



From Pastor Matt

In a past newsletter I shared a bit about how St. Peter was developed as an English speaking congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church in Dubuque. Like many families, when St. Peter grew, it also moved away from its original location downtown in the Flats, to up here on the Hill, where it grew into its own identity and mission. It also meant that many of those who joined generations later may be completely unaware of our existing relationship with St. John's.

After some exploration of needs in our community, and how St. Peter can share the love of Jesus into the Dubuque area, we realized **we had an already existing relationship with two very important service ministries at St. John's** – the Open Closet and Almost Home. In supporting St. John's, we will have chance to work closer with a local ELCA congregation (literally a family member), and to participate in two different, relevant, and important ministries in our area.

The Open Closet (1276 White Street, Dubuque) is a "free, retail shopping experience" open to the public in need, completely free of charge. The Open Closet serves over 14,000 people each year. Donations accepted Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings 8am-11am, and the 1st & 3rd Saturday mornings. They will accept clothing, accessories in all sizes for men, women, children, and babies, as well as children's books and gently used toys. Donations of clothing, shoes, and some household items, are accepted and stocked by the Open Closet crew. If you'd like to become involved, ask Cindy Recker or Pastor Matt for further information.



Almost Home - is an incredible ministry that answered a real need in Dubuque – to provide housing to men with children, who are experiencing homelessness. Almost Home provides a safe and stable environment for dads with their children to get off of the streets and work toward a positive, long-term outcome. We provide case managers to work with dads to develop a plan for employment, parenting skills, and financial planning skills. We work with children to ensure their well-being, through caring adults who accompany them as they enter pre-school or attend school. They are in real need of volunteers who help provide hours at their front desk (like a hotel, they need an attendant at all hours available.) Contact them at: sheltermanager@almosthomedbq.org or (563) 583-6572

Stay tuned for some additional events where we can explore these ongoing ministries together!

- Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Matthew Agee



From Pastor Nichole

Last month I introduced the Compelling preaching cohort I am participating in. Starting Sept. 21 and going until Oct. 27, you will be asked to fill out a short survey as a way to help understand what it means to preach a compelling Sermon. Here is an invitation to how you get to participate.

We are excited to announce our participation in a groundbreaking, nationwide project in collaboration with Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. This initiative aims to enhance how we understand and experience sermons in our rapidly evolving world.

In today's post-pandemic era, the landscape of faith and communication has shifted dramatically. We're asking the crucial question: What truly makes a sermon compelling and impactful in the 21st century?

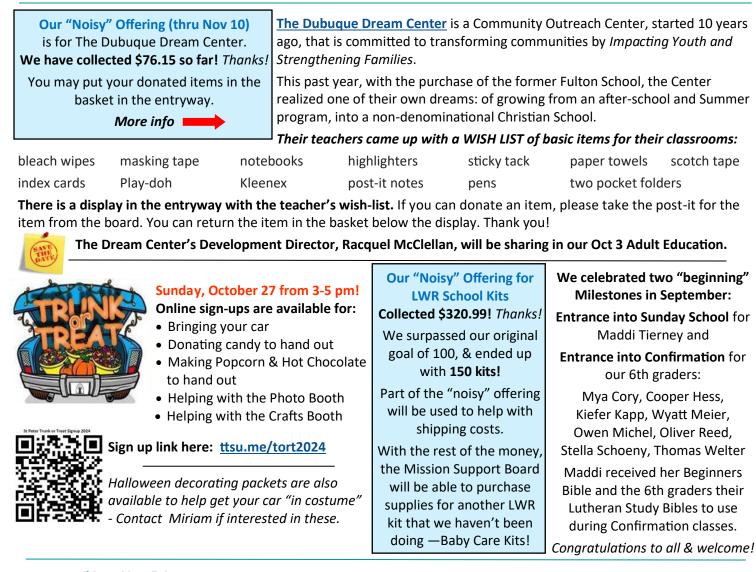
This is where your voice becomes invaluable. We're reaching out to you, our congregation, to help shape the future of preaching. What resonates with you in a sermon? What transformative power do you seek in these messages? Your insights are at the heart of this innovative research.

Participating is simple yet powerful:

- 1. Each week, listen attentively to the sermon at St. Peter Lutheran Church.
- 2. Scan the QR code (shared on the screens after each sermon. Also posted on the main bulletin board and on the front hall table) for a quick survey or click the link here: <u>https://luthersem.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Ay8FLFgziLBmfA</u>

Christian Education News from Miriam

Questions? Miriam Bjornstad mjthywaybj@gmail.com or 563-663-6558



Youth News from Pr Nichole

Questions? pastornichole@stpeterdbq.org or 563-583-0860

YOUTH ACTIVITIES—MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH:

Please let me know if you plan to attend pick up and drop off will be at each of the locations.

October 27-Trunk or Treat: We will be participating in St. Peter's Trunk or Treat event as a youth group. Please share your ideas with me! There is also an opportunity to help with the popcorn & hot chocolate station. **Event goes from 3-5pm** (we will need to gather earlier to set up)

November 24-Driftless Pizza and Backpocket Arcade: *(time TBD)* We will have pizza at Driftless and then play arcade games. cost \$10 for the pizza and bring what money you want to spend on arcade games.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY (Grades 9-12)

Sunday, November 3- Created to Be Synod event: Based on materials that support what we learned about at the 2024 Youth Gathering we will gather with youth from across the synod for an afternoon event. If you did not go to the gathering this is for you too! **Meet at the church at noon and we will be home around 7pm.** Parents if you are able to drive and join us for this event please let me know.

YOUNG ADULT OPPORTUNITY (ages 18-35)

A Wartburg Seminary student reached out to let me know there is a group forming here for Young Adults. In October they plan to meet and watch a movie and do a little craft. Reach out to Pastor Nichole and she will connect you with the group!

From Intern Pastor Shawn



"... I implore you by the mercies of God to prove to me by the writings of the prophets and apostles that I am in error..."

Luther's 'word alone' theology is highlighted here, in his famous "here I stand" speech at the Diet of Worms. Given the opportunity to publically recant his writings and teachings, Luther refused. Whether Luther knew this moment would come or not, it was one that had a lifetime of preparation behind it.

Luther's journey was much like Christ's, and the irony must have been heavy for Luther. Luther's overall speech resonates with John 18:23. In Luther's time, his refusal to recant his writings and teachings bore the risk of even death. But, there was a whole lot working for good that falls behind the scene so to speak. He was not arrested because he had a letter of safe conduct which guaranteed him 21 days of safe travel, and he had good welcome in the towns he traveled through. The very fact he was invited to recant, had some workings behind it.

The reformation movement was something much bigger than Luther himself. There was an amazing amount of potential energy put into motion, that started at least a couple hundred years before, actually. A whole network of peoples, with a wide array of vocations and positions, bound together in what we know as the solas, made the reformation happen.

There is much to continue to hold fast to from the reformation movement. Not only the solas, which continues to inform our theology and practices in critically important ways, but the empowerment of the whole body of the church, of all different vocations, towards the goodness of God's work.

Ephesians 2:8-10: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Freed by the grace of God, may we continue the work, in all our different roles and vocations, to the glory of God alone. May the solas: Word Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Christ Alone, and all to the Glory of God Alone, inform not only our theology, but our very being. Happy Reformation! - Intern Paster Shawn



Fellowship Potluck

Monday, Oct 21 | Noon

We've been having lots of fun at our monthly potlucks! We hope you can join us this month!

Bring whatever you want to share! But most of all, please feel welcome to come, whether you contribute or not, there will always be enough food and fellowship to around. *Friends of all ages are welcome*.

Lastly, it is helpful to have volunteers to help with setup and clean up. A helper sign-up sheet is in front of my office. Stop in and say hi when you sign up :)

Questions? I'm here! For now, see you next time! - IP Shawn

We invite you to join us as we remember our St.

All Saints Weekend—November 2-3—All Services

Peter loved ones who have died during the past year. As a part of our liturgy at these services, we read the names of those related to our congregation who have died during the past year (since All Saints' Day in 2023). Again this year, we are offering the opportunity for everyone to share names of loved ones that have **passed on at any time**, who were not part of our St. Peter Community. All names will be read aloud at all services. To add someone to the list, click here to

<u>enter them online</u> or scan this QR code to go to the page:

Watch for more info in your Weekly News during October! You may also contact the office to add names or with questions.



(Pr Nichole...Continued from pg 1)

- 3. Share your honest thoughts and experiences.
- 4. Sign up for the follow-up survey.

Rest assured, this isn't about critiquing individual preachers. Your responses will be completely anonymous and will only be used by the research team to gain a broader understanding of sermon impact across diverse church settings.

By taking part, you're not just offering feedback – **you're helping to shape the future of how God's word is shared and received** in our changing world. This is an opportunity to deepen your own engagement with scripture, while contributing to a larger spiritual conversation.

We urge you to seize this unique chance to make your voice heard. Your participation could spark a transformation in how we connect with and are moved by sermons for generations to come.

Join us in this exciting journey of discovery and spiritual growth. Together, let's explore the profound ways in which God's word can touch and change lives in our modern world.
- Thank you for your help! - Paster Nichele Robson

From Our Council President

Lucky 7!!! This is the theme that Dave Yeager and his team on the Finance Committee have chosen for our 2025 Stewardship Campaign. *All the excitement and details will be shared at all services on October 19 & 20.*

The overriding intention of the Campaign this year is to have us move toward funding both of our Pastor positions through our regular budget and phase out the specific Pastor Fund. This will position us to have strong leadership and a vibrant youth program well into the future. Please help us get to this point starting in 2025 by increasing your regular giving.

In addition to the campaign, the Committee thought it would be a good idea to remind the congregation of our current St. Peter Gift Policy. *(copies are available outside the office)* This was formalized in 2021 to make sure all members are informed as to how their extra gifts now or in the future will be used by the congregation. **Please come to Adult Education on Nov 3 between services to hear this update.** At that meeting I will be sharing other ways members might consider helping St. Peter, now and in the future, and will share a little of how Karen & I have planned to support the congregation in the future.

Many other exciting things are going on at St Peter! The Property Committee has started the process of exploring how much it might cost to bring the Parsonage up to current standards to rent it out and generate some additional income. With the current shortage of housing in our community it might be helpful to rent this under-utilized asset. More to come as they gather more information.

We also continue to engage with St. John Lutheran Church and their Almost Home ministry. If this is something you are to moved to participate in please reach out to Pastors Nichole or Matt.

The fall has started with a strong class of 6th graders joining confirmation and a large K-5 Sunday School group. *Thank you to all our members who continue to teach our student about Jesus.*

And lastly your Nominating committee is working to recruit members to serve in leadership and participation roles as officers or leaders of our committees. When asked, please agree to serve. A strong and vibrant congregation is dependent on on-going lay leadership. God drives us forward, but He wants us to help.



Doug Horstmann, President of the Congregational Council

MISSION SUPPORT BOARD NEWS *"Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance." Jude 1:2*

- Thank you to all with help in creating 150 LWR School Kits. They will be delivered to the LWR truck In Cedar Rapids on October 19. In addition, Dennis & Marie Weeks also created LWR kits and have taken them to the Minneapolis warehouse. These kits will be used where needed in the United States and overseas.
- The Food Pantries are grateful for our support all year. Some future needs for Thanksgiving will be gravy and mashed potato mixes.
- Watch for upcoming news on the Christmas Giving Tree which will begin late November and end December 15.
- Our October Mission Support meeting will be October 8 at 5pm dowin the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to join us!



On Sept 21-23, we blessed our Prayer shawls at all services. Please see the display in the library if you are in need of one.

- Patty Strathman, Director, Mission Support

Adult Ed | Sundays, 9:15 am | Conference Room | <u>Zoom Link available here</u> Our Sunday Adult Education Hour schedule is filling up and we are excited to share it with you!

10/6: **Ann Lorenz with The Lantern Center.** The Lantern Center is a drop-in center offering hospitality, education, and advocacy to adult immigrants, including tutoring learning the English language, and citizenship preparation.

10/13: Angie Kramer with Care Initiatives Hospice. Care Initiatives hospice provides caregivers that meet you where you are, coming to your home, a long-term care center, assisted living residence, or hospital. Their approach addresses the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those facing life-limiting illness for themselves and their families.

10/20: **Racquel McClellan with Dream Center.** The Dream Center was born from a needs assessment of the Dubuque community, offering academic, career development, character development, and family engagement services.

What would you like to learn about? IP Shawn would love to hear your ideas!



St Peter Zoom Book Club THURSDAY Oct 3 | 6 pm We have switched to the first Thursday of each month, on Zoom, from 6-7pm. All are welcome!

Book Club Zoom Link: Click Here

The 2024 Altar Flower Calendar (2 weeks of Advent avail.) Please add your name to the calendar outside the office and also turn in a completed gold form to the office. (forms located below the calendar) Thank you! Or click here to download an altar flower info form



Almost Home will have an informational table at St Peter, on Sunday, Oct. 27 We invite you to stop and see what it is all about!

This unique 'Men with Children' shelter currently has volunteer

opportunities of 4 hour shifts, to assist with providing a safe & secure environment for residents.

> For more information, visit almosthomedbq.org

St. Peter Groups & Meeting Info New friends always welcome, come see what we are about!

- Women's Bible Study-usually meets on the second Monday of the month at 1pm
- Fellowship Luncheon—All ages welcome! Usually on 3rd Monday (next one: Oct 21) Contact IP Shawn or MJ Maas
- Quilting Group—Meets first Thursday of the month in the Fellowship Hall—Contact Alice Wagner/Martha Kemp
- Spruce Up Group—First & third Tuesdays 8:30am (come when you can)—Contact Wayne Buchholtz/Doug Horstmann
- Men's Bible Study—Meets third Saturday of the month at 8am, Zoom option—Contact Steve Fishwild/Dennis Weeks Prayer Shawl Group—Meets third Thursday of the month—Knit and Crochet, with Prayer and Fellowship
- Zoom Book Club—usually Meets first Thursday of month —Contact Jean Rieniets/Ann Straley for more info
- Worship Servants & Altar Servants—Volunteer at Worship Services, contact Scott Brondyke or the office
- Men's Breakfast—Meets last Saturday at 8am (except June, July, Aug, and Dec 2023)—Contact Mark Whitaker

St. Peter Lutheran Online Links

Here are our most requested online links:

Facebook: facebook.com/stpeterdubuque (Please "Like" our Facebook page while you are there!) YouTube: youtube.com/stpeterlutherandubugue (Current & past live streams & and other special videos) LIVESTREAM WORSHIP: Weekly Worship Service also available live online each Sunday, on our YouTube channel stpeterdbq.org (did you know our calendar is posted on our website?) Website: **Instant Church Directory:** <u>members.instantchurchdirectory.com</u> (contact the office if you have questions) VANCO: http://stpeterdbq.org/give (a secure way for you to donate to St. Peter online-see below) **Book Club-Zoom:** Zoom Link–Click Here (monthly-first Thurs—see above—contact Jean Rieniets or Ann Straley) **Women's Bible Study:** Zoom Link—Click Here (In-person & Zoom, October 14, Contact office for more info) Men's Bible Study: Zoom Link—Click Here (In-person & Zoom, October 19. See above for contact info) Adult Ed: Zoom Link (Sundays at 9:15am, also in-person, schedules also available in the front hall at church)

Г	Mediacom TV Schedule Channel 81 only						$ \prec $		
	Mon	10 am	Tue	6 pm	Wed	8 am	Sun	8:30 am	\bigcirc
	Thurs	6 pm	Fri	8 pm	Sat	4:30 pm		and 7:45 pm	رب

Offering Plate Options

The ongoing ministries of St. Peter are made possible by your financial support. Thank you!!

- 1. Bring it with you | Mail it | Drop off your offerings or envelopes in one of our secure mailboxes, located near the south entrance of church. They are checked several times a day, during the week. (feel free to use either one, both are locked)
- 2. Set Up a Direct Withdrawal from your bank, using VANCO. Contact the office for info. (also available for the Pastor Fund). If you need to update your existing direct withdrawal, contact the office.
- 3. Donate directly to St. Peter via VANCO Here's how:
- Go to www.stpeterdbq.org/give and choose your donation (or scan the QR code to the right.)
 - You will be taken to the St. Peter VANCO page.
 - From there you can use your credit or debit card to donate.









St. Peter's Calendar for October 2024

We will continue to offer a Zoom option when possible. Please contact your group's leadership for updated meeting info. *If you need help with Zoom, please contact Pr. Matt or the office.*

	Mediacom	TV So	hedule	Channe		
Mon	10 am	Tue	6 pm	Wed	8 am	\sim
Thurs	6 pm	Fri	8 pm	Sat	4:30 pm	
Sun	8:30 am and	7:45	pm			

*service also livestreaming Commun

Communion offered at all services

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Spruce Up 8:30am Staff Mtg 10:45am Herb Society 5:30pm	2 SHRED EVENT 4-6:30pm Spon. By Thrivent Dinner for Families 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm	3 Quilting Group 9 am-3 pm Fellowship Hall Book Club 6pm Zoom link on pg 5	4 MS Game Night 6:30pm	5 Worship 4:30pm <i>Healing Services</i>
6 Healing Services –all Worship 8:15am* Sun School/Adult Ed/ Coffee Hour 9:15am Worship Volunteer Meeting 9:15 (insert) Worship 10:30am	7 AA Group-women Conference Rm 1pm Worship Bd Mtg 7pm	8 Staff Mtg 10:45am Music Selection 1:30pm Mission Support Bd Mtg 5 pm CHADD mtg 7pm	9 Dinner for Families 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm	10	11	12 Worship 4:30pm
13 Worship 8:15am Sun School/Adult Ed/ Coffee Hour 9:15am Worship 10:30am* 3rd Grade Bible Milestone	14 AA Group-women Conference Rm 1pm Women's Bible Study 1pm (see pg 7) Stewardship Bd Mtg 5:45pm Council Mtg 7pm	15 Spruce Up 8:30am Staff Mtg 10:45am	16 NOV. BELLRINGER DEADLINE!! Dinner for Families 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm	17 Prayer Shawl Group 6 pm	18 Ecumenical Emmaus Setup 5pm	19 Ecumenical Emmaus 7am Men's Bible Study 8am Worship 4:30pm <i>Stewardship Wknd</i>
20 Stewardship Wknd Worship 8:15am* Sun School/Adult Ed/ Coffee Hour 9:15am Worship 10:30am 3rd Grade Bible Milestone	21 Fellowship Potluck Noon (see page 3) AA Group-women Conference Rm 1pm	22 Staff Mtg 10:45am	23 Dinner for Families 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm	24	25	26 Reformation Men's Breakfast 8am Worship 4:30pm
27 Reformation Worship 8:15am Sun School/Adult Ed/ Coffee Hour 9:15am Worship 10:30am* Trunk or Treat 3-5 pm (see pg 2)	28 AA Group-women Conference Rm 1pm Educ. Bd Mtg 6:30pm	29 Staff Mtg 10:45am	30 Dinner for Families 5:30pm Confirmation 6pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm	31 Halloween		Nov 2-3 All Saints Weekend See pg 3

Transportation an issue for you?

6

Celebrating our Church Community

October Birthdays

- 1 Ben Nessan
- 2 **Rachel Bousson** Melissa DeMotta **Dell Hillary** Nate Nessan **Betty Sullivan Devon Zauche**
- Jeremy Kapp 3
- 4 Crissee Johnson Marlene Koenig Mary Lursen Alice Wagner
- 5 Ava Connolly Megan Michel
- 8 Tori Anderson Jean Heil
- 10 Stephanie Reinert
- 11 Lisa Maiers
- 12 Anna O'Connor **Timothy Stoner**
- 13 Jessie Nessan Kluck Janet Pins
- 14 Elaine Chesterman **Richard Gansemer**

- Emma Gile David Yeager
- 15 Grace Berlage **Dennis Rice**
- 16 Marilyn Cooper Joe Gile Carl Rahlf
- 19 Andrew Cavanaugh Lois Lumley
- 21 Janet Kuhle
- 22 Samantha Moyle Daniel Munson Amy Welter
- 24 Greg Bjornstad **Dorothy Gibb** Aaron Munson
- 25 Alex Larson
- 26 Shawn Juers Kiefer Kapp
- 27 Heather Hostager Alicia Kapp
- 28 Valerie Parr
- 29 Wyatt Meier
- 30 Bjorn Bjornstad
- 31 Michael Tierney John Welter

Come join us for our October Women's Bible Study (No preparation necessary)

Designed so you can jump in anytime. BYO bible, or use one of ours!

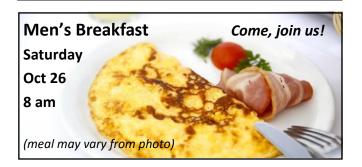
Women's Bible Study

Monday, Oct 14, 1pm

Come join us for our October Men's Bible Study (No preparation necessary)

> Designed so you can jump in anytime. BYO bible, or use one of ours!

> > Men's Bible Study Saturday, Oct 19, 8am



Wedding Anniversaries

We celebrate these special milestones.

Name	Date	Years
Justin & Sara Wernimont Octo	ober 03, 2009	15 years
Mark & Michelle Whitaker Octo	ober 05, 1991	33 years
Chad & Valerie ParrOcto	ober 10, 2009	15 years
Jean Knight-McChristy &		
Larry McChristyOcto	ober 16, 1999	25 years
Phil & JoAnn OftedahlOcto	ober 20, 1973	51 years
Rick & Marilyn MuellerOcto	ober 26, 1985	39 years
Chris & Rachel BoussonOcto	ober 27, 2012	12 years
Abby & Michael TierneyOcto	ober 30, 2010	14 years
204 years of combined marita	I experience this	month!!



Recently these couples celebrated special wedding milestones: Dennis & Joanne Rice (60 years) and Bill & Elaine Mitchell (55 years) share Sept 6 as their anniversary! Gary & Jean Rieniets celebrated 61 years on Aug 28.

In comparison with our Oct anniversaries, these 3 couples have 176 years of marital experience! (They happened to be hanging out together, so we took the opportunity to snap this photo!)

Men of all ages are invited to make plans for the next "One Year to Live" men's retreat, set for Nov. 1-3, at Ewalu. This spiritual boot camp is an opportunity for men who yearn for

real friendships and a closer relationship with Christ. Presented by Lutheran Men in Mission, in partnership with the NEIA Synod & EWALU. More info: neiasynod.org/2024/05/ovtl/



"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." - Philippians 1:3-5

We Remember

We remember those affiliated with our 🐑

congregation who have died in the past ten years. October 26, 2015.....Irene L Elliott October 26, 2016.....Phyllis Ames October 19, 2018.....Joyce Schoenberger October 09, 2019.....Phil Sullivan October 20, 2019.....Sharon Karrmann October 04, 2020.....Lucille Yeager

October 04, 2022.....Ronald Love



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Director of Music : Kristine Fishler	.563-599-3937
Office Manager: Christine Rapp	.563-583-0860
Facilities Coordinator: Angie Puls	.563-542-2711

Healing Services October 5-6, all services Everyone is welcome—come and be blessed.

Weekly Worship Services

Regular Worship Services

Saturdays 4:30pm Sundays 8:15 and 10:30am

Holy Communion is celebrated at all services Worship Singers at all 8:15am services.

YouTube Livestream Services

YouTube.com/stpeterlutherandubuque

Livestream will alternate Sunday Services, depending on special events & milestones. (see calendar on pg 6)

Worship Volunteer Meeting Sun, Oct 6, 9:15 am All Worship Volunteers are encouraged to attend. (see insert for details)

Our Mission Saved by God's mercy, and called by the Holy Spirit, We share the Good News of Christ by reaching out in Love.





ST. PETER