

St. Peter Lutheran Church

[Evangelical Lutheran Church in America]

324 E. Traer St., PO Box 638

Greene, Iowa 50636



Mother's Day, Graduation,
Online Worship

MAY 2020

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



MAY - Holy Communion

For this summer, at such time as we are able to resume in-person worship, we will be celebrating Holy Communion at every worship service on both Saturday and Sunday. If you are homebound, in the hospital, or otherwise unable to come to worship and would like to receive communion, please call the church office to schedule a time for the Pastor to come share the Sacrament with you.

- When individual glasses are offered at communion, the clear glasses have wine in them and the purple glasses have grape juice.
- We have gluten free wafers available; just let Pastor know that you need them at communion



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.

Thank You

BIG thanks to all of our amazing Sunday School teachers, helpers, and youth leaders for another great year of ministry together (even though we had to end in such a strange way thanks to the pandemic situation)! We are so grateful for the love and support you pour out week after week on the children and youth of our congregation! Have a blessed summer and we look forward to resuming in the fall!

Christin Flucke and the members of the Christian Education and Youth Committee



Tele-Ministry Volunteers Needed

During this time of physical separation, it's even more important that we support each other as sisters and brothers in Christ. Pastor Daniel has divided up all the households in the congregation for which we have phone numbers and is looking for volunteers to help call them. This involves calling a list of about 12 households every couple weeks. If this is something you can help with, please let Pastor Daniel know.

**St. Peter Lutheran Church
Financial Report
April 20, 2020**

	Ending Balance
Current Fund Balance	\$2,604.99
Current Fund Amount in MMDA	\$0.00
	\$2,604.99
Other Fund Balances	
Benevolence and Mission	\$1,294.49
Building and Repair	\$375.01
Basement Windows	\$3,899.00
Fellowship	\$2,073.48
Thrivent Choice	\$3,375.00
Restoration	\$18,246.49
Missionary Support	\$410.00
AED	\$450.00
	\$30,123.47
Bank Balance	
Checking	\$11,662.50
Money Market	\$21,065.96
Total	\$32,728.46
Goyer Scholarship	\$1,229.73
McCosh - Gift of Love	\$1,020.58

On Stewardship

“When we give ourselves to planting and nurturing love here on earth, our efforts will reach beyond our own chronological existence.”

—Fr. Henri Nouwen

“If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”

—Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:3

*Saint Peter Lutheran Church
Mission Statement*

WELCOMES people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church,
EQUIPS people with a faith that works in daily life, and
SERVES in the world to make a difference in Jesus’ Name.

May Worship Schedule

- May 3 - Online Worship, 9:30 am
- May 10 - Online Worship, 9:30 am
- May 17 - Online Worship, 9:30 am
- May 24 - Online Worship, 9:30 am
- May 31 - Online Worship, 9:30 am

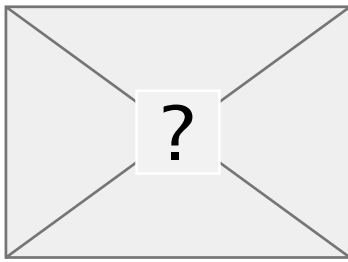
You can participate in weekly online worship by going to www.stpetergreene.com, or facebook.com/stpetergreene. **If you do not have internet access, please call the church office so we can provide you with a DVD of the services.**

Online Fellowship Time

Although we can't be physically together, we can still have fellowship together! Watch the church Facebook page for information about "Zoom Coffee Hour" in May.



Restoration Fund
St. Peter Lutheran Church



St. Peter WELCA

ALTAR FLOWERS: MAY - Faith Circle

Senior citizen meals coordinator - Marie Heeren
No Circle meeting
No WELCA Board meeting
No Tuesday Quilting
No Prayer Shawl meeting

Country Time

We are looking for someone to chair or two people to co-chair Country Time in the fall of 2020. There may also be other committee heads that will have to be found. If this would be something you would be interested in doing, please contact Sue Schroeder at 641-816-4668.
THE WELCA BOARD



Mission Action

If you are doing Spring cleaning and getting rid of things, please remember our quilting project before you pitch things.

We can use old sheets, pillowcases, blankets, comforters, curtains, drapes, jeans, and of course any kind of material. Even if the items have holes in them, we may be able to make them into liners. AND if you happen to find some crochet thread, regular thread, or yarn, we can use those items also.

With **GARAGE SALES** coming up, if you are so inclined, we can always use items for the Baby Care Kits -- receiving blankets, baby hats, size 6-24 months light weight boys or girls T-shirts or tops, long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers, jackets, sweaters, or sweatshirts with or without a hood. Also needed: baby socks, hand towels, and bath-size (4-5 oz.) of gentle soap.

Church Directory

The annual church directory comes out again in July so we need to make sure **everyone's phone number, email, and address is current and up to date.** Please call or email the church office at 816-5531 or stpeter@myomnitel.com with any of your changes. Email is also a great way for members to contact each other. If you would like your email address included in the directory, email the church office to let us know. We appreciate your help!

**MEMORIAL GIVEN TO THE
GLORY OF GOD and in memory
of:**

Clarence Brinkman
\$10.00 to Prayer Shawl Ministry by family;
\$20.00 to Prayer Shawl Ministry by friends.

St. Peter Lutheran MAY Birthdays

- 1 - Kaylie Fox,
Gail Schafer
- 2 - Morgan Arjes,
James Wiele
- 3 - Mike Brinkman,
Crystal Buss
- 6 - Jodee Cooper,
Molly Newton
- 7 - Jennifer Hoodjer,
Wyatt Landers,
LaDonna Schriver
- 8 - Molly Marquard,
John Shultz
- 9 - Ron Schuknecht,
Scott Spratt
- 10 - Cortney Kreimeyer
- 11 - Dalen Krull,
Deb Steere
- 12 - Darby Christensen,
Denver Landers,
Samuel Stirling

- 13 - Luella Miller,
Amy Testroet
- 14 - Courtney Blong,
Lori Kock,
Jill Osier,
Gary Schmidt
- 15 - Irene Stanbrough,
Justin Schroeder
- 16 - Virginia Feldman,
Parker Wefel
- 17 - Nora Reser,
Doug Stark
- 18 - Ezra Almelien,
Allyson Sage
- 19 - Shirley Fesenmeyer,
Lorie Quade,
Rosie Riggins
- 21 - Robert Eliassen,
Ivee Steere,
Mary Steere

- 22 - Nick Landers,
Thad Landers,
Jordan Lewis,
Alyse Orta
- 23 - Aimee Hodges,
Scott Watkins
- 24 - Owen Almelien,
Adri Sheppard,
Davis Reser
- 25 - Dean Bergman,
Levi Nordmeyer
- 26 - Lisa Feldman,
Tom Spratt
- 27 - Kayden Landers
- 28 - Jeanne Loomer,
Nathan Stark
- 30 - Sandra Ross
- 31 - Kenneth Brinkman,
Robert Schroeder,
June Vogelmann



*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*

Over 555 shawls have been crafted since 2007 by our church members and 516 given away! This is impressive—the thanks go to all those who have either knitted or crocheted, those who have donated funds for yarn, and the support of the congregation. We are always grateful to have anyone who is interested in becoming active in this service project join us, just let Jo Ann know—we welcome all.

Food Bank

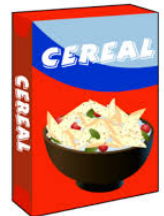
Greene Food Bank suggested items for May are canned fruit and cold cereal. We can use any food or paper items given to us. All donations are appreciated!



Ministry of the Food Bank

Nonperishable food items or financial donations welcome!

“It is more blessed to give than to receive...”



2020 Graduates

Congratulations to our St. Peter members graduating from high school this year! We look forward to recognizing you in worship later this summer. As you enter the next stage of your journey, hold on to the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:20: "Remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Our graduates this year are:

Courtney Blong

Teryn Joebgen

Rainy Kock

Miles Ralls

Leighton Schoville

Ivee Steere

JC Ulrich

*Congratulations
Graduate!*

If you are a St. Peter Lutheran college graduate this year and would like to be mentioned in the bulletin, please call or email the church office with the information.

LSI

Happy Mother's Day!

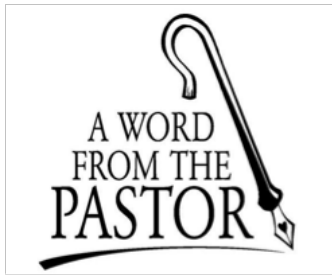
Mother's Day is a time to celebrate the strong, loving women in your life. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we see thousands of Iowa moms through their journey to build the brightest future for their children.

We see moms turning to LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services to ensure their child is receiving the coping skills and behavioral supports they need to thrive. In our Early Childhood Services, we see first-time moms who are eager to join our parenting education classes and support groups. In 2019, LSI's Early Childhood programs provided support to 1,282 parents of young children. We are so inspired to hear their stories and see their hard work pay off as they raise our next generation.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember how many Iowa moms are being empowered because of your support. If you are looking for a way to honor your mother this year, please consider making a gift in her name to LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at

Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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.



Freedom of a Christian

*“For freedom Christ has set us free.
Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”
Galatians 5:1*

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! By the time you read this, Easter might seem like a distant memory. But despite the strangeness of this year’s celebration, despite our inability to gather in person for worship, and the lack of Easter egg hunts and brunches, no matter how feeble our celebration might feel, the good news of Easter is still true: Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, and because he lives, we too shall live with him forever. **Alleluia!**

Because of Jesus’ victory on Easter, the powers of sin, death, and the grave have been defeated. As we say in the traditional words of the confession, we are in bondage to sin and death and cannot free ourselves. But God has come to do what we could not. By his death on the cross and his resurrection on Easter, Jesus has broken the chains of our sin. **Your sins are forgiven and you are set free!** That’s the good news of the Gospel.

So, what does it mean to be free? One of my favorite Lutheran theological concepts is “Freed from; freed for.” Because of what Jesus has done for us, we are set free from the burden of following the Law (*and I don’t mean civil law, I mean God’s Law as set forth in Scripture – the Law is a short of shorthand for the ten commandments and all the other commands God has given us*). The Law was given to us to point out our shortcomings and our failings. The Law shows us how to live, but it also shows us where we fall short—and we all fall short. Measured against the perfection of God’s Law, all of us are exposed as sinners who deserve death. But on the cross, Jesus took upon himself the punishment we deserve, out of love for us and for the whole world. Jesus set us free!

But—and here’s the part where we often get mixed up—our freedom is not just for us. Paul writes in Galatians 5:13-14, “For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” We are freed from the law, and we are freed for each other. Released from the punishments and requirements of the Law, we are able to use our freedom to unselfishly serve our neighbors.

Writing in 1520, Martin Luther put it like this. “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.” Sounds paradoxical, doesn’t it? Here’s an example of how it applies to our current situation.

As I write this, there are reports of people protesting various state’s restrictions on business, and a few churches filing lawsuits demanding that they be permitted to gather in-person for worship. It’s a tricky situation, because as Americans, one of our core values is freedom. The Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of assembly and freedom of religion. As Americans, we believe in and defend freedom, and that’s a good thing!

But these freedoms not the same as Christian freedom. Christians who live under repressive governments are also set free by Christ, just as much as we who are privileged to live in the United States. Let me be clear: We all want the economy to open. People’s livelihoods are being destroyed! And of course, we want churches to be open. I can’t tell you how much I miss gathering with our congregation for worship!

I firmly believe it is government's job to protect religious freedom, including freedoms of worship and assembly. If our government were to declare that churches could not worship, or ban the name of Jesus Christ, I certainly hope that with the help of the Holy Spirit, I'd be the first to disobey and risk whatever punishment was threatened. The Church is obligated to disobey government orders that go against God. As Martin Luther said on trial at the Diet of Worms, "To go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God."

Remember, though, as Christians, our freedom is to be used for the benefit of others. We're not set free to be our own gods, able to do whatever we want that benefits ourselves. We're not set free so we can be the center of our own little worlds. We are set free from sin and joined to God. Paul writes in Romans 6:22, "You have been freed from sin and enslaved to God."

A couple hundred years after Luther's *On the Freedom of a Christian*, Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Being free means being free for the other, because the other has bound me to them. Only in relationship with the other am I free." Imprisoned by the Nazi regime in Germany, Bonhoeffer knew true Christian freedom was not granted by governments or anything else in this world, but by Jesus Christ on the cross. Freedom that harms another will always leave us bound.

The reason we've suspended gathering in person as a church congregation for worship is the same reason businesses are closed: To protect our neighbors. We're living out Jesus' commands. It is precisely because we are set free from sin that we ought to obey the instructions of health experts to maintain physical distancing and stay home as much as possible. We are set free from self-centeredness and greed, set free from seeking our own benefit, and set free to protect the vulnerable.

Now, of course, government orders are created by sinful humans, and there are certainly times when they get it wrong. But as Christians, our criteria for judging whether an order is right and lawful is different than the world's criteria. Our criteria is based on whether protecting life and benefiting our neighbors and the least of these whom God loves.

I look forward to gathering with you again in person for worship as soon as it is safe to do so. Amidst all the challenges of this pandemic, may God bless you in this Easter season!

In Christ,

-Pastor Daniel Flucke

Vacation Bible School 2020

In the midst of our current situation, it is hard to be certain what exactly summer will bring.

However, please tentatively mark your calendars for **June 29-July 1 and plan to join us for Vacation Bible School 2020!** VBS is open to all children age 3 – 5th grade, and older youth and adults are needed to volunteer. The VBS planning committee will be keeping an eye on the health safety recommendations for our area and will make a decision whether or not to hold VBS by the end of May. Thank you for your patience and understanding!



MAY 2020 - St. Peter Lutheran Church

Christ Jesus - Loving Us With A Mother's and Sacrificial Love

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ushers and Lectors - See "Worship Servants" page for schedule.	<u>Altar Guild:</u> Jennifer Hoodjer, Tanya Yerkes				1	2
3 9:30 am Worship Online	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day 9:30 am Worship Online	11	12	13	14	15 Newsletter Items Due	16 4:00 pm Wedding Kaitlynn Lane &
17 Graduation 9:30 am Worship Online	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship Online	25 Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 am Worship Online						