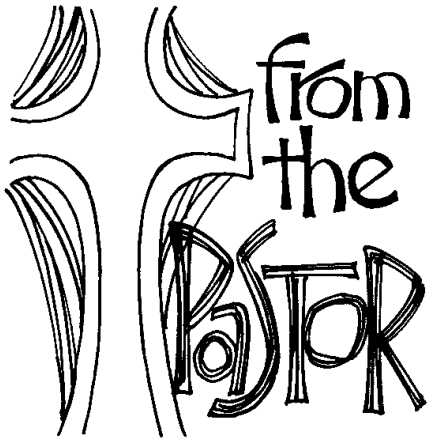

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you." Numbers 6:24-26

Dear friends in Christ, I hope you all survived the scorcher of a week we just had! Summer isn't over, but many of us are already thinking ahead, registering for school and buying school supplies. Before we know it, our fall programming at church will be starting too!

As we prepare for another great year of growing in faith together, I'd like to encourage you all to start preparing as well. Martin Luther believed our faith formation begins at home. This year our confirmation students will be diving into the small catechism, which was originally written as a resource for family devotions! I know many of you probably cringe thinking about the catechism. You remember the days of memorization and evaluations in front of the whole congregation. I get it. But that doesn't mean faith formation at home can't be fun! One resource I'd like to share with you is a nighttime devotion from faith5.org. It takes just 15 minutes and follows five simple steps:

- SHARE your highs and lows
- READ a Bible verse or story
- TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows
- PRAY for one another's highs and lows
- BLESS one another

One thing I like about this practice is that it helps us bring our whole day before God—both the joys and the difficulties. It teaches us to listen to each other and pray for each other. What a huge difference it makes going to bed knowing that we are safe, loved, and blessed by God! Rather than carrying our worries into the next day, we place them in God's hands. These are powerful practices! When we take time to end our day with a blessing from God, we can rest well and face anything.

In many ways, this devotion echoes what we do in worship every Sunday. We confess, praise, hear God's life-giving Word, pray together, and are sent out with a blessing. Our scripture from Numbers is one form of that blessing. It is more than just a sending. These words offer God's grace, protection, peace, and presence to those it is said over.

As the summer comes to an end, I pray that you and your families can find ways to speak God's blessing over one another, sharing the promise that God is with us wherever we go and in whatever we face!

Peace, Pastor ChyAnne

P.S. We have talked about offering an adult Bible study on Luther's Small Catechism this fall. If you are interested, please let me or the church office know. Thanks to a memorial gift from Martha Deines, we will have help with the study material again ☺

St. Peter Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Present: Dawn Van Etten, Dixie Hughes, Phil Wahlgren, John Backer, Carrie Eiklenborg, Matt Pittenger, Ryan Behnke, Pastor ChyAnne

1. Secretary's Minutes— add “10:1” to reflect the no vote for the AMS Van Donation. When I make a correction or change- official minutes are stored on the office computer and a hard copy in the office. Matt moved; John seconded – motion passed to approve the secretary minutes.

2. Additions to the Agenda:

3. Church Vision— If St. Peter were to close today, what would we be remembered for?

4. Action Items:

    A. Gift of Love discussion/policy - We will purchase gift cards to have on hand and create a form to keep a record. Mutual Ministry will develop a policy or guidelines. Ryan moved, Matt seconded; motion passes to ask the Mutual Ministry to write a Gift of Love Policy.

    B. An anonymous donor has approached Stewardship & Finance Committee Chair, Laurie Shultz, to offer partial payment for the asphalt paving of our alley and parking behind the church and fellowship hall. The offer is to give $20,000, the estimate from the company that just did the parking lot for the Catholic church is for $45,000 to complete this work. Laurie has already approached the city to confirm that they would not object to this, knowing that the company would comply with any expectations they have. It now needs to be addressed by the church council for approval to move forward with this. The difference could be covered from other fundraising, from the renovation funds in hand, or from additional Schuknecht estate funds. The Council requests more information from the City Council about paving the alley, information on the drainage, and a quote.

    C. Service/Support animals in building- Council will request documentation of liability and certification for service/support animals.

    D. Funeral Policy - Add a technology fee of $25 and review at the August Council meeting.

    E. Fixing the Doves in the Sanctuary - the dove placement will be up to the discretion of the people putting them up.

    F. July Newsletter - Post in the bulletin that there will not be a Newsletter in July.

    G. Solar Panel Credit - Decorah Law firm provided an update, the credit is moving along.

    H. Schuknecht Estate Updates - After all bills are finalized we will receive $76,680.70 as a final payment.

I. Dishwasher - Matt moved, Phil seconded - motion carried to approve up to $1500 for a dishwasher for the parsonage.

J. Dawn will update the Council and Usher Responsibilities posted in the sanctuary closet.

5. Pastor's Report

- Virginia Davis planning and funeral
- Martha Deines planning and funeral
- Finished up Bible Study on Matthew (3 weeks) - This was a fruitful study that hopefully helped shed some light on the texts we will read in worship this summer. We discussed having another study in the fall on Adult Catechism.
- Memorial Day Service - led the prayers and main address
- C3 Conference in Waverly; this took the place of our annual Synod Assembly. We learned about population decline in Iowa and in the ELCA and how to not look at "growth" as the only indicator of a healthy community, but how to focus on creating communities of belonging. It was an interesting event.

6. Treasurer's Report - April and May Treasurer's Report will be approved at the August meeting.

7. Committee Reports

•Building & Grounds

- Purchasing a dishwasher for the parsonage.
- Kirsten will be on vacation in June and Dixie will help cover. Thank You Dixie!!!
- Shrubs were planted and donors will be posted in the bulletin.
- Roland fixed the lock on the office door- Thank You Roland!!!
- Suggestion to keep accordion doors open to the sanctuary to help airflow. ● Screen door and a drain needs to be repaired at the parsonage.

•Education & Youth - did not meet, VBS is approaching and we still need volunteers.

•Stewardship & Finance

- Laurie and Julie Brinkman had been meeting to finalize the planning and get information/quotes to move forward with the two recognition plaques for the Stained Glass Project. Names and wording/recognition preferences have been reviewed, calls were made to donors if clarification or questions were pending, and a proof of the final versions will be available for the committee to review before final production by the Waterloo company engaged in this process.
- (Add notes about asphalt project from action item above)
- No updated financial reports from last month were received from Marilyn to discuss, or corrected from the previous months - so no action taken on the financial reports. Excel spreadsheet corrections and additional restricted accounts for the endowed funds are not updated yet.

- As we head into the summer months, we need to remind members of the importance of keeping up their giving/support of the mission & ministry of St. Peter. Keith will send a brief update that can be added to the next newsletter and upcoming bulletins that breaks down the annual budget to the monthly revenues needed to meet our plan.
- Keith reported on the Thrivent project - to thank Thrivent members who selected St. Peter Lutheran Church to receive Thrivent Choice Dollars that they can direct to us. A newsletter article identified the individuals and couples who directed those gifts from 01/01/2025 - 03/31/2026 with a total of $10,145 received for St. Peter, a significant impact! Kirsten has a letter from Keith that will be produced on a semiannual basis for new Choice Dollars received and sent to the members choosing to direct those to the church.

- Laurie reported that scholarship letters have been sent to all recipients that were selected by the committee and approved by Council last month, we have received one thank-you note, too (Nolan Reser). Letters and checks will go directly to the scholarship recipient's colleges that they reported in their applications, and will be sent out in August, Laurie will communicate this with Marilyn Wahlgren to get completed.
- Keith reported on the latest communication with the church (Dawn Van Etten is also informed) - pending state of Iowa final approval to close the estate, an additional amount of $76,580.70 is expected. The committee will follow gift acceptance guidelines to recommend the final distribution of these funds to the council for final approval.
- Mutual Ministry Committee has discussed with Pastor ChyAnne and Stewardship & Finance Committee has discussed several times in the past the importance of raising awareness and promoting the idea of tax-efficient giving options and estate planning ideas (including support for St. Peter and other charitable causes). We would like to schedule a joint discussion about coordinating an educational meeting or series of meeting to educate and inform members for their personal benefit and to promote others to consider their own generosity and support for their families and St. Peter & other interests
- Next meeting: August 4

Worship & Evangelism

- Did not meet
- Summer months will be favorite hymns as requested by the congregation!

•Personnel - did not meet

•Mutual Ministry – did not meet

•WELCA - no report

Carrie moved; Phil seconded – motion passed to approve the Committee Reports.

8. Adjournment: Ended with the Lord’s Prayer

ST PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH					
		June Financial Report			
		June 30, 2026			
		6/1/2026			6/30/2026
		Beginning			**Ending**
		Balance	**Receipts**	**Disbursements**	**Balance**
Current Fund Balance		$69,224.58	$12,199.62	-$20,983.41	$60,193.58
	Employee Withholding & Payroll Taxes		-$1,885.16	$1,637.95	
	Current Fund Amount in MMDA				
					$60,193.58
Other Fund Balances					
	Technology	$5,069.65	$0.00	$0.00	$5,069.65
	Benevolence and Mission	$2,122.73	$756.87	-$692.22	$2,187.38
	Building and Repair	$4,357.16	$85.00	$0.00	$4,442.16
	SG Windows	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Fellowship	$3,129.22	$70.00	$0.00	$3,199.22
	Thrivent Choice	$10,314.00	$858.00	$0.00	$11,172.00
	Restoration	$10,867.78	$4,910.00	-$800.00	$14,977.78
	Missionary Support	$0.00	$220.00	-$220.00	$0.00
	Balcony Improvement	$3,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$3,000.00
	AED	$450.00	$0.00	$0.00	$450.00
		$39,310.54	$6,899.87	-$1,712.22	$44,498.19
Bank Balance			Transfer from MM	Transfered to MMDA	
	Checking	$61,600.69	$17,214.33	-$21,057.68	$57,726.46
			Trans from Ckg + Int	Transfer to Ckg	
	Money Market 112	$46,934.43	$30.88	$0.00	$46,965.31
		$108,535.12		TOTAL BANK	$104,691.77
Goyer 442 Scholarship		$1,279.60	$1.28	$0.00	$1,280.88
McGosh 920 - Gift of Love		$1,276.47	$0.79	$0.00	$1,277.26
Companion Savings		$170,000.00	$851.24	$0.00	$128,093.74

YTD Revenue	$136,736.31	YTD Expenses	$142,888.68		

St. Peter College Students:

Are you interested in keeping up-to-date with what's going on at St. Peter while you are off at college? We can send you the monthly newsletter while you are at college! Call or email the church office with your new address if you are interested.

Thank you to all the amazing volunteers that helped in person, financially, and/or provided food/supplies for this year's Vacation Bible School. Also, thank you to our host families for hosting the Riverside crew that came. Without all the wonderful help, we wouldn't be able to have such a great opportunity for our youth. Finally, thank you to the volunteers who dedicated their time to help plan VBS 2026!

Youth ACTIVITIES

Sunday School

3 year olds - 2nd Graders

The first day of Sunday School will be on Sept. 13th, from 10-11. It will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. This year's focus will be on the New Testament.

Youth Group

3rd - 6th Graders

Youth Group will start on Wed., Sept. 16th. It will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, and will run from 6 to 7 pm.

Confirmation

7th & 8th Graders

Confirmation will kick-off on Wed., Sept. 9th with a joint event with Luther League from 6:30-8. A parent meeting will be held at this time as well. Confirmation class will be held every Wednesday evening, with the exception of the first Wednesday of each month.

Luther League

High Schoolers

Luther League kicks-off on Wed., Sept. 9th with a joint event with Confirmation from 6:30-8. Luther League will be held the first Wednesday of each month. Students may gather starting at 6 pm with the meeting starting at 6:30.

Community Meal

Join us for our 1st community meal on Wed. September 16th. The Community Meals will be served on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 5:30 - 6:15 pm. The sign-up for providing a meal is available in the Fellowship Hall. **Everyone is welcome!**

Committee News:

Building & Grounds Update:

- Friday July 10 several members of Council and Property committees met with Garrett from Doug's Heating & Cooling of Clarksville for our HVAC project. Many questions answered and very informative.
- Kelly will contacting electricians for estimates.

Mutual Ministry Update:

- Met to discuss service animal policy
- Also discussed how to distribute McCosh funds

WELCA NEWS:

- Betty is looking/needing a chairman for the kitchen/dishwasher for Country Time. Please consider donating 2-3 hours of your time for this great fundraiser.
- WELCA served breakfast pizza and fruit for fellowship after the commissioning of Luther League for their Detroit trip, it was a great success and well received.
- Lunch was served by WELCA for VBS.
- Reminder- August circle will return to the coffee shop once it reopens.

Memorials Given:

$3,500 Dennis Griffin Memorials from family and friends for the new TV and upgraded technology for fellowship hall.

$2,912.00 Martha Deines memorial from family and friends.

$1,000 Roger Martzahn memorial from family and friends for St. Peter Sound System.

Fall start dates for youth programs:

- Luther league/Confirmation Kickoff is September 9th at the Back 9 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Parents must attend with children as this is an informative meeting.

- Sunday School is starting on September 13th from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Children 3 years old (must be potty trained) – 2nd grade are welcome!

- Youth Group will start on September 16th from 6:00- 7:00 p.m. Youth Group welcomes anyone 3rd-6th grade.

Country Time

at St. Peter Lutheran Church
Sunday, September 20, 2026
11:00 am to 12:30 pm

All meals will be Drive Thru for Carry Outs

Cost: $12.00 a meal

Menu: Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Fruit, Roll & Bar

The meals will be served from the back of the church/fellowship hall.

•ENTER- Traer Street to 3rd Street then the alley
•EXIT - 4th Street

August 2026 Worship Servants

So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.
- Galatians 6:10

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!

August 2, 2026
9:00
Ushers: Dixie Hughes & Emma Towsley
Lector: Dixie Hughes
Communion: Kelly Hoodjer
11:00
Lector: Carol Barth
Communion: Carol Barth

August 9, 2026
9:00
Ushers: Kris Dralle & John Shultz
Lector: Teresa Feldman
11:00
Lector: Teresa Feldman
August 16, 2026- Wilder Park

August 23, 2026
9:00 (Blessing of the Backpacks)
Ushers: Mike & Julie Brinkman
Lector: Teresa Feldman
Communion: Laurie Shultz
11:00
Lector: Teresa Feldman
Communion: Dawn Van Etten

August 30, 2026
9:00
Ushers: Dixie Hughes & Emma Towsley
Lector: Dixie Hughes
11:00
Lector: Carrie Eiklenborg

Hey everyone! The school year is right around the corner, and St. Peter would be honored to help you kick it off with our Blessing of the Backpacks on August 23rd during our 9:00 service. Whether you are a kindergartener, a college student, a teacher, or anyone heading back to school, bring your backpacks and receive a special blessing. We will pray for you and gift you a small tricket to remind you of God's love and our continued prayers for you throughout the year. We hope to see you there!

Mark your calendars! **August 16, 2026** St. Peter and St. James will hold a joint 10:00 a.m. worship at **Wilder Park in Allison**. St. Peter will be providing fellowship following worship for all to enjoy. Grab your lawn chair, your whole family, and a few friends along the way! In case of inclement weather, the service and fellowship will be held at St. James. **Please note:** There is only one worship service this day.

Giving QR Code

August Food Bank Suggestion is: spaghetti sauce and spaghetti noodles.

July Birthdays

Happy Belated Birthday to our July Birthdays!
1- Shannon Trees, Mason Wordes
2- Bruce Abbott, Brooklyn Hanson, Stacie Osier, Ryland Pitzenberger
4- Heidi Mechler, Sean Mathers, Alysa Towsley, Isaac Trees
5- Neveah Spratt
6- Tanner Arjes, Tim Feldman
7- Amelia Brinkman, Morgan Davis, Rainy Kock, Ron Schafer
8- Collin Brinkman, Shane Leavens, Mackenzie Shultz
9- Tim Heidenwirth
10- Brecken Schmidt, William Schmidt, Cameron Siemons, Diane Storey, Braxton Wiegmann
11- Rod Fesenmeyer
12- Cody Landers, Lyndsie Pitzenberger, Anthony Wahlgren, Austin Wahlgren
13- John Eggena
14- John Backer, April Hanson, Terri O'Brien
16- Ila Grimm, Alex Kleinschmidt, Carol Schroeder
17- Chase Eiklenborg, Dewain Wiebke
18- Liz Schroeder
20- Esther Backer, Judy Osier
21- Dan Schroeder, Susan Stirling
22- Kevin Clipperton, Janet Schafer
23- Jason Arjes, Joe Brinkman, Nathan Hawker, Robin Kock, JoAnn Peterson
24- McKenzie Schmidt, Eleanor Rottler
25- Debra Kock, LeAnn McRoberts, Brad Rottler, Dottie Lehman
26- Kayla Heitland, Keith Landers, Iverson Quade
27- Ryan Arjes, Rod Eliasen
28- Brenda Butzlaff, Wrenlee Lehman, Hattie Heitland
29- Bryan Quade, Miles Ralls
30- Lindsay (John) Brinkman, Elsa Newton, Sue Schroeder
31- Lindsay Landers, Rick Landers, Jim Loomer

August Birthdays

1- Sydney Eiklenborg
2- Ardith Buss
3- Robbie Rottler
4- Tara Austin, Debra Ott
5- Keith Hyman, Irene Loomer, Eli Martzahn
7- Cheryle Arjes, Angela Christensen, Pam Dralle, Keith Johnson, Laurie Shultz
8 - Nash Keifer, Tim Siemons
9- Kurt Brinkman, David Skillen
10- Ricky Niehaus, Jennifer Wordes
11- Carter Backer, Addison Ebling, Macabe Schmidt
12- Shane Jensen
13- Matt Pittenger
14- Lyna Miller, Jason Steere
15- Todd Schroeder, Jason Skillen
16- Teresa Feldman, Seth Kleinschmidt, Carol Menken, Lila Shultz, James Steere, Axel Pattison
17- David Constien, Tara Kock
18- Susan Hodges, Jacque Nordmeyer, Marjorie Nordmeyer, William Zurcher
19- Dylan Clipperton, Sue Ebensberger
20- Beth Grant, Gabriel Spratt, Michael Steere, Clay Zimmerman
21- Amanda Warner
22- Caitlyn Septer, LaVon Steere
23- Toya Knapp
24- Alecia Feckers, Ireland Spratt
25- Amanda McCormick, Kay Muhlenbruck
26- Augusta Dralle, Dennis Gabe, Amy Paulsen, Dawson Testroet
27- Carol Barth, Dante 'Raymond, Julia Towsley
28- Joanie Behnke, Mary Brinkman, Lois Eliasen
29- Jeanie Krull, Harper Landers, Mark O'Brien, Carol Stotler
30- Becky Newton, Hailey Penrod
31- Keith Christensen, Addisyn Gotto, Jonathan Ulrich

Church Update
July 2026

Make-A-Will Month: Create a Legacy That Reflects Your Values

August is Make-A-Will Month, an ideal time to create or update one of the most important documents you'll ever sign. A will allows you to care for the people you love while ensuring your values continue to make a difference for generations to come.

Many adults put off making a will, believing they have plenty of time or that they don't have enough assets to need one. While surveys vary, they consistently show that more than half of American adults have not created a will, leaving their families without clear guidance when the unexpected happens.

In reality, a will is important for nearly everyone. It gives you the opportunity to clearly express your wishes, provide for loved ones, appoint guardians for minor children, and simplify the administration of your estate. Without a will, state law determines how your assets are distributed, which may not reflect your intentions.

A will is also an opportunity to leave a legacy that reflects your faith and generosity. After providing for family and friends, many people choose to include a charitable gift to a church or nonprofit that has touched their lives. These gifts—often called legacy gifts or planned gifts—can be made as a percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount, or the remainder of your estate after loved ones have been provided for.

While every gift is unique, together charitable bequests provide billions of dollars each year to strengthen nonprofit organizations and ministries, helping them continue their mission for future generations.

A legacy gift to your congregation or to Lutheran Services in Iowa is a meaningful way to continue sharing Christ's love long into the future. Your gift can help children find safe, loving families, empower people with disabilities to live more independently, welcome refugees as they build new lives, and provide hope and support to families facing life's challenges.

One of the greatest advantages of a charitable bequest is its flexibility. You can care for your family first while also making a lasting investment in the ministries and causes that have shaped your life and faith. Even a modest gift can have a lasting impact.

Make-A-Will Month is the perfect time to review your current estate plan or create your first will. Your will is more than a legal document—it is a reflection of your life's values, your generosity, and your commitment to the people and organizations that matter most.

If you have already included Lutheran Services in Iowa in your estate plans, thank you for your vision and generosity. If you are considering a legacy gift, we would be honored to answer your questions and help you explore options that align with your wishes and charitable goals. There is never any obligation—only the opportunity to create a lasting legacy of hope. You can reach out to us at 866-584-5293 or philanthropy@lsiowa.org.

Remember in Prayers…

- **Shut-ins and those in Care Centers-**

  Ron Schafer, Rose Adelmund, Marty & Juliene Bramer, Lois Eliasen, Marilyn Steere, Irene Loomer, Darlyce Steere, Judy Lau, Norma Noel, Caroline Schafer, Monty Heitland, Marlene Marsh

- **Missionaries–**

  Mary Beth and Bayo Oyebade, Tobi, David, and Lily in Nigeria and Pastor Zach Courter and Rachel Eskesen in Hungary

- **In the Military-**

  Hannah Fox, Kaylie Fox, Shane Schroeder, Seth Poe, David White, Matthew Ulrichs, Tony Albrecht, Matt Heeren, Paxton Hinders, Cody Codner, Alan Peters, Christine Doudell, Ian Bain, John K. Backer, Colby Beek

- **Luther League**

  The Luther League youth are collecting five cent redeemable bottles and cans, which can be put in the bins at the recycling center. Please separate aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and glass and place in the designated bins. If the bins are full, please come back another time rather than piling items on the ground. Thank you for supporting the youth of St. Peter

- **Prayer Shawls**

  If you know of a person who would appreciate a prayer shawl, please contact the church office, 641.816.5531

- **Missionaries**

  Remember to support our missionaries, Marth Beth and Bayo Oyebade and their family in Nigeria, and Pastors Rachel Eskesen and Zach Couter in Hungary. You can designate your gift for our missionary, or missionaries you wish to support.

- **Flowers**

  You can honor loved ones and special occasions by placing flowers on the alter for worship. Flowers can be ordered from your preferred vendor. Please request them to be delivered to the church by Saturday afternoon of the weekend for which you have signed up. The flower sign-up sheet is outside of the church office.

- **Use of Building**

  St. Peter is please to share our beautiful church building with members, friends of the congregation, and the community. The church is open from 7:00am until 7:00pm for prayer, devotions, and activities. Please remember to close what you open, turn off what you turn on, pick up as you leave the building. There is a checklist on the refrigerator door in the kitchen. To be human is to err. If you arrive and find something another person forgot, just quietly turn it off, close it up, pick it up, or flush. Thank you for your consideration.

August

Altar Guild: Mary Brinkman & Rashelle Lewis Church Council: Dawn Van Etten						1
2 -Worship- 9am -Fellowship- 10 am -Worship- 11 am	3	4 -Yoga- 5:15 p.m. -Country Time meeting- 6 p.m. -Worship- 6 p.m. -Stewardship-7 p.m.	5	6	7	8
9 -Worship- 9am -Fellowship- 10 a.m. (Trip Presentation) -Worship- 11 a.m.	10 Pastor's Vacation	11 -Yoga- 5:15 p.m.	12 Church Council- 7 p.m.	13	14	15
16 Worship @ Wilder Park in Allison 10:00 a.m.	17 Prayer Shawl Ministry- 3 p.m.	18 -Yoga- 5:15 p.m. Pastor's Back	19	20	21	22
23 -Worship- 9 a.m (blessing of backpacks) -Fellowship- 10 a.m -Worship- 11 a.m	24	25 -Yoga- 5:15 p.m.	26	27	28	29
30 -Worship- 9 a.m -Fellowship- 10 a.m -Worship- 11 a.m	31					

St. Peter Lutheran Church
324 E. Traer St, PO Box 638
Greene, IA 50636

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
GREENE, IA
PERMIT NO. 1

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.