

The Bellringer

June 2022



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

From Pastor Matt

This point in the year in Iowa is sometimes confusing. You turn on the air conditioner one day, and then a few days later you have to turn up the heat.

As humans, we tend to dislike extreme temperatures. The received wisdom is that on average a human runs at 98.6 degrees, some people are a bit warmer, some cooler, but that fluctuation is rarely more than a few degrees. In fact, we have built heating and air conditioning units to make sure we stay at the right temperature. When we are cold, our bodies begin to shiver and shake and our teeth chatter to generate heat; when we get too hot, we sweat off water to evaporate, which helps to cool us down.

I was reading Psalm 13 recently, and I noticed a similar sort of extreme: Will you forget me forever? **How long will you hide your face from me?**

These are the words of King David, a man who has known the power of God, who has felt it, witnessed it. But in this Psalm he's in the midst of a spiritual winter that seems like it won't ever end. Another day, another snowfall. When will it ever be warm again?

Many of us can identify with David's lament, a time when God seemed distant. Perhaps it was a time of pain or illness or mourning. Perhaps the noise of a busy life drowned out the voice of God. Whatever the cause, experiencing the silence of God is always disconcerting.

David's cry is extreme—he knows this feeling of separation from God is not normal. Yet, within this cry is also an implicit declaration of faith: a trust that God is still there, even in the silence. God is there to hear David's cry, even if David doesn't believe it at that moment. God hasn't gone away, God's mercy and love are constant.

When you experience moments of extreme silence, trust that God is there. **Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.** In good times, in awful times, in winter, and in summer, in times of great faith, and times of extreme spiritual drought, God's love for you will never—ever—go away.

May the God of steadfast love bless you this Summer.

- Soli Deo Gloria. Pastor Matthew Agee

From Pastor Calvin

Grace to all of you and peace, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Peace. Peace to you. There's a lot of talk about peace in the Bible. In Isaiah God promises that one day all swords will be made into plowshares. Philippians talks about God's peace that passes all understanding. In John, Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you."

Today I'm having a hard time understanding what that peace is. The world is watching as Ukraine is ripped apart in war. As of today (I'm writing this in late May) there have been 198 mass shootings in 2022 alone. There was a racially motivated shooting in Buffalo, NY, and there has been a school shooting in Texas. Genocide is happening in China against Muslims. The list goes on.

What is peace in the midst of violence? The prophet Habakkuk in the first chapter says, "How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted."

And yet Christ promised his peace to us. The very next verse in Habakkuk says, "Look at the nations and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For a work is being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told." As I wrestle with what it means to have peace in the midst of violence, I will continue to turn to God. I will look with hope for God's work in the world. And I will be an agent of God's peace. Will you join me?

- Peace in Christ. Pastor Calvin Konop



Christian Education News from Miriam

It's Time for Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 13-17, 9am-Noon each day

We will be **decorating on Saturday, June 11** starting at 9 am for our Southwest Desert theme and for our storytelling of *Joseph and his Family*. All helpers welcome!

Stop by anytime during VBS week to see what's going on! The kids will share their VBS songs 9am worship on Sun. June 19. **Contact Miriam with questions** (mythywaybj@gmail.com)

Birthday Boxes items will be accepted through Sunday, June 12. Each box contains: **a cake mix, frosting, balloons, plates, candles, cups, & napkins, in a LARGE shoebox** to create a "Birthday Party in a Box." **Our goal is 60 boxes.** The kids will decorate the boxes during VBS week. They are given Food Pantry, who enjoys distributing them to families throughout the year.

NOISY OFFERING: Our current "noisy" offering (thru June 19) will be used for our Vacation Bible School (VBS) ministry. It will help with Birthday Box items, supplies, and VBS scholarships. *We have collected \$125.14 in coins so far!* Thanks!



MILESTONE MINISTRY— We celebrated two Milestones during May:

Serving the Lord: Our 5th graders, *Lily Michel, Maggie Michel, Charlee Parr, Annelie Scheirer, and Nora Schoeny*, spent a class session looking at the parts of our liturgy and how they flow from one to another during a worship service. They received Acolyte Training & have begun exploring ways they can serve in the St Peter worshipping community.

Although **High School Graduation** is not a Faith Milestone, it marks a significant step in the lives of our young people and so we like to give them a special blessing as they began this new journey. **Celebrating this Milestone were Justine Bies, Tamra Faubel, Michael Heiderscheit, and Andrew Schute.**

Check this out: During our Opening of Sunday School each week, we had **interactive Storytelling** of the Bible story of the day. Music Kristine has put the weekly highlights into a [video that you can find on our YouTube page](#), called "St Peter Sunday School Storytelling." *We are excited to share this with you and encourage you to let us know what you think!*

Youth Ministry News from Pastor Calvin

We are excited for our YOUTH SUNDAY JUNE 4-5! See page 3 for all the exciting events we have planned!!

MIDDLE SCHOOL / CONFIRMATION (Grades 6-8)

- **Summer Plans**—We'll have monthly fun events this summer for Middle School Youth. Incoming 6th graders (for Fall of 2022) are welcome to join us for summer events! Here is a schedule:
 - ⇒ **Wednesday, June 22 from 6:30-8pm** - 9 Square tournament (like 4 square, but there are 9 squares)
 - ⇒ **Wednesday, July 13 from 7:30-9pm** - "Will It Roast?" Bonfire. Bring an item of food so that we can try to roast it and answer the age old question: "Will It Roast?"
 - ⇒ **Wednesday, August 10 at 9pm** - Youth Movie Night (drive-in, weather permitting, otherwise we'll move indoors). *Bring blankets, a snack to share, and one or more friends. Church will provide popcorn and beverages.*
- **Confirmation Service for 8th graders** will be on **Pentecost (June 5)** at the 9am service.) There will be a rehearsal on Friday, June 3 from 6:30-7:30pm for parents, students, and volunteers.
- **Confirmation Registration** - Confirmation Registration for incoming students is available now! Current 5th graders will have a form sent home with them from Sunday School, and additional forms will be available at church. **The deadline for Confirmation Registration is Wednesday, August 10.**

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY (Grades 9-12)

Summer Plans—We'll have monthly fun events this summer for our High School youth. Incoming 9th graders are welcome to join us for our events. Here is the schedule:

- **Wednesday, June 22 from 6:30-8pm** - 9 Square tournament (like 4 square, but there are 9 squares) with the Middle Schoolers
- **Sunday, July 10 at 2pm** - Bowling at Dubuque Lanes
- **July 24-27** - NEIA Boundless Youth Gathering to Minneapolis/St Paul
- **Wednesday, August 10 at 9pm** - Youth Movie Night (drive in weather pending, otherwise we'll move indoors). *Bring blankets, a snack to share, and one or more friends. Church will provide popcorn and beverages*

If you have questions about any of the above items, reach out to Pastor Calvin pastorcalvin@stpeterdbq.org

Congregational Meeting Notice:

Sunday, June 5, 2022—10:15am, following Worship

To **VOTE** on a proposed motion to expand hours & add benefits to the position of Education Coordinator, currently held by Miriam Bjornstad.

Our Bylaws require that any unbudgeted expenditure over \$10,000 be approved by the full congregation.

We will also be providing an **update on our current 2022 finances** thru April; an **update on the Pastor Fund**, and discuss what future funding for that position might look like.

Please plan to attend the meeting in person in the sanctuary. For those unable to attend in person we will be providing a Zoom option. [Download more details here](#), or pick up a copy at church.

Thank you! -Doug Horstmann, *Council President*



From the Council President

Well, here we are in summer, finally. We are now on our **summer worship service schedule, of Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday one service at 9:00 am.** (See page 8 for more info.) Hope to see all of you soon!

ALL CONGREGATION MEETING: On **Sunday June 5, at 10:15am**, after 9:00am service, there will be a Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary to **VOTE on a proposal to add hours and benefits to our Educational Coordinator position**, currently held by Miriam Bjornstad.

This meeting is required by our Bylaws whenever we want to spend more than \$10,000, if not previously approved in the budget. **This increase in hours and employee benefits will total \$19,000 annually.** The motion will indicate that the change can only be made if the funding is secured prior to having the hours expanded.

Prior to and during the meeting we will provide updates 1) on funding already committed by some families, 2) how we are doing financially through April of this year and 3) our plans to continue funding our Associate Pastor position beyond the current funding through Dec 2023. I encourage you to attend the meeting and support this effort to grow our youth educational experience. [Click here to download financial details.](#) Hardcopies are also available on the front hall table.

Other exciting things going on at St Peter. Confirmation Sunday is also on June 5 and VBS starts on Monday, June 13. Both are great celebrations for our youth.

Looking ahead to the fall we have reserved the Stone Center at **Ewalu for a Men's overnight Retreat.** Please put **Friday night, October 28** on your calendar and plan to attend. The plan is to be back in town by mid-afternoon on the 29th. What a great way to build and grow relationships with other men in our congregation. Hope you can join us.

I would also like to again welcome Piper MacRae-Egan and Roger Bentley to the Congregation Council as our new at-large members. These new positions were created by our new Bylaws approved in January and provide us with more input, ideas and perspective when making decisions regarding the operations of the church. We look forward to having Piper and Roger with us.

In closing I hope that all of you have a wonderful summer and that you stay healthy.

God Bless,

- Doug Horstmann, *President of the Congregational Council*

Join us for Youth Sunday (and Saturday)!

The weekend of June 4 & 5, the Youth Gathering team will:

- **Lead Service** and serve as our **Worship Volunteers**, at both services
- Host a **Bake Sale** on Saturday & Sunday (donations welcome)
- Host a **Coffee Bar** after service on Sunday (*you might want to grab a cup before the Congregational Mtg*)
- Have opportunities to give monetarily to their upcoming trip to Minneapolis, July 24-27



St. Peter Community

Mission Support News

"But as for you Brethren, do not grow weary in doing good."

2 Thessalonians 3:13

- Watch for the **Global Mission Weekend** at the end of July featuring the projects of the Mission Support Board and opportunities to help those in need.
- The **Growing Hope project** will again have the home grown produce stand this summer. Your extra produce is welcomed.
- The **Dubuque Food Pantry** is in need of peanut butter (*if sending Jif, please be sure you've checked the recall numbers carefully*) and jelly for its clients.
- The collection for **LWR school kits** will begin in July and continue until Sept 6. *Watch for sales for the supplies needed.*

Enjoy and have a safe summer!

God Bless all of you, Patty Strathman, *Director of Mission Support*

Sponsor Altar Flowers

Honor a loved one, give thanks for something in your life, or another reason. **Only 2 weekends are still available:**

June 18-19 (Father's Day) and December 11-12

[Click here to download signup sheet](#)

or [Signup on the calendar outside the office,](#)

or contact Christine, 563-583-0860, stpeterdbq@q.com



QUILTING GROUP

Our **Quilters** meet on the first Thursday of each month from 9am to about 3pm.

Everyone is welcome—they always need people to iron and tie quilts.

Quilting experience helpful, but not at all necessary, as there are many steps to making a quilt, and one person doesn't do them all. **Ques?** Ask Alice Wagner or Martha Kemp



Jolene Rettenberger wants the Prayer Shawl ladies to know just how much her Aunt Shirley Marshall loved her beautiful purple prayer shawl. Although Shirley recently lost her battle with cancer, it was of great comfort to both of them to know they were being prayed for in such a loving manner.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

Our **Prayer Shawl Group** meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6pm. *Feel free to join them for knitting, crocheting, and fellowship!*

Prayer Shawls are available in the library—please feel free to take one to share with someone.



St. Peter Groups & Meeting Info

New friends always welcome, come see what we are about!

- **Bible Study for Everyone**—Meets Wednesdays at 6pm on Zoom—Contact Pastor Matt—pastor@stpeterdbq.org
- **God's Outdoor Explorers**—Meets monthly on third Thursday—Ques? Steve Fishwild—sfishwild@gmail.com
- **Men's Bible Study**—Meets third Saturday at 8am—Contact Gary Rienets
- **Men's Breakfast**—Meets last Saturday at 8am—Contact Mark Whitaker
- **Quilting Group**—Meets first Thursday of the month in the Fellowship Hall—contact Alice Wagner for more info
- **Prayer Shawl Group**—Meets third Thursday of the month—Knit and Crochet, with Prayer and Fellowship
- **Spruce Up Group**—First & third Tuesdays 8:30am (come when you can)—Contact Wayne Buchholtz
- **Worship Servants**—Volunteer at our Worship Services—Contact Kelly Roen for more info—kelly.roen@yahoo.com
- **Zoom Book Club**—Meets monthly on Wednesdays at 5pm (*see below*) —Contact Jean Rienets for more info

Gwen's Pantry Update:

We are always accepting donations for personal care items, including:

Kleenex (*pocket packs work great!*), Deodorant (roll-on for summer, please), Dental Floss, Toothbrushes, Mouthwash, bar soap, First Aid items, shampoo, lotion, etc.

- Accepting full-size, travel-size (yes, even hotel bottles), multi-packs.
- Partial packs of diapers and feminine products can be repackaged.
- *Other personal care items (NO MEDS) always welcome. Thank You!*
- *Volunteer stockers always needed.*
- *Donations of items not required be a stocker, as you will be using items from our supply.*

Questions? contact Cindy Widmar or Jean Kapp



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*)

Book Club on Zoom: [Click Here for Zoom Link](#) (*Monthly at 5 pm-next meeting June 1, contact Jean Rienets for info*)

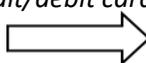
Bible Study: *Currently taking a summer break*

Weekly Worship Service also available live online at 8:15am Sundays, on [our YouTube channel](#).

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 June 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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.*

SUMMER PICNIC—Sunday, June 19

- Pastor Matt hosting at his house
- Potluck Style
- BYOB and Chairs
- Delicious summer meats provided

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

			1 Book Club Zoom 5 pm	2 Quilting Group 9 am-3 pm Fellowship Hall	3 Confirmation Rehearsal 6:30pm	4 YOUTH Weekend Youth-Led Worship 4:30pm (L) Youth Gathering Bake Sale
5 PENTECOST Youth-Led Worship 9am (L) Confirmation 9am Youth Gathering Bake Sale & Coffee Bar 10am CONGREGATIONAL MTG—10:15am See page 3	6 Staff 10:45 am Hymn Select 1:30 pm Evangelical Outreach 6 pm Property Bd 7 pm YH-TOPS 5 pm	7 VOTING—we are a polling place Spruce Up Group 8:30 am Mission Support Bd Mtg 5 pm	8	9	10 Synod Assembly Lily Brondyke's Wedding (not here) Party on Purpose II Wartburg 6pm	11 Synod Assembly Decorate for VBS 9am Worship 4:30pm (L) with T. Kennedy Baptism
12 Worship 9am (P) Coffee Hour 10am EWALU open meeting at St. Peter 2pm	13 VBS 9am-noon Staff Mtg 10:45 am Stewardship Bd Mtg 5:45 pm Council Mtg 7 pm YH-TOPS 5 pm	14 VBS 9am-noon	15 VBS 9am-noon	16 VBS 9am-noon Prayer Shawl Group 6 pm God's Outdoor Explorers 6 pm	17 VBS 9am-noon JULY BELLRINGER DEADLINE	18 Men's Bible Study 8am Worship 4:30pm (L)
19 FATHER'S DAY VBS SUNDAY Worship 9am (L) Coffee Hour 10am St Peter Picnic 12-3 pm (see above)	20 Staff 10:45 am Worship Bd Mtg 6 pm Lay Ministry Bd 7 pm YH-TOPS 5 pm	21 Spruce Up Group 8:30 am	22 Youth 9-Square tournament 6:30pm	23	24	25 Men's Breakfast 8am ** OUTDOOR ** Worship 4:30pm (L)
26 Worship 9am (P) Coffee Hour 10am	27 Staff 10:45 am Hymn Selection 1:30pm Ed Bd 6:30 pm YH-TOPS 5 pm	28	29	30	Please note: <i>The office will be closed on Monday, July 4th.</i>	

Celebrating our Church Community



June Birthdays

1 Nancy Ferry	17 Samantha Jasper
Chloe Petitgout	Shane O'Brien
2 Janet Biermann	Brandi Peter
3 Kevin Freiburger	Lisa Westland
5 Diegen Haylock	18 Loretta Fahrion
6 Jacob DeMotta	Mary Klein
7 Mark Whitaker	Sally Sirianni
9 Donna Berlage	19 Mary Michel
Craig Nesson	20 Alexis Bjornstad
Traci Ryan	Linda Reeder
Eric Taylor	Lois Shetler
11 Andre Recker	21 Brayless Petitgout
Mike Reed	23 Tim Buchholtz
Michael VonHollen	Judy Heiberger
13 Andrew Schute	24 Roger Baylor
14 Jim Fahrion	Aden Bjornstad
Marie Weeks	Kara Hillman
15 Sarah Hess	25 Liam Dostal
Megan Meier	26 Brett Haas
Andrew Roen	Kim Haas
Barb Shaffer	Lindsay Olsen
16 Dakota Gilbert	27 Pat Feldman
Mariah Harmon	Linda Noble
Dee Spiegelhalter	28 Alina Buchholtz
	Hazel Lambert
	Susan Nichols
	30 Mary Cook-Kmucha

Wedding Anniversaries

We celebrate these special milestones.

Name	Date
Alan & Lois Lumley.....	June 3, 2005
Deann & Patrick Petitgout	June 7, 2003
Roger & Alice Wagner.....	June 8, 1957
Rich & Marty Corfman	June 8, 1985
Wayne & Pam Buchholtz	June 10, 1984
Gary & Julie Norby	June 10, 1988
Marc & Melissa DeMotta.....	June 11, 2006
Dennis & Marie Weeks	June 12, 1960
Chuck & Kim Haas	June 13, 1987
Larry & Janet Conrad	June 14, 1969
Jerome & Aneta Mistek	June 18, 1966
Jim & Jane Petersen.....	June 22, 1974
Kara & Jason Hillman	June 23, 2012
Jeremy & Amy Kettmann	June 24, 2006
Michael & Mary Klein	June 24, 2012
Edythe & Paul Puls	June 25, 1966
Jacob & Mariah Harmon	June 25, 2021
Karen & Chris Taylor	June 26, 2010
Judy & Bob Iler.....	June 28, 1997
Lyle & Jean Beck	June 29, 1958
Mandy & Jake Lindecker	June 29, 2013
Paul & Joyce Scherner.....	June 30, 1973

"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

ST. PETER PRAYER LIST:

- Do you know someone that could use extra prayers?
- Have your prayers been answered?
- Should someone be removed from our list?

Please let us know of any changes to the St. Peter Prayer list.

Thank you! 563-583-0860 or office@stpeterdbq.org

We Remember



We remember those affiliated with our congregation who have died in the past ten years.

June 14, 2012	Debra Galloway
June 13, 2015	Lynne Anne Love
June 28, 2015	Sheryl Kay Haug
June 29, 2015	Barbara Jane Schick
June 14, 2017	Kathryn "Kate" Dean
June 18, 2021	Karen Pfeiler



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

Prayer Request Card

Please write your prayers requests here, and then, mail it, drop it off, email it, or call the office.

Please Pray For: _____ **Date Added** _____

Reason (optional): _____

Your Name (optional) _____ Your Phone Number (or Email) _____

Place this request on the prayer list? Yes No **For how long?** 1 Week 2 weeks Other (Please specify): _____



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA

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Email Address: office@stpeterdbq.org

Office Hours: 9:00-4:00 Mon-Thur; 9:00-1:00 Fri



ST. PETER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DUBUQUE, IOWA



STAFF

Pastor: Matthew Ageeoffice: 563-583-0860
voicemail: 563-845-2688

Associate Pastor: Calvin Konopoffice: 563-583-0860
cell: 563-226-5425

Visitation/Outreach Minister: Jim Daack563-556-0028

Education Coordinator: Miriam Bjornstad563-663-6558

Musician: Kristine Fishler563-599-3937

Office Manager: Christine Rapp563-583-0860

Custodian: Angie Puls563-542-2711

Weekly Worship Services

In-Person Worship Services

Liturgical Worship

Saturdays, 4:30 pm

1st & 3rd Sundays, 9:00 am

Praise and Worship Service

2nd & 4th Sundays, 9:00 am

Holy Communion is celebrated at all services

YouTube Livestream Service

Sundays 9:00 am

[YouTube.com/stpeterlutherandubuque](https://www.youtube.com/stpeterlutherandubuque)

Outdoor Worship—Monthly

Saturday, June 25, 4:30 pm

St. Peter Lutheran Church SUMMER PICNIC: Sunday, June 19—at Pastor Matt’s house
Potluck style. Pastor Matt will be hosting & grilling delicious summer meats. BYOB & chairs. *See you there!*

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.