

May 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

Lincoln School Request

We received a request from the Lincoln Family Resource Center for support with their Summer goodie bags that are given to students in need at the end of the school year. These bags are filled with items the children can use during the Summer including: toothbrushes, bookmarks, pencils, etc. The hope is to also add some snacks and items for them to plant a lettuce cup. Additionally, dirt to plant lettuce cups is needed (the cups and seeds were already donated) and for microwaveable popcorn packs which will be one of the snacks provided. Both items can be purchased at Sam's Club. The dirt is the



Miracle Grow All Purpose Soil sold in 40-quart bags (with a total of 6 bags needed), and 32 count boxes of microwaveable popcorn. If you are able to provide either of these items, please bring them to church and we will make sure they are delivered. Money can also be donated by indicating "Lincoln" on the "Other" line



of our giving envelopes and we will forward them. If additional donations are received, Shannon from Lincoln share them with the other elementary schools in the area.

Parker High School Plant Sale Information

Parker's Plant Sale will take place on the following dates: May 2, 3-4:30 p.m.; May 3, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; May 9, 3-4:30 p.m.; May 10, 9-1 p.m.; and May 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. They will have vegetables, flowers and herbs for sale. As an added attraction this year they are hosting two "Make and Take" opportunities on May 10 and 17 from 9 a.m.-noon. This includes selecting a pot, choosing your flowers and creating your own arrangement at a cost between \$15-\$35 depending on the size of the pots and the items you would like planted in them. Students will be available to assist. Parker FFA is also assisting SPLC with our petunias this year for the flower boxes around the church.

Sunday Morning Bulletins

Over the past few weeks we have noticed that many bulletins are being returned after the Service. After Worship we have no use for them and they are recycled. Please feel free to take them home with you to use a reference for the Bible readings for the week, the activities occurring at the church and to continue to pray for those on our Prayer List. We will evaluate the number of copies each Sunday along with the service on the screens to determine if an adjustment needs to be made and perhaps save on printing costs.

1-Jim Flister	12-Anna Boness	23-Lisa Foss
1-Tim Kienbaum	12-Jonathan Loertscher	23-Peter Severson
3-Joe Flister	14-Karen Seichter	25-Dorothy Spaeth
4-Kate Williamson	17-Liz Clifton	30-Tyler Teubert
8-Karen Thorson	19-Chance Churchill	31-Michael Deems
9-Angela Swartwout	19-Kelli Kienbaum	



MAY
Senior Birthdays

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

Francis Nastali—May 4—82
6417 S Krueger Dr, Beloit, WI 53511

Diana Ray—May 14—81
226 N Washington St, Janesville, WI 53548

Don Schieve—May 16—97
2931 Woodridge St, Janesville, 53548

Margaret Peterson—May 26—91
1330 Roosevelt Av, Janesville, 53546

In Our
Hearts & Prayers

Cathy Conroy passed away on April 11, 2025. Condolences can be sent to her Husband, Bill Conroy at 2518 Clover Lane, Janesville 53545.

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

Lefse-Making Progress

The group has met on three occasions and made 100 pounds of potatoes into lefse. This has been a wonderful experience for all and a great fun fellowship opportunity while still being productive.

The process begins Friday morning when the potatoes are cooked and riced to prepare them for adding flour for rolling on Saturday. The time is also used to get that everything ready for Saturday. Saturday morning we then gather to roll, fry, cool and package the lefse. Currently we are on Summer break but another 40 pounds of potatoes will be processed in September/October. Dates will be posted when set. If you have an interest in this project, please feel free to join us.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who have supported and worked on this project.

Growing in Faith: Reflections from the Pastor

^{24:5} “The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.’” (Luke 24:5 NRSV)

The Lord is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! What comforting words to hear during Easter or at any time of the year. The gift of life and life eternal are shared with us by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through God’s infinite grace, we share the knowledge of the hope of resurrection for all before us, as well as those ahead of us. And for us. What comforting words to hear!

We are bombarded daily with news of trauma and turmoil; trial and terror. For some, this is too much to handle. For many, it’s become so normal that any good news is difficult to comprehend and believe. But, there is Good News out there. We don’t have to research it. We don’t have to rely on CNN or Fox News to deliver it to us. We don’t have to read the paper cover to cover to discover it. It’s right in front of us. Here it is: ^{3:16} “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.” (John 3:16-17 NRSV) Through the giving of Himself – the humiliation, the suffering, the death; we are given a gift that cannot be repaid. God has given us life through the atoning act of Jesus Christ. God has given us life eternal through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Life and life abundantly. Through the salvific wonders of Jesus Christ.

You probably won’t find this news in any newspaper or on any 24-hour news channel. But, you will find it in the faces of people. Whether they serve others or are the ones served, the faces of God’s children light up when they speak the words: “The Lord is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!” What comforting words to hear during Easter or at any time of the year.

May the Great Fifty Days of Easter bring you all great joy with this Great News. Peace, Blessings, and great Joy to all, **Pastor Bruce**

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 sharing steward recognizes the unique gifts each person has received from God and each person’s relationship with Jesus Christ and the Body of Christ. We are to develop these gifts and share with others.

Paul writes, ^{9:8} “And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8 NRSV)

Being a sharing steward recognizes the unique gifts each person has received from God and each person’s relationship with Jesus Christ and the Body of Christ (that is, all God’s children).

Paul writes, ^{9:8}“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8 NRSV)

So, what does it mean to be a sharing steward? All that we have is a gift from God. Many may say they worked for everything that they have, but we must remember that God shares with us the skills to be able to go out and do a job. God shares gifts with us even when we do not or cannot find work. He shares with us (and instills in us) wonderful gifts called perseverance and confidence. God shares with us good health so we can go out and do a job and we are thankful that there is a job out there that needs our skills. God shares with us the gift of poor health, too. We can share how we feel, how the medicines work, as well as the (again) perseverance to move forward and to help others do the same. When we remember these things and we share our time with others who may not be so fortunate, when we share our talent with all others (no matter their life’s circumstances), and when we are willing to share the treasure that we have been entrusted with using the gifts from God, we are doing as God desires us to do and that is to share with others.

Simply put, a sharing steward willingly shares the fruits of his/her labor and gifts with others as the opportunities to do so arise. A sharing steward gives his best effort at work to benefit his employer and employer’s customers (as well as all people of God). He even shares the fruits of his hobbies. Gardeners often bring fresh vegetables to the church for whoever can use them. Some buy food for donation to ECHO. Some share their time by serving on Church Committees and Church Council. These are just a very few of the God-given talents and treasure that can add to the quality of those around us and, of course of ourselves. To be savored. To be nurtured. To be shared.

Our role as God’s stewards is one of many dimensions – grateful, responsible, self-sacrificing,

willing, sharing, proportionate, committed, regular, genuine, and 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

1404 Center Ave Update—Rock County Restorations (a substance abuse recovery center) has voiced an interest in renting the property. This house would be used on a 24/7 basis as transitional housing for females. At present, we are in discussions with them relating to renting the property, including the amount of the rent and any other item that would be pertinent to this rental. More information will be coming in the near future.

Carillon—The Master Chime (Carillon) System has been installed. The bells will ring every hour on the hour from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. with music playing Monday through Saturday. On Sunday there will be a call to Worship that will play at 9:15 a.m. and then ring hourly beginning at 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. with music three times during the rest of the day. The programming has been done, and we have the option to make changes if necessary. The plan is to let the neighborhood become accustomed to the bells before making any changes. We have had only positive comments thus far. Thank you to the families that have made donations to this ministry. In addition to those donations, the remainder of the funds are being taken from the Memorial Fund. We are planning a dedication service in June with a reception to follow. Definite dates will be published as soon as they are complete.

Church Picnic—A decision was made **NOT** to have a church picnic this year. We may try to plan another event in place of the picnic, but no plans have been completed at this time.

Spectrum WIFI Evaluation—Spectrum has done an evaluation of our WI-FI and computer services for the office, sanctuary and Cross and Crown room access. The decision was made that at this time

that even though they presented a great plan, we are not able to financially support their proposal. We are looking into ways that we can apply some of their suggestions with input from members of the Congregation.

YWCA Summer Program—The YWCA will again be utilizing the fellowship hall for their Summer program. They will be here beginning June 9 until August 22. This year they will be having only 9 thru 12-year-olds. We happy they are again joining us.

Roof Leaks—We are again seeing leaks in some of our ceiling areas, including the new area at the top of the ramp. We have had roofers look at the area and they have repaired several possible areas that may be the problem, however while reviewing the remainder of the roof that has not been replaced we discovered that the roof is in worse condition than we thought. Estimates for repair are being gathered and we are asking if the remainder of the

roof can be done in sections or would it all have to be done at one time. We are seeking quotes and recommendations at the present time as more information is necessary before we can build a workable plan.

Summer Changeover—The air conditioning units will be checked when the temperature warms up and stays consistent. We are on the schedule for Polar Refrigeration to complete this task

Funds Balance—Due to the low balance in the check book, it was voted to move funds from the contingency fund and the Thrivent fund when needed. The total amount that would be moved would be \$5,000.

Electronic Giving—Voted to approve the addition of Vanco as a service for electronic giving through our website. This would allow individuals to donate electronically to St. Peter's. This type of giving is being used in many congregations.

MARCH 2025 BUDGET PERFORMANCE

	<u>March 2025</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>		<u>March 2025</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
Income			Expense		
Benevolence Contributions	\$ 1,292.00	\$ 1,800.00	Benevolence	\$ 967.00	\$ 1,680.00
Contributed support	\$ 12,933.00	\$ 15,135.00	Church Activity	\$ 112.65	\$ 365.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 126.00	\$ 320.00	Finance	\$ 19.05	\$ 25.00
Use of facilities	\$ 3,796.17	\$ 3,860.00	Office Supplies & Expense	\$ 738.98	\$ 523.00
Total Income	\$ 18,147.17	\$ 21,115.00	Property Maintenance	\$ 5,512.62	\$ 5,738.00
Gross Profit	\$ 18,147.17	\$ 21,115.00	Salaries & Related Expenses	\$ 11,003.04	\$ 11,390.42
			Travel & meetings expenses	\$ -	\$ -
			Total Expense	\$ 18,353.34	\$ 19,721.42
			<u>March 2025</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	
			\$ (206.17)	\$ 1,393.58	
			\$ (206.17)	\$ 1,393.58	

Food:

- Hormel Compleats
- Canned Soups/Stews
- Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly/Jam
- Cereal
- Individual fruit cups

ECHO NEEDS FOR MAY

Personal items:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Feminine products
- Diapers (sizes 4-6)
- Paper Towels
- Cleaning Supplies

May 2025

SUNDAY, 9:30 a.m.	MAY 4	MAY 11	MAY 18	MAY 25
ALTAR GUILD	Judi Downing Pam McGill Sue Pohlman	Kristi & Dave Wiese	Karen Thorson Karen & Steve Seichter	Kristi & Dave Wiese
LECTOR	Pam McGill	Richard Windorf	Joyce Jacobs	Nancy Spenske
COMMUNION	Karen Seichter	Connie Bilz	Mary Erickson	Ralph Foss
USHER	Bill & Karen Thorson	Mary Erickson Shane Price	Bob & Joyce Jacobs	
AV ASSISTANT	Kelli Kienbaum	Sue Pohlman	Mary Esser	Sharon Foss
FELLOWSHIP	Judi Downing	Karen & Steve Seichter	Judy Willard	Graduation Recognition
WEDNESDAY, 7 p.m.	MAY 7	MAY 14	MAY 21	MAY 28
COMMUNION	Gerry Meyers	Dean Waters	Gerry Meyers	Beth Waters
USHER	Gerry Meyers	Beth Waters	Gerry Meyers	Dean Waters
COUNTERS	Sue Pohlman, Karen Thorson			



MAY

2025

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				6:30p Property ¹	8p AA ²	10a Al-Anon 11:30a-2p Mother's Day Tea ³
⁴ 9:30a Holy Communion Worship 10:30a Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School/ Confirmation	⁵ 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	⁶	⁷ 9a Executive Council 7p Holy Communion Midweek Worship in C&C	⁸ 9a PieceMakers	⁹ 8p AA	¹⁰ 10a Al-Anon
¹¹ 8:45a Finance 9:30a Holy Communion Worship 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Confirmation	¹² 6p Safety & Security 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	¹³ 6:30p Church Council	¹⁴ 11a Staff Meeting 7p Holy Communion Midweek Worship in C&C	¹⁵	¹⁶ 8:30a Milton Family Restaurant 8p AA	¹⁷ 10a Al-Anon
¹⁸ 9:30a Holy Communion Worship 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Sunday School/ Confirmation	¹⁹	²⁰	²¹ 7p Holy Communion Midweek Worship in C&C	²² 9a PieceMakers	²³ 8p AA	²⁴ 10a Al-Anon
²⁵ 9:30a Holy Communion Worship 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Confirmation	²⁶ OFFICE CLOSED 	²⁷ 6p Christian Education 7p Stewardship	²⁸ 9a Evangelism 7p Holy Communion Midweek Worship in C&C	²⁹	³⁰ 8p AA	³¹ 10a Al-Anon

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Return Service Requested

Mission: Be Christ-Centered, Caring, Community.

