

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

"We Lutherans are grateful when government functions as God's gift and critical when it fails ... Although we may disagree about the best ways to achieve the public good, we do not disagree about our shared responsibility to seek it." These words come from the ELCA's Social Message on "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy." We live in divisive times. Many difficult issues have become extremely polarized. Unfortunately, when this happens, the ones who suffer the most are the most vulnerable in society. Bishop Amy Current of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, which St. Peter is a part of, recently wrote a letter to the Synod speaking on this topic. I found it well written and informative. Rather than expounding

more on the topic myself now, I encourage you to take the time to read it.

In April we wrap up the season of Lent with this year's focus, "Unfinished: Discovering God's Call in the Not Yet." On Easter we remember that we are "Called to Resurrection." Each day is a new day. Each day we are claimed, loved, and forgiven by God. Each day we arise with new life in Christ. Each day we rise called to love God and love our neighbor. Please read the bishop's letter on the following pages with helpful thoughts on how to love our neighbor.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve.

Pastor Mark

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Southeastern Iowa Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear ones of the Southeastern Iowa Synod,

I am writing to you today, at the beginning of Lent, a season when we journey together as the Body of Christ returning to God in repentance and focusing on practices of fasting, prayer, and charity. It so happens that the season of Lent often aligns with legislative sessions at the state and federal levels. I give thanks for elected leaders, their staff, and all engaged in public service. It is the practice of communities of faith to pray for “the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the Gospel; for the well-being of creation; for peace and justice in the world, the nations, and those in authority, the community; for the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely, and all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; for the congregation, and for special concerns, and for with thanksgiving for the faithful departed.” (ELW p. 105-106) I hope in the season of Lent and throughout the year, we pray for public servants, for those in authority, and for the complex world in which they govern.

It is also the call of all Christians to engage, pay attention, and to live in the world around us. We, as Lutheran Christians, believe that in our baptism, we have been claimed, named, forgiven, promised new life, and gifted as a child of God and in this life of faith, we are called to live in the “covenant God made with us in holy baptism: to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth” (ELW p. 236)

So, Bishop, why does the church need to be political? I hear this question and comment often. And in this extremely divided and politically charged time in our history, I understand the desire to keep politics out of the church and keep the church out of politics. There is a strong desire to tend to our own personal problems, to keep our heads down, and to avoid potential disagreement, especially at church but also in families, workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods. I get it. There are times when I want it all to go away too.

Yet, our “ELCA social teaching holds that all residents of the United States have a responsibility to make government function well—not to abandon our democracy but to engage it in a spirit of robust civic duty. For Lutherans, this responsibility is lived out as a calling from God, expressed in the discipleship described in our baptismal promises. It is based on our understanding of how God governs human society.”¹

¹ELCA. “Government and Civic Engagement Social Message.” 2017.

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Government_and_Civic_Engagement_Social_Message.pdf?_ga=2.186583918.654093864.1677259457-1290446844.1667410172

This doesn't mean that we are all called to be activists, elected officials, or to center our mission and ministry around government policies, legislation, and politics. Instead, we are called to pay attention, to pray, to be engaged, and to keep our eyes on the Good News of Jesus which prompts "Lutherans to ask one simple but all-encompassing question: is the neighbor being served?"²

That question has many possible answers. We will not always agree on what it means to serve the neighbor. But I hope that we are led by the commandment to love God and love neighbor. (Mark 12:30-31) Advocating for justice and standing with those who are poor and vulnerable is part of our baptismal call to serve. I invite you to take a look at the [ELCA Social Message on Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy](#) I encourage you to consider studying it within your congregation.

I would like to remind you about the group, [Braver Angels](#), "which brings conservatives and progressives together on equal terms to understand our differences, find common ground where it exists, and help the country we all love find a better way." The Iowa chapter provided a workshop at our 2022 Synod Assembly. You might consider inviting them to our congregation to engage in conversation.

I would like to invite you to Lutheran Day on the Hill on March 14. Lutherans from across Iowa, with our partners at Lutheran Services in Iowa, will gather at the Capitol to amplify, advocate, empower our voices and our state officials. This year's three main issues are, support for Iowa's mental health system, investing in a strong Human Services workforce, and support for services that empower refugees and immigrants. It is a great way to learn about advocacy, meet your legislators and state officials, and learn about Lutheran Services in Iowa. [Register here.](#)

I would like to encourage you to consider reaching out to your local, state, or federal officials. [You can find their emails here.](#) Let them know your opinion and share with them how you are concerned about how different issues that arise "serve the neighbor." I would also like to introduce you to [ELCA Advocacy](#) for more information and opportunities for advocacy.

Lutheran Christians represent a whole spectrum of folks. Southeastern Iowa Lutherans cover a broad spectrum of opinions. Some Lutherans will not be interested in this conversation. Some Lutherans will choose to run for office. Some Lutherans will vote regularly. Some Lutherans will speak out on issues that they are passionate about. Some Lutherans will think this is too political. All of these are valid ways to live as Lutherans in the world. All of us are beloved children of God, loved, forgiven, and free to live as God created us in this world. We are all called to love God and love our neighbors. Thanks be to God.

² Ibid.

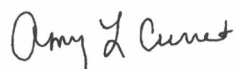
A whole host of proposed laws are being considered during the legislative session. I am asked often to speak on a whole variety of topics. I do participate as a citizen in writing to our legislators, voting, and learning about issues that center on the love of neighbor. I am choosing to equip you, my fellow Lutherans, with the information so that you might choose to speak about the matters that touch your hearts.

There are two issues in Iowa (and I am sure that there are many more that you might care about deeply) that I would like to raise to your attention - SNAP benefits and anti-LGBTQIA legislation. They are expanded on below. We may disagree on many things but I hope you will take time to look into these matters that I believe do not serve some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Let us pray,

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and, through our struggle and confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; so that, in your good time, every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Peace in Christ,



Bishop Amy Current

About SNAP benefits legislation

A recently introduced Iowa House and Iowa Senate bill proposes some major changes to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP (historically called “food stamps”) in our state. According to the USDA, About 7% of Iowa households are food insecure and about 40% of those households include children. In Iowa about 1 in every 9 children in Iowa receive SNAP (food stamp) benefits.³ Regional and local food banks have reported high levels of use since the

³ USDA. “State SNAP Factsheet - Iowa.” 2020. <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/snap-state-factsheet-ia.pdf>

beginning of the pandemic in 2020.⁴ Through this supplemental assistance, an average of 57,000 Iowans are lifted above the poverty line in Iowa, including 26,000 children, per year between 2013 and 2017.⁵

As an anti-hunger synod, our members and congregations consistently advocate for those who struggle to put food on the table, indeed it is a large part of our synod identity. We feed people through community meals, we support anti-hunger ministries and nonprofits. We run food pantries, volunteer at food banks, and “feed the world,” at food packing events. Even with these amazing ministries, our efforts cannot feed every Iowan who struggles with food insecurity.

SNAP benefits are a federally funded program that ensures our neighbors have access to nutritious food, particularly our most vulnerable neighbors and their children. Restricting this federal benefit in Iowa ultimately results in less food on the table for those who need it most, and in a state where 11% of children are hungry, this assistance is vital for our children and communities to thrive. Jesus commanded Peter to feed his sheep, and these children, our neighbors, need this assistance for their survival.

About Anti-LGBTQ legislation

There are several bills that have been introduced in this legislative session that put LGBTQ adults and children at risk. Many of these proposed bills focus on gender identity related to children, their parents/guardians, educators, and healthcare providers preventing accommodation, privacy, education, or healthcare. Every person, no matter their gender identity, should have access to education, privacy, accommodations, and healthcare. In the ELCA, we believe that God calls us to love all people. We believe that LGBTQ people are beloved children of God. This is not a new matter in our world, the ELCA has been advocating against gender identity discrimination since 2013, “The ELCA is a church that belongs to Christ and Christ's church universal, where there is a place for everyone. The call of Christ's people today is to celebrate the diversity of God's creative work and embrace all people in the spirit of love, regardless of race or ethnicity, economic status or gender.” in the same document, “...it is important to remember the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) rejects all forms of hatred or discrimination. This includes employment discrimination against the transgender community, as stated in "[Gender Identity Discrimination](#)," a policy resolution that was adopted

⁴ Matt Unger (DMARCC). “Opinion: No justification makes sense for attempts to tighten safety net in Iowa” Feb. 16, 2023. <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2023/02/16/iowa-attempts-tighten-safety-net-not-justified/69907786007/>

⁵ Bread for the World. “State Factsheet - Iowa” <https://www.bread.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Iowa.pdf>

by the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.”⁶ There is much fear about what is taught in our schools. Removing access to education that includes all people including LGBTQ people and education related to what different families look like, respectful interactions with others, and interventions around bullying will further negatively impact the mental health of LGBTQ youth at a time when it is already in a crisis. A recent study shows 44% of LGBTQ youth in Iowa considered suicide in the last year compared to 18% of non-LGBTQ youth.⁷ Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves. These neighbors, LGBTQ children, adults, and their families are our neighbors and deserve to live with dignity and respect.

⁶ELCA. “On Gender Identity Discrimination.” 2017. <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/7897>

⁷ The Trevor Project. 2022 National Survey. <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/The-Trevor-Project-2022-National-Survey-on-LGBTQ-Youth-Mental-Health-by-State-Iowa.pdf>

Worship Schedule

Thank you for joining us for worship!

Sunday worship is at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

March 29 will be our last Wednesday worship of the spring at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday worship will resume in the fall.

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. Our last day of Sunday School this spring will be May 7, which will be our annual Sunday School Carnival.



Prayer Ministry Team April 30

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:

Holy Week & Easter Worship 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.

*Please note—there is no Wednesday worship during Holy Week. Services will be held on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

April 2—Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. It is a commemoration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, coming in peace and riding on a donkey. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem coincided with the Jewish festival of Passover. He was met by crowds of followers and supporters who lined the road and even laid down cloaks for Jesus to ride over. **Palm Sunday worship is at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. on April 2. St. Peter Sunday School children will sing at the 10:30 a.m. service.**

April 6—Maundy Thursday is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, known as the Last Supper, also called Communion. Jesus also washed the disciples' feet as an act of humility and service, thereby setting an example that we should love and serve one another in humility. We will serve communion at the Maundy Thursday Service in remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. At the conclusion of the service, those present will experience the somber mood of the "stripping of the altar" as we think ahead to Good Friday and the suffering and death that Jesus endured for all of us. **Maundy Thursday worship is at 6:30 p.m.**

April 7—Good Friday is the day on which Jesus was crucified. Why is Good Friday referred to as "good?" What the Jewish authorities and Romans did to Jesus was definitely not good. However, the results of Christ's death are very good! Romans 5:8 – "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." 1 Peter 3:18 tells us – "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit." The events of Good Friday should be ever on our minds because the death of Christ on the cross – along with His bodily resurrection – is the paramount event of the Christian faith. St. Peter Lutheran will be remembering Christ's suffering and death for the forgiveness of our sins at our **Good Friday Worship Service on April 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

Easter Egg Hunt April 8

We invite you to join us on Saturday, April 8, at 10:00 a.m. for an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt at St. Peter - all ages of kids are welcome! To plan and make sure we have enough eggs for everyone, please sign up one spot for each child who will be participating. We will also be providing grab & go breakfast items for those in attendance. Sign up using the QR Code or at <https://signup.com/go/NHpBQDi> If you have questions or if you need assistance signing up, contact Jill.



Gathered
to
Grow

Sent
to
Serve



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Pancake Breakfast Easter Morning

The youth will host a pancake breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 9, from 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. Free will donations support the 2023 youth mission trip to Altoona, PA. We invite you to join us in fellowship on Easter morning for this celebratory breakfast!

Sign up for Small Groups

Are you interested in building connections with other St. Peter members? We invite you to sign up to be part of a small group. Small groups will consist of a group of 4 households (consisting of individuals and/or couples) who will meet together to share fellowship, life stories, and faith journeys.

- **Who?** Small groups are open to all adult members (couples and/or individuals).
- **When?** Each group will schedule meeting times that work for the members of its group.
- **Time Commitment?** It is hoped that each group will meet at least 4 times over the next several months.



Sign up at: <https://signup.com/go/zKUemrb>, or by using the QR code here. You can also use the sign-up sheet on the service board in fellowship hall. If you have any questions or need assistance signing up, contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org.

Sunday School Carnival May 7

The Sunday School carnival will be May 7th! The carnival will take place during the Sunday School hour of 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to attend, and we will be serving a light breakfast for all during this time. Kids will also practice their music and then sing during the 10:30 service on May 7th. We look forward to a lot of fun on the last day of Sunday School!



Vacation Bible School Registration is Open!

We welcome you to join us for Vacation Bible School this summer, **June 25th-June 29th from 6-8PM**. Our theme will be Hero Hotline, where we are going to focus on what it takes to be called together to serve God. Each night, your child will be able to enjoy music, crafts, games, a bible story, and a snack. They will become Heroes and discover that answering God's call together means striving for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up!

Registration for children and volunteers is now open. Registration is open to children age 4 (by September 15th, 2023) - 5th grade (entering 5th grade in the fall). To register your child, or to volunteer, please scan the QR code or visit the website:

<https://stpetergrimes.mycokesburyvbs.com/>



Pastoral Acts

Collins Margaret Hach, daughter of Lindsay and Jesse 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. Todd Ian Guenther, Eric Guenther, and Lexie Hach are Collins's baptism sponsors.

Irene Buddenberg was born on March 2, 1925, in Postville, Iowa. She passed away at her home in Grimes on Monday, March 20, 2023. Her memorial was at St. Peter Lutheran Church on March 24, 2023, with Rev. Mark Schlenker officiating the service.

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.

Blanket Sunday Update

We held our 10th annual Blanket Sunday on February 26. Together, we made 191 blankets to donate to MercyOne hospitals, where they are given to patients who could use some warmth and comfort during their stay. Thank you for your support of this ministry!



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

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.

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:

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:

Corn Muffin Mix
Pancake Mix & Syrup
Minute Rice & Rice-a-Roni
Saltine, Ritz & Graham Crackers
Pork-n-Beans and Baked Beans
Large Size Peanut Butter
Pasta & Rice Side Dishes
Canned Mixed Vegetables
Canned Potatoes
Canned Mandarin Oranges
Juice Pouches/Boxes for Children
Condiments: Mayo/Miracle Whip, Ketchup & Mustard
Boxed Potatoes (Mashed, Julienne Au gratin, Scalloped)
Skillet Dinners (Beef/Tuna/Chicken)
Individual Cups Mac-n-Cheese
Variety of Individual Meal Servings (Pasta Bowls, Cup O Soup)
Beef Stew/Spam/Canned Ham/Manwich/Jerky



PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS –

LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

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

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Eric Souls

January 2023

Income: \$22,759.51
Expense: \$27,811.63
Net Loss: (\$5,052.12)

February 2023

Income: \$23,747.72
Expense: \$30,468.69
Net Loss: (\$6,720.97)

2023

Income: \$46,507.23
Expense: \$58,280.32
Net Loss: (\$11,773.09)

- General Fund—January 2023, expenses were more than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$5,052.12).
- General Fund—February 2023, expenses were greater than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$6,720.97).
- General Fund YTD—February 2023, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$11,773.09).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 9, 2023

Pastor's Report:

- February was a busy month getting things prepared for Lent, and then the beginning of Lent on February 22nd with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday worship went well. A number of people mentioned how good it was to have the sanctuary so full ... I agree.
- Theme for Lent has been "Unfinished: Discovering God's Call in the not Yet." Devotionals, children/family activity suggestions for the home, adult ed bible study, bulletin inserts and sermon focus has all been part of tying the theme together.
- It's good to have the Lent suppers on Wednesday going again. Good food and fellowship taking place before worship. Thanks to Matt and the youth for organizing and serving the meals.
- Preparations now are being done on Holy Week and Easter.
- I give thanks to God for continually putting the right people in the right place at the right time. I notice it again and again in various ways at St. Peter. Recently I've been thankful for the gifts of those involved with the 11th street project discussions with the city. A number of people have stepped in to share their expertise in the area, for which I am grateful. Working with Jill on organizing small groups for food and fellowship similar to the one we did a few years ago. We will have a paper signup sheet and online version. Then we will divide the list into groups to gather 3-4 times in the next several months.
- I finished up coaching basketball for the Grimes Parks and Rec last week. I'm currently discerning whether to coach baseball this spring/summer since there is always a need for more coaches.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Confirmation:** The youth have been meeting with their small groups during Lenten suppers & then attending worship together. They have been working on activities & lessons that focus on the passion story. Each week they have a Bible reading and an activity that they do together with their small group. The small groups have also been serving as hosts during our Wednesday night worship services. Confirmation orientation for this year's 6th graders will be held on Wednesday, May 10th at 6:30pm.
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Education & Faith Formation will hold our 3rd Annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday,

April 8th at 10:00a.m. Registration is required so we are able to purchase enough prizes and eggs so that each child receives a specific number of eggs.

- **Thursday Afternoon Bible Study:** We are continuing our study on Proverbs. We continue to have a great group of people in the study with about 16 different participants and an average attendance of 12 each time we meet. We have both St. Peter members and members from other churches who attend this study. This Bible study is open to all; I encourage anyone to join us if you are looking for a fun, relaxed Bible study.
- **10th Annual Fleece Blanket Project:** We completed 191 blankets on Sunday, February 26th. This brings our 10-year total to 1,672 blankets. Thank you to everyone who donated funds, material and helped us tie blankets – it is great to see people of all ages helping with this project! Thank you to Dave Eilers for delivering the blankets to the hospital and to Allison Newman for her help coordinating this project.
- **Small Groups:** Pastor and I met to discuss small groups. We will create sign-ups for members who choose to be part of a small group. Members will be able to sign up online or the Service board, we will then assign people to a group consisting of 4 households. Adults of all ages (individuals and/or couples) can be part of a group.
- **Technology Updates:** Pastor noticed a buzzing sound coming from the center speaker when he arrived on Sunday morning. It appears that the speaker might have gotten blown sometime after the Wednesday worship service and before Sunday morning, or the speaker has just aged out (the speaker is original to the building so has lasted a long time). After speaking with Tim Schiller, I was able to find a speaker that I was able to purchase. The speaker was on sale, so we paid \$480 vs the \$789 that it retails for. Tim Schiller and Matt Schmidt have offered to install the speaker.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group held two devotion nights during February.
- High school Youth Group met twice during the month of February. We held devotion nights on February 19th and 26th. We did not meet on February 12th due to the Super Bowl.
- On Sunday, February 5th, we held our annual Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner. We had a great turnout and the youth did a fantastic job. We raised just under \$3,000 for the evening. Many thanks to those who

attended, provided a food item and/or helped with the event.

- March will have high school Youth Group, a Mission Trip meeting and we will continue Lent Suppers. Middle school Youth Group will not meet in March due to Lent and spring break.

Treasurer's Report:

- Approval of January financials

Stewardship :

- The restricted Building funds CD at Charter will be renewed at maturity in March for 15 months, which has the highest current interest rate

Building & Grounds

- Amy reported that Jill requested that Memorial money be used for a speaker on sale for \$480 that members could install before next Sunday's service. The prior speaker seems to have blown out last week. Motion was approved.
- The group discussed whether we are open to doing our own tree removal this round? The positives are the cost savings and the ability of members to work together/fellowship over a project like this. The main negative is potential liability of the church, possible property damage if someone is injured or a tree goes down on another property. Billi will reach out to the B&G committee for their review of our insurance policy and feedback for more discussion next month.

Education:

- Destiny to look at a few new clocks for Sunday School rooms
- Egg hunt this year will continue to be promoted to our church members and guests as we want registrations ahead of time. Kids have a certain number of eggs and similar prizes for each person. Evangelism Committee is doing a grab-and-go breakfast for those who attend so this will be more of a fellowship event. We learned that the City is doing their Easter egg hunt again this year and ours started when the City paused the event a few years. We don't want to compete with the City for the outreach event. We discussed a possible outreach event around Governor's Days and 4th of July where people park here and watch fireworks so opening up doors for restrooms, providing beverages, etc. to be welcoming.

Evangelism:

- We discussed a possible outreach event around Governor's Days and 4th of July when people park here and watch fireworks. Discussed opening up doors for restrooms, providing beverages, etc. to be welcoming to the community.
- We had a New Member cake reception on Sunday, February 5th and one large sheet cake was sufficient. Approximately 70-75 people participated.
- We are happy to announce that the information and the data entry for the church directory is finished. Thanks to Jill Capps for several church photos and to Mary Tjeerdsma and Carol Miller for their help in data entry and proofreading. Many thanks to Lauri Rouse for all her time and assistance she provided to complete this process. Unfortunately, our planned distribution date of Easter will be delayed by a few weeks. All those who provided a picture will receive a directory and we ordered about 45 extra books for others who didn't provide a picture - it's about \$7/directory if we run out and need to buy more.
- The Committee found 4 couples to help coordinate the Empty Nesters group with each couple choosing the venue and activities on a rotating basis. The dates will be shared in the bulletin and church calendar so that others can join in.
- The City asked if we'd let them use the parking lot for Governor's Day again and will put our name on a banner as a sponsor. They will clean up afterwards - we will probably want to block off the grass with a rope so cars don't park on the grass.

Worship & Music :

- Planning for Holy Week; continuing to look for worship volunteers; Minnie will be coming again this year for Palm Sunday!

Old Business:

- Approval of Council member now through July 2023: Due to Eric Soult's appointment as Vice President, the group approved the addition of Blake Franzen for the open Council spot on Stewardship Committee
- 11th/James street update: Executive Committee met with members who have particular knowledge and experience working on City projects. The City proposed using an appraised value less cost of improvements as compensation to the church for the land they are taking for the 11th St. road extension. We would like to get our own appraisal to compare to the City's appraisal. We appreciate Heath Picken, Mike Martin, Steve Schultz and Benji Rouse for their

participation and advice. Council approved the cost of up to \$3000 for the cost of an appraisal that could benefit our negotiation process with the city's. Funds could be taken from the Assessment Savings, which is composed of funds set aside in case the city assessed us at the time of the street expansion.

- Small Group Discussion - Jill and Pastor Mark have discussed and will work on sign-ups and encouraging households to get together 3-4 times over the year and perhaps will have some fellowship questions to promote discussion and connecting.
- Multi-Purpose room - Thanks to PJ and Emily Short for completing this cleaning and painting project. The room can be reserved as there is a sign up inside the room. It's used for small group meetings, Sunday School, youth group, etc.
- The Hall in West Des Moines on Monday March 20th will be ladies Bingo night at 6:00 pm.
- Kellie will update Facebook about Bingo at the Hall for March 20th.
- Carol will distribute the toys for the toy drive to the Not So New Shop.
- The Brick Room is cancelled due to timing of events. We/Ellie will look into local Nurseries to do a spring planter arrangement.
- Mosaic events will be:
 - March--Hot chocolate and marshmallows and St. Patrick's treat.
 - April--Jill and the youth group Easter items
 - May--Bird feeder and/or wind chimes and cherry tomato plants for both Mosaic houses.
 - June--summer outdoor fun, bubbles, balls and bugs.
- Treasure report: WELCA purchased some additional plates prior to the Spaghetti Dinner. The remaining balances are:
 - Kitchen — 2186.98
 - General fund — 4558.02
- Next meeting is on April 4 at 6pm

New Business:

- n/a

Local Mission Donation: Joppa



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING

MARCH 2, 2023

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 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!

