

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

This past Memorial Day weekend I flew to Virginia for my Uncle Jim's memorial service. Before he died, he told my cousin that he wanted me to do the memorial service. I was humbled and honored with the request, but I'd never done a memorial service for a family member before. I've done several family weddings, but never a memorial service. After some prayerful discernment, including chatting with their local pastor, I agreed. I worked out with their pastor (who, by the way, is a great guy and wonderful pastor) that I would lead the memorial service; and then when we left the sanctuary I would take off my alb and stole to join my family. At that point he had his alb and stole on, and led the congregation to the columbarium for the committal service. It worked out well. My Uncle was an important positive influence in

my life, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to be a part of celebrating his life and commending him to God's eternal care.

My reason for sharing this has to do with what the pastor said to me following the service. He said, among other things, something like, "I really appreciate your message being all Gospel." This might not come as much of a surprise to those who've heard me preach a memorial service, but I suppose in Virginia it might come as a breath of fresh air. In Lutheran theology there is an important distinction between law and gospel. One way to think about it, in overly simplified terms to be sure, is that the law tells us what we should be doing and the gospel tells us what Christ has done for us. Perhaps you've been to a memorial service where the preacher shares some positive qualities of the deceased

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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 July 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 10:00 a.m.**

and tells everyone this is the example they should follow. Other times perhaps the preacher shares so many of the deceased good Christian qualities that it's as if they are trying to preach the person into heaven, or trying to convince everyone that the deceased deserves to be in heaven. These would fall under the distinction of the "law," as they are focusing on the person's work. Gospel focuses on Christ's work through the cross and resurrection. To be clear, I believe celebrating the deceased person's life, lifting up their good qualities, and sharing how they may have touched people's lives for the better is an important part of memorial services. (Aspects of this were incorporated into my Uncle's service to be sure.) I also believe the most important part of a memorial service is proclaiming what Christ has done for us through his death and resurrection. It's not my good deeds or good Christian living that earns me salvation. It's God's work in Christ Jesus that does that. Proclaiming what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is what we term "gospel."

At my Uncle's service I shared something he told me many years ago while we were watching golf. He said, "You know, everybody misses. It's just a matter of degrees." He was speaking of golf at the time, but the phrase stuck with me for years as I applied it to life. To miss means I tried. To miss means I put myself out there. To miss means I gave it my best shot. As I learned about law and gospel theology I realized it applies as well. The Apostle Paul said in the third chapter of Romans, "all sin and fall short of the glory of God." In other words, all miss in trying to live the perfect Christian life. Paul follows this up with beautiful words of gospel though by saying, "and all are justified freely through his grace that came through the redemption of Christ Jesus." We may miss in trying to live up to God's standards, or the "law." God does not miss though. God hit the mark for us in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. This is the Gospel. Gospel translated means Good News. God's love for us in Jesus Christ is indeed Good News. It's this Good News that frees us to keep trying, keep putting ourselves out there and to keep giving life our best shot. We'll certainly miss at times in living up to the glory of God; but I believe we'll also hit when we do our best to love God, and to love the people and world that God so loves. As my uncle said, "Everybody misses," but to miss means that we're living. Hopefully as we grow, the "matter of degrees" that we miss gets narrower and narrower. Either way, the Gospel remains. God's love for us is steadfast. God does not miss. Thanks be to God for this Good News!

Pastor Mark

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

The **church office** summer hours are 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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StPeterGrimes](https://www.facebook.com/StPeterGrimes)

Coming Up at St. Peter:

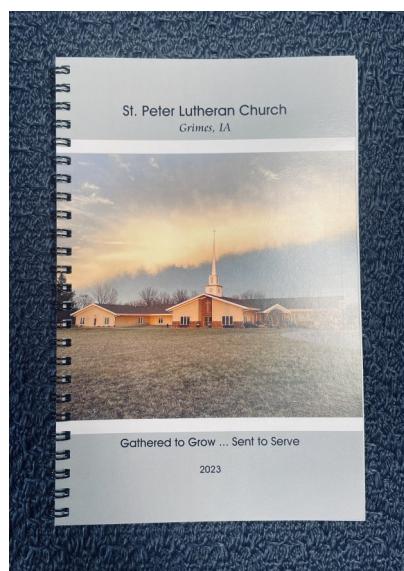
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting July 16

St. Peter's Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 16, following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. All members are encouraged to attend. We will elect Church Council members, get updates from Church Council, and discuss other business items. Make plans to attend this important business meeting!



Join us at St. Peter Lutheran for the 4th of July Fireworks!

Join us on the lawn at St. Peter Lutheran for the annual Grimes 4th of July Fireworks! Popcorn and water will be made available by our Evangelism team. The church will be open for restroom availability. Come join the fun and have a great place to watch fireworks!



Directories Are In!

Our new church directories have arrived! If you had a sitting or submitted a photo to the church office, you will have a labeled envelope with your directory inside. If your photo is not in the directory, you can still get a copy by contacting the church office.

Keep an eye out for an email from Universal Church Directories for information about a new online directory app for St. Peter!

***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 Acts. 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

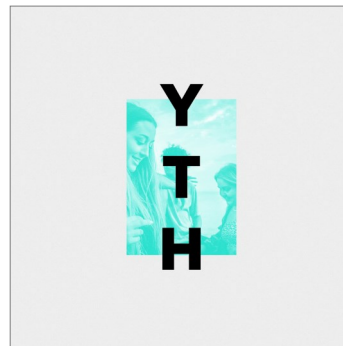
Join us for our monthly Men's Group Gathering this month! Men's Group usually meets the first Sunday of the month. Contact Bradley Fasse with any questions, and join the Men's Group Facebook page for the latest updates and news. @Facebook: St. Peter Lutheran Men's Group @bradleyfasse@gmail.com @515-971-2397

Youth Mission Trip July 22-29

July 22-29, forty-three youth along with sixteen adults will be heading to Altoona, PA to work with residents of their community. Youth and adults will actively work in the community doing household repairs and participate in faith-based activities throughout the week. If you are interested, there are still opportunities available to support their trip. Other than financially supporting the trip, you can also support our Mission Trip participants by encouraging them and praying for them on their trip.

Participants involved: Addison Morris, Alex Pries, Audrey Frett, Bailey Pierce, Ben Every, Brady Kinman, Brandon Bailiff, Brayden Meints, Brinn Johnson, Cael Johnson, Cael Ramsey, Caeley Springer, Callen Tjeerdsma, Campbell Valline, Carson Springer, Drew Every, Elli Siglar, Emily Short, Emma Malmberg, Emma Sump, Gavin Koger, Harper Gessmann, Jack Every, Jackson Kaune, Joe, Johnston, Kadin Schlenker, Kealey Johnston, Kennedy Fasse, Laura Klaessy, Macey Jermier, Mallory Herbsleb, Milo Rouse, Nathan Scholl, Kick Kessler, Oliver Rouse, Parker Stolpe, Phillip Waters, Rocco Reitano, Rylan Heeren, Sam Watkins, Sydney Meints, Tyler Newman, Will Valline, Will Weydert, Adam Springer, Amy Short, Beulah Meints, Brad Bailiff, Eric Meints, Hartman Meints, Heather Every, Kim Kaune, Mark Schlenker, Matt Morris, Michelle Sigler, Preston Pellatz, Sara Klaessy, Summer Heeren, Tim Schiller and Matt Schmidt.

If you are interested in supporting the Mission Trip, please reach out to Matt Schmidt for more information. Matt can be reached at 515-238-3053, or via email at youth@stpeterofgrimes.org.



2023-24 Confirmation Registration is Open

Confirmation registration is open for youth entering 7th grade in the fall. Registration is also open to youth older than 7th grade who have not yet been confirmed. (Those entering 8th grade and currently attending Confirmation do not need to re-register.) St. Peter welcomes all youth to join in our Confirmation program – youth do not need to be a member of St. Peter to attend confirmation.

The 2023-2024 Confirmation year will begin on September 6th and continue through May. We meet on Wednesday nights from 5:30pm-6:30pm. We do not meet during school breaks (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring Break, etc.).

To register your youth, or if you have any questions, please contact Jill Capps at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org.

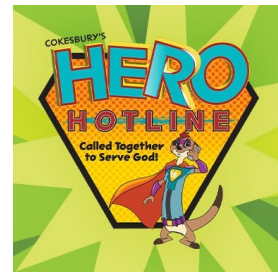


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We had a great time serving over 80 kids during our 2023 VBS week! Thank you to the many volunteers that made this a fun week learning how heroes show grace, listen to God, work together, help others, and follow Jesus!



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.



Thanks to those who participated in the Governor's Days Parade on June 10th!

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 here, 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?>



The Grimes Storehouse now accepts new/like new condition clothing for elementary aged children!

Beginning July 6, the Grimes Storehouse will accept clothing sizes 4T-Adult Small. Contact the Grimes Storehouse for more information.

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Blake Franzeen

May 2023

Income: \$74,814.81*

Expense: \$29,936.97

Net Gain: \$44,877.84

2023

Income: \$164,609.49

Expense: \$142,233.28

Net Gain: \$22,376.21

- General Fund—May 2023, income was more than monthly expenses, thus it finished with a gain of \$44,877.84
- General Fund YTD—May 2023, income was greater than expenses, thus it finished with a gain of \$22,376.21.

*Income for May includes the IRS check for an employee retention credit of approximately \$35,000.00. These funds have been moved to our contingency savings.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 8, 2023

Pastor's Report:

- May is a busy time at St. Peter, as we wrap up the “program” ministry for the year. SS end of year carnival, kids singing in worship, graduate recognition, and confirmation Sunday were all joyous occasions for the community of faith.
 - 15 youth affirmed their baptisms in worship on Sunday, May 21st. On May 10th there was a Confirmation orientation to welcome the new students to confirmation in the coming year. I went to this meeting not only as pastor but parent this time, as Kadin will be entering 7th grade confirmation next year. My first year having one of my own kids in confirmation. A fun first!
 - Synod Assembly was online this year, which I participated in on May 15-16.
 - Participated in the DCG HS Baccalaureate service on May 24th. Matt Schmidt and I were both there, and prayed with the senior graduates. Great to see several youth from St. Peter participating in leading the service at the HS.
 - Memorial Day weekend I flew to Virginia for my Uncle's memorial service. I worked with the local pastor in organizing and leading the worship. Was grateful for the Missouri Synod Lutheran church welcoming me, and being so helpful and gracious to work with. First family memorial that I have led, and it went well.
 - Planning to walk in the parade on Saturday. If you're available, come walk.
 - Sounds like the prayer tent at the Farmer's market went well last weekend. I'm planning on taking Saturday, June 24th to be there.
- meetings) and 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. We have both St. Peter members and non-members attend our study. I have enjoyed getting to know everyone and spending time having great, thought-provoking discussions.
 - **Small Groups:** Our fellowship small groups will begin meeting this summer. Pastor and I divided the 24 couples into 6 small groups, with one “leader” per group. We are excited for this ministry to begin. We hope that each group will have the opportunity to meet at least 4 times over the next few months.
 - **Technology:** Iowa Audio Visual came out a couple weeks ago and fixed the projector. As suspected, one of our transmitters needed to be replaced due to normal wear & tear. They also spent some time looking into pastor's wireless microphone and were also unable to recreate the glitch that sometimes occurs on Sunday mornings during the Children's sermon. They have suggested that we may need an extender for the antenna to be placed under the altar or pulpit, or perhaps in the ceiling. (A special, although late thank-you, to Brad Fasse, Tim Schiller, and Matt Schmidt for replacing the speaker in the sanctuary.)
 - **VBS:** Katie has done a great job planning VBS, her experience from last year has been a huge benefit. We have met a couple times to discuss VBS and will meet again this week. Council members – if you are available, it would be great to have you walk with the St. Peter float during the Governor's Days parade. Thank you to Brad Fasse & Nate Estes for putting the VBS sign up prior to Governor's Days!
 - **Communication:** I have spent the past several weeks making some updates to our website. If you have anything that you would like added, such as special information related to your ministry team, please let me know. Thanks to Destiny for speaking about this at one of your prior council meetings. Our website is a great way to connect with not only current, but potential members & visitors to St. Peter. Posting current & upcoming events helps to show the many ways that people can become involved at St. Peter.
 - **Volunteer Videos:** Pastor and I will put together a few videos to post to the website, eNews, and possibly Facebook that will help explain some of our volunteer roles. We will work on these videos this summer so that they are ready to go prior to the new ministry year.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Confirmation:** On May 17th, I met with our 8th graders, guides & parents to celebrate & prepare for the affirmation of baptism. On May 21st, 15 youth affirmed 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. A special thanks to Destiny for her help in setting up Fellowship Hall for the affirmation service and to Rob & Monti for serving the breakfast & making coffee on the 21st.
- **Thursday Afternoon Bible Study:** This summer we will study the book of Acts (spread over our 6

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group met once during the month of May. Our meeting on the 3rd was our last gathering of the school year. During our time together we held a pizza party and played kickball.
- High school Youth Group met twice during the month of May. We held our senior night bbq on May 7th and gathered for a kickball game on the 21st. We did not meet on the 14th due to Mother's Day and the 28th due to the Memorial Day weekend.
- As we transition into summer, we will continue to gather for high school Youth Group each Sunday. We will hold a Mission Trip meeting for youth and chaperones on Sunday, June 4th.
- Lastly, we will hold our mission trip car wash on Saturday, June 17th. Mission trip participants will clean and wash cars from 9-12 pm in the Church parking lot.

Treasurer's Report:

- Received Employee Retention Credit

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

- Chainsaw ministries are ready to go. Tim will work with them on dates, they were willing to go this weekend but due to Governors day thought it best to hold off. They are willing to do some work back by the trailer park and have talked with the residents about that. We can use the chips for mulch by the church. Will need volunteers to help out so once dates are confirmed will go out to the congregation.
- Tim spoke with Carol on a few tree options and has some ideas to work with Alex. About 4 trees would be the size that Alex would be able to take care of.
- New Garage Door installed
- Refrigerator: having Goodwin-Tucker come in to take a look at it. \$200+ to come in as a service fee. Will see what needs to be done. If it's too expensive, Todd has a contact that could get us a new one for around \$3200.

Education:

- 67 kiddos signed up for VBS. Ready to go
- Finalizing teachers for next year

Evangelism:

- Cake receptions
- Fellowship has been good after services.
- St. Peter Booth at the Farmer's market; Need to get some sort of pamphlet or welcome guide about our church. Need some type of handouts. Paster is meeting with Jill on Monday to look at some old brochures to see if we can update.
- #19 on the parade; starts at 10:00.

Worship & Music :

- The Children's Choir will not start in the summer but will start in the fall. Wednesday nights during confirmation Beth Hansen will facilitate.

Old Business:

- SE 11th/James St Project Update
- Nominating Committee Update: will need a meeting next month to vote in.

New Business:

- Semi-Annual meeting agenda items
- Road Updates
- Voting on people coming in
- Reminder to make sure the doors are locked when people leave.
- Website banner: VBS + Semi-Annual Meeting + Farmer's Market

Local Mission Donation: Carol Clarke for her work on the St. Peter grounds

Note: Semi-annual congregational meeting will be July 16

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING

JUNE 1, 2023

- The winter clothing drive for the schools which was being held during the month of May was unsuccessful. We discussed that church family members had probably already donated or stored away their winter clothing by this time of year.
- Flowers were given out on Mother's Day to all ladies in the church. There were about 6 left that Carol took to Kennybrook for residents to enjoy.
- The ladies summer social in June will be held at the Schlenkers on June 16 from 6:00 to 08:30 or so. Details decided at last month's meeting were confirmed. Carol will bring the Washers game. Kellie is sending out the invite in FaceBook and will do something for the e-news and bulletins. WELCA is providing the food and guests need only bring their own drinks and chairs.
- No changes with plans for Mosaic. Ellie will deliver bubbles, balls and a snack to Mosaic June 3. Future plans for Mosaic are:
 - July—bomb pops/popsicles
 - August—State Fair tickets
 - September—pizza party
- Katie Murano, VBS Director, is aware 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. Carol will reach out to Katie for specifics.
- The family summer social in August is tentatively set for Sunday August 6 and will be a bike ride after church, possibly starting at the Korner Kone and finishing at The Handlebar restaurant in Dallas Center. Riders could go further, but this would allow families with smaller children to participate. Plans will be finalized at the July meeting.
- There were no baptisms in May. So far, there is 1 planned in July.
- During the July meeting, 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. Sue is working with Sarah Schock. Sarah plans to conduct a survey of teachers to develop a list of items. We will work to benefit South Prairie Elementary this year and plan to benefit a different school next year. We will set up the Learning Tree (Mary Stock's large tree that we've used during VBS in the past) in the front area of the church and will place apples on it each displaying a specific need at South Prairie. 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 \$2,386.98
 - General fund \$4,079.12
 - Total \$6,466.10
- The next meeting will be Thursday, July 6, at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall.



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.

