

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

May is an exciting month of ministry at St. Peter. Sunday, May 7th, we have the Sunday school carnival to celebrate a wonderful year of learning about God's love. This past year the congregation invested time and finances to developing the Sunday school curriculum. Sarah Capps was employed to develop the lesson plans, and she did a fantastic job. Kids were engaged and excited about the various activities they did to help learn the Bible stories and messages. Sarah is in college now, but she grew up attending St. Peter and was confirmed at St. Peter. She herself is an example of the importance of investing in the faith of our children and youth. Thank you, good people of St. Peter, for this investment. Following the carnival, the kids will sing at the 10:30 am worship. Matt Pries does an excellent job

throughout the year leading them Sunday mornings in music during Sunday school. It is always a joy to hear them sing their songs of faith in worship.

May 14th is senior recognition Sunday. Sunday mornings we ask for "Joys and Concerns" to share and lift up in prayer. May 14th is a joy that we can celebrate with these youth and their families, and give thanks to God for their lives and accomplishments thus far. May 14th is also Mother's Day. Before heading out to the Sunday brunch, picnics, or whatever else you may have planned for the day, plan on beginning the day with time to give thanks to God for the gift of Mother's.

May 21st is Confirmation Sunday. We have a number of youth who will be standing up before the congregation to affirm their baptism. They've spent the last two years learning and growing in their faith. Jill Capps puts

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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. through May 21. Summer worship will be May 28–September 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday evening 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 May 21

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.**

much thought, time and preparation into this ministry ensuring that they get the most out of their time together. A number of adults also show up faithfully throughout the two years to act as small group guides for the youth and journey with them in faith. One of the most powerful and moving things for me in this worship is the laying on of hands and praying for God to “stir up in (each confirmand) the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.” Jill, myself, small group guides, and parents all place a hand on the confirmand as I offer this prayer. While this group of people place a hand on the confirmand, the prayer is lifted up from the whole gathered community of faith, as indeed “it takes a village” to raise up a child in the faith.

Sunday, May 28th, is Memorial Day weekend, which is when we begin our summer schedule. Summer schedule is where Sunday school, confirmation, MS youth group, Wednesday worship, choir, etc. take a pause, and we go to one worship service at 9:00 a.m. This schedule goes from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day weekend, which will be Sunday, September 3rd, this year. One service at 9:00 a.m. is a great time for the gathered community of faith at St. Peter to come together as one in worship.

The month of May, as I said, is a wonderful month of ministry at St. Peter. I’m looking forward to seeing the ways the Holy Spirit has been and is at work in the lives and community of St. Peter Lutheran this May. Thanks for your partnership in sharing the Good News of God’s love for the world.

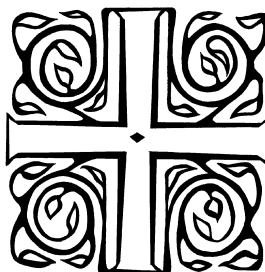
Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve.

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter:

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!



Senior Recognition May 14

On May 14th, we will recognize our graduating seniors at worship. Seniors will come forward at worship to share their future plans, and we will celebrate their achievements with a cake reception following worship.

Gathered
to
Grow

Sent
to
Serve



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Affirmation of Baptism – Sunday, May 21

On Sunday, May 21, fifteen 8th grade students will affirm the promises of their baptism at the worship service of their choice. They will publicly profess their intention to:

- Live among God's faithful people.
- Hear the word of God and share in this Lord's Supper.
- Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.
- Serve all people, following in the example of Jesus.
- Strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

These youth are not called to do these things alone but in community. During the Affirmation of Baptism Service, the congregation will "promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ." As you consider the ways you will rest and renew this summer, remember that your unique presence, voice and gifts enrich and enhance our community as we seek to live out our call to be in community with God and God's people.

Congratulations to the following who will affirm the promises of their Baptism:

Mady Brown	Ethan Carlson	Grant Davis
Ty Francis	Easton Hanshaw	Mallory Herbsleb
Alexa Hughes	Aaden Johnson	Isaac Johnson
Jack McClure	Max McMullen	Lucas Scholl
Brady Smith	Wyatt Sutterer	Danika Watkins

At this time, we would like to thank the Adult Guides who have faithfully journeyed alongside the youth during this time of faith formation:

Erica Davis	Sarah Hughes	Cindy Kreklau
Josie McClure	Katie Scholl	Abbey Witt



WELCA Donation Drive – Winter Wear

In the month of May, WELCA would like to help you clean out your closets of that winter gear that the kids will have outgrown by next season! We are doing a drive for South Prairie Elementary, and they would love your used snow boots, snow pants, and gloves still in good condition. At this time they do NOT need coats due to a generous donation. Please bring your donations to church in the month of May. There will be a basket located by the entrance doors. Thank you, and God bless!

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: St. Peter Lutheran Men's Group @bradleyfasse@gmail.com @515-971-2397

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

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.



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

Vinton "Gabby" Hays was born on November 15, 1949, in Des Moines, Iowa. He passed away in Des Moines on April 5, 2023. His memorial was at St. Peter Lutheran Church on April 29, 2023, with Rev. Mark Schlenker officiating the service.

Confirmation Orientation for 6th Graders

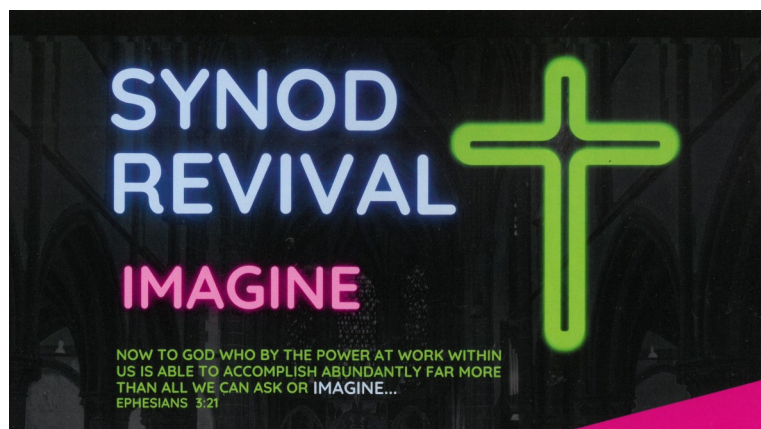
There will be a Confirmation Orientation meeting for 6th graders and their parent(s) on Wednesday, May 10th, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will last about 45 minutes to 1 hour. The orientation meeting will give an overview of the confirmation program and answer any questions that you might have. Please feel free to share this opportunity with anyone you think may be interested in attending confirmation at St. Peter. We frequently have students who either attend church elsewhere or have had limited exposure to church attend confirmation at St. Peter. It is a great way to learn more about our Lutheran faith. Contact Jill Capps, Director of Faith Formation, with any questions.

Synod Revival

All are welcome to attend the Southeastern Iowa Synod Revival on May 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Grandview University. Join fellow Lutherans to enjoy worship, music, and speakers in an event designed to nourish and connect people and to reimagine our relationships in and with the church.



This event is free of charge and intended to be a joyful, fun gathering for all ages full of worship, food, and prayer. ALL are welcome! Scan the QR code or contact the church office for more information.



35th Annual Convention and Gathering Southeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA

Join other women in the Southeastern Iowa Synod for the annual Convention and Gathering on June 9 & 10 at Stony Creek Hotel in Johnston. Registration is required. Contact a WELCA Board member or the church office for more information.

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:

Pasta and Rice Side Dishes
Minute Rice & Rice-a-Roni
Large Size Cans of Soup
Large Size Peanut Butter
Corn Muffin Mix
Saltine, Ritz & Graham Crackers
Skillet Dinners (Beef/Tuna/Chicken)
Canned Mandarin Oranges
Canned Sliced Beets
Canned Mixed Vegetables
Condiments: Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo/Miracle Whip, BBQ Sauce
Ranch & French Salad Dressing
Kidney Beans and Pinto Beans
Baked Beans and Pork-n-Beans
Boxed Potatoes (Mashed, Julienne Au gratin, Scalloped)
Pasta (Elbow/Rotini/Penne/Egg Noodles)
Spaghetti
Individual Cups Mac-n-Cheese

Variety of Individual Meal Servings (Pasta Bowls, Cup O Soup)
Beef Stew/Spam/Canned Ham/Manwich/Jerky



PERSONAL AND HOUSE- HOLD ITEMS –

LISTED IN ORDER OF NEED:

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

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Blake Franzen

March 2023

Income: \$20,163.20
Expense: \$27,295.54
Net Loss: (\$7,132.34)

2023

Income: \$66,670.43
Expense: \$85,575.86
Net Loss: (\$18,905.43)

- General Fund—March 2023, expenses were more than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$7,132.34).
- General Fund YTD—March 2023, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$18,905.43).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 13, 2023

Pastor's Report:

- Lent went well this year. Soup suppers were well attended, providing good fellowship. Thanks to Matt and the youth for organizing and serving the meals. Thanks to Bradley and the Men's group for providing/serving the last Wednesday meal.
- Wednesday worship was also well attended. We used the Holden Prayer service, which was well received. Thanks to everyone who participated in the skits this year as well.
- Devotional, adult ed and Sunday worship we focused on the theme "Unfinished: Discovering God's Call in the Not yet."
- Lost my voice leading into Holy Week. My voice was pretty week for Palm Sunday, but mostly came back by Maundy Thursday, and was fine by Good Friday. Palm Sunday was good to have Minni the donkey back. Thanks to Caleb Morris for bringing Minni this year. Good to hear the choir at one service and kids at the other service for Palm Sunday too.
- Easter services went well. Beautiful morning for the outdoor sunrise worship. All three were well attended. Loved having the choir sing and brass play at both 9 and 10:30 worship. All made for a joyous celebration of the resurrection.
- Great turnout for the egg hunt last Saturday. Thanks for everyone who helped in various ways to make that a success.
- Celebrated the life of Irene Buddenberg and commended her to God's eternal care on March 24th. There will be a visitation and Memorial service on April 29th for Vinton Hayes at St. Peter.
- Pastor reported that he enjoyed leading Confirmation on Wednesday night and Thursday Bible study as Jill has been in jury duty this week. The ELCA has a new social statement on Civic Life & Faith with 6 study lessons that Adult Ed will cover the next 6 weeks.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Confirmation:** The youth gathered with their small groups for dinner during lent and then worshiped together. Each week I prepared a lesson for the youth that focused on the time from Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem through the crucifixion. They read, prayed, studied, and even played games to remember the story. Pastor led the lesson on April 12th. Following that I met with 8th graders and their parents

for a Faith Statement preparation meeting. On April 19th the youth prepared a meal that will be served to 150 people at CFUM on April 20th.

- **Easter Egg Hunt:** We held our 3rd Annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 8th at 10:00a.m. We had over 80 kids participate in this event and received wonderful feedback. This was a group event with Faith Formation, Education, Evangelism and Men's' Group all working together to make this a fun event.
- **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 to join us if you are looking for a fun, relaxed Bible study. Thank you to Pastor Mark for leading this on April 13th in my absence.
- **Small Groups:** Members have begun signing up to be part of a small group. Members have been 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.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group did not meet during the month of March due to us pausing our gathering (as usual) for the season of Lent.
- High school Youth Group met twice during the month of March. With Spring Break, we didn't meet on March 12th and 19th.
- We held our monthly Mission Trip meeting for our youth and chaperones on Sunday, March 26th. I had a devotion, small group time and talked about our upcoming Easter Breakfast.
- Lent Suppers concluded on March 29th. During our suppers we raised over \$1,700.
- Middle school Youth Group will resume again on Wednesday, April 19th. I look forward to getting the group back together after our break during Lent. High school Youth Group will meet each Sunday in April, except Easter. We also host our Easter Breakfast on Easter morning. Lastly, we will also hold a Mission Trip meeting for youth and chaperones on Sunday, April 30th.

Treasurer's Report:

- Approval of February financials

Stewardship :

- Setting a blood drive date to coincide with the youth car wash again this summer. They are reaching out to Matt to schedule.

Building & Grounds

- AED: Todd investigated the AED battery due to daily sounds and our review of church safety at the last Council meeting. He reported that the battery is expired but we cannot order a new one for this unit because it is no longer FDA compliant. Todd found that it would cost \$1465 for a new AED unit with pads lasting 2 years unless used and would have an 8 year warranty. Council approved use of approx. \$1500 from building funds to purchase the AED unit
- Tree planting/removal: Discussed church's liability and umbrella insurance policies to weigh options of whether to do removal with church volunteers, use Boy Scouts Troop 171 for a project, or contract it out. A Boy Scout that attends meetings in our building has presented a project for our consideration. There are several steps before this would forward. Tim and Todd will reach out to Carol to discuss plant/tree recommendations.
- Garage door: Todd is trying to connect with a garage door vendor and will review previously approved expenses to get this fixed.
- A/C near kitchen needs to be replaced this year since it leaked last year - this was approved in the 2023 budget.
- A few members could work on a plan for internal signs and then stenciling - they will work on this in May/June to put together a plan for Sunday School classroom signage and other areas that would work well with current stenciling in fellowship hall.

Education:

- The Sunday School carnival is May 7th with an indoor event for games and prizes and pastries;
- The nursery is an area that no one wants to claim in their purview. Discussed a student collecting volunteer/silver cord hours to wash the toys in the week - checking on the nursery going forward with procedures in place to review. Reviewing the cleaning in there.

- Discussed the good frequency of foods in and out of the little pantry. Council is not concerned about expiring foods because multiple people have seen the turnover of foods.
- Destiny has a few new clocks to switch for a few classrooms.
- Sarah Capps agreed to continue in her Sunday School coordinator role.

Evangelism:

- Directory proof received and wrapping up.
- Carol Eilers sewed 29 embroidered pillow cases to send to last year's high school seniors.
- Easter egg hunt was well-attended and fun with so many children. Thanks to Jill and Sarah and the Committee for snacks and organization.
- Committee is helping with the Sunday School carnival and senior recognition cake reception in May.

Worship & Music :

- Grateful to Caleb Morris for bringing and taking Minnie the donkey during the services.
- Middle speaker is now installed and working in the sanctuary
- We continue to need more communion assistants and hosts; we discussed short training videos for these roles to help provide confidence for new volunteers.

Old Business:

- Parking lot signage for handicap and visitors as follow -up to hospitality discussions -Todd reported a \$308 cost for posts and signs for five Handicap signs; the reserved for visitors sign is \$69 for a post and sign. Council agreed on a drawing and decided to put in two visitors signs in the first two spots right by the entrance. The visitor signs are being donated by a Council member. We are not moving forward on Handicap signs at this time and decided not to do payment markings for guest spots as we test this idea.
- SE 11th/James St update - we are expecting our own appraisal to be completed in the next week; Todd got a bid on the west parking lot expansion to help with negotiations.

New Business:

- Website banner - Destiny and Jill asked for Council to consider a standing item in the Council agenda to change the banner on the website monthly with a current topic. This is the highest traffic part of the website. Current one is the VBS registration. We discussed having the car wash and blood drive date to be added once the date is solidified; fireworks reminder could be after those.

Local Mission Donation: Marizela Jupic Memorial Fund

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING

APRIL 13, 2023

- Treasurer Report:
 - Kitchen--\$2286.89
 - General--\$4271.43
- There was 1 baptism.
- Bingo at The Hall March 20th was a success. About 10 people attended. It was lots of fun and good to meet new people.
- Ellie shared that we need to postpone April's activity at the plant nursery.
- There was discussion about a possible mother's night out in May.
- Plans were discussed for the school supply drive. We are thinking the supplies will be for the DCG schools

and brainstormed more specific ideas—headphones, dry erase markers, eraser toppers, and supplies for specials and SPED rooms.

- Mother's Day is May 14th. Sue will order 100 daisies and roses, but will need someone in charge that Sunday to hand them out.
- In the May meeting, plans will be made to finalize the ladies' social/taco bar.
- There were plans made for future Mosaic activities:
 - May—purchase for each house a bird feeder (with bird seed and possible Shepard's hook) and a large potted cherry tomato plant
 - June—Bubbles and other fun outdoor activities
 - July—Ice cream
 - August—Money for state fair tickets
 - September—pizza
- The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 2nd or Thursday, May 4th at 6:00 at the church. The date will depend on member availability.

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!

