



**ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
PO Box 127  
502 Second Street South  
Rockwell, IA 50469

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## May Newsletter 2026

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### Worship Times

St. Peter, Rockwell  
Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Worship Online Sundays at 9:00 am

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) at **St Peters Lutheran Church Rockwell IA**

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) at St Peter Lutheran Church

St Peter website: [www.stpeterrockwell.com](http://www.stpeterrockwell.com)

### May

May is the month  
Of sunshine and flowers  
Birds in their nests,  
And one or two showers.

Games to play and kites to fly  
Or just looking at the sky.

We could spend a year this way  
If the year were made of May.



Greetings and Happy May from Lay Minister Jason-

For this month's newsletter, I wanted to take a second and discuss two things...the first is my current work with CPE. CPE stands for Clinical Pastoral Education. I am currently serving, and will continue throughout the summer, with the amazing chaplains at MercyOne in Mason City. I'm also taking a class, which meets through Zoom on Tuesdays. My goal is to work, develop and practice my abilities to serve those who are patients at the hospital, to improve my abilities to offer professional, empathetic spiritual care to those in crisis. It is a major undertaking, and I appreciate all the prayer and support from St. Peter during this training.

The second thing I wanted to say is a congratulations to this year's confirmands: Lucas Benson, Lauren Bills, Bryce Engh, Jude Grunklee, Eden Kobliska, Ethan Rembe, Braxtyn Schulz, Benton Schwarek and Lane Sturges. It is a MAJOR milestone to achieve, but you need to remember that it is not the LAST milestone. Confirmation is not the LAST journey in your religious education, but closer to the FIRST. Confirmation begins a lifelong journey of faith. Confirmation puts the "ball in your court". You've been asked many times "Do you believe in this?" "Do you believe in that?" Now is the time to prove it, to go beyond just answering "yes". The congregation of St Peter promised you, at your baptism, to walk beside you and help you as you grew into the wonderful young people that you are. Now, it's your turn to make that promise to the next generation of young ones who will need your help as they begin this same journey. In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul speaks to a group of Christians living in a pagan society. He speaks to them about constant temptations from society to pull them away from the church and Christ. I pray that, through confirmation, your faith has been strengthened enough that you can resist these temptations. I pray that your faith is strong enough that you WANT to continue to attend worship and grow in your faith. As I said before, the ball is now in your court. I pray that as you are confirmed and commit your life to God, you stick to your commitment, wherever you end up, for the rest of your life, and remember that St Peter will always be here for you! Matthew 28:20.

Thanks be to God! WHOOO!

Lay Minister Jason

**Church Secretary:** Christy Meinders  
**Cell phone:** 641-430-1041  
**Church email:** [stpeter@netins.net](mailto:stpeter@netins.net)  
**Church Office Phone:** 641-822-3101

***Please pray for:***  
Jim Turner, Christine Foell, Jo Thomas, DiAnne & Dave Severin, Dawn & Wendell Thomas, Audrey Harder, Joan Petersen, Larry Kruckenberg, Janet Hoftiezer, Lon Peterson, Wendy Jorgensen, Diane Stearns and all who are homebound or hospitalized, or are suffering in any way.

**Prayer Requests or Visits**

**Just a reminder:** If you have any prayer requests that you would like added to the bulletins/newsletters, or you would like someone to visit and/or bring communion, please contact the church office – leave a message on the phone 641-822-3101 or email [stpeter@netins.net](mailto:stpeter@netins.net)

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**Please send all announcements** to St. Peter’s email: [stpeter@netins.net](mailto:stpeter@netins.net) or call the church office phone number @ 641-822-3101 to leave any messages you may have. Sending an email is the best way to get a message to me. Thank you, Christy.

**Articles and information for the June’s Newsletter  
are due by Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

**ST. PETER CHURCH NEWS**

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|------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>President:</b>            | Jenn Butler.....641- 512-5274   |                    |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>            | Mrs. Linda Meyer.....641-822-4755   | klmeyer@netins.net |
| <b>WELCA President:</b>      | Mrs. Cheryl Flatness.....641-822-3472   |                    |
| <b>LYO President:</b>        | Parker Sheriff  |                    |
| <b>Faith Formation Team:</b> | Pam Litterer, Brandie Witte, Chelsey Morrison,<br>Mary Etta Miller, Alicia Vaughn, Rich Fjone<br>Wendy Jorgensen.....641-210-8187 |                    |
| <b>Custodian:</b>            |   |                    |
| <b>Organist:</b>             | Mrs. Lana Schaefer.....641-425-7615   |                    |
| <b>Secretary:</b>            | Christy Meinders.....641-430-1041   |                    |

**One silver lining from the past few years** is that St. Peter has built a really great online broadcasting system! We've been so glad to see members and friends — some near, some far — joining us for worship each week from the comfort of their homes.

A question that's been coming up lately is: "How do I make an offering online?"

If you feel called to give, here's all you need to do:

Go to our website, [stpeterrockwell.com](http://stpeterrockwell.com). At the top right of the page is the word "Giving". Click on it, then click on "Donations". Fill out the page and click on "Basket".

Download the VANCO MOBILE APP. Search for St Peter by entering the zip code. Sign in/Create an account. Follow the easy directions and finally click "Submit".

St Peter thanks you for your support!

**Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**We want to congratulate** this year's confirmation class Lucas Benson, Lauren Bills, Bryce Engh, Jude Grunklee, Eden Kobliska, Ethan Rembe, Braxtyn Schulz, Benton Schwark and Lane Sturges

## **CONGRATULATIONS WEST FORK CLASS OF 2026!!**

**On Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** during worship, we will recognize the Class of 2026 High School Seniors. ***Each will be given a quilt made special for them from our St. Peter Quilters. This year we will honor the following West Fork High School Senior: Parker Sheriff***

### **USHERS FOR MAY**

### **GREETERS FOR MAY**

Dale & Carole Matthes

### **COMMUNION PREPARATION FOR MAY**

Val Christopherson

### **ACOLYTES FOR MAY**

Gavin & Alivia Vaughn

### **Sunday School News**

**There will be no Sunday School** on May 3, 2026, due to Confirmation

Last Day for Sunday School will be May 10, 2026

We would like to thank all the kids who attended this year and the parents/guardians who brought them each week.

**Vacation Bible School** will not be held at St. Peter during the summer of 2026. Instead, we will be taking a day trip to the Grotto, with more details to come.

## Lenten Mission Project Update

Over the past 10 years, the Sunday School has completed 10 Lenten Mission Projects. The funds that we have raised have been used to provide vaccines, clean water, irrigation, bought cows, pigs, chicks, and honeybees, among other things. This year we set a goal of raising \$3000, and with your individual support of generous donations, Women of Faith, and Missions agreeing to match a portion, we were able to collect **\$3,395.76**. With that money, we will be able to support a person with a semester of seminary school and 3 fish farms. We would like to thank you again for supporting another successful Lenten Mission Project.

**Legacy Fund Scholarship 2026** Applications are available for pick up on the bulletin board at the main entrance of the church. All applicants must have completed at least one semester of college/technical school. Postmark must be no later than June 1st, 2026.

**St. Peter Men are invited to a Saturday Breakfast/Bible Study** at the Faith United Church. They meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday morning from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. (see church calendar for dates) Contact Rich Fjone for more information.

If you wish to **Reserve the Parish Hall and/or Church**, please contact the Church Secretary, Christy Baxter @ 641 -822-3101 or by sending an email to [stpeter@netins.net](mailto:stpeter@netins.net). The Reservation will be placed on the Church Calendar located in the Parish Hall hallway. Also, if you want to borrow any items from the kitchen, please notify the secretary, to check them out.



Women of Faith (formerly  
Mary/Martha Circle)  
**MAY MEETING**  
**Tuesday, MAY 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 1:30 pm**  
**Devotions: Louise Patterson**  
**Hostess: Lana Schaefer**

**The Women of the ELCA St Peter** is composed of all confirmed women of the Church. They are “members” of (Mary Circle/Martha Circle) as listed in the Church Handbook.

All women are encouraged to attend the Circle Meetings.

The Officers for 2023 of the WELCA are as follows:

President: Cheryl Flatness

Vice President: Carol Ames

Secretary: Linda Meyer

Treasurer: Linda Corporon

Chairman of Education: Linda Heft

Chairman of Stewardship: Linda Corporon

**THE WOMEN OF FAITH GROUP IS BEGINNING A PROJECT MAKING PRAYER SHAWLS. ANYONE THAT CROCHETS OR KNITS IS WELCOME TO JOIN US. WE HAVE BOOKS WITH PATTERNS TO USE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING PLEASE CONTACT LANA SCHAEFER, LOUISE PATTERSON OR BEV PETERS.**

## St Peter's Women of Faith

Women of Faith meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at 1:30 for bible study, business meeting, coffee and fellowship. We are currently studying the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians' "Wisdom for Living".

The Quilters meet every Tuesday at 9:00. All members are welcome to come and help with this important Mission Project.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **April:**

**April 7<sup>th</sup>** – WOF's monthly meeting at 1:30 in the Parish Hall. All women are invited to attend. Linda Meyer has the lesson, and Carole Matthes is hostess.

**April 20<sup>th</sup>** – WOF have bingo at the Rockwell Care Center. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Louise Patterson.

**April 20<sup>th</sup>** – WOF served lunch for Kathleen Hansen's funeral.

#### **May:**

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** - WOF will hold the monthly Bible Study at the Rockwell Care Center and deliver May Baskets to the residents. Louise has the lesson and Lana is hostess

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** – WOF have bingo at the Rockwell Care Center. Let Louise know if you are interested in volunteering,

**NOTE:** WOF have 5 prayer shawls available. A prayer shawl is a wearable hug to provide comfort, warmth, and spiritual support to anyone facing difficult times. It is a reminder of God's presence and strength. Please contact Lana, Louise or Bev if you have any questions.

There is a WOF Summer Coffee Signup Sheet at the back of the church. We will begin serving coffee/treats on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to those who volunteer to provide for this fellowship time!

***Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who respects the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30***

## **St Peter Pastoral Acts 2026**

*"In Christ all shall be made alive" 1 Corinthians 15:22*

### **Baptisms**

Creed Thomas Kockler, January 18, 2026 son of Tanner & Margo Kockler  
Addilyn Taylor, Bentley Mark, and Carter Lawrence Ballhagen, February 15, 2026  
Children of Mark & Taylor Ballhagen

Estella Marie Neal, March 22, 2026 daughter of Ben & Madison Neal

### **First Communion**

#### **New Members**

Dana Dotson

#### **Confirmation**

Lucas Benson, Lauren Bills, Bryce Engh, Jude Grunklee, Eden Kobliska,  
Ethan Rembe, Braxtyn Schulz, Benton Schwark and Lane Sturges

### **United in Marriage**

#### **Transfer Out**

#### **Funerals**

Mona J Arends, February 23, 1933 – February 11, 2026

Memorial Service held on February 20, 2026, at St Peter Lutheran Church, Rockwell

Kevin Lee Hoftiezer, November 13, 1965 – March 3, 2026

Memorial Service held on March 20, 2026, at St Peter Lutheran Church, Rockwell

Kathleen J Hansen, June 7, 1928 – Thursday, April 15, 2026

Memorial Service held on April 20, 2026, at St Peter Lutheran Church, Rockwell

## **LSI Article**

### **A testimony from a grateful family:**

"We first learned about LSI's school-based therapy program through our son's school counselor. We had wanted to get him into therapy for a long time, but it often felt out of reach. We do not have many extra resources, and finding a provider in Dubuque with availability for a child under 12 was incredibly difficult. On top of that, we both work and did not know how we would manage getting him to appointments during or after the school day.

When we found out that therapy could take place right at his school, it truly felt like an answer to our prayers. He did not have to miss much class, we did not have to take time off work, and he was able to meet with someone in a place where he already felt comfortable.

Even after getting connected, we still had concerns. Our insurance included a copay that was difficult for us to afford. LSI let us know that financial assistance was available to help cover those costs, as long as we remained committed to his treatment. That support made all the difference. Without it, I do not think we would have been able to continue.

Our son has only been in therapy for about six weeks, but we are already beginning to see small changes. He seems to be learning new ways to manage his emotions and is starting to talk more about what is bothering him instead of shutting down or acting out. We know he still has a long road ahead, but for the first time in a long time, we feel hopeful.

We are so grateful for this opportunity and for the support LSI has provided to our family. Without this program and the financial assistance, I truly do not know if our son would have been able to receive the help he needs."