

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

We will be entering two different seasons in the church calendar year in the month of February. The first three weeks in February we will enter the Season of Creation. Last year was the first year that we included a Season of Creation into the church calendar year. We focused on four different aspects of God's good creation: oceans, animals, storms, and cosmos. This year we will focus on three different aspects of creation: forests, land, and rivers. The first article of the Apostles Creed states, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth." The Season of Creation offers us the opportunity to praise God as creator, give thanks for the gift of creation, and explore ways we are called into participation in caring for this good creation. "God's work. Our Hands" we say in the ELCA. Our worship and adult education

Sunday mornings will be focused around this theme for the first three weeks of February.

February 22nd is Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent in the church calendar. This year for Lent we will be exploring the theme "Unfinished: Discovering God's Call in the Not Yet." The church by its very nature, and we as people of faith, live our whole lives in the space between no longer and not yet. Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed, we dwell in the space between the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the final fulfillment of God's hope-filled promises. In this space between, we dwell in the unfinished as unfinished people. As John reminds us, "we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed." But we are not left alone in this space between no longer and not yet. We are not left alone to navigate

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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.

Ash Wednesday worship will be at
6:30 p.m.

this unfinished life by ourselves. God is here—present-tense, each and every day—calling to us, accompanying us, renewing and recreating us, over and over again. One way that we can lean into and honor this space between no longer and not yet is to engage in spiritual practices that both invite us to be attentive to God's present-tense call and nourish God's relationship with us. This Lent, you are invited into the spiritual practice vocare, a practice designed to help you discover and embrace various ways that God calls you in everyday life so that even amid the not yet, you can more intentionally live life on purpose for the common good.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday with a reminder of our shared, called, baptismal life and culminating on Easter Sunday with the call to practice resurrection, each week will add a new guiding word of the vocare practice and practical ways to engage vocare in your personal life, your circle of relationships, and in the congregation. I look forward to exploring these themes and growing in our faith together.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter:

New Member Welcome February 5

We will welcome new members to St. Peter on Sunday, February 5, at 10:30 worship. We invite all to join us after worship for fellowship with our newest members!



Spaghetti Dinner

February 5, 5:00—8:00 p.m.

The Youth of St. Peter will be preparing and serving their annual Spaghetti Dinner the evening of Sunday, February 5th. This is an event that everyone looks forward to. The food is fabulous, as well as the service. Come and enjoy an evening away from your kitchen! A free-will donation will be taken for the meal. Help support the youth as they raise funds for their summer mission trip the week of July 22-29 to serve in the Altoona, Pennsylvania, community.

Reservation sign-ups will be posted at the church and on this website: <https://signup.com/go/FbKkwxw> Sign-up for the time slot that works best for you. You may also call the church office at 986-3077 or email us at stpeter@stpeterofgrimes.org and we will be happy to help make your reservation.



Prayer Ministry Team February 26

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.**

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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 okay – if you can tie your shoe you can tie a blanket.

Who do I contact with questions? Jill Capps at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org or Allison Newman at allisonknewman@yahoo.com.



Semi-Annual Meeting February 12

Join us February 12 at 11:30 a.m. for our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting. The 2023 budget will be discussed for approval along with other items of interest to the congregation.

Annual Reports for 2022 will be available January 29. If you would like to discuss the projected 2023 budget, please attend the **Budget Forum Sunday, February 5, at 9:15 a.m.**

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.

Bible Study Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

Looking for a way to grow in your Faith? Join us for a Bible Study on the Book of Proverbs. We meet twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursday from 1:00pm-2:30pm. ALL are welcome!

Questions? Contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org



Myamba Minute

January marks the beginning of the school year for our Tanzanian friends in Myamba Parish. In early January, St. Peter wired funds to Myamba in anticipation of the start of the academic year. With the support of our congregation and friends of St. Peter, we funded scholarships for 95 students to attend secondary school. This included school fees, notebooks, pens, Bibles, and hot lunch for students, along with playground balls for each of the three schools.

Sunday School offerings and additional scholarship funds were used for scholarships for four girls—Elizabeth, Ester, Raheli, and Grace—to cover room and board at Mwanga School for the Deaf, including school fees, uniforms, and transportation for the girls and playground balls for the school.

St. Peter's confirmation students collected an offering last fall that was donated to the Myamba Lutheran Parish Confirmation Program.

WELCA gifted funding for feminine hygiene products for secondary school girls so that they can continue with school while menstruating.

St. Peter also sent our budgeted Myamba Missions support for July-December, which is used to meet the needs of Myamba Parish.

Thank you for your support of these programs that share God's love and resources with our sisters and brothers in Christ!

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.



Some Recent Highlights at St. Peter:



St. Peter volunteers made 83 breakfast casseroles for the Salvation Army's Mobile Breakfast Canteen, which serves breakfast to Des Moines' homeless or near-homeless populations.



Sunday School students participated in several interactive Sunday School lessons, and Pastor Mark even got to help out with the egg drop!



Middle School Youth Group participants enjoyed their annual Christmas party!

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

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.

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 Meghan Reingardt.

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:

Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes
Canned Chicken (12.5 oz.)
Spaghetti
Saltine Crackers
Boxed/Bags of Cereal
Canned Pineapple
Canned Mandarin Oranges
Cartons of Stock or Broth (Chicken, Beef or Vegetable)
Minute Rice & Rice-a-Roni
Cup of Soup Individual Cups
Mac-n-Cheese Individual Cups
Bottled Juice (Apple (64oz.) plus V-8 & Tomato Juice)
Variety of Large Cans of Soup
Boxed Potatoes (Au gratin, Scalloped, Julienne)
Skillet Dinners (Beef/Tuna/Chicken)
Miscellaneous Meat Sides (Beef Stew/Spam/
Canned Ham/Manwich/Jerky)



PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS –

LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

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

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Eric Soult

December 2022

Income: \$62,436.39
Expense: \$26,000.70
Net Gain: +36,435.69

2022

Income: \$308,287.17
Expense: \$324,013.08
Net Loss: (\$15,725.91)

- General Fund—December 2022, Income was more than monthly expenses, thus it finished with a gain of +36,435.69.
- General Fund YTD— December 2022, Expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss for the 2022 year of (\$15,725.91).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 12, 2023

Pastor's Report:

- The Advent/Christmas season is always a wonderful time of year. It's also a time full of various seasonal ministries taking place. The children have their Christmas program in worship, as do the confirmation students. The choir has the cantata. Youth Christmas parties. Gingerbread house making following worship one Sunday. All went very well, and grateful to all who helped make them happen.
- Christmas Eve candlelight services went well. Always a joy to celebrate together the gift of God's love being born in the Christ child. Christmas Day fell on Sunday, so we had one service at 9:00 am. Good thing we only had one service, as it was rather sparse in attendance. Not surprising, since we don't typically have Christmas Day worship, it is not part of people's normal traditions.
- New Year's Day fell on Sunday as well. Again, good thing we had one worship, as it was sparsely attended too.
- This past Sunday we were back to the usual schedule and rolling again with 2 worships and education hour, with livestreaming 8:00 worship.
- Planning now for the upcoming months. Season of Creation in February, and then Lent.
- I led a discussion on Hospitality on Wednesdays and Sundays during Advent, using the book "Becoming a Welcoming Church" as a guide. We had some great discussions. Various conversations over the last month I've heard things like, "You know, thinking of hospitality..." Good to hear the theme has got people thinking and contemplating how to improve on being hospitable.
- I look forward to the continued discussions with council in the coming months.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- Confirmation: This fall the confirmation students have learned about Martin Luther & the Small Catechism and started their unit on the Life of Jesus. In November and December, the youth donated items for "Christmas Morning" for families served by the Grimes Storehouse. They filled 45 stockings for the children served by Grimes Storehouse and collected pancake mix, syrup, juice, and personal care items for them as well.
- Creation Station: In lieu of Creation Station I created activity books for the children for the Christmas Eve & Christmas Day worship services. Creation station continues to be well attended and we have added a couple new volunteers as well.
- Thursday Afternoon Bible Study: In October we started the Thursday afternoon Bible study back up. Initially we planned to meet once a month, but at the request of those attending, we will begin meeting twice a month starting in January (on the 2nd and 4th Thursday). We have had between 9 and 14 people attend; it is great to have this ministry back up and running again.
- Hospitality: I worked with Pastor Mark to record videos of him welcoming people to St. Peter and inviting them to Christmas Eve services. I then edited the videos which were shared on our website, YouTube channel and during live streams of the worship services. In addition, I created cards that were distributed during VBS and Advent inviting people to join us for worship and service & fellowship activities.
- MLK Day of Service – Breakfast Casseroles: On Martin Luther King Jr weekend members of St. Peter will once again prepare Breakfast casseroles for the Salvation Army's mobile breakfast canteen. The mobile breakfast canteen provides a warm meal to the Des Moines area homeless and near homeless populations. This program used to provide a meal 2 times a week, but in May of this year they added a 3rd day to help address the ongoing hunger problems within the greater Des Moines community. We have seen a dramatic increase in the cost of ingredients for the casseroles, but I am hopeful that we will still be able to prepare many casseroles. Our goal is to make 72 casseroles which would feed 720 people (10 people per casserole.) This would amount to about 1/3 of what the Salvation Army is currently serving on a weekly basis.
- 10th Annual Fleece Blanket Project: We will kick off our blanket project later this month, culminating with a congregation wide blanket tying event on Sunday, February 26th between worship services. Please watch Facebook & ENews for more information on how you can help with this project.
- Middle School Youth Group: I have had the opportunity to take part in Middle School youth group with Matt on

Wednesday evenings. It has been a great experience. I have enjoyed having the opportunity to spend time with the kids in a more relaxed setting than when I lead them in confirmation. St. Peter has a great group of middle school students & we are blessed to have them as part of our congregation.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group met once during the month of December. We planned to have our Christmas party on December 21st, but postponed the event due to the storm. Our middle school gift exchange will now be held on January 4th.
- High school Youth Group met three times during the month of December. We had a devotion night, a game night and our annual Christmas gift exchange.
- In January we will hold traditional Youth Group activities for both middle and high school Youth Groups. We will hold a meeting for Mission Trip youth and Chaperones on January 18th at 7:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report:

- n/a

Stewardship :

- Looking for a person to take the open spot for Council & Stewardship Committee; starting to talk about Stewardship & Pledge drive for next fall with Pastor

Building & Grounds

- They have spoken with Waste Connections and negotiated the rate of our waste removal to save money on that expense; since we would need extra pickups for certain times of the year, they aren't certain yet whether it makes sense to reduce frequency. Looking at replacing the top section of the garage door only.

Education:

- Feb 12 and March 5 extra help is needed for 1st-4th grade classes;
- Need to explore options for Classroom cleaning after Sunday School and discussion of bins/ organizational system for teachers, asking them to move the bins into the 3 year old room when finished
- VBS planning kicking off with Katie Murano w/ a super hero theme on Jan 19th
- Upcoming important dates
 - Blanket Sunday- Feb 26th
 - Palm Sunday program possible with children singing - April 2nd
 - Last day of Sunday school/Carnival/Breakfast- May 7th

Evangelism:

- Portraits and directory continues and they had a good meeting since last month – need to setup pages and do cover design and choices to make, including online directory option. The goal is no later than Easter to have them ready

Worship & Music :

- 6:30 Lenten worship with all live-streamed; choir will sing at 8am service on Palm Sunday; Easter services 6:30am outdoor, 9am (also live-streamed), 10:30am indoor. Thanks to Meghan Reingardt for taking on the host coordinator role!

Old Business:

- City extension project – Reviewed the City's street improvement plan for 11th street and the expansion of James Street to include a round-a-bout; we will receive a purchase agreement and we discussed ideas and priorities for the congregation in any agreement with the city. Executive Committee, Ben Rouse, Heath Picken, Todd Pugh and Mike Martin can hopefully get together soon to discuss details. We anticipate a congregational vote will need to authorize Council to sell the property that the City is seeking.

New Business:

- Approved Audit Committee appointments: Max Bodermann, Bradley Fasse & Patrick Short (Karin and Amy abstained from voting)
- Discussion of an outreach event or open house led by Evangelism – considering tagging along with Easter egg hunt to provide breakfast of some sort and inviting people into the church.

Local Mission Donation: Blankets for February Event

Upcoming dates:

- Budget Forum: February 5, 9:15 a.m.
- Council Meeting: February 9, 7 p.m.
- Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting: February 12, 11:30 a.m.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING JANUARY 12, 2023

- The offices for the coming year will be held as follows:
 - Sue Dooley-President
 - Kellie Heiken-Stoops and Nikki Jespersen-tentative joint Vice Presidents
 - Carol Eilers-Secretary
 - Michelle Jaeger and Amy Dickkut-joint Treasurers
 - Amy Dickkut—Mission Action
 - Ellie Weiss-Mission Community
- The WELCA 2023 yearbook was drafted. Changes and items for follow-up were noted.
- WELCA discussed resource drives for February.
- Most WELCA board meetings will be held the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 at St Peter in the fellowship hall or the library.

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!

