

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 Wright
Custodian – Deb Lancaster



2026

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

ST. PETRI LUTHERAN CHURCH, STORY CITY, IA

AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Every Sunday AM</u> (unless noted) 9:00a Worship Service 10:00a Coffee//Fellowship					Fridays are Pastor's Day Off	1 <u>Riverside Bible Camp</u> 5K Race/Quilt Auction
2	3 10:30a Staff mtg.	4 5:30p Property/ Trustee Mtg.	5 10:15a-noon St. Petri serves Wed. Sr. Citizen Lunch 5-7:30p Summer Fun Nite	6	7	8
9 Communion 10:15am Council mtg.	10 10:30a Staff mtg.	11	12 10:15a-noon St. Petri serves Wed. Sr. Citizen Lunch	13 Pastor Tim Vacation Day	14	15 NO Women's Weekend Bible Study
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	----- Pastor Tim Vacation 17 th -22 nd -----					
			10:15a-noon St. Petri serves Wed. Sr. Citizen Lunch	Sept Newsletter articles due 2pm WELCA Bible Study		
23 Communion Blessing of the Backpacks	24 1st day School ---- LWR Quilt making 9a-noon Mon-Wed ---- 10:30a Staff mtg.	25	26 10:15a-noon St. Petri serves Wed. Sr. Citizen Lunch	27	28	29 1-4p We ♥ R-S <i>St. Petri serves hot dogs & lemonade</i>
10a Coffee with the Council 30	10:30a Staff mtg. 31					

St. Petri Messenger



AUGUST 2026



Pastor Tim Malek

Faith Seeking Understanding

As we move into August, there is something beautiful about this season. The fields surrounding us are maturing, gardens are producing an abundance of vegetables, and many of us are preparing for harvest. Everywhere we look, we are reminded that God is a generous provider. The words of our current offering prayer have stayed with me:

"Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance."

These words remind us that what God desires most is not simply the gifts we place in the offering plate, but the gifts of our hearts. God invites us to come to the table with gratitude, trust, compassion, and hope. We bring our joys and our worries, our successes and our disappointments, knowing that Christ welcomes us all the same.

The phrase "take heart in you" especially speaks to me. It is easy to lose heart. News headlines can be discouraging. Illness touches families we love. Crops face uncertain weather. The pace of life seems to become busier every year. Yet Jesus often encouraged his followers with words like these: "Take heart, it is I; do

not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27). Our confidence does not rest in circumstances but in the presence of Christ, who continues to walk with us through every season.

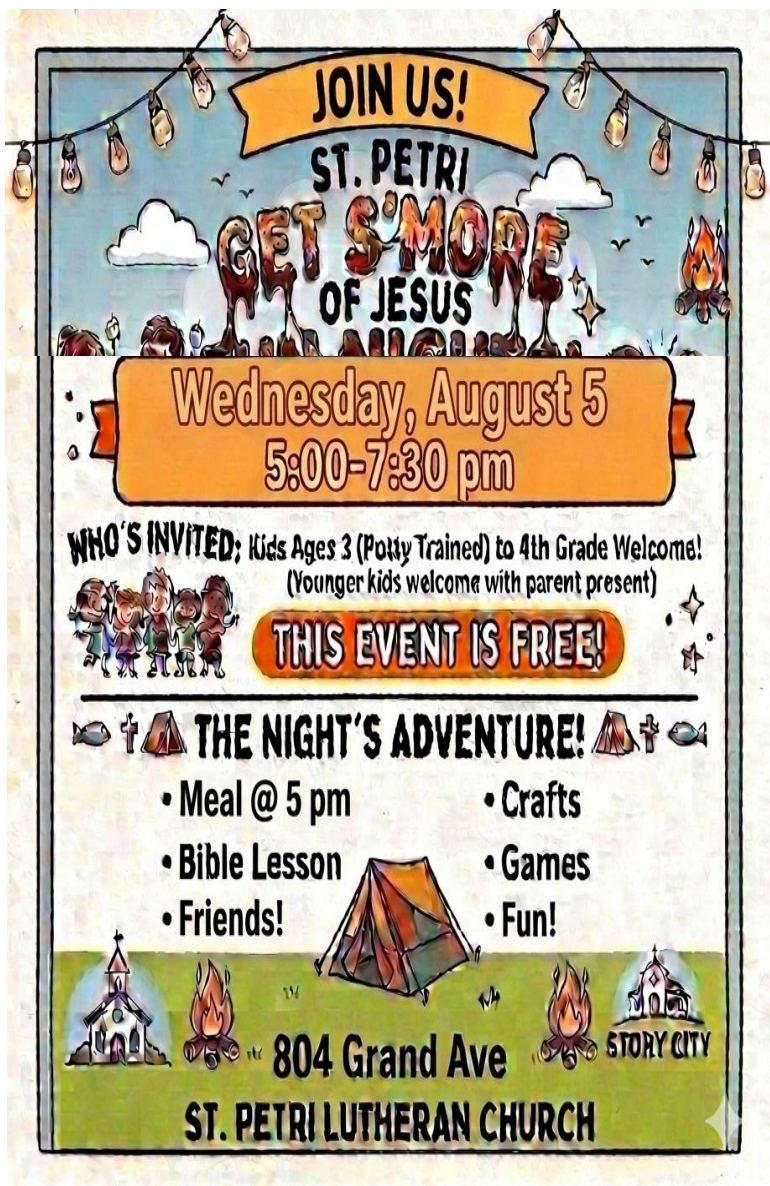
When our hearts are anchored in God's love, generosity naturally follows. We discover that generosity is about much more than financial giving. It is expressed in a listening ear, a meal shared with a neighbor, a visit to someone who is lonely, a word of encouragement, a prayer offered faithfully, or an act of forgiveness. These are gifts that cost us something, yet they reflect the abundant grace we have first received from God.

The prayer also reminds us that God's abundance is meant to be shared "so that all creation can taste your abundance." What a wonderful image! We are not called to keep God's blessings to ourselves. Instead, we become participants in God's work of nourishing a hungry and hurting world. Through our St. Petri's worship, fellowship, outreach, and service, Christ continues to feed people with hope, mercy, and love.

As summer draws toward its close and we prepare for the routines of fall, let us continue to gather around the Lord's Table with thankful hearts. There we receive Christ's body and blood, forgiveness for our sins, strength for our journey, and the assurance that God's grace is always enough.

May God help each of us take heart in Christ, offer the gifts of our hearts with joy, and share freely of the love we have received. Then our homes, our beloved St. Petri, and our community will become places where others can truly taste the abundance of God.

Peace, Pastor Tim



OUR MISSION

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



Compass Middle school group meets from 5:30-6:30 pm
Supper at 6:30pm
Axis High School group meets from 7:00-8:00pm

Both groups will begin Wed., Sept. 16th
Both groups meet at St Petri and all are welcome!



In July 2026

In Our Prayers

The Family of Cheryl Eddy, Kay Disbrowe,
Larry Reisetter, Jaye Anderson

Hospitalized in July

Lynn McGonigal

In Memoriam

The Family of Scott Crosbie (Paul & Karen
Jacobson's nephew)

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Judy Schnurstein, Linda Fevold,
Paul Wiersen

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

Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke



Our next outdoor worship service is to be announced. Bring your family, neighbors, lawn chair, blanket, and a joyful heart!

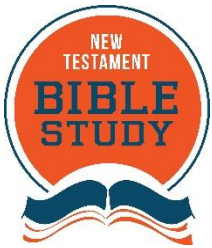


WELCA Report

August 20 2pm WELCA Circle Bible Study. All women welcome!
August 24-26 9a-noon Quilt making

YOU ARE INVITED!

On the third Saturday of the month at 8:00am, the Saturday Womens' Bible study meets at the parsonage. **Except NO Saturday Weekend Women's Bible Study in August.** For questions, text or call Debra at 320-905-9510.



**THE ADULT
NEW TESTAMENT CLASS**
will begin in September.
Watch for details.



St. Petri volunteers to serve the Wednesday lunch for the Senior Citizens in August at the Story City Community Center at 503 Elm Ave. We will need 3 volunteers each day from 10:30 a.m. – noon. There is a signup sheet outside the church office with more details.

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/UC44a0DUzQrLYR7CEJBHCegQ>

Questions? Please contact:

Abby & Tim Patterson or Angie & John Hinz.

This summer, Pastor Tom Reuss (who served St. Petri), celebrates 55 years of ministry, as well as his 80th birthday (August 24).



To honor him, his family invites people who have known him over the years to share either a brief video or a card with a note, sharing either a story of him that they remember or a few words about what his ministry meant to them. You can text or email videos to 507-696-3309,

pwreuss@gmail.com or mail a card to:
Tom Reuss

5042 First Ave NW
Cedar Rapids, IA,
52405

A major stroke, coupled with Parkinson's, resulted in him being in a care facility. His spirits remain joyful!

St. Petri Quilters are in need of bed sheets (in good condition) for making quilts. If you have any, please drop them off at the church. Thank you!

We have an opportunity to participate in the community event

"We ♥ Roland Story"

on August 29 from 1-4p in the north park. We will be serving hot dogs and lemonade. If you are available and would like to help serve, please email Ann Healy at ahealy1201@gmail.com. This is a great high school volunteer project! Thanks for your support!



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

**Photos from July 26, 2026
Worship Service with
Pastor Jen Thomas, Ast. To the Bishop
for Shared Ministry ad Development
And
The Endowment Committee**



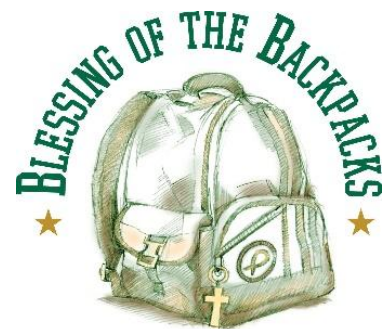
**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
SCHOOL KITS**

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. St. Petri will donate \$500 of school supplies to Roland-Story Community School through "Blast Back to School" at United Way. St. Petri would also like to collect school supplies for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. If you would like to donate, each LWR School Kit needs:

- four 70-80 sheet spiral notebooks, no loose leaf
- one 30 centimeter ruler (one side can have inches)
- one pencil sharpener
- five unsharpened #2 pencils
- five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- one box of 16 or 24 crayons
- one 2 ½ inch eraser

I will have a box to collect these supplies outside the Office, you can donate any way you want, for example you might choose to donate 6 pencil sharpeners or 6 boxes of crayons.

Thanks in advance for your donation.



We will be blessing backpacks at worship
on **Sunday, August 23rd**
(so don't forget to bring your backpack!)



AUGUST

Aug. 3: Alica Billings, Alana Thorson
 Aug. 4: Troy Bickelhaupt
 Aug. 6: Rolfe Johnstad, Steve Peterson
 Aug. 8: Hope Brown
 Aug. 9: Debra Holm; Leland Schwartz
 Aug. 10: Micah Andersen, Jackson Hill,
 Chris Roling, Katie Thorson
 Aug. 11: Erick Healy
 Aug. 12: Cole Birchmier, Mike Healy
 Aug. 13: Tom Foss, Jacob Severson
 Aug. 16: Connie Demuth
 Aug. 20: Jamie Vize
 Aug. 21: Jaye Anderson
 Aug. 22: Gradin Brown, Justin Paisley
 Aug. 25: Jessica Birchmier, Tim Crouch
 Aug. 27: Cynthia Doolittle
 Aug. 28: Michaela Fevold
 Aug. 29: Trent Muhlenburg, Peter Olson
 Aug. 30: Jennifer Knutson

St. Petri Office Hours

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



Coffee with the Council

Sunday, August 30th 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 Minutes

There was no Council Meeting in July.

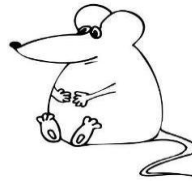
St. Petri Lutheran Church Contributions - General Fund

Income/Expense for June -\$4,439.40
 2026 YTD -\$6,247.68

NOTE:

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

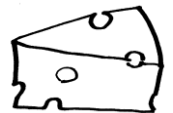
Hi, it's Church Mouse!



I've been sneaking around the church and landscaping. People have been busy helping out like little church mice, if I do say

so myself. In the words of **Dolly Parton**, "It takes a lot of effort to look this good!" **Pat Murken** showed up like a boss after the July storm to clean up some tree damage. **Kian Bauman** was taking superb care of the yard in the first ½ of the summer, *thank you very much*, and the **Murken family** is mowing us *again*. **David and Gail Sporleder** have been doing all the stuff that we take for granted: adding a door sweep at the bottom of the back door, changing out light bulbs for greater safety, changing out air filters, among other things. **Mardell Christian** has been watering the geraniums. **Diana Keech** stewards the memory garden with care. **Annette Owenson** Edward-Scissorhanded the bushes in front of the parsonage. And **Who the Heck** is putting the everchanging array of food in the Blessing Box???

My heart is full, Church Mouse



The McCallsburg Lions Club SWEET CORN AND BOLOGNA

Monday, August 3, 2026

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.

AUGUST C.A.R.E. GROUP 2026

CARE Group 3 Leaders

Debra Malek, Annette Owenson

Dave & Nicole Bauman	Jane Bauman
Brad & Beth Dedic	Kim Finley
Tom & Kris Foss	Marlene Helling
John & Angie (Rieck)Hinz	
Danny & Chris Hobbs	Tyler Hobbs
Jason & Heather Johnson	
John & Jan Lekwa	Pastor Tim Malek
Barry & Valaree Muhlenburg	
Trent & Katelyn Muhlenburg	
John & Mary Pelican	Sharon Sills
Paul Wiersen	Tom & Mary Wynia



SEPTEMBER C.A.R.E. GROUP 2026

CARE Group 4 Leaders

Cheryl Hoffman, Wanda Holm

Doug & Kendra Braucher	Eloise Ericson
Ver & Barb Frohling	Vivian Gossel
Donna Guard	Allen Holm
Tom & Amelia Klett	Pat & Jo Murken
Jim & Karen Nelson	
Jason & Jeannie Patterson	
Kevin & Peg Patterson	
Tim & Abby Patterson	
David & Gail Sporleder	
Scott & Shelley Stevenson	
Nate & Kayla Tafolla	



Bethany Life

Drive Thru Fundraiser

Friday, August 7, 2026

4:00pm – 6:00pm

at the Households of Bethany
212 Lafayette Ave., Story City, IA
Every meal makes a difference.
Every dollar supports resident care.
\$10 donations

EWALU

Camp & Retreat Center

37776 Alpha Ave.

Strawberry Point, IA 52076

Website: www.ewalu.org

563-933-4700

Email: camp@ewalu.org

EVENTS



Aug. 28-30 65th Anniversary and Cedar Lodge Dedication

We have one final challenge to raise funds for the Cedar Lodge. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids will match gifts dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 through September 15th. They are challenging congregations to double their donations through this matching fundraiser.

39th Annual Quilt Auction

Sept. 14-20 (Online Auction)

Sept. 19 (Live Auction)

Quilt Raffle \$50 per ticket

Win a gorgeous king-size quilt pieced and quilted by BilliJo Eckheart, with hand-binding by Jeanne Helgersen. The pattern is "Hocus Pocus"

by Judy Niemeyer, a beautiful paper piecing technique with jewel tones, neutrals and white. The quilt measures 118 inches by 118 inches, so it will fit a king bed or a queen bed with a large drop. Buy more tickets to increase chances to win!

<https://Auctria.Events/EwaluQuiltAuction>
The rules: one winner will be chosen at random at the start of the Ewalu Live Auction, at 1pm Sat., Sept. 19, 2026. Ticket sales will end at noon Sept. 19, 2026. Tickets can be purchased digitally; no paper tickets sold. Contact Ewalu office at 563-933-4700 or email office@ewalu.org to pay for a raffle ticket via check or cash. Proceeds support Ewalu!





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@stpetri.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 1, 2026

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!

RIVERSIDE GOLF CLASSIC



Friday, Sept. 18th

at Coldwater Golf Links 1400 S. Grand Ave., Ames, IA.

Come enjoy great food and great fellowship, with the whole day devoted to supporting the continued mission and ministry of Riverside. We are thankful for the 120+ supporters who come out to support this great event! We hope to see you there!

Cost: \$125/player – includes 18 holes

with cart, goodie bag, lunch, ice cream afterwards, and prizes.

You can purchase mulligans, move up the team on the longest hole, and bocce ball tickets at the course.

Schedule for the day:

10am-11am - Check-in outside the clubhouse (range and putting green open)

11:00am - Lunch outside at Clubhouse with Program

11:40am – Bocce ball at putting green

11:50am – Shotgun start

4:15pm – Ice cream and Prizes at clubhouse

Questions? Contact Chris Dahl at 515-733-5271 x221 or chris@riversideLBC.org

RECALL NOTICE:

The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart.

This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed

'Sub-sequential Internal Non-Morality,' or more commonly known as S.I.N., as it is primarily expressed.

Some of the symptoms include:

1. Loss of direction
2. Foul vocal emissions
3. Amnesia of origin
4. Lack of peace and joy
5. Selfish or violent behavior
6. Depression or confusion in the mental component
7. Fearfulness
8. Idolatry
9. Rebellion

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this defect.

The Repair Technician, Jesus, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required.

The number to call for repair in all areas is:

P-R-A-Y-E-R.

Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component.

No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self control

Please see the operating manual, the B.I.B.L.E. (Believers' Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Thank you for your attention!

GOD

P. S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by 'Knee mail'.
Because He Lives!

*Author unknown
Submitted by Veronica Wright*