

# The Voice



## *A Message from Pastor Mark:*

Hello St. Peter! Our Renewal Leave is going great! We enjoyed our time in Berlin and seeing some Martin Luther sights.

We are on our next leg of the trip, Copenhagen.

We miss you and can't wait to see you in August!

Peace,

Pastor Mark, Bambi, Kadin, Grady, and Ashton

Pictures:

Above left: Martin Luther's room in Wartburg Castle

Below left: The Schlenker family at the American Church in Berlin



## *IN THIS ISSUE:*

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- ◇ Churchwide Celebration
- ◇ WELCA Social
- ◇ Sent to Serve Sunday
- ◇ Prayers from Tanzania
- ◇ Myamba Scholarship & Partnership Information

## *IN EVERY ISSUE:*

- ◇ Grimes Storehouse Current Needs
- ◇ Stewardship Update
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- ◇ Monthly Birthdays & Anniversaries
- ◇ Monthly Calendar

## Summer & Fall Worship Schedule

*Thank you for joining us  
for worship!*

Summer worship is at 9:00 a.m. through September 4. On September 11, we will resume two Sunday worship services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School will resume September 11 at 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday worship will resume September 7 at 6:30 p.m.



## Prayer Ministry Team August 28

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 10:15 a.m.**

## Coming Up at St. Peter:

### Welcome Back & Blessing of the Backpacks August 21

August 21 will be Pastor Mark's first day back at St. Peter following his Renewal Leave. We look forward to welcoming him and his family back at worship that day, which will also include the Blessing of the Backpacks. All children may bring their backpacks to church with them for a blessing for the upcoming school year. This is a great way for kids to connect their faith with their daily life!

### Churchwide Celebration August 28

We invite you to join us for a churchwide celebration of Pastor Mark's return from Renewal Leave, the end of summer, and the upcoming start of fall programming on Sunday, August 28, following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. We have planned several fun activities and look forward to celebrating with our church family!



## Thank You for Donating Blood

Thank you to all who donated to the June 18th mobile blood drive held in the parking lot of St. Peter. There was a great turnout with very successful results that will save lives! Here's some fun facts about the results:

- 14 people on the schedule going into the drive
- 14 registered to donate
- 4 first time donors!!
- 14 were able to donate
- 16 units of blood collected!!!
- Up to 48 lives saved or sustained!!!!

## WELCA Adult Social at Kinship August 18

WELCA invites all adults to join your friends for some fun and fellowship at Kinship Brewery on Thursday, August 18th, at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you!

# Gathered to Grow

# Sent to Serve

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## St. Peter Lutheran Church Summer Office Hours

**The Church Office** is open  
Mon.—Thurs. 8:00 a.m.-12:00  
p.m. & by Appointment

### Jill Capps —

Faith Formation Director

Sun. 8:30—10:30 a.m.

Mon. 9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Tues. 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Wed. 9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Thurs. —By Appointment

Fri.—Sat. Off

### Pastor Mark Schlenker

will return from Renewal Leave  
Aug. 21.

## Sent to Serve Sunday August 7

Join us for Summer “Sent to Serve” Sunday on August 7 following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. We will package small care packages for residents of Spurgeon Manor in Dallas Center. ALL ages are welcome to take part in this activity. The entire project will take about 20 minutes. If you would like to contribute to this project an Amazon Wish List can be found by following this link: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/30J9FHJ0P2TEA?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/30J9FHJ0P2TEA?ref_=wl_share). (If you find similar items elsewhere, let Jill know and she can remove the item from the Amazon list.) If you have any questions, contact Jill at [faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org](mailto:faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org).

## Men's Group

Join us August 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the church for our monthly Men's Group gathering. Come as you are for fellowship and a brief devotion. You are not required to bring anything. Contact Bradley Fasse with any questions or concerns. @Facebook: St. Peter Lutheran Men's Group @bradleyfasse@gmail.com @515-971-2397

## Join us monthly for Moms Group!

Moms Group meets to offer friendship and support as we minister to one another, our children, and the community in grateful response to Christ's love. Join Moms Group at their monthly meetings the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the church library. For more information, email: [momsgroup@stpeterofgrimes.org](mailto:momsgroup@stpeterofgrimes.org).

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Thanks to everyone who volunteered and participated in VBS 2022! We had a great week of fun, music, learning, and fellowship!

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## Service Spotlight: Wednesday Evening Soundboard Tech Volunteer

St. Peter is exploring the theme of hospitality this summer. We offer hospitality to our members and visitors in the ways we serve each other. Service Spotlights will share more information on ways to volunteer at St. Peter. Gathered to Grow - Sent to Serve!

Volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening soundboard & projector technicians. This person is needed primarily to advance the PowerPoint slides that are used in lieu of using bulletins. Some minor soundboard adjustments may be needed as well, but only in terms of lowering or raising volume at the beginning of service. Jill will be here on Wednesday nights, so she will be available for any unique circumstances or any issues that arise. This role is open to those in high school or older and can be used to earn silver cord or NHS service hours. Training will be provided. If you have questions or would like to volunteer or learn more, contact Jill at [faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org](mailto:faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org).

## Pastoral Acts

Ryker Lee Bergeson, son of Megan & Troy Bergeson, was born on May 12, 2022, in Des Moines, IA. Ryker was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church by Rev. Katharine Yarnell on July 23, 2022. Matthew and Joshua Schonhorst are Ryker's baptism sponsors.

Weber D. Steffens was born on November 4, 1929 in Redfield, Iowa. He passed away on July 23, 2022, in Grimes, Iowa. His visitation was held at St. Peter Lutheran Church on July 28, 2022, with a graveside service at Sunny Hill Cemetery in Grimes following the visitation. Pastor Dean Baer officiated the service.



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

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## A Message & Prayers from Our Tanzanian Companion, Myamba Lutheran Parish

St. Peter is blessed by a recent email from Myamba Parish Evangelist George Mnkeni, responding to a St. Peter message informing Myamba about Pr. Mark's clergy renewal leave and the arrangements in place at St. Peter during his absence. George says:

Thank you for your information that Pr. Mark and his family visited to Berlin, German these months of summer, and St. Peters worship services will be under the supply pastors Rev. Dean Baer and Rev. Kathryn Yarnell, and that newly trained volunteers team will be the help for those who have special care or prayers. We are together on this matter.

Our prayer petitions:

26 June 2022: Our almighty God bless the vision of our fellows St. Peter under Pr. Mark that to experience from others is way of learning...So our dear father in the name of Jesus Christ we request you to allow the circumstances for Pr. Mark and his wife Bambi and their children to learn more.

03 July 2022: Our father in heaven, we pray for Pr. Mark and his family to have the goods health, we pray for weather condition of Berlin, Germany we also praying for Peace for the Pastor's family and their hosts. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!

10 July 2022: Worship services to be well doing under Supply pastors, our almighty God bless these servants St. Peter Lutheran, and the newly trained volunteers especially for this duration. We pray these in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!

## Celebrating and Renewing our Companion Synod Relationship

Join with others interested in companion congregation/synod relations to celebrate and renew our companion synod relationship with Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) on Saturday, August 20, from 10:00 am - 2:00 p.m. at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Ames. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by Monday, August 15.

We will celebrate and renew our Companion Synod Relationship with the Pare Diocese and congregations in the Mwanga Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and plan for our shared mission together with our partners in the ELCA and ELCT.

Anyone in the Southeastern Iowa Synod who are either passionate about or curious about our companion synod relationships with the Pare Diocese and congregations in the Mwanga Diocese is welcome to attend. Congregations with relationships with congregations in Tanzania or projects underway in partnership with ministries in the dioceses are encouraged to send participants if possible.

# August is Back-to-School Scholarships Month for Myamba Lutheran Parish

August—back-to-school month in Iowa—finds St. Peter focusing on our companion congregation in Tanzania, Myamba Lutheran Parish. Our flagship initiative has been the secondary school scholarship program for those Myamba students attending the four years of public secondary school whose families need financial support in order to afford to send their children to school.

A \$100 annual scholarship provides school uniforms, socks and shoes, hot lunch, school fees, testing fees, and school security. Sponsors can also give \$15 to cover the cost of a Swahili Bible for a first-year scholarship student and a notebook and pen given to each scholarship recipient. Scholarship sponsors are partners with students' parents in providing for their education.

95 students are receiving annual scholarships for the 2022 calendar year school year through St. Peter's program. Let's match that number for the 2023 school year beginning January 2023!!

You'll hear more about this program and how you can help during brief Myamba Moments at the beginning of each worship service in August. We're working to obtain spoken word-videos from four of the students who've been receiving scholarships from St. Peter's program to show each Sunday. Pledge cards will be available. Pledge payments can be placed in the offering plates, in the baskets on the information table, received on line or mailed to the office. Please be sure to clearly mark any donations "Myamba Scholarships."

Questions? Ask any member of the Team—Pr. Mark & Bambi Schlenker, Dave & Carol Eilers, Jennifer & Eric Welch, Larry & Colleen Gulleen, and Reg & Roberta Yoder



## St. Peter's Additional Supports of Myamba Lutheran Parish

While St. Peter's Secondary School Scholarship Program has the most widespread impact on students and families of Myamba Lutheran Parish, St. Peter conducts additional programs to benefit children and families of Myamba. These programs are:

- Scholarships for Myamba students with hearing impairments to attend Mwanga School for the Deaf, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Three young children of Myamba Parish are now attending Mwanga. Sunday school offerings paid a portion of the costs.
- Medical support for young children of Myamba Parish affected by the excess fluoride in the drinking water that causes bowed legs. This condition can be surgically corrected or, in less severe cases, corrected with leg braces. Since 2011, two Myamba children have had surgery and one has received braces. A fourth Myamba child has recently been identified as having bowed legs in need of correction.
- Contributing St. Peter confirmation offerings toward Myamba confirmation program expenses for curriculum and Bibles. A recent Myamba confirmation class had 104 students.
- Providing education expense support for post-secondary students seeking higher education or vocational training. Requests have been handled on a case by case basis as fund surpluses allow.
- An annual gift of \$2,500 from St. Peter to Myamba, provided by offerings through a General Fund line item. Gifts are used for building projects or parish-wide expenses.
- Financial support to nearby Gonja Lutheran Hospital, operated by the Pare Diocese, of which Myamba Parish is a member. Several members contributed to a gift sent to Gonja to purchase pandemic supplies during a time of community spread.

Any questions about these St. Peter programs can be directed to members of the St. Peter Myamba Ministry Team listed above.

## 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!

## 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.

### NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

Cereal  
Cream of Mushroom  
Soup  
Granola Bars  
Peanut Butter (Large Size)  
Instant Oatmeal  
Canned Pineapple  
Pancake Mix & Syrup  
Boxed Mac-n-Cheese  
Rice-a-Roni/Minute Rice/Rice Side Dishes  
Boxed Potatoes/Potato Side Dishes  
Baked Beans  
Salad Dressing (Ranch & French)  
Mayo/Miracle Whip/BBQ Sauce  
Large Cans of Soup  
Skillet Dinners (Beef/Tuna)  
Cake/Brownie/Cookie Mixes



### PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS – LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels  
Kleenex  
Laundry Soap (Small/Medium/Large)  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Liquid Body Wash  
Body/Hand Lotion  
Dish Soap  
Kitchen Storage/Garbage Bags  
Women's Deodorant  
Disposable Razors

*Can you help meet the Food Pantry's Needs with a meal or care pack?*

#### Meal:

- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Canned pineapple

#### Sides & Snacks:

- Cream of Mushroom
- Granola Bars
- Large Peanut Butter

#### Care Pack #1:

- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Soap
- Liquid Body Wash

#### Care Pack #2

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Kleenex

## From the Stewardship Committee—Jason Hughes, Andrew Newman, & Eric Soult

### June 2022

Income: \$16,352.85  
Expense: \$26,860.54  
Net Loss: (\$10,507.69)

### YTD

Income: \$142,941.04  
Expense: \$156,528.43  
Net Loss: (\$13,587.39)

- General Fund—June 2022, expenses were more than monthly income thus it finished with a loss of (\$10,507.69).
- General Fund YTD—June 2022 expenses were greater than income thus it finished with a loss of (\$13,587.39).

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—JULY 10, 2022

Call to Order

Open with prayer

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes of February Semi-Annual Meeting

Old Business

- Worship schedule for fall 2022 - resumption of 8am/10:30am schedule. Numbers warrant reinstating two services and Sunday School hour would benefit from the later time again at 9:15. Discussion on the need for volunteers to make this successful. Thank you Sunday School for working with last year's one worship schedule.
- Update to 2022 budget— Proposed A/C & furnace - increased costs for review and approval by the Congregation. Repair cost \$11845. Possible \$2,000-\$4,000 in additional incidentals if the control board needs replaced. Motion carries to approve \$11,845 bid plus cost of incidentals.
- Ash tree update (costs of Phase I approved by Council in June): 24 Ash trees need to be removed. Removal cost could total \$9095 but initially approved up to \$4,500 at Council to remove half of the trees in the parking lot and the one close to the church. Will assess how many need to be replaced after removal. Monti offered to treat living trees with insecticide in the back of the church to see if we can avoid removal. Thank you Tim Duhn for all your work on this.

New Business

- Council Member nominations/slate with 3 year terms:
  - Executive: Danielle Rusch
  - Evangelism: Rob Ridnour
  - Stewardship: Eric Soult
  - Building & Grounds: Todd Pugh
- Motion - Dave Eilers, 2nd - Dave Brahn, Motion carries.
- Thank you outgoing council members for all your hard work.
- We are appointing Bradley Fasse, Adam Tjeerdsma, Dave Eilers, and Benji Rouse.
- Ministry ideas/feedback opportunities: In August/September council will request feedback from the congregation.

Adjournment

Close with the Lord's Prayer

Next Semi-Annual Meeting Date: February 12, 2023

## 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 **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 have used the Give+Church Mobile app in the past, please switch to the Vanco Mobile app. Give+Church Mobile is no longer available.***
2. Go to St. Peter's website [www.stpeterofgrimes.org](http://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!

