The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

These words from the psalmist have been running through my head for the past couple of weeks. Giving thanks to God is important every day, of course. As I write this article, we are a few days away from Thanksgiving, so it is certainly a time where we are focused on giving thanks to God. The psalmist's words have been ringing in my ears lately for a more particular reason though. That is because the church approved a purchase agreement with the city. I'd like to share here how I've seen the "steadfast love of the Lord" throughout this process. At least for the past 11 ½ years that I have been the pastor at St. Peter Lutheran.

The 11th street road construction project has been a topic of discussion at every congregational meeting since I've been here, and several before I arrived, I believe. Being as close to the situation as I have for the past several years has given me a firsthand look at the "steadfast love of the Lord" in action. I shared a bit of this in a sermon a couple weeks ago, but thought I'd share a bit more here. I'll share my perspective for the past 11 ½ years, but really it should start with the foresight of the church purchasing the land in the first place. I'd also like to note that, while I highlight a few members, there have really been numerous people involved over the years.

One of my first council meetings at St. Peter had the 11th street road project as a topic of discussion. There was a lot of anxiety about the church possibly being assessed by

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In Every Issue:

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- Stewardship UpdateChurch 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. There will be no Sunday school December 24 or 31.

Wednesday worship occurs at 6:30 p.m. There will be no Wednesday Worship December 20 or 27.

Christmas Eve

Worship

December 24

4:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m.

4:00 p.m. Worship will be livestreamed.

There will be no Sunday morning worship on December 24.

St. Peter Lutheran Church Office Hours

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

Jill Capps – Director of Faith Formation Jill's day off is Friday.

Pastor Mark Schlenker Pastor's day off is Friday.

the city up to \$100K+ to construct the road. Rumors had been circulating that this is how much Maranatha Baptist Church in Grimes had been assessed for roads. Anxiety was high enough that one council member suggested perhaps we sell the land before we are assessed. Council instead decided to begin setting aside money in a special "Road assessment fund," so the church would be prepared. Contact with the city regarding the road was sporadic for the next few years. Just before COVID hit in 2020, the city offered to waive any assessment fees in exchange for the land they need to build the road. After fear of paying \$100K+, going to zero payment seemed like a good scenario. Thankfully one of our members at the meeting spoke up saying he didn't think this was a fair deal. He said, "The members pooled their money together to purchase that land for the sake of the church. Doesn't seem fair to just give that land away now for free." The city left saying they would reevaluate and get back to us. The council then organized a team of people to discuss what would be best for the church.

When I showed up for that first meeting with the newly formed team, I knew the church was in good hands. I knew the "steadfast love of the Lord" was with St. Peter. Faithful and gifted leaders had come together for the sake of the church. There was a civil engineer, lawyer used to negotiating with the city, member who recently negotiated with the city on another project, member who's company builds and manages parking lots, former city council member, and strong Executive Church Council leadership determined to get the best possible deal for the sake of the church's mission. At that meeting I saw "the steadfast love of the Lord" drawing gifted leaders together. I saw faithful members of the church hearing the call, and answering the call, to use their gifts for the sake of the church. To open the meeting I said, "I don't know anything about negotiating with the city or building a road, but I can pray." So, I prayed and then watched these gifted leaders go to work. The end result is what was voted on at the special congregational meeting. There will be no assessments by the city, and the church will get fair market value for the property. As a bonus, the money that was set aside in a road assessment fund can now be used to purchase new signs or other projects that may arise.

Indeed, "the steadfast love of the Lord" was and is with St. Peter. I highlight this experience in the church's mission to show the "steadfast love of the Lord." Honestly though, I witness the "steadfast love of the Lord" each and every week at St. Peter. Every week I witness people responding to the Lord's call to gather, serve, and give. The "steadfast love of the Lord" is evident through the faithful response of the Lord's people, the church. Thank you for the large and/or small ways that you are a part of making "the steadfast love of the Lord" evident through the mission and ministry of St. Peter Lutheran Church.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve

Pastor Mark

PS—If you are looking to give a special gift at the end of the year, please consider giving to St. Peter. All gifts, large and small, bear witness to "the steadfast love of the Lord" with St. Peter. Thanks for your consideration in giving to support this important mission.

Gathered Grow

Sent

40

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**



Christmas Programs

The Sunday School children of St. Peter will present the Christmas story and sing at worship on Sunday, December 17, at 10:30 a.m.

On **December 13**, Confirmation students will present the Christmas story along with our friends from Mosaic at 6:30 p.m.

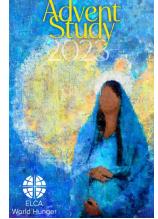
All are welcome to join us in celebrating the Christmas story with our youth and friends on these days!

Advent Devotional

We welcome you to pick up an Advent Devotional in the entryway. This year's devotional is shared with us from ELCA World Hunger, and each weekly devoplore ways we encounter

tion encourages us to ex-

God.



Gingerbread House Event December 3

We invite you to join us for some holiday fun! On Sunday, December 3, we will hold our 3rd Annual Gingerbread House Building Event following the 10:30 a.m. service. All ages are welcome, so bring your family or friends and work together to build a gingerbread house. We will have pizza, and there will be prizes!

Sign up using the QR code or at: https://signup.com/go/ hiNTePv Please sign up for 1 spot per family and indicate in the notes how many family members will be attending. Only a couple spots re-

Pastoral Acts

Kinsley Lynn Oakes, daughter of Brett and Brittany Oakes, was born on January 13, 2023, in Des Moines, IA. Brinley was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes on November 19, 2023, by Rev. Mark Schlenker. Angela and Dylan Jensen are Kinsley's baptism sponsors.

Joyce Paulson was born on February 1, 1933, in Dallas Center, IA. She passed away on November 6, 2023, in Madrid, IA. Funeral services were held at Sanborn Memorial Chapel at Madrid Home on November 13, 2023, with interment at Brethren Cemetery in Dallas Center. Rev. Mark Schlenker officiated the service.

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

main; so if you attempt to sign up, but the spots are filled, email Jill. If you have any questions, please contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org.

Christmas Caroling

Spread Christmas cheer by singing Christmas songs and delivering treats on December 10. We will meet at the church at 4:15 p.m. This is a wonderful activity for individuals or entire families. Don't be shy – singing well is not a prerequisite! Many of us embrace the concept of making a "joyful noise unto the Lord"! Please join us for this very tangible way to share Jesus' love with our church family!

Grimes Giving Tree

Our Grimes Giving Tree is up! Share Christmas cheer by purchasing a gift for a child in the DC-G school district who might otherwise go without. Gift ideas are hanging on tags on the tree in the front entryway.

Wrapped gifts are due back December 10. Each child has 4 tags (2 clothing and 2 toys/fun items), and gifts are meant to be in the \$20-\$30 range. Thank you for your support!



Bible Study Potluck December 14 at 12:00 p.m.

Join us as we continue our Bible Study on the Book of Romans. This month, we will meet an hour early and enjoy a potluck prior to the study! There will be

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 livestream 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 December focus will be:

Christmas Baking



Bring in donations of cake mixes, cans of frosting, cookie mixes, flour, sugar, salt, soda, & baking powder.

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

Construction Update

The City of Grimes has begun the 11th Street project, extending 11th Street out to James Street along the southern border of the church property. When the 11th Streer project is complete, the city will begin their James Street project of widening James Street, part of which will occur on the western boundary of St. Peter. The city has temporary easements to use some St. Peter land during construction and has purchased additional land from St. Peter, approved at the congregational meeting November 12.





Children's Choir Winter and Spring Sessions

The Wednesday evening Children's Choir did a great job sharing music on November 12! The winter session of Children's Choir will run January 3-February 7, and the spring session will run April 3—May 8. Look for more information to come!

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Blake Franzeen

October 2023

Income: \$24,159.81 Expense: \$27,832.40 Net Loss: (\$3,672.59)

2023

Income: \$271,584.73 Expense: \$286,300.22 Net Loss: (\$14,715.49)

- General Fund—October 2023, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$3,672.59).
- General Fund YTD—October 2023, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$14,715.49).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 29, 2023

Pastor's Report:

- Finish Oct. Stewardship
- Leading adult education and preaching themes
- Preparation for the Oct. retreat.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- Confirmation: We finished our study on the New Testament in October and will begin our study of Lutheran Life.
- <u>Service & Fellowship for September</u>: The youth collected change and we received a grant from Thrivent to purchase books for the students at CFUM in Des Moines. We were able to purchase three hundred new books that will be given to the kindergarten fifth grade students in the Safe Haven after school program.
- The <u>confirmation retreat</u> will be held on October 21st at St. Peter.
- Thursday Afternoon Bible Study: This study continues to be well attended; we have both members and nonmembers attend the study. We will be studying the book of Romans through the end of the year. Everyone is welcome to attend this study to share fellowship & discuss the Bible readings. The reading schedule can be found on our website
- **Technology:** I am still looking for additional volunteers to help run soundboard at some of our 10:30 a.m. worship services. This only involves adjusting the sound (it will be preset so should not 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.

Youth Report

- September kicked off our Youth Group calendar year.
 We had a combined bar-b-q kickoff event for the middle and high school Youth Groups on September 10th. It was a perfect night and we had over 30 youth in attendance.
- Middle school Youth Group kicked off on Wednesday, September 20th. We shared a snack, played some games and talk about our upcoming year.
- High school Youth Group met once in September. We talked about our expectations, the upcoming year and planned some of our outings and meal nights.
- September 17, I held a ELCA Youth Gathering informational meeting for families. We had a handful of families in attendance. We talked about the event and the details around fundraising and expectations.

- At The Pole (SYATP) prayer event at the high school.
 The global event promotes prayer for our schools, students, administrators and staff. The event was attended by over 100 youth, local Church youth leaders, and school staff.
- October will be a month filled with traditional Youth Group activities, a follow-up ELCA Gathering meeting and Fall Outreach.

Treasurer's Report:

• September Financials approved

Stewardship:

- Blood drive no longer doing mobile bus on Sundays.
- Stewardship drive 4 fewer households pledging this year.
- Pledges up 30K this year thank-you letters going out in November.

Building & Grounds

- Toilet plumbing issue fixed.
- Little Food Pantry door fell off getting another one to replace it.
- Boy Scout tree planting wait to see how new entrance looks before planting any trees.
- New nativity scene built paint and stain left to do, backlighting. Easy to assemble / dissemble.
- Set up: 1st Sunday in December.
- Take it down January.
- Oct 29th: clean out the garage at church.
- Offering free stuff from education group
- Sell mower and snowblower.
- Check sign lights—two bulbs burned out

Education:

- Children sang at 10/22 service.
- Each class was given a basket theme to help donate items to for WELCA silent auction
- Matt is rolling off music until January. Christmas program and music helpers starting soon
- No Sunday school the following weeks: Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years

Evangelism:

- We have received a few more volunteers for our coffee and donut fellowship time, and I am hopeful increased members will sign up.
- Our big event this month is Sunday, Fall Cleanup. We plan to provide yard care to several church members and their neighbors. Pizza will complete our day of service.

Worship & Music:

- Beth Hansen will cover November 5 and Rita Rosenberg will cover November 12 if Cheryl is still recovering
- Continued discussion on purchasing pre-recorded music Pastor's Report: for Wednesday worship. Rita has ordered two new songs for a total of 7 songs.
- Continued discussion on the purchase of a new digital piano. Waiting for all pianos to be in stock to try out before purchase. Pastor has talked to two families about using memorial funds for this purchase; both were in favor.
- Oct. 29—Reformation. Lauri will take care of paraments
- November 5—Lauri will do insert and paraments. Bambi will be contacted to help with candles as in previous years.
- Dec. 3—First Sunday of Advent. Hanging of the Greens. Will need to find volunteers for Hanging of the Greens service, Advent readings, and Christmas Eve.
- Dec. 17—Children's Christmas Program
- Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Services
- Dec. 25—No Christmas Day service. Only held if Christmas falls on a Sunday
- Adult choir going well. Children's Choirs going well and planning to sing November 12. Hoping to continue in 2024 (6 week periods)
- Discussion of volunteer sign ups

Old Business:

- Tim Duhn is organizing Council's WELCA Silent Auction
- Discuss by-laws on the 3-year Committee Commitment table to next month.
 - Current state: 3 years
 - Option: 2-year term with option to serve a second 2-year term
 - Option: 2-year term only
- Signs inside the building: Coffee Bar; Interior signs need further discussion
- Pictures in Fellowship hall need updated with new **Council Members**
- Little Food Pantry—online signup staying full

New Business:

- Council has approved the following, which will also need Congregational approval:
- City of Grimes 11th & James Street City Proposal:
- New piano purchase (15K purchase proposal; part of purchase coming from memorial funds)
- Inform congregation 2 Sundays (Oct 29 / Nov 5)
- Letter to be sent out to church members.

Local Mission Donation: ARL

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2023

- It's good to have the 11th street road project purchase agreement approved and moving forward. Big thanks to everyone who has been a part of those discussions and plans over the years. A new and bright future awaits St. Peter with easier access to numerous neighbors, as well as new neighbors moving in across the street before too long. The mission field continues to grow for sharing the Good News.
- "Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve...These aren't just words they say, but words they live." I read something to that effect on social media after the fall outreach. I love to see the ways St. Peter lives into its mission, and people recognizing that is even better. Glad to see such a large turnout for fall outreach.
- WELCA's silent auction had lots of participation this year. Numerous items were donated, and plenty of people were present for bidding and purchasing of baked goods and meals. I haven't heard the exact number, but I know they did very well.
- I led the funeral for Joyce Paulson at Madrid Homes with graveside in Dallas Center on Monday. She was a former member of St. Peter. The funeral home had reached out to me to lead the service.
- I met for coffee and had phone conversations with some colleagues about council and committee structures for the church. I have some more thoughts on this to share tonight.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Confirmation:** We have started our study of Lutheran Life—with a focus on Baptism & Holy Communion.
- The confirmation retreat was held on October 21st at St. Peter. The youth prepared an entire worship service that they shared on Wednesday, October 25th. The youth prepared a skit, served as ushers, readers, music leaders, communion servers, and hosts. They did a great job with the support of the small group guides. We also participated in our annual Amazing gRace around Grimes. A huge thank you to the hosts of the stops! Thank you to the small group guides who spent an entire Saturday with the kids at the retreat.
- On December 13th, the youth will host a Mosaic Fellowship event with pizza, crafts, and games. During the 6:30pm worship service the youth will present the Christmas story – we will invite the clients of Mosaic to join us in the program by playing the parts of angels & shepherds. The worship service is open to all, and we hope to see many of our St. Peter members there. (A Thrivent grant provided by one of our members will

help to cover a portion of the costs for this event.) Confirmation will not meet on December 20th or December • 27th due to Christmas break.

- Thursday Afternoon Bible Study: We will meet only once in November and once in December due to the holidays. On December 14th, we will begin at noon with a potluck followed by our Bible study.
- Gingerbread House Event: We will host our 3rd Annual Gingerbread House decorating event on Sunday, December 3rd, following the 10:30am service. Registration is required as space is limited, and supplies need to be purchased in advance. All ages our welcome and we do have a few spots remaining for those who are interested in joining us. We will also provide pizza and drinks.
- Technology: Thanks to Rich Weiss & Justin Wells for each taking one Sunday a month to run live-stream, and to Bradley Fasse for filling in at soundboard during the 10:30am worship service a couple times a month.
 Thanks also to Joe, Dave, & Brenda Johnston for running soundboard during our Wednesday worship services.
- St. Peter Clothing Thanks to Bekka for helping to organize a St. Peter merchandise order! What a great way to get St. Peter's name out in the community by simply wearing St. Peter apparel. We know some people missed the order deadline, so we will off the items again in the Spring.
- Misc I have enjoyed attending Middle School youth group this fall – the youth have fun sharing fellowship, and it is great to be part of that. Sunday school continues to go well; we have a great group of volunteers who serve as teachers & shepherds. It is fun to watch the kids explore their faith through fun & engaging handson activities.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group met twice during the month of October. During our Youth Group time we had devotions, shared in some snacks, and played some games.
- High school Youth Group met five times during the month of October. We held three devotion nights, had a meal night and went to a haunted house.
- Our youth also assisted with Fall Outreach on November 29th.
- The Youth Leaders in our area (Grimes, Dallas Center, Granger, Urbandale) began meeting monthly in October to collaborate. We plan to meet the second Wednesday of each month as a support network.
- November will be a month filled with traditional Youth Group activities, a Youth Gathering participant meeting and Friendsgiving for our high schoolers.

Treasurer's Report:

October Financials approved

- 2024 budgets due Nov. 22
- Discussion of where to put funds from the City from the land sale., possibly in a CD. Possible use will signage outside for new entrances.

Stewardship:

- Just wrapped up stewardship drive
- Sign and send pledge letters to congregation.
- Need tellers for Christmas Services (4,6, and 9)
- Do an end-of-year ask for giving from congregation.

Building & Grounds

- Parts were replaced on steeple light
- Approved motion to replace light by garage that is not working

Education:

 Discussed Curriculum Coordinator needing one more year to have the full 3-year cycle complete

Evangelism:

- · Family movie night on hold
- Clean up day and pizza went well

Worship & Music:

- Rita has put together accompanist liturgy binders
- Continued discussion on purchasing pre-recorded music for 1st and 3rd Wednesday worship
- No worship Wednesdays 11/22, 12/20, or 12/27
- Continued discussion on replacing digital piano. Still waiting for pianos to be in stock. Delivery fees waived for churches
- Congregation will vote Nov. 12 on the purchase of a new piano
- Advent worship: Dec. 3 will be Hanging of the Greens.
 Volunteers needed for Advent readings in Dec. Discussed decorating plans
- Children's Christmas Program Dec. 17
- Christmas Eve worship Dec. 24 at 4, 6, and 9 pm (4pm livestreamed)
- Dec. 31—9 am worship only
- Children's Choir: sing at worship Nov 12. Upcoming 2024 sessions will be Winter session Jan 3-Feb 7, and Spring session Apr 3—May 8

Old Business:

- Discussion of Church Council structure and tenure
- Continued discussion on St. Peter interior signage
- Little Food Pantry: signup online is staying full. Eric created a schedule for monitoring.
- Congregation approved the Purchase Agreement offer on the land sale, and Eric Soults and Steve Schultz signed the offer

New Business:

- Budget meeting next month
- Piano funds—use Memorial funds
- Follow up from Council Retreat
- January annual reports coming up
- Looking for Audit committee

Local Mission Donation: Food Bank of Iowa

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 7, 2023

- The winter clothing drive during the month of October went very well. Carol delivered 6 large bags full of coats, hats, mittens, gloves, and a sleeping bag to Clothes Closet at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in downtown Des Moines on November 3. The volunteers working at the church that day were very appreciative. Since it is beginning to get colder, the timing of these donations worked out really well.
- Ellie reported that gifts to Mosaic continue to be well received. Each year we shop for Christmas gifts for the residents at each of the two homes, as well as items for the house. We expect to have the Christmas lists by November 15, and we can set up a time after that to meet to go shopping.
- The bonfire hosted by Carol and Monti Miller was a wonderful event. Approximately 35 people of all different ages attended. S'mores were a hit. Everyone loved the pumpkins the Millers gave away.
- Trunk or Treat was held with the city this year. The city estimates between 1,300 and 1,500 people attended.
 Lots of bags were handed out. There were several groups that passed out bags, so next year we might consider something different. Event costs were about \$200 for the bags and \$200—\$300 for the candy. There was almost not enough candy. Next year was discussed.
- Lauri Rouse presented for discussion the possible purchase of 2 nice looking and durable carts—one to be used as an ushers' table and the other for Children's supplies. The idea is that carts could be easily moved to a location that is out of the way when the fellowship hall is used for events such as funeral luncheons. This also spurred discussion of WELCA paying for some, or all, of the paper products used in the kitchen. Everyone present was in favor of this. Lauri will devise a plan, perhaps WELCA would pay quarterly.
- Stephanie initiated discussion of the national WELCA board and suggested we may want to become more involved in the activities and opportunities available through the national group. We discussed having a point person on the board that would help us to be more aware of national activity and encourage engagement.

- Michelle is going to reach out to the church family members who indicated interest in the Silent Auction.
- Friday, November 10, at 5:00 pm, we plan to meet at the church to begin assembling the auction items for display. We'll finish setting up on Saturday. At least some WELCA board members will be at church from 9:00 to 11:00 to allow church family to bring items for auction, freezer meal or bake sale.
- The Silent Auction will close at 12:30 on Sunday which is a bit later than usual because of the congregational meeting to be held right after 10:30 church.
- Treasurer's report:

Kitchen \$2,364.18 General \$2,629.33 Total \$4,993.51

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, NOVOMER 12, 2023

Land Sale Vote

- 11th Street Project & Land Sale Update and Vote: Council President Eric Soults presented a slideshow with information regarding the City's building projects on 11th St. and James St. Members Benji Rouse and Jared Rokke also provided information. The City of Grimes submitted a purchase agreement to St. Peter offering \$105,900 to St. Peter for the purchase of land needed for these projects, with \$65,900 as in-kind compensation in the form of grading, concrete, and seeding for entrances, parking, and sidewalks. \$40,000 will be paid to St. Peter upon closing on the sale.
- Motion to accept the purchase agreement offer was approved

Piano Purchase Vote

- Piano Purchase Update and Vote: The Worship and Music committee has researched electric pianos to replace our current one that no longer works. They narrowed it down to three choices ranging from \$8,000 \$15,000 and are waiting for pianos to be in stock so that they can be tried out before purchasing to make the final decision.
- Motion to purchase a new piano for the sanctuary up to \$15,000, funded fully or partially through Memorial Funds, was approved