

# April 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.

### 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

## Growing in Faith: Reflections from the Pastor

*28:5 “But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus Who was crucified. ‘He is not here; for He has been raised, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. 7Then go quickly and tell His disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him.”*

*This is my message for you.”* (Matthew 28:5-7 NRSV)

Much like a long Winter, we yearn for the amazing time of Jesus Christ's resurrection. We begin the month of April nearing the Tomb. We also begin the month still in the throes of a Winter that doesn't seem to want to give up the grip it has had on us. Just like the sins and errors we make, this Winter just keeps nipping at us, bringing us down, taking us to a point of having “Cabin Fever.” But it doesn't have that strong a hold on us. This Winter is like our sins in that we know they are forgiven just as we know the winter of 2025-2026 will eventually come to an end.

The Tomb reminds us of that Jesus would willingly die for us, taking the doldrums of sin with Him, ending the long, dark, coldness and hardness that comes with it. The forgiveness He freely offers us is like the freshness of a Spring day. Even if the day lasts but a short time, we cherish it and are thankful for the love God has for His children to offer up such a valuable gift. For we know the darkness of death, like the darkness of Winter, is over. With a long Winter mostly behind us, we look forward to the warmth of Spring and the heat of Summer. With the long, dark journey to the Tomb, we most certainly cherish the power that Jesus' resurrection brings. For it brings redemption, salvation and, most vitally, life abundant and life everlasting.

Yes, this Winter has been long and deep, both here in the Midwest as well as many parts of the United States. But, the joy of Spring, the joy of Easter, the joy of Resurrection is at hand. Bringing warmth, bringing growth, bringing life. Welcome Spring! Welcome the Resurrected Savior!

*28:9 “Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to Him, took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him. 10Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see Me.’”* (Matthew 28:9-10 NRSV)

**The Lord is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

**Amen! Pastor Bruce**

1—Jeff Boness  
 2—Barbara Drew  
 3—Bill Tyler  
 5—Bunny Miller

5—Randy Aide  
 11—Mary Erickson  
 12—Andrea Seichter  
 Logan Loertscher

17—Claire Sullivan  
 21—Erika Traynor  
 23—Brian Buengow  
 24—Sammi Bell  
 29—LeeAnn Ryan



Happy Birthday to our April 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.

6—Nancy Spenske

1411 S Terrace St, Janesville 53546

17—Judi Downing

234 Sunset Dr, Janesville 53548

22—Karen Mayer

1613 Wolcott St, Janesville 53546

### In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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



Please call Pastor Bruce or the Church Office to let us know when you or a loved one will be/or are in the hospital as well as when you desire a Pastoral Visit.

## In Our Prayers

Delores Tainter passed on March 22 and her funeral was held at St. Peter's on March 27. Condolences can be sent to: Linda Korban, 2008 Crestview Dr, Janesville 53546.



Dear St. Peter's Family,  
 Thank you for the lovely cards and the many "Wish-You-Wells" that I received on my Birthday! Judy Windorf

## ***Congregational Council Updates***

- **Continental Breakfast**—The Congregational Council will be hosting a Continental Breakfast from 8:15-9:15 before Worship on Easter. Rolls, doughnuts, hard cooked egg, juice and coffee will be available. Come and join us for Fellowship before Worship.
- **Softball Team Registration**—We approved supporting our softball team by paying half of the registration fee (\$240) for 2026. A member of the Congregation has pledged to pay the other half. The team will begin play in either late April or early May on Monday evening. We will print a schedule when it is available.
- **AD HOC Committee Formation**—Approval was given to research a procedure to use when Worship needs to be cancelled. The Committee will be made up of three or four individuals and begin the work by April 1 and end on July 1 so a recommendation can be made to the Congregational Council. If you would like to be part of this group, please contact Barb Kienbaum.
- **Audit Report**—The report was approved as presented. Thank you to Dave Hagen and Associates for their work.
- **Shoe Drive**—Approved holding another Shoe Drive this year. It will take place from mid-June to mid-August. More information will be shared as we receive it. You can start collecting now but not deliver them to the church until after June 15. A decision as to where the funds will be donated will be made at the next Council meeting.
- **Summer Kick-Off Event**—It was decided to have a Potluck Brunch on June 7. We encourage anyone interested to bring a brunch dish to share and there will be a waffle bar as well for all to enjoy. This will be a great way to begin the Summer schedule.

## ***Graduation Recognition***

Do you have a graduate in your household for any level of education? We will be recognizing them at our Worship Service on May 17 and during the Fellowship hour. Please call the church office (608-754-2891) with their names and schools from which they will be graduating. We will need the information by May 10.



**Time: What is time?**

**How Do We Use It?**

**When Do We Use It?**

**WHY DO WE USE IT?**

*13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8 NRSV)*

Our time is best used to serve others at all times and in all places and in many and varied ways. *1:8b "With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>He has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure that He set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as 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) We use our time to help those who are not as fortunate as we are. We help at a food pantry or help to feed and care for the homeless. When we serve in these ways, we are using our time as God would want us to. Why do we use our time to help at Church with Ushering or serving Communion or making quilts or teaching kids and/or adults? We are serving in these ways as any good steward should. To coin a phrase, "Because it's the right thing to do." Why do we use our time to do all of these things? We do this because they are necessary and needed and when we are using our time to help others we are blessed to share our time with others. As we read in Scriptures there is a time for many things, and in our lifetime we are using our time for many of them and doing so with God's help. So, today let us begin or continue building our lives and legacies of serving God and God's children as we ask ourselves several important questions. How do we want our family, friends and neighbors to see us? What is our reputation now and how will we be seen in the future? Are we friendly, helpful and giving? There are so very many ways we can show our thankfulness for the bounty we have received from God.

*90:12 "So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart." (Psalm 90:12 NRSV)*

### ***1404 Ceiling Repair Update***

The Property Committee is presently collecting the materials needed to replace the lighting and ceiling in the rec room. This project is delayed because some of the materials have been on backorder. The hope is to get the project completed before the middle of April.

### ***Large Bathroom***

The large bathroom downstairs needs repairs from water seeping up the wall. The work has been scheduled for the week of Spring break. The bottom two feet of the wall will be removed and replaced with plywood, an appropriate cover material and then the joint between the floor and the wall will be sealed.

### ***Bible Study Group***

A suggestion has been made to begin another Bible Study group during the day. An organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7 at 10 a.m. in the Cross and Crown Room. This meeting will be used to set a schedule and make decisions on how to proceed. The meeting is open to anyone that would like to join. Please mark your calendar.

### ***Lutheran World Relief Kits***

During the coming year we will be supporting Lutheran World Relief efforts by preparing specific kits that will be sent to other countries. We will be collecting items for school kits, baby care kits and personal care kits. Please watch the Visitor and the bulletin board for the needed supplies. We will have a box in the Narthex area for you to drop your donated items. We will begin by preparing the baby kits. The items needed are: Two lightweight cotton T-shirts (no onesies); two long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) or a top and bottom set (without feet); two receiving blankets, medium weight or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with light weight yarn, minimum 36" to maximum 52", square or rectangular (Can mix and match); two cloth diapers, flat fold preferred; one jacket, sweater, sweatshirt or cape with hood, or include a baby cap; two new pairs of socks; one new cotton or cotton blend hand towel, dark color recommended, sized 16" to 18" x25"to 30"; two or three bath size bars of gentle soap equaling eight to nine ounces, any brand, in original wrapping. No mini bars; two diaper pins or large safety pins.

### ***Cookie Decorating (Pictures on Page 8)***

A Cookie Decorating Instruction Class has been scheduled for Saturday, April 25 from 1-3 p.m. in the Cross and Crown Room. You will receive the following items for the class: a cookie recipe, frosting recipe, personalized cookie for you to enjoy (this is a gift), a box to transport your cookies, all the frosting and tools needed to decorate six cookies and all the personal attention you might need. There is a sign-up sheet currently posted on the bulletin board as we need to give the instructor a count of individuals attending, so she can make sure to have an appropriate amount of supplies. Cost - \$35.00 per person to Barb Kienbaum.

### ***Paint Event (Pictures on Page 8)***

Another Painting Event with Tad has been scheduled on Saturday, May 2 from 1-4 p.m. in the Cross and Crown room. You are welcome to bring a snack to share if interested. Everyone who has attended in the past have really enjoyed the experience. All needed materials are supplied. Cost is \$20 per person to Barb Kienbaum.

### ***Mystery Dinner (Pictures on Page 8)***

The Mystery Dinner has been scheduled for May 16 at 5:30 p.m. in the Cross and Crown Room. The meal will include chicken tenders, potatoes and gravy, salad, appetizers, and dessert. This event is called a Mystery Meal since you know some of the items in the meal, but when you fill out your order all the items will be listed in code. The tableware is also part of the order process. We have done this event previously and it was so FUN for all ages. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from the Cross and Crown Room. The cost will be a \$5.00 charge for all that are attending to help defray the cost of the food. Please come and join us. It will provide MANY BOUTS OF LAUGHTER.

### ***Mark Your Calendars***

Easter Sunday, April 5—Continental Breakfast before worship 8:15-9:15 a.m.

April 7—Bible Study Organizational Meeting 10 a.m. in the Cross and Crown Room

April 25—Cookie Decorating Class

May 2—Painting with Tad

May 16—Mystery Meal-5:30 p.m. in the Cross and Crown Room

May 17—Graduation Recognition

May 25—Confirmation

June 7—Summer Kick-Off Brunch Potluck/Waffle Bar

# April 2025

<b>HOLY WEEK, 7 p.m.</b>	<b>SERVICE OF FORGIVENESS WEDNESDAY APRIL 1</b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 2</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 3</b>	<b>EASTERDAY APRIL 5</b>
<i>ACOLYTE(S)</i>			Lilly Foss	Brayden Dopkins Lilly Foss Owen Severson Tim Kienbaum
<i>COMMUNION ASSISTANT(S)</i>		Nancy Spenske		Kelli Kienbaum Lisa Foss Tim Kienbaum
<i>FOOTWASHING</i>		Trent Jensen Derek & Teresa Mallory		
<i>LECTORS</i>	Barb Kienbaum	Trent Jensen		Judi Downing
<i>READERS</i>			Delano Anderson Tanja Anderson Trent Jensen	<b>A/V Mike Deems</b>
<i>USHER(S)</i>	Gerry Meyers	Dean & Beth Waters	Manuel de Carvalho Neto	Dave & Ruth Baldry
<i>FELLOWSHIP</i>				Easter Continental Breakfast 8:15-9:15 a.m.
<b>SUNDAY, 9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>APRIL 12</b>	<b>APRIL 19</b>	<b>APRIL 26</b>	
<i>ALTAR GUILD</i>	Karen & Steve Seichter Karen Thorson	Judi Downing Pam McGill	Kelli Kienbaum Tina Jorgenson	
<i>LECTOR</i>	Bunny Miller	Joyce Jacobs	Richard Windorf	
<i>COMMUNION</i>	Nancy Spenske	Steve Seichter	Mary Erickson	
<i>USHERS</i>	Mary Erickson Brayden Dopkins	Bob & Joyce Jacobs	Bill & Karen Thorson	
<i>A/V ASSISTANT</i>	Sharon Foss	Sue Pohlman	Kelli Kienbaum	
<i>FELLOWSHIP</i>	Karen & Bill Thorson	Joyce & Bob Jacobs	Connie Bilz	
<b>WEDNESDAY, 7 p.m.</b>	<b>APRIL 8</b>	<b>APRIL 15</b>	<b>APRIL 22</b>	<b>APRIL 29</b>
<i>COMMUNION</i>	Dean Waters	Dean Waters	Gerry Meyers	Beth Waters
<i>USHER</i>	Gerry Meyers	Beth Waters	Gerry Meyers	Dean Waters
<i>COUNTERS</i>	Barb Kienbaum, Pam McGill			



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9a Executive Cmte <b>7p Worship Service of Forgiveness</b>	<b>2</b> 6:30p Property <b>7p Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>3</b> 8p AA <b>7p Good Friday Tenebrae Service</b>	<b>4</b> 10a AI-Anon 4:30p Easter Rehearsal
 <b>5</b> 8:15-9:15a <b>Continental Breakfast</b> Easter 9:30a <b>Worship &amp; Communion</b>	<b>6</b> 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	<b>7</b> 10a Bible Study Planning— ALL ARE WELCOME	<b>8</b> 11a Staff Meeting <b>7p Midweek Worship</b>	<b>9</b> 9a PieceMakers	<b>10</b> 8:30a Breakfast Club at Café on Main 8p AA	<b>11</b> 10a AI-Anon
<b>12</b> 8:45a Finance Cmte <b>9:30a Worship &amp; Communion</b> Fellowship 10:45 Confirmation	<b>13</b> 9a Worship & Music 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	<b>14</b> 6p Church Council	<b>15</b> <b>7p Midweek Worship</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9a-11a Lefse Preparation—Peeling Potatoes 8p AA	<b>18</b> 9a-Noon Lefse Preparation—Frying 10a AI-Anon
<b>19</b> <b>9:30a Worship &amp; Communion</b> Fellowship 10:45a Confirmation	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9a Evangelism <b>7p Midweek Worship</b>	<b>23</b> 9a PieceMakers	<b>24</b> 8p AA	<b>25</b> 10a AI-Anon 1-3p Cookie Decorating Class in C&C
<b>26</b> <b>9:30a Worship &amp; Communion with Baptisms</b> Fellowship 10:45a Confirmation	<b>27</b> 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	<b>28</b> 6p Christian Education 7p Stewardship	<b>29</b> <b>7p Midweek Worship</b>	<b>30</b>		



### 2026 Easter Schedule

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



### Cookie Decorating Class

Saturday, April 25, 2026

1-3 p.m. in the Cross & Crown Room

Cost \$35 (Barb Kienbaum Collecting)

Included in Cost: 6 Prebaked Cookies to Decorate and Frost, Instruction, Recipes and a Professionally Decorated Cookie along with a Container to Transport your Cookies. Bring apron if desired!



*Sign-up Deadline is April 19*

### Painting with Tad

Saturday, May 2, 2026

1-4 p.m. in the Cross & Crown Room

Cost \$20 (Barb Kienbaum Collecting)

Painting Supplies and  
Personal Instruction Provided

No Experience Necessary

Refreshments Provided Sign-up by April 25



*Butterfly in Purple Flowers*

### Mystery Dinner

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Menu: Appetizers, Chicken Tenders,  
Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Salad,  
and Dessert.

How and When you get your food is  
dependent on the choices YOU Make!!

Will You even have Silverware  
to Eat With??

Join us at 5:30 p.m. in the  
Cross & Crown Room

Cost is \$5 Payable to Barb Kienbaum.



*Sign-up Deadline is May 10*

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Return Service Requested

*Mission: Be Christ-Centered, Caring, Community.*

