper, Maggie, Matthew, Jonah, Jasper, Caroline, Gracie, and Charlie. ❖



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Callisto Haynes is 6 - Monday
Jackie Skiles - Tuesday
Eric Waggoner - Tuesday
Adam Hass - Tuesday

BAPTISMS

Walt Meyer - Sunday

ANNIVERSARIES

None This Week

WORSHIP SERVANTS

TODAY

MINISTER

Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward

ASSISTING MINISTER

Steve Haigh

LECTOR

Annie Heath

HOSTS

Bruce and Laura Guthals

ALTAR GUILD

Pam Haigh

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP REP

Steve Haigh

NEXT SUNDAY

MINISTER

Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward

ASSISTING MINISTER

Lynn Sherpe

LECTOR

Mark Guebert-Steward

HOSTS

Steve and Denise Leighton

ALTAR GUILD

Brooke Tieperman

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP REP

Steve Leighton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement at the end of worship, please contact the day's leadership rep.

PRAISING GOD THROUGH WORK AND PLAY

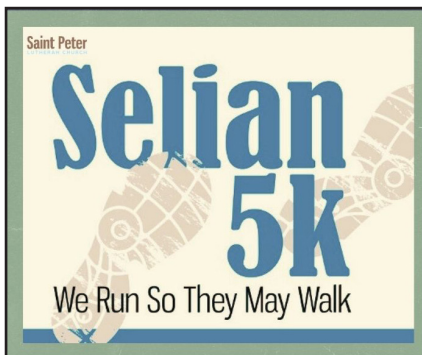


Thank you to the Saint Peter Jubilate Choir and the Castle Rock Chorale for the inspiring service through song on Sacred Choral Sunday, May 5.



IT WAS A FORCE-FILLED STAR WARS-THEMED FIRST FRIDAY!

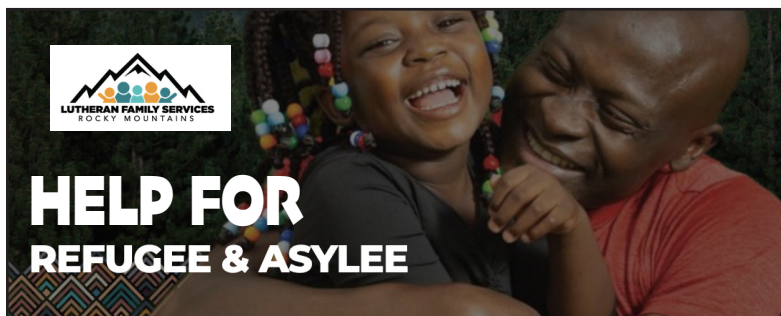
Stay tuned for information about the next night out for Saint Peter kids and their friends.



WE RUN SO THEY MAY WALK 5K: AUG 24

The 16th Annual "We Run So They May Walk" 5K Race to support Tanzanian missions is Saturday, August 24. More

details soon! Are you interested in helping to plan or sponsor? If you have an interest in helping in ways large or small, please reach out to Terri Mohrhaus, Valerie Watkins, or Carol Mayer!



HELP FOR REFUGEE & ASYLEE

In the United States we are on track to admitting 125,000 refugees and 20,000 special immigration visas in 2024. LFSRM is working to clear out a backlog of newcomers with more efficient processing and working collaboratively with the Welcome Corps in Denver for community sponsorships. We are accepting gently-used furniture to help furnish homes for newcomers! Reach out to Donor Relations Coordinator Jonah Kucinski-Stewart at 720-541-6834 or via email jonah.kucinski-stewart@lfsrm.org.

SPRING CLEANING



Are you enjoying the spruced-up grounds and sparkling windows? Thank you to the Property Team and their crew of helpers!

Saint Peter LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 08-11 **DAY CAMP** **FREE!**



FUN AND CREATIVE FAITH EXPLORATION FOR KIDS K-GOING INTO 6TH GRADE

Volunteers wanted!
Contact Mary (mpratt@stp lc.org) or Andy (mohrhaus.a@gmail.com)!



COLORADO ROCKIES
Faith Day

\$20 **1:10PM AUGUST 11**

ROX VS BRAVES

COORS FIELD
POST-GAME CONCERT FEATURING ZACH WILLIAMS

BUY TICKETS BY JULY 26 **CONTACT GUTHALS@MSN.COM**

FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR: MICHAEL TeKRONY!



Siblings in Christ of Saint Peter, I am surrounding you in prayer as you give thanks for the ministry you have shared with Pastor Vera. She is a loved and respected colleague, and I give thanks to God for her loving and faithful service to you and God's Church as a whole. I will join you in a couple of weeks, and if you would like a glimpse into one of my spiritual practices, feel free to check out my humble web site: www.revealingspiritthroughnature.com.

By the way, Pastor Vera is very gifted behind the lens also. Just sayin'.

Blessings on your journey together,

Pastor Michael TeKrony

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK BEGINS MAY 19

All of us at Saint Peter Lutheran Church have been so blessed to have a loving, dedicated, and very responsible staff. Lynn Sherpe, Mary Pratt, Arielle Wilson, Beryl Fanslow Wilson, Barb Hinchey and Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward provide so much energy and love to the ministries at StPLC. Please join the Saint Peter Personnel Committee in celebrating this wonderful team during **Staff Appreciation Week** beginning Sunday May 19.

On Sunday May 19 please stop by the table in the Narthex to write a note to each staff member to tell them how much you appreciate the gifts they provide to you and our whole community. If you prefer, you may bring or mail a personal note to church on Sunday, May 19 or Sunday, May 26.

On Sunday, May 26, it would be appreciated if you would bring some flowers to church before the 9 a.m. service. We will gather the flowers to create bouquets for each staff member. In addition, we will have a thank you reception with cupcakes and coffee after the 9 a.m. service the weekend of May 26 (Memorial Day weekend). If you are not going to be in town, please consider bringing flowers and thank you notes to church by Friday, May 24.

If you would like to help or make a contribution, please contact Gerry Rasel graselmom@msn.com or Allison Summerton allisonsummerton@comcast.net.

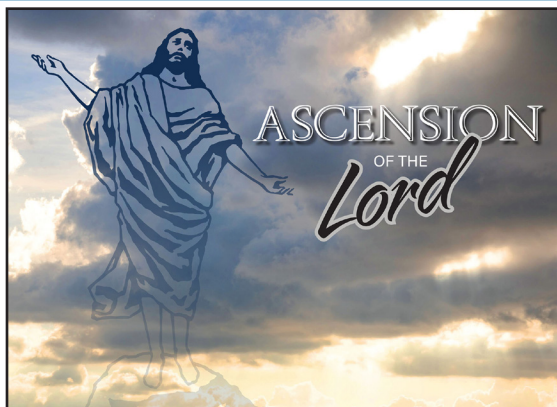
PRAYER CONCERNS (*NEW THIS WEEK)

*Sue Stone	Wife of Karyl Meyer's cousin, Tom	Sue was thrown from her horse on May 3 and suffered severe spinal cord injury at C3 and C4. Prayers for God's strength as Tom and Sue deal with this.
*Bonnie Rupiper	Mother of Robyn Glaser	Recovering from cracked ribs and fractured sternum sustained in a car accident. Prayers for healing and pain relief.
*Alyssa	Friend of Courtney (Williams) Blackwell	Diagnosed with breast cancer. Prayers for courage, peace and healing for her as she navigates this journey with her husband Jared and their toddler Lucas.
Lori Williams	Saint Peter Member	Recovering from Apr. 23 lower back surgery. Prayers of healing and comfort.
Sharon Stokes	Saint Peter Member	Sharon fell and broke her left clavicle Friday evening, Apr. 19. Prayers of healing and comfort.
Patricia and family	Mother of Pam Haigh's co-worker	Comfort for Patricia and her family as she nears the end of her life.
Family and friends of Harold Uphouse	Father-in-law to Judy Sickinger's daughter, Jeanette	Completed life's journey on Apr. 5 after a long battle with MS. Prayers of comfort for Harold's family.
Erin	Friend & Co-workder of Jodie Davis	Diagnosed with breast cancer. Prayers for healing and comfort.
Family and friends of Penny Dwyer	Mom of Hank & Amelia Dundon's friends, James & Becca	Completed life's journey on Apr. 7 at a long battle with cancer. Prayers of comfort, support and peace for Penny's family.
Tim O'Keefe	Brother of Shawn O'Keefe	Diagnosed with a brain tumor. Prayers for healing.
Tammy Johnson	Friend of the Divers	Diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. Prayers for healing and comfort.
Raymond Stackpoole	Long time friend of Steve Leighton	Diagnosed with cancer. Prayers of support and healing.
Karyl Meyer	Saint Peter Member	Health concerns. Prayers for healing and comfort.
Olivia	9 month old daughter of Ken Gerhart's nephew	Diagnosed with a neuroblastoma. Prayers of hope, support and healing.
Cherril Serdy	Friend of Gerry Rasel	Cherril was recently diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Prayers for healing and strength.
Nicki Sperekas	Friend of Barb Hinchey	Prayers of thanksgiving for successful breast cancer surgery. Prayers for continued successful treatment and healing.
Nina Schafer	Friend of Jan McGaw	Prayers for strength after diagnosis for recurrence of breast cancer.
Helen Merle	Mother of Karyl Meyer	Health issues. Prayers of comfort, healing and support.
Jeff Summerton	Brother of Jed Summerton	Struggling with several health issues. Prayers of hope, strength and peace.
Dottie Summerton	Jed & Allison Summerton's sister-in-law	Prayers for peace and comfort for Dottie and her family as she nears end of life.
Wil & Elizabeth Vogel	Saint Peter Members	Health issues. Prayers for healing, comfort and peace.
Karen Koenig	Judy Sickinger's sister	Health issues due to cancer. Prayers of comfort and support.
Shirlie Walters	Kami Mach's mother	Prayers for comfort and support as she continues to deal with low-functioning kidneys.
Roger Hoyer	Lori Williams' uncle	Health issues. Prayers for strength and healing.
Donna O'Keefe	Shawn O'Keefe's mother	Experiencing heart issues. Prayers for healing.
Robert Bunke	Jim Bunke's father	Health issues from congestive heart failure. Prayers for comfort.



OUR UPCOMING WEEK

MAY 12	SUNDAY
9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Onsite (WC) and Online
MAY 13	MONDAY
MAY 14	TUESDAY
7:30 a.m.	BNI Meeting (FH)
MAY 15	WEDNESDAY
11:30 a.m.	Prayers and Conversation Onsite (FH) and Online
12:00 p.m.	Bible Study Onsite and Online (FH)
2:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting (FH)
7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
MAY 16	THURSDAY
7:00 p.m.	Worship Band Rehearsal
7:00 p.m.	Chick Lit Book Club (CH)
MAY 17	FRIDAY
9:00 a.m.	Volunteer at Covenant Cupboard 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (https://tinyurl.com/2024CCFP)
MAY 18	SATURDAY
10:30 a.m.	The Saint Peter Stitchers (Narthex)
11:00 a.m.	AI-Anon Meeting (FH)
MAY 19	SUNDAY
9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Onsite (WC) and Online



WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY 9:00 a.m.

Worship onsite/online

See stplc.org for access links

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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.

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

WELCOME GUESTS!

Thank you for visiting Saint Peter Lutheran Church in Greenwood Village. We are happy you are here.

ATTENDANCE

Please take a moment to fill out the attendance form that is passed around during the Children's Message. We promise not to share your information with any third parties or add you to our mailing list unless you request it.

CHILDREN

Children are invited to worship in the Worship Center alongside the big kids and the adults, even if they are noisy. Kids can help themselves to a "Busy Bag" that hangs on the Pencil Hook and hang out in the "Pray Ground" in the southwest corner of the Worship Center, too.

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

Mark 10:13-16

If you prefer, a staffed nursery is located next to the restroom down the hall. Nursery care during church is for infants through age 5. Care provided during Faith Forum expands to include kids in elementary school. **Guardians must sign children in and out.** Children are also welcome to take communion. A blessing can be provided in lieu of the meal if that is the parent or guardian's preference.

COMMUNION

You are welcome at the communion table regardless of your specific religious affiliation or age. If you choose to worship online and would also like to celebrate communion, you are invited to participate in this sacred act as well. Read more about at-home communion on our website here: <https://bit.ly/36OSW5R>