



The mission of Park View Lutheran Church is to awaken unbelievers to faith in the Triune God, and teach believers to live as servants of the Risen Lord.

God's Promises for Park View Lutheran Church

Dear PVLC faith-family,

My time of service as your pastor is quickly coming to an end. January 25, 2026, will be my last Sunday at Park View Lutheran. I have accepted a call to Beautiful Savior Lutheran in Polk City, Iowa, where I will be installed on February 1. Saying goodbye to you is hard. I have loved being your pastor for the last 19 ½ years and I will miss you very much.

In this, my final newsletter article, I would like to share with you five promises from God's Word. I pray that you will cling to these promises because times of transition in a congregation are not always easy. There can be a mixture of sadness, gratitude, and uncertainty when a pastor moves on to a new congregation, but God gives us steady promises that we can lean on.

The first promise is that **the Lord is always with us**. Pastors come and go, but God never moves away. Jesus says to His Church, *"Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"* (Matthew 28:20). PVLC will not be left alone or unattended. The same Lord who has shepherded this congregation for over fifty-five years will remain.

The second promise is that **Jesus is our true Shepherd**. Psalm 23:1 says, *"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."* While God graciously provides under-shepherds to care for His flock, He Himself has always been, and will always be, the One who watches over this congregation. Jesus knows His sheep and He promises to never abandon them (John 10:11).

The third promise is that **God will provide for His people** during this season of waiting. The apostle Paul assures us, *"My God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:19). As PVLC waits for a new full-time pastor, God will provide a vacancy pastor who will preach the Word and administer the Sacraments. He will also provide for you through one another. I constantly hear from visitors how friendly and caring our congregation is. I trust that God will make sure that spiritual gift continues at PVLC.

The fourth promise from Scripture is that **God is at work in the waiting**. Isaiah 40:31 says, *"They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength"* (Isaiah 40:31). God often uses times of transition to deepen our trust in Him, strengthen our prayer life, and remind us that the Church is built on Christ alone.

Finally, **God promises to raise up the right shepherd in His time**. He says, *"I will give you shepherds after my own heart"* (Jeremiah 3:15). The calling of a pastor is not a human arrangement, but the work of the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:28). Trust that the call process belongs to God.

I pray that you will hold on to these precious promises. Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your pastor!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Pete Hoft

Points of Interest

- Secret Sister Reveal and Post Holiday Dinner
- Love Box Donations Needed
- Confirmation Schedule
- LYLES Schedule
- Adult Bible Study Schedule
- Men's Bible Study
- Women's Bible Study
- College Student Addresses
- Quilting Ministry Review
- Pastor Pete's Final Newsletter Article

Park View Lutheran Church

14 Grove Road
Eldridge IA 52748

Phone: 563-285-9035
Prayer Chain: 563-285-6992
Email: secretary.pvlcms@outlook.com
Website: www.pvlcms.org
Pastor Peter Hoft (563) 508-4893
DCE/DCO Bethany Dorschner (563) 285-9035

Normal Schedule:
Sunday Worship Schedule:
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School/Bible Study:
Ages 3 - Adult 9:15 a.m.

Summer Thursday Worship Schedule:
Memorial Day - Labor Day 7:00 p.m.

Summer Sunday Worship Schedule:
Memorial Day - Labor Day 9:00 a.m.



Sunday School Curriculum & Schedule

Sunday School Lessons Preschool - 8th Grade

January 4th - A Prophet Serves - *Samuel*

January 11th - A King Forever - *David*

January 18th - The King's Table *Mephibosheth*

January 25th - A Divided Kingdom -
Jeroboam and Rehoboam

HIGH SCHOOL TOPICS -TO BE DETERMINED



SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS



The offerings gathered at Sunday School will continue to go to the Federwitz family who are training with Lutheran Bible Translators. They are preparing to go to Papua New Guinea in 2026,

COMING SOON

Opportunities will be available to provide support for the Park View Easter Egg Hunt!



VBS will be recruiting volunteers in the near future too!

So many exciting ways to help spread God's love to our neighbors!



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM POSSIBLE!

ESPECIALLY...

JEN RATHE

ERIN RUBACH

KERRI REHN

BETHANY DORSCHNER

BRYLEE RATHE

MELISSA DRUMMOND



Thank you to the LYTES for making cookies to serve after the Christmas Program!

Important 2026 Dates

January 4th - Sunday School Resumes

February 18th - Ash Wednesday

March 28th - Park View Easter Egg Hunt

April 5th - Easter Sunday

May 3rd - Confirmation Sunday

May 17th - Last Day of Sunday School

June 15th-19th - VBS!!!



2025-2026 Park View Lutheran Education Team

Adult Bible Study Leaders

Sunday Morning - Pastor Pete

Men's Tuesday Morning - Pastor Pete

Women's Thursday Morning - Pastor Pete and
Bethany Dorschner

Confirmation Teachers

5th Grade Old Testament - Zach Cameron

6th Grade New Testament - Julie Daniels

7th Grade Catechesis - Bethany Dorschner

8th Grade Catechesis - Pastor Pete

2025-2026 Sunday School

Superintendents -

Melissa Drummond & Kim Cronkleton

Music Leader -

Bethany Dorschner

Preschool & Kindergarten Teacher -

Sharon Tannahill with Michelle Rohlf

1st & 2nd Grade Teacher -

Jean Hanson

3rd - 5th Grade Teacher -

Kerri Rehn

6th - 8th Grade Teachers -

Sue Raleigh & Bethany Dorschner

High School Teachers-

Angela & Joshua Elmshaeuser



Share & Care Staff

Jen Rathe - Director

Rhonda Upmeyer - Lead Teacher

Shauna Strom - Teacher's Aide

Molly Woomeer - Teacher's Aide



Sue & Tim

Raleigh

lead the youth
group,

the LYTES.

They provide
invaluable help with
many church
activities through-
out the year!

Members of the Board of Education

Kim Cronkleton

Bethany Dorschner

Melissa Drummond

Pastor Hoff

Sue Raleigh

Jen Rathe

Kerri Rehn

Sharon Tannahill - Chairman



Other Education & Bible Study Opportunities

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Meets Sunday mornings at 9:15
in the Multi Purpose Room

**JOURNEY THROUGH
CHURCH HISTORY**

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Meets Tuesday mornings at
6:30 in the Multi Purpose
Room.

Currently studying the
Nicene Creed

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Meets on Thursday mornings at
9:30 in the Multi Purpose
Room.

A new Bible Study
will be beginning.



January Confirmation Schedule

7th - 6 to 7pm (Class)

14th - 6 to 7pm (Class)

21st - 6 to 7pm (Class)

28th - 6-7pm (Class)

Snow Tubing at
Lost Oasis (TBA)



LYTES

Lord's Youth Touching Everyone Spiritually

January 7th - 6 to 7pm
Soup Mix Service Project

January 21st - 6 to 7 pm

Happy New Year 2026! I'm not sure how the spring semester has already started, but here we are. Time is going crazy fast!

Thanks to those who watched our Christmas program. The children all did great and everyone then enjoyed Christmas break, but now we are back and diving back into learning. We have a little less than half the alphabet left to learn this year, and are almost done with our letters and shapes, but once those are done we will get in lots of review. Since January is usually cold and we like to stay cozy, we will have a fun pajama day at the end of the month. It will be filled with special games and activities and each child will get their very own pair of cozy socks to wear home.

January also means enrollment begins for our 2026-2027 school year. We would love if you would share about our preschool with your family and friends. We are also going to be doing more marketing through our social media and would love if you follow our public preschool Facebook page if you are not already. There you will get more glimpses of what is going on here at Share & Care.

God's Blessings to you in the New Year!

Jennifer Rathe, Director



Why the Magi Matter: The Meaning of Epiphany

Revealing Jesus to the World

January doesn't always feel very exciting. The lights come down, decorations are boxed away, and winter settles in. Yet the church year gives us a beautiful gift right here in the quiet of the new year: Epiphany!



Epiphany means “to reveal.” On this day, we remember the Magi — wise men from far away who followed a star to Jesus (Matthew 2:1–12). While the shepherds at Christmas were locals, the Magi were outsiders — not Jewish, not from Bethlehem, not part of God’s chosen people. And yet, they were invited to kneel before the newborn King. That moment changes everything.

The Magi show us that Jesus didn’t come for one people or one place — He came for the whole world. His love stretches across borders, backgrounds, and languages. From the very beginning, God was revealing His Son to all nations.

The Magi’s gifts also tell a story:

- Gold to honor Jesus as the true King,
- Frankincense, as incense, for worship of the Son of God,
- And Myrrh, as oil, foreshadowing His sacrificial death.

The Magi also show us what it looks like to respond to God’s call. They traveled far, at great cost, simply to worship. Their journey reminds us that faith requires patience and a willingness to follow God’s leading, even when the path isn’t clear. And just like them, when we encounter Jesus, we are changed and sent home by a new way — guided by His light.

Even at His epiphany, the shadow of the cross reminds us how far Jesus would go to save us.

Epiphany encourages us to ask a simple question: *How is Jesus being made known today?*

Through God’s Word, Baptism, the Lord’s Supper — Christ continues to reveal Himself. And He also shines through His people. Every act of kindness in His name, every invitation to church, every prayer for someone in need — these are little “epiphanies,” moments where Jesus’ light breaks through.

The world still needs the light of Christ. Winter nights are long, but His love is longer still. As we step into the new year, may God help us reflect that light and guide others to the Savior, just as the star once guided the Magi.

Because Epiphany isn’t just a story about wise men long ago — it is a reminder that Jesus is the Savior of the world, and He wants to be revealed through you.

God’s Blessings on your Epiphany Season,

Bethany Dorschner (DCE/O)



Love Box Donations

NO cough drops, NO large Kleenex boxes, NO liquids. **HOMEMADE ITEMS** will be **ACCEPTED**. WRO will soon begin collecting items to send to approximately 24 of our loved ones away at college. Items needed include: individual packs Kleenex, gum, cookies, pencils, sticky notes, candy, toothpaste, pens. Cash donations are greatly appreciated. Please look for the donation boxes located in the fellowship hall.

Let's Un-Decorate

Removal of our Christmas Decorations

We will remove our Christmas decorations from inside church after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, January 4, 2026. If everyone helps it shouldn't take too long.



Secret Sister Reveal Event



Adult Ladies of PVLC You're Invited

Ladies 18 and older are invited to a light dinner of soup and salad at Jill Grunwald's home, 409 S Schultz Drive, Long Grove on from 6 to 8pm on **Thursday, January 15, 2026**. Please bring a dessert to share and your secret sister gifts.

College Student Addresses



If you have a child away at college this Fall please notify the church office (285-9035) of their new address. Pastor Pete will be sending out letters of encouragement throughout the school year sharing "NEWS FROM HOME." WRO will send out a "Love Box" full of goodies around Valentine's Day.



Members Bring Back Their Bulletins

- Jerry & Teri Wuestenberg, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Milan, IL
- Lee & Jackie Holden, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Carbondale, IL
- Raleigh's, Chapel of Christ Triumphant, Concordia University, Mequon, WI
- Madison Wilshusen, Trinity Lutheran Church, Boone, IA
- Paul & Susan Kalainoff, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Beaverton, OR
- Chuck Moeller, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA



PVLC,

The staff at LSI, our Angel Tree coordinators, are VERY thankful to you, the gifters, who have been so generous in taking care of the kids under their care. Thank you for your kind heartedness toward the children. Please pray for your angel!



PVLC QUILTING

The air is cold and snow is falling as we sit and reflect on all the blessings of this past year. We even had a few surprises, too. Late fall Pastor Pete informed us that the Quad City Times wanted to come and take a few pictures. Our group had no idea of what to expect or why! A nice young lady came and told us she saw all hanging quilts when she came to vote. Intrigued she wanted to know more. Her visit ended up with a front page picture, another page of pictures and a story of our quilt ministry. Our article led to several donations of fabric, monetary donations and Rhea.

Reha is 101 years old. She loved to sew and had a large collection of material. When Reha read our story she decided to give us her fabric. Her eyesight now poor she could no longer sew. The funny connection is that Reha was featured in the Quad City Times a few weeks before us. We invited Reha to come join our group. Reha has come several times to visit, sort fabrics and share stories of her life. What a delightful person, and sharp as a tack.

We never know where and how our quilt ministry touches others. This year we donated a total of 405 quilts to many local nursing homes, veteran outreach, foster children, pregnancy resources, our senior high graduates, our own PVLC veterans, shut-ins, and a request for two palls.

Our snowbirds are gone and will return this spring. We will miss them. We would love to have others join us. On Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. there is fellowship, quilting, devotions, prayers and lunch. There is always something to do or time to help learn a new skill.



January Birthdays

- 1 Craig Tannahill
Janice Thomsen
- 4 Scott Daniels
Jason Lydic
Linda Trask
- 6 Alexandria Hauser
- 7 Leslie Immel
Loren Ingwersen
Raina Van Wetzlinga
- 9 Kerrick Cameron
Christine Fluegel
Jeff Trask
- 11 Amanda Amhof
Julianna Stuedemann
- 12 Jerry Wuestenberg
- 13 Wendy Martin
Kallen Rohlf
- 14 Sharon Grimes
Kara Rohlf
Jerry Voelkers
- 16 Kyson Meyer
Donovan Schachel
Mitchell Temperly
- 17 Gretchen Hoft
Sandra Soenksen
- 18 David Mirfield
- 19 Bonnie Amhof
- 20 Laura Irwin
Teagan Merten
Caitlynn Peters
- 21 Carol Mickelson
Aaron Raleigh
- 22 Bethany Belz
- 23 Ronnie Johnston
- 24 Zachary Howes
Keith Mohr
- 25 Matthew Claeys
Julie Daniels
- 26 Shalee Sio
- 27 Jane Hull
Carson Lage
Jeff Thompson
- 28 Rily Grunwald
Conner Kelly
Kyle Ott
- 30 Lynn Curlott
- 31 Mark Claeys
Collin Kull
Conner Kull



January Anniversaries

- 3 Lowell & Julianna Stuedemann (50)
- 10 Christopher & Jennifer Toohey (22)
- 17 Leen & Linda Intveld (11)
- 19 Tyler & Laura Irwin (7)
- 28 Jerry & Joan Serrano (48)

Please keep the following members in your prayers:



For those fighting/healed of cancer: Rich Atwood, Andrew Claeys, Mike Cornett, Gene Horn, Cheryl Kofron, Jim McKinney, Marcia McKinney, Cy Miller, Jo Miller, Chuck Moeller, Connie Morse, Judy Mumm, Don Petersen, Grace Pfeiler, Donna Ploog, Dorcas Smith, Del Traub, Connie Youngers, for strength and healing from our Great Physician.

For our members who suffer silently from chronic life threatening illness, for comfort, strength and healing of all weaknesses.

For our members confined to a nursing facility or homebound by illness or other weakness, for patience, healing and comfort.

For Cathy Hoyer, recovering from a fall.

For Norma Hohensee, recovering from heart procedures.

For Lu Foss, continued strength and healing.

For Jakob Nelson, recovering from a broken collarbone.

For Brylee Rathe, recovering from leg surgery.

For Tom Lewis, recovering from eye surgery.

For Pastor Pete and his family, as they prepare to move to Polk City, IA

For Park View Lutheran, as we begin the process of calling a pastor.

For those of our armed forces, especially those with ties to our faith family here at

PVLC:

Overseas: Jadin Valesco; Lucas Miller; **Stateside:** Michael Bartel, Tanner Carpenter, Caleb Claeys, Kasey Denison, Larry Goodwin, Isabella Richards, Alan Rubach, Brett Slaughter, Christopher Teuscker, Nate Thayer.

For our First Responders: Law Enforcement, Fire and Ambulance.

Friends and Relatives of Members to keep in our prayers:

Rev. Brad Birtell, Tammy Cheek, Dawn Dorschner, Scott Horn, Valerie Ray's mom, Lois, and Fred Smith as they face natural disaster recovery, Covid-19, pneumonia, influenza, cancer, surgery, stroke, Alzheimer's, or illness, we pray for peace that surpasses all understanding.

Missionaries in Puerto Rico Rev. James and Angie Sharp & Bible Translators Nathan and Sarah Federwitz

MBS-Men's Bible Study	January 2026					WBS-Women's Bible Study
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Church Offices Closed	2 Church Offices Closed	3
4 8:00am-Worship HC 9:15am-SS/BS 10:30am-Worship 11:30am-Remove Decorations	5 6:30pm-Ex Bd Mtg 6:30pm-Elders Mtg	6 6:30am-MBS 9:00am-Quilting	7 6:00pm-Confirmation 6:00pm-LYTES	8 9:30am-WBS	9	10
11 8:00am-Worship 9:15am-SS/BS 10:30am-Worship HC	12	13 6:30am-MBS 9:00am-Quilting	14 6:00pm-Confirmation	15 9:30am-WBS 6:30pm-WRO Post Christmas Party	16	17
18 8:00am-Worship HC 9:15am-SS/BS 10:30am-Worship	19	20 6:30am-MBS 9:00am-Quilting	21 6:00pm-Confirmation 6:00pm-LYTES	22 9:30am-WBS	23	24
25 8:00am-Worship 9:15am-SS/BS 10:30am-Worship HC	26	27 6:30am-MBS 9:00am-Quilting	28 6:00pm-Confirmation	29 9:30am-WBS	30	31

January Serving Schedule

Ushers

- 4 Dan Kilen, Jerry Hartwig (8:00)
Andy Hartwig
John Schaub, Craig Tannahill (10:30)
Mark Hundley
- 11 Lee Holden, Jerry Wuestenberg (8:00)
Andrew Claeys, Joe Claeys (10:30)
- 18 Tim Raleigh, Del Traub (8:00)
Shawn Gerard, Chuck Moeller
Rob Martin, Zach Cameron (10:30)
Gayle Rasmussen
- 25 Jeff Pearce, Wayne Ott, (8:00)
Brian Klever
John Schaub, Craig Tannahill (10:30)
Mark Hundley

Elders

- 4 Jim Gruntorad/Quintin Gerard (C) (8:00)
Craig Tannahill (10:30)
- 11 Kyle Rehn (8:00)
Craig Tannahill/Tim Raleigh (C) (10:30)
- 18 Scott Campbell/Andy Hartwig (C) (8:00)
Jim Gruntorad (10:30)
- 25 Scott Campbell (8:00)
Tim Raleigh/Brian Klever (C) (10:30)

Acolytes

- 4 Zane Ayers (8:00)
Deacon Hanson (10:30)
- 11 Maddox Grunwald (8:00)
Jacob Cronkleton (10:30)
- 18 Kyson Meyer (8:00)
Mason Rathe (10:30)
- 25 Kip VanWetzinga (8:00)
Oliver Mangan (10:30)

Communion Washers

- 4 Kathy Anderson
Julie Daniels
- 11 Teri Wuestenberg
Donna Ploog
- 18 Mary Lou Engler
Linda Schroeder
- 25 Dawn Dittmer
Teri Wuestenberg

Counters

- 4 Lee/Jackie Holden
Doug/Aimee Egesdal
- 11 Randy Ridgeway
Tracy Carstens
- 18 Connie Youngers
Ralph/Pam Schneklath
- 25 Jerry/Kay Hartwig
Andy Hartwig

Nursery

- 4 Michelle Rohlf
- 11 Jennifer Rathe
- 18 Alissa Krambeck
- 25 Cheryl Lunardi