

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

St. Peter is wrapping up the Stewardship season on October 13th. It has been fun to ponder the theme this year of The Possible Promise of Enough. Stewardship season for me is both a challenge and a blessing.

First, the challenge of Stewardship season: I find it challenging for at least two reasons. The first is that talking about money is always difficult. It's a common notion that money is best not talked about in polite conversation. Talking about, or listening to someone talk about, money is uncomfortable. I've become much more comfortable with it over the years, but it's still not the easiest of subjects to focus on. The second challenge of stewardship season is that it challenges me to think deeply about my own life in terms of

stewardship. How am I doing with my time, talents, and treasures? How is my family doing? Does my/our use of time, talent, and treasures match up with my/our values? Faith and the church are high on our list of importance. Does it show by the way we live and use our gifts and resources? I've grown to enjoy these challenging questions over the years, but they are still challenges none the less.

The Blessing of Stewardship season: the Bible, including Jesus, talks about money a lot. Clearly, it's a topic that is important to God. If it is important to God, then it is an important subject to focus on as a church. If the subject of money is not focused on at church, then the only learning and reflection on money will come from outside sources in society. In our society, that is a problem. Our society thrives on a

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Worship Schedule

Thank you for joining us for worship!

Sunday worship occurs at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday school runs from 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Wednesday worship is at 6:30 p.m.

New Member Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of St. Peter? If so, we will hold a new member class Sunday, October 6, during the Sunday school hour. New members will be introduced and welcomed at worship the following week, Sunday, October 13. Contact the church office if you'd like to know more!

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.

scarcity mindset. We are bombarded with messages that tell us we don't have "enough", or that we ourselves are not "enough." When living with a scarcity mindset we begin to see threats that aren't real. We begin to feel threatened by our neighbors having nicer clothes, nicer cars, nicer homes, etc. We begin to feel that we don't have "enough," or we aren't "enough." It becomes a vicious cycle of chasing "enough." This Stewardship season, we've been reminded that, as beloved children of God, we are "enough." Not because we earn enough, gather enough, save enough, or give enough. It is being created in God's image, claimed in the waters of baptism, sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever that we find we are "enough." Grounded in God's love, we find that we can do our best each day with what we have, and trust that God is with us, God is for us, and God will provide for us. That's the next blessing of Stewardship season. We recognize that, as God's beloved children, we are called to reflect the gracious, compassionate and generous qualities of God. Having taken time to reflect on how we are doing with our time, talent and treasures, we begin to align our lives more in tune with our values. We align our lives with what is important to us.

The first week of our theme this year we looked at Exodus 16. I shared a quote from an Old Testament scholar Michael Chan who said, "The book of Exodus is the story of Israel coming to terms with a gracious, generous, compassionate, abundant God." After Israel lived under the tyrant Pharaoh in scarcity, the people of Israel had to exercise their trust muscles in how they relate to an abundantly generous God. We as God's people have the opportunity each year to stretch our trust muscles as a congregation when the yearly budget is passed at the semi-annual congregational meeting in February. We pass a budget for the coming year's ministries trusting that God will provide. As individuals/families in the congregation, we also exercise these same trust muscles each year for Celebration Sunday when we recommit together our time, talents, and treasures to God's mission through St. Peter Lutheran Church. We've heard how this year is going to provide an extra dose of stretching the trust muscles. The last couple of years St. Peter has received COVID funds through PPP loans and tax credits. These funds have helped St. Peter make budget each year. Those funds will no longer be available, which means that funding will need to come from somewhere, or more like someone(s) else. Please keep this in mind as you look to align your money with your values, and as you look to exercise those trust muscles. God is doing some amazing things at St. Peter. The love of God in Christ Jesus is flowing freely through the many ministries at St. Peter. I trust God will provide the way for this ministry to continue to flourish. Thanks for your partnership in this ministry.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve.

Pastor Mark



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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Grimes, Iowa 50111
Pastor Mark Schlenker
515-986-3077

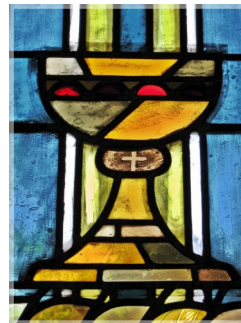
stpeter@stpeterofgrimes.org
www.stpeterofgrimes.org
www.facebook.com/
StPeterGrimes

Coming Up at St. Peter

Celebration Sunday October 10

In September and October, we are focusing on our Fall Stewardship Drive called "The Impossible Promise of Enough." We ask that you prayerfully consider how you will give of your time, talents, and resources to the ministries that are provided here at St. Peter Lutheran Church. Bring your completed Time and Talent sheets and pledge forms with you to worship on October 10th to bring forward during a special offering time in our worship services, where we celebrate our affirmation of this commitment to the church. **Please note – Time and Talent sheets do not roll over year-to-year and need to be completed for each activity that you want to continue in 2024.**

Join us on Celebration Sunday for lunch and fellowship after 10:30 a.m. worship!



First Communion

Pastor Mark met youth and their parents on Sunday, September 29, during the Sunday School hour to discuss the sacrament of Holy Communion. Youth will then receive their First Communion during the worship service of their choice on October 2 or 6.

Fellowship Bonfire October 12

Monte and Carol Miller will be hosting a family-friendly bonfire fellowship event for St. Peter members on October 12th at 6:30 p.m. WELCA will provide s'mores makings to enjoy; you are welcome to bring your own beverages and lawn chairs. We welcome you to join us for another year of this fun event!



Pastoral Acts

Howard Leigh Ruggles was born on June 15, 1947, in Washington, Iowa. He passed away August 27, 2024 in Des Moines, Iowa. His funeral service was held at St. Peter Lutheran Church on August 31, 2024, with Pastor Mark Schlenker officiating.

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



Winter Coat and Sleeping Bag Drive

During the month of October, WELCA will be taking donations of gently used coats and sleeping bags for our drive to support the Clothes Closet at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines, which provides warm winter wear for those in need. Other accepted gently used items are: boots, gloves, blankets, or other winter gear. Please drop off any donations in the basket inside the church. This is a great time to declutter outgrown/unused gear while supporting those in need!

WELCA Silent Auction November 10

Mark your calendars! The annual WELCA Silent Auction will be held November 10. Contact a WELCA Board member or the church office if you are interested in donating hand-crafted items or services, baskets or basket items, and/or baked goods. Mark your calendar to attend this fun annual event supporting the church and its ministries!



Confirmation Amazing gRace Volunteers

We will have our confirmation retreat on Saturday, October 26th. As part of the retreat, we will have our 6th annual "Amazing gRace," and we are looking for families willing to host a stop on the race. If you are willing to help with this, please let Jill know. (If you have high school youth, they can use this event for Silver Cord hours.) The race will occur sometime between 1:00 and 5:00. It will take about 3 hours, and the time will be finalized in a few weeks.

Participation is fun and easy! Each house/stop is provided with a game or activity that each of the confirmation groups must complete before moving on to the next stop. Jill will provide a sign for your yard along with instructions and all the materials needed for your stop. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org.

Myamba Scholarship Pledge Update

We thank God for the faithfulness and the generosity of our congregation. We received enough funds to support 115 scholarships! This is much more than the original goal of 95 scholarships and more than the challenge goal of 100 scholarships. We also received more than enough to provide Swahili Bibles for first time scholarship recipients.

Tumsifu Mungu (Let's praise God)!

Asante Sana (Thank you so much)!

God's Work—Our Hands Update

Over the last few Sundays, St. Peter has joined ELCA congregations across the world coming together to celebrate "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday. This year, St. Peter's congregation donated 1,122 pounds of food and personal hygiene products that were given to the Grimes Storehouse to be shared with our neighbors in need. Forgot to bring back your bag and donations? No problem! Donations can go in the basket by the service counter in Fellowship Hall year-round! Gathered to Grow - Sent to Serve!



Grimes Storehouse Quarter Tube Donation

In September, we donated the contents of our full quarter tube in the amount of \$132.17 to the Grimes Storehouse food pantry. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Fall Clean-Up Outreach

Do You Need Help With Fall Clean-Up?

It is the time of year when we make plans to clean up our yards and get everything ready for winter weather. If you or someone you know needs some help with outdoor projects, the members of St. Peter are ready to help! A work team will come to your home between 9:30am-12:00pm on Sunday, October 27, to help with your projects. Please give the church office a call at 515-986-3077 or email us at stpeter@stpeterofgrimes.org and you will be put on the work list. We will need your name, address, phone number, as well as the chores you need taken care of. Give us a call! We would love to help you!

Come Join a Work Team!

Fall Outreach Sunday – Oct. 27

Come join us on Sunday, October 27, for St. Peter Lutheran's Fall Outreach Event to help our community neighbors. Work teams will be formed following the 8:00 a.m. worship service and be dispatched into the community to help those who signed up asking for a little fall clean-up help. All ages are welcome to join the teams! Tasks that we will undertake are outdoor chores such as raking and cleaning up garden and flower beds. Teams will come back to the church around noon to enjoy pizza together. Come as a family or individually to help with Fall Outreach. This is a great way St. Peter Lutheran can give back to our community by helping our neighbors.



We support the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry!

Our October focus will be:



Thanksgiving Sides



Bring in donations of jarred gravy or gravy mix, canned sweet potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, canned pumpkin, cranberry sauce, and boxed stuffing. 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** 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!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Pastor's Report:

- Blessing of the Backpacks, Fall kickoff carnival, beginning of fall schedule have all meant for some busy weeks. They've been wonderful busy weeks though, as there has been good positive energy and excitement for all the ministries to begin again.
- Last week Wednesday had everything except worship started. Confirmation, kids choir, youth group, and adult choir all met and are off to good starts. Tonight will be adding the worship on Wednesday nights as well. We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer service for every second Wednesday, which will be what we use tomorrow. The other Wednesday's will all be led by piano accompaniment. Music will be mostly with newer hymns or contemporary songs. Thankful for Carol Eilers being our accompanist on Wednesdays.
- I enjoyed leading the Bible instruction for 3 yr olds and 5th grade this past Sunday. It is a very basic instruction, but a good time to share with the students and their parents. We will be presenting the Bibles to the children in worship this week.
- Looking forward to the Stewardship season kicking off in a couple of weeks. I've been planning ahead with small adaptations to our worship liturgy and scripture readings to go along with the theme.
- We held the funeral service for Howard Ruggles on August 31st. Please remember Anne and the rest of his family in your prayers.
- September 22-23 I will be in Coralville for the Conference on Ministry put on by the SE Iowa Synod each year. I will leave sometime after worship and return Monday evening

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Faith Formation:** We are participating in God's Work Our Hands Sunday by collecting food for the Grimes Storehouse beginning Sept 1st through Sept 15th. Families are encouraged to fill a bag with groceries and return those to church so that we can fill the Grimes Storehouse trailer on Sept 15th. Special thanks to Nick Platt for applying for a Thrivent grant which we used to purchase reusable St. Peter bags for members to fill & return with their donations. The bags will be given to the storehouse for their clients to use.
- **Confirmation:** Confirmation began on Sept 4th; it was great to have everyone back again. We will begin our study on Martin Luther & the Catechism on Sept 11th. We have 4 high school youth who are serving as guides or jr guides for our confirmation small groups. It is great to see these youth come back to help mentor the younger students through confirmation. Our

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Blake Franzeen

August 2024

Income: \$27,326.06

Expense: \$31,351.38

Net Loss: -\$4,025.32

YtD 2024

Income: \$206,016.38

Expense: \$237,393.48

Net Loss: -\$31,377.10

- General Fund--August 2024 mtd, expenses were greater than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$4,025.32).
- General Fund--August 2024 ytd, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$31,377.10).

confirmation retreat will be on October 26th, and I will once again be looking for hosts for our “Amazing gRace” around Grimes. If you are interested in hosting a stop, please let me know.

- **Thursday Afternoon Bible Study:** We will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1:00pm-2:30pm. All are welcome to join this study. We will begin our study on Esther which we will continue through December when we end with a holiday potluck.
- **Sunday School:** Sunday school began on September 8th, we had a great turnout. Pastor met with parents & kids in 5th grade & 3-year-olds so they may receive their Bibles on Sept 15th. We have a great group of volunteers this year, including several youths who have committed to volunteering throughout the year with the younger students.
Technology & Misc.: Thank you Thanks to Tim Schiller for his work on the WIFI. We can now access the WIFI in the youth room & library. I also purchased a new router for the office WIFI – this was covered by the technology budget. Tim has also provided us with a laptop that can be used as needed for staff/ Sunday school etc.
- We need to budget for a new computer for Bambi in her role as Youth Director. Matt was previously able to use his personal computer. We have a laptop that Bambi can use in the time being, but we will need to get her a replacement as the current laptop has reached its end of life. I would recommend that we budget for an Apple MacBook Air (M3 Chip) in the upcoming budget.
- **St. Peter Clothing Sale:** We have reopened the St. Peter store with multiple clothing options, with some new brands including Nike. Check out the store & stock up on St. Peter gear. (It’s a great way to advertise St. Peter without having to say a word.) <https://stpeterfall2024.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Youth Report

- August 1, 2024 start date
- Cleaned out and rearranged youth room
- Future plans (if Council approves) could include taking down wall between MS and HS rooms to create one big space, removing screen and speakers, mounting tv to wall, painting walls and adding mural, installing new carpet tiles (leftovers in sanctuary storage, Jill thinks there is enough), adding some built-in seating, storage, new couches, and artwork. Youth have expressed interest in helping with renovations if we move forward.
- MS Kick Off Pizza Party and the first youth group went well with 29 youth. Thank you to Matt and Mindy Morris for helping out and Mary Tjeerdsma for picking up pizza!
- Breakfast Club (Sunday School 7-12 th graders, first Sunday of the month) had 7 kids. Thank you to Rob and Heidi Ridnour for helping out!
- HS Kick Off BBQ was a success with 13 youth in attendance at our house.
- HS Youth Group is tonight.
- Going to use App called Remind to get in touch with youth. Collecting youth phone numbers to start that.
- Looking forward to planning the Summer Mission Trip. Will meet last Sunday of the month for those monthly meetings. Sunday, September 29 at 6:00 pm will be our first meeting.
- I want to give a huge shout out to Matt Schmidt for all of his help and time! He’s been invaluable to me getting the year up and running! Also a big shout out to Tim Schiller for getting internet connected in the youth room! Thank you both!
- Thank you to Jill Capps, Lauri Rouse, and Pastor Mark for all of your help this month!

Treasurer's Report:

- July financials approved

Stewardship :

- Banner and Signs: Blake ordered from BDI signs using

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.



the logo from the packet.

- T&T sheet: this was sent out by Lauri for council members to review.
- Narrative Budget: Blake is working on this.
- Letter to congregation: Brenda had a draft prepared for review.
- Speaking at both services: Blake and Brenda will each speak at one service on Sept 22nd.
- Organize Meal for celebration Sunday: Rob is on board with having the mens group smoke meat for the meal again. Blake will confirm with him at council meeting with Rob.
- Verbiage of Pledge Sunday in the bulletin and voice: Lauri will provide guidance on what is needed and the timeline.

Building & Grounds

Work completed:

- Repaired broken handle on toilet in Women's restroom
- Fixed running toilet in Men's restroom
- Looked into cloudy tap water. It is very likely to be bubbles from air that made its way into the system during construction. Should resolve itself as more construction is completed and more users are connected to the new main.
- Looked into the gap under the front door. Not as easy of a fix as first thought. Will require taking the door off and replacing the seal.

Upcoming project/issues

- Front Door Seal
- Parking Lot lighting
- New Signage
- New Trees
- Take down temporary directional signs on "detour"

Other

- Recommend using the same company for snow removal

Education:

- Thanks to everyone who helped set out the golf holes and volunteer at the Fall Kickoff Sunday! The kids had a great time, and there was a lot of fellowship among everyone there!
- Sunday School started strong on September 8th with our return to the fall schedule! A few changes this year include the snacks (teachers grab those from the table on their way back to the room), and music with Miss Mady! (3 year old-1st grade from 9:15-9:30 and 2nd grade - 6th grade from 10:15-10:30).
- Upcoming:

- New Bibles for 3 year olds & 5th graders (met last week, present the bibles on Sept. 15th)
- First Communion for 2nd graders (Parents meet with Pastor on Sept. 29th & first communion will be on Oct. 6th)

Evangelism:

- It has been a quiet month outside of the Sunday School kickoff. But looking forward to some busier Sunday Fellowship time as Sunday School begins. We do have one special Sunday event on September 22 as we celebrate the many years of service by Matt Pries. We plan on serving cake between services.
- We are also happy that several families have taken the time to help with Fellowship time. Please consider signing up if you have the time. Always fun to talk with all our faithful members!

Worship & Music :

- September 8 begins to two services at 8:00 am and 10:30 pm. 8:00 livestreamed. Communion 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays
- September 11 begins Wednesday worship at 6:30 pm. No guitarist at this time. Carol E. to play piano on Wednesdays. Communion on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays. Holden the 2nd week. Sue Dooley will lead songs the 4th Wednesday.
- Adult Choir sings at 8 am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and at 10:30 on 3rd and 5th Sundays. Cantata will be December 22 at both services. Cantata practice begins October 30.
- Children's Choir: K-2nd grade from 5:15 to 5:45 pm and 3rd-6th grade 5:45-6:15 pm. Beth will coordinate with Mady when these groups will sing in church. She's planning to sing mostly at late service times when the adult choir is not singing. She will select a few dates for the fall. Discussion regarding offering this ministry to others outside of St. Peter.
- Mommy & Me Music Program: Name change to "Mini Me Music" to avoid making it gender specific. 9:45 - 10:15 am, birth to 3 yr (not Sunday School age kids). Beth is not quite ready to do this on a regular basis but discussed with Pastor Mark about possibly doing 2 sessions in the fall and 2 in the spring.
- **Special Sunday Services for 2024**
- Sept 22 - Recognize Matt Pries for his ministry with the Sunday school children's music and VBS ministry.
- Dates for October to be firmed up at future Worship and Music meetings: Oct ?? - Celebration/Stewardship Sunday. Theme - The IMPOSSIBLE Promise of Enough. Oct ?? - Fall Outreach Date – whenever

er the City of Grimes is doing fall cleanup, which is not known at this time

- Oct 27 - Reformation Sunday
- Nov 3 – All Saints’ Sunday
- Dec 1 – First Sunday of Advent
- Dec 15 – Children’s Christmas Program
- Tues, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Services
- Wed, Dec 25 – Christmas Day – No service this year. (Will hold when Christmas falls on a Sunday.)

nity Center

New Business:

- Youth Room space plan and options. Council approved up to \$2000 (Building Fund) for initial room plan
- Start thinking about 2025 budget

Local Mission Donation: GVSS

Old Business:

- Church Council Structure / Constitution – updates on Constitution plan—Eric
- Council Retreat Nov. 2, 9am-2pm at Grimes Commu-

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2024**

Old Business – We will plan to donate hygiene products to Myamba in the new future.

Board Reports

- President- Stephanie shared an upcoming event. Welca Cluster – Saturday Oct 5th at Resurrection Church in Ankeny. Women of Welca sponsoring.
- Mission: Stewardship/Treasurer- Michelle reported \$6,977 balance. Paid subscription for Q4 (Christ in Our Home, Spark, and Gather magazines), baptism books, Funeral expense: bill to Fareway (taken from funeral donation)
- Mission: Justice- Ellie requested Christmas “wish list” from Mosaic.
- Mission: Discipleship -no report

Discussion: Board member nomination – will start recruiting for next year.

Upcoming event planning

October:

- Coat Drive the month of October. Congregation to donate gently used coats and sleeping bags. Donations will be given to Capitol Hill Lutheran Clothes Closet. Collection at the church, Kerry and Stephanie will drop off at Capitol Hill November 1st.
- Miller bonfire 10/12 630p- Welca will supply s’mores and water. We will ask people to bring chairs and their own drinks.
- Board meeting 10/15 645p
- Dessert & Devotion 10/22 630p -Welca will provide treats.

November:

- Silent Auction 11/10 730a-12n-notes can be found on the google drive.

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