

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

The road construction around the church is moving along quickly. Our road access to James street is now closed, although the road remains open to traffic. Our new entrance, which opens onto 11th street south of the church, is now open. We're not sure how long this will last, but we will only be able to use the 11th street access for a while.

What does this mean in the short term?

1. It's an inconvenience. Change is always hard. It will take some extra thinking/planning to get to church for a while. In the beginning we will only be able to enter the church parking lot from 11th street coming from the east. We will also only be able to exit the parking lot onto 11th street heading east. This will be

until the roundabout is completed on James Street. My mind is usually on autopilot when I head to church. If you're like me, it will take some conscious thinking to make it to church without unnecessary U-turns and rerouting. In the grand scheme of things, this is a small inconvenience. Especially when I think about what many of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, such as our friends in Tanzania, go through to get to church. This is my encouragement to make a plan and commitment to continue participating in St. Peter ministries during the inconvenience.

2. Things will look and feel different. Entering the church from the south will look different. It won't be the familiar view turning into the church parking lot and viewing the front of the church. Entering from

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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.

the south will first view the children's playground and the covered shelter. It will most likely feel strange driving into the church parking lot from a new direction. The familiar comfort of pulling into the church parking lot won't be there. It will be uncomfortable. It will be a temporary discomfort though, until you get used to it. This is my encouragement to be prepared for things to look and feel a little different when you first arrive at church.

What does this mean long term?

1. Eventually St. Peter will have two entrance/exits to the church. Greater accessibility will turn the short-term inconvenience into a long-term convenience.
2. Easier access for people coming from the southeast, particularly those that live right across the train tracks. The train tracks with tree line put a physical and visual barrier between the church and housing on the other side. Connecting 11th street to James street will greatly open up that area of the community to the church.
3. St. Peter will no longer be safely tucked back by the trees away from street traffic. St. Peter will no longer have a peaceful view to the south and west looking across farm fields. St. Peter will soon become a church on the corner. Street traffic will be passing on the south and west sides of the church.

Truth be told, it's been an uncomfortable adjustment for me with all of the construction. When the trees were cleared on the railroad tracks for 11th street it was an initial shock to my system. I couldn't believe how different it looked and felt. I've enjoyed the peacefulness St. Peter has enjoyed cozily tucked back by the trees. I've enjoyed being able to look south and west to watch the farm fields change through the seasons. These comforts and joys are changing. Change is hard.

If the church was meant to be a place solely for the benefits of its members, then all of these changes would be tragic. This is the most important thing to remember during all this change. The church is meant to be a place to experience the hope, peace, love, and joy of Christ. The church is also meant to be a blessing for the whole community and world in which it exists. We know this at St. Peter. "Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve." That's who we are. We know the gifts and blessings of God are not meant to be kept to ourselves. We know that the love of God is for all people. Our location and context might be changing a bit. That doesn't change who we are though. We are still God's beloved children. We are still freed and forgiven through Christ Jesus. And...we are still called and sent to share this love of God in Christ Jesus with the world. I believe these contextual changes taking place, while inconvenient and uncomfortable, will ultimately open more opportunities to share the Good News of God's love with the world. I invite you to join me in acknowledging the discomfort. I invite you to join me in grieving the losses that come with change. I invite you to join me in looking for the opportunities God is opening up for us to share the love of Christ with the world.

Gathered to grow. Sent to serve.

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.

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!



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www.facebook.com/
StPeterGrimes

Coming Up at St. Peter

Join Us for 4th of July Fireworks!

Join us on the lawn at St. Peter Lutheran for the annual Grimes 4th of July Fireworks! Light refreshments will be made available by our Evangelism team and the church will be open for restroom availability. Come join the fun and have a great place to watch fireworks!



Breakfast Casseroles

This year, St. Peter was the recipient of a \$900 Hunger Grant from the SEIA Synod to expand upon our Breakfast Casserole project. The grant will cover all the expenses associated with this expansion. Beginning on Sunday, July 21, through Sunday, July 28, we will prepare breakfast casseroles for the Salvation Army's Mobile Breakfast canteen, which provides breakfast to the Des Moines area homeless and near homeless populations. Each breakfast casserole feeds 10 people, and the mobile canteen serves 150 casseroles each week. (That is 1,500 people).

How can you help? Sign up to prepare casseroles with your family or friends. Time slots will be available starting Sunday, July 21, after worship through the afternoon of Sunday, July 28. Please watch the bulletin, eNews, and Facebook for information on how to sign up for this event.

If you have questions, please contact Jill: faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org

For youth in need of silver cord or NHS volunteer hours, this would be a great opportunity to get a few hours.



Dessert & Devotion Night with WELCA

We welcome all women of St. Peter for an evening of treats, fellowship, and small group discussion on July 9th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The theme for this session will be Relationship, Community, and Connectedness.

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.

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: St. Peter Lutheran Men's Group @bradleyfasse@gmail.com @515-971-2397



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.



Youth Trips July 2024

July 16-20, three of St. Peter's youth and two adults will be attending the national ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. They will join other youth of the ELCA in worship, learning, and service.

July 21-26, thirty youth along with nine adults will be heading to LaCenter, Kentucky, to work with residents of their community. Youth and adults will actively work in the community doing household repairs and participate in faith-based activities throughout the week.

Participants involved include: Addison Morris, Ben Every, Brandon Bailiff, Bryn Morris, Cael Ramsey, Callen Tjeerdsma, Danika Watkins, Delia Zeliadt, Drew Every, Elli Sigler, Emma Fasse, Gavin Koger, Grady Schlenker, Hannah Fasse, Harper Gessmann, Jack Every, Kadin Schlenker, Kealey Johnston, Kennedy Fasse, Kylee Harshbarger, Liam Fredericks, Macey Jermier, Mallory Herbsleb, Milo Rouse, Nathan Scholl, Nick Kessler, Norah Vance, Oliver Rouse, Parker Stolpe, Rylan Heeren, Shenendoah Clark, Tyler Newman, Will Weydert, Benji Rouse, Bradley Fasse, Brad Bailiff, Heather Every, Katie Scholl, Mindy Morris, Matt Morris, Michelle Sigler, Tim Schiller, and Matt Schmidt.

If you are interested, there are still opportunities available to support these trips. You can support the Gathering and Mission Trip participants by encouraging them and praying for them on their trip. You can also financially support these youth trips by reaching out to Matt Schmidt. Matt can be reached at 515-238-3053, or via email at youth@stpeterofgrimes.org.



A Moment for Myamba Missions – Gonja Hospital

One focus of St. Peter’s Myamba Ministry is Gonja Lutheran Hospital, located in Tanzania’s Pare Mountains. Gonja plays a vital role in meeting the health needs of the people of Myamba and nearby villages—a population of over 125,000 people. Gonja has an 87-bed capacity, a staff of 63 and oversees 5 area dispensaries. It offers typical services plus reproductive child health, palliative care, hypertension and diabetes clinics, and an HIV/AIDS treatment center.

St. Peter’s first mission trip to Myamba Parish, in 2009, included a Gonja service project, as have subsequent mission trips. The first project involved repairing, washing, and painting the plaster walls of two operating rooms (see photo, top right). The hospital matron, Dora Mtango, RN visited St. Peter in 2014!

Pregnant women come to Gonja to give birth because well-birth outcomes are much better there. Finances at Gonja are stretched for many reasons. For example, the government bars hospitals like Gonja from collecting payments or donations for live-birth services but requires Gonja to serve all pregnant women who come. There is no food service so patients’ families prepare their meals and do their laundry.

St. Peter donations for Gonja have provided medicines, supplies, and equipment including a microscope. During the pandemic, donations bought masks, gloves, soaps, and sanitizers. Perry Lutheran Home and Luther Park, Des Moines, donated used mechanical hospital beds which St. Peter helped to ship in December 2023 (photos below). Support for Gonja Hospital and other Myamba Parish health needs are always welcome! You may designate giving over and above your regular St. Peter giving to “Myamba Missions.”





V 2 We had a great time serving over 80 kids during our 2024 Vacation Bible School week! Thank you to
 B 0 the many volunteers who made this a fun week learning about trusting God to go with us, lead the
 S 2 way, share wisdom, give us peace, and spark joy!
 4



Grimes Farmer's Market: Come and visit the St. Peter tent at the Grimes Farmer's Market, offered on Saturdays throughout the summer! St. Peter will have a booth on June 29, July 6, and July 20.

Gathered to Grow—Sent to Serve!

Governor's Days

Thanks to all who participated in the Governor's Days Parade on June 8th! We also served about 450 cups of ice cream at our free Ice Cream Social after the parade; thanks to our volunteers and to Heavenly Delights for donating the ice cream!

(Photo credit: Grimes Living, Dan Jeffers).



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!



PB & J's for Hot Summer Days

During the summer, families that rely on school lunches for their kids' dietary needs may be needing more assistance at lunch time. Can you donate a jar of peanut butter and container of jelly (plastic, not glass, please!) to help feed kids that are home for summer? If so, drop off your donation in the designated spot in Fellowship Hall!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 13, 2024

Pastor's Report:

- Lauri emailed the Facility Use Policy for you to review before the council meeting. We will discuss revisions at the meeting.
- I will also send an email with Committee Responsibilities and Timelines. If your committee could review and update before the next new council members come aboard, that would be great.
- May 17-18 I went to the Synod Assembly in Coralville. It's a good reminder of our connections to other Lutheran's near and far, and to the impact we can have sharing the Gospel together.
- Confirmation Sunday went well on May 19th. Big thanks to Jill for her hard work and preparation, not only for that Sunday, but the two years working with the youth. And, thanks to the adult small group guides that work with them for two years.
- I participated in the DCG High School Baccalaureate service on May 22nd. Matt Schmidt led the Call to Worship. We both prayed with the youth. Alex Pries and Macey Jermier, members of St. Peter, both shared their testimony/message. They both did an amazing job! Wonderful to hear how they've noticed God present and active in their lives. Thank you St. Peter for the ways you have helped plant seeds of faith and nurtured these and so many other youth's growth through the years.

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Blake Franzeen

May 2024

Income: \$21,996.93

Expense: \$29,825.09

Net Loss: -\$7,828.09

YtD 2024

Income: \$137,661.76

Expense: \$146,483.39

Net Loss: -\$8,821.63

- General Fund—May 2024, expenses were more than income, thus it finished with a loss of -\$7,828.09.
- General Fund YTD— May 2024, expenses were more than income, thus it finished with a loss of -8,821.63.

- Matt Pries has decided it is time to step back from leading the Sunday school music. In his words, "I've enjoyed my time with the kids these last 17 1/2 years, and I know there will be times I will miss it. For now, though, this is the right choice for me." Wow, 17 1/2 years of faithful serving! Huge thanks to Matt for sharing his gifts with the youth. He's shared the Gospel with a lot of youth and families through those years.
- We announced in the Voice and bulletins the need for a Youth Director, as Matt Schmidt will be finished in August. Continued prayers for God to lead the next youth leader for St. Peter.
- Baptized Tate Gerdes this past Sunday, June 2nd. Always a joy!
- This Saturday is the Parade and Ice Cream social at St. Peter. Thanks to Rob for leading and organizing these. Parade is always a great way to reach out and invite people to St. Peter. I'm excited for the new Ice Cream social this year as a way to welcome people to St. Peter. Thanks to Sutterer's and Heavenly Delights for supplying the ice cream and cups.
- VBS is June 23-27th. Sounds like plans are coming together nicely for that fun week of sharing in the Gospel.
- I will be leading the wedding of Katelyn Murano and Ryan Courtney on Saturday, June 29th.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Faith Formation:** St. Peter was the recipient of a \$900 Hunger Grant from the SEIA Synod to expand upon our Breakfast Casserole project, and the grant will cover all the expenses associated with this project. Beginning on Sunday, July 21st through Sunday, July 28th we will prepare breakfast casseroles for the Salvation Army's Mobile Breakfast canteen. I encourage you to sign up to prepare casseroles with your family or friends. Time slots will be available starting Sunday, July 21st after worship through the afternoon of Sunday, July 28th. Please watch the bulletin, eNews, and Facebook for information on how to sign up for this event or contact me directly.
- **Confirmation:** Planning for the upcoming confirmation year has begun.
- **Thursday Afternoon Bible Study:** We will take a break from our Thursday Bible study in June, and start back up in July.
- **VBS:** We currently have 74 youth signed up for VBS, with about 90% of our Sunday school students registered – which is a great number. Primary volunteers are in place, and background checks have been completed or distributed to the adult volunteers. Carol Eilers and Mary Stocks have been working on decorations and they are nearly complete. Kellie, Sarah, Allison, and Bambi are in the process of completing the lesson plans for their respective areas. Matt Pries and Alex Pries will lead music and opening again, with a few other volunteers to assist them.

- We have selected Joppa for our VBS Mission project, and we will be collecting sunscreen, bug spray (with deet), hand sanitizer, hand soap, toilet paper, gallon sized bottled water, and hand wipes. Joppa is a Des Moines organization who provides personal care & other items to the Des Moines area homeless population. They also help them find housing & rebuild their lives. You can learn more about Joppa at joppa.org. Any member of St. Peter is welcome to contribute to this project, whether you are participating in VBS.
- **Sunday School:** Curriculum planning is underway for the 2024-25 school year. Pastor and I met to prepare the calendar & select lessons to be covered. Sarah Capps will once again prepare & organize the curriculum.

Youth Report

- Middle school Youth Group met once during the month of May. Our meeting on the 1st was our final gathering of the program year. During our time together we had pizza and played spoons.
- High school Youth Group met twice during the month of May. We did not meet on the 12th due to Mother's Day and the 26th due to the Memorial Day weekend. As we transition into summer, we will continue to gather for high school Youth Group most Sundays until fall.
- Lastly, we will hold our car wash fundraiser on Saturday, June 22nd. Youth will clean and wash cars from 9-12 pm in the Church parking lot.

Treasurer's Report:

- May financials approved

Stewardship :

- May Financials- General Fund May 2024 expenses were greater than monthly income finishing with a loss of \$7828.09, YTD Expenses were greater than monthly income thus finishing with a loss of \$8821.63
- Two 6-month CDs were opened on May 24th both with rates at 4.85%. Sabbatical Fund CD has a balance of \$11,804.03 and Building Fund CD has a balance of \$50,000. Both CDs will mature in November.
- Building CD matures 6/27/2024: Council consensus to renew Building CD for 11-month period

Building & Grounds

- Completed Projects
- "NO PARKING on Grass" signs were purchased and installed for Governor Days
- Asphalt has been scheduled for Wednesday June 19
- Upcoming projects
- Set up ropes to detain VBS students from dangerous areas by June 23
- Repair emergency light before June 23
- Repair misaligned garage door

- Commercial bird cage to cover vents
- Look at handicap door – not closing properly
- Received a bid from Larry's Windows to soft wash church steeple. Motion to hire this service was approved.

Education:

- A volunteer lunch will be hosted after church on June 23 to help decorate and set up for VBS. Volunteers will be notified of details by email.
- We need to look at having property help set up a rope/fence/flags for games so that the kids stay away from the small utility flags and any construction. This can be done on June 23 or prior.
- Evangelism still ok with hosting an after church welcoming for June 30th? VBS kids sing in church so may have non-members attending.
- Can Building and Grounds please look at the emergency lights and ensure the bulbs aren't burnt out?
- Emily French joining
- August 25th back to school year

Evangelism:

- We continue to have a strong response with our food, coffee, and fellowship time. I'd like to remind everyone of the sign-up link and please consider hosting as your schedule allows. Here is the link: <https://signup.com/go/tZbOJLg>
- Just last weekend we had the Governor's Day parade and 1st annual (I hope) ice cream social. We had a TON of walking participants along with special guests riding in the back (Jay & Ruth)!! Thank you, Matt Schmidt for driving on short notice. HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who help make the weekend go so smoothly. There are so many I don't want to forget anyone but just say WOW thank you! Fantastic response and well organized!!
- Special thanks to Josh Sutterer and Heavenly Delights for the ice cream and cups. We went through approximately 12/13 gallons and an estimated 450 cups of ice cream. FREE!!
- Next up is Farmer's Market that just started. I'll put together a calendar of about half of the Saturday's and ask for help attending. I can certainly assist with set up and tear down but greatly appreciate help attending!
- Planning 4th of July celebration
- Looking forward to a wonderful summer season! Take

care and have fun!!

Worship & Music :

- Nothing new to report

Old Business:

- Birds building nests in outside vents – Building & Grounds reviewing options.
- Church Council Structure / Constitution – not so rigid, start looking at long-term to provide flexibility – Executive Council, Pastor Mark, and Billi continue to pursue options and path forward.

New Business:

- Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting: June 30th after Sunday service.
- Motion to approve the following slate of volunteers to be presented for voting on the semi-annual meeting approved: Carol Hemphill – Executive Council; Jarod Rokke – Building and Grounds, Tim Schiller – Evangelism, Beth Hansen – Education; Emily French – Education; Brenda Johnston – Stewardship; and Katie Scholl – Worship & Music.
- Youth Group Leader Open Position: Matt to step down after mission trip in August. Job description has been reviewed. Looking into posting externally.
- Matt Pries stepping down after summer VBS. 17.5 years of service
- Council Retreat: plan for September / October.
- Facility Use Policy- Exec Council approves requests
- List incoming and outgoing Council members in bulletin.

Local Mission Donation: Step-daughter of Jene Greif. She and her young family lost their home in the Greenfield tornado.

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.

