

March 2026 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

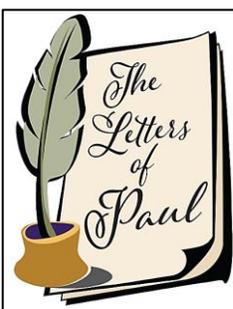
**Sunday Morning
Worship—9:30 a.m.**

**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



2026 Lenten Sermon Series

Throughout the centuries of Christianity, one name continues to stand out. Paul. Born a Roman Jew and eventually becoming a Pharisee who persecuted the early Christians, Paul stands out as an enigma. Not a lot is known about Paul, the man. Much is read in the 14 books in the New Testament that he wrote (or are attributed to him). But, who was Paul? What made him tick? What did he look like? What was his family life like? During the Wednesdays in Lent, we will try to solve the mystery of Paul. During the Midweek Lenten Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. in the Cross & Crown Room we will try to unravel this character named Paul. He was an enigma, but one who was very prolific and very integral to how we understand our faith and our heritage as Christians.

Please plan on attending this special Sermon series!
Paul: Enigmatic and Prolific Apostle.

2026 Lent and Easter Schedule

Wednesdays, February 25-March 25,
7 p.m., in Cross & Crown Room

Advent Worship Services—

Paul: The Enigmatic and Prolific Apostle

Sunday, March 29, 9:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday

Wednesday, April 1, 7 p.m.

Worship Service of Forgiveness

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m.

Worship Service—

**Including Absolution of Sins,
Foot Washing & Stripping the Altar**

Good Friday, April 3, 7 p.m.,

Tenebrae Service

April 5, 9:30 a.m.

EASTER
REJOICE! CHRIST IS RISEN!

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



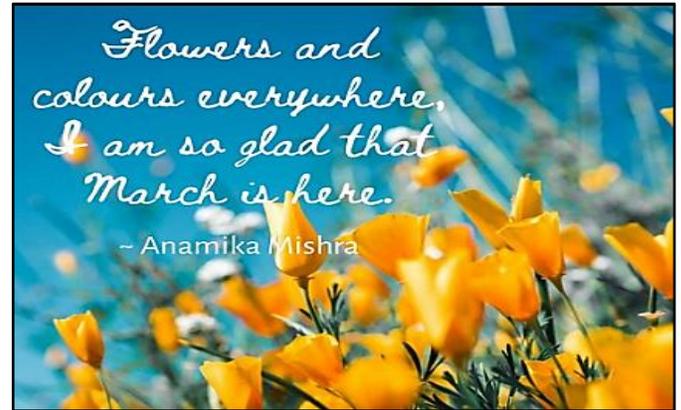
Happy Birthday to our March Seniors who will be celebrating a birthday of 80 years or more. Make their day special by sending a card or giving them a call.

Kay Degerman—March 2—81
 3120 Crabapple Ln, Janesville 53548

Judy Windorf—March 7—83
 2716 Elizabeth St, Janesville 53548

Shirley Brandt—March 12—88
 516 Nadig Ct, Ft. Atkinson 53538

Ed Spenske—March 18—86
 1411 S Terrace St, Janesville 53546



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

**Recently Added

Al Boness	Jack Harris	Mary Ann Egger
Andy Shores	Jenise Harmon	Mary Ann Harrington
Ann Bennett	Jessica Rathbun	Mike Logan
Benny Miller	Jim Brewster	Family of
Betty Christianson	Jim Payne	Nancy Roesing
Brian Johnson	Joann Cowan	Nancy Spenske
Bruce Rockenfield	John Froiland	Oakley Seifert
Charlie Flood	Judi Downing	Pauline Chalfant
Chris Christian	Judie Spry	Pauline Waters
Dawn Lutze	Judy Bolton	Robert Hiller II
Denny Vierik	Kay Degerman	Russell Bell
Don Swicher	Kay Knudson	Sally Fritz
Ed Spenske	Ken & Linda Fristed	Shelly McCann
Gene Amann	Ken Veitch	Susan LaFave
Gene Chalfant	Kevin Severson	Tami Schoeller
Heather Goertz	Lincoln Roesing	Tom Ulrich
Helen Flister	Lyn Elver	Trina Odinero
Irene Christian	Marie Severson	Yvonne LaFlash



Growing in Faith: Reflections from the Pastor

Lent.

A time for prayer.

A time for solitude.

A time for reflection.

A time for confession.

Lent.

Forty Days to do all these things. Forty Days to prepare for the emotional highs and lows. Forty Days to endure the gut-punch of the trial, the torture, the crucifixion, the death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Forty Days to contemplate the question, "Were you there?" Lent. A wonderfully serene and beautiful time of the year. A time to celebrate and contemplate the amazing grace given to us by God. A time to offer thanksgiving to God through prayer, solitude, reflection, and confession. Forty Days. Lent.

Blessings, Pastor Bruce

Congregational Council Updates

Council Members And Committee Position

The following individuals were elected to the Congregational Council and will act as liaison for the committees (listed in the parenthesis) as listed. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact them.

- Barb Kienbaum – President (Christian Education, Evangelism and Worship & Music)
- Gerry Meyers – Vice President (Stewardship, Finance)
- LeeAnn Ryan – Secretary (Finance)
- Steve Blom – Treasurer (Finance)
- Nancy Spenske (Stewardship, Evangelism)
- Bill Thorson (Property)
- Karen Thorson (Social Ministry)
- Dan Foss (Safety and Security)
- Leah Burrows (Worship and Music)

Meeting Content

This month's meeting was a reorganization meeting. The agenda for the meeting was a discussion of the concerns, comments, and questions that were voiced by the Council members. Discussion was held relating to goals for the coming year and what we may need to do to react to some of the concerns relating to the life of St. Peter's. The conversation will continue in March and as decisions

are made, we will make sure to keep everyone informed and up to date. We are looking for input from the members, so please feel free to contact any of the council members so they can bring it to our meetings in the future. The year 2026 will be a challenging year with many aspects of our future that will need to be addressed.

1404 Ceiling Repair

The Property Committee has developed a list of materials needed to install updated lighting the ceiling. A definite date for the installation has not been set; however, they will need volunteers to assist with the project for the tear down and installation.

QR Code Status

In the near future a pew card will be added to the materials in the rows so that individuals can make a contribution electronically by taking a picture of the QR code with their phones. It was determined that this will make it easier for some individuals to donate to St. Peter's since they may not carry cash.

Large Bathroom – Lower Level

Quotes have been received to make the necessary repairs to the bathroom. It is expected that the work will take place during Spring break.

Mark Your Calendars

Following are events that we are in the process of planning and some that have been scheduled.

March 20 and 21 – Lefse Making. We will be peeling potatoes and doing the necessary prep work on March 20 from 9-11 a.m. and frying on the 21 from 9 a.m. to noon. If you are interested in assisting, learning more about lefse or helping in any way, please come and join us. We will once again make more lefse on **April 17 and 18.**

Cookie Decorating Class – April 25 From 1- 3pm. More specific information to follow.

Paint Event – May 2 From 1 – 4pm. More information to follow.

Chili/Salsa Cook-Off Report

What a wonderful event! We had 10 chili entries and two salsa entries. Many members stayed to enjoy the chili and the festivities. Everyone that attended were amazed at the number of entries and the variety of tastes. Gift cards to Kwik Trip were the prizes.

Following are the winners.

Salsa

1st place – Dave and Ruth Baldry

2nd place – Kelli Kienbaum

Chili

Spiciest

1st place – Bill Kienbaum

2nd place – Mary Erickson

Most Flavorful

1st Place – Pastor Bruce Gray

2nd Place – LeeAnn Ryan

Best Overall

1st Place - Karen Harris

2nd Place – Bob and Joyce Jacobs

Fan Favorite

1st place - Steve and Karen Seichter

2nd Place – Bob and Joyce Jacobs

Thank you all for your participation!!



Time: What is time?

How Do We Use It?

WHEN DO WE USE IT?

Why do we use it?

^{1:8b}“With all wisdom and insight ⁹He has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Him, things in Heaven and things on Earth.” (Ephesians 1:8b-10 NRSV)

It seems we use time twenty-four hours a day. This may be a silly way to look at time, but it does make sense to say we use time 24 hours a day. Even when we sleep at night we are using that time to get our rest in order to start again serving refreshed. More importantly than time in a capsule when we are seemingly doing nothing (in our opinion), is the time we are using to do something, and more importantly, something more important to our lives or the lives of others as we use time to do something to help another person. Are we selfish with our time and only use it for ourselves or do we indeed use it for the good of others? When we help to serve meals to the needy, when we make quilts to be given to those who need them, when we help others in any way and use our time as the Bible passage states ^{3:1}“a time for every matter under Heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1 NRSV) we are being good Stewards.

We use time all of the time, everything we do while we are here and whatever legacy we leave for relatives and friends after we've gone. ^{6:2} “[Jesus] says, ‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’ See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!” (2 Corinthians 6:2 NRSV) Second Corinthians teaches us that the most important time for us is right now. Will we choose something healthy or helpful at this moment? Will we act on it today? It could be making a doctor's appointment that we've been putting off, maybe doing something for a loved one, maybe a visit. We could be nourishing our spiritual well-being by attending Worship this week. This could be an endless list, but why not look at whatever is in front of us today at this time. All day, all the time. Thanks be to God...for time.

^{4:14}“Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring.

What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that.’”

(James 4:14-15 NRSV)

We are guided by God to use the valuable gift of time wisely. God teaches us to serve, to help, to care, to love. All of these things take time. It's time well spent. Then we follow God's lead, there is never wasted time. When we look to God, the time we spend brings us joy, solace, peace. What better way to spend time?

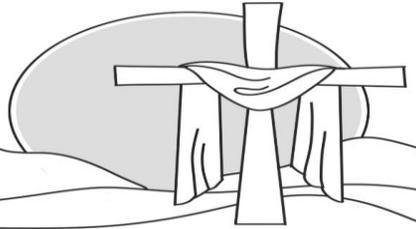
*“March is a tomboy with tousled hair,
a mischievous smile, mud on her
shoes, and a laugh in her voice.”*

– Hal Borland

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY, 9:30 a.m.	MARCH 1	MARCH 8	MARCH 15	MARCH 22	PALM SUNDAY MARCH 29
ALTAR GUILD	Tina Jorgenson Kelli Kienbaum	Kristi & Dave Wiese	Karen Seichter Karen Thorson	Judi Downing Pam McGill	Barb Kienbaum Mike Deems
ACOLYTE					TBD
LECTOR	Shane Price	Dan Foss	Judi Downing	Sharon Foss	Pam McGill
COMMUNION	Mary Erickson	Lisa Foss	Steve Seichter	Kelli Kienbaum	Steve Seichter
USHERS	Shane Price Dave Rein	Dan & Lisa Foss	Dawson & Abbie Draves	Bob & Joyce Jacobs	Tim Kienbaum Mary Erickson
A/V ASSISTANT	Kelli Kienbaum	Mike Deems	Sharon Foss	Mike Deems	Kelli Kienbaum
FELLOWSHIP	Barb & Bill Kienbaum	Kristi Wiese	Judy & Richard Windorf	Barb & Bill Kienbaum	Karen & Steve Seichter
WEDNESDAY, 7 p.m.	MARCH 4	MARCH 11	MARCH 18	MARCH 25	
LECTOR	Nancy Spenske	Trent Jensen	Joyce Jacobs	Gerry Meyers	
USHER	Dean Waters	Trent Jensen	Gerry Meyers	Beth Waters	
HOLY WEEK, 7 p.m.	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1	THURSDAY, APRIL 2	FRIDAY APRIL 3		
ACOLYTE			TBD		
COMMUNION ASSISTANT		TBD			
FOOTWASHING (1)		TBD			
FOOTWASHING (2)		TBD			
LECTORS	TBD	TBD			
READER (1)			Delano Anderson		
READER (2)			Tanja Anderson		
READER (3)			TBD		
USHERS	TBD	TBD	Manuel deCarvalho Neto		
COUNTERS	Nancy Spenske, Tim Kienbaum				

A Season of Renewal
Lent



March 2026

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stpetersjvl@gmail.com

Pastor: 608-563-4148

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8a Bell Choir Practice 9:30a Worship & Communion Fellowship 10:30a Mystery Meal Planning 10:45 Confirmation	2 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	3	4 9a Executive Cmte 7p Midweek Lenten Worship & Paul Sermon Series	5 6:30p Property	6 8p AA	7 SET CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR! 10a Al-Anon
8 8a Bell Choir Practice 8:45a Finance Cmte 9:30a Worship & Communion Fellowship 10:30a Altar Guild 10:45 Confirmation	9 9a Worship & Music 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	10 6p Church Council	11 11a Staff Meeting 7p Midweek Lenten Worship & Paul Sermon Series	12 9a PieceMakers	13 8:30a Breakfast Club at Park City 8p AA	14 10a Al-Anon
15 8a Bell Choir Practice 9:30a Worship & Communion Fellowship 10:45 Confirmation	16	17	18 7p Midweek Lenten Worship & Paul Sermon Series	19	20 9a-11a Lefse Preparation—Peeling Potatoes 8p AA	21 9a-Noon Lefse Preparation—Frying 10a Al-Anon
22 8a Bell Choir Practice 9:30a Worship & Communion Fellowship 10:45a Confirmation	23 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	24 6p Christian Education 7p Stewardship	25 9a Evangelism 7p Midweek Lenten Worship & Paul Sermon Series	26 9a PieceMakers	27 8p AA	28 10a Al-Anon
PALM SUNDAY 29 8a Bell Choir Practice 9:30a Worship & Communion Fellowship 10:45a Confirmation	30 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	31				

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Return Service Requested

Mission: Be Christ-Centered, Caring, Community.



**March
2026**