

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

“Do not focus on what you don’t want to hit.” I read this quote from an extreme snow skier recently. He was mainly talking about trees. You don’t focus on the trees. You focus on the path you want to take through the trees. This reminded me about the verse from the Apostle Paul that we read in worship recently, “Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8).

Extreme skiers know that focusing on the trees will spell disaster. Instead, they focus on how to navigate their

way safely through the trees. The Apostle Paul was sharing similar advice to the Philippians nearly 2000 years ago. The Philippians were a congregation of believers that the Apostle Paul had started years before. Paul has heard that they are struggling with persecution and conflict. Paul shared several encouraging words with them in his letter. He said things like “let your gentleness be known to everyone.” He said, “Do not worry...but in everything...let your requests be made known to God.” Then he shares the words of where to focus one’s attention. Not on the things that are untrue, dishonorable, unjust, impure, and not praiseworthy. Instead, he says, “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of

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IN EVERY ISSUE:

- ◇ Grimes Storehouse Update
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- ◇ WELCA Minutes
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- ◇ 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.

Wishing you a
blessed
Thanksgiving
holiday!

There will be no
Wednesday worship on
Wednesday,
November 22.

The Church office will be
closed on Thursday,
November 23, and Friday,
November 24, in
observance of the
Thanksgiving holiday.

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.

praise, think about these things." Perhaps the Philippian congregation was hurt, angry, scared, or worried about their future. Perhaps they were looking at ways to get back at or retaliate against their persecutors. Or, maybe they were depressed, confused, and wondering what to do next. The people were struggling. Paul gives the advice of focusing on positive things. Focus on good things. Focus on what is God pleasing or bringing praise to God.

We are not being persecuted at St. Peter. There are plenty of challenging things going on in the world though, that draw our attention. We all face our own difficult challenges in one way or another as well. Apostle Paul gives good advice for all people. Stay focused on things that are life giving—things that are life giving for you and your neighbor.

This is the November Voice, so the Thanksgiving holiday is on the way. That's a good reminder that one important thing to be mindful of is things that we are thankful for. I give thanks to God for many things, and that includes the good people of St. Peter Lutheran Church. Thanks for being a community of faith that shares in the Good News of the Gospel together, as well as reaching out into the world sharing that same Good News.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve.

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter

All Saints Sunday—November 5

All Saints Sunday is a time to remember family and friends who have been welcomed into God's eternal kingdom. We will remember loved ones with the lighting of candles and in our prayers on Sunday, November 5 at both worship services.

If you have a family member or friend who has entered into the Saints of Heaven, we invite you to fill out the bulletin insert or contact the church office and let us know their name and their relationship to you. All requests of remembrances of loved ones must be received in the church office by Monday, October 30.



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



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Wednesday Evening Children's Choirs Sing November 12

Our Wednesday evening children's choirs have been having fun and working hard this fall. We invite you to come to 10:30 a.m. worship on November 12 to see what the Little Cherubs (k-2nd) and Joyful Noise (3rd-5th) groups have been learning!



WELCA Silent Auction November 12

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. Need donation ideas? See the boards inside the church entrance!

We will also offer a frozen goods and traditional bake sale. All are welcome to donate and purchase frozen treats, soups, casseroles, etc. as well as purchase traditional bake sale goodies.

We're looking forward to this fun event, and we appreciate all who donate items and make purchases. Proceeds from the auction fund events like Trunk-or-Treat, sponsoring Mosaic activities, the St. Peter kitchen, church décor updates, and much more!



Pastoral Acts

Emmylou Mary Sherer, daughter of Maria and Zachary Sherer, was born on June 30, 2023, in Des Moines, IA. Emmylou was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church by Rev. Mark Schlenker on October 1, 2023. Molly Carpenter was Emmylou's baptism sponsor.

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

Grimes Giving Tree

You can help make the Christmas holiday brighter for some local families! Near the end of November, WELCA will work with the Grimes Giving Tree to offer gift ideas for local children who might otherwise go without. Take an ornament with a gift idea from the tree in the front entryway, and sign up beside the ornament number on the ornament list. **Please bring the wrapped gift back to the church in early December with the ornament attached to the outside of the package/gift bag.** The presents will be delivered to the families before the holidays. Here are some other helpful notes:

- Each child is given 2 clothing items and 2 toy/fun items (4 gift tags per child)
- Gifts are intended to be in the \$20-\$30 range
- Gifts can be wrapped/put in a gift bag and returned to the church anytime in early December.

Look for more details in the eNews and bulletin mid-month! Thank you for your help!



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 meetings and are interested in learning more about the Youth Gathering, please reach out to Matt Schmidt. at: schmidtymu@gmail.com or via phone at 515-238-3053.

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for more info on these upcoming holiday events at St. Peter:

- Gingerbread House Building December 3
- Confirmation students Christmas Program December 13
- Children's Christmas Program December 17

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.



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!



We support the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry!

Our November focus will be:



Thanksgiving Sides

Bring in donations of jarred gravy, canned sweet potatoes, boxed potatoes, canned pumpkin, and boxed stuffing.

Donations can be dropped off in the basket next to the Service Counter.

Grimes Storehouse Donation

We recently donated the contents of our full quarter tube in the amount of \$130.78 to the Grimes Storehouse food pantry. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 5, 2023

- The bonfire will be on Saturday at the Miller's 6:00-8:30. Sue will purchase the supplies for the smores. A reminder will be put on the WELCA and church Facebook pages.
- The Coat Drive will continue until October 29.
- More plans for the Silent Auction were discussed. Michelle has the slips and pages ready for the Sunday School teachers to hand out on Sunday. Kellie finished the donation board, and that was set up in the church entryway.
- We will join the city for Trunk or Treat. They will let us know how many spots we will have. Then we will contact those members who would like to provide a trunk. WELCA will help supply candy to those people since there will likely be a large turn out. If the spots are together, we would like to display the church banner.
- The kitchen expense spreadsheet was brought up. WELCA will plan to contribute to the expenses, but we will further discuss the specifics with Lauri.
- Sue will reach out to possible new WELCA members.
- We will contact Lauri about the Giving Tree. A possible date to set up the tree is November 22.
- The Treasurer report shows:
 - Kitchen \$2364.18
 - General \$2995.40
 - Total \$5359.58

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Blake Franzeen

September 2023

Income: \$27,026.07

Expense: \$26,193.42

Net Gain: \$832.65

2023

Income: \$247,424.92

Expense: \$258,467.82

Net Loss: (\$11,042.90)

- General Fund—September 2023, income was greater than monthly expenses, thus it finished with a gain of \$832.65.
- General Fund YTD—September 2023, income was less than expenses, thus it finished with a loss of \$11,042.90.