

# Praise on the Prairie

ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Prairietown, Illinois

Oliver LaMie, Pastor

Melissa Burns, Principal

Youth & Adult Bible Class 9 a.m.

Worship, 10:00 a.m. Sundays

Volume 3  
Issue 2  
February 2026



Dear St. Peter's,

In his recent presentation to us, Pastor Curtis made sure to make one point clear to explain the position of the Church: If you were born in the 1950's and before, you likely grew up with a positive view of the Church. But as the years went on, the view shifted to a more mixed or neutral view – it didn't change most people's view of you whether you went to Church or not, and everything associated with Christianity had lost much of its value. That shift has continued, and at this point, being a church-going, committed, Bible-believing Christian is seen as an overall negative to the general public. This is the primary reason why so few younger people are in Church in comparison to years past: They are taught by the world around them that it's a bad thing, that Christians are bigots, clergy are abusers, that the Bible is a book of fairy tales and backwards-thinking. This is what we're up against.

First, let us all appreciate the fact that anyone is willing to show their face at a church at all, especially those who grew up in households where it was considered unimportant or even evil. That influence does not just go away on its own, even when one becomes a Christian. Consider this a call to action: We must focus on discipleship, that is, centering Church life around building up believers into stronger, more faithful Christians. This is not just for the new, but for all: unless you grew up in a monastery, none of us are outside of that worldly influence.

Second, and just as important, we take Pastor Curtis' advice to be a church that people want to be a part of simply by being faithful Christians. We don't need gimmicks: We take care of our own. What we do, we do together. Learn to cherish what all we have, most importantly, the Word of God. From this gift, we get our togetherness, as that is the one thing that truly unites us, as well as our heritage we get from being in a long line of God's people trying to be faithful to His Word. If we delight in the Word, we'll love the Church and what it does, and people will see that. That's always been the way, as Christ commissioned us, we make disciples by "Baptizing them... And teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

And in this, He is with us, always, no matter what comes on us, until the very end.

Peace to you in Christ,

- Pastor LaMie



## Preparing for Worship

Feb. 1	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany w/communion	Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday Organist: Jim Wiemers Greeter: Virginia Renfrow Elder: Don Wiemers
Sun. 10:00 a.m.	Organist: Jim Wiemers Greeter: Terry & Barb Johnson Elder: Jerry Scheumann	Feb. 22	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Organist: Jim Wiemers Greeter: Marie Ruyle Elder: Jerry Scheumann
Feb. 8 Sun. 10:00 a.m.	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Organist: Jim Wiemers Greeter: Ron & Janet Isenberg Elder: Jerry Scheumann	Feb 25 Wed. 7 p.m.	Lent Service Organist: Jim Wiemers Elder: Don Wiemers
Feb 15 Sun. 10 a.m.	Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany w/communion Organist: Jim Wiemers Greeter: Connie Schaefer Elder: Don Wiemers		

Thank you  
VOLUNTEERS!

Communion: Kathy Wiemers  
Flowers: Emily Gusewelle  
Ushers: Ted Kuethe, Jonathan Becker, Jim Franklin





## December Attendance & Financial Report

DATE	ATTENDEES	HOME	MISSION	BUILDING FUND	TUITION	METRO EAST
Jan 4	77	\$4032.00	\$105.00	\$145.00	\$75.00	
Jan 11	67	\$2090.00	\$30.00		\$725.00	\$100.00
Jan 18	95	\$4628.00	\$15.00		\$1547.93	



### Ladies Aid held their meeting on Wednesday, January 14.

President Virginia Renfrow called the meeting to order with 9 members present. Secretary & treasurer's reports were read and approved. Committee reports were read: Card committee: Jean sent a card to Iona. Entertainment had nothing to report and so did the Human Care Committee. Correspondence: received a flyer about the LWML Zone Prayer Service to be held at Zion in Bunker Hill on March 14. Old business: Christmas party was discussed and meal was catered by Prairie Inn, played a game, opened our Secret Pal gifts and drew names for this year. Several members brought cookies to be enjoyed. New business: Discussion was held on serving for a Lenten meal. Norma Krohne, Kathy and Virginia will serve on February 25. Salad luncheon was discussed. Tentative date is April 18. Birthday party for Jean was tabled to a later meeting. We sang Happy Birthday to Iona, Jean and Virginia. Dues collected. Kathy was hostess and Virginia will serve in February..

### January 13, 2026      St. Peters Lutheran Voters Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7pm and began with prayer by Pastor Lamie. The minutes from the October 8, 2025 meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report presented in writing and discussed. Motion made by Amy Toenyes to approve and was seconded by Ron Isenberg. Report was approved along with Building Fund, Memorial Fund and Mission Fund. Pastor reported that, comparatively speaking, and based on our Congregation's size and location we are doing quite well. The CCLI license was paid. Hymn survey was successful. Bible study is going quite well also. He praised the church and school staff. School report-all is going smoothly. Lutheran Schools week is upcoming. Edlers reported that we will be recognizing and appointing the church office holders in the upcoming Sunday Service. Trustees reported that several repairs had been made on the organ and the annex furnace. Waiting on a part to complete the annex furnace repair. A bid came in by Wick's in Highland to repair the Organ for \$7,000. Jim Wiemers was going to look further into this bid. They had come to tune the organ in September. New business-the Church Office holder's ballot was reviewed by all and approved for 2026. Craig Eden of the Stewardship Board presented the 2026 Budget. Many questions were asked and answered during discussion. In order to meet the 2025 Budget, we had to use approximately \$90,000 of funds from the Argia Bertolino donation. The aforementioned fund is still very substantial. A motion was made to approve the 2026 budget and Mission Budget by Amy Toenyes and seconded by Colin Patton. It passed unanimously. Roll call was taken and the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.      -Gary Burns



# Church **FAMILY** —PRAYER LIST—



**Care facilities or homebound:** Maxine Duncan at home; David Kinder at Murray Center in Centralia; Frances Westerhold in Glenwood; Ruth Newby, Shelli Eden, George Loew at The Villas of Hollybrook, Dave Roberson in Cedar Hurst; Pastor Mark Girardin at home, Kevin Beers in Cedar Hurst; Fred Obrock in rehab at home; Judy Goebel at home; Iona Goebel in South Prairie Memory Care.

**Ongoing Health Issues:** Gerald Schaefer, Molly McCalla, David Peters, Aaron Peters, Tori Brakhane, Lisa Loew, Jeff Newby.

## Updates

Iona Goebel has moved to South Prairie Memory Care: 815 South Prairie St. Apt 215. Bethalto, IL 62010



## **GRIEF SHARE SEMINAR AND CLASSES AT FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH-GODFREY**

### **Special GriefShare Seminar-Loss of a Spouse, [February 12, 10AM](#):**

No matter what the circumstances, grief recovery is a painful process. This seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and others who have navigated life after losing a spouse and who offer practical suggestions and reassurance. If you or someone you know has lost a spouse, please join us for this one-time seminar which will be held at Faith Lutheran Church, 6809 Godfrey Rd., Godfrey, IL, on [Thursday, February 12, 2026](#), at 10:00 a.m. To register for this seminar, please contact the church office at (618) 466-3833, ext. 200.

### **Sharing Our Grief Classes begin [Thursday, February 19, 10 AM](#):**

If you've lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found that there are not many who understand the deep hurt you feel. Sharing Our Grief classes at Faith will offer a caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. Faith Lutheran Church, 6809 Godfrey Road, Godfrey, IL, will be hosting 13 weekly sessions beginning on [Thursday, February 19, 2026](#), at 10:00 a.m. To register for classes, please contact the church office at (618) 466-3833, ext. 200.

## **END OF YEAR TAX STATEMENTS**

Your End of year contribution statements are in your church mailbox. Thank you to all of our generous contributors!

## **NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

"Next Sunday's Readings" Bible study has begun, every Wednesday evening at 6:00 P.M., running year-round (except during Lent). This is a "sit-down around the table" Bible study held in the annex. Come to familiarize yourself with the readings before Sunday morning! We also continue to have our Men and Women's Bible studies on Tuesday mornings!

## **KITCHEN CLEAN UP**

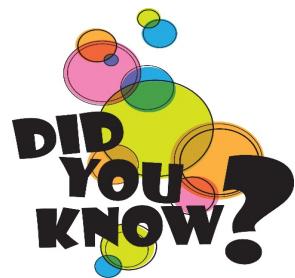
The date for the Annex kitchen, fridge and bible study room Clean-up is February 7th, 2026, starting @ 9:00am. Please bring buckets, rags, brushes of different kinds and we will have cleaning solutions. All are welcome to help, this is our church. In case of inclement weather we will still keep the date, just use your best judgement for you! Looking forward to a big group.



## TRIVIA NIGHT AND SILENT AUCTION ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

On Friday, February 27, we will be hosting our annual trivia and silent auction night at our school. Let's pack the gym again this year! Everyone is welcome to donate items for the silent auction, and these items can be brought to the school anytime after February 17. The cost is \$15 per person. Any students of the school are free if they are playing trivia. Popcorn, sodas, tea, and lemonade are FREE.

Mark your calendars!



## LENTEN MEALS AND FELLOWSHIP

If you would like to prepare and serve Lenten suppers before our Wednesday night worship, please sign up for a Wednesday convenient for you on the sheet located on the back bulletin board. Your help is greatly appreciated!!! If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Fellowship Board: Missy Burns, Virginia Renfrow or Barb Johnson.

## PARENTS NIGHT OUT-VALENTINE EDITION

All children K-8 are invited to attend Parents' Night Out on Friday, February 13, 2026 from 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM at St. Peter's Lutheran School.

💡 What kids will enjoy:

- 🍝 Dinner of spaghetti and garlic bread
- 🎨 A fun Valentine-themed craft
- 🧁 Decorating their own cupcake
- 😊 Games, fun, and supervised care

Let us take care of the kids while parents enjoy a relaxing night out!

Minimum of a \$10 donation per child.



**FAMILY FELLOWSHIP NIGHT:** Join us on the playground or in the school Gym on the first Tuesday of every month from 3:00-7:00 pm for free pizza and a time of fellowship.

## ZION LUTHERAN SAUSAGE SUPPER UPDATE

Zion Lutheran Church, Bethalto, rescheduled their 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Sausage Supper to Sunday, February 1 from Noon – 6:00pm. The dinners will be carry out with a place to take carry outs and dine in. All dinners are \$15. In addition to the dinners, 2-lb bags of bulk/ground sausage for \$10/bag, 3-lb bags of raw sausage links for \$15/bag, and bags of cooked sausage for \$15/bag will be available for purchase on the day of the supper. Zion's address is 625 Church Dr; Bethalto. Corner of Rt 140 & S. Moreland Rd. Hope you can join us!



## HYMN FESTIVAL

Everyone is invited to a hymn festival commemorating the liturgical Festival of the Conversion of St. Paul on February 8th. Four SID churches named 'St. Paul' will join together for this hymn festival that afternoon: St. Paul's Columbia, St. Paul Hamel, St. Paul's Troy, and St. Paul Wood River. **The Hymn Festival will be Feb. 8, 2026 at 3:00 PM at St. Paul's Troy, 112 N. Border St., Troy, IL.**

Hymn commentaries will be provided by pastors of the participating churches. The organist will be Joseph Meador from St. Paul, Wood River and MELHS. The choir conductor will be Karen Shimkus from St. Paul's, Troy and St. Paul's, Columbia. The accompanist will be Kantor Janet Muth from St. Paul, Hamel. Singers and instrumentalists from all 4 churches and MELHS will participate. In the spirit of St. Paul, a mission offering will be collected for the Seminario Concordia El Reformador in the Dominican Republic (a mission partner of the SID).



Ron Isenberg	February 2	Trent Helle	February 20
Katelyn Friederich	February 4	Dennis Loew	February 21
Ben Schwallb	February 8	Maggie McCalla	February 21
Roger Dustmann	February 9	Catherine Ruyle	February 21
Allen Silvey	February 9	Mallory Ruyle	February 21
Marina Bettorf	February 10	Reeser Ruyle	February 21
Summer Swan-Henson	February 13	Dorothy Schreiber	February 21
Molly McCalla	February 14	Hank Hartley	February 22
Ralph Newby	February 15	Lucas Bushrow	February 23
Jeanette Engelke	February 16	Cyler Hartley	February 24
Arlene Isenberg	February 17	Emily Gusewelle	February 27
		Claire McCalla	February 28

Nate and Andrea Hartley  
17 years on February 14

Daniel and Kelly Consiglio  
16 years on February 19



Charles and Linda Tedrick  
52 years on February 23

Ron and Donna Kinder  
60 years on February 25

# February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship w/ communion Elder: Jerry Scheumann	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Women's Bible Study	<b>4</b> 8:30am Chapel 6:00 PM Bible Study	<b>5</b> Handbell Practice 6pm <b>Elders Meeting 7pm</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>School Rented</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship w/ communion Elder: Jerry Scheumann	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Women's Bible Study	<b>11</b> 8:30am Chapel 1:00 PM Ladies Aid 6:00 PM Bible Study	<b>12</b> Handbell Practice 6pm	<b>13</b> Parent's Night Out	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day 
<b>15</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship Elder: Don Wiemers	<b>16</b> <b>President's Day</b> No School	<b>17</b> 7am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Women's Bible Study	<b>18</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 8:30am Chapel 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 Worship Elder: Don Wiemers	<b>19</b> Handbell Practice 6pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship w/ communion Elder: Jerry Scheumann	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Earth Day</b> 7am Men's Bible Study 8:30am Women's Bible Study	<b>25</b> <b>Lent</b> 8:30am Chapel 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 Worship Elder: Don Wiemers	<b>26</b> Handbell Practice 6pm	<b>27</b> Silent Auction/Trivia Night 7:00 pm	<b>28</b>