

St. Peter Lutheran Church

[Evangelical Lutheran Church in America]

324 E. Traer St., PO Box 638

Greene, Iowa 50636



Sunday School, Souper Bowl, Valentine's Day,
Ash Wednesday, 150th Anniversary

FEBRUARY 2021

The Newsletter of
St. Peter Lutheran Church [ELCA],
Greene, IA

Pastor Daniel Flucke's cell phone - 641-257-9794

Parsonage - 641-816-3531

Pastor's Email - pastor@stpetergreene.com

Church Office - 641-816-5531

Office Fax - 641-816-4717

Church Office Email - stpeter@myomnitel.com

Website: www.stpetergreene.com

Valentine's Day



For this is the
message
that you have
heard from
the beginning
that we should
LOVE
one another.

St. Peter Lutheran Church - Greene, IA
Unofficial Council Meeting Minutes January 6, 2021 - 7:30 pm

Members Present via Zoom or in person: Clarene Backer, Esther Backer, David Crow, John Ebensberger, Carrie Eiklenborg, Kelly Hoodjer, Erin Mulder, Jan Osier, and Willian Schmidt **Members Absent:** Andrea Gotto and Chuck Thompson **Also Present:** Robin Majewski, Gale Brinkman (Treasurer), Christin Flucke, Jeff Dralle and Dawn Van Etten. **Devotions and Church Vision:** Today is the first day of Epiphany. Pastor Daniel read Matthew Chapter 2. There was a discussion of how this reading pertained to what is currently happening in our world today. **Secretary's Minutes:** Carrie made a motion to accept the secretary's report. John 2nd M/C **Additions to Agenda: A.** Housing allowance **B.** Traci Bartels requests to move her dance classes to another night. **Building and Grounds:** Gary Schmidt submitted a list of things that has happened this month. **A.** The men's urinal has been fixed and the 5 furnaces in the fellowship hall have been serviced. It appears that the servicing hasn't been done since the fellowship hall was added in 1999. **B.** Gary will let DME know there will be no scheduled services until Jan 16th. **C.** The parsonage report has been completed. **D.** The parsonage basement floor needs to be painted with epoxy paint. **E.** There are currently 2 broken dehumidifiers. One is for the parsonage and the other in the fellowship hall basement. Paul from Mel's TV is still working on the one that should have a warranty. **F.** Roland & Gary checked the gutters on the sanctuary. They suggest replacing 4 sections. *Carrie made a motion to buy the 2 new dehumidifiers.* Kelly 2nd M/C **Education and Youth: A.** The movie night kit project was a success. 46 kits were given out to families in our community. **B.** Christian's evaluation has been completed. **Stewardship and Finance:** Did not meet **Worship and Evangelism:** Did not meet, waiting to see what is decided for in person worship. **Personnel: A.** Evaluations are finished. *Motion made by John to accept committee reports.* Esther 2nd M/C. **WELCA: A.** A year-end meeting was held. **B.** Care packages were taken to St Peter members at Valley View and Allison Care Centers. **C.** Christmas gifts were bought for 10 children through this year's Giving Tree. **Youth & Children's Ministry: A.** Many families participated in the Christmas Eve video. **B.** Sunday School will evaluate resuming once in-person worship has begun again. **C.** Confirmation started on January 6th via Zoom. They are studying the New Testament. **D.** Luther League met via Zoom and decided to make donations to community causes. They are also hoping to have an outdoor event such as skiing or sledding sometime in January or February. **Pastor's Report: A.** For 2021 Pastor Daniel has requested \$5,000.00 of his salary to be designated as housing allowance for tax purposes. *John made a motion to approve this request.* Willian 2nd M/C **B.** Pastor Daniel plans to have the next study group to do "The Generosity Challenge: 28 Days of Gratitude, Pray, and Faith". Please let Pastor Daniel know if you are interested. **C.** Pastor Daniel & Christin will be participating in the online ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza February 4-6. **D.** Drive-in communion will be available Sunday January 10, from 10:30-11:30. **E.** Synod Assembly is scheduled for June 11-13 at Luther College in Decorah. 2 adults and 1 youth are asked to attend from our congregation. This will be an important assembly as there will be a Bishop selected. Please let Pastor Daniel know if you are interested. **F.** On February 14 at 2:00 there will be a Zoom conference meeting. Are there 2 voting members from our congregation interested in attending? Conference officers will be elected. *Motion by David to accept Pastor's report.* Carrie 2nd M/C **Treasurer's Report: A.** The church audit will be this month. **B.** Gale will be attending via Zoom the Synod's treasurers meeting on Saturday, Jan. 16th. **C.** Gale is planning to retire as church treasurer at the end of 2021. A new treasurer will need to be hired so there is time for Gale to work with him before he is done. Holly Wedeking will stay on as the Financial Secretary. *John made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report.* Carrie 2nd M/C **Old Business: A.** Jeff Dralle spoke to Council about what kind of guidelines can be used to start having in- person worship. Pastor Daniel reported on what other churches in our area are using as parameters. After much discussion, it was voted to return to in-person worship starting January 16th & 17th. The Council has set a parameter that if the 14-day positivity rate is above 15% as reported on Friday mornings at 9am on the Iowa coronavirus dashboard we will only have online services. As soon as the rate falls below 15% services will be held in the building. Pastor Daniel will be sending emails and posting online if services will be online-only every Friday. Anyone is also welcome to call the church office on Friday mornings to get the information too. **B.** Wish List *Clarene made a motion to approve the wish list.* Kelly 2nd M/C **C.** Discussion about the annual meeting, Pastor Daniel found in our constitution that the annual meeting can not be held online. It was decided to have the annual meeting as planned in-person on January 31, at 10:30 am. The annual reports will be put online and you can call the church office to have a report mailed to you. **D.** It was decided to have the next council meeting on February 3rd instead of in the evening after the annual meeting. **E.** The asbestos floor tiles have been removed from the parsonage basement. William has estimates for paint and supplies for approximately \$700.00. Pastor Daniel and family will likely be gone the week after Easter, so that could be a good opportunity for redoing the floor. *John made a motion to purchase the paints and supplies.* Kelly 2nd M/C **New Business: A.** The nominating committee recommends Lindsay Landers, Erin Mulder, and Dawn Van Etten for election at the annual meeting to 3-year terms on council. Delores is still calling to see if the other terms can be filled. **B.** Gary Schmidt would like to continue on buildings and grounds committee. **C.** John Ebensberger will be off council, but would like to continue on Worship & Evangelism committee. *Esther made a motion to accept these changes.* John 2nd M/C **D.** A lawn business has offered to spray the church yard as a donation. It was also discussed that if he does the church, he should be hired to do the parsonage lawn. *Carrie made a motion to have this person spray the lawns.* Kelly 2nd M/C **E.** Robin reminded council that 2022 will be St Peter's 150th Anniversary. Anyone interested in being on a committee to plan anniversary celebrations, please contact Robin at the office. **F.** Traci Bartels would like to have her dance classes moved to Tuesday nights. There seemed to be no conflict with this. *Jan made a motion to allow the Traci to use the fellowship basement on Tuesday nights.* Kelly 2nd M/C **G.** Council went into closed session to discuss moving forward with the open custodian position. Building & Grounds & Personnel committees will meet to go over the job description before advertising. **Other Business:** Thank you to Kelly Hoodjer, Carrie Eiklenborg and John Ebensberger for your much appreciated time and talent spent on council. *Kelly made a motion that the meeting be adjourned.* Carrie 2nd M/C Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

FEBRUARY - Holy Communion Schedule

6:00 pm

Saturday, February 6th, 13th, 20th 27th

9:30 am Sunday, February 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th



For the time being we are temporarily using individual packaged communion elements.

**Drive-Up Communion - Sunday, February 14th
from 10:30 - 11:30 am**

This will be behind the fellowship hall under the canopy.

The next one will be Sunday, March 14th from 10:30 - 11:30 am.



Update on In-Person

At their January meeting, your Church Council voted to **return to in-person worship beginning next weekend, January 16 & 17**. We will continue with the worship schedule we had been following during the fall, with Saturday service at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall and Sunday service at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary.

As the pandemic continues and hopefully begins to come to an end, we are hoping to have in-person worship as much as possible, but we also recognize that there may be some weeks when it's wiser to refrain from gathering for a week or two. To try to have more clarity around when we'll have worship in-person and when we'll be online, the Council has set a parameter that **if the 14-day test positivity rate is above 15%** as reported on Friday morning at 9:00 am on the online Iowa Coronavirus Dashboard, **we will have only online services for that weekend**. As soon as that rate falls below 15%, we'll be in the building.

If we do need to move to online services for a weekend, an update will be posted on our Facebook page and website, as well as on the electronic church sign. Pastor Daniel will also send an email to those on the church email list.

Our hope is that we can have worship in the building each weekend, but we also want to do our best to love our neighbors, keep each other healthy, and help prevent the healthcare system from being overwhelmed.

If you are at higher risk or otherwise not comfortable coming in the building to worship, that is ok! Pastor Daniel will continue to post each weekend's Scripture and sermon at 9:30 on Sunday morning.

Thank you for your patience as we do our best to continue to navigate serving our community during the pandemic, and thank you to the Church Council for all their deliberation and work these last few months!

Lutheran World Relief

Quilters: Because Covid is still a serious health risk, we have decided not to have group quilting in January and February.

We will try and have layered quilts on the tables so if you want to pin and tie a quilt on your own, that will be available.

Robin is at the church in the morning. Call ahead and she will let you in the door by the office. (816-5531)

Hopefully by Spring we can get together again.

If you have quilts that you are making at home, the 2021 In-Gathering dates are April 10 and October 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Hampton.

Funeral Planning Worksheet

Until Jesus returns, all of us will one day die. The most universal fact of human life is that it ends. Although it may be uncomfortable to think about, planning for the end of your life is an act of love and kindness for your family. Planning ahead for your funeral gives your family the gift of helping them through a difficult time by letting them know your wishes.

We encourage you to consider your funeral wishes and take the time to fill out a Planning Form available in the church office. Once completed, we will make a copy for you and keep a copy in the office. When your earthly life is complete, your family will have the gift of your plans to use as they prepare for your funeral. If you have any questions, please give the office a call.

ALTAR FLOWERS: February - Faith Circle

Senior citizen meals coordinator - Nancy Reser
17th - Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00 pm



Is there anyone who would like to be included in our Prayer Chain? These people are contacted whenever someone wants prayers for whatever reason—we use a calling tree, so you will be asked to only call the person listed below in the list. Any questions, please call me. Jo Ann 816-5647

Greene Food Bank

Food Bank item for the month of February is paper towels and dish soap. All donations are appreciated, we can use any food / paper items that are given to us. We are using the “item of the month” as just a suggestion.



Altar Guild is in need of a couple people to fill some open spots on guild. If interested, please contact the church office.

Souper Bowl on Super Bowl Sunday

Some are going to watch their team play, others are hoping to watch a certain team lose. Most of us are going to eat way too much, while enjoying time with family and friends.

St. Peter Lutheran has a challenge to submit to you: **On the weekend of the big game, will you take a bite out of hunger by throwing 1 dollar in our church Soup Bowl?** Imagine the impact we can make locally and globally if each person throws just a dollar in! Half of the donations will be sent to Greene Food Bank, and the other half to Lutheran World Hunger Appeal. We've put a \$1.00 challenge down. Can you beat it?

If we are not having in-person worship that weekend, you can still mail or drop off your donation at the church office.

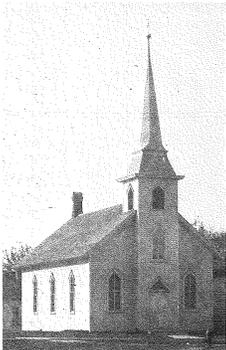
Time to Plan for Summer

It might be winter outside, but summer is coming, and it's time to sign up for camp! Our congregation is fortunate to partner with two different Lutheran camps, Camp EWALU and Riverside Bible Camp. Flyers for both camps are at church.

Wondering what summer camp is all about? It's an awesome experience of playing games, going swimming, doing crafts, and best of all, learning more about Jesus. For older students, there are also a variety of specialty and adventure camps, like ranch camp with horses, music and drama camp, night camp, Boundary Waters canoeing, and even houseboating.

Half-week programs are for kids who have completed grades 1-3, and full-week programs are for anyone who has completed grades 4-12. Camp is such a great opportunity that St. Peter has scholarship money available to help pay for it! Early registration discounts are also available.

St. Peter Lutheran's 150th Anniversary in



1872

St. Peter Lutheran will be celebrating our 150th anniversary in 2022 and we are looking for people to form the Anniversary Committee. If you are interested, please call the church office at 816-5531. We need everyone's help in commemorating this special event.



2022

St. Peter Lutheran FEBRUARY Birthdays

1 - Kaitlynn Brandhorst,
Jane Martzahn,
Kayden Spratt
Judy (Calvin) Steere
2 - Dan Meyne,
Clarice Stephenson
3 - Brett Dane,
Bruce Miller
4 - Galen Hoodjer,
Trace Steere
5 - Bev Brinkman
6 - Derek Landers,
Steve Mulder,
Blair Shultz
7 - Chelsi Majewski,
Sam Sneed,
Rachel Steere

8 - Kathleen Wefel
10 - Kirsten Hawker,
Damian Spratt
11 - Sylvia Hawker,
Derek Steere
12 - Katie Platts
13 - James Austin
15 - Jean Towsley
16 - Michael Allen,
Cameron McBurney,
18 - Kelsie Jensen,
Molly Iverson
19 - Layne Freiberg,
Darin Stotler
20 - James Deike
21 - Pat Stock

22 - Christine Shultz
23 - Tim Brunner,
Marjorie O'Brien,
Calvin Steere,
John Steere,
Mark Yerkes
24 - Michelle Jensen
25 - Reagan Mulder
26 - Erin Mulder,
Cody Ritter
27 - Ray DeVries,
Shelbie Reisem,
Patrick Zimmerman
28 - Benjamin Backer,
Hannah Fox

Wanted: Treasurer for St.

St. Peter Lutheran is looking for a Treasurer to train with Gale Brinkman, as he will be retiring on December 31, 2021.

The Treasurer provides financial procedures for the church in a salaried position of approximately 30 hours a month.

Principal duties: A. supervise the financial procedures, records and investments of the congregation; B. render a monthly statement of income and expense compared to budget to the church council; C. issue checks; D. deliver an annual financial report to the congregation; E. be an advisor to the Budget and Planning committee and Stewardship and Finance committee; F. recommend written financial policies and procedures for cash management, e.g., annual budgeting, fund accounting, and annual audit to the congregation council. G. attend monthly church council meetings. H. Assist Financial Secretary.

Qualifications: A. Ability to maintain confidentiality in all matters. B. Understanding of General Accounting Principles, Microsoft Excel and Word, and have a willingness to learn the accounting software.

For a copy of the full job description, please contact the church office.

Any questions, please contact Gale Brinkman.

All resumes are due to St. Peter Lutheran church office by February 28, 2021.

The Generosity Challenge

According to a 2014 article in *Forbes*, “Developing an ‘attitude of gratitude’ is one of the simplest ways to improve your satisfaction with life.” Here are seven benefits of showing gratitude from the article, as quoted on page 30 of *The Generosity Challenge* book:

1. “Gratitude opens the door to more relationships.” When we say thank you or express appreciation to someone we’ve just met, the person we thank is “more likely to seek an ongoing relationship.”
2. People who express gratitude “experience fewer aches and pains and they report feeling healthier than...people” who do not express gratitude.
3. “Gratitude improves physiological health.” According to the writer of this article, Amy Morin, research confirms that gratitude “effectively increases happiness and reduces depression.”
4. Gratitude reduces aggression and increases both sensitivity and empathy.
5. “Grateful people sleep better.”
6. Gratitude increases a person’s self-esteem and reduces resentment toward people who are perceived as having more.
7. “Gratitude increases mental strength.” Studies indicate that people who are grateful respond to trauma and tragedy with greater resilience and strength. Recognizing “all you have to be thankful for—even during the worst times of your life—fosters resilience.”

Sound intriguing? Want to grow in your own “attitude of gratitude”? Join Pastor Daniel for a 4 week small-group study: *The Generosity Challenge: 28 Days of Gratitude, Prayer, and Faith*.

We plan to meet Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:30 following worship for four weeks beginning February 21. If possible, we’ll meet in person with an online option, or if necessary we’ll meet entirely on Zoom. A generous donor has covered the cost of the materials for this study, so there's no cost for the book. Let Pastor Daniel know by February 7 if you're interested.

GRATITUDE!!!!

The Stewardship and Finance Committee is very proud of the financial support shown by members of St. Peter. 2020 was a year where most worship services were virtual. We are very thankful for the consistent giving from our members to enable our ministry to continue to reach out in our community and beyond.

Thank You,
Stewardship & Finance Committee



GENEROSITY Ways to deduct a Gift

Some people don't like paying taxes and some especially don't like paying taxes on their IRA distributions that they are not voluntarily withdrawing.

When you make a contribution to a tax-deferred 401(k) account or IRA, the tax on that money is deferred, which means that income tax is due on that money when you take withdrawals in retirement.

Annual withdrawals from traditional retirement accounts are required after age 72 1/2, and the penalty for skipping a required minimum distribution is 50 percent of the amount that should have been withdrawn.

However, if you are in the fortunate position of not needing your distribution for living expenses and are charitably inclined, you can avoid income tax on your required withdrawal by donating your money directly to your congregation or to other charities. Have a conversation with your financial advisor before making your end-of-year withdrawal.

– *Pastor Mark Anderson Assistant to the Bishop*

Charitable IRA Rollover

USE YOUR DISTRIBUTION FOR GOOD AND RECEIVE TAX BENEFITS.

| WHO | WHAT | HOW |
|---|--|--|
| The IRA Charitable Rollover provision allows individuals 72 1/2 or older to donate to charities of their choice. You must be 72 1/2 at the time of your gift. | Donations up to \$100,000 may be given annually to charitable organizations directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) without treating the distribution as taxable income. Cannot be made to donor advised funds. | Qualified IRA Charitable Rollover gifts can be given to a nonprofit (church) organization through the Custodian of your IRA or 401K account. |



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. Join us in remembering both the reality of our human mortality and the promise of God's eternity. Our Ash Wednesday worship will be at 7:00 pm, and due to the ongoing pandemic, we will not be providing a meal before the service. Watch for more information on midweek worship services during Lent.

Custodian Update

The Church Council and the Building and Grounds Committee want to say THANK YOU to Erin Dralle, Kris Dralle, and Isaac Trees for their years of work cleaning and maintaining our church building. They concluded their time as St. Peter's custodians at the end of 2020, and we appreciate all their service!

Wanted: Custodian for St. Peter

We are looking for a church custodian to help clean and take care of our building. The position averages 20 hours a week, with starting pay of \$11-13 per hour. As this is a part-time position, additional benefits are not provided. Essential functions of job require occasionally lifting and moving up to 50 pounds, positioning self to clean under furniture, and occasionally ascending/descending a ladder.

Further information and a full job description are available at www.stpetergreene.com/employment, by inquiring at the church office on a weekday morning, or by calling 641-816-5531. If you know someone who would be a good fit, please pass on the information. Applications are due by February 15.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Are you a Thrivent member?? See how you can provide funds for your church at St. Peter. Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars have until March 31, 2021, to direct them. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to St. Peter Lutheran Church.

Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. **This must be done on a yearly basis.** Any questions contact Julie Brinkman or the church office.



Thrivent Action Team

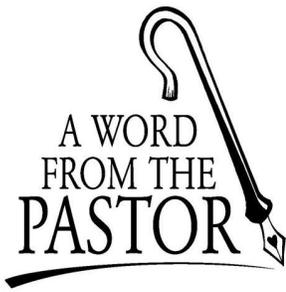
Thrivent Action Teams make it easy for you to bring people together to make a positive change in your community! When you see a need, apply to Thrivent. Once your idea is approved, a Thrivent Action Kit is delivered to your door. It's packed with everything you need to help make your project a success. It even includes \$250 in seed money to help get your project started. If you are a Thrivent Benefit member you can help with TWO \$250 projects, an Associate members can help with ONE \$250 project for our church or community per year.

This passion-powered program is brought to you by Thrivent Financial because we believe that being wise with money and living generously go hand in hand.

If you have any questions contact Julie Brinkman or the church office.



ACTION TEAM



A Desperate Prayer

Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish.

-Jonah 2:1

One of the hardest times faced by any character in Scripture has to be the prophet Jonah's three days in the belly of the whale. You know the story, right? God calls Jonah to go preach to the people of Nineveh, but instead, Jonah flees, boarding a ship sailing to Tarshish, a city in the exact opposite direction from Nineveh! God sends a storm to stop the ship, Jonah gets thrown overboard, and a giant fish swallows him up. *(If Jonah's story doesn't sound familiar, or if it's been a while since you've heard about Jonah, go listen to my sermons from January 17 & 24!)*

After being swallowed, Jonah spends three days and three nights inside the belly of the fish. It doesn't take much imagination to figure out this must have been a pretty low point in Jonah's life. Sitting there in the darkness, he must have felt terrible *(and imagine the stench!)*. He'd forsaken his duty as a prophet and run away from God's call, and now he's lost everything. Jonah's future looks grim: His options appear to be being digested, dying of starvation, or drowning. So, he prays to God. The book of Jonah is a brief four chapters, and the second chapter consists entirely of Jonah's subaqueous prayer.

Jonah's prayer begins, "I called out to the Lord in my distress, and he answered me. From the belly of the underworld I cried out for help; you have heard my voice." He's looking back to the previous low point of his life, when he was tossed off of his ship into the sea. When he should have drowned, God sent a miraculous giant fish to rescue him. Now, remembering how God saved him before gives him strength to persevere and hope to again ask God for another miracle.

He continues in verse four, "I have been driven away from your sight. Will I ever again look on your holy temple?" As I write this, the church council has voted to resume in-person worship, but if the two-week positivity rate in Butler County exceeds 15%, we will once again be worshipping online. Even when we are able to gather in-person, many people will not feel safe coming for a while. So this year especially, perhaps you can relate to Jonah's feeling of being exiled from God's house.

The good news, of course, is that for us as Christians, the church is not a building, but a community, and we have the promise that through the Holy Spirit, Jesus dwells within each of us. But if there are times when you do feel cut off from the church or even from God, you're in good company. And remember, even Jonah's prayer receives an answer.

Jonah's prayer concludes with these lines: "When my endurance was weakening, I remembered the Lord and my prayer came to you, to your holy temple...deliverance belongs to the Lord!" Jonah's prayer ends in faith, and God does deliver him, causing the fish to vomit him up onto the dry land. He goes on to follow God's call to Nineveh, where God works another miracle that surprises even Jonah.

My prayer for you this month is that you can follow Jonah's example, even without the involvement of a giant fish. In times of fear and desperation, turn to God. God is never too far away to hear you. God answers even prayers from inside the belly of a whale!

-Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Daniel Flucke

Sunday School Update

Although we've made it to a new calendar year, the pandemic continues. For the safety of both our students and volunteers, the Christian Education Committee has made the difficult decision that we will not be holding in-person Sunday School classes for the remainder of the school year. We greatly miss being together with all of you, but with the dynamics and challenges of a continuously changing schedule we believe the best way to minister to our families right now is to focus on faith formation through online and at-home materials.

This month, we will be sending some fun Valentine's Day themed activities for all our students, and we'll be putting together materials for Lent for anyone who would like them. Also, for everyone who enjoyed the video Christmas program, we're going to try something new this year and put together a video Easter program—watch for more details on that coming soon!

Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and support as we do our best to help our children grow in faith even in this challenging year. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas, please contact Christin Flucke or anyone on the Christian Education Committee. And please continue to pray for all the students and families in our congregation!



LSI

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building bright futures, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Luther League Practices Compassion Through Compassion

For most of the past year Luther League hasn't been able to gather together in person, but we continue to find ways to stay connected, grow in faith, and serve our neighbors. At the end of 2020, several Luther League youth gathered on Zoom and discussed where they would like to make some financial donations. They came up with several great ideas, including four different local projects to support as well as interest in sponsoring a child through an organization called Compassion International.

Compassion's mission is "releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name" and they work with local churches in 25 different countries around the world to provide children and their families with essentials like food, education, and medical care, as well as a relationship with Jesus Christ. Every child enrolled with Compassion is sponsored by individuals and groups like ours. Sponsors make a monthly financial contribution and also correspond with that individual child by writing letters back and forth.

At our Luther League meeting a couple weeks ago, our group chose to sponsor Laleska, a 15 year old girl from Nicaragua. Laleska lives with her two siblings and her mother, who is a teacher. Laleska helps her family by cleaning, running errands, and caring for the animals. She also attends school and programming at the local Compassion center, and in her free time she enjoys bicycling, jumping rope, listening to Bible stories, and learning about God. We are excited to be able to sponsor Laleska, a teenager much like our own youth, and to support her as she continues to learn and grow.

The work that Compassion does through the local churches to help these children and their families is truly life-changing and we are excited to be a part of it! Pastor Daniel and I have been Compassion sponsors for many years, and in 2016, we even had the opportunity to visit one of our sponsored children in Tanzania while on a seminary trip. If you'd like to learn more about Compassion's ministry, or consider becoming a sponsor yourself, you can find more information at www.compassion.com, or I would love to share more with you as well!

Please join us in praying for Laleska, her family, and the work of Compassion around the world.

Christin Flucke - Youth and Children's Ministry Director



FEBRUARY 2021 - St. Peter Lutheran Church

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---------|--|--|--|---|
| | 1 7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting | 2 | 3 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Church Council meeting | 4 | 5 | 6 6:00 pm Worship with Communion |
| 7 9:30 am Worship with Communion | 8 | 9 | 10 6:15 pm Confirmation | 11 | 12 | 13 6:00 pm Worship with Communion |
| 14 9:30 am Worship with Communion 10:30 - 11:30 am Drive-Up communion | 15 3:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry Newsletter Items Due | 16 | 17 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship at St. Peter with Communion | 18 | 19 | 20 6:00 pm Worship with Communion |
| 21 9:30 am Worship with Communion | 22 | 23 | 24 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Lenten Devotional Worship Online | 25 | 26 | 27 6:00 pm Worship with Communion |
| 28 9:30 am Worship with Communion | | | | <u>Altar Guild:</u> Robin Ralls, Kelly Zurcher | Ushers and Lectors - Sign up at church to volunteer. | |