

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

“Rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; the sun does not shine on itself and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We are all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is ... life is good when you are happy but much better when others are happy because of you.” I really love this quote. It really speaks to what I believe, and have experienced to be true. I believe each of us are beautifully and uniquely created by God. God saw the value of creating each of us separately. How great is that! We each bring something unique and different into the world. I also believe that God created us to be in relationship. We are not meant to live completely solitary lives, but meant to live in community. Living in

community means that we each hold value. It also means that we are not meant to live just for ourselves, but to look toward the interests of others.

“Life is good when you are happy, but much better when others are happy because of you.” I’ve experienced these words to be true. There is no doubt that sometimes I need to take time for myself by doing something that helps me recharge. That could be more rest, exercise, time with loved ones, reading, or other things that I enjoy. Only living for myself though, would be shallow and unfulfilling. I have found more joy and fulfillment in life by using my gifts. Or, said differently, I’ve found more joy and fulfillment by “letting my light shine.” At baptism we light a candle and repeat Jesus’ words, “Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Fa-

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Worship Schedule

Thank you for joining us for worship!

Sunday worship occurs at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. through May 18.

Summer Sunday worship runs from May 25– August 31 and is at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday worship will resume in the fall.

Sunday school is from 9:15-10:15 a.m. through May 4.

Wednesday worship will resume in the fall.

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

Middle School Youth Group will meet May 7 & 21 7:15 PM.

High School Youth Group will meet May 14 & 28 at 7:15 PM.

Mission Trip Participants will meet June 1 at 6PM.

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.

ther in heaven.” In other words, don't keep your unique, amazing self hidden in the dark. The world needs you and your unique self and gifts in the world. Get out there and be the person God created you to be. “Let your light shine.”

There are a lot of memes on social media attributing the opening quote to Pope Francis. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find where or if he said these words. Even if he didn't though, there is a reason people have been attributing the words to him. Pope Francis was a humble servant of the Lord. He humbly served and spoke up for the needs of the poor and the oppressed. Even his harshest critics inside and outside of the church were mostly silenced, because of his humble commitment to serve as Christ taught. I may not have agreed with everything he said or did (he's Catholic and I'm Lutheran, after all), and he wasn't perfect (no one is), but I've admired his commitment to live a life of humble service. He was a powerful force for good in the world. Pope Francis died the day after Easter this year, claiming his baptism promise. “Rest eternal grant him oh Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.”

Living in community, loving one another, and caring for the people and world God so loves sounds a lot like who St. Peter strives to be. No wonder I love the opening quote so much. Let's keep up the good work, friends.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to serve.

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter

Sunday School Carnival & Children Sing May 4

The Sunday School carnival will be May 4th! 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. **Children will also practice their music and then sing during the 10:30 service on that day.**

As the school year comes to an end we'd like to thank our many Sunday school teachers, music lead, and the many regular substitutes that make our Sunday School program possible. We invite your family to join us in recognizing our Sunday school teachers by having your child draw a picture, create a homemade card, or share some other form of appreciation with their teachers and Mady Brown, our music lead. We look forward to a lot of fun on the last day of Sunday School!



Gathered
to
Grow

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The 15th of each month is
the deadline date for news-
letter items to be submit-
ted to the church office.

Thanks!



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Senior Recognition May 11

On May 11th, we will recognize our graduating seniors at worship. Seniors will come forward at worship to share their future plans, and we will celebrate their achievements with a cake reception between worship services.



WELCA Dessert & Devotion

Join the women of St. Peter for a Dessert and Devotion night Tuesday, May 13, at 6:30 p.m. All St. Peter women and friends are invited!



Governor's Days Parade & Ice Cream Social

Join St. Peter in the Governor's Days Parade on June 6! You can walk or ride on our float, and we will have candy and VBS information to hand out.

After the parade, join us for a community Ice Cream Social on the St. Peter lawn. All are welcome!

Please note: the St. Peter parking lot will be used for overflow parking for Governor's Days June 5-7.

Join us for VBS at
St. Peter Lutheran
June 22-26th
6:00pm-8:00pm

Registration is open for VBS
Campers and Volunteers.



Faith, Fellowship, Coffee, & Dessert

All are welcome to join our Thursday afternoon Bible study, which will be studying the book of Genesis from May-August. This relaxed Bible study meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. There is no registration required, and you can come as often or as little as your schedule allows. Contact Jill with any questions.

Choir Director

Emily Wells has decided it is time to step back from her role as choir director to spend more time with her family. She will finish the choir season through May 31st. We give thanks to God for Emily sharing her gifts to faithfully lead the choir the past 7 years. Her skill, patience, flexibility, and strong faith has been a blessing to the ministry of St. Peter.

If you or someone you know is interested in leading St. Peter's adult choir, please reach out to the church office or Pastor Mark.

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



Affirmation of Baptism – Sunday, May 18

On Sunday, May 18, thirteen 2nd_Year Confirmation students will affirm the promises of their baptism at the worship service of their choice. They will publicly profess their intention to:

- Live among God's faithful people.
- Hear the word of God and share in this Lord's Supper.
- Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.
- Serve all people, following in the example of Jesus.
- Strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

These youth are not called to do these things alone but in community. During the Affirmation of Baptism Service, the congregation will "promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ." As you consider the ways you will rest and renew this summer, remember that your unique presence, voice and gifts enrich and enhance our community as we seek to live out our call to be in community with God and God's people.

Congratulations to the following who will affirm the promises of their Baptism:

Rylan Heeren	Gabi Kloster	Brody Lansink
Bailee Maass	Maddie McMullen	Henry Ohannessian
Parker Rusch	Kadin Schlenker	Gabby Springer
Callen Tjeerdsma	Delia Zeliadt	

At this time, we would like to thank the Adult and Junior Guides who have faithfully journeyed alongside the youth during this time of faith formation: Carol Eilers, Mallory Herbsleb, Sarah Hughes, Bekka Maass, Bambi Schlenker, Evy Soultis, and Michelle Zeliadt.



HOSTED BY THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA

St. Peter Spring Craft Show

Mother's Day Shopping!

**May 3rd
9-1pm**

Teacher Appreciation gifts!

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

St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes

Volunteers Needed – Can You Help?

If you can help as a communion **preparer** contact Kaarin Fasse. To be a **communion assistant**, please contact Katie Scholl.

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 Rita Rosenberg.

If you want to 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 & May focus will be:



Kids' Breakfast & Lunch



Bring in donations of peanut butter, jelly, boxed cereal, and shelf stable juices.

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 10, 2025

Pastor's Report:

- We had our last Wednesday worship in Lent last night. Thanks to everyone who helped make Wednesday's such a meaningful time together. Parents and youth serving soup suppers, musicians, hosts, drama participants, staff, and so many others work together to make these Wednesday's work. And, of course all the people who showed up to be present.
- This was also our last Wednesday worship until September.
- Gathered with ELCA pastors from our conference for prayer and conversations in March. Gathered with local Grimes pastors in March for lunch and conversation as well. Also, met the new Dallas Center Presbyterian pastor for coffee. Good to stay connected with fellow clergy in the area.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Faith Formation:** The Easter Egg Hunt Event hosted by Faith Formation, Education, & Evangelism will be on Saturday, April 19th.
- **Confirmation:** The youth will share faith statements with the other students & their parents on May 14th.
- During Lent the youth focused on the Crucifixion & Resurrection. The confirmation youth collected change during the winter/spring and were able to donate \$50.00 to the DCG Angel Fund which helps support meals for youth in need in the DCG School District.
- **VBS:** VBS Volunteer and Camper Registration has begun. We already have 44 children registered, which is above where we were last year at this time. We also have 29 volunteers signed up, but we still need leaders for games & science. This

From the Stewardship Committee— Blake Franzen & Brenda Johnston

March 2025

Income: \$29,494.33

Expense: \$34,618.67

Net Loss: (\$5,124.34)

Year to Date 2025

Income: \$89,051.01

Expense: \$95,400.41

Net Loss: (\$6,349.41)

- General Fund—March 2025, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with loss of \$5,124.34.
- General Fund YTD—March 2025, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of \$6,349.41.

year the games & science activities will be pre-planned, so the leaders just need to be here during the week – no advance time is required.

- **Technology:** We will be switching to Metronet over the summer before fall programming begins.
- During Lent we streamed the 6:30pm worship services. A special thank you to Joe Johnston for helping to stream these services on Wednesday evenings. I will also stream the 10:30am Palm Sunday services in addition to the 8:00am service.
- **Website/Facebook:** Please remember to share any upcoming events etc. that you would like me to post for you.
- A postcard/information card will be created & distributed during the Easter services with information on summer hours, summer programming, & upcoming events. We have many visitors during our Easter services so this will serve to invite them to join us at St. Peter.

Youth Report

- Both Middle School and High School Youth Group did not meet for our normal Wednesday night meetings in March due to Lent Soup Suppers. Lots of youth volunteered each week to help set up, serve, and clean up the meals.
- Middle School had an Appetizer and Game Night on Sunday, March 9th, that was very successful with 20+ youth in attendance. High School met at Culver's for Ice Cream and Fellowship on Wednesday, March 26th, and had 12 youth hang out.
- Lent Soup Suppers are almost over. Each week has been great getting to serve the congregation delicious soup, chili, hotdogs, salad, and dessert. Thank you to everyone who's come out to enjoy a meal before worship!
- Breakfast Club had 10 youth at our March meeting. Thank you to the Jackson Family for providing breakfast!
- The Fill the Bus Fundraiser is going well! The point is to give congregation members an opportunity to support the trip.
- Thank you to all the adults who've come help with Lent Soup Suppers! Jason, Michelle, Sarah, Kayla, Megan, Bradley, Tim, Matt, Katie, Mindy, and Matt, I couldn't have done it without all your help!

Treasurer's Report:

- Discussed and approved February financials
- Discussed and approved March financials
- \$3000 budgeted youth support was transferred

Stewardship :

- Quarter 1 Contribution Statement Letter draft completed and signed by committee.
- Lauri sent reminder that CDs will be expiring in May/June. We will be shopping for rates and maturity time length and make a recommendation at May Council meeting.
- Brenda plans to speak on stewardship issues during services on May 18th.

Building & Grounds

- BJ from Bengard Roofing repair two spots of shingle damage after the wind last week.
- Larry Wolinski will look at fixing the steeple
- Todd will work with the supplier to get the alarm system updated. Hopefully this means just replacing some hardware within the Control, not replacing sensors.
- Worked with Jill, Lauri, and Education to replace two damaged wooden tables with new, lighter weight, plastic, foldable tables.
- Repaired flushing handle in men's room toilet.
- Looked at graffiti on front walk. Will try to pressure wash this weekend.

Education:

- We are continuing to work on the Sunday School supply storage project.
- We are gearing up for Palm Sunday this week when the kids will sing at service and will have an opportunity to interact with the donkeys outdoors during Sunday School time.
- This month we have been buying/collecting prizes for the Easter egg hunt 4/19 and have all the preparations ready.
- Planning for the year end Sunday School carnival 5/4 where we will have indoor games, prizes, and donuts. Sunday School children will sing at service also.
- After a table broke in the kindergarten room, we coordinated with building and grounds to order two folding banquet tables. We will be testing these tables during our last few Sundays of Sunday School to see if they better meet

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.



the needs of the church.

Evangelism:

- Our fellowship time continues to be a welcome time to gather, say hello and engage one another.
- We moved the coffee outside of the kitchen area and set it out on the coffee bar. This has worked out well and thanks to Tim for installing the larger coffee maker.
- We are excited to participate in the Easter Egg hunt with providing a grab and go breakfast snacks along with cold and hot drinks.
- Next month we will provide a cake reception for our graduating seniors between services May 11.
- Upcoming activities: Parade, Carnival, Farmers Market
- MoM: Evangelism proposed holding a congregation picnic this summer / fall with WELCA / Men's Group sponsoring.

Worship & Music :

- Palm Sunday—April 13: palms ordered and Lacey Baker will bring a donkey to remain outside
- Maundy Thursday— Volunteers lined up for stripping the altar. Kaarin taking care of communion bread.
- Good Friday— Decorate for Easter after service
- Easter—Bradley will assist with sound for Sunrise service. Brass ensemble will play along with hymns
- Staff Discussion—openings and accountabilities
- Discussed potential audio options for those with impaired hearing
- Mini Me Music April 27 @ 9:30 a.m.
- **MoM** – Choir director job description reviewed by Emily, Rita and Katie. Position is ready to post – post beyond church bulletin. Collaborate with Lauri to post on St. Peter website with a link to the job description.

Children's Singing Schedule:

- Apr 27—10:30 a.m.—Wednesday Choirs
- May 4—10:30 a.m.—All SS Kids

New Business:

St. Peter Insurance Policy - Quote review by Steve Schultz

- Received from Acuity compared to St Peter's current Church Mutual policy. Bottom line, Church Mutual total premium is ~\$3,000 cheaper.
- Received one other quote, but it was not as good as the Acuity quote.
- We were getting a quote from Philadelphia Insurance they declined to quote as it was midterm.
- **MoM**
- St. Peter constitution updates will be presented to congregation for first reading at July semi-annual meeting. Requires two reviews before adoption.
- Nominating committee updates – Nominating committee has provided a list of potential candidates to the four council members stepping down. They've been in contact with several of the candidates. Update will be discussed

at May council meeting.

- Roundabout status – Jared shared updates they had with meetings with the city, Foth, and the contractor the city has engaged for the next phase of construction James Street. The next phase involves sewer updates before the road. Plans to are projected to start at the Fire station and come south in phases. There will be some shifting of lanes as they start this next phase of sewer and road construction. The city will provide the 'detour' information for James Street during this phase of work. Projections are for end of May or mid-June for 11th Street entrance to open. Weather permitting, expecting to have entire projected completed end-of-year. Some discussion on communications that may be required for VBS.

Local Mission Donation: Grimes Volunteer Support Services

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING

APRIL 15, 2025

Financial Update - Kerry is absent will defer to next meeting
Amanda has receipts for the Mosaic Easter Baskets \$143.33

Old Business

- Myamba was very thankful for the donation to feminine hygiene products
- Mosaic provided a thank you for the Christmas gifts
- Amanda and Ellie delivered the Easter baskets to Mosaic on 5/15
- Pieces of WELCA
- Subscriptions - Lauri moved the Gather magazines to the front.

New Business

- WELCA Craft Fair: discussed vendor bags, thank yous, and work shifts. Beth will bring a check for \$1097.62 - total vendor fees for 2025
- Mosaic visit - Amanda will coordinate with Jill/confirmation to evaluate opportunity to work together for an in-person visit.
- WELCA Cluster Meeting - Stephanie gave updates as we didn't have someone attend
- Synod newsletter list many opportunities to give
- WELCA Convention- Triennial Gathering - is in Des Moines on July 16-19, 2026
- WELCA/Men's Group Combined Event - Heidi will take option back to Men's group about potential brunch picnic/ bike ride— August 17th?

What's Next

Dessert & Devotion - May 13th

- Stephanie will lead on Spiritual Gifts.
- Baptism: May 11th Shenandoah Clarke (13 years) - discussed baptism gifts for youth baptism

Next Meeting - June 17th 6:30pm

No meeting in May