

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

"WHEN IT WAS EVENING ON THAT DAY, THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK..."

That day. Early that morning, Mary Magdalene told the disciples that Jesus' body was missing from the tomb. Peter and "the other disciple" ran to the tomb to see for themselves that it was true. Then, a bit later that day, Mary Magdalene came once again, no doubt breathless with excitement, and told them, "I have seen the Lord."

When they hear this news, the apostles don't run into the streets, declaring the truth of the risen Christ. They don't storm to the leaders of the day, alive with the news and emboldened with the fulfillment of prophecy. We find them huddled behind locked doors out of fear for their lives, afraid of their uncertain futures. Perhaps even fearful of confronting Jesus. Most of them had, after all, fallen asleep, denied and deserted him in the moment of crisis. Did they whisper in hushed tones, recounting and fact-checking each other's stories -- "*Did you see the body? Was he actually executed? Could this be? What was that he said about seeds and bread and wine?*"

Jesus, however, will not be stopped by locked doors. He does not come to confront his disciples with their failures, but to grant them peace – *shalom*. Jesus shows his disciples his wounds to prove it's really him: the flesh-and-blood, crucified Jesus. The disciples respond by rejoicing. Jesus speaks a blessing of peace and commands them to continue his mission.

Doubting Thomas. I think Thomas gets a bad rap. For some reason he was absent from the gathering and he missed out on seeing Jesus in the flesh. But does he really doubt more than the others did? He asks for what others have already received: to see Jesus, wounds and all. Jesus doesn't shame or punish him for his "doubt." Rather, he shows up again. One week later, when the disciples were once again gathered behind locked doors (suggesting perhaps Thomas wasn't the only one still seeking reassurance), Jesus appears and gives Thomas exactly what he needs. Thomas responds: "My Lord and my God!"

The Easter season of alleluias can sometimes seem to leave little room for our doubts, our fears, and our pain. The atmosphere is one of overwhelming belief, he-is-risen-indeed, open eyes and exponential joy. We may forget that for the first disciples, there was fear, doubt, pain and confusion before there was understanding and joy. Though we rejoiced with alleluias a week ago, how might anxiety and fear in our lives keep us locked in, keep us from fulfilling the mission for which Jesus has called and sent us?

The natural thing to do when we are feeling anxious is to hunker down and lock the doors, to become more focused on ourselves and less on our relationships and our neighbors. But Jesus cannot be stopped by our locked doors. Jesus comes to us right in the midst of our fear, pain, doubt and confusion – speaking peace. He keeps showing up, week after week, in the word, water, bread and wine. He breathes into our anxious lives the breath of the Holy Spirit. And he keeps sending us out of our locked rooms into a world that, like us, so desperately needs his gifts of life and peace.



LESSONS FOR TODAY

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133 (1)
I John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

LESSONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4 (3)
I John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through 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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9300 BELLEVIEW AVE.
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111
303-770-9300
WWW.STPLC.ORG
FACEBOOK • INSTAGRAM

FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATES

CHEER SQUAD IS BACK IN ACTION

Matthew's (baseball) and Piper's (softball) games have already begun! They'll be playing throughout the Spring. Here's their schedule for next weekend:

MATTHEW: Saturday, April 13 at 1 p.m. and Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m.

PIPER: Saturday, April 13 at 12:30 and 2:15 p.m. Please see Ms. Mary for location.

Who has a Spring Concert coming up? Soccer game? Tae Kwon Do demonstration? Drop off the information or the schedule in Ms. Mary's box or send it to her at mp Pratt@stplc.org so she can help get the word out. Let's have some fun together and watch some ball games, hear some concerts, and support our kids! ❖



SUNDAY FUNDAY

We'll be learning about Thomas and his skepticism and how his experience applies to our faith lives. Also, we'll be gathering the supplies for Personal Care Kits you so generously provided for *Lutheran World Relief's Global Outreach!* We'll take inventory and will report your generosity in next week's *Our Life Together!* ❖



37 NARCISSUS PLANTS FOR EASTER!

Thank you kids and adults alike for throwing yourselves into the growing of our Easter narcissus bulbs. On Easter Sunday, your narcissus plants were mixed amongst the other flowers on the altar, creating a reminder of beautiful, vibrant, abundant life coming from a simple lifeless-looking bulb. Christ is Risen Indeed. Alleluia. ❖

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THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Paul Orlino - Sunday
Beau Johnson is 3 - Sunday
Marty Dallman - Monday
Walt Meyer - Tuesday
Wesley Shull is 6 - Saturday

BAPTISMS

Charlie Hinsey - Sunday
Maiah Howie - Sunday
Cathey Herren - Wednesday
Jami O'Bryan - Wednesday
George Beals - Wednesday
Ken Gerhart - Saturday

ANNIVERSARIES

None this week

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

MINISTER

Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward

ASSISTING MINISTER

Bruce Stokes

LECTOR

Dolly Bunke

HOSTS

OPEN

ALTAR GUILD

Pam Haigh

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP REP

OPEN

NEXT WEEK'S REP

Steve Haigh

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Children's Choir

Children's Choir rehearsals start **TODAY** after church. We perform on April 21.

Contact Beryl Fanslow Wilson

bfanslow@stplc.org for more information!

HE IS RISEN
indeed

The drama of the Passion, the intimacy of the Easter Vigil, the abundance of Easter – what an unforgettable event, full of reminders of the redemptive quality of love and the promise of new life. Thank you to all who had a hand in making the story come alive through music, word, worship and atmosphere.



DAY CAMP
JULY 08-11



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

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

FREE!

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK STARTS 4/21
Email Gerry Rasel (secretary@stplc.org) information about your volunteer efforts. Include your name, the organization you volunteer with and your role. Include a photo if you have one!

COVENANT CUPBOARD UPDATES

Covenant Cupboard is a 100% volunteer-led nonprofit organization that helps feed 150-200 families every week. There are many ways to help! Sign up at tinyurl.com/2024CCFP or scan the QR code.

- Every Friday, volunteers are needed for shifts to prepare for distribution (9 – 11 a.m.), help with distribution (12:30 – 4:30 p.m.), and to clean up (3 – 5 p.m.). Volunteers should be 13 or older or accompanied by a parent.
- Volunteer on the first and third Wednesday of each month to help unload the truck after our government food pick-up.
- On other days of the week, volunteers are needed for food rescue from local grocery stores, using private vehicles or driving the CCFP truck.
- On Saturday, May 11 (approx. 5:00 - 10:00 p.m.), transport and sort food donations from the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive sponsored by the postal carriers' union. This is a great opportunity for families with older pre-teens or teenagers!

CAN'T VOLUNTEER IN PERSON, BUT STILL WANT TO HELP?

- Covenant Cupboard is always in need of donations of food, other items, or cash.
- We give out books to our clients' children – do you have picture books for infants and toddlers to donate? Books for all ages, including adults, are also appreciated. If you are looking for a project for your group, consider collecting Spanish-language books!
- If you want to provide financial support or have friends or family that want to support a non-profit in your name, there are several ways to do so. Checks are always welcome and should be made out to Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry (or CCFP). And now, we are accepting donations electronically using Vanco (like Saint Peter). Just go to the website: covcupboard.org > [Get Involved](#) > [Contribute](#). Monetary donations allow us to purchase additional vegetables and meat/proteins as needed and to maintain our truck, refrigerators, and freezers.



Thank you for spreading love and helping to feed our neighbors!

Firearm Harm Reduction

LET'S HAVE A CONVERSATION...

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 14 AT 10:15 A.M.

HOW INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY TRAUMA INFLUENCES OUR DISCUSSIONS ABOUT FIREARMS

Aimee Alcorn, LCSW and Certified Trauma Professional from the Colorado Dream Foundation will provide information and insights about primary and secondary trauma, how we can identify when someone may be experiencing a traumatic event or its after-effects, and how to support each other in working through the harm to arrive at healing and thriving. ✦

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 AT 10:15 A.M.

FIREARMS IN COLORADO

Community Engagement Staff from the University of Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative will present research and survey data on firearms in Colorado, including firearm ownership in Colorado, motivations to ownership, firearm use and safety behaviors among firearm owners. They will also present data on firearm-involved injury and harm in Colorado, such as domestic violence, suicide, community violence, school/public shootings. This information will lay the ground work for the session on April 28. ✦

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 AT 10:15 A.M.

A FACILITATED CONVERSATION ON FIREARMS AND INJURY PREVENTION

Community Engagement Staff from the University of Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative will guide us in discussions about our personal values and opinions of firearms and how we can find common goals to prevent firearm-related harm. Two facilitators with different backgrounds and perspectives on guns will be modeling and facilitating ways to engage in respectful dialogue. ✦



PRAYER CONCERNS (*NEW THIS WEEK)

*Family and Friends of Stan Martin	Saint Peter Member	Completed his baptismal journey on Apr. 3. Prayers for peace and comfort for his sons, Mason & Jake.
*Family and Friends of John Loftis	Co-worker and friend of Dave Williams	Completed his life journey on Apr. 2 after struggling with several health issues. Prayers for comfort and peace for his family, especially his daughter and parents, and for his friends.
Garth Donato	Friend of the community	An unhoused gentleman, known and loved in the community was hit by a car and died. Prayers for the community that loved him and mourns his loss.
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.
Annie Heath	Saint Peter Member	Recovering from Mar. 21 neck surgery to remove tumor. Prayers for healing.
Sabrina Foose	Friend of Allegra Reiber	Hope and strength as she continues to face emotional and physical challenges of being a parent and spouse while she needs frequent hospitalizations for lupus.
Katrina & Frank	Friends of Allegra Reiber	Responding to new health challenges which have changed work-life balance. Prayers for strength, balance, hope and respite amidst the exhaustion and struggle.
Troy Rushmore and family	Friends of Allegra Reiber	Extensive health issues surgery was on Mar. 29.
Marilynn Diver	Saint Peter Member	Recovering from Mar. 6 hip replacement surgery. Prayer for healing.
William Riekema	Cousin of Lee Diver	William having health issues following double bypass surgery. Prayers for healing.
Mike Sherpe	Saint Peter Member	Recovering from Mar. 7 open heart triple bypass surgery. Prayers for continued healing.
Judy Hoyer	Mother of Lori Williams	Recovering from surgery on Feb. 26 to remove a bladder tumor and ongoing health concerns. Prayers for strength and healing.
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.
Derek Meyer	Son of Walt & Karyl Meyer	Struggling with health issues. Prayers for healing.
Olivia	9 month old daughter of Ken Gerhart's nephew	Diagnosed with a neuroblastoma. Prayers of hope, support and healing.
Samuel Daniel	Father of Darlene Beals	Recovering from hospital stay in Atlanta, GA. Prayers for healing and strength.
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 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.

O Lord, Hear Our Prayer.

OUR UPCOMING WEEK

APRIL 7	SUNDAY
9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Onsite (WC) and Online
APRIL 8	MONDAY
APRIL 9	TUESDAY
7:30 a.m.	BNI Meeting (FH)
APRIL 10	WEDNESDAY
11:30 a.m.	Prayers and Conversation Onsite (FH) and Online
12:00 p.m.	Bible Study Onsite and Online (FH)
7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
APRIL 11	THURSDAY
7:00 p.m.	Worship Band Rehearsal
APRIL 12	FRIDAY
9:00 a.m.	Volunteer at Covenant Cupboard 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (https://tinyurl.com/2024CCFP)
APRIL 13	SATURDAY
8:30 a.m.	Choir Retreat ALL DAY - The Castle Rock Chorale (FH)
11:00 a.m.	Al-Anon Meeting (FH)
APRIL 14	SUNDAY
9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Onsite (WC) and Online

BLOOD DRIVE APRIL 27 AT SAINT PETER

We're hosting! Donations will be from 8:30 – Noon. Earlier appointments have less wait time. You can book your donation at donors.vitalant.org or calling 877-258-4925

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 Mom or Dad'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>

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