

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

A story I read recently:

At the market place in Mexico City, old Pota-lamo had twenty strings of onions for sale. An American tourist asked, "How much for a string of onions?"

"Ten cents," said Pota-lamo.

"How much for two strings?"

"Twenty cents."

"How much for all twenty strings?" asked the American.

"I would not sell you twenty strings," replied Pota-lamo.

"Why not? Aren't you here to sell your onions?"

"No," replied the old merchant. "I am here to live my life. I love this marketplace. I love the crowds and the red serapes. I love the sunlight and the warring palmettos. I love to have friends come by and say "buenos dias" and talk about the babies and the crops.

"That is my life. For that I sit here all day and sell my twenty strings of onions. But if I sell all my onions to one customer, then my day is ended. I have lost the life I love—and that I will not do."

There is much to think about in reflecting upon this story. What it's got me pondering at the moment, though, is how this story challenges me to see life in a new way. My own citizenship and cultural upbringing has me identifying strongly with the American in the story. Why wouldn't you just sell all the onion strings at once to ensure you get them sold, or to be able to be done for the day. Then you could relax, or move onto something else. Pota-lamo offers a new perspective, a new way of seeing and experiencing life. He invites me to enjoy the little things in life like the sunlight and conversations. He in-

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- ◇ Craft & Vendor Show
- ◇ Grimes Storehouse Donation

IN EVERY ISSUE:

- ◇ Grimes Storehouse Donation Ideas
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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 will resume
in the fall.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule:

Maundy Thursday Worship

March 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Worship

March 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship

March 31 at 6:30a.m.,
9:00 a.m., & 10:30 a.m.

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.

vites me to slow down, without needing to move from one thing to the next so quickly. He invites me to enjoy each moment in and of itself, and not to be so ready to move on to the next thing. He invites me to live in the moment without worrying about the past. He invites me to live in the moment without worrying about the future. He trusts that the onion strings will be sold in a manner that will sustain him in life.

This April we are in the season of Easter. Easter is all about resurrection. The resurrection invites us to live in the moment as well. Jesus' resurrection means that sin and death no longer hold any power over us. Sin and death have been defeated. *United with Christ Jesus in the waters of baptism* means that we are freed from the power of sin and death. This means we need not worry about yesterday, nor fear for tomorrow. We are freed to live in the moment. Each and every day is a new day. Each and every day is a gift from God. Each and every day is an opportunity to live in the love and joy of the resurrection. For this gift I say, "Halleluiah!"

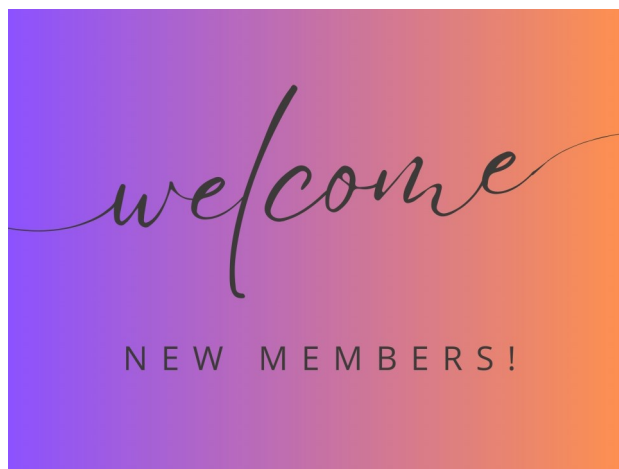
Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve.

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter

New Member Class

There will be a new member class Sunday, April 21, at 9:15 a.m. If you are interested in joining St. Peter, we invite you to attend! New Member Sunday will be the following week, April 28, where we will welcome new members during worship and fellowship. Contact the church office with questions or to let us know you plan to attend!



Sunday School Carnival May 5

The Sunday School carnival will be May 5th! The carnival will take place during the Sunday School hour of 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to attend, and we will be serving a light breakfast for all during this time. Kids will also practice their music and then sing during the 10:30 service on that day. We look forward to a lot of fun on the last day of Sunday School!

Gathered to Grow Sent to Serve

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



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

Spaghetti Dinner—Sunday May 5, 5-8 PM

The Youth of St. Peter will be preparing and serving their annual Spaghetti Dinner the evening of Sunday, May 5th. This is an event that everyone looks forward to. The food is fabulous, as well as the service. Come and enjoy an evening away from your kitchen! A free-will donation will be taken for the meal. Help support the youth as they raise funds for the summer ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans and a mission trip to serve in the LaCenter, KY community.

Reservation sign-ups will be posted at the church. Sign-up for the time slot that works best for you. You may also call the church office at 986-3077 or email us at stpeter@stpeterofgrimes.org and we will be happy to help make your reservation.

If you would like to help contribute a food item, please follow this link:
<https://signup.com/go/XvJrugR>

Sign up for Small Groups

Are you interested in building connections with other St. Peter members? We invite you to sign up to be part of a small group. Small groups will consist of a group of 4 households (consisting of individuals and/or couples) who will meet to share fellowship, life stories, and faith journeys. Are you currently participating in a small group from last year? Sign up to join a new group and get to know another great group of St. Peter friends!

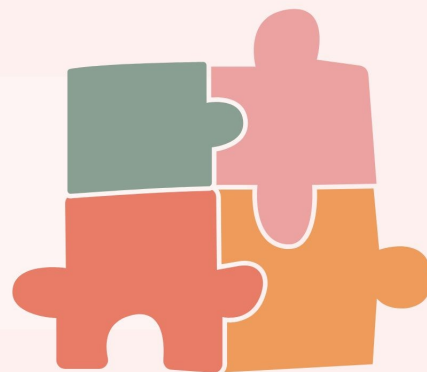
- **Who?** Small groups are open to all adult members (couples and/or individuals).
- **When?** Each group will schedule meeting times that work for the members of its group.
- **Time Commitment?** It is hoped that each group will meet at least 4 times over the next several months.

Sign up at: <https://signup.com/go/rWbhkQq> or on the sign-up sheet on the service board in fellowship hall. If you have any questions or need assistance signing up, contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org.

Pieces of WELCA

Join us April 14 from 2PM-4PM

This is an afternoon event for all the women of St Peter. Join us to learn about WELCA and to connect with others while participating in a puzzle making contest. We look forward to seeing you!



Thursday Bible Study

Looking for a way to grow in your faith? Join us for a Bible Study on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 1:00 p.m.

In April, we will begin a study on the book of Jonah, reading chapter 1 for April 11 and chapter 2 for April 25. Readings can also be found on the St. Peter Website.

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 Hunger Fight

Mark your calendars – April 13 will be the 12th Annual Grimes Community Hunger Fight with Meals from the Heartland located at Prairie Creek Church. Sign up as an individual or as a group here: <http://community.mealsfromtheheartland.org/GrimesHungerFight>



WELCA Cluster Gathering

The Women of the ELCA will hold their Spring Gathering for clusters 10-11, of which St. Peter is a part, on April 13 from 9:00—11:30 a.m. This will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Indianola. Donations of household items for HEAL House of Iowa will be received. Contact a WELCA Board member for more information.

HOSTED BY THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA

St. Peter Spring Craft Show

May 4th
9-1pm

Come see a variety of vendors
sharing their homemade crafts,
artwork, baked goods, and more!

St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes

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.



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 April focus will be:

Canned Meats



PB & J



Bring in donations of canned tuna, chicken, or beef;
and peanut butter and jelly.

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 \$128.33 to the Grimes Storehouse food pantry. Thank you for your support of this ministry!



VBS Save the Date!

Vacation Bible School will be

June 23-27, 2024

from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

*Join us for a week of fun and
learning!*



From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Blake Franzeen

February 2024

Income: \$36,131.77

Expense: \$34,631.33

Net Gain: \$1,500.44

YtD 2024

Income: \$66,368.14

Expense: \$64,305.72

Net Gain: \$2,062.42

- General Fund—February 2024, expenses were less than income, thus it finished with a gain of \$1,500.44.
- General Fund YTD—February 2024, expenses were less than income, thus it finished with a gain of \$2,062.42.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Pastor's Report:

- Season of Lent began on February 14th with our Ash Wednesday worship. The service was well attended, and always a great way to begin Lent.
- The Wednesdays during Lent are always fun. Youth have been serving delicious soup suppers which have also been well attended. It's a great time for good food and fellowship.
- Wednesday worship during Lent is using the Holden Evening Prayer Service. The message is provided by numerous people through drama. The drama's this year focus on the Parable of the Sower.
- Semiannual meeting had good discussion on the need for volunteers in many areas. Volunteerism is a challenge for churches across the country. As noted at the meeting, it is not only churches, but other organizations as well. The DCG Booster Club was given as an example of having difficulty finding volunteers. What I liked about the church discussion is how it took a realistic look at the challenges, while keeping a positive focus on how to move forward.
- I've been thinking about and had discussions on possible council restructure. A group of us will meet on Thursday to discuss further.
- I'll be meeting with Nominating committee on Wednesday to begin prayerfully discerning future leaders for the church.
- Blanket Sunday was great again this year. Wonderful turnout on Sunday. Always good to see people of all ages working together on a common goal. Set another record again with over 300 blankets tied.
- Holy Week and Easter is on the horizon, which means I've been spending some time planning for those.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Faith Formation:** We held our Annual Fleece Blanket event for MercyOne Hospitals on February 18th. Together as a congregation we completed 335 blankets, breaking our previous record of 316 blankets and bringing our 11-year total to 2,007 blankets. Thank you to everyone who supported this project. We started working on blankets in January and were able to have about 100 blankets fully finished prior to blanket Sunday. This process allowed more people to take part in the activity and ensured that we were able to complete the blankets prior to the 10:30am service on Feb 18th. A special thanks to the members of the blanket committee for all their work: Allison Newman, Sarah Capps, Brenda Johnston, Amanda Rooke, and Mallory Herbsleb.
- Faith Formation & Education will join to host our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30th at

10:00a.m. Families are asked to sign-up, so we are able to provide enough eggs, candy, and prizes. Evangelism will provide a grab & go breakfast for this event as well.

- **Confirmation:** During Lent the confirmation youth and guides have been sharing a meal with their small groups and then attending worship together. The small groups have spent time reading about the events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. The youth will serve as hosts and will also write some of the Prayers of Intercession will be used in March.
- **Thursday Afternoon Bible Study:** We have begun our study on 1 John. We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays in March due to Spring Break & Holy Week.
- **Misc.:** Banners— We will order a new St. Peter banner that can be used in the Governor's Day parade as well as at Farmers Market, Trunk or Treat, etc. We will also look into ordering an Easter banner if one can be printed in time.
- **Live-Stream:** We have been live-streaming the Wednesday night Lenten worship services. Thank you to Joe Johnston for taking on a large portion of the streaming of these services!
- **VBS:** Destiny and I continue to work on VBS making sure we have leaders, curriculum, and other materials in place. We have already found several lead teachers and secured a truck & driver for the Governor's Day parade. If you have not volunteered with VBS before, we encourage you to do so, it is a fun week and a great way to get to know our youngest members.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group only held one devotion night during February due to Lent season falling early this year.
- High school Youth Group met three times during the month of February. We did not meet on February 11th due to the Super Bowl.
- On February 18th, we held a ELCA Youth Gathering family meeting. We discussed travel plans and logistics while we are in New Orleans.
- On February 25th, we held a Mission Trip chaperone meeting. We used our time to discuss additional fundraising ideas and trip logistics.
- March will have high school Youth Group, a ELCA Youth Gathering meeting, a Mission Trip meeting, finish up Lent Suppers and host the Easter Breakfast fundraiser. Middle school Youth Group will not meet in March due to Lent and spring break.

Treasurer's Report:

- Budget approval for 2024
- Postponed approval of February financials

Stewardship :

- Organizing Tellers for Holy week and still need two more for 9:00 a.m. service on Easter Sunday. Otherwise, all other spots

are covered.

- First quarter offering letter is being worked on and planning to send out in the first part of April.

Building & Grounds

- Butterfly garden debris has been cut down – waiting for response from Carol Clarke.
- Set date and time when to move the garden.
- Look into quotes for new signage for the new entrance.

Education:

- Solidifying teachers and helpers for VBS
- Completing VBS tasks (grants, supplies, decorations, etc.)
- Planning end of year carnival

Evangelism:

- February activities continued with fellowship time and continues to be well received. I was also able to interact with a few guests visiting on Wednesday service.
- Jill has approached me recently to scheduling a movie night sometime.
- Easter Egg Hunt grab and go breakfast is being planned. There's also an Easter pancake breakfast put on by the youth group.

Worship & Music :

- Ash Wednesday went well
- Wednesday Lenten services: Discussed potential ideas for next year, as to whether we continue with dramas or do something different
- Palm Sunday is Mar. 24. Lauri ordered palms and Rita will pick them up. Minnie the Donkey passed away; discussion on how to proceed.
- Maundy Thursday is Mar. 28. Need 11 volunteers for stripping of the altar.
- Good Friday is Mar. 29. Will prepare for this service after Maundy Thursday service.
- Easter Sunday is Mar. 31. 6:30 worship will be outdoor, 9:00 will inside and livestreamed/indoors, and 10:30 will be indoors. Brass ensemble will play at 9:00 and 10:30. Will decorate after Good Friday service.
- Children's choir runs April 3-May 8. Beth is thinking about about keeping the same times and sessions for next year but would like to open it up to the public for future sessions.
- Volunteer updates: Rita is putting something together to put in the eNews and bulletin to find more volunteer support; discussed passing around a clipboard at church for additional volunteer signup; check with the host coordinator to see if they would like assistance since we have not been filling hosting opportunities

Old Business:

- Nominating Committee Updates
- Review Constitution Updates – looking into changes to by-

laws.

- Discussion on future flexibility on council term

- Butterfly Garden – covered in Building and Grounds

New Business:

- Beth Hansen asked to come onto the council, which was approved. Appointed to education committee interim.
- VBS Coordinator – Destiny and Jill co-directors
 - Eighty percent done – 3 spots left to fill. Suggest splitting the stipend between Destiny and Jill
- Fundraiser in April
- Staff on Council question – Beth Hansen
- Child safe policy – 2 adults to go with children – mitigate any liability.
- Banner – old one not found, purchase a new one – get cost estimates.

Local Mission Donation: Grimes Hunger Fight—\$200 for March and April

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 20, 2023

- Spring Craft Fair, Saturday May 4, 9 am- 1pm. Bekka Maass and Beth Hansen present: We will have room for 28 to 29 vendors. Needed for the fair will be greeter to check people in and a floater. Floors will be taped off for vendor space. We will have a water bottle and granola bar for vendor since we will not have lunch. Bekka and Beth will help with the sign up of the vendors, sign up starts March 1st. The plan is to have a St Peter booth by the front door promoting our church activities, new brochure, and advertising for VBS.
- President: Nikki Jespersen has resigned the position and the board elected Stephanie Picken as president of Welca. Everyone else will keep their same roles.
- Treasurer's Report: Michelle Jaeger
 - \$6,171.96 general fund
 - \$1,561.53 kitchen fund
- We received ELCA Southeastern Iowa Synod donation request. Michelle will order Christ in our Home magazine quantity of 40, large print quantity of 4, Spark Family magazine quantity of 11 will be ordered. The Board will review Treasurer documents and be prepared to discuss budget outline at the next meeting.
- Dessert and Devotion, Tuesday March 19th, 6:30-7:30pm : Stephanie will lead the topic and verse. Tables of 5-6 people at a table to have small group discussion. Sign up at the Welca bulletin board, sign up not required. Ellie and Nicky are bringing bars, Stephanie is bringing fruit.
- February Toy Drive ends on Feb 29th. Carol Eilers will help with delivery of items.
- Pieces of WELCA, April 14th, 2-4pm: women of the church invited for fellowship, fun, and putting puzzles together.

*Next meeting will be March 25th at 7 pm.