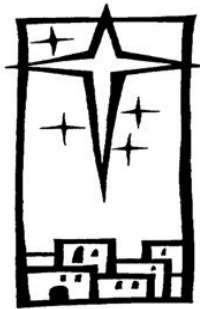


St. Peter Lutheran Church
324 E. Traer St., P.O. Box 638
Greene, IA 50636
Phone: 641.816.5531

email: stpeter@myomnitel.com
Website: www.stpetergreene.com
Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jennifer E. Edinger
Cell Phone: 515.368.1760

email: pastor.jenny.edinger@gmail.com
Facebook Pages: St. Peter Lutheran Church and St Peter Lutheran Church Children and Youth
Streaming: YouTube St Peter Lutheran Greene



The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

**The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord Make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord life up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.**

So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

— Numbers 6.22-27

Merry Christmas, the third day (as of December 27). We are now in the quieter days of Christmas. Not all, but many of the activities that are associated with Christmas are now over. The shopping, the gatherings, the Sunday School Christmas program, the special Christmas worship services, the traveling are past. Still, the story and events of Christmas continue to unfold.

There are two lesser festivals in these quieter days of Christmas. While we know January 1st as New Year's Day, in the community of faith January 1st is the festival for the Name of Jesus. In the Jewish tradition, baby boys were circumcised and named on the eighth day of life. The priestly, or pastoral, blessing from Numbers is the assigned reading for this holy day. The blessing places God's name, and claim, upon people of faith. The baby of Bethlehem is

named, Jesus, literally "One who saves," or "God saves." Jesus, the One who saves comes to gather us under the umbrella of God's name and grace.

The other holy day is Epiphany on January 6. The twelve days of Christmas conclude as the kings or sages arrive to worship the newborn king announced by the star. The theme of Epiphany is light. The light of Jesus spills and spreads to draw all people into the wholeness and the truth of God.

The holy days, Name of Jesus and the Epiphany, easily get lost in the shuffle. Only occasionally do one of these special days fall on a Sunday, and they never both fall on a Sunday in the same year. Yet their contribution to our faith is significant. Jesus, the One who saves brings light and grace for all people.

How wonderful that our calendar year begins with a blessing that embosses the name of God on our very being and shelters us in God's grace. The old Epiphany ritual of "chalking the door" with a blessing is a way of remembering the Christmas good news. The blessing for this year is 20+C+M+B+25. Twenty marks the beginning of the year. The letters recall the wisemen, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar whose visit we celebrate and also the Latin prayer, *Christus mansionem benedicat*, May Christ bless this house. And the final number closes out the year.

Consider "chalking." Put the blessing someplace where you will see it often, if not the door of your house, perhaps on the bathroom mirror, or on a slip of paper in a change purse, or as wallpaper or a background on a digital devise. It becomes a reminder of God's blessing and a way to invite God's Spirit into your life.

As we begin a new year, know that my prayer for you is that God will bless you, and shine on you with grace unending, and fill you with peace.

Pastor Jenny

Youth Activities

Sunday School

January 12 - Sunday School classes held 10-10:45 am

January 26: Sunday School classes held 10-10:45 am

Youth Group

January 1: No Youth Group

January 15: Youth Group meets 6:15-7 pm

Confirmation

No classes on January 1st & 8th

Will meet on January 15th, 22nd, & 29th

Luther League

- January 4 Team 1 & Team 2 cans: 10:30a.m
- January 8 Group meeting in Allison with meal at 6:00
- January 12 Trip Meeting with youth & Parent, Time TBD
- January 18 Team 1 Cans: 10:30a.m

Community Meal



Everyone is welcome!

Served 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month
5:30-6 pm

Jan. 1 - No meal tonight.
Happy New Year!

Jan. 15: Mary & Gale Brinkman

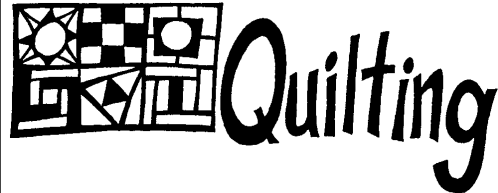


Thank you to everyone who donated boxes for operation Christmas Child.

There were a total of 31 boxes donated by St. Peter members. Thank you for your generous response in brightening the lives of little children for Christmas.

Attention Quilters:

Take note of the dates for gathering at church to work on finishing up quilts during the month of January (see dates on the calendar in this newsletter). Remember we work from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. with a coffee break during those hours. DO NOT plan on being there if the weather is bad, OR if school is canceled.



January 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 have traded dates, please notify the Church Office so the bulletin can be accurate. Your help and partnership here really make a difference.

January 5

9:00

Ushers: Kelly Hoodjer, Todd Schroeder, Bryce Schroeder, and Lincoln Schroeder

Reader: Liz Schroeder

Communion: Kelly Hoodjer

11:00

Reader: Jeff Dralle

Communion: Jeff Dralle

January 12

9:00

Ushers: Cheryle Arjes, Mary Brinkman

Readers: Mary Brinkman

11:00

Ushers: Dawn Van Etten

January 19

9:00

Ushers: Erin and Steve Mulder

Reader: Erin Mulder

Communion: Steve Mulder

11:00

Reader: Dixie Hughes

Communion: Dixie Hughes

January 26

9:00

Ushers: Jeremy and Toya Knapp

Readers: Matt Pittenger

11:00

Ushers: Carol Barth

Committee Reports

Buildings & Grounds Committee

On December 9th Heaven's Best came to cleaned the carpets in the church. They cleaned the fellowship area, the two offices, conference room, all entries, and the stairs leading down to the new basement under the fellowship hall.



Worship & Evangelism Committee

- Planning to go caroling on Dec. 18th at 5:00 prior to the Advent service.
- Hymns were chosen for December and part of January.
- Next meeting will be January 9th at 6:30.



Stewardship and Finance Committee

(December 2, 2024)

- Keith opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer from Christ in our Home: patience and persistence
- Committee reviewed the notes and action items from last month's meeting, and reviewed follow-up list
- Discussed 2024 revenue shortfalls from budget, and decided to share a temple talk on December 15 at services (Laurie) plus add year-end giving reminders in upcoming Sunday bulletins (Keith). A broader discussion about budget challenges is to be included at the annual meeting.
- The "why I/we give" testimony statements will be encouraged in early 2025. Seeking council members and others willing to share (written or temple talk)
- Reviewed 2024 budget and made initial adjustments for the draft of 2025 budget, will be presented to council at December meeting.
- Recommend a policy change in the allocation of automatic giving support to be similar to regular offerings (split between church operating budget and benevolence), will bring motion to council meeting
- Memorial Giving list needs to be updated and approved by council, new suggestion to add: solar or geothermal options for church buildings
- Next meeting: January 6, 2025 (if needed)





Remember in Prayers...

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

Martha Deines, Judy Lau, Norma Noel, Caroline Schafer, Monty Heitland, Jo Menken, Clarice Stephenson, Rosie Riggins

- **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, Brad Wilken, Ian Bain, John K. Backer, Colby Beek, Stephanie Lashbrook

- **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**

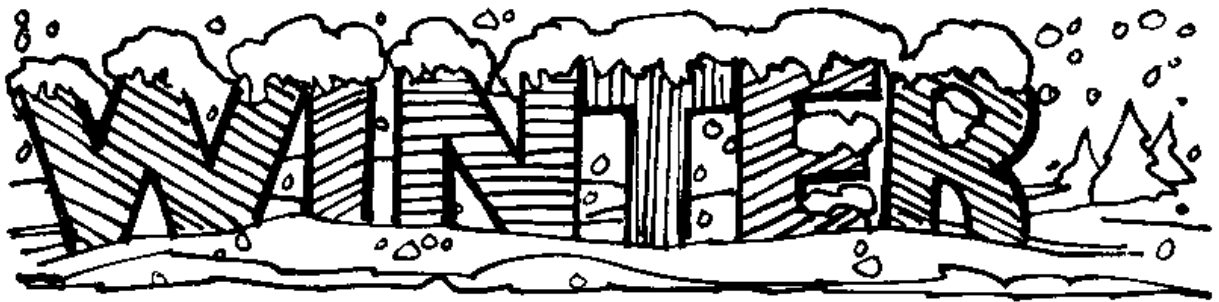
St. Peter is please to share out beautiful church building with members, friends of the congregation, and the community. The church is open from 7:00am until 7:00pm for prayer, devotions, and activities. Please remember to close what you open, turn off what you turn on, pick up as you leave the building. 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.

January Birthday's



- 2. Lyna Debner, Russell Folkers, Riley Kock
- 3. Isaac Almeliën, Hannah Leavens
- 4. Seth Orta
- 6. Nicole Warner
- 7. Michael Lewis, Calvin Trepp
- 8. Bentley Behnke, Carrissa Martinez,
Grace McBurney
- 9. Erin Dralle
- 10. Kris Dralle, Lacey Ritter, Jolene Steere
- 11. Jermeÿ Knapp, Shane Ott
- 12. Jenny Backer
- 13. Karla Steere
- 14. Austin Spain, Tonya Yerkes, Kinzer Frerichs
- 15. Marcia Landers, Dakota Martzahn, Leah Reser
- 16. Matthew Brinkman, Kayden Tidemanson
- 17. Bennett Yerkes

- 18. Riley Christensen, Don Feldman, Jack Hanson,
Robin Ralls, Monika Teeple
- 19. Katie Hassman, Nolan Reser
- 20. Tara Raymond, Isabelle Sage, Sandra Schuknecht,
Gabriel Young
- 22. Laney Brinkman, Wesley Klink, Richard Kock,
Joshua Richards
- 23. Galen Menken
- 24. Julie Eggena, Randall Landers, Carolyn Rover
- 25. Karen Almeliën, Lois Meyne
- 26. Madelyn Shultz
- 27. Gabriel Vieth
- 28. Ethel Krueger
- 29. Colton Klink, Kyle Landers
- 30. Danielle Ebling, Lois Heeren, Kaelan Nicholson
- 31. John Barth, Sara Eggena, Kim Wiebke



Reminder that Sunday Worship services will still happen, unless the entire town is shut down. Any weekly events happening at the church will be cancelled if school is cancelled. Remember to stay safe this winter! Also, please use your own judgement, your own safety is most important. Watch the church Facebook page for any weather cancellations.



The annual meeting will be on January 19, 2025 after the 9:00 service. Reminder to all chairs of committees to please get your information to Kirsten for the Annual Report no later than January 10. Please send reports in a digital format if possible. You may email your reports to the church office email or slide your report under the Secretary Office Door.

The following reports are needed:

Officers

- President
- Secretary - Annual Meeting Minutes from 2024
- Treasurer's Report

Pastoral Report

Parish Register

Committees

- Buildings and Grounds Committee
- Call Committee
- Christian Education and Youth Work
 - Community Vacation Bible School
 - Junior High Ministry
 - Junior High Ministry Treasurer's Report
 - Luther League
 - Luther League Treasurer's Report
 - Luther League Trip
 - Luther League Trip Treasurer's Report
 - Sunday School
 - Sunday School Enrollment
 - Sunday School Treasurer's Report
 - Sunday School Memorial Fund

Financial Review

Nominating Committee

Personnel

Stewardship and finance

Worship and Evangelism

Altar Guild

Organizations

- WELCA
- WELCA EPIC Fund
- WELCA Prayer Shawl/ Baptismal Blankets
- WELCA Quilting Fund
- WELCA Savings Account
- WELCA Treasurer's Report

Memorial Fund

Proposed Budget for 2025

Sanctuary Technology

St. Peter Lutheran Church Council Meeting (unapproved)

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Present: Cheryle Arjes, Dixie Hughes, Phil Wahlgren, Christine Shultz, Erin Mulder, John Backer, Carrie Eiklenborg, Dana Frerichs, Les Steere, Keith Christensen, Lyndsie Pitzenberger.

Also Present: Marilyn Wahlgren, Gale Brinkman

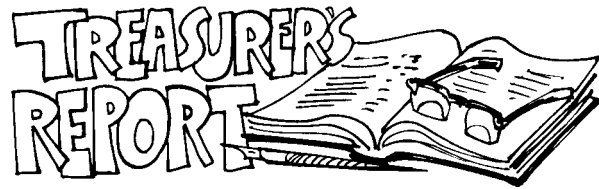
1. Secretary Minutes—Lyndsie moved; Keith seconded – motion passed to approve the secretary minutes
2. Additions to the Agenda: Action Item E
3. Church Vision— Be prepared
4. Action Items:
 - A. Technology troubleshooting update – Kirsten is ordering the switch to get the third screen working.
 - B. Technology team or coverage – We need more people trained on the technology in the sanctuary – confirmation kids, council members, etc. We need to offer trainings on the first Sunday of the month starting on January 5th between services.
 - C. 2025 budget – Keith moved, Cheryle seconded, motion passed for Council to approve the 2025 budget for the congregation to review and approve at the annual meeting.
 - D. Allocation of automatic (EFT and credit card) donations – Keith moved, Christine seconded, motion passed to split automatic giving (85% church operating budget, 15% benevolence) unless stipulated by the donor.
 - E. Update for Nominating Committee – Everyone agreed to a second term on council
5. Pastor's Report
6. Treasurer's Report – Erin moved, Cheryle seconded, motion passed to accept the treasurers report.
7. Committee Reports – each chairperson will check with their committee to see if they are all willing to continue on.
 - Call Committee –
 - Building & Grounds – DME will cover snow removal at the parsonage, carpets were cleaned, working on the automatic door locks.
 - Education & Youth – Program is this Sunday, meals are going well on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday nights
 - Stewardship & Finance – Keith opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer from Christ in our Home: patience and persistence
 - Committee reviewed the notes and action items from last month's meeting, and reviewed follow-up list
 - Discussed 2024 revenue shortfalls from budget, and decided to share a temple talk on December 15 at services (Laurie) plus add year-end giving reminders in upcoming Sunday bulletins (Keith). A broader discussion about budget challenges is to be included at the annual meeting.
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 - Memorial Giving list needs to be updated and approved by council, new suggestion to add solar or geothermal options for church buildings
- Next meeting: January 6, 2025
- *Continued Council meeting notes on following page

Continued Council meeting notes:

- Worship & Evangelism – Planning to go caroling on Dec. 18th at 5:00 prior to meal and the Advent service. Hymns were chosen for December and part of January. Next meeting will be January 9th at 6:30.
- Personnel – Kirsten’s 30-day review was successful!
- Mutual Ministry –
- WELCA –

Erin moved, Christine seconded, motion carried to accept the committee reports

8. Adjournment: Carrie moved, Phil seconded - motion passed to adjourn the meeting.
Next meeting is January 19th following the annual meeting.



St Peter Lutheran Church				
Monthly Fund and Bank Account Balance Report				
ST PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH				
November Financial Report				
November 30, 2024				
	11/1/2024			11/30/2024
	Beginning	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending
	Balance			Balance
Current Fund Balance	\$54,062.63	\$16,331.26	-\$14,188.99	\$56,004.31
Employee Withholding & Payroll Taxes		-\$427.30	\$226.71	
Current Fund Amount in MMDA				\$0.00
				\$56,004.31
Other Fund Balances				
Technology	\$1,298.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,298.65
Benevolence and Mission	\$0.00	\$1,143.00	-\$1,143.00	\$0.00
Building and Repair	\$3,648.16	\$86.00	-\$103.00	\$3,631.16
SG Windows	-\$12,205.26	\$40,000.00	-\$27,794.74	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$2,537.27	\$148.00	\$0.00	\$2,685.27
Thrivent Choice	\$5,391.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,391.00
Restoration	\$10,017.80	\$58,204.74	\$0.00	\$68,222.54
Missionary Support	\$0.00	\$235.00	-\$235.00	\$0.00
Balcony Improvement	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
AED	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
	\$12,137.62	\$99,816.74	-\$29,275.74	\$82,678.62
Bank Balance		Transfer from MM	Transferred to MMDA	
Checking	\$44,750.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$117,219.02
		Trans from Ckg + Int	Transfer to Ckg	
Money Market	\$21,449.84	\$14.07	\$0.00	\$21,463.91
			TOTAL BANK	\$138,682.93
Goyer Scholarship	\$2,357.14	\$1.16	\$0.00	\$2,358.30
McCosh - Gift of Love	\$1,270.56	\$0.00	-\$325.00	\$945.56
St Peter Lutheran Church				
Monthly Fund and Bank Account Balance Report				
Stained Glass window CD	\$70,000.00	\$5,933.91	-\$75,933.91	\$0.00



January Article:

The new year brings new beginnings. At LSI, we walk alongside Iowans for all sorts of beginnings. We walk alongside parents-to-be as they prepare for the birth of their child. We welcome immigrants and refugees as they begin their new lives in Iowa. We train parents looking to adopt a child and create a new beginning for their family.

This January, we offer Thomas's story of his new beginning.

In 1996, Congolese civil war broke out in the present-day countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of the Congo, forcing then two-year-old Thomas Mbuthu into exile in a refugee camp in neighboring Zambia. After growing up in a refugee camp, now 27-year-old Thomas applied to come to the United States.

When Thomas landed at the Des Moines airport in an entirely foreign land in a state called Iowa, LSI caseworker Patrick Karemera greeted him.

"I said, 'Welcome! This is your new home now! I am your brother. This is a new life. Feel free and feel safe,'" shared Patrick, recounting his initial meeting with his client Thomas.

Thomas thanked him, explaining he had not expected to see someone like Patrick welcome him – someone who looked like himself and spoke his native languages of Lingala and Swahili.

"As a refugee, I wanted a better life. But I didn't know where I was going. 'What is going to happen to me?'" wondered Thomas aloud.

"When Patrick came to me, I could see the future."

Patrick is from the same country as Thomas, coming to America just a few years prior. He works as a caseworker to welcome refugees to Iowa and helps them resettle, pursue their goals, and navigate the challenges of an entirely foreign place.

"I immigrated here, like Thomas. It's rewarding to welcome somebody like me to come here to Iowa. This is my second home," said Patrick.


Patrick admires how courageous, open-minded, and curious Thomas is. He encourages his client to dream big and work hard to achieve his goals.

"Life is about helping each other," shared Patrick.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Alter Guild: Communion Bread: Carrie Eiklenborg			1 New Year's Day	2 Yoga- 5:15p.m	3 Quilters: 9 a.m— 1 p.m	4 Luther League Cans Team 1 & Team 2— 10:30am
5 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 11:00 worship	6 Stewardship & Finance Com- mittee: 7p.m (if needed)	7 Quilters: 9 a.m— 1 p.m Pastor's Text Study: 11:00 a.m Yoga- 5:15	8 Luther League: 6:30-7:30pm: Group meeting in Allison with meal at 6PM	9 WELCA Circle: 9:00a.m Yoga- 5:15p.m Worship & Evan- gelism: 6:30p.m	10 Quilters: 9 a.m— 1 p.m	11
12 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:00 Sunday school 10:00 WELCA MTG 11:00 worship Luther League trip MTG- Time TBD	13	14 Quilters: 9 a.m— 1 p.m Pastor's Text Study: 11:00 a.m Yoga- 5:15	15 Community Meal: 5:30-6 3rd- 6th Grade: 6:15-7 Confirmation- 6:30	16 Yoga- 5:15p.m	17 Quilters: 9 a.m— 1 p.m	18 Luther League Cans Team 1- 10:30
19 9:00 Worship 10:00 Annual Meeting Church Council meeting after Annual meeting 11:00 worship	20 Prayer Shawl Ministry- 1:00p.m	21 Quilters: 9 a.m— 1 p.m Pastor's Text Study: 11:00 a.m Yoga- 5:15	22 Confirmation- 6:30	23 Yoga- 5:15p.m	24 Quilters: 9 a.m— 1 p.m	25
26 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship 10:00 Sunday school 11:00 worship	27	28 Quilters: 9 a.m— 1 p.m Pastor's Text Study: 11:00 a.m Yoga- 5:15	29 Confirmation- 6:30	30 Yoga- 5:15p.m	31 Quilters: 9 a.m— 1 p.m	

St. Peter Lutheran Church
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Greene, IA 50636

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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.