



# April 2026 Peacepipe

## Peaceful Ponderings...

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Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!  
*Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

Think about the disciples as they walked with Jesus through the last week of his life. They knew Jesus was walking toward danger. They may have feared that he was walking toward death. Jesus had told his followers that was going to happen, but it seems they didn't quite get it. No, they thought. Jesus is different. He is special. He is going to change the world. He is, (in some way they probably didn't understand), God's chosen. They had hope.

Their hope dimmed moment by moment as they watched his arrest, trial and crucifixion. Any flicker of hope that remained was stamped out as his body was taken from the cross and placed in a tomb that was sealed with an impenetrable rock. Jesus was dead. Their hope for the new future he proclaimed died with him.

We know the next part of the story. Christ is risen!

My favorite Easter hymn is Now the Green Blade Rises.

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;*

*In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
Thinking that he would never wake again.*

When the light of hope is extinguished, life seems almost impossible. Easter - Christ's resurrection - is the promise that hope does not die. God does not abandon us in the midst of loss and grief. It is our God who bring life out of death. This happens, I believe, in every moment in life - not just at death. This, to me, is the essence of hope.

*Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

This is the Easter promise - the Easter hope: our God brings life out of death. This isn't a promise that pain and death will never happen. Rather it is the promise that God does not abandon us, and that even out of the worst things, God brings new life. *Now the green blade rises...*

Blessed Easter, friends, on Easter Day and every day.

Peace,  
Pastor Carol

# April 2026 Peacepipe

## Lent

### **After Worship**

The discussion around Christian Nationalism (which is not “Christian” but a political movement) continues on Sunday, April 19. We will be considering how to stay connected to people who hold these ideas - in line with our commitment to “being different together.” I hope you join us!

**Maundy Thursday and Good Friday** services will be at 6:00 p.m. Again, we are working to make worship accessible to all. If you are uncomfortable driving in the dark, please contact Renee Knapton for a ride. Or, you are welcome to join us on Zoom.

**Easter Sunday** we will have a potluck breakfast at 7:30 a.m. followed by worship at 9:00 a.m.

### **SAVE the Date**

Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women of Peace Potluck Salad Supper. Watch for further information.

## **Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry**

Plans are underway for our anniversary celebration. On the last Sunday of each month, from May through October, we will remember and celebrate one decade of the congregation’s life together.

The planning committee would love to hear your thoughts and ideas for celebrating, and to have your involvement. Our next meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 13.

Also, we are creating a timeline of the church’s history to highlight significant events, as well as a slide show of old photos and mementos from each decade. As you are doing your spring cleaning (or even if you don’t do spring cleaning), please keep an eye out for any items you may have to add to our displays. Please contact Sharon to have your items scanned and returned to you.



**Giving...**

**TLC...** For May we will be collecting cleaning supplies; bleach, detergent, etc..  
In June, healthy snacks; pudding/jello cups, soup, mac & cheese, etc.

**Life Choices...** We will be collecting diapers of all sizes, but especially

*Hebrews 13:16 Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.*

**Thursday Morning Bible Study...**

This group will be meeting every other Thursday morning at 9:30 am in the narthex.  
April dates are 4/2, 4/16 and 4/30. All are welcome to join in!



**Women's Mid-Day Gathering...**

The Mid-Day Women's Gathering will be traveling to Waterford for lunch at Doc's On The Fox (232 N Milwaukee Street) Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. If you would like to car pool please let Bev Stobber know.



**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.

**Pastor Carol's Office Hours...**

Pastor Carol will be in the office from 9 am - noon every Wednesday in April except April 8.  
Drop in and say "Hi" during those hours!

If you need to reach Pastor any other time feel free to call (262) 900-8212.





## Financial Report

	Deposits	Expenses	Difference
<b>February 2026</b>	\$ 3,543.00	\$ 8,591.20	<b>-\$ 5,048.20</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>	\$ 21,500.04	\$ 17,394.73	\$ 4,105.31

Thank you for your continued generosity!

PEACE

LUTHERAN

CHURCH:

*A Small Family of*

*Christian Believers*

*Working to*

*"Grow in Peace"*

## Worship Assistants for April

Date	Council Person in Charge	Lector	Communion Assistant	Fellowship Snacks	Counter
APR 2	Bev Stobber	Sharon Ryd	Bev Stobber	n/a	
APR 3	Marilyn Hart	Marilyn Hart	n/a	n/a	
APR 5	Bev Stobber	Chris Monsen	Bev Stobber	Easter Breakfast	Kent Zahn
APR 12	Renee Knapton	Sharon Ryd	Elaine Sherry	Chris Monsen	Janet McGinty
APR 19	Sharon Ryd	Ken Christensen	Ken Christensen	open	John Monsen
APR 26	Marilyn Hart	Renee Knapton	Renee Knapton	open	Sharon Ryd

## April Birthdays

Julie Holle—April 3

Paul Shamel—April 6

Kent Zahn—April 15

Sean McGinty—April 17

Jennifer Muffick—April 23

Gary Schildt—April 30

## April Anniversary

Bill & Elsie Goulding—April 11



## Peace Lights and Peacepipe Deadline Dates...

Please have all information and/or articles emailed to [peacelca@gmail.com](mailto: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 May are due on Saturday, April 18.



## 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, February 8, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:17 a.m. by President M. Hart

**Opening Prayer:** Led by B. Stobber

**Additions to Agenda :** Add to New Business - collect information about the immigration situation in Burlington

**Approval of agenda: Motion by C. Monsen, seconded by B. Stobber to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

#### **Pastor's Report:**

- Lenten plans are underway and Christian nationalism class will take place following worship during Lent.
- Wednesday lenten services will be based on *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis.
- Pastor has supply pastor for June 21, still need someone for June 14 and will talk to Pastor Sheila about other possible dates.

**Secretary's Report (Sharon Ryd) : Motion by S. McGinty, seconded by R. Knapton, to accept the minutes of the January 11<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report (Sean McGinty):** Deposits for the month of January were \$17,957.04. Expenses were \$8,803.53. The net balance for the month is \$9,153.51. One extraordinary expense for the month - AED \$793.89 (credit for sales tax of approximately \$41 coming). **Motion by C. Chaffee, seconded by S. Ryd, to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.**

#### **Nurturing the Faith – Worship (Bev Stobber):**

- Lenten schedule is set and in the Peacepipe as well as on a printout.
- Wednesday Lenten lunch sign-up sheet will be posted.
- Will have prices for Easter flowers by next meeting.
- Bev will announce to bring canned goods to Lenten lunches.

#### **Faith Nurturing – Education (Chris Monsen): None**

- Viewing of "The Chosen" season 5 has been completed.
- Pastor Carol will lead class on Christian Nationalism during Lent.
- Thursday Bible study will continue.

#### **Growing Relationships (Renee Knapton):**

- Knaptons & Bev changed worship banners, etc.
- Initial meeting for 50th anniversary with Carol & Pastor.

#### **Caring for the Community – (Carol Chaffee):**

- Items delivered to Karcher School.
- Currently collecting for Burlington Senior Center.
- March - paper drive for Salvation Army.
- April - cleaning supplies for TLC.
- Dropped off 4 blessing bags at Burlington library. Need list from Kerry of items included so we can replenish. Carol will get feedback to find out what items are most needed.
- Christmas family sent thank you card. Very grateful.

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Church Council Meeting, February 8, 2026, continued**

**Inviting Folks In – (Carol Chaffee):**

- Birthday, anniversary, and thank you cards were sent out.

**Property Report – Open :**

- Purchased new vacuum cleaner, softener salt, sidewalk salt.
- Finally got invoice for plowing. So far only charged \$600.

**Vice-President’s Report (Ken Christensen ):**

- Will begin looking for council nominees. Need 3 more people. Already have Sean.

**President’s Report (Marilyn Hart):**

- Prepared for council meeting, sent employees tax forms. Discovered that payments to IRS were calculated incorrectly for about 2 years. There will be a one time correction of about \$1800.

**Unfinished Business:**

- AED has arrived. Sharon will contact fire department about training and inspection of AED.
- John M. is making bookshelf for new Bibles. Dedication will be February 15.
- Lawn spreader doesn’t work for sidewalk salt. Need to look into cost for correct type of spreader.

**New Business:**

- In April we will evaluate our ministry together. In March we will decide *how* to do this evaluation. Carol & Pastor will look at this ahead of time.
- Music Sunday possibly in May. Possibly as part of anniversary celebration-get members’ favorite hymns ahead of time. See if Kerry or Rachel will be there in person. Maybe a choir Sunday.
- Immigration situation in Burlington - how can we collect information? Carol will check with TLC, library, Karcher. Renee will also do some research. Check Milwaukee synod website. Make red “melt the ice” protest hats.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2026

**Motion to adjourn made by B. Stobber, seconded by C. Monsen. Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

**The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Ryd Council secretary



## 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**MOUNT MERU COFFEE**  
PREMIUM TANZANIAN COFFEE

# Celebrating 25 Years of Partnership



2014



2024

### Sifaeli Nasari's Story

A highlight of the Mount Meru Coffee Project delegation recent visit to Tanzania, was returning to the farm of Sifaeli Nasari. In 2014, a delegation from St. Luke's—Waukesha was introduced to the entire coffee production process from picking the cherry to drying the beans for shipping to the United States. Emil Nanyaro, Project Coordinator, wanted us to see a farmer planting the new disease-resistant coffee plants. The farmer's wife was also planting banana trees for shade. They anticipated a doubling of their income on their 1.5-acre farm thanks to the Coffee Project.

Ten years later, we returned to visit the little boy, Elisha, that appeared in the image on our website with the slogan: Supporting Families, Growing Futures, Changing Lives. We were warmly welcomed by Sifaeli and his oldest son, Jeradi, but Elisha was away at boarding school. Father and son are second- and third-generation coffee farmers. *"At first the government offered poor prices for the coffee, but after the Honorable Bishop went to America, he found coffee buyers. That has really helped my family with school fees."* It made it possible for each of Sifaeli's three sons to get a good education. The family was able to build a house, and they expect to open a honey company with many bees



**MOUNT MERU COFFEE**  
PREMIUM TANZANIAN COFFEE

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Partners and Friends of the Mt. Meru Coffee Project,

This past year has been a truly historic milestone as we concluded the year-long celebration of our 25th Anniversary. Since our partnership began in the late 1990s, we have grown from a visionary idea into a thriving community that has fundamentally transformed the lives of thousands of farmers and their families in the Meru Diocese.

As we look back on a quarter-century of partnership, we are reminded of our core mission: living the Gospel by building economic justice and respect. This year, we reached a major milestone in our farmer training initiatives, having now trained a cumulative total of 783 farmers at the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI). These efforts, combined with the distribution of hundreds of new hybrid coffee plants, are ensuring that the next generation of farmers have the tools they need for long-term prosperity.

Our anniversary year was defined by milestones both abroad and at home. In Tanzania, we dedicated commemorative plaques at all six processing centers to honor the bond between our supporters and farmers. Locally, our November anniversary luncheon brought together founding members whose reflections on the project’s origins highlighted the remarkable resilience leading to our 2025 success. Rounding out the year, our refreshed brand identity and website have modernized our storytelling, engaging a new generation with our mission.

As we move beyond this anniversary year, we do so with renewed energy and a steadfast commitment to sustainability, faith, and community. Thank you for being a vital part of this journey for the last 25 years. We look forward to what we will achieve together in the next chapter of the Mount Meru Coffee Project.

Asante Sana,

Rick Frowein  
Board President, Mount Meru Coffee Project

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Frowein  
President  
Walt Chossek  
Past President  
Patti Nelson  
Secretary

Tori Mallak  
Treasurer  
Todd Beutin  
Synod Council Rep.

Rev. Paul Erickson,  
Bishop, GMS ELCA  
Brenda Skelton  
Consultant

# CELEBRATING OUR 25 YEAR PARTNERSHIP



## Coffee Project Stats - 25 years

Total Green Beans Imported - 243.2 Tons



~150,500 12oz. Bags  
~ 41,200 4 lbs. Bags  
~ 6,000 Gift Packs

Total Coffee Sales \$3,223,800  
• Packaged \$2,815,600  
• Commercial \$ 408,200

Funds to Tanzania  
\$2,114.8K  
65.6%



### TRANSFER TO TANZANIA (\$K)



## Celebration Luncheon



Our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration luncheon was held on November 1<sup>st</sup> at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Menomonee Falls. Several “early pioneers” were in attendance, including Bishop Peter Rogness and Pastor David Zellmer. Also, many congregations’ sewing groups created unique items from Tanzanian fabric for sale in addition to our coffee.



### STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS



Greater Milwaukee Synod



Fox Point



Resurrection, New Berlin

#### 2025 Tanzania Visits

Partnership visits from Greater Milwaukee Synod congregations continue to be a tremendous boost for both farmers and visitors. They reaffirm the importance of and commitment we have to the project.

#### Congregation “Coffee Talks”



Ten congregations didn't just share a cup; they shared a mission. Through 'coffee talks' led by dedicated Ambassadors and Board members, parishioners saw firsthand how every sip is transforming the lives and livelihoods of our partner farmers.

#### Farmers Market TO GO



To expand local access beyond Greater Milwaukee Synod congregations and the Mount Meru Coffee website, we partnered with the “Farmers Market TO GO” in Brookfield, WI, to include several varieties of our coffee in their store.

## TANZANIA HIGHLIGHTS



**MOUNT MERU COFFEE**  
PREMIUM TANZANIAN COFFEE



### G25 African Coffee Summit

Unambwe Moses Urrio, Chairman of the Mlimani processing center, was selected to attend the meeting in Dar es Salaam and share the Mount Meru coffee story. This included participants from 25 coffee growing countries across Africa.

### 15th Annual Coffee Partners Mtg

Isack Nnko, Chairperson of the MMSCGA, participated in the annual meeting in Dodoma. Presentations were made by the Tanzania Minister of Agriculture and various coffee cooperatives.



### TaCRI Farmer Training

113 farmers from SILK, NIA, Leguruki, Makumira, Mulala, and Mlimani were trained at TaCRI using project donations. A total of 788 farmers have now been trained.

### 2024/2025 Coffee Harvest

177,443 Kg of coffee cherries were collected across all six processing centers (10% more than the previous year). This translated to 53,750 lbs. of processed green beans, of which 25,000 lbs. (47%) were exported to the Mount Meru Coffee Project in the USA. The remainder were sold at local auction.

