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July 2023 Peacepipe

Synod Assembly—June 2-3, 2023 Italian Community Center, Milwaukee, WI



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Attendees included 345 people. 112 Rostered Voting Members, 187 Lay Voting Members, and 46 Non-Voting Participants.

This year's Synod assembly focused on diversity. The Synod had a Authentic Diversity Audit done by GELLC and the results were shared by Dr. Shaunna Payne Gold and Dr. Lisa Ingarfield throughout the assembly. The audit was phase one. Phase 2 focuses on next steps. Which of the findings should be addressed first, next or last. Which are ongoing and which are not ours to solve.

Diversity comes in many forms and we have all probably faced discrimination in some way. Prior to the start of each session of the assembly, someone shared a reading. This was followed by a slide show depicting participants from February's Together in Mission. In each slide, the person shared a time when they either felt included or excluded. It was simple, yet powerful and a time of reflection on my own life.

Synod Assembly!! June 2-3, 2023 Italian Community Center

Other speakers included Pardeep S. Kaleka, a hate and violence prevention senior advisor with Not In Our Town and a de-radicalization psychotherapist with Parents4Peace, assisting families and individuals offramp violent ideologies. He is also the author of “The Gifts of Our Wounds” and an award-winning columnist with Milwaukee Independent. Pardeep lost his father in the 2012 in the hate killings at the Oak Creek Sikh Temple.

Reverend Kevin Jacobson from the ELCA serves as Director for Global Service on the ELCA Churchwide staff. He is passionate about encouraging congregations to engage in God’s global mission through the accompaniment model and gave an update on current partnerships including those that the Synod has with the Meru Diocese in Tanzania and El Salvador.

There was also a representative from the Black String Triage Ensemble & Legion that is currently active in Milwaukee. The ensemble is committed to using music as the healing force for the soul in the immediate aftermath of community violence. They play concerts for the community at the scene of the incident.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend as a representative of Peace. If you would like to know more, please stop me for a chat.

Janet

July is Disability Pride Month

What is Disability Pride? Disability Pride is the idea that people with disabilities should be proud of their disabled identity. People with disabilities are the largest and most diverse minority within the population, representing all abilities, ages, races, ethnicities, religions and socio-economic backgrounds.

Why is it important for people of all ages to feel pride? Many disabled people, including young people, are exposed on a regular basis to ableism. *Ableism* is present throughout society, and can take the form of condescending, rude, or abusive attitudes towards people with disabilities, leading to lack of accessible and inclusive services and communities.





Pastoral Care Team

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

We are here to make pastoral visits in the event that Pastor Susan may not be available. The team consists of 3 members of the congregation.

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

If you are in need of (or just want) a visit, please contact us!

Bev Stobber	Marilyn Hart	Renee Knapton
262-210-9249	262-492-9696	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.

Church Council Meeting

The next Church Council Meeting will be Sunday, July 9 at 10:00 a.m.



July Birthdays

- Leslie Zahn—July 2
- Chris Monsen—July 5
- Terri Schildt—July 8
- Sharon Ryd—July 15
- Janet McGinty—July 22

July Anniversaries

- Tom & Karen Erhardt—July 24



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 p.m
- Peacepipe articles by the 3rd Saturday of the month.

****Peacepipe articles for the month of August are due Saturday, July 15th.**



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 am and Yoga on Fridays at 1 pm.

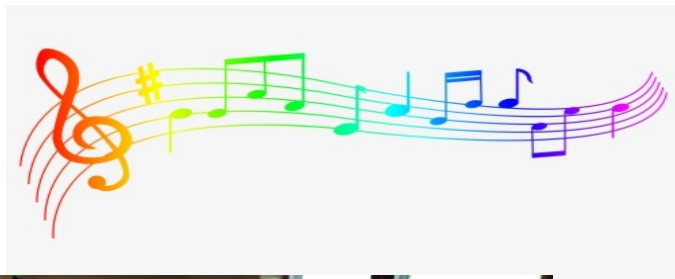
BSC provides a variety of activities, services, and opportunities for Western Racine, Western Kenosha, Eastern Walworth County, and other visiting Seniors. Come to the Burlington Senior Activity Center (BSC) to meet old friends and make new friends. Some friends play card games like Bridge, Euchre, Hand & 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!

- | | |
|---|---|
| July 1: International Joke Day | July 14: Cow Appreciation Day |
| July 2: National I Forgot Day | July 18: World Listening Day |
| July 7: Tell the Truth Day | July 23: Gorgeous Grandma Day |
| July 10: Don't Step On a Bee Day | July 25: National Wine and Cheese Day |
| July 11: Cheer Up the Lonely Day | July 27: National Creme Brûlée Day |
| July 13: Embrace Your Geekness Day | July 30: International Day of Friendship |

FUN
Days
In
JULY!!



Best Wishes, Katiann!!

On Sunday, June 18, we said “Farewell and God Speed” to our Music Director, Katiann Nelson. Katiann served as the musician for our congregation throughout high school and college, and we enjoyed watching her grow into the amazing woman she is today.

We wish the very best to Katiann as she heads to Boulder, Colorado to pursue her Master’s degree in voice performance.

Best of luck, Katiann!



Financial Report

	Deposits	Expenses	Difference
May 2023	\$9,155.00	\$7,852.65	\$1,302.35
Year to Date 2023	\$54,997.00	\$49,026.25	\$5,970.75



2023-2024 Church Council

President --- Marilyn Hart
Secretary --- Bev Stobber

Vice-President --- John Monsen
Treasurer --- Janet McGinty

Nurturing the Faith (Worship) --- Elaine Sherry

Nurturing the Faith (Education) --- Jim Smith

Growing Relationships --- Renee Knapton

Inviting People In --- Elsie Goulding

Caring for the Community --- open Property --- open

2023-2024

Church

Council

Members

Worship Assistants for July

Date	Council Person in Charge	Lector	Counter
July 2	Elaine Sherry	Renee Knapton	Peggy Paynter
July 9	Jim Smith	Jim Smith	Sean McGinty
July 16	John Monsen	Sharon Ryd	John Monsen
July 23	Janet McGinty	Pam Mueller	Sharon Ryd
July 30	Marilyn Hart	Chris Monsen	John Monsen



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Church Council Meeting May 14, 2023

Council Members Present: Pastor Susan Bowen, Elsie Goulding, Jim Hart, Janet McGinty, Peggy Paynter, Sharon Ryd, Elaine Sherry, Jim Smith, Bev Stobber, Chuck Strehlow.

Three congregation members also present.

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by B. Stobber.

Opening Prayer: Led by Pastor Susan

Approval of Agenda: Additions under New Business: - Pastor's vacation

Motion by J. McGinty to approve agenda as amended, seconded by P. Paynter.

Pastor's Report: See attached

Motion by J. McGinty to accept April 16, 2023 minutes as presented, seconded by J. Smith.

Motion by J. Smith to accept April 23, 2023 special meeting minutes as presented, seconded by P. Paynter.

Treasurer's Report (Janet McGinty):

- Finished April (\$1,371.49) behind, YTD \$4,933.20 ahead. Money market account earned \$123.18 in April. We earned less than \$1.50 on entire savings for all of last year so the money market account is worthwhile. Prepared update to parking lot numbers for annual report.
- Motion by P. Paynter to accept April Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by C. Strehlow.

Nurturing the Faith - Worship (Elsie Goulding):

- Outdoor worship will begin second Sunday in June, weather permitting. Criteria is no rain and temperature above 60 degrees.

Nurturing the Faith - Education (Jim Smith):

- Movie night for "The Cokeville Miracle" will be May 19 at 5pm. Please sign up.

Growing Relationships (open): No report

Caring for the Community (Peggy Paynter): No report.

Inviting Folks In (Elaine Sherry):

- Sent thank you notes for prayer shawls we received and cards to members.

Property Report (Chuck Strehlow):

- Fence needs repair but branch that is hanging down needs to be removed first. There is money in the budget to take care of it.
- Kitchen cabinet is secure. It has a board behind it which is what makes it look like it is coming loose.
- Temporary ramp has been put by entrance. Concerns regarding grinding the concrete since it is unknown what is underneath. Suggested to paint the step to make people more aware of it.
- Thanks to all who helped with clean-up day yesterday.

Vice President's Report (Jim Hart):

- Council nominees are Elsie Goulding, Elaine Sherry, Marilyn Hart, Renee Knapton, John Monsen.

President's Report (Bev Stobber):

- Congregational meeting is June 4 for election of officers.

Unfinished Business:

- Peaceful Pit Stop – No new supplies are needed, the tent will be in the same location.
- Church secretary position – Sharon will help out with bulletin, calendar and newsletter as long as needed, provided there is a continued effort to permanently fill the position.
- Church musician – Katiann's last day is June 18 th . There will be a card June 4 th for people to sign. Pastor met with Kerry regarding using recorded music for the summer. Need to post job opening. Changes to the job description need to be made: 1) change wording "coordinate sound and lighting" to just "coordinate with sound." 2) change "act as the Choir Director and Cantor" to "Directing Choir and/or Cantor a plus." in case the individual doesn't sing.
- Motion by S. Ryd to approve changes to Music Director contract as discussed, seconded by C. Strehlow.
- Ministry profile – (this was discussed with Pastor's Report).
- Administrative duties of Pastor – this will be looked at Thursday with the Executive Committee.

New Business:

- Pastor's vacation – June 19-July 2. Posted on List Serve for supply Pastor for June 25 and July 2.

Next Meeting: Sunday, June 11, 2023.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion by J. McGinty to adjourn, seconded by J. Smith.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Ryd, Council Secretary

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Council Special Meeting

June 4, 2023

All outgoing and incoming Council Members Present: Pastor Susan Bowen, Elsie Goulding, Jim Hart, Marilyn Hart, Renee Knapton, Janet McGinty, John Monsen, Peggy Paynter, Sharon Ryd, Elaine Sherry, Jim Smith, Bev Stobber, Chuck Strehlow.

Purpose of meeting: To vote on the Executive Committee's recommendation for new secretary hire, and to select new council member positions.

The meeting was called to order at 10:36 a.m. by B. Stobber.

1. The Executive Committee (Jim Hart recused himself) has interviewed 2 applicants for the secretary position and has unanimously recommended Kerry Bieneman for the position. Vote will be with paper ballots.

Motion by C. Strehlow to approve the recommendation of Executive Committee and offer the secretary position to Kerry Bieneman, seconded by P. Paynter.

Motion by J. Smith that both old and new council will vote, seconded by C. Strehlow.

2. Selection of Council positions:

Elsie Goulding - Inviting Folks In

Elaine Sherry - Nurturing the Faith-Worship

Chuck Strehlow - Property

Janet McGinty - Treasurer

Jim Smith - Nurturing the Faith-Education

John Monsen - Vice President

Marilyn Hart - President

Renee Knapton - Growing Relationships & would like to start up Lay Pastoral Care Team again

Bev Stobber - Secretary

(Open) - Caring for the Community

Next meeting Sunday June 11, 2023 and Installation the same day.

Motion by J. McGinty to adjourn, seconded by R. Knapton.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Ryd, Council Secretary

Pastor's Report May Meeting 2023

As your Pastor, my primary and most important role is to tend toward leading you spiritually to become closer to Christ through preaching the Gospel and renewing you through Communion with Christ.

Worship and Preaching:

Prepared sermons and led worship. Attended two pericope studies per week.

Marilyn Hart gave the homily on April 30 th and Renee Knapton was liturgist. Thank you, Marilyn and Renee. [Also falls under Equipping Leaders.]

Pastoral Care:

Wrote various emails and texts to members. Visited Mary Lueder.

Attended Syber Souls Support Group at Knapton's.

Administration:

Attended the Special Council meeting on April 23 rd to discuss my proposal for revamping the office position. Originally, when I presented it to the Executive committee, our President Bev Stobber gave me 3 names of women of the congregation who could/might volunteer for the in-office work.

Since the proposal presentation, I experienced special meetings, angry conversations, accusations, intimidation, and bullying. In addition, I learned of behind the scenes lobbying by certain members to keep the office position as it was currently. Therefore, with all the opposition, I knew the Marketing proposal was dead in the water and withdrew it.

Also, as an outcome of the lobbying practices, I heard at the Special Council meeting of misinformation spread about me – that I tailored the Marketing proposal position for a friend of mine. That is untrue and I find that insulting, abusive, and dangerous. I clearly said it was a good part time position for a young mother home with children, or college marketing students or a responsible High School student with marketing aspirations. So, to set the record straight, it was not tailored to her. It so happens that she is extremely over-qualified for the position and by her estimation and trial, she could do the marketing piece in 20-25 hours a month. That would have saved Peace \$500 a month. She was someone I knew who was willing and who could easily move into the position, if that was the way Peace decided to go after being interviewed.

Ministry Profile: Peace submitted their Ministry Profile in 2019, which is the required paperwork by the Greater Milwaukee Synod when looking to call a pastor. Per Peace's Profile, Administration was/is one of the 5 most critical tasks required for this position. This has either been missed, misunderstood, or some are unable to give to the Pastor the authority due the position according to that Profile.

Pastor's Report May Meeting 2023, cont'd.

I found I have responsibility, but not authority. That is why I made the request at that Special April meeting for a written description of what the leaders of Peace understand to be my responsibilities as Administrator. This thoughtful written description is to be received at this May's Council meeting.

I am preparing to be present at the upcoming interview with Kerry Bieneman, Jim Hart's daughter for the Secretarial position.

I offered some suggestions for the scope of the Secretary position which was met positively. My recent recommendation to the Executive Committee, since her resume and experience is only music related, is to have her bring some samples of her writing and computer skills.

I prepared my Pastor's Report for Council meeting.

Held my office hours.

Other:

Council awarded me an extra week of vacation (April 24-April 30) to recuperate from my 212 work hours in March. Thank you to the Council. Per our discussion and clarification on April 23rd, my hours as part time should be around 25 hours per week. This, of course, fluctuates with the church year and I always do what needs to be done. Many of those extra hours were spent trying to train Carol Fischer, the secretary who resigned on April 16th. She proved unable to learn the job.

I began Voyager's, Inc., a continuing education program on healthy congregational relationships/conversations/boundaries.

I planned to help with the church grounds clean-up, but a bad knee left me unable to do physical work.



June 18, 2023

Dear People of Peace Lutheran Church,

Over the past few months, I have spent time in prayer and contemplation. It is with thoughtful discernment that I submit my resignation to Peace Lutheran Church. My last Sunday will be July 16th. My last day in the office will be July 12th and my last Call date will be July 16th.

I am thankful for the opportunity to accompany you through the Covid period. I am thankful for being a part of the Syber Souls Support Group, and for the other pastoral care I was able to provide during my tenure. I appreciate the TLC ministry and the Homily Hash as well as the opportunity to use my creativity during worship, in the sanctuary, and in the updating of the church building. I am touched by the efforts to revitalize the Lay Pastoral Care Committee and you are wise to reinstate the Congregational Council Behavioral Covenant.

You do not walk alone during the months ahead. The Greater Milwaukee Synod will be there to walk you through the next steps, and of course, you will walk with God.

Grow in Peace,

Pastor Susan Bowen