

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

The summer is quickly coming to an end. If you have young kids, it means you've probably been busy getting all the little things ready for them to go back to school. If you have older youth, you may be reminding, encouraging, and checking to make sure they have all they need to start school. If you have college kids, you may have helped them get all moved in for school. All of these details and prep work is done to help ensure your children have a successful school year.

Here at St. Peter Lutheran Church, we've been busy planning and working on all the little details as well. Church council, staff, ministry teams, and volunteers in various areas have been working hard to ensure another fabulous program year at St. Peter. While things slow down from a program per-

spective in the summer, the planning and working out of little details ramps up. I'm thankful for the hard work of all the staff and volunteers over the summer. Now we're excited to start the new fall programming. It's going to be a great year of growing and serving!

I encourage you to find ways to get involved this year. There are numerous ways to be active and involved in the congregation and its ministries. Sunday morning schedule changes in the fall to 8:00 and 10:30 am worship, and the education hour in between from 9:15-10:15. This schedule begins on Sunday, September 8th. Simply showing up is most important. There are numerous opportunities to serve as well though, such as hosts, scripture readers, communion assistants, etc. during worship. Enjoy fellowship with others during the coffee time following 8:00 am worship, or perhaps you like hospi-

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- ◇ *God's Work Our Hands Sunday*
- ◇ *Youth Group Kick-Offs*
 - ◇ *New Youth Director*
 - ◇ *Confirmation Info*
 - ◇ *Children's Choir*
- ◇ *Myamba Scholarship Drive Update*
- ◇ *Fall Stewardship Drive*

IN EVERY ISSUE:

- ◇ *Grimes Storehouse Donation Ideas*
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- ◇ *Monthly Calendar*

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. and will resume September 11.

tality and would be interested in hosting the coffee time. Join the adult education class, or maybe help lead a children's class. Wednesday evenings are the other busy day of the week at St. Peter. Confirmation, children's choir, worship at 6:30 pm, youth group, and adult choir all happen on Wednesday nights. Read through the rest of this VOICE newsletter and maybe there will be something else that jumps out at you as well.

St. Peter Lutheran church has a lot going on. However, St. Peter is not a thriving church solely because of the building and ministries. It is a thriving community of faith because of people like you. It is the people that God has drawn together in this place that makes it special. If you have read this far, maybe this is the word of encouragement you need to continue being actively engaged. Or, maybe this is the Spirit's nudge for you to become more engaged. Whatever your situation, please know that I am praying for you. I am praying for you, as I am praying for the church. I'm praying, because I know the powerful impact the Good News of the Gospel has on the people and world God so loves.

Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve.
Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter

God's Work—Our Hands Sunday September 8

In September ELCA congregations across the world will come together to celebrate "God's Work—Our Hands" Sunday. This year, St. Peter members will have the opportunity to help support the Grimes Storehouse through donations of food and personal care items. Beginning on Sunday, September 1, you can drop off donations in fellowship hall. Then on Sunday, September 15, we will take the donations and fill the Grimes Storehouse Trailer, which will be parked in the St. Peter parking lot. Reusable St. Peter bags will be available to taken, filled, and returned to the church to be given to the Storehouse. If you have questions please contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org.

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.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

JOIN US
for a
day of service

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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Celebrate the Ministry of Matt Pries September 22

Join us in celebrating Matt Pries and his music ministry at St. Peter at 10:30 a.m. worship on September 22 with fellowship to follow. Matt has shared his faith with enthusiasm and joy during children's Sunday School music and VBS music for 18 years, and we appreciate his many years volunteering his time in service to the youth at St. Peter.



3-Year Old & 5th Grade Bible Instruction Sept. 8

On September 8th, Pastor Mark will hold Bible Instruction with 3-year-olds and 5th Graders. Fifth Grade Bible Instruction will be from 9:15-10:00 a.m. and 3-year-old Bible Instruction will be from 10:00-10:15 a.m. **Please join your child during this time.** Children will receive their Bibles at the worship service of their choice on Wednesday, September 11, or Sunday, September 15.

First Communion

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

Confirmation Kick-Off

Confirmation will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and will begin on September 4. Confirmation is open to students in 7th grade and above; contact Jill Capps for more information.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday, August 28 at 5:00-6:00 p.m.—Curriculum Pick-up

Wednesday, September 4 at 5:30 p.m.—Confirmation Begins

Saturday, October 26 from 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.—Confirmation Retreat

Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m.—Confirmation Christmas Program

Wednesday, May 7 at 5:30 p.m.—Final night of Confirmation for 7th Graders

Sunday, May 18—Confirmation Sunday

Pastoral Acts

Austin Charles McGraw, son of Ashley McGraw, was born on April 29 2024, in Des Moines, IA. Austin was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes on August 11, 2024, by Rev. Mark Schlenker. Leah Beier, Jacob Schutte, Matt Cox, and Laurie Cox are Austin'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



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 5:15-5:45 p.m., and Joyful Noise (3rd-6th) meets from 5:35-6:30 p.m. 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!



JOIN US!

SILENT AUCTION PLANNING PARTY!

Join us to start planning for our fall silent auction in November!

WELCA works to mobilize women to act boldly in their faith in Jesus Christ!

September 10th at 6:30PM

All are welcome who are interested in helping with the Silent Auction. This will be held at Nicky Cooney's house. Contact a WELCA Board member or the church office for more info.

Myamba Secondary School Scholarship Pledge Drive—Good News Report!

As of the publication date of the September issue of The Voice, one week remains in the August pledge drive for secondary school scholarships for our Tanzanian companion, Myamba Lutheran Parish. Ordinary secondary school is a four-year program for students who are typically ages 14 to 18 years of age. St. Peter's Myamba Ministry Team set a goal to match the 95 scholarships our program has provided in each of the past 3 years. However, one of our St. Peter members challenged the congregation to go for a goal of 100 scholarships for 2025!

Pledge payments in hand indicate we're on track to reach or exceed our stretch goal. A \$100 pledge payment provides one scholarship for the 2025 school year, partnering with students' parents/guardians to cover the full cost for the year. An additional \$15 provides a Swahili Bible to a first-year student; a school notebook and pen are given to scholarship recipients for all four years of secondary school. Pledge cards are still available at St. Peter, and payments will be joyfully received during September as well! Thank you for your continuing support of this program which significantly and positively impacts Myamba Parish students and their families for years to come.

Fall Stewardship - THE IMPOSSIBLE PROMISE OF ENOUGH

God's promises are at the core of the witness of Scripture, but often we live in the in-between, liminal space between the anticipation of what might be possible and the inheritance of God's goodness.

In an intentional study of the Wilderness narrative, we will delve into the impossible promises of a God who upends our expectations of economics and of each other. This ancient story is the cornerstone of the Hebrew Scriptures and yet speaks in fresh ways into our contemporary lives, calling us to live in trust of God's goodness even when the world operates under scarcity, competition, might-makes-right, and a seemingly endless grind toward perfection.

It all feels so overwhelming. The liberation of the Hebrew people from an oppressive economic system will become a clarion call for freedom in our choices, patterns, habits, and practices of faith, so we too come to remember, that on the other side of the promise, there is always, always enough.



St Peter
YOUTH GROUP

Middle School Youth Group Kick Off Pizza Party

Middle School youth in grades 6-8 are welcome to join us Wednesday, September 4, from 6:45-7:15 p.m. for a pizza party, followed by Youth Group from 7:15-8:00 p.m. Come join us for pizza and our first Youth Group of the fall!

MS Youth Group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 7:15-8:00 p.m.

High School Youth Group Kick Off BBQ

High School youth are welcome to attend a kick-off BBQ Sunday, September 8, from 5:00-7:00pm at the Schlenker Home. Youth can bring a side to share.

HS Youth Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 7:15-8:15 p.m. Our first Youth Group this fall will be Wednesday, September 11th.

Bambi Schlenker—New Youth Director

We welcome Bambi Schlenker, who will be joining our staff as Youth Director at St. Peter. Bambi has been a member of St. Peter since June of 2012, where she has taken leadership roles in Moms' Group, WELCA, Vacation Bible School, and the Confirmation Guide Program. Before coming to St. Peter, she was a youth leader at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Florida, assisting with activities such as weekly Youth Group and Sunday School, youth retreats, summer camp, and National Youth Gatherings. Bambi is excited to continue serving St. Peter in this new capacity. Her husband, Pastor Mark, as well as their three children, Kadin, Grady, and Ashton, are also active members of St. Peter.



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 September focus will be:

Oral Care Items



Bring in donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, floss, etc.

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 8, 2024

Pastor's Report:

- Celebrated Matt Schmidt's ministry as youth director on Sunday, August 4th. We give thanks to God for his time and commitment to that ministry. Matt's not going anywhere, just stepping down from that role.
- Sunday, September 22nd has been the date selected to recognize Matt Pries for his ministry with the Sunday school children's music and VBS ministry. We will recognize him and give thanks to God for his ministry at the 10:30 worship and then have a cake reception to follow.
- Summer ministry in the church is time for visioning, researching, reading, meetings and planning for the upcoming program year in the church. That's where much of my time and energy has been this summer.
- With both Matt S. and Matt P. stepping down from their respective ministries, things will look a little different. Much will be the same, but some things a bit different as well. A different leader in those ministry areas is the obvious change. There will also be different tweaks here and there as well. Change can be uncomfortable and hard. My encouragement is always to recognize the discomfort and trust that God can and does work in the midst of change.
- Last Sunday was the ELCA National Youth Gathering and Mission Trip recap. It sounds like both trips were successful. Always good to hear how God is working in and through people's lives. Wonderful to see how Spirit is moving the youth and adults of St. Peter to be God's hands and feet in the world.
- We held the funeral of Dorothy Grief. She was our longest living member at age 97. We celebrated her life and commended her to God's eternal care on July 22nd.

From the Stewardship Committee—Andrew Newman & Blake Franzen

July 2024

Income: \$19,472.02

Expense: \$28,391.37

Net Loss: -\$8,919.35

YtD 2024

Income: \$178,690.32

Expense: \$206,042.10

Net Loss: -\$27,351.78

- General Fund—July 2024 mtd, expenses were greater than monthly income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$8,919.35).
- General Fund—July 2024 ytd, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$27,351.78).

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Faith Formation:** St. Peter prepared 101 casseroles between July 21-28, using funds from a Hunger Grant received from the synod. Breakfast casseroles are donated to the Salvation Army's Mobile Breakfast Canteen, which served the Des Moines area homeless and near homeless populations.
- **Gods Work—Our Hands:** We will participate in God's Work Our Hands Sunday by collecting food for the Grimes Storehouse beginning Sept 1st through Sept 15th.
- **Confirmation:** Confirmation will kick off on Wednesday, September 4th. This year we will have eleven second year students, and 13 1st year students along with 10 guides and 2 junior guides. I am looking for to another wonderful year of learning about our faith and growing together.
- **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.
- **Sunday School:** Sunday school will begin on September 8th. Curriculum planning is well underway for the 2024-25 school year. We are looking forward to another wonderful year of fun & learning.
- **Technology & Misc.:** Thank you to Rich Weiss and Justin Wells for running the live stream once a month, and to Joe Johnston for once again running the soundboard during Wednesday night worship services.
- All technology access has been transferred to the new youth director. This includes updating and adding software to the youth laptop. WIFI needs to be extended to the library & youth room. This had been previously set up, it just needs to be reconnected to the system. Volunteers/Staff are currently required to use their personal hotspots for technology access in these spaces. This is not something that I am currently able to do, if you have interest &

the skills necessary to do this, please let me know.

Youth Report

- The month of July was filled with finalizing all the Youth Gathering and Mission Trip details and doing some final fundraising.
- On Tuesday, July 16th, myself, Liam, Milo, Oliver and Benji headed to New Orleans to participate in the ECLA Youth Gathering. We had a great 4 days learning about our global church, learning about New Orleans culture and worshipping. The event involved 16,000 participants from all over the US and beyond. The 2027 Youth Gathering comes back to Minneapolis, and I expect we will have larger contingency of St Peter participants with it being closer to home.
- After returning home late Saturday, July 20th from the Youth Gathering, I turned around and loaded back up Sunday morning, July 21st to head for Kentucky. We enjoyed a great week of praising God, lifting each other up, and working in the La Center area serving three homeowners. We finished a ramp, dry-walled a garage and were able to do some major interior and exterior projects for a special family. We all left KY with a renewed energy to go out and be God's hands in the world.
- Alongside the conclusion of our two summer youth trips, comes the end of my tenure as Youth Director. I want to thank my family, Pastor Mark, Church Council and dozens of others who have supported me on this journey for the past 8+ years. It has been a great honor to stand by some amazing youth and grow in our faith together. I will always hold this calling as a special time in my life.
- As I pass the torch to our next Youth Director, I plan to remain active in our Church and continue to serve. Just like our mantra says, we are gathered to grow, but sent to serve.

St. Peter Council Overview: Eric sent presentation to council members prior to meeting. Lauri provided a packet for the council members.

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.



- St. Peter Family Grouped Report
- Information for Council Members from the Church Office
- Expense Summary & Receipts Template
- 2024-2025 St. Peter Fundraising/Drive Calendar
- August 2024 – July 2025 Council Member & Staff Directory

Treasurer's Report:

- June financials approved
- July financials will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Stewardship :

- Welcome Brenda Johnston to the Stewardship Committee and thank you to Andrew for your 3 years of service to the council.
- PCI compliance for Vanco will need to be completed by 9/28/24. Will discuss with Andrew and get renewed to avoid any extra charges.
- The tentative Stewardship drive theme will be The IMPossible Promise of Enough. Program cost is \$75.
- Reviewing how to mitigate the summer shortfall.
- Consistent shortfall every summer
- Pledge drive starts Sep 22nd.

Building & Grounds

- Added eight more signs to direct congregation through temporary entrance.
- Changed 35 lights.
- Cleaned the church steeple – building fund expense.
- West entrance tentatively scheduled to open in 3 to 4 weeks.

Education:

- Gearing up for another year of Sunday school. Jill, Emily, and Beth will meet August 19th to be sure everything is ready to go.
- August 18th - blessing of the backpacks for kids headed back to school.
- August 25th - Back to School carnival - Please plan to join in the fun by decorating and/or handing out prizes at a golf hole for your committee. (I will check at the council meeting who all plans to "host" a hole).
- Good response from council committees to sponsor a hole.
- Sept. 8th - first day of Sunday school! We have most teachers set already! We are excited to have Mady Brown as our new music leader for the Sunday school hour to start the year! Sarah Capps is doing an amazing job of getting us ready for another fun, and faith-filled year! Jill is also a huge help in coordinating the transition from Destiny to Beth & Emily.

- Bibles have been ordered for 3-year-olds and fifth graders by Lauri. Bible instruction will be on September 8th (first day of Sunday school).
- First communion for second graders - kids will bake bread on Sept 22nd, and communion will be on October 6th at either service or Wednesday, October 2nd.

Evangelism:

- We had a successful showing at our local Grimes Farmers Market. While we only participated three times (thank you Monti and Carol for attending one) we made a positive impact to our community. This has been my second year participating and I hope it continues. Although next year Tim and I will certainly commit to creating a schedule well in advance allowing other members to participate.
- July 4th fireworks were another well attended and successful event. There were multiple members that participated and assisted with hosting our lawn, restrooms, and again provided water, popcorn, and candy. If you have not yet watched from our lawn I highly recommend!!
- Our fellowship time continues to be well received and we appreciate the opportunity to engage everyone before and after service. Please continue to consider signing up to host. It is open to everyone if you did not know. !!
- Recently we provided a cake for Matt celebrating his tenure as our youth director. We had a great service.

Worship & Music :

- Adult choir starts Wed, Aug 21 at 7:15 pm. Cantata this year on Dec 22
- Wednesday Children's Choir for the fall session with Beth Hansen begins Wed, Sept 4. K-2nd grade from 5:30 to 6:00 pm and 3rd-6th grade 6:00-6:30 pm.
- Fall worship schedule with two services (8:00 and 10:30) begins on Sunday, Sept 8
- Wednesday worship service begins again on Sept 11 at 6:30 pm
- Thank you, Summer Heeren for serving on the W/M committee. Welcome Katie Scholl to the council.

Old Business:

- 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.
- Matt Pries stepping down after summer VBS.

- Facility Use Policy- Exec Council Approves Requests

New Business:

- Youth Director position filled by Bambi Schlenker with a start date of August 1, 2024. Youth checking account signers will be Bambi Schlenker, Lauri Rouse, and Bradely Fasse. Executive committee will review the ELCA Youth Ministry Network salary survey to understand the salary for the Youth Director Position, which will be discussed at a future meeting. In the interim, salary will remain the same as previously budgeted for the position.
- Planning for Council Retreat in underway.

Local Mission Donation: Grimes Storehouse

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

- **Treasurer’s report**
 - Paid -Grimes Storehouse drive reimbursement \$256.50 and 4th quarter Media Sparks paid \$26.47.
 - General fund= \$6007.96
 - Kitchen fund = \$1,060.54
- Mission: Justice report – Mosaic Pizza party August 1st. It was a success!
- Mission: Discipleship report – Austin McGraw baptized August 11
- Mission: Stewardship – School Supply drive review, bought 10 backpacks and 3 calculators donated to Grimes Storehouse
- **Calendar of events**
 - Sept. –
 - Auction planning 9/10 630pm at Nicky Cooney’s house- everyone is invited to attend.
 - Board meeting 9/17 630 pm
 - Oct. –
 - Dessert & Devotion 10/22 630p – Stephanie will lead
 - Miller bonfire 10/12 630 pm
 - Nov. –
 - Silent Auction scheduled 11/10 730am-12n
 - Grimes Giving Tree
 - Dec. -
 - MOSAIC gifts for Christmas gifts for residence will be bought and delivered.
 - Donations-decided on a \$400 donation to Myamba, Michelle checking with Carol Eilers on other needs they may have.
 - Financial review – report vs audit- Stephanie will check on with Pastor Mark

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