

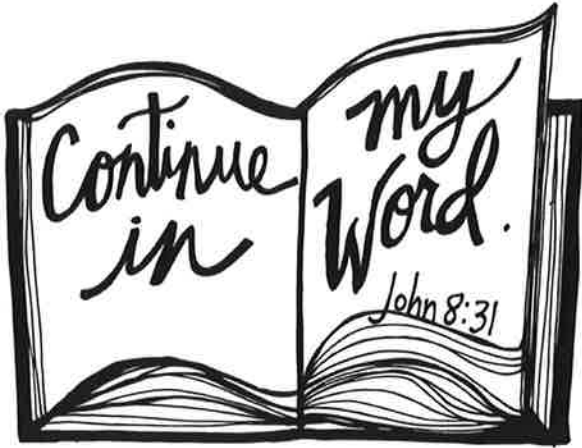
Reformation & Confirmation Sunday

October 26th & 27th, 2024
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
201 S Michigan St.

Mission Statement:

**To worship and praise God boldly, witness to
God's Goodness, and serve God with joy.**

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.



THE CHURCH IS GATHERED TOGETHER

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW #509

*"God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"
Tune: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"*

God's word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last
your church may hold it fast
throughout all generations.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**You are invited to stand as you are able.*

MISSION MOMENT—STEWARDSHIP 2025

*"What Wondrous Love Is This" - We Build
Discipleship*

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that
is marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who forgives all our sin, whose mercy
endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for
healing. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

*** GATHERING HYMN** **ELW #509**
(On Saturday) *"God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"*

"Goodness of God" **(On Sunday)**

Verse 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus: All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night, You are close like no other
I've known you as a father
I've known you as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Chorus

Bridge (two times)

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

Chorus x 2

*** GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORD IS PROCLAIMED

First Reading: Psalm 103:1-5 (Micah Klosterboer)

Here the Psalmist's prayer is one of gratitude for God's many blessings. The prayer reflects the truth that God is the giver of all things.

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—

³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46 (read responsively) (Michael Douglass)

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its

tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

**¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

**Second Reading: Romans 3:21-24
(Stella Breuer)**

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

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 glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC (On Sunday)
Sunday School Children Sing
“*Saved by Grace*”

KID TALK

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (On Sunday)
Setting Three- ELW pg. 142

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*** GOSPEL: John 3:16-17**

Here Jesus is in the midst of conversation concerning how one might enter the kingdom of God. Jesus provides a blessing and promise that is the heart of the gospel. Our lives as disciples and stewards is in response to this amazing free gift that God brings to us in Jesus Christ.

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you

free.”³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.”³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Miranda and Confirmands

*** SERMON HYMN (On Saturday)**
ELW #793 “Be Thou My Vision”

“10,000 Reasons” (On Sunday)

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Worship his holy name,

Sing like never before O my soul, I'll worship your holy name (*Repeat first time*)

Verse 1

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing your song again.

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me

let me be singing when the evening comes.

Chorus

Verse 2

You're rich in love and you're slow to anger.

Your name is great and your heart is kind.

For all your goodness, I will keep on singing
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Chorus

Verse 3

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
the end draws near and my time has come;
still my soul will sing your praise unending
ten thousand years and then forevermore!

Chorus

Repeat Chorus

Verse 4

Worship your holy name, Lord, I'll worship
your holy name,

sing like never before O my soul, I'll worship
your holy name

Worship your holy name, worship your holy
name.

*** APOSTLES' CREED (On Saturday)**
pg. 105

PRESENTATION AND PRAYER

*Michael Douglass (Council Representative):
I present Stella Ann Breuer, Drake Allen
Chesebro, Dax James Patrick Junk, Karly
Raine McShane, Cooper Scott Nichols and
Katie Eileen Rogers, who desire to make a
public affirmation of their baptism.*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**AFFIRMATION IN THE PRESENCE OF
THE ASSEMBLY**

Pastor: You have made public profession of
your faith. Do you intend to continue in the
covenant God made with you in holy bap-
tism: to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the
Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of
God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of
Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in
all the earth?

*Confirmands respond individually: I do, and I
ask God to help and guide me.*

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to
support these sisters and brothers and pray
for them in their life in Christ?

**All: We do, and we ask God to help and
guide us.**

*Confirmands read their chosen Confirmation
Verses and kneel at the altar rail for the lay-
ing on of hands and prayer. Family, bap-
tismal sponsors, and others are invited to
come forward for the laying on of hands.*

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O
God, that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin,

and raise us to eternal life.
Stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit - the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Leader: Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

All: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

*** Prayers of Intercession**

After each prayer, please respond with the words "hear our prayer".

*** SHARING THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING (*Offerings received so far today are brought forth at this time. An offering plate will be available at the back of the Sanctuary following worship as well. Children are also invited to help collect Hungry Jar offerings which this month are going to "Come For Supper" (a free meal for the community).*)

*** OFFERING PRAYER** (Assisting Minister)

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHRIST'S MEAL IS SHARED

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

(ELW pg. 144 on Sunday)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION (continuous)

COMMUNION HYMN

"Lamb of God" ELW pg. 146

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

"Amazing Grace" ELW #779

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be

as long as life endures.

- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

"Jesus Loves Me" ELW #595

- 1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

- 2 Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. *Refrain*

- 3 Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. *Refrain*

*COMMUNION BLESSING

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(Assisting Minister)

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us
now to welcome others and to be at peace
with one another, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT TO BE THE
CHURCH

* BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful + bless
you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

* SENDING HYMN (On Saturday)

ELW #673 vs 1-3 "God, Whose Almighty
Word"

(On Sunday) ELW #793 "Be Thou My
Vision"

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou
art:
thou my best thought both by day and by
night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my
light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true
word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my
high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of
my pow'r.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty
praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou
art.
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's
Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

SUNG BENEDICTION "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.

*** DISMISSAL (Assisting Minister)**
Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Next Sunday's Readings: Psalm 100, Colos-
sians 3:15-17, John 11:32-44

2024 Confirmands

Stella Ann Breuer

Baptism: April 20, 2019 at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, PdC WI

Baptismal Sponsors: Denny & Alice Kirschbaum

Confirmation Teachers: Julie DeHart, Tonia Breuer, Pastor Miranda

Confirmation Mentor: Pat Lenz

Future Servant Leadership: VBS volunteer, decorate bulletin boards/signs, Sunday school volunteer, high school mission trips, special music on occasions, artwork for signs/events, and national youth gatherings.

Mission Statement: I, Stella, promise to always share my creative gifts with the community in order that others will be inspired to share their gifts.

Confirmation Verse: 1 Peter 5:7 “Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”

Faith Statement from Stella Breuer:

As a member of the Lutheran tradition, my faith is rooted in scripture, God's grace, and His presence in my life. A verse that encapsulates my faith is 1 Peter 5:7 which reads “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” This reflects God's loving nature and the importance of surrendering our burdens to Him. I will explore its significance within Lutheran belief, my personal journey, and the role of the community in supporting one another.

Lutheran history emphasizes God as a loving Father. The phrase “he cares for you” reminds us we are not alone in our struggles. God's active care invites us to bring our worries to Him, assuring us that He is involved in our lives. In mo-

ments of uncertainty, I find comfort in this promise, knowing I can approach God with my vulnerabilities.

Casting our anxieties on God is both challenging and rewarding. In a world filled with pressures, it's easy to feel overwhelmed, but 1 Peter 5:7 encourages us to surrender our burdens. This practice is essential to my life. During significant life changes and personal losses, I've learned the importance of prayer and trust. Laying my concerns before God brings relief, shifting my focus from worries to His faithfulness.

Trusting in God's plan can be difficult, but this belief encourages me to embrace faith and trust that God is guiding my path. Trust involves prayer, meditation in scripture, and wisdom from my community. Grounding myself in God's word and fellow believers reminds me of His faithfulness, easing my anxiety and deepening my relationship with Him.

1 Peter 5:7 reminds us of God's loving care and our call to cast our anxieties on Him. As I navigate life's complexities, I find strength in this promise. The support of my church enhances this journey, allowing us to uplift one another and reflect Christ's love. Ultimately, this verse summarizes my Lutheran faith—a faith rooted in grace, trust, and the assurance that we are never alone in our struggles.

Drake Allen Chesebro

Baptism: September 11, 2010 at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, PdC WI

Baptismal Sponsors: Michael & Kathy Sevallius and Rob Wikan

Confirmation Teachers: Tonia Breuer,

Pastor Miranda

Confirmation Mentor: Kathy Wikan

Future Servant Leadership: Mowing team, service projects

Mission Statement: Because God has chosen me, I, Drake Chesebro, dedicate myself to lead positively in order that I can help others succeed by using gifts that God has given me.

Confirmation Verse: Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

Faith Statement from Drake Chesebro:

Hello. My name is Drake Chesebro. I am a 14-year-old Christian. I was only 5 years old when my family started regularly attending St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pastor Kyle and Pastor Joe were the pastors at that time. I attended Sunday School for many years and had many different instructors teaching me the basics of the bible and the Lutheran religion. We learned many different stories from the bible, including how Adam and Eve were the first people on Earth. Noah's Ark was one of my favorite stories. I enjoyed discussing the different stories with my classmates and developed some great relationships with them.

My religious studies have taught me to be the best person I can be, which is important to build my relationship with God. The teachings of God help me to keep my vision straight and help me to choose the best path to follow. I truly believe that God is helping me become a better person on my faith journey, and He is helping me learn from each of my mistakes which is making me a better person in the process. Through my faith journey, I am learning to show grace to others and to myself. As Lutherans, we talk about how we are saved by grace alone and on-

ly through faith in Christ can we be saved. To achieve grace, we must show compassion and empathy by listening to others and offering support, kindness, and encouragement. We should forgive easily by not holding grudges and forgive others for their mistakes. We should remain humble, be patient and calm, offer help even when no one is watching, and practice gratitude daily, extending grace to oneself and to others.

I believe that God is always present with us and only wants the best for us. He is helping me become a better person on this journey. I am thankful for all the gifts He has given me and I try to show my gratitude through my actions every day. The following is my mission statement: "Because God has chosen me, I Drake Chesebro, dedicate myself to lead positively in order that I can help myself and others succeed by using the gifts that God has given me". I plan on continuing to build my relationship with God and staying connected in my faith life at St. Peter's by attending church services, serving on the church mowing team, volunteering to help with Sunday School, and helping with service projects around the church.

Dax James Patrick Junk

Baptism: May 22, 2010 at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, PdC WI

Baptismal Sponsors: Teesha Smethurt and Chris Junk

Confirmation Teachers: Tonia Breuer, Pastor Miranda and Michael Douglass

Confirmation Mentor: Caralyn Bechler-Meng

Future Servant Leadership: Usher, Greeter, and Sunday school volunteer

Mission Statement: Because God has accepted me, I, Dax Junk, commit to living a life of faith that will deepen my relationship with Him through prayer and service.

Confirmation Verse: Revelations 3:20- 'Behold! I stand at the door and knock, if any man hears my voice and opens the door I will come in to him and sup with him, and he with me.'

Faith Statement from Dax Junk:

For many years I never really understood the meaning of having a religion, I never knew that there was an all powerful being that knew our every action. When I first heard that idea it was really intimidating. But when I then started to learn all that God has done for us and the sacrifices he's made, it made me realize just how much we require his love and forgiveness.

At first Christianity for me would just stay at church and I would just think about it during service. But as I got closer to confirmation, I started praying more and I began to read through the bible and actually took it to heart and understood it. One of the verses that kept me secure with the love of God was Revelation 3:20, when Jesus says, "Behold! I stand at the door and knock, if any man hears my voice and opens the door I will come in to him and sup with him, and he with me."

Even though I have often questioned my faith and doubted the truth of the Lord, he always finds a way to draw me back in and strengthen my bond with him. For me personally, the biggest time I was challenged was just before I accepted Christ as Savior. The hardest thing for me to accept and understand was the fact of an ever-present being watching everything

we do and the existence of a paradise after death.

Confirmation was a huge step in the right direction for me, it helped me through the struggles of disbelief and challenges of faith. Whenever I needed help I always felt as though the pastors would always have their arms open and be ready to answer my questions. That for me was a massive helper in my faith journey.

Helping out with Come for Supper and acolyting at the church really showed me how much impact a few people coming together can do for an entire community. Seeing everyone helping make the food and serve it to people gave me hope in the camaraderie of everyone. Acolyting taught me how to listen to the sermon and understand it, when I had to do the sermon note worksheets it made me listen to and take to heart the lesson they were trying to teach.

Although the bible used to just be another book to read, it quickly became a way of life for me. I'm always going in and looking for a new verse to keep me joyful and secure in the love of the Lord. So instead of me just tossing it aside, when I went through and read through many of the books they made me feel safe.

So the journey through Christianity has not only made me who I am, but has also taught me that no matter what we do there will always be someone we can turn to, the almighty Lord and savior Jesus Christ and the loving father of all creation, God.

Karly Raine McShane

Baptism: January, 2010 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, McGregor, IA

Baptismal Sponsors: Jason and Rebecca West

Confirmation Teachers: Julie DeHart, Tonia Breuer, Pastor Miranda

Confirmation Mentor: Randi Kluesner

Future Servant Leadership: Help with come for supper

Mission Statement: I, Karly McShane, promise to help others by listening in order that I can help others know that God is always there for them.

Confirmation Verse: Proverbs 3: 5-6
"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

Faith Statement from Karly McShane:

My faith is important to me, and it shapes who I am and how I see the world. I believe in a loving and caring God who created everything. This isn't just something I was taught growing up, but something I really feel inside. I've felt God's presence in happy times and sad times, in nature, and through the kindness of others. This belief gives me a sense of purpose and direction.

My faith teaches me to love, be kind, and forgive. I try to live by these values every day, treating everyone with respect and understanding. I believe everyone is made in God's image and deserves to be treated with dignity. This belief pushes me to stand up for fairness

Praying is a big part of my faith. It's how I talk to God and find guidance and strength. When I pray, I feel comforted especially when things are tough. It's a reminder that I'm never alone and that

there's always support available.

My faith also encourages me to help others and to be positive to others. I believe that if you believe in God, you should share your faith with others. So, I try to help others when they need help and talk to people when they need someone to talk to. Whether it's my friends, teammates or family. I just try to be there for someone.

In conclusion, my faith is like a guiding light that shapes my identity and influences every part of my life. It gives me a sense of purpose, a moral compass, and a source of strength and comfort. I'm committed to growing in my faith and living out its values every day. My faith isn't just a belief, it's a way of life that I'm proud to embrace and share with others.

I chose the bible verse Proverbs 3:5-6, 'Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.' I chose this bible verse because it's about how you should trust the Lord with all your heart, and he will lead you. I think this bible verse is important to know because if you're feeling down you should always know the Lord is there for you and it will get better.

Cooper Scott Nichols

Baptism: October 16, 2010 at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, PdC WI

Baptismal Sponsors: Todd Nichols and Lacy Shulka

Confirmation Teachers: Tonia Breuer, Pastor Miranda

Confirmation Mentor: Aunt Peggy

Future Servant Leadership: Garden team, Sunday school volunteer, service projects

Mission Statement: Because God has chosen me, I, Cooper Nichols, dedicate to use leadership in order that I can help people succeed to achieve their goals

Confirmation Verse: Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Faith Statement from Cooper Nichols:

I believe that God created the earth and everything on it. He also cares about every one of us and he is always with us. I know I could never do anything bad enough to make God stop loving me. He will always listen to everyone's prayers. I like to pray for my family and friends and anyone who is in need. I believe that Jesus was God's son and He performed miracles and healed people. My favorite miracle is when Jesus walked on water. I also believe He died on the cross for everyone and that on the third day he ascended into Heaven. I feel closer to the Holy Spirit when I am doing most stuff every day. If there was no God in this life we wouldn't have the Ten Commandments for people to live by. I don't think people would feel as safe without them. I believe the Bible shows how good God and Jesus are. It shows stories of their greatness. One of my favorite Bible stories is when Abraham was told by God to sacrifice his son Isaac. Abraham was going to do it but God told him last minute that he didn't have to and that he could sacrifice an animal instead. The story shows that Abraham was willing to follow God and had faith in Him. I think to this day God is still making the world a better place and watching us every day. Some events in my life that helped me be-

lieve in God were attending church, going to Sunday School and going to Confirmation. I always remember seeing the bread and wine and wanting to try it. I liked listening to the songs and praying at church. I like to go to church with my Mom, Dad, and brother Reggie. I really liked Sunday School because we learned about Bible stories in a fun way. I liked going to Confirmation every Wednesday night because it gave us more stories of God and Jesus and how great they were. I appreciate the teachers who took their time to teach us. Two people that really brought me closer to God are my Mom and my Aunt Peggy. My Mom because she took me to church and Sunday School and introduced me to God when I was young. My Aunt Peggy because she taught me about God and shared her faith story with me. After meeting with my Aunt Peggy, I realized that God let's bad things happen sometimes because he has a plan we don't always know about. She also told me that you can still be friends with people that don't have the same religious beliefs as you. It makes me feel like a better person because of my belief in God and knowing that he is with me. He is always with me even through the hard times and He always has a plan. I believe God's love is eternal and I never have doubt in Him. After Confirmation I plan to continue to go to church and help my brother, my family and others believe in God.

Katie Eileen Rogers

Baptism: July 11, 2010 at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, PdC WI
Baptismal Sponsors: Mark & April Lewke

Confirmation Teachers: Julie DeHart, Tonia Breuer, Pastor Miranda

Confirmation Mentor: Vicki Scott

Future Servant Leadership: Tech Help

Mission Statement: Because God has claimed me, I, Katie, commit to living by God's word in order that I try to make the world a better place.

Confirmation Verse: Isaiah 40:31: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Faith Statement from Katie Rogers:

Isaiah 40:31 has been a guiding light in my faith journey: "*But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*" These words have often been a source of comfort and encouragement for me, especially during the moments when my journey felt uncertain or overwhelming.

When I first began my journey of faith, everything seemed possible. I had a sense of purpose and excitement, feeling as though I was ready to take on anything. It was like those early days of Icarus's flight—the freedom of soaring, the thrill of new heights. Icarus's story speaks to me because, like him, I've experienced moments where my enthusiasm led me to push ahead without fully understanding my limitations. I wanted to reach for the sun, to climb higher and higher in my faith and life, sometimes forgetting to pause and ask for God's guidance.

I think many of us, like Icarus, feel the temptation to rely on our own strength. In those moments of exhilaration when

everything is going well, it's easy to believe that we have everything under control. But as I've learned over time, faith is about more than just those mountaintop experiences. The highs can be fleeting, and it's in the everyday moments—the walking and running—that the real journey unfolds.

I've encountered times in my faith journey when the road became difficult, when it felt like my own wings were failing me. Like Icarus, I've pushed too hard at times, believing that I could do it all on my own. Those were the moments when I felt the weight of weariness, when I was running without direction and walking without purpose. The fragile wings of self-reliance always give out eventually, leaving me to fall back down to earth, humbled and searching for strength.

But it's in those moments that *Isaiah 40:31* became real for me. When I was tempted to rely on my own abilities, God gently reminded me that the strength to continue wasn't something I could muster on my own. This verse taught me the importance of waiting—waiting on God's timing, on His wisdom, on His strength. I began to understand that faith is not a sprint, nor is it about reaching the heights I imagined on my own terms. It's about walking with God, trusting Him every step of the way.

There have been times when I felt like I was soaring—times when God's presence felt so real, and His plans for my life seemed clear. I thought I knew exactly where I was headed. But as the journey continued, I encountered detours and challenges I hadn't anticipated. In those seasons, I found myself returning again and again to this promise from *Isai-*

ah: that if I wait on the Lord, He will renew my strength.

Learning to wait has been one of the hardest lessons for me. I've always been someone who wants to move forward, to fix things, to make things happen. But in my faith journey, I've realized that God's timing often looks different from mine. There have been times when I've had to slow down, to trust that even when I don't see the full picture, God is still at work. The call to "wait upon the Lord" is not about passive waiting—it's about active trust. It's about releasing control and believing that God's plans for me are better than anything I could imagine on my own.

The story of Icarus has become a powerful metaphor for me—not just as a cautionary tale about pride, but as a reminder of what happens when we try to take control of our own flight path. Icarus ignored his father's warnings, believing he could handle the journey on his own terms. In my own life, I've seen how easy it is to fall into that same trap. When I rely too much on my own strength, I inevitably find myself feeling burnt out, overwhelmed, or lost. Like Icarus, I've experienced the consequences of trying to fly too close to the sun, of chasing my own ambitions rather than seeking God's will.

But unlike Icarus, I know that my journey doesn't have to end in a fall. *Isaiah 40:31* promises me that if I wait on the Lord, I will rise again—not on wings that melt and fail, but on wings like eagles, lifted by God's power. This has been one of the most important lessons in my faith journey: that God's strength is always available to me, even when I feel weak or uncertain. When I trust in Him, I can con-

tinue to walk and not faint, to run and not grow weary.

Looking back, I see that my faith journey has been a series of rises and falls, moments of soaring and moments of stumbling. But through it all, God has been faithful. He has renewed my strength when I needed it most, often in ways I didn't expect. The path hasn't always been clear, and there have been times when I've felt like I was walking in darkness, unsure of where I was going. Yet, in those moments, I've learned to lean on God's promises, trusting that He is leading me even when I don't see the full road ahead.

My journey of faith has been about learning to trust more deeply, to surrender more fully, and to wait more patiently. I've come to realize that it's not about reaching a destination as quickly as possible or achieving all my dreams in my own strength. It's about walking with God, trusting that He knows the way, and believing that He will provide the strength I need—whether I'm soaring like an eagle or simply taking one step at a time.

As I continue on this journey, I hold on to the promise of *Isaiah 40:31*. I know that there will be more moments of weariness, more times when I feel like I've lost my way. But I also know that God is with me in every step, renewing my strength, guiding me, and lifting me when I fall. In Him, I can keep running, keep walking, and keep trusting that His plans for me are good. And when I soar, I will remember that it's His wings that carry me—not my own.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Our Prayers This Week:

Robert "Bud" Mertz, Chris Bohlen, Lynn Jenkins, Oaklynn Peterson, Sheryl Bunders, Fawneyes Lavalley, Robin Wagoner, Lavonne Clanton, Creighton Groom, Rose Adkins, Luanne Neumann, Jenny Sylvester, Carolyn Ricco, Janice Stuckey, Traditions Assisted Living and Joe Schroeder.

Saturday Worship Volunteers:

Ushers— Linda Smrcina

Reader— Julian Shedivy

Acolyte— Channing Erickson

Assisting Minister— Terri Natwick

Sunday Worship Volunteers:

Ushers— Denny & Alice Kirschbaum

Greeters— Drake Chesebro & Cooper Nichols

Readers— Michael Douglas, Micah Klosterboer & Stella Breuer

Acolyte— Lexton Stovey & Tyson Fernette

Comm Servers— Michael Douglass, Patty Hamann, Katie Rogers, Dax Junk and Drake Chesebro

Camera— Jim Klosterboer

Easy Worship— Thomas Family

Coffee Hour:

October 27th: Vickie Howe

November 3rd: Linda Smrcina

NEW MEMBER COFFEE

Sunday, November 10th at 1:00 p.m.

If you have been worshipping with us and are interested in learning more about living out your life of discipleship among us here at St. Peter, 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.

FAITH 5" Discipleship Practice

This fall, we are encouraging folks to engage in a faith practice called "FAITH 5". We will learn more about this as we journey together this fall. Our Sunday morning discipleship ministries for all ages, Confirmation ministry, and High School ministry will be engaging in these practices. We encourage you to try them out, too, with your friends or with your family as we all continue to grow into faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

The FAITH 5 are:

- **SHARE** your highs and lows of the day
- **READ** a Bible verse or story from Sunday's worship or from a favorite devotional
- **TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows asking "What is God saying to my situation?"
- **PRAY** for one another's highs and lows
- **BLESS** one another

LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP

Invitation for all women of St. Peter to join us on October 28th at the Frazier's Inn for conversation and fellowship at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome!

JUNIOR LUTHERAN EVENT FOR 3RD-5TH GRADERS

Sunday, October 27th we will be going to Pinter's Gardens & Pumpkins, in Decorah. Meet at St. Peter at 12:30 p.m. to carpool and return by 5 p.m. Admission is \$15/person and financial assistance is available.

SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

Sunday Nov. 10th and 17th at 10:15 a.m.
Join in a Bible discussion with other youth and adults following worship on Sunday mornings. We will meet at the front of the Sanctuary at approximately 10:15 a.m. Grab a chair, a coffee, and a treat and bring your ideas and questions to a meaningful discussion. .

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

Inter-Generational Ministry (1mo-101yrs)

- October 27th Kids Sing for Worship at 9:00 a.m.
- October 27th Junior Lutherans; 12:30 p.m.
- November 17th: Christmas Program parts will be distributed.

Confirmation Ministry for 6th-8th grades

- Confirmation class from 6:45-7:45 p.m., on Wed. with optional meal at 6:00 p.m.
- **October 27th—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.

- **October 30th:** Youth Group Night at 7:45 p.m.
- **November 6th and 13th:** Youth Group Night at 7:45 p.m.

“ELF FOR ELDERS”

Are you ready to be an Elf? Our Evangelism team would like to invite you to join us to stop by and visit our home bound. A short visit would make their day. Remember them on their birthday or any special day. We have a list of home bound that we will share with you. Please consider this important need for our fellow Elders. If you have any questions, please see Gloria Bunders.

ALL SAINTS WORSHIP on November 2nd and 3rd

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.

ALL SAINTS BAKE SALE

Do you have a favorite family treat or snack that you would enjoy sharing on this weekend of remembrances; snacks, drink-mixes, chilled cheeseballs, cookies, brownies, cakes and rolls, etc...? We invite you to whip up your favorites and donate them to the bake sale, on All Saints weekend. Free will offerings will go toward funding the mission trip coming up in summer of 2025.

BOOK CLUB

The book club meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at the Memorial Gardens on St. Feriole Island or the Library. Please contact the church office if you are interested in learning more.

ANNUAL THANKOFFERING SERVICE AND FOOD DRIVE NOV. 23RD-24TH

Women of the Lutheran church have been gathering for Thankoffering services since the early 1900s. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community. We meet together as faithful women to joyfully give thanks and praise for what God has given to us. There are three parts to this celebration: 1) The women of the church will lead the worship services. Our guest speaker will be Deacon Stephanie Engel, Program Director at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. 2) A special offering will be gathered (in provided blue envelopes, or your own - make checks to "St. Peter WELCA", memo "Thankoffering"); this offering will support programs and ministries of the national Women of the ELCA. 3) Food Drive for local Coulee CAP. Bring groceries, paper goods or personal items to the church that weekend or during the week.

CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT

Because of the Halloween holiday this Thursday, the choir will practice at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30th.

This Week's Events

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH REFORMATION/CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

- 5:15 p.m. Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH REFORMATION/CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

- 9 a.m. Worship with Communion. Worship also broadcast on the radio and Facebook.
- 12:30 p.m. Junior Lutherans: Pinter's Gardens & Pumpkins

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

- Pastors day off. Pastor Miranda is on call.
- 4:00 p.m. NA Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

- 10:00 a.m. Text Study for Pastors
- 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Parish Ed Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

- 9:15 a.m. (approx.) St. Peter Devotional
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice
- 6:00 p.m. Food for Confirmation
- 6:45 p.m. Confirmation Ministry
- 7:45 p.m. HS Youth Group: Interactive Bible Study Night

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND ALL SAINTS WEEKEND

- 5:15 p.m. Worship with Communion

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD ALL SAINTS WEEKEND

- 9 a.m. Worship with Communion. Worship also broadcast on the radio and Facebook.
- 10:15 a.m. Inter-Generational Ministry
- 1:30 p.m. Prison Worship

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

201 S Michigan St.

Welcome! We are happy that you are worshiping with us today. Join us again soon.

Worship with us Saturdays at 5:15 p.m. & Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship is also broadcast live on the radio at WPRE 104.3 FM and 980 AM radio and Livestreamed on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/stpeterpdc>.

Visitors— We are so glad that you can join us today! We invite you to fill out a blue welcome card (found in the pew pocket) and place it in the offering plate at the back.

We practice open Communion here — All who seek the forgiveness that Jesus Christ offers in this meal are welcome. Those not yet receiving Communion or those choosing not to today are invited to come forward to receive a blessing (we invite you to cross your arms in front of you to indicate your desire to receive a blessing). If you would like to receive Communion or a blessing and it is best for you to remain seated, please indicate this to the usher; and we will come to you.

Pastoral Care- 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.

Sharing Your Offering- Thank you for your generosity that supports our ministries here at St. Peter and our mission partners. There are multiple options for sharing your offering.

- For in-person worship, we have an offering plate available on the usher table. We invite you to place your offerings there as you come or as you leave.
- You can mail your check to church: PO Box 37, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821.
- 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 on our website www.stpeterpdc.org/Donate or you can call the church office at (608) 326-6411.
- You can 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 www.stpeterpdc.org on the Home page, scroll down to the "Give" button or select the Give tab at the top to be directed to Vanco/Simply Giving.

The Hungry Jar for October is: ***Come For Supper.*** *Children are invited to help collect the Hungry Jar offerings during the Offering.*

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Website: www.stpeterpdc.org Mailing Address: PO Box 37, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

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Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite: (319) 290-8641 & stpeterpdcpastorhillary@hotmail.com