

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

(Beginning September 13th on Rally Sunday)

9:00am Sunday School

10:00am Worship

11:00am Coffee/Fellowship (Potluck on 13th)

St. Petri Church Office Hours

8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri

(Except Wed. afternoon)

Church Office Phone: (515) 733-4623

Email: stpetrilutheran@stpetri.org

Website: www.stpetri.org

Pastor Tim Malek 515-598-6635

Missionaries Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke, Japan

Parish/Financial Secretary – Veronica Wright

Custodian – Deb Lancaster

September 2026

RALLY SUNDAY
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS



ST. PETRI LUTHERAN CHURCH, STORY CITY, IA

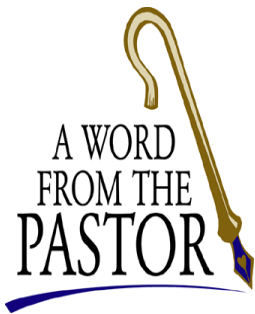
SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Every Sunday in Sept.</u> (beginning Sept. 13) 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Worship Service 11:00a Coffee/Fellowship		1	2	3	4 Pastor's Day Off	5
6	7 LABOR DAY Office Closed	8	9 5:30p Property/Trustee Comm. Mtg.	10 6:30p Salad Supper Guest Night at Our Savior's Radcliffe	11 Pastor's Day Off	12 10a St. Petri works at Loaves & Fishes
13 Communion GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS RALLY SUNDAY w/POTLUCK 9am Sunday School begins 10am Worship Service 11am Potluck 6:30p Confirmation Orientation at Bergen	14 10:30a Staff Mtg.	15	16 5:30p COMPASS 6:30p Youth Meal 7:00p AXIS	17 2p WELCA Circle	18 Pastor's Day Off	19 Quilt Shipping Day 8am Weekend Women's Bible Study
20 Oct. newsletter articles due 10am Outdoor Worship Service	21 10:30a Staff mtg.	22 First Day of Fall	23 5:30p COMPASS 6:30p Youth Meal 7:00p AXIS	24 11:30a St. Petri Senior Luncheon	25 Pastor Day Off	26
27 Communion 11:15a Adult New Testament Class Resumes 6:30p Confirmation - St. Petri	28 ---- LWR Quilt making 9a-noon Mon-Wed ---- 10:30a Staff mtg.	29 Secretary Conference	30 5:30p COMPASS 6:30p Youth Meal 7:00p AXIS	Oct. 1	2 Pastor's Day Off	3 9a Outdoor Work Day

St. Petri Messenger



SEPTEMBER 2026



Pastor Tim Malek

Faith Seeking Understanding

On Sunday August 9th our Gospel reading for the day was Matthew 14:22-33; the story of Jesus coming to the disciples on the water, of Peter's failed attempt to do the same and ultimately of Jesus' saving presence. I have mentioned a few times in the past that throughout the church's history the boat is often used as a symbol of the church. That we are together in the boat and though it may be on storm-tossed sea of life, we are always safe and secure in the boat (the church) with Jesus in our midst, sometimes calming the storm and sometimes calming us. This same boat is not a static place; it is a vessel with a destination.

For a moment, use your imagination, and envision St. Petri Lutheran Church as a boat. Not the building or structure of the church as a boat, but the life and ministry of the congregation, its mission, as a boat. We have the grace of God to keep us afloat, the cross of Christ to anchor safely in any storm life may throw our way, we have the power of the Holy Spirit to propel us like the wind against sail, we have

God's law to stabilize us like a rudder holds a ship up against the wind and tide, we have the Great Commission as our guiding star by which to set our course. God provides all we need for the journey, I could play this metaphor out for pages, but we must not overlook one crucial piece of this picture – the crew. You are a vital part of the boat; you are an integral part of all that happens as a part of our life and ministry. You and your sisters and brothers in Christ are needed to hoist the sails, trim the lines, hold the rudder, plot the chart – you get the idea.

The start of the program year, meaning now, is a busy time of new beginnings for several areas of our ministry. Christ is calling you, do you hear it? All hands on deck! – Pastor Tim

ADULT NEW TESTAMENT CLASS

Sunday September 27 at 11:15 a.m.
We will study First and Second Thessalonians. Please read ahead of time but come regardless, it will be informative.

OUR MISSION:

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

LABOR DAY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th

~CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED~

YOUTH GROUP NEWS!!!

We are excited to start youth group again for the 2026-2027 school year! We will start on Wednesday September 16th. Our middle school (grades 5-8) youth group is known as our Compass group. They will meet from 5:30-6:30 on Wednesday evenings. We will then serve a meal from 6:30-7:00. Our high school group (grades 9-12) is known as our Axis group and they will join for supper from 6:30-7:00. They will then meet from 7:00-8:00. 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! We will meet at St. Petri in Story City for all youth group nights, unless otherwise noted. We look forward to another year filled with faith-based learning, fun, fellowship and expanding our faith together! We are always 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. We will be sending out a Signup Genius link for both of these soon, so please be on the lookout.

Thank you!
Briton Mohr, Youth Director

Date: Wednesdays starting September 16th

Time:

Compass (middle school): 5:30-6:30 pm

Meal: 6:30-7:00 pm

Axis (high school): 7:00-8:00 pm

Location:

St. Petri Lutheran Church

804 Grand Ave

Story City, IA 50248

St. Petri Office Hours

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



“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”

September 13, 2025

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve & love our neighbor. Spread the word and plan on joining!

AND

**RALLY DAY
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
BEGINS**

**September 13th
at 9:00 a.m.**



Mark your calendars!
September 13th will be the time change of our worship service and Sunday School will begin!

**9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship service
11:00 a.m. Potluck**



Our next outdoor worship service will be Sunday, September 20th at 10:00am.
Bring your family, neighbors, lawn chair, blanket, and a joyful heart!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

In August 2026

In Our Prayers

Larry Reisetter, Jaye Anderson

Hospitalized in August

Larry Reisetter

Ongoing Prayers Concerns

Linda Fevold, Judy Schnurstein,

Paul Wierson

In Memoriam

Cheryl Eddy, Kay Disbrowe

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

SCHOOL KITS AND QUILTS

St. Petri supplied 19 school kits
and 49 quilts to
Lutheran World Relief!



We also supplied
17 quilts to Bridge
Home and 3 quilts
to Navajo Nation
Globe, Arizona.
Thank you to all
our volunteers!
All glory to God!

Thank you to all who volunteered to serve
the Senior Citizens
Wednesday meals in
August!
You are a blessing!



Dear St. Petri
Lutheran Church,

THANK YOU for your generous support
of Lutheran Campus Ministry at Iowa State
University! Because of your gift of \$200,
Lutheran Campus Ministry can continue
serving students on campus as together we
strive to extend community, engage faith,
and empower relationships. Your support is
more important now than ever as Lutheran
Campus Ministry reestablishes ministry
presence on campus, and because of you,
students like Rory are coming to know more
about the love of God in Christ.

During Holden Evening Prayer last
fall, Rory mentioned that she only had a
small, pocket-size version of the Bible - the
King James version. Through Lutheran
Campus Ministry, we were able to purchase
a study Bible for Rory and the next week
she came back to excitedly report that
Genesis and the first half of Exodus were
really good! (But the second half of Exodus
was a little...difficult.) Rory's excitement to
engage in Bible Study, gather for worship,
and connect in Christian community is why
Lutheran Campus Ministry is so important
and your gifts make it possible.

We give thanks to God for your
support and look forward to the ways that,
because of your generosity, Lutheran
Campus Ministry will continue to extend
community, engage faith, and empower
relationships at Iowa State this year.

In Christ, Rev. AJ Olson
Director for Campus Ministry
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Iowa State



Come check out the books at
St. Petri's
Library Book Shelf
in the fellowship hall!

St Petri Ladies, you are cordially invited!

**Our Savior's Women's
Guest Night Salad Supper**

at Our Savior's Lutheran Church
(601 Isabella, Radcliffe, IA)

Thursday, September 10th at 6:30 p.m.
Entertainment:

David Crane -pianist/organist

Join us for an evening of fellowship,
music, and good food!

Freewill offering will be taken

Please RSVP Donna Ostrem 515-899-2276



WELCA Report

September 17 2:00pm

WELCA Circle Bible Study

All women welcome!

September 28-30 9:00am-noon

Quilt making



**You are Invited to the
"Weekend Women's
Bible Study"**

In September we start
reading about a different
woman in the Bible every
month, and you can drop

in anytime! In September, we start with
the woman in Luke 8:40-56. The series,
following the chapters in the book by Paige
Allen, He Knows Your Name, will reveal
Christ's love for you.

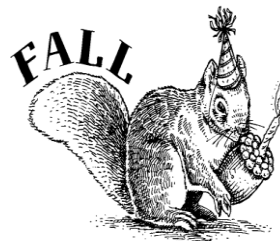
We meet monthly on the 3rd Saturday of
the month in the parsonage at 8am. Our
first meeting this fall is September 27!

Call or text Debra at 320-905-9510 if you
have any questions! 😊

**St. Petri's
Senior
Luncheon
for members 75
years and older.**



Come enjoy some
great food and great fellowship!
September 24th at 11:30am to 1:00pm
in St. Petri's Fellowship Hall



Birthdays

Sept. 2: Valaree Muhlenburg

Sept. 3: Carter Barber, Jason Hill,
Doug Ness

Sept. 6: Karen Munson

Sept. 8: Noah Healy

Sept. 9: Don Kolbe, Janet Mortvedt

Sept. 10: Patricia Van Patter

Sept. 12: Evan Klett, Mary Pelican

Sept. 13: Cory Anderson, Nicole Healy

Sept. 14: Joni Brown

Sept. 18: Kendra Braucher,
Kelly Schmitz

Sept. 19: Margaret Johnstad,
Ryan Thorson

Angela Van Patter

Sept. 24: Jennifer Holdredge,
Annette Owenson

Sept. 26: Colbie Bauman,
Kalen Bauman,
Sayer Peterson

Sept. 29: Sharon Sills

Sept. 30: Clark Grinde

for•give
/fər'gɪv/



- stop feeling angry or resentful
toward (someone) for an offense,
flaw or mistake.
- cancel (a debt)

SEPTEMBER C.A.R.E. GROUP 2026

CARE Group 4 Leader
Kendra Braucher

Doug Braucher	Eloise Ericson
Ver & Barb Frohling	Vivian Gossel
Donna Guard	Cheryl Hoffman
Allen & Wanda 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	



VOLUNTEERS:
VERY VALUABLE!

Many hands make light work!

OCTOBER C.A.R.E. GROUP 2026

CARE Group 5 Leader
Sherri Keigan

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



ST. PETRI MEMBERS



If you have a new address, phone number, or email address, please contact the church secretary so we can update church records.
(515-733-4623 or
stpetrilutheran@stpetri.org)

Hi, it's Church Mouse!

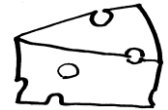
I've come across a **problem** that is not entirely unexpected...



For some reason, I've noticed that some of you have to really dig for change for the parking meters in Ames. You're darting in and out of your cars, hoping for the best, looking over your shoulder, living on the edge, which is not something I expect from good Lutherans.

Someone pointed out, however, that at the city of Ames's expense, the **Jingle Jar** and the kids that fill it are highly supported by this congregation! I fully support this! I love your priorities!

My heart is full,
Church Mouse



CHURCH



C L E A N U P

St. Petri will have an **outdoor WORK DAY** on **Saturday, October 3rd**

beginning at 9:00 a.m. We will be taking out the hosta garden (on the west side of the parsonage) and replace it with grass.
If you want any hostas, please come take some!

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 Minutes
June 14, 2026 10:15 a.m.

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

Meeting called to order at 10:25 a.m. Rick offered Devotions.

Angie presented the May minutes for approval. Kelsey 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 May meeting. There was some confusion and discussion with Nancy and other Council members regarding payments in April, May and June for the new copier, and after talking things out it was decided that everything had been paid accurately but the entry needs to be adjusted on Shepherd's Staff. Kelsey made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented; Nancy seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Pastor Tim reported on a conference he attended recently in Waverly that he likened to a "ministry fair." There were several different lectures as well as various displays. The primary focus of the event was churches creating a sense of belonging that impacts quality of life and how smaller churches need to "shrink smart" to ensure viability.

Christian Fellowship: Ann has talked with Karen Munson about hosting a chicken and biscuit meal in the fall with the proceeds going towards the new sign project. She reminded the council that St. Petri plans to support the GCC at its event Tuesday, June 23 from 5-7 p.m.

Ideas were discussed briefly as to what type of game to have at the event.

Worship: Travis reported for Jo that hymns have been chosen for August and that outdoor services will be held on the third Sundays of June, July and August. The committee highlighted the need for a new Christ candle with a stable base, and it is researching prices for new paraments.

Property and Trustees: Nancy and Annette Owenson attended the last City Council meeting where it agreed to upgrade its requirements for electronic signage. She reported that the boiler had been worked on and that the downstairs men's bathroom had been fixed. There was discussion regarding the removal of the hostas by the Parsonage because the tree that shaded them is no longer there and she noted that it would be a cost-saving measure as well because the hostas use 50 bags of mulch when they are maintained.

Faith Formation: Kelsey said that two Summer Fun Nights have been scheduled for July 15 and August 5 from 5-7:30. Each night will include a simple dinner, a lesson, a craft and games.

No Old Business.

New Business: Council members continued its ongoing discussion of church policy revisions. Its suggestions will be forwarded to Angie Rieck-Hinz and it will approve the updates after she edits the document.

Ann made a motion to not hold a July council meeting; Nancy seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Angie Stover

St. Petri Financials July income/expense \$2,889.15 2026 YTD -\$3,358.53



Dear Pastor Tim and St. Petri Members,
It's back-to-school season across Iowa. For many families, that's a reason to breathe a sigh of relief, because free and reduced-price school meals are back on the table.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you because for three long months, your generosity helped *Bridge the Gap* for thousands of students on summer break.

Hunger doesn't go away during the school year. Many children still don't have enough to eat in the evening or on weekends. Our childhood hunger programs are critical to ensure kids have reliable, consistent nutrition year-round.

Because without us, a child's focus, behavior and development are all at risk.

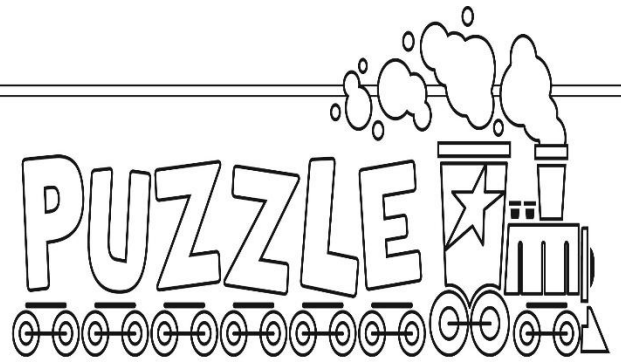
Through the Backpack Program, elementary students receive a sack of nutritious, kid-friendly food each Friday during the school year to carry them through the weekend.

Kids and families can also receive groceries through our School Pantry Program. Food Bank of Iowa stocks the shelves of more than 167 school pantries in 44 counties. We provide the food, delivery, equipment and training, while school staff run the pantries.

These programs are free of charge to our schools.

Thank you for helping Food Bank of Iowa *Bridge the Gap* this summer, and thank you for helping ensure our Iowa children — and neighbors of all ages — can rely on food access all year long.

With gratitude,
Bergetta Beardsley, VP of Philanthropy
Food Bank of Iowa



No kidding

Whatever our age, God calls us to model holy living for others.



Directions: Match the animal young with its parent. Then write the letter answers in order below to complete 1 Timothy 4:12, NIV.



- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. ___ bear | 9. ___ monkey | A. fry | I. hatchling |
| 2. ___ frog | 10. ___ platypus | B. fawn | K. foal |
| 3. ___ owl | 11. ___ alligator | C. gosling | L. owlet |
| 4. ___ horse | 12. ___ giraffe | D. cub | M. puggle |
| 5. ___ kangaroo | 13. ___ goose | E. kid | N. joey |
| 6. ___ deer | 14. ___ swan | F. cygnet | O. polliwog |
| 7. ___ goat | 15. ___ dog | G. infant | P. puppy |
| 8. ___ fish | | H. calf | |

"_on't let any _ne _oo_ down o _ you _ecaus_

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

you _re youn_, but set an exa_ple for the bel_evers

8 9 10 11

in speec_, in _onduct, in love, in _aith and in _urity."

12 13 14 15

1 TIMOTHY 4:12, NIV

Answer: D,O,L,K,N,B,E,A,G,M,I,H,C,F,P



LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP EVENTS

**For more info or to register,
please contact us.**

Website: www.riversidelbc.org

Email: rlbc@riversidelbc.org

Office phone: 515-733-5271

RIVERSIDE GOLF CLASSIC



Friday, Sept. 18th
at Coldwater Golf
Links 1400 S. Grand
Ave., Ames, IA.
Come enjoy great
food and great
fellowship, with the
whole day devoted to
supporting the
continued mission
and ministry of
Riverside. We are
thankful for the
120+ supporters
who come out to
support this great
event! We hope to
see you there!
Cost: \$125/player –
includes 18 holes

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

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

Schedule for the day:

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

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

RIVERSIDE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP



September 26-27 Friday p.m. thru Sunday

Guest Speaker – Alice Murray, a Pastor of
Care at FaithLife Lutheran in Marion, IA.
(previous school teacher, now Pastor)

Itinerary:

Friday night optional

Saturday: 8:30-9am Check-in at Mortvedt
(Coffee/Smoothie shop open)

9am -Welcome, worship. Session 1, small
groups at Chapel

12:00pm Lunch

1-4pm Free time

4pm – Snack in Dining Hall

4:30pm Group Activity/Service Project

5:00pm Session 2

5:45pm Small Group Breakout

6:45pm Group picture & Supper

7:45pm Prayer Service

9pm Campfires with S'mores (optional)

Sunday:

7:30-9am Breakfast (outdoor or indoor)

9am Worship and Session 3

10:30am Small Group Breakout

11am Closing and Ministry Time

11:30am Lunch & Depart

Optional: Horseback trail ride \$10

Craft activity \$10



RIDE WITH THE KING

September 18-20 Mother-Daughter RWTK

October 2-4 Family RWTK

October 9-11 Mother-Daughter RWTK

Ride With the King is a ministry using horses
as a tool to help people of all ages understand
Christ's unconditional love in a way that
encourages them to live for Him.

Mother-Daughter & Family Overnight

This event involves lots of "horse time",
learning how our faith connects with horses,
trail rides, horsemanship, and terrific
fellowship. Enjoy the beauty of Fall, wagon
rides, trail rides, a delicious cookout,
activities, devotions... a great time of laughter,
play and prayer!

