

March 2025 Visitor

St. Peter's
Lutheran Church
1422 Center Avenue
Janesville, WI 53546
608/754-2891
Email/Website
stpetersjvl@gmail.com
www.stpetersjvl.org
Office Hours:
M, W-F 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed Tuesday

Staff

Pastor
Rev. Bruce A. Gray
Parsonage: 608/563-4148
revbruceagray@gmail.com

Musician
Mary Eckert

Custodian
Bob Wolfram

Parish Life Assistant
Lynn Curtis

Congregational Council
President
Barb Kienbaum

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning
Worship—9:30 a.m.

Sunday School and
Confirmation
10:45 a.m.

(See Calendar for Schedule)

Wednesday Evening
Worship—7:00 p.m.

Holy Communion
Celebrated at Every Service
Except Midweek Lent

Revelation: Grace, Peace, Love and Good News (With Some Colorful Horses Thrown in for Good Measure)

A 2025 Midweek Lenten Sermon Series

^{9:7}"In appearance the locusts were like horses equipped for battle. On their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, ⁸their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; ⁹they had scales like iron breastplates, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. ¹⁰They have tails like scorpions, with stingers, and in their tails is their power to harm people for five months. ¹¹They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon." (Revelation 9:7-11 NRSV)

^{13:1}"And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads; and on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads were blasphemous names." (Revelation 13:1 NRSV)

^{13:16}"Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, ¹⁷so that no one can buy or sell who does not have the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. ¹⁸This calls for wisdom: let anyone with understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a person. Its number is six hundred sixty-six." (Revelation 13:16-18 NRSV)

When was the last time you heard or read these verses? Was it when you did a personal Bible Study? It pretty much had to be then as you probably would have never heard these verses during a Sunday Worship service (at least in a Lutheran Church!!). The Book of Revelation is truly a most interesting Book in The Bible. Yes, there is Good News present in all parts of this amazing account that John of Patmos relates to us. Sometimes, it is a challenge to find, however. Prayerfully, this will change over the 2025 Midweek Wednesday services in Lent. We will explore Revelation text we ordinarily would not hear from. Yes, we will still hear the amazing words that we oftentimes experience during Easter and All Saints' Day. But, the real focus will be on the Green, Red, White, Black Horse; the Mark of the Beast; the Leviathan; the Lake of Fire, too. And, we will hear and experience the Good News of God's love for all His children all throughout the Wednesdays of Lent. We look forward to experiencing this during the 7 p.m. Evening Prayer service held in the Cross & Crown Room beginning Wednesday, March 12 through April 9. Revelation: Grace, Peace, Love and Good News (With Some Colorful Horses Thrown in for Good Measure).



"Full Moon Forest Reflections" **One-of-a-Kind Paint Event**

This event will be held in the Cross & Crown Room on Saturday, March 29, 1-4 p.m., Cost: \$20. Painting supplies and instruction are included. No Experience Necessary. Refreshments provided.

Please register on the Sign-up in the hallway by March 25 and pay the cost to Barb Kienbaum who can also answer any questions.

3-Todd Severson
6-Angelina Jorgenson
7-Presley Kovacevich
9-Jacob Schlegel
11-Brad Davis

12-Kay Taylor
15-Connie Bilz
22-Julina Brown
23-Jozie Dutra
26-Jerry Harnack

26-Brady Heacox
27-Eugene Bilz
27-Aaron Severson
29-Tim Baldry
31-Grace Flister



In Our Thoughts & Prayers...

Al Boness	Kay Degerman
Annika Jurun	Kay Knudson
Bruce Rockenfield	Kenny & Jenny Clifton
Carol Lund	Kevin Severson
Cathy Conroy	Kristin Randall
Charlie Flood	Lincoln Roesing
Chris Christian	Lyn Elver
Chuck Schwab	Marie Severson
Cindy Barry	Marshall Faulks
Darlene & Donald Newman	Mary Ann Harrington
Denny Vierik	Nancy Roesing
Dick Peck	Oakley Seifert
Ed Spenske	Pauline Chalfant
Gene Amann	Pauline Waters
Helen Flister	Robert Hiller II
Irene Christian	Ron Schindler
Jessica Rathbun	Russell Bell
Jim Payne	Sally Fritz
Joann Cowan	Shelly McCann
John Froiland	Tami Schoeller
Judi Downing	Tom Ulrich
Judie Spry	Yvonne LaFlash
Judy Bolton	



Happy Birthday to our March Seniors who will be celebrating a birthday of 80 years or more. Make their day special by sending a card or giving them a call.

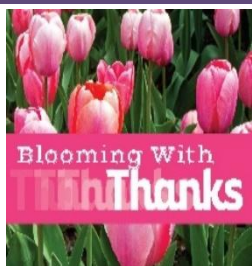
Kay Degerman—March 2—80
 3120 Crabapple Ln
 Janesville, WI 53548 608/754-7546

Judy Windorf—March 7—82
 2716 Elizabeth St
 Janesville, WI 53548 608/752-6275

Shirley Brandt—March 12—87
 516 Nadig Ct
 Ft. Atkinson, WI 53538

Ed Spenske—March 18—86
 1411 Terrace St
 Janesville, WI 53546 608/752-0390

Russ Degerman—March 17—82
 3120 Crabapple Ln
 Janesville, WI 53548 608/754-7546



“Dear Friends—Thank you, thank you, thank you for the beautiful cheer basket. Everything was delicious and we enjoyed every last bite.—Judy & Al Boness”

“Howard & Judy Spry want to thank the friends and members of St. Peter’s for the cheer baskets we received containing baked goods, fruit, jars of jam and mixed candy. It was appreciated and made our Christmas much better.”



Growing in Faith: Reflections from the Pastor

^{51:1}“Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against You, You alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence and blameless when You pass judgment.” (Psalm 51:1-4 NRSV)

Lent. The season of transformation, repentance, solitude, and prayer. What a wonderful time to be part of God's Church. We enter this Lent knowing how our sins transform and we repent in solemn prayer. We enter this Lent knowing how our sins have hurt others, God, even ourselves and we are in solitude. We enter this Lent knowing God has washed us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleansed us from our sin, through the atoning act of the Cross.

Lent. The season of waiting, serving, reflecting, and disciplining. What a wonderful time to be part of God's Church. We enter this Lent waiting (sometimes patiently, sometimes not so much so) for God's ever-present forgiveness. We enter this Lent serving God's children; those children that sorely need help. We enter this Lent in silent reflection; a reflection aimed at forgiving and being forgiven, a reflection aimed at thanking and being thankful, a reflection aimed at consoling and being consoled. We enter this Lent disciplining ourselves to give up and give back.

Lent. The season of beginnings, endings, and new beginnings. The season of hope. The season of care. The season of gifts. What a wonderful time to be part of God's Church.

^{6:21}“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21 NRSV)

Our treasure is in the wonderful season of Lent. For during Lent, we can have wonderful quiet time with God; wonderful face time with our Savior; awesome times of thanksgiving with the Messiah. For it is the season of Lent when we prepare for some heavy things: trials, suffering, and death. All for us. All from our loving God. All for the forgiveness of sin. All for us and our salvation.

Lent. What a wonderful time to be part of God's Church. Peace, *Pastor Bruce*

Carillon Approval and Demo

At the Annual Meeting Members approved purchase of a new Carillon. The equipment that is being considered is from Chime Master and would cost \$14,100 with an installation fee of \$1,400. The amount approved at the meeting was \$17,000 so that if there were any incidental expenses they would be included. The cost of the equipment will be taken from the **Memorial funds along with personal gifts. If you would like to donate, this can be done by putting the gift in an offering envelope and marking Carillon on the “Other” line.**

A demo of the equipment through Chime Master took place on Monday, February 10. Those who attended were very impressed with what the equipment has to offer. We had the opportunity to hear the sound and ask questions. After due consideration, the Congregational Council approved the purchase of the equipment. Installation updates will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Pastor Bruce, or any of the Council members.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you have any insurance policies through Thrivent, you have Choice Dollars based on the premiums you pay that can be allocated to a charity organization annually. St. Peter's is one of those choices that can be designated to receive the funds. You should have received a notice from Thrivent to that regard. You must designate the funds by the end of March for 2026 and can be done on your computer or on the paper copies available in the office. An additional option is to contact your Thrivent Representative and let them assist you. The St. Peter's Thrivent Choice dollars have been designated by our Council to go to the Roof Fund until that project is completed.

CROP Walk

Judy Willard will again coordinate this annual fundraising event. The organizational meeting will take place March 1 at St. John's Lutheran Church. Watch for more information in the future.

Paint Event Planned

Another Paint Event has been scheduled for Saturday, March 29 from 1-4 p.m. in the Cross and Crown Room. The cost will again be \$20.00 per person. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board next to the Cross and Crown kitchen. If interested, you can bring a snack to share.

Family, friends and guests of St. Peter's are welcome to participate. Tad McLain will again be the artist leading the event.

12 Stewardship Principles

As members of the Body of Christ, we confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We proclaim the Gospel as the Word of God. In our faith we recognize the gifts which God has first given us through grace and accept our role as stewards. The principles we will explore each month throughout 2025 provide a foundation for our role as faithful stewards.

8:5b "...[They] gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us..." (2 Corinthians 8:5b NRSV)

Being a self-sacrificing steward is based on the self-sacrifice of Jesus Christ. For our sake Jesus gave up everything to make us rich through the Cross and the Resurrection. We, too, are called to sacrifice so others may share in God's Word and blessings.

Paul writes, 8:3b "[They] voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means..."
(2 Corinthians 8:3b NRSV)

The phrase "Self-Sacrificing Steward" sure doesn't sound all that appealing, does it? Maybe it's the phrasing of it. A better way to say it, perhaps, is to say "giving of one's self." Be it time, talent, or treasure, God teaches us, shows us, implores upon us (His children all) to serve all in need or in want. And, we respond all the time. There was a conversation that went like this: "I don't think I serve all that much." "Well, do you get up in the

morning?" "Yes." "Do you talk to anyone?" "Well, yes." "Do you let a pedestrian walk across the street when you are out and about?" "Sure." "Do you hold a door for someone at the store?" "Of course." "What do you think? Do you still think you don't serve?" Yes, we serve pretty much every minute of every day. No, it may not be grand or large. But, it doesn't need to be. We serve by being God's children. What an amazing gift!

Being a self-sacrificing steward means giving of ourselves. Whether it is our time and talent that we use to help others or our monetary gifts that we give so those that are needy may have the things they need to live. Whenever we have the opportunity we share God's word with others and hope that by doing so it will inspire them to reach out to God in their lives. By doing these things we thank God for the sacrifices Jesus made for us.

Most of us give within our means to the Church and other places of need and some go and give beyond what some are not willing to sacrifice. What am I willing to give to help someone else? Would it be my time, money, physical danger, or even my life? At times, soldiers willingly risk life and limb for their comrades and country. Others have risked their lives to save from drowning or a house fire. A more modest approach might be to ask myself, what things can I give to those who are important to me on a day to day basis?

An example of being a self-sacrificing Steward is a story of a woman going through chemotherapy. On her first day of treatments, she had her husband go to a Dollar Tree store for some things for the kids. When he went to check out, the clerk told him the bill was paid. She told the husband the woman who was in front of him paid his bill! The man thanked her and then asked why she did that. She told him she was paying it forward. The man told her it was his wife's first day of chemotherapy and it was a long day for them and she just made his day a lot better and he thanked her again. The way we look at what she did for the man and his wife with this act of kindness was either paying it forward or a good act of Stewardship. Or, maybe even both.

Paul writes, 8:3b "[They] voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means..."
(2 Corinthians 8:3b NRSV)

Our role as God's stewards is one of many dimensions—grateful, responsible, self-sacrificing, willing, sharing, proportionate, committed, regular, genuine, and
(Continued on Page 5)

challenges. By giving of ourselves, we share the Joy of Christ. We give first to Jesus, then to others, and then to ourselves.

9:7 "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7 NRSV)

**COUNCIL UPDATE from Barb Kienbaum,
Congregational Council President**

—Organizational Meeting

Below are those elected to the Congregational Council for the coming year. We still need to discuss some liaison assignment for the Committees, especially Christian Education.

Barb Kienbaum—President, Property, Worship & Music, Evangelism

Gerry Meyers—Vice President – Stewardship, Finance

Nancy Spenske—Secretary – Stewardship, Evangelism

Steve Blom—Treasurer – Finance

Mary Esser—Worship & Music

Dan Foss—Safety and Security, Endowment

Richard Brown—Safety and Security

LeeAnn Ryan—Finance

Karen Thorson—Social Ministry

Bill Thorson—Social Ministry

Pauline Chalfant—Evangelism, Worship & Music

Lenten Coin Folder Allocation

During Lent we will once again be collecting monies in the Lenten Coin Folders. The Council decided that, with growing need in the community, the amount going into the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund would increase to \$250. Through the fund, Pastor purchases KwikTrip gas and food cards which he distributes and tracks. The remainder of the funds will then be evenly divided between GIFTS and the Fireman’s Foundation Fund. Folders will be distributed by request at the beginning of Lent to each family.

—Chime Master Carillon

The Council approved the purchase of the Carillon equipment. (Please see additional information on Page 3.

—Event Planning

Possible events that might be planned for our Congregation during the coming year was discussed. We are open to suggestions and ideas of what could be offered for all ages.

2025 Calendar of Events

- ♦ 2/26-3/3 Online Auction
- ♦ 3/7 and 3/21 Wineo Bingo at Timber Hill Winery at 6pm
- ♦ 4/5 Easter Bunny Event at Uptown Janesville
- ♦ 4/27 CROP Hunger Walk
- ♦ 6/2 Eat Out for Hunger All day at participating restaurants
- ♦ 10/18 Empty Bowls at Woodman’s Sports & Convention Center
- ♦ 11/27 Festival Foods Turkey Trot in Downtown Janesville
- ♦ 12/5 S'More and Cocoa in Downtown Janesville



MARCH 2025 NEEDS

<p>Family Meal Kit (Feeds a Family of Four) <small>*Please avoid glass items and pack any items inside a sturdy bag.</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 cans of chicken can of mixed vegetables can of cream of chicken soup can of evaporated milk biscuit mix 	<p>Diapers (Sizes 5-6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deodorant Shampoo Toothpaste Laundry Detergent
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Easter Baskets for Children

ECHO will be packing and distributing Easter baskets to children who would otherwise go without during this most blessed holiday.

Items needed for the baskets are:

- ♦ Children’s Easter baskets
- ♦ Individually-wrapped candy
- ♦ Plastic basket wrap

Items can be dropped off at the ECHO Office during regular business hours Monday-Friday 9am-Noon or Monday-Thursday 1-4pm or by appointment by calling 754-5333. Please drop off by April 4.



MARCH 2025

SUNDAY, 9:30 a.m.	<i>MARCH 2</i>	<i>MARCH 9</i>	<i>MARCH 16</i>	<i>MARCH 23</i>	<i>MARCH 30</i>
ALTAR GUILD	Barb Kienbaum Mike Deems	Karen Thorson Karen Seichter	Sue Pohlman Pam McGill Judi Downing	Kristi & Dave Wiese	Barb Kienbaum Mike Deems
LECTOR	Pam McGill	Joyce Jacobs	Richard Windorf	Karen Thorson	Barb Kienbaum
COMMUNION	Nancy Spenske	Steve Seichter	Mary Erickson	Karen Seichter	Ralph Foss
USHER	Bill & Barb Kienbaum	Bob & Joyce Jacobs	Dave & Ruth Baldry	Bill & Karen Thorson	Mary Erickson Tim Kienbaum
AV ASSISTANT	Mike Deems	Mary Esser	Sue Pohlman	Mary Esser	Sharon Foss
FELLOWSHIP	Judy Willard	Kristi Wiese	Judy & Richard Windorf	Suzane & Jean Brandes	Karen & Steve Seichter
WEDNESDAY, 7 p.m.	<i>MARCH 5 ASH WEDNESDAY 10 a.m.</i>	<i>MARCH 5 ASH WEDNESDAY 7 p.m.</i>	<i>MARCH 12</i>	<i>MARCH 19</i>	<i>MARCH 26</i>
ASSISTANT	Barb Kienbaum	Joyce Jacobs			
LECTOR	Barb Kienbaum	Joyce Jacobs	Barb Kienbaum	Mary Esser	Trent Jensen
USHER		Dean Waters	Beth Waters	Gerry Meyers	Gerry Meyers
COUNTERS	Nancy Spenske, Arline Berg				

JANUARY 2025 BUDGET PERFORMANCE					
	<u>January 2025</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>		<u>January 2025</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
Income			Expense		
Benevolence Contributions	\$ 216.00	\$ 541.00	Benevolence	\$ 196.00	\$ 2,250.00
Contributed support	\$ 11,265.58	\$ 8,650.00	Church Activity	\$ 341.54	\$ 650.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 134.00	\$ 48.00	Finance	\$ 72.15	\$ 25.00
Use of facilities	\$ 3,886.17	\$ 3,860.00	Office Supplies & Expense	\$ 769.28	\$ 1,022.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 15,501.75</u>	<u>\$ 13,099.00</u>	Property Maintenance	\$ 4,619.63	\$ 5,552.00
Gross Profit	<u>\$ 15,501.75</u>	<u>\$ 13,099.00</u>	Salaries & Related Expenses	\$ 10,379.11	\$ 11,379.00
			Travel & meetings expenses	\$ -	\$ -
			Total Expense	<u>\$ 16,377.71</u>	<u>\$ 20,878.00</u>
			<u>January 2025</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	
			Net Ordinary Income	\$ (875.96)	\$ (7,779.00)
			Net Income	<u>\$ (875.96)</u>	<u>\$ (7,779.00)</u>



MARCH 2025

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10a Al-Anon
2 9:30a Holy Communion Worship/Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School/ Confirmation	3 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	4	5 9a Executive Council 10a AND 7p Ash Wednesday Worship with Anointing & Ashes in C&C	6 6:30p Property	7 9a Lefse Potato Peeling 8p AA	8 9a Lefse Frying 10a Al-Anon
9 8a Bell Choir Practice 8:45a Finance 9:30a Holy Communion Worship/Fellowship Altar Guild Meets 10:45 Confirmation	10 9a Worship & Music 6p Safety & Security 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	11 6:30p Church Council	12 11a Staff Meeting 7p Lenten Midweek Evening Prayer Service in C&C	13 9a PieceMakers	14 8p AA	15 10a Al-Anon
16 8a Bell Choir Practice 9:30a Holy Communion Worship/Fellowship 10:45a Sunday School/ Confirmation	17	18	19 7p Lenten Midweek Evening Prayer Service in C&C	20	21 8:30a Breakfast Club at Denny's 8p AA	22 10a Al-Anon
23 8a Bell Choir Practice 9:30a Holy Communion Worship/Fellowship 10:45a Confirmation	24 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	25 6p Christian Education 7p Stewardship	26 9a Evangelism 7p Lenten Midweek Evening Prayer Service in C&C	27 9a PieceMakers	28 8p AA	29 10a Al-Anon 1-4p "Full Moon Forest Reflections" Paint Event
30 8a Bell Choir Practice 9:30a Holy Communion Worship/Fellowship 10:45a Confirmation	31	<i>"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."—Charles Dickens</i>				

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
1422 Center Avenue
Janesville, WI 53546
Return Service Requested

Mission: Be Christ-Centered, Caring, Community.



MARCH

2025