

# The Voice



## *From the Desk of Pastor Mark:*

The season of Lent is 40 days, although technically it lasts for 46 days. Why? That's because Sundays are not considered part of Lent. Sundays are considered "resurrection" days, as we proclaim the Good News of God's love for us in Jesus, who is risen. The season of Lent is a time of self-reflection and repentance. There are many more nuances I could get into over the history and practices of Lent, but I'll leave it at the basics for now. One positive aspect of Lent lasting the 40 (46) days is that researchers tell us that is around the time needed to form new habits. Perhaps this is the year a new faith habit is formed for you.

This year for Lent we will be exploring

the theme: Unfinished: Discovering God's Call in the Not Yet. You can look at my article in last month's Voice to get an explanation of this theme. This month I'd like to invite you to ponder how you might be able to incorporate this theme into your own practices. This theme incorporates a spiritual practice called Vocare. Vocare is a practice designed to help you discover and embrace various ways that God calls you in everyday life, so that you may live life with intentionality for the common good.

### VOCARE:

- Called to Values
- Called to Openness
- Called by God
- Called to Attentiveness
- Called to Regret
- Called to Experience God's Presence

### *IN THIS ISSUE:*

- ◇ *Lent and Easter Schedule*
- ◇ *Lenten Devotion*
- ◇ *Blanket Sunday*
- ◇ *WELCA Social*
- ◇ *VBS Dates*
- ◇ *Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes*
- ◇ *WELCA Booklet Insert*

### *IN EVERY ISSUE:*

- ◇ *Grimes Storehouse Current Needs*
- ◇ *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 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.



## Prayer Ministry Team March 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.**

We will explore each of these practices on the Sundays in Lent. There will be an insert in the bulletin to take home with you for reflection during the week. Adult Education Sunday mornings will be exploring these practices. There will also be a daily devotional that will be printed for you to pick up at church and sent out via email for people to access. Along with the devotional this year, we also will have printed activities for children and families to discuss together. Perhaps incorporating one or more of these during Lent will become a new formed habit. Even if it doesn't stick as a new habit though, I believe the time spent on the topic during Lent will help us "Grow" in faith, so that we may be "Sent to Serve" the people and world God so loves.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Mark

## Coming Up at St. Peter:

### Lenten Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday begins the church season of Lent. Ashes are placed on the forehead reminding us of our mortality; yet, they are placed in the sign of the cross, reminding us that we are claimed and redeemed through Christ Jesus' death and resurrection. **Join us for Ash Wednesday worship, including the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, on February 22 at 6:30 p.m.**



Soup Suppers: 5:30 p.m. Feb. 22-Mar. 29 Supper will be served from 5:30-6:15 p.m. each Wednesday of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday. Soup and other dinner items will be shared for a free-will donation, which raises funds for the 2023 youth mission trip to Altoona, PA. You can sign up to donate items at: <https://signup.com/go/FRCjhZM>.

Worship: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Lenten worship will occur each Wednesday Feb. 22- Mar. 29.

Choir Rehearsal will follow Lenten services at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome to join the choir!



### Holy Week & Easter Schedule:

April 2: Palm Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

April 6: Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30 p.m.

April 7: Good Friday Worship 6:30 p.m.

April 9: Easter Sunday Worship 6:30, 9:00, & 10:30 a.m.

Gathered  
to  
Grow

Sent  
to  
Serve

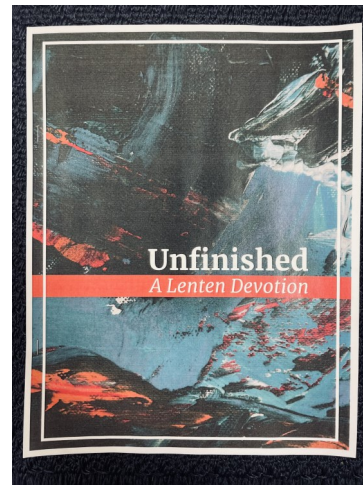


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## Lenten Devotional

Join us in reading *Unfinished: a Lenten Devotion* during Lent this year. Devotionals are available at church; all are welcome to take one home for reading and reflection during this season of Lent.



## 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.





## 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.

The 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## WELCA Social March 20—The Hall

WELCA invites you to a women's social at The Hall in West Des Moines for BINGO night on March 20 at 6:00 p.m. Watch WELCA's Facebook page and bulletin announcements for more information to come!



## Quarter Tube Donation

We recently donated the contents of the quarter tube in the amount of \$129.83 to the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry. Those coins add up to make a difference to those in our community! Thank you for your support!

## VBS Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School will be June 25-29, 2023,  
from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

*Join us for a week of fun and learning!*



We welcomed three families into membership at St. Peter in February. We are glad they chose to make St. Peter their church home!

## 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:

Minute Rice & Rice-a-Roni  
Saltine, Ritz and Graham Crackers  
Large Size Peanut Butter  
Bottled Apple Juice (64oz.)  
Juice Boxes/Pouches  
Variety of Large Cans of Soup  
Boxes/Bags of Cereal  
Instant Oatmeal Pkgs.  
Boxed Mac-n-Cheese  
Individual Cups Mac-n-Cheese  
Canned Pineapple  
Canned Mandarin Oranges  
Spaghetti & Pasta Sauce  
Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo/Miracle Whip  
Pork-n-Beans and Baked Beans  
Canned Pinto, Kidney, and Refried Beans  
Chicken, Beef, or Vegetable Stock  
Mashed, Julienne Au gratin, Scalloped Potatoes  
Potato, Rice and Pasta Side Dishes  
Skillet Dinners (Beef/Tuna/Chicken)  
Beef Stew/Spam/Canned Ham/Manwich/Jerky



### PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS –

#### LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

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

## Pastoral Acts

Collins Margaret Hach, daughter of Jesse and Lindsay Hach, was born on October 31, 2022 in Waterloo, IA. Collins was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes on February 19, 2023, by Rev. Mark Schlenker. Ian Guenther, Eric Guenther, and Lexie Hach are baptism sponsors for Collins.

## 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](mailto:faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org)

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2023

### Pastor's Report:

- 2023 is off to a good start. Ministries are all up and running at full speed. At a recent staff meeting we all agreed a highlight of the year was getting back to "normal" in Fall/Winter with our various ministries. Yes, it is good to be gathering together again without different restrictions.
- Spent time in January preparing for the season of Creation, which is in early February. We are in the second week of this season.
- Lent preparation has begun as well, which starts mid February. The theme for Lent this year is titled "Unfinished: Discovering God's Call in the Not Yet". Each week will have a different area of focus around this theme. A drama was found for Wednesday worship called "Love in the Time of Lent." Co-directors are in place as well.
- I've led a few of the adult ed. classes Sunday mornings. We'll focus the class on the same theme as worship for Season of Creation and our Lent theme. The class offers opportunities to dig a little deeper, and to have good discussions.
- We welcomed 3 new families to our church last Sunday.
- I've been volunteer coaching Ashton's basketball team for the Grimes Parks and Rec. It's been fun, and always a good way to meet more people in the community. We have 2 weeks left.
- Look forward to the continued discussions with council on "Becoming a Welcoming Church"

### Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Confirmation:** The youth will focus on the Passion story during confirmation beginning in February throughout Lent. During Lent the youth will meet with their small groups and share a meal before attending worship together.
- **Creation Station:** Creation station continues to be well attended. Activities will focus on creation during February's creation Sundays. Lent related activities will be available for kids to work on during Lenten suppers & during worship as there will not be creation station on Wednesday evenings.
- **Thursday Afternoon Bible Study:** We continue to have a great group of people attending Bible study on Thursday afternoons. Attendees are both members

and non-members of St. Peter. This Bible study is open to all; I encourage anyone to join us if you are looking for a fun, relaxed Bible study.

- **MLK Day of Service – Breakfast Casseroles:** On Martin Luther King Jr weekend, members of St. Peter prepared 83 casseroles for the Salvation Army's mobile breakfast canteen. We had members of all ages participate in this activity.
- **10th Annual Fleece Blanket Project:** Everyone is invited to join us for our congregation wide blanket tying event on Sunday, February 26th, between worship services. Allison Newman and I met with Sunday school students on Jan 29th to introduce the project. The kids created poster boards that will be used to "advertise" the project. In addition, the kids created "commercials" that will begin appearing on Facebook over the next couple weeks to bring attention to the project. We still need donations of fabric & monetary donations to purchase fabric. Please watch Facebook & eNews for more information on how you can help with this project.
- **Middle School Youth Group:** I continue to stay for Middle School Youth group on Wednesday evenings, which allows Matt and I to split the kids into a couple groups to allow for conversation and connections. I am grateful for the opportunity to meet with the kids in a relaxed & fun atmosphere.
- **Updated Bulletin Board:** Education requested use of the service board and provided information for sign-up sheets for the Service bulletin in fellowship hall, so I have updated the board to allow for those. In addition, I updated the service project section & printed pictures of highlights of Sunday school & service opportunities for the board. VBS information will be added, and information will be rotated to reflect current service opportunities.
- **Creation Videos:** Members submitted pictures of creation (land) that I put into a slide show that will be shown during our Wednesday service on Feb 8th and the Sunday service on Feb 12th. It is fun to see God's creation through the eyes of our members through pictures that are meaningful to them.
- **Technology Updates:** There have been some issues related to signal strength and interference in the sanctuary. These issues have affected the wireless microphones and the projector. My first attempt was to replace some cords as I thought they may have been worn, but that does not appear to have fixed the problem. I am now looking at LED interference with the wireless signals.

## **Youth Report**

- Middle school Youth Group only met twice during January. We held our postponed Christmas gift exchange and had Wednesday night activities cancelled due to weather on January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- High school Youth Group met three times during the month of January. We held two devotion nights and a meal night. We used our Youth Group time on the 29<sup>th</sup> for a spaghetti dinner planning meeting.
- We held our first two Mission Trip meetings for youth and Chaperones on January 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. We participated in some get to know you activities and did some planning for the spaghetti dinner.
- Looking forward into the month of February, we will hold our traditional Youth Group meetings for middle school and high school groups. We will also hold our annual Valentine's Day spaghetti dinner on February 5<sup>th</sup>. We also have a scheduled Mission Trip meeting February 26.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

- Financials from December reviewed and approved

## **Stewardship :**

- Asking church members to fill the open Council spot for this committee

## **Building & Grounds**

- Garage door repair is on-going; snow plow expectations were recently clarified with the vendor so they come when snow covers the parking lines instead of at 2 inches. Thanks to Todd for recently coming out to plow when the company did not come!

## **Education:**

- Emily Short will take a cart around to pick up items after Sunday School; the Education bulletin board is up now by the Service sign in the Fellowship hall

## **Evangelism:**

- New member cake reception went well with about 70-80 staying to attend; they are reviewing the photo directory for edits and hope it will still be ready around Easter. It has an electronic or app component that will be a great new benefit.

## **Worship & Music :**

- Rita Rosenberg and Carol Miller are co-directing the Lenten dramas again; the sanctuary piano says it needs a new battery and Kaarin talked to a tech person - these pianos usually last about 20 years. She

and Bradley are going to change the batteries and the piano is about 22 years old - it is well-maintained so we hope to have 5 more years based on her conversation with the tech.

## **Old Business:**

- Outreach event - no update yet but Evangelism will follow-up to see what could be coordinated with the Faith Formation Director for the Easter egg hunt to invite the community into our building.
- Fall Retreat follow-up -
  - Signage: Signage: Council discussed various signs to consider updating inside and outside - group agreed to try out a guest parking sign and put in signs for the Handicap parking spots. Indoor signage includes a "K-12, Library, Choir" sign for the left hallway. Signage for "Church Office", "Pastor" and "Restrooms" is also being considered along with a stenciled "Coffee & Fellowship" sign in the fellowship area. This would be a start to addressing signage as we consider more ways that St. Peter can show hospitality.
- Empty Nester Group - we need more follow-up on this next month
- Small group ideas: Encouraging households to sign up for group meals/gatherings with signup in March timeframe and to meet a few times this year. Staff will help with signups.

## **New Business:**

- Budget Forum Feedback - We will renew the building funds CD with Charter next month; these funds are specifically designated for a new building expansion project.

**Local Mission Donation:** Grimes Storehouse in honor of Denny and Elaine Knutson's semi-retirement



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 2023

- Approval of agenda, July Semi– Annual Meeting Minutes, and 2022 Annual Report
- Presentation and approval of 2022 Annual Financial Audit: The Audit Committee consisted of Max Bodermann & Bradley Fasse - Amy read their report stating that the church's finances are in good order.
- Old Business: **11th St/James St update** - The City of Grimes wants to connect James Street to 11th St to the south of the church; the City's design for this is to include a roundabout through the intersection. The current driveway would only allow for a right-in/right-out option since it would be too close to the roundabout. The City provided an option for a longer curved driveway that wraps around the current sign. Parking could be added around that driveway at the time it is put it or in the future. We provided future plans for the church that were previously drawn by architects so that we could see how church expansion to the west would look with the expanded road. The City is proposing a purchase agreement where they obtain an appraisal on land to be taken from the church and the corresponding easements and then deduct improvements for the driveway. Stormwater retention and lighting are issues to consider as we look at an extended driveway moved to the north. We need to consider how we want to respond and whether to get our own appraisal and how we want to factor in sidewalks and the crosswalk from the South Sports Complex. Some improvements may be more efficient to do now rather than later and maintenance costs of lighting and driveway would be greater. The Executive Committee, Benji Rouse, Heath Picken and Mike Martin will meet to review the factors and proposal from the City. A future congregational meeting will be needed to authorize Council to sell real estate to the City and grant easements.
- New Business:
- Discussion and Approval of 2023 Proposed Budget
- Tree project update - We need to remove the 2nd round of the ash trees for approx. \$6,000 and there is a proposal of up to \$2,500 to plant. There are no plans to plant yet and many options will be considered. It may be delayed as Council considers how the lawn will be impacted by the 11th St. road expansion.
- Small Miracles: The preschool checking account is closed and the income statement showed a loss for 2022 in the preschool fund since the grants from 2021 carried the 2022 expenses. The Multi-Purpose room has been prepared for painting by PJ Short. This will be completed in the coming weeks.
- Staff wage increase/Stipend expansion: The proposed budget included 4% increases for staff wages. Discussion included a request from the congregation to delineate the role of the Sunday School curriculum coordinator from the Education Committee members.
- The Congregation thanked Sarah Capps and Katie Murano for taking these roles for the first time in 2022 and their excellent work and time involved.
- Employee Retention Credit - Amy shared that ERC funds will be received from the IRS once they process our tax paperwork.
- The Congregation thanked Chad Wyllie for his diligence in overseeing the church's financial records and putting together the proposed budget again this year.
- Next Semi-Annual meeting date: July 9, 2023
- Potential for a special meeting regarding city expansion project



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

- The draft of the WELCA 2023 yearbook was reviewed including board members' contact information. Sue Dooley will submit the draft to Lauri Rouse.
- The toy drive will run through the month of February allowing church family members to donate gently used toys. Carol Eilers will deliver the toys to the Not New Shop at UPH Iowa Lutheran Hospital.
- On March 20, WELCA will organize a Ladies Night to play Bingo at The Hall in West Des Moines.
- Ellie Weiss researched the Brick Room for a WELCA event in April.
- Carol and Monti Miller are again willing to host a bonfire as a family social in October.
- Ellie Weiss will purchase some items as Valentines gifts for our Mosaic friends. She will reach out to Katie Flippen to determine what night would be best to deliver. Jill Capps indicated the Confirmation Youth will do something for Mosaic at Easter.
- Lauri Rouse and Michelle Jaeger will be going to the bank to set up Michelle on the account on Friday, February 3.
- The youth spaghetti supper is Sunday, February 5. Matt Schmidt is purchasing additional plates for the kitchen and WELCA will reimburse.
- Amy Dikkut purchased stamps prior to the postage increase and WELCA will reimburse.
- Purchasing and delivering a gift to some of our church family unable to come to in-person church was discussed. Kellie Heiken-Stoops is exploring possibilities.
- The possibility of holding a winter clothing drive in the spring when the last season's gloves/hats/mittens are being put away for the year. People may want to donate items that have been outgrown. These items could help meet the needs of some children in our community that may otherwise go without. WELCA board members will reach out to school guidance counselors and/or school nurses to determine the logistics.
- Other ideas for future discussions; WELCA sponsored speakers on topics of interest to women in our church family; WELCA sponsoring the Little Pantry or encouraging other groups to do so.
- Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 2, at 6:00 pm
- Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm with the Lord's Prayer.
- Note: Treasurer's report submitted Friday, February 3, 2023, by Michelle Jaeger: \$7223.58.



## 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. Go to St. Peter's website [www.stpeterofgrimes.org](http://www.stpeterofgrimes.org) and click on the yellow Online Giving link or scan the QR code printed here.
2. Set up bill pay through your bank to St. Peter Lutheran.
3. 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!

