

The Visitor September 2026

**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 October 4th

Wednesday Evening
Confirmation—5:45 p.m.
Worship—7:00 p.m.

Holy Communion
Celebrated at Every Service
Except Midweek Lent

Painting with Tad

Saturday, September 12, 2026

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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

Cost \$20

**Painting Supplies and
Personal Instruction Provided**

All are Welcome

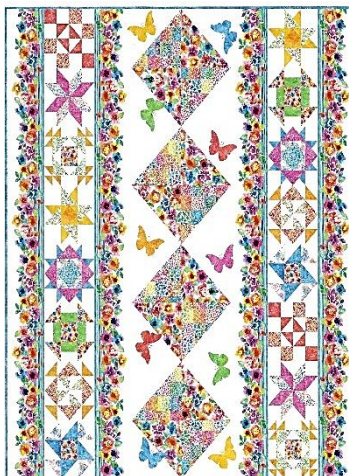
No Experience Necessary

Refreshments Provided

Sign-up by September 5



Aurora Dreams



Christmas Bazaar Quilt 2026

This beautiful handmade
(84-1/2" x 96-1/2") quilt, made by
Virginia Outland, will be raffled at
1 p.m. the day of the Bazaar
(11/21). **Tickets go on sale**
Sunday, September 13, for
\$4 each or 3 for \$10.

Don't Miss Out!

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—83
 1025 Laramie Ln, Janesville, 53546

Ginny Hughes—September 8—82
 1039 Nelson Av, Milton, WI 53563

Gerry Meyers—September 10—84
 1243 S Walnut St, Janesville, 53546

Judy Bolton—September 16—87
 4408 Skyview Dr, Janesville, 53546

Blanche Franks—September 21—85
 1320 Grand Av #109, Wausau, WI 54403

Dennis Brasel—September 24—84
 2813 Joliet St, Janesville, 53546

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Al Boness
 Andy Shores
 Annie & Dave Murphy
 Benny Miller
 Betty Christianson
 Brian Johnson
 Brian Knutson
 Bruce Rockenfield
 Charlie Flood
 Dawn Lutze
 Don Swicher
 Ed Spenske
 Gene Amann
 Gretchen Mollen
 Heather Goertz
 Helen Flister
 Irene Christian
 Jack Harris
 Jakki Harnack
 Jenise Harmon
 Jessica Rathbun
 Jim Brewster
 Jim Payne
 Joann Cowan
 John Froiland
 Judi Downing
 Judie Spry

Judy Bolton
 Kay Degerman
 Kay Knudson
 Ken & Linda Fristed
 Kevin Severson
 Family of Leone Wichelt
 Lincoln Roesing
 Lyn Elver
 Marie Severson
 Mary Ann Egger
 Mary Ann Harrington
 Mike Logan
 Oakley Seifert
 Pauline Chalfant
 Pauline Waters
 Robert Hiller II
 Russell Bell
 Sally Fritz
 Sandy Porter
 Shelly McCann
 Rev. Steve Ekblad
 Susan LaFave
 Tami Schoeller
 Teri Spenske
 Tom Ulrich
 Yvonne LaFlash

St. Peter's Christmas Bazaar, **November 21, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

We are collecting—plastic grocery bags for
 packing any slightly used "gifts" and Christmas
 Decorations and 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 September
 13. If you have any questions please call Bunny Miller,
 352-391-3651. **Let's get creative and SHINE!**



Thanks to everyone who made my
 90th Birthday extra-special with
 cards, sharing time at the party and
 so much more!—**Virginia Outland**

Thank you to **Derek and Theresa Mallory** for all
 their time and effort in prepping and applying the
 basecoat to the classroom wall on the lower level.
 This project was a safety issue for the HeadStart
 children and was needed due to moisture damage and
 the paint bubbling.

Growing in Faith: Reflections from the Pastor

Where did this Summer go?! This was quite a busy time. A lot of activity has been happening. Usually, Summer is a time for rest and relaxation; it's rarely busy. Especially in the Church. Not this year. This is good because activity shows forth life. Life in the Church and life in the town. And, without a doubt or question, life with Christ is the reason.

18:19 "Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on Earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by My Father in Heaven. 20For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:19-20 NRSV)

When Summer warmth keeps people out in the great outdoors and out of the church building's Sanctuary, often verse 20 of chapter 18 of Matthew's Gospel is spoken. It's a way to still justify the importance of Worship. It's also an accurate way to do so, too. For Jesus is with us wherever we are; He is present even if there are few in attendance. This Summer, however, has been different. The verse hasn't been spoken; it hasn't needed to be said. With all the activity that Summer brings, folks are still finding the time to spend in Worship. Graduations, weddings, cookouts, ballgames haven't kept the folks away. I guess the power of the Gospel is true and real.

With Autumn fast approaching, the news of good attendance during the Summer is even more important. Traditionally, Autumn "brings back" to church the people of the Congregation. The busyness of Autumn Worship will make this time even more wonderful. Jesus asks us to gather in His name, to proclaim the Great News of God's infinite love. Jesus asks us to gather in His name together as a community of believers focused on spreading, and sharing through serving others, the Good News of grace, reconciliation, and forgiveness. Jesus asks us to gather in His name and He joins us. And, we join Him. To worship. To praise. To trust. To love.

Yes, this Summer was busy, but this is great news. For it will make this Autumn even better. For God is with us. Sharing, caring, serving, forgiving. And, gathered together.

18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20 NRSV)

Peace, Pastor Bruce

The Sacraments: Holy Gifts from God to Us

The Sacraments of God bring us hope, love, life. We add in faith and trust. And, we have the Blessings of God in and around us. How many know how many Sacraments the Lutheran Church observes? How many know the history of the Sacraments? How many know why we observe them? There are many other questions that can be asked regarding the Holy Sacraments. It is hoped, together as a group, we will search out and find the answers to the vital importance of the Sacraments. For these Sacraments bring us closer to God, closer to each other; these Sacraments bring us love, they bring us life. Beginning sometime in October (the date is still fluid because the Monday Night Bible Study on The Chronological Bible hasn't ended yet), a new Monday Night

Bible Study will begin. Every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. (except the third Monday), let's gather at the Parsonage (1315 Putnam Avenue, Janesville, 53546), let's gather together and learn and discuss the vital nature of God's gift to us – for our lives as servants of God's, for our lives as saints of God's. We will keep you all posted as the Chronological Study nears the end of its run – please keep an eye on the Worship bulletins and/or electronic announcements.

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

— F. Scott Fitzgerald



Treasure

WHAT IS IT?

Why Do We Use It?
When Do We Use It?

6:33 "But strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33 NRSV)

We all have been blessed with many treasures. The love of family, good health, good friends, and, yes, income. The question is how do we use these treasures? We keep our family close and love them. We watch our health and we help and love our friends. What about our income? As a good Christian we strive to help those in need with our abundance and we give generously to our Church and the programs it puts together to serve the Church and the neighborhood.

We can say that our treasure is everything that makes us who we are. The very best user manual for using the gifts we have been given comes in the form of The Bible. It teaches us to how to treat ourselves and others in a Christian and caring way. When we read the wonderful books of The Bible, and follow the lessons The Bible teaches, the hills will not be as steep and we'll get over the bumps more smoothly. When we *6:33* "strive first for the kingdom of God" all things truly will fall into place.

And, we will better understand that we have all been blessed with many treasures. The Treasures of God.

*29:14 "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill-offering?
For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You." (1 Chronicles 29:14 NRSV)*

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need your help at St. Peter's for the following: ushering, lectoring (reading the lessons at service), Christian Education planning, A/V assistance during Sunday worship, providing transportation for members if needed, as well as Church Council, Altar Guild and other committees are always in need of members. Our lists are getting very short when trying to schedule individuals to assist with church services and other duties relating to the life of St. Peter's. If you have questions, please ask a Council member, Pastor Bruce or Barb Kienbaum and we will be glad to assist you. Necessary information and training will be provided.

COUNCIL CORNER

Actions Taken at the July Council Meeting:

- Approved a bid from City Glass of \$6,813 to replace four lower-level windows. These windows need to be custom made since the original type of window is no longer available. One of the windows was broken and the wooden frames have rotted. The funds will come from the Bazaar Committee
- Approved a bid from Robert Scott, LLC for \$1,631.18 to upgrade and replace landscaping mulch around 1404 Center Avenue. There are weeds that need to be removed and the area around the house needs to be cleaned out and replaced.
- Approved a bid from McCann Flooring of \$8,319 to replace the carpet in the lower-level classroom with tile. This is being done to decrease the cost of clean up after water issues. The work will be done over the Christmas break, and the funds are coming from the Endowment Fund.
- Approved the scheduling of another Waffle Breakfast on September 13 after Worship. Menu will include waffles with all the fixings, sausage links, fresh fruit and fruit juice. All are invited to attend.
- Approved \$1,200 to install gutter covers at 1404 Center Avenue. This is to keep the downspouts from getting plugged with leaves and creating water problems in the future. The funds will be taken from the maintenance account for the property. We will need assistance with this project when the supplies become available. Thank you to Dewey Jorgenson for his donation to get this project started.

Anniversary Committee

LeeAnn Ryan (Chair), Nancy Spenske, Sharon Foss, and Pam McGill have volunteered to be members of the 125th Anniversary Committee. Our anniversary is in 2028, but there is a great deal of planning that needs to be done to make this a memorable event. If you have anything that you would like to share with the committee or join them with the planning, please feel free to contact any of them. They will be actively looking for others to assist with the subcommittees.

Bible Study Group

The Tuesday Bible Study group meets the first Tuesday of each month coming up on **September 2 at 10 a.m.** Currently we meet in the office but if the group gets larger we will meet in the Cross and Crown Room. This group is open to all. Please mark your calendar.

Educational opportunities

- We have been busy doing planning for education for all ages. There are multiple topics and educational opportunities that have been scheduled for adults. We are also working on an educational program for our children. The program will be mission based. It will include setting themes for each month, selecting mission projects by each student and then a reward program for each student when they reach their goals. We will begin this in October. There will also be an opportunity for congregational members to assist in supporting our students. More information will be shared in the October newsletter. In the meantime, please keep this Committee in your prayers.
- We are planning three sessions relating to end-of-life planning. These sessions will include financial considerations, funeral home needs and faith needs. More information will follow as it becomes available
- If you have a suggestion for any other sessions, please contact Pastor Bruce, Barb Kienbaum or Tina Jorgenson.

Mark Your Calendars!

More activities have been added!

- **September 12 (1-4 p.m.)—Painting with Tad**. The picture has been posted on the bulletin board across from the Cross & Crown room. We will be painting a picture with a fall theme. Please sign up so we know how many to expect. We need at least 10 people to hold the class. Cost \$20.
- **September 13—Waffle Breakfast** immediately after worship. Waffles with all the toppings, sausage, fruit and juice will be served.
- **September 18 (9-11 a.m.)—Lefse Prep** in the Cross and Crown Kitchen.
- **September 19 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.)—Lefse Making** in the Cross & Crown Room. All are welcome to come and join us. It is a great time for fellowship in addition to making the lefse.
- **September 27 (10:45 a.m.)—Presentation** by Karl Miller, Thrivent, in the Cross & Crown Room. This presentation is to **explain Choice Dollars and Action Teams**. These are items available to all individuals who own Thrivent products. We will hear about the charitable use of these monies and how it can enhance giving not only for our congregation but our community.
- **October 3, (1-3 p.m.)—Cookie Decorating** in the Cross and Crown Room. The cookies will be decorated in a Fall

theme. We will also be taught several new techniques. Cost \$30.

- **October 4 (Beginning at 10:45 a.m.)—Personal Safety Class** in the Cross & Crown Room. The class will be presented by Tim Kienbaum. He has done the class before and we had requests for it to be repeated. It is very informational and an outline will be included for easier note taking.
- **October 23, (9-11 a.m.)—Lefse Prep** in the Cross & Crown Kitchen.
- **October 24 (9-1 p.m.)—Lefse Making**. This is the last session for this year. All are welcome to come and join us. It is a great time for fellowship in addition to making the lefse.
- **November 7 (1-4 p.m.)—Painting with Tad**. The picture will be a Winter theme and the picture choice will be posted on the bulletin board across from the Cross & Crown room when it is chosen. Cost \$20.
- **November 8 (10:45 a.m.)—Scams and Safety on Phones & Computers** in the Cross & Crown Room. The class will be presented by Richard Brown. He has done the class before and we had requests for it to be repeated. It is very informational and an outline will be included for easier note taking.
- **December 5 (1-3 p.m.)—Cookie Decorating** in the Cross & Crown Room. The cookies will be decorated in a Christmas theme. Cost \$30.

What a busy time, but the hope is that we will have activities available for anyone and everyone. Hopefully many of you will be able to attend and enjoy. Sign-up sheets will be available on the bulletin board across from Cross & Crown Room Kitchen at the appropriate times.

ECHO NEEDS SEPTEMBER 2026

Rice	Paper Towel
Instant Potatoes	Diapers (Size 5-7)
Pasta Sauce	Toothbrushes
Diced Tomatoes	Toothpaste
Peanut Butter & Jelly	Dish Soap

September 2026

<u>SUNDAY, 9:30 a.m.</u>	<i>September 6 Labor Day Weekend</i>	<i>September 13</i>	<i>September 20</i>	<i>September 27</i>	
ALTAR GUILD	Kristi & Dave Wiese	Pam McGill Judi Downing Sue Pohlman	Kelli Kienbaum Tina Jorgenson	Karen Thorson Karen Seichter	
LECTOR	Shane Price	Tim Kienbaum	Pam McGill	Bill Thorson	
COMMUNION	Mary Erickson	Bill Kienbaum	Steve Seichter	Nancy Spenske	
USHER	Shane Price Dave Rein	Mary Erickson Brayden Dopkins	Dawson & Abbie Draves	Dave & Ruth Baldry	
A/V ASSISTANT	Kelli Kienbaum	Mike Deems	Sharon Foss	Kelli Kienbaum	
FELLOWSHIP	On Break for Summer	Waffle Bar	Judy Willard	Joyce & Bob Jacobs	
MOWING	9/5—Steve Blom	9/12—Bill Thorson	9/19—Dave Rein	9/26—Bob Jacobs	
WATERING	9/7-13—Jerry & Jakki Harnack	9/14-20—Mary Erickson	9/21-27—Bob Jacobs	9/28-10/4—Barb Kienbaum	
<u>WEDNESDAY, 7 p.m.</u>	<i>September 2</i>	<i>September 9</i>	<i>September 16</i>	<i>September 23</i>	<i>September 30</i>
COMMUNION	Gerry Meyers	Beth Waters	Trent Jensen	Dean Waters	Gerry Meyers
USHER	Gerry Meyers	Dean Waters	Trent Jensen	Beth Waters	Gerry Meyers
COUNTERS	Nancy Spenske, Mary Erickson				

<u>2026 BUDGET PERFORMANCE</u>					
	<u>July Actual</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>		<u>July Actual</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			<u>Expense</u>		
Benevolence Contributions	\$ 418.00	\$ 283.00	Benevolence	\$ 418.00	\$ 283.00
Contributed support	\$ 13,093.00	\$ 12,470.00	Church Activity	\$ 199.59	\$ 419.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 66.00	\$ 41.00	Finance	\$ 17.39	\$ 20.00
Use of facilities	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 55.00	Office Supplies & Expense	\$ 505.27	\$ 860.00
Total Income	\$ 15,077.00	\$ 12,849.00	Property Maintenance	\$ 1,450.71	\$ 4,213.00
Gross Profit	\$ 15,077.00	\$ 12,849.00	Salaries & Related Expenses	\$ 11,324.00	\$ 12,012.65
			Travel & meetings expenses	\$ -	\$ -
			Total Expense	\$ 13,914.96	\$ 17,807.65
			<u>July Actual</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>	
		Net Ordinary Income	\$ 1,162.04	\$ (4,958.65)	
		Net Income	\$ 1,162.04	\$ (4,958.65)	



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9a Executive Council 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship	3 6:30p Property Cmte Meets at Parsonage	4	5 10a Al-Anon
6 9:30a Holy Communion Worship	7 OFFICE CLOSED <i>HAPPY Labor Day</i>	8 10a Monthly Bible Study in Office 6:30p Church Council	9 11a Staff 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship	10 9a PieceMakers	11	12 10a Al-Anon 1-4p Painting with Tad
13 8:45a Finance 9:30a Holy Communion Worship 10:45a Waffle Breakfast 10:45a Ad Hoc SPLC Anniversary Committee	14 9a Worship & Music 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	15	16 5:45p Confirmation 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship	17	18 8:30a Breakfast Club at East Point Sportz Pub 9-11a Lefse Prep	19 9-1a Lefse Making in C&C 10a Al-Anon
20 9:30a Holy Communion Worship with Sacrament of Holy Baptism 10:45a Altar Guild	21	22 10a Bazaar Cmte 6p Christian Education 7p Stewardship	23 9a Evangelism 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship	24 9a PieceMakers	25	26 10a Al-Anon
27 9:30a Holy Communion Worship 10:45a Thrivent Presentation "Choice Dollars & Action Teams"	28 7p Bible Study at Parsonage	29	30 5:45p Confirmation 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship			

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Return Service Requested

Mission: Be Christ-Centered, Caring, Community.

