

The Voice



From the desk of Pastor Mark:

I have memories growing up of sitting around the dinner table listening to my Mom read from her little devotion book. It certainly wasn't every night. Not even most nights. Having four squirrely kids did not make it easy I'm sure. But, I do remember a number of times listening, discussing, and then praying. I'd like to say that I've formed a good daily devotions habit since then, but that just wouldn't be the truth. I'd say it's more like I go in phases. I'll get into a good rhythm of reading from a devotional for several days, maybe even a few weeks, and then I'll miss a few days and be out of the rhythm and stop. I have a daily devotion from my seminary show up in my Inbox through email every day, but I have to admit that it sort of depends how full my Inbox is on whether I get

to the devotion or not. I know, the pastor is supposed to be a good example on spiritual disciplines, but this one just hasn't been my strength over the years. My mother-in-law, on the other hand, reads from her 2-3 different devotionals every day. She typically reads them in the morning, but if the morning doesn't work she'll be sure to find another time. It's pretty impressive.

While I may not be in a rhythm of reading daily devotions all year long, one time I do get into a rhythm of reading daily devotions is during Lent. In fact, it is one thing that I look forward to during Lent. This has been a Lenten spiritual practice I've enjoyed for many years. I like to find a new devotion each year to read for Lent. Last year we put together a Lent devotional at St. Peter. It was so nice to hear the various stories of faith shared by members of the con-

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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 through May 22. This service will be livestreamed.

Sunday School is at 8:15—9:15 a.m.

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



Prayer Ministry Team March 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.**

gregation. So, we decided to do it again this year. If you are one of the writers this year...thank you! I look forward to hearing more stories of faith from the congregation. If you are like me, and struggle with making daily devotions a regular habit, perhaps try picking up one of the St. Peter devotionals and give it a try this year. Or, if you are like my mother-in-law who reads devotions every day, consider adding this one to your list this year. It's a great way to connect with God and one another.

March 2nd begins the season of Lent this year. As always we begin with Ash Wednesday, where we simultaneously remember our mortality as well as salvation, as we mark the sign of the cross on our foreheads with ashes. It's a humble and moving start to the beginning of Lent. Printed St. Peter Lutheran devotionals will be ready to pick up on Sunday, February 27th.

Christ's peace,

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter:

Ash Wednesday March 2

Ash Wednesday begins the church season of Lent. Ashes are placed on the forehead reminding us of our mortality. Yet, they are put in the sign of the cross, reminding us that we are claimed and redeemed through Christ Jesus' death and resurrection. Join us at St. Peter Lutheran for our Ash Wednesday Service on March 2 at noon and 6:30 p.m. The Imposition of Ashes will be offered and Holy Communion will be served.



Lenten, Holy Week, & Easter Worship

EVERY WEDNESDAY MARCH 2—APRIL 6

Worship – 6:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES

Mar. 2	Ash Wednesday Worship 12:00 & 6:30 p.m.
Apr. 10	Palm Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.
April 14	Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion at 6:30 p.m.
April 15	Good Friday Worship at 6:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

April 17	Sunrise Service with Holy Communion 6:30 a.m.
	Easter Worship with Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
	Easter Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday evening and Sunday services will be livestreamed, as well as Holy Week services.

Pastoral Acts

Anton Chase Stoops, son of Timothy Stoops and Kellie Heiken-Stoops, was born on February 13, 2021 in Des Moines, IA. Anton was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church on February 13, 2022. Allison and David Wise are Anton's baptism sponsors.

Gathered
to
Grow

Sent
to
Serve

St. Peter Lutheran Church Office Hours

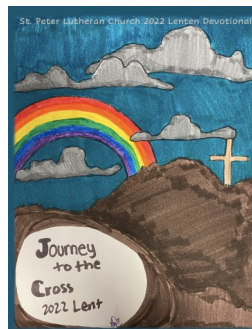
The Church Office is open
Mon.— Fri. 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Jill Capps —
Faith Formation Director
Monday—Thursday
10 a.m.—1 p.m.
Appointments as necessary.
Jill's day off is Friday.

Pastor Mark Schlenker's day off
is Friday.

Pick Up Your St. Peter Lenten Devotional

Join the congregation in reading St. Peter's Lenten devotional, written by members of the church. You can pick up a copy inside the church entrance, or you can read daily devotions on the go with the link send out once a week. Thanks to all who contributed to this project!



WELCA Social March 3

Put on your thinking cap and join us for a night of trivia at The Hall in Valley Junction. Food and numerous drink options will be available. Trivia starts at 7:00. We look forward to a fun night! *Meet at The Hall at 6:45 or carpool from church at 6:15!*

New Mobile Giving App— Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement

The Give+Church app that St. Peter has used for mobile giving will no longer be available soon. The new app, Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement, is available now and can be found by searching "Vanco Mobile" in the app store. Once downloaded, type in "St. Peter Lutheran" in the app, choose our address in Grimes, and follow the steps. Set-up is quick and easy; contact the church office for assistance.

If you prefer to give through the app, you must download the new app to continue giving in this way. ***If you currently have recurring online giving set up that is not through the app, you do not need to make any changes.*** Thank you for sharing your resources to support the ministries of St. Peter!

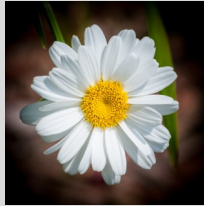


Financial Peace University

The St. Peter Lutheran Church Stewardship Committee is soliciting feedback through a short survey to determine interest in participating in Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. The goal of this survey is to determine level of interest, preferred method, and timing of this course. **We ask for feedback by March 1st** so we can determine the next steps. Please see the eNews or Facebook page for the link to the survey.

Thank you; and if you have any questions, please reach out to Eric Soultis @ esoultis@gmail.com or 312-498-7191.

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



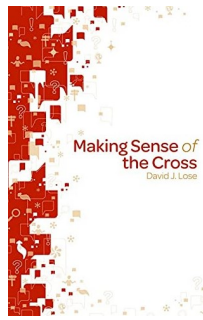
2022 Flower Chart

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.



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www.facebook.com/
StPeterGrimes



Adult Ed Lenten Study— Making Sense of the Cross

During Lent, Adult Ed will be looking at “Making Sense of the Cross,” a study by David Lose that invites participants to “listen in” on an open conversation about the cross and to think about the cross and its meaning in their lives.

St. Peter Cantata

The St. Peter Choir will be presenting a short cantata, "Humbled" on Palm Sunday. If you would like to sing with us, we'd love to have you! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7:15-8:15 p.m. and will start working on cantata music March 2. Questions? Reach out to Emily Wells at emilyw2912@gmail.com

Coordinators Needed

We're looking for an individual or two co-coordinators to plan, organize, and oversee Vacation Bible School (VBS). This role will be responsible for organizing and directing St. Peter Lutheran Church's children's summer program taking place June 26th to June 30th, 2022. The role includes all planning, recruiting, advertising, and decorating for VBS. No previous experience necessary. This position comes with a stipend of \$1,000. Contact the church office if you are interested in this role.

VBS

St. Peter is looking for an individual to own the Sunday School curriculum for ages 3 year old to 4th grade for the upcoming Sunday School year (2022-2023). This role will be responsible for creating and organizing all Sunday School lessons using available resources for guidance and ideas. The coordinator will need to be available throughout the year for questions and to provide any needed clarification about lesson plans. No previous experience necessary. This position comes with a stipend of \$1,500. Contact the church office if you are interested in this role.

Curriculum

WELCA is looking for someone to be the contact person responsible for organizing funeral luncheons. The coordinator will contact work committees for food donations, line up workers for luncheon, and order any food items needed. This could be an individual or two co-coordinators to assist with funeral coordination. Contact Allison Prohaska for more information.

Funeral



Sunday School Fun: Sunday School kids enjoy a science project on Sunday morning.



St. Peter Choir: Thanks to the St. Peter Choir and director Emily Wells for sharing special music with us!



Fleece Blanket Project: During the month of February, St. Peter has been preparing for and working on our 9th annual Fleece Blanket Project. Thank you to those of you who have donated fabric, funds, Thrivent Grants, and time to this project, which concludes on February 27.

Seen here, Confirmation students participated in preparing and tying blankets as part of a Service and Fellowship night on February 2.



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 **livestream 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:

64 OZ. BOTTLED ORANGE/APPLE/GRAPE JUICE
CORN MUFFIN MIX
CANNED PASTA
SKILLET DINNERS
POTATO SIDES
GRAPE JELLY
PASTA SIDE DISHES
GRAHAM CRACKERS
BOXED/CUPS INSTANT PUDDING
CANNED PINEAPPLE
PANCAKE MIX & SYRUP
BEAN & BACON SOUP
MISC. MEATS (MANWICH, BEEF STEW, BEEF JERKY, ETC.)



PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS –

LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

Paper Towels
Laundry Soap
Disposable Razors
Liquid Body Wash
Shampoo
Conditioner
Dish Soap
Body/Hand Lotion
Kitchen Storage/Garbage Bags
Baby Wipes

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:

- Liquid Body Wash
- Disposable Razors
- Shampoo & Conditioner

Care Pack #2

- Paper Towels
- Laundry Soap
- Kitchen Storage/Garbage Bags

Meal:

- Canned Pasta
- Corn Muffin Mix
- 64 oz. Juice

Meal #2

- Chicken Skillet Dinner
- Canned Chicken
- Potato Side

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

Income

Expense

Net Income

January 2022

Income: 23,840.76

Expense: 27,090.19

Net Loss: (3,249.43)

YTD

Income: 23,840.76

Expense: 27,090.19

Net Loss: (3,249.43)

- General Fund—January 2022, expenses were greater than monthly income thus it finished with a loss of (\$3,249.43)
- General Fund YTD—January 2022, expenses were greater than monthly income thus it finished with a loss of (\$3,249.43)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Pastor's Report:

- I've started using a digital calendar for 2022. So far so good. Hopefully I won't miss any meetings or appointments.
- COVID seems to be a never ending frustration. I know the frustration will not be forever, but it sure keeps dragging on.
- However, infection rates have dropped rapidly over the last couple weeks. Hospitalizations are dropping a bit slower, but they are dropping. Vaccination rates in our area are high, including over 90% in Grimes zip code. So, I'm hopeful that this trend will continue and we can loosen our COVID guidelines at St. Peter soon, which could include masks optional. COVID fatigue is real and prevalent. I also think about it in terms of compassion fatigue. We are perhaps stricter at church, out of love for the neighbor, as we're called to do. Compassion can be exhausting though. Ask any fulltime caregiver. Or, listen to the pleas of hospital staff who are reaching their limits of dealing with so much sickness and death. All this is to say, thank you for the ways that you love your neighbor from day to day. In small ways and large ways, we each go about loving as best we can. Not perfectly, but lovingly none the less. "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."
- Ran into two different members this week who thanked me for the live stream worship. They watch each Sunday. Also visited a couple of shut-ins who said the same thing. Thankful for this ministry that came out of the craziness of the last couple years.
- Kicked off Season of Creation for February. Something new and different, so taken some extra thought, study and planning. Enjoying it so far though.
- Working on sabbatical planning for this summer. We're planning for what we submitted in the Renewal Grant, and praying COVID doesn't disrupt things. Lining up pastors for pulpit supply as well while I'm gone. We need to organize the Care Team also.
- Lent Devotional is being prepared. We could use some more people to sign up. If you or someone you know could write one, please do.
- I believe I've found the dramas to use for Wednesday Lent this year. Waiting for confirmation on whether we'll get permission to live stream the drama or not.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- Confirmation – During January we focused on the New Testament, more specifically on Saul/Paul's Conversion, his journeys, and his writings. We held a Service & Fellowship Night on February 2nd, the youth tied blankets for our MercyOne Blanket project. Dave Eilers also joined us and spoke to the youth about MercyOne and our blanket project. In February we will begin on our discussion on Lutheran Life which we will continue through April.
- Faith Formation - On January 16th & 17th we held our 3rd Annual MLK Days of Service and made breakfast casseroles for the Salvation Army. We had a good turnout with a variety of members of all ages helping to make the casseroles that are distributed by the Salvation Army's mobile breakfast canteen. Our final total was 85 casseroles which I delivered to the Salvation Army – they were very grateful for the generous donation of casseroles.
- We kicked off our Fleece Blankets for MercyOne project on January 30th. The kids were introduced to the project in their Sunday school classes. The 2nd & 3rd/4th graders created their own "commercial" for the project along with posters asking members to help with the project. The younger kids also aided in the commercial by asking for help making blankets. The "commercial" was shared on Facebook to help encourage participation in the project by making blankets or donating fleece or money for fleece. Two of our members have also requested & received Thrivent donations that will be used to help purchase the fabric. We are very grateful for their donations. A huge thank you to Allison Newman and Sarah Capps for their help coordinating this large service project. We will end the project on Sunday, February 27th with our Fleece Blanket Project Sunday.
- Lent Devotional – After last year's success, we have asked the members of St. Peter to write this year's Lenten Devotional. Pastor selected the verses, and I will compile the written devotions, so we are able to print them, and we will make them available through email as well.
- Audio / Video Tech – Special video & image features will be added to our worship services in February as we reflect on the theme of Creation.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group met twice during January. We held our postponed Christmas gift exchange and had a devotion night.
- High school Youth Group met four times during the month of January. We held two devotion nights, met to watch "American Underdog" and had game night.
- We held our first ELCA Youth Gathering meeting for youth and Chaperones on January 16th at 7:30 pm. We talked over details and had a devotion related to the Gathering's theme of "Boundless." However, on February 1st, the ELCA commu-

nicated that the Gathering is cancelled. I have communicated the cancellation to our participants and their parents.

- Looking forward into the month of February, we will hold our traditional Youth Group meetings for middle school and high school groups. We will not hold our annual Valentine's Day spaghetti dinner in February, I have decided to push it back to April 10th. We also have a scheduled Mission Trip meeting February 27 to share information about the summer trip and answer questions.

Treasurer's Report: January financials approved

Stewardship :

- Working on a blood drive date. We can not do Sunday. Looking at doing a Wednesday. Vanco is replacing the mobile app with a new app. Looking at holding a Financial Peace class. Also speaking to Benji Rouse about an end of life Planned Giving program for St. Peter.

Building & Grounds

- Nativity scene posts are frozen in the ground. Will remove the people and mark the posts for safety. The refrigerator has been fixed. Received one bid for A/C and furnace replacement. Will look into a second bid.

Education:

- The coordinator position write up is completed. VBS supplies are in. Sunday school students will sing at a Sunday worship service before the end of the school year date to be determined.

Evangelism:

- Fellowship continues after the 9:30 service. Carol Eilers will be sewing pillow cases for the graduated seniors. Looking into doing an updated directory.

Worship & Music :

- Recommending that the 9:30 service continues until summer. Lent and Easter service schedule has been finalized with 6:30am, 9am and 10:30am services on Easter Sunday. Emily will continue to handle the choir schedule. An inquiry was made regarding the age requirement for choir. Emily has advised high school.

Old Business:

- Sunday Schedule/Covid Protocols - Discussion of pros and cons of sticking with one service at 9:30 through this school year and continuing with 8:15am Sunday School. The consensus is that it is better not to change the schedule if we stay with one service for purposes of consistency. Council members agreed to proceed as there are an additional 5 Sunday School dates in March and April. The carnival is May 1st after worship.
- Updates on job opening - we are seeking applicants for the curriculum coordinator and VBS coordinator positions, with stipends available
- Audit Committee report - the financial records of the church are in good order and the report will be reviewed and approved at the semi-annual congregational meeting.
- **New Business:**
- Budget forum feedback - the Semi Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 13 and Council members discussed the budget with attendees and answered questions. No changes were proposed so the budget will be presented as is to the congregation.
- Lenten Devotional opportunity - reminder to sign up and submit devotions in the next few days to Jill.

Local Mission Donation: St. Peter Blanket Project

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FEB. 13, 2022

- Approval of agenda, July Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes, 2021 Annual Report, and audit results.
- Old Business
- Summary of worship plans: Thanks for all congregational feedback. We will continue with 8:15 education and 9:30 service until summer. The schedule has increased attendance at worship and helped with volunteers. A suggestion was made for council to consider 9:30 for the summer service time. Easter services are set for 6:30, 9:00 and 10:30.
- Sabbatical Update for Summer 2022: Pastor has begun Sabbatical planning. Pulpit supply has been handled. Prayer team is meeting on either the 4th or last Sunday of each month. Looking to set up a team to start home visits again.
- New Business
- Approval of 2022 Proposed Budget
- Small Miracles will fold after the 2021/2022 school year. With the addition of preschool at the school, the attendance has dropped. Currently have 8 enrolled, with 13-4 needed to break even.
- New Education positions/stipends: Youth education continues to grow. Looking to add a VBS Coordinator and Sunday School Curriculum Coordinator. A stipend has been allocated for each.

- Youth Gathering/Mission Trip: Previously allocated \$2,000 in the budget. National Youth Gathering usually carries a higher expense. Council allocated \$3,000 in December. Gathering was recently cancelled. Discussion on how to allocate - The consensus was to allocate the funds to the youth group for Matt's discretion to use toward the mission trip this year or as a future savings toward the National Youth Gathering.
- Future Sabbatical Line Item: Proposed fund to cover Sabbatical planning

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING - FEBRUARY 8, 2022

- Abbey Witt is unable to serve on the WELCA board at this time. Allison Prohaska will reach out to a possible 6th person to join the board.
- Amy Dickkut will serve as the Mission Action board member.
- Allison Newman shared a thank you note from Dorothy's House for a WELCA donation last year.
- A Facebook event will be posted for the St Peter Ladies Night coming up on Thursday, 03-03-2022 at The Hall in Valley Junction. Someone may go early to get a table for the group. Ladies can meet at 6:15 pm at the church to carpool or at The Hall at 6:45. There is Trivia starting at 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm for those interested in participating.
- The toy drive is being held this month and donations can be placed in the narthex. Carol Eilers will transport the toys collected so far after church on 02-13-2022 to the Not New Shop at UPH Iowa Lutheran Hospital. Toy donations will continue through the end of February.
- The Escape Room, a Silent Auction event, is on schedule to be held on February 19 at Allison Newman's home.
- The Murder Mystery dinner, a Silent Auction event, will be held in April with the exact date still to be determined.
- The Memory Box event was discussed. This was a Silent Auction item. Allison Prohaska will repost a notice in March to see if more church members are interested. The date will be set and supplies will be ordered, after it is known who is going to participate.
- Silent Auction logistics were discussed. For events that are sold at the auction, it would be helpful to have someone stationed at the table to answer questions and share details. Receiving payment for food items and events, in addition to items for auction, is a little hard to keep organized on the day of the auction. Ideas were discussed to make it easier next year.
- St Peter's outreach ministry with Mosaic was discussed. This outreach is shared between WELCA and St Peter's Confirmation class with the effort to have something each month for people at two homes in Mosaic. The pizza delivered by WELCA is very well received, so this may be the donation we choose often. Two pizzas per home is the usual need. Sue Dooley is going to try to find heart-shaped pizzas to be delivered this month in honor of Valentine's Day.
- Possible outreach was discussed for some of our church family unable to come to in-person church services. Carol Eilers will get an updated list from the office and send the number to Allison Newman.
- Treasurer's report submitted by Allison Newman:
 - General \$3,475.22
 - Kitchen \$1,833.80
 - Total \$5,309.02

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. **Updated app:** Find and download the **Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement** app in the App Store or on Google Play for Android smartphones by searching "Vanco mobile". Choose search for a church near me or type in "St Peter Lutheran" and choose our address in Grimes, and follow the steps. **Please note: if you are currently using the Give+Church Mobile app, please switch to the Vanco Mobile app. Give+Church Mobile will no longer be available beginning in April.**
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!

