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

Address Service Requested

The St. Petri Messenger
A publication of St. Petri Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday October 25th

St. Petri Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. Sunday School (3 yr. olds-4th grade)
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

St. Petri Church Office Hours
Monday-Friday 8:30am-3pm, except Wed. afternoon
Church Office Phone: (515) 733-4623

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



OCTOBER 2026

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ST. PETRI LUTHERAN CHURCH, STORY CITY, IA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
EVERY SUNDAY AM ***unless noted*** 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee/Fellowship	**OCTOBER IS CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH**			**1**	**2**	**3**
4	**5**	**6**	**7** 5:30p Prop. Mtg. 5:30p COMPASS 6:30p Youth Meal 7:00p AXIS	**8**	**9**	**10** 9a Walk to End Alzheimers-Brookside Park-Ames, IA
------ Pastor at Fall Theo. Conference ------						
11 COMMUNION 11:15a Council Mtg. 1:30p Crop Walk for Hunger-Ada Hayden Park-Ames, IA 6:30p 8th/9th grade Confirmation-Bergen	**12 Columbus Day** 10:30a Staff Mtg.	**13**	**14** 5:30p COMPASS 6:30p Youth Meal 7:00p AXIS	**15** 2p WELCA Bible Study	**16**	**17** 8a Women's Weekend Bible Study at parsonage
18 11:15a Adult New Testament Study on 1st Timothy	**19** 10:30a Staff Mtg.	**20** **Nov. Newsletter Articles Due!** 8:30a-noon RLBC Church Administrator Morning	**21** 5:30p COMPASS 6:30p Youth Meal 7:00p AXIS	**22**	**23**	**24**
25 Reformation Sunday COMMUNION 6:30p 8th/9th grade Confirmation-St. Petri	**26** 10:30a Staff Mtg.	**27**	**28** 5:30p COMPASS 6:30p Youth Meal 7:00p AXIS	**29**	**30**	**31** Halloween
	-------- Quilt making Mon.-Wed. 9am–noon --------					

St. Petri Messenger

October 2026



Faith Seeking Understanding

Freedom to Live as God's Beloved

October arrives in Iowa with a familiar invitation: slow down, notice the changing season, and give thanks. The fields around Story City take on their autumn colors, harvest begins, and our communities settle into the rhythms of another fall. In the midst of this season of change, our Reformation Sunday text from the Gospel of John, offers us a reminder about a freedom that does not depend on circumstances.

In John 8:31–36, Jesus tells those who believe in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples." He goes on to speak about truth and freedom: "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Freedom can mean many things to us. We may think of having choices, independence, or the ability to make our own decisions. But Jesus points toward a deeper freedom—a freedom rooted in knowing God's truth and living in relationship with God.

As a small congregation, we know that life together is not always about independence. It is about belonging. We depend on one another through seasons of joy and seasons of difficulty. We worship, pray, serve, laugh, grieve, and grow together. In doing so, we discover that Christian freedom is not simply freedom *from* responsibility; it is freedom *for* loving our neighbors and serving God.

October is a beautiful time to remember this calling. As the harvest reminds us that much of what sustains us comes through the work of many hands, so our life as a congregation is sustained by the gifts, prayers, time, and presence of many people.

Jesus invites us to remain in God's word—to listen, learn, and allow God's truth to shape how we live. That invitation is especially meaningful when our world feels divided or uncertain. We do not have to carry every burden alone. We belong to Christ and to one another.

May this October be a season in which we notice God's gifts all around us: in the beauty of creation, in the fellowship of our beloved St. Petri, in the generosity of our neighbors, and in opportunities to serve.

And may we remember Jesus' promise: "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." May that freedom give us courage to love, grace to forgive, and joy to share the good news of Christ with our community and beyond.

Peace, Pastor Tim Malek

Our next Adult New Testament Class will be Sunday, October 18 at 11:15am in the old nursery. We will study 1st Timothy.

OCTOBER IS
CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH!

Please take a moment in prayer for
Pastor Tim Malek
and to express your appreciation for
his hard work and dedication to St. Petri.
Your encouragement means a lot!

Thank you Pastor Tim
for choosing to serve the Lord here at St. Petri!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

In Our Prayers
Jaye Anderson

Hospitalized in September

In Memoriam
Larry Reisetter

Ongoing Prayer Concerns
Linda Fevold, Judy Schnurstein, Paul Wierson

Prayers for those not near to us:
Patrick and Jacqueline Bencke (ELCA Missionaries) in Japan, Soldiers, Peace Workers, and Humanitarian Aid Workers
Those in Ukraine and Russia

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

To our Friends at St. Petri –
Thank you for thinking of us and sharing such a variety of delicious bars.
Thank you! You ARE God's Hands!
Audrey Bauer, Virginia Egemo, Barb Hermanson, Marilyn Lekwa, Rolfe & Margaret Johnstad, Gloria Severson, Shirley Stakey, Timberland Residents and Staff

Dear Friends,
Grateful for your continued partnership in the Gospel!
God bless you! *Chris Dahl, Director of Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp*



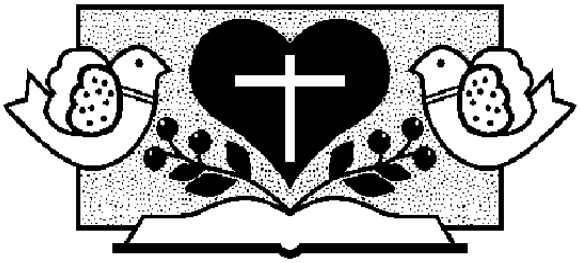
Overflowing With Thanks

Eloise Braucher & Maddyn Johnson, St. Petri 8th graders, were presented Bibles on Sunday, September 27th, as a milestone in their faith journey, encouraging them to read and explore God's Word every day. May these Bibles be a lifelong source of wisdom, comfort, and joy to them.

YOUTH NEWS!

Youth group meets on Wednesdays

5:30p-6:30p **COMPASS** (5th – 8th grades)
6:30p-7p Youth meal for **COMPASS & AXIS**
7:00p-8:00p **AXIS** (9th – 12th grades)



WELCA Report

October 15	2:00p	WELCA Circle
October 26-28	9a-12p	Quilt Making



The Quilt Ministry continues strong at St. Petri.
Typically we meet the last Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of each month.
We work, we chat & enjoy coffee fellowship time, as well. All are welcome!!!

We had **BLESSING OF THE QUILTS** on Sunday, September 27th. Where have our quilts gone this year?
49 ELCA Lutheran World Relief
17 The Bridge Home
3 Navajo Nation Globe, Arizona
30 Hope Ministries
Thank you to all who support this ministry in any way!

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

ST. PETRI T-SHIRTS

We will have another T-shirt order in October!

The shirts are maroon with the words printed on the front-

St Petri
Gathering to know Jesus,
Serving to make a difference

Order forms will be by the church office or send an email to ahealy1201@gmail.com to order.

All sizes available.

Orders due by October 18th.

They will arrive sometime November and cost will be somewhere around $15 each. Payment due at pickup. Thanks!



Oct. 1: Maddyn Johnson, Tim Patterson
Oct. 2: Ben Knutson
Oct. 3: Marlene Helling
Oct. 4: Angie Roling
Oct. 6: Verlyn Frohling
Oct. 7: Ella Braucher, Austin Hobbs
Oct. 10: Diane Larson
Oct. 12: Seth Hill, Jason Patterson
Oct. 13: Logan Andersen
Oct. 14: Spencer Peterson
Oct. 16: King Brown
Oct. 18: Mary Nannenga, Kayla Tafolla
Oct. 19: Theo Patterson
Oct. 21: Jill Anderson, Wyatt Peterson
Oct. 22: Hayden Gossel
Oct. 23: Kris Foss, Sawyer Hjortsvang
Oct. 24: Carin Gossel, Betty Grinde
Oct. 25: Gloria DeRidder, Willow Hill, Kara Patterson
Oct. 26: Kole Knutson
Oct. 27: Diana Keech
Oct. 29: Angie Stover, Andrea Williams
Oct. 31: Jason Johnson, Mary Wynia

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 25th

OCTOBER C.A.R.E. GROUP 2026

CARE Group 5 Leader

Sherri Keigan

Lorene Anderson
Troy Bickelhaupt
Gary & Hope Brown
Nancy Carlson
Doris Classon
Tony Edwards & Jennifer Knutson
John & Linda Fevold
Evelyn Fink
Seth & Willow Hill
Sawyer & Lindsey Hjortsvang
Patty Hoversten
Paul & Karen Jacobson
Jim Keigan
Lowell & Beci Lande
Janet Mortvedt
Paul Ness
Randy & Kelsey Olson
Connie Phillips
Shirley Stakey
Rick & Angie Stover
Chuck & Patty VanPatter
Wayne Williams



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
Adam & Sarah Holm
Brian & Deb 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

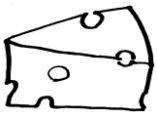
Hi, it's Church Mouse!



The thing that I love about St. Petri's September Rally Day is the ***potluck!*** The funny thing is, suddenly crockpots materialize, seemingly out of thin air. Sure, some people go home to get their serving dish and then bring it in, but others make use of the comically large number of electrical outlets throughout the church basement. You are ready to serve!

The potluck was a treat for both young and old, salad eaters and dessert connoisseurs. There was plenty of everything, and people were obviously thinking about the kids: no less than *three* people brought mac n cheese!

My heart is full, Church Mouse



☺ **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 keep you informed of upcoming events.
515-733-4623 or
stpetrilutheran@gmail.com

WEEKLY SUNDAY BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS
are due the Wednesday morning before.

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

Thank you! ☺

St. Petri Lutheran Church
Approved Council Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2026

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

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

Ann offered Devotions - Finding joy in simple things.

Angie presented the June meeting minutes for approval. Ann made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; Nancy seconded. A mention was made that Veronica had highlighted that it was the downstairs, not the upstairs, men's bathroom that had been fixed. Motion carried.

Rick presented the Treasurer's report - both the June and July green and purple sheets. He highlighted that there was a budget deficit of $4,439 at the end of June and the deficit was $3,358 at the end of July. Rick noted checks written in June and July and that arrangements were in progress to switch how to access St. Petri's Vanguard/Endowment funds. Ann made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; Jo seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Pastor Tim thanked the Council and the church for allowing him the opportunity for continuing education that he completed in July as well as for the vacation time he will be using later in August.

Ann reported on a few vacancies that have arisen since the last council meeting and how they have been filled. Dave Sporleder is testing being Head Usher in August. Kendra Braucher will be assuming CARE Group duties from Cheryl Hoffman and Wanda Holm, while Katie Thorson (and another to be determined) will be assuming their Altar Guild duties. Ann reminded everyone that St. Petri will be serving hot dogs and lemonade at the R–S Serve event in the park Saturday, August 29th.

Jo reported that Backpack Sunday will be August 23rd and Rally Sunday, if we

choose to have one, will be a Sunday after Labor Day weekend.

Nancy updated the council on the sign project, moving the quilters to the double classroom on the lower east side as well as *several* more projects the Property & Trustees Committee has in the works.

The September Council Meeting needs to be rescheduled. Travis will get in touch with everyone about when that will be.

No Old Business.

No New Business.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Angie Stover

Contributions(General Fund)

August income/expense $1,261.90
2026 YTD -$2,096.63

It is all too easy for us
to be distracted by
Loving the WORK of the LORD
more than
Loving the LORD of the WORK

BETHANY LIFE

CARING FOR OTHERS WITH A CHRISTIAN FOCUS OF HOPE, WELLNESS, AND COMPASSION

SHARE WHAT YOU CAN!

Volunteer – Adopt an household,
push wheelchairs for chapel,
support Affordables

Financial – Sponsor an event
Support an appeal
Congregational giving

Connections – Introduce us to those in your congregation who have a passion for serving and supporting our mission

Promote Bethany Life – by sharing news and announcements with your congregation

Elect Delegates – to represent your congregation at the annual meeting

LSI
LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA
people focused • results driven

LSI, through generous donations, helps children, adults, and families across Iowa find hope in difficult moments, support when they need it most, and opportunities to build brighter futures. Because of generous givers – it's possible for:

- A child to find safety, stability, and a loving family through foster care and adoption.
- A family to receive guidance and support as they navigate the challenges of raising young children.
- An individual experiencing a mental health crisis to access compassionate, life-changing care.
- A person with disabilities to pursue greater independence, purpose, and connection.
- An immigrant or refugee to find welcome, rebuild their lives, and become part of thriving Iowa communities.
- A working family to gain new skills, achieve greater financial stability, and build a stronger future.

Every act of generosity creates a ripple effect. Your gift provides more than services – it offers comfort, dignity, belonging, and hope. Thank you for choosing to support your neighbors and hep create a stronger, more compassionate Iowa.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me at: 515-817-0918 or email Barbra.jotzke-torrier@LSIowa.org

Barbra Jotzke-Torrier, Dir. of Philanthropy



Loaves and Fishes food pantry needs:
Canned vegetables, canned soups (tomato, chicken noodle, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom), Ramen noodles, paper supplies (paper towels, toilet paper, tissues), shampoo, deodorant.

Walk to End Alzheimer's

NOW Is Our Moment.

October 10, 2026 8:00am Registration

Brookside Park in Ames, Iowa

Now is the moment we've been waiting for. With new treatments emerging in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia, now is the time for hope. Now is the time for action. Help us keep the momentum going in your community at the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's, the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease. Register today at alz.org/walk.



Crop Walk for Hunger

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Ada Hayden Park, Ames, Iowa

Check-in 1p; Walk begins 1:30p

To learn more or to register, go to: https://events.crophungerwalk.org and choose Ames, Iowa Crop Hunger Walk. You can sign up as teams!

Bergen Fall Festival
Drive-Thru Meal and Bake Sale

at Bergen Lutheran Church in Roland

Saturday, October 24th 11:00am-1:00pm



Turkey sandwich, pasta salad, baked beans, chips, blonde brownie/banana bar

Freewill Offering; All are welcome

Bake Sale includes kringla, lefse…

Proceeds will benefit charities & organizations, locally & world-wide.

RIVERSIDE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP EVENTS



For more info, please contact: [illegible]

Website: www.riversidelbc.org

Email: rlbc@riversidelbc.org

Fall Recharges

October 16-17: Juniors Recharge (grades 3-6) *One overnight*

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.



Myrtle's Closet at
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Story City

We are serving about 10 families each time we open the Closet for families to shop for good used clothing, diapers and wipes. We also provide a new car seat that transitions from 5 pound baby to 100 pound booster seats so the family isn't buying more seats for the child. A new apartment sized crib is also provided upon need. Thanks for your interest and support to the community. *Laura Carlson*
Myrtles Closet Volunteer Administrator

We are on Facebook at Myrtles Closet if you want to follow us!

Join us in supporting our Diaper Drive in the month of October! You may drop your donations off at:
Immanuel Lutheran Church
604 Lafayette Avenue Story City, Iowa.
Thank you for your generosity!