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March 2023 Peacepipe

Pastor's Ponderings

We are in the Lenten season – a liminal season, a threshold in our journey toward Easter. As we set aside time to prepare for Christmas day, it makes sense to set aside time to prepare for the two most important days of the Christian year – Good Friday and Easter. This is a time where we prepare our hearts and minds for remembering the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Lent is the time to go inward, to evaluate our lives in terms of the human condition, to those things we may run away from during the rest of the year and wakes us even closer to our need for a Savior. In Lent, we can open our hearts a little wider and begin to understand the Lord a little deeper, so when we come to experience Good Friday and Easter, it has more meaning for us, more awakened and alert to God's grace.

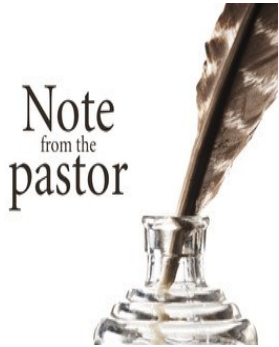
Lent is often a more solemn time to prepare ourselves for Jesus's death on Good Friday and his resurrection at Easter. Usually, people may choose something to give up or fast during Lent, which through our sacrifice reminds us of Jesus' suffering and sacrifice for us. Or one could add something life – giving to do for someone else, or for yourself, such as reading the Bible every day. In addition, you could read the daily resource *Living Well Through Lent 2023* we placed in your mailboxes.

Prayer is a significant practice during Lent. We may spend more time in prayer, perhaps seeking forgiveness, opening ourselves more to God's love and mercy, or trying to get internally stronger to avoid temptations. We begin Lent on Ash Wednesday remembering our mortality. "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." Lent lasts 40 days and ends on Good Friday. It is modeled after Christ's 40-day fast in the desert.

Lent is a time when we examine our sinful nature and return to God. It is a time for us to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the cross – and it wasn't pretty. Ultimately, the purpose of Lent doesn't stop at sadness and despair because it points us to the hope of the Resurrection and the future day when there will be no more tears.

We may even take time to contemplate on the fact that our faith isn't a feel – good religion, but one that answers the deepest questions of life and eternity. Those who take this time seriously, can enter the Easter season with an increased sense of joy, appreciation, and love of God.





Pastor's Ponderings Continued...

Joel 2:12-14 – “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate.”

Join us this year for our five Wednesday Midweek worship services, as we journey toward Jerusalem with Jesus. We will remember our loved ones who have gone before us in our *Sing with All the Saints in Glory* series. Bring your picture(s) of loved ones that we will place on the Communion Table during our Midweek Lenten worship. Soup luncheon is at noon. Worship is 1 p.m.

Together in our liminal journey,
Pastor Susan



Midweek Lenten Services: Worship will be at 1pm again this year with a light soup lunch at noon. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex for you to sign up to make a soup.
Thank you in advance!



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. (***Please note change***).
- Peacepipe articles by the Saturday after the Church Council meeting (they meet the 2nd Sunday of the month).

Peacepipe articles for the month of April are due March 18th. Please email all articles to peacelca@gmail.com.

Pastor Susan's Office Hours



Pastor Susan's office hours at Peace are every Wednesday from 12:30 p.m.— 3:30 p.m. No appointment necessary. Stop in to visit with her!

*Staff Office Hour 12:30 – 1:30.

Homily Hash... For 2023, I am leading a discussion after the service. I am calling it "Homily Hash." The name says most of it. A homily is a talk for spiritual enlightenment. A hash is an abstract data type that maps keys to value. My hope is that all may take away a little more, by sharing the message that they received, during today's homily, which can enlighten others in the group. So please join us by the round table in the narthex for fellowship and a good hash. Dan



gg63008961 GoGraph.com



Please contact Jim
by phone
(262) 332-9189
or by e-mail
jkae1203@gmail.com
with any joys,
sorrows, prayer
requests etc.

Growing Relationships

Please contact Jim Smith by phone (262-332-9189) or by e-mail jkae1203@gmail.com with any joys, sorrows, prayer requests, etc. that you wish shared with fellow members. Jim Smith has agreed to take on the role in this area, but if you are interested in this position, please contact a current council member

Flowers on the Altar

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 own flowers, and bring them to Peace on the Sunday you would like and place them on the altar.



PASTORAL CARE

A Small Family
of Christian
Believers
Working to
"Grow in Peace"

Pastoral Care Team

How can we help YOU?
Our new 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 from one of us, please contact us!

Bev Stobber
262-210-9249

Marilyn Hart
262-492-9696

Renee Knapton
262-492-0718

Church Council Meeting

The next Church Council Meeting will be Sunday, March 19th at 10:00 a.m.

March Birthdays

- Bill Goulding—March 2
- Mary Lueder—March 2
- Emily Smith—March 6
- Peggy Paynter—March 12
- Logan Muffick—March 30



Lenten Series on Luther

Lenten series on Luther... *Why we should care about Luther: Martin Luther on the Holy Spirit and the Christian Life.* For our four Sunday mornings in March our Adult Education time will focus on this four-part series on Martin Luther. It is sponsored by the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) and led by Dr. Candace Kohli (Ko-lee), a Luther scholar. The series is to "explore Luther's ideals and ideas as they translate into today's modern society" to "discover or re-discover, why we should all care about Luther." Please join us for this thought-provoking series. More information is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Thank you.

Finance Report

	January
Receipts	\$18041.41
Expenses	\$9694.78
Difference	\$8346.63



Thank you to everyone for your faithful giving in 2022. We took a \$20,000 leap of faith last January when we passed the 2022 budget and we finished in the black! God is good!

2022–2023 Peace Lutheran Church Council

President --- Bev Stobber
 Secretary --- Sharon Ryd
 Nurturing the Faith – Worship --- Elsie Goulding
 Nurturing the Faith – Education --- Jim Smith
 Growing Relationships --- Jim Smith
 Caring for the Community --- Peggy Paynter
 Inviting People In --- Elaine Sherry
 Property --- Chuck Strehlow

Vice-President --- Jim Hart
 Treasurer --- Janet McGinty

2022–2023

Church

Council

Members

Worship Assistants for March

	Council Person in Charge	Lector	Counter
March 5	Open	Renee Knapton	Peggy Paynter
March 12th	Sharon Ryd	Elsie Goulding	Sean McGinty
March 19th	Bev Stobber	Janet McGinty	John Monsen
March 26th	Jim Smith	Jim Smith	Sharon Ryd





Coffee's Impact on the Tanzanian Economy

There are 58 million Tanzanians as of 2019. Children living in Tanzania are lucky enough to have primary education and reach secondary or tertiary levels. This is what we hope to change one coffee pack at a time.

You see, Tanzania produces 70% of the country's Arabica coffee. As of March 2021, coffee exports from Tanzania were valued at \$13.2 million dollars.

The Mt Meru Coffee Project plays a part in bringing high-quality coffee to the US and profit to Mt. Meru to make this partnership sustainable for many more years to come. It's focus and mission is to help improve the standard of living in the Meru region by supporting the families living and working there, growing their futures and changing lives for the future generations to prosper.

There are 450,000 families growing coffee on farms ranging in size from 1 to 3 hectares. 265,000 hectares of farmland is dedicated to the production of Arabica and Robusta. These farms are found on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt Meru. Mt. Meru Coffee Project helps raise the price of the coffee products they produce to a global standard. The profit generated by this has ensured the incomes of the households involved.

We believe that education is the key to eradicating poverty. To make farming more sustainable, we have made training programs available to keep their skills up-to-date. You can sponsor a 3 day training session for a farmer at \$55. Training programs are held and carried out by the TaCRI facility near Moshi at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro. For group trainings the cost is \$1100. Successful trainees receive a free Cultivar plant at the end of the training program.

Part of our profit also goes into providing quality education for their children. This ensures that the next generation will have options and a brighter future. Additional assistance to the region comes in the form of healthcare facilities, sanitation, and better farming equipment. Our efforts have greatly increased the quality of life for the inhabitants of Mt. Meru and their children.

Your continued support of our products and the people behind it keep going.

Asante Sana (Swahili for thank you very much!)

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Council Meeting

January 8, 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.

Opening Prayer: Led by Pastor Susan

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by B. Stobber.

Approval of Agenda: Additions: New Business (Evangelism) - Letter from Burlington Chamber; Old Business - Together in Missions event. **Motion by J. Smith to approve agenda as amended, seconded by C. Strehlow.**

Pastor's Report:

Thank you to all who participated in any way with the Cantata.

Thanks to all who helped with the un-decorating.

Thanks to Renee for providing today's Homily.

Communion change started today with wafers and poured communion cups vs. prepackaged.

We have hired Carol Fischer as our new secretary – to start this Wednesday, January 11. Thanks to all who helped with the hiring process and picked up the slack during the gap.

Secretary (Sharon Ryd):

Motion by J. Hart to accept December 11, 2022 minutes as presented, seconded by J. McGinty.

Treasurer's Report (Janet McGinty):

End of Year - Finished December \$1,510.04 in the black. YTD still shows a loss but a few more adjustments need to be made, which will put us in the black for year end. **Motion by P. Paynter to accept December Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by J. Smith.**

Insurance Update – Grinnell approved our water sensor.

Computer purchase – Cost for new laptop for secretary/office was approximately \$700 plus Microsoft 365, virus protection & ethernet adapter. Pringle and Landry memorial funds were zeroed out to cover most of the cost. Remainder came from checking.

Nurturing the Faith - Worship (Elsie Goulding):

No report

Nurturing the Faith - Education (Jim Smith):

No report

Growing Relationships (open):

Salt Shaker meal today at Bowen's

Caring for the Community (Peggy Paynter):

No report

Inviting Folks In (Elaine Sherry):

No report

Property Report (Chuck Strehlow):

Weather stripping project behind the piano is complete.

J. Hart is working on repairing vacuum cleaner.

Vice President's Report (Jim Hart):

Suggested returning hymnals to the seats, rather than on the cart.

President's Report (Bev Stobber):

Annual meeting will be January 22 for the purpose of getting congregational approval of the 2023 budget. Notices were distributed to all members, along with a copy of the budget.

Old Business:

Secretary hiring – Carol Fischer will start January 11. It was suggested she try to stop by on a Sunday to meet the congregation.

Together in Mission – Event is January 28, topic is authentic diversity. Discussion will take place regarding the results of a survey that had gone out, as well as how churches can be more welcoming. Runs from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Pastor is attending and hoping to have someone join her. Takes place Holy Cross church in Menomonee Falls.

New Business:

Received a letter from the Burlington Chamber of Commerce regarding membership. Cost is \$188. Decision was made to not join.

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 12, 2023.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion by J. Hart to adjourn, seconded by C. Strehlow.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Ryd, Council Secretary

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Budget Meeting

January 22, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am, Quorum of at least 15% of membership was met.

Opening Prayer: led by Pastor Susan Bowen

Purpose of meeting is to adopt the 2023 budget for Peace Lutheran Church approved by council at December 2022 meeting.

A. Presentation of proposed 2023 Budget, Treasurer Janet McGinty:

Income - Stewardship drive: 22 of 25 family units that typically give pledged \$103,620, plus \$3,160 parking lot and \$2,656 payback of benefits from Pastor. Giving up almost \$6000 from 2022.

Expenses (general) – Key changes in budget from 2022: Admin down \$25, Christian Ed up \$90, Property added \$1000 to cover painting the front entrance, Evangelism up \$75. New line item for Growing Relationships, Worship up \$50. There is money in building maintenance if we decide to update the downstairs bathrooms and clean downstairs carpeting. Jerry Koch memorial fund will cover leveling the front stoop.

Expenses (payroll) – Council voted to give Pastor a 3% raise. Total increase from \$63,983 to \$68,003. Secretary up from \$5,600 to \$10,440. Music stayed the same. Custodial \$200 increase.

Bottom line – Total expenses equal \$128,590.32, which is a leap of faith of \$19,153.40 for 2023.

Motion made by Jim Smith to approve the 2023 budget as presented, seconded by John Mosen.

Thanks to Janet for all her hard work.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Renee Knapton, seconded by Chris Mosen.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Ryd, Council Secretary



**PEACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
grow in peace

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TLC Giving Baskets

Thank you for filling the baskets with the personal care items. They will be delivered the end of the month. The emphasis of needed items for the months of March and April will be on food. Suggested are snacks, individual fruit, pudding and Jell-o cups, peanut butter cereal, mac and cheese, etc.



**Midweek Lenten Worship
&
Holy Week Opportunities**

March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29th—Lenten Soup Lunch at 12:00pm and Service at 1:00 pm



April 2nd, Palm Sunday—9:00 am

April 6th, Maundy Thursday Service w/Communion—7:00 pm



April 7th, Good Friday Service—1:00 pm



Easter Sunday Service w/Communion—9:00 am
(Easter breakfast at 7:30 am.)

*He is not here:
for he is Risen,
as he said.*