

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

"But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

- Romans 10:14-15

The word "sent" jumps out at me in the above words from the Apostle Paul. We say "sent to serve" here at St. Peter Lutheran. It's who we recognize ourselves to be. We are sent to serve the people and world that God so loves. I wonder how often we think about "sent to serve" as proclaiming good news though? We have this good news of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. We know God's love for us is not because

of our own goodness, but because of God's goodness. We may not be perfect, but God's love for us is perfect. We may not always get the serving right, but God's love remains with us. Life in this world can be scary at times, but we know that Christ Jesus can and does bring peace to our anxious and fearful hearts. Life can be lonely at times too, but we know that Christ is with us and we are never truly alone. Things happening in the world, our communities or our lives can cause people to despair and lose hope, but we know that through Christ we are never without hope. The good news of God's love in Christ Jesus is that there is always hope for a new tomorrow. Regrets, things done and left undone, are forgiven/forgotten and we can start fresh each and every day. This is the good news that the Apostle Paul says we are "sent" to share.

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Worship Schedule

*Thank you for joining us
for worship!*

Beginning September 7, 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. beginning September 10.

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.

Breakfast Club for 7th-12th
graders meets September 7.

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.

Proclaiming the good news is NOT a message of "You better shape up or else," or "You better believe or you're going to burn," or "You better go to church or God won't love you." Proclaiming the Good News is sharing the gifts of peace, hope, joy, and love we receive through Christ Jesus. These are gifts I believe the world is in desperate need of. These are good gifts that I believe are a blessing to all who hear and receive. In this secular age that we live in, it is not always easy to proclaim this good news. Start easy if you aren't comfortable with sharing. Share what your faith means to you when moments arise. Invite others to worship with you and hear the good news proclaimed. Just like learning other new skills, the more you do it, the easier it gets. "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" Let's get those "beautiful feet" moving St. Peter, and share the good news of God's love.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to serve.

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter

God's Work—Our Hands

Sunday, September 7, is God's Work Our Hands Sunday. St. Peter will join ELCA congregations around the world as we work to help those in need. This year St. Peter will be focusing on food insecurity with a special focus on back to school. As many of us know, this time of year is filled with activities after school where kids depend on quick after school snacks, and parents depend on quick and easy meals. With those busy schedules in mind, we are going to prepare snack bags and pantry meal bags to be given to the Grimes Storehouse. We invite you to join us for 15 minutes following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, September 7, as we pack the bags for the storehouse. Watch the eNews, Facebook, bulletin, and service board to learn more about how you can help by donating items for these packs. If you have questions or want to help with this project contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org.



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.

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



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StPeterGrimes

3-Year Old & 5th Grade Bible Instruction Sept. 7

On September 7, Pastor Mark will hold Bible Instruction with 3-year-olds and 5th Graders. Fifth Grade Bible Instruction will be from 9:15-10:00 a.m. and 3-year-old Bible Instruction will be from 10:00-10:15 a.m. Please join your child during this time. Children will receive their Bibles at the worship service of their choice on Wednesday, September 10, or Sunday, September 14.

First Communion

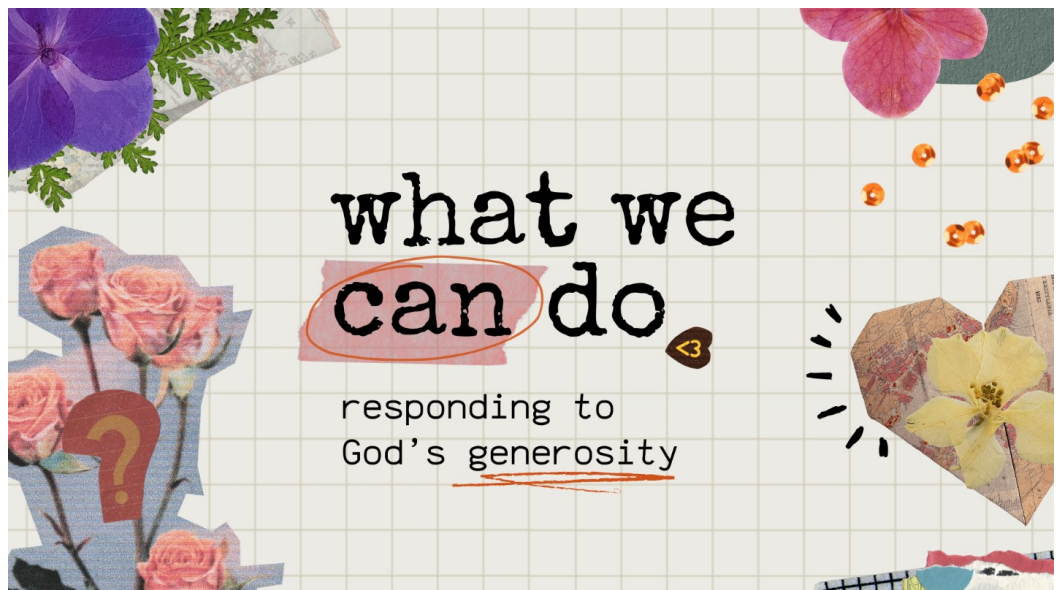
Pastor Mark will meet with 2nd Graders and their parents on Sunday, September 21, during the Sunday School hour to discuss the sacrament of Holy Communion. Second Graders will then receive their First Communion during the worship service of their choice on October 1 or 5.

Fall Stewardship – WHAT WE CAN DO

What is possible for us to do in response to God's lavish generosity? God's gifts come to particular people, in particular places, in particular times. Because we are made in God's image, we, too, uniquely embody God's steadfast abundance, love, and mercy. We are equipped to be generous where we are. Drawn more deeply into the body of Christ, we are reminded of our belovedness; and we can respond with generosity, love, and service on behalf of our neighbors.

Our *What We Can Do* stewardship drive launches on September 21st. During the month-long drive, we will explore what God calls our church to do and to be and what part each of us play in this calling. We will also take time to reflect on the impact St. Peter has on our community and beyond.

Together our time, talents, and giving spreads God's generosity. Please watch for 2026 stewardship drive materials being distributed in September.



Pastoral Acts

Collins Ann Meggison, daughter of Jared and Carsen Meggison, was born on March 14, 2025, in Des Moines, IA. Reagan was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes on August 17, 2025, by Rev. Mark Schlenker. Laticia and Cody Petersen are Collins's baptism sponsors.

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 September 11 for a Q&A with Pastor Mark on Funeral planning. Then, on September 21, we will begin our next study. 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



Confirmation Kick-Off

Confirmation will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and will begin on September 3. Confirmation is open to students in 7th grade and above; contact Jill Capps for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday, September 3 at 5:30 p.m.—Confirmation Begins

Saturday, October 25 from 9:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.—Confirmation Retreat

Wednesday, October 29th at 6:30 p.m.—Confirmation led worship service

Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m.— Confirmation Christmas Program

Sunday, May 3—Confirmation Sunday

St. Peter Choir Rehearsals Begin September 3

Choir rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 3. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:15-8:15 p.m. Come join us for some mid-week fellowship and singing. ALL are welcome!!



St. Peter Children's Choir

Come join us in song on Wednesday nights with the St. Peter Children's Choirs! Little Cherubs (K-2nd) meet from 5:15-5:45 p.m., and Joyful Noise (3rd-6th) meets from 5:45-6:16 p.m. starting on September 10. Sign up using the QR code or talk to Beth Hansen for more details!



Silent Auction Planning Party September 18

Join WELCA at 6:30 p.m. on September 18 for a planning meeting for the WELCA Silent Auction held in November! All are welcome. This will be held at Nicky Cooney's house. Contact a WELCA Board member or the church office for more info.

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 stpeteofgrimes.org.

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!



Quarter Tube Donation: At the end of August, we donated the contents of the quarter tube to the Grimes Storehouse. The total was \$123.75! Check out our God's Work—Our Hands service project for more on how to serve the Grimes Storehouse in September!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 14, 2025

Pastor's Report:

- One worship at 9:00 is always nice change of pace for the summer. People see and worship with others they might not normally if they go to different worship services. People are a bit more relaxed it seems, so many “hang out” enjoying coffee/treats and fellowship after worship, which is great.
- VBS was another fun and successful week this summer with many children participating.
- The youth had another successful and meaningful mission trip in July. Recap video of the trip was shared in worship on Sunday, Aug. 10th with many of the mission trip youth participating in leading worship.
- “Lunch Abroad” is something new I’m going to do on August 26th at 11:30. All are welcome to meet at Istanbul Grill in Urbandale for a chance to learn about another country/culture while tasting some new cuisines.
- I will be attending a meeting with the ELCA Innovation Team from 11:00-2:00 at St. Stephen Lutheran in Urbandale on next Wednesday, August 20th.
- Looking forward to the church picnic/fall kickoff this Sunday and backpack Sunday the following week.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Faith Formation:** In July as part of our Summer Service Sundays, we were able to make 52 breakfast casseroles for the Salvation Army’s mobile breakfast canteen. We had a great group of volunteers who stayed following worship to prepare these casseroles that will help feed the homeless population in Des Moines.
- Backpack Sunday will be August 24th, children & youth will receive a key-

From the Stewardship Committee— Brenda Johnston & Jake Wager

July 2025

Income: \$23,662.97

Expense: \$30,583.72

Net Loss: (\$6,920.75)

Year to Date July 2025

Income: \$184,786.43

Expense: \$217,771.79

Net Loss: (\$32,985.36)

- General Fund—July 2025, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with loss of \$6,920.75.
- General Fund YTD—July 2025, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of \$32,985.36.

chain to place on their backpack. This year we have custom St. Peter keychains (thank you Sarah!), that the kids can add their own decorations to during Creation Station.

- Pastor Mark, Bambi, Amanda Rokke (representing WELCA), and I met with members of the Mosaic leadership team to talk about the ongoing connection St. Peter has with the clients served by Mosaic.
- **Confirmation:** On June 11th I will meet with the incoming 7th graders and their parents for confirmation orientation. Confirmation orientation is also open to any youth in 7th grade or above who has not yet been confirmed.
- At St. Peter we use the NRSV translation of the Bible, an updated version will be released and will be the Lutheran Study bible that we give in 5th grade that is used in confirmation. These Bibles currently cost more than the old version so we will see a slight impact (about \$7-10 per Bible) to the budget.
- **VBS:** It was another successful year of VBS! We had 74 kids participate as campers, 45 youth volunteers, and 27 adults who volunteered during the week or prior to VBS. Thank you to all the volunteers – we couldn't do it without all of you!! While we primarily had St. Peter members attend VBS we had several non-members attend as well, with a few families expressing interest in attending our Sunday School program as well. We were also able to raise \$1,000 for IHYC (Iowa Homeless Youth Centers) and complete 9 blankets for the youth serviced by IHYC.
- **Technology:** I have ordered a new soundboard computer that I will pick up this week. Thanks to a donation from a generous member this expense will not hit our budget line this year.
- **Miscellaneous:** A huge thank you to all the people who showed up to help with the Sunday School Prep day! A shout out to the education team of Beth & Emily for making storage a priority this year! A special thank you to Emily French for her work on year 1 of the supply organization, and to Sarah Capps for her work on years 2 and 3. This storage improvement has not only allowed us to organize the Sunday school supplies, but to also clear out items that were stored in my office.

Youth Report

- Summer has officially come and gone! I'm excited for the Youth Group Kick Off Party on Wednesday, August 27th from 5:30-7:30pm for all youth in 6th-12th grade!
- We had a great Car Wash on July 12th to end our fundraising. Thank you to all the youth and adults who showed up and vacuumed, washed, and dried lots of cars!
- June and July were very busy preparing for the Mission Trip to Copperhill, TN. We had 3 drop out the last week due to Girls State Softball. We were able to quickly fill those 3 spots. The week before we left was busy getting everything finished up. The week was great watching youth and adults help another church, grow relationships, worship, and share faith stories! If you see youth around church, ask them about the trip. The week we returned I worked on the video presentation for our August 10th service. Big shout out goes to Jill Capps for helping edit my 20 minute video down to 14 minutes!! I plan to add music to the video next year.
- St. Peter Youth Group is now enrolled in the can recycling program called Droppett. Church members can get tags from church and place them on their bags of cans or boxes of bottles. The bags can be dropped off at Many Hands Thrift Market in Grimes at their new building in the front parking lot. You just scan the barcode on the tag and place the bags inside. St. Peter Youth Group will receive the 5 cent deposit per can. * I'll be putting these stickers on the Service board next week.
- The Youth Room continues to improve little by little. I added more paint, reused Sunday School cabinets, bought some new couches, and hope to get carpet moving in the next week or two. Stop by to see how it's coming!

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.



Treasurer's Report June & July 2025:

- General Fund--June 2025 mtd, expenses were greater than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$9,486.52).
- General Fund--June 2025 ytd, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$26,064.61)
- General Fund--June 2024 mtd, expenses were greater than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$9,610.80).
- General Fund--June 2024 ytd, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss (\$18,432.43).
- General Fund--July 2025 mtd, expenses were greater than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$6,920.75).
- General Fund--July 2025 ytd, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$32,985.36)
- General Fund--July 2024 mtd, expenses were greater than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$8,919.35).
- General Fund--July 2024 ytd, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss (\$27,357.78).

Stewardship :

- Blake continues to seek a replacement for his position.
- Password reset completed for Vanco; PCI DSS compliance is due to be completed by mid-September.

Building & Grounds

- Scheduled a Painting day for August 23rd at 9am in hopes of getting the main entrance, Sunday School hallways, and kitchen painted. Adam and I will get supplies and paint. Hoping to get congregation members to attend and help.
- Worked with Doors, Inc. and Gary Meggison to get a new threshold for the east door (kitchen door with keypad). Threshold was installed on 8/13.
- The east door keypad has been working inconsistently. Changed batteries to see if that solves the issue.
- AirCon replaced Unit 4 at cost of \$7,784.00. Based on report from AirCon, Unit 5 should be next on the list for replacement. This is something we should budget for in 2026.
- Larry Wolinski will be repairing issues around the bell in the steeple. Will do the work when temperatures are cooler.
- Construction update:
 - Roundabout, SE 11th St, and S James from new entrance south is fully open. Only a few punch list items remain.
 - Work should no longer directly impact St Peter entrance
 - Work from 2nd to 5th has been slowed by issues with responsiveness of private utilities in the way and the weather.
 - The hope is to have S James from 5th Street to the north open to traffic in the next month. At minimum open to access to the north School entrance, but weather is still a potential issue.
 - Next shutdown will be from 5th to new just north of new entrance.

Education:

- Working on reorganization of curriculum. This will be Year 1, keep rotating with kids so that they don't have the same curriculum each year. It will be able to be reused with new groups of students when needed. Will need to eventually install shelving to help with the organization.
- Excited for Sunday's picnic. Organizing it a little differently this year, and to not have council sponsor a hole.
- The big white dividers from VBS are a potential concern, as they are in the hallway and in violation of fire code. The garage has lots of stuff in it and they can't fit in there; at some point Council needs to look at it and determine what needs to stay and what can go.
- Recommendation to discuss rebuilding the garage at Council Retreat. This could be something that Youth Group can help with, as they just built one on their mission trip. We could also add a small shed for gardening

materials as well.

- We have all of our teachers for Sunday School and are excited to get started!

Evangelism:

- We had a great time at the Farmer's Market so far this summer.
- We will be supplying drinks and coffee for Sunday's Fall Kickoff.
- Our fellowship hour continues with treats and coffee immediately following our service. Thank you everyone participating. Remember, anyone can sign up and host our fellowship hour. Reach out if we can assist with sign-up!

Worship & Music :

- Begin two services on Sept 7- 8:00 & 10:30 am. 8:00 am service will be live streamed. Communion on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays.
- Wednesday services begin on Sept 10 at 6:30 pm. Communion on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays. 2nd Wednesdays will be Holden Prayer Service.
- Adult Choir begins Wed, Sept 3 at 7:15 pm. Rita will lead temporarily while we look for a choir director. The group will sing at 8:00 am on 2nd & 4th Sundays, and 10:30 am on 3rd & 5th Sundays.
- Children's Choir begins Wed, Sept 10. Practices will be 5:15-5:45 for Little Cherubs (K-2nd) and 5:45-6:15 for Joyful Noise (3rd-6th). Tentative 10:30 am service performance dates:
 - Oct 5- Wed Choirs
 - Nov 2- ALL SS kids sing, led by Mady Brown
 - Nov 23- Wed Choirs
 - Dec 14- ALL SS kids sing in Christmas Program
 - Jan 18- Wed Choirs
 - Feb 8- ALL SS kids
 - Mar 8- Wed Choirs
 - Mar 29- ALL SS kids. Palm Sunday
 - Apr 26- ALL SS kids, Carnival Sunday
- Note: Beth cut back 1-2 performances from last year
- Mommy & Me Music Program- all from 9:30-10:30 am
 - October 19- Fall
 - Nov 16- Thanksgiving
 - Jan 25- Winter
 - Apr 12- Spring, New Life
- Special Sunday Services for 2025
 - Oct 12- Celebration/Stewardship Sunday (Fall decorations up by this date & stay up until Advent)
 - Oct ??- Fall Outreach
 - Oct 26- Reformation Sunday
 - Nov 2- All Saints' Sunday
 - Nov 30- 1st Sunday of Advent- Deck the Halls/Hanging of the Greens
 - Dec 14- Children's Christmas Program
 - Wed, Dec 24- Christmas Eve Services @ 4:00, 6:00, 9:00
- Volunteer Sign-up Updates
 - Assisting Ministers- Rita Rosenberg
 - Communion Assistants- Katie Scholl
 - Communion Preparers- Kaarin Fasse
 - Hosts/Greeters- Rita Rosenberg
 - Scripture Readers- Sue Dooley
 - Technology- Jill Capps, Justin Wells, Rich Weiss

Old Business

- Still looking for a Stewardship Council member
- No updates on choir director. Will renew Indeed posting; Pr. Mark will explore options at the Innovation Conference.

New Business:

- Update to Facility Use Policy – Revision related to entry to St. Peter (clubs, groups) by a minor must be accompanied by the responsible party (adult sponsor) for that club or group. Lauri reviewing who has keys & access to the building. Working to establish the process on how to monitor who has keys and how to rotate them to new council members. Need to look at adding a lock to the door to the multi-purpose room.
- Review of council procedures for new members
- Planning for Council Retreat – Date options – September 20 or October 11- commitment is 9:00 A– 2:00 P. Agenda items will include: Review of prior year outcomes, Budget, Council Structure, Signage

Local Mission Donation: Local family dealing with trauma

WELCA MINUTES AUGUST 2025

OLD BUSINESS

Treasure Report - Kerry

- Balance \$8261.95
- Admin - \$2159.00 out of \$4000 (\$1900 spoken for)
- Youth - \$1000 out of \$1000
- Outreach \$741 out of \$1500 (\$Picnic \$155.82, Mosaic \$72.02)
- Donations \$1500 out of \$1500

FINANCIAL REQUESTS

- Discussion over Mosaic's Rejoicing Spirits program at \$250

REPORT OUTS

- Mosaic Pizza Party - Amanda had pizza delivered pm 9/13
- Church Picnic - well received by the congregation, several positive comments
- Baptism - Collins Ann on 8/17/25

NEW BUSINESS

- Treannual Annual Gathering 2026: July 16 - 19th. Des Moines. Earlybird registration - \$475 full weekend and \$250 for one day
- Urban bicycle food pantry: Stephanie will bring information to September meeting
- Auction Planning Meeting: September 18th, 6:30 at Nicky's home
- Myamba: Donation is scheduled for September and Stephanie will check in with Roberta on needs. If monetary, send the money to Lauri and she will send with other wire transfer
- Dessert and Devotion: October - 10/7; Stephanie will look for an individual to lead
- Looking for new board members

NEXT WELCA Meeting - September 16, 6:30 p.m.