The Bellringer

February 2023

ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

From Pastor Matt

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. (ELW Baptismal Rite, p. 228)

When I first started to go to church, I was sent an email forward by someone that said **"You might be a Lutheran if…"** The jokes played off the typical Midwestern church tropes that make "Church Basement Ladies" so popular. Answers included:

- you think butter is a spice
- you think the term "Jell-O salad" is redundant
- you only serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color for the season
- you're watching Star Wars in the theater and when they say, "May the Force be with you," the audience replies, "and also with you."
- you hold your family reunion in the church basement
- you tap a church visitor on the shoulder and say, "Excuse me, but you're in my seat."

If you laughed at any of those, you might be a Lutheran. **But aside from shared cultural memes, what does being a Lutheran mean? What makes a Lutheran Christian unique?**

As part of the Ordination Rite, every pastor is given the charge to *"preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and these creeds and confessions."* It comes as no surprise, then, that those three components form the basis for your average confirmation curriculum, and the primary concern of Luther's Small Catechism, which also serves as the default textbook in formation.

If it's been a while since you were in confirmation—or if you were confirmed somewhere else, or not at all—I've got good news! **This Lent we're going to look at the main elements of the Small Catechism as part of our Midweek Lenten Wednesday services:** **March 1:** Ten Commandments **March 8:** Creed **March 15:** Lord's Prayer **March 22:** Sacrament of Holy Baptism **March 29:** Sacrament of the Altar

Each Wednesday, we will meet for a meal at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall, and then at 6:30pm we will join together in the sanctuary for Holden Evening Prayer. We will also provide copies of the Small Catechism you can take home.

May God bless you all in this new year, and may the peace of Christ be with you.

– Soli Deo Gloria, Pastor Matthew Agee

From Pastor Calvin

On our Winter Retreat with the Middle Schoolers, we went through the story of Moses in Exodus. How he was led by God the go back to Egypt and lead God's people out of Egypt. It's a triumphant story filled with courage, tenacity, faith, and perseverance. Of course, this is the thrilling part of the story, which is followed by 40 years of wandering, complaining, and waiting in the desert.

This got me thinking about the 40 days of Lent. It's my favorite season of the church year because it is filled with a different kind of waiting. Advent is all hopeful waiting, but Lent is preparatory waiting - what do we do in the meantime. It's a stark season, with no communion during our midweek services, a lack of decorations, and stripping down our faith to it's very foundation.

This kind of waiting demands being intentional. When the Israelites wandered for 40 years, they needed to be intentional about their reliance on God. When Jesus fasted in the wilderness for 40 days, he needed to be intentional. We, too, have the opportunity to be intentional. We have the opportunity to give up something for Lent (or take something on, as many people do). We have the opportunity to be intentional about our faith and our reliance on God.

This Lent, I want to encourage you to treat it as though it were your first Lent - with all the wonder and intentional learning as when your eyes were first opened to its beauty. And then wait, watch, and see how the Holy Spirit opens your eyes, works in you, and leads you to new depths in your faith.

– Peace in Christ, Pastor Calvin Konop

Christian Education News *from Miriam*

Our ***"Noisy Offering"*** **thru February 19** *(Transfiguration Sunday):* **ELCA Good Gifts**

We plan to sponsor the purchase of animals that will be given to families in other countries to help them with their financial stability. We may also sponsor projects such as clean water sources or gardening tools and seeds.

Our 3rd-5th graders are working with their teachers and have chosen a list of animals to sponsor.

They then challenged the congregation to raise $250.

You stepped up to the kids' challenges and last weekend we had $218.07 in the bucket. Added to the $182.23 we had already collected, we currently have **$400.30** for the kids to work with! ***Challenge met & exceeded!***

This is what they plan to buy, so far:

Goat & a Flock of Chicks bundle, (2) at $60 each	$120
Honeybees	$20
(2) Piglets at $30 each	$60
Share of a Cow	$50
Seeds & Gardening Tools	$50 *(added after the challenge was met)*
Total	**$300**

Now let's see what additional projects they choose with the extra money!
Thank you so much!!

EWALU Camp & Retreat Center

Think Summer! Think Camp!

1st Early Discount: February 28 | 2nd Early Discount: April 18

$15 sibling discount is also available | Register online at ewalu.org

St. Peter Foundation offers camp scholarships up to half of the cost.

Contact Donnelle: donnellefuerste@gmail.com or Mark: whitakermr@aol.com

Attention College Students: Have you heard about our Lumley Scholarship Fund?

St. Peter Lutheran Church was the recipient of a significant portion of the estate of Louise Lumley, upon her death in 2010. **The "Lumley Scholarship Fund"** was established, with the direction that the annual investment earnings be given as scholarships to a student who:

- **Has been a member of St. Peter for one year** AND **who attends an ELCA Lutheran College or University.**

If you have questions or would be interested in receiving the scholarship, **please notify Donnelle Fuerste at 563-663-8111** or any member of the St. Peter Foundation for further details. *Other Foundation members are:* Mark Whitaker, Alex Larson, Amy Fishwild, and Alan Lumley.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be July 31 – August 4, 2023

The theme, **Stellar,** will be an out-of-this-world adventure where kids learn to **shine Jesus' light** when life feels dark, when people don't get along, when good things happen, when people are sad, and when people need help. Watch for more details.

Youth Ministry News *from Pastor Calvin*

MIDDLE SCHOOL / CONFIRMATION (Grades 6-8) **HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY (Grades 9-12)**

Middle School and High School youth groups will be meeting on Wednesday nights until Wednesday, February 22 (which is Ash Wednesday). **We'll take a break during Lent and resume again the Wednesday after Easter** (April 12).

We are taking this break so that families can worship together at our midweek Lenten services.

Make sure to keep your eye on the calendar for our fun events that will be happening during Lent!

If you have questions, reach out to Pastor Calvin pastorcalvin@stpeterdbq.org

From the Council President

The new year of 2023 is underway. Our Annual Report and Annual Meeting are completed, thanks to Amy Unmacht for leading that meeting, and we look toward to our Lenten and Easter seasons.

I continue to be grateful for the generosity of our members as you provide enormous volunteer hours and expertise in addition to your strong financial resources to support our mission at St Peter Lutheran. Most importantly I am grateful for how you care for and support one another in your daily lives. Whether it is visiting shut ins, phoning a friend to visit or helping through our evangelical outreach and mission work, you are there for your neighbor. Thank you.

The last thing I would like to mention is what I wrote in my annual report article to the congregation, regarding our second pastor position (I'm sure all of you read it :) For those who might have missed it here it is again:

> As many of you know, back in early 2020 we committed as a congregation to financially support a second pastor position currently held by Pastor Calvin. Yours was a 3-year commitment starting in mid-2020 and Pastor Calvin started with us January 5, 2021. Therefore, we expect, with the fulfillment of everyone's pledges, to have this position fully funded through calendar 2023. The long-term goal was, and is, to have this position as part of our normal operating budget and we are making progress toward that end. Your Stewardship Board and Council have had numerous conversations about how we plan to ask you to fund this position after 2023. Though we have not fully completed our plans, in the first quarter of 2023 we will be presenting to the congregation the proposed plan to continue to fund this second pastor position.

God Bless each of you and your families and St Peter Lutheran Church*, Doug Horstmann, Congregation President*

St. John's Open Closet Update

We are so appreciative of all the great donations received! The Almost Home-Open Closet at St. John's Lutheran is bulging at the seams with women's winter shirts and sweaters only. Because of this, until August, we are asking that people **hold off on bringing down women's winter shirts & sweaters**. **We are always in need of men's and children apparel.**

Thank you for your support and many blessings provided over the years!

For questions, contact Cindy Recker, *Open Closet Coordinator* **at 563-495-0885**

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Donations may be dropped off at St. John Lutheran's back door-enclosed staircase for the Open Closet on Tuesday-Thursday, 9-11 am. Just ring the doorbell and we will come running.

From Our Intern Pastor

Join us for another exciting line-up for Adult Education at 9:15 Sunday mornings in February:

Feb. 5 Professor Martin Lohrmann of Wartburg Seminary will be presenting on the Catechism

Feb. 12 Feed My Sheep Sunday

Feb. 19 Professor Troy Troftgruben of Wartburg Seminary will be presenting on "Bearing Distinctive Witness Today"

Feb. 19 Lent Bible Study begins

Feb. 26 **Come hear Intern Pastor Laura and her husband, Colin, present on their recent trip to Israel-Palestine:**

It was a jam-packed trip experiencing many places in the Holy Land where Jesus' life and ministry took place. We were also fortunate to encounter some amazing people and learn from a variety of knowledgeable and compassionate speakers. We look forward to sharing some highlights of our trip with you!

Laura Jasiczek, Intern Pastor

St. Peter in Gallicantu, in Jerusalem, marking the spot of Peter's denial and Christ's imprisonment, prior to crucifixion.

The Church of the Primacy of St. Peter, on the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus instructed Peter to "Feed my sheep."

A Special Request From Your Worship Board

Many of you may remember Pr. Rob Martin. He was the intern here at St. Peter in 2010-11 and was ordained in our sanctuary in 2012. (Coincidentally, Pr. Rob and Pr. Matt were classmates at Wartburg Seminary. The first time Pr. Matt was in St. Peter was for Pr. Rob's ordination!)

Pr. Rob and his wife, Christy, adopted two children – son Chris (who was baptized here on 9-13-2012) and daughter Emily. His first call was to serve a Church in Oklahoma City. In May, 2021, Pr. Rob took another call to a Church in Tampa, FL and the family moved to Cape Coral. Unfortunately, tragedy struck in 2022 when Christy died on September 22 from cancer and Hurricane Ian struck the area on September 28.

The past several months have been extremely difficult for Pr. Rob and his children. He has decided to take another call to Christ Lutheran Church in Michigan Center, MI starting on February 1, 2023. This move will bring the family closer to Pr. Rob's parents in Michigan.

St. Peter's Worship Board, with the approval of the Church Council, would like to reach out to Pr. Rob at this time to show our love and support. Anyone who would like to make a cash donation to help Pr. Rob and his children get settled in their new home and congregation, may do so by sending a check to our Church office (please make it out to St. Peter and write "Pr. Rob Martin" on the memo line).

Cards or notes of encouragement are also welcome!

We will collect donations and cards until Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22).

Thank you for your consideration in supporting "one of our own" at this time.

CHOIR OPEN ENROLLMENT — see Kristine Fishler if interested

Positions Available

Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass (No others need apply.)

Physical Qualifications

Must be able to carry light musical notes part way across the sanctuary. Must have sufficient vision to see the director.

Experience

No applications will be accepted from persons who have not sung, hummed, or whistled in the tub or shower.

Beginning Wage

Increased satisfaction and joy in the service of God.

Hours

Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.
Sunday mornings and special occasions (Lent & Easter are coming.)
(There is occasional opportunity for overtime.)

Retirement

Generally determined by printed notes getting too small, notes too high, or the pianist unable to play the notes you sing.

Pastor Karla Wildberger invites you to:

Praying for Peace –
For an End on the War in Ukraine

On February 24, it will be the one-year anniversary since Ukraine was invaded and Russia started dropping bombs.

Our places of worship have lifted petitions pleading for God to intervene. Individually we have been praying without ceasing.

Let us bring all those prayers together, once again, for an interfaith gathering to pray for peace:

Thursday, February 23, 2023
6:00 pm
St. Peter Lutheran Church

Mission Support Report

"I will feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock, I will satisfy you." Psalm 81:16

Food for thought - **February** is a time we would like to give special attention to **The Dubuque Food Pantry**.

- "Feel Warm" foods like canned soups, spaghetti, spaghetti sauces are needed. Jell-O, canned pie fillings, and cake mixes are other suggestions.
- Extra baskets will be provided for non-perishable food donations. The Food Pantry collection container is also located in the entry hallway.

Cali Beecher - **LSI** site manager for Dubuque, was very thankful for the Angel Tree Christmas gifts. She is very appreciative of the partnership between LSI and St. Peter Lutheran. The recipients were extremely happy!

Thank you St. Peter congregation, Patty Strathman, *Director of Mission Support*

Calling All Men at St. Peter! **Men's Retreat | February 17-18**

Have you ever thought of getting away from your regular routine to spend some less stressful time overnight with other Christian men?? Well, here is your chance to do just that.

Friday night February 17, we have reserved the Stone Center at Camp Ewalu, north of Strawberry Point, IA for our Men's Retreat. The plan is to arrive there by 6pm and head home midafternoon on Saturday. In between, we will be sharing time together for some recreation and quality conversation. The specific agenda has been influenced by the feedback received from the survey we conducted in September.

Steve Fishwild, Dennis Weeks, and Doug Horstmann are putting the agenda together with input from Pastors Matt and Calvin. You will not want to miss this chance to build relationships with your fellow Christians! *Hope to see you there!*

Cost is $75, which includes a room and 3 prepared meals. There are 16 rooms, each with at least two beds and a private bathroom. Whether you get a single or share a room depends on how many sign up. First signing up will get preference on single rooms.

Sign up before February 12 with Steve (sfishwild@gmail.com), **Dennis** (dennisweeks39@gmail.com), **or Doug** (djhorstmann53@gmail.com). **You may also leave your contact info and a check for $75 with the office.**

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

- **Bible Study**—Wednesdays at 6pm, led by Pastor Matt, Zoom option *(see below)*
- **Quilting Group**—Meets first Thursday of the month in the Fellowship Hall—contact Alice Wagner for more info
- **Spruce Up Group**—First & third Tuesdays 8:30am *(come when you can)*—Contact Wayne Buchholtz
- **Men's Bible Study**—Meets third Saturday of the month at 8am, Zoom option—Contact Gary Rieniets
- **Prayer Shawl Group**—Meets third Thursday of the month—Knit and Crochet, with Prayer and Fellowship
- **Men's Breakfast**—Meets last Saturday at 8am (except June, July, & Aug and Dec 2022)—Contact Mark Whitaker
- **Zoom Book Club**—Meets monthly on Wednesdays at 5pm *(see below)*—Contact Jean Rieniets for more info
- **Worship Servants**—Volunteer at Worship Services, contact Scott Brondyke or the office

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/stpeterlutherandubuque *(most past live streams & special music videos are available)*
Website: stpeterdbq.org *(did you know our calendar is posted on our website?)*
PayPal: http://stpeterdbq.org/give *(a secure way for you to donate to St. Peter online)*
Mediacom: Channel 81 or 117-4 *(see calendar on page 6 for the TV schedule for Worship)*
Bible Study—Wednesdays 6pm: Zoom Link–Click Here *(We will start again on January 11)*
Book Club on Zoom: Click Here for Zoom Link *(Monthly at 5 pm-next meeting Feb 1, contact Jean Rieniets for info)*

LIVESTREAM UPDATE: Weekly Worship Service also available live online at 8:15am or 10:30am Sundays, on our YouTube channel. *(see page 8 for a schedule)*

If you have questions, please call the office, 563-583-0860 or email us at office@stpeterdbq.org

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 via PayPal.** Here's how:
   - Go to www.stpeterdbq.org/give and then select the Donate button. You will be taken to the St. Peter PayPal page. From there you can use your PayPal account, credit card or debit card to donate. *(You do not need to set up a PayPal account to donate with your credit/debit card.)*
   - Or, from your cell phone you can simply scan the QR Code here and it will take you directly to the St. Peter PayPal page.

St. Peter's Calendar for February 2023

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 the pastors or the office.*

Mediacom TV Schedule:
Channels 81 and 117-4

Mon	**10 am**	**Tue**	**6 pm**
Wed	**8 am**	**Thurs**	**6 pm**
Fri	**8 pm**	**Sat**	**4:30 pm**
Sun	**8:30 am and 7:30 pm**		

(P) = Praise & Worship *(was "Contemporary")* (L) = Liturgical *(was "Traditional")* *Communion offered at all services*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Book Club Zoom 5pm Dinner for Families-free will 5:30pm Bible Study 6pm Confirmation 6pm Young Families 6pm Choir 6:30pm HS Youth Group 7pm	2 Quilting Group 9 am-3 pm Fellowship Hall	3	4 **Worship** 4:30pm (L)
5 **Worship** 8:15am (P) Milestone: Lord's Prayer 8:15am Sun School 9:15am Coffee Hr/Adult Ed 9:15am **Worship** 10:30am (L)	6 Evangelical Outreach Bd Mtg 6pm Property Bd Mtg 7pm YH-TOPS 5pm	7 Spruce Up Group 8:30am Staff Mtg 10:45am WT Music Selection 1:30pm Mission Support Bd Mtg 5pm	8 Dinner for Families-free will 5:30pm Bible Study 6pm Confirmation 6pm Young Families 6pm Choir 6:30pm HS Youth Group 7pm	9	10	11 **Worship** 4:30pm (L)
12 ***Feed My Sheep*** **Worship** 8:15am (P) Feed My Sheep 9:15am Coffee Hr 9:15am **Worship** 10:30am (L)	13 Stewardship Bd Mtg 5:45pm Council Mtg 7pm YH-TOPS 5 pm	14 Staff Mtg 10:45am	15 Dinner for Families-free will 5:30pm Bible Study 6pm Confirmation 6pm Young Families 6pm Choir 6:30pm HS Youth Group 7pm	16 Prayer Shawl Group 6 pm	17 ***MARCH BELLRINGER DEADLINE*** Men's Retreat Feb 17-18 MS Diaper Wars 6:30pm	18 Men's Retreat Feb 17-18 **Worship** 4:30pm (L)
19 ***Transfiguration*** **Worship** 8:15am (P) Sun School 9:15am Coffee Hr/Adult Ed 9:15am **Worship** 10:30am (L) Ping Pong Tourney 6pm sponsored by Congregational Life	20 Worship Bd Mtg 6pm Congregational Life Bd Mtg 7pm YH-TOPS 5 pm	21 Spruce Up Group 8:30am Staff Mtg 10:45am Hymn Selection 1:30pm	22 **ASH WEDNESDAY** **Worship** Noon **Worship** 6:30pm	23	24	25 Men's Breakfast 8am **Worship** 4:30pm (L)
26 **Worship** 8:15am (P) Coffee Hour 9:15am Sun School 9:15am Adult Ed: *Int Pastor Laura Trip* 9:15am **Worship** 10:30am (L)	27 Education Bd Mtg 6:30pm YH-TOPS 5 pm	28 Staff Mtg 10:45am	**UPCOMING WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES:** **March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29** ⇒ **Noon: Service with Holden Evening Prayer** ⇒ **12:40pm: Brown Bag Lunch** ⇒ **5:30pm: Lenten Supper** ⇒ **6:30pm: Service with Holden Evening Prayer**			

Celebrating our Church Community

February Birthdays

1 Donna Clemen
2 Benjamin Buse
3 Kristine Fishler
Susan Fury
Ben Scheirer
4 Brandon Haas
Lorraine O'Brien
Jim Petersen
5 Ramonna Miller
Raelyn Reinert
6 Erin Schoenhard
Adam Zell
8 Lynn Kupferschmidt
Alan Lumley
11 Paul Herrig
Mary Jane Maas
12 Elaine Core
Ryan Mullner
Tyler Munson
13 Christopher DeMotta
Judy Trent
14 Karen Taylor
15 Anne Hanselmann
Angie Puls
Jean Rieniets
16 William Tinker
17 Cole Schoenhard
18 Justine Bies
19 Mark Dean
Hannah Stoner
20 Bob Papenthien
Diane Rausch
22 Erica Lumley
Jan Peter
23 Caitlyn Finger
Sandy Hyman
24 Scott Peter
26 Kade Schroeder
Timothy Toops
28 Berdena Miller
Courtney Pfab
Daniel Toops

Wedding Anniversaries

We celebrate these special milestones.

Name	Date
Gerald & Arlene Laaker	February 15, 1986
Doug & Cindy Recker	February 21, 1987
Jay & Lori Schmitt	February 24, 2001

" 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.

February 10, 2013 .....Kimberly Thill
February 04, 2014 .....Dolores "Dee" Maggio
February 29, 2016 .....Jane Klingle
February 1, 2019 .....Norma Jean Roloff
February 9, 2022 .....Edwin Schick

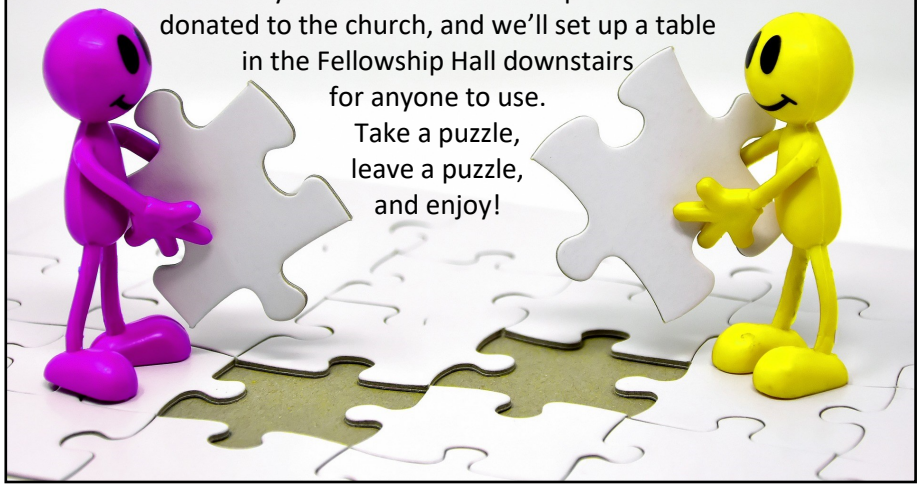
The 2023 Altar Flower Calendar is beginning to fill up! *Have you reserved your dates?*
After you have added your name to the calendar outside the office, **please fill out one of the gold forms** (located below the calendar) and turn it in to the office, so we have what we need when it comes time to order your altar flowers! Thank you!

You may also **click here to download an altar flower info form**

Hey! Is this your stuff? Pick it up in the office. Thanks!

Puzzle Exchange this Month Only!

As an experiment, we're going to offer a puzzle exchange during the month of February. We have a number of puzzles that have been donated to the church, and we'll set up a table in the Fellowship Hall downstairs for anyone to use. Take a puzzle, leave a puzzle, and enjoy!



Congregational Life Invites You to

A Mardi Gras Ping Pong Tourney

Sunday, February 19 | 6 pm

All ages are welcome to come and play in the very first St. Peter Ping Pong Tourney! We are still working out the details, but we will have more than one table to use! Bring your own paddle, or use one of ours. *(If you have a table we can borrow, please contact Steve Fishwild at sfishwild@gmail.com or any member of the Congregational Life Board)*
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!!

ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

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STAFF

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cell: 763-226-5425

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Education Coordinator: Miriam Bjornstad 563-663-6558

Director of Music : Kristine Fishler 563-599-3937

Office Manager: Christine Rapp 563-583-0860

Facilities Coordinator: Angie Puls 563-542-2711

Ash Wednesday Services

February 22: Noon & 6:30pm

Weekly Worship Services

In-Person Worship Services

Liturgical Worship
Saturdays, 4:30 pm
Sundays, 10:30 am

Praise and Worship Service
Sundays, 8:15 am
Holy Communion is celebrated at all services

Sunday School & Adult Ed. Hour
Sundays, 9:15 am

YouTube Livestream Services

8:15 am: February 12 & 26
10:30am: February 5 & 19
YouTube.com/stpeterlutherandubuque

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.