

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

I had a conversation recently with someone about faith and good works. As a Lutheran, it's a topic near and dear to the heart. After all, this topic was the spark and the fuel for the Reformation. Martin Luther used much ink on the topic. During my internship I read Luther's commentary on Galatians. I still remember feeling, as I was reading it, that the whole thing was a commentary on faith vs. works righteousness. The other day I came across a pastor commenting on the subject using the Augsburg Confession Article VI. It made me go pull out my Augsburg Confession for review. The Augsburg Confession is what was written by the reformers to state their beliefs to the Roman Catholic Church during the time of the Reformation. Many protestant churches, including

Lutherans, still look to this document today for theological guidance.

Here is what the Lutheran pastor said online, "The Augsburg Confession, a founding document of the Lutheran Church, says 'faith should yield good fruit and good works...but not place trust in them as if thereby to earn grace before God.' We call this 'the New Obedience.' Christians do good things, not to earn points or save our own souls, but because we're grateful God already saved us on the cross. It's not about earning points anymore. It's thankfulness. Still, Jesus does say his followers are known by 'fruit', meaning their behavior. Jesus already saved us. But when we trust in him, we act like him. It's hard not to. We care for the poor. We welcome sinners and eat with them. We forgive. We pray for enemies. We gather to hear God's Word of grace. We do this, not to climb

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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.

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

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

Middle School Youth Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. (There will be no 4th Wednesday MSYG in Nov.)

Breakfast Club for 7th-12th graders meets November 2.

The Youth Mission Trip Meeting will be November 23.

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 ladder to heaven, but because we've already fallen into Jesus' arms. I shouldn't have to say this, but 'Christian' isn't a cultural identity. It's not a language, a race, a family trait, or a part of the country you come from. It's leaning on Jesus, and bearing fruit because of it. If you're a Christian, we should see it; smell it; taste it. We shouldn't have to take your word for it."

I believe that often when we look back at the time of the Reformation, we might remember the fight being about faith vs. good works. But it's not one vs. the other. It's about the order. Faith in Jesus comes as a gift from God, and good works follow. The Holy Spirit comes with faith calling us, empowering us, moving us to good works for the neighbor.

At St. Peter Lutheran we say, "Sent to serve." That follows our time together hearing the Good News of God's love for us in Jesus Christ, of partaking in the sacraments and of encouraging one another in our faith. It is our faith that sends us to serve. It's our faith that sends us to bear fruit. From what I've witnessed at St. Peter the past 13 years, it is a faith that bears fruit you can see, smell and taste. Thank you, members and friends of St. Peter, for the ways your faith is made known in the bearing of fruit. Thank you for the ways your faith is moving you to good works for your neighbor.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to serve.

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter

All Saints Sunday—November 2

All Saints Sunday is a time to remember family and friends who have been welcomed into God's eternal kingdom. We will remember loved ones with the lighting of candles and in our prayers on Sunday, November 2 at both worship services.



Book Club November 9

Do you enjoy books and reading? Join the St. Peter book club! We will meet November 9 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to discuss *When the Moon Is Low* by Nadia Hashimi. Find the reading schedule in the weekly eNews or at the Service board. In December, we'll discuss *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig.

Sunday School children sing Nov. 2 & Dec. 14 at 10:30 AM worship!
Wednesday Children's Choir sings Nov. 23 at 10:30 AM worship!

WELCA Silent Auction November 9

The annual WELCA Silent Auction will be held November 9. Contact a WELCA Board member if you are interested in donating hand-crafted items or services, baskets or basket items. Not sure what to donate? Some ideas will be posted inside the church entrance!

We will also offer a frozen goods and traditional bake sale. All are welcome to donate and purchase frozen treats, soups, casseroles, etc. as well as traditional bake sale goodies.

We're looking forward to this fun event, and we appreciate all who donate items and make purchases. Proceeds from the auction support ministries inside and outside of the church walls, including sponsoring Mosaic activities, the St. Peter kitchen, church décor updates, our Myamba partnership, and much more!



New Member Class

Are you thinking about joining St. Peter? There will be a New Member Class with Pastor Mark on November 16 from 9:15-10:15 a.m. to learn more. New Member Sunday will be November 23. Contact the church office with questions of to let us know that you plan to attend.

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).

Pastoral Acts

Jeff Harbeck was born on June 4, 1962 in Sioux City, Iowa. He died on September 24, 2025, in Polk City, Iowa. His funeral service was held at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes, Iowa, on October 2, 2025, with Pastor Mark Schlenker officiating.

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

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

Wishing you a
blessed
Thanksgiving
holiday!

There will be no
Wednesday worship on
Wednesday,
November 26.

The Church office will be
closed on Thursday,
November 27, and Friday,
November 28, in
observance of the
Thanksgiving holiday.

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



Mini Me Music

Come join us for fun, musical play for children from birth to 3 years old!
St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes
Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:00am



FALL IN LOVE WITH JESUS OCTOBER 19

NOV. 16 **THANKFUL FOR GOD!**

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT BETH HANSEN
ELIZABETHMARIE01@GMAIL.COM

Advent Season Calendar

Nov. 30—Hanging of the Greens Worship Service

Dec. 7—Gingerbread Event at 11:30 a.m.

Dec. 10—Confirmation & MOSAIC Christmas Party/Program 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 14—Sunday School Christmas Program at 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve worship at 4:00, 6:00, & 9:00 p.m.

*Watch for a date for Christmas Caroling to come!



Grimes Giving Tree

You can help make the Christmas holiday brighter for some local families! Near the end of November, WELCA will work with the Grimes Giving Tree to offer gift ideas for local children who might otherwise go without. Take an ornament with a gift idea from the tree in the front entryway, and sign up beside the ornament number on the ornament list. **Please bring the wrapped gift back to the church by December 7 with the ornament tag attached to the outside of the package/gift bag.** The presents will be delivered to the families on December 14. Here are some other helpful notes:

- Each child is given 2 clothing items and 2 toy/fun items (4 gift tags per child)
- Gifts are intended to be in the \$20-\$30 range
- Gifts can be wrapped/put in a gift bag and returned to the church anytime before December 7.

Look for more details in the eNews and bulletin mid-month! Thank you for your help!

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!



We support the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry!

Our November focus will be:



Christmas Baking & Holiday Canned Goods



Bring in donations of cake mixes, cans of frosting, and baking supplies. Also bring in any canned items that make the holidays extra special!

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2025

Pastor's Report:

- I went to the Fall Theological Conference on September 29-30 th . All three synods in Iowa participated, with the featured speaker being Bishop Fabiny of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary. One strong take away for me was the importance of being connected to Christians near and far. His message reinforced the fact that we need one another.
- Stewardship season started on September 21 st with the theme “What we CAN do: responding to God’s generosity.” There has been good discussions around the theme in adult education on Sunday mornings. I’ve also received good feedback on the bulletin inserts to use as a devotion during the week.
- Tonight will be the first night of the “Loving teens well” class that Jill and I will be leading.
- This coming Sunday will also be the first Book Club discussion on “The Hiding Place.” Very good book, which I recommend, if you haven’t read it.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Faith Formation:** Creation station continues to be well attended, and it is nice for famines of young children to sit and listen to the message during worship uninterrupted.
- Save the Date for the upcoming Gingerbread house event which will be held following the 10:30am service on December 7th.
- **Confirmation:** Confirmation is going well, the youth and guides are settled into a routine, and we have had some great nights learning & growing in our faith while still managing to sneak in some fun. I had another student join our 7th grade class which is great.
- I have been busy planning confirmation retreat will be held on October 25th. The

From the Stewardship Committee— Brenda Johnston & Jake Wager

September 2025

Income: \$24,204.08
Expense: \$30,464.78
Net Loss:(\$6,260.70)

Year to Date September 2025

Income: \$236,690.97
Expense: \$279,111.60
Net Loss: (\$42,420.63)

- General Fund MTD—Sept. 2025, expenses were greater than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$6,260.70).
- General Fund YTD—Sept. 2025, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$42,420.63).

lesson portion of the retreat will focus on worship, and the youth will prepare a worship service that they will share on October 29th at 6:30pm. The youth will spend the afternoon participating in the Amazing gRace around Grimes. We will also have a service element to the retreat; the youth will kick-off a care package project. We currently have 2 St. Peter members, Eric and Sydney, who are deployed to Iraq. The youth will create care packages to send to them. (The Sunday school youth will help with this on Oct 26th, and the breakfast club will help on Nov 2nd.) We had two St. Peter families apply for Thrivent grants that we can use towards this project. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.

- **Sunday School:** Sunday school continues to go well; and the process of rotating classroom set-up and clean up between Emily, Beth, Sarah, and I is working well. "Many hands make light work." We also have a great group of volunteers, both youth and adults who help make Sunday school a great experience for our youngest members.

Youth Report

- No report

Treasurer's Report:

- A donation was used to purchase a new soundboard computer and associated items and adjustable height folding tables in September.
- Several CD's earned interest in September
- \$7,784.00 was paid out of building savings for the new AC that was installed
- 2 wires were sent out in September for Tanzania college scholarships; a total of \$5,537.00 was wired out
- September Financials approved

Stewardship :

- Pastor Mark and Brenda met in August to discuss drive theme and responsibilities.
- Signs for drive ordered and placed
- Documents for pledge drive mailing sent: Time and Talent Sheet, Pledge Card, Pledge for Children and Youth Card, Drive Letter, and Budget Narrative
- Jake and Brenda spoke at services for Pledge Kick-off
- Pastor Mark completed weekly impact presentations for Pledge Drive Services
- Third quarter statement letters prepared and sent

Building & Grounds

- Working on snow removal contract
- Adam and Jared finished up painting

Education:

- Bibles & First Communion milestones went well.
- Sunday School has been going well overall. We have several subs who have already been helpful when teachers are ill or have conflicts.
- Garage: Emily, Jill, and Beth went through some of the things we could get to and have the following notes:
 - Get rid of the large platform in the back that is carpeted by the nativity, the cupboards in the front right by the big garage door, bench near the big garage door, snowblower
 - Tables and chairs: we need to have a discussion on whether or not the benefit of keeping these and loaning them out to families (how many/how often does that happen) is worth the storage needed. Currently, there is a mouse problem. If

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.



we do feel the need to keep some, how many? We should definitely be able to get rid of some/many (we couldn't get to them to sort through and pull out broke/tables in poor shape;

- There are still some VBS totes that we could not reach/get to that we will likely get rid of most of their contents. We filled the dumpster with old decor/ items that haven't been used in years, are not needed, and have been chewed on/lived in by mice

Evangelism:

- Sunday Fellowship is going well. We had a donation from a local business (Once Upon an Apple Pie), which was a great treat. Plan and hope to expand the group of volunteers to share talents!
- Men's group is doing the meal for Celebration. We are planning on ordering pizza for volunteers for the upcoming Outreach Sunday.

Worship & Music :

- No new applicants for Choir Director - Rita to continue as interim
- Trying to rehome the oldest acoustic piano. Free to anyone interested, just responsible to move it
- Need new communion chalices
- Discussion to be held re: Suggested changes to Sunday service schedule in Spring 2026 - 2 services through April 26 and begin 1 service @ 9:00 am on May 3 since SS ends April 26 and Confirmation is May 3.
- Discussion to be held re: Holy Communion—suggested changes - 1st & 5th Sundays with cups and 3rd Sundays intinction
- With All Saints Sunday on Nov 2, Lauri will put insert in Sunday bulletin on Oct 19 & 26 for people to submit names of those who have passed in the last year or other loved ones to be remembered.

Old Business

- Pastor Carlson- Q & A on council restructuring

New Business:

- Signage Conversation: Will be funded from Land Sale CD and Assessment savings. Discussion on what is needed for outdoor signage for the church. One on the corner or one at each entrance? Discussed digital sign options.

Local Mission Donation: St. Peter project to send care packages to members deployed overseas and their groups

WELCA MINUTES OCTOBER 21, 2025

Treasure Report - Kerry

- Balance- \$6332
- Admin - \$673 (kitchen supplies)
- Youth - \$929 (sensory table \$180)
- Outreach - \$733 (Mosaic)
- Donations - \$1085 (Myamba \$400, Urban Bike \$200 ELCA \$200, Rejoicing Spirits \$250. GVSS \$100)

Old Business

- Bonfire - 30ish people
- Warm Clothes Drive - Stephanie will deliver to Capital Hill in November
- Urban Bike Donation - We will donate \$200
- Myamba Scholarship - We will donate \$400

New Business

- Silent Auction: Sunday school sign up has been distributed; 30 baskets to date

Upcoming Events

- Grimes Giving Tree goes up in November
- Mosaic Christmas Shopping December 9

Next WELCA Board Meeting - Tuesday, November 18th, 6:30pm