

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

“Whenever I’m afraid, I put my trust in you.” (Psalm 56:3) This was the theme verse for Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year, and it was a good one. VBS met five nights in a row from 6-8 pm. Each night focused on a different aspect of trusting God.

1. Trust that God Goes with Us.
2. Trust God to Lead the Way.
3. Trust God to Share Wisdom.
4. Trust God to Give us Peace.
5. Trust God to Spark Joy.

Each of these daily themes was reinforced throughout the evening. It began with the opening each night, where they sang songs and had illustrations reinforcing the themes. Science, snack/story time, games, and crafts were the different stations that kids rotated to for fun and creative ways to reinforce

the theme. Then everyone gathered again for closing songs and a quiz focused on the days theme bible story. It was a great week! Several of the kids sang on Sunday morning for worship. When I quizzed them on the daily themes and bible verses during the Children’s Message, they aced it.

Over 80 kids had a wonderful week learning to trust God. There was something else really cool about this week as well. Over 60 volunteers helped in some way to ensure that this week was a success. Many people started the decorations, planning games, organizing crafts and science projects, practicing songs, shopping for snacks, advertising at the parade, organizing volunteers, and taking care of all the little details weeks before VBS even started. When VBS arrived, there was a plethora of volunteers ready to ensure the kids had a memorable week. The re-

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◇ Reception for Matt Schmidt
- ◇ Backpack Sunday
- ◇ Fall Kick-Off
- ◇ God’s Work Our Hands Sunday
- ◇ Youth Director Needed
- ◇ 2024-2025 Confirmation
- ◇ Adult & Children’s Choir
- ◇ Myamba Scholarship Drive

IN EVERY ISSUE:

- ◇ Grimes Storehouse Donation Ideas
- ◇ Volunteer Sign-Up Info
- ◇ Stewardship Update
- ◇ Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes
- ◇ WELCA Minutes
- ◇ Monthly Birthdays & Anniversaries
- ◇ Monthly Calendar

Worship Schedule

Thank you for joining us for worship!

Sunday Summer worship occurs at 9:00 a.m. May 26-September 1.

Fall programming, including Sunday 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship, Sunday school, and Wednesday worship, will resume the week of September 8.

Director of Youth Ministry Needed

Do you love kids? Have a passion for walking with them in a life of faith? The Director of Youth Ministry is a part time paid position at St. Peter and will be opening up this summer. Our thanks to Matt Schmidt, who has faithfully served in this role for nearly 9 years and will be stepping down in August. If you think you might be interested, have questions, or know of someone who would be a good fit, please reach out to Pastor Mark.

St. Peter Lutheran Church Office Hours

The Church Office is open Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

*Call for appointments outside of these hours
(Summer Hours)

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

Pastor Mark Schlenker
Pastor's day off is Friday.

sult...success! A fun and faith-filled week of trusting God was had by all. Please join me in giving thanks to God for all the people, in small or large ways, who made this year's VBS possible. Please join me in praying for the kids who heard the message to trust God. Pray that the message they heard is absorbed and embodied throughout their lives.

Trusting God is at the heart of the Christian faith. Trusting God is something the people of St. Peter have always done. Through good times and hard times, St. Peter has always trusted that they have been called and gathered by God to be witnesses to God's love for the world. At St. Peter we trust that if it is God's will, God will help us find the way.

Gathered to grow. Sent to serve.

Pastor Mark

PS—Looking for more ways to serve? There are numerous ways to share the love of God in Christ Jesus at St. Peter. In large or small ways, I believe there is a way you can participate in helping the Gospel thrive at St. Peter. Check out the church website and click on "Volunteer Sign ups." You'll find numerous opportunities to serve. If nothing seems to fit for you there, then reach out to Jill Capps, myself, or a church council member to discuss other ways you might be able to serve.

Coming Up at St. Peter

Thanks to Matt Schmidt—Reception August 4

Our sincere thanks to Matt Schmidt for leading St. Peter's youth for 9 years as Youth Director. All are invited to celebrate Matt and his ministry during worship and fellowship on August 4. At worship that day, Matt will be recognized and participants from the ELCA Youth Gathering and Youth Mission Trip will share reflections on their trips with the congregation. We hope to see you there!



Backpack Sunday August 18

All children are invited to bring their backpacks to church with them on Sunday, August 18, for a blessing of the backpacks for this upcoming school year. This is a great way for kids to connect their faith with their daily life!

Gathered
to
Grow

Sent
to
Serve

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

Thanks!



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

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

Fall Kick-Off Carnival August 25

We are excited for fall programming, including Sunday School, two Sunday morning worship services, Wednesday worship, Confirmation, and choirs to begin soon! Join us Sunday, August 25, after 9:00 a.m. worship for a Fall kick-off carnival! Games, activities, and prizes will be on the front lawn along with grab and go breakfast goodies to enjoy! Hope to see you there!

God's Work Our Hands Sunday September 8

All members of St. Peter are invited to participate in our "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday service project. We will be collecting food donations to fill the Grimes Storehouse trailer. We will collect food items from September 1 through September 15. Watch eNews and Facebook for more information on how you can participate with this project. If you have questions, please contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org



2024-25 Confirmation

We are busy preparing for confirmation this fall. If you have not yet registered your 7th grader or if your older student has not yet attended confirmation, please contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org

Important Dates:

Curriculum Pick Up - Wednesday, August 28th, 7th & 8th grade parents may stop by anytime between 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. to pick up the curriculum.

Small Group Guide Meeting - Wednesday, August 28th, at 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation Begins - Wednesday, September 4th, from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

**Acolyte training will take place from 6:30-6:45p.m.*

Confirmation Service Project:

This year's first confirmation service project will be held during the months of September & October. Confirmation students will collect change ("Together we can CHANGE the world") that will be donated to our Companion Congregation Myamba Lutheran Parish in Tanzania. The confirmation students will hear more about this important ministry in September.

Pastoral Acts

Tate Aaron Gerdes, son of Aaron and Kaylee Gerdes, was born on June 4, 2023, in Des Moines, IA. Tate was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes on June 2, 2024, by Rev. Mark Schlenker. Destiny Estes and Austin Gerdes are Tate's baptism sponsors.

Ryan Joseph Courtney and Kaitlyn Rose Murano were married on June 29, 2024. Pastor Mark Schlenker officiated the wedding.

Dorothy Greif was born on December 20, 1926 in Birch Tree, Missouri. She died on July 16, 2024, in Ankeny, IA. Her funeral service was held at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes, Iowa, on July 22 with Pastor Mark Schlenker officiating. Interment was at Sunny Hill cemetery in Grimes.

Thursday Bible Study

Bible Study meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Questions? Contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org

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:



Adult Choir Begins August 28

Choir rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 28. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7:15-8:15 p.m. Come join us for some mid-week fellowship and singing for ages 7th grade through adult. ALL are welcome!!

St. Peter's Children's Choir

Come join us in song on Wednesday nights with the St. Peter Children's Choirs! Little Cherubs (KG-2nd) meet from 5:30-6:00, and Joyful Noise (3rd-6th) meets from 6:00-6:30 starting on September 4th, 2024. I'm excited to make music with our youth and share with the congregation again this coming school year! Please sign up each child separately on this form so I can prepare for our great year!



August is Back-to-School Scholarships Month for Myamba Lutheran Parish

During August—back-to-school month in Iowa—St. Peter also focuses on our companion congregation in Tanzania, Myamba Lutheran Parish. We emphasize the secondary school scholarship program for certain Myamba students attending four years of public secondary school—those whose families need financial support in order to afford to send their children to school.

A \$100 annual scholarship provides school fees, school uniform, socks and shoes; hot lunch, testing fees, and school security. Sponsors can also give \$15 to cover the cost of a Swahili Bible for a first-year scholarship student and a notebook and pen given to each scholarship recipient. Scholarship sponsors are partners with students' parents in providing for their education.

95 students are receiving annual scholarships for the 2024 calendar year school year through St. Peter's program. Let's match that "95" number for the 2025 school year beginning January 2025!!

Hear all about it! You'll learn more about this program and how you can help during brief Myamba Moments at the beginning of each worship service in August. We'll show pictures of the schools and the students and provide updates on school for the deaf and secondary school students. In a "where are they now" segment, two of the first twelve students who received scholarships from 2011 to 2014 will be featured. Pledge cards are provided. Pledge payments can be placed in the offering plates, in the baskets on the information table, received online, or mailed to the office.

Questions? Ask any member of the Team—Pr. Mark & Bambi Schlenker, Dave & Carol Eilers, Larry & Colleen Gulleen and Reg & Roberta Yoder.

St. Peter's Additional Supports of Myamba Lutheran Parish

While St. Peter's Secondary School Scholarship Program has the most widespread impact on students and families of Myamba Lutheran Parish, St. Peter conducts additional programs to benefit Myamba, such as:

- Scholarships for hearing-impaired Myamba students to attend Mwanga School for the Deaf, a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Four young girls of Myamba Parish attend Mwanga. St. Peter Sunday school offerings pay a portion of the costs.
- Medical support for young children of Myamba Parish who have bowed legs which can either be corrected surgically or, in less severe cases, with leg braces. Since 2011, three Myamba children have had surgery and three have received braces. Sioux City orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Steve Meyer, through the non-profit he co-founded—Siouxland Tanzania Educational Medical Ministries—has either performed or overseen these treatments. St. Peter's Myamba Ministry Team coordinates appointments and sends an allowance for travel and x-ray expenses for a child and the parents to travel to a regional hospital for treatment.
- Contributing toward Myamba confirmation class costs for curriculum and Bibles. St. Peter confirmation class offerings, "Together we can CHANGE the world" collected in September and October will be sent to Myamba, where a recent confirmation class had 104 students.
- Providing education expense support for post-secondary students seeking higher education or vocational training. Requests are handled on a case-by-case basis as fund surpluses allow
- An annual gift of \$2,500 from St. Peter to Myamba, provided by offerings through a General Fund line item. Gifts are used for building projects or parish-wide expenses.
- Occasional financial gifts to nearby Gonja Lutheran Hospital, owned by the Pare Diocese, of which Myamba Parish is a member. St. Peter sponsored a pallet of medical supplies, shipped to Tanzania in December 2023, which arrived at Gonja in March, 2024.

Your questions about St. Peter's Tanzanian programs can be directed to members of the St. Peter Myamba Ministry Team.

PLEDGE/DONATION FORM FOR 2025 SCHOOL YEAR (Jan.-Nov. 2025) MYAMBA SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SPONSORED BY ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH, GRIMES, IA

\$100 provides an annual scholarship for a student of Myamba Lutheran Parish, St. Peter's Tanzanian companion. \$100 covers approximately half of the costs to attend school for the year: tuition, school supplies; school uniforms (shirt/slacks/sweaters for boys; blouse/skirt/sweater for girls), shoes, socks, hot lunch, etc.

An additional \$15 will provide a Swahili Bible for a first-year scholarship student, as well as a school notebook and pen, thus giving tangible items while also addressing the student's spiritual needs.

In this way, St. Peter's scholarship program partners with students' parents/guardians to help pay for the education of those students most in need of financial assistance, as identified by Myamba's companionship committee, Pastor, Parish Evangelists, and lay leadership.

_____ I pledge to donate \$100 per scholarship for _____ (# of scholarships) for the 2024 school year.

_____ I pledge to donate \$15 per new scholarship student _____ (# of students) for Swahili Bible/notebook/pen.

_____ I pledge \$_____ to be used as needed for the scholarship program.

_____ I pledge to pray for the Myamba Secondary School Scholarship Program & scholarship students.

Name(s)_____

Address_____

Phone #/email address_____

My pledge payment is payable to St. Peter Lutheran Church; notation "Myamba Scholarship."

Volunteers Needed – Can You Help?

If you can help as a communion **preparer** and/or **communion assistant**, please contact Kaarin Fasse or Summer Heeren.

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 can 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 August focus will be:



Juice & Cereal

Bring in donations of shelf stable bottled juices and boxed cereals.



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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JUNE 30, 2024

Approval of Agenda, November 2023 Special Meeting, and February Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes

New Business

- Road Construction Update: 8 weeks before both entrances will be open (weather permitting)
- Parking Lot Lighting / Entrance Signs: Looking into lighting and LED entrance sign – waiting for vendor quotes. Assessment savings and St. Peter land sale from new road to hopefully cover costs.
- Grimes Farmers Market Dates: June 15th and 29th; July 6th and 20th
- Recognized Council Members Who Have Completed Their Terms:
 - Amy Short: Executive Council
 - Destiny Estes: Education
 - Summer Heeren: Worship & Music
 - Andrew Newman: Stewardship
 - Tim Duhn: Buildings & Grounds
- Executive and Church Council Nominations and Approvals:
 - Carol Hemphill: Executive Council
 - Jared Rokke: Building and Grounds
 - Tim Schiller: Evangelism
 - Beth Hansen: Education
 - Katie Scholl: Worship & Music

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Blake Franzen

June 2024

Income: \$21,556.54

Expense: \$31,167.34

Net Loss: -\$9,610.80

YtD 2024

Income: \$159,218.30

Expense: \$177,650.73

Net Loss: -\$18,432.43

- 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 of (\$18,432.43)

- Emily French: Education
- Brenda Johnston: Stewardship
- Adjournment

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING JUNE 30, 2024

- **Treasurer's report:**
 - Balance of General Fund \$6,365.86
 - Balance of Kitchen Fund \$1,561.53
 - Deposit of \$752.23 after expenses from the Craft Show in May.
 - \$150 donation to the youth gathering meal.
 - VBS cd donation of \$93.56.
 - VBS ice cream donation of \$64.82.
- **Mission: Discipleship report**
 - Baptism 6.2.24 Tate Gerdes
- **Mission: Stewardship – Craft Fair review**
 - 150 people attended, good feedback from vendors.
 - Planning meeting in January 2025 for another event in May 2025.
 - Plan to pay Cindy \$75 for clean up after the event.
- **Calendar of events**
 - July –Dessert & Devotion, July 9th- Nicky Cooney is leading. Treats will be provided.
 - July- School Supply Drive- The Grimes Store House will drop off tags at the church with wish list items for school supplies for kids in the community.
 - Aug. – MOSAIC gift- Ellie will deliver in August.
 - Sept. –Silent Auction, Sept 10th-planning meeting. Anyone can attend!
 - Oct. – Dessert & Devotion, October 22nd at 6:30 pm
 - Nov. – Silent Auction, November 10th 7:30 am-noon.

- General fund= \$6290.86
- Kitchen fund = \$1060.54
- Deduction of \$500.99 for kitchen supplies
- **Old Business:** We will be paying Cindy Meggison \$75 for cleaning up after the Craft Show.
- **Mission: Discipleship report**
 - No baptisms since last meeting
 - Desserts & Devotions July 9th, lead by Nicky. Another great turnout with 13 women in attendance. Great feedback once again, attendees liked the content & discussions.
- **Mission: Stewardship – School Supply drive.** The Grimes Storehouse dropped off tags at the church with needed items for school kids in the community. They are picking up these items on 7/30 that our church members donated.
- **Calendar of events**
 - Aug. – MOSAIC Pizza Party, August 1st at Mosaic. Ellie will bring to their houses.
 - Sept. – Silent Auction planning 9/10, 630 pm at Nicky Cooney's home. We will be reaching out to members that have shown interest in helping with the Silent Auction and that have helped out in the past. They is also a sign-up sheet on our board in the Narthex.
 - Oct. – Dessert & Devotion 10/22 630 pm – Stephanie Picken will present.
 - Nov. – Silent Auction 11/10 730 am-noon.
 - Dec. – MOSAIC, we will be shopping for Christmas gifts for the residence.
 - Financial review
 - Michelle will give us a written process she uses of our financials to review at our next meeting.

Next Welca meeting Tuesday, August 20th at 6:45 pm

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING JULY 17, 2024

- **Treasurer's report**

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.

