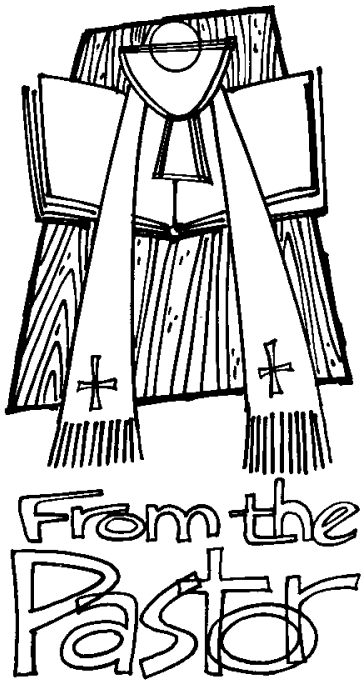


"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

Greetings friends in Christ, I hope this letter finds you well. I must say, I am enjoying this cooler weather. I am always ready to throw on a sweatshirt after wearing short sleeves all summer!

As we enter this season of celebrating and giving thanks (because why not start in October, right!) I would like to wrap up the last couple of newsletters I wrote about spiritual practices by telling you about a special space I created in the corner of my bedroom that helps me cast all my cares on God. It is nothing fancy; I simply used what I had in the house: an old bean bag and pillow, an end table, a small box to hold all my supplies such as my Bible, prayer books, bible study materials, and index cards. On the end table I have Post-its, a blessing jar with mood-based bible verses to spark devotional time, and a container to hold my writing utensils, because when you are a notebook addict like me, you can never have enough special markers and highlighters to go with them, LOL!

I decided to make this area because, at times, I find myself getting extremely anxious about the state of the world. Listening to stories about unexpected job loss, skyrocketing gas and healthcare costs, and budget stretching budgets, it is clear there are folks who are truly struggling right now. Sometimes, there are things in life that all I can do is pray through. These are things beyond my control. These are things that when I do step in, I approach them wrong. These are things that I don't have the faintest idea how to step into to make a positive change even if I wanted to. Now I am not saying that this is a superior form of prayer time because it isn't. God is always listening. This is just a designated place where I can shut off the noise of the world, bring what is weighing on my heart to God, and simply rest in God's promises.

Quite frankly, I smile every time I come into my room and see my new little space. A Post-it prayer on the wall here, my Psalm study there. And even when I am tired, I still find myself using it. Because when I cast all my anxiety on God, I don't have to carry it all myself. Sometimes, when life gets too hard to stand, the best thing we can do is kneel. And that is definitely something to be thankful for.

Peace,

Pastor ChyAnne

P.S. I wonder if this inspires you to create a little prayer space of your own. Maybe you already have one. Or, perhaps, it might be meaningful for you to have a quiet space in the church (besides the sanctuary) with devotional worksheets, spiritual practices, and prayer jars to interact with. A place where you can cast all your anxieties on the God who can hold them and walk with you through them all. Let us know if this is something that interests you ☺

St. Peter Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Present: Dawn Van Etten, Dixie Hughes, Phil Wahlgren, Carrie Eiklenborg, Dana Frerichs, Keith Christensen, Kelly Hoodjer, Matt Pittenger, Ryan Behnke, Pastor ChyAnne, Marilyn Wahlgren

1. Secretary's Minutes— Carrie moved; Keith seconded – motion passed to approve the secretary minutes.

2. Additions to the Agenda: none

3. Church Vision— Pastor

4. Treasurer's Report - Questions and suggestions from the finance committee were discussed regarding how certain accounts or line items should be listed, this will be addressed by Marilyn for future reports to properly show investments, cash, and earnings for the committee and council. Kelly moved; Keith seconded – motion passed to approve the Treasurer's Report.

5. Action Items:

    A. Solar Rebate - $13,698 Solar Rebate was received! It was clarified that this needs to go back to either the buildings/repairs or renovation account (whichever the original payment for the solar panel project funded by Schuknecht estate gift came from, since the tax "direct payment" to St. Peter was the result of that investment - also, it will be needed for upcoming sanctuary HVAC system update costs).
    B. Pastor's benefits 2027 - decided to stay with the current policy and factor the 15% increase into the 2027 budget.
    C. Church Mutual Insurance sent a Freeze Survey, Sexual Misconduct Policy, and Roof Survey to be completed by the end of the month.
    D. Funeral Policy - Some language was changed about honorariums, no exceptions, supersede, and resources.
    E. Synod suggestion for our Constitution- new language will be voted on at the annual meeting.
    F. Offering envelopes - for money saving purposes, please let the office know if you would like to continue to receive offering envelopes.
    G. Fellowship Sound System - Sound board could be updated and be run through a laptop. Carrie will contact Maximum Sound for suggestions and quotes.
    H. We received a $220 check after dissolving the Three Rivers Conference and will look into donating it back to the Tree of Life conference.

6. Pastor's Report

- Confirmation and L.L. Kick-off Party
- 1st confirmation lesson planned and executed.
- All the books and resources are purchased for our Adult Bible Study, first lesson in the works.
- Conference meeting in Waverly with area pastors
- Met with North Butler teachers and staff and showed them our space in case they need to

evacuate the school for any reason.

- Many phone calls and visits with members
- Backpack blessing, 3rd grade bibles, WE HAD A BAPTISM!!

7. Committee Reports

Building & Grounds - Crabapple tree from SE corner has been cut down and landscaping is being updated. Parsonage water softener might need to be replaced so Wix Water Works will send a quote. Parsonage toilets will be repaired and upgraded to save on the water bill. Suggestion to replace or rotate the pew cushions. Wiring is done for sanctuary mini-splits and we passed the electrical inspection.

Education & Youth - A few committee members met on Sunday, Sept.13th (3). Sunday School kickoff was on Sept. 13th.
We had 16 youth (3 year olds - 2nd grade) present. Youth Group will start on Wed. Sept. 23rd. Confirmation and Luther
League had a joint kick-off at the Back Nine on Sept. 9th. We are finalizing Christmas Program plans. The Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 20th. Luther League presented on the Detroit trip. Next LL trip will be July 25-31st. "Trick or Treat so Others can Eat" will happen on October 31st. Our next meeting is TBD.

Stewardship & Finance

Did not meet this month - but a reminder to all committees and council members to get their suggestions for projects (and cost) for the Memorial Giving List, plus 2027 budget adjustments/additions (items/amounts/edits). Committee would like these items before their next meeting (October 6) as requested at August council meeting.

Worship & Evangelism

- Chose hymns for September and October
- Discussed 2027 budget
- Discussed funeral, baptism, and wedding banners

Personnel - did not meet

Mutual Ministry - did not meet

WELCA - no report

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

8. Adjournment: Closed with the Lord's Prayer

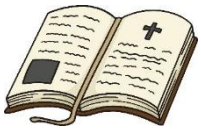
Next meeting is October 14 at 7:30

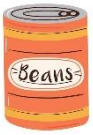
		ST PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH				
			August Financial Report			
			August 31, 2026			
			8/1/2026			8/31/2026
			Beginning			**Ending**
			Balance	**Receipts**	**Disbursements**	**Balance**
Current Fund Balance			$43,237.91	$25,321.64	-$18,972.42	$49,359.97
	Employee Withholding & Payroll Taxes			-$1,908.38	$1,681.22	
	Current Fund Amount in MMDA					$0.00
						$49,359.97
Other Fund Balances						
	Technology		$6,069.65	$0.00	-$2,304.03	$3,765.62
	Benevolence and Mission		$2,187.38	$890.72	-$890.72	$2,187.38
	Building and Repair		$4,462.16	$25.00	-$9.34	$4,477.82
	SG Windows		$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Fellowship		$3,198.45	$78.00	-$92.54	$3,183.91
	Thrivent Choice		$11,503.00	$410.00	$0.00	$11,913.00
	Restoration		$15,537.78	$380.00	$0.00	$15,917.78
	Missionary Support		$0.00	$320.00	-$320.00	$0.00
	Balcony Improvement		$3,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$3,000.00
	AED		$450.00	$0.00	$0.00	$450.00
			$46,408.42	$2,103.72	-$3,616.63	$44,895.51
Bank Balance					Transfered to MMDA	
	Checking		$42,620.34	Transfer from MM	$0.00	$47,197.54
				$0.00	Transfer to Ckg	
	Money Market 112		$47,025.99	Trans from Ckg + Int	$0.00	$47,057.94
			$89,646.33	$31.95	TOTAL BANK	$94,255.48
Goyer 442 Scholarship			$1,282.20	$1.32	$0.00	$1,283.52
McGosh 920 - Gift of Love			$1,277.26	$0.00	$0.00	$1,277.26
Companion Savings			$128,093.74	$0.00	$0.00	$128,093.74
YTD Revenue		$174,125.24	YTD Expenses	$189,628.91		

The primary way we learn about God is through reading God's Word, the Bible. When children are baptized, their parents and sponsors promise to "place in their hands the Holy Scriptures."

As a congregation, we promise to support families in the Christian education of their children. One of the ways we fulfill that promise is by presenting our third-grade students with their very own age-appropriate Bible. The 3rd Graders who received a Bible this year:

Briley Behnke
Case Frerichs





<u>October Food Bank Suggestion:</u>
Pork & Beans, Chili Beans, Kidney Beans

QR Giving Code:

Memorials Given:

$50.00 Judy Lau Memorials from family and friends.

Youth ACTIVITIES

Sunday School

3 year olds - 2nd Graders

During the month of October, Sunday School will meet on Sunday the 11th and Sunday the 25th from 10 to 11am. If you are interested in providing snacks a sign up sheet is available on the basement doors.

Youth Group

3rd - 6th Graders

Youth Group in October will be on the 7th and the 21st. Youth Group meets in the new basement from 6 to 7 pm. A community meal will be served prior to youth group.

Confirmation

7th - 8th Graders

Confirmation classes have begun! Class is held on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30pm.

Oct. 4th- Faith Maps @ 10 (9th graders)
Oct. 11th- Confirmation service planning @ 10 (9th graders)
Oct. 11th- Highway Clean-Up @ 11
Oct. 31st- Trick-or-Treat so others can eat! Meet @ 3:45

Luther League

High Schoolers

The next Luther League meeting is on October 7th at St. Peter. Cans prior to the meeting at 6pm for everyone. Food and meeting at 6:30pm.

Oct. 11th - Highway Clean-Up @ 11
Oct. 31st - Trick-or-Treat so others can eat! Gather @ 3:45 Fun, food, and bowling will follow at Freeze Frame.

Check Facebook or Remind for additional Luther League information.

Community Meal

St. Peter's Community Meals are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:15pm. A signup sheet to host a community meal is located on the bulletin board. Individual hosts, committees, or families are enrouaged to help furnish the meal. The sign-up for providing a meal is available in the Fellowship Hall. **Everyone is welcome!**

October 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!

October 4, 2026
9:00
Ushers: Matt & Emily Pittenger
Lector: Emily Pittenger
Communion: Matt Pittenger
11:00
Lector: Carol Barth
Communion: Carol Barth

October 11, 2026
9:00
Ushers: Kelly Hoodjer & Colton
Lector: Dixie Hughes
11:00
Lector: Betty Heitland

October 18, 2026
9:00
Ushers: Carrie Tidemanson & Kayden
Lector: Connie Yerkes
Communion: Eyla Sheppard
11:00
Lector: Carrie Eiklenborg
Communion: Carrie Eiklenborg

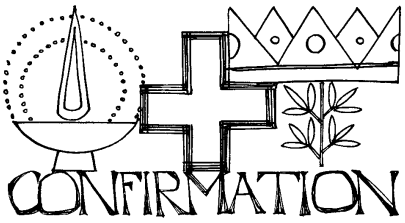
October 25, 2026- Reformation Sunday
10:00 only
Ushers: Roland & Deanne Martzahn
Lector: Dixie Hughes
Communion: Dixie Hughes

While our pastors need our prayers and support throughout the year, Pastor Appreciation Month is a special time for churches to make a point to honor their pastors and pastoral families for their service, commitment and spiritual example. Suggestions include: a card to tell him/her how their work has positively influenced your faith; consider your church giving, if your gifting is in line with what God has placed in your heart; serve your shepherd--volunteer a service to your pastor. Most importantly, commit to regular prayer--and include your pastoral family in your daily conversations with God. Many times we don't think to thank and support those who minister to us--they also need our support and love.

Special thanks to Pastor ChyAnne in all her hard work with us at St. Peter. We appreciate you everyday but especially during Pastor Appreciation Month.

October Birthdays

1- Alexis Cooley, Channing Heitland
2- James Schafer
3- Nancy Reser, Judy Steere, Matthew Pierce
4- Kelvin Menken, Steve Otto, David Shultz, Dennis Wedeking
5- Jacob Spratt
6- Bev Christensen, Elizabeth Lefferts, Alex Otto, Elias Vorhes, Amanda Allan
7- Tyler Blong
8- Tim Joebgen
9- Madison Clipperton, Dustin Murray
10- John McRoberts
12- Bridget Bollman, Courtney Weiskamp
13- Madison Ralls, Emma Towsley
14- Collin Stark
15- Elizabeth Penrod
16- Tesslynn Brandhorst, Brian Uhlenhopp
17- Caroline Schafer, David Warner
18- Sally Boomgarden
19- Jackson Shultz
20- Shelby Gallagher, Jane Innes, Dallas Testroet
22- Reed Christensen, William Martin
24- Briley Behnke, Jason Landers
26- Brea Loss, Kelly Zurcher
28- Jan Austin
30- Jared Feldman, Miranda Joebgen
31- Richard Siemons, Clint Steere, Angelus Young



Confirmation Sunday-
October 25 at 10:00 a.m.

We as Lutherans value the gift of education and learning about our Lord. Confirmation is a period of instruction where the baptized child learns more about God's love and purpose for their lives. Confirmation Sunday is their opportunity to affirm their promises made at their baptism. On Sunday, October 25th we will confirm the following youth in their personal faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior and Lord of their lives:

- ***Eisley Dralle***
- ***Kenadee McCormick***
- ***Maddex Pitzenberger***
- ***Lincoln Schroeder***
- ***Lila Shultz***
- ***Reagan Tidemanson***
- ***Emma Towsley***
- ***Elias Vorhes***
- ***Axel Pattison***

A Partnership between the Greene Food Bank and St. Peter Lutheran youth. Youth are asking Greene residents to support the project by purchasing non-perishable food items. On Oct. 31, youth will be going door to door to pick up donations from 5:00-7:00pm. St. Peter Youth mission is to be disciples of God through service to our community and the people around us.

Luther League and Confirmation students will meet at St. Peter at 3:50 p.m. on October 31. Reminder: You are welcome to dress up! We plan to go to Freeze Frame for supper and bowling at 7 p.m.

Country Time

Another year and another successful Country Time. A Total of 625 Meals were served. Thank you to the wonderful committee chairs. Thank you to all who gave donations and the amazing volunteers who worked to help make the day go smoothly. While County Time allows us to have a great meal, it is a great example of fellowship. It is so amazing to see how everyone works together and offers help to do whatever needs to be done. Thanks again. Betty Heitland

WELCA would like to recognize Betty Heitland for her hard work organizing and bringing to fruition another great Country Time. We appreciate all the extra time and hours Betty volunteers to make it such a successful event. Country Time would not be the same without her leadership! THANK YOU!

WELCA would also like to recognize the tireless efforts of all the volunteers who contribute their time, talents, donated food, and finances to create this wonderful meal so many appreciate. Through your efforts and hard work, WELCA is able to continue to help many through our Quilting, Operation Christmas Child, and Giving Tree. Funds raised go to many local and outreach organizations to help with needed expenses. These funds are also used to continue our WELCA Ministry at St. Peter's and go to individuals within our community who are facing hardships.

WELCA SAYS THANK YOU ALL!!!!

WELCA Committee: Connie Yerkes, Jeanette Miller, Betty Heitland, Julie Brinkman, Bev Christensen, Nancy Reser, and Dienna Schafer

We Are Growing: Welcoming a New Chapter of Service

We are excited to celebrate the continued growth of our ministry and our commitment to serving the Des Moines community!

Since July 1, 2026, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) has officially been operating the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families in Des Moines. This transition marks a new chapter for a Center that has been a cornerstone of opportunity, workforce development, financial empowerment, and family support for Central Iowa families and individuals since 2012.

In the caring spirit of its namesake, Evelyn K. Davis, the Center was established as a first-of-its-kind resource center to help unemployed, under-employed, and underserved residents of Central Iowa pursue their educational and career goals. Today, the Center serves thousands of Central Iowans each year through a wide range of programs and services designed to help individuals and families build stronger, more secure futures.

Through the Evelyn K. Davis Center, LSI provides resources and support including:

Financial Empowerment: The Polk County Financial Empowerment Center provides professional, confidential one-on-one financial counseling to Polk County residents at no cost.

Careers & Employability: Career Coaches are available to help individuals with their employment goals, including job searches, career development, and navigating new opportunities.

Men on the Move Clothing Closet: Community members can receive professional clothing for job interviews, career changes, and other occasions that require professional attire.

Iowa Opportunity Passport: This financial education and matched-savings program helps young people develop financial skills and make a successful transition to adulthood.

Small Business Solutions Center: Entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders can access business coaching and development assistance.

Y-ExCL: This paid, 10-week summer work experience helps young people ages 14–21 develop and strengthen valuable employment skills.

These programs reflect LSI's commitment to meeting people where they are and helping them discover pathways toward greater stability, independence, and opportunity. Last month, LSI celebrated this exciting transition with a public ribbon-cutting ceremony, bringing together community members, partners, supporters, elected officials, and friends of the Center to recognize its history and look ahead to its future.

We are grateful for the trust placed in LSI and for the opportunity to build upon the Center's important legacy. This new chapter allows us to expand our presence and service in Des Moines while continuing the work of helping our neighbors thrive.
We are thankful for where this work has been, excited about where it is today, and full of hope for what the future holds. What a wonderful example of how partnerships, compassion, and a commitment to serving our neighbors can strengthen our entire community!

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, 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.

October

Altar Guild: Jennifer Boyette Church Council: John Backer				1 -Bible Study- 6:30 p.m.	2	3
4 -9:00 a.m. worship -10:00 fellowship 10:00 Confirmation Faith Maps -11:00 worship -Pastor's Conference	5	6 -Yoga- 5:15 p.m -Worship- 6 p.m. -Stewardship & Finance- 7 p.m. -Pastor's Back	7 -Community Meal 5:30-6:15 p.m. -Youth Group 6 p.m. -Luther League 6:30 p.m.	8 -Women's fellowship at the coffee shop 9 a.m. -Bible Study- 6:30 p.m.	9	10 LWR In-Gathering 8-11 a.m.
11 -9:00 a.m. worship -10:00 fellowship -10:00 a.m. Sunday School -10:00 Confirmation prep/planning -11:00 worship -11:00 Highway Cleanup	12	13 -Yoga- 5:15 p.m	14 -Confirmation 6:30 p.m. -Church Council 7:30 p.m.	15 -Bible Study- 6:30 p.m.	16	17
18 -9:00 a.m. worship -10:00 fellowship -11:00 worship	19 -Prayer Shawl Ministry 3 p.m.	20 -Yoga- 5:15 p.m	21 -Community Meal 5:30-6:15 p.m. -Youth Group 6 p.m. -Confirmation 6:30 p.m.	22 -Bible Study- 6:30 p.m.	23	24
25 **Confirmation Sunday** -10:00 joint worship -10:00 a.m. Sunday School -11:00 fellowship	26	27 -Yoga- 5:15 p.m	28 -Confirmation 6:30 p.m.	29 -Bible Study- 6:30 p.m.	30	31 Trick-or-Treat so others Can eat- 3:45 p.m.

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

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GREENE, IA
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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.