



St. Peter's Press

Volume 44 Number 10

October 2025



Update from Pastor Miranda on the first portion of her Sabbatical

Greetings St. Peter Church Family,

It is a joy to be back connecting with you and worshipping with you following this first larger portion of Sabbatical. I thank God for this extended time for learning, spiritual renewal, connection with God, rest, and dwelling in the love of Jesus in the midst of our ministry together as pastor and people. I am excited to be with you, learning from you and serving with you, and engaging in mission and ministry alongside you!

Some highlights of these first weeks of Sabbatical include:

- Participating in the Festival of Homiletics- a preaching conference where I was able to listen to some powerful sermons and speakers on the topic of preaching. The theme was "Preaching to Heal the Divide".
- Retreat days at Sugar Creek Bible Camp- our family stayed in a cabin at Sugar Creek for two of the weeks. The boys had fun with full-day camp programs; while I had spiritual retreat days for prayer, reflection, and reading books on theology and spiritual renewal.
- A Family Camp led by two MN pastors, where my boys and I were able to learn, worship, and play alongside other families in Christian community. The theme of the week was "Ready, Set, Move" from Acts 17:28 *"For in God we live and move and have our being."*
- Extended intentional conversations with spiritual mentors and friends.
- It was a joy to worship in the pew with my family, helping my own young boys to engage with worship and follow along with the service. A few highlights included: worshipping with the congregation that helped to form my faith as a child and teenager, First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, IA; worshipping with my "home congregation" of my young adult years, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN, which was my church family for ten years while I lived in the Twin Cities; and worshipping at Jesse's home congregation of Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkader, IA, where his dad served as a pastor for 29 years.
- A particularly meaningful time of Sabbatical was going on long prayer walks with God. These ½ day hikes were wonderful times of being able to renew my own relationship with God, as a child of God, in the midst of God's beautiful creation. This included exploring some "new-to-me" local trails as a part of the 75th Anniversary Hiking Challenge at Effigy Mounds National Monument. A Bible verse that was central to these prayer hikes was from Psalm 62:1-2 *"For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken."*
- Additional learning experiences were: continuing ICF Coaching Training through Vibrant Faith (as a part of a Siebert Grant for continuing education that I received) and engaging with Faith + Lead church ministry leadership resources, including their Pivot podcast.
- This was the largest portion of the Sabbatical: July 14-September 14. There will be five additional special weeks coming later in 2025 and early 2026 (which include one week of vacation) to total 3 months of Sabbatical learning and renewal experiences.

Thank you! As we move together into fall ministries, I am glad to carry these enriching experiences with me as we engage in worship, learning, discipleship, and service together. There is a lot to look forward to- Outdoor Worship, Confirmation Sunday, the start of Choir, All Saints Worship, Youth Ministry events, new ideas from the Engaging Children's Initiative, and planning for mission in 2026 (check inside this newsletter for lots of ways to be involved.)

I'm glad to be in partnership with you as a fellow disciple in this amazing church family!

With love, Pastor Miranda



Worship in OCTOBER

Saturdays: Worship with Communion at 5:15 p.m.
Sundays: Worship with Communion at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship is also broadcast on the Radio and Facebook

Join us at 104.3 FM AND 980 AM and through Facebook: [https://](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterpdc/)

www.facebook.com/stpeterpdc/

Bulletins will be available on our website (www.stpeterpdc.org). The worship service is also recorded and posted to Facebook, so that you can worship with us later in the week.



Upcoming Worship Special Events:

- **Oct 5th: 17th Sunday of Pentecost, Outdoor Worship at the River and Pet Blessing** (also livestreamed to Facebook)

When and Where: 9:00 a.m. at the Gazebo across from the Depot Bar on St. Feriole Island.

In Case of Inclement Weather: If we need to cancel the outdoor service, we will post a message to Facebook by 7:00 a.m. Sunday. We then invite you to worship with us at St. Peter or from home via the radio/livestream.

- **Oct 11th and 12th:** 18th Sunday of Pentecost, Contemporary Worship
- **Oct 18th and 19th:** 19th Sunday of Pentecost
- **Oct 25th and 26th:** Reformation/Confirmation Weekend for 9th Grade

Choir News

You're invited to join the St. Peter Church Choir. They will begin practicing on Thursday, October 2nd at 6:00 p.m.. Come join the music at 6:00 on Thursday nights – you'll enjoy the fellowship, humor, and the unique blessings that come from singing hymns together. We'll sing once or twice a month during worship. Laurie Klosterboer and Lynn Rider will coordinate the schedule. On 3rd Thursdays, the choir will meet at 6:30 p.m., because of the Come For Supper ministry.



Sunday Morning Discipleship Discussion for Youth and Adults: Sundays at 10:20 a.m.

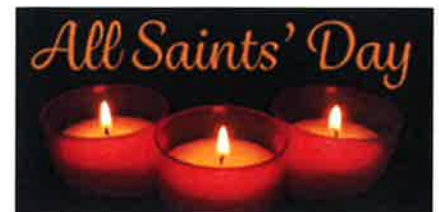
Join us on October 12th and 19th for a Bible discussion with other youth and adults following worship. We will dive deeper into the Gospel reading. Grab a chair, a coffee, and a treat and bring your ideas and questions to a meaningful discussion. We will meet at the front of the Sanctuary at approximately 10:20. a.m.

New Member "Coffee with the Pastors" Event Sunday, October 12th at 1:00 p.m.

If you have been worshipping with us and are interested in living out your life of discipleship among us here at St. Peter during this season, we would love to have you join us. Come and learn more about the congregation and about becoming a member of St. Peter. Please let the church office know if you are interested in attending this new member conversation: 608-326-6411 or stpeterpdc@hotmail.com.

ALL SAINTS WORSHIP on November 1st and 2nd

All Saints Worship is the first weekend of November at both Saturday and Sunday Worship. We will continue in our pattern, as we have the past many years by having a lighting of candles and reading of names of those who have died, both in the last calendar year and beyond. If you have had a loved one pass away since last All Saints day, please contact the church office with the name.



Financial Update

YTD Income and Expense through August 31, 2025

(Approved by Council, September 9, 2025)

	Actual	Prior Year	Budget
Envelope Offerings	\$219,980	\$201,916	\$220,683
Other Income	47,645	24,703	28,855
Total Income	\$267,625	\$226,619	\$249,538
Expenses	434,392*	258,945	272,791
Net over (under)	\$(166,767)	\$ (32,326)	\$ (23,253)

*Includes \$175,000 for purchase of St. Peter Faith and Life Center

Engaging Children Initiative, Not Just for Kids

Rally Sunday was such a delight! Thank you to the ECI and Intergenerational Ministry Team Members who helped run the different stations in our discovery fair, and to all those who participated. It was so fun to watch everyone as they got hands-on with many of our new tools meant to help engage bodies of all ages and abilities in the experience of worship.

The various styles of learning audio, visual and kinetic have been acknowledged for decades. Varying abilities of attention or focus are not as widely recognized or known. While many of us may not feel the need for tools to help engage in worship, others find them to be a great benefit. I encourage anyone who finds their mind wanders or their body fidgets during portions of worship to try the different tools that are in the baskets under the back pew. These are available for all ages and stages in our journeys of faith and life. - Pr. Hillary

Fidgets: wiggle pad, sensory worry stone, magnetic sensory ball, marble maze, magna people

Prayer: finger labyrinth, prayer pal, sensory worry stone, prayer blocks, color pages

Creativity: building blocks, connecting bursts, LCD pad, prayer pal

WELCA Update

(Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)

Thank you to all who supported, worked, ate at, and donated to our September events – the Sugar Creek quilt auction, the Food Stand, and Bake Sale. Thanks also to Thrivent, who donated toward the food for our brat lunch. These events replenish low accounts and enable many forms of ministries in the local and wider Church. Our local WELCA group donates annually to a local or national disaster fund, the LaCrosse Synod women's organization, local community outreach, Lutheran World/US Relief projects, global ministry programs, and monetary support for St. Peter youth for camp and mission trips. Thanks also to Justin Check who regularly transports our quilts and kits to the collection point in LaCrosse. This year our group completed 76 quilts, 25 school kits, and 25 health kits. Take a look at what's coming next month!



Mon., 10/6 Yesterday's Youth program at Sugar Creek. Register with the camp office online or by phone (608-734-3113). Pay at the door. Carpooling available!

Wed., 10/8 10:00 Bible Study at Bluff Haven Ind. Living Great Room. Leader-Laurie

Sun., 10/12 Pastors' Appreciation Sunday – serve reception after church.

Tues, 10/14 2:00 General planning meeting, church basement (Yes, a month went by!)

** Planning for annual Thankoffering Service – we need readers and worship helpers.

Sat, 10/18 Synod Fall Renewal at Trinity, LaCrosse

→ change just once: Quilting will be 5th Thursday 10/30, 9:00 in the church basement

B.O.B Ministry (Building on the Bible)

Inter-Generational Ministry for ALL AGES (1 mo—101 yrs), meeting after worship from 10:20-11:00; typically in the church basement. Children attending without a parent/grandparent must be 3 yrs of age and potty trained.

Oct. 19th - Special Guest, Alex Mathies

Oct 26th— Sunday School Kids Sing; 9 a.m. Worship

Nov 16th—Christmas Program Parts to be distributed

Confirmation Ministry Team-Building Night

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Discipleship Training, Prayer, Fun, & Friendship for 6th-8th graders Wednesdays from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m., with optional meal provided at 6:00 p.m.

- Oct 1st—Tech Training option at 5:15 or 7:45 p.m.
- Oct 8th—Family Night (PDC Homecoming)
- Oct 15th—"ConFest" Event from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sparta. Carpool leaving around 4 p.m.
- Oct 22nd—9th Grade confirmation rehearsal
- Oct 26th—Confirmation Sunday with 9th grade students sharing Faith Statements.



HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Time to connect, serve, pray, have fun, grow in faith, and build friendships.

- Oct 5th—Jump Park Fellowship Night Leaving around 2:30 p.m. (4-6 p.m. at Jump Start Adventure Park in Onalaska.) RSVP today by texting Pastor Miranda. Friends are welcome as well. Cost: \$15 per person. Includes Pizza, Drink and Jump Socks. (You will need a completed High School Registration Form.)
- Oct 22nd—Youth Group Night at 7:45 p.m. Large group games at St. Peter. (Following the 6:45 p.m. 9th Grade Confirmation rehearsal.)
- Oct 29th—Youth Group Night at 7:45 p.m. Worship and interactive Bible study night

9th Grade Confirmation Students:

- Complete any remaining Service Credits and Worship Notes.
- Confirmation Rehearsal: October 22nd at 6:45 p.m.
- Confirmation Sunday: October 26th.

ELCA Youth Gathering Expedition

Oct 31st to Nov 2nd in Elkhorn, WI

The Gathering Expedition is a powerful weekend retreat, designed for 8th - 12th grade youth, being held at Lutherdale Bible Camp. Throughout the weekend, your group will worship, wrestle with big questions and grow deeper connections. It's a space for young people to explore how God might be working in their lives. **Cost \$175 per participant. Visit the youth gathering page at ELCA.org. Registration online by Oct. 15th. Contact Pastor Hillary with questions.**


ConFest
5:30-8:30pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
Sparta, WI
\$5/person registration fee*

Save the Date!

Oct. 15 2025

La Crosse Area Synod Youth Events

There are two synod-wide youth events we are looking forward to this month!

- ConFest is a confirmation festival! This event will be taking the place of our regular confirmation class on Oct. 15th; food, games, ministry fair, picture with the Bishop and worship.
- 6th-12th graders are invited to an evening at the Jump Park, Oct. 5th!

coordinated by La Crosse Area synod LYLE Committee

LET'S JUMP

Oct. 5th

4-6PM

\$15/PERSON*

6-12 GRADE

INCLUDES PIZZA, DRINK & JUMP SOCKS

JUMP START ADVENTURE PARK
3939 COUNTY RD B
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN

A Message from Council President Mike McCoy

Once a month, I pack up my guitar and ukulele and travel to my one and only music gig. I make the long, four-block journey to the Prairie Assisted Living Center and share a few songs with the kind residents there.

The playlist changes slightly each month, but there are always a handful of songs that are featured every time. I start with one of my dad's favorites: "The Wabash Cannonball." It's a great warm-up song and sets the tone. "King of the Road" is a must and "Good Night Irene" is a wonderful sing-a-long. Eventually, I pull out my ukulele and strum a few uke standards, "Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue" and "Side by Side" followed by a rousing version of "Hey Good Lookin'." At the end, I always jokingly tell the residents to put on their cowboy hats. The guys are Roy Rogers and they hop on ol' Trigger while the ladies, Dale Evans of course, saddle up on Buttermilk. We all ride off into the sunset as we sing "Happy Trails."

I always hope I include a few favorites for everyone who attends. I am confident that there are at least two songs that most residents hold dearly: "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Amazing Grace." When we sing those songs together, I look around the room. Oftentimes, I see the residents with their eyes closed, heads tilted slightly back as they sing along or just quietly mouth the words. There is something comforting about those old hymns.

For the past several months, our worship services have included favorite hymns submitted by congregational members. Thanks to the Music and Worship committee for that wonderful idea. There have been a few contemporary songs, but most are the familiar hymns we have sung all our church lives. It's almost like a "Hymnal Greatest Hits" album...or 8 track...or cassette...or CD.

I often end my day with a collection of these same songs. Many nights when I crawl into bed (usually a couple hours before my wife), I politely ask Alexa to play, "Piano hymn music for 30 minutes." The playlist is all instrumental music, and the songs are both familiar and comforting. It helps me clear my mind. I find it remarkable how the first song played is always my favorite for that particular night, usually because I'm asleep before the second one starts.

God Bless! Mike McCoy

Book Club

The book club meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at the Library. Our October read will be "*Beartown*" by Fredrik Backman. This novel tells the story of a small town obsessed with hockey and the event that tears them apart. All are welcome!



Come for Supper

Thank you to our August chefs, the Come for Supper Team, assisted by St. Peter council members for preparing the wonderful meal, St. Peter Parishioners and Café Hope for providing the scrumptious desserts and to the Come for Supper Team and volunteers for serving the meals.

The next meal will be on Thursday, October 16th. Serving from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., with take-outs beginning at 6 p.m. *Also, if you left a dessert pan here, it is in the narthex above the coat rack, please pick it up. Thank you.*

NOTICE: If you move or change your address, please contact the church office at (608) 326-6411 and let us know. We pay for address corrections so they are returned and it costs the church money to get the correct address. This includes those going south for the winter, if you forward your mail. Thank you!

The Members'

Corner

Deadline for the November Newsletter— Friday, October 17th.

Church Council
Minutes are available on The Resource Shelves in the Narthex near the office. You are welcome to take a copy!

Pastoral Care

Our pastors would love to have time with you (and your family) to continue to get to know you more, offer care, and/or simply to sit with you and enjoy a cup of water or tea. Please reach out to set up a time for conversation or a visit. We thank God for you and for the ministry that we get to be part of together!

If you or someone you know is ill, hospitalized, would like home communion, would like to visit with one of the pastors, or is in need of pastoral care; please call the church office at (608-326-6411). **Or reach out to the pastors directly via a call or text: Pastor Miranda's cell phone number is 815-291-5793 and Pastor Hillary's cell phone number is 319-290-8641.** *With rules about confidentiality, we often do not know that a family member is sick or in need unless you call.*

If you would like to add someone's name to the prayer list at St. Peter, please call the church office at (608-326-6411). We kindly ask that you please get permission from the individual or their family to add them. All names added to the list will remain on the list for up to 6 weeks unless someone calls to have the person remain longer.

October Birthdays

Hannah Fritsche	Oct 1
Joyce Fritsche-Roberts	Oct 1
Kris Bailey	Oct 2
Chris Bohlen	Oct 2
Taggart Kite	Oct 2
Channing Erickson	Oct 4
Jayden Henderson	Oct 4
Hudson Strauman	Oct 4
Tucker Ashman	Oct 6
Owen Oldenburg	Oct 7
Linda Smrcina	Oct 8
Ava Kunert	Oct 11
Shirley Stovey	Oct 11
Kayden Brooks	Oct 12
Deb Parks	Oct 12
Cindy Hertrampf	Oct 14
Reya Mezera	Oct 14
Alex Jackson	Oct 15
Lisa Rogers	Oct 15
Scott Quam	Oct 17
Devon Donovan	Oct 21
Heath Thomas	Oct 21
Kaitlyn Junk	Oct 22
Garrett DeHart	Oct 24
Daniel Stuckey	Oct 24
Debbie Geisler	Oct 25
Ames Thomas	Oct 25
Bette Keehner	Oct 26
Creed Erickson	Oct 27
Kylee Merrill	Oct 27
Adrienne Ferguson	Oct 28
Clayton Scott	Oct 28
Jack Amundson	Oct 29
Camdyn Erickson	Oct 29
Brian Gochenaur	Oct 29
Cayden Koehn	Oct 31

Ways to share your offering

- You can share your offering during in-person worship.
- You can mail your check to the church at PO Box 37, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821. ***If you are a household with giving envelopes, please mail it in that envelope. If you do not have giving envelopes, please contact the church office.*** You can give through Simply Giving, an automated online giving program we have used successfully for years here at St. Peter. An authorization form can be found online at https://htlcmpls.org/website/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/vanco_auth_form1.pdf or you can call the church office at (608) 326-6411
- You can also set up an offering at your bank using free Bill Pay service to have the bank print and mail your check to the church.
- You can give online at stpeterpdc.org on the Home page, scroll down to GivePlus Online! Simply Giving.

If you or someone you know has a birthday that is not listed in the newsletter, please contact the office at (608) 326-6411 and we will add it to our system. Thank you.

Hungry Jar for October is: Children of Peace International

Hungry Jar donations for August – Little Free Pantry= \$587.00



October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:15 AM (approx.) Weekly Radio Devotion 9:30 AM Communion at Pr Maison 10:15 AM Communion at Bluff Haven 11:00AM PDC Clergy Mtg. 5:15 PM Tech Training 6:00 PM “Food for Confirmation” 6:45 PM Confirmation Ministry 7:45 PM Tech Training	2 5:30 PM Parish Ed Mtg. 6:00 PM Choir Practice 6:30 PM Discussion on Christian Nationalism	3	4 5:15 PM 17th Sunday of Pentecost Worship with Communion
5 9:00 AM 17th Sunday of Pentecost Outdoor Worship with Communion at the river with <i>Pet Blessing</i> 10:20 AM B.O.B. Ministry 1:30 PM Prison Worship 2:30 PM Jump Park Fellowship Night	6 <i>Pstrs day off. Pastor Miranda is on call.</i> Yesterday’s Youth at SCBC	7 10:00 AM Text Study for Pastors 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	8 9:15 AM (approx.) Weekly Radio Devotion 10:00 AM Rachel Circle at Bluff Haven No Confirmation Class—Family Night	9 6:00PM Choir Practice	10	11 5:15 PM 18th Sunday of Pentecost Contemporary Worship with Communion
				Fall Craft Retreat at SCBC Oct 9th-12th		
12 9:00 AM 18th Sunday of Pentecost Contemporary Worship with Communion 10:20 AM B.O.B. Ministry Adult Discipleship 1:00 PM New Member Coffee	13 <i>Pstrs day off. Pastor Hillary is on call.</i>	14 10:00 AM Text Study for Pastors 1:30 PM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM WELCA Meeting 6:00 PM Council Meeting	15 9:15 AM (approx.) Weekly Radio Devotion 4:00 ConFest Caravan leaves 5:30-8:30 PM “Confest” Synod Confirmation Night Trinity Lutheran Church Sparta	16 5:00—6:00 PM Come for Supper 6:30PM Choir Practice	17	18 Synod WELCA Fall Renewal at Trinity, LaCrosse 5:15 PM 19th Sunday of Pentecost Worship with Communion
19 9:00 AM 19th Sunday of Pentecost Worship with Communion 10:20 AM B.O.B. Ministry and Adult Discipleship	20	21 10:00 AM Text Study for Pastors	22 9:15 AM (approx.) Weekly Radio Devotion 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM “Food for Confirmation” 6:45 PM Confirmation Ministry /9th Grade Confirmation Rehearsal 7:45 PM HS Youth Group: Large Group Game Night	23 5:00 PM Book Club 6:00PM Choir Practice	24 <i>Pstrs day off. Pastor Miranda is on call.</i>	25 5:15 PM Reformation Sunday Worship with Communion
Pastors at Fall Theological Conference Oct 19 th –21 st						
26 9:00 AM Confirmation/Reformation Sunday Worship with Communion and Kids Sing 10:20 AM B.O.B. Ministry	27 <i>Pstrs day off. Pastor Hillary is on call.</i>	28 10:00 AM Text Study for Pastors 1:30 PM Staff Meeting	29 6:00 PM “Food for Confirmation” 6:45 PM Confirmation Ministry 7:45 PM HS Youth Group: Interactive Bible Study Night	30 9:00 AM Quilters 6:00PM Choir Practice	The Gathering Expedition Oct 31 st —Nov 2 nd	
			Pastor Hillary gone 29 th —1 st			

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
PO Box 37
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Prairie du Chien, WI
PERMIT NO. 98**

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES:

SATURDAYS ~ 5:15 PM

SUNDAYS ~ 9:00 AM

**WORSHIP IS ALSO BROADCAST ON SUNDAYS at 9AM
VIA 104.3 FM AND 980 AM and through our FACEBOOK page**

www.facebook.com/stpeterpdc/.

Bulletins are available on our website (www.stpeterpdc.org).

**Senior Pastor Miranda Klosterboer
Associate Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite**

OFFICE HOURS:

**Monday – Friday~ 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and
1:00 — 3:00 PM**

Phone: 608-326-6411

Email: stpeterpdc@hotmail.com

Website: www.stpeterpdc.org