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Pr. Grant Quever,
 Interim Pastor

Inside this issue:

Peaceful Ponderings	1
Lent Schedule, Church Council, Council Meeting	2
Pastoral Care, Altar Flowers, TLC Bas- kets, Birthdays	3
Syber Soul Support Group Update, Pas- tor Carol Workshop, Homily Hash	4
Deadlines, Senior Center, Growing Relationships, Fun Days in February	5
Financial Report, Worship Assistants	6
Council Minutes	7-8

February 2024 Peacepipe

Peaceful Ponderings...

A Valentine from God Arrives on Ash Wednesday

“Forgiveness Guaranteed. Repentance Optional” (sign in front of a Lutheran Church).

A man was sitting at the breakfast table reading his newspaper when his wife breezed through the kitchen, gave him a light kiss on the cheek and said matter-of-factly, “I bet you’ve forgotten what day this is.” The husband answered defensively, “I have not!” He went back to reading the paper while she rushed upstairs to finish getting ready.

All the way to work it bugged him, “What day is this?” He knew she was very sensitive about his forgetting Valentine’s Day, anniversaries, and other special occasions. But for the life of him he could not think what day this was. He decided he’d better not take any chances. Driving home he stopped and purchased a box of candy, a dozen roses and a gift-wrapped bottle of her favorite perfume. Opening the door he rushed into the kitchen where she was preparing the evening meal. “Surprise!” he said. She replied, “Oh, Sweetheart. This is the best Groundhog’s Day I’ve ever had.”

The last time Ash Wednesday came on Valentine’s Day was in 2019. At that time our ELCA presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton picked up on the timing and shared some profound words connecting Valentine’s Day and God’s love for us: “God’s work of reconciliation in Christ is God’s eyes-wide-open acknowledgment of human rebellion and sin, the undeniable fact that all is not well no matter how hard we try to fix it or deny it. The remedy was the all-in, complete love of the incarnation, crucifixion and death of Christ. Jesus meets us right in the middle of our pain—the pain we feel and the pain we cause others—and without minimizing the depth of our offense, offers forgiveness and new life. Love does not mean never having to say you’re sorry—love means being able to say you’re sorry.

Lutherans point out that grace is a gift, but sometimes we get a little carried away. I believe the sign in front of one of our congregations that claimed “Forgiveness is guaranteed. Repentance is optional” was trying to announce the good news. Instead, it sent passers-by in the wrong direction. Our reconciled new life in Christ not only makes it possible for us to strip away any illusion of a whole and holy life that we bring about by ourselves, it compels us to repent.

Theologian and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer warned us about cheap grace. He wrote: “Cheap grace is grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession. . . Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate” (The Cost of Discipleship).

So, Ash Wednesday is a valentine from God, one that invites us to enter deep into the mystery of true love, honest examination of our lives and the possibility of real repentance. The Ash Wednesday valentine starts us on the journey to the cross, to the passionate love of God shown in the Passion of Christ. And after the cross, the resurrection. No more pretense, freedom” (Living Lutheran). Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Journey begin on February 14 this year. May God bless us on the journey.

Your Co-Worker in Christ,
Pastor Grant Quever

Midweek Lenten Worship & Holy Week

Wed, Feb 14	7:00 Ash Wednesday Service w/Communion
All Wednesdays in Lent	12:00 Lenten Soup Lunch, 1:00 Service
Sun, Mar 24	9:00 Palm Sunday Service w/Communion
Thu, Mar 28	7:00 Maundy Thursday Service w/Communion
Fri, Mar 29	1:00 Good Friday Service
Sun, Mar 31—EASTER!!	7:30 Breakfast, 9:00 Service w/Communion

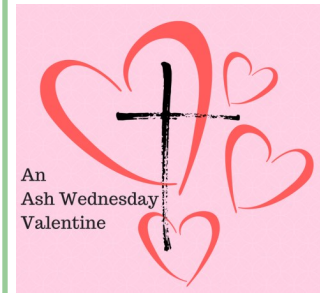
2023-2024 Church Council

President --- Marilyn Hart Vice-President --- John Monsen
Secretary --- Bev Stobber Treasurer --- Janet McGinty

Nurturing the Faith (Worship) --- Elaine Sherry
Nurturing the Faith (Education) --- Chris Monsen
Growing Relationships --- Renee Knapton
Inviting People In --- Elsie Goulding
Caring for the Community --- Bev Stobber
Property --- open

Church Council Meeting

The next Council Meeting will be Sunday, January 14 at 10:00 a.m.



2023-2024

Church

Council

Members



Pastoral Care Team

How can we help YOU? Our commission is to GROW IN PEACE.

The Lay Pastoral Care Team is here to visit our members in need while we search for a new pastor.

We've met and learned how best to serve those among us who are in need of meals, visits, prayers, and to bring Communion to shut-ins.

If you want a visit, OR if you want to join the team, please contact us!

Bev Stobber
262-210-9249

Marilyn Hart
262-492-9696

Renee Knapton
262-492-0718



Altar Flowers

If you would like to decorate Peace Lutheran with flowers on the altar for a special occasion, please sign-up in the Narthex on the bulletin board (noting the special occasion), send an email to peacelca@gmail.com, purchase your flowers, and bring them to Peace on the Sunday you would like and place them on the altar.

TLC Giving Baskets

The most needed items for January and February are cleaning supplies with an emphasis on bleach, dish soap and sponges. Thank you!



February Birthdays

Feb 20—Karen Gueldenzopf

Feb 21—Rich Mueller



Syber Soul Support Group Update

The Syber Soul Support Group met on January 17th to discuss the topic of resolutions, but with a twist. We discussed how understanding we can be to others when they try, and fail, at their resolutions but generally have no such patience and sympathy for ourselves. And that sometimes the harder we come down on ourselves, the less likely we are to actually succeed. Jesus did not yell and scream at his followers. He told them they needed to forgive each other '70 x 7' times. Surely we need to do the same for ourselves! The scriptures we cited were Matthew 10:29-31, Proverbs 12:25, Romans 8:26, Ephesians 2:10. In addition, it's also important to keep in mind that everyone is not going to be able to accomplish *everything*. God gives each of us different talents and, like the Pygmy band that Pastor Grant spoke of, each of us may only play one note, but without that note, there would be a definite void in each others' lives. You're valuable to God and He loves you, no matter your flaws and failed resolutions.

January Workshop with Pr. Carol Jeunette

The council, Pastor Grant, and several other members of the congregation spent an enlightening day of reflective thinking and goal setting. There was even some creative drawing by Elsie and Elaine! Take time to chat with any one of us to learn more!



Homily Hash

We are happy to continue the "Homily Hash" discussion after each service. It gives people a chance to take a little more from the sermon each week by sharing our thoughts. Come join us in the narthex for fellowship and a good hash!

PEACE

LUTHERAN

CHURCH: A Small

Family of Christian

Believers Working to

"Grow in Peace"

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 by the 3rd Saturday of the month

****Peacepipe articles for March are due Saturday, February 17.**



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.

Burlington Senior Center

Burlington Senior Activity Center is open for active Seniors. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. There is BINGO on Tuesdays at 10:30 am and Yoga on Fridays at 1:30 pm.

BSC provides a variety of activities, services, and opportunities for Western Racine, Western Kenosha, Eastern Walworth County, and other visiting Seniors. Come to the Burlington Senior Activity Center (BSC) to meet old friends and make new friends. Some friends play card games like Bridge, Euchre, Hand & Foot, Pinochle, and Sheepshead. Others play Bunco and Mexican Train Dominoes. Throughout the year, there are opportunities to join 50+ Sports like Bowling, Pickle Ball, Softball, or Volleyball. BSC offers a Jam Session, an in-house Library, Meals on Wheels, & more. For information, call 262-716-0329.

Fun Days to Celebrate this Month!

February 1—National Freedom Day

February 20—National Love Your Pet Day

February 2—Groundhog Day

February 22—George Washington's Birthday

February 5—World Nutella Day

February 23—National Banana Bread Day

February 9—Read in the Bathtub Day

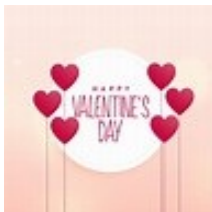
February 26—Tell a Fairy Tale Day

February 12—Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

February 27—International Polar Bear Day

February 14—Valentine's Day

February 29—Leap Day



FUN
Days
In
February!

Financial Report



	Deposits	Expenses	Difference
December 2023	\$11,829.00	\$12,782.74	(\$953.74)
Year to Date 2023	\$108,141.29	\$90,216.75	\$17,924.54

24 families pledged to give \$38,425 to resurface the parking lot. The pledge drive took place June 2021 through December 2023. The total amount given was \$42,010.00.

2021 \$33,595.00
 2022 \$5980.00
 2023 \$2435.00

The cost of the parking lot was \$63,426.00. A deposit of \$15,000.00 was paid in April 2022 and the balance of \$48,426.00 was paid in July 2022.

\$63,426.00 Total cost
-\$42,010.00 Pledges given
 \$21,416.00
-\$27,536.00 Money transfer from Walbrandt Memorial
 \$6160.00 Amount remaining in Parking Lot Fund (These funds will be used to seal the parking lot this summer.)

Thank you for your generosity!

Worship Assistants for January

Date	Council Person in Charge	Lector	Counter
Feb 4	Elaine Sherry	Sean McGinty	Sharon Ryd
Feb 11	Janet McGinty	Janet McGinty	Sean McGinty
Feb 14 Ash Wed		Bev Stobber	
Feb 18	John Monsen	Pam Mueller	John Monsen
Feb 25	Marilyn Hart	Sharon Ryd	Sharon Ryd



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Church Council Meeting December 10, 2023

Council Members Present: Elsie Goulding, Marilyn Hart, Renee Knapton, Janet McGinty, Chris Monsen, John Monsen, , Elaine Sherry, Bev Stobber, Pastor Quever absent due to illness

The meeting was called to order at 10:22 a.m. by Pres. M. Hart

Opening Prayer: Led by Knapton

Additions to Agenda: Benevolence and Equipping the Saints under Treasurer's report / Point of Interest under New Business

Approval of Agenda: Motion C. Monsen to approve agenda as amended, seconded by J McGinty. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report (Bev Stobber) Motion by McGinty accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by R. Knapton. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (Janet McGinty)

The month of November ended with a negative 285.16. The balance for the year to date is a positive \$12690.19. Of our budget expenses of \$96312.29, \$82809.01 has been expended, leaving a difference of \$13503,28. **Motion by B. Stobber, seconded by J. Monsen to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.** Janet noted that there is a balance of \$400.00 remaining in an undesignated benevolence account. It was decided to gift \$100.00 each to the ELCA World Hunger Fund, Outreach for Hope, the Transitional Living Center, and the Meru Coffee Project. **Motion by J. Monsen, seconded by E. Sherry to approve the gifting. Motion Carried.** Janet also will provide further info on the "Equipping the Saints" program.

Nurturing the Faith – Worship (Elaine Sherry)

The Christmas decorations will be taken down following the Jan. 7th service.
Changes will be made to the service that provides for standing while singing the hymns.
Communion will be celebrated on Dec. 17th, 24th, and 31st.

Nurturing the Faith – Education (Chris Monsen)

Dan Knapton will resume the "Homily Hash" conversations during the after service social time.

Growing Relationships (Renee Knapton)

Renee is going to provide in the monthly PeacePipe some reflections from the "Syber Souls" monthly gatherings.

Caring for the Community (Bev Stobber)

The TLC Christmas gifts were delivered along with the donations from the November/December Giving Baskets.

Inviting Folks In – Elsie Goulding

Christmas cards will be sent to the shut-in members.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Council Meeting December 10, 2023, continued

Property Report – Open

The tractor has been “winterized”.

Be aware that with the change in our ‘snow clearing’ contract there might be a need to clear sidewalks prior to church services.

Jim Rateike has compiled a list of duties performed.

Vice-President’s Report (John Monsen)

The duties of being a “greeter” (if possible) will be added to the council person in charge.

President’s Report (Marilyn Hart)

The date for a workshop with Pastor Carol Jeunnette has been set for Saturday January 20th for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. She would like to have a focus of total concentration, without having to have concerns of lunch etc. We will arrange for some type of box lunch.

Unfinished Business

C. Monsen presented the revised church constitution. **Motion by J. Monsen, seconded by R. Knapton to recommend this revised constitution to the congregation for their approval. Motion carried.**

C. Monsen presented the revised constitutional by-laws. **Motion by J. McGinty, seconded by B Stobber to recommend these constitutional by-laws to the congregation for their approval. Motion carried.**

C. Monsen presented the new Continuing Resolutions. **Motion by R. Knapton, seconded by J. McGinty to accept these resolutions. Motion carried.**

A letter will be sent to congregational members regarding the February 7, 2024, meeting to approve the revised constitution and by-laws. Copies of the constitution and by-laws will be sent digitally prior to the meeting.

In regard to our ongoing inability to retain a permanent Music Director, Janet recommended that we increase the salary for fill-in musicians from \$75.00 to \$85.00 per service and increase from \$60.00 to \$85.00 per service to Kerry for the recorded music she provides. **Motion by R. Knapton, seconded by J. McGinty to approve this recommendation. Motion carried.**

New Business

If the need to cancel church services due to winter weather conditions, we will use e-mails and phone connections. Sarah Stobie is the new Greater Milwaukee ELCA Synod secretary.

The next meeting is schedule for January 14, 2024

Motion to adjourn made by E Goulding, seconded by E. Sherry, Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Stobber, Council Secretary