

# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## WHO'S THE BOSS?

Oh boy. Unless you've been living under a rock, you are aware that 2024 is set to be another contentious year in the political landscape. Candidates vie for attention. Short-term gain, self-aggrandizement, bickering and constant bidding for our devotion and loyalty dominate the news cycle. Who gets the authority? Who gets to lead?

How refreshing it is to witness the nature of Jesus' authority in today's reading! Jesus' entrance into Capernaum made a splash. The crowd was astonished by the nature of his teaching – "for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Mark 1:21-22). It was unlike anything they had heard before. The word for authority, *exousia*, is related to the verb *exesti*, meaning "it is free" or "it is permitted." Here was someone who taught with freedom, untethered to the old ways and doctrines of the scribes and pharisees. Jesus' teaching was radically new and fresh, whereas the scribes taught the same old stuff.

Where the scribes' teaching is based on their knowledge and traditional interpretation of the law, Jesus taught with the authority of God. Elsewhere in the Gospels, he breaks with tradition again and again, even asserting that the traditional interpretation of the commandments is inadequate: "For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20).

This new and bold way of living, loving, and learning sets up the arc of Jesus' story – ultimately resulting in his trial and death when his actions and teaching break the mold of the day. The nature and of Jesus' (divine) authority provides an opportunity to reflect on the nature of political power and authority. In a worldly sense, Jesus did not have any power at all. He was not a worldly king with political or military power. He was not a priest. He was not even a scribe with the authority of Jewish tradition. The only authority he had was the supreme confidence that what he did and said was God's will and God's truth. His authority lay in the sheer power of his words and in the example of his deeds. His authority lay in his living as God's servant. Jesus' acting in authority brought blessings to people – health and healing (Mark 1:23-28). Jesus used his authority not to obtain power for himself but to serve humanity (Mark 10:41-45).

Jesus' authority and kingdom ministry invite us to imagine a different world – a vibrant and blessed world where loving one's neighbor and God is the highest commandment – and to live towards it. ✚

*(Excerpted and adapted from "Commentary on Mark 1:21-28"*

<https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revise-common-lectionary/fourth-sunday-after-epiphany-2/commentary-on-mark-121-28-2>



Middle schoolers from Bethany, Epiphany and Saint Peter learning **Who's the Boss!**

## LESSONS FOR TODAY

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-3  
Mark 1:21-28

## LESSONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (3)  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Family Ministries Update  
Cheer Squad  
Sunday Fundays  
Saint Peter Goes Global  
Saint Peter Earns Trophy  
Confirmation+Parent Catchup  
This Week's Celebrations  
This Week's Worship Servants  
Strategic Planning Committee  
Prayers  
Upcoming Week  
**Annual Meeting - February 25**  
Welcome Guests  
Church Info

9300 BELLEVIEW AVE.  
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111  
303-770-9300  
[WWW.STPLC.ORG](http://WWW.STPLC.ORG)  
FACEBOOK • INSTAGRAM

## FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATES

### CHEER SQUAD

It fills up the hearts and souls of our kids (and grownups!) to have a community of faith that surrounds them and cheers them on. Here's an opportunity TODAY to show some hurrahs and hurrays: Piper G. plays basketball at 12 noon at the Gold Crown Field House (150 S. Harlan St. Lakewood 80226). ❖



### SUNDAY FUNDAY

Pick up a Chalk Your Home Kit in the Narthex or in the outside bin! Today, we learn about Jesus teaching and healing, showing love to all... ❖

### SAINT PETER GOES GLOBAL

We are joining Lutheran World Relief for our Sunday Funday service project during Lent! We'll be spreading God's Love by making Care Kits for those living in some of the poorest parts of the world. Details to follow, but if you'd like to get a head start, each week (starting February 18), we will collect one item per week: bars of soap, bath towels, toothbrushes, combs and nail clippers. ❖

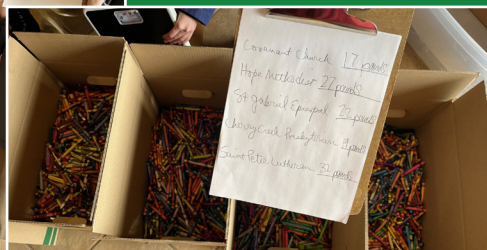
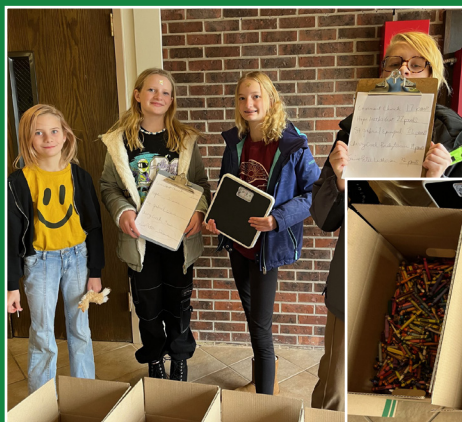
### SAINT PETER EARNS THE TROPHY IN THE GREAT CRAYON RECYCLING EVENT

Thank you Saint Peter for helping us collect 32 pounds of crayon nubs! We melted down those busted bits and included them in Christmas Eve Goody Bags. This project included participation from a total 5 area churches, netting 117 total pounds of crayons. Mila P. did the math: 11,700 non-biodegradable crayons will not end up in landfills! ❖



### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 CONFIRMATION PARENT+KID CATCHUP

All middle school kids and their parents are invited to a quick meeting after worship on Sunday, February 4, in the Fellowship Hall. We will answer questions and discuss plans for the upcoming "Shenanigans" at Saint Peter on Saturday, February 24 from 5-8 p.m. For the 2023-2024 confirmation year, Saint Peter middle schoolers met each Wednesday with youth from Bethany Lutheran and Epiphany Lutheran Church. It's been a great opportunity to connect as a small Saint Peter group as well as enjoy an energetic large group experience! ❖



## THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

Judy Sickinger - Tuesday  
Alex Fredrich - Thursday

### BAPTISMS

Mia Strezo - Thursday

### ANNIVERSARIES

Lee & Karen Dehmlow  
Wednesday

## TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

### MINISTER

Pastor Mike

### ASSISTING MINISTER

Steve Leighton

### LECTOR

OPEN

### HOSTS

Sharon and Bruce Stokes

### ALTAR GUILD

Pam Haigh

### COUNCIL LEADERSHIP REP

Gerry Rasel

### NEXT WEEK'S LEADERSHIP REP

Steve Haigh

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

# SAINT PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS

## VALUES

Welcoming All ♦ Transforming through Christ ♦ Making a Difference

## VISION

**Boldly sharing Christ's love, Saint Peter is a welcoming church community focused on supportive relationships, vibrant worship and transforming faith into action.**

## MISSION

**Saint Peter Lutheran Church revolves around two key convictions:**

**We are welcomed... and we are sent.**

**We are welcomed into God's love just as we are.**

**We are sent into God's world to be a reflection of Christ.**

## **THREE-YEAR GOALS: BY JANUARY 1, 2027**

### ● **FAITH-FORMATION GOALS:**

- Craft transforming faith-formation programming that increases the participation of children, confirmation, and high school individuals by 10% a year, and adults by 10% a year (2024 as baseline).
- Provide faith-formation programming for children, confirmation, and high school individuals, and adults at least 32 weeks a year.
- Grow summer programming for children, confirmation, high school individuals, and adults by 10% participation each year (2024 as baseline).
- Expand online faith-formation opportunities.

### ● **MISSION GOALS:**

- Increase volunteer and financial congregational engagement with Selian, Covenant Cupboard, and Habitat for Humanity (metrics to be developed with ministry leaders).
- Develop the concept and foundations for one new ministry that focuses on youth in the community.

### ● **OUTREACH GOAL:**

- Allocate \$10,000 a year to engage the community through relationships built where community members show up in the local community and at community events.
  - ◆ Engagement ideas include meetups at coffee shops; tabling at community events, fairs, and farmers markets; and sponsoring ads in school programs.

### ● **PROPERTY GOALS:**

- Install shading over labyrinth area to facilitate more frequent use of area for social and spiritual purposes.
- Create more welcoming and accessible entry from Belleview Avenue.
  - ◆ Strategies might include more visible signage and driveway entrance.
- Explore feasibility of a second entrance to church parking lot off Boston Street.
- Plant more drought-tolerant plants and trees.

### ● **STAFFING GOAL:**

- Fund an all-ages director of faith formation position (up to 1.5 FTE, with possibly two part-time staff members; maintain current half-time director of children's faith formation).

### ● **STEWARDSHIP GOALS:**

- Increase annual budget by 10% per year (2024 as baseline).
- Publish council minutes with financial updates every month.

- Council will engage congregation in quarterly Coffee and Conversation.
- Create legacy fund and/or endowment fund to support future ministry growth.
- **WORSHIP GOALS:**
  - Cultivate engagement and leadership in worship, including five children and 10 adults each month.
  - Reach a Sunday average worship attendance of 150.
- **STRATEGIC PLANNING:**
  - Council will annually review and record the progress made toward achieving these goals. At its discretion, council may appoint a new strategic goals committee to re-evaluate and update the goals to adapt to changes and needs within the church and progress made.

## **FIVE-YEAR GOALS: BY JANUARY 1, 2029**

- **FAITH-FORMATION GOALS:**
  - Organize faith-formation opportunities that are biblically focused and/or issue-based that might attract people who live in surrounding communities.
  - Craft Sunday faith-formation programming that engages 50 children, confirmation, and high school individuals, and 50 adults over at least 32 weeks.
  - Grow summer programming for children, confirmation, high school, and adults by 15% participation each year.
- **MISSION GOALS:**
  - Develop the concept and foundations for a community service program with Greenwood Village-area faith communities (i.e., Hope UMC, Aish Synagogue, Cherry Creek Presbyterian, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Resurrection Anglican Fellowship, Saint Catherine Greek Orthodox Church).
  - Implement one new ministry that would focus on youth in the community.
    - ◆ One strategy might be a mentoring program for local schools that engages 25 youth per year.
- **PROPERTY GOALS:**
  - Complete new parking lot (earlier if funding is available).
  - Initiate property study and plan that will support Faith Formation, Community Service, and Mission ministries (including storage needs).
  - Continue landscaping upgrades, emphasizing explanation of the changes to congregation and community members.
- **WORSHIP GOALS:**
  - Begin second worship service to serve those unable to come on Sunday morning (Sunday evening or other day of the week).
  - Reach average weekly worship attendance of 200.

## **10-YEAR GOALS: BY JANUARY 1, 2034**

- **FAITH-FORMATION GOALS:**
  - Craft Sunday faith-formation programming that engages 100 children, confirmation, high school individuals, and 100 adults over at least 32 weeks.
  - Grow summer programming for children, confirmation, high school individuals, and adults by 15% participation each year.
  - Create online faith-formation opportunities commensurate with new technologies.
- **MISSION GOAL:**
  - Provide services for local elementary, middle, and high schools that engages 100 youth per week.
- **PROPERTY GOALS:**
  - Commission study of property use to fit current Mission, Vision, and Values.
  - Explore ways to re-utilize current lawn space, and evaluate current and future irrigation system needs.
- **WORSHIP GOALS:**
  - Launch an off-site worship service that is connected to Saint Peter.
  - Imagine and begin organizing a mission congregation.



PRAYER CONCERNS (\*NEW THIS WEEK)

<b>*Family &amp; Friends of Andy Nakatani</b>	Saint Peter Member	Completed his baptismal journey on Jan. 21. Prayers of comfort for his wife, Nadine and their children and grandchildren.
<b>*Samuel Daniel</b>	Father of Darlene Beals	Hospitalized in Atlanta, GA. Prayers for healing and strength.
<b>Raetyn</b>	Granddaughter of Cathy Bunch	Experiencing life struggles.
<b>Cherril Serdy</b>	Friend of Gerry Rasel	Cherril was recently diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Prayers for healing and strength.
<b>Zoe Korin Williams</b>	Newborn granddaughter of Dave and Lori Williams	With prayers of joy and thanksgiving, Tanner and Abby announce the birth of their daughter Zoe on Dec. 13.
<b>Family and friends of Bill Brown</b>	Father of Bruce Guthals' sister-in-law Theresa	Completed his baptismal journey on Dec. 15. Prayers of comfort for Bill's family.
<b>Family Reconciliation and Forgiveness</b>	Children of Will & Darlene Beals	Praying for forgiveness and healing estranged family members.
<b>Family and friends of Rob Reiber</b>	Saint Peter Member	Completed his baptismal journey on Nov. 7. Prayers of comfort and peace for his wife, Allegra.
<b>Nicki Sperekas</b>	Friend of Barb Hinchey	Prayers of thanksgiving for successful breast cancer surgery. Prayers for continued treatment and healing.
<b>Stan Martin</b>	Saint Peter Member	Continued health concerns due to brain, lung and spine cancer. Currently undergoing radiation treatment on spine. Prayers of hope, comfort and support.
<b>Nina Schafer</b>	Friend of Jan McGaw	Prayers for strength after diagnosis for recurrence of breast cancer.
<b>Helen Merle</b>	Mother of Karyl Meyer	Health issues. Prayers of comfort, healing and support.
<b>Jeff Summerton</b>	Brother of Jed Summerton	Struggling with several health issues. Prayers of hope, strength and peace.
<b>Dottie Summerton</b>	Jed & Allison Summerton's sister-in-law	Prayers for peace and comfort for Dottie and her family as she nears end of life.
<b>Matt Knopf</b>	Friend of Adam & Brittany Hass	Diagnosed with an aggressive cancer in his lymph system. Prayers as he begins several months of chemo.
<b>Wil &amp; Elizabeth Vogel</b>	Saint Peter Members	Health issues. Prayers for healing, comfort and peace.
<b>Karen Koenig</b>	Judy Sickinger's Sister	Health issues due to cancer. Prayers of comfort and support.
<b>Shirlie Walters</b>	Kami Mach's Mother	Prayers for comfort and support as she continues to deal with low-functioning kidneys.
<b>Roger Hoyer</b>	Lori Williams' Uncle	Health issues. Prayers for strength and healing.
<b>Donna O'Keefe</b>	Shawn O'Keefe's Mother	Experiencing heart issues. Prayers for healing.
<b>Robert Bunke</b>	Jim Bunke's Father	Health issues from congestive heart failure. Prayers for comfort.

I call on You, O God, and  
 You will answer me. Turn  
 Your ear to me and hear my  
 prayer.

Psalms 17:6

## OUR UPCOMING WEEK

<b>JANUARY 28</b>	SUNDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Onsite (WC) and Online	
<b>JANUARY 29</b>	MONDAY	
2:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting	
<b>JANUARY 30</b>	TUESDAY	
7:30 a.m.	BNI Meeting (FH)	
<b>JANUARY 31</b>	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	
<b>FEBRUARY 1</b>	THURSDAY	
7:00 p.m.	Worship Band Rehearsal	
<b>FEBRUARY 2</b>	FRIDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Volunteer at Covenant Cupboard 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	
	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/2024ccfp">tinyurl.com/2024ccfp</a>	
<b>FEBRUARY 3</b>	SATURDAY	
11:00 a.m.	AI-Anon Meeting (FH)	
<b>FEBRUARY 4</b>	SUNDAY	
9:00 a.m.	Worship Service Onsite (WC) and Online	
10:15 a.m.	Middle School Parent+Kid Confirmation Catchup (FH)	

*For any questions concerning details about an event, please check the Event Calendar on the StPLC website: [www.stplc.org/calendar](https://www.stplc.org/calendar)*

## SAINT PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

**ANNUAL MEETING** 10:15 A.M. **ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
**IN THE WORSHIP CENTER**

You can view past annual reports on our website at:

<https://www.stplc.org/annual-reports> ✚

### 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](https://www.stplc.org) for access links

## STAFF

Pastor Michael Jay Vinson  
[mvinson@StPLC.org](mailto:mvinson@StPLC.org)

651-324-6962  
(cell phone for after-business hours and emergencies)

Lynn Sherpe, *Administrator*  
[lsherpe@StPLC.org](mailto:lsherpe@StPLC.org)

Beryl Fanslow Wilson,  
*Minister of Music*  
[bfanslow@StPLC.org](mailto:bfanslow@StPLC.org)

Arielle Wilson,  
*Accompanist*  
*Congregation Communications*  
[awilson@StPLC.org](mailto:awilson@StPLC.org)

Mary Pratt, *Family Ministries*  
[mpratt@StPLC.org](mailto:mpratt@StPLC.org)

Barb Hinchey, *Weekly Editor*  
[bhinchey@StPLC.org](mailto:bhinchey@StPLC.org)

## OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Allison Summerton, *President*  
[president@StPLC.org](mailto:president@StPLC.org)

Cathy Dundon, *Vice President*  
[vp@StPLC.org](mailto:vp@StPLC.org)

Steve Haigh, *Secretary*  
[secretary@StPLC.org](mailto:secretary@StPLC.org)

Shawn O'Keefe, *Treasurer*  
[treasurer@StPLC.org](mailto:treasurer@StPLC.org)

## 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