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# January 2026 Peacepipe

## Peaceful Ponderings...

### Blessed Epiphany

For a few days, we are still in the Christmas season of the church year. So, let me begin by looking back. Thank you for a beautiful celebration of the birth of Jesus. The cantata on the third Sunday of Advent was inspirational - thank you to Kerry and the choir! My favorite thing about Christmas Eve worship - the beginning of the gospel of John, the light from candles spreading through the sanctuary, and Silent Night - moved me once again. My prayer is that we continue to carry the light of Christ into the world through our everyday lives.



And thank you for the Christmas gift! It was a complete surprise, and I'm honored by it.

We now enter the season of Epiphany, which begins officially on January 6, the day we celebrate the visit of the Magi to Jesus. The season runs until Ash Wednesday, February 18. We are celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany or Three Kings Day on January 4.

The Greek word, "epiphaneia" means "appearance" or "manifestation." Through the coming of the Magi to Jesus, God's glory is shown to the Gentiles. The light that came into the world with Jesus birth is the light that drew the Magi to Emmanuel, God incarnate, and continues to draw the world to love and grace.

During the season of Epiphany, we see ways God is revealed to the world through Christ: Jesus' baptism, the calling of his disciples and his early ministry. Light is a recurring theme.

As we celebrate the Day of Epiphany on January 4, we will learn about one Epiphany home- blessing tradition: chalking the door. Don't miss it!

In addition to beginning the season of Epiphany, we are beginning a new year. As you consider things you want to do (or not do) this year, perhaps think about adding one spiritual practice to your daily or weekly regimen. Perhaps beginning or ending the day with prayer? Perhaps a prayer each time you see or hear an ambulance? Perhaps a prayer for children each time you pass a school? Perhaps looking more intently at others - looking for Christ in them?

Blessings this Epiphany season, and this new year.

Peace,  
Pastor Carol

# January 2026 Peacepipe

## Starting our 50th Year!

As of November 13, 2025, Peace Lutheran Church is entering its 50th year of ministry and mission in Burlington. Although we will officially celebrate the 50th anniversary in November 2026, the Council is beginning to make plans to celebrate different parts of our ministry and life together beginning as early as next June. Are you interested in being part of this planning? If so, please contact Marilyn Hart and/or Pastor Carol.



## Peace Family and Friends Food Pantry - from Pastor Carol

In the midst of the government shutdown, while many people worried about paying bills or putting food on the table, some folks fortunate enough to not have to worry started asking "what can I do?" Kerry Bieneman came up with the idea of backpacks for homeless people as well as the idea of putting together gallon bags of necessities that can be given to people who stand on the streets asking for help.

Another idea has been raised as well. You may know someone - a friend, neighbor, or family member, or even yourself - who is struggling to make ends meet and whose cupboard could use a little help. One of our members, who wishes to remain anonymous, came up with the idea of a "Family and Friends Food Pantry." This person has stocked shelves in my office with food items. If you know of someone who could use some extra food, please stop in my office and take what they might need. My office is always open. You are always welcome.



This congregation is great at supporting outreach ministries in the community. The hope is that this Peace Food Pantry might support folks and friends in the congregation. If it ends up that this is not a need, the food will be donated elsewhere.

## OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

Rich Mueller could use some company once in a while, so Pam can get out and run errands. If you are able to spend an hour or two with him, please let Pam (262-492-4319) or Pastor Carol know. There is a sign up sheet in the back for interest in helping. Thank you for caring for one another!



## CHURCH UN-DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

Following worship on Sunday, January 4 we will take down our Christmas decorations and enjoy some snacks together. Please try to stay and help. Many hands make light work!



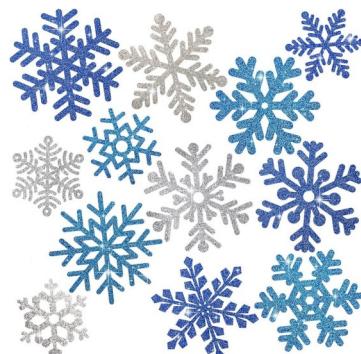
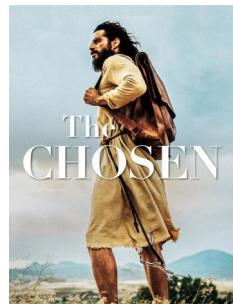
## Pastor Carol's Office Hours

Pastor Carol's office hours are Wednesdays from 9:00 am until noon. If you need to reach Pastor any other time feel free to call (262) 900-8212.



## The Chosen

Our viewing of "The Chosen" Season 5 will be on hiatus at least until Sunday January 25. Stay tuned...  
(DVDs of previous seasons are available to borrow, if interested)





PEACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH: A Small  
Family of Christian  
Believers Working to

“Grow in Peace”



## Financial Report

	Deposits	Expenses	Difference
November 2025	\$ 6,731.00	\$ 6,351.40	\$ 379.60
Year to Date	\$ 87,473.00	\$ 76,314.23	\$ 11,158.77

Thank you for your continued generosity!

## Worship Assistants for January

Date	Council Person in Charge	Lector	Communion Assistant	Fellowship Snacks	Counter
Jan 4	Sharon Ryd	Bev Stobber	Bev Stobber	multiple (Un-decorating)	Kent Zahn
Jan 11	Bev Stobber	Janet McGinty	Janet McGinty		Janet McGinty
Jan 18	Chris Monsen	Chris Monsen	Elsie Goulding	Knaptons	John Monsen
Jan 25	Ken Christensen	Ken Christensen	Ken Christensen		Sharon Ryd

## January Anniversaries

Dianna & Paul Shamel—January 12



## January Birthdays

Carol Chaffee—January 7

Lauren Muffick—January 7

Jack Olson—January 10

Ed Drewitz—January 10

Dan Knapton—January 18

Ken Christensen—January 25

Matt Bieneman—January 25



## Giving ...

Homeless bags were delivered to 3 police departments and to the library. All of them expressed gratefulness. Thanks to Kerry and all those who gave monetarily or of their talent.

Start bringing healthy snacks and travel personal items, i.e. shampoo, deodorant, feminine items. These will be delivered to Katcher cupboard on February 1st.

Looking ahead we will begin collecting in February for the Burlington Senior Center. They are in need of paper cups (no Styrofoam), small paper plates and napkins. These will be delivered March 1.

In 2025 Peace was extremely giving to those in need. I am looking forward to a successful 2026.

Carol Chaffee

*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. January dates are 1/8 and 1/22.

All are welcome to join in!

## Women's Mid-Day Gathering

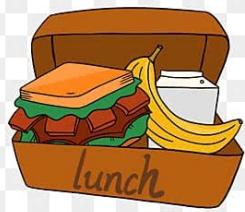
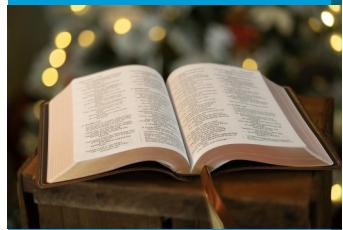
The Mid-Day Women's Gathering will meet Wednesday January 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am in the Peace fellowship hall.

Bring your own lunch and beverage, dessert will be provided.

Elaine Sherry will host

## Growing Relationships

Contact Renee Knapton by phone at 262-492-0718 or by e-mail at [reneeknapton@gmail.com](mailto:reneeknapton@gmail.com) with any joys, sorrows, prayer requests, etc. that you wish shared with fellow members.



## 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 February are due on Saturday, January 17.



## 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, November 9, 2025

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. by President M. Hart

**Opening Prayer:** Led by C. Monsen

**Additions to Agenda:** New Business: procedures for cancelling worship in inclement weather.

**Approval of agenda:** Motion by B. Stobber, seconded by R. Knapton to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Led worship, office hours, meetings (Parent Hope project), Kerry, Sharon, Loss group, continuing education.
- Council agrees to use of Peace for Pastor's consultations
- Discussed rental of Peace spaces to community groups/people and Pastor's use for consultations.
- Possible "Blue Christmas" service December 21
- If Pastor has a particularly busy week with activities outside of Peace, we agreed a less formal sermon would be just fine rather than obtaining a supply Pastor.

**Secretary's Report (Sharon Ryd)** Motion by R. Knapton, seconded by C. Monsen, to accept the minutes of the October 12<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report (Sean McGinty)** Deposits for the month of October were \$6,309.00. Expenses were \$9,833.33. The net balance for the month is a negative \$3,524.33, YTD positive \$13,972.61. Motion by S. Ryd seconded by B. Stobber, to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

**2026 Budget:** Motion by R. Knapton, seconded by C. Monsen to increase hourly pay for both secretary and custodian by 5% to \$15.75 per hour for 2026. Motion carried. Sharon recused herself from this vote. Proposed budget initially presented with net balance of negative \$3,884. Revisions made increasing general offerings to \$99,760, telephone & Wifi to \$2200, inviting people in to \$500, secretary salary to \$11,718, custodial services to \$3,119, payroll taxes to \$1,553. Revised net balance negative \$6,724. Motion by B. Stobber to accept 2026 budget as amended, seconded by S. Ryd. Motion carried.

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

- Advent decorating is November 29, Christmas decorating December 13
- Christmas Eve service will be at 4pm
- Sign up available for Christmas poinsettias.

**Faith Nurturing – Education (Chris Monsen):** no report

**Growing Relationships (Renee Knapton):**

- Sent notices to congregation
- Changed out banners
- Discussed grief conversation from All Saints day and the possibility of continuing this discussion. Renee contacted Integrity to see what they offer.

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

- Delivered 2nd food donation to library
- Food to Love Inc for Thanksgiving dinners
- Cleaning supplies to TLC
- Christmas family wishes posted
- Mitten, sock, hat donations will be delivered Dec. 1
- Contacted Karcher school & Burlington Senior Center about possible needs.

## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Church Council Meeting, November 9, 2025, continued

#### Inviting Folks In (Carol Chaffee):

- Thank you, birthday and anniversary cards sent out

#### Property Report (Open):

- Furnace replaced
- Working on new snow plowing contract
- Playground equipment given to local family. He is working on removing.
- Winterized property items
- Decided to give away basketball hoop. Will offer to family taking playground equipment first.

Vice-President's Report (Ken Christensen): no report

#### President's Report (Marilyn Hart)

- Prepared Council agenda, compiled reports
- Discussed 50th anniversary ideas and community projects

#### Unfinished Business

- AED-Sharon researched new battery for current AED, but discontinued, so will continue with grant application process for new AED.
- Pastor and Sharon continue to work on purchasing Bibles for sanctuary.

#### New Business

- Sharon's 60 day performance review as church secretary. Responsibilities are changing/being added to so job description also needs to be kept current. Review job description annually prior to budgeting.
- Kerry Bieneman is working on community projects to provide backpacks for homeless and set up baby pantry using space at Peace. Will look to Thrivent, sponsorships, & Peace for funding and Peace for volunteers.
- Inclement weather-need to put procedures in place if the roads are bad and worship will be cancelled. and how Sharon will set up procedures to notify everyone. Pastor, Bev and Marilyn will make the decision.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2025

**Motion to adjourn made by C. Monsen, seconded by S. McGinty. Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Ryd  
Council secretary



**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Congregational Budget Meeting, November 23, 2025**

**The meeting was called to order at 10:17am by Marilyn Hart. 21 members of congregation present, quorum of at least 15% of membership was met.**

**The purpose of this meeting is to ratify the 2026 congregational budget approved by the council on November 9, 2025.**

**A. Presentation of proposed 2026 budget, Treasurer Sean McGinty**

- 1. Income** - pledges for 2026 total \$99,760, up from \$87,380 in 2025.
- 2. Expenses** - total \$106,484 up from \$103,939 in 2025. Increases to note are in "Property" for insurance and landscaping, "Benevolence" to increase giving to Synod, and "Payroll" for salary increases for secretary and custodian. We formally added a line for Pastor's payroll to change it from conventional payroll to a contract payroll line.
- 3. Bottom line** - Total expenses equal \$106,484, which is a leap of faith of \$6,724 for 2026, significantly lower than the \$16,559 for 2025.

**Motion by Janet McGinty to approve the budget as presented with a \$6,724 deficit, seconded by John Monsen.**

**Discussion**

**Call for vote by Jim Hart, seconded by Jeanne Rateike. Motion carried.**

**Motion by Janet McGinty to adjourn the meeting, seconded Renee Knapton. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned 10:47am

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Ryd Council secretary

