

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

Happy New Year! The year 2022 is now behind us, and we say hello 2023. With that in mind, let's begin by looking back at the ministry of St. Peter Lutheran Church in 2022. The year 2022 began still under the fog of the COVID pandemic. None the less, St. Peter continued to move forward in its mission and ministry. Here are a few things for reflection and celebration, as we look back St. Peter's mission and ministries in 2022:

1. St. Peter continued to show it's adaptability by finding ways to gather safely under CDC guidelines. Live streaming worship continued throughout, and remains a strong part of St. Peter's mission moving forward.
2. In May St. Peter made the difficult decision to close Small Miracles preschool. It had been a valuable ministry for children and families for many years, and for this we give thanks. The need in the community for this

ministry, however, was no longer as great; and it was time to redirect St. Peter's energy and resources elsewhere. Sometimes the end or pause of one ministry allows another to spring forth. We wait and pray for what God might have in store next for St. Peter.

3. Renewal Leave: Grant funding allowed me to take three months over the summer focusing on rest, renewal and learning. For this I am ever grateful! The grant not only covered my expenses, but funds for the church to cover various expenses due to my absence. The learning aspect, both for myself and congregation, focused on hospitality, a theme that we have continued to learn and grow in over the year. Along these lines, St. Peter was hospitable in welcoming 10 new families to it's mission in 2022.
4. Fall we returned to the usual worship and education schedule. In person

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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 from 6:30-
7:00 p.m.

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m.

*January 1 worship will be at 9:00
a.m. There will be no Sunday
School that day.*

Happy New Year!

*The church office will be closed
on Monday, January 2.*



Prayer Ministry Team January 29

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.**

worship numbers have not returned to where they were pre COVID; however, there are a couple important things to note. The first is that our online ministry expanded. Many shut-ins and others are able to join us for worship online. Also, many visitors first join us online before coming in person, making it an important evangelism tool. If you include both in person and online worshipers, we are equal or above where we were pre COVID. The second thing to note is the number of children returning to worship and education. These numbers are higher than pre COVID numbers. Considering the majority of churches across the USA are struggling with few to no children, this is a blessing for St. Peter to celebrate.

5. Choir: COVID protocols were extremely tough on this ministry. They showed their adaptability as much as any ministry. They persevered, and this past fall they were back to the usual Sunday schedule singing strong. They also ended the year with a fantastic cantata. The final song even included the tone chimes, which was something that had begun during COVID when we weren't singing. (Wait ... what was that about when one thing ends or pauses, something new springs forth.)

These are only a few highlights, because there are way too many ministries to say something about all of them. Reflecting on these allows us to see that St. Peter Lutheran church has much to celebrate and look forward to in 2023. Indeed the future looks bright!

I'm looking forward to where the Holy Spirit leads us in the coming year. Thanks for your partnership in sharing the Good News of God's love for the world made known to us in Jesus Christ. After all, that's what all of this is about. St. Peter exists as a place to share in this Good News, and to allow this Good News to spread throughout the world.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve, Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter:

MLK Day of Service

On Sunday, January 15th and Monday, January 16th, we will hold our MLK Jr. Day of Service. We will prepare breakfast casseroles for the Salvation Army's Mobile Breakfast canteen. The mobile breakfast canteen provides breakfast to the Des Moines area homeless and near homeless populations. Each breakfast casserole feeds 10 people, the mobile canteen serves 150 casseroles each week. (That is 1,500 people). Sign up at: <https://signup.com/go/kReynzY> to volunteer or donate supplies.

If you have questions, please contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org

For youth in need of silver cord or NHS volunteer hours, this would be a great opportunity to get a few hours.



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Grow

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

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Save the Date—Blanket Sunday is February 26

February 26th is St. Peter's 10th Annual Fleece Blanket Sunday. We will once again be making fleece blankets for the patients of MercyOne Hospitals in Des Moines. We've had great success with this project in past years and are looking forward to seeing how many blankets we can make again this year!

What is the Fleece Blanket Project? These donated blankets to Mercy One Hospitals are given to patients from newborns to people at the end of their lives. They serve as comfort and are enjoyed by all ages.

How Can I Help?

1. Donate fabric – 2 pieces of fleece (each 1 1/2 yards in size) makes one blanket.
2. Donate a completed blanket! Create a blanket with your family, friends, Bible Study, Mom's Group, sports team, neighborhood group etc..
3. Sponsor a blanket by donating \$25.00.
4. Help prepare the Fellowship Hall for the blanket tying event. (This will be done on Saturday, Feb. 25.)
5. Help on Sunday, February 26 during the tying event. Never made a blanket before? That's ok – if you can tie your shoe you can tie a blanket.

Who do I contact with questions? Jill Capps at
faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org

Valentine's Spaghetti Supper Feb. 5

The youth of St. Peter will be preparing and serving their annual Valentine Spaghetti Supper from 5:00-7:30 p.m. on February 5. We welcome you to come enjoy an evening away from the kitchen with good company. This event is a free-will donation for the youth Mission Trip. Look for sign-ups for reservations at the end of January to enjoy a night of great food with fantastic service!

Myamba Minute: An Update from Our Myamba Ministry Team

We want to update you on the positive impacts of our financial support for our Tanzanian sister congregation, Myamba Lutheran Parish. Recently, from additional donations to St. Peter's Myamba Missions fund, we have been able to help a 4-year-old boy who has severely bowed legs by paying for braces that will straighten his legs. From extra funds donated during recent secondary school scholarship drives, we have also been able to send funds for 6 post-secondary student scholarships. These post secondary students are earning degrees in accounting, rural development, pharmacy, teaching, and general science. We are thankful to God for the generosity of our congregation and the positive impact it is having in Myamba.



The St. Peter Myamba Ministry Team

Quarter Tube Donation

We recently donated the contents of the quarter tube in the amount of \$124.61 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 usually meets the first Sunday of the month. Contact Bradley Fasse with any questions, and join the Men's Group Facebook page for the latest 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.

St. Peter Lutheran Church Office Hours

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

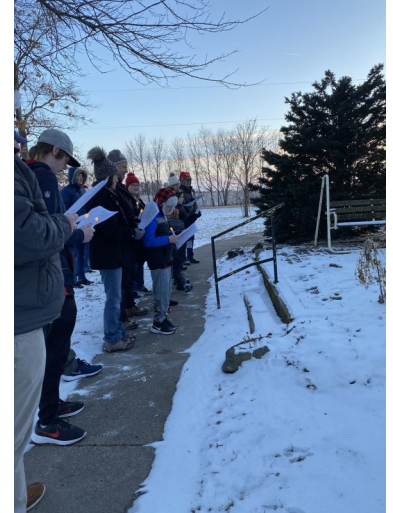
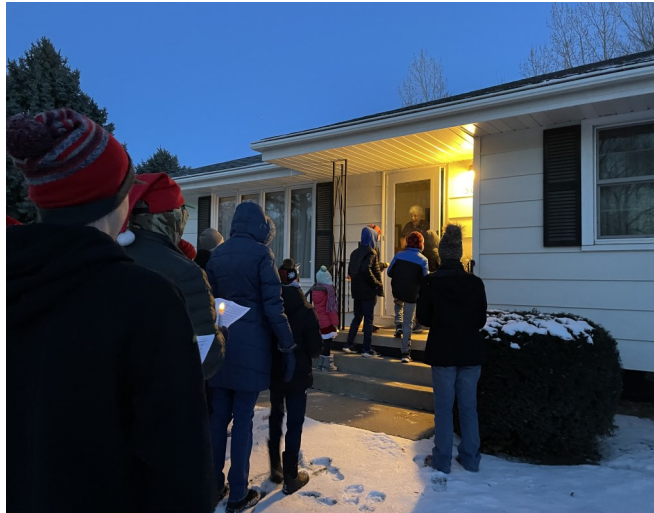
Jill Capps —
Jill's day off is Friday.

Pastor Mark Schlenker
Pastor's day off is Friday.

Sunday School Supplies

Sunday school is collecting wrapping paper tubes through January 8th that will be used for future lessons. If you have to donate, please place them in the collection box in the 3 year old classroom. Thanks!

Some Recent Highlights at St. Peter:



St. Peter Carolers brought sang carols and brought treats to some of our members.



Sunday School children presented the Christmas Story and shared songs on Dec. 11.



Confirmation students collected Christmas morning items for the Grimes Storehouse and presented the Christmas story at Wednesday worship on Dec. 14.

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:

Bottled Juice (Apple/Orange (64oz.) plus V-8 & Tomato Juice)
Pinto Beans and Pork-n-Beans
Granola Bars
Skillet Dinners (Beef/Tuna/Chicken)
Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes
Variety of Large Cans of Soup
Cup of Soup Individual Cups
Canned Pineapple
Canned Mandarin Oranges
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Minute Rice & Rice-a-Roni
Saltine, Ritz & Graham Crackers
Mac-n-Cheese Individual Cups
Canned Potatoes & Sweet Potatoes
Miscellaneous Meat Sides (Beef Stew/Spam/Canned Ham/Jerky)
Boxed Gelatin & Boxed Instant Pudding



PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS –

LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

Laundry Soap (Small/Medium/Large)
Liquid Body Wash
Body/Hand Lotion
Shaving Cream
Shampoo
Conditioner
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

November 2022

Income: \$21,101.72
Expense: \$31,701.16
Net Loss: (\$10,599.44)

YTD

Income: \$245,850.78
Expense: \$298,012.38
Net Loss: (\$52,161.60)

- General Fund--November 2022, Expenses were more than monthly income thus it finished with a loss of (\$10,599.44).
- General Fund YTD-- November 2022, Expenses were greater than income thus it finished with a loss of (\$52,161.60).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – DECEMBER 12, 2022

Pastor's Report:

- Hospitality: It's really important...Not because we want to make sure visitors choose our church over another, or because we need to be the biggest church around. It's important because the Spirit has led them to our church. Last two Wednesday and Sunday's we've had good discussions on hospitality. I'm looking forward to the discussions still to come.
- Memorial service for Jo Tosh was held on November 12th at St. Peter.
- Worked with Jill in putting together a "Welcome to St. Peter" video. We did a long one introducing people to the building and what to expect if they show up. This is posted on the website and on our Youtube space. A short welcome video was also made for the beginning of the livestream to welcome and invite people to join us for Christmas Eve worship online or in person at 4, 6 or 9 pm.
- We also worked on two different postcards. When I say "we", I mean we discussed it and she worked her magic in putting it together. One postcard we'll give members to hand out and invite friends, colleagues or neighbors to Christmas Eve worship. The second one is a card to hand out at Christmas Eve worship saying something like, "Thanks for joining us for worship. Join us in 2023 with some of these ministries...a number of ministries are listed.
- Enjoyed leading one MS youth group with Jill last month while Matt was out of town. Fun group of youth...they have a lot of energy.
- I have also talked with Matt about the mission trip, and plan on attending this year.
- Great seeing all the kids lead yesterday in worship. Looking forward to the confirmation students leading this Wednesday at worship, and the Cantata next Sunday.
- Began coaching Ashton's basketball team with Grimes Park and Rec. We will have one evening practice during the week and one game on Saturday's for the next couple months.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- Hospitality/Welcome:
- I recorded a welcome video from Pastor Mark that I have posted to our website and YouTube channel. I will record a second video of Pastor Mark inviting people to join us for Christmas Eve worship.
- I created a "Join us for Christmas Eve" card that will be available for members to pick up and share with friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. I also created a "Thank you for Joining Us" card that will be handed out following Christmas Eve services with our worship schedule on the front and our upcoming events on the back
- I will create a video of the Sunday School children singing that will be shared during our Christmas Eve worship services.
- Misc.:
- Choir has been having issues with the CD player in the sanctuary, so I have spent some time troubleshooting and ultimately selecting a new component CD player to replace it. A St. Peter family that chooses to remain anonymous has generously donated the funds to purchase this.
- I will be adding additional information about giving options to our weekly live-stream email and slides at the request of our Stewardship committee.
- Faith Formation:
- We held our 2nd annual Gingerbread House build on Sunday, Dec. 4 following 10:30 worship. We had 24 families in attendance.
- The Thursday afternoon Bible study began meeting in October. At our November meeting, we decided to meet twice a month beginning in January, so we will meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 1:00-2:30 p.m. We have had between 9 and 13 people attend the study.
- Confirmation:
- We will finish our study on Martin Luther & the Small Catechism in November and will begin our study on the Life of Jesus. The youth will present the Christmas Story during the Wednesday, December 14th worship service.
- For their November & December service project the youth are focusing on a project with the Grimes Store-

house. The students are collecting change and supplies for Christmas morning breakfast and to fill stockings for the youth whose families receive support from the Storehouse.

- Creation Station: Creation station continues to be well attended. We will not have Creation Station during the Cantata, Christmas Eve, or Christmas day; instead, I will provide an activity that the children can take into worship with them.
- Soundboard—Wednesday: Special thanks to Joe Johnston & Family, and Amy Short for running soundboard on Wednesday evenings for worship.
- Livestream—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. You may notice some of the video appears grainier than usual, this is due to the lighting in the sanctuary. Our camera system relies on balanced light, we should see an improvement when the burned-out lightbulbs in the sanctuary are replaced.
 - “Free Advertisement/Publicity for St. Peter” – Just another reminder to please follow our St. Peter Facebook page & like our posts – this is the cheapest (it’s free) and easiest way (just click) to spread the word about the great things happening at St. Peter. Each time you click on a post, like a post, or share a post, it increases the number of people who see our posts. Such an easy way to encourage people to visit or remind those we haven’t seen in a while, why St. Peter is such an amazing church.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group met twice during November. I led one gathering, and Pastor Mark and Jill covered for me while I was on vacation. I am grateful for Jill leadership in helping me on Wednesday nights with our large group.
- High school Youth Group met three times during the month of November. We had a devotion night, game night and Friendsgiving.
- I held a Mission Trip informational meeting in November. I expect 50+ youth to join us next summer. I also have more parents interested than I have ever have. We will begin our monthly Mission Trip meetings in January.
- December will include traditional Youth Group gatherings, participating in caroling and hold our Christmas parties for each group. We will take a holiday break beginning December 22nd, and will resume with middle school Youth Group on January 4th.

Treasurer's Report:

- Tax forms were sent to claim an Employee Retention Credit for almost \$32,000 based on two quarters of payroll taxes in 2021; this was prepared by the Timmins, Jacobsen & Strawhacker, LLP accounting firm and will likely take many weeks to receive the payment.
- October and November Financials were approved

Budget Discussion: Discussion of the 2023 budget for presentation to the congregation

Stewardship :

- The Committee shared the binder with time & talent sheets received for identifying volunteers; shared the need for Christmas eve offering tellers. Thank you letters are going out for pledge drive – 74 pledges out of about 215 households in the church – total pledged is higher than 2021.

Building & Grounds

- The committee changed out burnt out lights this month and will put out a banner before Christmas Eve

Education:

- No report this month

Evangelism:

- Cake reception on 11/13 with Bishop Current went well; the committee is looking at a welcoming activity and

handing out candy canes with a note for Christmas eve and looking at Council members to hand these out after each service. They have an appointment later this week with the church directory representative and hope to outline and proof soon.

Worship & Music :

- A new CD player has been purchased for the Sanctuary. It was installed and works great! It was given as a donation from a member who wishes to remain anonymous. A new ear and mouthpiece for pastor's mic has been ordered. It had been shorting out. We are still looking for a new host coordinator.

Old Business:

- City update for James St/11 St. extension project: Amy shared that Alex Pfaltzgraff from the City of Grimes presented first drafts of site plan options for the church to Pastor Mark, Benji Rouse, Mike Martin, Amy & Billi on 12/5. He will update the plans with the group's feedback and share updated plans and provide a purchase agreement. Council will review in January with a detailed update to the congregation in February.

New Business:

- Executive Committee Members/ Officer Vote: Danielle Rusch has requested that a replacement be found for her position as Vice President. Eric Soultz was approved by Council to serve as Vice President through July 2025 on the Executive rather than the Stewardship Committee. He and Andrew have reached out for a Stewardship Committee replacement and hope to have someone in place for the January meeting.

Local Mission Donation: CFUM

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!





HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING DECEMBER 15, 2022

- The WELCA board meeting was held Thursday, December 15, and began at 6:05 pm at Hacienda Vieja. Members met for dinner before going to WalMart shopping for Christmas gifts for our Mosaic friends.
- Members present were Sue Dooley, Allison Prohaska, Amy Dickkut, Kellie Heiken, Allison Newman, Carol Eilers and new member, Ellie Weiss. New member, Nicole Jespersen,
- was unable to attend.
- Items from the coat and sleeping bag drive in October were delivered to the Clothes Closet at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church on November 3. They were well received and amounted to 6 large bags of donations.
- The Silent Auction, held November 13, was successful again this year. There may still be a bit more if any people want to join the two parties.
- Baskets/Parties - \$3,416
- Bake Sale/Donations - \$259
- Freezer Sale - \$440
- Total \$4,115
- The Giving Tree went very well again this year. The original allotment of tie tags were selected quickly, so additional ones were acquired, which were also filled. All gifts were returned wrapped to St Peter and gathered on December 7 for organizers to pick up for distribution to the intended individuals.
- Ideas for end-of-the-year donations by WELCA were discussed further. Final decisions will be made at the next meeting.
- Treasurer's report submitted by Allison Newman:
 - General \$5,663.85
 - Kitchen \$2,306.59
 - Total \$7,970.44
- Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 pm. Members then shopped for items on the wish lists of the eight Mosaic residents as well as for the two homes where they reside. The plan is to wrap these items between church services on December 18. Delivery will be coordinated with the homes and occur in the days before

2022 Contribution Statements

Contribution statements will be available at St. Peter in January. Any statements not picked up by January 23 will be mailed to members' homes. Thank you for your generosity and support of the ministries of St. Peter!



2023 Flower Chart Is Posted

If you would like to share an altar arrangement on a special Sunday in 2023, please sign up on the Flower Chart clipboard that is posted on the Service Board in Fellowship Hall. Arrangements cost \$40 and will be made to match the liturgical colors of the church year.