



Saint Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

# The Contact

February 2021. Volume 60 #2



## At a Glance...

### Dates to Remember:

- February 11: **Tax Aid Opens**
- February 14: **Valentine's Day Transfiguration**
- February 15: **President's Day**
- February 16: **Shrove Tuesday**
- February 17: **Ash Wednesday**  
7:00 pm: Worship

### BIRTHDAYS:

Teresa Johnston	2-2
Denis Dhenin	2-3
Austin Meeks	2-9
Emily Hutchison	2-9
David Samp	2-15
Dianna Hutchison	2-25

*If we have inadvertently omitted anyone, please contact Laura Dhenin in the church office. Thank you!*





## FROM CAROLYN OLSON, CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

*Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit and make us worthy of your call. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
Amen.*

It looks like there may be “light at the end of the tunnel”! The Covid vaccine is now available in New Mexico! Hopefully, we should all be vaccinated by March.

In the meantime, we continue to shelter in place and are careful about our ‘social distancing’. Christmas Eve worship was a wonderful success, we saw friends that we haven’t seen in such a long time, and we even sang “a little”. Who can be still when “Silent Night” is playing or “Joy to the World”?

The congregational council and the committee on worship will be planning another service for Ash Wednesday, 7:00 pm, on February 17th. We will worship as we did on Christmas Eve, with all the “restraints” in place. Pastor Stephanie Harmon will join us as we celebrate Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. (We are investigating ways to do this safely). There are plans for us to worship on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> also.

LaVelta Jenkins will be conducting the annual AARP Foundation Tax Aide in our fellowship hall once again this year even with the restrictions due to the pandemic. With a little “creative” organizing, taxpayers will call for an appointment, fill out an intake and interview sheet, and bring them to the fellowship hall on the day and time of their appointment. Temperatures will be taken, and they must wear face masks. While their tax returns are being prepared, they will wait in the parking lot and will be called when they are completed. Thanks to LaVelta and her volunteers for continuing this vital service! And if you would like to provide snacks for the volunteers, please contact LaVelta.

Because of Covid we will not have the annual congregational meeting to approve the Bulletin of Reports. Also, the council has “tabled” the election of new council members and officers and the proposed budget for 2021. So it will be “business as usual” until we can hold a congregational meeting. Your annual Bulletin of Reports will be mailed to you in February. Thanks to Laura Dhenin who will be printing those for us!

Prayers and blessings for Linda Servold, Dawn Hanson, and Pastor Marty’s sister, Jane, who were injured in falls this past month. Linda’s collar bone is healing, Dawn’s ribs are on the mend, and Pastor Marty reports that Jane didn’t need surgery - *only* a cast on her arm. Prayers and blessings for them and their families.

Remember, if you need pastoral counsel or care, you can contact Gene Harbaugh at 885-6173 or Pastor Stephanie Harmon at 575-973-2159.

*“We walk by faith and not by sight with gracious words draw near,  
O Christ who spoke as none e’r spoke  
My peace be with you here.”  
(ELW pp. 635)*

# NEWS & EVENTS

## St. Peter Tax Aid OPENS

The St. Peter Tax Aid site will officially open on Thursday, February 11.

Tax-Aide is a free Income Tax preparation service. Tax-Aide volunteers are certified by the IRS.

HOURS:

**Monday & Thursday: 6:00 - 9:00 pm and**

**Saturday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

\***Appointments are required.** To schedule an appointment stop by the St. Peter Tax Aid site during hours of operation to register.

\* **Masks are required**



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## Hospitality for the St. Peter Tax Aid Site:

Please consider donating snacks or preparing meals for the very busy Tax Aid volunteers; especially on Saturdays! Please, see LaVelta Jenkins to schedule a day you would like to help.



Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

**Wednesday, February 17  
7:00 pm**

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## PACKS FOR HUNGER NEEDS OUR HELP!

**Our friends at Packs for Hunger are feeding nearly 350 Carlsbad-area children per week!**

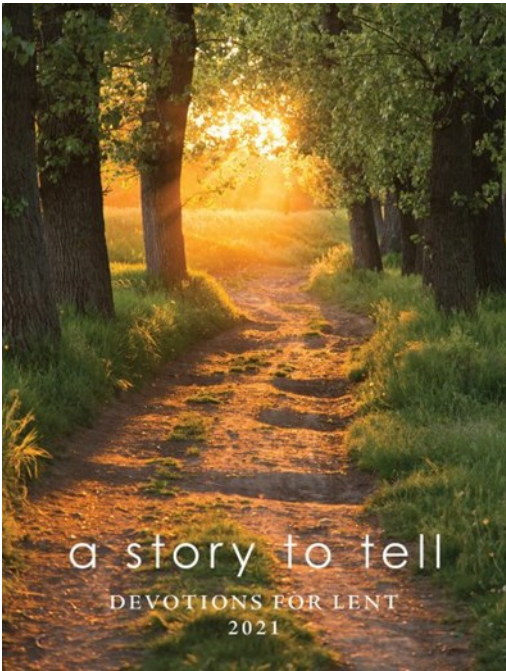
Please consider making a monetary or food donation. They can also use help with loading and delivering the backpacks.

Please contact Jean Vinka for details.



# NEWS & EVENTS

## Lenten Devotional eBook Available



### A Story to Tell: Devotions for Lent 2021

by David L. Miller, Harvard Stephens Jr., Lydia Posselt, and Rebekkah Lohrmann

This beautiful, full-color Lenten devotional highlights readings from the Gospel of Mark with 46 entries, one for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. This accessible and colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into your Lenten journey.

*A Story to Tell* focuses on texts from the Gospel of Mark that show Jesus' journey from baptism to the cross. The gospel writer has a story to tell, moving quickly from one scene to the next. The urgent tone of the story grabs us and pulls us in, but all the action comes to a halt when those who see the empty tomb tell no one about this. Is this the end of the story?

Available as an ebook ([Kindle](#), [Google Play](#), [Nook](#), and [Apple Books](#))

## CARLSBAD COMMUNITY OF HOPE CENTER

### Emergency Shelter Now Open



**Check In 6:00 PM**  
**Check Out 7:00 AM**

Anyone needing shelter  
and a hot meal are  
welcome!

1314 S. Canal Street

(575) 200-1377

# PRAYERS

## *In Our Prayers*



Linda Servold, Jane Harrington, Dawn Hanson, Joyce Sumner, John Owens, Serge Sisler, Alan Jenkins, Melonie Lynch, Spencer Gandy, Judy Havens, Woods Houghton, Carol Long, Ruthann Ropp, Alice Martin, Dawn Duff, Tracey Jones, Amalija, Retha and family, Dave Hanson, Gerald Bushman, Kelly Glover, Donnie Yielding, Margie Rasmussen, Cindy Meeks, Copey & Megan Duff, Tiffany, and Jeannie Patterson.

Safety for all first-responders and those serving in the military.

*Homebound:* Bettie Bitner, Dave Hanson, and Ruth Winters

If you would like to add anyone to our prayer list, please email or leave a voice-mail message with the church office.

## God's Work. Our Hands.

*The things we do and ways YOU can help...*

- Noisy Offering Collection for **ELCA WORLD HUNGER**: Every week during our worship service, the children of the congregation take a coin collection after the Gospel for Children.
- Food Drive for **Jonah's House**: Jonah's House is in need of canned goods and other non-perishable food items. *PLEASE Remember to bring your items to church the first Sunday of each month.*
- **Packs for Hunger**: Packs for Hunger is feeding nearly 350 Carlsbad-area children **PER WEEK** (even in the SUMMER!) and they need your HELP. Please consider making a monetary or food donation. Lists of suggested food items and a collection container are in the Narthex.
- **Sock Drive**: Donations of (new) socks and undergarments for boys and girls, pre-K-12th grade can be made throughout the year by placing them in the Packs for Hunger collection container in the Narthex.
- Can Tabs for **Ronald McDonald House**: We collect aluminum soda can tabs for Ronald McDonald House. A collection container is in the Narthex.

# CHURCH... BETTER TOGETHER

## Lenten Discussion Series: Struggling with Our Stories of Race



### About the Lenten Discussion Series

This discussion series is intended to create an experience for each of us the chance to think about our personal stories of race and faith. This discussion guide includes a guided timeline experience and individual journal prompts. Participants are encouraged to engage as much of the materials as they are able. **Synod Assembly Voting Members are specifically asked to engage this work as part of the preparation for the assembly**, though anyone in the RMS is invited to participate.

### How to Participate

**As a Congregation:** Gather as a congregation small group to view the specified parts of the timeline and discuss the journal prompts from that week.

**With the RMS group:** Join either Sunday or Wednesday evenings throughout Lent to view the timeline with folks from around the synod. This can be as an individual or congregational group.

**As an Individual:** While the journal prompts are meant to be done individually, you may also view the timeline on your own as well. If you select this option, it is strongly encouraged you find a conversation partner to process your learnings with.

### Gatherings

**Wednesday, February 17, 4:00pm:** Opening Conversation with Bishop Gonia, Rev. Ron Roschke, & Assembly Keynote Speaker Dr. Edward Antonio

**Session 1:** Sunday, February 21st, 6pm OR Wednesday, February 24th, 3pm

**Session 2:** Sunday, February 28th 6pm OR Wednesday, March 3, 3pm

**Session 3:** Sunday, March 7th 6pm OR Wednesday, March 10, 3pm

**Session 4:** Sunday, March 14th 6pm OR Wednesday, March 17, 3pm

**Session 5:** Sunday, March 21st 6pm or Wednesday, February 24th, 3pm

[More information and registration](#)

# CHURCH... BETTER TOGETHER

Augustana Arts Concert Series

## What the World Needs Now is Love, Sweet Love!

Sunday, February 14, at 6:30 pm



Join us for our second Culinary Concert featuring jazz musicians Neil Bridge and Karen Lee Bridge and guest chef Andrew Hudson. “*What the World Needs Now is Love, Sweet Love!*” is the perfect way to enjoy Valentine’s Day with your family, spouse, friend, or partner. The Bridge’s will perform classic love songs while you treat yourself to delicious recipes from Spain in the comfort of your own kitchen!

Recipes and a shopping list will be shared ahead of time. This is a virtual event and a link will be sent 24 hours prior to the concert showtime. This online event is free, but your donations are appreciated in lieu of admission in support of Augustana Arts.

Get your tickets and donate here: <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35350/production/1036831?performanceId=10623059>

## Conversations for Connection: Supporting Mental Health

Hosted by Atonement Lutheran Church, Boulder and the [Interfaith Network on Mental Illness](#)

### “*What the Widows Have Taught Me*”

Thursday, February 4, 7:00 - 8:00 pm



Widows were honored by Jesus as revealers of great blessing. Their “grief glasses” have super powers, like gratitude, storytelling, seeing old things anew, crying in real time, befriending animals and finding humor in dark places.

Join Rev. Heather Haginduff in a pandemic discussion of how we can implement the widows’ gift in our daily mental health. She has been spending the pandemic learning how to garden, playing the ukulele and educating the public on and advocating for

Reproductive Health and Justice. She is energized by cooking and pulpit supply (preaching on Zoom). She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Heather lives in Colorado Springs with her TikToking ‘tween daughters, and her girlfriend.

# CHURCH... BETTER TOGETHER

## COVID Conversations for Congregations

Thursday, January 28th  
4:00-5:00pm  
Navigating Worship

Thursday, February 4th  
4:00-5:00pm  
Pastoral Care for Long-Haulers

Thursday, February 11th  
4:00-5:00pm  
Faith Leaders as Public Health  
Advocates



ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/98049988778?pwd=Q1hhQS9lUUI4VklBbGVHYitoUHN4QT09>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/rmselca](http://www.facebook.com/rmselca)

Rostered Ministers and council leaders are invited to join.

Join us on ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/j/98049988778?pwd=Q1hhQS9lUUI4VklBbGVHYitoUHN4QT09>

COVID Conversations February 4 and 11 will be on both ZOOM and Facebook.

Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/rmselca](http://www.facebook.com/rmselca)

## Leadership news from the Women of the ELCA "interchange"

Download the winter 2021 issue



The **final** issue of *Interchange*—winter 2021—is available for you to download, print, and share. In it, you will find news about staffing changes, an October 2020 executive board report, and information about the convention and gathering.

Our news brief section offers a variety of information: on Bold Women's Day, *Gather's* winter Bible study, the new and improved virtual gathering for leaders (once the Conference of Presidents), and special days to observe.

[You can download it, print it, and share it.](#)



# CHURCH... BETTER TOGETHER

## CONNECTED, GENEROUS, FREE TO SERVE

From the Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton

January 8, 2021



Dear church,

We have been living with this [pandemic](#) for nearly a year. So much has changed. Bubbles, personal protective equipment, social distancing and one-way grocery aisles are part of our lexicon and everyday experience. Who knew, a year ago, that face masks would be

advertised as ideal stocking stuffers? Our homes have become offices, schools and gyms. Our commutes have been cut down from hours of traffic to walking over to the dining room table. I do not look forward to the weekly summary from my iPhone that tells me how many hours a day I am staring at a screen.

But the pandemic has also revealed the remarkable resilience and creativity of this church. Within weeks of shelter-in-place restrictions, thousands of our congregations converted to online worship, Bible studies and coffee hours. As the economy stuttered and people lost jobs, you stepped up the work of your food pantries. When kids needed internet access to go to virtual school, you became neighborhood hot spots.

We became more connected. And the gospel was heard by people who, in the “Before Times,” would never have come to church. There is a story about the devil bragging to a pastor, saying that the pandemic was the devil’s tool to close all the churches—to which the pastor replied, “We have opened a church in every home.”

You have been generous. In March and April we began to hear concern from our bishops about synod ministries. What would happen to camps and campus ministries? What would happen to congregations that were anchors in communities and were already stressed before the pandemic? We offered [Daily Bread grants](#)—\$500 from the churchwide organization/\$500 from the local congregation. We hoped that 50 congregations might be able to raise the matching funds. So far 374 grants have been awarded. Working with synod bishops we launched the [COVID-19 Appeal](#), which is designed to support key ministries in synods. You stepped up and in eight months have given over \$1.7 million. These

grants have been distributed to ministries in 62 of our 65 synods.

Now it’s 2021. The pandemic is still with us. Yes, there are vaccines and distribution is being sorted out. There is an end in sight. But now is not the time to let down our guard. We’ll keep washing our hands, wearing masks and avoiding crowds. We will do this for ourselves and for each other. We will respect the disease and give thanks to God for the gift of science. And we will continue to worship, pray and serve.

The pandemic has also taught us something about ourselves. Though we are physically distant, we are connected. Paul put it this way in a letter to the Corinthians: “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:26-27).

It is our joyful duty to care for one another, particularly the most vulnerable. It is an act of faithfulness when we limit ourselves so that the pandemic is brought to heel. It is an act of love when we restrict our travel or wear a mask. As Martin Luther pointed out in [The Freedom of a Christian](#), it is the freedom we have in Christ that makes us servants of all.

There is a model of such self-giving, self-limiting love. “Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:4-8).

I pray that we all live in such freedom.

Peace. Be well.  
Liz

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address: [bishop@elca.org](mailto:bishop@elca.org). Reprinted with permission.

Living  
Lutheran

# CHURCH... BETTER TOGETHER

## Love Your Neighbor

Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." – Matthew 22:37-40

What a shame that February – the one month of the year with keen focus on love is also the shortest. We sure could use a lot more love in our world, especially for our neighbor.

The last 12 months have been particularly hard, as race riots, a divisive election and civil unrest have all unfolded against the traumatic backdrop of the Covid19 pandemic. Currently in very short supply, more love for neighbor would go a long way in helping us to solve our problems.

Love for neighbor is integral to not only good discipleship, but also good stewardship. The greater the "love for neighbor" factor in our lives, the better stewards we will be of every blessing God provides – creation, time, relationships, money, possessions, health, to name just a few. By cultivating love for neighbor we will also enjoy a happier life and promote a healthier and more civil society.

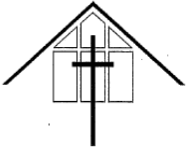
The opposite is also true. Cultivating enmity for neighbor leaves us sour, selfish and cynical, while also making our nation angry and selfish.

This year make February "Love Your Neighbor" month in your personal devotions and your congregational life. Give the concept breathing room in your life. Keep it in your thoughts, sow it in our heart, talk about it to your family and friends.

Pray for God to teach you what it means to love our neighbor. Pray for God to give you the strength and will to live it. And watch as love heals and invigorates your life ... and our world.

*-Rob Blezard*

*Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org). He blogs at [www.thestewardshipguy.com](http://www.thestewardshipguy.com)*



# Saint Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 6:00-9:00 pm: Tax Aid	12  <b>No School</b>	13 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Tax Aid
14 	15 6:00-9:00 pm: Tax Aid  <b>No School</b>	16 	17  7:00 pm Worship	18 6:00-9:00 pm: Tax Aid	19	20 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Tax Aid
21	22 6:00-9:00 pm: Tax Aid	23	24	25 6:00-9:00 pm: Tax Aid	26	27 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Tax Aid
28	<i>February - 2021</i> 					



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