

Rev. Stephanie Woods, Pastor
Phone: (419) 706-5072
E-Mail: pastorstphaniewoods@gmail.com
PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: Office hours have changed to:
Tuesday & Thursday 9 AM – 12 PM (or by appointment)
CHURCH OFFICE: (330) 264-1986
E-Mail: office@stpeterelca.org
Website: stpeterelca.org
Facebook: [St-Peter-Lutheran-Church](https://www.facebook.com/St-Peter-Lutheran-Church)
PANDA PRESCHOOL: (330) 264-1986 (church phone)

THE MESSENGER

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
of New Pittsburg, OH

March-April, 2026

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATES

We want to keep our members updated as best as possible during this transition. Council has met with Bishop Barbins and Pastor Krause. Our first course of action is to form a transition team to identify our wants, needs, strengths and weaknesses plus other factors that will then help a call committee when that time comes. This team is in place and will begin meeting with Pastor Krause in the near future. In the meantime, we have supply pastors and lay leaders scheduled until an interim becomes available.

In the meantime, it's very important that we continue to worship together and keep our shut-in members being visited. We are looking for people who would be interested in visiting and taking home communion to those members. If you would be interested, please reach out to the office or any council member. This will be greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions or concerns during this period, please reach out.

Roger Kamp

Council President

ST. PETER'S MISSION STATEMENT: As God's family led by the Holy Spirit, we are a loving and welcoming community inviting others to share and grow in God's Word and grace.

Vision Statement: *As compassionate people we desire to reflect Christ's love.*

Gracious Givers

We would like to help stock our local food pantries for our next project. We will be collecting items for the Mohican Grocery Bag and West Salem Outreach for the months of March and April. Here is a list of suggestions but feel free to add any items you think you might be needed.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Peanut Butter | Pancake Syrup |
| Jelly | Tuna |
| Pasta | Canned Chicken |
| Spaghetti Sauce | Hamburger Helper |
| Cereal | Boxed Potatoes |
| Fruit Bars | Canned Fruit |
| Oatmeal | Canned Vegetables |
| Pancake Mix | Canned Pasta |



Lenten Services

Meal & Service will begin at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Each meal is provided by a different committee. We will once again have a book that we will read to follow along. We hope that you're able to join!



- March 4th
- March 11th
- March 18th
- March 25th



Women's Breakfast will meet the 3rd Monday of every month at 9 AM.

- March 16th
- April 20th
- May 18th

A sign-up sheet will be available so we can prepare a table large enough for us.

Please join us for good food and GREAT fellowship!

Foster Care

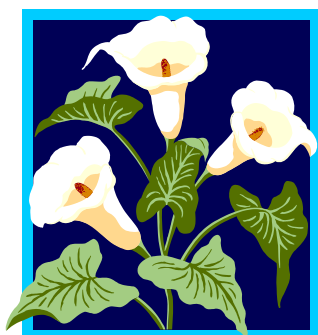
Currently, there are almost 17,000 children in the foster care system in Ohio and only about 7,100 foster homes. Please consider opening your heart and home to help the kids in our community. Reach out to Cathy Ballinger Brown, The Village Network for more information:

330-641-2355

OR

cballinger@thevillagenetwork.com





EASTER LILIES

Easter Sunday, April 5th

Help decorate St. Peter for Easter Sunday. A sign-up sheet is available in the brotherhood room or you can contact the church office. Note if given in memory or honor of someone.

Cost is \$10.00

BREAK OUT

ESCAPE FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY
VBS 2026
JULY 13th THRU JULY 16th

A purple poster for 'Break Out' VBS 2026. The title 'BREAK OUT' is in large, white, distressed font. A magnifying glass is positioned over a white fingerprint graphic. Below the title, the text reads 'ESCAPE FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY', 'VBS 2026', and 'JULY 13th THRU JULY 16th'.

THANK
YOU

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

THANK YOU FOR THINKING OF ME BY GIVING ME SHOPPING GIFT CARDS AT CHRISTMAS TIME. IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO CLEAN THE CHURCH AND HAVE IT READY FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS. THANKS AGAIN AND HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

~JILL LEMON



ST. PETER FRIENDS/ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

THANK YOU FOR THE MONETARY DONATION FOR OUR 4-H CLUB. THE FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS, WITH THE HOPES OF GIVING HYGIENE BAGS TO THE BLESSING IN A BACKPACK PROGRAM AGAIN. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THIS BLESSING AND THE ABILITY TO USE THIS IN THE COMMUNITY. THANKS AGAIN

~JILL LEMON, ORGANIZATION ADVISOR OF CREAM OF THE CROP 4-H CLUB



ST. PETER FAMILY,

WE APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THAT WE ARE REMEMBERED. THE CAROLERS, THE CHRISTMAS CARDS, THE COOKIES, THE VALENTINE CARDS, THE FOOD FROM THE MEAL AFTER CHURCH, THESE ARE VERY NICE TO RECEIVE. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH, THE THOUGHTS ARE MUCH APPRECIATED!

LOVE,

DON & LINDA REICHERT

THANK
YOU

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

THANK YOU EVERYBODY FOR THE BEAUTIFUL VALENTINES AND THE SWEET TREATS THAT WENT ALONG WITH THEM. I'M SO PLEASED TO BELONG TO SUCH A LOVING CONGREGATION. THANK YOU SO MUCH AGAIN.

~BECKY HERSHEY



ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE WEST SALEM OUTREACH & FOOD PANTRY, INC. FOR YEAR 2025.

YOUR DONATION OF \$300 HAS HELPED SO MANY IN THE WEST SALEM/NORTHWESTERN SCHOOL AREA.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A FOOD DISTRIBUTION ONCE A MONTH AND A FOOD VOUCHER TO MILLER'S MARKET IN LODI.

WE PROVIDE EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES IN NEED, ONCE IN A 12 MONTH PERIOD.

THANK YOU,

WEST SALEM OUTREACH & FOOD PANTRY



THANK YOU!

THANKS FOR ALL THE FUN VALENTINES THAT I RECEIVED. I REALLY ENJOYED THEM ALL AND THE CANDY. I'VE READ THEM SEVERAL TIMES.

ALSO, I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS WHO SERVED THE VERY TASTY LUNCH. THE DECORATIONS ALSO SHOWED SO MUCH CARING. YOU ALL ARE SUCH A BLESSING TO OUR ST. PETE'S CONGREGATION.

IN CHRIST'S LOVE,

ELLY RICE

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL

BIBLE STUDY

March 8th
April 12th
April 19th

6:30-8 PM

PLEASE BRING YOUR BIBLE

Yarwood's House

8TH GRADE & UP WELCOME!

RSVP to Angie
330-347-6899

NEW YORK

JUNE 7TH THRU JUNE 12TH

WE HAVE AN AWESOME OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR 8TH THRU 12TH GRADE YOUTH TO GO TO NEW YORK FOR A MISSIONS TRIP. THE COST WILL BE \$475 WHICH INCLUDES; TRANSPORTATION, LODGING, AND 4 LUNCHES. OTHER FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES ARE **NOT** INCLUDED. WE DO HAVE SOME MONEY SET ASIDE FROM OUR ENDOWMENT FUND TO GO TOWARDS THIS COST. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED - PLEASE REACH OUT TO MADALYN ASAP.



MISSION TRIP 2026



ROCKET ARENA

HOCKEY GAME

ADMIT ONE

TICKET NUMBER

123456789

3 GATE	4 SEAT	17 ROW
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HOCKEY GAME

CLE MONSTERS **VS** UTICA COMETS

Rocket Arena, Cleveland
Price TBD

Sunday, March 29, 2026 03:00 PM - 6:00 PM

3 GATE	4 SEAT	17 ROW	TICKET NUMBER 123456789	 CLUB SEATING	 Meal Included Hot Dog, Chips, Soda
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ALL of St. Peter's Youth & parents are invited to join us for a hockey game on Sunday, March 29th! We would love for you to join! Please let Madalyn know ASAP if you'd like to go! Price will be determined by group size. Thanks!



PANDA PRESCHOOL

Happy Spring!

In March we will be talking about those tricky leprechauns, have our weather units, learn about plants. In April we will talk about Easter, Noah's Ark, Earth Day and of course those April showers!

Spring break will be March 30- April 4.

We begin registration for the 2026/2027 school year in March.

Call the office for a registration packet: 330-264-1986; or download a packet from the website: stpeterelca.org

Miss Tara
Panda Administrator



Speak

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

JOIN US DURING WORSHIP

MARCH 15, 22 - APRIL 19, 26 - MAY 17, 24

HEAR GOD SPEAK IN OUR LIVES ~ SPEAK OUT ABOUT OUR FAITH ~ SPEAK LIFE INTO THOSE AROUND US

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS

January 7, 2026

7:00 PM

Secretary's Report

Call to Order

The meeting of the St. Peter's Lutheran Church Council was called to order by President Roger Kamp.

Roll Call / Attendance

Present: Pastor Stephanie Woods, Roger Kamp, Rita Tegtmeier, C.F. Crum, Jennifer Crum, Mike Martin, Deb Elser, Madalyn Schmucker, Ruth Ann Keener, Jillian Siedlecki, Diane Kinney.

Devotion and Prayer

Devotion and opening prayer were led by President Roger Kamp.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Stephanie Woods began the meeting with a report to Council, formally presenting her intent to resign her position as Pastor.

A meeting to begin the pastoral call process is scheduled for January 28 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Attending will be Bishop Rev. Dr. Laura Barbins and Rev. Mitch Phillips, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership.

Council Secretary Meeting Minutes

The November 2025 Council Meeting Minutes and the Annual Congregational Meeting Reports were presented for approval.

Motion: C.F. Crum moved to approve the November minutes and Congregational Meeting reports as presented.

Second: Madalyn Schmucker.

Action: Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Rita Tegtmeier reported that the congregation ended the first year with a deficit. Projections for 2025 indicate a potential loss; however, projected offerings have reduced the anticipated deficit.

Motion: C.F. Crum moved to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Second: Madalyn Schmucker.

Action: Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Education:

Madalyn Schmucker reported that the Christmas program was well received and described as so much fun. Participating students sang well, enjoyed the music, and continue to sing the songs they learned. An outing to a Cleveland hockey game is planned for March 29, open to all children.

Evangelism:

A meeting is scheduled for the last Sunday in January. A luncheon is planned for February 15, with details forthcoming.

Stewardship and Finance:

Meeting dates will be determined. Rob Hastings has agreed to assume the open seat and financial responsibilities.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS

January 7, 2026 (cont)

7:00 PM

Secretary's Report

Worship and Music:

Hymns have been selected through May. A ten-page document outlining worship planning procedures was shared. Several pastors have expressed interest in providing pulpit supply during the pastoral transition.

Further discussion included the availability of Synod (Region 6) sermons that align with the lectionary year and may be used on non-communion Sundays. Pastor Woods stated there are no licensing or copyright restrictions for their use, and that supplemental video resources are available.

Deb Elser expressed concern regarding the anticipated departure of David Woods from the Worship and Music Committee. Pastor Woods suggested that the President-elect, CF Crum, provide support to the committee during this transition.

At-Large: No report.

Properties:

The hallway has been painted. Discussion was held regarding the vacant parsonage. Pastor Woods stated she will remove remaining personal items, complete cleaning on Friday, January 9, 2026, and return keys thereafter.

The Fire Department will take the extra folding chairs.

Old Business

The new church sign has been installed and was noted to look very nice.

New Business

Lenten Meals: Pastor Woods selected a video series for Lenten meals, similar to last year's format. Council agreed to proceed.

Communion Sheets: Communion preparation sheets were completed by Council members at the meeting.

President Kamp moved to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Crum, Council Secretary

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS

February 3, 2026 6:00 PM Secretary's Report

Call Process Meeting with Bishop L. Barbins and Assistant Bishop N. Krause

Present: Bishop Barbins, Assistant Bishop Krause, C. Crum, J. Crum, J. Siedlecki, D. Kinney, R. Keener, R. Tegtmeier, D. Elser, M. Martin, Roger Kamp

Presentation:

Call process has been the same since 1998 until now, where the process has been designed to include 5 phases. Phases are as follows:

Phase One: Farewell

Phase Two: Church Health and Identity

Phase Three: Call Process

Phase Four: Primary Candidates – *Review our Constitution*

Phase Five: Welcoming – *Review our Constitution*

The overall timeline varied from 6 weeks to 18 months for the entire process. A position description will be required.

Next Steps for Council:

1. Let the congregation know we are going to be okay and that we have plenty of partners in this process.
2. Council and the Congregation needs to develop a Transition Team. The team consists of 5 -7 people (no more than 7 and no less than 5). The Transition Team will likely have four meetings, 2-3 weeks apart. Each meeting will be approximately 2 hours and snacks are highly encouraged. These meetings will be followed by one large meeting.
3. Documents need to be sent to the Bishop (Constitution, Annual Report, Last 2-Years of Financial information.
4. The Congregation needs to decide if we want a full time or part time pastor for the interim. There are plenty of part time interim pastors.

Phase Two: Description

COUNCIL

Council handles all governance responsibilities.

TRANSITION TEAM

The Transition Team serves to be introspective and cannot include any church employees.

CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee is defined by our constitution and is also 5-7 people and cannot include any employees. Council members also cannot serve on the Call Committee.

President Roger Kamp has secured preachers with one pastor/month through April.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Crum

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS

February 11, 2026

7:00 PM

Secretary's Report

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Roger Kamp.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Madalyn Schmucker, Mike Martin, Roger Kamp, Rita Tegtmeier, CF Crum, Jennifer Crum, Jillian Siedlecki, Deb Elser

Members Absent: Diane Kinney, RuthAnn Keener

A quorum was present.

III. Devotion

Madalyn Schmucker shared the devotional.

IV. Reports

A. Pastor Supply Report

President Kamp presented the pastor supply schedule for February and March 2026. Supply pastors confirmed include:

- February 15 – Bill Pim
- February 18 (Ash Wednesday) – Roger Kamp / Bill Pim (Vicki accompanying)
- February 22 – Roy Woodring
- March 1 – Bill Pim
- March 8 – Kyle Gold (Communion)
- March 15 – Bill Pim
- March 22 – Roy Woodring

March 29 – Bill Pim

Easter supply coverage is in progress. Madalyn Schmucker will contact potential supply pastors.

B. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report was reviewed.

Motion: To approve the Secretary's Report.

Motion by Roger Kamp; seconded by CF Crum.

Vote: Approved.

C. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed.

Motion: To approve the Treasurer's Report.

Motion by CF Crum; seconded by Roger Kamp.

Vote: Approved.

V. Committee Reports

A. Education and Youth

The committee will meet February 15, 2026, at 9:15 a.m. Additional information will be presented at the March Council meeting.

B. Evangelism

No report.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS

February 11, 2026 (cont)

7:00 PM

Secretary's Report

C. Property Committee

- A request was made to paint the Pastor's office prior to the arrival of a new pastor, using the hallway paint color.
- Office furniture replacement was discussed; purchase may be deferred until a new pastor is called.
- The parsonage water remains shut off. The Property Committee continues regular inspections.
- Insurance costs have decreased through March 27; rates may increase if vacancy continues. Additional maintenance needs at the parsonage were noted.

D. Stewardship and Finance

No report.

E. Worship and Music

- Music selections have been prepared through May 2026.
- The committee will resume hymn selection in preparation for June services. Lenten services will be facilitated by Worship and Music Committee members utilizing The Last Supper video resources and leader guidebook.

Lenten Meal Schedule:

- February 25 – Property Committee
- March 4 – Executive Committee
- March 11 – Education and Youth Committee
- March 18 – Stewardship and Finance Committee
- March 25 – Evangelism and Fellowship Committee

F. At-Large Representative

No report.

VI. Unfinished Business

Removal of approximately 50 chairs from the church basement was scheduled for February 15, with delivery to the local fire department. SPEAK students will assist.

VII. New Business

- 1. Board of Elections Request** A request was received from the Board of Elections to use the church as a polling location. **Motion:** To approve the request. Motion by Roger Kamp; seconded by Jillian Siedlecki. **Vote:** Approved.
- 2. Interim Pastor Process** Council will notify Bishop Barbins of its intent to obtain an interim pastor.
- 3. Shut-In Visitation and Communion** Council discussed including a notice in the Messenger encouraging members to assist with shut-in visitation and communion delivery.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS

February 11, 2026 (cont)

7:00 PM

Secretary's Report

4. Call Process and Transition Team Council reviewed its meeting with Bishop Barbins and Assistant Bishop Krause regarding the call process. CF Crum will lead facilitation of Transition Team discussions.

Confirmed Transition Team Members:

- o Emily Hostetler
- o CF Crum
- o Nancy Keener

JD Yarwood (Two additional members pending confirmation.)

Assistant Bishop Krause will establish the meeting format. CF Crum has initiated contact to begin the process and is awaiting response. Upon confirmation, the Synod will be notified that the congregation is prepared to proceed.

5. Call Committee Jillian Siedlecki expressed her desire to serve on the Call Committee.

6. Building Access and Communion Assistance A Council member or communion helper will open the building for supply pastors during their scheduled month of service.

7. Nursery Nursery care will be available weekly on a volunteer basis as needed; no scheduled attendants will be assigned.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Roger Kamp; seconded by Deb Elser.

Vote: Approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Crum, Council Secretary

FINANCIAL CORNER

FINANCIAL CORNER	12/31/2025
Checking Account - For Current Expenses	
December Offerings	\$14,662
Year-To-Date Offerings	\$153,038
Projected Offerings	\$146,655
Total Expenses Year-To-Date	\$157,893
Checkbook Balance	\$23,929
Other Offerings Given During This Month	
Building Fund	\$70
Memorial/Youth Min. Balance	\$19,814
Contingency Fund (MIF) Balance	\$29,595
Build./Maint. Fund (MIF) Balance	\$41,838
+July-December transfers \$468	
Scholarship Invest. (LPL Financial)	\$32,446
Endowment Fund (all accounts)	\$105,984
(Balance as of 12/31/2025)	

FINANCIAL CORNER	1/31/2026
Checking Account - For Current Expenses	
January Offerings	\$12,849
Year-To-Date Offerings	\$12,849
Projected Offerings	\$11,384
Total Expenses Year-To-Date	\$12,639
Checkbook Balance	\$24,139
Other Offerings Given During This Month	
Memorial/Youth Min. Balance	\$19,814
Contingency Fund (MIF) Balance	\$29,610
Build./Maint. Fund (MIF) Balance	\$41,859
Scholarship Invest. (LPL Financial)	\$32,920
Endowment Fund (all accounts)	\$105,984
(Balance as of 12/31/2025)	

NEWSLETTER MAILING: The newsletter is emailed to those who have shared an email address with the church. Hard copies are mailed to those with no email. Hard copies are also available at the church.

If you prefer to 'opt out' of the newsletter email, or prefer a copy mailed to you, contact the church office.

Access the newsletter from our website: stpeterelca.org. Click MEDIA (top), then NEWSLETTER in the drop-down menu.

2025/26 Bi-monthly Newsletter Schedule

Submission and assembly dates

Issue	Submissions Due	Assembly
May/June, 2026	April 20	April 23
July/Aug, 2026	June 25	June 29
Sept/Oct, 2026	Aug 20	Aug 27
Nov/Dec, 2026	Oct 18	Oct 22
Jan/Feb, 2027	Dec 21	Dec 28
Mar/April, 2027	Feb 19	Feb 23

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

NOVEMBER, 2025

2	69	10 AM / Live Stream: 19
9	53	10 AM / Live Stream: 17
16	80	10 AM / Live Stream: 15
23	98	10 AM / Live Stream: 27
30	76	10 AM / Live Stream: 16

NOVEMBER, 2024

3	69	10 AM / Live Stream: 17
10	63	10 AM / Live Stream: 18
17	47	10 AM / Live Stream: 8
24	58	10 AM / Live Stream: 15

DECEMBER, 2025

7	104	10 AM / Live Stream: 13
14		Worship Canceled Due to Weather
21	143	10 AM / Live Stream: 26
24	73	7 PM / Live Stream: 18
28	49	10 AM / Live Stream: 24

DECEMBER, 2024

1	103	10 AM / Live Stream: 19
8	82	10 AM / Live Stream: 12
15	132	10 AM / Live Stream: 25
22	69	10 AM / Live Stream: 7
24	42	10 AM / Live Stream: 14
24	108	10 AM / Live Stream: 19
29	35	10 AM / Live Stream: 11

JANUARY, 2026

4	65	10 AM / Live Stream: 17
11	64	10 AM / Live Stream: 34
18	55	10 AM / Live Stream: 24
25	0	10 AM / Live Stream: 24 (Worship Canceled Due to Weather)

JANUARY, 2025

5	47	10 AM / Live Stream: 23
12	70	10 AM / Live Stream: 14
19	43	10 AM / Live Stream: 22
26	60	10 AM / Live Stream: 19

FEBRUARY, 2026

1	71	10 AM / Live Stream: 18
8	40	10 AM / Live Stream: 18
15	61	10 AM / Live Stream: 21
18	23	7 PM / Live Stream: N/A
22	83	10 AM / Live Stream: 69
25	29	6 PM Lenten Meal/Service

FEBRUARY, 2025

2	87	10 AM / Live Stream: 14
9	93	10 AM / Live Stream: 27
16	0	10 AM / Live Stream: 0 (Worship Canceled Due to Weather)
23	74	10 AM / Live Stream: 20



ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
9451 ASHLAND ROAD
WOOSTER, OH 44691

TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY MAIL OR EMAIL,
OR TO BE REMOVED FROM MAILING:
CALL 330-264-1986; EMAIL: OFFICE@STPETERELCA.ORG

YOUTH EVENTS — PAGE 5-6
PANDA PRESCHOOL — PAGE 6

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



March 29, 2026	Palm Sunday	10:00 AM
April 2, 2026	Maundy Thursday, Communion	7:00 PM
April 5, 2026	Easter Sunday, Communion	10:00 AM *

Please note there is NO Good Friday Service