



# Keynotes

## February 2020



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The mission of  
 St. Peter's Lutheran  
 Church & School is to

CONNECT to Christ;  
 GROW in His grace; and  
 SHARE Him with others.

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### A Letter from your Pastors

Dear Friends,

One Sunday morning a young lady got up and decided to go to church. She hadn't been to a church in a long time and thought it was time to get back to God's House and restore her relationship with the Lord. When she arrived at church, she was shocked, then hurt, that no one would say "hello" to her. Being ignored upset her so much that she decided not to come back.

That same Sunday morning another young lady got up and decided to go to church. She, too, hadn't been to church in a long time. When she arrived at church, she was overwhelmed by the friendliness of the people. She could tell that God was alive and at work in the lives of the members of that church as they reached out to her in Christian love.

It could be called "The Tale of Two Churches" and yet, ironically, both those situations happened at the exact same church. What's even more interesting is that both those situations happened here at St. Peter's!

I can confidently say that the members of St. Peter's want to be a friendly, outgoing church. I see evidence of this all the time. However, in a congregation our size, with three weekend worship services, it is easy for people to be overlooked...especially our guests. As a gentle reminder of what goes into being a friendly church, I share with you something I came across called, "The Ten Commandments of a Friendly Church."

1) Speak to people, even if you do not know their names. (There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting. Ignoring people is the ultimate insult.)

2) Smile at people. (It takes 72 muscles to frown and only 14 to smile. Your smile is one of your finest assets. Use it!)

- 3) Call people by name. (The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of their own name.)
- 4) Be helpful. (What we do for others counts most in life.)
- 5) Be genuinely interested in people. (Value people as a gift from God.)
- 6) Seek out the "isolated" people. (By "isolated" I mean those who may be standing or sitting off by themselves.)
- 7) Be generous with praise and cautious with criticism.
- 8) Be considerate of the feelings of others. (Usually there are three sides to a controversy - yours, the other person's, and the right one.)
- 9) "Do to others what you would have them do to you." (Matthew 7:12)
- 10) Add to this a good sense of humor, a generous dose of patience, a dash of humility, and receive manifold blessings.

As we keep these thoughts in mind and put them into practice, our guests will be blessed and so will our congregation. Furthermore, shortly we will be initiating a program called, "Shepherding Our Strays" that will seek to encourage our members who have not been in worship over a period of time to come back to St. Peter's and return to regular worship. God willing, we will see many of our fellow "sheep" return back to the fold, and we want to make sure they know just how happy we are to have them back with us.

Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor Steve Ahlersmeyer  
Pastor Adam McDowell

### **Ash Wednesday Worship** **Wednesday, February 26 @ 12:00 and 7:00 p.m.**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day penitential season of Lent with the imposition of ashes and the celebration of the Lord's Supper as we prepare for the festival of Easter. This is a solemn event marked with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" as ashes are placed on the forehead or hand to remind us of our sinful condition and the need for a Savior to take away the sins of the world. The Junior Choir will sing at the 12:00 service, and the Adult Choir will sing at the 7:00 service.

### **God's Plan is Working**

On the weekend of Jan. 25-26, we had the privilege of meeting our new missionary, Rev. James Sharp and family. In his sermon and fellowship times after services, he gave fascinating insights of his, and now our, ministry to the people of the dark country of Uruguay. Rev. Sharp told us

that Uruguayans profess to be "enlightened" by their atheistic world-view, but they live in the gloom of not knowing Christ and consequently have a high rate of suicide. It is exciting to know that we are helping to reach these people through the small, but growing, Lutheran presence in Uruguay.

A packet of information was distributed on Mission Weekend which included introductions to the Sharp family, recipes from the memorable "Taste of Uruguay," and trivia and coloring contest entries for our young people. Extra packets and contest entries are available in the church office.

For more information about our new missionary, contact the Mission Committee, whose vision and work with Pastor Ahlersmeyer and Michelle Leahy the past several months made the adoption of Pastor Sharp possible: Larry & Carol Goeglein, Dennis & Barb Borchers, Gene & Sandy Friedrich, Joylyne Dickerson, Gary & Mary Koenemann, Al & Karen Bierlein, and Elise Koenemann. A special thank you to Amy Widener in the church office for her assistance with visual publicity, to Goeglein's Catering for their help in food prep for the "Taste of Uruguay," and to Thrivent for their action grant.

As our hearts are moved, ongoing support for this family through our prayers and gifts is evidence that we are answering the call to "Teach All Nations."

## St. Peter's Lutheran Properties Team - Info and Updates

Here is a little update from our team. We will get more in depth with a report at the next voter's meeting, but for now here is some information we wanted to share you may not be aware of.

What does the Properties team do?

We are responsible for the care and maintenance of all of our buildings, inside and outside, as well as the grounds.

Did you know...

- Our church has been blessed with almost 40 acres of property. This consists of 3 parcels of land, 2 cemeteries, 5 buildings, and 2 playgrounds.
- The 1958 part of the school building got a new roof last summer.
- The Turkey barn, as we call it, by the Parish House has a new roof, siding and is now as varmint proof as it can be. It will provide some much need storage.
- We installed a new drop safe in the church office so the offerings given on the weekend are safely stored until it can be counted and deposited.
- We had an issue with the school basement flooding when it rains. Good news - that problem has been resolved. (Bad news - we no longer have a swim team.)
- We continue to work on a 1-3-5-10 year plan for major repairs so we can budget and save for them.

Did you know that we would love to add a couple more people to our team?

We do not do all of the work ourselves. You do not need to be a contractor or any type of building professional to be a member of the team. All we need are people who want to serve the church and enjoy helping us solve issues and prevent issues in the future. Occasionally we choose to get our hands dirty and tackle a project. When we do, it usually involves donuts.

For more information about the Properties Team, please contact Chair, Mark Bradtmueller (XXX-XXXX or xxxxxxxxxxx@frontier.com).

## Who-What-When-Where

If you are new to St. Peter's, we invite you to attend **St. Peter's 101** on Sunday, March 1 at 9:15 a.m. in the Large Conference Room. You will learn all about St. Peter's - our history, our staff and leadership, our various ministries, how to become a member, and more. The next Adult Information Class will then begin on March 8 at 9:15 a.m. and will continue for 10 weeks.

The new **photo directories** have arrived. If you had your family photo taken, you can pick up your copy of the directory in the Ministry Center after worship. Members of the Directory Planning Team will be there to help you. (We do ask that you be sure to have your name crossed off the list when taking a directory so we know who still needs one.) Special thanks to this fantastic team, led by Phyllis Bienz, for all their hard work and dedication on this large project.

**Marriage Challenge** - It's February already, and little hearts are popping up everywhere you look. Make Valentine's Day really meaningful this year by strengthening your relationship in the days leading to February 14. You can participate in the 14 Day Marriage Challenge by following our posts on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/StPetersFW](http://www.facebook.com/StPetersFW)).

The **Family Life Ministry Team** has some exciting things planned for 2020, but they could use a few extra hands. If you have a heart for the families of our congregation, for helping them engage in faith development activities in the home, we would love to share our plans with you. For more information, please contact Heidi Stratton (XXX-XXXX or xxxxxxxxxxx@gmail.com).

**God Connects** - Join the Sunday Adult Bible Class at 9:15 a.m. in the Cornerstone Room for Part 2 of the study of the 10 Commandments. Discover how up to date the Commandments really are.

Every year around a dozen couples are married at St. Peter's. While the weddings are fun and beautiful in our Sanctuary, the marriage itself is what is more important. For the past nine years, dedicated couples from our congregation have provided premarital preparation as part of the **marriage mentoring program**. These trained couples work one-on-one with premarital couples for six months to a year leading to the wedding. They share their stories, guide them through exercises, and encourage them to discuss and explore many areas important to preparing for marriage. To date, they have provided mentoring for 60 couples, and 5 additional couples are currently in the program. The newly married couples always

report great blessings from their time with their mentors. A training class will be scheduled soon for new marriage mentors. If this is something that interests you and your spouse, please speak with Pastor Steve or Michelle Leahy for more information.

**PTL Talent Show - A Night of the Arts** - The Talent Show is an opportunity for the children of St. Peters to show off their God-given talents and teachers too. Scheduled for Saturday, February 22 from 6-8 p.m., this event has steadily grown over the past couple of years to be one of our more popular events for fun and fellowship. This year's theme is "A Night of the Arts." Talents can include (but are not limited to) singing, dancing, jump roping, comedy, or reciting poetry. This year we will be displaying artwork from participating students in a mini art show. Our kids are a talented group. Along with seeing the talent and artwork, you can come for dinner before the show. Please RSVP for dinner to Kristen Nuthals (XXX-XXXX) or via the Signup Genius link found in the Pieces of the Rock.

The Nominations Team is seeking suggestions from the congregation for **candidates for the spring election** for Board of Directors, School Board, Preschool Board, Nominations Team, Property Team Chair, and Older Adult Team Chair. If you have suggestions, please submit names on the church website or by contacting Chair Angie Meyer (xxxxxxxxxxx@msn.com or XXX-XXXX).

The **Senior Saints** are taking a break during these cold winter months. They will resume with their Lunch & Learn monthly events starting with the second Monday in March at 11:30. While on break the planning team is hard at work developing the schedule for 2020. If you have ideas to share, please contact the church office to leave a message for the team.

**Altar Flowers:** The following dates are available for sponsoring flowers on the altar: March 28-29, November 21-22, and December 5-6. Contact Carol Nahrwold (XXX-XXXX) if you want to reserve one of them. Thank you.

## Advancement News

Faithfully Forward Campaign - The first year of the Faithfully Forward campaign is now complete. Due to the generous giving of our members and supporters, we received \$1,069,047 dollars during the first year of the campaign. This has allowed us to reduce the building debt to \$2.707 million as of 12/31/19. We have three years left to pay this debt off during the campaign. We can do it with everyone contributing. It is never too late to get involved and to help us complete this important task. Please contact Tony Hunt, Director of Advancement, with any questions or for additional information regarding the campaign (xxxxx@stpetersfw.org or XXX-XXXX).

New Federal Policy on Retirement Withdrawals - Federal law has required people who are 70½ and older to make automatic withdrawals from their retirement accounts. Effective for people who turn 70½ on January 1, 2020, or afterward, the age for mandatory withdrawal is increased to 72. However, anyone who is 70½ years of age or older can still withdraw money from retirement accounts tax free if the dollars are donated to charity (up to \$100,000). This is for informational purposes only as we do not provide tax

advice. Please contact Tony Hunt for additional information or talk to your financial/tax advisor for specific questions regarding your personal situation.

Easy ways to support our school - Did you know that we receive around \$2,000 per year from the Kroger Plus program? If you want to know how to link your Kroger plus card to support St. Peter's, please contact the school office or Tony Hunt. Also contact us on how to set up an online scrip account or how to use Amazon Smile to support our school when shopping on Amazon. Thank you to everyone that uses these programs to support our school.

## You Can Make a Difference

### Compassionate Care Collection Helps Turnstone

"Turnstone empowers people with disabilities to achieve their highest potential. Turnstone aspires to a world that accepts and values people based on their abilities." -Turnstone.org

Turnstone's therapists specialize in working with adults with neurological and physical disabilities, including but not limited to amputation, Guillian-Barre, Huntington's, joint replacement, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's, spinal cord injury, stroke, and traumatic brain injury. Adaptive programs include basketball, sled hockey, ballroom dancing and many more.

We can help by giving aluminum foil, flexible straws, hand sanitizer. Collection baskets are in the Ministry Center and North Corridor. Sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

## Preschool News

### Enroll Now for Preschool

Preschool enrollment for St. Peter's church members begins on February 17 and for the community on February 24. Classes are available for children who will be two years of age by August 1 thru age five. You may call for a personal visit and/or print an application from our website. For questions, please call the preschool (XXX-XXXX) or email Barb Christian (xxxxxxxxx@stpetersfw.org). Tell your friends and neighbors.

### National Lutheran Schools Week

Career Day, Pajama Day, Wacky Day, oh my. And a field trip to Gymnastics in Motion is how preschool celebrated the blessing of being a Lutheran School during National Lutheran Schools Week. Lots of fun was had by all of the children and especially the preschool staff. We love our school.

## School News

**National Lutheran Schools Week 2020** is in full swing. School wide devotions, school hymn sing, dodge ball tournament, beach volleyball,

penny wars, and lots of crazy dress days sums up the great week we had celebrating our Lutheran school and the blessing it has been.

### **Penny War**

As part of National Lutheran Schools Week, our classes participated in a friendly Penny War to raise money for the Thirst Project. The Thirst Project builds wells for clean water in developing areas of the world that do not have access to clean water.

**Parent Night** on March 3. We will have State Trooper Cathy Bledsoe in with our middle schoolers as well as a parent night at 6 p.m. in the Church Gym. Mrs. Bledsoe has experience with internet crimes and goes to schools to present information on how to navigate the internet safely for your teens. She is widely known for her presentations, and we were lucky to get her scheduled, so mark your calendars.

### **Open Enrollment for 2020/2021 has begun.**

As we begin to plan for the next school year, if you have a family member, friend or coworker looking for a Christ centered education led by some of the best teachers in the city, invite them to consider St. Peter's. We love our school and want to be able to share the good news of Jesus with everyone that we can. Contact the School Office for more information (XXX-XXXX).

## **Other Area News**

The Lutheran Foundation (TLF) is offering \$1,000 scholarships on a first come, first served basis to the four-week Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival (LSM) to be held at Valparaiso University June 28-July 26. High school students who are members of TLF partner congregations must be accepted by May 1 to qualify. While the actual per-student cost of LSM is about \$6,000, gifts from hundreds of donors reduce tuition to \$2,495. The TLF scholarship, matched 50% by LSM, reduces the tuition to \$995. This fee is all-inclusive, covering musical instruction, room and board, and all recreational activities. A two-week option (June 28-July 12) is available for the same tuition. For more information visit [www.lsmacademy.org](http://www.lsmacademy.org) or call XXX-XXX-XXXX.

### **Top Tips for Parenting Children in a Digital Age Developmental Psychologists Weigh In**

Presented by Great Kids Make Great Communities and The Lutheran Schools Partnership

February 13, 2020 - 6:15-7:00 or 7:15-8:00 p.m.

Concordia High School

[Click here to register for the 6:15 session.](#)

[Click here to register for the 7:15 session.](#)

### **Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age**

Wednesday, February 19, 6:30 p.m. @ Homestead High School Auditorium  
Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston decided to make Screenagers when she found herself constantly struggling with her two kids about screen time. Ruston felt guilty and confused, not sure what limits were best,

especially around mobile phones, social media, gaming, and how to monitor online homework. Hearing repeatedly how other parents were equally overwhelmed, she realized this is one of the biggest, unexplored parenting issues of our time.

[Concordia Theological Seminary News](#)

[Concordia Lutheran High School News](#)

## Thank You

*Thank you for your continued support of our ministry. Your donations are a blessing to us and to those we serve.*

-Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries for our donated office supplies

*To the members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Merry Christmas! And thank you for your support of the students at the seminary. I am a second career man studying to become a faithful pastor, and your gift of time and materials (if you're quilters) and money give so much encouragement to us as we trust in the Lord and are supported by His church during these years of preparation. On behalf of myself, my wife, our 6 year old son, and our 4 year old daughter, I say thank you for your love and prayers!*

-In Christ's love, your brothers and sisters, Carl, Amber, Joshua, and Lydia Petzold.

*Thank you for your generous gift to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund! Your donation ensures that LWR Quilts and Kits get into the hands of a person who needs it. With you help, we have delivered Quilts and Kits to families in Mozambique whose communities were utterly ravaged by Cyclone Idai. For refugee families, your gift means so much. A School Kit can make the difference between getting an education or missing out. A Personal Care Kit helps families provide for basic hygiene needs, freeing up precious resources. Quilts help families through cold winter nights. Thank you for your generosity and partnership!*

-Lutheran World Relief

*It is with sincere gratitude that I am writing to thank you for your sponsorship and support of Lutheran Social Services of Indiana client families and the LSSI Christmas family program. With your help, more than 1010 local families have been blessed this Christmas. These families will feel hope and the love of Jesus, so very much needed this time of year.*

- Lutheran Social Services.

*Thank you so much for your kind and generous support of Lutheran education through the CTSFW food and clothing co-op. The gifts that donors like you give help seminary families tremendously. As a recently married couple in their first year at the seminary (and expecting in June), the gifts help tremendously. Being able to shop at the co-op and get clothes help as we are preparing for this huge change in our lives. Thank you again.*

- Ellery & Meghan Steffensen

*Thank you for your caring and gifts for the co-op marketplace this past year. Our students are truly blessed by the love and care that is shown by you as they are formed into the pastors and deaconesses of tomorrow. For many of our students, the co-op is their only source for their food and household items while they are here on campus. As a former student wife, I can tell you first-hand what it meant to my family and me when we were benefactors of the love and gifts given by people like you.*

- Rev. Dr. Gary Zieroth, Dean of Students

- Deaconess Katherine Rittner, Director, Food & Clothing Co-Op

During the month of January, St. Peter's members and friends gave special thank offerings in gratitude to God for the following:

- God's love
- Celebrating our baptism birthdays
- Our pastors
- Family, friends, and pastors
- Family
- Successful surgery
- Good food and a warm home

Thank you to those who provided sponsorships for either our Prayer Card, News & Notes, Hopeful Living, or Portals of Prayer:

- Tim & Rhonda Scott in Memory of Kathryn Busche
- Mr. & Mrs. Albert Selking
- Jack & Phyllis Aaron
- Carolyn Hein in honor of the Bierleins, Borchers, Friedrichs, Koenemanns, & Ressimans for their friendship and one in memory of Dave Hein
- Mike & Debbie Stephen in memory of their parents

## February Birthdays



### February 1-8

(1) Barbara Borchers; (2) Jeanette Baumert, Karen Dennison, Linda Hallien, Julie Howenstine, Ralph Scheiwe, Eric Worden; (3) Brianna Moehnke, Kevin Pennell; (4) Noel Crismore, Martha DePue, Patrick Flanigan, Julie Rekeweg, Jamie Scheumann; (5) Karen Clark, Jenny Grisez, Scarlett Horacek, Sawyer Meehan, Kaia Recker, Stephanie Renninger; (6) Craig Fails, Trisha Hoffman, Donald Korte; (7) Cameron Bohnke, Nicole Bolinger, Bryleigh Cobbs; (8) Leah Fultz, Kara Vonderau;

### February 9-16

(9) Jenna Bingham, Brian Brenneke, Scott Buhr, Louise Hartman, Lauren Hockemeyer, Dale Miller, Noah Olson, Max Springer; (10) Todd Buuck, Adam McDowell, Cheryl Nietert, Jeff Niswonger, Greg Reith, Rachel Scheumann; (11) Luke Bentz, Bob Berning, Ian Cobb, Lauren DenHartog, Kandace Ehresman, Andria Folsom, Hope Liechty, Jacqueline Przeniczny, Autumn Rogers; (12) Sarah Cripe, Lauren Frick, Paul Kohn, Charles Newbauer, Joe Strong; (13) Karen Hoffman, Robert Sutter, Ryleigh

Workman; (14) Jackson Crozier, Ashley Faurote, Parker Sell, Raegan Smethers; (15) Jessica Bicknese, Ian Brown, Michael Reidt, Bekett Selking; Jennifer Thomas; (16) Jack Baumert, Daniel Bradtmueller, Greg Goeglein, Christian Hicks;

### February 17-23

(17) Jeremy Busche, Nathan Falkenstern, Chad Goeglein, Rhoda Goeglein, Biden Paulin, Juanita Voltz, Anthony Wiedemann; (18) Landon Coil, Bonnie DeCamp, Christopher Latham, Leah Reese, Dennis Shadle, Krista Thena; (19) Mark Busche, Anna Christian, Verna Ehle, Halden Krauter, Andrea Panyard, Richard Vonderau; (20) Cameron Rekeweg, Jacob Steele, David Ward; (21) Dale Ehle, Andrew Fultz, Jennifer Meyers, Jacob Rhodes, Darcy Ringenberg, Hayley Roberts, David Sheets, Lincoln Thomas; (22) Meghan Beverly, Nicholas Derheimer, Julie Laisure, Emersynn Lehman, Selena Stankovic, Joyce Westrem; (23) Noah Dyer, Brock Fuller, Eric Komosinski, Madelyn Meyer, Naomi Woehner;

### February 24-29

(24) Simone Chiddister, Madison Folsom, Matthew Goeglein, Zachary Pettit, Daniel Smith, Rogan Thiele, Blake Vanderford; (25) Barbara Bubb, Verna Buhr, Steven Buchardt, Janet Green, Morgan Moher, Dr. Gary Painter, Lauren Roembke, Scott Thiele, Susan Wetzel; (26) Greg Baumert, Caleb Bryan, Sara Smart; (27) Christopher Amick, Bailey Berning, Alivia Bolinger, Eric Geiger, Edith Miller; (28) Elise Koenemann, Jeffery Massucci, Garry Morr, Joseph Nuthals, Steven Singer; (29) Jack France

## THE RECORD BOOK

### Baptism:

Addison Maedora Girardot (1/26) to parents Austin & Jen Girardot  
Aubrey Lynn Girardot (1/26) to parents Austin & Jen Girardot  
Ryleigh Anne Disheaux (2/1) to parents Brittany & Shae Disheaux  
Ava Grace Albright (2/1)



### Births:

Archer Lee Lehman (12/13/2019) to parents Trenton & Brittany Lehman  
Ryleigh Anne Disheaux (12/19/2019) to parents Brittany & Shae Disheaux  
Elaina Marie Bowman (1/3) to parents Courtney Buhr & Garret Bowman

### Deaths:

Russel A. Schweyer (1/5)  
Marian Ehle (1/27)

### Newsletter Deadline & Info

The next Keynotes deadline is February 25. Please send all information to [churchoffice@stpetersfw.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpetersfw.org) by noon. Don't forget that the Keynotes is now being delivered by email. If you have not received this issue by email and would like to, please make sure that we have your current email address. Your updated email address can be turned in to the church office by calling 749-5816 or emailing [churchoffice@stpetersfw.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpetersfw.org), or simply write your email address on the line next to your name when you sign the Ritual of Friendship pad. Printed copies of the Keynotes will always be available for pickup at the church for those members who do not have access to email. Copies will be delivered to shut-ins who receive DVD recordings of our weekly services.

### St. Peter's Lutheran Church & School

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