

The Visitor November 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
Begins in January

Confirmation
Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evening
Worship—7:00 p.m.

Holy Communion
Celebrated at Every Service
Except Midweek Lent



The **ANNUAL FALL FOOD DRIVE** has begun and continues until **November 26**. Please place items in front of the Altar railings. ECHO will receive our collection this year. If you wish to make a cash or check donation, please place in a giving envelope and mark "Food Drive" on the "Other" line. If writing a check, please make it payable to St. Peter's.



Did Somebody Say Christmas?

Painting with Tad
Saturday, November 29
1-4 p.m. in the
Cross & Crown Room
Cost: \$20

Painting Supplies,
Personal Instruction
and Coffee & Apple
Cider Provided

No Experience Necessary
Treats to Share Welcomed!
Sign-up Located on Bulletin
Board Across from C&C



Christmas Bazaar

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
1422 Center Avenue, Janesville
Saturday, November 22, 2025
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Quilt Raffle, Crafts, Cookies, Candies,
Cakes, Pies, Homemade Lefse!!
& Much, Much More!

Delicious Chicken Noodle Soup Available To-Go
****Taking place in our Accessible Cross & Crown Room****

Advent Kick-off

Sunday, November 30
Immediately After Worship
Crafts • Food • Fun!



Sign-up is located on bulletin board across from the C&C. Please choose to create either an "evergreen wreath" base or "round wooden centerpiece" base. You will then decorate with various trims to make it yours!

3-Bob Jacobs
6-Hannah Davis
10-Brian Cahill
21-Liam Thompson
26-Arian Baldry
26-Lane Harnack
27-Jim Orley



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



November Senior Birthdays

Happy Birthday to our November Seniors celebrating a birthday of 80 years or more. Help make their day special by sending a card.

Richard Windorf—November 10—86
 2716 Elizabeth St, Janesville 53548

Clarence Christian—November 17—88
 600 Second Av, New Glarus, WI 53574

Helen Flister—November 22—96
 445 Eisenhower Av, Janesville 53545

John Betenz—November 25—83
 5512 S Baxter Ln, Janesville 53546

Our **Christmas Family** this year is a single mom with four children ages:16, 11, 4, 4. Slips with their requests are placed on a table in the Narthex. Please have the wrapped items, labeled with the child's name, back to the church by Sunday, December 14. As always, thank you for your help.—Karen Thorson

Advent Kick-Off Event

Advent begins on November 30 and after service we will be hosting an event that will be FUN for ALL who attend. You will have an option of constructing an Advent wreath or centerpiece. An Advent booklet will also be available. The booklet contains a Bible verse for each day of Advent, a reading from The Bible, recipes, crafting ideas, interesting facts and some wonderful reflections. The booklet has been prepared by the Worship & Music Committee with the assistance of the Confirmation students and members of the Congregation. There is a sign-up sheet across from the Cross & Crown Room and we ask that you add your name(s) so that we know how many supplies to have available for the wreaths or centerpieces. Again mark your calendars, this will be a fun event for all.

Safety and Security Presentation

Do you feel safe in your home and when you are out and about in the community? Do you have questions about telephone and computer scams and safety? If you have any of these concerns, please come to a presentation on **Sunday, November 9 after Worship in the Cross & Crown Room.** Tim Kienbaum and Richard Brown are teaming up to provide you with some very helpful information and much needed updates. The presentation will last about 45 minutes to an hour, and they are willing to help you with concerns, offer suggestions and answer questions that you may have. This information will be very helpful to individuals of every age.

Mark your calendars and come join us!



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Al Boness	Judy Bolton
Ann Bennett	Kay & Russ Degerman
Bob Wolfram	Kay Knudson
Bruce Rockenfield	Ken & Linda Fristed
Charlie Flood	Ken Veitch
Chris Christian	Kevin Outland
Cindy Barry	Kevin Severson
Clyde Hesser	Lincoln Roesing
Dawn Lutze	Lyn Elver
Family of Donald & Darlene Newman	Marie Severson
Denny Vierik	Mary Ann Harrington
Dick Peck	Mike Logan
Ed Spenske	Nancy Roesing
Gene Amann	Oakley Seifert
Heather Goertz	Pauline Chalfant
Helen Flister	Pauline Waters
Irene Christian	Robert Hiller II
Jessica Rathbun	Russell Bell
Jim Payne	Sally Fritz
Joann Cowan	Shelly McCann
John Froiland	Tami Schoeller
Judi Downing	Tom Ulrich
Judie Spry	Trina Odinero
	Yvonne LaFlash

Growing in Faith: Reflections from the Pastor

Every day of our lives we are to give thanks to the God Who brought us out of slavery and bondage through the atoning act of Jesus Christ. Because of our Lord's death, burial, and resurrection we have been given so much. We have been given freedom, peace, love, life. And, we show our thanks in many and varied ways. This show of thanks is how we respond to the love of God. We show thanks to the God of Life. We can show thanks by actually saying the words "Thank You, God." We can show thanks by helping another in need. We can show thanks by serving during Worship services. We can show thanks by serving those in the Church and those in our town. In these ways, and so many more ways, we express our sincere thanks for the many gifts God shares with each and all of us.

There is a special day devoted to thanks as well. Yes, we give thanks every day, but there is a day set aside where we, collectively, give thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us. Thanksgiving Day is just that day. We give thanks as we share the wonderful foods, decorations, and conversations that God places before us. I know of a family that takes it back to the first Thanksgiving. This family shares the first charter of the Pilgrims and the many prayers offered that first Thanksgiving. They re-enact the time when the Pilgrims shared their blessings with the Native Americans who helped them through a time of extreme hardship. What this family does each Thanksgiving reminds us that the Pilgrims knew God was with them and would get them through those first difficult years. The Native Americans served and helped those who really needed it and the Pilgrims responded with thanks. The Pilgrims showed their thanks to God for sending those Native Americans by sharing the bounty of the harvest in the form of a wonderful banquet.

So can we today. All during the month of November, let us show our thanks for the many blessings we have been given by sharing with those who may not have enough. Last November, through the amazing generosity of the family of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, there was gathered up hundreds of pounds of non-perishable foods that were then distributed through ECHO. Beginning Sunday, October 26 the food challenge of thanksgiving will begin again. Let us strive to raise even more than last year. There's room in the church building to store it; there's room at ECHO to distribute it; there's plenty of people in the Janesville area who can use it. God has shared with us so many blessings; let's share the plenty we have with those who really need it. The Pilgrims knew God was with them and would get them through those first difficult years. May we show our town the same and make this Thanksgiving a time to truly say "Thanks" to the God Who gave everything to us.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1 NIV)

Peace, Pastor Bruce

Thank You to all the individuals who assisted with lefse making this year. We had a great time working together and successfully made 180 pounds of potatoes into lefse. We have discovered that making it in the Cross & Crown Room and splitting up the efforts worked very well for us. Thank you all once again. Watch your calendars because we may begin the process again beginning in February!

Paint Event—Another Paint Event with Tad is scheduled for Saturday, November 29 from 1-4 p.m. in the Cross & Crown Room. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! If we don't get enough participants, we will have to cancel. **All** materials will be provided. Coffee and apple cider will be served. Feel free to bring a treat if you would like to share. (See front page for a picture of the art we will be painting.)

Council Corner from Barb Kienbaum

The Congregational Council meeting for October included the following topics and decisions:

- **Annual Food Drive**—The drive will begin on October 26 and run until the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. All the food collected this year will go to the ECHO food pantry. Feel free to bring in your donations and place them in front of the Altar railing at any time. Remember that they take paper supplies and personal care items in addition to food items. This has always been a wonderful collection for the community. Thank you in advance for your involvement.
- **Advent Coin Folders**—The Council decided to support the Rock County Restorations Substance Abuse and Recovery Center (the organization renting 1404 Center Ave.) with the donations received. As we have done in the past, \$250 will be placed in Pastor's Discretionary Fund with the remainder going to the organization. This group can then use the money to assist with those items needed. We hope to be providing information relating to this group on an ongoing basis and are very pleased to have them as our new neighbors.
- **Anniversary Committee**—We are presently looking for individuals who would be interested in being part of our 125th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee. We have four volunteers and are looking for at least seven. Please contact a Council member or the church office if you are interested and/or have questions. While 2028 sounds like a long time in the future, time seems to fly by, and we can't wait to begin this planning.
- **Council Members**—The end of the year is quickly approaching and we need individuals who would be interested in becoming part of our Congregational Council. By the end of the year, we will have lost three members and would like to have these positions filled. Please give this way to serve some thought. We need you to join us, share information and bring some hopefully new perspective to the group. The Council meets the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8 p.m. Please contact any of the Council members and ask for more information and/or offer you name to be on the ballot.
- **1404 Center Avenue**—The lease has been signed for the house and there has been a flurry of activity. Many of the rooms have been painted, carpets cleaned, needed maintenance has been done and much more. Rock County Restorations Substance Abuse and Recovery Center will be the renters. They are very excited to have found a home for their program, and we are very happy that they selected our location. I look forward to getting to know them better and provide more information to you. This will be the only site like this in Rock County. We hope they will be very happy at our location and that this will be a great success for their clients and the program. They have provided us with a list of items they still need before they begin to welcome residents and some tasks that need to be completed. The list is posted on the bulletin board across from the Cross and Crown kitchen. If you are able to donate any of the items listed or perform a task, cross them off the list so we don't have too many duplicates. Thank you for your support.

Advent Decorating

The season of Advent is also the beginning of the decorating process for Christmas. The Altar Guild will be gathering on Saturday, November 29 beginning at 8:30am. We will gather in the Sanctuary and then identify the areas that will need to be set up. We will be setting the trees in the Altar area and in the hallway. Everyone is invited to come and help. Many hands make for easier work. Come and join us. It is wonderful to see the transformation into the Advent and Christmas seasons.

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.

Paul writes, ^{8:16}“But thanks be to God Who put in the heart of Titus the same eagerness for you that I myself have.” (2 Corinthians 8:16 NRSV)

How do we thank God for the care He shares with us? When are we a caring Steward? When we live our lives as Stewards of His Word; each and every day we help others in some way with our Time, Talent, and Treasure. When we hold the door open for someone with their arms full, when we help our neighbor with his lawn

ECHO

NOVEMBER

NEEDS

Additional items needed:

Bar Soap/Body Wash

Toilet Paper

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Mac & Cheese

Canned Meat

Pasta Sauce

Instant Potatoes

Rice/Pasta

or simply just take in his garbage cans, when we share our treasure with the Church and organizations and charities that help those in need, when we support the food drives that go to help the poor, we demonstrate to God and to each other and others that we are a caring Steward. The remarkable thing is that these are just a few of the many (actually uncountable) ways that we can give back for the care given to us by our loving God.

We care when we take an action, an action that can take so many forms. It can be acting on a life-threatening situation, an emotional crisis for someone, or just a helping hand that makes something a little bit easier for someone to do. How many times do we step forward as the Good Samaritan instead of just walking on by? The feeling of making a difference in another’s life is a powerful one. Caring for God’s Creation, and especially His GREATEST Creation, brings us the joy that passes all understanding. For when we care for another and others, that same care bounces back to us – maybe even, to coin a Biblical phrase – a hundredfold. Such blessings we certainly do not deserve but we receive that care, God’s care, nonetheless. Thanks be to a caring God Who created a caring steward – you and me.

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)

SEPTEMBER 2025 BUDGET PERFORMANCE					
Income			Expense		
	September 2025	2025 Budget		September 2025	2025 Budget
Benevolence Contributions	\$ 280.00	\$ 908.00	Benevolence	\$ 280.00	\$ -
Contributed support	\$ 23,073.00	\$ 13,100.00	Church Activity	\$ 411.21	\$ 515.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 41.00	\$ 223.00	Finance	\$ 82.50	\$ 25.00
Use of facilities	\$ 4,316.17	\$ 3,860.00	Office Supplies & Expense	\$ 376.44	\$ 507.00
Total Income	\$ 27,710.17	\$ 18,091.00	Property Maintenance	\$ 4,317.28	\$ 4,571.00
Gross Profit	\$ 27,710.17	\$ 18,091.00	Salaries & Related Expenses	\$ 10,932.87	\$ 11,393.42
			Travel & meetings expenses	\$ -	\$ -
			Total Expense	\$ 16,400.30	\$ 17,011.42
			September 2025	2025 Budget	
			\$ 11,309.87	\$ 1,079.58	
			\$ 11,309.87	\$ 1,079.58	

November 2024

<u>SUNDAY, 9:30 a.m.</u>	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
ALTAR GUILD	Kristi & Dave Wiese	Tina Jorgenson Kelli Kienbaum	Sue Pohlman Judi Downing Pam McGill	Karen & Steve Seichter Karen Thorson	Kristi & Dave Wiese
LECTOR	Sharon Foss	Karen Thorson	Bunny Miller	Bill Thorson	Pam McGill
COMMUNION	Mary Erickson	Nancy Spenske	Ralph Foss	Connie Bilz	Karen Seichter
USHER	Ralph & Sharon Foss	Bill & Karen Thorson	Dave & Ruth Baldry	Mary Erickson Brayden Dopkins	Bob & Joyce Jacobs
AV ASSISTANT	Kelli Kienbaum	Sue Pohlman	Sharon Foss	Kelli Kienbaum	Mike Deems
FELLOWSHIP	Judy Willard	Karen & Steve Seichter	Kristi Wiese	Judi Downing	Advent Kick-off
<u>WEDNESDAY, 7 p.m.</u>	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26	
COMMUNION	Beth Waters	Gerry Meyers	Dean Waters	Gerry Meyers	
USHER	Dean Waters	Gerry Meyers	Beth Waters	Gerry Meyers	
COUNTERS	Nancy Spenske, Arline Berg				



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						FOOD DRIVE 1 10a Al-Anon
FOOD DRIVE 2 9:30a All Saints' Worship with Communion 10:45a Confirmation	FOOD DRIVE 3 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	FOOD DRIVE 4	FOOD DRIVE 5 9a Executive Council 7p All Saints' Midweek Worship with Communion	FOOD DRIVE 6 6:30p Property	FOOD DRIVE 7 8p AA	FOOD DRIVE 8 10a Al-Anon
FOOD DRIVE 9 9:30a Worship with Communion 10:45a Confirmation	FOOD DRIVE 10 9a Worship & Music 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	FOOD DRIVE 11 6:30p Church Council	FOOD DRIVE 12 11a Staff 7p Midweek Worship with Communion	FOOD DRIVE 13 9a PieceMakers	FOOD DRIVE 14 8:30a Breakfast Club at Eagle Inn 8p AA	FOOD DRIVE 15 10a Al-Anon
FOOD DRIVE 16 9:30a Worship with Communion 10:45a Confirmation	FOOD DRIVE 17	FOOD DRIVE 18 6:30p Finance	FOOD DRIVE 19 7p Midweek Worship with Communion	FOOD DRIVE 20 9a Bazaar Set-up	FOOD DRIVE 21 9a Bazaar Set-up 8p AA	FOOD DRIVE 22 8a-1p  10a Al-Anon
FOOD DRIVE 23 9:30a Worship with Communion 10:45a Confirmation	FOOD DRIVE 24 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	FOOD DRIVE 25 6p Christian Education 7p Stewardship	FOOD DRIVE ENDS 26 9a Evangelism 7p Thanksgiving Worship with Communion	27 	28 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 8p AA	29 8:30a Altar Guild 9a Advent/Christmas Church Decorating—All Are Welcome!! 10a Al-Anon
30 9:30a Worship with Communion 10:30a Advent Kick-off in C&C 10:45a Confirmation						

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Return Service Requested

Mission: Be Christ-Centered, Caring, Community.



NOVEMBER 2025