

The Visitor September 2025

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—TBD and

Confirmation—10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening

Worship—7:00 p.m.

Holy Communion

Celebrated at Every Service
Except Midweek Lent

Fall Kick-Off Planned

We will Kick-Off our Fall schedule with an Ice Cream Social and Bingo on Sunday, September 7 after the service. Please plan to join us. We will have ice cream with a selection of toppings as well as games and prizes for all ages. We had a great time last year and hope we see you all there to share with us again this year.



Painting with Tad

Saturday, September 27

1—4 p.m., \$20/person

Tad provides all the supplies. Bring a snack to share. We will have lemonade available. You are welcome to bring in your own as well. Sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board

across from the Cross & Crown kitchen. All are welcome. You do not have to be a member of St. Peter's to participate.

GOLDEN SENIORS WORSHIP SERVICE AND LUNCHEON

The Golden Seniors Worship Service and Luncheon will take place on October 8th at 10:30 a.m. This day is for all members over the age of 75 and will be held in the Sanctuary with the luncheon served in the Cross & Crown Room. The luncheon includes brats, hamburgers, baked beans, potato salad and pumpkin bars for dessert. Please call your reservations to the Church Office (754-2891) by September 29. This year we are also offering transportation and meal delivery. Please indicate either of these when you call in your reservation.

*Christmas
Bazaar*

November 22, 2025

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Watch for More Information



1-David Rein 10-Juanita Swartwout
 2-Joanna Knutson 12-Jenny Bienes
 2-Mark Saunders 18-Danielle Shelton
 3-Chris Cahill 20-Wendy Aide
 6-Manuel Neto 20-Dennis Loertscher
 7-Henry Flister 20-Lynn Curtis
 9-Tana Kovacevich 21-Trevor Utzig

21-Dominic Brown
 24-Carol Graves-Cunningham
 24-Nolan Thompson
 27-Sydney Eastman
 27-Jesse Severson
 28-Julie Lilburn
 30-Avery Eastman



SEPTEMBER Senior Birthdays

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

Judy Boness—September 1—82
 1025 Laramie Ln, Janesville, 53546

Ginny Hughes—September 8—81
 1039 Nelson Av, Milton, WI 53563

Gerry Meyers—September 10—83
 1243 S Walnut St, Janesville, 53546

Judy Bolton—September 16—86
 4408 Skyview Dr, Janesville, 53546

Blanche Franks—September 21—84
 1320 Grand Av #109, Wausau, WI 54403

Dennis Brasel—September 24—83
 2813 Joliet St, Janesville, 53546

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Al Boness	Jessica Rathbun	Mady Siegert
Bruce Rockenfield	Jim Payne	Marie Severson
Charlie Flood	Joann Cowan	Mary Ann Harrington
Chris Christian	John Froiland	Mike Logan
Cindy Barry	Judi Downing	Nancy Roesing
Clyde Hesel	Judie Spry	Oakley Seifert
Dan Molland	Judy Bolton	Pauline Chalfant
Donald & Darlene Newman	Kay & Russ Degerman	Pauline Waters
Deb Garde	Kay Knudson	Robert Hiller II
Denny Vierik	Ken & Linda Fristed	Russell Bell
Dick Peck	Ken Veitch	Sally Fritz
Ed Spenske	Kevin Severson	Shelly McCann
Gene Amann	Kristin Randall	Tami Schoeller
Helen Flister	Lincoln Roesing	Tom Ulrich
Irene Christian	Lyn Elver	Yvonne LaFlash

Judy Windorf is in need of plant pots of all sizes. She will then fill them for the Christmas Bazaar. If you have extras, please leave them at the base of the ramp entrance.



☞ Thanks to everyone who made my Birthday extra-special with cards and Goodies!—**Delores Tainter**

☞ I can't begin to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who prayed for me, sent cards and brought incredible food to us after my knee replacement. You made each day worth the after-surgery PT and healing!—**Lynn**



Christmas Bazaar Quilt 2025

This beautiful handmade 63" x 63" quilt made by Virginia Outland in celebration of the Semi-

Quincentennial Anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence will be raffled at 1 p.m. the day of the Bazaar (11/22). Tickets go on sale **Sunday, August 31, for \$4 each or 3 for \$10.** Don't Miss Out!

A Note of Thanks to all who get a sticker on their receipt at Sentry and turn them in to the Church...This is also a reminder that the entire receipt (including below the dotted line at the bottom) must be turned in or Sentry will not accept them. Again, thanks for your participation which allows St. Peter's to use the funds we receive for local charities.

Growing in Faith: Reflections from the Pastor

14:10 “But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Luke 14:10-11 NRSV)

September brings us many blessings: harvests coming in, cooler and drier weather, the return to schools, the return of the Summer vacationer. With these (and other) blessings, we thank God for being the Awesome Servant God. Through serving us as Teacher, Lord, Messiah, Jesus Christ shows us the power of serving others. Giving without expectations is the penultimate in serving. In humble adoration of God's love, we humbly place others in front of us.

14:13 “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14:13-14 NRSV)

These verses from Luke appear at a very appropriate time – Labor Day weekend. Through toiling and working hard and diligently, we are also serving God through our productivity. Remembering these verses will give us ample opportunity to thank those who produce goods for us, those who grow what we consume, those who serve us in so many capacities. In their humility, they are exalted as they serve God and God's children.

As we serve God through serving His children, let us humble ourselves with the trust that God will continue to exalt all children of God. Let us also remember to give back what God first gave to us as a way of honoring others in need, placing them at the highest place at the table. By doing so, we humble ourselves before the Most High God and also share in the many blessings He brings to us. The return on this “sale” and the return on this way of serving would be seven times seventy. For *14:13 “...when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”*

Peace, Pastor Bruce

We ask You to Please Prayerfully Consider these Ways You are Needed at St. Peter's and Add Your Name to a Selection. Please Place this Sheet in the Offering Plate if You Can Assist. Training will be Provided if Needed.

<i>Usher</i>	
<i>Lector</i>	
<i>Christian Education—Children</i>	
<i>Christian Education—Youth</i>	
<i>Christian Education—Adult</i>	
<i>A/V Assistant</i>	
<i>Altar Guild</i>	
<i>Church Council</i>	
<i>Provide Transportation to Church</i>	
<i>Praying (Urgent/Weekly Requests)</i>	

Council Corner

Many topics were covered with main items listed below:

1404 Update—The Restoration Group and the YWCA are still both very interested in renting the house. At this time, neither of them is able to make a commitment but both continue to make plans they'd need to implement if able to commit soon. We are still looking for options as they present themselves. If anyone is aware of a not-for-profit group that would be interested, please let us know.

Anniversary Committee Formation—In 3 years, we will be celebrating our 125th Anniversary and need to begin making some plans and reserving dates. At present we have three members who have voiced an interest at being a part of this group and would like at least seven to share the load. Please consider this opportunity to serve and let Barb Kienbaum or the office know of your interest.

HeadStart Lease—We are happy to announce that HeadStart has signed a 3-year lease with us. We are so pleased that this relationship will continue. We have been working very hard to assure that they are able to serve our Community at our location and will do so in the future.

Discussion of Our Shut-in Members—We discussed the need to inform the Congregation of the members who cannot join us for Worship. In addition to Pastor recording his sermon weekly, it was decided that we needed to post the contact information of these members on a bulletin board including their picture, address and phone number so that all members could contact them. We also discussed the topic of visiting those who cannot attend and suggested that we have further discussion on how we might be able to enhance our visiting. More information is needed and will follow as we do additional planning.

Roof Project—The roof is in the last phase of repair. The hope is that by the time you receive this communication the roof project will be completed.

Water Issues in the Lower Level—We have experienced many episodes of water in the lower level of the church building and are in the process of trying to evaluate the causes so necessary repairs can be made. We have discovered that many of the drainage lines to the city sewer lines have been blocked with tree roots and are having these lines cleaned out to ensure proper water drainage. Derek and Teresa Mallory volunteered to apply a water-proofing material to the walls and floor of the storeroom

adjacent to the playground to prevent water from leaking into the building. We have already seen a benefit from this and thank them for their time and effort. In addition, we are replacing the carpet in one of the classrooms with tile to hopefully eliminate the cost of cleaning and sanitizing the carpet whenever there is water in the area. We will continue to make the needed changes as we get more information.

Thank You to Mary Esser—Tim and Mary Esser and Jack Kutzler are relocating to Kenosha. We are very sorry to see them leave us and thank Mary for all her efforts while being part of the Congregational Council. We wish them well in their new location.

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 genuine steward means putting your faith into action. This is the tangible demonstration of what is sincerely on our hearts, not simply a verbal expression. The Macedonians set an example that Paul called to the attention of the Corinthians:

8:8 "I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others." (2 Corinthians 8:8 NRSV)

Jesus calls us to action. That's what serving means. We are all called by God to act in a variety of ways. All in response to what Jesus, God, did on that old Cross—the ultimate act of service. For who? You and I and all God's children were served by God through the Cross of Jesus. Served to bring us forgiveness. Served to redeem us. Served to bring us life abundant and life everlasting. We can put this act of service into action and, at the very least, serve one another and other. While Jesus does know us (and He knows us intimately), He still serves us. We can, and must do the same with all God's children. And as Christian stewards, we are asked to live Christian lives; to give to ourselves, our families, our friends and others we pass on our journey and not rely on the efforts and contributions of others; all in direct response to the act of

the Cross. Playing it forward is one way to say, get and keep the ball rolling.

Being a genuine steward means, then, putting our faith into action. How do we do this? There are many ways we can demonstrate our faith. The first and most important act is what we do to demonstrate our faith and not just what we say. When we give of our time to help others, when we give of our treasure to the Church as well as to charities, when we worship and thank God for our blessings. These are just a few of the things we can do that come from our heart and it is not just blowing smoke. We listen to Jesus' call to action. And, we serve. Lovingly. Caringly. Faithfully.

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)

St. Peter's Christmas Bazaar, November 22, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We are collecting—plastic grocery bags for packing any slightly used "gifts" Christmas Decorations wonderful crafts you would like to donate starting now!! Please drop items off at the Church Office and we will store them in our beautiful Bazaar Room. Tags to price your craft items will be available at the Quilt Raffle Table starting August 31. If you have any questions please call Bunny Miller, 352-391-3651. **Let's get creative and SHINE.!**

2025-2026 Activities Planned

Recently a group of individuals met and made suggestions on activities that we could plan to provide opportunities all can share that would allow us to become better acquainted and also to learn more about our faith. Below are some of these activities and the dates that have been set. If you have any suggestions, we will welcome them. To do more publicizing we have changed some of the bulletin boards to not only spread the word to our Congregation but anyone entering our building. All events are open to friends, family and guests. You do not have to be a member to join us.

<p>September 5 and 6—Lefse making beginning at 9 a.m. in the Cross & Crown Room 7—Ice cream social and bingo – Please come and join us! 27—Paint event with Tad – It will be in the Cross and Crown room from 1-4 p.m. 17 and 18—Lefse making beginning at 9am in the Cross and Crown room</p>	<p>December 14—Christmas Cookie decorating and exchange – More details to follow 21—Cheer basket packing Tentative plans for the coming months. More specifics will be provided as we approach the dates.</p>
<p>October 5—Pizza and Mini Golf – Will begin with pizza after service and then play mini golf at Big Tee mini golf. More information to follow. 8—Golden Seniors Service and Luncheon</p>	<p>January—Chili and Salsa cook-off February—Valentine's dinner</p>
<p>November 9—Safety presentation. This will include information to assist in assure personal safety and safety tip along with information relating to telephone and internet protection from scams and other technology concerns. Will take place after the service in the Cross and Crown room. November 30—Advent Kick Off with an opportunity to make an Advent Wreath or Log and other materials for use during the Advent Season.</p>	<p>March—Mystery Dinner April—Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch or Continental breakfast May—Golf outing June—Sky Carp outing</p>

Be sure to check the bulletins and the bulletin boards for updated and specific information relating to all the events noted above.

September 2025

<u>SUNDAY, 9:30 a.m.</u>	<i>September 7</i>	<i>September 14</i>	<i>September 21</i>	<i>September 28</i>
ALTAR GUILD	Barb Kienbaum Mike Deems	Kristi & Dave Wiese	Judi Downing Pam McGill Sue Pohlman	Tina Jorgenson Kelli Kienbaum
LECTOR	Bill Thorson	Judy Windorf	Pam McGill	Karen Thorson
COMMUNION	Nancy Spenske	Connie Bilz	Mary Erickson	Steve Seichter
USHER	Bill & Karen Thorson	Brayden Dopkins Mary Erickson	Dave & Ruth Baldry	Bob & Joyce Jacobs
A/V ASSISTANT	Mike Deems	Mike Deems	Sharon Foss	Kelli Kienbaum
FELLOWSHIP	Ice Cream Social	Joyce & Bob Jacobs	Judy Willard	Judi Downing
MOWING	9/13-Mike Deems	9/20-Tim Kienbaum	9/27-Brian Buenzow	10/4-Shane Price
WATERING	9/8-Jakki Harnack	9/15-Trudy Hannawell	9/22-Bob Jacobs	9/29-??
<u>WEDNESDAY, 7 p.m.</u>	<i>September 3</i>	<i>September 10</i>	<i>September 17</i>	<i>September 24</i>
COMMUNION		Gerry Meyers	Beth Waters	Dean Waters
USHER		Gerry Meyers	Dean Waters	Beth Waters
COUNTERS	Sue Pohlman, Karen Thorson			

“LIFE STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN WHEN IT GETS CRISP IN THE FALL.”

—F. SCOTT FITZGERALD



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED 	2	3 9a Executive Council 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship	4 6:30p Property	5 9a Lefse Potato Peeling 8p AA	6 9a Lefse Rolling/Frying/Packaging 10a Al-Anon
7 8:45a Finance 9:30a Holy Communion Worship 10:45a Ice Cream Social/Bingo	8 9a Worship & Music 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	9 6:30p Congregational Council	10 11a Staff 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship	11 9a PieceMakers	12 8p AA	13 10a Al-Anon
14 9:30a Holy Communion Worship 10:45a Confirmation 10:45a Altar Guild	15	16	17 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship	18	19 8:30a Breakfast Club at East Point Sportz Pub—Janesville 8p AA	20 10a Al-Anon
21 9:30a Holy Communion Worship 10:45a Confirmation	22 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	23 6p Christian Education 7p Stewardship	24 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship	25 9a PieceMakers	26 8p AA	27 10a Al-Anon 1-4p Paint Event in C&C
28 9:30a Holy Communion Worship with Holy Baptism 10:45a Confirmation	29 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	30				

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Return Service Requested

Mission: Be Christ-Centered, Caring, Community.

