

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

FROM PASTOR VERA...

"YOU ARE PRECIOUS IN MY SIGHT"

Good Shepherd Sunday is a favorite of mine, perhaps yours, too. In John chapter ten we hear Jesus speak incredible words of comfort. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand."

I have a pretty distinct voice – one that probably gets a little annoying now and then, a little nasally, a little low and a little obnoxious when I get angry or frustrated. It's so distinct that Dr. Robert Kolb, one of my Missouri Synod college professors, identified me by my voice 13 years after I had last spoken with him. I needed an endorsement to complete my schooling for a Master's of Divinity for ordination in the ELCA. So, I called my old professor friend for a reference. After I said "hello Dr. Kolb" – before I could say my name – he said, "Hello Vera, I've been waiting years for this call."

Voices are unique, distinct, and can either bless or repel us, lead us toward or away from a place of safety and peace. In his book about Martin Luther King, Jr., *Bearing the Cross*, David Garrow tells of a time in King's life when many voices competed for King's attention - voices of fear, of doubt, of despair. King received numerous murderous threats against him and his family. One night, the phone rang with yet another anonymous caller breathing murderous warnings.

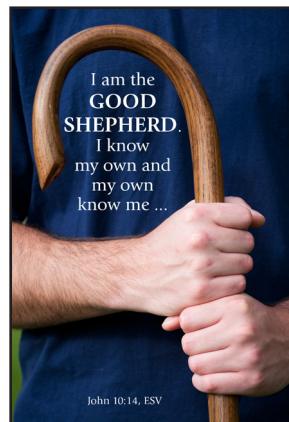
After the call, King sat at the kitchen table, fearful but prayerful. He prayed to God, admitting that he was losing his courage. He heard a voice he knew was the voice of Jesus. "Martin," the voice said, "stand up for righteousness. Stand up for justice. Stand up for truth. And, lo, I will be with you, even unto the end of the world." Strengthened by the voice, he knew which path to take and gained courage in his ministry. "Almost at once," he remembered, "my fears began to go. My uncertainty disappeared."

The last two Wednesday evenings I attended Confirmation class with Steve Leighton, Nate Gerhart and our confirmation-aged youth. We have spent time talking and studying about war and peace, suicide and hope. Throughout my ministry I have been consistently concerned about the voices our young people hear and listen to. They may be lured by the voices of society that lead them astray from the Good Shepherd; voices that question their worth or inner beauty. Voices that lead even to immorality or unethical behavior.

We are all surrounded by influential voices. How do we know which is the voice of God, rather than of Society, the Superego, self-interest, greed or insecurity? Hold the voice you hear and the direction that voice is calling you up against the life and ministry and love of Jesus.

If we follow when the Shepherd calls, there will be peace. Even through difficulty or suffering, "through the valley of the shadow of death ... we will fear no evil." Because, as Isaiah writes, God says, "Do not fear ... I have called you by name ... When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned ... For I am the Lord your God ... you are precious in my sight."

It is my prayer today that we listen intently for the voice of the great Shepherd who calls us to the table where goodness and mercy flow abundantly and who calls us to dwell in this house, Saint Peter, Christ's church forever. It is here, if we open our hearts to it, that we will find comfort and peace. There is no other voice that we should heed except the one that calls us today and every day to abundant and gracious life. ☀



LESSONS FOR TODAY

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23 (1)
I John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

LESSONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31 (27)
I John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

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Church Info

9300 BELLEVUE AVE.
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111
303-770-9300

WWW.STPLC.ORG
FACEBOOK • INSTAGRAM

FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATES

CHEER SQUAD

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND MAKE SOME NOISE FOR OUR StPLC KIDS!

You've seen Phoebe H. sing with the Saint Peter Children's Choir – now hear her with her Choir at Indian Ridge Elementary School on Tuesday, May 7, 6:30 p.m.

Jonah H. is performing with the Laredo Middle School Orchestra, playing cello at Smoky Hill High School on Tuesday, May 14, 6:15 p.m.

Gracie D. is busy! Come see her play soccer today at 1:30 p.m. at the Real CO Soccer Complex, Turf 1 (12500 Real Parkway, Englewood) or Saturday, April 27 at 1:30 p.m. at the Fort Collins Soccer Complex, Field 6 (3955 NW Frontage Rd). She will also perform in a voice recital at Smoky Hill High School on Saturday, May 4, 2:00 p.m., as well as a Laredo Middle School Choir Concert at Smoky Hill High School on Tuesday, May 21, 6:15 p.m.

Grab some peanuts and crackerjack! Matt G. will play baseball today at noon at 5150 Windermere St. in Englewood and a doubleheader on Saturday, April 27 at 1 and 3 p.m. at 34201 County Rd. 17 in Elizabeth.

Piper G. plays softball today at noon and on April 27 at 9 a.m. at Salisbury Equestrian Park (11920 Motsenbocker Rd. in Parker). Then catch a doubleheader on Saturday April 27 at 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at Falcon Park (9555 Fall brooke Dr. in Highlands Ranch). Want more softball? Come see her play on Sunday, April 28 at 1:30 p.m. at Salisbury Equestrian Park. ❖

SUNDAY FUNDAY

We continue to build on our Breath Prayer repertoire each week. What fun for us ALL to mindfully breathe last Sunday at church, as led by Mr. Steve (Haigh)! Please notice there are "Pocket Prayers" with the weekly Breath Prayer for you to take home each week, on the table with the Worship Folders! As Mr. Steve noted, this simple practice is not just for kids.

This week, we are studying Jesus as The Good Shepherd. ❖

StPLC YOUTH ASSEMBLE LWF PERSONAL CARE KITS

Last Sunday, we enjoyed having 17 youth/children and 4 adult helpers participating in Sunday Funday, so we split into age-based groups for part of our time. The older youth worked together to assemble Kits which will be sent to people experiencing challenges globally. Our youngest children stayed in Fellowship Hall, learning, praying, and growing in faith. Thank you for your generous donations, making this outreach tangible and inspiring for our children and youth. ❖

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Dottie Kerr - Monday
D.J. Bruen - Monday
Jesse Melson - Saturday
Stephanie Guthals - Saturday

BAPTISMS

Marie-Louise Wood - Sunday
Allison Summerton - Monday
Audrey Koenig - Monday
Gavin Waggoner - Tuesday

ANNIVERSARIES

None this week

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

MINISTER

Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward

ASSISTING MINISTER

Alice Summerton

LECTOR

A Wonderful Howie

HOSTS

Jim and Dolly Bunke

ALTAR GUILD

Pam Prichard

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP REP

Steve Leighton

NEXT WEEK'S REP

OPEN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



WORLD LABYRINTH DAY MAY 4, 1 P.M.

Every year on the first Saturday in May, thousands of people around the globe participate in World Labyrinth Day as a Moving Meditation for World Peace and celebration of the labyrinth experience. Come enjoy peaceful meditation on the Saint Peter Labyrinth!



Saint Peter
LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY
08-11

DAY CAMP



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)!

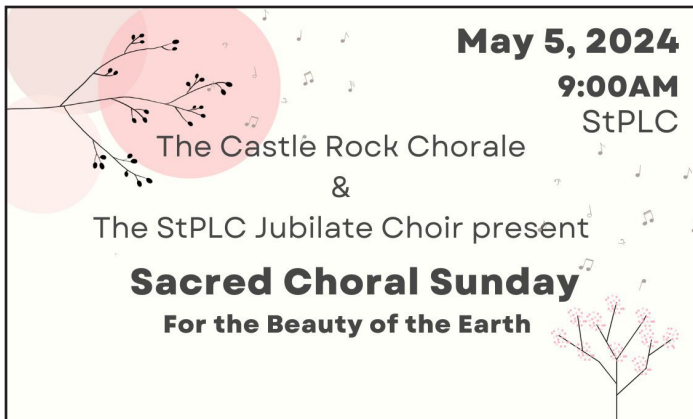
FREE!

May 5, 2024
9:00AM
StPLC

The Castle Rock Chorale
&
The StPLC Jubilate Choir present

Sacred Choral Sunday

For the Beauty of the Earth



THE RON LEIGHTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Ron Leighton Memorial Scholarship is open to members who are (or will be) continuing their education in formal and accredited educational programs.

You should apply if:
You are contributing to and involved in the life of Saint Peter's congregation.
You have integrity and strong Christian values.
You strive to be a positive role model for others.

Next Steps:
Go to stplc.org to print the application. Return the completed application to the Church office no later than June 2nd, 2024. You will be contacted and have the chance to wow the Scholarship Committee during a fun and informal interview.

Questions? Contact Lori Williams or Ken Gerhart.


+

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 by visiting donors.vitalant.org or calling 877-258-4925 or scanning the QR code.

BLOOD DRIVE

vitalant
Blood Donation



MAY THE FOURTH

third! BE WITH YOU

StPLC FIRST FRIDAY FUN!
MAY 3 • 6-8ish PM
@ SAINT PETER
GRADES 5-9 + SIBLINGS

RSVP TO BRITTANY –
BBRJUNEBUG@GMAIL.COM

eat darth taters

use the force

watch episode IV

herd nerfs

do or do not—there is no try

...and also with you...

FIREARM HARM REDUCTION SERIES, TODAY 10:30 - 11:45 A.M.

On Sunday, April 14th, **Aimee Alcorn** and **Toni Herr** from the *Colorado Dream Foundation* came to the *Coffee and Conversation* series to help us better understand trauma, the different types and causes of trauma. Aimee and Teri helped us to think about the many events including accidents, violence, loss and deprivation that can threaten or harm people and cause trauma. Like physical wounds, emotional wounds need time and care to heal. We explored how we at Saint Peter can provide a safe space for people to feel welcomed, safe and supported to heal and grow through trauma.

The conversation on April 14th was the first in a series on **Firearm Harm Reduction**. We began the series with a session on trauma to help us be mindful that our experience of trauma can influence our discussion on firearms.

Today, **Jessica Buck-Atkinson**, MPH, from the *Colorado School of Public Health Firearm Harm Reduction 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 groundwork for the session on April 28th.



SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 10:30 - 11:45 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.

SPRING CLEANING

MAY 4

9:00AM - NOON

THE PROPERTY TEAM INVITES YOU TO HELP TRIM RABBIT BRUSH, RAKE, WASH WINDOWS AND CLEAN THE ENTRANCE DOORS, WEED FLOWER BEDS AND PICK UP LITTER. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

CAN YOU BRING RAGS, PAPER TOWELS AND WINDOW CLEANER?

IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL PROJECT IDEA, CONTACT STEVE HAIGH! (HAIGH303@GMAIL.COM)

JIM BUNKE MIGHT EVEN BRING DONUTS.

PRAYER CONCERNS (*NEW THIS WEEK)

Margaret Eickhoff	Saint Peter Member	Recovering from a recent fall. Prayers for healing, strength and comfort.
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-worker 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 after a long battle with cancer. Prayers of comfort, support and peace for Penny's family.
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 & respite amidst the exhaustion & struggle.
Troy Rushmore and family	Friends of Allegra Reiber	Extensive health issues and recovering from surgery on Mar. 29.
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.
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 21	SUNDAY
9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Onsite (WC) and Online
10:30 a.m.	Firearm Harm Reduction (FH)
APRIL 22	MONDAY
APRIL 23	TUESDAY
7:30 a.m.	BNI Meeting (FH)
APRIL 24	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 25	THURSDAY
RMS ASSEMBLY - Office Closed	
7:00 p.m.	Worship Band Rehearsal
APRIL 26	FRIDAY
RMS ASSEMBLY - Office Closed	
9:00 a.m.	Volunteer at Covenant Cupboard 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (https://tinyurl.com/2024CCFP)
APRIL 27	SATURDAY
7:00 a.m.	Community Blood Drive (FH)
11:00 a.m.	Al-Anon Meeting (FH)
APRIL 28	SUNDAY
9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Onsite (WC) and Online
10:30 a.m.	Firearm Harm Reduction (FH)

There is a time
for everything,
and a season for every
activity under heaven...



Ecclesiastes 3:1

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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Cathy Dundon, *Treasurer*
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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