

The Voice



From the desk of Pastor Mark:

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 8 that “if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.” I don’t know about you, but that sure resonates with me these days. I suppose this is an apt phrase for all times and places, since we never know for certain what the future holds. Things can change in an instant after all. Car accident, new relationship, cancer diagnosis, new job opportunity, COVID-19, news of pregnancy, and so many other things can change the future we envisioned in a hurry. Sometimes changed in a positive way. Sometimes changed in a negative way. Sometimes the change is neither positive nor negative, and we are neutral about it.

We may not know for certain what the future holds, but we none-the-less live with hope. We have hope from the baby born in Bethlehem, who is called Emmanuel, which means God is with us. Through the ups, through the downs, and through the everyday ordinary things ... God is with us. God is with us, and God is in the midst of making all things new.

One thing is certain: God is on the move, and we’re still invited to follow God’s lead into the future—even if we can’t quite see it yet.

Blessings to you in the New Year, 2022,

Pastor Mark

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Please Note **Worship & Sunday School Time Changes**

Thank you for joining us for worship!

Sunday worship is at 9:30 a.m. from January 9-February 27. January 2nd worship will be at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School is at 8:15—9:15 a.m. There is no Sunday School on January 2.

Wednesday evening worship occurs at 6:30 p.m.



Prayer Ministry Team January 30

Once a month, we meet in person to pray together for those who have requested prayers through the prayer chain or other requests. It is a chance to spend time in prayer, get updates, and send notes to those the group prays for. You don't have to be comfortable praying aloud to participate! **Join us after worship at about 10:30 a.m.**

Thank You for Joining Us for Worship!

Beginning January 9th, Sunday school will be from 8:15-9:15 a.m. We will continue with a single service at 9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship. Everyone's feedback was considered by the St. Peter Church Council when making this decision. We will reassess this schedule for Lent.



Coming Up at St. Peter:

Rescheduled Confirmation Christmas Program

The Confirmation students will present the Christmas story at Wednesday worship on the twelfth day of Christmas, January 5, at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend!

MLK Jr. Day of Service

On Sunday, January 16th and Monday, January 17th, we will once again hold our MLK Jr. Day of Service. We will prepare breakfast casseroles for the Salvation Army's Mobile Breakfast canteen. Sign up to donate your time or food items/supplies at <https://signup.com/go/KHjxhUe>. If you have questions, please contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org

For youth in need of silver cord or NHS volunteer hours, this would be a great opportunity to get a few hours.

Gathered
to
Grow

Sent
to
Serve

Happy New Year!

*The church office will be closed
on Monday, January 3.*

St. Peter Lutheran Church
Office Hours

The Church Office is open
Mon.— Fri. 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Jill Capps –

Faith Formation Director

Open Office Hours:

Mon. 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Tues. 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Wed. 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

3:30-7:30 p.m.

Thurs. 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Sun. 8:00-10:30 a.m.

Pastor Mark Schlenker's day off
is Friday.

Valentine's Spaghetti Supper

The youth of St. Peter will be preparing and serving their annual Valentine Spaghetti Supper from 5:00-8:00 p.m. on February 6. We welcome you to come enjoy an evening away from the kitchen with good company. This event is a free-will donation for youth fundraising. Look for sign-ups for reservations at the end of January to enjoy a night of great food with fantastic service!



Fleece Blanket Project

February 27th is St. Peter's 9th Annual Fleece Blanket Sunday. We will once again be making fleece blankets for the patients of MercyOne Hospitals in Des Moines. We've had great success with this project in past years and are looking forward to seeing how many blankets we can make again this year!

What is the Fleece Blanket Project? These donated blankets to Mercy One Hospitals are given to patients from newborns to people at the end of their lives. They serve as comfort and are enjoyed by all ages.

How Can I Help?

- Donate fabric – 2 pieces of fleece (each 1 1/2 yards in size) makes one blanket.
- Donate a completed blanket! Create a blanket with your family, friends, Bible Study, Mom's Group, sports team, neighborhood group etc..
- Sponsor a blanket by donating \$25.00.
- Help prepare the Fellowship Hall for the blanket tying event. (This will be done on Saturday, Feb. 26.)
- Help on Sunday, February 27 during the tying event. Never made a blanket before? That's ok – if you can tie your shoe you can tie a blanket.

Who do I contact with questions? Jill Capps at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org, Sarah Capps at snc03228@gmail.com, or Allison Newman at allisonknewman@yahoo.com

The 15th of each month is the deadline date for newsletter items to be submitted to the church office. Thanks!

Grimes Giving Tree

Thank you to those who donated to the Grimes Giving Tree! St. Peter provided 80 gifts to community children this Christmas season. The Grimes Giving Tree and the families it supports appreciate your generosity in spreading holiday cheer!



2021 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements will be available at St. Peter on Jan. 16 & 23. Any statements not picked up by January 24 will be mailed to members' homes. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries of St. Peter!

2022 Flower Chart Is Posted

If you would like to share altar arrangements on a special Sunday in 2022, please sign up on the Flower Chart that is posted on the Service Board in Fellowship Hall. Arrangements cost \$40 and will be made to match the liturgical colors of the church year.



ST PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Left: St. Peter carolers spread Christmas joy!



Right & Below: Our Gingerbread House Event was a lot of fun for participants of all ages!



Volunteers Needed – Can You Help?

If you would like to help as **assisting minister**, please contact Emily Wells.

If you would like to be a **reader**, please contact Sue Dooley.

If you can help **host** by greeting worshippers and helping them find their worship materials, contact Roxanne Hauge.

If you can assist as a **worship teller**, please contact Andrew Newman.

If you can learn our **live-stream audio/visual production**, contact Jill. You would be trained in the production process for our live-stream service.

If you can help with **Creation Station** during worship, contact Jill or go to this link: <https://signup.com/go/CwrXJph>.

The church office can put you in contact with these volunteer coordinators. Thanks for sharing your time and talents with St. Peter!

Grimes Storehouse – Community Food Pantry

The Grimes Storehouse is located at 112 NE Ewing St., Suite B, in Grimes. Grimes Storehouse hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and every 1st & 2nd Tuesday from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS

LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

BOTTLED ORANGE JUICE
BOXED POTATOES
CANNED PINEAPPLE
PANCAKE SYRUP
POTATO & PASTA SIDE DISHES
BEAN & BACON SOUP
SKILLET DINNERS
5 LBS. GRANULATED SUGAR
MISC. MEATS (MANWICH, BEEF STEW, BEEF JERKY, ETC.)



PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS –

LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

Laundry Soap
Liquid Body Wash
Shampoo
Conditioner
Baby Wipes
Body/Hand Lotion
Kitchen Garbage Bags
Paper Towels
Kitchen Storage Bags (All sizes)
Dish Soap

Let's see how many meals and care packs St. Peter can provide for the Grimes Storehouse food pantry! Please bring your choice of donated items to St. Peter and place them in the Food Pantry basket located in the Fellowship Hall.

Care Pack #1:

- Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner

Care Pack #2

- Laundry Soap
- Garbage Bags
- Dish Soap

Meal # 1:

- Chicken Skillet Dinner
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Pineapple

Meal #2

- Manwich/Beef Stew
- Potato or Pasta Side Dish
- Bottle of Orange Juice

From the Stewardship Committee—Jason Hughes, Andrew Newman, & Rich Weiss

Income
Expense
Net Income

November 2021

Income: 24,337.61
Expense: 24,219.72
Net Gain: 117.89

YTD

Income: 234,833.76
Expense: 274,038.32
Net Loss: (39,204.56)

- General Fund--November 2021, income was greater than monthly expenses thus it finished with a gain of \$117.89
- General Fund YTD--November 2021, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of \$(39,204.56).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – DECEMBER 20, 2021

Pastor's Report:

- Recent vacation went well.
- Upcoming vacation for the week between Christmas and the new year. Will be out January 2. We will have a Lessons and Carols service.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- Confirmation – We did not meet on November 24th because of Thanksgiving break. We are currently discussing the unit on the New Testament. We will continue this unit through January, focusing on Peter & the Early Church, the Journey of Paul, and his letters etc. On December 15th the confirmation students will present the Christmas story during the 6:30pm worship service. We will not meet for confirmation on December 22nd or 29th for Christmas break.
- Confirmation “Sent to Serve” - The confirmation students finished their Thanksgiving baskets project for CFUM. They exceeded their original goal of 15 by completing 20 baskets. I delivered the baskets to CFUM on Monday of Thanksgiving and the bags were distributed to the Moulton Elementary families on Tuesday.
- Faith Formation – We held our first gingerbread house decorating event following the 9:00am service on December 5th. It was a fun, successful event that 19 families attended. Due to the great feedback and attendance, I will plan to offer this event again next year. I will look for other fun family events that we can offer throughout the year.
- On December 29th we will provide the evening meal for CFUM Supper Club. This project will be open to confirmation students and all members of St. Peter to participate. We will prepare a hot meal at church which I will then deliver to CFUM. We are still limited to only 2-3 volunteers to help dish the hot meal into to go containers that are given to community members (adults & children) outside the doors of CFUM. Please let me know if you or your family would like to participate.
- In January I will offer families the opportunity to serve together by once again holding our “MLK JR DAY OF SERVICE” on MLK Weekend. We will plan to make breakfast casseroles for the Salvation Army. In addition, we may bake muffins etc. for CFUM Breakfast Club. Opportunities will be offered on Sunday, Jan 16th and Monday, Jan 17th.
- Audio / Video Tech – I continue to look for more volunteers to help fill the role of Audio/Video Tech when I am out of town etc. Rich Weiss has been learning the system so he can fill in occasionally. In addition, volunteers are also needed to run the soundboard at the 10:30am service and on Wednesday evenings. (These 2 services are not live streamed, so it is a much easier role.)
- Communication – Our Facebook page and website continue to be a great way to connect with not only our members but to reach people in the community looking for a home church. The best way to expand the reach of our Facebook page continues to be to increase our post “likes” or “reactions”. For members with Facebook, a simple way to help improve and expand our “reach” is to simply “like” or “react” to posts, the more interactions the more people are reached. It is important that if you want to ensure that events or updates are included on Facebook or the website that you send a message to me. Although I am generally aware of our events, I can't promise that I won't miss something if you don't communicate directly to me.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group met twice during November. I led one gathering and Pastor Mark covered for me while I was on vacation.
- High school Youth Group met three times during the month of November. We had a devotion night, game night and Friendsgiving.
- We have 8 youth signed up for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Currently myself and another adult will be chaperoning the trip to Minneapolis in late July. We will meet once a month as a group to prepare for the trip.
- December will include traditional Youth Group gatherings and our Christmas parties for each group. We will take a holiday break beginning December 20th, and will resume with middle school Youth Group on January 5th.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed October and November financials.

2022 Budget Discussion:

- Recommend staff raises of 3%
- Adding stipend budget for two educational positions. One position for Sunday School curriculum and one for VBS curriculum
- Sabbatical line item added to budget in advance for future pastor sabbaticals
- Motion approved to present budget to congregation

Stewardship :

- Eric Soultz will be joining the committee. Still a need for worship tellers. Will be reaching out to those who've shown interest.

Building & Grounds

- With the help of many the Nativity was set up. The stable sustained some damage. It has been placed in the garage. There have been discussions on how to rebuild. The roof sustained some damage. Damage repair was covered under the warranty.

Education:

- Have talked to Matt Pries about music. He will likely return 1/9. Sunday school will return to 1 hour to allow time for music and lesson.

Evangelism:

- Hosted a recent cake reception for new members. We had a great turn out. Purchased a cake for 90 and only four pieces left.

Worship & Music :

- Finalized Christmas Eve service. Discussing Lent.

Old Business:

- Feedback from Council calls with members.
- Calls went well. Very good feedback from members. Discussion on repeating annually.
- Worship times & Sunday schedule for Jan. 9 - Feb. 27 going forward
- Discussed feedback from everyone. Some members like one service. Some would like to see two. Attendance was nice with the 9:00am service. Need 1 hour for Sunday School. Will continue with one worship in January. Sunday school will be 8:15-9:15. Service will be at 9:30 with fellowship after. Will reassess the schedule for Lent. Virtual attendance on Facebook and YouTube continues to be strong.

New Business:

- n/a

Local Mission Donation: Fredericks Family

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING - DECEMBER 7, 2021

- WELCA had their meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at Hacienda Vieja. Members present were: Bambi Schlenker, Allison Newman, Allison Prohaska, Lauri Rouse, and Carol Miller
- We discussed new board members to replace Bambi, Lauri, and Carol
- We discussed the Silent Auction and Freezer Meal Sale. All turned out to be a success
- Silent Auction: \$3073.00
- Freezer Meal: \$449.00
- Total: \$3522.00
- We had extra money donated for Mosaic, so we will do pizza for them in January. We will shop for gifts for Mosaic later this evening, and Allison P. will deliver them to houses.
- We have decided on these 2021 donations:
- Family Cancer Network: \$100
- Feminine Hygiene Products for Tanzania: \$400
- Dorothy's House: \$100
- GVSS: \$100
- Grimes Storehouse: \$100
- Treasurer's report (Numbers are before the Silent Auction/Freezer Sale deposit):
- General fund: \$1420.39; Kitchen \$1933.80
- Total of \$3354.19
- Next Meeting January 4, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Online Giving Opportunities

St. Peter offers online giving options through Thrivent's Simply Giving Program, which includes one-time giving and recurring donations through the following secure methods:

1. Find and download the Give+ Church mobile app in the App Store or on Google Play for Android smartphones by searching "give plus church". Choose search for a church near me or type in St Peter Lutheran and choose our address in Grimes, and follow the steps; or
2. Go to St. Peter's website www.stpeterofgrimes.org and click on the yellow Online Giving link or scan the QR code printed here.
3. Set up bill pay through your bank to St. Peter Lutheran.
4. Please contact the church office to designate your donation between specific funds.

Contact the church office with questions. Thank you for sharing your resources to support the ministries of St. Peter!

