

SPLS PRINCIPAL SEARCH FAQ

UPDATED: 7/1/26

1. HAVE WE HIRED A NEW PRINCIPAL? IF NOT, WHAT IS THE PLAN? (updated 7/1)

- a. After prayerfully interviewing several qualified candidates, the search committee decided that the best way to honor the future of St. Peter's is to take our time. **We are choosing to take an intentional interim year so we can find the best administrative and spiritual fit for our school.**
- b. Our school families can look forward to the first day of school with total confidence and excitement! For the 2026–2027 school year, Staci Schiefer will serve as our Interim Principal.
- c. We are establishing a robust, well-supported system around Staci to ensure a seamless transition. Staci knows and loves our school deeply. She has a wonderful, comprehensive support plan and a dedicated team behind her to ensure that this upcoming year is one where our students, families, and faculty don't just get by—but truly thrive!
- d. Our classrooms, schedules, and daily school life will be fully prepared, and we are completely confident that this next school year will be an outstanding, joyful experience for all of our students and faculty.

2. HAVE WE HIRED A NEW JR HIGH MATH TEACHER? (updated 7/1)

- a. Yes! We are excited to announce that Craig Buehler has accepted the position to be our new Jr. High Math Teacher!
- b. Craig is from Indianapolis but spent many years of his 17 year teaching career in Alaska. He is licensed to teach high school-level (advanced) mathematics, and we are excited to have him on the team.

3. WHERE ARE WE AT IN THE PROCESS FOR HIRING A NEW PRINCIPAL? (updated 7/1)

- a. Candidate nominations were submitted by the St. Peter's congregation and school families. Additionally, names were submitted by the Indiana District of the LCMS.
- b. The Search Committee then reviewed the profile and job description and began contacting candidates.
- c. Qualified candidates are invited for a Zoom interview with the Search Committee. The list will be narrowed down, and the top candidate(s) will be invited for an on-site interview.
- d. Once the Search Committee is prepared to make a decision, they will recommend the candidate, and the Church Council will announce a Voters Assembly.

4. WHO IS ON THE SEARCH COMMITTEE? CAN I SERVE ON THE PRAYER TEAM?

(updated 5/29)

- a. The search committee consists of several School Ministry Board (SMB) members, teachers, school parents and administrators. The members are:
 - i. Adam Lienhoop - Committee Chair
 - ii. Aaron Littmann - Parliamentarian
 - iii. Shelby Dunville
 - iv. Casey Elsbury
 - v. Micah McCormick
 - vi. Staci Schiefer
 - vii. David Tatham
 - viii. Jessica Trueblood
 - ix. Stephanie Wolff
 - x. Pastor John (ex officio)
- b. Anyone still interested in joining the Prayer Team should scan the QR code and fill out the form. Prayer Team members will receive a text with prayers periodically.



Prayer Team

5. WILL THE NEW PRINCIPAL BE A CALLED CHURCH WORKER? (updated 5/29)

- a. It is preferred that the new Principal is LCMS rostered, but is not a requirement.
- b. The Indiana District of the LCMS has provided qualified rostered candidates.
- c. St. Peter's is committed to maintaining our Lutheran identity. If the Principal is not rostered, he/she will agree to complete doctrinal certification within 24 months of employment.
- d. Qualifications required for the new Principal include a Master's in Administration (or applicable field), 3+ years of educational leadership experience, and a current Indiana teacher/administrator license (or willingness to obtain one within a year).

6. HOW WILL YOU KEEP US UPDATED ON THE SEARCH?

- a. We desire to keep our congregation and school families up to date during the search process.
- b. Please visit our website (<https://stpeterscolumbus.org/school/>) to view the job description and stay updated on the search progress.

SCHOOL MINISTRY BOARD ROSTER

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|-------------------------|-------------------|
| ● Heather Riegle, Chair | ● Adam Lienhoop |
| ● Kevin Aker | ● Adam Spagnuolo |
| ● Katy Bush | ● Kendra Wagner |
| ● Casey Elsbury | ● Jenny Whiteside |
| ● Alyssa Lovell | |

This document will be updated as new questions arise or information becomes available. Please direct any additional questions to Heather Riegle at hriegle10@gmail.com