

St. Peter Lutheran Church

[Evangelical Lutheran Church in America]

324 E. Traer St., PO Box 638

Greene, Iowa 50636



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**Sunday School Program,
Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 pm,
Christmas Day Worship 9:00 am**

DECEMBER 2023

The Newsletter of
St. Peter Lutheran Church [ELCA],
Greene, IA

Church Office - 641-816-5531

Church Office Email -
stpeter@myomnitel.com

Website: www.stpetergreene.com

Facebook Pages: St Peter Lutheran Church and
St. Peter Lutheran Church Children and Youth
Streaming: YouTube St Peter Lutheran Greene

for a child
has been
born for
us a son
given for
us



and will
call him
Immanuel

Wonderful Coun-
selor Mighty God
Everlasting Father
Prince of Peace

C H R I S T M A S D A Y

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Greene, Iowa Unofficial Council Minutes November 1, 2023

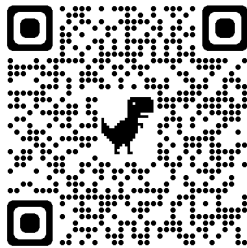
Present: Erin Mulder, Cheryle Arjes, Keith Christensen, Dixie Hughes, Phil Wahlgren, John Backer, Dana Frerichs, Lyndsie Pitzenberger, Christine Shultz, Les Steere, Dawn Van Etten. Not present: Addy Spain. Also present: Gale Brinkman, Robin Majewski
Phil Wahlgren called meeting to order, Keith Christensen second motion carried

1. Secretary's Minutes Keith Christensen made motion to approve, Cheryl Arjes second m/c
2. Additions to Agenda
 1. Chair donation for pastors office
 2. Celebrations
3. Church Vision: Keith Christensen, Attitude of Gratitude Wendy Mass "If nothing ever changed there would be no such thing as butterflies."
4. Action Items
 - A. Wednesday Worship – time, pastor, bulletin, lector, usher, communion, piano player
 - Advent Nov 29th, Dec 6, 13, 20, Greene Ecumenical will be holding a normal advent services of 4 Wednesday worships. Pastor Joan will be doing first two and Keith Christensen will be leading the last two. Planning is complete and all worships will be held at St Peters, time will be 6:30 for Advent.
 - January 7, 14, 21, 28 Feb 4 and 11th will have two services on Sundays 9am and 11am services
 - Ash Wed Feb 14, Lent February 21, 28 March 6, 13, 20 Holy Week March 27
 - Services after Easter will be determined
 - Dawn Van Etten made a motion to approve the new calendar for services. Phil Wahlgren second motion carried
 - B. Advent offerings – Last 5 years donations went to LSI, Keith Christensen made a motion to continue with supporting LSI. Dixie Hughes second m/c
 - C. John Backer made a motion to make January 28, 2024 be our Annual Meeting, Dawn Van Etten second. M/C
 - D. Yearly Evaluation will need to be done before end of year.
 - E. Council Help for January – Lyndsie Pitzenberger, February – Keith Christensen and Dixie Hughes, March Les Steere
 - November Erin
 - December Sunday Dawn
 - December Wednesday Dixie
 - F. New Hires
 - Treasurer – Role will be vacant end of year. Discussions will be had with possible candidates.
 - Custodian – Role will be vacant December 15th. Discussed training for new hire. Keith Christensen made a motion to empower the grounds and personnel committee to make an offer to hire a custodian at \$14.75 an hour. Phil Wahlgren second motion carried
 - G. Bulletins 2nd Quarter Feb 25 – May 19, 2024 changes are due December 1 2023. We will continue to order same number
 - H. 2024 Budget Review – Stewardship committee met to discuss budget. Recommendations to cut back on giving to ELCA and Synod. Current giving was also adjusted. Many changes were implemented due to loss of a single donor that had allocated specific giving. Expenses – some changes to personnel, but limited expenses and including the pastor salary. The budget will be added to the December agenda. Meeting date for stewardship committee will be December 4th
 - I. All Saints November 4/5 – read names, light candles Keith on Saturday, Erin on Sunday
 - J. Special celebrations November 26th.
 - K. Phil will go to see the possible chair donations for pastors office.
 - L. Weather cancellation policy Christine made a motion to approve weather cancellation policy, Cheryle Arjes second motion carried
5. Pastors Report
6. Treasurers Report – Keith made a motion to apply Ann Gravens \$5000 donation in James H. Graven name to the window renovation. Dawn Van Etten second motion carried
7. Committee Reports
 - Call Committee – Reviewing needs and if changes are needed.
 - Building and Grounds – Discussed future staffing changes, leaf removal and possible youth help. Snow removal will be contacted. Dawn Van Etten made a motion to apply the funeral fee to church and custodian will be paid directly from church. Dixie Hughes second motion carried
 - Education and Youth – Luther League had a great turnout on Halloween for food bank. Future drives will be held and baskets for thanksgiving will be handed out to Shut ins. Confirmation is going well and are getting more involved. Sunday school has met twice with a good turnout.
 - Stewardship and Finance – Budget, temple talks are scheduled fro 11/4, 11/15 and 12/10. All council members were reminded to write their own personal testimony statements for why l/we give to St. Peter and get those to Keith before the next meeting. Also, an update on the stained glass window project was shared – including a discussion on how to track what windows are spoken for, recognition and new gifts/interest.
 - Worship and Evangelism – Discussing to bring back communion at the altar
 - Personnel
 - Mutual Ministry
 - WELCA
 - Dawn Van Etten made motion to approve meeting minutes. Keith Christensen second motion carried
8. Thank you to Jeff Dralle for sending thank you's to Pastors that have filled in for our church.
9. Adjournment Phil Wahlgren made a motion to adjourn, Dawn Van Etten second motion carried

**St. Peter Lutheran Church
Financial Report
November 17, 2023**

	Ending Balance
Current Fund Balance	\$56,888.58
Current Fund Amount in MMDA	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$56,888.58
Other Fund Balances	
Technology	\$2,890.83
Benevolence and Mission	\$1,273.75
Building and Repair	\$928.16
Stained Glass Windows	\$14,505.00
Fellowship	\$2,582.42
Thrivent Choice	\$5,657.00
Restoration	\$46,492.72
Missionary Support	\$235.00
AED	<u>\$450.00</u>
	<u>\$75,014.88</u>
Bank Balance	
Checking	\$110,624.58
Money Market	<u>\$21,278.88</u>
TOTAL BANK	<u>\$131,903.46</u>
Goyer Scholarship	\$1,996.69
McCosh - Gift of Love	\$1,017.47

Giving QR Code



**Annual Meeting:
10:00 am Sunday,
January 28, 2024**

By constitutional rule, the congregation must be informed of the Annual Meeting in sufficient time for individuals or groups to apply to be on the agenda.

The agenda is set a minimum of ten [10] days before the Annual Meeting.

Anything can be brought up to be discussed, but unless it is on the agenda as approved by the Council, it can not be voted upon. A special meeting would then have to be called to act upon that issue.

**Annual Reports Due
January 2nd!!**

If you are the head of a committee or organization in the church, we need your annual report by January 2nd. The Annual Reports need to be typed, published and ready for distribution the weekend of January 20/21, 2024.

They can be e-mailed directly to the church at stpeter@myomnitel.com



Restoration Fund
St. Peter Lutheran Church



Mission Statement

St. Peter Lutheran Church

WELCOMES people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church,
EQUIPS people with a faith that works in daily life, and
SERVES in the world to make a difference in Jesus' Name.



"Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace."

DECEMBER - Holy Communion

6:00 pm - Saturday, December 2nd

9:00 am - Sunday, December 3rd

•When individual glasses are offered at Holy Communion, the clear glasses have wine in them and the purple glasses have grape juice.

•We have gluten free wafers available; just let the Pastor know that you need it at communion.



Home Communions

For those of you who received home communion last month, our volunteers will be in contact with you as to when you would like communion this month.

If you have not be contacted and would like communion in your home, please call the church office and schedule a time for the us to come to you.

**Sunday School
Christmas Program**

Mark your calendars and be sure to join us on **Sunday, December 10th during 9:00 am worship** for a special Sunday worship service that will include the Sunday School Christmas Program.

All students ages 3 - 6th grade are encouraged to be a part of it!



WELCA 'Giving Tree'

The WELCA Giving Tree will be up in the fellowship hall starting November 25th. **The Ornaments on the tree will only be for money donations.** The beauty of the Giving Tree is that we do not know who the recipients are - only that there is a need and because of Jesus' love for us, we can fill it.

Check out the tree at our worship services. Please put the ornament and the money in an envelope and slide it under Robin's office door by **Sunday, December 10th.** The rest will be taken care of by WELCA. Please make checks payable to WELCA. Thanks again for your generosity and ministry to others.



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated boxes for Operation Christmas Child. There were a total of 40 boxes donated by St. Peter

members. Thank you for your generous response in brightening the lives of little children this Christmas.



St. Peter WELCA

ALTAR FLOWERS: December - Faith Circle

WELCA CALENDAR

November 29th - Advent coffee - Vision

December 6th - Advent coffee - Glory

13th - Advent coffee - Faith

14th - 9:30 am coffee at the Coffee Baa

18th - Prayer Shawl Ministry - 3:00 pm

20th - Advent coffee - Vision

31st - Poinsettias are taken down after worship

The WELCA Board would like to wish everyone a blessed holiday season. We hope that you will take time to rejoice in the birth of Christ and his blessings. The people in our lives are our richest blessings. Keep Christ in your heart.

- Your WELCA Board: Sue Schroeder, Sue Brinkman, Julie Brinkman, Betty Heitland, Nancy Reser, Bev Christensen, and Connie Yerkes.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias are due at the church by Friday morning December 1st, at 9:00 am so they can be set up to decorate the church.



Any WELCA members who would like to help set out the poinsettias, please meet at the church at 9:00 am on Friday, December 1st.





**Advent Ecumenical Worship at
St. Peter Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm**

on

**November 29th - "O Come, All Ye Faithful",
December 6th - "What Child Is This",
13th - "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing",
20th - "Go Tell It on the Mountain"**

**WELCA will be providing fellowship
following worship.**

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is seeking members to serve on the church council.

This is an opportunity to serve the Lord and to better understand of all the ingredients that are needed to fulfill the ministry at St. Peter. We

ask you prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. Council positions will be voted on at our Annual meeting. There are also openings on some of the committees. If you are interested, please contact the Nominating Committee: Esther Backer, Clarene Backer, William Schmidt, Owen Almelién, Andrea Gotto, Lindsay Landers, Jan Osier, and Tracy Steere.



**MEMORIAL GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD
and in memory of:**

Dan Osier

\$410.00 to the Stained Glass Windows by family & friends.

Irene Stanbrough

\$25.00 to the Stained Glass Windows by friends.

Paul Yerkes

\$100.00 to the Stained Glass Windows by family.

James H. Graven

\$5,000.00 to the Stained Glass Windows by family.



Saturday Worship

A reminder that December 2nd will be the final Saturday night worship. St. Peter Lutheran will have Sunday 9 am worship in the sanctuary and Wednesday 6:30 pm worship in the fellowship hall during December.



St. Peter Lutheran DECEMBER Birthdays

- 1 - Crystal Ott,
Rowan Ulrich
- 2 - Brexley Brandhorst,
Dana Frerichs
- 3 - Kaye Blong,
Casey Keifer
- 4 - Sara Stark
- 5 - David Brinkman,
Anthony Miller,
Bonnie Sneed
- 6 - Jennifer Averhoff,
Donna Spratt
- 7 - Rose Adelmund,
Ryan Behnke,
Lauren Hawker,
Joyce Wiele
- 8 - Conner Hobson,
Trace Landers,
Meredith Shultz,
Kirsten Zimmerman
- 9 - Joshua Rogers
- 10 - Brent Ebling,
Cindy (John) Steere
- 11 - Duane Majewski,
Chet Shultz

- 13 - Finn Pitzenberger,
Kevin Schafer,
Isabelle Schroeder,
Ben Trepp
- 14 - Gene Ross
- 15 - Dawn Van Etten
- 16 - Norma Noel,
Les Steere
- 18 - Faron Jensen,
Grace Pittenger
- 19 - Dylan Christensen,
Kay Joebgen,
Darren Rogers,
Clayton Towsley
- 20 - Maddison Brummond,
Dave Iverson,
Reagan Tidemanson
- 21 - Joyce Constien,
Taelyn Landers
- 22 - James Arjes,
Ashley Christensen,
Betsy Christensen,
Jean Ann Wedeking

- 23 - Calvin Hanson
Nathaniel Martzahn,
Merlin Schuknecht
- 24 - Josephine Allen,
Cindy Brinkman,
Peggy Griffin
- 25 - Kelly Hoodjer,
Marnie Schmidt
- 26 - Caleb Collins,
Suzanne Miller,
Brenda Rickart,
Jett Stroberg
- 27 - Kylie Dwyer,
Alexandra Mathers
- 28 - Case Frerichs,
Julie Watkins
- 29 - John Ebensberger,
Hayden Freeseemann,
Ross Hawker,
Isabella Stroberg
- 30 - Matt Cousins,
Mariah Jensen,
John Osier,
Louise Squires,
Marilyn Wahlgren

2023 Giving Statements



The 2023 "End of Year" Giving Statements from the church for tax purposes will be done shortly after the end of the year, so watch your mail for them.

Thanks for your generous giving throughout the year as well as at the end of the year!



LSI Article

Merry Christmas from LSI!

At LSI, we recognize that the holiday season can be a challenging time for many, especially for the populations we serve throughout the year.

We know parents who feel hopeless, with few resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know immigrants and refugees working to become U.S. citizens, with little community support or help along the way. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, fearing they will never have a forever home.

In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season.

As we reflect on the past year, we thank you — our generous supporters and community partners — for stepping up to give and help the people LSI is privileged to serve. We are grateful for your contribution in bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these essential services.

LSI wishes you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

LSI's annual matching gift campaign is currently active, and those making a new or increased financial gift can double their impact through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at

Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or
563-676-2065.

"Why I give to St. Peter Lutheran"

Personal statements shared through the Stewardship Committee from Keith Christensen and Dawn Deines-Christensen:

In the doxology, we sing: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow..."; and in the offertory response prayer that we often use, we state: "We offer what you have first given us - ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love..." Both of these statements speak to the reasons that we give to and through St. Peter Lutheran. In addition to the sharing of time and talents that we can provide, we believe strongly in the financial support of our church, too. It is important to invest in the operations and upkeep of our physical church, as well as the staff - current and future - all are part of our faith journey together at St. Peter.

And we are bigger than our congregation and church facility - we give through St. Peter to help others in need and for the support of the bigger church and its impact on our community, region, and world. So, we choose to give to those causes through our church and in several cases, additional support directly to them.

The Bible teaches us to help others, whatever we are blessed with - we can and should share those blessings that we have to make a difference in the world. It starts with our giving here at St. Peter Lutheran...please join us!

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Greene, Iowa

Weather Closure Policy

Weekdays

- During the week, the church office shall remain open even if local schools are closed for the day. Employees are encouraged to use discretion and travel to work only if conditions are favorable for them to do so. If employees not able to safely make it to work, the pastor should be notified.
- If North Butler schools are cancelled, all activities and meetings at the church are automatically cancelled.
 - In the event of early dismissal by the schools, evening activities and meetings are cancelled.
 - Late start by the schools means morning activities are cancelled, but afternoon and evening activities and meetings will proceed as scheduled.
- The pastor, church secretary, and committee chairs will be responsible for notification of cancelled activities and meetings.

Weekends

- In general, worship will be cancelled only if the roads in town are unsafe to drive and/or travel is not advised by local authorities.
- The decision to cancel will be made jointly by the Council President and pastor.
- A decision to cancel worship shall be made a minimum of 3 hours in advance.
- If there is a Winter Weather Warning or Blizzard Warning worship will be cancelled.
- Cancellations will be announced by the pastor via local media and online channels following the **Checklist for Worship Cancellation** attached to this policy.
- In the absence of the called pastor, the church council president shall communicate with the scheduled supply worship leader to discern how to proceed and shall be responsible for following the cancellation checklist procedures.
- If worship is cancelled, then all Sunday morning educational activities including Sunday School are also automatically cancelled. However, Sunday School and other activities may be cancelled without necessarily cancelling worship services.
- Parishioners are urged to use the utmost caution and personal discretion when deciding whether not to attend worship. Parishioners are encouraged to think primarily about their safety.
- This policy should be reviewed annually at a fall meeting of the church council.

December Worship Servants

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. - 1 Peter 4:10*

If you are assigned to a date and time when you cannot serve, please find someone to trade places with you. Once you've traded dates, please notify the Church Office so the bulletin can be accurate. Your help and partnership here really makes a difference!

Communion Bread: Dana Frerichs

December 2-3

6:00 pm Saturday, December 2

Usher: Gene Ross

Lector: Sandra Ross

Communion: Sandra Ross

9:00 am Sunday, December 3

Ushers: William Schmidt

Mary Brinkman

Lector: Mary Brinkman

Communion: Mary Brinkman

December 10

9:00 am Sunday, December 10

Ushers: Theresa Feldman

Jared Feldman

Lector: Theresa Feldman

December 17

9:00 am Sunday, December 17

Ushers: Kelly Hoodjer

Cheryle Arjes

Lector: Erin Mulder

December 24

5:00 pm Sunday, December 24

St. Peter Youth

December 25

9:00 am Monday, December 25

Mulder Family

December 31

9:00 am Sunday, December 31

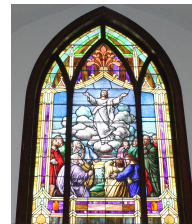
Ushers: Dixie Hughes

Carrie Eiklenborg

Lector: Carrie Eiklenborg



**Stained Glass
Window Fund**
St. Peter Lutheran Church



Snow Cancellations

Winter and snow season are upon us. Worship will only be canceled if the town is completely shut down.



Also, if school is canceled during the day then all youth & confirmation activities will be canceled as well. Any weather notices will be posted on the church Facebook page and website.

First and last rule: "Use the good sense God gave you and be safe!"

The Season of Giving



This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported St. Peter Lutheran Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions, and look forward to support from all of our members in 2024. If you need a convenient way to make

regular offerings, please check on Vanco Giving. Vanco Giving is an Electronic Funds Transaction (EFT) from your bank account. As the pace of life speeds up, you may find Vanco Giving a most welcome way to make contributions. You may also use secure electronic giving with your smart phone or going to the St Peter website and clicking on the giving button. Use the QR code found in the church bulletin, newsletter, or at the end of the power point presentation shared on Sunday mornings. Contact the church office for more information.

Don't Forget the Ministry of the Food Bank

Nonperishable food items or financial donations

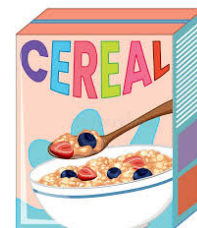


"It is more blessed to give than to receive..."

Greene Community Food Bank

Food Bank items for the month of December is cold cereal, oatmeal, ketchup &

mustard. All donations are appreciated, we can use any food or paper items that are given to us.



Advent Offerings will go to this ministry.

Thanks for giving.

A Christmas Poem
[for those who have lost a love one]

I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below with tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear, for I'm spending time with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas carols that people hold so dear, but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

For I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring, for it is beyond description to hear an angel sing.

I can't tell you of the splendor, of the peace here in this place. Can you imagine Christmas with our Savior, face to face?

I'm asking you to light your spirit, as I tell him of your love. So then pray one for another as you lift your eyes above.

Please let your hearts be joyful and let your spirit sing. For I'm spending Christmas in heaven and I'm walking with the king.

Author Unknown



Christmas Eve Worship
5:00 pm

Candle light.
Carols.
Communion. And
the story of the
God who comes
to us as a little
child!



Join us for
Christmas Eve
worship on December 24 as we celebrate the
birth of our Savior, Jesus.

This is a family service, and all are welcome.
Come a little early as the sanctuary will be
crowded. Communion will be by intinction,
and there's nothing quite like singing "Silent
Night" by candlelight!

Christmas Day Worship
9:00 am

Join us on Christmas Day, December 25, for a
more intimate Sunday worship service with
communion. We will hear John's version of
the Christmas story and sing some of your
favorite Christmas carols.



***There will be no 9:00 am
Sunday worship on
Christmas Eve.***

Confirmation

December 13th - 6:30 pm Class

There is no confirmation on
Dec. 20th or Dec. 27th.

Confirmation will resume on Jan. 3, 2024

Luther League

Watch Facebook & Remind for
upcoming events

Can Sorting Schedule



Watch Facebook and
a reminder will be sent.
December 6 - Team 1
December 20 - Team 2

**We need all Jr. High and Luther
League youth to help with the
Christmas Eve service. Please be
at the church by 4:30 pm on
December 24th.**

★
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11



December

8 - Meredith Shultz
18 - Grace Pittenger
19 - Clayton Towsley
27 - Kylie Dwyer
29 - Hayden Freesemann
29 - Isabella Stroberg



**There will be no
Jr. High or Luther
League meetings during
the holidays.**

**Wishing you and your
family a very Merry Christmas
and we'll see you in 2024!**

DECEMBER 2023 - St. Peter Lutheran Church

Church Office Email - stpeter@myomnitel.com Church Website: www.stpetergreene.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Altar Guild: Rose Adelmund, Mary Brinkman					1 9:00 am Have your Poinsettias to the church	2 6:00 pm Worship with Communion
	4 7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting 7:00 pm Stewardship Committee meeting					
3 9:00 am Advent 1 Worship with Communion 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School		5	6 6:30 pm Advent Worship 7:00 pm Church Council meeting	7	8	9
10 9:00 am Advent 2 Worship Sunday School Christmas Program 10:00 am Fellowship	11	12 Senior Health Clinic	13 6:30 pm Confirmation @ St. James 6:30 pm Advent Worship	14 9:30 am Faith, Vision & Glory Circle Holiday coffee	15 Newsletter Items Due	16
17 9:00 am Advent 3 Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	18 3:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	19	20 6:30 pm Advent Worship	21	22	23
24 No 9:00 am Advent 4 Worship <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Communion </div>	25 Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship	9:00 am Christmas Day Worship with Communion					