

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

On Saturday, October 1st, the church council met for its annual planning retreat. I truly enjoy this time with the church council each year. Yes, giving up most of a Saturday can be challenging; but that is also what is inspiring for me. I'm inspired by the many leaders that volunteer their time and are passionate about helping ensure that the Gospel is being shared to its fullest potential at St. Peter.

There are mainly two objectives to the retreat each year. First objective is for the council members to get to know one another a little better. Every August there are 4-5 new council members that begin their three year term. Ice breakers, small group discussions, and eating lunch together offers a more relaxed opportunity for the council to get to know one another. Good relationships can help foster healthy

and creative discussions throughout the year as the church council furthers the mission of the church.

The second objective of the council retreat is for brainstorming and visioning for the church and it's future. This year's visioning focused on two areas. The first was on processing the feedback received from the congregation. (Thank you to those who took time to share your feedback. It is much appreciated.) The second focus for visioning was on hospitality. I shared some of the things I learned about hospitality on my Renewal Leave and council members shared some of their experiences. Together we discussed ways that we could build on the hospitality that St. Peter already shows. Here are some things that were discussed, and action items moving forward:

1. Congregation feedback:
 - One theme that stood out from

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◇ *All Saints Day*
- ◇ *Bishop Current to Visit*
- ◇ *WELCA Silent Auction*
- ◇ *Children's Christmas Program Info*
- ◇ *Grimes Giving Tree*
- ◇ *Advent Cantata*
- ◇ *Recent Happenings*
- ◇ *Little Food Pantry*

IN EVERY ISSUE:

- ◇ *Grimes Storehouse Current Needs*
- ◇ *Stewardship Update*
- ◇ *Church Council & WELCA Minutes*
- ◇ *Monthly Birthdays & Anniversaries*
- ◇ *Monthly Calendar*

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

feedback was that St. Peter does children, youth, and family ministries well.

- Additional ministries that would be beneficial would be for adults, such as bible studies, book studies, and small group ministries.
 - Council will look at ways to incorporate some more adult ministries in the coming year.
2. Building on hospitality at St. Peter:
- Identifying and connecting with visitors. Pastor and council will be intentional about spotting visitors and connecting with them. The whole congregation can help with this as well by introducing yourself if you see someone you don't know. They may be a visitor or they may be a long time member. Either way you've made a new connection, and you've demonstrated a wonderful aspect of hospitality by helping them be seen/noticed.
 - Worship accessibility and understanding for visitors. Have clear instructions in the bulletin and/or pointed out by the pastor, so we don't assume everyone knows what is going on. Such as communion, quarter tube, or creation station. Pastor and council will work on this.
 - Improve signage at the church. Such as coffee time, restrooms, entrance, etc. Council will work on this.
 - Website: welcome video introducing visitors to the church and what to expect if they come to worship. Pastor will work on this.
 - Book study and discussion with the whole congregation on hospitality. This is already planned for a three week discussion on the book *Becoming a Welcoming Church*. Books have been ordered with money from the Renewal Leave grant. I will lead the discussions on Wednesday's following worship on Nov. 30th, Dec. 7 & 10th; and I will also lead discussions during Sunday education hour on Dec. 4, 11, 18. Please pick up a book, and join us for a discussion if you are able.

We just welcomed 5 new families that are excited about being a part of this wonderful community of faith we call St. Peter Lutheran Church. St. Peter is already doing amazing work for God's Kingdom. Focusing on some new adult ministries and building on the hospitality St. Peter already provides can only help to further our mission together. Gathered to Grow...Sent to Serve.

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter:

Bishop Current to Visit St. Peter November 13

Southeastern Iowa Synod Bishop Amy Current will be preaching at both services on November 13, and we will have a welcome and fellowship time with her between services. Join us at worship and in welcoming Bishop Current to St. Peter!



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

All Saints Sunday—November 6

All Saints Sunday is a time to remember family and friends who have been welcomed into God's eternal kingdom. We will remember loved ones with the lighting of individual candles and in our service prayers on Sunday, November 6 at both worship services.

If you have a family member or friend who has entered into the Saints of Heaven, we invite you to fill out the bulletin insert or contact the church office and let us know their name and their relationship to you. All requests of remembrances of loved ones must be received in the church office by Monday, October 31.

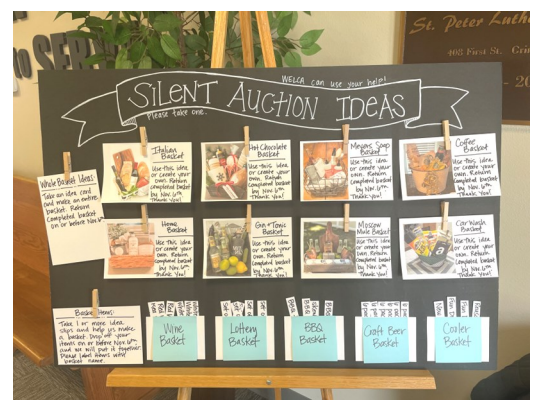


WELCA Silent Auction & Bake Sale November 13

WELCA is looking forward to hosting our annual Silent Auction on November 13! 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!



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.

Wishing you a
blessed
Thanksgiving
holiday!

There will be no
Wednesday worship on
Wednesday,
November 23.

The Church office will be
closed on Thursday,
November 24, and Friday,
November 25, in
observance of the
Thanksgiving holiday.

Children's Christmas Presentation December 11

St. Peter's Sunday School Children will tell the Christmas story and share music with us on Sunday, December 11, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.



Grimes Giving Tree

Would you like to make the Christmas holiday brighter for some local families? You can do so by purchasing some suggested gifts for children in the DC-G school district who might otherwise go without. The Giving Tree will be located in the church entryway near the end of November. Hanging on the tree will be paper ornaments with gift suggestions from the families. Take the ornament and write your name beside the ornament number on the ornament list. **Please bring the wrapped gift back to the church by December 5 with the ornament attached to the outside of the package/gift bag.** The presents will be delivered to the families before the holidays. Here are some other helpful notes:

- Each child is given 2 clothing items and 2 toy/fun items (4 gift tags per child)
- Gifts are intended to be in the \$20-\$30 range
- Gifts can be wrapped/put in a gift bag and returned to the church anytime before December 5.

Look for more information in the eNews and bulletin mid-month! Thank you for your help!



Advent Cantata December 18

The St. Peter Choir will be presenting an Advent Cantata on Sunday, December 18, at both worship services. All are welcome to sing! Rehearsals (and some fellowship!) will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:45-8:30 p.m. beginning on Wednesday, October 26. Contact Emily Wells at emilyw2912@gmail.com if you'd like more info. We'd love to have you sing with us!

Pastoral Acts

Bruce Mats Sherer, son of Maria and Zachary Sherer, was born on January 5, 2022, in Des Moines, IA. Bruce was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church by Rev. Mark Schlenker on October 16, 2022. Jacob Burgus and Elin Kiel are Bruce's baptism sponsors.



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

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www.facebook.com/StPeterGrimes

Some Recent Highlights at St. Peter:



Children enjoy their Sunday School curriculum and opening music.



Sunday School children received their first communion, and 5th graders and 3-year-olds received Bibles.



We welcomed five new families to St. Peter at our New Member Sunday on October 2.

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 go to the Pantry's website at: <https://sites.google.com/view/grimesminipantry/home?>



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.)
Chicken Noodle & Tomato Soup
Spaghetti
Canned Pineapple
Tomato Sauce
Large Size Peanut Butter
Bottled Juice (Orange & Apple (64oz.) & V-8 & Tomato Juice)
Boxed Potatoes & Potato Side Dishes
Canned Potatoes & Sweet Potatoes
Chili Beans, Kidney Beans, & Refried Beans
Cereal/Instant Oatmeal Pkgs.
Pancake Mix
Boxed Mac-n-Cheese
Skillet Dinners (Beef/Tuna/Chicken)
Minute Rice & Rice a Roni; Ramen Noodles
Miscellaneous Meat Sides (Beef Stew/Manwich/Spam, Jerky)
Cake/Brownie/Cookie Mixes



PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS –

LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Laundry Soap (Small/Medium/Large)
Tampons Feminine Products (all sizes)
Dish Soap
Kleenex
Shampoo
Conditioner
Cleaning Products (Mr. Clean, Lysol, etc.)
Kitchen Storage/Garbage Bags
Women's Deodorant
Men's Deodorant
Liquid Body Wash
Body/Hand Lotion
Baby Wipes
Disposable Razors

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Eric Soult

September 2022

Income: \$21,180.50
Expense: \$25,516.40
Net Loss: (\$4,335.90)

YTD

Income: \$203,045.85
Expense: \$243,100.49
Net Loss: (\$40,054.64)

- General Fund—In September 2022, expenses were more than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$4,335.90).
- General Fund YTD—In September 2022, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$40,054.64).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – OCTOBER 1, 2022

Pastor's Report:

- It is a joy to have 5 families joining St. Peter tomorrow
- September involved funeral planning with 3 families – Miles Fredericks funeral on Saturday, Sept 24; Gloria Brewer on Thursday, Sept 29; and Jo Tosh's funeral to be scheduled in November
- Pastor attended the Synod conference in Coralville with the Bishop from Sun 25th- Tuesday 27th – good to catch up with other leaders in the Synod after a couple years being virtual.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- Confirmation
- Our first night of confirmation was on September 7th. This year we have 13 7th graders and 16 8th graders. We have spent the past few weeks learning about the Life of Martin Luther & the history of the Reformation.
- On October 22nd we will hold our confirmation retreat at St. Peter. This year the youth will prepare a worship service for Wednesday, October 26th. The youth will plan the entire service and will focus on the Reformation in recognition of Reformation Sunday on October 30th. The youth will also participate in our 4th Annual Amazing gRace around Grimes and complete a service project focusing on the homeless & food insecure populations in the Des Moines metro.
- Faith Formation: God's Work Our Hands Sunday, Sept 11th We prepared 56 birthday boxes, 15 of those were given to the Grimes Storehouse and 41 were delivered to the Urbandale Food Pantry. Birthday boxes provide the essentials for a birthday celebration for the children whose families depend on these organizations. Families who are suffering from food insecurity are on the rise over the past couple of years, and even more recently in the past few months.
- Creation Station: Creation station continues to be well attended; we are even exceeding pre-Covid numbers on most Sunday mornings. We have had a few new volunteers who have signed up to help staff creation station on Sunday mornings.
- Soundboard—Wednesday: Special thanks to Joe Johnston & Family, and Amy Short for stepping in to run the soundboard on Wednesday evenings for worship.
- Livestream—Sunday: With our return to two services, we will livestream our 8:00 services only. The service will remain online so that it can be viewed a the time that works best for our online viewers.

Youth Report

- September kicked off our Youth Group calendar year. This year we had a combined bar-b-q kickoff event for the middle and high school Youth Groups on September 18th. It was a perfect night and we had over 35 youth in attendance.
- Due to a schedule conflict, I pushed back our Middle school Youth Group will kick off on Wednesday, October 5th. We will share a snack, play some games and talk about our upcoming year. I am excited to get the group back together and have some fun.
- High school Youth Group met twice in September. We talked about the upcoming year and planned some of our outings and meal nights.
- October will be a month filled with traditional Youth Group activities, Trunk-or-Treat, and Fall Outreach.

Treasurer's Report: July financials reviewed and approved

Stewardship :

- Sign up for pledge drive
- Starting to get responses to time & talent online form and looking forward to Celebration Sunday on Oct. 9th
- Members are encouraged to submit the forms in subsequent weeks as well if not turned in that day.

Building & Grounds

- Installed the Little Pantry
- Less garage door expense than anticipated and still working to get someone for more minor repair after a spring broke.

- Insecticide on some trees in the back doesn't seem to be working, so we will have more trees to take down in 2023. The Committee is continuing to investigate options for a few trees to replace.

Education:

- Council members reported that the Little Pantry is being used and has been empty at various times. Katie Murano is using SignUp Genius to get 2-week increments for volunteers to fill the Little Pantry, and Committee is looking into other outside service groups that want to fill for a 2-week period. Members' donations to the Grimes Storehouse at St. Peter could also be used to fill the Little Pantry. Discussion of a small food drive around Thanksgiving and specifying types of items that could be saved for the Little Pantry over the winter.
- The committee is continuing to look for volunteers to help with Sunday School classrooms esp. when regular volunteers are out of town; volunteers are reporting how easy it is to show-up with the curriculum that Sarah Capps prepared over the summer! Special thanks to Sarah for her commitment to this new curriculum coordinator role! Additionally, the youth volunteers have also been very helpful to the Sunday School teachers.
- Committee will review hours that both Sarah and Katie put into their two roles since the roles were new in 2022 and that will help Council evaluate the budget for these positions in 2023.

Evangelism:

- Sheet cakes ordered for Oct. 2nd's New Member Sunday.
- Planned luncheon from HyVee for Oct. 9th Celebration Sunday.
- Oct 30th is fall clean-up - there will be pizza served afterwards, and Monti is calling folks whose homes may need clean-up.
- Church Directory pictures start next week. Rob & Monti will collect photos for our homebound members.

Worship & Music :

- Two services structure is going well and the choir participation has been good.
- Wednesday services – Since we do not have a guitarist yet this fall, the Committee is using pre-recorded music on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and 2nd is Holden Prayer Service and 4th Sunday is volunteer worship leader and pianist (currently Sue Dooley and Carol Eilers). Jill is following up on purchasing the copyrights to videos for the music on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday services through CCLI and Loop Community.
- The first Sunday of Advent is November 27th and the Cantata is planned for Dec. 18. Christmas Eve services will be 4pm, 6pm and 9pm with the 4pm service live-streamed. There will be a Christmas morning worship service since the 25th is a Sunday.
- The committee continues to reach out to volunteers for many worship spots.

Old Business:

- None Discussed

New Business:

- Bishop visit and sermon 11/13 – Bishop Amy Current will be preaching for both services and we will have a welcome & fellowship time with coffee/cake between services. We discussed a Q&A session for members to visit with her between services; the WELCA Silent Auction will be that day as well but coffee time can continue in the usual spot.
- Use of preschool room – Need for new signage, shared calendar – Education to use the room on Sunday, Oct. 30th, Pastor to use this room for 2nd grade Communion discussion. We plan to call this the “multi-purpose room” and will need signage and discussion of painting and other maintenance to the room.
- Council basket for WELCA auction – Andrew is putting together a food basket for a smoked meat set for Council to contribute towards for the auction.

Local Mission Donation: Ian Venales Tapia's family memorial in his memory, as Ian was a Small Miracles attendee as a preschooler.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING - OCTOBER 11, 2022

- The fall family bonfire at Monti and Carol Miller's farm was held on Saturday, October 8 and was a success. Between 30 and 40 people attended and the weather was beautiful. Thanks to the Millers for continuing to host this fun event.
- Allison Dooley is going to invite our friends from Mosaic to come to our Trunk or Treat event.
- The coat and sleeping bag drive is during the month of October. St Peter families can drop off donations at the church. All items collected will be delivered to the Clothes Closet at Capitol Hill Lutheran church.
- Trunk-or-Treat is scheduled for October 23 from 4:00 to 5:30 with set up beginning at 3:00. Sign-ups to provide a trunk have been going well both at St Peter and at the Grimes United Methodist Church who is partnering with us this year. The line-up of trunks will be on the north side of the parking lot with the south side reserved for parking for families attending. One or two people will be stationed at the entrance to the parking lot to give directions and hand out trick or treat bags. The bounce house will be set up on the west lawn of the church.
- Plans were discussed for the Silent Auction, set for November 13. There will be a bake sale, soup-in-a-jar and a freezer meal sale in addition to Silent Auction items. Allison Newman has organized participation of the Sunday School classes and will work with the office to send out reminders. Members will be encouraged to drop off auction items by October 30 and freezer meals can be dropped off anytime. Further plans will be made at our next meeting including the decision as to when to set up.
- 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!