

**MARCH 2026**  
**ST. PETRI LUTHERAN CHURCH, STORY CITY, IA**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <u>Every Sunday AM</u> unless noted 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Coffee/Fellowship 6:30p Confirmation-Bergen	2  10:30a Staff Mtg.	3 9a-3p Bethany Quilters Noon-Pastor Study 5:30p Property/ Trustees Mtg.	4  <u>St. Petri</u> 5:45p Meal 6:30p Lenten Service	5	6  	7 11a-12:30p Community Meal at the Library
<b>8</b> <i>Daylight Savings</i> <b>Communion</b> 11:15am Council Mtg. 6:30p Confirmation-St. Petri	9  10:30a Staff Mtg.	10 9a-3p Bethany Quilters Noon-Pastor Study	11  <u>Bergen</u> 5:45p Meal 6:30p Lenten Service	12	13 Pastor's Day Off	14
<b>15</b> <b>No Sunday School</b>  11:15a New Testament Class-Colossians	16  10:30a Staff Mtg.	17 St. Patrick's Day  ----- <b>Spring Break Week</b> ----- 9a-3p Bethany Quilters  	18  <u>St. Petri</u> 5:45p Meal 6:30p Lenten Service	19  2p WELCA Bible Study	20 <i>Spring begins</i> Pastor's Day Off Noon – Ladies Who Lunch April newsletter articles due	21 8a Weekend Women's Bible Study at the parsonage
<b>22</b> <b>Communion</b> <b>No Sunday School</b> First Communion Class	23  10:30a Staff Mtg.	24  ---- <b>Quilt making Mon-Wed 9am-Noon</b> ---- 9a-3p Bethany Quilters Noon-Pastor's Text Study	25  <u>Bergen</u> 5:45p Meal 6:30p Lenten Service	26	27  Pastor's Day Off	28
<b>29</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>First Communion</b> Children Sing  6p Holy Week Planning at Bergen	30  10:30a Staff Mtg.	31  Noon-Pastor's Text Study	April 1  No Services	2 Maundy Thursday  7p Maundy Thursday Service -Bergen led by Confirmands	3 Good Friday  7p Good Friday Service -Bergen led by Confirmands	4

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

The St. Petri Messenger  
*Publication of St. Petri Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**JOINT LENTEN SCHEDULE**

with Bergen Lutheran Church, Roland

**Wednesdays March 4– March 25**

5:45p Meal served

6:30pm Lenten Service

*at St. Petri on March 4 & 18*

*at Bergen on March 11 & 25*

Pastor Tim Malek

Pastor's Cell Phone: (515)598-6635

Pastor's Email: [pastor@stpetri.org](mailto:pastor@stpetri.org)

Church Office Phone: (515)733-4623

Email: [stpetrilutheran@stpetri.org](mailto:stpetrilutheran@stpetri.org)

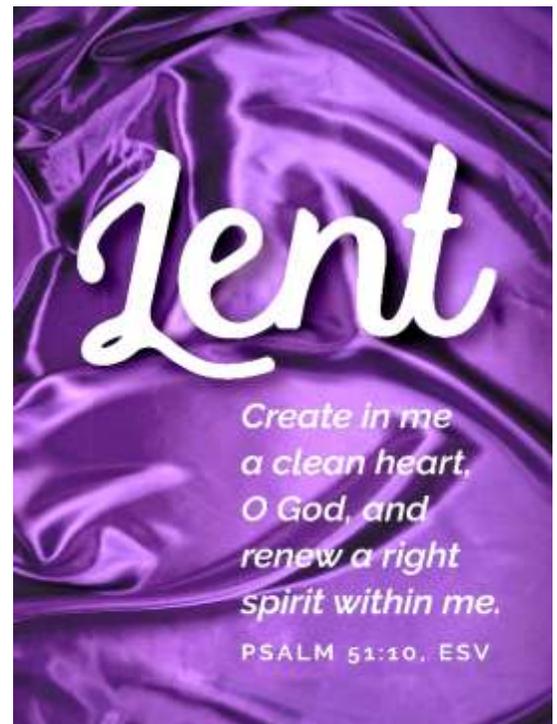
Website: [www.stpetri.org](http://www.stpetri.org)

**Pastor** – Rev. Tim Malek

**Missionaries**– Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke, Japan

**Parish/Financial Secretary** – Veronica Wright

**Custodian** – Deb Lancaster



**MARCH 2026**

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# St. Petri Messenger

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March, 2026



## Faith Seeking Understanding

Pastor Tim Malek

### Our Journey Continues

Over the next few weeks we continue our journey through Lent and Holy Week, a journey leading to new life, life eternal, in Jesus Christ and culminating in the joyous celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord; Easter. Please read the details of our extra worship services opportunities and plan how to utilize them to enrich your spiritual journey this year.

### Lent

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> and ends forty days later (not counting Sundays). Midweek Lenten worship services will be held at 6:30 PM each Wednesday through March 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Wednesday service during Holy Week (April 1<sup>st</sup>).

### At the Name of Jesus: A Midweek Lenten Series

Our midweek services will be based on the second reading for Passion Sunday, Philippians 2:5-11. This series will help us have a deeper and richer celebration of the passion of Christ on the first day of Holy Week and exploit the rich contrast between that Sunday's entrance rite shouts of "Hosanna!" over and against the passion reading's cries of "Crucify!" Both ends of the theological and emotional spectrum are significant touchstones for the coming celebration of the Three Days, and few

passages give such clear voice to those contrasting touchstones as the Christ hymn in Philippians 2.

Our Wednesday services will alternate between here at St. Petri and at Bergen in Roland. This series will feature a different preacher each week, with a total of five ELCA pastors from some of the Riverside Conference churches.

### Calendar of Midweek Lenten Services

#### Wednesdays

March 4

Location: St. Petri, Story City

Preacher: Pastor Maureen Howard

Topic: Christ emptied and humbled himself

Worship: 6:30 PM

Meal: 5:45 PM hot chicken sandwich

March 11

Location: Bergen, Roland

Preacher: Pastor Jonathan Dolan

Topic: Christ became obedient

Worship: 6:30 PM

Meal: 5:45 PM

March 18

Location: St. Petri, Story City

Preacher: Pastor John Sheahan

Topic: At the name of Jesus all knees shall bow

Worship: 6:30 PM

Meal: 5:45 PM hot ham & cheese sandwich

March 25

Location: Bergen, Roland

Preacher: Vicar Caitlin Tauro

Topic: Every tongue confesses Jesus

Worship: 6:30 PM

Meal: 5:45 PM

April 1

No services or meal.

**Our Lenten journey culminates in Holy Week which begins with the Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. (Sunday 10:00 AM)**

Since at least the fourth century and universally in the church since the eighth, Christians have kept the Sunday before Easter as a memorial of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and a literal procession of palms, started in Jerusalem, has spread throughout the world. This Sunday a reading from Matthew 21 with a palm procession marks the opening of worship. Another ancient practice is to observe the Sunday before Easter as Sunday of the Passion, and so a longer reading from the passion in Matthew functions as the gospel of the day. This service, which inaugurates the most important week of the Christian year, has a two-part focus: Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and his passion and death.

**We enter the Holy "Three Days"**

**Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. (Thursday 7:00PM at Bergen, Pastor Tim preaching, youth lead liturgy)**

Christian theologians have taught that the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ must be held together to be adequately understood. Thus, it was that since at least the fourth century, the Christianized Passover festival that English-speakers call Easter took three days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the first communion of Easter. The Three Days begins on Maundy Thursday with an act of confession and absolution that concludes the season of Lent and prepares everyone for the baptismal renewals of Easter. "Mandatum," the "command" to love is the source of the term Maundy. The eucharist recalls Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death. The service concludes with a stripping of the worship space of all adornment, in preparation for Good Friday.

**Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. (Friday 7:00PM at Bergen, youth led Tenebrae service)**

In ancient times this second of the Three Days was called the Triumph of the Cross. English speakers call the day Good because we know the end of the story, for the Three Days carries us into the resurrection. Friday's Bible readings present several

quite different ways to think about the death of Christ: Christ is the lamb, Christ is the high priest, and Christ is the king reigning from the cross. Christ is both human and divine: he suffers, and he is the I AM. The service concludes when at the foot of the life-giving cross, we pray for everyone and everything on earth and engage in a ritual of reverence for the cross on which hung Christ, the Savior of the whole world.

**The Vigil of Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord, April 4<sup>th</sup>. (Available online beginning Saturday)**

The Vigil of Easter, the most solemn and joyous celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, is traditionally composed of four parts: the lighting of the paschal fire, the service of readings, baptisms and baptismal renewal, and communion; we will only be doing the service of readings. Our youth will be presenting the 12 readings which will be available for viewing on Saturday through Facebook. Through these readings the church proclaims many biblical images of divine salvation. Each can be seen as picturing God, Christ's resurrection, and the baptismal life.

**The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day, April 5<sup>th</sup>. (Sunday 10:00AM)**

By the second century, Christians had shaped Passover into an annual celebration of Christ's resurrection, having agreed to keep this Christianized Pascha on the Sunday following the Jewish festival. Since to be Christian is to believe in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, observing Easter became the primary mark of a practicing Christian.

(Portions from Sundays and Season, Augsburg Fortress, 2011)

This is the high holy season of the church year. These are the worship services that focus on the core of our faith. I pray that God will bless us richly as we worship during this holy season. See you in church, Pastor Tim

**Come and celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026!** Begin the morning by attending our cinnamon roll and coffee fellowship from 9-10am, then stay for the traditional festival service beginning at 10am. There will also be an Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:00am worship service.



HELPING PAWS  
SUPPLY DRIVE  
ENDS SUN., MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>

Friday  
March 6, 2026

World  
Day of  
Prayer

You are invited to join us for  
Living in Community!

St. Petri Lutheran is  
hosting a free  
community lunch

Saturday, March 7  
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
At Bertha Bartlett  
Public Library

Chili  
Potato and Ham Soup  
Dessert  
Open to All  
While Supplies Last



Dine In or To Go

March 8, 2026  
Don't forget to  
set your clocks  
ahead one hour!



In February 2026  
OUR PRAYER LIST

Raejean Bickelhaupt (Troy's Mom),  
Judy Schnurstein,  
Larry Reisetter

PRAYERS OF ONGOING CONCERN

Linda Fevold, Paul Wierson

IN MEMORY

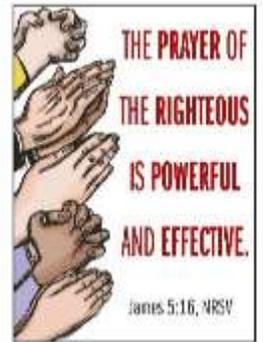
Peggy Olson (Kris Foss'  
Mom)

Darlene Patterson

PRAYERS FOR THOSE NOT  
NEAR TO US

Pat & Jacqueline Bencke-  
Japan ELCA Missionaries;  
Soldiers; Peace Workers;  
Humanitarian Aid Workers;

For those in Ukraine and Russia



Tuesday,  
March  
17<sup>th</sup>



## WELCA Report

March 19 2:00pm WELCA Bible Study  
*All women welcome!*

Mar 23-25 9am to noon - Quilt Tying

**Come join the quilters** the last Monday thru Wednesday of each month from 9am-noon for fun, food, and fellowship! There is a variety of tasks—cutting, tying, pinning & stitching. Everyone welcome!

Check out the  
**Weekend Women's  
Bible Study!**



**You are Invited!**

We meet the third Saturday of the month, at 8:00am at the parsonage (915 8<sup>th</sup> St.), except Nov. or Dec. Next meeting-Sat., March 21. Call or text Debra at 320-905-9510 if you have questions, but no need to rsvp.

### Easter Lilies

*We are ordering Easter Lilies to brighten the sanctuary for our Easter Services. If you are interested in sponsoring a lily, in honor/memory of a loved one, fill out the form available at church or call the church office at 515-733-4623 by Mon., March 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

Price per plant is \$15. The lilies may be taken home following the **Easter Festival** service.

*"I am the  
resurrection  
and the life."  
JOHN 11:25*



Put these words of mine in  
your heart and soul ....  
Teach them to your children ....

Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NRSV



**Compass** (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) and **AXIS** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) **Youth Groups** will NOT meet Wednesdays during Lent, but are encouraged to attend mid-week services.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**NO Sunday  
School on**

**Sundays, March 15<sup>th</sup> or March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
(Spring Break)  
or April 5<sup>th</sup> (Easter).**

**Last day of Sunday School, May 18<sup>th</sup>.**

### **St. Petri Office Hours**

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



## March

March 1: Sam Braucher  
 March 5: Kevin Keech  
 March 6: Brenda Carr, Jon Carr  
 March 7: Ben Olson, Ryker Rivers  
 March 8: Kelsey Olson  
 March 9: Carmen Peter, Denice Reisetter  
 March 10: Tanner Birchmier  
 March 12: Seth Crouch, Jeff Henrichs  
 March 14: Angie Keltner  
 March 15: Hubert Tussey  
 March 16: Sam Peterson, Dylan Rivers,  
           Judy Schnurstein  
 March 20: Kyle Keigan, Peg Patterson  
 March 22: Evelyn Fink, Connie Phillips  
 March 23: Anne Howard, Paul Ness  
 March 24: Hailey Anderson, Layla Healy  
 March 26: Chris Hobbs, Nancy Jewell  
 March 27: Adam Olson  
 March 28: Dawson Chelsvig, Travis DeRidder,  
           Maggie Foss, Terri Hermanson  
 March 31: Barb Hermanson, Liz Johnson



### Hi, it's Church Mouse!

In the category of "Things You Didn't Know are Working out Great": The little "Roomba" that our property committee brought us is *working out great!* Pastor Tim says that it gets under the pews better than ever. Custodian Deb has apparently taken to it also. She has knick-named it "Robby", after the robot on the movie "Forbidden Planet" and later on "Lost in Space".

We are all looking forward to spring (Is it too early to say that?? 😊) At the last snow storm, someone said, "We had so many people here to clear snow that we needed a traffic cop to direct traffic." In this case, there was a special contingent of people because they wanted to help get ready for Darlene Patterson's funeral. We are grateful for you all. And the precious memories and legacy of Darlene.

**My heart is full, Church Mouse**



**Thank you to everyone** who helped with ushering, greeting and fellowship during February!

Your time is greatly appreciated!

Ann Healy

### MARCH C.A.R.E. GROUP 2026

*CARE Group 3 Leaders*

Debra Malek, Annette Owenson

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



### APRIL 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	

## RIVERSIDE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP EVENTS

For questions or to register,  
call 733-5271 or  
go to [www.riversidelbc.org](http://www.riversidelbc.org)



### Dad & Me Retreat March 27 & 28, 2026

An overnight event that is specifically for dads and their kids! We had such a terrific time together! Dads kids, grandpas, uncles..

**ARRIVAL:** Friday between 5-6p; 6p supper

**FRIDAY EVENING:** Chapel fun & worship, campfire, cocoa & smores, free-time in the Rec Hall until Dad says it's bed time.

**SATURDAY:** Breakfast, Chapel, lunch, fun message from speaker, games, awesome scavenger hunt & lots of great Riverside free-time fun (zipline, horseback rides, 9-square, nukem, disc golf...)

**DEPARTURE:** 4:00pm (with snacks!)

**COST:** \$80/adult; \$50/child-under 5 free

**REGISTRATION TIP:** You can easily add family members that are already on your family dashboard by choosing their names from the dropdown. To add someone who is not on your family dashboard, just unclick the checkmark on "Pick From Contacts" and enter their info manually.

**Spring Blast!** 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade  
Sat., April 11, 2026; 9:30a-4p; \$45 ea.  
Tons of camp packed into a Saturday!

### Lil' Cowpoke May 2 & 9

2 sessions available each day!  
10am-noon & 12:30-2:30pm

For little cowboy & cowgirls ages 4-8 years who love horses! Each child must be attended by at least one parent or adult who is willing to lead their Lil' Cowpoke on a horse.

Additional adults welcome to register for \$10.

Cost: \$40/child; \$10/adult (meal included)

It is a great way to enjoy Riverside's horses and the Ranch & to learn more about the love of Jesus! There will be time to ride horses, play games, & get the chance to paint a horse!

## LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA March 2026

Because of donors like you, we can offer help across all 99 counties in Iowa through five key programs:

\*High-quality mental health services  
\*Important educational resources and guidance for parents of young children.

\*Dignified services for individuals with disabilities.

\*Resettlement and hospitality for our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

\*Safe and loving homes for children in the foster care or adoption system

For more info, please contact Barbara Jotzke-Torrier, Director of Philanthropy at [Barbra.Jotzke-Torrier@LSIowa.org](mailto:Barbra.Jotzke-Torrier@LSIowa.org). or 515-817-0918.

*More info at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) & Facebook [LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa)*

### St. Petri Lutheran Church Approved Council Meeting Minutes January 7, 2026

Present: Angie Rieck-Hinz, Travis DeRidder, Rick Stover, Angie Stover, Ann Healy, Kelsey Olson, Abby Patterson, Pastor Tim Malek Absent: Pat Murken

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. This additional meeting of the St. Petri Council is to decide how to disperse the 2025 budget "surplus."

Rick discussed minor changes to the green sheet and explained changes/additions to the purple sheet.

There was a short discussion about the troubles with the roof as well as a short discussion regarding the sign project.

Monies allocated by the Council:

Directional microphone for Livestreaming: \$550

Computers for the church secretary's office and for the volunteer office: \$6,000

Community meal fund: \$213 - to bring the balance back to \$500

Key/Lock at northeast door: \$7,000

ELCA: \$1,000

LSI: \$1,000

Organ fund \$1,000

Renew & Restore: \$1,422.01 (remainder of "surplus" funds)

Kelsey proposed a motion to approve the above-listed disbursements; Ann seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Abby made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.; Travis seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Stover

**St. Petri Lutheran Church  
Unapproved Council Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2026**

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

Meeting called to order at 11:21 a.m.

Angie R-H offered Devotions.

Angie S. presented the December Minutes for approval. Ann made a motion to accept the minutes; Kelsey seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Rick presented the Treasurer's Report, restating how the Council had decided to allocate the "surplus" 2025 budget at its special meeting the previous Wednesday, January 7. The Council confirmed leaving the allocation as is. Abby mentioned that she intends to follow up on the organ repair bill to get an itemized bill from Dobson Organ Company in Lake City. Angie R-H ceded the president position to Travis from 11:30-11:32 a.m. so that she could propose a motion that the current organ repair bill be paid for from the Undedicated Memorials account; Ann seconded. No discussion. Motion carried. Angie R-H,

having reassumed the president role, approved the checks written in December. Kelsey made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; Abby seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Pastor Tim said he hopes to return to home communion distribution at the end of January, but he will also check with local care facilities to assess the current flu risk.

Ann reminded the Council about the potluck planned for after the annual meeting on January 18th. She said Debra Malek hopes to organize a game night at the Parsonage in February and she reminded everyone of the Souper Bowl of Caring event in February, which will be organized by the Bauman siblings.

Abby reported that the hymns for the worship services have been chosen for January and February and that she is starting on planning hymns, etc. for Easter.

Kelsey reported that Sunday School had resumed today and that the youth will present special music at the worship service on Sunday, February 5. There will be no Sunday School on March 15th or April 5th and it will conclude May 10th.

Nancy, as the representative of the Property and Trustees Committee, presented information related to issues the committee has been working on: the keypad lock, the parsonage sink and the church roof. There was much discussion of these items as well as the church sign.

Kelsey made a motion to approve the 2026 proposed budget. Abby seconded. No discussion. Motion carried

Ann made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Travis seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Angie Stover

**Contributions(General Fund)**

January \$1,090.62

2026 YTD \$1,090.62

Faith comes from hearing

**THE MESSAGE,**

and the message

is heard through the

**WORD OF CHRIST.**

Romans 10:17, NIV

