

St. Peter Lutheran Church

[Evangelical Lutheran Church in America]

324 E. Traer St., PO Box 638

Greene, Iowa 50636



Sunday Outdoor Worships

OCTOBER 2020

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

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St. Peter Lutheran Church - Greene, IA Unofficial Council Minutes, September 2, 2020

Members Present via Zoom or in person: Esther Backer, John Ebensberger, Carrie Eiklenborg, Kelly Hoodjer, Erin Mulder, Jan Osier, and Chuck Thompson. **Members Absent:** Clarene Backer, David Crow, Andrea Gotto and William Schmidt. **Also Present:** Robin Majewski, Gale Brinkman (Treasurer) and Christin Flucke. **Devotions:** Pastor Daniel read from Romans 12:4-8. We all have different gifts, each in attendance were asked to share what they feel is one of their gifts. We are reminded to use the gifts that you have been given and give encouragement to others about their gifts. **9th Grade Confirmands:** Tanner Arjes, Kirsten Hawker, Reagan Mulder and Emma Wedeking. Not present (but sent a video): Jack Hanson. Each confirmand introduced themselves, read their confirmation Bible verse and explained why they chose that verse. Confirmation will be Sunday, September 20th at 9:30 during the next outdoor service held at the Community Center. *Chuck made a motion to accept these confirmands as adult members of the church. Carrie 2nd. M/C* **Secretary's Minutes:** Carrie made a motion to accept the secretary's report. Chuck 2nd M/C **Church Vision:** Council members continue to read the book, "Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive". This month chapters 6-11 were read. Pastor sent members a discussion guide about each chapter to help with our discussion time. **Additions to Agenda: Building and Grounds:** Did not meet as a group **A.** The asbestos tile flooring in the Parsonage basement will be removed. **B.** Special thank you to Gary Schmidt for stepping up to keep the church clean & maintenance done while Erin & Kris were not able to do it. **Education and Youth: A.** The 3rd graders will be receiving their Bibles on September 20th. **B.** New Bibles were also ordered from Sparkhouse for the 7th & 8th graders that are more age appropriate. **C.** Christin will contact Donna Wunsch about the cradle roll. **D.** Confirmation & Luther League will plan on meeting in person, following the school guidelines of social distancing and wearing masks. **E.** Sunday School will start on September 6th, with at-home packets and also videos will be shared. Currently 41 have signed up for Sunday School. **Stewardship and Finance:** Did not meet **Worship and Evangelism:** Did not meet **Personnel:** Met Wednesday, August 12th and elected Deanne Martzahn as the new chair. The committees will soon be receiving the employee evaluations for this year. A binder in the church office will be used to keep personnel committee information. The completed evaluations are in a locked box in the office. *Motion made by Kelly to accept committee reports. John 2nd. M/C.* **WELCA:** Will not meet in September or October

Youth & Children's Ministry: A. There are 15 total 7th & 8th grade students for confirmation. Classes will alternate weeks in person to reduce the numbers in contact with each other. On weeks when a grade is not meeting in person, there will be a take-home learning assignment. **B.** Christin reported that on September 2 a parent & student meeting was held. **C.** Luther League will meet every other week starting on September 6th following all guidelines. **D.** Christin is thinking about having Zoom confirmation parent meetings. She also is available anytime others need to talk to her.

Pastor's Report: A. Worship will continue with Saturday night service at 6:00 pm and Sunday worship at 9:30 am. Communion will be available at every service. *Erin made a motion to keep these service times for the time being. Esther 2nd. M/C* **B.** Weather permitting, it was decided to have outdoor worship on Sunday mornings from September 20th until October 11th. Pastor Daniel will check with Andrea to see if the Community Center will be available on these dates. *Carrie made a motion to have the outdoor services. Jan 2nd M/C* **C.** The Worship Committee will check into special music. **D.** Because of Covid19, the YAGM program is not sending out missionaries until next year. Per the advice of Pastor Mark Anderson at the Synod office, our giving will go to support Pastors Rachel Esketen and Zach Courter who are serving in Hungary as the regional coordinators for Central Europe YAGMs and as missionaries. **E.** Starting on Tuesday, September 22nd via Zoom, Pastor Daniel will have Adult Education classes weekly from 8:30-9:30pm. There are 8 showing interest so far. **F.** Thank you to Sandra Schucknecht, Dennis Griffin and Owen Almeliem for their music at the outdoor service. **G.** Thank you to Mary Brinkman for providing communion bread for the services. *Motion by John to accept Pastor's report. Kelly 2nd. M/C*

Treasurer's Report: A. Gale has been checking CD rates for the Goyer Scholarship. Iowa State Bank in Clarksville has the best rate for a 12 month CD at .93%. *Jan made a motion to purchase the Goyer Scholarship CD with this rate & term. Carrie 2nd. M/C* **B.** It was suggested to update the "wish list" for memorial funds received. A sub-committee will be formed. *Kelly made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Esther 2nd. M/C*

Old Business: A. The steeple leak will be tabled until the October meeting, as William was not able to be at this meeting. **B.** Andrea was checking with Mike Steinkruger to see if there is anything else that is needed for the Care Center such as I-pads and tablets. This is tabled until the October meeting as Andrea was not able to be at this meeting. **C.** There is still a good supply of COVID supplies at the church.

New Business: A. Keith Christensen and Dawn Dienes-Christensen have transferred their membership from Decorah Lutheran Church to St Peter. *Esther made a motion to accept their transfer. Carrie 2nd. M/C* **Other Business: A.** A reminder that Council meetings will start at 7:30 in October. *Esther made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Chuck 2nd. M/C* Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

**St. Peter Lutheran Church
Financial Report
September 21, 2020**

	Ending Balance
Current Fund Balance	\$21,767.07
Current Fund Amount in MMD	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$21,767.07
 Other Fund Balances	
Benevolence and Mission	\$1,404.06
Building and Repair	-\$3,101.64
Basement Windows	\$3,899.00
Fellowship	\$2,019.80
Thrivent Choice	\$3,629.00
Restoration	\$20,681.49
Missionary Support	\$730.00
AED	<u>\$450.00</u>
	<u>\$29,711.71</u>
 Bank Balance	
Checking	\$30,399.60
Money Market	<u>\$21,079.18</u>
TOTAL BANK	<u>\$51,478.78</u>
 Goyer Scholarship	 \$2,217.32
McCosh - Gift of Love	\$1,023.83
PPP - Loan	\$0.00

On Stewardship

“The secret of contentment is the realization that life is a gift, not a right. Next to faith, this is the highest art — to be content with the calling in which God has placed you.” —Martin Luther

As soon as the word spread, the people of Israel gave in abundance the first fruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. —2 Chronicles 31:5

LSI Article

Warming Hearts with God’s Love and a Good Pair of Mittens

Far too often, children arrive at LSI’s Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers with very little in their possession.

We give thanks for Iowa congregations who faithfully respond to these needs, year after year! As winter approaches, LSI relies on your loving support to meet the demands for winter apparel for children at Beloit and Bremwood. Youth in residential treatment have little control over their lives, so it’s important for us to give them the opportunity, when possible, to choose their new coat or mittens. Because of this, we ask that you please not donate articles of clothing. With your generous financial donation, many children will have the simple joy of choosing their new coat, knowing that they are loved and cherished.

If you would like 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 also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. 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 www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

St. Peter Lutheran OCTOBER Birthdays

1 - Alexis Stirling,
Channing Wunsch
2 - James Schafer
3 - Letha Brinkman,
Nancy Reser,
Judy Steere
4 - Kelvin Menken,
Steve Otto,
David Shultz,
Dennis Wedeking
5 - Jacob Spratt,
Carolyn Thompson
6 - Bev Christensen,
Elizabeth Lefferts,
Alex Otto
7 - Tyler Blong,
Dennis Griffin
8 - Carol Arjes,
Tim Joeegen

9 - Madison Clipperton,
Dustin Murray,
Marilyn Reid
10 - John McRoberts
12 - Bridget Bollman,
Courtney Weiskamp
13 - Madison Ralls,
Emma Towsley
14 - Collin Stark
16 - Brian Uhlenhopp
17 - Caroline Schafer,
David Warner
19 - Jackson Shultz
20 - Shelby Gallagher,
Jane Innes,
Glenn Landers,
Dallas Testroet
21 - Jeff Wunsch,
Paul Yerkes

22 - Reed Christensen,
William Martin
24 - Briley Behnke,
Jason Landers
26 - Kelly Zurcher
28 - Jan Austin
30 - Jared Feldman,
Miranda Joeegen
31 - Reformation Day
Margaret Johnson,
Richard Siemons,
Clint Steere
Angelus Young



OCTOBER - Communion Schedule

6:00 pm - Saturday, October 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st

9:30 am - Sunday, October 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th

Home Communion

Please call the church office and schedule a time for Pastor to come to you with Holy Communion.

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



Photo Release



From time to time our members may have their pictures taken or be videotaped during major events. If you do not want your picture shared on Facebook or on our Website, please contact the church office so we can be sure to honor your wishes. Thank you!

Mission Action LWR

Volunteers are needed for sewing quilt tops. You don't have to do fancy patterns. LWR quilts just need to be 60" wide & 80" long. You can pick up material from the closet in the old basement at church.

Volunteers are also needed for tying of quilts in January and February of 2021. Men and women both are encouraged to come and help. We will meet in the old basement area on Tuesday and Friday; there is a morning coffee break and a noon potluck. January dates are: 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29. February dates are: 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26. We work from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.; come when you can and leave when you must. **NO SCHOOL means there will no quilting** that day; we don't want anyone out in bad weather. When you're out shopping, at rummage sales, at Goodwill, at auctions, or just sorting through things at home, keep in mind we can use any of the following items both for quilting and for making up various kits: Old blankets, bed spreads, mattress pads, sheets, curtains, drapes, table cloths, jeans, adult or teen age clothing, material of any size (new or used), yarn for tying quilts, any colored thread to sew around quilts once tied, crochet thread #10 for tying, School Kit, or Baby Care Kit items. **WE ALWAYS NEED SHEETS or LARGE PIECES OF MATERIAL THAT CAN BE MADE INTO QUILT BACKS.**

RE: Items for kits -- Check Page 15 and Page 16 of the WELCA Events Booklet (2020-2021) if you have one.

DONATIONS can be placed in the plastic tote in fellowship hall, or on tables near closets in old basement. Whatever you can do in connection with the quilting and/or kit projects DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE and is appreciated.

St. Peter WELCA

ALTAR FLOWERS: October - Faith Circle

WELCA CALENDAR

Senior citizen meals coordinator - Mary Brinkman

October 19th - Prayer Shawl Ministry - 3:00 pm

St. Peter WELCA

Thank you to all WELCA ladies for the Fall Ingathering donations that we have received to help with our ministry to our church and others. If you have not made a donation and wish to help contribute to WELCA's outreach ministry. Donations can still be mailed or left at the church.





Always Reforming

“Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen” Ephesians 3:20-21

Ask anyone what holiday is on October 31, and the answer will likely be Halloween. But for us as Lutherans, October 31 is also Reformation Day, the anniversary of Martin Luther posting his *95 Theses* and beginning the Protestant Reformation. One Latin slogan often connected to this day is *Ecclesia semper reformanda est* — “the church is always being reformed.”

For the last couple months, (as astute readers of this newsletter may have noted) the church council has been reading together the book, *Autopsy of a Dying Church*, by Thom S. Rainer. By looking at 14 closed church congregations, Rainer identifies twelve common threads contributing to their demise.

Now, your council reading this book does not mean we think our church is dying! Exactly the opposite: The purpose of an autopsy is to help the living, not the dead. The idea is to avoid the traps the dying congregations fall into, so that St. Peter can remain a vibrant, lively congregation serving God and proclaiming Jesus here in Greene for decades and centuries to come.

The capital-C Church which is the Body of Christ active in the world is in no danger of dying. As Jesus promised in Matthew 16:18, even the gates of hell cannot prevail against the Church built on Jesus Christ. Hebrews 13:8 assures us, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” The Church is animated by the Holy Spirit, and God’s work cannot be stopped. Individual church congregations, however, are always in need of reforming in order to avoid death and more importantly, to continue the work of ministry to which God calls them.

The biggest takeaway I’ve found from Dr. Rainer’s book is the importance of looking outward and focusing on our mission. God has called us here to be a church, to be the Body of Christ in the world. The church is here for a reason: To offer hope to the world through Jesus Christ. We’re here for the benefit of our neighbors, not for our own benefit. When churches lose sight of their mission of spreading the good news of the Gospel, they lose their identity and eventually die.

As we remember Martin Luther’s work of reforming the church and calling it (us!) back to focus on God’s grace shown in Jesus Christ, I challenge you to think about both our congregation’s purpose and mission and your role in our congregation and its mission.

The founder of Amazon.com, Jeff Bezos, famously describes every day at the company he founded as “Day One.” By that, he means that it’s what’s next that matters. Rather than getting hung up on what they’ve accomplished as a company, he wants his employees to focus on what’s ahead, to constantly adapt to the challenges of a changing world.

I wonder what it would look like to think of today as “Day One” in our church congregation? The Church has been around for 2,000 years—that’s less than a blink in the context of eternity! What if, as we move through the pandemic and all its disruptions, and through all the societal change around us, instead of wondering when we’ll get back to “normal,” we look for where God is calling us to reform? Where might God be calling us to try something new in order to fulfill our mission as church?

In Christ,

-Pastor Daniel Flucke

Missionary Update

This year, St. Peter is supporting Pastors Zach Courter and Rachel Eskesen, married ELCA missionaries serving in Hungary. Offering money designated to "Missionary" is split between their ministry as Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program coordinators in Central Europe and Mary Beth & Bayo Oyebade's mission work in Nigeria. Here's an update from Pastor Zach's newsletter:

We Miss You. We Really Miss You.

Seriously though, we miss you. Calling these hard times for us all is really saying the least. These days are unprecedented. You may know that we were planning to visit many of you in person this Spring and Summer. Sadly, we are unable to visit because of travel restrictions associated with the pandemic.

And yet, we're grateful for the ways we have been able to connect virtually—the sermons, the devotions, the emails—it's powerful to feel connected at a time like this.

It is my fervent prayer that we all feel the ways that we are connected to one another, even as these days we are living through require thoughtful distancing. May God's Spirit be working through us all—so that we may be reminded of our connections to one another and be sustained as we live out our faith. Amen.

Pastor Zach

Food Bank

Food Bank item for the month of October is Pork & Beans, Chili Beans and Kidney Beans. All donations are appreciated, we can use any food or paper items that are given to us.



PLEASE Notify Pastor Daniel, the church office or a church council member of any hospitalizations, health problems or any other concerns involving St. Peter's congregation members or families. We can't help, if we don't know.

Farmers and Workers!

Please be careful during the harvest season!

Care Notes

Check out the "Care Notes" in the fellowship hall for help in lots of occasions and circumstances in your life, from divorce to grief, to family troubles to teen problems. They are free. Take them and pass them on.

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

Mildred Senne

\$30.00 to the Prayer Shawl Ministry by
friends.



COUNCIL MEETING

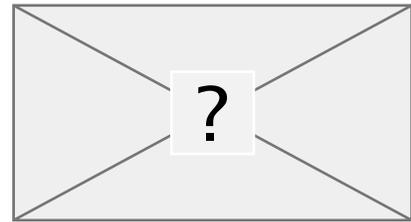
**Wednesday,
October 7th,
7:30 pm**



Altar Guild is in need of a couple people to fill some open spots on guild. If interested, please contact the church office.

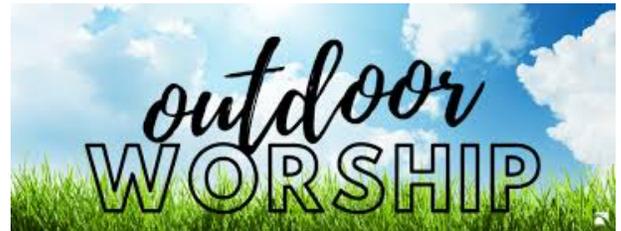


**Restoration Fund
St. Peter Lutheran Church**



We've Got Mail

For those of you who are not comfortable coming to church, but would still like to get the weekly bulletin. You're in luck, on Fridays after 12:00 pm you can pick up a bulletin (new ones will be put in each Friday). The bulletins are in the mailbox on the bench under the canopy in the back of the fellowship hall.



St. Peter Lutheran will be worshipping outdoors with communion at the Community Center parking lot in Greene on Sunday, September 27th and October 4th & 10th at 9:30 am. Please bring your lawn chairs or feel free to stay in your vehicle. Saturday worship will be in the fellowship hall at 6:00 pm.

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation

Oct. 7th - 8th grade, 6:15-7:30

Oct. 14th - 7th grade, 6:15-7:30

Oct. 21st - 8th grade, 6:15-7:30

Oct. 28th - 7th grade, 6:15-7:30

A virtual youth conference on
"Faith and Race"
will be hosted by UNI's Lutheran
Campus Ministry on
Sunday, October 18th at 7:00 pm.
More details coming soon!



10/9 - Madie Clipperton

10/13 - Madison Ralls



Let your light shine so
people everywhere may
see your good actions
and praise God in
heaven because of it.
Matthew 5:16

Can Sorting Schedule



A sign up sheet will be sent by
Christin via Remind to sign up
for a shift to sort cans this month.

*Please note that all youth ministry programming
for the fall is subject to change.
We will do the best we can to keep you updated on
what's happening as we go along.
Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we
continue to navigate this pandemic together!*

Luther League will meet
following worship on Oct. 4th
and at 7:00 pm on Oct. 18th.

There will be no Jr. High
Sunday School for the month
of October.

OCTOBER 2020 - St. Peter Lutheran Church

The Beauty of God's 'Fall' Harvest and Grace

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ushers and Lectors - Sign up at church to volunteer.			<u>Altar Guild:</u> Jennifer Hoodjer, Tanya Yerkes	1	2	3 6:00 pm Worship with Communion
4 9:30 am Worship with Communion	5 7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting	6	7 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Church Council meeting	8	9	10 6:00 pm Worship with Communion
11 9:30 am Worship with Communion	12	13	14 6:15 pm Confirmation	15	16	17 6:00 pm Worship with Communion
18 9:30 am Worship with Communion 10:30 am Building & Ground meeting	19 3:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	20 Senior Health Clinic	21 6:15 pm Confirmation	22	23	24 6:00 pm Worship with Communion
25 <i>Reformation</i> 9:30 am Worship with Communion	26	27	28 6:15 pm Confirmation	29	30	31 6:00 pm Worship with Communion <i>Departed Saints in Christ Remembered</i>