

CHURCH OF PEACE MESSENGER

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Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Advent is a time for Hope. Each year we experience great hardship and bask in great joy. In today's world, we seem to be steered toward the fear of hardship while attempts are made to minimize our Christian Joy by comparisons to worldly joy. And when we allow the worldly notions of hardship and joy to cloud our knowledge of God through Jesus Christ, we can lose hope because the mountains that stand before us seem too great to climb. But Jesus doesn't tell us to climb the mountain; he tells us that God can move the mountain for us even if our faith is as small as a mustard seed.

You see, God is the constant and ever-present hope in our lives. God is our refuge and strength. God is our hope when the joys of our life seem empty or inadequate. God is our hope when the hardships of life seem insurmountable. Therefore, we need not climb the mountain of hardship because even if our faith is as small as a mustard seed, God will move it us for us. And when we believe that this is possible with God, we can rejoice fully, knowing that "...to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Jesus was the hope of Ancient Israel and Jesus is our hope today because in Jesus we can live a life of freedom knowing that our reward is greater than any worldly joy and our reward overcomes all worldly hardships. May our faith guide us this Advent season to experience the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Jesus Christ in all that we do and all that we say. So, when Christmas arrives, may we all lift our voices to God saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among all people" (Luke 2:14).

This year during the Advent Season, we will enjoy beautiful candle lighting liturgies, wonderful music, and a yet to be written sermon series relating artistry and faith. Most importantly, we will experience God's words of hope to the ancient people of 2000 years ago and God's words of hope for us today.

I truly believe in my heart that our members' deepest hope is that we will once again gather in great numbers as a wonderful community in Christ to worship and give thanks to God this Advent Season. If you believe this too, please *plan* to attend our worship services and special events.

May we all have an Advent Season filled with hope, peace, joy and love, and may we all experience great wonder as we celebrate God's grace-filled gift to all people this Christmas.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve





CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

IN OUR PRAYERS

Lucy Zahn
 Elise Sonnenberg
 Cindy Duffy
 Bob Hanke
 Alice Jaber
 Theresa Schultz
 Marilyn Peters
 Sharon Hensen
 Christine Weimer
 Ron Rowe
 Caroline Zimpher
 Eli
 Bill Whittaker
 Carol Van Norman
 Rev. Jerry Schrankler
 Katri & Jakob

Janet Rymer
 Pat Grose
 Janet & Eugene Willis
 Amy Jo
 Barb Dehring
 Randy Resop
 Diane Candlish
 Ruth Pedix
 Tyler Detweiler
 Evelyn Stepp
 Norlene Haase
 Tom Schultz
 Kathy Meyn
 Cassie Poirier
 Jan Whittaker

Bill Manka
 Zoe Rose
 Joe Ule
 Brenna Slavik
 Bev
 David
 Edna Karl
 Donna Birkholz
 Lisa Peterson
 Ray Beilke
 Shirley Hanke
 Nicole Schendel

FOOD PANTRY

We are very grateful to receive donations to our food pantry. December Food needs Reverse Advent Calendar.



Balance as of October 1, 2022: \$17,420.84
 Deposits in October: \$9,655.30
 Disbursements in October: \$7,000.00
 Balance as of October 31, 2022: \$20,076.14
 Remaining balance on Loan 10/31/2022: \$863,194.15



DEATHS

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under Golden Fellowship Christmas Party Thursday, December 15th at 11:00.

Daniel Griffin, born on September 1, 1931 and passed away on November 3, 2022.

Chicken dinner from Pump 'n Pantry \$10 per person. RSVP by Dec. 11th to Faye Smith 920-266-6035 or Brenda Roehl 920-929-9084 All are invited.

*Christmas Eve Worship
 December 24 - 4 & 6 p.m.
 Christmas Day
 December 25 - 10 a.m.*

"YOUTH GROUP"
 Join us on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month .
 at 10:00.
 Confirmation age through
 Contact Pete Peterson at (920)266-2731
 for more information.

COUNCIL MINUTES from the November 8, 2022
(minutes taken by Mike Petersen)

Balance as of October 1, 2022: \$37,831.76

Deposits in October: \$17,201.70

Disbursements in October: \$31,370.84

Balance as of October 31, 2022: \$23,662.62

Minutes of Previous Meeting

A motion was made by Jerry J., a second to Pete P. to approve the previous meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report and Approval of Bills

A discussion was made regarding unpaid bills, specifically with the GFL (Garbage) invoice that is being corrected to reduced rate but is not reflected yet. Further discussion was had regarding the communion fund and why there was no deposits in the month of October; and the ins and outs on the dedicated funds sheet. Mike P. indicated that he would review the reports and correct them for next month. Justin P. Motioned to postpone approval of the financial report as written, but to approve the payment of bills with the exception of the GFL invoice for \$783 for next month. Jerry J. seconded. Motion carried.

In the Life of our Church

A. Worship

a. Usher Schedule - Ask Confirmation Parents to help.

i. The council discussed having parents of Confirmation students help with the Usher duties since some of them already help.

ii. Further, the council discussed that the doors to the sanctuary at the top of the elevator and back main staircases are to remain open during worship.

iii. Thanksgiving Eve Service

iv. The Ushers for the service at 7 PM are Victor, Deb, Bobbi and Jack

v. Advent begins on November 27

vi. Decorating on Saturday November 26, 2022

vii. The council was reminded that all help is needed for the church decoration for Advent and Christmas on November 26.

viii. Activities Assistant

a. Pastor Steve shared what Brenda R, has been doing. Brenda R, completed a report which was read by the council. It was discussed that based on the recent past of increased contact from members that we would wait on letters to the congregation members who have not given or attended church. Pastor Steve shared that they will begin to contact some of those members who have fallen close to off the membership list using social media and website white pages to contact them.

b. Christian Education and Confirmation

c. Pastor Steve shared that he would like to move Confirmation to February. The council held a discussion regarding when the best time was for Confirmation and other main events in the church and it was in agreement that Confirmation can be in February as that will allow the confirmands to continue to attend worship before summer.

d. Sunday school is going well. The Christmas Program is on December 24 at 4 PM.

e. Groups in Church Family

f. The Ladies of Peace Christmas Party is coming up.

g. Golden Fellowship is meeting regularly.

h. Marthas will be meeting and doing their Christmas Bag in the future.

i. Pete P. shared that he is working with the Youth group and that there was some confusion as they were also going to do bags for shut ins during the holiday season. Pete clarified that they are selecting one facility whereas the Marthas do bags for members of the congregation. Pete P. inquired about the checking account and who the signatories are. Justin P. indicated that it was him and Sheri Schultz. A motion was made by Justin and seconded by Mike to allow Pete P. to become a signer on the Youth Account (he would have to go to the bank to complete the process).

Outreach

a. Loaves and Fishes - Jerry J. indicated that there was a meeting last Thursday and that the current numbers are 28 groups that serve. 80-90% of all meals are still Carry Outs. The Loaves and Fishes Board is going to start to require registration for meals. Church of Peace serves on 11/21/22.

b. Giving Tree

c. River Park - Victor A. reported that there is nothing additional that has happened since the last meeting.

Food Pantry - Seven people were helped with food and 6 were helped with utilities. The council wanted to clarify that when serving our community that since we often have members and receive food donations from North Fond du Lac, that we should include the zip codes of 54935 and 54937 in eligibility for our food pantry. Pete P. so moved, Justin P. seconded. The motion carried. Also, Jerry J. indicated that St. Vincent de Paul should have a list of food pantries that we can get on as well as a handout for people who visit our pantry.

F. Stewardship Ministry Team

a. It was discussed that all council members should wear name tags during events. The Stewardship team will help with lanyards.

b. Church Administration

c. Constitution - Discussion was had regarding updating the Constitution. Jerry J inquired whether there are examples of other constitutions to look at. Rev. Steve indicated that it might be best to create a 6 month standing committee to review the constitution. It was agreed that the council members would bring forth names in the future.

d. Church Logo - Pastor Steve indicated that he would like to update the Church Logo. All council members were in agreement that it accurately represents the Church.

e. Pastor Vacation - Pastor Steve shared that he will be on vacation next week, but will return for the 11/20 service.

f. Building and Grounds

g. Floor waxing - IT was shared that a floor waxing demonstration will be held on November 15 at 1 PM. All are encouraged to attend.

h. GFL Contract - This was discussed during the financial report.

i. Safety and Security - Mike P. indicated that a camera system was purchased and will likely be installed in late November.

j. The Boy Scouts would like to use Kitchen - Pete P. indicated that the Boy Scouts would like to use the kitchen for a district meeting and dinner in March. A discussion was held and it was agreed that the date would be March 2, 2022. This was approved by motion made by Mike P. and seconded by Justin P. Motion carried.

k. Carpet Cleaning - Victor will be getting 3 estimates for carpet cleaning at the church for the sanctuary and offices/multipurpose room.

l. Capital Campaign

The next video and a participation survey will be sent out and posted on social media to the community. It is encouraged that all watch the video and the members fill out the survey to help guide the future.

Concerns of the Council President

Concerns of the Pastor

New Membership Sunday is January 19, 2020.

Concerns of the Council Members

Jerry J. indicated that he had some questions about Building to Serve deposits. Justin P. shared that now the weekly counting committee will be counting and depositing those amounts as they are received.

Mike P. shared that a Budget Meeting will be held on December 6, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

The meeting ended at 8:27 with the Lords Prayer.

Next Meetings:

Council Meeting Dec 13, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Budget Meeting Dec 6 2022 at 6:30 PM

Historical Corner

Mary Strauss, Historian

90 years ago in 1932 a Pulpit Committee was formed of G. Indermuehle, H. Christ, Mr. Pollack, Mrs. Ed Poppe, Mrs. Fred Parham, and Mrs. Abe Schwartz. After reviewing 8 returned questionnaires Rev. K. Koehler of Tripoli, Iowa was asked to preach a trial sermon on March 9. That makes that Christmas the first time a Koehler was our pastor.

60 years ago in 1962 our Pastor's salary was \$6,000, the organist earned \$660, and the Secretary's salary was \$1,635. We paid \$4,796 to the North WI. and General Synod.

55 years ago an article written by Elizabeth Jaber appeared in the Sunday Times on Dec. 16, 1967 stating we had a choir that rang handbells instead of voices. It was named after Rev. Karl Koehler who had been exploring new musical activity for youth 6 years prior, and contributed funds to start it in 1965, a few months before he died as pastor of a church in Brillion.

It was directed by Miss Joan Wegner who recruited some of her Sabish Junior High students among the 13-19 year olds in the choir. A starter set of 25 bells costing \$50 each came in Sept. and they prepared for 4 December concerts.

"He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy. He, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute." ~ Augustine of Hippo

Martha Society

"Christmas is not a time or season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas." --President Calvin Coolidge

Christmas Time is here! Let's spend December spreading Christmas cheer! The Martha Society will meet to celebrate the Christmas season on Saturday, December 3rd. We will meet to pack our "original" Thinking of You bags to be distributed over the Holiday Season. After work is completed, we will relocate for a time of friendship and fellowship to kick off the Christmas season.

The Martha Society will start regular meetings in January on January 10th at 6. New members are always welcome to attend.



Ladies of Peace

The first snow of the season, the trees and lawn covered. This is actually my favorite season (I don't have to shovel). The kids were out playing Fox and Goose. Who remembers that game? As things end, new things begin.

The all church rummage, bake and jewelry sale is completed, and the long awaited Soup Sunday is set to begin with the sale of Italian Vegetable Soup and fresh baked cookies. Please sign up before November 27 so as not to miss this delicious soup.

Please take this opportunity to be grateful before being caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Victor Abitz, President	abitzvictor@gmail.com	920-579-6008
Bobbi Thomma, VP	bthomma@charter.net	920-921-5544
Matt Moore, Secretary	mjmooreplus3@gmail.com	920-979-4309
Mike Petersen, Treasurer	michael.d.petersen@outlook.com	920-266-2036
Brian Fryman	bfryman341@gmail.com	920-517-3770
Liz Groeschel	elizabeth.groeschel@outlook.com	920-960-8394
Jerry Johnson	jjjohnson@charter.net	920-238-9716
Peter Peterson	Peter_Peterson32@yahoo.com	920-266-2731
Justin Poirier	poirier.bubba@gmail.com	262-623-8857
Faye Smith	dzsm8445@gmail.com	920-266-6035

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello to everyone,

Hoping all of you are doing well, and had a very nice Thanksgiving with family and friends. Just a few things to report on. About our rummage sale. I would like to thank all who helped with it. I know it was a busy week preparing and working the days of the sale. It was a very big sale this time and lots of people came and bought lots of items, all the bakery was sold and the jewelry did very well as always.

I have been checking on things that we need done as far as cleaning the church, Fellowship Hall, and Narthex. I had 2 companies come and give estimates on shampooing the carpets in the church. There will be Training on how to use Zamboni to strip the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, and then wax all the floors.

We served Loaves and Fishes in November. Next time we serve we sure could use extra hands. Because more hands make a difference. It sure is nice seeing all the happy, thankful faces that come and get meals for themselves and family.

As we prepare for the month of December, we will again be having our giving tree for families in need. Last year we put lots of smiles on those children, and the parents. It does warm your heart. The tree will be in the Narthex so watch for it.

In closing, I want to thank all for your help in all the things we do in making our Church a success, and all the giving of ourselves to others less fortunate, because that is what makes the world a better place and we feel good about ourselves as well.

Blessing to all, Victor

RUMMAGE SALE

WOW, what a wonderful and profitable rummage sale we just had.

The congregation came through again or should I say as usual. It seems like every sale we have we get better and better items to sell. Thank you all for that.

I especially want to thank the Ladies of Peace. You go above and beyond for these rummage sales putting in long hours to get it ready for the sale day. You all are great. Thank you very much. I appreciate every one of you.

Then there are our regular volunteers. You all know who you are. You all are invaluable to us. You come back year after year and we couldn't do this without you. Thank you very much. I also appreciate you.

We do have to get better with set up and take down. If we can accomplish this the rummage sale would run perfectly. We will try to do better for the spring sale.

This sale we made \$6,144.70 which is more than our last sale. Good job everyone!

2022 Reverse Advent Calendar

This year we are again inviting members and friends to create a "Reverse Advent Calendar" by setting aside a box for the food pantry at the beginning of Advent. Each day put the suggested item into the box. Please bring your filled box to the church during regular office hours, Monday through Thursday between 9 am – 12 noon or on Sunday morning. **THANK YOU!**

Sunday, Nov. 27	Can of Chunky soup
Monday, Nov. 28	Tuna Helper
Tuesday, Nov. 29	Mac 'n Cheese – two boxes
Wednesday, Nov. 30	Pancake mix - "COMPLETE" type (just add water)
Thursday, Dec. 1	Pancake syrup
Friday, Dec. 2	Hamburger Helper
Saturday, Dec. 3	Dinty Moore Stew
Sunday, Dec. 4	Bottle of shampoo
Monday, Dec. 5	Can of chicken
Tuesday, Dec. 6	Box of cereal
Wednesday, Dec. 7	Peanut butter in a plastic jar
Thursday, Dec. 8	Jelly or jam in a plastic jar or squeeze bottle
Friday, Dec. 9	Tuna Helper
Saturday, Dec. 10	Box of brownie mix
Sunday, Dec. 11	Hamburger Helper
Monday, Dec. 12	Mac 'n Cheese individual cups
Tuesday, Dec. 13	Can of Chunky soup
Wednesday, Dec. 14	Pancake mix
Thursday, Dec. 15	Pancake syrup
Friday, Dec. 16	Tube of toothpaste
Saturday, Dec. 17	Box of cereal
Sunday, Dec. 18	Mac 'n Cheese – two boxes
Monday, Dec. 19	Peanut butter in a plastic jar
Tuesday, Dec. 20	Hamburger or Tuna Helper
Wednesday, Dec. 21	Deodorant
Thursday, Dec. 22	Can of tuna
Friday, Dec. 23	Can of chicken
Saturday, Dec. 24	Dinty Moore Stew
Sunday, Dec. 25	Have a MERRIER Christmas knowing that you've helped some people in Jesus' name.

Soup Sunday is Back
Italian Vegetable Soup
1 qt. \$8.00 2 qt. \$15.00
Cookies – ½ doz. \$2.50
1 doz. \$4.75

Sign up by Nov. 27th
Pick up Dec. 4th After Worship



Reminder – Reminder – Reminder

Giving Tree gifts need to be returned no later than
Wednesday, December 14th.
Office hours are 9:00 – 12:00
Thank you very much for making Christmas brighter for someone.



A huge "Thank You" to all who helped with the decorating of the church! The building looks BEAUTIFUL!



COOKIES

We will be serving cookies, coffee and hot chocolate between services on Christmas Eve. Services are at 4:00 with the children's Christmas program and the 6:00 service.

If you are baking cutout cookies for your home, would you consider donating a dozen to the church? **We will be decorating the cookies on Saturday, December 17th at 1:00.** All are welcome to help! Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Thank you, Brenda Roehl

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #ffffcc;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Nov 2022</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #ffffcc;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 2023</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					1 5:30 PM -7:00 PM TOPS Meeting	2	3 10:00 AM Martha Society Christmas Party
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4 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Soup Pick-up	5	6 11:30 AM Ladies of Peace Christmas	7 8:30 AM River Park Meeting 6:30 PM Boy Scout Meeting 7:30 PM -9:00 PM Confirmation Class 8:30 PM Parents Meeting	8 5:30 PM -7:00 PM TOPS Meeting	9	10																																																																																				
11 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Youth Group	12	13 1:00 PM Clergy Cluster 6:30 PM Council Meeting	14 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Giving Tree Gift Due 6:30 PM Boy Scout Meeting 7:30 PM -9:00 PM Confirmation Class	15 11:00 AM Golden Fellowship Christmas Party 5:30 PM -7:00 PM TOPS Meeting	16	17 1:00 PM Cookie Decorating																																																																																				
18 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Sunday School 	19 1:30 PM Bible Study	20 6:30 PM Stewardship Meeting	21 No Confirmation	22 5:30 PM -7:00 PM TOPS Meeting	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship w/communion 4 & 6:00 PM 																																																																																				
25 10:00 AM Worship Merry Christmas 	26 Office Closed	27 Messenger Articles Due!	28 No Confirmation	29 5:30 PM -7:00 PM TOPS Meeting	30	31 GO NEW YEARS & LOVE  <small>shutterstock.com • 515971120</small>																																																																																				

CHURCH OF PEACE
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DECEMBER

December, 18th

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. You can send offerings to the church. In the memo put: UCC Christmas Fund. Or the envelope that is enclosed.


THE CHRISTMAS FUND
for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund