

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

My Aunt Judy died this past Monday night, three months after her spouse, my Uncle Jim, died. My cousins have asked me to come do the memorial service, as I did for my uncle. I wrote about this in the VOICE a couple of months ago. I will most likely be heading to Virginia in the next couple weeks or so to lead the service. This has caused me to pause and reflect upon their lives. There is much I could say, but what I would like to share is how I witnessed the way they used the gifts they were given. Apostle Paul writes, "For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to

us." (Romans 12:4-6)

My aunt and uncle were very different. My aunt was very dramatic. She developed those gifts getting a masters in theater from USC. She further grew and developed those gifts following her dream to perform on Broadway in New York City. What I remember, though, was how she used those gifts in the church. She directed several kids musicals, which I participated in growing up. She also directed large theater productions in the church. Most memorable to me was when she directed "Godspell." It was a huge production for our little church in Phoenix. She also had a beautiful soprano voice and sang in the choir, as well as various solos. After I had gone off to seminary she went to another church and formed a music academy. Her father, my grandfather, was a Lutheran Pastor. I'm sure she heard and knew well the

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- ♦ Monthly Calendar

Worship Schedule

*Thank you for joining us
for worship!*

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

Beginning September 10, Sunday
school is at 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday worship will resume
on September 13 at 6:30 p.m.



Prayer Ministry Team September 24

Once a month, we meet in person
to pray together for those who
have requested prayers through
the prayer chain or other re-
quests. 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 par-
ticipate! **Join us in the library
after worship at about 13:30 a.m.**

importance of using one's gifts, and I'm grateful that she did just that.

My uncle, on the other hand, was not dramatic. He did not do theater or sing. He was calm and even-keeled. He was a great golfer though, so he went to PGA school and became a golf pro. His calm and patient presence served him well giving lessons on golf. I got to experience this firsthand as he graciously gave me and my siblings golf lessons on various occasions. His calm presence also served him well as he became director of golf for various courses. He had a gift of being able to converse and connect with people, which was important for the job. I witnessed this more, though, through his being an usher at church. My Mom always said, "Jim can talk to anybody." I would add to say, "He could listen to anyone," too. He was good at meeting people asking questions and then listening. He kept ushering up until he got sick last year.

I never saw my aunt golf or be an usher, and I never saw my uncle sing in choir or perform in theater. That's because they each knew how to use the gifts that they were given, and they supported each other in using their differing gifts. We are all created uniquely. No two people are the same. Even identical twins have different personalities, gifts, and abilities. It's a beautiful part of creation, really. How boring life would be if we were all the same. The Apostle Paul used the image of the body, and how each aspect of the body must function for a healthy whole. For a church like St. Peter Lutheran, everyone needs to be using their gifts for the community to function as a healthy whole. How are you using the gifts God has given you? At home? In the community? At church? The world needs you and your gifts. The church needs you and your gifts. I give thanks to God for the example and witness of my Aunt Judy and Uncle Jim. I give thanks to God for this church, St. Peter Lutheran, where people for generations have come together, sharing their gifts for the greater good. September is when St. Peter kicks off the new "program" year. Sunday school, choirs, confirmation, youth group, two Sunday morning worship times and one Wednesday worship, as well as other ministries all begin in September. Plenty of opportunities to use your gifts. Check out the Voice, eNews, Sunday bulletin, Service Board in Fellowship Hall, or ask one of the staff or council members if you are wondering how you might best use your gifts to serve this year. Keep up the good work identifying, developing, and using your gifts.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve.

Pastor Mark

So we, who are many,
are one body in Christ

Romans
12:5

Gathered
to
Grow

Sent
to
Serve



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Coming Up at St. Peter

Confirmation Kick-Off September 6

Planning is underway for the 2022-2023 Confirmation year! Confirmation will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and will begin on September 6. Confirmation is open to 7th and 8th graders; contact Jill Capps for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday, August 30 at 5:00-6:00 p.m.—Curriculum Pick-up

Wednesday, September 6 at 5:30 p.m.: - Confirmation Begins

Saturday, October 21 from 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.—Confirmation Retreat

Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m.— Confirmation Christmas Program

Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m.—Faith Statement Workshop for 8th Graders

Wednesday, May 8 at 5:30 p.m.: Final night of Confirmation for 7th Graders

Sunday, May 21—Confirmation Sunday



Sunday School & Adult Ed Begin September 10

Sunday School is open for children ages 3 through high school and meets from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Elementary students will begin with music in the sanctuary and then proceed to classrooms for that day's lesson. Contact Destiny Estes or the church office to register your child for Sunday School. Adult Education meets in the library during the Sunday School hour.

Bible Instruction for 3-Year-Olds & 5th Graders—September 10

On September 10th, Pastor Mark will hold Bible Instruction with 3-year-olds from 10:00-10:15 a.m. Fifth Grade Bible Instruction will be from 9:30-10:00 a.m. Please join your child during this time. Children will receive their Bibles at the worship service of their choice on Wednesday, September 13, or Sunday, September 17.

First Communion Instruction October 8

Pastor Mark will meet with 2nd Graders and their parents on Sunday, October 8 during the Sunday School hour to discuss the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Second Graders will then receive their First Communion during the worship service of their choice on October 15 or 18.

***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

God's Work Our Hands Sunday September 10

All members of St. Peter are invited to join us for our "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday service project following worship services on Sunday, September 10. Members will have the opportunity to help assemble personal care packages. These packages will be distributed to those in need by the Food Bank of Iowa. If you have questions on how you can help with this project, please contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org



Children's Choir Begins September 13

Come and join Beth Hansen on Wednesday nights for St. Peter's new children's choir! Rehearsals will be centered around God's word through song, movement, and play to help your children grow in musicianship and faith. This additional opportunity will be held on Wednesday evenings during the Confirmation hour. Students in K-2nd grade will meet from 5:30-6:00 p.m., and those in 3rd-6th grade will meet from 6:00-6:30 p.m. Rehearsals will begin on September 13th and run through November. If this sounds like an opportunity that your child would enjoy, please sign up using the QR code or at <https://signup.com/go/ZnDqGLn> with their name and grade level so we can plan ahead for music and number of kids. Please contact Beth Hansen for any questions at 515-402-7574 or elizabethmarie01@gmail.com. Looking forward to making music with the kids of St. Peter!



Join the St. Peter Choir

Choir rehearsals for fall have begun! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7:15-8:15 p.m. Come join us for some mid-week fellowship and singing for ages 7th grade through adult. ALL are welcome!!

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.

Fall Stewardship Drive

All member households will be receiving a mailing from the Stewardship Committee in early September regarding the Fall Stewardship Drive called "Our Money Story." The mailing will include a personal financial commitment card, time and talent sheets, and youth pledge cards. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you will give of your time, talents, and resources to the ministries that are provided here at St. Peter Lutheran Church. Bring these completed forms with you to worship on October 8th to bring forward during a special offering time in our worship services. **Please note – Time and Talent sheets do not roll over year-to-year and need to be completed for each activity that you want to continue in 2024.**



Fellowship & Coffee Hosts

If you are looking for a fun way to serve St. Peter and get to know more of our congregation, you may enjoy serving as a Fellowship & Coffee Host. This role serves coffee and treats to our members between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship service. (During summer services, the host provides coffee & treats following the 9:00 a.m. service.) Set-up usually occurs 30 minutes before the 8:00 a.m. service ends, and it takes about 30 minutes to clean up after serving is completed. Hosts purchase & serve snacks on their Sunday. Receipts can be turned into the church office for reimbursement or supplies may be donated. Coffee supplies are provided and can be found in the kitchen.

Instructions will be available by the coffee maker in the kitchen, and our Evangelism team, Rob Ridnour and Jay Brewer, can be available to assist you with set-up. Please contact Rob Ridnour at ridnour14@gmail.com with any questions.

Soundboard Volunteers Needed

Soundboard volunteers are needed for 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service and the 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Worship service this fall. The 10:30 a.m. worship service role is the most basic of our soundboard operation, with minimal adjustments required. The 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night worship service role will require minimal sound adjustment, use of PowerPoint to display slides on the projector, and occasional CD usage. These roles are intended for older teens and require short a short training session prior to volunteering. Contact Jill Capps if you would like to volunteer!

July Youth Mission Trip



On July 22nd, we loaded a charter bus and a 15-passenger van and headed for Altoona, Pennsylvania, to do God's work. We enjoyed a great week of praising God, lifting each other up, and working in Altoona serving three homeowners. We painted three homes and were able to do some other smaller projects. The highlight of the trip was to watch our group interact with Mr. Clem and his family. We all left Pennsylvania with a renewed energy to go out and be God's hands in the world.



Youth Group Kick-Off BBQ September 10



Our Youth Group calendar year will kick-off with a BBQ for middle school and high school students, Sunday, September 10th from 6-7:30 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, and drinks will be provided. High School students are asked to bring a side item and Middle School students are asked to bring a dessert. Students are encouraged to invite friends and come hangout.

High school Youth Group will begin Sunday, September 17th, and will meet weekly throughout the year from 6:00—7:00 p.m.

Middle school Youth Group will begin on Wednesday, September 20th, and will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 7:15-8 p.m. Middle school youth Group is open to youth in grades 6-8.

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!

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! The Grimes Storehouse accepts clothing sizes 4T-Adult Small. Contact the Grimes Storehouse for more information.

Can you help meet the Food Pantry's needs with a meal or care pack?

Meal #1:

- Large Can of Soup
- Boxed Potatoes
- 64 oz Apple Juice

Care Pack #1:

- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Soap
- Baby Wipes

Meal #2:

- Skillet Dinner (Tuna/Chicken/Beef)
- Canned Tuna/Chicken
- Rice or Pasta Side Dish

Care Pack #2

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Kleenex

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Blake Franzeen

July 2023

Income: \$18,383.07

Expense: \$29,089.98

Net Loss: (\$10,706.91)

2023

Income: \$201,165.91

Expense: \$201,893.10

Net Loss: (\$727.19)

- General Fund—July 2023, income was less than monthly expenses, thus it finished with a loss of \$10,706.91.
- General Fund YTD—June 2023, income was less than expenses, thus it finished with a of (\$727.19).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 10, 2023

Pastor's Report:

- Worked with Jill and the Jackson family on volunteer videos for hosts and communion assistants. We'll see how it works in generating some more volunteers for these positions.
- I went on the Mission trip for the first time with St. Peter this past month. It was a great week. Good time of relationship building with the youth and adults. So good to see everyone's faith in action for the week. Matt does an excellent job organizing and running the trip. Being a part of the process from start to finish gave me an even greater appreciation of the time and energy Matt puts into making this a smooth and successful trip each year.
- We returned on Saturday and I led worship on Sunday. I had the opportunity to share some of my reflections in my message then. This coming Sunday, August 13th we will hear from a couple other participants as they share some of their reflections on the trip.
- September is a busy month at St. Peter as we kick off the new "program" year. This means that July/August is busy preparing for all these ministries to resume in the fall. As you'll notice in the other reports, staff, and committees are busy doing just that, preparing for the fall. I get to witness these efforts first hand, and I give thanks to God for their faithful dedication to sharing the Good News of the Gospel here at St. Peter.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Confirmation:** Planning is well underway for the 2023-24 confirmation year. Thank you to our returning 8th grade small group guides: Allison Newman, Mindy Franzeen, Andrew Newman, Rita & Nate Fredericks, Adam Springer & Jenny Jones. Thank you to our new 7th grade guides: Bekka Maass, Michelle Zeliadt, and Bambi Schlenker. As we see outside activities grow it gets more difficult each year to find small group confirmation guides, so I am very appreciative of those who have committed to volunteering in this 2-year role.
- **Creation Station:** Thanks to Mary Stocks for planning creation station for the month of August. The crafts will focus on Myamba to go along with the student scholarship drive.
- **Thursday Afternoon Bible Study:** We continue to

have great attendance for our Thursday afternoon Bible study with an average of 10-12 people attending regularly during this summer. I have really enjoyed getting to know those who attend this study and look forward to our meetings. We will soon be finishing our study on the book of Acts and will move on to a new study in September. Everyone is welcome to attend the study.

- **VBS:** Pastor and I met with Katie regarding VBS and I created an updated job description based on her experiences the last two years that I will pass on to Destiny & Executive council for use in finding a new VBS Director.
- **Miscellaneous:** I have been in contact with George from Myamba to obtain videos of some of our sponsored students. The videos will be shared by members of the Myamba team during the announcements portion of our worship services. I will be adding captions to the videos so they can be more easily understood. I created a new Sunday school registration form that I will use to update our records and attendance sheets.
- **Church Publicity:** The St. Peter brochure will hopefully be finalized & ready to be shared at upcoming events and available for visitors interested in learning more about St. Peter
- **Technology:** I am looking for volunteers to help run soundboard at some of our 10:30a.m. worship services. This only involves adjusting the sound (it will be preset so shouldn't take much), no slides or live streaming. Please share this with anyone who might be interested, sign-up information can be found on our website, or they can contact me directly. Joe Johnston will cover soundboard and slides for much of our Wednesday night worship services like he did last year. Joe will also begin learning the live-stream process so he can fill in or assist occasionally, especially during Lenten services as confirmation makes it difficult for me to continue to do both roles on Wednesday evenings.
- **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday:** We will create personal care packs that will be distributed by the Food Bank to lowans in need. We will collect donations, and Nick Platt obtained a Thrivent grant to use to purchase some of the supplies. Members will then be able to assemble the kits following each worship service

Youth Report

- The month of July was filled with finalizing all the Mission Trip details and doing some final fundraising.

Late Saturday evening, July 22nd, we loaded a charter bus and a 15-passenger van, and headed for Altoona, PA to do God's work. We enjoyed a great week of praising God, lifting each other up, and working in Altoona serving three homeowners. We painted three homes and were able to do some other smaller projects. The highlight of the trip was to watch our group interact with Mr. Clem and his family. We all left PA with a renewed energy to go out and be God's hands in the world.

- The month of August will be used to finalize plans for our 23-24 Youth Group calendar year. It is always a reflective time of year for me as we say goodbye to our seniors, but I am very excited about our upcoming Youth Group year.

Treasurer's Report:

- June and July financials were reviewed and approved.

Stewardship :

- Working on the pledge drive. Signage for the drive has been ordered. We will talk at the 9/17 service. Celebration Sunday will be on 10/8. Looking at dates for a blood drive.

Building & Grounds

- No report

Education:

- Carnival is set for 8/27

Evangelism:

- July 14th was our final Farmer's market. It was a great experience.
- A sign-up for coffee servers has been created.
- Planning a movie night at church for the 27th.

Worship & Music :

- Two services will start again on 9/10.
- Wednesday evening service will begin 9/13.
- Choir practice starts 8/23.
- Beth will begin a children's choir this fall.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Discussed dates for Council Retreat. Eric will send out a survey with dates.
- **Local Mission Donation:** Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

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.

