

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

June is here, which means we've entered our summer schedule. Sunday school, confirmation, MS youth group, Wednesday worship, choir, etc. take a pause for the summer. Sunday mornings have moved to one worship service at 9:00 a.m. from Memorial Day thru Labor Day. This 9:00 a.m. worship service will be live streamed each Sunday; so if you find yourself unable to gather in person Sunday morning, you can still join in worship with the church online.

"Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve" is something that we say every Sunday to conclude our worship together. The month of May had a strong emphasis on the "Gathered to Grow," as we celebrated together a number of milestones. Sunday, May

7th, we had the Sunday school carnival to celebrate a wonderful year of learning about God's love and growing in faith. Sunday, May 14th, we celebrated the learning and growth that had taken place thus far in the lives of our senior graduates. Sunday, May 21st, we celebrated the learning and growth of 15 confirmation students, as they affirmed their baptism during worship. Each of these Sundays provided wonderful opportunities for this community of faith to celebrate the ways that the Holy Spirit has been and is at work Gathering people together to Grow in their faith.

During the month of June we will focus our attention toward the ways that we are "Sent to Serve." Themes for our Sunday worship will focus on how we are called to serve, and the various aspects involved with being "Sent to Serve." Sunday, June

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Worship Schedule

*Thank you for joining us
for worship!*

Sunday summer worship is at 9:00 a.m. through September 3.

Wednesday evening worship and Sunday school will resume in the fall.



Prayer Ministry Team June 25

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 10:00 a.m.**

4th, will kick off the theme with Jesus' great commission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Christians are a "Sent" people. The Holy Spirit gathers us into community for love, support, worship, and growth. But this is not the end of it. We are also sent to share the Good News of God's love for the world through our words and our deeds. Sunday, June 11th, we'll hear how Jesus may call us into uncharted/uncomfortable ways. Sunday, June 18th, we'll hear of Jesus sending out the Apostles, and ponder/explore how Jesus is sending us as a community.

Sunday, June 25th, we hear Jesus say, "whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple, truly I tell you none of these will lose their reward" (Matthew 10:42). This Sunday also offers us many opportunities to offer "a cup of cold water" and much, much more to little ones as it kicks off St. Peter's week of Vacation Bible School. Sunday, June 25th – Thursday, June 29th from 6-8 p.m. will be a powerful week of being "sent" as we welcome members and nonmembers alike to join in a week of sharing the Good News of God's love for us in Jesus.

Last month I mentioned how the church chose to invest in the Sunday school ministry by hiring someone to develop the lesson plans, and I shared how that investment paid off through the joy and learning that took place this past Sunday school year. This month I'll mention how the church also invested in the Vacation Bible School ministry by paying someone to direct the ministry. Kaitlyn Murano took that on last year and did a fabulous job. I wasn't here, as I was on Renewal Leave; but I have heard nothing but glowing remarks about the job she did. She is once again leading VBS this year and has already been at work preparing for VBS week. Kaitlyn grew up attending St. Peter and is now a teacher in the Des Moines area. We don't always get to see how seeds of faith planted and watered grow and flourish. It's good to see how Kaitlyn has flourished, and we're thankful she is sharing her gifts and faith with the VBS ministry. Thanks, St. Peter, for your generosity of investing in the flourishing of the Gospel.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve.

Pastor Mark

St. Peter Summer Hours



Summer **worship** will be at 9:00 a.m. from May 28—September 3.

The **church office** summer hours will be 8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Monday—Thursday and by appointment. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you are in need of assistance or to set up a time to meet at the church!

Gathered
to
Grow

Sent
to
Serve



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Coming Up at St. Peter:

Youth Car Wash

St. Peter's annual Youth Carwash Fundraiser will be June 17 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Come and get your car washed and help the youth raise money for their summer mission trip the week of July 22-29 in Altoona, PA.



Governor's Days Parade

Join St. Peter in the Governor's Days Parade on June 10! You can walk or ride on our float, and we will have candy and VBS information to hand out.

Please note: the St. Peter parking lot will be used for overflow parking for Governor's Days June 8-10.



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

Join the women in the Southeastern Iowa Synod for their 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.

***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!

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 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/>



WELCA Ladies Social June 16

Ladies! Join your WELCA friends for this summer's Ladies Social: Taco Night! The WELCA board will provide food; just bring your own drink and a lawn chair. We hope to see you on Friday, June 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the Schlenker home. Come enjoy some fun and fellowship! Contact the church office or a WELCA Board member for the address if needed



Pastoral Acts

Dean Nath was born on September 24, 1935, in Perry, Iowa. He passed away on May 12, 2023, at his home in Grimes, Iowa. His memorial was at St. Peter Lutheran Church on May 16, 2023, with Rev. Mark Schlenker officiating the service.

James Franklin Lawrence of Chesterfield, Virginia, was born on August 9, 1943 and passed away on April 22, 2023. His memorial was at Grace Lutheran Church in Chester, Virginia, on May 27, 2023, with Rev. Mark Schlenker officiating the service.

Quarter Tube Donation

We recently donated the contents of the quarter tube in the amount of \$128.35 to the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry. Those coins add up to make a difference to those in our community! Thank you for your support!

St. Peter Lutheran Church Office Hours

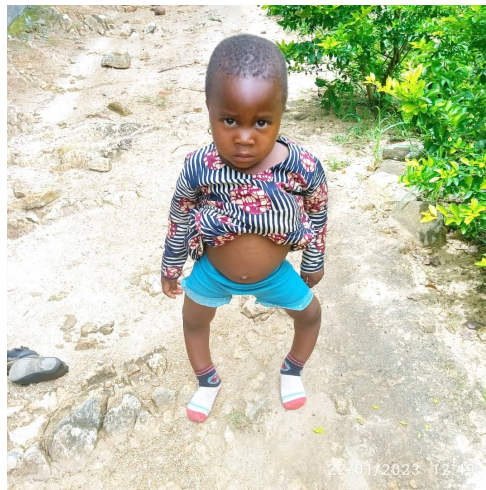
The Church Office is open
Mon.— Fri. 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Jill Capps —
Jill's day off is Friday.

Pastor Mark Schlenker
Pastor's day off is Friday.

Myamba Minute

In May, we wired funds to our companion parish in Myamba comprised of our budgeted monthly support from January through May; scholarship funds for a young man, Ezekiel, working on his third year of education for a medical diploma; and support for a family to have their young daughter, Agness, evaluated for treatment for bowed legs and the associated expenses for that evaluation. Thank you for your support of these ministries!



Agness, age 3.5

2023 Confirmation Class

Congratulations to our 2023 Confirmation class:, who affirmed the promises of their baptism on May 21, 2023: Madilyn Brown, Ethan Carlson, Grant Davis, Tyrus Francis, Easton Hanshaw, Mallory Herbsleb, Alexa Hughes, Aaden Johnson, Isaac Johnson, Jack McClure, Maxwell McMullen, Lucas Scholl, Brady Smith, Wyatt Sutterer, and Danika Watkins.



CONGRATULATIONS
TO ST. PETER'S 2023
GRADUATING
SENIORS!

May God's presence in your life give you the confidence and courage to live out your dreams.

You are all in our prayers as you move forward with your future plans!



Lydia Brown's plans for post graduation include moving to Ankeny and attending DMACC for one year before transferring to Mercy College of Health Sciences, studying to become a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer.

Ben Brushaber plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Agronomy/Seed Science.



Jacob Fistler plans to major in Business and Finance. He plans to wrestle in college.

Josh Harestad plans to attend Buena Vista University, majoring in Accounting and playing football.

Jackson Kaune plans to attend the University of Iowa majoring in Journalism & Mass Communication.



Brayden Meints plans to attend ISU this fall & major in Anthropology. He hopes to do a research project while on one of the international programs through ISU during undergrad with plans to attend graduate school. Brayden anticipates serving in either Ameri Corp (stateside) or the Peace Corp (overseas). Brayden has been accepted into ISU's Honors Program, which should help him progress towards his goals of a PhD in Anthropology.

Sydney Meints plans to attend Buena Vista this fall majoring in Rehabilitative Sciences, which is a program they've designed specifically for individuals who wish to pursue a career in Occupational Therapy or Physical Therapy. Sydney plans to go onto graduate school for Occupational Therapy once she's completed her BV undergrad. Sydney has been accepted into BV Honors Program, which will help her towards her goals of research projects to help her get into appropriate graduate schools to accomplish her career choice goals. She will also be a on the

Beaver Volleyball team this fall, of which she is extremely excited to be a part.



Caleb Morris plans to attend DMACC in the fall, with plans to pursue an Ag-Business degree from Iowa State University after DMACC.

Not pictured: Jacob Anderson, Hana Appenzeller, Ike Eddy, Drew Rankin, Owen Rupp, Dylan Rusch, Cecelia Snow, and Campbell Valline.

Carson Springer's plans after high school is to attend William Penn University in Oskaloosa to run Cross Country and Track. After high school, **Alex Sutterer** will be attending Simpson College and majoring in Biology.

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!

PB & J's for Hot Summer Days

Summer is on its way, and families that rely on school lunches for their kids' dietary needs will be needing some summer lunches. Can you donate a jar of peanut butter and a container of jelly (plastic, not glass, please!) to help feed kids that are home for summer? If so, bring in your donation to the designated basket near the service counter to help keep kids fed this summer season!



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. Some items that are always needed are: non-perishable food items, paper products, and toiletry/hygiene products.



Little Food Pantry

Anyone in need is able to pick up food items donated to the Little Food Pantry located in the St. Peter Parking lot. You are welcome to donate items as well, keeping in mind how seasonal temps might impact food donations. See the Little Food Pantry's website at: <https://sites.google.com/view/grimesminipantry/home>



From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Blake Franzeen

March 2023

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

April 2023

Income: \$23,124.25
Expense: \$26,720.45
Net Loss: (\$3,596.20)

2023

Income: \$89,794.68
Expense: \$112,296.31
Net Loss: (\$22,501.63)

- General Fund—March 2023, expenses were more than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$7,132.34).
- General Fund—April 2023, expenses were more than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$3,596.20).
- General Fund YTD—April 2023, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$22,501.63).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MAY 11, 2023

Pastor's Report:

- Nominating Committee will be meeting on May 24th.
- Celebrated the life of Vinton Hays on April 29.
- I will be going to Virginia to lead my Uncle Jim's memorial service Memorial Day weekend.
- Synod Assembly is next Monday and Tuesday. It is on Zoom this year, so I won't need to travel anywhere, but will still be occupied on those days.
- Was good to have the kids sing at 10:30 worship on Sunday. Thankful for Jill and Carol Eilers to step in and lead the youth on short notice. We've learned a lot about being flexible and adapting over the last few years.
- Mother's Day and senior recognition on this Sunday and Confirmation Sunday on the 21st. So, we finish our program year in May with some fun Sundays.
- Memorial Day to Labor Day we move to one 9:00 am worship.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Confirmation:** Our final night of confirmation with the 7th & 8th graders was on May 3rd; we celebrated with a night of games & activities. Several of the youth then stayed for our Middle school youth group pizza night. I've enjoyed attending middle school youth group this year – it's fun to hang out with the kids separate from the more formal confirmation setting. Matt does a great job with the kids – we're lucky to have him at St. Peter.
- On May 10th I met with the 6th graders and parents for confirmation orientation. This will be a smaller class, with about 9 students, I am excited to have them as part of our confirmation program.
- On May 17th I will meet with our 8th graders, guides & parents to celebrate & prepare for the affirmation of baptism service on May 21st. The youth will share faith statements and we will rehearse the worship service. This year we have 15 youth who will affirm their faith. A huge thanks to the guides who have journeyed with the youth for 2 years: Josie McClure, Abbey Witt, Sarah Hughes, Cindy Kreklau, Katie Scholl, and Erica Davis.
- **Thursday Afternoon Bible Study:** We will finish our study on Proverbs in May. Those who attend the study have requested that we continue meeting through the summer, so we will continue meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 1:00pm.

Anyone who is interested in a relaxed, fun study is welcome to join us. The readings for the study can be found on our website.

- **Small Groups:** Pastor and I met to divide those who are signed up into small groups. We will be reaching out soon to share that information. We are excited to have these groups up and running, it will be a great way for our members to connect with one another.
- **Technology:** A service tech from Iowa Audio Visual will at church soon to help resolve the issue we are having with the projector. It sounds like it should be a quick fix.
- **VBS:** I met with Katie Murano regarding VBS to answer a few questions and discuss the rotation schedules. She has done a great job once again getting everything organized, and I anticipate another fun year for all. Please consider signing up as a volunteer, and don't forget to sign your kids up as campers.
- **CFUM:** We will try to do another CFUM casserole or meal prep over the summer. When we went down in April to serve the meal that the confirmation students prepared, I learned that they are still struggling to find enough churches & other groups to provide meals. The CFUM staff are often left to prepare the meals themselves. In addition, since COVID they've been serving all meals "to-go" so they have the added cost of providing to go containers. Beginning in mid-May they will test returning to indoor meal, sit-down meal service once a week, with the hopes of adding additional days later in the summer. They continue to need bottled water as well especially during the hot summer months. I continue to be impressed by this organization and the services they provide to their community.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group resumed again on April 19th. It was good to get the middle schoolers together after our pause during Lent.
- High school Youth Group met four times during the month of April. We held devotion nights on April 2nd, April 23rd, and April 30th. We held a meal night at the Food Depot on April 16th. Also, we did not meet on April 9th due to Easter.
- We held a Mission Trip meeting for our youth and parents on Sunday, April 30th. We discussed all things fundraising. During our Easter breakfast fundraiser, we raised just under \$700.
- In May, middle school Youth Group will meet for the final time on May 3rd with a pizza party and game

night. High school Youth Group will meet twice during the month. We will host our Senior night BBQ on May 7th. We will not meet on Mother's Day, or over the Memorial Day weekend.

Treasurer's Report:

- Approval of March & April Financials
- Council members shared the financials through April with the Congregation on 5/7 and will do so on 5/14 to make sure that we catch more people in church. Eric recorded a video that Lauri sent to the congregation in between those Sundays. The goal is to reduce our YTD shortfall going into the summer where in-person attendance tends to drop.
- Billi reported that we completed the report and accounting with the Clergy Renewal Program as a requirement of receiving the funds for Pastor's Renewal leave in summer 2022; the report documents need to be kept two years in case of an audit by the Lilly Endowment.

Stewardship :

- Life Serve can not hold a blood drive during the youth car wash on June 17th at the church. Instead, the committee will try to find a date for the blood drive in the fall.

Building & Grounds

- Todd replaced the defibrillator next to the host table and he will send out the website instructions to Council members
- Todd ordered the garage door.
- Carol Clarke and Tim talked about possible plant ideas and then they'll follow-up with Boy Scouts so Alex (the Scout) can propose a plan layout and watering; to support their fundraising of cans, we want to encourage the congregation to donate cans to their buckets at Fareway. Tim is meeting with Kim Dreher with the Valley Disaster Relief organization to see if their organization is a good option for the remaining tree removal.

Education:

- Destiny brought a bin to put toys in when they have been played with and then a youth volunteer will wash these regularly
- Education will review with Jill how the Sunday School year went and what could be altered for next year.
- Katie is working on VBS registrations and volunteers.

Evangelism:

- Senior cake reception is this Sunday.
- The church directory is expected to ship on or before May 25th
- Signed up for Governor's Day parade on June 10th - the committee requests a pick-up truck and people to walk with the float and will reach out to find volunteers.
- The 4th of July fireworks can be watched on our lawn again with a free will offering for the snacks/water - visitors often want to donate for the snacks and restroom usage.
- Rob to look into the Grimes farmers market to see what vendor costs are now that it's on Saturdays starting June 3rd at Heritage Park along NE Beaverbrooke.

Worship & Music :

- Pastor and Jill to do videos on volunteer positions over the summer
- Sept 10th we go back to 2 services; Sept 13th is first Wednesday service; intinction for communion to be used over the summer.
- The committee is proposing a new staff position for a children's choir director that would go alongside Emily Wells who is responsible for the adult choir. This youth position would be outside of Sunday School and not during Sunday School time - likely afternoon or evening practice weekly. Discussed practices after church as a trial period this summer with a 3-mo stipend for K-6th grade students. We may have a person already interested in the position. Motion approved for a \$500 summer stipend to try out a children's choir director and gauge interest

Old Business:

- Nominating Committee is meeting May 24th; outgoing members of Council will call the nominees once they are provided with lists.
- Tree Project - Eagle Scout Alex needs to know if he can move forward to plan out project and fundraising \$1500; Building & Grounds to be primary contact - Motion approved to move forward with allowing the Scout to plan and fundraise for this project; Rob to communicate back to the Boy Scouts.

New Business:

- None

Local Mission Donation: Pastor Yarnell, in memory of her husband, for daughter's college fund.

Note: Semi-annual congregational meeting will be July 9

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING

MAY 2, 2023

- Sue has been working with Sarah Schock on the winter clothing drive for the schools which is being held during the month of May. Sarah indicated the most needed items are mittens, hats, gloves and snow-pants. They don't need coats at this time because they've had a large number recently donated by a generous donor. Church members can place donations in the large basket labeled for this purpose located near the front door of the church.
- Flowers to be given out on Mother's Day have been purchased at HyVee by Sue. Carol will pick them up and bring them to the church on Saturday, May 12. We'll have some of the church children help hand them out to women on Sunday morning.
- The ladies social in June will be held June 16. Bambi Schlenker offered to have it at their house again this year. It will be a taco bar with WELCA providing the food and guests bringing their own drinks and chairs. All WELCA members will bring a dessert to share.
- Ellie shared that our Mosaic contact, Katie Flippen, has recently lost her mother. Brianne Lane has been helping with our donations during this time. WELCA wants to send a plant which Ellie will purchase and deliver for us. The plans for Mosaic are:
 - May—cherry tomato plants, wind chimes, and pinwheels
 - June—bubbles, balls, and a snack
- July—bomb pops/popsicles
- August—State Fair tickets
- September—pizza party
- Carol and Sue confirmed with Katie Murano, VBS Director, that WELCA will donate money for treats on the last night of VBS which is being held Sunday, June 25, through Thursday, June 29, this year. Katie will let us know the quantity and what kind of treats they would like.
- The family summer social in August is most likely going to incorporate a bike ride with a specific destination for fellowship. That will allow individuals or families that don't choose to bike to still participate. Plans will be finalized during the June and July meetings.
- There were no baptisms in April.
- During June and July meetings, we will finish plans for the drives to be held before school begins. We will work toward specific needs which are often not met, such as Kleenex, snacks, headphones etc. We will incorporate a tree of ideas like our Giving Tree at Christmas. We will use Mary Stocks' tree (that is in a classroom now) and put specific requests on apples that we hang on the tree. We'll place the tree in the narthex where congregation members can pull an apple to take with them to be returned later with the desired item.
- Michelle submitted the treasurer's report:
 - Kitchen Fund \$2,286.98
 - General fund \$4271.43



Online Giving Opportunities

St. Peter has online giving options through Thrivent's Simply Giving Program to include one-time giving and to enable members to set up their own recurring donations through the following secure methods:

1. **Phone App:** Find and download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app in the App Store or on Google Play for Android smartphones by searching "Vanco mobile". Type in "St. Peter Lutheran" and choose our address in Grimes, and follow the steps.
2. **Website:** 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. **Bill Pay:** Set up bill pay through your bank to St. Peter Lutheran.

Please contact the church office with any questions.

