

# *St. Peter Lutheran Church*

*[Evangelical Lutheran Church in America]*

*Greene, Iowa*



## *2019 Annual Report*

*For the Annual Congregational Meeting - January 26, 2020*

# **St. Peter Lutheran Church Council**

2020

Delores Adelmund  
Kelly Hoodjer  
Jan Osier  
June Vogelmann

2021

John Ebensberger  
Carrie Eiklenborg  
Keith Hyman  
Erin Mulder

2022

Clarene Backer  
Esther Backer  
David Crow  
Chuck Thompson

2023

Andrea Gotto  
Kelly Hoodjer  
Jan Osier  
??

---

We are especially grateful to those whose terms are ending: Delores Adelmund and June Vogelmann. Thank you for your faithful, dedicated service!

## **Annual Meeting Agenda**

1. **Worship is the Opening Devotions**
2. **Nominating Committee Report**
3. **Council Elections**
4. **Proposed Budget**
5. **Secretary's Report\***
6. **Pastor's Report\***
7. **Treasurer's Report\***
8. **President's Report\***
9. **Committee Reports\***
10. **Organizations Reports\***
11. **Benediction**
12. **Adjournment**

\* Will only be referred to during the Annual Meeting if there are questions or comments from the congregation.

# Table of Contents

Altar Guild.....page 21

Annual Meeting Minutes from 2019.....page 26

Audit Statement.....page 30

Building and Grounds.....page 11

Christian Education and Youth Work.....page 13

Community Vacation Bible School.....page 34

Junior High Ministry.....page 17

Junior High Ministry Treasurer’s Report.....page 18

Luther League.....page 14

Luther League Treasurer’s Report.....page 16

Luther League Trip.....page 15

Luther League Trip Treasurer’s Report.....page 16

Memorial Fund.....page 25

Parish Statistics.....page 4, 5

Pastor’s Report.....page 6, 7, 8

Personnel Committee.....page 10

President's Report.....page 9

Proposed Budget for 2020.....page 31, 32, 33

Stewardship and Finance.....page 12

Sunday School.....page 19

Sunday School Enrollment.....page 20

Sunday School Treasurer’s Report.....page 20

Sunday School Memorial Fund.....page 20

Treasurer's Report.....page 27, 28, 29, 30

W.E.L.C.A. ....page 22

W.E.L.C.A. EPIC Fund.....page 24

W.E.L.C.A. Prayer Shawl/Baptismal Blankets...page 24

W.E.L.C.A. RAGBRAI Fund.....page 24

W.E.L.C.A. Savings Account.....page 24

W.E.L.C.A. Treasurer’s Report.....page 23

Worship and Evangelism.....page 12

# Parish Report

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership as of December 31, 2018 -----	755	648
<b>Members received during 2019</b>		
By Baptism: children (15 years & younger)	4	0
By Baptism: adults (16 years & older)	0	0
By affirmation of faith	0	1
By transfer from ELCA congregations	1	0
By transfer from other Lutheran congregation	0	0
From non-Lutheran congregations	0	0
Statistical adjustment	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total members received during 2019	5	1
Baptized members confirmed during 2019	0	4
Total -----	760	653
<b>Members removed during 2019</b>		
By death	10	10
By transfer to other ELCA congregations	8	4
By transfer to other Lutheran congregations	0	0
To non-Lutheran congregations	3	1
Statistical Adjustment	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total members removed during 2019	22	16
Membership as of December 31, 2019 -----	738	637

## 2019 Report

- 342 members communed at least once during the year. (2018 - 343)
- 87 communion services were held with a total of 4,010 communing. (2018 - 81 services - 3,604)
- 178 private communions were given during the year to the ill & shut-ins. (2018 - 132)
- Average attendance at Saturday night Worship was 40. (2018 - 43)
- Average attendance at Sunday Worship was 43.
- Average attendance at Praise Worship was 49. (2018 - 40)
- Average weekly worship attendance was 114. (2018 - 117)
- Average attendance at midweek worship was 56. (2018 - 60)
- Christmas Eve attendance - 209. (2018 - 262)
- Christmas Day attendance - 36. (2018 - 25)

# Parish Report

## BAPTISMS

Levi Les Zimmerman  
Blair Laurel Shultz  
Gabriel Lukas Spratt  
Brantley Alan Grimm

## FIRST COMMUNION

Laney Brinkman  
Hayden Freesemann  
Sawyer Hanson  
Kale Mulder  
Ryland Pitzenberger  
Samuel Stirling

## CONFIRMATIONS

Owen Willis Almeliën  
Colton Scott Chisholm  
Elizabeth Drew Mathers  
Dawson Lynn Testroet

## NEW MEMBERS

Carly Steere

## MARRIAGES

none

## DEATHS

Thomas James Spratt  
Mitchell Hoyt Nordmeyer  
Gerald Edward Wagner  
Caroline Martha Rohwedder  
Shirley Mae Schroeder  
Kathryn Mae Cassmann  
Fredrick John Hawker  
Larry Raymond Butzlaff  
Frederick William Nordmeyer  
Robert Rudolf Nordmeyer  
James H. Fesenmeyer

## Pastor Daniel Flucke's Report

### 2020 Vision

*Where there is no vision, the people perish.  
- Proverbs 29:18a (KJV)*

As we enter a new decade, the opportunity to frame this year's annual report in terms of 20/20 vision is too perfect to pass up. Vision and seeing are common themes in the Bible. The purpose of an annual report is to help us as a congregation see what God has been up to among and through us in the past year, and to help us discern where God is calling us in the next year.

As Christians, we see the world through the lens of faith. We know God has created the world and all that exists. We recognize God has trusted creation to us to care for and steward. We believe every person we meet has been made in the image of God and is someone Jesus sees as worth dying for. Looking at the world through that lens shapes how we live as Christians. It influences how we spend our time, energy, and resources. In a world so often polarized by politics and fear, God is calling us to take a different perspective, to live differently, to be the Church, the Body of Christ.

So as a congregation entering the year 2020, what is God calling us to do? Where is God leading us? Our mission statement can be a helpful tool as we seek to discern God's vision for St. Peter Lutheran Church.

**St. Peter Lutheran Church WELCOMES people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.**

How are we doing at welcoming our neighbors into our congregation to hear the good news of Jesus? One of our most effective outreaches continues to be children's programs. This is the avenue through which most newcomers first encounter St. Peter. Ministries like Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, the Christmas Program, and the new Breakout program this year are meeting needs in our community and teaching children about Jesus. Thank you to all the teachers and helpers who give of their time to make these ministries happen!

Some of our other big community events this year included a Sunday morning concert from Christian gospel group *New Legacy Project* for the second year in a row, hosting the 50th annual Christmas Cantata from the Greene Community Chorus, Worship in the Park, and the Luther League's Texas BBQ fundraiser. Thank you to WELCA for organizing events like the annual Country Time festival and this year's family day at The W in Waverly to provide excellent points of contact for people not connected to our congregation!

Even hosting people for funerals and the meals that accompany them is a wonderful way of welcoming. It's a truly beautiful thing to see our community come together to support and feed people in their times of grief. If you've ever helped with a funeral meal by serving or providing food, thank you!

Welcoming newcomers is a calling for all of us in the congregation. When you see someone in worship whom you don't recognize or haven't seen for a while, make a point to go up and greet them. Let them know their presence is appreciated. During fellowship time (and a huge thank you to everyone who has helped with fellowship refreshments this year!), look for people sitting off to the side. Use that time as an opportunity to support and lift up each other.

Looking forward, I continue to believe welcoming and hospitality are essential priorities for a healthy congregation. At the same time, I wonder: What would it look like to move from welcoming to inviting? I've caught myself sometimes assuming everyone in town has a church home—that's simply not true. Even in our small town, many of our neighbors are not connected to a church. If we believe a relationship with Jesus is important for us (and if we don't believe that, what are we doing here?), then we also believe it's important for everyone else.

Who is the Holy Spirit calling you to invite to church? What will you do this year to welcome people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church? Ask God to give you the vision to see who needs an invitation from you.

### **St. Peter Lutheran Church EQUIPS people with a faith that works in daily life.**

All of us are called to grow in faith. Being a Christian is not a one-time thing; it's an identity as God's child that we keep living into throughout our entire lives. The primary way we grow in faith is through regular worship. When you show up and hear the good news of the Gospel week after week, it shapes the way you see the world. Thank you to our musicians and the 100+ worship servants who make our services happen each week!

As I wrote last year, my biggest concern for our congregation is the steady decline in worship attendance that has been going on here for the last quarter-century. Worship is what grounds our identity. If we're not regularly gathering to praise God, hear the good news, and be fed at the Lord's table, where will we get the strength to continue growing in faith and serving our neighbors? We have a substantial number of people involved in various ministries of our church who do not regularly participate in worship. How can we encourage each other to make worship a regular priority? And how can worship better meet the needs felt by those not yet present?

Currently, we continue to offer three worship services each weekend during the school year, and two during the summer. Over the next year, it might be time for some difficult questions about whether that's sustainable. Our variety of worship styles is both a blessing and a challenge. It's a blessing because we do have different styles and people worship in different ways. But it can also be a significant challenge for our congregation if the styles divide us and stop us from worshipping together as a community. This will be an area to think about this year.

Of course, worship is not the only way we are equipped to grow in faith. Adult studies, youth ministries, retreats at Camp Ewalu and Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp, even fellowship and service groups like the quilters and prayer shawl makers bring people together and give space for the Holy Spirit to teach us.

This year, I encourage you to find an avenue to get involved in some study or group. If you can't

find one that fits what you're looking for right now, let's talk—maybe you've spotted an opportunity for us to try something new!

**St. Peter Lutheran Church SERVES in the world to make a difference in Jesus' Name.**

The second chapter of James asks what good does faith do if it doesn't lead to action. Our faith in Jesus sets us free to love and serve our neighbors. Each time we worship, we pray for God's kingdom to come. Explaining that petition of the Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther writes, "In fact, God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us." We pray for God's kingdom to become a reality, to make a difference in the way we live as individuals and as a congregation.

I believe generously loving and serving our neighbors continues to be a strength of our congregation. In 2019, over \$35,000 was given away through our congregation to ministries and projects beyond ourselves. What an amazing witness! We sent a mission team of 22 people to Houston. We provided Christmas gifts for 17 local children, and 45 towel bundles for children at Lutheran Services of Iowa's Bremwood campus. We welcomed our missionary Mary Beth Oyebade to report on the work she does in Nigeria on our behalf. We assembled flood buckets, packed meals, gathered school kit supplies, sewed quilts, supported outdoor ministry, and so much more! It's so much fun to be a part of the work God is doing through this church!

Remember also that St. Peter Lutheran Church's giving and service in the world in Jesus' name is not limited to what shows up in annual reports and budgets—far from it! The Church is not the building or the institution; the Church is the people living and serving in the world. God's work in the world happens through God's people choosing to care about our neighbors, choosing to work for peace and justice, choosing to proclaim the goodness of God's kingdom through the way we live and act. Thank you to each one of you for living out your faith in the world!

Together, may we continue to discern where God is calling us to serve in the future. What causes are we excited about supporting? How can we continue to make a positive impact across the world and here at home in Greene?

As you peruse the annual reports from the various ministries of our congregation, may God open your eyes to see the world through the lens of faith. May you notice the good that is happening, and may your vision be clear enough to discern where there are opportunities for growth.

One final word on vision: We don't need to have it all figured out! Remember, the Holy Spirit is leading. As the American Optometric Association reminds us, "Having 20/20 vision does not necessarily mean you have perfect vision. 20/20 vision only indicates the sharpness or clarity of vision at a distance."

Thank you finally to our faithful, dedicated staff: Robin, Christin, Erin, Kris, Gale, and Holly, and thanks to YOU for your partnership in ministry! It's a joy and privilege to get to see and be a part of what God is doing in this congregation!

Your servant in Christ Jesus, *Pastor Daniel Flucke*

## **President's Report**

This year's council had the pleasure of only having 1 major construction project. The fixing of the roof leak tied in nicely with all the work needed on the steeples. We had debated awhile about painting verses the permanent fix, and I hope everyone is as pleased as I am with it. Thanks to a couple very talented members of our congregation tackling the repairs to the old elevator, I didn't have to stand in front of you asking for your permission to spend money. For that I'm incredibly grateful.

We also implemented some new procedures, dealt with the monthly business of the church and worked with all the groups in the church to ensure the various ministries needs are met as best we can.

In the coming year we look to continue the same trend, and hopefully not have any large-scale projects to take on. We'll also welcome new members and say thank you to those coming off.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone for your support of the past years. While I'm seeking nomination to remain on council, I will not be seeking re-election as president. I think it's time for someone else to the pleasure of serving the congregation in that position.

In Christ,

Kelly Hoodjer

## **Personnel Committee**

Committee Members: Erin Mulder (Chair) '21, John Ebensberger '21, Jeff Dralle '20, Deanne Martzahn '22, John Backer '22

The personnel committee was formed in mid-June '19 at the request of the Council. The committee is made up of two Church Council representatives and three congregation members. Pastor Flucke and the Church Council President are members of the committee per their call or job description. There is an opening for a new congregational member to fill Jeff Dralle's expiring term.

The personnel committee has met the following times over the last year:

06/04/19

07/28/19

08/25/19

09/29/19

10/20/19

12/08/19

Pastor Brackett (Assistant to the Bishop) attended our initial meeting on 06/04/19 to advise the committee of the purpose and strategy for establishing a Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee drafted a charter which was approved by the Church Council.

The Personnel Committee met with each employee of the church on 08/25/19. Job descriptions were reviewed and updated to reflect current job expectations.

The Personnel Committee created a Parental Leave Policy. This includes leave for maternity, paternity, and adoption. The Personnel Committee created an employee evaluation form. The evaluation form is currently being used to complete annual evaluations for employees at St. Peter Lutheran Church. Both approved by the Council

The Personnel Committee plans to meet quarterly in the next year. The committee goals for next year are to support the continued Ministries of the church, improve working relationships among employees, and to create a handbook for church policies.

The Personnel Committee has been responsible to improve policies and needs for employees in our church. We are very fortunate to have the individuals on staff at St. Peter Lutheran Church to lead us in our journey with Christ. Thank you to those serving on the Personnel Committee for all your hard work. Thank you to the congregation, staff, and Church Council for your leadership, guidance, and commitment to St. Peter Lutheran Church.

Blessings,

Erin Mulder, Personnel Committee Chair

## **Building and Grounds Committee**

This past year, we had some unexpected, big expense items occur with the church facility. Our steeple roof developed a leak and it was going to be unavoidable to ignore. With that, the vents in the steeple have been in dire need of paint. We were able to find a company that was able to address both issues and the congregation voted to move forward with the repair. A month or so after the steeple was repaired, our platform lift to the sanctuary had some internal parts break. The repair options were expensive. With the determination and tech know-how of Gary Schmidt and John Backer, we were able to attain a fix without hitting our financial breaking point. Many thanks to those two individuals and the others that offered muscle to help out.

We would also like to recognize Rich Adelmund for donating gravel to our parking lot in back. Grading and adding gravel to our parking lot is something we must do occasionally. Thank you Rich!

We replaced a dehumidifier in the new basement and also the church lawnmower, as both those items either stopped working or the cost to repair was too great.

As a committee, we try to meet up for work days to handle some of the smaller items around the church. Some of those items included throughout the year: removing a tree in front of the parsonage, raking leaves, waxing the floors in the kitchen and old basement, and replacing lightbulbs randomly.

Building and Grounds accepted responsibility for all items and issues regarding the church parsonage, including annual inspections and costs for items in need of repair inside the house.

For the coming year, we will be looking at addressing the exterior window trim on the parsonage, whether it be with paint or covered in aluminum. We will be working on hanging our stained glass window that was part of the original church. With those items, we will continue to organize more work days as well as work closer with our custodial staff to keep the facility looking good.

Keith Hyman, Building & Grounds Chairman

Committee members: David Crow, June Vogelmann, John Barth, Gary Schmidt,  
Roland Martzahn

## **Stewardship and Finance Committee**

This year the stewardship committee enjoyed fulfilling our role of making suggestions of where we would like to see gifts designated, and special offerings sent. We took an active role in the designation of the Thrivent Giving funds, as well as setting the budget for 2020.

In the coming year, we look to have another campaign to keep our members excited about seeing what their giving does both in and outside of our church! If you have any interest in being involved with Stewardship, please consider joining our group.

Blessings!

Kelly Hoodjer

## **Worship and Evangelism Committee**

The Worship and Evangelism Committee meets monthly to select and coordinate music and hymns for the various church services. Current committee members include Pastor Daniel Flucke, Delores Adelmund, Esther Backer, Mary Brinkman, John Ebensberger, Kay Muhlenbruck, Sandi Ross and Sandra Schuknecht.

Any changes that need to be made in the scheduling of church services are reviewed by the committee before being presented to the church council for approval. Every attempt is made to consider the impact of any changes on the various congregation members before the changes are recommended. The past year has presented a number of challenges in this regard.

Our committee has been discussing ways to not only invite new members to our church but more importantly to bring back members who have become inactive in church activities and services. This is a difficult task and we would welcome any and all ideas.

Average attendance at the early Sunday service was 43. At the 11:00 AM service the average attendance was 49. The Saturday night service had a steady attendance with an average of 40 attending. St. Peter has a membership of 738 baptized members and this past year 342 received communion at least once. There were 168 Giving Units, these are the units that have donated and can be tracked. They used a giving envelope, wrote a check, used Vanco, or provided a note.

In 2020 we hope to develop a "New to the Community" welcome package to be distributed to new residents in the area. Other churches will be invited to participate. Any congregation members with an interest are welcome to contact a committee member.

## **Christian Education and Youth Work Committee**

The Christian Education Committee oversees the education and faith development for the members of St. Peter Lutheran Church. While the committee directs much of its attention towards the children's and youth ministries of the congregation, we continue to try and expand our focus and be mindful of ways we can better minister to members of all ages.

We were able to grow our adult education opportunities this year by offering two short, topic-based studies during the Sunday morning education hour. The first was a 6-week study during Lent on different spiritual practices led by Pastor Daniel. Then, to end the year, Michelle Hyman led a video-based study called "Who Needs Christmas?" during the season of Advent. Pastor Daniel also hosted a book study on Embracing the Uncertain on Sunday evenings during Lent. All of these opportunities were reasonably well-attended, and we welcome any input for additional topics or studies to offer in the future.

Another area of emphasis in 2019 was expanding ministry opportunities for our upper elementary students (grades 3-6). In March, Christin took 10 of these students to Camp EWALU in Strawberry Point for an overnight retreat called "Journey Through the Bible." We also started a brand-new summer program for upper elementary kids called "Break Out". This program met on Wednesday afternoons throughout the summer and kids enjoyed a variety of fun activities together including kickball, baking, an afternoon at the park, two fun service projects, and finally, a trip to The Falls Aquatic Center. While attendance varied greatly for this program, everyone agreed it was an overall success, and we look forward to offering it again next summer.

Finally, we enjoyed another very successful year of Vacation Bible School with approximately 90 kids and over 60 amazing adult and youth volunteers participating. This year's theme "All God's Creatures" invited students to think about what it means to be created, protected, and loved as children of God through a fun-filled program of songs, games, crafts, tasty treats, and animal themed service projects.

As we look ahead to 2020, our committee hopes to continue to develop more opportunities for families to grow in faith together. This includes continuing to expand our adult education and upper elementary ministry opportunities, as well as looking for ways to make worship more approachable and engaging for our young families. We ask for your continued support, prayers, and involvement as we strive to help others grow in faith and relationship with God and one another.

In Christ,

2019 Christian Education Committee

(Clarene Backer, Carrie Eiklenborg, Christin Flucke, Erin Mulder, Liz Schroeder, Tanya Yerkes)

*Additional Representatives: Sarah Hawker*

### **2019 Christian Education Team**

**Youth and Children's Ministry Director** – Christin Flucke

**Cradle Roll** (Currently 11 infant-3 year olds) – Donna Wunsch

**Sunday School Volunteers** (*see sub-report for more details*)

Teachers: Traci Bartels, Shelby Gallagher, Lyndsie Pitzenberger, Liz Schroeder

Helpers: Mary Brinkman, Dixie Hughes, Mandy Schmidt, and additional parents

**Jr. High Ministry Leader** (*see sub-report for more details*) – Sarah Hawker

**Luther League Leaders** (*see sub-report for more details*) – Carrie Eiklenborg and Keith Hyman

**Adult Education Facilitators** – Pastor Daniel and Michelle Hyman

## Luther League

Luther League strives to serve the high school youth of our congregation by providing opportunities for fellowship, faith development, and service. All high school students are welcome and encouraged to participate in Luther League activities, and we ended the year with a group of around 16 fairly regular participants.

Throughout the year, our weekly lesson times focused on a combination of current cultural topics and making connections with the lectionary texts heard in worship in order to think about how these Bible stories and issues of faith and life relate to the high school experience. Beyond the weekly lessons, we enjoyed an evening of skiing and tubing at Seven Oaks in Boone in January, and had a number of different fundraisers for our summer trip to Houston including serving a night at Pizza Ranch in Waverly, hosting mid-week Lenten suppers and Easter brunch, and of course our biggest effort of the year – the Texas BBQ and silent auction event in May, which did incredibly well and helped us more than meet our fundraising goals to make that trip possible!

In June, we sold beverages during River Days and helped clean up the park in the mornings for the Jaycees. That was followed by a busy week of Vacation Bible School, where many of the youth volunteered as helpers, and then our Houston trip team departed for our week-long mission trip (see the “Luther League Summer Trip Report” for more details about our amazing week!) We also enjoyed another back-to-school bonfire at the Hyman house to kick off a new program year and welcome in the new 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

This fall, we kept busy serving as we helped at Country Time, contributed towards the towel bundles for LSI, and cleared our “adopt-a-highway” section of Highway 14. We also celebrated with the four students who got confirmed, went to the haunted house in Rudd together, and enjoyed a couple of fun lessons with the Jr. High students including a morning of silly, Thanksgiving-themed games.

The year ended with a busy couple weeks of decorating the church for Christmas, hosting one of the mid-week Advent meals, and assembling and delivering 20 care packages for homebound members of our congregation. In partnership with Sunday School and Jr. High ministries, we also sponsored a total of seven community kids for Christmas through the Greene Food Bank and had fun shopping for those gifts again this year.

As we move into 2020, our goal is to continue to offer meaningful opportunities to help our high school students grow in faith and serve our congregation and community. Thank you to our St. Peter church family for all of your support. Please continue to pray for us as we embark in another great year of ministry together!

In Christ,

2019 Luther League Leaders – Carrie Eiklenborg, Christin Flucke, and Keith Hyman

## **Luther League Trip 2019**

Friday, July 19 – Saturday, July 27, 2019 to Houston, Texas

This summer, 18 youth, including 3 students from other congregations, and 4 adults traveled to Houston for an incredible week of service and learning. Our trip was organized through the Center for Student Missions (CSM) who facilitated all our service projects, provided most of our meals, and housed us at a local church.

While in Houston, we were divided up into two different service teams and given the opportunity to volunteer at a variety of local service organizations. We enjoyed playing games with clients at an adult recreational facility called Project 360. One team helped wash laundry and prepare lunch at a homeless day center and had the chance to serve at the largest food bank in the country. The other team sorted medical supplies at Project Cure, which helps provide supplies to developing countries all over the world. Both groups worked together to re-package batteries at an area food bank and helped with some simple home renovation projects.

In between all the service projects, we had lots of opportunities to learn more about Houston. For supper each night, we traveled to a different local, ethnic restaurant to experience the many cultures of this diverse city. We also participated in a driving prayer tour to learn about and lift up the many challenges facing the city, such as homelessness and human trafficking.

Throughout the week, we made time for some additional educational experiences like visiting a Holocaust museum and the Houston Space Center. We also spent Sunday morning of the trip taking in a unique worship experience at Lakewood Church, which is the largest church in the country, and of course, we even snuck in a few “just for fun” adventures including spending an afternoon at the beach to swim in the Gulf of Mexico – a first for many of the participants.

The theme chosen for this year’s trip was “Here Am I.” This was based off of Isaiah 6:8 which says, “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I, send me!’” We used this verse to help frame our time of service in Houston and our experiences along the way. Each morning included a devotional time where we looked at the call story of a different Biblical character, and every evening included discussion to help process what we were experiencing and share where we saw God calling us to respond, “Here am I, send me!”

This trip was a big undertaking in terms of both logistics and finances. Our group this year was double the size of last few years of trips and was a much longer journey as well. However, throughout the week we witnessed God doing amazing work through all of the people we met and the places we served. It was truly an eye-opening experience for all of our participants, and we are incredibly grateful to this congregation for all of your support in helping make this trip possible! Thank you for investing in our youth and adult leaders to give them the opportunity to experience the church at work in this way. May it be a reminder to all of us to continue to seek out opportunities to answer the call to be God’s hands and feet in this world!

– Christin Flucke (*Youth and Children’s Ministry Director*) and the 2019 Houston Mission Trip Team

## Luther League & Luther League Trip Treasurer's Report

**Beginning Balance as of December 20, 2018.....\$7,504.57**  
 Checking.....\$943.75  
 Savings.....\$3,609.44  
 Trip Account.....\$2,951.38

**2019 Income.....\$16,801.48**  
 Cans.....\$3,815.20  
 Church Meals.....\$1,515.35  
 Interest.....\$4.96  
 Memorial – Fred Hawker.....\$200.00  
 Pizza Ranch Fundraiser.....\$403.37  
 River Days Profit.....\$1,212.89  
 Texas BBQ Fundraiser.....\$9,649.71  
     *Business Donations.....\$720.00*  
     *Auction Receipts.....\$6,015.00*  
     *Food Donations.....\$4,155.33*  
     *Expenses.....(\$1,240.62)*

**2019 Expenses.....\$14,060.69**  
 Benevolence.....\$433.76  
 Curriculum / Supplies.....\$82.24  
 Events.....\$928.91  
 Expenses for Church Meals.....\$338.01  
 Graduate Gifts.....\$100.00  
 Room Furnishings.....\$192.59  
 Houston Summer Trip.....\$11,985.18  
     *CSM Program.....\$5,984.00*  
     *Meals.....\$2,524.27*  
     *Van Rentals.....\$2,180.01*  
     *Additional Housing.....\$1,860.85*  
     *Gas/Parking/Tolls.....\$1,069.29*  
     *Fun Stops.....\$617.28*  
     *Shirts.....\$264.00*  
     *Donations.....\$141.78*  
     *Participant Deposits.....(\$1,800.00)*  
     *Partner Church Contributions.....(\$850.00)*  
     *Miscellaneous .....(\$6.30)*

**End of Year Balance as of December 20, 2019.....\$10,245.36**  
 Checking.....\$321.65  
 Savings.....\$7,923.71  
 Trip Account.....\$2,000.00

## Junior High Ministry

St. Peter's Junior High Ministry works with our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students as they explore the Christian faith and reflect on their own relationship with Christ through weekly confirmation and Sunday school classes. We also strive to model life in Christian community through various fellowship activities and service projects.

For the first half of 2019, we had a wonderful group of nine students. On confirmation Wednesdays, youth spent the semester walking through the New Testament and completing our one-year overview of the Bible. We also enjoyed two offsite educational opportunities as a part of confirmation. The first was to Retz Funeral Home to learn more about funeral practices and the church's role in grief and dying. The second was to the Sons of Jacob Synagogue in Waterloo where we had the opportunity to learn more about the Jewish faith and make connections between many of the Biblical stories we'd been learning about throughout the year. We ended the school year celebrating with a night of pizza and bowling at Freeze Frame, and in July, many of the youth volunteered their time serving as crew leaders for our community VBS as they led the younger children through the various activities.

This fall, we bid farewell to the four students who moved up to high school and welcomed in eight awesome 7<sup>th</sup> graders for a new program year, bringing our total up to 13. This year's confirmation focus is on the elements of Luther's Small Catechism as well as what it means to "live Lutheran". Fall classes were spent discussing the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer, learning about the sacraments of baptism and communion, and watching the movie *Luther* to help students better understand Martin Luther and the events of the Reformation.

Other fall activities included helping with the Country Time festival, packing school kits for Lutheran World Relief, and assembling towel bundles for Lutheran Services in Iowa. We also had great success with the second annual "Trick-or-Treat so Others Can Eat" event on Halloween in which both our Jr. High students and the community Boy Scouts collected food donations for the Greene Food Bank. 10 of the students had a great time at a weekend "Recharge" retreat at Riverside Bible Camp this fall as well.

We ended the year by partnering with Sunday School and Luther League to purchase Christmas gifts for seven community kids through the Greene Food Bank. We also teamed up with Luther League to decorate the church building for Christmas, and organized a Christmas party for the Sunday School kids during the education hour on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

As we look ahead to 2020, we hope to increase the amount of fellowship events offered for our Jr. High students, in addition to a continued emphasis on faith development and service. We are grateful for your support and ask for your continued prayers for our youth and volunteers as we seek to draw closer to God together!

In Christ,

2019 Jr. High Ministry Team - Christin Flucke, Pastor Daniel Flucke, and Sarah Hawker

## Junior High Ministry Treasurer's Report

<b>Beginning Balance as of December 20, 2018.....</b>	<b>\$1,101.69</b>
Savings.....	\$535.16
Checking.....	\$566.53
<b>2019 Income.....</b>	<b>\$360.52</b>
Interest.....	\$0.52
Donations.....	\$360.00
<b>2019 Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$330.90</b>
Curriculum.....	\$41.90
Benevolence.....	\$70.68
Events.....	\$218.32
<b>End of Year Balance as of December 20, 2019.....</b>	<b>\$1,131.31</b>
Savings.....	\$856.68
Checking.....	\$274.63

## Sunday School

The St. Peter Lutheran Sunday School program provides weekly Christian education to all children in nursery – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We seek to share the love of Jesus through Bible stories, music, crafts, and games. Through the incredible dedication of volunteer teachers and helpers, we were able to minister to more than 75 different kids in 2019!

The first half of the year started with a family movie night and pajama party following singing at a Saturday night worship service in February. We participated in “PRAY Day” with the rest of the congregation, which was an opportunity to interact with a variety of prayer stations during the education hour on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Students sang and performed a short skit at the 11:00 service on Palm Sunday, and we also had the joy of celebrating with six 5<sup>th</sup> graders as they celebrated their First Communion that day. At the end of April, we ended the program year by traveling to Valley View Care Center to share some music from the year and visit with the residents.

After a summer off, we kicked off another exciting year of Sunday School on August, 25<sup>th</sup> and spent the first few weeks learning about Jesus’ command to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. We gave students an opportunity to put this idea into action by collecting hygiene products during the month of September to donate to Lutheran Services in Iowa. With the help of the older youth and the entire congregation, we were able to assemble 45 towel bundles to be used at LSI’s Bremwood campus in Waverly!

The rest of the fall was focused on learning about the Old Testament characters Esther and Joseph and reflecting on how God promises to always be with us, even when life becomes scary or uncertain. November and December were also busy with preparations for the annual Christmas program, which took place during the Saturday night service on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The program was a wonderful success, thanks to the incredible work of all our teachers and students. Extra special thanks go out to Traci Bartels for organizing this year’s program and to Pastor Daniel and Kaitlynn Lane for helping the upper elementary students learn how to play Christmas carols on our new set of donated handbells! Finally, we ended the year enjoying a fun Christmas party planned and led by the Jr. High youth. We also used the Sunday School offering for the season to co-sponsor seven kids along with the Luther League and Jr. High youth to purchase Christmas gifts through the Greene Food Bank.

As we look ahead to 2020, we hope to find ways to provide even more opportunities for children and families to grow in faith together. We always welcome parents and other caring adults to come and volunteer for a three or four-week unit of curriculum and to assist with special events. If you are interested in helping, please talk to Liz Schroeder or Christin Flucke. On behalf of all of our amazing Sunday School volunteers, thank you for your support of this important ministry, and we ask for your continued prayers in the coming year!

In Christ,  
Christin Flucke (*Youth and Children’s Ministry Director*) and the 2019 Sunday School Volunteers

## Sunday School Treasurer's Report and Memorial Report

**Beginning Balance as of December 20, 2018.....\$3,931.75**  
    Checking.....\$3,031.60  
    Sunday School Memorial Fund.....\$900.15

**2019 Income.....\$1,558.62**  
    Interest.....\$1.05  
    Donations.....\$150.00  
    Memorial – Helen & Andy Nelson.....\$200.00  
    Memorial – Minnie Bruns.....\$150.05  
    Sunday School Offering.....\$649.75  
    Noisy Offering.....\$283.69  
    Christmas Program Offering.....\$124.08

**2019 Expenses.....\$2,463.64**  
    Curriculum/Supplies.....\$1,157.79  
    Teacher Appreciation.....\$20.21  
    Events.....\$406.05  
    Benevolence.....\$490.11  
    Breakout Summer Program.....\$186.58  
    Miscellaneous.....\$202.90

**End of Year Balance as of December 20, 2019.....\$3,026.73**  
    Sunday School Checking.....\$1,774.48  
    Sunday School Memorial Fund.....\$1,252.25

### Sunday School Enrollment

Total Enrollment as of Dec. 2019.....66  
Average Weekly Attendance (Jan-May) .....28  
Average Weekly Attendance (Sept-Dec) .....41

## **Altar Guild**

The following ladies are currently serving on Altar Guild:

Delores Adelmund	Rose Adelmund	Clarene Backer
Mary Brinkman	Jennifer Hoodjer	Jeanie Krull
Erin Mulder	Robin Ralls	Tanya Yerkes
Kelly Zurcher		

Holiday church displays: Robin Ralls, Kelly Zurcher

Baptismal Napkins: Marilyn Schroeder

Thank you to Kayla Heitland and Kay Joebgen for serving on Altar Guild the last few years.

Altar Guild is looking for 2 people to fill their positions. If you are interested, please call the church office.

**W.E.L.C.A.**  
**(Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)**

As Women of St. Peter, we come together for study, support, and fellowship. We count on support from all women of St. Peter. We grow in our faith through monthly Bible study, led by the Pastor. We affirm our gifts through quilt tying, school bags, layettes, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Cuddle Club and other mission work outside and within our community. We support Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Social Service of Iowa, and area camps monetarily and with our quilt donations. We send care packages to those serving in the military. We remember shut-ins and those in care centers, support our missionaries, and give to children going to camps.

In January the Board purchased 20 tickets to a production of The Church Basement Ladies in Rise Up, O Men. Ladies were able to purchase the tickets for a reduced price. Transportation was provided and the event was attended in March.

In March, we reserved a time space at the 'W' at Wartburg as a Family Fun Day. WELCA provided snacks and drinks. The event was well attended by St. Peter families. We opened this event to the community, and members from other churches also attended. Around 125 attended.

We financed a remodeling in the parsonage bathroom. A new bathtub and surround were installed. This was our last involvement with the parsonage as all parsonage work is now under St. Peter Buildings and Grounds.

In April we served our annual Salad Luncheon/Card Party. 70 people were in attendance.

In June the WELCA Board presented a Relay of Life ceremony.

We prepared and donated 103 sack lunches for farmers working on fall harvest.

Country Time Fall Dinner served around 770 people.

Since it was the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the Christmas Cantata, WELCA served a reception after the Cantata. We served cake, meat and cheese trays, apple cider, and coffee to over 200 people.

Thank you to the congregation for the donations for the Giving Tree and Operation Christmas Child. We sent in 54 boxes for children and purchased gifts for 10 local children with support thru the Giving Tree.

Many of our WELCA women also contribute their time to the Community Senior Center.

Your 2019 WELCA Board

Sue Schroeder, Sue Brinkman, Julie Brinkman, Betty Heitland, Nancy Reser, Bev Christensen, Connie Yerkes

## WELCA Treasurer's Report

Balance 1-1-2019.....8186.35

**Receipts:**

Funeral Lunches	1225.00
Funeral Food	146.00
From Prayer Shawl Fund	410.96
Circle offering	171.00
NIACC Tickets	500.00
From WELCA Savings Acct.	3227.63
Baked Potato Bar (Lent)	254.00
Salad Luncheon/Raffle	476.00
Country Time/Raffle	8426.10
Thank offering for World Hunger	294.00
Children's Christmas Giving Tree donations	470.00
Donation (Postage for Operation Child Christmas Boxes)	<u>36.00</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>15636.69</b>

**Disbursements:**

Postage	177.76
Servicemen Boxes postage	146.05
Funeral Food	81.57
Operation Christmas Child (gift boxes)	73.50
Prayer Shawl Yarn	410.96
Quilting/LWR Expenses	432.05
Funeral Paper Supplies	267.00
Shut in Balloons (Valentines & Easter)	95.52
Parsonage Bathroom Repairs	3227.63
Lenten Supper Expense	183.91
Family Fun Day (W in Waverly)	339.66
Ingathering (LWR) Postage	30.00
Women ELCA (yearly offering)	300.00
To WELCA Savings (Salad Luncheon proceeds)	476.00
Farmers Lunches	264.83
Memorial Fund	100.00
Bouillons (Flowers)	50.00
Weekend of Hope (Lights)	15.24
Perrin Inn (General Meeting Brunch)	140.00
Gather Magazine	39.90
Caseys (Circle Meetings)	100.00
LSI (Supplies for care packages)	102.72
Cantata supplies	37.43
Thank offering for World Hunger	294.00
Familys in need (gift cards)	500.00
Baby Flucke shower gift	50.88
Country Time/Raffle Expenses	2240.10
Christmas Giving Tree gifts	458.34
End of Year giving donations	2025.00
Greene Parish Health Program	500.00
Greene Food Bank	300.00
Sunday School	150.00
Jr. High Ministry	150.00
Community Vacation Bible School	200.00
Missionaries (Mary Beth & Zach Croonquist)	700.00
NE Iowa Synod LWR for local disasters	<u>250.00</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>14910.05</b>

Balance 12-31-19.....8912.99

Julie Brinkman, WELCA Treasurer

<b>WELCA EPIC Fund</b>
------------------------

Balance 1-1-19	1021.82
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Interest	<u>1.03</u>
Balance 12-31-19	1022.85

Julie Brinkman, WELCA Treasurer

<b>WELCA RAGBRAI Fund</b>
---------------------------

Balance 12-31-19	1420.28
------------------	---------

Julie Brinkman, WELCA Treasurer

<b>WELCA Prayer Shawl / Baptismal Blanket Fund</b>
--

Balance 1-1-19	739.82
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Memorials	180.00
Donation	10.00
WELCA donation	<u>100.00</u>
Total Receipts	290.00
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Prayer Shawl Yarn	410.96
Balance 12-31-19	618.86

Julie Brinkman, WELCA Treasurer

<b>WELCA Savings Account</b>
------------------------------

Balance 1-1-19	5847.10
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Salad Luncheon Proceeds	476.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	690.00
Interest	<u>6.17</u>
Total Receipts	1172.17
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Parsonage Bathroom Repairs	-3227.63
Balance	3791.64

Julie Brinkman, WELCA Treasurer

<b>St. Peter Lutheran Church - Memorial Fund</b>
--

1000	Helen & Andy Nelson Memorial: 500-Elevator, 200-Sunday School 200-Vacation Bible School, 100-WELCA Prayer Shawl Ministry
1638	Minnie Bruns Memorial: Fellowship Hall Chairs and Sunday School
1299.40	Ruth Wunsch Memorial: 20 card tables to WELCA, Card Table cart, 2 sets of 13 note hand bells for Sunday School, communion table, communion table cloth, song book and 2 Bibles.
5000	Jerry Wagner Memorial: Designated by family
250	Fred Hawker Memorial: 200-Luther League, 50-Prayer Shawl Ministry
100	WELCA Memorial: annual memorial given to undesignated
1560	Kathryn Cassmann Memorial: Sanctuary Banners and Elevator Fund

Many smaller memorials were given to WELCA Prayer shawl ministry,  
WELCA Country Time, Elevator Fund and the undesignated memorial  
fund.

20,000 Money from undesignated memorial money was used for elevator expense

**Memorial Fund Balance:**

**Checking: 163.30**

**Money Market Fund:**

**Designated: 6487.32**

**Undesignated: 26020.92**

**Balance 12-31-19 32508.24**

Julie Brinkman, Memorial Fund Secretary/Treasurer

**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**January 20, 2019**  
**10:30 am**  
**St. Peter Lutheran Church, Greene, IA**

The Annual Congregation Meeting of the St Peter Lutheran Church was held Sunday, January 20, 2019 in the church fellowship hall with 47 voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Hoodjer at 10:30 am.

A special thank you to Carol Barth, Ashley Coake, Lauren Hawker and Phil Wahlgren for their time, talent & service they gave to St Peter Lutheran during their council term.

Kelly read the names from the nominating committee to be elected to council for a 3 year term: Clarene Backer, Esther Backer and Chuck Thompson. David Crow was added as a write-in for the student council member.

*Carrie Eiklenborg made a motion to approve these members. John Ebensberger 2<sup>nd</sup>. M/C*

It was put to a vote to accept the changes to the By-Laws.

*Laurie Shultz made a motion to accept these changes. Mary Brinkman 2<sup>nd</sup>. M/C*

*Gail Schafer made a motion to accept the 2019 budget. Fred Hawker 2<sup>nd</sup>. M/C*

Kelly spoke about the electronic sign that will be installed and the much needed repairs for the steeple.

Jeff Dralle brought up the continuing issue of declining attendance to church services. We, as a congregation, will work together to sharing the good news.

*Marilyn Steere made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Merlin Schucknecht 2<sup>nd</sup>. M/C*

Meeting adjourned to a brunch provided by the church council.

<b>St Peter Lutheran Church</b>					
Monthly Fund and Bank Account Balance Report					
<b>ST PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>					
December Financial Report					
December 31, 2019					
12/1/2019					
<b>Beginning</b>					
<b>Balance</b>					
<b>Receipts</b>					
<b>Disbursements</b>					
<b>Ending</b>					
<b>Balance</b>					
Current Fund Balance		\$12,156.30	\$19,705.98	-\$15,718.68	\$16,524.62
Employee Withholding & Payroll Taxes			-\$1,504.20	\$1,885.22	
Current Fund Amount in MMDA					\$0.00
					\$16,524.62
Other Fund Balances					
Elevator		-\$1,197.95	\$1,197.95	\$0.00	\$0.00
Benevolence and Mission		\$0.00	\$3,693.20	-\$3,693.20	\$0.00
Building and Repair		\$380.44	\$155.00	\$0.00	\$535.44
Basement Windows		\$3,899.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,899.00
Fellowship		\$1,898.36	\$389.50	-\$67.64	\$2,220.22
Thrivent Choice		\$170.00	\$2.00	\$0.00	\$172.00
Restoration		\$17,099.71	\$880.00	-\$1,097.95	\$16,881.76
Missionary Support		\$0.00	\$1,305.00	-\$1,305.00	\$0.00
Electronic Sign		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
AED		\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
		\$22,699.56	\$7,622.65	-\$6,163.79	\$24,158.42
Bank Balance			Transfer from MM	Transferred to MMDA	
Checking		\$13,800.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,624.94
			Trans from Ckg + Int	Transfer to Ckg	
Money Market		\$21,055.42	\$2.68	\$0.00	\$21,058.10
				TOTAL BANK	\$40,683.04
Goyer Scholarship		\$1,108.03	\$0.09	\$0.00	\$1,108.12
McCosh - Gift of Love		\$1,220.02	\$0.29	\$0.00	\$1,220.31

Gale Brinkman, Treasurer

### **AUDIT STATEMENT:**

The audit for the 2019 calendar year was completed in accordance with the Audit Guidelines for St. Peter Lutheran Church. The Audit Committee found the disbursement ledger and corresponding receipts very orderly and in compliance with the accounting principals. (Dated January 16, 2020)

Audit Committee: Terri O'Brien, Cheryle Arjes, Jessi Lane

## Community Vacation Bible School

Checking Account	
Balance December 1, 2018:	\$1,439.13
Receipts:	
Donation / St. Peter WELCA	\$200.00
Donation / Helen Nelson & Andy Nelson memorial	\$200.00
Donations	\$75.00
Daily Offering	\$62.00
Registration	\$440.00
Donation / Pres. & Meth. church	\$150.00
Donations	\$140.00
Donation / St. Peter Lutheran	\$150.00
Donation / St. Peter WELCA	<u>\$200.00</u>
Total Receipts:	<u>\$1,617.00</u>
Total:	\$3,056.13

Expenses:	
Christin Flucke / supplies	\$35.00
Jean Ann Wedeking / crafts	\$132.62
Janice Shultz / stamps	\$29.15
Janice Shultz / donuts	\$22.46
Tanya Yerkes / pizza	\$162.49
Golden Eagle 4-H / donut card	\$10.00
T & M Foods / snacks	\$159.56
T & M Foods / Supper Catholic church	\$90.79
Smith's / supplies	\$4.58
Humane Society of North Iowa / donation of daily offering	\$62.00
Christin Flucke / supplies	\$523.92
Inksmith / t-shirts	\$625.00
Cathy Belles / supplies	<u>\$75.12</u>
Total Expenses:	\$1,932.69

**Balance December 31, 2019** **\$1,123.44**

Advisors  
Robin Majewski, St. Peter Lutheran  
Janice Shultz, St. Mary Catholic