

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

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

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

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
except, Wednesday afternoon
Church Office Phone: (515) 733-4623
Email addresses: stpetrilutheran@stpetri.org
Website: www.stpetri@stpetri.org

Pastor – Rev. Tim Malek

Missionaries– Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke, Japan

Parish/Financial Secretary – Veronica Wright

Custodian – Debra Lancaster



JULY 2026

ST. PETRI LUTHERAN CHURCH, STORY CITY, IA

JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Every Sunday Morning</u> 9:00a Worship Service 10:00a Coffee/Fellowship			1	2	3 Office closed	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 10a-noon St. Petri volunteers at Loaves & Fishes food pantry & Community Meal
12 Communion	13 10:30a Staff mtg.	14 12p Pastor Text Study	15 5:00-7:30p Summer Fun Nite	16 9:30a R-S Min. at Immanuel 2p WELCA Circle	17 Pastor's Day Off 11a "Ladies Who Lunch" Portofinos in Ankeny	18 8am Women's Weekend Bible Study at the parsonage
19 Outdoor Worship	20 Aug. Newsletter articles due 10:30a Staff mtg.	21 12p Pastor Text Study	22	23	24 Pastor Day Off	25
26 Communion	27 ---- LWR Quilt making 9a-noon Mon-Wed ---- 10:30a Staff mtg.	28 12p Pastor Text Study	29	30	31	Aug. 1 Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp 5K & Quilt Auction

St. Petri Messenger



JULY 2026

Faith Seeking Understanding



Pastor Tim Malek

As we move through this special year marking the 250th anniversary of our nation, we have many reasons to give thanks. We are blessed to live in a country that has provided generations with opportunities, freedoms, and the ability to worship openly. In communities like ours here in Story City, we experience the blessings of neighbors helping neighbors, the freedom to gather in faith, and the privilege of participating in the life of our nation.

As Christians, gratitude for these gifts is entirely appropriate. Scripture encourages us to give thanks in all circumstances and to pray for those who lead and serve our communities and country. We can celebrate the many blessings we enjoy while also remembering an important truth: our greatest freedoms and benefits do not come from any earthly government. They come from God.

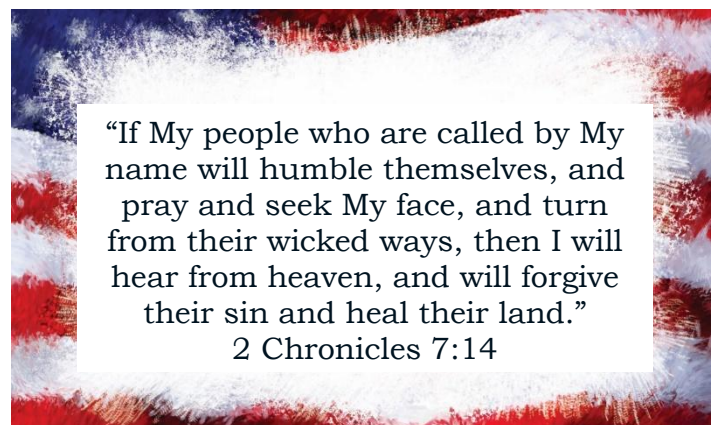
Through Jesus Christ, we have received forgiveness, grace, and the promise of eternal life. We have been set free from the power of sin and death. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "For freedom Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5:1). No political system, nation, or human institution can offer what God has given through Christ.

This perspective helps us keep our priorities in order. We are grateful citizens, but first and foremost we are disciples of Jesus. Our ultimate allegiance is not to a flag, a party, or a nation, but to Christ our Lord and Savior. His kingdom is everlasting, and His love reaches beyond every border and generation.

As we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary, may we give thanks for the freedoms and blessings we enjoy as Americans while remembering that our deepest hope, truest freedom, and eternal citizenship are found in Jesus Christ alone.

Peace,
Pastor Tim

**HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!
INDEPENDENCE DAY!
OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAY, JULY 3RD**





In June 2026

In Our Prayers

Larry Reisetter, Jaye Anderson

PRAYERS OF ONGOING CONCERN

Judy Schnurstein, Linda Fevold,
Paul Wiersen

Hospitalized in June

Larry Reisetter

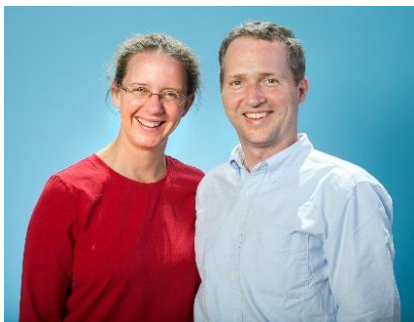
Ongoing Prayers

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

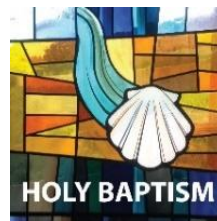
Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke



St. Petri Office Hours

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

**Congratulations to
Ruth Ann Hjortsvang
on her baptism!**



Ruth is the child of
Sawyer & Lindsey
Hjortsvang.
Ruth's baptismal
sponsors: Travis Wolfe &
Katie Wolfe.

May we all be Christian examples to
Ruth, as well as to all around us.
*Let your light shine before others that
they may see your good works and
glorify your Father in heaven. Matt 5:16*

**Congratulations to Hayden Gossel
on her High School Graduation!**



Hayden plans to attend PCI Academy in
Ames, IA in cosmetology and esthetics.

Praying a blessed future for you!

*Commit your life to the Lord. Here is what
he will do if you trust in him. He will
make your godly ways shine like the
dawn. He will make your honest life
shine like the sun at noon. Psalm 37:5,6*

St. Petri, Thank you for the beautiful
quilt. Having worked on mission quilts with
the quilters, I know the hours it takes to
complete one.

I appreciate the encouragement and
guidance you, as a congregation, have
shared with me over the years.

Pastor Tim and Pastor John have taught
me so many lessons on faith and life.
Special thanks to Angie and Rick for
providing special treats on Graduation
Sunday and decorating a beautiful serving
table. *Hayden* ❤️

St. Petri volunteers at Loaves & Fishes on July 11th. We will need the usual, about 5-6 volunteers to arrive around 9:45. Anyone that hasn't worked there before needs to come a little earlier for some training. Since the Saturday before was July 4, we might have a lot of patrons show up. If have any questions, please contact me.

St. Petri will be hosting a community meal at Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry on Saturday, July 11 from 10 to noon. Please consider volunteering your time to help serve or by baking cookies. Sign-up sheets are located on the table near the church office. Call Angie Rieck-Hinz at 515-231-2830 if you have questions.

**Living in Community:
Summer Meal Event**

**ST. PETRI LUTHERAN
IS HOSTING A
COMMUNITY
MEAL**

Event Logistics

**Saturday,
July 11, 2026**

The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

10:00 a.m. - Noon

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
in the parking lot.

Menu & Service Details

Grilled Summer Menu
Hotdogs, chips, baked beans, dessert, and bottled water.

Packed "To-Go"
Meals are pre-packaged for convenient pickup.

First Come, First Served

While Supplies Last
Food is available on this basis.

SAVE THE DATES!

**ST. PETRI
SUMMER
FUN NIGHTS!**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5th
5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

WHO'S INVITED: Kids Ages 3 (Potty Trained) to 4th Grade Welcome!
(Younger kids welcome with parent present)

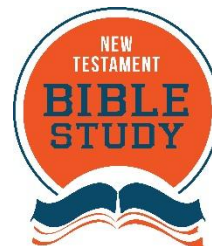
THIS EVENT IS FREE!

THE NIGHT'S ADVENTURE!

- A Simple Meal
- Music & Worship
- Bible Lesson
- Crafts
- Games!

**MORE DETAILS
COMING SOON!**

ST. PETRI LUTHERAN CHURCH



NOTE!
**The New Testament
Adult Class
will resume in September.**

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.



WELCA Report

July 16 2pm WELCA Bible Study
All women welcome!
July 27-29 9am-noon Quilt making



The Weekend Women's Bible Study Group

will meet the third Saturday of each month.
Next meeting
Saturday, July 18
at 8:00am
at the parsonage.

We will be looking at Genesis 45:1-45 and 50:15-21. Come enjoy coffee, a bit to eat, and good fellowship.

"Ladies Who Lunch" Outing at Portofino's in Ankeny!

Authentic Italian Food
with homemade bread

Friday, July 17

Meet at church at 11am for carpooling.

RSVP to the church office or

Debra (320-905-9510).



Thank You

From Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp
St. Petri,

Thank you for your partnership with the ministry of Riverside! We just welcomed our campers for week 2, and we are excited to see what God has planned for them! God Bless You!

Zoe Van Hove, Development Intern

NOTE:

The deadline to turn in information
for the August newsletter is
Monday, July 20th.



Hi, it's Church Mouse!

St. Petri does such a great job at including kids in all aspects of worship. We should really have a name for our kid-

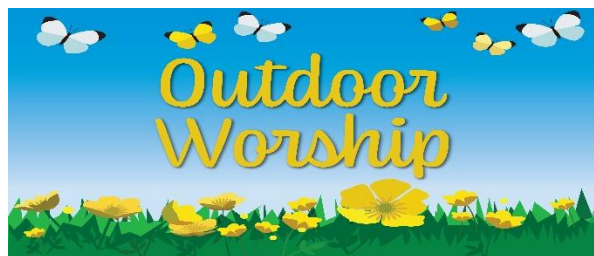
forward focus! They learn early here, and all ages of youth know they are valued.

The kids practice sharing with others after the Children's Sermon by giving out a Tootsie Roll. **Wesley** was observed offering one to **Ruth**. However, he's not going to be getting babysitter points anytime soon, as she is still an infant and not on solids yet. She probably doesn't even have control of her hands. "A" for effort, though, Wesley!! She does have a magnetic personality.

The third Sundays of the month during summer will be an opportunity for outside worship. Park your lawn chair and a drink under the evergreen, or just use one of the provided chairs! In June it was cancelled for threat of rain. *We're not monsters!* I'm looking forward to the new sound system for outdoor worship, and need to figure out who got that for us!

*My heart is full,
Church Mouse*





Our next outdoor worship service will be Sunday, July 19th at 9:00am. Bring your family, neighbors, lawn chair, blanket, and a joyful heart!

JULY C.A.R.E. GROUP 2026

CARE Group 2 Leader

Ann Healy

Martha Arends	Tim & Amy Crouch
Carol Foss	Erick & Paige Healy
Garrett & Sierra Healy	Mike Healy
Kyle & Nicole Healy	Jeff & Callie Henrichs
Barb Hermanson	
Roger & Nancy Hermanson	Nancy Jewell
Rolfe & Margaret Johnstad	
Kevin & Diana Keech	Mary Nannenga
Steve & Mary Peterson	
Ron & Glenda Rahfeldt	Ryan & Katie Thorson
Hubert Tussey	



VOLUNTEERS:
VERY VALUABLE!

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

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



July 3: Kara DeRidder
 July 8: John Lekwa
 July 10: Paul Jacobson
 July 12: Kailee Keltner
 July 13: Alysann Patterson
 July 14: Kara Keigan
 July 15: Callie Henrichs,
 Mariana Henrichs
 July 17: Lorene Anderson, Carol Foss
 July 19: Lucy Muhlenburg
 July 20: Kelsey Nelson
 July 21: Bruce Swenson
 July 22: Nick Sayre, Tessa Tafolla
 July 23: Patrick Halsey
 July 24: Linda Fevold, Luca Healy,
 Paul Munson
 July 25: Karen Nelson
 July 27: Rick Stover
 July 28: Erin Schwartz
 July 29: Blake Holm, Brett Schmitz
 July 30: Norah Ritland, Stephen Vize





**St. Petri
Lutheran Church
Approved
Council Minutes
May 17, 2026**

Present: Travis DeRidder, Rick Stover, Angie Stover, Nancy Carlson, Ann Healy, Jo Murken, Kelsey Olson, Pastor Tim Malek, Angie Rieck-Hinz

Meeting called to order at 11:04 a.m. Travis offered Devotions.

Angie S. presented the April minutes for approval. Ann made a motion to accept the minutes as written; Rick seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Rick presented the Treasurer's report and highlighted a few of the checks written since the April meeting. He discussed some journal entries, including monies distributed by WELCA and monies shifted to the General Fund from the Lenten Suppers Fund. He noted that Saint Petri is in the positive at this point in the year for only the second time in 10 years. All monies for quilting have been merged and batting has been ordered as a result of a previously noted donation made specifically for batting. Kelsey made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented; Jo seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Tim said things were going well. He just finished a three-year term on the Synod Council for Riverside Conference and he noted that Nancy Carlson will be starting a three-year term as a council member for the Northeast Iowa Synod on June 6 in Waverly. Pastor listed various vacation and continuing education opportunities he plans to pursue during the summer months. All three participating churches have officially agreed to hire Briton Mohr as Youth Director.

Christian Fellowship: Ann reported that a new All are Welcome banner is outside on the front lawn, replacing the previous banner.

Worship: Jo thanked all who have volunteered for the Assistant Minister, Lector and Children's Sermon positions needed each week and hopes volunteers will continue to sign up.

Property and Trustees: Nancy said the Cleanup Day on Saturday was a success. She thinks that the

lawn care needs are taken care of for the next few months but the Property and Trustees Committee is looking into and may be recommending contracting those services next year. The Committee has worked on computer issues, boiler system issues and elevator maintenance since the last meeting. Kaleb Bauman will be working on an Eagle Scout Project to install a firepit on the east lawn. He plans to finalize details with the Boy Scouts and he may apply for money from the Endowment Committee. Nancy and Annette Owenson have been field researching church signs and they plan to attend the City Council meeting in June regarding the council's requirements. Jo made a motion to move remaining money from the keypad door lock to the church sign fund; Kelsey seconded. Brief discussion. Motion carried.

Faith Formation: Kelsey reported that the previously reported dates of the Summer Fun Nights are changing and will be announced soon.

No Old Business.

New Business: Jo made a motion to officially hold worship at 9 a.m. instead of 10 a.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day as has been the custom in recent years; Kelsey seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Angie Rieck-Hinz attended the meeting to follow up on some church policy revisions that began under her most recent tenure as president.

Respectfully submitted, Angie Stover

Meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

St. Petri Financials - May 2026

income/expense	-\$1,889.57
2026 YTD	-\$1,808.28

Dear Pastor and members,

Dear Pastor and members,
Greetings,

As we look ahead to July, we anticipate the warmth and brightness of midsummer – long, sunlit days that offer space for renewal, reflection, and connection. This season reminds us of God’s abundant blessings and the beauty of growth, both in the world around us and within our hearts.

Because of your continued generosity, compassion, and faithful support, lives are being uplifted every day. Your prayers, your time, and your willingness to serve make it possible for LSI to walk alongside individuals and families as they find strength, healing, and hope in the midst of life’s challenges.

We are deeply grateful for the ways our shared faith brings us together in service and purpose. Thank you for being a vital part of this mission and for shining Christ’s light in the lives of those who need it most.

If you have any questions, please reply to this email or reach out to Andrea Maschka, LSI’s Chief Development Officer at Andrea.Maschka.LSIowa.org

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and for all the ways you help make this work possible.

LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, People with Disabilities, and Immigrant & Refugee Community Services. We serve individuals of all ages, from families with newborns navigating the early stages of parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, as well as children at every stage of development. Our heart beats for the people we serve. We empower families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual.



RIVERSIDE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP 5K AND QUILT DAY SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026

Join us for our biggest support event of the year! This is a full day of fun and fellowship as we raise funds for Camperships and celebrate what God is doing at Riverside.

Enjoy the 5K walk/run, our beloved Quilt Auction (with a live auction at 11am), outdoor worship, swimming at the Riverside pool, and more! Come for the whole day or for your favorite part. There’s something for everyone!



SCHEDULE OF THE DAY:

7:30-8:15am – 5K Walk/Run Registration & Check-in

8:30am – 5K Walk/Run

8:00-11:00am – Live viewing of all quilts in the Chapel (Cash & Carry items also available)

9:30-10:30am – Pool open for 5K participants

10:30am – Outdoor Worship

11:00am – LIVE auction begins in the Chapel

Noon-2:00pm – Lunch served in the Dining Hall (free-will offering)

1:00-3:00pm – Pool open for families who LOVE Riverside!

1:15pm – ONLINE AUCTION CLOSES and live watch party in the Chapel

Thank you to our sponsors for the 5K: Thrivent Financial & Atlantic Bottling Company/Coca-Cola.

For more information, please visit www.riversidelbc.org/5k-and-quilt-day

RIVERSIDE GOLF CLASSIC



T O U R N A M E N T

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:

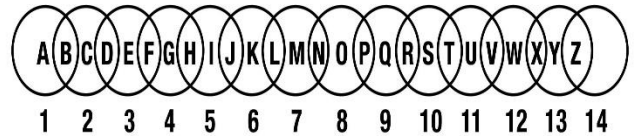
10am-11am - Check-in outside the
clubhouse (range and putting green open)
11:00am - Lunch outside at Clubhouse with
Program
11:40am – Bocce ball at putting green
11:50am – Shotgun start
4:15pm – Ice cream and Prizes at clubhouse

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

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find
out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10'

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10' 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11'

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving
each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV