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# June 2023 Peacepipe

## Pastor's Ponderings

Pastor's Ponderings,

Last night a dozen or so of us gathered to watch *The Cokeville Miracle*. It was an engaging movie about a town who gathered around the potentially disastrous situation in Cokeville (Wyoming) Elementary School. On May 16, 1986, children and teachers were held hostage by a husband and wife, for ransom money, \$2 million per child. This true story is compelling in regard to human behavior, the power of prayer, God, and angels. I found it curious and read the interview transcript with Ron Hartley, lead investigator of the case and the father of two of the children held hostage.

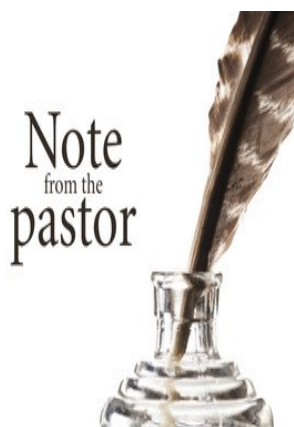
The antagonists were David and Doris Young. David was an almost straight A student in school. He went through training to be a police officer. Years before he lasted only 6 months as a Marshall of Cokeville, characterized as a Wyatt Earp style Marshall with six shooters at his side. He was fired for 'misconduct.' David displayed aggressive and antisocial behaviors and was worshipped by his stupefied wife, who suffered abused wife syndrome. She was enthralled by David's ability to "figure out on his calculator how to die and be resurrected (reincarnated)."

David was obsessed by reincarnation and his building of a Brave New World. This Brave New World would have him in charge of all those children he planned to blow up with him. Much of this was found in his rambling diaries and Manifesto.

The protagonists were Ron and Claudia Hartley. Ron, self-described as a type-A personality, and a fact orientated man. He found his faith in God dwindling due to his experiences of police work. Claudia was his faith filled, loving wife. When his own son stated he saw many angels that day in the classroom and one was his personal angel, Ron had difficulty believing it.

One boy named Nathan said, "I was sitting in the classroom with a toy, and something made me look up. That's when I saw the angel. They were shiny with flowing, white robes. Some were holding hands. They glided down through the ceiling and floated in the air for a second. I felt totally safe.





## Pastor's Ponderings Continued...

Everyone seemed to have an angel. They came down next to us. Mine was a beautiful shining woman. It was almost like she landed on my shoulder. She said, "Don't be scared Nathan. Get up and go to the window. The bomb is about to go off." I did just what she said. The other children started doing the same thing."

Ron's son Nathan described it like this, "well, there were angels all around." "What were they doing?" Ron asked. 'And Nathan says, "well, grandma told me to quick go to the window, and" – and Ron notes Nathan used the word 'recognized' a big word for a six-year-old, a word he never used before – Nathan says, "Before I recognized what she said, the bomb went off. But the angels were holding hands around the bomb and the bomb went off, the angels just went up through the ceiling." [Note: Nathan saw his great grandmother Elliot only once at age one when he sat on her lap. She died soon after that. He picked her picture out in the family photo album.]

Ron spoke with the bomb expert, who said, "I'm not a religious man but you got a miracle. If that bomb had gone off like it should have and the way it was designed – the whole wing should be gone. It just didn't go off the way it should have."

The power of prayer played a huge part in the event. The kids, teachers, first responders, parents – prayed for safety and help. And God sent help in the form of angels. There is even the shape of an angel imprinted on the wall in the wreckage of that classroom.

Do you believe in angels? Have you ever seen an angel?

They are probably more angels around than anyone of us "recognizes."

Pastor Susan

## 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 p.m. (*Please note change*).
- Peacepipe articles by the Saturday after the Church Council meeting (they meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month).

Peacepipe articles for the month of July are due Saturday June 17th. Please email all articles to [peacelca@gmail.com](mailto:peacelca@gmail.com).

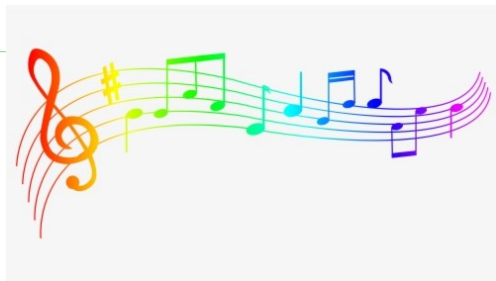


## Pastor Susan's Office Hours

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!

**Note—she will be on vacation June 19—July 2.**

*We have been so blessed the past several years with the incredible talents of our Music Director, Katiann. We wish her much success and joy and she heads off to grad school. Her last day with us will be June 18. She will be greatly missed! Please join us for a reception following worship.*



**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

## Growing Relationships

Please contact Jim Smith by phone (262-332-9189) or by e-mail [jkae1203@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Pastor's  
vacation—  
June 19 to July 2

***BEST  
WISHES,  
KATIANN!***



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



**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

**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](mailto:peacelca@gmail.com), purchase your own 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, June 11th at 10:00 a.m.



**June Birthdays**

Jim Hart — June 15th

Jean Wiechmann — June 24th

**June Anniversaries**

John & Chris Monsen — June 6th

Kent & Leslie Zahn — June 24th



## Finance Report

	Deposits	Expenses	Difference
April 2023	\$7,947.00	\$9,318.49	\$(1,371.49)
Year to Date 2023	\$45,842.00	\$40,908.80	\$4,933.20



Thanks to outgoing council members Watch for the new roster next month.

## 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 June

	Council Person in Charge	Lector	Counter
June 4th	Bev Stobber	Janet McGinty	Peggy Paynter
June 11th	Jim Hart	Kent Zahn	Sean McGinty
June 18th	TBD	Bev Stobber	John Monsen
June 25th	TBD	Sean McGinty	Sharon Ryd





## Meet Our Farmers: Ndekesio Nasari



Ndekesio Nasari, a widow with four children, has been coffee farming for three years. She farms about 100 plants on a one acre farm she owns at 5,400 ft. elevation on Mt. Meru. The higher prices for coffee cherries she receives by participating in the Project allows Ndekesio to send her children to college and improve the condition of their home.

Ndekesio is pictured on the upper left with one of her daughters who performed so well in secondary school that she received a full college scholarship and will graduate next semester. Sadly, almost 70 per cent of Tanzanian children aged 14–17 years are not enrolled in secondary education according to UNICEF. And, fewer than 30% of Tanzanian students enroll in college level education, according to the World Bank, so the accomplishment of a college degree by a student from a rural area is remarkable.



Ndekesio took advantage of the training offered by the Mt. Meru Coffee Project cooperative, and learned about new higher-quality varieties, how to manage the farm, and how to spray and fertilize for high quality and output. She hopes to continue to add more coffee plants, obtaining high quality ones through the cooperative.

## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Church Council Meeting                      April 16, 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.  
Six congregation members also present.

**Opening Prayer:** Led by Pastor Susan

The meeting was called to order at 9:58 a.m. by B. Stobber.

**Approval of Agenda:** Additions under New Business: C. Clarification, D. Clarification, E. Request  
**Motion by J. Smith to approve agenda as amended, seconded by P. Paynter.**

**Pastor's Report:**

- Busy with Lenten season, Holy Week, and Easter. Thanks to Elsie, Elaine, and everyone involved to make it all happen.
- Thanks to Janet for today's message.
- Requested choir to resume singing. They sang for Easter worship.
- She continues to train Carol but there are concerns about her job performance.

**Secretary (Sharon Ryd):**

**Motion by J. Hart to accept March 2023 minutes as presented, seconded by C. Strehlow.**

**Treasurer's Report (Janet McGinty):**

- Janet changed the format of the report to help simplify. March deposits \$8,791.00, expenses \$11,637.16, net deficit (2,846.16). In January we received a gift for the entire year, so the deficit each month is offset by the excess in January. \$30,000 was transferred out of checking into a new money market account to earn 3% interest.

**Motion by J. Hart to accept March Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by J. Smith.**

- Sent thank you notes to the donor for tree removal and to Monsen's for all their work in our new conference room, and to donors through Thrivent Choice.
- Janet will set up tax exempt account at Berkots. We already have accounts at Home Depot and Menards. She will check Pick N Save.

**Nurturing the Faith - Worship (Elsie Goulding):**

- Review of Lenten/Easter Activities: the soup lunch averaged 13 in attendance and mid-week worship averaged 16. Easter breakfast attended by 21 people. Many nice plants were donated.

**Nurturing the Faith - Education (Jim Smith):**

- Movie night for "The Cokeville Miracle" will be May 19 at 5pm and we will have pizza. Next season of "The Chosen" is on order but hasn't been released yet.

**Growing Relationships (open):**

- Bev sent emails regarding Mary.

**Caring for the Community (Peggy Paynter):**

- No report.

**Inviting Folks In (Elaine Sherry):**

- Sent Easter cards to shut ins.
- Sent Easter invitations to 17, received 2 responses.
- Door hangers are still available.

**Property Report (Chuck Strehlow):**

- Chuck will check the condition of the wood on playground equipment.

- Yard clean-up will be May 13 at 9am. He will bring a trailer to put branches in and will make a list of what needs to be done so people can bring equipment/tools. Will try and remove the branch that is hanging down. Kent & Leslie will clean/update Barb's Garden.
- A/C units check and are working, however dated 2001 so pretty old. Jim H will get tractor going this week and check with Jim R. to make sure he's still willing to mow.
- Cabinet in kitchen to left of sink is coming away from wall and needs to be secured.
- The church sign out front is very difficult to open and close and needs to be addressed.

#### **Vice President's Report (Jim Hart):**

- Still need 4 nominees for council, has 1 commitment.

#### **President's Report (Bev Stobber):**

- Annual reports should be in by May 6.
- Bev will put a notice in the newsletter for the annual meeting and get letters sent out.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- Peaceful Pit Stop – nothing new yet. Will be in touch with Tim McCourt
- Synod Assembly delegates – we have one, need 1 more.

#### **New Business:**

- Church musician: Katiann's last day is June 18. We will have a cake reception and a card ahead of time to give everyone a chance to sign it.
- Church secretary: There was extensive discussion about the issues with Carol's job performance and conversations that were had with her regarding these issues. It seemed clear there wouldn't be any improvement.

#### **Motion by J. Hart to terminate Carol Fischer effective today and provide her with 2 weeks severance pay based on previous average hours. Seconded by S. Ryd.**

Bev will call Carol this afternoon to inform her of the termination and make arrangements to retrieve church laptop, mouse, keys.

- Additional discussion took place regarding possible changes to job description before proceeding with searching for a replacement secretary. Pastor proposed restructuring based on skill sets: 1. Marketing (printed material, website, Sunday morning slides, Facebook, emails), 2. Finance (to consider in the future). It was agreed that no decision would be reached today, but that the current job description will need some revision prior to interviewing candidates. Discussion was tabled and an additional council meeting is called for next Sunday, April 23. Everyone was given a copy of the proposed new job description to review.
- Clarification: It was clarified that both Pastor and the secretary are employees, but not at the same level.
- Clarification: As a part time Pastor, the average hours worked should be 20-25 hours per week. Some seasons are more, some less. Pastor has been working much more and needs to back off some areas.
- Request: Pastor would like to take next week as paid vacation that doesn't count against her 4 weeks vacation.  
**Motion by J. Smith to pay Pastor Susan an additional week vacation for 2023, seconded by S. Ryd.**

**Next Meeting:** Sunday, May 14, 2023.

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer.**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Ryd, Council Secretary



# PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Church Council Special Meeting**

**April 23, 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.

**Purpose of meeting: To review secretarial job description with the future in mind and consider Pastor's proposed restructuring vs. current job description.**

**Opening Prayer:** Led by Pastor Susan

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. by B. Stobber.

UPDATE: Bev did call Carol Fisher last Sunday and Carol gave her oral resignation, Bev accepted. Met with her Tuesday to collect the laptop, mouse, keys.

Discussion took place regarding differences between descriptions, volunteers that might be needed in the office. Pastor withdrew her proposed marketing job description and recommended removing the financial aspects of the current job description, as follows: 1) Records weekly financial in database. 2) Print out and mail giving statements for third quarter and year end. 3) Performs year-end functions in church database program. Also should add responsibility for creating slides for Sunday morning announcements. New secretary would need to be flexible during training period to possibly meet during evenings or weekends.

**Motion by J. Smith to look for a replacement secretary using the current job description with changes noted removing financial tasks and adding Sunday slides, seconded by S. Ryd.**

We currently have 1 resume in hand and will schedule an interview.

Pastor requested written clarification of Administration which is one of the five most critical tasks required in this position found on Peace's Ministry Profile.

NOTE: Last week Jim, Chuck and Bev met with construction foreman on project next door and were reassured that they will provide signage stating no construction traffic is allowed on our parking lot, and they will repair any damaged grassy areas.

**Motion by J. McGinty to also add wording to the current job description stating there will be a 60-day probationary period followed by a performance review. Annual reviews to follow after that. Seconded by P. Paynter.**

**Motion by J. Hart that any email communication between Pastor and the secretary be cc'd to all members of the Executive Committee, seconded by J. McGinty.**

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer.**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Ryd, Council Secretary



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Website: [www.peacelutheranburlington.org](http://www.peacelutheranburlington.org)

**DAD JOKES:**

What was Noah’s favorite fruit? Pears! (pairs)

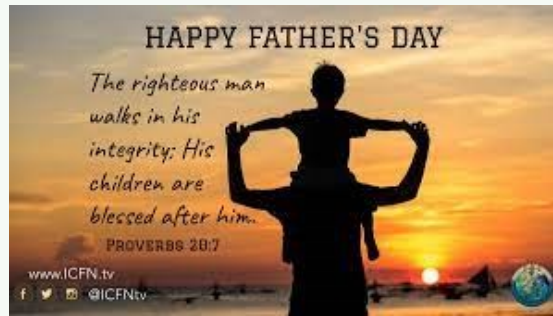
Who was the smallest person in the Bible?  
Knee high miah!

Why didn’t Noah do much fishing when he was on the ark? He only had 2 worms!

Who was the smartest man in the Bible? Abraham. He knew a Lot.

What do you call it when Batman skips church? Christian Bale!

What was Boaz like before he got married? Ruthless!



We had a wonderful turnout May 19 for our pizza and movie night. “The Cokeville Miracle” was an incredibly powerful and inspiring film. Thanks to Jim Smith for bringing this to us.



**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 Sheephead. Others play Bunco and Mexican Train Dominoes. Throughout the year, there are opportunities to join 50+ Sports to play Bowling, Pickle Ball, Softball, or Volley Ball. BSC offers a Jam Session, an in-house Library, Meals on Wheels, and more. For information, call 262-716-0329