

The Voice



From the desk of Pastor Mark:

Most of my family's vacations growing up, at least as I remember them, had something to do with nature. We'd travel and camp at the Grand Canyon, or get up north to the mountains in Payson, down to the Desert Sonoran Museum near Tucson, or over to the beaches in California. Even our cross country drive to Maryland to visit relatives we camped along the way, so I remember all of the different natural terrain. I remember seeing caves, lakes, mountains, walking in a park with massive trees, and almost being swept away down a river. I'm not sure how my three siblings remember the vacations, but I sure remember all the nature. I suppose it could be because I have always

loved the outdoors. I love seeing and experiencing the rich diversity of God's beautiful creation. Bambi and I are doing our best to pass on our love for the outdoors to our kids as well. It's a work in progress of course. Tell them we are going for a hike at Jester and it will be met with resistance (even though they love it when we get there.) Tell them we're going camping on the other hand, and they are ready to pack their bags. We hope they learn to have a love and appreciation for the beauty of God's creation as we both do.

This is one reason I am excited about worship this February. This February we are going to have a Season of Creation. Many years ago I had heard of churches having a Season of Creation, and it intrigued me, but I never followed up

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February Worship & Sunday School Schedule

Thank you for joining us for worship!

Sunday **worship** is at **9:30 a.m.**
from January 9—February 27.
This service will be livestreamed.

Sunday School is at 8:15—9:15
a.m.

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

Everyone's feedback was considered by the St. Peter Church Council when making scheduling decisions. They will reassess this schedule for Lent.



Prayer Ministry Team February 27

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.**

on it. Over the last couple years, I've been hearing more and more about it; and felt like God was saying this is the year to try a Season of Creation in worship. Worship and Music committee liked the idea, so here we go. The Season of Creation offers us an opportunity to turn our full attention toward God the Creator and toward our relationship with the whole creation. God is the creator of all life. Focusing on this aspect of God's reality will help us appreciate the fullness of God's work. Each Sunday we'll have a different focus: Ocean, Fauna, Storm, and Cosmos.

I look forward to worship time together in the Season of Creation. In the meantime, I hope you can find some time to get out and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. Well, maybe when it warms up a little bit anyway (There's a -11 wind chill outside as I write this).

God's blessings,

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter:

Budget Forum February 6

2021 Annual Reports are available for members to pick up in the church entryway. The 2022 budget is included in the 2021 Annual Report. If you have questions about the budget, please attend the Budget Forum following the 9:30 a.m. worship on February 6. Church Council Members and Executive Board will be available during these times in Fellowship Hall.

Semi Annual Congregational Meeting February 13

St. Peter's Semi Annual Congregational meeting will be on Sunday, February 13, after 9:30 worship. Topics include approving the 2022 budget and more!



WELCA Toy Drive

During the month of February, WELCA will be collecting gently used toys for the Not New Shop. The Iowa Lutheran Hospital Auxiliary Not New Shop is a thrift store with quality used items for men, women, and children. It's a great opportunity to weed out those toys your kids no longer use while helping those in need!

Donations can be placed in the basket inside the church entrance starting February 1st through February 27th. Thanks for sharing with those in need!

Gathered to Grow Sent to Serve

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.

Adult Education

New Year's Resolution - Revive Your Prayer Life! Join us in Adult Ed as we engage in a three-part series that gives a glimpse into the ways God transforms us through prayer.

- Prayer Opens Us (inward) - January 9
- Prayer Opens Us to God (toward God) - January 16
- Prayer Opens Us to God's World (outward) - January 23

Then, on January 30th, we'll begin a study of the ELCA's Social Statement "Caring for Creation." This will coincide with the Season of Creation theme that we'll experience in our worship and music.

Grab your cup of coffee and join us in the library at 8:15 a.m. on Sundays.



Fleece Blanket Project

February 27th is St. Peter's 9th Annual Fleece Blanket Sunday. We will 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!

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.

Youth Spaghetti Supper Postponed

Due to the rise in Covid cases, the Youth Spaghetti Supper will be postponed. This fun event is rescheduled for April 10.

Thanks for Helping with Our MLK Jr. Day of Service!



Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's MLK Jr Day of Service project. Thanks to your generous donations of food, money, and time, we were able to assemble 80 breakfast casseroles for the Salvation army. These casseroles will feed 800 people through the Salvation Army's mobile breakfast canteen which provides breakfast on Tuesday and Friday mornings to the Des Moines area homeless and near homeless populations.



ST PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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/Apple/Grape Juice
Graham Crackers
Microwave Popcorn
Boxed/Cups Instant
Pudding
Canned Pickled Beets
Canned Pasta
Boxed Potatoes
Canned Pineapple
Pancake Syrup
Pasta Side Dishes
Bean & Bacon Soup
Skillet Dinners
Misc. Meats (Manwich, Beef Stew, Beef Jerky, etc.)



PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS –

LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

Laundry Soap
Disposable Razors
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
- Disposable Razors
- Shampoo

Care Pack #2

- Kitchen Garbage Bags
- Kitchen Storage Bags
- Dish Soap

Meal:

- Chicken Skillet Dinner
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Pineapple

Snack Pack

- Bottled Orange/Apple/Grape Juice
- Graham Crackers
- Microwave popcorn

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

Income
Expense
Net Income

December 2021

Income: 34,686.97
Expense: 26,858.29
Net Gain: 7,828.68

YTD

Income: 269,520.73
Expense: 300,832.61
Net Loss: (31,311.88)

- General Fund--December 2021, expenses were less than monthly income thus it finished with a gain of \$7,828.68.
- General Fund YTD--December 2021, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of \$(31,311.88).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 13, 2022

Pastor's Report:

- I'm over COVID!! (But, no I don't think this means we just go back to normal yet...ugh)
- Christmas Eve was really good to see people at worship again. Numbers for the first two services were lower than normal. Third service was around the same. Add all the online viewers though this year, and numbers were higher. Overall, just glad to be back in for Christmas. The kids program was also wonderful to see all the kids leading us in the Christmas story.
- On to planning for the coming seasons. February we are going to do something new this year. It will be the "Season of Creation." We'll be focusing our worship on the Creator God, and loving the beauty of God's creation.
- March begins the season of Lent. We're going to have another congregation written devotional this year for Lent. I'll come up with the scripture texts, and then members can sign up to write a devotion. It went really well last year.
- I'm taking an online class the first three Thursday mornings in January. The class is on "Hybrid Ministry." Interesting so far. Hopefully gain some good insights to our new ministry reality of providing ministries for both in person and online.
- Ruth Otto and Betty and Dean Nath have done reading during worship through our video screens. I've videoed them at home reading the scripture for Sunday, and then it is played during worship. I think it has gone well, and I'll continue to have more done on occasion. If you know someone viewing from home that would like to do this please let me know.
- I've been volunteer coaching Ashton's basketball team for the Grimes Recreation department. It's a fun way to volunteer and meet people in the community, as well as spending time with Ashton.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- Confirmation – We have begun our discussion on the New Testament where we will focus on Saul/Paul and the Journeys that Paul took during his lifetime. We will continue this focus through January. On January 5th the Confirmation youth presented the Christmas Story during the Wednesday evening worship service. The service was well-attended, and the youth had a great time sharing this story with their families.
- Faith Formation—On December 29th we provided the evening meal for CFUM Supper Club. We had a few families help prepare a hot meal that was delivered to CFUM. Due to COVID restrictions we are still unable to send a full group of volunteers but John, Sarah and I were able to help package the meals in to-go containers that were handed out to those in need. On the 16th and 17th, we will hold our 3rd Annual MLK Jr Days of Service and make breakfast casseroles for the Salvation Army's mobile breakfast canteen. After a year off due to COVID it will be nice to return to this fun service project. The mobile breakfast canteen provides a hot breakfast to the Des Moines area's homeless and near homeless populations. They serve over 150 casseroles to 1,500 people each week.
- Fleece Blankets for MercyOne – Our Fleece blanket project will kick off in January culminating with our Fleece Blanket Sunday on February 27th. We will offer an opportunity for members to tie blankets on February 2nd following the Wednesday night worship service, in addition to the morning of February 27th. In addition, I have spoken to my contacts at MercyOne and we have been asked to provide more adult blankets than in the past. This surge in need is directly related to the number of patients in the hospital and an increase in blankets given to grieving families after the passing of a loved one. We will still provide children's blankets but will primarily use our budgeted and grant funds to buy material for adults. We have been informed that the cost of fleece will be significantly higher than years past and the supply of fleece may also be limited. We are encouraging anyone who would like to donate fleece to begin looking now. Allison Newman and Sarah Capps are helping to coordinate this project as well.
- Audio / Video Tech – Justin Wells is a new volunteer for our audio/visual live-stream group. He joins Rich Weiss as a volunteer in this role. They will each try to take one Sunday a month, allowing me to focus on other projects, attend service, or take some time-off. I am grateful that they have volunteered to serve in this way. We continue to have approximately 75 people watch our services on-line each week.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group met once during the month of December. We had planned to meet on December 15th, but with the storm that evening, all Church activities were cancelled. Our middle school gift exchange will now be held on January 5th.
- High school Youth Group met three times during the month of December. We had a devotion night, a game night and our annual Christmas gift exchange.

- In January we will hold traditional Youth Group activities for both middle and high school Youth Groups. We will hold a meeting for our ECLA Youth Gathering youth and Chaperones on January 16th at 7:30 pm.
- After sharing my concerns about holding our spaghetti dinner in February, we have decided to move the spaghetti dinner to April 10th.

Treasurer's Report: December financials approved

Stewardship :

- Eric Soultz will be joining the committee. Looking into a mobile blood drive.

Building & Grounds

- Looking into furnace and air conditioner quotes.

Education:

- Tracking attendance for the new class time. Working on write ups for the potential VBS and Sunday School positions. VBS planned for 6/26-6/30.

Evangelism:

- Great attendance for cake social with new members on December 15th.

Worship & Music :

- Christmas decorations are down. Working on Season of Creation and Easter service times.

Old Business:

- Small Miracles decision
- Attendance had been down the past several years. Currently we have 8 enrolled. Peak enrollment is approximately 24 students. School preschool covering the needs of today's preschoolers. Motion carried to cease preschool after 2021-2022 year.
- Job descriptions/posting and recruiting
- Feedback on Council calls

New Business:

- Audit Committee appointments: Max Bodermann, Bradley Fasse & Meghan Reingardt

Local Mission Donation: Sigler family for medical expenses

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING - JANUARY 11, 2022

- The WELCA board meeting was held Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:30 in the church fellowship hall.
- Members present were Allison Prohaska, Sue Dooley, Allison Newman and Carol Eilers.
- The offices for the coming year will be held as follows: Allison Prohaska-President, Sue Dooley—Vice President, Allison Newman—Treasurer, Carol Eilers—Secretary, Mission Action—Abbey Witt. Mission Community—Amy Dickkut.
- The WELCA 2022 yearbook was drafted. Changes and items for follow-up were noted. Dates for some events were tentatively scheduled to allow publication in the yearbook. Facebook events will precede events to be sure church family is aware and able to plan to attend. Allison Prohaska will revise and send out the yearbook draft to this group for review prior to sending to Lauri Rouse for preparation.
- Most WELCA board meetings this year will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 at St Peter in the fellowship hall or the library.
- Our next meeting Tuesday, February 8, at 6:00 pm

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!

