

The Voice



From the Desk of Pastor Mark:

Gathered to Grow. Sent to Serve. We hear this and say this often at St. Peter Lutheran Church. It helps to shape who we want to be as God's people. It is also shorthand for living our baptismal promises. At baptism, promises are made by us or on our behalf:

- To live among God's faithful people.
- To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper.
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus.
- To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

One way that we live out our calling to love is through advocacy, which I was reminded of this week. On Tuesday, March 11th, I went to Lutheran Day on

the Hill. It is a day that is organized and supported by Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three ELCA synods in Iowa. The morning began at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church downtown. We opened with a time of prayer and worship. The three different bishops encouraged us to live our baptism and reminded us of the promises made at baptism. We then heard from the director of LSI, who shared much of the important work being done through their ministries. (On the next page of this VOICE newsletter you will find information on LSI ministries.) We then heard from an Iowa Senator, who happens to be an ordained ELCA pastor, encouraging us to be advocates on behalf of the poor and most vulnerable. The last speaker was a lobbyist sharing some "best practices" for speaking with legislatures. We then ate lunch and went to the capitol building.

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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. through April 9.

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

Breakfast Club will meet April 6 at 9:15 AM.

Middle School Youth Group will meet April 2 and 23 at 7:15 PM.

High School Youth Group will meet April 9 and 30 at 7:15 PM.

Mission Trip Participants will meet April 27 at 6PM.

Mission Trip Lenten Soup Supper fundraisers April 2 and 9 at 5:30 PM.

Easter Breakfast Fundraiser April 20 at 7:00 AM.

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.

Over the stairs in the capital rotunda are written in bold gold lettering, "Courageous confidence in the intelligence of the community is the sure sign of leadership and success. The ideal state that in which an injury done to the least of its citizens is an injury done to all." One way to live our baptism "serving all people...striving for justice and peace" is through advocating for just policies that do not cause "injury" to anyone, particularly the most vulnerable in our midst. Leaders need to hear from the community (meaning us) whether policies being made are just and fair for all people. One of my professors in seminary often said, "The question is not whether this is good for me, but whether this is good for my neighbor." Advocating for just and fair policies for all people is important.

I'll admit, advocacy is not a strength of mine. It's out of my comfort zone. It's not something that I have a lot of experience with. I'm learning, though. I too do my best to "Grow." As I grow in knowledge and God's love, I pray that the Spirit continues to empower me and lead me in ways that "Serve" the people and world that God so loves. I've recognized that one way I can "Grow" in "Serving" is through advocacy. If advocacy is something you already do, thank you and keep up the good work. If you would like to grow in this area, here are some places to get more information and get started:

- www.elca.org/advocacy—this page has many resources for advocacy
- www.lsiowa.org/advocate—this page has information that effects vulnerable Iowans.
- www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators—this website helps you find your legislators to contact.

Whether you get involved in advocacy or not, keep up the good work sharing the love of God through Christ Jesus with the world. St. Peter members and friends are actively serving in the world through many ways everyday. Keep up the good work!

Gathered to Grow. Sent to serve.

Pastor Mark

Coming Up at St. Peter

Holy Week

APRIL 13: PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

APRIL 17: MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP 6:30 P.M.

APRIL 18: GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 6:30 P.M.

APRIL 20: EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP 6:30, 9:00, & 10:30 A.M.



Relentlessly
DEDICATED
TO SERVING
IOWA COMMUNITIES.



At LSI, we are fueled by the power of the human spirit and driven to create stronger Iowa communities. Our work isn't done until every Iowa child has a safe, healthy home; until every individual seeking greater mental wellbeing has access to quality therapy; until every refugee or immigrant neighbor feels welcome in their new home; until every Iowan with a disability has the independence they need to thrive.

As one of Iowa's most trusted human services agencies, LSI has a legacy of serving children and families for more than 160 years. With more than 500 team members in offices statewide, Team LSI stands united, ready to tackle the difficult issues facing our most vulnerable neighbors.

“

The people at LSI are the ones to help you through the times when you don't know what to do.

–Lisa, An Iowa Mom

Customized Care

FOR IOWA CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES for children, adults, and families in a compassionate, non-judgmental therapeutic environment



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INTERVENTION SERVICES (BHIS) to support children with emotional or behavioral disorders through regular in-home visits and provide their families with practical skills like anger management and healthy communication



RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT SERVICES to provide Iowa's most vulnerable children and teens with 24-hour trauma-centered mental health care



EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES for parents of young children - our programs support Iowa families with home visiting, classes, and parenting education



FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION to recruit, license, and support foster and adoptive families in western Iowa, subcontracted under Four Oaks Family Connections



IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITY SERVICES to empower refugees and immigrants with economic development programs, education, and family support



SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES include 24/7 and hourly care, Host Homes independent living, and respite care for Iowa children and adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities

Unite

Respect

Grow

Empower



LSI is affiliated with Lutheran Services in America and the three Iowa synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. LSI is nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

LSIowa.org | Facebook.com/LSI.iowa | [Instagram: @LSI_Iowa](https://Instagram.com/@LSI_Iowa)

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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Lenten Worship Schedule

Wednesday Soup Suppers: 5:30 p.m. March 5-April 9: Supper will be served from 5:30-6:15 p.m. each Wednesday of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday. Soup and other dinner items will be shared for a free-will donation, which raises funds for the 2025 Youth Mission Trip to Copperhill, Tennessee .

Lenten Worship: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Lenten worship will occur each Wednesday March 5-April 9 featuring skits performed by members of our congregation.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

April 13—Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, remembering Jesus' celebrated return into Jerusalem while crowds gathered and shouted "Hosana!" **Palm Sunday worship is at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**

April 17—Maundy Thursday is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, known as the Last Supper, also called Communion. Jesus also washed the disciples' feet as an act of humility and service, thereby setting an example that we should love and serve one another in humility. **Maundy Thursday worship is at 6:30 p.m.**

March 29—Good Friday is the day on which Jesus was crucified. The events of Good Friday should be ever on our minds because the death of Christ on the cross – along with His bodily resurrection – is the paramount event of the Christian faith. Romans 5:8 – "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." St. Peter Lutheran will be remembering Christ's suffering and death for the forgiveness of our sins at our **Good Friday Worship Service on March 29 at 6:30 p.m.**

April 20—Easter Sunday is the most important day of the church year. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and his victory over death in fulfillment of the old testament prophecies. John, chapter 1 says, "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Join us for this joyous and celebratory worship on **April 20 at 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., or 10:30 a.m.**



Easter Egg Hunt

We invite you to join us on Saturday, April 19th, at 10:00a.m. for an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt at St. Peter - all ages of kids are welcome! In order to plan and make sure we have enough eggs for everyone, please sign up one spot for each child who will be participating. We will also be providing grab & go breakfast items for those in attendance. Please contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org with any questions.



Pastoral Acts

Chase Prohaska, son of Josh and Allison Prohaska, was born on October 3, 2024, in Des Moines, IA. Chase was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes on March 30 2025, by Rev. Mark Schlenker. Joe and Ellie Prohaska are Chase's baptism sponsors.

Faith, Fellowship, Coffee, & Dessert

All are welcome to join the Thursday afternoon Bible study as we discuss the weekly devotional *The Hardest Part: Hurt We Carry, Hope We Find*. This relaxed Bible study meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. There is no registration required, and you can come as often or as little as your schedule allows. Contact Jill at faithformation@stpeterofgrimes.org with any questions.

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



Easter Pancake Breakfast

The youth will serve a pancake breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 20, from 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. Free will donations support the 2025 Youth Mission Trip to Copperhill, TN. We invite you to join us in fellowship on Easter morning for this celebratory breakfast!



Fill the Bus Fundraiser

Help our Mission Trip youth raise money for our bus ride to Copperhill, TN this summer. Grab a youth picture from the board (names are on the back); put them in a seat; and donate \$25, \$50, or \$100 to help cover the cost of the bus trip. Over the next couple of months, pray for the youth you picked as they prepare to love and serve others. Donations can be made by cash, check, or Venmo (Memo- Fill the Bus).

Mini Me Music
Come join us for fun, musical play for children from birth to 3 years old!
St. Peter Lutheran Church in Grimes
Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:00am

GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE! MARCH 30

APRIL 27 EASTER CELEBRATION!

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT BETH HANSEN
ELIZABETHMARIE01@GMAIL.COM

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for members from St. Peter to join Habitat for Humanity on May 13th, 2025 to help with a build(s) in Greenfield, IA after they had the tornado tear through last year. Volunteers would need to commit to a full day of work from 9 AM to 4 PM with a 30 minute lunch that will be provided. More details will be provided once we know that we will have a large enough group to commit. If you would like to participate or if you have questions, please contact Eric Meints at ebmeints99@gmail.com or on his cell at 515-360-8565.

Wednesday Children's Choirs Sing April 6 & 27 at 10:30 a.m. worship!
Sunday School Children sing April 13 & May 4 at 10:30 a.m. worship!

Volunteers Needed – Can You Help?

If you can help as a communion **preparer** contact Kaarin Fasse. To be a **communion assistant**, please contact Katie Scholl.

If you would like to help as **Assisting Minister**, please contact 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 want to learn our **livestream audio/visual production**, contact Jill. You would be trained in the production process for our live-stream service.

If you can help with **Creation Station** during worship, contact Jill or go to this link: <https://signup.com/go/CwrXJph>.

The church office can put you in contact with these volunteer coordinators. Thanks for sharing your time and talents with St. Peter!



We support the Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry!

Our April & May focus will be:



Kids' Breakfast & Lunch



Bring in donations of peanut butter, jelly, boxed cereal, and shelf stable juices.

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Pastor's Report:

- The Semiannual meeting, youth spaghetti dinner fundraiser, and tie blanket Sunday all made for ministry packed Sundays in February. All of these ministries went very well.
- The Church season of Lent began last week with Ash Wednesday. The weather was sketchy all day, but thankfully we didn't cancel, as it later improved. The soup suppers and worship were both well attended.
- We have typically been pausing Wednesday worship following Easter, which we will be doing again this year. April 9th will be the last Wednesday worship until the Fall.
- I went to Lutheran Day on the Hill, which was on March 11th.
- Emily Wells has turned in her resignation as choir director at St. Peter. She will finish the choir season through May 31st. Emily and her family are not leaving the church. She is stepping back from this role to spend more time with her family. We give thanks to God for Emily sharing her gifts to faithfully lead the choir the past 7 years. Her skill, patience, flexibility and strong faith has been a blessing to the ministry of St. Peter.
- MoM: Discussed options for the Choir Director position following Emily's resignation for the end of the choir season in May. We have roles and responsibilities for the choir director position that may require some review and updates.

Faith Formation Report—Jill Capps

- **Faith Formation:** We completed 210 blankets at our 12th Annual Fleece

From the Stewardship Committee— Blake Franzen & Brenda Johnston

February 2025

Income: \$36,631.14

Expense: \$31,672.51

Net gain: \$4,958.63

Year to Date 2025

Income: \$59,556.68

Expense: \$60,781.75

Net loss: -\$1,225.07

- General Fund--February 2025 mtd, expenses were less than monthly income, thus it finished with a surplus of \$4,958.63.
- General Fund--February 2025 ytd, expenses were greater than income, thus it finished with a loss of (\$1,225.07).

Blanket Project in February bringing our 12-year total to 2,217 blankets. Thank you to everyone who participated in this project by donating fleece, money, tying blankets, etc. A special thank you to WELCA for their \$150 donation to help purchase fleece.

- The Easter Egg Hunt Event hosted by Faith Formation, Education, & Evangelism will be on Saturday, April 19th. With the new parking lot, we have less green space than in years past so we will not be increasing the number of registrations this year. We will evaluate the event and determine if we are able to expand it in the future.
- **Confirmation:** We are focusing on the Lent & the Crucifixion & Resurrection during Lent. Confirmation small groups will eat together at the Lenten soup supper & complete a lesson in their classroom.
- **VBS:** VBS registration began in March, and there are already several volunteers signed up, and several volunteer opportunities still available. Please consider helping during this fun, engaging week where our youngest members build on their Faith.
- **Technology:** We have a couple of members who have asked about assistive hearing devices that can be used during our worship services. I have reached out to a church that uses those devices to get some insight and am looking into vendors and considerations.
- Our contract with Mediacom ends in October. We are looking into new internet options with higher speeds that were not available in 2020. The phones do need to be replaced and could be done by either an outside company or the internet company we choose.
- **Website/Facebook:** I continue to update our Website/Facebook daily/weekly. Please remember to share any upcoming events etc. that you would like me to post for you.
- **MoM:** Discussed the options for assistive hearing devices. Contacts made with peers at St. John's Lutheran church in WDM. Considerations of updates to sound board also discussed. Researching options to better assess cost and use.
- Internet Service Provider (ISP) also in review to be able

to increase the speed for devices and equipment in use at the church. Quotes from Mediacom and Metronet. Metronet will 'buyout' the Mediacom service if we decide before October renewal. Project to transition in summer.

- Phone technology may require a separate service and if remains analog or is updated to digital technology. Discussed the number of 'phones' that would be required as primary to the Church Office and for Pastor Mark. Metronet is \$20/month for each phone.
- Input from Building and Grounds to update the Fire Alarm system from analog to digital. The panel is an analog and benefit to transition it to digital at the same time.
Exec to take up item on review of ISP option and phone connections as part of April planning.

Youth Report

- Both Middle School and High School Youth Group were affected by the Winter Weather we had in February! Hopefully we are done with bad weather now. Thank you to Matt Morris for leading on February 19th when I was home sick.
- We had a very successful 30th Annual Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner raising \$4,358 for our Mission Trip! Barilla donated all the pasta and red sauce for the event. Parents provided all the other items. A BIG thank you goes to all the amazing youth who did a fabulous job hosting, serving, drink filling, table cleaning, and helping in the kitchen! Thank you to all the parents who helped with set up and clean up. And thank you to our church family for coming and supporting the night! We hope you had a fun night.
- Breakfast Club had 8 youth at our February meeting. Thank you to the Maass and Tjeerdsma families for providing breakfast!
- Shout out to Matt Schmidt for walking me through the Valentine's Dinner Planning and Day of Event and to Katie Scholl for making new centerpieces for us this year! Jason and Sarah Hughes, Matt and Mindy Morris, Summer Heeren, Michelle Sigler, Bradley Fasse, Katie Scholl, and Matt Schmidt—thank you for helping make

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 Valentine's Dinner a huge success! I couldn't have done it without you all!

Treasurer's Report:

- The cycle for the February financials was not available at the March meeting. Council had some preliminary information and deferred review of the financials to the April meeting.

Stewardship :

- QR Codes for donations: Blake looking into using what we currently have for online giving's ability to use for one time donation to specific cause. VENMO or Square could be used as alternative options.
- Spring Stewardship
- Possible one-time giving opportunities ideas to share: numbers of bibles give to 5th graders, number of confirmation children being served, number of home visits, number of children who attend Bible school, etc.
- Talk about extra giving of bonuses and company matches in March.
- Talk about possibly doing online giving over summer months for busy families in May.
- Create a spring giving theme for 2026.
- Offering: 5 Sundays in March 2025 plus need for people for the Easter season.
- Reviewed monthly Stewardship Fund Raising Calendar
- MoM: Blake's talk on March 9, positive. Discussion with Stewardship team to keep the congregation updated on how their pledges and contributions are put to work for the church and community. Team and council discussed options to continue to share opportunities and status with the congregation.

Building & Grounds

- Todd got the Cross put up for Lent and Easter.
- We are reviewing the monitoring services for fire detection
- We will be working with education to identify broken tables in the class rooms and if they can be fixed or need to be replaced.
- MoM: Discussed plans for more permanent lighting of the stained glass window from outside the church. Current option the poles was intended as temporary until a better solution could be identified. Council recognizes that we want to continue to have our exterior aesthetics and landscaping to reflect our congregation and community.

Education:

- Wrapping up a great year of Sunday School in the coming months. Last day Carnival on May 4th.
- Emily is almost done organizing next year's lessons for

our new storage system. This is a lot of tedious work that will set up for success for many years to come!

- Easter Egg Hunt on April 19th
- Planning for VBS has begun! Registration is coming soon for kids!
- MoM: The materials for VBS are purchased and registration to begin in the next few days. Four Sundays left in the Sunday School calendar.

Evangelism:

- Normal fellowship time between services continues
- Easter Egg Hunt – April 19, plans to serve coffee, hot chocolate and snacks

Worship & Music :

- Ash Wednesday Recap – all went well, and attendance was good despite the earlier blizzard conditions in the morning/early afternoon
- Drama is ready to begin March 12
- Palm Sunday – April 13
- Palms – Rita checked costs at Hy-Vee – \$20-\$25/ bunch. Might order one Premium bunch for decorating and order rest from another supplier. Contacted Jill Frey who has provided some information back to Rita.
- Rita will contact Lacey Baker about having Alfred the Donkey outside and available before, during, and after Sunday School for the SS kids.
- Katie sent email to families re: Maundy Thursday and stripping of the altar
- Brass will play at Easter services – 9:00 & 10:30
- Children's Choir and Mini Me Music update – **no children's choir practice during Spring Break or Holy Week.** Last practice is April 23. **Mini Me Music** from 9:30 – 10:00 on March 30 and April 27: All will be held in Youth Group room if available; backup location is the nursery. Has been posted on Facebook.
- Discussion of various elements of the worship experience

Children's Singing Schedule:

- Sun, Apr 6—10:30 a.m.—Wednesday Choirs
- Sun, Apr 13—10:30 a.m.—All SS Kids
- Apr 27—10:30 a.m.—Wednesday Choirs
- May 4—10:30 a.m.—All SS Kids

New Business:

- Nominating committee - status: Updates, status, access of roles and responsibilities documents for committee
- Committees plan to update roles & responsibilities each year before Council Retreat: Agreement for council committees to complete an annual review of roles & responsibilities documents to keep them current.
- Tanzania – Myamba Emissary trip information on Website – Published under Get Involved

- Constitution Update – Response from Synod
- **MoM:**
- Old/New Business – Status of St. Peter Constitution updates. Eric updated on the notes returned from the Synod contact for the model constitution updates and the modifications we proposed. Response from Synod contact had no concerns, pointed out some wording to review. Council reviewed and provided input on wording and language modifications. Updates forthcoming with time to have with council for review at April meeting. St. Peter constitution updates will be presented to congregation for first reading at July semi-annual meeting. Requires 2 reviews before adoption.
- St. Peter Insurance Policy – Steve updated on the agent contacted and prospective bids/quotes to determine if it is beneficial to change our current policy. Three were sought, 1 exceeded our current policy by \$3K to \$4K, 1 declined to quote – no longer taking on new church buildings to insure, the 3rd indicated they would offer a quote when our policy is due. We are currently paying on monthly basis and with current climates of insurance providers, the timing may be best to remain with our current policy and review our coverage.
- Nominating committee updates – Pastor Mark and committee to meet again on Wednesday. Will provide potential candidates to those on council that are completing their term this year to initiate reach out to those interested. All have access to the roles and responsibilities documents that have been updated that can assist in any conversations for commitment.
- Blog post - St. Peter website is updated with the Tanzania Emissary trip. Pastor Mark will contact Dave Eilers to ask to link the slides to the blog post.
- Roundabout status – Jared shared some of the updates they had with meetings with the city, Foth and the contractor the city has engaged for the next phase of construction James Street. The next phase involves sewer updates before the road. Plans to are projected to start at the Fire station and come south. There will be some shifting of lanes as they start this next phase of sewer and road construction. The city will provide the ‘detour’ information for James Street during this phase of work. Projections are for end of May or mid-June for 11th Street entrance to open. Some discussion on communications that may be required for VBS.

Local Mission Donation: Lutheran Services in Iowa

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WELCA MEETING

MARCH 18, 2025

Old Business

- Steph took 6 bags of gently used toys for donation to the ‘Not So New’ shop. Very successful event!
- 2025 WELCA book is completed and displayed on the counter by WELCA board
- Subscriptions: **Gather Magazine** is paid for 2025. Will evaluate renewal at end of year. **Christ in our Home** has been paid for Q2

New Business

- Donation to enhance the entryway. Bambi will provide a budget, items to purchase, and overview for WELCA to discuss
- Amanda shared that the Girl Scout troop is offering to make a \$150 donation for the greeting table.

Events

- Pieces of WELCA- Sunday, 3/30, 2-4pm: 5 puzzles in WELCA storage area. Review and share WELCA book with attendees
- March Baptism- Steph
- Craft/Vendor Show-Saturday, May 3
- All vendor spots are now full
- Beth will create a Facebook page to help promote
- Beth will pay WELCA and provide a spreadsheet of vendors
- April 15th WELCA meeting will assign times to work event

Future Events

- Dessert and Devotion for May 13th
- Amanda will provide Girl Scout cookies and Kerry will bring bars
- Mosaic Gift- Amanda will reach out to determine need. Budget \$150

Financial Update

- Current Balance \$9148.40
- March bills: \$101 (Christ in our Home subscription) \$133.75 (Jo Ann Fabrics -Amanda)

Next meeting: April 15, 6:30 pm