

The Voice



From the desk of Pastor Mark:

No Major League Baseball spring training this year. They are in the midst of a lock out. At this point who knows if they will be playing this year at all. MLB has pretty much stopped all operations while they are in the midst of negotiations. Here at St. Peter we've gone in and out of "lock outs" for the past two years, due to the COVID virus. Yet, unlike baseball, our "operations" have never stopped. They've never stopped because our "operations" are about sharing the Good News of God's love for the world through Jesus Christ. That's too important of a mission to just cancel because of a virus. So, while we may have adjusted and modified the way we've done things over the last couple years, we've never stopped moving forward with this important task of sharing the Good News.

When MLB does go back to playing, I imagine they will start with some sort of spring training, even if not the typical way spring training has been done. That's because spring training is about getting back to the basics. Throwing, fielding pop flies, turning double plays, hitting, and running the bases are all the basics of the game. When they've gone months without using those skills, it's important to refocus on those basics to regain some of the muscle memory. On Ash Wednesday this year I talked about Lent being like spring training. Lent is a time that we get back to the basics of our faith. Worship, prayer, scripture reading, Christian fellowship, giving, fasting, and serving are all basic faith practices that have been part of the Christian faith for centuries.

What basics of the faith do you need to focus on this year? Last month I talked about the Lent devotional that

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Worship & Sunday School Schedule

Thank you for joining us for worship!

Sunday worship is at 9:30 a.m. 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 April 24

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.**

we put together here at St. Peter Lutheran. Maybe that has been a help to get you back into regular scripture reading and prayer. On Ash Wednesday we had one of our larger in person gatherings for worship in a while. I was excited to see so many people, many I haven't seen for a long time. Maybe getting back to the basics for you is getting back to regular worship. Polk and Dallas counties are both considered to be in the green or "safe" zone according to the CDC. It's much safer now to get back to more interaction with one another. I know we have a number of people joining us for worship online, and that is great; we will continue livestreaming worship. There is something different, and I believe important, about being physically together with others in worship, though, when able. Either way, if worship is one of the basics you'd like to focus on this year, I hope you find a way to make it happen. The important Good News that we are called to proclaim is also the important message we need to hear. After all, that's why we say "Gathered to Grow, Sent to Serve."

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter:

Lenten, Holy Week, & Easter Worship

EVERY WEDNESDAY MARCH 2—APRIL 6 : Worship – 6:30 p.m.

April 10—Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. It is a commemoration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, coming in peace and riding on a donkey. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem coincided with the Jewish festival of Passover. He was met by crowds of followers and supporters who lined the road and even laid down cloaks for Jesus to ride over. **Palm Sunday worship is at 9:30 a.m.**

April 14—Maundy Thursday is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, known as the Last Supper, also called Communion. Jesus also washed the disciples' feet as an act of humility and service, thereby setting an example that we should love and serve one another in humility. We will serve communion at the Maundy Thursday Service in remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. At the conclusion of the service, those present will experience the somber mood of the "stripping of the altar" as we think ahead to Good Friday and the suffering and death that Jesus endured for all of us. **Maundy Thursday worship is at 6:30 p.m.**

April 15—Good Friday is the day on which Jesus was crucified. Why is Good Friday referred to as "good"? What the Jewish authorities and Romans did to Jesus was definitely not good. However, the results of Christ's death are very good! Romans 5:8 – "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." 1 Peter 3:18 tells us – "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit." The events of Good Friday should be ever on our minds because the death of Christ on the cross – along with His bodily resurrection – is the paramount event of the Christian faith. **St. Peter Lutheran** will be remembering Christ's suffering and death for the forgiveness of our sins at our **Good Friday Worship Service on April 15 at 6:30 p.m.**

Pastoral Acts

Adeline James Sweet, daughter of Madison and Mitchell Sweet, was born on October 6, 2020 in Des Moines, IA. Adeline was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church on March 6, 2022. Matthew and Samantha Thompson and Brendan & Kaitlin Johannsen are Adeline'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.

Easter Sunday Worship—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.

Lenten Suppers Resume

St. Peter Youth will be serving Lenten Suppers on Wednesday evening from March 23—April 6. Dinner is served from 5:30-6:15 p.m. All free will donations help sponsor the Youth Mission Trip, which will occur at the end of July. Come and enjoy supper, and stay for Lenten Worship after!

To help donate food and supplies, check the signup link in your eNews or contact the church office.



St. Peter Easter Egg Hunt

We invite you to join us on Saturday, April 16th at 10:00 a.m. for an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt at St. Peter – all ages of kids are welcome! In order to plan and make sure we have enough eggs for everyone, please sign up (one spot for each child participating) at: <https://signup.com/go/yRvDwNP>

Please bring a basket or bag to collect your eggs.

Youth Spaghetti Supper April 10

The Youth of St. Peter will be preparing and serving their annual Spaghetti Dinner the evening of Sunday, April 10th, from 5:00-8:00. This is an event that everyone looks forward to. The food is fabulous, as well as the service. Come and enjoy an evening away from your kitchen! A free-will donation will be taken for the meal. Help support the youth as they raise funds for their summer mission trip the week of July 24-30 to western North Kentucky to serve those affected by tornados this past fall. Look for sign-up opportunities to come!



WELCA Family Bonfire April 22

Join us for a family bonfire at Monti and Carol Miller's on Friday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. WELCA will provide the meat, buns, and water. Bring a snack, side, or dessert to share! Please bring your own drinks and chairs/blankets. We hope to see you there! Monti and Carol Miller's home is at: 29094 190th St, Woodward, Iowa.

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



Quarter Tube Donation to Grimes Storehouse

Thanks to your support, St. Peter donated \$132.29 to the Grimes Storehouse in March, which was the contents of the full quarter tube. Every quarter truly adds up to make a difference in the lives of people in our community!



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Dementia Caregivers Support Group (DCSG)

Are you caring for a loved one with dementia? Caregiving can be an isolating experience, but you're not alone in this challenge. Caregiver support groups can be the answer, as they're filled with people who are in similar situations. Being able to talk with others who truly understand what you're going through reduces stress, validates your experience, and gives connection and support.

DCSG meets at St Peter Lutheran Church Library the first and third Thursday of the month, from 12:30-2:30pm. Please contact Louise Hauger, Caregiver Advocate, with any questions at 515-218-0779 or skiplou14@live.com; and mention DCSG in the message!



Sunday School Carnival May 1

The St. Peter Sunday School Carnival will be Sunday, May 1, after worship. Mark your calendars for a fun celebration of the Sunday School year!

VBS 2022

VBS 2022 will take place June 27-30. Look for sign-ups in the coming months!

Coordinators Needed

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

Volunteers Needed – Can You Help?

If you can help as a communion **preparer** and/or **communion assistant**, please contact Kaarin Fasse or Summer Heeren.

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!

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!



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.



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:

- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Soap
- Liquid Body Wash

Care Pack #2

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Baby Wipes

Meal:

- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Canned Pineapple
- 64 oz. Juice

Sides & Condiments:

- Ketchup, Mustard, & Mayo
- Pork n Beans/Baked Beans
- Minute Rice/Pasta Side Dish

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

Income
Expense
Net Income

February 2022

Income: 21,124.91
Expense: 25,273.30
Net Loss: (4,148.39)

YTD

Income: 44,590.67
Expense: 52,263.49
Net Loss: (7,772.82)

- General Fund--February 2022, expenses were greater than monthly income thus it finished with a loss of (\$4,148.39)
- General Fund YTD--February 2022, expenses were greater than monthly income thus it finished with a loss of (\$7,772.82)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – MARCH 3, 2022

Pastor's Report:

- Congregation emails, E-news, Facebook, website, bulletin and Voice have all been updated with the new COVID information of masks being optional at St. Peter. New CDC guidelines are positive signs that we are better learning how to live with this nasty virus.
- Ash Wednesday worship last night was one of the larger in person services we've had in a while at St. Peter. Good to see people gathering together again for worship. We also had a noon Ash Wednesday service that went well.
- Good to have a baptism last month, and another coming up this Sunday as well.
- Tie blanket ministry was another great success. 141 blankets were made. I loved seeing how intergenerational it was as well. Young kids working with senior members. Older youth helping the younger kids. Families tying blankets together. Wonderful example of the Body of Christ at work together to love the neighbor. I took the blankets we tied for a couple members who are in rehab, and they were very appreciative of the gift.
- Finished coaching basketball last week. I won't be coaching any sports this spring, as I'll be busy preparing for the summer sabbatical.
- Sabbatical planning continues to happen, both for my plans and the church. Please look ahead with your various committees to summer and fall in case there is something we need to think about or plan before I leave for the summer. Pastoral coverage is set with Pastor's Dean Behr and Katharine Yarnell covering the weeks I am gone.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- Confirmation – During February we began our study using the Lutheran Life Journal. These lessons focused on baptism. On Ash Wednesday we discussed the meaning & purpose of Lent. For the remainder of Lent, we will continue to use the Lutheran Life Journal, understanding the different pieces of worship. The confirmation youth will serve as hosts/ushers for our Wednesday Lenten services, except for Spring Break. Upcoming: March 27th The 7th Grade confirmation groups will prepare the meal that will be served at CFUM on March 28th. March 30th I will meet with 8th Graders and their parents following the worship service to begin work on their Faith Statements.
- Faith Formation – Our 9th Annual Fleece Blanket project ended on February 27th was a success. We were able to make 141 blankets (this includes 7 quilts that were made and donated by a member.) This year MercyOne had asked us to provide some larger, adult blankets due to the number of adults in the hospital for longer stays. We had 2 members use their Thrivent dollars for this project, which helped us purchase larger amounts of fabric. A special thanks to Allison Newman & Sarah Capps for helping to coordinate this project, to Dave Eilers for serving as our contact at MercyOne and to Carol Eilers for her help with preparing the fabric.
- Easter Egg Hunt - Faith Formation & Education will partner for our 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt that will be held at St. Peter on April 16th.
- Lent Devotional – This year's Lenten devotional has been printed for our members to pick up and take home. In addition, I will be emailing the week's devotions every Monday morning so our members can have an electronic copy if that is easier for them.
- Website/Facebook – I have updated our website & Facebook pages with our new COVID mask-optional policy. As a reminder – the best way to get St. Peter's information & happenings out into the community is to like/react to our Facebook posts. The more reactions, the more the posts go out into the community, attracting potential new members to St. Peter.
- Stay Tuned...I have an exciting new opportunity for members to participate in a service opportunity that we will begin in April. This service opportunity is flexible and can be done at home when time allows. This will hopefully allow our members with busy schedules to participate when it is more convenient for them.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group held two devotion nights during February.
- High school Youth Group met three times during the month of February. We held devotion nights on February 6th, 20th and 27th. We did not meet on February 13th due to the Super Bowl.
- I held an informational meeting for our Summer 2022 Mission Trip on February 27th. Turnout was consistent with previous years. I anticipate 50+ youth attending our July trip to Western Kentucky. With the cancellation of the ELCA Gathering, I have moved our Mission Trip to the last week of July. Dates of the Mission Trip are July 24th-30th.
- March will have high school Youth Group gatherings, Spring Break and our first Mission Trip meeting of the year on March 27th. Middle school Youth Group will not meet due to Ash Wednesday and spring break.

Stewardship :

- Working to set up a blood drive. Talking with Matt about the possibility of partnering with the car wash. Continue to promote Financial Peace University. Discussions with Benji Rouse regarding planned giving sessions.

Building & Grounds

- Cross is up for Lent. Looking into cleaning carpets late summer.

Education:

- Looking at dates for Sunday school students to sing at service. Carnival will be May 1st after service.

Evangelism:

- Looking at possible dates for Directory pictures

Worship & Music :

- Offering plates and pew pads are back. Looking to bring communion back soon.

Old Business:

- Job descriptions/posting and recruiting - the group discussed a number of names for each position to reach out to soon.
- **New Business:**
- Sabbatical planning - care team/congregation events - Evangelism Committee will coordinate brunches on May 22nd before the Schlenkers leave and on July 17 when we will have Grandview professor Mark Mattes preaching and then speaking after worship. A few Adult Ed participants have agreed to look into a book called The Agile Church for possible summer book study for those interested in the Congregation as a way to study hospitality along with Pastor Mark's sabbatical theme. We are looking into care team training this spring to help with visiting home-bound or hospitalized members.
- Opening/closing the building—Council will look at and cover dates during staff absences.

Local Mission Donation: Holmgren family for ongoing transportation and medical expenses.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING - FEBRUARY 8, 2022

- Gifts for some of our church family unable to come to in-person church were wrapped and will be delivered by WELCA members this month.
- Ladies' night at The Hall for Trivia was successful on Thursday, March 3, 2022 with 11 women from St Peter attending. The next Ladies Night will be the summer social in June.
- Sue delivered pizza and gift bags for residents and staff of Mosaic in February. It was well received, as always. Carol will do the same in March. The confirmation class is doing Easter baskets in April, so WELCA take a turn again in May.
- There was one baptism on March 6. Amy is going to get new cards since the supply is almost gone.
- The toy drive was successful in February with gently used toys being delivered to the Not New Shop at Iowa Lutheran Hospital. Most toys had been donated by the mid-February with only a small amount in the last half of the month.
- Fleece blanket Sunday was successful again this year. WELCA donated \$100 for purchasing fleece. WELCA also reimbursed Allison Newman for the \$100 donated for purchasing fleece for last year's event. There were 141 blankets made and donated for patients at MercyOne Hospitals in Des Moines.
- There was discussion surrounding several events or possible recipients for WELCA donations:
 - Explore possible donation that would have special significance for women or girls of Myamba Lutheran Church, our sister congregation in Tanzania.
 - Trunk or Treat for the children in our church family and community.
 - Consider purchasing one or more roasters to replace some in the church kitchen.
 - The Silent Auction Memory boxes event—reaching out to see if there are more people interested prior to setting a date for this event.
 - The Silent Auction Escape Room event has been rescheduled for Friday, April 8, 2022.
 - The Silent Auction Murder Mystery event has been scheduled for April 30, 2022.
- WELCA will purchase meat, buns and water for the bonfire adult social to be held at Carol and Monti Millers on April 22, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Allison will reach out to the Millers to find out if we need a tent and tables.
- Mother's Day is May 8. Details will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Treasurer's report submitted by Allison Newman:
 - General \$3,395.22
 - Kitchen \$1,833.80
 - Total \$5,229.02

The meeting ended at 7:15 pm. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 12, at 6:00 pm during which board members will clean the brass for Easter services.