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December 2025 Peacepipe

Peaceful Ponderings...

Jesus is Coming! Jesus is Coming!
Advent is Here.



Advent is a season of our church year that struggles with an identify crisis. Its earliest roots are in preparation for baptism at Epiphany. That preparation time was somber, penitential and serious. Over time, it became connected to the return of Christ and developed a strong emphasis on repentance. Eventually, it was connected to Christmas and Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. This understanding encourages preparation for the birth of Christ—allowing a more joyous preparation. So, is Advent a season of penitence? Of preparing for the second coming by making sure our lives are in order? Is it a time of preparing to celebrate Jesus' birthday?

Over my years in ministry I have struggled with the season. My first congregation was very proud of the series of Advent and Christmas banners. One arrived each week, telling the whole story. But the arrival of the wisemen on the first Sunday of Advent threw me. “Why?” I asked? “Because they had the farthest to travel to get to Bethlehem, of course!” Makes sense at one level, but it doesn’t leave space to think of Advent as preparation for Christ’s return as well as his birth.

No, there will be no wisemen at Peace on November 30. There will be decorations, but not the standard Christmas decorations. The tree will be there, but it will look fairly sparse. The primary color will be blue - the color of hope. As we move closer to Christmas, preparation for celebration of Jesus' birth will increase. But for the first half of Advent, we will focus more on the promise that Christ will return.

My hope is that this will help us stay focused on the amazing love of God - the God who entered into the world as a human, and who promises to never let us go.

Blessed Advent, people of God!

Pastor Carol



December 2025 Peacepipe

BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP



There are folks who would prefer to skip Christmas, and would like to, if possible, crawl into a cave until it is all over. Grief is a common reason for this response as people are overwhelmed by memories and having to cope with the holidays without their loved ones. For some folks, memories of difficult childhoods are overwhelming. For others, Christmas seems like a hypocritical layer of joy on top of the challenging reality of life.

For some folks, worship on Christmas Eve is, simply, not something they can manage.

Blue Christmas worship services allow space for people who have difficulty with traditional Christmas worship to gather, to grieve, and to hear some words of hope.

The Community Church in Waterford is offering a Blue Christmas Service Sunday, December 14 at 4:00pm. Here is a link to their website for more information:

<https://www.communitychurchwaterford.org/event/blue-christmas-service>

Starting our 50th Year!

As of November 13, 2025, Peace Lutheran Church is entering its 50th year of ministry and mission in Burlington. Although we will officially celebrate the 50th anniversary in November 2026, the Council is beginning to make plans to celebrate different parts of our ministry and life together beginning as early as next June. Are you interested in being part of this planning? If so, please contact Marilyn Hart and/or Pastor Carol.



OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

Rich Mueller could use some company once in a while, so Pam can get out and run errands. If you are able to spend an hour or two with him, please let Pam (262-492-4319) or Pastor Carol know. Join Pastor Carol on December 10 to take Rich out for lunch. There is a sign up sheet in the back for interest in helping at other times. Thank you for caring for one another!



Peace Family and Friends Food Pantry - from Pastor Carol

In the midst of the government shutdown, while many people worried about paying bills or putting food on the table, some folks fortunate enough to not have to worry started asking "what can I do?" Kerry Bieneman came up with the idea of backpacks for homeless people as well as the idea of putting together gallon bags of necessities that can be given to people who stand on the streets asking for help.

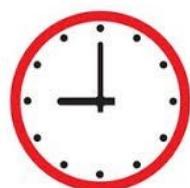
Another idea has been raised as well. You may know someone - a friend, neighbor, or family member, or even yourself - who is struggling to make ends meet and whose cupboard could use a little help. One of our members, who wishes to remain anonymous, came up with the idea of a "Family and Friends Food Pantry." This person has stocked shelves in my office with food items. If you know of someone who could use some extra food, please stop in my office and take what they might need. My office is always open. You are always welcome.



This congregation is great at supporting outreach ministries in the community. The hope is that this Peace Food Pantry might support folks and friends in the congregation. If it ends up that this is not a need, the food will be donated elsewhere.

Pastor Carol's Office Hours

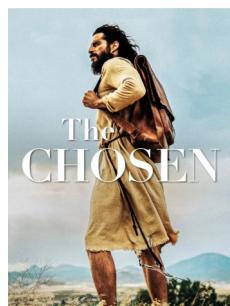
Pastor Carol's office hours for December will be Tuesday, December 2 (8:30-11:00), Wednesday December 10 and Wednesday December 17 (9:00-noon). If you need to reach Pastor any other time feel free to call (262) 900-8212.



The Chosen

Our viewing of "The Chosen" Season 5 will be on hiatus at least until Sunday December 21. Stay tuned...

(DVDs of previous seasons are available to borrow, if interested)





PEACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH: A Small
Family of Christian
Believers Working to
“Grow in Peace”

Financial Report

	Deposits	Expenses	Difference
October 2025	\$ 6,309.00	\$ 9,833.33	\$ (3,524.33)
Year to Date	\$ 80,742.00	\$ 69,962.83	\$ 10,779.17

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Worship Assistants for December

Date	Council Person in Charge	Lector	Communion Assistant	Fellowship Snacks	Counter
Dec 7	Sharon Ryd	Kent Zahn	Elaine Sherry		Janet McGinty
Dec 14	Open	Sharon Ryd	Elsie Goulding	Knaptons	Janet McGinty
Dec 21	Ken Christensen	Janet McGinty	Renee Knapton		John Monsen
Dec 24	Bev Stobber	Marilyn Hart	Bev Stobber	N/A	
Dec 28	Renee Knapton	Open	N/A		Sharon Ryd

December Anniversaries

Jim and Marilyn Hart—December 31



December Birthdays

Elsie Goulding—December 2

Elaine Sherry—December 2

Lynn Klein—December 5

Phil Klein—December 7



Council Retreat...

In October, the Peace council members met at Pastor's home for a retreat.

Pastor Carol led us, as your council, to look at not only where and who we are now, but also what our upcoming year looks like and what our goals are for our future.

We went over our current mission statement and realized it is still relevant to our current values.

Peace Lutheran is a family of Christ followers learning to live God's grace.

We clarify the meaning of that statement with further information.

Family: We care for and take care of each other.

Christ Followers: We try to live as Jesus lived: accepting, loving and caring for those in need.

Learning to Live God's Grace: We learn to live God's grace & unconditional love, by constantly deepening our understanding of and participating in God's work in the world.

We are small but united in purpose, and that makes us strong. The middle of November was the 49th church anniversary of Peace Lutheran Church. We want to celebrate our 50th year by looking back at the ways we have reached out AND by finding new ways to meet the needs of others in the world we live in today. As Christians we will work hard and remind ourselves to truly follow the words and actions of Jesus.

We openly and honestly looked at a possible future when we might not be able to fulfill the mission and purpose that define our church. When that time comes, we will not waste whatever resources we have to just pay our bills to stay open for Sunday services. We know that we won't be relevant unless we can be a group that serves the needs of others. We will continue to do that purposefully as long as we are able.

So, in this 50th year of Peace, we are recommitting ourselves to our church's mission as we continue to grow in giving to others. We remain committed to the causes in our community that we have helped in the past, and we look forward to finding new ways to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, as he both sought out and reached out to those in need.

Thank you all for sharing your time, talents and ideas as we walk together on this journey.

Marilyn Hart, council president

Giving ...

Thanks for all the giving in 2025. Looking forward to 2026 and new opportunities. In January we will donate toward Karchers Middle School cupboard. They are in need of healthy snacks and personal items for their students. In February we will collect small paper plates, paper cups and napkins for Burlington Senior Center. Both of these venues were thrilled that we thought of them and will recognize their needs.

Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full. Luke 6:38

Growing Relationships

Contact Renee Knapton by phone at 262-492-0718 or by e-mail at reneeknapton@gmail.com with any joys, sorrows, prayer requests, etc. that you wish shared with fellow members.



CHURCH DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

The second phase of our church decorating to change from Advent to Christmas will be Saturday, December 13 at 9am.



CHOIR MUSIC

Peace choir will be joined by a few members of Lord of Life Church to enhance our worship with a “mini” Cantata on December 14. Don’t miss it!



Thursday Morning Bible Study

This group will be meeting every other Thursday morning at 9:30 am. December dates are 12/4 and 12/18.

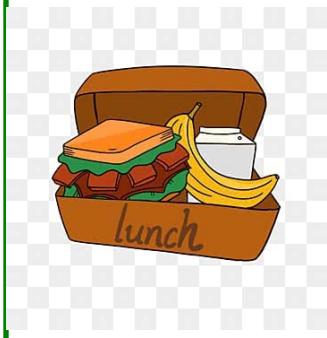
We will be using a book “The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World, by” Adam Hamilton.

All are welcome to join in!



Women's Mid-Day Gathering

The Mid-Day Women’s Gathering will celebrate the Advent/Christmas season at their meeting December 10th, 11:30 am, in the Peace fellowship hall. Bring your lunch and beverage, dessert will be provided. Elsie Goulding will be the host.



Peace Lights and Peacepipe Deadline Dates

Please have all information and/or articles emailed to peacelca@gmail.com by the following dates and times:

- Peace Lights information for the bulletin emailed by Tuesdays at 5:00 pm
- Peacepipe articles for December are due on Saturday, December 20.



2025-2026 Church Council Members

President --- Marilyn Hart

Secretary --- Sharon Ryd

Vice-President --- Ken Christensen

Treasurer --- Sean McGinty

Nurturing the Faith (Worship) --- Bev Stobber

Nurturing the Faith (Education) --- Chris Monsen

Growing Relationships --- Renee Knapton

Inviting People In --- Carol Chaffee

Caring for the Community --- Carol Chaffee

Property --- open

Sunday Worship Live Stream

If you are unable to join us Sunday mornings at 9:00, join our live stream worship here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81030134191>.

For listening to the service over your phone, dial (312) 626-6799,
Meeting ID #810 3013 4191 and wait to be let into the meeting.

We also upload our Worship Service to our website for a later viewing option.

<https://peacelutheranburlington.org/>.



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Council Meeting, October 12, 2025

Council Members Present: Ken Christensen, Marilyn Hart, Pastor Carol Jeunette, Renee Knapton, Sean McGinty, Chris Monsen, Sharon Ryd, Bev Stobber.

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m. by President M. Hart

Opening Prayer: Led by B. Stobber

Additions to Agenda: Under Unfinished Business, add discuss play structure.

Approval of agenda: Motion by B. Stobber, seconded R. Knapton to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

- Lead all services except Sept 21. Appreciated the weekend off to focus on completing edits of her book.
- Met with Lynn and Pam to discuss Parent Hope Project. Will purchase materials and meet again this Wednesday to begin training. Will contact Love Inc. to make sure there is no duplication of efforts.

Secretary's Report (Sharon Ryd) Motion by R. Knapton, seconded by S. McGinty, to accept the minutes of the September 14th council meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Sean McGinty) Deposits for the month of September were \$6747.00. Expenses were \$6541.46. The net balance for the month is a positive \$205.54, year to date positive \$14,577.94. Motion by B. Stobber seconded by R. Knapton, to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

- Council members received 12 month snapshot of total finances, plus a summary of their particular area of responsibility. Each member should review and provide proposed budget information for 2026 before Oct. 31 so Sean can compile complete budget for council to vote on at November meeting.

Motion by S. McGinty to schedule congregational budget meeting on November 23, seconded by B. Stobber. Motion carried.

- Notice of congregational meeting must go in bulletin 2 Sundays prior, as well a separate email or regular mail 3 weeks in advance.

Nurturing the Faith – Worship (Bev Stobber)

- Reformation Sunday - Pastor will be dressed as Katie Luther. Renee will lead the first portion of worship and read the Gospel so Pastor can make an entrance for the sermon.
- All Saints Sunday - New candle set-up created by Chris & John with sand holding the candles in place. People will be invited to come forward throughout the service.

Faith Nurturing – Education (Chris Monsen)

- There will be no viewing of "The Chosen" on All Saints Sunday.
- New Thursday Bible Study-Jean will submit invoice for study materials.

Growing Relationships - (Renee Knapton)

- Notices sent out to congregation for events and prayers.
- Purchased thank you cards for Kerry, Elsie & Elaine. Will try to get as many member signatures as possible.
- Sent notice to go in Peacepipe/bulletin for Advent decorating Nov. 29 and will switch to Christmas decorating Dec. 14. Also need to convey special thanks for Elsie & Elaine's work changing out decorations for so long. It is a lot more work than most would realize.
- Renee will send out notice of Pastor's upcoming concert Nov. 9 by Milwaukee American Legion Band.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Council Meeting, October 12, 2025, continued

Caring for the Community and Inviting Folks In – (Carol Chaffee)

- Continued to send cards to congregation.
- Delivered food to Burlington Library cupboard and collecting mittens, socks & hats.
- Collecting cleaning supplies for TLC and items for Thanksgiving meals for Love Inc.
- We committed to buying Christmas gifts for TLC family.

Property Report – (Jim Hart)

- Stove and doorbell were repaired
- Replaced bad boards on playground equipment.
- Still need to get quotes to redo stones around building. Need to include money in budget for this.

Vice-President's Report - (Ken Christensen) - no report

President's Report - (Marilyn Hart)

- Prepared agenda for council meeting, compiled reports, sent out tasks from last meeting.
- Organized lunch for council retreat.
- Purchased & tested thin candles for All Saint's Day.

Unfinished Business

- We still need to decide on new AED. Sharon will research grants that may be available. Previous council vote was taken approving up to \$1500.
- It was decided to try and give away the playset entirely. Sharon will post on facebook.

New Business

- Synod benevolence needs to be paid out this month. Next year we will increase budget amount from \$2000 to \$3000 and review again at this time next year if we can make an additional payment. **Motion by S. McGinty to pay an additional \$1000 over \$2000 budget amount this year for synod benevolence, seconded by C. Monsen. Motion carried.**
- Pastor will mention during worship about discussion following All Saints service and will set it up downstairs.
- Synopsis of Oct. 11 council retreat - Discussed vision statement, All Saints, remaining feelings from past turmoils in our congregation, goals, stewardship, 50th anniversary celebration. Would like to dedicate our anniversary year to a special project/cause and we will continue to gather historical information. Pastor will come up with a sketch as to what this year-long celebration may look like.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2025

Motion to adjourn made by S. McGinty, seconded by B. Stobber. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Ryd
Council secretary

