

# The Voice



## *From the Desk of Pastor Mark:*

“Rejoice with me for I have found my lost sheep.”

“Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.”

“We had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”

In Luke 15, we read three wonderful parables that Jesus tells. The parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, and the prodigal son are all told one after the other. Each of these parables is a beautiful example of the relentless love of God. The God who will not rest until all know the abundance of God’s love and mercy. This was the message I preached on Luke 15 in worship in Sep-

tember. Another beautiful message that we find in these parables is the aspect of rejoicing. Following each parable there is rejoicing. When the lost sheep is found, there is rejoicing. When the lost coin is found—rejoicing. When the prodigal son is found, there is celebration and rejoicing.

God’s relentless pursuit of the lost is serious business. Following Jesus, and the Way of love is serious business. Loving our neighbors and seeking justice for the oppressed is serious business. Sharing our faith with future generations is serious business. Caring for creation is serious business. Proclaiming the Good News of God’s love in Christ Jesus through the Word and Sacrament ministries of the church is serious business. When I say “serious business,” I mean important work. The church, God’s people, have important work to do. In the ELCA, we say it’s

## *IN THIS ISSUE:*

- ◇ Celebration Sunday
- ◇ 1st Communion
- ◇ Book Club
- ◇ Loving Teens Series
- ◇ Pastor Appreciation
- ◇ Lunch Abroad
- ◇ Fellowship Bonfire
- ◇ Winter Coat Drive
- ◇ WELCA Dessert & Devotion
- ◇ Fall Outreach

## *IN EVERY ISSUE:*

- ◇ Youth Group Calendar
- ◇ Grimes Storehouse Donation Ideas
- ◇ Volunteer Sign-Up Info
- ◇ Stewardship Update
- ◇ Church Council Minutes
- ◇ WELCA Minutes
- ◇ Monthly Birthdays & Anniversaries
- ◇ Monthly Calendar

## Worship Schedule

*Thank you for joining us for worship!*

Sunday worship is at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. Wednesday worship is at 6:30 p.m.

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## YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

High School Youth group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month.

Middle School Youth Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. In October, MSYG will also meet the 5th Wednesday.

Breakfast Club for 7th-12th graders meets October 5.

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## 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.

God's work. Our hands. God's relentless pursuit of the lost, sharing the abundance of God's love with the world is important work. It is work that God calls us to be a part of. We may not be doing it to perfection. We may not be doing as much as we would like to be doing. We may wish we could be making a bigger impact in our community and world. There will always be room for improvement. And ... with God's help, we will accomplish even more in the year (s) to come.

We can't let the endless important work that needs to still be done get in the way of celebrating the work that God has already done. God has already done amazing work through the good people of St. Peter Lutheran church. Celebration Sunday on October 12th is a time to do just that. Let's celebrate and rejoice together the Good News of God's love for us, and the ways God is at work in and through us to share this Good News with the people and world that God so loves.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to serve.

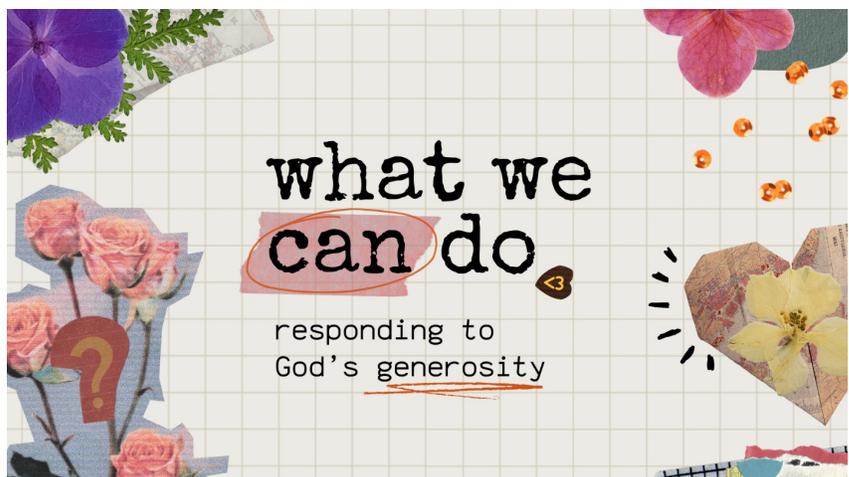
Pastor Mark

## Coming Up at St. Peter

### Celebration Sunday October 12

In September and October, we are focusing on our Fall Stewardship Drive called *What We CAN Do*. 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 12th to bring forward during a special offering time in our worship services, where we celebrate our affirmation of this commitment to the church. **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 2026.**

Join us on Celebration Sunday, October 12, for lunch and fellowship following 10:30 a.m. worship!

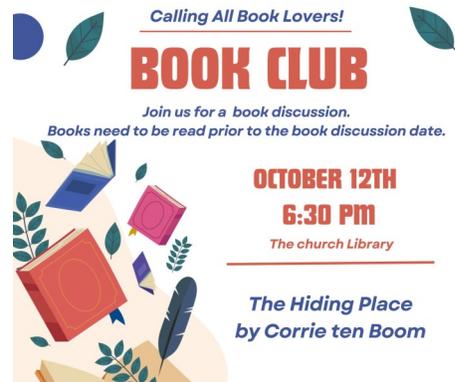


CALLED as children of God, and CLAIMED by the Holy Spirit, the members of St. Peter Lutheran Church are GATHERED together to build each other up to use and GROW our gifts in the multitude of ministries we share – and are SENT out to serve the greater church, our community, and our world by using those gifts and ministries to share God's love as the united people of God.

Wednesday Children's Choirs Sing October 5 at 10:30 a.m. worship!  
Sunday School Children sing November 2 at 10:30 a.m. worship!

## First Communion

Pastor Mark met youth and their parents on Sunday, September 21, during the Sunday School hour to discuss the sacrament of Holy Communion. Youth will receive their First Communion during the worship service of their choice on October 1 or 5.



## Pastor Appreciation

October is Pastor Appreciation month! Our thanks to Pastor Mark for leading St. Peter with grace and compassion!



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

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

## Book Club October 12

Do you enjoy books and reading? Join the St. Peter book club! We will meet October 12 from 6:30 -7:30 p.m. to discuss *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom. Find the reading schedule in the weekly eNews or at the Service board. In November, we'll discuss *When the Moon Is Low* by Nadia Hashimi.



## LOVING TEENAGERS WELL A SERIES FOR CAREGIVERS

Do you have a pre-teen or teen in your life? This short series is for you! Our "Loving Teens Well" discussion group led by Pastor Mark & Jill, "meets anyone who is right in the thick of parenting or caring for teenagers, offering practical insights, honest conversations, and a little humor to remind us: you are not alone."

Wednesday, October 8th, 22nd, & 29th  
7:15pm-8:15pm

# God's Work—Our Hands

Thank you to everyone who helped package pantry and snack bags for the Grimes Storehouse on Sunday! Together we were able to make 49 snack bags and 18 pantry bags, as well as additional items shared by our congregation. Gathered to Grow—Sent to Serve!



## Lunch Abroad with Pastor Mark

**Who:** All are welcome

**What:** Enjoy good food, good conversations, and good fun. Pastor Mark will share some information on the Christian church and other facts of the country through fun trivia questions. See how much you know (or what you can learn) about a different country and how you like their food.

**When:** 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14

**Where:** Mi Patria Ecuadorian Restaurant

1410 22nd St., West Des Moines

**Why:** Fun way to get together with other members while trying new food and learning something about our neighbors from other countries and cultures.

**How Much:** Each person will be responsible for paying their own meal. Check their website [mipatriadsm.com](http://mipatriadsm.com) for pricing.

*The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month is the deadline date for newsletter items to be submitted to the church office.*

## Confirmation Retreat

We will have our confirmation retreat on Saturday, October 25th. As part of the retreat, we will have our 7th annual "Amazing gRace" and we are looking for families willing to host a stop on the race. If you are willing to help with this, please let me know. (If you have high school youth, they can use this event for Silver Cord hours.) The race will occur sometime between 1:00 and 5:00 - it will take about 3 hours, and I will have the time finalized in a few weeks.

For those that have hosted this event before, it will function much like it has in the past. If you have not hosted before it is easy. Each house/stop is provided with a game or activity that each of the confirmation groups must complete before moving on to the next stop. I will provide a sign for your yard along with instructions and all the materials needed for your stop.

If you have hosted before you know what a fun event this is for the youth and for those hosting the event. If you have not, I assure you that it will be a fun time for not just the youth but for your family as well.

If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Jill at [faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org](mailto:faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org).

## Myamba Scholarship Pledge Update

We thank God for the faithfulness and the generosity of our congregation. We received over \$11,000 for education scholarships and Swahili Bibles for first time scholarship recipients. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

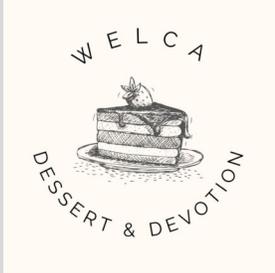
Tumsifu Mungu (Let's praise God)!

Asante Sana (Thank you so much)!

## **WELCA Dessert &**

### **Devotion**

Join WELCA October 7 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. for a devotion and snacks. All St. Peter women and their friends are welcome!



### **Faith, Fellowship, Coffee, & Dessert**

All are welcome to join our Thursday afternoon Bible study. This relaxed Bible study meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Join us in a study on the Psalms that will go through December.** There is no registration required, and you can come as often or as little as your schedule allows. Contact Jill with any questions.

### **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



## **Fellowship Bonfire October 11**

Monti and Carol Miller will be hosting a family-friendly bonfire fellowship event for St. Peter members on October 11th at 5:30 p.m. WELCA will provide s'mores makings to enjoy. You are invited to bring your own beverages and lawn chairs. We welcome you to join us for another year of this fun event!



## **Winter Coat and Sleeping Bag Drive**

During the month of October, WELCA will be taking donations of gently used or new winter coats and sleeping bags 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. Other accepted gently used items are: boots, gloves, blankets, or other winter gear. Please drop off any donations in the basket inside the church. This is a great time to declutter outgrown/unused gear while supporting those in need!

### **WELCA COAT & SLEEPING BAG DRIVE**



**BRING DONATIONS OF GENTLY USED OR NEW COATS, SLEEPING BAGS, BLANKETS, OR OTHER WINTER WEAR. THIS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE IN NEED BY CAPITOL HILL LUTHERAN'S CLOTHES CLOSET.**

## **WELCA Silent Auction November 9**

Mark your calendars! The annual WELCA Silent Auction and Bake Sale will be held November 9. Contact a WELCA Board member or the church office if you are interested in donating hand-crafted items or services, baskets or basket items, and/or baked/frozen goods. Mark your calendar to attend this fun annual event supporting the church and its ministries!

# Fall Clean-Up Outreach

## **Choir Director**

### **Job Opening**

Join our team! St. Peter has an opening for a part-time adult choir director. The program year runs from September – May, with practices occurring on Wednesday evenings and performances on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in joining our team, please contact the church office at [stpeter@stpeterofgrimes.org](mailto:stpeter@stpeterofgrimes.org).

## **Youth Donations Via Droppett**

Now you can and bottle deposit redemption can go towards St. Peter's Youth Ministry! Fill a 13-gallon plastic bag with cans or plastic bottles that are ready to be redeemed for their deposit (or a sealed box under 20 pounds for glass bottles), stick a Droppett sticker tag to it (available at the service counter), and deliver it to the redemption site at Many Hands. Ask Bambi or the church office if you have any questions.

## **Piano Available**

St. Peter is looking to rehome an acoustic piano. If you are interested, please contact the church office. The piano is free of charge, but you are responsible for moving it (it does have wheels).

## **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 26, to help with your projects. Please give the church office a call at 515-986-3077 or email us at [stpeter@stpeterofgrimes.org](mailto: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. 26

Come join us on Sunday, October 26, 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.



We support the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry!

Our October focus will be:



## **Thanksgiving Sides**



Bring in donations of jarred gravy or gravy mix, canned sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, canned pumpkin, cranberry sauce, and boxed stuffing. Donations can be dropped off in the basket next to the Service Counter.

## 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 Rita Rosenberg.

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!



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

### Pastor's Report:

- Fall ministries off to a great start! Loved the church picnic kickoff this year on August 17th as summer break was coming to a close. Backpack Sunday the following week of 24th was another wonderful way to send our kids and youth back to school with a blessing.
- The first Lunch Abroad went well last month. Fun trivia fact shared at the lunch: "Did you know that the Nicene Creed was agreed upon in Nicea, which is located in modern day Turkey." The next Lunch Abroad is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14th at 11:30 with location coming soon.
- I led Bible instruction with 3 year old and parents, as well as 5th grade and parents last week. We will be presenting them with their Bibles and a blessing this week in worship.
- Looking forward to leading the 1st communion instruction on September 21st.

### Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Faith Formation:** Our God's Work Our Hands project focused on the Grimes Storehouse. St. Peter members packaged 49 snack bags and 11 pantry bags on September 7th. We will continue to collect donations through September.
- **Confirmation:** We had our first night of confirmation on September 3rd, where the small groups spent time building connections while working together on a fun activity. We have also added 2 additional 7th graders, bringing us to 17, and another high school youth guide, so we have a large group of 51 people together for confirmation.
- The confirmation retreat will be held on October 25th.
- **Technology:** The new soundboard computer arrived in August – the volunteers and I have noticed a huge difference in its speed and graphics.
- **Sunday School:** This year's 6th grade Sunday school class will receive the new NRSVUE Lutheran Study Bible. This will allow the 5th & 6th graders to have the same Bible.

### Youth Report

- The Youth Group Kick Off Party on Wednesday, August 27th was a huge success! We had 45 youth in grades 6-12 attend.
- I'm looking forward to Youth Group starting up in September. High School will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 7:15-8:15pm and Middle School will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 7:15-8:15pm.
- Breakfast Club meets the first Sunday of the month from 9:15-10:15am in the Youth Room. This is for any youth in grades 7-12.
- I'm already looking into Mission Trip 2026. Lots of youth keep asking where we are going this year. We will have our first MT Informational Meeting on Sunday, September 28th from 6-6:30pm.

## From the Stewardship Committee— Brenda Johnston & Jake Wager

### August 2025

Income: \$27,700.46  
Expense: \$30,875.03  
Net Loss: (\$3,174.57)

### Year to Date August 2025

Income: \$212,486.89  
Expense: \$248,646.82  
Net Loss: (\$36,159.93)

- General Fund—July 2025, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with loss of \$3,174.57.
- General Fund YTD—July 2025, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of \$36,159.93.

- St. Peter Youth Group is now enrolled in the can recycling program called Droppett.
- The Youth Room has 2 new door signs I had made by BDI Signs.
- Council Discussion on timeframe and age range of youth programming

#### **Treasurer's Report August 2025:**

- General Fund--August 2025 mtd, expenses were greater than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$3,174.57).
- General Fund--August 2025 ytd, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$36,159.93)
- General Fund--August 2024 mtd, expenses were greater than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$4,025.32).
- General Fund--August 2024 ytd, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss (\$31,377.10).
- Discussion of August financial notes

#### **Stewardship :**

- Pastor Mark and Brenda met in August to discuss drive theme and responsibilities.
- Jake and Brenda met in September to discuss committee roles and drive needs.
- September Voice article completed.
- Drive signs ordered and will be ready for pickup the week of Sept 15th.
- Time and Talent Sheet reviewed; Drive letter drafted; Budget narrative updated
- Confirming plans with Evangelism Committee for Celebration Sunday. May also work with Men's Group.
- Password reset completed for Vanco; PCI DSS compliance is due to be completed by mid-September.

#### **Building & Grounds**

- Held 2 painting days. Painted the main entrance, fellowship hall, west Sunday School hallways, and half of east hallway. We still need to finish the east hallway and kitchen. **MoM:** 20 people were present for painting. Most things were finished up last Sunday; we still need to find a time to finish up the kitchen, but are struggling to find a time to do so. An email will be coming out to ask for help with this.
- Gary Meggison repaired the back door, adding a new threshold and door seals.
- Replaced several light bulbs and repaired a fluorescent light fixture
- Getting quotes to see what it would take to begin replacing fluorescent fixtures with LED. Saving on bulbs and electricity costs. **MoM:** For LED fixtures, the cost would be \$10,000 for the whole church, which is approximately \$120 per fixture. We will explore cheaper options, including possible rebates.
- Conversation around the possible need to change the keypad code for security and insurance reasons.

#### **Education:**

- Kick-off party went well. The year is all prepped. All Sunday School teaching positions are staffed, and is a mix of returning staff and new faces. The storage room has been sorted and looks much better!
- Upcoming events include presentation of Bibles and first Communion for 2nd graders

#### **Evangelism:**

- Pr. Mark and Bambi did the last Farmer's Market in August. This ministry went well overall and is worth continuing.
- Provided drinks for Sunday School kick-off
- First day of Sunday School and 2 services was a busy morning. Working to find ways to get more involved.
- Discussion on Fellowship food needs

#### **Worship & Music :**

- Adult Choir Updates: Rita directing temporarily. First practice went well - one new member

## **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](http://www.stpeterofgrimes.org) and click on the yellow Online Giving link or scan the QR code printed here.



- Choir Director position – There are two candidates for the choir director. We have reached out to both to get applications completed.
- Special Sunday Services Coming Up:
  - Sept 21 – Fall Stewardship: What We Can Do
  - Oct 12 – Celebration Sunday. Fall decorations up by this date – Katie & Rita to decorate Oct 5
- **Miscellaneous Updates:**
- Acoustic pianos – currently have two in choir room. Considering finding a new home for it as we don't really need two acoustic pianos since one is no longer regularly used in the sanctuary. It would also free up some space and would eliminate the cost of tuning it each year, which is \$145. Rita taking next steps.

#### **Old Business**

- None at this time

#### **New Business:**

- Garage clean up plans: discussion on who needs to be consulted for garage clean up; possible need for inventory. Old tables in the garage can be thrown away and be replaced. There was conversation around building a new garage, but underpinning the back wall on the current one could solve any issues and is cheaper than a rebuild. Council members will look through the garage to determine next steps by October 11.
- Council Retreat- October 11. 9 am to 2 pm at the Grimes Library. Tentative topics: Council organization (which model do we want, and what does the transition look like?), signage conversation, property insurance evaluation

**Local Mission Donation:** \$100 to DMARC Food Pantry, \$100 to Unravel Pediatric Cancer Iowa (2 chosen due to catch up from unassigned July Local Mission Donation)

### **WELCA MINUTES SEPTEMBER 2025**

#### **Treasure Report - Kerry**

- Balance- \$6505.62
- Admin - \$705 (kitchen needs still this year)
- Youth - \$1000 (Jill's request for sensory table or confirmation books)
- Outreach - \$854 (Mosaic christmas)
- Donations - \$1085 (myamba, ELCA, rejoicing spirits)

#### **FINANCIAL REQUESTS**

- Myamba Donation - approved up to \$400 - Stephanie will touch base with Roberta
- Youth Funding - approved Jill's request for kindergarten table (\$180) and confirmation books (\$78) - Heidi will notify Jill of approval and to submit receipts to Kerry
- Urban Bicycle (Capitol Hill Lutheran) - money needed for goods or amazon wishlist (will decide in November)
- Rejoicing Spirits - approved \$250 - Amanda will connect with Mosaic

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- October Bonfire/Miller's Home - 10/11; Lauri can put in Voice and bulletin
- Desert and Devotion - 10/7 (Mary Tjeerdsma will lead). Heidi to bring a sweet and Nicky something savory
- Silent Auction - planning event on 9/18 at Nicky Cooney
- Capital Hill Warm clothes drive (November) - Lauri will post - Amanda and Steph will work on sign and basket

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Discussion on potential new board members

**NEXT WELCA Meeting - Tuesday, October 21, 6:30 p.m.**