

St. Petri Evangelical Lutheran Church
804 Grand Avenue
Story City, Iowa 50248-1417

The St. Petri Messenger

A publication of St. Petri Evangelical Lutheran Church

St. Petri Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

St. Petri Church Office Hours

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri
(Except Wed. afternoon)
Church Office Phone: (515) 733-4623
Email: stpetrilutheran@stpetri.org
Website: www.stpetri@stpetri.org

Pastor Tim Malek 515-598-6635
Missionaries Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke, Japan
Parish/Financial Secretary – Veronica W.
Custodian – Connie V.



2025

You can also view the newsletter online at www.stpetri@stpetri.org

ST. PETRI LUTHERAN CHURCH, STORY CITY, IA

AUGUST 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Every Sunday AM</u> (unless noted) 9:00a Worship Service 10:00a Coffee//Fellowship					1 Pastor's Day Off	2 <u>Riverside Bible Camp</u> 5K Race/Quilt Auction
3 10:15am Property/ Trustee Com mtg	4 10:30a Staff mtg.	5 9a-3p Bethany Quilters	6	7 ----- Pastor Tim Vacation 7 th -16 th -----	8	9
10 Communion	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00am Rolfe J. 90 th Birthday Celebration 10:15am Council mtg.		9a-3p Bethany Quilters		St. Petri to Fair		NO Women's Weekend Bible Study
17 Outdoor Worship	18 10:30a Staff mtg.	19 9a-3p Bethany Quilters	20 Sept. Newsletter articles due	21 2pm WELCA Bible Study	22 Pastor Day Off	23 8a-1p Theater Group We ♥ R-S
24 Communion Blessing of the Backpacks 10:15a New Testament Class-1 st Cor. 12-7p Children Theater 7p St. Petri Bike Ride 10a Coffee with the Council 31	25 ---- LWR Quilt making 9a-noon Mon-Wed ---- 10:30a Staff mtg. 1 st Day of School 	26 9a-3p Bethany Quilters	27	28	29 Pastor Day Off	30

St. Petri Messenger



AUGUST 2025



Pastor Tim Malek

Faith Seeking Understanding

"Be still, and know that I am God."
— Psalm 46:10

As August arrives, we find ourselves in that familiar space between the fullness of summer and the early hints of fall.

Gardens are producing, school supplies are appearing on store shelves, and there's a quiet shift in the air. For many, August feels like both a winding down and a gearing up.

In the life of St. Petri, it can be the same. Summer rhythms start to give way to preparations for fall ministries—confirmation classes, Sunday School, and community events. Yet before we rush ahead, I invite us all to take a breath. Psalm 46:10 says, *"Be still, and know that I am God."* It's a verse we often hear in moments of crisis, but I wonder if we might also hear it in moments of calm; in the stillness of an August morning, in the quiet of a shaded porch, in the hush of a sanctuary between Sundays.

God invites us into stillness not to escape, but to reconnect—to rest, to listen, to remember who we are and whose we are. So this month, I encourage you to claim

some stillness. Let your soul breathe. Open your heart in prayer, even if it's just a few quiet words. Give thanks for summer's gifts and ask God to prepare you for the seasons ahead.

And as always, know that St. Petri Lutheran church—your church—is here for you. Whether you're a lifelong member or just curious about faith, you are welcome here. We are a community shaped by grace, rooted in Scripture, and called to love our neighbors well. May your August be filled with peace, purpose, and a few holy pauses along the way.

Peace, Pastor Tim

St. Petri Day at the Iowa State Fair

Join Pastor Tim and other members of St. Petri at the Iowa State Fair on Thursday August 14th, we will meet up at the Anne and Bill Riley Stage at 9:00AM to participate in the Bubble Gum Blowing contest followed by the Pie Eating contest. Fun to participate in and fun to spectate. Competition is by age group. We will also grab lunch and eat in the vicinity of the Riley stage at 12:30PM when the Bill Riley Talent Search Semi-Finals begin. For those who might like to be involved in a physically challenging (lots of walking) event we might try to field a team for the Scavenger Hunt that begins at 1:00PM.

This is meant to be a casual, go where you want, do what you want day with a couple of opportunities to connect. Go to IowaStateFair.org for complete schedule information, including all the contests, judging and entertainment opportunities.



In July 2025

In Our Prayers

Jane B. (cancer), Linda F.,
Connie V. (recovering from knee surgery)

Hospitalized in July

In Memoriam

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Larry R., Paul W.,
Darlene P.

Prayers for those not near to us:

Patrick and Jacqueline Bencke, ELCA
Missionaries, Japan
Soldiers, Peace Workers, and
Humanitarian Aid Workers
Those in Ukraine and Russia



New Member Sunday was June 29th
and we recognized 8 new members!

They are:

Troy B.

Doris C.

Nathaniel & Kayla T.

Tatum, Talyn, Tessa, & Theodore

We are so glad to have you join our
St. Petri Family! ☺

St. Petri Office Hours

Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
(except Wednesday afternoon)



BIRTHDAY INVITATION

You are cordially invited for “Coffee and
Treats” following worship on August 10th.
And whose birthday is being celebrated!?
PASTOR ROLFE is turning 90!

Margaret J.



WELCA Report

August 21 2pm WELCA Circle Bible
Study. All women welcome!
August 25-27 9a-noon Quilt making

**No Saturday Weekend Women's Bible
Study in August.**

YOU ARE INVITED!

On the fourth Sat of the month of
September (Sept 27), at 8:00am, the
Saturday Womens' Bible study starts a
new unit. It's a perfect time to join us as
we start to study the book of Genesis.
For questions, text or call Debra at 320-
905-9510.



NOTICE:

Men's Bible Study will resume this Fall.

ADULT NEW TESTAMENT CLASS

Sunday August 24 at 10:15am, we will
study First Corinthians. Please read ahead
of time, but come regardless it will be
informative.



St. Petri volunteers to serve the Wednesday lunch for the Senior Citizens in August at the Story City Community Center at 503 Elm Ave. There is a signup sheet outside the church office with more details.

We have an opportunity to participate in the community event

“We ♥ Roland Story”

on August 23 from 3-6p in the north park. We will be serving hot dogs and lemonade. If you are available and would like to help serve, there will be a Signup Genius available. We will post that link when it becomes available. You can also email Ann Healy at ahaley1201@gmail.com and we will get you signed up. This is a great high school volunteer project also! Thanks for your support!



ST. PETRI BIKE RIDE

Sunday August 24 at 7:00pm, we will meet in the church parking lot and bike a leisurely two or three mile ride culminating in a stop at Dairy Queen.

If you would like to view St. Petri's newsletters online, go to: www.stpetri.org

OUR MISSION

We are disciples of **Jesus Christ**, called to grow in Christ and to invite all to follow him.



AUGUST

Aug. 3: Alica B., Alana T.
 Aug. 6: Rolfe J., Steve P.
 Aug. 8: Hope B.
 Aug. 9: Debra H.; Leland S.
 Aug. 10: Micah A., Jackson H.,
 Chris R., Katie T.
 Aug. 11: Erick H.
 Aug. 12: Cole B., Mike H.
 Aug. 13: Tom F., Jacob S.
 Aug. 16: Connie D.
 Aug. 20: Jamie V.
 Aug. 21: Jaye A.
 Aug. 22: Gradin B., Justin P.
 Aug. 25: Jessica B., Tim C.
 Aug. 27: Cynthia D.
 Aug. 28: Michaela F.
 Aug. 29: Trent M., Peter O.
 Aug. 30: Jennifer K.



We will be blessing backpacks at worship on **Sunday, August 24th** (so don't forget to bring your backpack!)

NOTE:

The deadline to turn in information for the September newsletter is Wednesday, August 20th.

AUGUST C.A.R.E. GROUP 2025

CARE Group 1 Leaders
Mardell C., Karen M.

Dale & Kay A.	Jon & Brenda C.
Travis & Kara D.	Jerry & Gloria D.
Cheryl E.	Virginia E.
Alan & Brandie G.	Adam & Sarah H.
Brian & Deb H.	Anne H.
Brian J.	Lance & Angie K.
Ben K.	Jennifer L.
Marc & Colleen L.	Paul M.
Carmen P.	Larry & Denice R.
Leland & Erin S.	



SEPTEMBER C.A.R.E. GROUP 2025

CARE Group 2 Leader
Ann H.

Martha A.	Tim & Amy C.
Carol F.	Erick & Paige H.
Garrett & Sierra H.	Kyle & Nicole H.
Mike H.	Jeff & Callie H.
Barb H.	Roger & Nancy H.
Lorna H.	Nancy J.
Rolfe & Margaret J.	Kevin & Diana K.
Mary N.	Darlene P.
Steve & Mary P.	Ron & Glenda R.
Ryan & Katie T.	Hubert & Gloria T.

Hi, it's Church Mouse!



I'm fascinated that everytime I check our little free pantry that's outside the west door, there is always a different variety of food things in there. It looks so interesting!

But it is no mystery that so many of you served or brought food to the Community Meal at Loaves and Fishes. It was operating like a well-oiled machine.

*My heart is full,
Church Mouse*



St. Petri has a YouTube Channel

We post videos past events and services...
We hope to post more church-related events in the future.

You can find the YouTube Channel at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC44o0DUzQrLYR7CEJBHCegQ>

Questions? Please contact:

Abby & Tim Patterson or Angie & John Hinz.



Come check out the books at
St. Petri's new Library Book Shelf
In the fellowship hall!



ST. PETRI MEMBERS



If you have a new address, phone number, or email address, please contact the church secretary so we can update our records and send you our monthly newsletter.

515-733-4623 or
stpetrilutheran@gmail.com



**The McCallsburg Lions Club
SWEET CORN AND
BOLOGNA**

Monday, August 4, 2025

4:30-7pm

at the American Legion Hall in
McCallsburg, IA

Adults \$10; Kids 5 and under \$5

Sweet corn, bologna, coleslaw,
watermelon, desserts, drinks

Donations of use eyeglasses and
hearing aides gladly accepted.



**Bethany Life Pie
Bakers Needed!**

Bethany Life is
hosting a State
Fair Day on
August 11th for
their residents

and they would love to treat them to a
delicious assortment of homemade
pies!

We're wondering if you (or members of
your congregation/group) might be
willing to **donate a few pies** to help
make this day extra special. Any kind —
apple, cherry, blueberry, cream — would
be greatly appreciated.

It's a simple way to bring joy and a taste
of summer tradition to those we serve,
and we'd be so grateful for your
kindness and support.

If you're interested or have questions,
please let me know by August 7, so we
can plan accordingly. We're also happy
to arrange a convenient time for drop-off.
Thank you so much for considering this
sweet way to bless our residents!

Warm regards,

Arizza Lynn Lynch, Affordables Manager
& Foundation Assistant

515-733-3058

Arizza.lynch@bethanylife.org

www.bethanylife.org

**RIVERSIDE LUTHERAN
BIBLE CAMP EVENTS**



**For more info and to register for
events, please contact us.**

Website: www.riversidelbc.org

Email: rlbc@riversidelbc.org

Office phone: 515-733-5271

5K/QUILT AUCTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025

Riverside Bible Camp is excited to host
their biggest supporting event of the year!
From our 5K run/walk, open swimming at
the pool, outdoor worship, delicious lunch,
and our live viewing of hundreds of
handmade quilts (bidding online).

Schedule:

7:30-8:15am 5K Walk/Run Registration
and Check-In

8:30am 5K Walk/Run

8:00am-11:00am Live viewing of all quilts
in the Chapel

9:30-11:30a Pool open for 5K participants

10:30am Outdoor Worship

11:00am LIVE auction begins in Chapel

Noon -2pm – Lunch served in the
Dining Hall (freewill offering)

1-3pm – Pool open for families who LOVE
Riverside!

1:00pm – Online auction begins to close
and live watch party in the Chapel

Join us for a day dedicated to supporting
the work God is continuing to do through
Riverside!

GOLF CLASSIC

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

Our annual Riverside Fall Golf Classic will be at
the Coldwater Golf Links in Ames!

Come enjoy great food and great fellowship, with
the whole day devoted to supporting the mission
and ministry of Riverside!

**LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA
NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2025**
Your support makes this Testimony possible...

A New Beginning: Carmen's Journey to Safety and Self-Reliance

Carmen Ortiz was born in Charco, Nariño, Colombia. At 11, her family relocated to Buenaventura, where she finished high school & watched her father build a small business. Violence in the region forced the family to move again—this time to Bogotá, in search of safety & stability.

In Bogotá, Carmen reconnected with a childhood friend who became her life partner. Together, they launched Fruteria, a fruit-selling business Carmen successfully operated for 17 years. During that time, she became a mother to her son, Adiel Jesús.

In 2023, violence again disrupted their lives. Fearing for their safety, Carmen & Adiel fled to Ecuador & applied for asylum through the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Life in Ecuador was hard.

"We were homeless. I had to sleep with my son under a bridge," she recalls. "He got sick & had to be hospitalized."

After more than a year, IOM helped process their immigration status and arranged travel to the U.S. In July 2024, they arrived in Houston—exhausted, hungry, & unsure of what came next. The guide assigned to help them was rarely available. Desperate for help & food, Carmen approached airline staff to ask about a delayed flight.

"We were so hungry. I just wanted to know when our flight would leave & instead, three employees brought us full meals. I started to cry. I had just arrived, & people were already helping me."

Their flight to Des Moines departed at midnight & landed at 2 a.m., where they were welcomed by Chuck, a caseworker from LSI. He brought them to a hotel, where Carmen remembers feeling overwhelmed.

"I was scared & confused. I remember thinking: Are we safe? Are we okay?"

Sixteen days later, LSI helped Carmen & Adiel move into their first apartment. From that point, life began to change. Carmen enrolled in English classes, received assistance with legal paperwork, healthcare, & food and soon found two jobs: at Sam's Club & Des Moines Public Schools.

"I'm incredibly grateful. LSI helped me with everything."

But life without a car in a Midwestern winter was difficult. Carmen walked long distances through the snow, waited for buses, or spent \$60 a week on rideshares, just to get to work & get her son to school. During a routine check-in, Carmen's caseworker Shaima heard about these challenges & referred her to Duaa, an IDA Specialist at LSI. Duaa introduced her to the matched savings program, which helps participants purchase essential assets—like a car—thru financial education & support.

"I'd wake up my son very early so we could catch the school bus from our old address. Then I'd rush to work & still be late."

Carmen had already saved \$2,000 on her own, knowing a car would be vital for her family's stability. Through LSI's Individual Development Accounts program, she opened an account at Veridian Credit Union, completed budgeting & asset-specific classes, & received one-on-one coaching from Juan Lourido, Business Development Specialist at LSI. Juan helped her understand financing, credit, & how to identify reliable used cars online. With his help, Carmen purchased a safe, fuel-efficient 2015 Toyota Prius that fits her family's needs & budget. "I never thought I could buy a car especially one that was safe & good quality. It means everything to me."

She also opened a secured \$500 credit card to begin building her credit history.

"These classes helped me prepare for when income slows down in the summer.

I feel independent now, especially with the car."

Today, Carmen is preparing for her driving test, building a new life, & planning for the future.

"When we left Colombia, we were running from threats & violence. Now I'm getting used to a new life, looking for opportunities to grow, maybe buy a house, & support my son's education."

When asked to describe her journey in one word, she answers without hesitation:

"Apoyo" — Support.

Give By Mail

Lutheran Services in IA

3125 Cottage Grove Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311

For more info, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Dir. of Philanthropy & Church Relations:
Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org; 563-676-2065



Conclusions from the Survey for the Church Sign Replacement or Updating

1. A majority of the members responding wished to have the Church Sign in the same place as it is currently. Reusing the old sign foundation would save money.
2. The members that responded on moving the church sign suggested the sign be moved further south on the property, and possible set at an angle. Very small response.
3. A majority of the members responding wished to have the brick/mortar flower locations at the south end removed. This removal would be greatly appreciated by both the snow removal crew and the lawn mowing crew. Also, the members who water the flowers have a lot of work watering the flowers with the small amount of dirt in the planters.

Comments in point 4 and 5 are interrelated in regards to the type of sign desired as a replacement.

4. A smaller majority of the members responding wished to have a brick and mortar sign as we currently have with replaceable letters and in sign lighting.
5. A larger majority of the members responding wish to have an electronic sign that changes messages and can be updated by wifi from the office.
6. Most members responding were willing to participate in fundraising for a new church sign.
7. Most members agreed with the \$5,-10,000 electrical update to support the sign update.
8. Most members agreed with the \$25-35,000 sign update price estimates.
9. Most members agreed with the June 2026 project start date.

Patrick R. Murken, Trustee Chairperson





Coffee with the Council

Sunday, August 31st at the 10:00am coffee time.

Come learn what the council has been doing

and ask any questions you have. ☺

St. Petri Lutheran Church Council Meeting Approved Minutes June 8, 2025

Present: Angie R.-H., Travis D., Rick S., Angie S., Ann H., Abby P., Pastor Tim Malek
Absent: Pat M. and Kelsey O.

Meeting called to order at 10:22 a.m. Angie R-H offered Devotions.

Angie S. presented the April Minutes for approval. Ann made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Travis seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

Rick presented the Treasurer's Report. He presented the April checks written and the April journal entries. Ann made a motion to accept the April financial information as presented; Travis seconded. No discussion. Motion passed. Rick then presented the May checks written and the May journal entries. Ann made a motion to accept the May financial information as presented; Travis seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

Rick noted that after doing a ten-year financial comparison that this is the first time the church has been in the black in May and that the church's income is at its highest. Ann requested that monies from the Lenten suppers be moved to the Dinner and Special Events fund. Angie S. made a motion to relocate the funds; Abby seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

Pastor made the Council aware of several issues at the Parsonage. The dishwasher and the clothes washer were recently replaced for a total around \$1,200. One dehumidifier in the house was replaced last year and the other one needs to be replaced. He also noted that the light/exhaust fan in the master bedroom needs to be replaced. There was discussion about using Renew and Restore funds for

these projects. There was also discussion about canceling the monthly maintenance/repair contract and putting that money into a fund to handle future repairs.

Pastor listed new members to be received June 29th. Ann will get baskets ready to give to new members June 29th. Ann made a motion to accept the new members to be received; Abby seconded. No discussion. Motion passed. Additional discussion included the Council being informed that Connie V. will have a knee replacement June 24th and will be off work six or seven weeks. Angie R-H will put out chore sign-up sheets for members to help out while Connie is away. Pastor Tim's review has been scheduled for Sunday, June 29 at 11 a.m.

No report from Pat or Ann.

No report from Kelsey though it was noted that, instead of Vacation Bible School, the church will sponsor two "Fun Nights" in July.

Abby reported outdoor worship services will be held the third Sunday of the month in June, July and August. She said hymns have been selected for June, July and August.

No New Business or review of church policies.

Another Community Meal is being planned for the next time St. Petri serves at Loaves and Fishes, Saturday, July 19.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Stover

St. Petri Lutheran Church Contributions - General Fund

Income/Expense for June -\$592.64
2025 YTD \$4,506.32