

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

The 2026 Winter Olympics have now come to a close. I didn't get to watch as many of the events as much as I would have liked, but what I did see was rather encouraging. Not encouraging because of all the records broken or for the ways athletes break barriers, although these are fun to watch. I found this year's Olympics encouraging for the ways the athletes showed such great sportsmanship. The kindness, respect, appreciation, and support that they showed one another was inspiring. They showed up in support of their teammates, even when those teammates were part of their competition. They showed support and respect toward opponents from other countries. They showed kindness and appreciation to other competitors even

when they didn't speak the same language. They showed respect for opponents, even when they were from other countries often considered "enemies." One of my favorite moments was watching the last three Men's Freestyle Ski Jumps. The last three knew they were all going to get a medal. They just didn't know who was going to be gold, silver, or bronze. After the first one jumped, he waited at the bottom for the next jumper. As soon as the next jumper landed a great jump the two hugged each other with big smiles, talking with each other. After the score for the jump came in, the second jumper knew he moved into the gold position, and the first jumper moved to silver. They hugged and laughed together again. Then the third jumper went and landed a huge jump. The first two jumpers were standing

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◇ *Lenten & Holy Week Schedules*
- ◇ *Easter Egg Hunt*
- ◇ *Confirmation Orientation*
- ◇ *Children's Singing Dates*
- ◇ *Blanket Sunday Update*
- ◇ *VBS Save the Date*
- ◇ *Pieces of WELCA*
- ◇ *Semi-Annual Meeting Highlights*

IN EVERY ISSUE:

- ◇ *Youth Group Calendar*
- ◇ *Grimes Storehouse Donation Ideas*
- ◇ *Volunteer Sign-Up Info*
- ◇ *Stewardship Update*
- ◇ *Church Council 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.

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

High School Youth group meets the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Middle School Youth Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Breakfast Club for 7th-12th graders meets March 1.

The Youth Mission Trip Meeting will be March 29.

Lenten Soup Suppers will be Wednesdays at 5:30 through Mar. 25.



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together watching and cheering as the third landed the big jump. Then the three waited for the score to know who would get which medal. The third jumper's score came back with enough to win the gold. The other two weren't so much disappointed as amazed at the high score the jumper got, and they congratulated him. Again, they all hugged and laughed together. The kindness, respect, appreciation, and support was so good to see.

Wouldn't it be nice to see more of that same kindness, respect, appreciation, and support of other people's gifts and successes? We so often see people hating, ridiculing, disparaging other people's gifts or successes to try and bring them down. One person's giftedness and success does not diminish another person's worth. It's possible to celebrate the giftedness and success of someone else without feeling less than in some way. I hope and pray this sportsmanship on display at the Olympics becomes contagious, and we begin to see more and more of it. The world could sure use more kindness, respect, appreciation, and support of one another.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve.

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter

Lenten Worship Schedule

Soup Suppers: 5:30 p.m. Feb. 18-Mar. 25 Supper will be served from 5:30-6:15 p.m. each Wednesday of Lent. Soup and other dinner items will be shared for a free-will donation, which raises funds for the St. Peter youth, including the 2026 Mission Trip to North Carolina.

Worship: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Lenten worship will occur each Wednesday Feb. 18 - Mar. 24. featuring skits performed by our congregation.

Contemplative Practices for Lent will be available inside the church entrance and in the weekly eNews. You are welcome take a copy for reading and reflection during the season of Lent, and the library is available for quiet prayer.

Holy Week

MARCH 29: PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

APRIL 2: MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP 6:30 P.M.

APRIL 3: GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 6:30 P.M.

APRIL 5: EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP 6:30, 9:00, & 10:30 A.M.

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.

Every Month:

Men's Group: 1st Sunday at 7PM

Bible Study: 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 1:00PM

Book Club: 2nd Sunday at 6:30PM
March 8: *Maid* by Stephanie Land and *Anxious People* by Frederik Backman.

May 10: *Education* by Tara Westover

Wednesday Children's Choirs Sing March 8 at 10:30 a.m. worship!

All Sunday School children sing March 29 at 10:30 a.m. Worship!

Easter Egg Hunt

We invite you to join us on Saturday, April 4, at 10:00 a.m. for an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt at St. Peter - all ages of kids are welcome! In order to plan and make sure we have enough eggs for everyone, please sign up one spot for each child who will be participating. We will also be providing grab & go breakfast items for those in attendance.

If you would like to volunteer with the egg hunt (youth can earn silver cord or NHS hours), please contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org



Confirmation Orientation

We are excited to invite youth that will be entering 7th grade in the fall, along with their parents, to Confirmation Orientation on Wednesday, May 13, at 6:00 p.m. You will learn more about our Confirmation program, submit registration forms, and have your questions answered. Please email Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org and let her know if you will be attending. *Youth older than 7th grade who have not yet started Confirmation are welcome to attend as well.



Save the Date!

Join us June 21st-25th
from 6pm-8pm
for VBS at St. Peter!

VBS is open to youth who will be 4 years old by Sept 15, 2026 through those entering 5th grade in the fall of 2026.

VBS Save the Date

Save the date to join us for VBS on June 21-25 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.! VBS is open to children who turn 4 years old by Sept. 15, 2026, through those entering 5th grade in the fall of 2026. Registration will open in April. If you are interested in volunteering at VBS contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org; all volunteers must complete a background check before volunteering with youth.

Blanket Project Update

Thank you to everyone who supported the 2026 Fleece Blanket project! Together we made 167 blankets, bringing our 13 year total to 2,509 blankets! Over the next several weeks blankets will be delivered to patients of all ages at MercyOne Hospital and to the youth served by IHYC (Iowa Homeless Youth Center) in Des Moines. Thank you to the blanket committee for their time spent purchasing, prepping, and organizing this event: Amanda Rokke, Allison Newman, Mallory Herb- sleb, Sarah Capps, Brenda John- ston, and Jill Capps.



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

St. Peter Lutheran Church
Office Hours

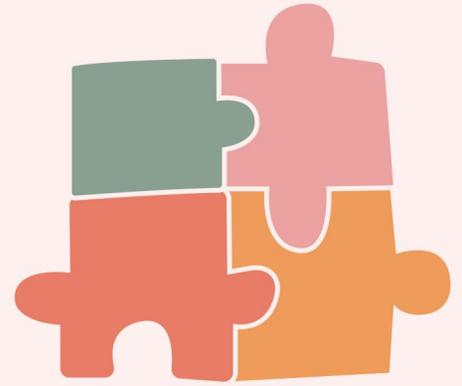
The Church Office is open
Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m..

Jill Capps – Director of
Faith Formation
Jill's day off is Friday.

Pastor Mark Schlenker
Pastor's day off is Friday.

Pieces of WELCA

Join us March 29 from 2PM-4PM. This is an event for all of 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!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 8 , 2025

- 50 members in attendance
- 2025 Financial Audit performed by Max Bodermann and Bradley Fasse shared
- Beth Hansen announced as 2026-2027 Choir Director
- Constitution Changes: Approved 2nd reading of proposed Constitutional changes. Reduced the number of minimum members for the nominating and audit committee. Members will not serve more than two full terms consecutively. Council able to enter into contracts of up to \$20,000 without congregational approval. Creates flexibility in semi-annual meeting dates. Clarification that Office Manager is a staff position, and Treasurer is volunteer. Important note that these changes are the culmination of lots of hard work from various council members.
- 2026 Budget Review: Reviewed funds usage and restricted funds. Approved 2026 budget.
- St. Peter Council Structure: Reviewed and approved the proposed new council structure, including the roles of committee teams and chairs. Council structure has more flexibility with constitutional changes
- St. Peter Monument Signs: plan to rebuild existing sign on James St. and adding a sign on 11th St. Land Sale CD funds are allocated to this purpose

We support the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry!

Our March focus will be:

**Canned Meats
& Fish**



Bring in donations of canned tuna, salmon, chicken, or beef.
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 FEBRUARY 5 , 2025

Pastor's Report:

- The theme for Lent will be "Unbound: Longing for Wholeness." Ash Wednesday will be on February 18th. The Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday will use the Holden Prayer Service and have a drama during Lent.
- I led the January 11th Book Club. February 1st Book Club was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. It will resume on March 8th.
- Adult Education has been following "Daily Discipleship" materials that follow the Gospel that is read in worship. Lent will switch to using materials for the theme "Unbound".
- The three Iowa Synod Bishops will be using St. Peter for a planning meeting this Thursday from around 9- 4 pm. It will be good to welcome them.
- I have had two ZOOM meetings for the Bishop Election committee. Synod Assembly is May 15-16. I will need to be there on May 14 to help prepare for the election. The Synod will pay for my hotel room the extra night. If anyone would like to be a delegate for the Assembly this year let me know. It will be in Coralville this year.
- Hour long training from Dementia Friendly Iowa on Wednesday, February 25th from 7:15-8:15 pm. If 50% of staff and leadership attend the training, we can be listed as a Dementia Friendly Iowa organization.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Confirmation:** We have had a great time at confirmation the last several weeks. During January, we learned about the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed during confirmation. The youth also made 20 breakfast casseroles for the Salvation Army's mobile breakfast canteen and 19 blankets for our Fleece Blanket project. Confirmation youth will serve as hosts/ushers during Lent.
- **Faith Formation:** Volunteers completed 78 casseroles for the Salvation Army's mobile breakfast canteen. We had 60 members in addition to our confirmation students and guides participate in this event.
- The blanket committee has begun preparing for our annual Fleece blanket event on February 22nd, with blankets going to both MercyOne Hospitals and the IHYC (Iowa Homeless Youth Center).
- **Technology/Social Media:** During December I took over the St. Peter Instagram page; if you are not currently following our page I encourage you to do so. In addition to Facebook, this is a great way to spread the word about St. Peter. As a reminder every time someone interacts with one of our posts (likes/reacts to or shares our post) more people see those posts in their feeds which essentially advertises St. Peter at ZERO cost. Thanks to the data I receive about our posts in Facebook I can see that a recent post about our Wednesday worship times with just 11 reactions reached 184 people, while another post about our breakfast casseroles with 50 reactions reached 596 people. The most recent post on Insta-

Financial Update from the Stewardship Committee — Brenda Johnston & Jake Wager

January 2026

Income: \$25,114.94

Expense: \$29,367.55

Net Loss: (\$4,252.61)

- General Fund MTD—January 2026, expenses were greater than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$4,252.61).

gram has had 452 unique views (nearly double our 256 followers), there is no easier way to share information about St. Peter.

- I have been working on a 2025 St. Peter recap video/slide show that will be shown in Fellowship Hall before/after worship services on Feb 8th.

Youth Report

- Middle School and High School youth groups continue to go well. MS has 33 youth attending weekly, and HS has 30 youth attending weekly.
- Breakfast Club met January 4. Thank you to the Cave Family for providing breakfast this month. Bible Emoji Trivia was fun!
- We now have 59 youth and 14 adults headed to Waynesville, North Carolina, this summer! We met on January 25 for a Parent/Youth Meeting to discuss all our upcoming fundraising (Spaghetti Dinner, Lent Soup Suppers, Easter Breakfast, Fill the Bus, Car Wash, Lion's Club Flags, Sponsorship Letters, and Top Golf).
- Lots of work has been put into making our 31st Annual Spaghetti Dinner a success! Barilla donated pasta and red sauce, Sue & Steve Dooley donated bread sticks, and Bekka Maass is donating delicious cupcakes for dessert!
- St. Peter Youth Group has collected \$161.10 from recycling 3,222 cans through Droppett. Thank you to all who are donating their cans to support the youth program at St. Peter! Bag tickets and directions can be found on the Service Board in Fellowship Hall if you would like to participate.

Treasurer's Report:

- Discussion only.

Stewardship :

- Brenda plans to document current teller workflow this spring
- Jake is working with Lauri on information for the Voice
- Stewardship is brainstorming various ways to reach out to the congregation regarding the church's financial status

Building & Grounds

- The Christmas tree and nativity scene have been taken down and stored.
- Nativity Scene & Lights: Set up and installed new hardware as needed.
- Work is ongoing to obtain quotes and renderings for the proposed new signage.

Education:

- The education team will be meeting in mid February to plan for the next events. We had a few helpers stay for the prep party on the 25th that helped do initial inventory for next year's lessons. These prep parties will likely be a regular thing moving forward in an attempt to help get more people involved.

Evangelism:

- Special thanks to Cyndi Meggison, Mary Stocks, Rokke family, and Brahn family for serving fellowship!
- Thanks to Bambi for ordering table cover and working on signs for Farmers Market
- Started sending requests for Governors Day Parade and Farmers Market (2 per month, 6 total)
- Action Item: Purchase of tail-gate tent (\$150) and Bags Game (tbd)

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, click on the dropdown box under "About," click "Online Giving Available," and click "Set up online giving today;" or scan the QR code printed here.
3. *Bill Pay:* Set up bill pay through your bank to St. Peter Lutheran.



Please contact the church office with any questions.

Worship & Music :

- Preparation for Lent and Easter regarding cross, decorations, ability to have the donkey on Palm Sunday, ordering palms, brass ensemble, etc.
- Beth Hansen will be moving to the Choir Director role for the next choir season
- Children's Choir will run through Apr. 22

Old Business

- None at this time

New Business:

- Review of new council structure and discussion of next steps and timeline
- Second reading of the constitution will happen at Sunday's Semi-Annual Meeting. There will be a small wording amendment that will be introduced, then a second reading of that will happen in June.
- Preparation for semi-annual meeting

Local Mission Donation: Grimes Hunger Fight—Meals from the Heartland

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 2026**Old Business**

- WELCA audit was completed with Kerry Schiller, Bradley Fasse, and Heidi Ridnour in January 2026.

New Business

- Baptismal Supplies checked
- Mindy and Heidi to review by-laws and present changes at the March meeting
- Bailey will review subscriptions practices with the church office
- Pieces of WELCA March 29, 2-4pm
- Mosaic Easter Baskets will be purchased and delivered by Amanda
- Review pillow case ministry for newly graduated members
- Interest in partnering with Central Iowa Shelter & Services (CISS) as a WELCA-led initiative

Finance

- Bailey to meet with Kerry to review current balances
- Assuming \$9,000 budget for year.
- Admin/Building - \$2,000
- Youth - \$1,000
- Donations - \$2,000 (increase of \$500 from 2025)
- Outreach - \$1,500
- Total: \$6,500
- New expense: purchased VBS CDs

Craft/Vendor Show

- May 2 - we will work with Beth Hansen to coordinate this. Moving ahead in 2027, Beth is stepping away as the point person for this. The new board can decide if we continue with his. Total earnings for WELCA is ~ \$1,000. We will need to decide next year.

Next meeting Tuesday, March 17, at 6:30 p.m.