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 Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

Join in praising God for His goodness at the
Community Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m.
at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Story City

St. Petri Church Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8:30am-3pm, except Wed. afternoon
Church Office Phone: (515) 733-4623
Email address: stpetrilutheran@stpetri.org
Website: www.stpetri.org

Pastor-Rev. Tim Malek
Missionaries – Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke, Japan



November 2026

NOVEMBER 2026
ST. PETRI LUTHERAN CHURCH, STORY CITY, IA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
EVERY SUNDAY 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Worship 11:00a Coffee/Fellowship . **1 All Saints Sunday** DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS 6:30p Confirmation-Bergen	**2** 10:30a Staff Mtg.	**3** ELECTION DAY	**4** 5:30p Property/ Trustees Mtg. 5:30p COMPASS 6:30p Youth Meal 7:00p AXIS	**5** Pastor -Boundaries Training -Iowa Falls	**6** Pastor Day Off	**7**
8 COMMUNION **WELCA THANKOFFERING** 11:15a Council Mtg. 6:30p Confirmation-St. Petri	**9** 10:30a Staff Mtg.	**10**	**11** Veterans Day 5:30p COMPASS 6:30p Youth Meal 7:00p AXIS	**12**	**13**	**14** 8a Weekend Women's Bible Study at parsonage 11a-12:30p Community Meal at Library-Free
15 11:15a Adult Bible Study- 2nd Timothy 6:30p Confirmation -Bergen	**16** 10:30a Staff Mtg.	**17**	**18** 5:30p COMPASS 6:30p Youth Meal 7:00p AXIS	**19** 2:00p WELCA Circle	**20** December newsletter articles due	**21**
22 Christ the King Sunday COMMUNION **Stewardship Sunday** with a meal 7p Thanksgiving Community Service-Immanuel, Story City	**23** Quilt making Mon.-Tue. 9a-noon 10:30a Staff Mtg.	**24**	**25** No Youth Group	**26** Office Closed **THANKSGIVING DAY** **Give Thanks to God!**	**27** Office Closed	**28** 10a-noon St. Petri works at Loaves & Fishes
29 11:15a Coffee with the Council	**30** 10:30a Staff Mtg.	**Dec. 1**	**2** 5:30p COMPASS 6:30p Youth Meal 7:00p AXIS	**3**	**4**	**5**

St. Petri Messenger

NOVEMBER 2026

Faith Seeking Understanding

Grace, Gratitude and Growth



November is naturally a time to reflect on all the blessings that we enjoy. A time of harvest and family gatherings, holidays and special events, a time of reflection as another year begins to wind down.

We all have much to be thankful for:

- We have been claimed and redeemed by God who loves us.
- We have been given the gift of eternal life, death may, for a time, have sway but it does not have the final word.
- We have been blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, wonderful counselor, abiding presence, mighty advocate, who will never forsake us.

We have so much to be so grateful for, grace upon grace like an ever-flowing fountain. May our hearts grow and overflow with *gratitude* to God's goodness. Let our gratitude motivate us to acts of great *generosity* and service, ever working, ever building up the Kingdom of God. Let us continue to pray fervently for and contribute lavishly to the ministries of God here at St. Petri Lutheran Church, especially as we seek God's guidance and plan for the next year of mission. Let us also pray for full participation in and generous response to our Annual Fall Stewardship Campaign, a time when we consecrate our financial commitment to the ongoing ministry of Christ through St. Petri Lutheran Church.

Additionally, this year we will be collecting food items for Loaves and Fishes as a part of our Fall Stewardship Campaign. Let's try to collect 20 bags (or more) of groceries to help our neighbors. Items that are needed currently include: Tissues, Pudding Mix, Soups, Spaghetti, Canned Green Beans and Peas.

Watch for more details to follow and look forward to our Consecration/Celebration Sunday on November 22nd which will include a special food event following our worship service.

– God's Work Our Hands,

Pastor Tim



Thank God for the many blessings He has given us. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

OUR MISSION:

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



Sunday November 1st at 2 a.m.



Our youth group is put on by Bergen Lutheran, St. Petri Lutheran and Grace United Methodist Churches, however all are welcome, so bring some friends!

Compass is our middle school (grades 5-8) youth group.

AXIS is our high school (grades 9-12) youth group.

We look forward to faith-based learning, fun, fellowship and expanding our faith together!

We are looking for people to volunteer to provide the meal for 15-20 youth as well as Wednesday night volunteers to be there for both groups. Here is a Signup Genius link for both of these.
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054FABAB2AA6FE3-66262352-youth

If you are interested in helping, but don't want to use Sign-Up Genius, you can reach out to me (Briton) at:
bjd_02@hotmail.com
Thank you!
Briton Mohr, Youth Director

NOTE: we will not have youth group Wednesday November 25, the week of Thanksgiving.

Both groups meet Wednesdays at St Petri, unless otherwise noted.

5:30-6:30pm **Compass** (5th-8th graders)
6:30pm **Youth Meal** (Compass & Axis)
7:00-8:00pm **Axis** (9th – 12th graders)



In Our Prayers
Jaye Anderson

Hospitalized in October

In Memoriam

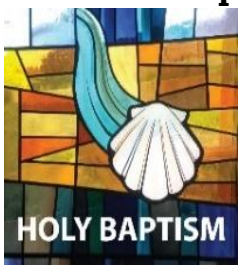
Ongoing Prayer Concerns
Linda Fevold, Judy Schnurstein, Paul Wierson

Prayers for those not near to us:
Patrick and Jacqueline Bencke, ELCA Missionaries, Japan
Soldiers, Peace Workers, and Humanitarian Aid Workers

Our Japan Missionaries
Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke

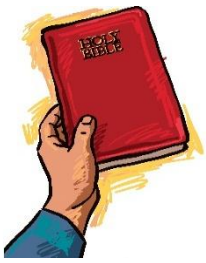


Congratulations to Luca John Healy on his baptism on Oct. 18, 2026!



Luca is the child of Garrett & Sierra Healy. Luca's baptismal sponsors are Zach & Beth Healy. May we all be Christian examples to Luca, 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



BIBLE PRESENTATION 2026

St. Petri gifted youth with Bibles in October. Those who received Bibles are:

3-year-olds: Luca Healy and
Hutson Holm

3rd graders: Lewis DeRidder
Layla Healy
Brooklyn Healy
Peter Olson
Alysann Patterson

"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." Prov. 22:6

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
November 1, 2026
ROLL OF THE SAINTS
(Those who have passed away this past year)

Lorna Hoversten, Alberta Olson, Darlene Patterson, Gloria Tussey, Scott Crosbie, Kay Disbrowe, Larry Reisetter

Please take a moment and say a prayer for their families.

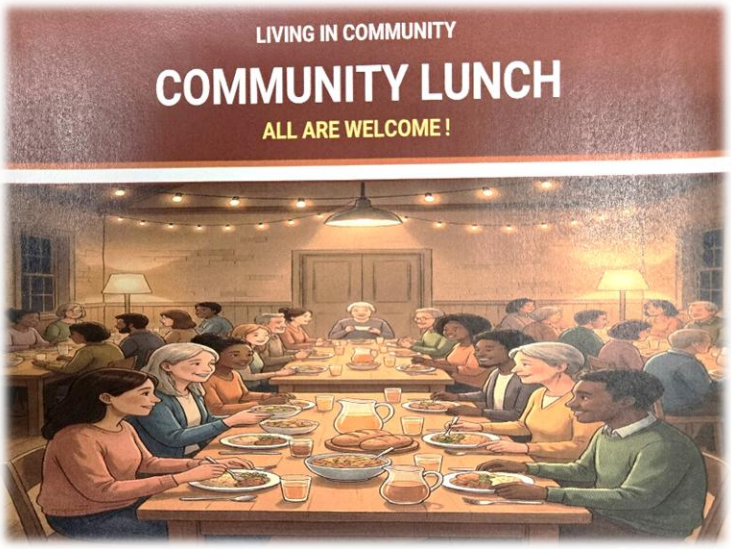
Hi, it's Church Mouse!



Have you enjoyed seeing the pumpkins around the Blessing Box? They make a great fall decoration, and they are free to anyone that wants one! They were donated by student and farmer Kara Patterson.

Speaking of Kara, she qualified for State AGAIN in cross-country. Congratulations, Kara! Such a big accomplishment.

My heart is full, Church Mouse



FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
at Bertha Bartlett Public Library, Story City
Saturday, November 14th
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or until gone.

Menu: Shredded chicken sandwiches, assorted sides, homemade desserts, and bottled water.

Dine-in or take-out is available.
Hosted by St. Petri Lutheran Church

We need 5-6 volunteers to help serve and 6-8 people to make a dozen cookies or bars. Sign up sheets are on the table by the church office. Thank you in advance!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
November 22
We will have a meal.
Details to come!



WEEKLY SUNDAY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS
are due the Wednesday morning before.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
are due the 20th of the previous month to ensure they will be in the newsletter. Please send them to stpetrilutheran@stpetri.org or give them to the Church Secretary. **Thank you!** ☺

THANKSGIVING ECUMENICAL SERVICE
at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Story City, IA

Join the community in praising God for His goodness!

Sunday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

Enjoy a time of fellowship & pie afterwards!

We'll have a Community Combined Choir for anyone to join! **Cheryl West is directing the combined choir for this Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service.** This service is **hosted at Immanuel** this year. Service starts at **7pm**, but the choir will rehearse all together one final time at **6:15pm**.

Cheryl is planning to rehearse at **Salem** in Roland with all the other choir members from area churches on the three Wednesdays leading up to the service (November 4th, 11th and 18th) from 6:45 - 7:15pm. If you'd like to rehearse with the other choirs, please do so!

The anthem is "Angus Dei (with How Great Thou Art)" by Michael W. Smith. It's a beautiful medley of two songs. Here is the link to listen to it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qR5stT-fp3s&list=RDqR5stT-fp3s&start_radio=1

We plan to have us all run through it on November 8th at our final fall rehearsal. If you'd like a copy before November 8, please let me know.

Also, if you'd like a practice track with specific parts to rehearse on your own, Cheryl has made those recordings and you can contact her at clwest50@gmail.com They are also available on Youtube at the link below- *this specific link goes to the alto part, but there are all the parts available.* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6QE7dSHnrQ&list=PL8a_a66_WQme8N0zGRHqowJRQ50OkSsON



WELCA Report

November 8 **Thankoffering Sunday**

November 23-24 9am-12p Quilt Making

November 19 2pm WELCA Bible Study
-All women are welcome!

Come join the quilters for fun, food, & fellowship. There is a variety of tasks – cutting, tying, pinning, and stitching! Everyone welcome-No experience needed.

WELCA THANKOFFERING
Sunday, November 8th



Each year we have the opportunity to support WELCA programs and projects with a special THANKOFFERING. Donations to the church-wide office support missions and ongoing needs around the world. **Please find the WELCA Thankoffering envelope in the November 8th bulletin. Note "Thankoffering" on the memo line on your check.**
Thank you for your continuing support!



St. Petri Women's Weekend Bible Study will meet Saturday, November 14 at 8 a.m. at the parsonage.

There will be no Bible Study in December.

NOVEMBER C.A.R.E. GROUP 2026

CARE Group 1 Leaders

Mardell Christian, Karen Munson

Dale & Kay Anderson Jon & Brenda Carr
Jerry & Gloria DeRidder
Travis & Kara DeRidder Virginia Egemo
Alan & Brandie Gossel Brian & Deb Holm
Adam & Sarah Holm Anne Howard
Brian Jones Lance & Angie Keltner
Ben Knutson Jennifer Lamoreux
Marc & Colleen Lamoreux
Brayden & Katelyn Lester Paul Munson
Carmen Peter Denice Reisetter
Leland & Erin Schwartz



DECEMBER 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



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 1: Emilia Healy, Debra Malek
Nov. 2: Grant Brown, Wanda Holm
Nov. 6: Lillian Braucher
Nov. 9: Kim Larson, Craig Sills
Nov. 11: Heather Johnson, Virginia Sayre
Nov. 16: Poppi Birchmier, Gabi Henrichs
Nov. 17: Grace Brown, Bennet Hobbs, Everly Rivers
Nov. 20: Ben Hermanson, Ron Rahfeldt
Nov. 22: John Fevold, Reagan Schmitz
Nov. 23: Marcus Lamoreux, Glenda Rahfeldt
Nov. 26: Brooklyn Healy
Nov. 29: Jim Nelson
Nov. 30: Brandon Rivers

St. Petri's email address:
stpetrilutheran@stpetri.org

Are you headed south for the winter?
Please let the church office know if you'll be gone for a few months. This helps us recognize why we don't see folks in church for consecutive weeks.



If you want to keep up with the happenings at St. Petri, feel free to share your email address with the church office to get the weekly church bulletin, follow the St. Petri Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/groups/497105341 85
or you can view the monthly newsletter at www.stpetri.org



Come and celebrate the season with cozy cheer and Scandinavian charm at the St. Petri

Taste of Norway Christmas Market!

- Taste traditional Norwegian treats
- Admire beautiful quilts
- Purchase delicious Christmas cookies

Don't miss this joyful holiday gathering that is taking place Saturday, December 12th from 9:00-11:00am



☺ **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. Thank you! 515-733-4623 or stpetrilutheran@stpetri.org

Dear St. Petri Lutheran Church,



Thank you for your support of LCM and our students. We are so grateful for your generosity and for your support of our ministry! We appreciate you!

Lutheran Campus Ministry University of Iowa

St. Petri Evangelical Lutheran Church
Approved Council Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2026



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

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. Travis offered Devotions.

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

Rick presented the Treasurer's report & highlighted payments & journal entries made since the August meeting. St. Petri was in the positive $1,261 for the month, making the total budget in the negative at just $2,096 for the year. (A motion to move remaining monies from the Keypad/Lock fund to the Sign Fund was proposed & approved, but it was discovered later in the meeting that the Council had already done that at a meeting earlier in the year. Rick made a note to move the monies.) Kelsey made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented; Ann seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Pastor Tim began his report by thanking the Council & the congregation for his vacation time he used in August to attend & to volunteer at the State Fair. He discussed St. Petri's main computer being "hacked" & working with Gaylan Scofield to fix the situation. A new phone system has been installed at church. He said that God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 13 was favorable overall. He noted that he has been called to preside at his first funeral at Bergen on Sept. 26 since John Sheahan has retired.

Christian Fellowship: Ann reported that the Senior Luncheon will be Thurs., Sept. 24 & that a Community Meal is planned at the library Sat., Nov. 14.

Worship: Jo made the Council aware of the need for a new Christ (Paschal) Candle. The committee has been researching options and thinks the cost will be around $1,500. Jo made a motion to use undedicated memorial money to purchase a new candle as well as a new base for it; Nancy seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Property and Trustees: Nancy said the committee will most likely be working with Signarama in Ankeny to complete the sign project. There are a few additional details, such as the electrical work involved, but that the project is moving along. She also reported on work the committee would like to do to "finish" the lock at the northeast entrance to comply with ADA standards. She gave details on the new phone system that was installed. She reported on the committee's pest control efforts as well as the progress that has been made to move and update the Quilters' space. A walk-through of the Parsonage needs to be scheduled, and an outdoor workday has been scheduled for Saturday, October 3. Nancy mentioned future needs: parsonage roof replacement, organ overhaul as well as the aforementioned ADA needs at the northeast entrance and outdoor electricity. Nancy made a motion to begin work setting up a Capital Campaign to raise funds to address these future needs; Kelsey seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Faith Formation: Kelsey reported there were 17 kids the first week of Sunday School September 13. She discussed that she will be working with Abby Patterson regarding the kids singing in church throughout the year. Homecoming Sunday is planned for September 27. Eighth-graders will receive Confirmation Bibles and there will be a blessing of the latest quilts that were delivered for shipment Sept. 19. A tailgate lunch will follow.

No Old Business.

New Business: Rick noted that all four plans for Portico (insurance) are the same price. Kelsey asked the council members about the possibility of creating a policy regarding reimbursement. There was quite a bit of discussion, though no resolution at this time.

Kelsey made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Rick seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Angie Stover

<u>Contributions</u>(General Fund) 2026
September income/expense -$2,711.82
2026 YTD -$4,808.45

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

Check the church's answering machine. <u>If Roland-Story schools are dismissed early due to bad weather, then church events will also be canceled.</u>





<u>FALL FESTIVAL</u>
DRIVE THRU TAKE OUT ONLY
St. Mary Catholic Church of Williams
Everyone welcome!
Sunday, November 1, 2026
Serving from 4:00-6:00pm; $15.00/meal
The meal consists of:
Chicken & homemade noodles, meat loaf, real mashed potatoes, home frozen corn, salad, pie!
St. Mary's Pickles will be available for sale!

Wings of Refuge
Christmas Kick-Off Open House
Thurs., November 12 from 4-6pm
503 Duff Ave., Ames, IA
Support survivors & start your holiday shopping at the one more store!
Survivor-made products, gift wrapping station, live music, refreshements
Earrings, bracelets, candles, apparel, mugs, cards, essential oils, hats, gifts, and more!

Lutheran Services in Iowa Newsletter
NOVEMBER-NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH



Lutheran Services in Iowa has served adoptive & foster families for decades, helping to ensure every child has a safe & loving home. To learn more about our Foster Care & Adoption services, please visit www.lsiowa.org/foster-care-adoption. For more info, please contact Barbra Jotzke-Torrier, Director of Philanthropy, at Barbra.Jotzke-Torrier@LSIowa.org

Stories of Success in Foster Care

Lutheran Services in is a subcontractor for the statewide R.R.T.S. (Recruitment, Retention, Training and Support) contract managed by Four Oaks Family Connections. That means we support the families that provide foster care 38 Western Iowa Counties. Families that make the following success story possible.

"**I started foster care at 17 days old.** I have faced many challenges and obstacles but in the end, I rose above. I was adopted at the age of 5 by a family in a small town. In that house I felt like a prisoner. They had strict rules and turned me into a real life Cinderella. This went on for a couple of years and **at the age of 10 I was sent away** because I was "too much". There was so much trauma that I never had the chance to heal.

I was sent to a treatment facility in Missouri. Ended up staying there for two and a half years. During that time, I started to see my true potential. I found things that I enjoyed and stuck with them. Who knew that those years were when I would find my calling. I started to excel in school. My grades rapidly improved. **I was moved from facility to facility till I was about 14.**

Right before my first day of high school, I was sent to a foster home with people I barely knew. They knew that I came with baggage. At first, it was a bumpy ride. I was very closed off and scared to enjoy life. I joined the cheer squad, joined theatre, did a musical theatre performance for speech and I did choir. The common denominator in all of that was school. I knew that even after everything, school would be there.

I started to look for a longer-term and permanent home when I was 15. I interviewed with family after family. Went on weekend visits, walks and zoom calls. Eventually, I found one family who was willing to take a chance on me. It was April 2020. I met them in person for the first time at a park. 2020 was a hard time because I did not have school. I felt like I was lost until I met them. I grew attached to this family VERY quickly. **We had one zoom call and I started packing.**

I had lost hope that I would find my forever home. I went for a weekend visit in May of 2020 and never left. I instantly felt welcome. They supported my dreams of becoming a teacher. My junior year of high school, I switched schools. I was absolutely terrified at the idea of starting over again but there were so many things that I benefited from. I joined cheer and became captain, I joined choir, I continued to do theatre.

There was one major tip of the scales. I was given the opportunity to take college courses. I sat down with my parents and told them that I really wanted to do this. Without hesitation, they signed me up and now, I am student teaching, 4 years later at a local elementary school. **All because they believed I could do it.**"

Bible Camp

RIVERSIDE BIBLE CAMP EVENTS

For more info, please contact: 515-733-5271
Website: www.riversidelbc.org
Email: rlbc@riversidelbc.org

Fall Recharges

Theme: Set Free
2 Corinthians 3:17
"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

November 6-7: Junior High Recharge (grades 6-9) *One overnight*
***November 20-22**: Senior High Recharge (grades 9-12)
*High school recharge is 2 nights.

Youth, enjoy worship, friends, food, games, activities, free time, small groups, carpetball, awesome camp leaders, skits… more info/register on Riverside's website.

GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, December 1 Virtual Event

Giving Tuesday is a movement to inspire generosity around the world and Riverside is again joining this movement this year. Will you join us?

Over the last several years, our Giving Tuesday event has been a great way to rally Riverside supporters as we wrap up an impactful year of ministry!

HOW CAN I GIVE?

1. Go to the donation portal on our website so that you can make an electronic gift.
2. Mail in a check to our office with 'Giving Tuesday' in the memo to: 3001 Riverside Road, Story City, IA, 50248
3. Call in a gift over the phone. You can reach our office at 515-733-5271.
4. Drop off a gift at camp on Tuesday, Dec. 2.

Usher in the season at our
RIVERSIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY
Sunday, December 13, 2026
from 5:30-7:30pm



Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with an evening full of fellowship, food, and worship!

There's no cost for this event.
It's our gift to you!

Schedule of events

5:30-7:30p Dinner & cookie decorating (in Dining Hall)
(Rec Hall) open for fun & games
(Mortvedt) open for coffee/ smoothies
Riverside Camp store open in the Dining Hall basement for Christmas shopping
6:30-7pm Christmas message & Worship



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Return form/payment to the Church office by Sunday, November 25th.

__I'll bring my own poinsettia(s) before Dec. 4

__I want St. Petri to order me ____ poinsettia(s) $12.00 ea.

To sponsor poinsettias, please fill out below.

Name_____

In Honor of_____

_____

In Memory of _____

_____

WE NEED YOU!

Please consider helping your church by volunteering to be on the council, a committee or be a St. Petri delegate for 2027-2028!
This is a very minimal time to spend, but with everyone's help it makes a big difference!
If you would like to help your church, please contact Angie Rieck-Hinz or Abby Patterson

Positions that are open and term length

President	1 yr.
Vice President	1 yr.
Secretary	1 yr.
Treasurer	1 yr.
Christian Fellowship Coord.	1 yr.
Worship Community Coord.	1 yr.
Property/Trustees Coord.	1 yr.
Faith Formation Coord.	1 yr.
Property/Trustees	2 yr.
Property/Trustees	2 yr.
Nominating Comm.	1 yr.
Nominating Comm.	1 yr.
Outgoing Council	1 yr.
Outgoing Council	1 yr.
Finance Committee	2 yr.
Finance Committee	2 yr.
Finance Committee	2 yr.
Endowment Committee	3 yr.

Synod Assembly 2027

1 man	N/A
1 woman	N/A
1 youth	N/A

Bethany Manor

1
2
3
alternate

Riverside Bible Camp (in Feb.)

1
2
alternate

Riverside Conference (in Feb.)

1 man
1 man
1 woman
1 woman
1 youth
1 youth

Job descriptions are on following pages. →

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The **PRESIDENT** shall preside at the meetings of the Congregation Council, congregation and Executive Committee.

In the absence of the president, the **VICE PRESIDENT** shall preside at meetings of the Congregation Council, congregation and Executive Committee.

The **SECRETARY** shall keep the minutes of the Congregation Council, congregation and Executive Committee and have custody of the archives of the congregation.

The **TREASURER** shall have custody of all funds of the congregation and shall receive and disburse such funds in accordance with the decisions of the Congregation Council or the congregation.

A **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** of four voting members of this congregation, two of whom, if possible, shall be outgoing members of the Congregation Council, shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive re-election.

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE - The St. Petri Mission Endowment Fund (hereafter named the FUND) is established to provide vehicles and structure for members who have the ability and desire to benefit St. Petri Lutheran Church through charitable giving that is consistent with our mission of being disciples of Jesus Christ and making disciples on both a local and global level. The purpose of the FUND is to promote long-term funding of specific programs that support Christ's mission and ensure our financial stability. This fund will not fully replace any regular budgeted items, or take the place of regular giving by St. Petri members. The COMMITTEE, which oversees the FUND, will seek to provide a perpetual source of income for the purposes designated.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Recording and depositing contributions.

COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTIONS

a. Christian Fellowship Coordinator

1. Attend monthly council meetings to report on progress of tasks and to make requests/motions to the council
2. Prepare a written report for the annual meeting of the congregation
3. Prepare publicity pieces (newsletter, bulletin, temple talk) as needed
4. Recommend to the Property/Trustees Committee annual budget requests
5. Establish and coordinate a network of helpers to complete the following tasks:
   i. Organize & coordinate volunteers for weekly, monthly, seasonal, and annual activities of the congregation as needed. These activities may include, but are not limited to:
      1. Worship Volunteers & Hospitality (Head usher, ushers, taxi, greeters, etc.)
      2. Grounds Volunteers (Snow removal & Lawn Care)
      3. Special congregational events (such as: Turkey Supper, Kumla Feed & Senior Luncheon)
      4. Other fellowship & congregational activities as desired.
      5. Funeral volunteer coordination (hospitality & luncheon volunteers)
   ii. Coordinate ELCA events and ELCA materials (World hunger, refugee/immigration, advocacy)
   iii. Coordinate activities to consider faithful stewardship campaigns including automatic donations, pledge drive, etc.

b. Worship Community Coordinator

1. Attend monthly council meetings to report on progress of tasks and to make requests/motions to the council
2. Prepare a written report for the annual meeting of the congregation
3. Prepare publicity pieces (newsletter, bulletin, temple talk) as needed
4. Recommend to the Property/Trustees Committee annual budget requests
5. Establish and coordinate a network of helpers to complete the following tasks:
   i. Choose hymns monthly
   ii. Organ/piano/handbell maintenance (line up tuners, advise & approve on repairs)
   iii. Decorate sanctuary seasonally (cross drapes, advent/Christmas decorations, Harvest theme in fall, Lent/Easter)
   iv. Work with Pastor on Special Services
   v. Organize poinsettias/Easter lilies
   vi. Plan special music and guest musicians/concerts
   vii. Prepare new member welcome baskets
   viii. Mailing of bulletins for shut-ins
   ix. Be actively involved in the selection of the missionary supported by St. Petri and keep the congregation informed of missionary work and their needs
   x. Communion assistance on communion Sundays
   xi. Communion visits to shut-ins
   xii. Visits to shut-ins (non-communion related)
   xiii. Mid-week prayer services
   xiv. Lectern/assisting minister list coordination
   xv. Coordinating care for members (illness, etc.)

c. Faith Formation Coordinator

1. Attend monthly council meetings to report on progress of tasks and to make requests/motions to the council
2. Prepare a written report for the annual meeting of the congregation
3. Prepare publicity pieces (newsletter, bulletin, temple talk) as needed
   (Constitutional Changes cont.)
4. Recommend to the Property/Trustees Committee annual budget requests
5. Establish and coordinate a network of helpers to complete the following tasks as needed in collaboration with the ministry staff:
   i. Provide leadership training opportunities for youth
   ii. Generation of a search committee and job description for a paid youth worker as needed
   iii. Coordinate fellowship hour receptions for both Confirmation and Graduation Sundays
   iv. Pick adult education curriculum
   v. Supervise and coordinate all Cross+Generational Ministry
   vi. Coordinate youth programing and adult support for programing
   vii. Grant camper-ships/scholarships for Bible camps and other youth leadership programming
   viii. Organize Vacation Bible School program

d. Property and Trustees Coordinator

1. Attend monthly council meetings to report on progress of tasks and to make requests/motions to the council
2. Prepare a written report for the annual meeting of the congregation
3. Prepare publicity pieces (newsletter, bulletin, temple talk) as needed
4. Work with the elected committee members to complete the following tasks:
   i. Establish a list of 3-5 resource people, resident experts, or reserve workers to be called on for consultation, project planning, or simply an available labor pool.
   ii. Building and grounds maintenance of church and parsonage
      1. Organize congregational work days for church maintenance and repairs (raking leaves, painting, trimming bushes, shrubs, trees, care of flowers and plantings, care of outside planters and landscaping)
      2. Regularly inspect church and parsonage for repairs and maintenance needs
      3. Make minor repairs at the church
      4. Review and authorize repairs and maintenance requests
      5. Designate use of various parts of church for functions
      6. Oversee specially designated committees in relation to repairs and fundraising for repairs
      7. Complete/oversee parsonage restore and renew projects
   iii. Draft and recommend policies for use of church to be adopted by church council including the following:
      1. Vehicle safety policy
      2. Parsonage use policy
      3. Electronic communication
      4. Custodial duties
      5. Usage and fees policy
      6. Travel expenses policy
      7. Employee credit card policy
   iv. Generation of a search committee for church custodian
   v. Supervise legal matters including all insurance; review compliance and policy annually
   vi. Prepare and recommend the annual budget to Congregation Council
   vii. Hire and supervise work of custodian
   viii. Oversee the budget and church expenditures
   ix. Ascertain that expenditures are within the approved budget
   x. Recommend to Congregation Council any fiscal restraints (in consultation with the treasurer) that may be needed for cash flow purposes
   xi. Coordinate projects with the Endowment Committee.
   xii. Recommends salary changes for church employees and professional staff to the council
   Work with all other committees or groups on joint church projects

The Bencke Family in Japan

October 2026: 113番



Left: ASIA-PACIFIC STAFF during summer missionary conference
Right: My brother grows dahlias, and I finally got to see his garden



Thank you!

Summer is over, which brings our home assignment 2026 to a close. We had an excellent itinerary, packed with conferences, church visits, some family time, college visits, driver's education, medical checkups, and revitalization of the spirit. We met three "new to us" pastors at congregations where we have been partnered for many years but not had the opportunity to visit. At one service, we were able to soak in a worship service in English (!) where we got to listen to a message instead of provide it. What an extraordinary blessing – I don't think either of us realized how parched our souls were to hear the Word preached in our own language. Another congregation had us hold a conversation with the pastor in lieu of having a formal sermon. We did presentations at almost all the places we visited, and as usual my favorite part of those is the Q & A time. We never know what people are going to ask, and some of the questions are zingers!

Along with church visits, we go to Chicago for the summer missionary conference, which happens in tandem with an all-churchwide staff retreat. Along with conducting practical business and learning about policy changes, perhaps more importantly we join together for fellowship, worship, prayer, support, meals (where the most incredible conversations take place!), and sometimes to say goodbye. Now that Patrick and I are in our 20th year with this position, many of the people we started with have already retired or are retiring soon. That was the case this year. We also said much more difficult goodbyes, in particular to a missionary colleague who was killed in a motorbike accident in his country of service.

Professional development is an important component of missionary life and that of a teacher. Knowing what is happening in other corners of the world helps us to keep a balanced perspective

our work and relevancy in both the local and global context. I attended the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians conference at St. Olaf this year for the first time, as it coincided with our time in the U.S. and was proximal to our base in Hastings, MN. It was a week of making music with professional Lutheran musicians from across the country and was an opportunity to learn and create. I saw some colleagues from my undergraduate work at Gustavus who I hadn't seen in decades as well as met some people in person with whom I correspond when doing academic writing. Absolutely invigorating! Toward the end of our time in the U.S., Patrick and I attended the Sing! Conference in Nashville, where 7000 people gather and – SING! It is about 3 days of singing traditional hymns, learning from incredibly gifted, eloquent, and prolific speakers. One of my favorites is always John Lennox, a mathematician and theologian at Oxford, who speaks regularly at this conference. Reconnecting with my PhD advisor, Scott Connell, was also great. Patrick finally got to meet him in person. Perhaps even more incredible was that we ran into our pastor from Menomonie who presided at our wedding 26 years ago. We had a blast catching up after 26 years!

Home assignment is also a time to see family members. We were finally able to see our daughter, Emilie, who now works in Wisconsin. Hannah is now checking out colleges, so we made visits to several places, including my alma mater in St. Peter, MN. (I think she only went to humor me, but that's totally ok!) Patrick also visited his parents and siblings in New Mexico, where I heard there was a lot of laughter and plenty of bad jokes. Hannah and I had to head back to Japan to get her back in time for exams, so unfortunately, we missed seeing family in New Mexico. Not sad that I missed the bad jokes, though, to be honest. In addition to his regular job, my brother grows dahlias, and as of today, my sister was able to move back into her home (it was lost in a fire in February and reconstruction is almost complete).

We are so grateful for the many people we met along the journey. The airports and flights and travel details are all a blur, but clear memories remain of the after-church potlucks, the conversations that flowed into the evenings, the hugs, and the warmth of Christ that you all so generously shared with us. If we did not make it to your congregation this year, please keep us in mind for a visit in 2028 for our next home assignment! In the meantime, I hope to get back to more regular correspondence with you, our beloved partners!







Honoring Stephen and Jodi at SMC
Watercolor that Jackie did with her dad
The rare and elusive family pic
Meeting Jack and Diana at the Getty Sing! conference