

The Visitor October 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



Final Shoe Collection Report

We collected 1,556 bags of shoes which equaled 62 bags which were picked up on August 15. A

HUGE thank you to Brayden Dopkins, Todd Severson, Connor Severson, Owen Severson, Bill and Karen Thorson and Bill Kienbaum for

helping with the loading of the shoes in the truck. We have received our financial return of \$512, and this money will be split between Rock County Restorations and Edison Middle School Closet. Thank you to everyone for your contributions and a thank you to the Elks Lodge and Asbury United Methodist Church for joining with us in this mission project.



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 are now on sale for

\$4 each or 3 for \$10.

Don't Miss Out!

2-Chad Heacox
2-Dan Foss
6-Kevin Clifton
6-Joyce Jacobs
6-Duke Schlegel

8-Pastor Bruce Gray
8-Tina Jorgenson
12-Pam McGill
14-Trace Kovacevich
19-Lucas Harnack

21-Dave Baldry
23-Bill Kienbaum
25-Becky Churchill
31-Joan Foster



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

Dale Thompson—October 4—85
4322 Southwyck Dr, Janesville 53546

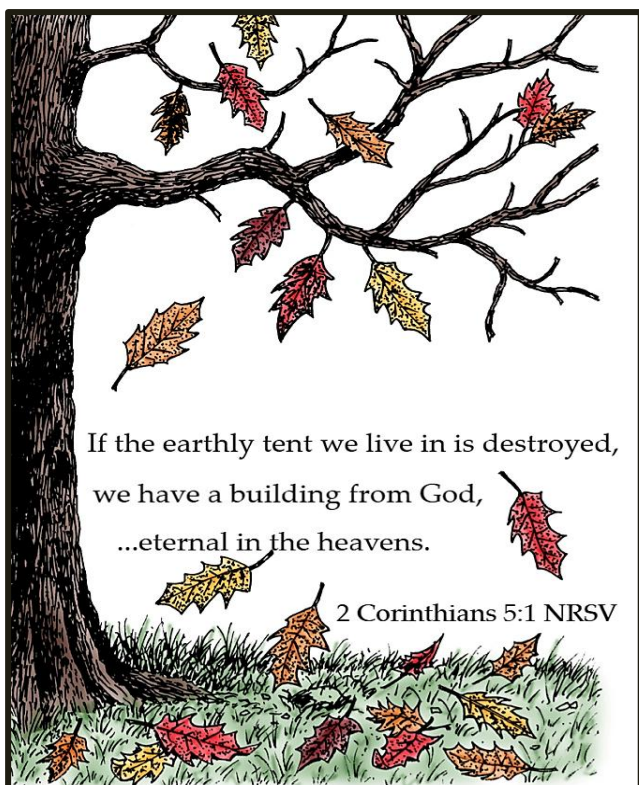
Sharon Holmes—October 9—80
2162 N Dewey Av, Reedsburg, WI 53959

Irene Christian—October 10—83
909 Sutherland Av, Janesville 53545

Barb Kiskunas—October 30—82
700 Myrtle Way #3311, Janesville 53545

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Al Boness	Jakki Harnack	Mary Ann Egger
Annie & Dave Murphy	Jessica Rathbun	Mary Ann Harrington
Benny Miller	Jim Brewster	Mike Logan
Betty Christianson	Jim Payne	Oakley Seifert
Brian Johnson	Joann Cowan	Pauline Chalfant
Cheryl Smith	John Froiland	Pauline Waters
Charlie Flood	Judi Downing	Robert Hiller II
Chris Bong	Judie Spry	Russell Bell
Dawn Lutze	Judy Bolton	Sally Fritz
Don Swicher	Kay Degerman	Shelly McCann
Ed Spenske	Kay Knudson	Rev. Steve Ekblad
Greg Halverson	Ken & Linda Fristed	Susan LaFave
Gretchen Mollen	Kevin Severson	Teri Spenske
Helen Flister	Lyn Elver	Tom Ulrich
Irene Christian	Marie Severson	Yvonne LaFlash
Jack Harris		



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

The fall Bazaar is coming up quickly and it's not too early to plan what you would like to donate to this event. We will need craft and gently used items as well as sweet treats and baked delights. We will have lefse for sale again this year (200 pounds of potatoes will have been used!!). Set-up will begin on Thursday, November 19 and many hands make for light work, so please feel free to come and assist. There are many things that will need to be done for set up and the actual sale. Please contact Bunny Miller, 352-391-3651 if you would like to assist with this event or have any questions.

*"Autumn is a second spring when
every leaf is a flower."*

—Albert Camus

Growing in Faith: Reflections from the Pastor

^{3:19}Now we know that **w**hatever

the law **s**ays,

it **s**peaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For “no human being will be

justified in His sight” by deeds. **P**rescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. ²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of

the glor**y** of God;

²⁴they **a**re now justified by

His grac**e**

as a gi**ft**,

thr**ough**

the **R**edemption that is in Christ Jesus,

²⁵who**m** God put forward

as a sacrifice of **A**tonement by His blood,

effective **T**hrough faith. He did this to show His righteousness,

because **I**n His divine forbearance

He had passed **O**ver the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that He Himself is righteous

and that He justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

(Romans 3:19-26 NRSV). Sometimes repeating something is a good thing!

Blessings to one and all! *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 November (please note that the start time has changed from last month's *The Visitor* 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 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 continue to keep an eye on the Worship bulletins and/or Friday "What's Happening" emails.



Treasure

What Is It?
HOW DO WE USE IT?
Why Do We Use It?
When Do We Use It?

12:33 [“And] ‘to love Him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength’, and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself’, — this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.” (Mark 12:33 NRSV)

We are blessed with many treasures. We are given many things during our lifetimes, family, friends, possessions and opportunities. But how do we use them? The Bible and Worship services illuminate Christian pathways we can follow in a way and manner that pleases God. Scripture tells us to love God with all our heart, all understanding and with all our strength. The Bible also tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to do this we must share according to our means and maybe even beyond our means. Golfer Tiger Woods once said that the road to success comes about 10% from the talent we were born with and 90% from the time and effort we put into refining it. When we do this, it is pleasing to God and we receive His love and grace.

12:33[And] to love Him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself—[this] is much more important than all the whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices” as we hear in Mark shows us exactly how God wants us to live, how He wants us to treat others, how He wants us to even treat ourselves.

8:1 “We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; ²for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, ⁴begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—⁵and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us...”
 (2 Corinthians 8:1-5 NRSV)

Adult Educational Opportunities

The Christian Education has been busy planning some adult educational opportunities for the Fall and Winter months. We are planning three sessions relating to end-of-life planning. These sessions would 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.

Kids in Active Mission—

Children’s Education Program

This ministry will begin in October. Each month will have a different theme, and the children will be asked to participate on an on-going basis. The parents have been consulted and are pleased with the plan. Each month will begin with a Children’s Sermon held during Worship. The themes that have been selected are:

- October—Changes, November—Thankfulness,
- December—Christmas, January—New Beginnings
- February—Love, March—Easter.

The children will pick mission goals they will be working to earn points/stickers for specific tasks which will include: activities at the church, saying their bedtime prayers, writing prayers that can be used during Worship, reading lessons at church etc. All goals will have a dollar value, and the stickers will correlate with the monetary value of the mission. Missions can be through the ELCA or be local services offered in the community. Once the student has met their goal, a gift will be given to the appropriate location by the Congregation. Each student will be recognized for the work they have accomplished at a Worship service and in *The Visitor*. A gift will be given to the child in appreciation of their efforts. If an adult member of the Congregation would like to assist a student by matching their goal, they just need to inform the church office or Barb Kienbaum so that the necessary information can be provided. There are bulletin boards located in the hallway next to the Cross & Crown kitchen to show the progress of each student. For more information contact Pastor Bruce, Tina Jorgenson or Barb Kienbaum.

“If a year was tucked inside of a clock, then autumn would be the magic hour.”— Victoria Erickson

Council Corner

Actions Approved at the September Council Meeting—

The meeting had a light agenda, and while there was much discussion, there was little need for approvals of activities. Discussion centered around the Waffle breakfast and upcoming events. Information from the Committees was also shared.

A bid from Robert Scott, LLC for \$1,990 to scrape the walls of the stairwell leading to the playground, make necessary repairs and re-paint them was approved. This area has been damaged by water in the past and desperately needs this done. The funding will come from the St. Peter's maintenance fund.

Bible Study Group

The next Monthly Tuesday Bible Study Group will be meeting on October 6 at 10 a.m. If the group gets larger than the office can accommodate, we will meet in the Cross and Crown room. This group is open to anyone that would like to join. Please mark your calendar.

Mark Your Calendars!

More activities have been added!

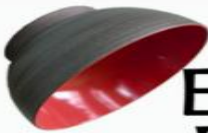
- **October 3, (1-3 p.m.)—Cookie Decorating** in the Cross and Crown Room. The cookies will be decorated in a Fall theme. We will also be taught several new techniques. Cost \$35.

- **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 Fall 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 \$35.

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 OCTOBER 2026

Soup and/or Chili	Deodorant
Instant Potatoes	Bar Soap
Diced Tomatoes	Toothbrushes
Instant Rice	Toothpaste
Peanut Butter & Jelly	Kleenex



Empty Bowls

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 17, 2026
11am - 2pm

WOMAN'S
SOUTH & CENTRAL COAST
2000 N. 10th Ave. Joliet, IL 61731

A tasting lunch fundraiser for ECHO
Homemade Soups, Artisan Bread,
Dessert, Beverage
Advance Tickets \$15
At the door \$20

PURCHASE
TICKETS HERE



NEW!
Auction style
frozen soup ordering
with limited quantities

A FUNDRAISER FOR:
 

For more information visit: www.echojaneshville.org/events

October 2026

<u>SUNDAY, 9:30 a.m.</u>	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
ALTAR GUILD	Kristi & Dave Wiese	Pam McGill Judy Downing Sue Pohlman	Karen & Steve Seichter Karen Thorson	Barb Kienbaum Mike Deems
LECTOR	Nancy Spenske	Sharon Foss	Karen Thorson	Barb Kienbaum
COMMUNION	Karen Seichter	Steve Seichter	Mary Erickson	Bill Kienbaum
USHER	Mary Erickson Brayden Dopkins	Ralph & Sharon Foss	Dave & Ruth Baldry	Bob & Joyce Jacobs
A/V ASSISTANT	Mike Deems		Sharon Foss	
FELLOWSHIP	Joyce & Bob Jacobs	Karen Harris & Mary Erickson	PieceMakers	Abbie & Dawson Draves
MOWING	10/3—Trent Jensen	10/10—Bo Jorgenson	10/17—Jake Jorgenson	
WATERING	10/5-11 Judy Willard	10/12-18 Dave Rein	10/19-25 Tim & Kelli Kienbaum	10/26-11/1 Jerry & Jakki Harnack
<u>WEDNESDAY, 7 p.m.</u>	October 7	October 14	October 21	October 28
COMMUNION	Gerry Meyers	Beth Waters	Trent Jensen	Dean Waters
USHER	Gerry Meyers	Dean Waters	Trent Jensen	Beth Waters
COUNTERS	Karen Thorson, Sue Pohlman			

2026 BUDGET PERFORMANCE					
	<u>August Actual</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>		<u>August Actual</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>
Income			Expense		
Benevolence Contributions	\$ 1,009.00	\$ 947.00	Benevolence	\$ 1,009.00	\$ 947.00
Contributed support	\$ 14,839.00	\$ 15,234.00	Church Activity	\$ 148.99	\$ 934.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 65.01	\$ 21.00	Finance	\$ 18.01	\$ 20.00
Use of facilities	\$ 3,821.24	\$ 1,955.00	Office Supplies & Expense	\$ 206.36	\$ 330.00
Total Income	\$ 19,734.25	\$ 18,157.00	Property Maintenance	\$ 3,902.27	\$ 7,063.00
Gross Profit	\$ 19,734.25	\$ 18,157.00	Salaries & Related Expenses	\$ 11,173.91	\$ 11,862.65
			Travel & meetings expenses	\$ -	\$ -
			Total Expense	\$ 16,458.54	\$ 21,156.65
			<u>August Actual</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>	
		Net Ordinary Income	\$ 3,275.71	\$ (2,999.65)	
		Net Income	\$ 3,275.71	\$ (2,999.65)	



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30p Property Committee	2	3 10a Al-Anon 1-3p Cookie Decorating in C&C
4 8:45a Finance 9:30a Holy Communion Worship 10:45a "Personal Safety" Presentation in C&C	5 9a Worship & Music 7p Bible Study in Church Library	6 10a Monthly Bible Study in Office or C&C	7 5:45p Confirmation 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship	8 9a PieceMakers	9	10 10a Al-Anon
11 9:30a Holy Communion Worship	12 7p Bible Study in Church Library	13 6:30p Church Council	14 11a Staff 5:45p Confirmation 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship	15	16 8:30a Breakfast Club at Café 26	17 10a Al-Anon
18 9:30a Holy Communion Worship	19	20 6p Christian Education 7p Stewardship	21 5:45p Confirmation 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship	22 9a PieceMakers	23 9-11a Lefse Prep	24 9-1a Lefse Making in C&C 10a Al-Anon
Pastor Out of Office for Writing Time (Sunday p.m. thru Tuesday)						
25 Annual Stewardship Appeal Sunday 9:30a Holy Communion Worship	26 7p Bible Study in Church Library	27	28 Stewardship Appeal Wednesday 9a Evangelism 5:45p Confirmation 7p Midweek Holy Communion Worship	29	30	31 10a Al-Anon 
Food Drive Begins October 25 and Ends Wednesday, November 25						

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Return Service Requested

Mission: Be Christ-Centered, Caring, Community.

 **OCTOBER**²⁰²⁶