

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

I enjoy reading. I read articles online, books, theological journals, bible commentaries, and the bible itself, of course. I like to read for pleasure, to stay informed, and to learn new things. I read quite a bit, come to think of it. One article I came across recently had a thought provoking question, "If your organization were to cease to exist tomorrow, what would be missing in the community?" I liked the question because it's a stewardship question. We each have gifts to share with the community. Even businesses and other organizations have gifts to share with the community. Their services provide something needed in the community. So, naturally it got me thinking about St. Peter, and I asked myself the same question. If St. Peter were to cease to

exist as a church, what would be missing in the community? I came up with quite a long list of answers that I'll try to share here in no particular order:

1. Children and family friendly worship
2. Lutheran theology focused on the love and grace of God
3. Children's Christian education
4. Children's music
5. Quarter tube supporting the Grimes Storehouse
6. Youth ministry for 6-12th grade.
7. Youth mission trip
8. Confirmation ministry for 7-8th grade
9. Adult Christian education
10. Adult choir and chimes
11. Fellowship of believers
12. Celebrating with one another the joys of baptism, 1st communion, confirmation, etc.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◇ First Communion Info
- ◇ WELCA Coat Drive
- ◇ Fellowship Bonfire
- ◇ Empty Nester's Alliance
- ◇ God's Work. Our Hands. Recap
- ◇ Myamba Scholarship Update
- ◇ Fall Clean-Up Outreach
- ◇ ELCA Youth Gathering
- ◇ Stewardship Drive
- ◇ WELCA Silent Auction
- ◇ Quarter Tube Donation

IN EVERY ISSUE:

- ◇ Grimes Storehouse Collection
- ◇ Stewardship Update
- ◇ Church Council & WELCA Minutes
- ◇ Monthly Birthdays & Anniversaries
- ◇ Monthly Calendar

Worship Schedule

Thank you for joining us for worship!

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

Sunday school is at 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday worship occurs at 6:30 p.m.



WELCA will be taking new and gently used coat and sleeping bags donations for our drive to support the Clothes Closet at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines, which provides warm winter wear for those in need. Please drop off any donations in the basket near the church entrance.

13. Supporting one another through life challenges with prayer, encouragement, meals, etc.
14. Praying together for the needs of each other, the community and world.
15. Support of ELCA's World Hunger program
16. MOSAIC ministry (Empowering people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.)
17. Building space for AA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, voting center, etc.
18. Parking and lawn space for city events like July 4th fireworks, Governor's Days, etc.
19. Working together to love our neighbors through ministries like:
 - A. Fall outreach (raking leaves for our neighbors)
 - B. Supper club (Ministry that feeds the hungry in Des Moines)
 - C. Breakfast casseroles and care kits for the homeless
 - D. Christmas angel tree (Providing gifts for those in need)
 - E. Little food pantry at St. Peter
 - F. Supporting Grimes Store house financially and with food donations
 - G. Gathering toys, winter clothes, sleeping bags, etc. for those in need
20. Tanzanian companion, Myamba Lutheran Parish
 - A. Financial gifts for the parish ministries
 - B. Weekly prayers for their ministries
 - C. Education scholarships for children, youth, and adults
21. Support and partnership with the Southeastern Iowa Synod and ELCA

What would you add to the list? I know I've missed a lot. To be sure, I'm not worried about St. Peter ceasing to exist. This was just an interesting question to focus on the important ministries happening at St. Peter Lutheran Church. Looking at this list, I'm in awe at the ways that God is working through our church. The positive impact of the Gospel through St. Peter is far and wide. Thank you for your partnership in ministry. None of this good work is done alone. It takes a community of believers working together, soaking up the Good News of the Gospel, and letting that Good News flow out to the people and world God so loves.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve.

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter

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.



Gathered
to
Grow

Sent
to
Serve

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

Thanks!



1001 S James Street
Grimes, Iowa 50111
Pastor Mark Schlenker
515-986-3077

stpeter@stpeterofgrimes.org
www.stpeterofgrimes.org
www.facebook.com/
StPeterGrimes



Fellowship Bonfire

Monte and Carol Miller will be hosting a family-friendly bonfire fellowship event for St. Peter members on October 7th at 6:00 p.m. WELCA will provide s'mores and snacks to enjoy. We welcome you to join us for another year of this fun event!

Empty Nesters Alliance October 16

Please join us for our Empty Nest Alliance outing on Monday, October 16, at The Hall for BINGO. Have a great time, and start the week with your church family and a bite to eat if you'd like. The Hall is located on Railroad in WDM. We are meeting 6:00 p.m., and BINGO cards are \$1.00. Questions? Text Kim Raudabaugh (515-707-0747). See you there!

Myamba Scholarship Update

We thank God for the faithfulness and the generosity of our congregation. We have raised the amount of funds needed to provide our current 95 secondary scholarships and enough Swahili Bibles for first time scholarship recipients. Tumsifu Mungu (Let's praise God)!

Asante Sana (Thank you so much)!



St. Peter Sunday School Children will sing at worship on October 22 at 10:30 a.m.! We look forward to listening to our young members share their faith through song!

Pastoral Acts

Judith Elaine Lawrence was born on August 21, 1944, in Indiana. She passed away on August 15, 2023, in her home in Virginia. Her memorial was held at Grace Lutheran Church in Chester, Virginia on September 8, 2023, with her nephew Pastor Mark Schlenker officiating the service.

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 Romans. 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

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

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 Clean-Up Outreach

Do You Need Help With Fall Clean-Up?

It is the time of year when we make plans to clean up our yards and get everything ready for winter weather. If you or someone you know needs some help with outdoor projects, the members of St. Peter are ready to help! A work team will come to your home between 9:30am-12:00pm on Sunday, October 29, to help with your projects. Please give the church office a call at 515-986-3077 or email us at stpeter@stpeterofgrimes.org and you will be put on the work list. We will need your name, address, phone number, as well as the chores you need taken care of. Give us a call! We would love to help you!

Come Join a Work Team!

Fall Outreach Sunday – Oct. 29
Come join us on Sunday, October 29, for St. Peter Lutheran's Fall Outreach Event to help our community neighbors. Work teams will be formed following the 8:00 a.m. worship service and be dispatched into the community to help those who signed up asking for a little fall clean-up help. All ages are welcome to join the teams! Tasks that we will undertake are outdoor chores such as raking and cleaning up garden and flower beds. Teams will come back to the church around noon to enjoy pizza together. Come as a family or individually to help with Fall Outreach. This is a great way St. Peter Lutheran can give back to our community by helping our neighbors.

WELCA Silent Auction November 12

Mark your calendars! The annual WELCA Silent Auction will be held November 12. Contact a WELCA Board member if you are interested in donating hand-crafted items or services, baskets or basket items, and/or baked goods. Mark your calendar to attend this fun annual event supporting the church and its ministries!



ELCA Youth Gathering 2024

The Summer of 2024 brings the next ELCA Youth Gathering, July 16-20. Youth currently in grades 8-12 are eligible to attend the event in New Orleans, LA. If you were unable to make our informational meeting on September 17, and are interested in learning more about the Youth Gathering, please reach out to Matt Schmidt. Please reach out via email at: schmidtymu@gmail.com or via phone at 515-238-3053.

We will have a follow-up meeting on Sunday, October 8, from 7:30-8 pm.

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 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!



Celebration Sunday October 8

In September and October, we are focusing on our Fall Stewardship Drive called “Our Money Story.” 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 your completed Time and Talent sheets and pledge 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.**

Join us on Celebration Sunday for lunch and fellowship after 10:30 a.m. worship!

We support the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry!

Our October focus will be:



Soup & Crackers



Bring in donations of soup crackers and large and small cans of soup. Donations can be dropped off in the basket next to the Service Counter.

Quarter Tube Donation

We recently donated the contents of the quarter tube in the amount of \$130.78 to the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry. Those coins add up to make a difference to those in our community. Thank you for your support!

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Blake Franzeen

August 2023

Income: \$19,232.94

Expense: \$30,381.30

Net Loss: (\$11,148.36)

2023

Income: \$220,398.85

Expense: \$232,274.40

Net Loss: (\$11,875.55)

- General Fund—August 2023, income was less than monthly expenses, thus it finished with a loss of \$11,148.36.
- General Fund YTD—August 2023, income was less than expenses, thus it finished with a loss of \$11,875.55.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Pastor's Report:

- Summer ministry finished strong with Blessing of the Backpacks and the Kickoff carnival. Gave out crosses this year for the kids to attach to their backpacks. Plenty left if you want one, or your child or youth needs one.
- Carnival went great too. Good to see so many people. Couple new families, couple families haven't seen in a while, as well as many others. Good variety of activities for all ages.
- Myamba scholarships were promoted and money gathered throughout August. It went pretty well. Such a wonderful ministry.
- Fall ministries have started off well. Sunday went back to two services 8:00 and 10:30. Sunday school looked to go well also.
- I led Bible instruction last Sunday. Three year olds got their story bible. Fifth graders got the Lutheran Study Bible. I always enjoy this time with the kids and their parents.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Confirmation:** Confirmation began on September 6th with thirteen 8th graders and nine 7th graders. We will spend the first few weeks of confirmation talking about the New Testament, with focus on Pentecost & the conversion of Saul. Service & Fellowship for September: The youth will be collecting change that we will use to purchase new books for kindergarten - 5th graders from Moulton Elementary in Des Moines who attend after school programming at CFUM (Children & Family Urban Movement.) We have also received a Thrivent Grant that we will use for this project as well. On September 28th - a representative from CFUM will visit to talk to the kids about the important programming the CFUM does in their community. The fall confirmation retreat will be held on October 21st at St. Peter
- **Thursday Afternoon Bible Study:** We will take Thursday, September 14th off and will meet again on September 28th to begin our study on the Book of Romans. Everyone is welcome to attend this study to share fellowship & discuss the Bible readings. The reading schedule can be found on our website.
- **Sunday School:** It was great to see all the kids back at Sunday school this week. We have a great group of volunteers who are instrumental in making Sunday school a fun, meaningful, faith filled hour - thank you to everyone who has signed up to teach or shepherd this year.
- **Church Publicity:** The St. Peter brochure has been finalized & ready to be shared at upcoming events and available for visitors interested in learning more about St. Peter. We are waiting for a printing issue to be adjusted on the copier and will then print the brochures. The "How-To" volunteer videos for Communion Servers & Worship Hosts

have been completed and will be shared on our website beginning next week.

- **Technology:** I am still 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.
- **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday:** Volunteers helped package personal care bags for the those in need following the 8:00am and 10:30am worship services. Thanks in large part to a Thrivent grant, we were able to complete 92 personal care bags that will be distributed by the Food Bank of Iowa to those in need. I delivered the bags on Tuesday to their Des Moines location.

Youth Report

- During the month of August, Youth Group met twice on Sunday nights. It was a collection of middle and high school students who wanted to continue to meet up to hang out.
- With the Youth Group calendar finalized, I am looking forward our Youth Group kick-off on Sunday September 10th. This event is for both the middle and high school groups.
- High school will continue to meet on Sunday night throughout the Youth Group calendar year.
- We will have our first middle school Youth Group on Wednesday, October 4th. Our Youth Group calendar will follow the same schedule as last year with the middle school meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Treasurer's Report:

- August Financials approved

Stewardship :

- Pledge sheets sent out this past week. Proposed including sheets in the red booklets during the church services. Pledge drive kicks off Sep. 17. Time and Talent sheets due Oct 8th.

Building & Grounds

- Work completed on church toilets this past week.
- Some siding needs to be taken down and re-attached.
- Collaborating with scouts on timing of tree planting and watering

Education:

- Emily Short has agreed to take on the role of cleaning and sorting the supplies after each Sunday school lesson.
- Bulletin board is up!!

Evangelism:

- Oct. 8 celebration, ~ 70 people participated in the

past. Catered with Hy-Vee / Subway in the past. Proposing having 4 – 5 church members smoke meat; Rob will reach out to church member “smokers.”

- We served a large sheet cake for new members in conjunction with the back-to-school carnival. Coffee and fellowship time continues to go well. Jay and I have discussed additional ways to promote and encourage members to sign up and volunteer for this time.
- Family Movie Night – need 3 – 4 weeks lead time. Discussed possibility of holding after confirmation retreat (Oct. 21st)
- Grimes Fall Clean-up Oct. 29

Worship & Music :

- Worship & Music Committee has met twice since our last council meeting.
- Looking into getting a new piano; cost ranges from 6K to 14.5K. Expense will need church approval – add to congregational meeting.
- Current piano will be getting tuned.
- Kids choir started, ~20 kids participating. Singing @ 10:30 service

Old Business:

- City Road Project Update: Eric shared the Real Estate Purchase Agreement, Acquisition Platts, and Temporary / Permanent Easements with the council.
- Core Team is working with the city on purchase price.
- Needs to be approved by the church congregation.
- Eric received confirmation from Benji Rouse – he will proceed with adjusting the proposal and sending it to the City based on Billi’s comments.
- Retreat Date: Draft agenda reviewed by council members: Oct 28 Decision needed: hold retreat at Grimes Community Center or Camp Dodge. Looking into catering options / cost

New Business:

- Discussed survey for congregational feedback: online vs. inperson; anonymous vs. attributed survey. Steve / Eric work on survey questions to share with church council.

- WELCA Basket (Nov. 12) : Have done a golf and apron basket in the past. Tim Duhn agreed to coordinate the next one.
- 3 Year Committee Commitment By-laws : Church members asking if by-laws can be changed regarding serving on Committees / council 2 years vs. current 3 years. Will discuss at the Retreat in October.
- Website Updates: nothing to review.

Local Mission Donation: Chris Knoll family to help with expenses associated with his recent auto accident

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

- It was decided that the bike ride should not be rescheduled for this year.
- Plans for Trunk or Treat were discussed. It will be October 22nd from 4:00-5:30. Monica was contacted about pairing up with Prairie Creek Church again. There will be a sign up at church soon to see who would be able to participate. Matt will be contacted about having the youth help with traffic and handing out popcorn and water. A note should be put in the bulletin or newsletter.
- The bonfire is tentatively planned for a Saturday in October. The Millers are being contacted to find a date. A thought was to just do smores.
- The Silent Auction will be November 12th. We brainstormed basket options. The thought is to do a bake sale for sure, but perhaps not the freezer meals. There is a tentative meeting scheduled for September 21st at 6:00 at the church to go into more details.
- Mosaic enjoyed the pizza and sides on Labor Day. The plan for October is apples and candy. In November it will be hot cider and donuts and/or help with the Thanksgiving meal.
- The Coat Drive will be next month. We will need to get out information through Facebook and the newsletter and get a basket set up at church.
- The Treasurer report shows:
 - Kitchen \$2364.18
 - General \$3456.70
 - Total \$5820.88

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.

