

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

“How was your Renewal leave pastor?”
 “Glad you asked. 😊” Last month’s VOICE article I wrote after only being home a few days. I hadn’t had any time to fully process everything from the summer’s Renewal Leave. Now that I’ve been home for a month, here are a few of the things I learned:

1. I love being a pastor! I love the interactions with people, particularly “my” people here at St. Peter Lutheran. I love being able to share the Good News of God’s love amidst the joys and challenges of life. I love being a leader in a community that knows and values the importance of “Growing and Serving.” It’s not that I didn’t like being a pastor before the Renewal Leave; but after 20 years of being a pastor,

and the last two years during COVID, I think I was tired. Two of my classmates from Seminary quit being pastors during COVID. I didn’t want that to be me. I’m glad it wasn’t me. I love being a pastor.

2. Importance of hospitality was re-affirmed. Being outsiders/foreigners in different countries and cultures, my family and I became attuned to where we were welcome, as well as where we were probably not welcome. We could also recognize where people were indifferent to whether we were there or not. Being unwelcoming, or indifferent, is counter to the call to “love one another, and love your neighbor as yourself.”
3. I learned many practical ideas for improving hospitality in the church. Some simple things like good signage. One church we had to hunt around for a bathroom that was

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- ♦ Little Food Pantry

IN EVERY ISSUE:

- ♦ Grimes Storehouse Current Needs
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- ♦ Church Council & WELCA Minutes
- ♦ Monthly Birthdays & Anniversaries
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Worship Schedule

*Thank you for joining us
for worship!*

Sunday worship is at 8:00 a.m.
and 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday worship is at 6:30-
7:00 p.m.

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m.



Prayer Ministry Team October 31

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 in the library after worship at about 11:30 a.m.**

practically hidden. We went to another church that had multiple levels and different worship spaces, which was difficult to know where to go. Thankfully, both of those churches had visible volunteers who could help answer questions and direct us, which is another important aspect of hospitality. I'll be sharing these and many other learnings with the council at our planning retreat on October 1st. As I've shared before, I think St. Peter does hospitality well; but as anything, there is always room for improvement.

4. Leadership in anxious times. I heard it said once that leaders act as transformers. They can either ratchet up or tamper down the anxiety in the group based on their presence. I learned this long ago and have known this as a leader, but having time and space during the renewal leave afforded me the opportunity to observe and process this type of leadership in action. One example was at a church that had extended a call to a new pastor, but the pastor declined. They were clearly sad, frustrated and anxious that they had already said goodbye to their interim pastor. The council president made the announcement in a very calm and positive manner. She shared the disappointment, but also the confidence that God would lead the right pastor to their church. There was a noticeable lowering of anxiety in the congregation following her talk. Bambi and I also noticed this in our parenting. When we were anxious the family did not function well. Not speaking the language, not knowing how to get somewhere and not knowing how they do things in a different country afforded ample opportunities for us to become anxious. We noticed that as long as one of us could remain engaged in what we were doing while being non-anxious, things would go fine and it would be a good day. We had mostly good days. 😊

So, how did my Renewal leave go? Fantastic! Thanks for asking.

Gathered to Grow—Sent to Serve,

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter:

First Communion Instruction for 2nd Graders October 9

Pastor Mark will meet with 2nd Graders and their parents on Sunday, October 9 during the Sunday School hour to discuss the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Second Graders will then receive their First Communion during the worship service of their choice on October 16 or 19.



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
Mon, Tues, Thurs:
11:00 a.m. –2:00 p.m.
Wed.: 12:00-3:00 p.m.,
4:30-7:30 p.m.
Sunday as needed
Fri.—Sat. Off

Pastor Mark Schlenker
Pastor's day off is Friday

Do You Need Help With Fall Clean-Up?

It is the time of year when we make plans to clean up our yards and get everything ready for winter weather. If you or someone you know needs some help with outdoor projects, the members of St. Peter are ready to help! A work team will come to your home between 9:30am-12:00pm on Sunday, October 30, to help with your projects. Please give the church office a call at 515-986-3077 or email us at stpeter@stpeterofgrimes.org and you will be put on the work list. We will need your name, address, phone number, as well as the chores you need taken care of. Give us a call! We would love to help you!

Come Join a Work Team!

Fall Outreach Sunday – Oct. 30
Come join us on Sunday, October 30, for St. Peter Lutheran's Fall Outreach Event to help our community neighbors. Work teams will be formed following the 8:00 a.m. worship service and be dispatched into the community to help those who signed up asking for a little fall clean-up help. All ages are welcome to join the teams! Tasks that we will undertake are outdoor chores such as raking and cleaning up garden and flower beds. Teams will come back to the church around noon to enjoy pizza together. Come as a family or individually to help with Fall Outreach. This is a great way St. Peter Lutheran can give back to our community by helping our neighbors.

Celebration Sunday – October 9th

All member households received a mailing from the Stewardship Committee in September regarding the Fall Stewardship Drive called "From Bread & Wine to Faith & Giving" and about our Celebration Sunday on October 9th. The mailing included a personal financial commitment card, time and talent sheets, and a youth pledge card. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you will give of your time and talents and resources to the ministries that are provided here at St. Peter Lutheran Church. Bring these completed forms with you to worship on October 9th to bring forward during a special offering time in our worship services. **Please note – Time and Talent sheets do not roll over year-to-year and need to be completed for each activity that you want to continue in 2023. Scan the QR code to fill out your Time & Talent form online.**



FROM BREAD & WINE



to Faith & Giving

WELCA Family Bonfire October 8

Family Bonfire –please join us on October 8 at 6:30 p.m.! Sandwiches and water will be provided. Bring chairs, drinks, and a side to share if desired. The address can be found on the WELCA facebook page, or you can contact the church office.

Pastoral Acts

Miles Allen Fredericks was born on May 20, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. He passed away on September 17, 2022, at UnityPoint Hospice—Taylor House in Des Moines. His visitation was held at Hamilton's Funeral Home in West Des Moines on September 23; and his funeral was held at St. Peter Lutheran Church on September 24 followed by interment at Sunny Hill Cemetery in Grimes. Pastor Mark Schlenker officiated the service.

Gloria Marie Brewer was born on May 26, 1947, in Viroqua, Wisconsin. She passed away on September 10, 2022, at Methodist Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. Her visitation and memorial were held at St. Peter Lutheran Church on September 29, with Pastor Mark Schlenker officiating the service.



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

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Pastor Mark Schlenker
515-986-3077

stpeter@stpeterofgrimes.org
www.stpeterofgrimes.org
www.facebook.com/
StPeterGrimes

WELCA Coat & Sleeping Bag Drive

Are you organizing your winter wear for the upcoming change in season? During the month of October, WELCA will be collecting new or gently used coats and sleeping bags for the Clothes Closet at Capitol Hill Lutheran. These items will be given out free of charge to those in need this winter season. It's a great opportunity to declutter items you no longer need while helping those in need! Look for collection bins at church.



Trunk-or-Treat October 23

Join us for a fun evening of costumes, candy, and games at the annual Trunk-or-Treat on Sunday, October 23rd from 4 - 5:30 PM at St. Peter Lutheran. This year we will partner with the United Methodist Church for a fun evening that will include a bounce house, games, snacks, and of course Trunks! Cars will be lined up in the church parking lot with their trunks decorated for Halloween and filled with goodies!

Watch for a sign-up to decorate a trunk and invite your neighbors and friends to join us for this fun fall family event, sponsored by WELCA of St. Peter and the United Methodist Church in Grimes!



Silent Auction November 13

WELCA is looking forward to hosting our annual Silent Auction next month! This year, **we are focusing on our church family's skills and talents.** We're looking for donations of hand-crafted items such as woodworking, home décor, furniture, signs, t-shirt quilting, etc. We are also looking for services like baby-sitting, handiwork, dog-sitting, cooking, etc. We would also love for you to donate your trades like photo sessions, mechanics, or professional services.

This year, we are offering a frozen goods **and** traditional bake sale. Members can donate and purchase frozen treats, soups, casseroles, etc. as well as purchase traditional bake sale goodies.

We're looking forward to this fun event, and we appreciate all who donate items and make purchases. Proceeds from the auction fund events like Trunk-or-Treat, sponsoring Mosaic activities, the St. Peter kitchen, church décor updates, and much more!

Quarter Tube Donation

We recently donated the contents of the quarter tube n the amount of \$133.38 to the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry. Those coins add up to make a difference to those in our community! Thank you for your support!

Men's Group

Join us for our monthly Men's Group Gathering this month! Men's Group meets the first Sunday of the month. Contact Bradley Fasse with any questions, and join the Men's Group Facebook page for updates and news. @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. You can 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.

New Church Directory

St. Peter will be creating a new church directory, and photo shoots for the directory will be October 5-8. Sign up to take your family picture Wednesday, October 5, through Wednesday, October 7, from 2:00 – 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, October 8, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. There is no cost for taking pictures, and each family will receive a free 8x10 photo. Sign up online at www.ucdir.com or by clicking the QR code. Contact the church office for church code and password, and contact Monti Miller or Rob Ridnour with questions.

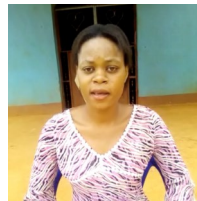
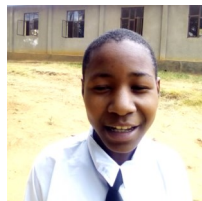


Myamba Scholarship Drive Update

WE MADE THE GOAL AGAIN!

We thank God again for the faithfulness and the generosity of our congregation. We have achieved the goal of providing 1) the 95 secondary scholarships and 2) the Swahili Bibles for first time scholarship recipients. Also, there were extra funds given that will be able to provide for a few post-secondary scholarships, support for Gonja Hospital, and for other needs as they arise in the Myamba Parish. Our thanks to Lauri Rouse, Jill Capps, and Evangelist George in Myamba for all the help in getting the videos, the presentations and the announcements together.

Asante Sana (Thank you so much)! Tumsifu Mungu (Let's praise God)!
The St. Peter Myamba Team Members



Gods Work—Our Hands Birthday Box Donation

Thank you to everyone who donated items and helped fill boxes September 11 for our God's Work - Our Hands Sunday service project. We were able to complete 56 birthday boxes with all of the items needed to make a birthday cake, which will be donated to the Grimes Storehouse and local food pantries to help ensure that those facing food insecurity can enjoy a special treat on their birthdays. Thank you for your support!



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!

Little Food Pantry

The first Little Food Pantry in Grimes, created by our VBS volunteers and students in collaboration with the Grimes Storehouse, was installed in September in the St. Peter Parking area. Anyone in need is able to pick up food items donated here. You are welcome to donate items to our Little Food Pantry—just place items inside the pantry, keeping in mind how seasonal temps might impact food donations. If you know of a sports team, scouting, 4-H, or other volunteer group that would like to help stock the Little Food Pantry, please contact the church office or a member of Church Council.



Grimes Storehouse – Community Food Pantry

The Grimes Storehouse helps food-insecure families in our community. Drop off your donations to the basket in Fellowship Hall, and they will be given to those in need.

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

Canned Chicken (12.5 oz.)
Canned Corn
Chili Beans, Kidney Beans, & Refried Beans
Skillet Dinners (Beef/Tuna/Chicken)
Minute Rice & Rice a Roni
Ramen Noodles
Canned Potatoes & Sweet Potatoes
Bottled Juice (Orange & Apple (64oz.) & V-8 & Tomato Juice)
Spaghetti
Large Cans of Soup
Large Size Peanut Butter
Miscellaneous Meat Sides (Beef Stew/Manwich/Spam)
Canned Pineapple
Tomato Sauce
Cake/Brownie/Cookie Mixes
Boxed Potatoes & Potato Side Dishes
Pancake Mix & Syrup



PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS – LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

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

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Eric Soult

August 2022

Income: \$21,234.89

Expense: \$28,328.09

Net Loss: \$7,093.20)

- General Fund--August 2022 month to date, expenses were greater than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$7,093.20)
- General Fund--August 2022 year to date, expense were greater than income thus finished with a loss of (\$35,718.74)

YTD

Income: \$181,865.35

Expense: \$217,584.09

Net Loss: (\$35,718.74)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

Pastor's Report:

- Good to be back! It's been fun to see people and be back in worship at St. Peter. It was really nice to start back in worship with Pastor Baer leading. Great way to ease back into things...thank you! Most of my time so far has been spent catching up with people preparing for the Fall ministries kicking off this week with confirmation, Wednesday worship, and back to two worship services and education hour on Sunday mornings.
- I'll be leading a Bible class for 3-year-olds and 5th graders with their parents this Sunday. The following Sunday we'll give them the Bibles in worship.
- Renewal Leave was wonderful. Great time of rest, renewal and learning. Learned a lot in many ways as well, but particularly in regards to hospitality, which was the focus. I believe we'll be discussing this at the retreat more. I think we talked about me having a time of sharing with the congregation at some point as well, so need to figure that out.
- I'll hold a new member class on September 25th and October 2nd during the education hour. We'll then welcome them in worship at the 10:30 service on the 2nd.
- I've volunteered to coach my boys' 2nd and 5/6th grade flag football teams for the city. That begins this Sunday afternoon Sept. 11th. It's a fun way for me to spend time with my boys, as well as getting to know other families in the community.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- Confirmation – On August 31st, I met with incoming confirmation guides to discuss the upcoming year. We have a great group of guides this year: Abbey Witt, Josie McClure, Sarah Hughes, Cindy Kreklau, Katie Scholl, Erica Davis, Rita Fredericks, Andrew Newman, Mindy Franzen, Adam Springer, and Jenny Jones.
- We also have several adults who have volunteered to serve as substitute guides & helpers.
- Our first night of confirmation will be on September 7th. I am looking forward to the year ahead with this great group of kids & adults. We will begin with a one-night look at the gospels before we dive into our 6-week discussion of Martin Luther & the Reformation.
- Faith Formation
- God's Work Our Hands Sunday, Sept 11th We will prepare birthday boxes that will be given to the Grimes Storehouse and the Urbandale Food Pantry. Birthday boxes provide the essentials for a birthday celebration for the children whose families depend on these organizations. The number of families who are suffering from food insecurity has been on the rise over the past couple of years, and even more recently in the past few months.
- Creation Station
- We have a few new volunteers who have signed up to help staff creation station on Sunday mornings.
- Soundboard – Wednesday
- I have a couple new volunteers who will help run the soundboard on Wednesday evenings. This will help ease my Wednesday schedule, so that I do not have to rush from confirmation to get the service started. This also will allow Sue to help with the music on Wednesday nights, as she had often helped with soundboard on Wednesday evenings.
- Live stream - Sunday
- With our return to two services, we will live-stream our 8:00 service only. The service will remain online so that it can be viewed at the time that works best for our online viewers.

Youth Report

- During the month of August, we continued to meet for Youth Group on Sunday nights in the Church parking lot. It was a collection of middle and high school students who wanted to continue to meet up to hang out.
- With the Youth Group calendar finalized, I am looking forward our Youth Group kick-off on Sunday September 18th. This event is for both the middle and high school groups. High school will continue to meet on Sunday night throughout the Youth Group calendar year.

- We will have our first middle school Youth Group on Wednesday, September 21st. Our Youth Group calendar will follow the same schedule as last year with the middle school meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Treasurer's Report: July financials reviewed and approved

Stewardship :

- September 18th is the kick-off for the stewardship campaign and the committee is distributing an online time & talent sheet for the first time; Oct 9th is the pledge drive/Celebration Sunday.

Building & Grounds

- The door lock has been replaced for the door off the kitchen and eliminated the fire hazard since it was sticking on the inside. The code is different and will be distributed to the staff, Council and heads of committees or other groups as needed.
- The new furnace & A/C was installed the first week of September for the unit that controls the staff offices temperature; the church has signed a maintenance contract again with AirCon.
- Todd is going to dig the hole for the little pantry on Sept 9th; the committee is continuing to think about tree re-planting. The Committee will speak with others in the congregation who asked to help and Eagle Scouts who may be able to plant for a project.
- Some church light bulbs were replaced today and others will be followed-up on.
- Nativity stable needs to be replaced (wasn't used last year) and some characters have damage from last year. This is another possible Eagle Scout project or Tim could build something if ideas are presented to him.
- Garage door is broken and rollers are out of tracks. Overhead Door says springs and cables broken - they provided a quote and Tim is getting a second quote. Council approved a motion to approve up to \$3000 to come out of the Building Fund to purchase a new garage door.

Education:

- Katie Murano is going to send around a sign-up for responsibility for filling the little pantry; Sunday School is going to find a volunteer class or committee each month to check the supply.
- Sunday School starts this Sunday and volunteers for 3rd/4th grade were received through November via Sign-up Genius. For the 7th/8th grade class, 1st Sunday of the month is devotional time; asking for their help in younger classrooms.

Evangelism:

- Monti reported that the July 4th Fireworks was a success! 97 bags of popcorn and 72 bottles of water were given out. Money that folks donated as a "thank you" was given to CFUM.
- Church Directory pictures are scheduled for Oct 5-8th, 2-8:30pm; Saturday 10-4pm; the committee is seeking church volunteers to welcome people.
- Fall clean-up planning is coming up and Monti is looking into the City's fall clean-up date. Celebration Sunday - Oct. 9th they are planning on lunch options. Oct. 2nd new member Sunday and cake to be ordered. City will use our parking lot on Oct. 8th and we will have some reserved spots for the church directory photos.

Worship & Music :

- Wednesday night service started yesterday, and two services start this Sunday

Old Business:

- Feedback from congregation - the basket is setup for three Sundays (through Sept. 18th) or online feedback requested via the eNews.
- Retreat Date - October 1st at 9am-2:30pm Grimes Community Complex
- Fall Gathering - Council and staff to gather this Sunday from 4-6pm at the Brahns

New Business:

- No new business

Local Mission Donation: GVSS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING - SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

- Members present were Sue Dooley, Carol Eilers, Allison Prohaska, Allison Newman and Kellie Heiken.
- Decision made not to reorganize the kitchen tonight. It will be rescheduled sometime when the church family can participate.
- There were no baptisms since the last meeting.
- State Fair tickets were purchased for the Diehl Mosaic residence. The thank you note said they "had a blast enjoying their day at the fair!" This may be a good excursion to plan every year.
- School supplies donated by the church family were delivered to Children & Families Urban Movement on August 21. They were very appreciative of the items.
- The adult social on August 17 at Kinship Brewery was a fun event with about 15 people attending.
- October is the coat drive and will run very similar to past years.
- The bonfire at the Millers' home is set to start at 6:30 on October 8. Logistics were discussed. WELCA is providing pulled pork sandwiches with buns and condiments, bottled water and the ingredients to make Smore's. Carol checked with the Millers and they said later in the evening the fire would be suitable to make Smore's. Plans were made to bring some yard games.
- Trunk-or-Treat is scheduled for October 23, 2022 from 4:00 to 5:30. The Grimes United Methodist Church enthusiastically agreed to partner with us this year for this event, per James Campbell. The event will again be held in the St Peter parking lot. Monica Malberg will be the point person for GUMC. Tentative plans will include members from both churches having trunks for trick-or-treaters and also some games. The education committee has a credit with PJ Party Rentals they said we can use for a blow-up game. It was originally for the Sunday School rally but could not be used due to rain. This year some simple drinks and snacks are being planned such as cocoa, hot cider and popcorn for participants to enjoy. The GUMC youth group has traditionally held a party for children. Sue is going to reach out to Matt Schmidt and Nicole Kepper who is the youth leader from GUMC. Allison Prohaska said there are more of the St. Peter reusable bags that can be made available for the trick or treaters. Gift cards for winners of the best costumes/trunks were discussed.
- The Silent Auction is set for November 13. This is the same day as Bishop Amy Current's visit to St Peter. Some new aspects are being considered for the auction, such as adding a raffle to make it possible for people to participate in days leading up to the auction. Allison Newman is reaching out to Benji Rouse to get find out how this could be done. There will be a bake sale and a freezer meal sale. Allison Newman proposed an additional meeting this month so we can discuss the Silent Auction in more depth and invite Bambi Schlenker and Lauri Rouse to share their experiences.
- Treasurer's Report submitted by Allison Newman:
 - General \$2,014.81
 - Kitchen \$2,077.96
 - Total \$4,092.77

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 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!