

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

The lights are going up, the decorations are coming out, and that beautiful music is playing more and more. It must be December. (Well, I'm writing this at the end November, but close enough.) ☺ These words above from the prophet Isaiah foretell the coming of the Messiah. The Messiah we know as Jesus of Nazareth. He's the one that we celebrate at this time of year. We make a big deal about it, because it is such Good News. Ok, so the cynic can say that culturally it is commercialization at its finest happen-

ing, and there is some truth to that. But, this doesn't take away the fact that the birth of Jesus is the greatest gift the world has been given. The birth of Jesus is the announcement of God's great love for the people and world that God created. God chose not to stay off as some faraway distant deity. God chose to enter the world in the form of a vulnerable baby. Why? Because God loves the people and world that God created. This baby brings the hope, peace, joy, and love the world desperately needs. What a gift!

Here at St. Peter we do our best to share the story of Christmas we know from the Bible. Christmas may be largely commercialized in society, so we want to make sure the real story is told. We want to make sure the most important focus of the holiday is on the birth of Jesus the Messiah, our Lord and savior. The story is about love ... God's love for the world.

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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.

We tell the story of Christmas and learn from the story in a variety of ways at St. Peter Lutheran church this year.

1. The kids have lessons in Sunday school about Christmas.
2. The kids learn Christmas songs in Sunday school.
3. The kids read and act out the Christmas story in worship, as well as sing the songs they've learned. This year it will be on Sunday, December 11th.
4. Confirmation youth also have lessons on the Christmas story.
5. Confirmation students read and act out the Christmas story in worship on Wednesday, December 14th.
6. Choir will be singing a Cantata on December 18th.
7. We have three different candle light worship service times on Christmas Eve, 4, 6, 9 pm.
8. This year Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, so we will have one worship service at 9:00 am on December 25th.

Mark your calendars with these dates, and help us celebrate together the greatest gift the world has ever seen. Better yet, plan to invite a friend, neighbor, colleague, or acquaintance to join you. Help us make sure the real reason for all the lights, decorations, and singing is made known. Help us celebrate Christmas!!

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Mark

PS- If you are looking for a special end of year giving opportunity as a way to "give back" what you've been blessed with, please consider sharing a financial gift with St. Peter Lutheran. Thanks for helping St. Peter continue sharing the "Good News of great joy for all people."



Prayer Ministry Team December 18

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.**

Coming Up at St. Peter:

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.



Advent Cantata December 18

The St. Peter Choir will be presenting an Advent Cantata on Sunday, December 18, at both worship services. We invite you to attend this celebration of Advent and Christmas!

Gathered
to
Grow

Sent
to
Serve



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
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StPeterGrimes

Christmas Eve and Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve worship will be at 4:00, 6:00, and 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24.

Christmas Day worship will be Sunday, December 25, at 9:00 a.m.

Advent Book Study

As part of Pastor Mark's Renewal Leave, he and the congregation have been focusing on hospitality. During December, Pastor Mark will be leading a hospitality discussion based on the book *Becoming a Welcoming Church* by Thom S. Rainer. There are two date/time options: Sundays Dec. 4, 11, & 18 during the Sunday School hour or Wednesdays Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14 at 7:15 p.m. We welcome you to pick up a book at the service counter and join the book study if you are able!



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 is located in the church entryway. Hanging on the tree are 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 7 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 on or before December 7.

Thank you for your help!



Pastoral Acts

Danielle Rusch Vidergar married Kevin Dean Vidergar on October 22, 2022, in Urbandale, Iowa. Pastor Mark officiated the wedding.

Aaden Matthew Johnson and Isaac Andrew Johnson, sons of Jamie and Benjamin Johnson, were born November 3, 2008, in Des Moines, IA. Aaden and Isaac were baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes on November 2, 2022, by Rev. Mark Schlenker. Stacy Meseck is Aaden's and Isaac's baptism sponsor.

Brinley Rose Ring, daughter of Dan and Jill Ring, was born on April 20, 2022 in West Des Moines, IA. Brinley was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes on November 20, 2022, by Rev. Mark Schlenker. Todd Burke is Brinley's baptism sponsor.

Lavesta Jo Tosh was born on December 29, 1939, in Gilcrest, Colorado. She passed away on September 9, 2022 in Des Moines, Iowa. Her memorial was at St. Peter Lutheran Church on November 12, 2022, with Rev. Mark Schlenker officiating the service.

St. Peter Lutheran Church Office Hours

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

Jill Capps —
Jill's day off is Friday.

Pastor Mark Schlenker
Pastor's day off is Friday.

Gingerbread Event December 4

We invite you to join us for some Holiday Fun! On Sunday, December 4th we will hold a fun-filled gingerbread house building event following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. All ages are welcome, so bring your family and work together to build a gingerbread house. (There will be prizes!) Pizza and drinks will be provided. Please contact Jill to sign up **Be sure to sign up so we know how many supplies are needed!**



Christmas Caroling December 18

Spread some Christmas cheer by singing Christmas songs and delivering treats on December 18 at 4:15 p.m. This is a wonderful activity for individuals or entire families. Don't be shy - singing well is not a prerequisite! Many of us embrace the concept of the "joyful noise unto the Lord!" Please join us for this very tangible way to share Jesus' love with our church family!



Sunday School Supplies

Sunday school is collecting supplies through January 8th that will be used for future lessons. If you have any of the following please place them in the collection box in the 3 year old classroom: wrapping paper tubes, bubble wrap, medium size boxes (shoebox size), and tissue paper.

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 our monthly meetings the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the church library. For more information, email:
momsgroup@stpeterofgrimes.org.

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:

Saltine, Ritz & Graham Crackers
Boxed Gelatin & Instant Pudding
Mac-n-Cheese Individual Cups
Cup of Soup
Chili Beans and Pinto Beans
Pork-n-Beans and Baked Beans
Canned Potatoes & Sweet Potatoes
Boxed Potatoes (Scalloped/Mashed/Julienne, etc.)
Bottled Juice (Apple (64oz.) plus V-8 & Tomato Juice)
Beef Ramen Noodles
Skillet Dinners (Beef/Tuna/Chicken)
Canned Mandarin Oranges
Canned Pineapple
Variety of Small Cans of Soup
Variety of Large Cans of Soup
Minute Rice
Miscellaneous Meat Sides (Beef Stew/Manwich/Spam/Jerky)



PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS –

LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

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

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Eric Soult

October 2022

Income: \$21,703.21
Expense: \$23,210.73
Net Loss: (\$1,507.72)

YTD

Income: \$224,749.06
Expense: \$266,311.22
Net Loss: (\$41,562.16)

- General Fund—In October 2022, expenses were more than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$1,507.72).
- General Fund YTD—In October 2022, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$41,562.16).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER 10, 2022

Pastor's Report:

- It was a joy to welcome five new families joining St. Peter on October 2nd.
- Family Bonfire was a good fellowship event on the 8th. Thanks to the Miller's for hosting the event. That was a mighty big bonfire.
- Celebration Sunday went well on October 9th. Good turnout for worship and luncheon afterward.
- A number of kids had their first communion instruction with me and their parents on Sunday, October 9th, and then had their first communion in worship on the 16th.
- Confirmation retreat was on October 22nd. It was an all day Saturday event from 9am to 8pm. Event went well thanks to Jill's leadership, and the volunteer adult leaders. Kids did a great job staying engaged for a full day as well. The topic of the retreat was worship. The youth broke up into groups to put together a worship service. On Wednesday, October 26th, they led the worship service, and did a great job.
- I left the retreat for a couple hours to officiate a wedding. Congratulations Danielle and Kevin!
- Last Wednesday I baptized two brothers who are in the Confirmation ministry. Aaden and Isaac did not grow up in the church. Friends invited them to confirmation and youth group.
- We will have another baptism on Sunday, Nov. 20th, for a young child.
- There will be no worship on Wednesday, November 23rd, due to Thanksgiving. We've tried having worship the day before Thanksgiving in the past and only those who were helping lead worship were present.
- Lines are newly painted in the parking lot. Thank you, Todd Pugh!
- I plan on leading a hospitality discussion around the book Becoming a Welcoming Church by Thom Rainer. Three Wednesday's: Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & 14. Three Sunday's during education hour: Dec. 4, 11, 18. Executive committee has also decided to use this same book for our council opening discussions. I'll bring the books to council this Thursday.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- Confirmation
 - On October 22nd we held our confirmation retreat at St. Peter. The youth spent the morning preparing an entire worship service that they shared with the congregation on Wednesday, October 26th. The youth did a great job, and the service was enjoyed by all. The youth also participated in our 4th Annual Amazing gRace around Grimes. A special thank you to the St. Peter members who hosted a stop on the race: the Fasse, Ridnour, Jackson, Johnston, Scholl, Capps, Hughes, Short, and Schmidt families. The youth also baked muffins for fellowship on Sunday, Oct 23rd, and prepared a few breakfast casseroles for the Salvation Army Mobile Breakfast canteen.
 - The youth are continuing the study of Martin Luther & the small catechism. They will also begin to prepare for the Wednesday, December 14th, worship service where they will present the Christmas story.
 - As part of our confirmation "together we can "change" the world" program, the youth collected \$42.34 for the Myamba confirmation program. In November & December the youth will focus on a project with the Grimes Storehouse where they will collect items for breakfast (pancake mix, syrup & juice), personal care items and fill stockings for the children whose families receive assistance from the Grimes Storehouse.
- Faith Formation
 - We will hold our 2nd Annual Gingerbread House build on Sunday, December 4th, following the 10:30am worship service.
 - The Thursday afternoon Bible study began meeting in October. We currently plan to meet the 2nd Thursday of each month, although we may increase that to two times a month. We have begun our study with the book of Proverbs.
 - Creation Station: Creation station continues to be well attended; we consistently see numbers equal to or greater than our pre-covid participation.
 - Soundboard – Wednesday: Special thanks to Joe Johnston & Family, and Amy Short for stepping in to run the soundboard on Wednesday evenings for worship.

- Live stream - Sunday: The live-stream service continues to be offered at 8:00am services. We continue to have a steady number of people who view the service online regularly or when they are unable to attend in person.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group met twice during the month of October. During our Youth Group time we had devotions, shared in some snacks, and played some games.
- High school Youth Group met five times during the month of October. We held two devotion nights, had a meal night, carved pumpkins and went to a haunted house.
- Our youth also assisted with Truck or Treat on 11/23, and Fall Outreach on 11/30.
- November will be a month filled with traditional Youth Group activities, a mission trip informational meeting and Friendsgiving for our high schoolers.

Treasurer's Report: September financials approved

- Billi reported that Timmins, Jacobsen & Strawhacker, LLP is assisting our church with reviewing financial data for the Employee Retention Credit, and we have one quarter that we are eligible for, so Lauri will provide further information from payroll taxes to the firm
- Billi reported that Lauri is working with she and Pastor Mark to finish up accounting on Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal grant funds to allocate all expenses and pay out in 2022; they will report the details to the committee that completed the grant application.

Stewardship :

- The pledge drive is down about \$10,000 from last year, but up about \$20,000 from 2020 and members can continue to submit pledges, so hopefully we'll hit a similar number to last year.
- Online time and talent sheets were not as popular as expected, and most people chose to continue to do the paper sheets again with a good overall response.
- The committee will investigate CD rates again and confirm the next maturities given significant interest rate increases.

Building & Grounds

- Food pantry door will be re-done soon and re-attached.
- The committee will look at light bulb replacements in the sanctuary after our meeting.
- The new furnace created smoke one evening and the fire department came out. It was a fan heating up and didn't create smoke damage. It is fixed and working - thanks to those who aired out the church and waited out the situation.
- Discussed and agreed with continuing with Ground Forces for snow removal.
- For Christmas - the committee will put up the Christmas tree and star around the Nov. 20th before Advent begins. Tim has been looking at possible new designs for a smaller outdoor nativity that he could build since a storm did significant damage to the old pieces last year.
- Todd is working on the garage door repairs.

Education:

- Christmas program is Dec. 11th at the 10:30 service
- The leaders are looking for Sunday School teachers, particularly in the 3rd/4th grade room on certain Sundays for the 2nd semester.
- We discussed using the Service area bulletin board and counter in the Fellowship Hall where sign-ups, display of projects, etc. could be done. The committee will talk with Jill about what she needs for on-going space too.
- It has been advantageous this year to have Katie Murano and Sarah Capps in these new education positions and Council is so grateful for how the ministries are going and the time and enthusiasm they bring to the roles. The Committee will propose stipends for these positions again in 2023 due to the great value they provided.

Evangelism:

- Trying to meet with photographer in late November to discuss getting a few more pictures taken or submitted.
- Celebration Sunday went well and food was provided.
- For Fall clean-up coordination, there were 5 houses we worked on; the people at the homes were very appreciative and it continues to be a great intergenerational service activity.

Worship & Music :

- The sanctuary will be decorated on 11/20 and WELCA is helping the committee with this project.
- Christmas Cantata is the 18th at both worship services.
- Service Updates:
 - o Wednesday, November 23 ~ No Service
 - o Wednesday, December 21 ~ No Service
 - o Christmas Eve Service ~ Times: 4:00, 6:00, & 9:00 pm
 - o Sunday, December 25 ~ Change to one service at 9:00am
 - o Wednesday, December 28 ~ No Service
 - o Sunday, January 1 ~ Change to one service at 9:00am (with Communion)
 - o Wednesday, March 29 ~ Last Wednesday Service until Fall 2023
- Volunteer updates
 - o Hosts - Thank you to Roxanne Hauge for serving as volunteer host coordinator! Committee looking for a new coordinator after Christmas 2022.

Old Business:

- Use and set up of multi-purpose room - need a paint color and possible repair on walls; Todd will work on a multi-purpose room sign; others to talk with possible volunteers for painting and we may need the paint color for other rooms within the church for consistency.
- Council retreat follow-up
- Congregational Feedback focused on the need for small group ministries for adults:
- Empty Nester group to revitalize? Monti is reaching out to a member who participated last time and we welcome other volunteers who may want to lead or participate in re-gathering this group again.
- Adult Education: We will see how participation goes for Jill's leadership of a Bible study on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 1pm plus Pastor's leadership for the book study in Advent.
- Couples/dinner group: Looking for a date in the new year to try this connection opportunity again as all agreed we couldn't start this up with the holidays approaching.
- Action items on a hospitality discussion:
- Training for host role - discussing having a veteran host lead new volunteers so they work together; discussing a video training and may email the instructions to hosts with their reminder each week.
- Discussion on a training for communion assistants depending on new volunteers in the time and talent sheets
- Executive Committee drafted some additional explanations for the bulletin relating to the quarter tube, creation station and the availability of the nursery.
- Pastor to make a brief welcoming video to walk through the church with Jill soon
- Council Basket for WELCA auction: Thanks to Andrew for gathering the items for the smoked meat basket for Council to contribute to for Sunday's silent auction!

New Business:

- Church nursery - A member reached out this fall to volunteer to look for a new paid nursery staff member. Council discussed the Child Safe Policy of the church, the ways we are currently asking our high school youth to volunteer for Sunday School, and the need to consistently staff the nursery and provide back-up adults to help if we commit to this. Given the robust participation in Creation Station and need for more volunteers there, plus the

previous difficulty of finding qualified people for the nursery at our wage-range, we have decided not to pursue this position for the time being.

- Committee allocations need to be reviewed for the December budget meeting.

Local Mission Donation: Grimes Storehouse

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING - NOVEMBER 1, 2022

- The Trunk or Treat held on Sunday, October 23, was successful with an estimated 275 people attending. There were 25 trunks provided by our church and the Grimes United Methodist Church family. Both churches are in favor of doing it together again next year. The wind prevented the planned bounce house. It seemed that was not a big drawback because there was plenty of other things for the children to enjoy. We also discussed that it may have been hard for the children to use while in costume. We ran out of popcorn and we were able to switch to treats left over from VBS and the confirmation retreat. Next year, we will plan tasks for volunteers more specifically. For instance, it would have been easier to have a couple more people at the parking lot entrance to direct cars.
- Several names were brought up as church members that might be interested in joining the WELCA board. Current board members will reach out in the coming weeks.
- 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 after church on Wednesday, November 2.
- 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. WELCA members will meet Friday, November 11, to assemble items in the all-purpose room. Set up in the fellowship hall will not begin until after the memorial service on Saturday, November 12.
- The Giving Tree can be set up anytime after church on Sunday, November 20. Available WELCA members will meet on the morning of Wednesday, November 23, to set up and decorate the tree. St Peter will be given 80 tie tags with gifts described. Church family members can select a tag, purchase the item and return them gift wrapped or in gift bags. WELCA will meet to prepare for pick up on December 5 by the organizers.
- Ideas for end-of-the-year donations by WELCA were discussed. Decisions will be made at the December meeting.
- Treasurer's report submitted by Allison Newman:
 - General \$1,863.58
 - Kitchen \$2,077.96
 - Total \$3,941.54
- Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm. Members spent some time after the meeting reviewing items received for the Silent Auction and determining how they will be displayed. The next meeting will be in December with a date to be determined. Plans are to have it coincide with purchasing Christmas gifts for our Mosaic friends.

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!

