

# CHURCH OF PEACE MESSENGER

<b>May</b>	
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Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

What does it mean to truly be a servant of God? Many nonbelievers say that they do not believe in God because they are no-one's servant. When I was in seminary a young man told me that if you believe in God, it means that you are below God because we are servants at the feet of God. I think many people are confused by what being a servant of God really means. In the New Testament of the Bible, we find four gospels which record the life of Jesus. Throughout the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we hear Jesus' words of hope and joy. We also hear many accounts of how Jesus' actions cared for God's people.

In John 13, we hear how Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. Not only does Jesus' action tell us something about our God, but it was also to prepare the disciples for what was to come. There is a great deal of symbolism by this act of love and servanthood, but it also reveals to us our purpose in this world. We are to love and care for the least and the greatest because God's hope for all of us is that we treat each other like we ourselves want to be treated, or even better yet, as Jesus cared for the people. The work of Jesus Christ is the true example of being God's servant. I believe this is just one attribute of the truly amazing Son of God who lived his life teaching, serving and loving the people. Jesus glorified God with every step and breath that he took.

If we look closely, the message of servanthood was in the Bible before Jesus came to earth. In the Old Testament, when the people brought their offerings to God, the offerings were not wasted, but instead they were distributed to the people who needed them most. In fact, serving God through offerings really meant serving God's people. So, when Jesus came, he helped the people see again what the true meaning of being a servant of God meant, to serve God is to serve the people God so dearly loves.

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# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



## IN OUR PRAYERS

Lucy Zahn  
 Elise Sonnenberg  
 Cindy Duffy  
 Bob Hanke  
 Alice Jaber  
 Theresa Schultz  
 Marilyn Peters  
 Sharon Hensen  
 Christine Weim  
 Evelyn Stepp  
 Elaine Miller  
 Nicole Schendel  
 Cassie Poirier  
 Doris Kastorff  
 Helen Oelke  
 Mary Fleischman

Janet Rymer  
 Roger Villers  
 Janet & Eugene Willis  
 Amy Jo  
 Barb Dehring  
 Randy Resop  
 Diane Candlish  
 Ruth Pedix  
 Tyler Detweiler  
 Rev. Jerry Schrankler  
 Shirley Hanke  
 Jason & Jennifer  
 Dorothy Gyr  
 Dave Borchert  
 Ernst Oelke

Bill Manka  
 Abby  
 Joe Ule  
 Brenna Slavik  
 Bev  
 Gia Del Pont  
 Edna Karl  
 Donna Birkholz  
 Ron Rowe  
 Jan Whittaker  
 Eli  
 John Sandberg  
 Rick Karl  
 James Kraemer  
 Tom Whittaker

### FOOD PANTRY

We are very grateful to receive donations to our food pantry. **May Food needs spaghetti sauce and noodles** Non-food needs include Toilet Paper.



## DEATH

**Kenneth Meyn**, born on March 24, 1931 and passed away on April 22, 2023.



Balance as of March 1, 2023: \$22,482.44

Deposits in March: \$14,510.32

Disbursements in March: \$7,002.00

Balance as of March 31, 2023: \$29,990.76

Remaining balance on Loan 3/31/2023: \$823,663.92



Friday, May 5 - 9AM – 6 PM  
 Saturday, May 6 – 9AM – 2PM  
 Saturday, Bag Sale - Noon – 2PM  
**Help is always welcomed!**

*COUNCIL MINUTES from the April 11th, 2023  
(minutes taken by Matt Moore)*

Balance as of March 1, 2023: \$27,641.08

Deposits in March: \$15,018.97

Disbursements in March: \$25,221.59

Balance as of March 31, 2023: \$17,438.46

Present: Bobbi Thomma, Faye Smith, Nancy Pahnke, Peter Peterson, Victor Abitz, Jerry Johnson, Pastor Stephen Stepp, Matt Moore

Absent: Mike Petersen, Justin Poirier

**Call to Order:** Victor A. called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Steve led the opening prayer.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

A motion was made by Jerry and seconded by Peter to accept the 3/14/2023 council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Financial Report and Approval of Bills**

Bobbi asked if it's possible to add the beginning balance to the Communion Fund section on the Abbreviated Financial Report. The council agreed it would be helpful. This would be a question for Jackie Rymer. Victor will ask Jackie about what appears to be a steep increase in the church's insurance bill. A motion was made by Peter and seconded by Bobbi to approve February's financial reports and pay the bills.

**In the Life of Our Church**

Worship

Pastor Steve mentioned that the Lenten services, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter all went very well. The council agreed.

Christian Education:

Pastor Steve reported that Sunday School is planned for 4/16 and the end of year party for 5/21 which will be followed by the YMCA Day.

Pastor Steve reported that there is a confirmation meeting in May to assign readings for over the summer and classes will begin in the month of May.

Groups in the Church Family

Ladies of Peace: Nancy and Faye reported the group's major focus is the rummage sale. The group also deep cleaned and organized the kitchen earlier today.

Marthas: Pastor Steve mentioned they completed the bags for Easter.

Golden Fellowship: Faye reported they are showing the movie "The Shack". They may plan to have a speaker come in to discuss the importance of organ donations.

Youth: Peter reported the group had the bowling event last month. Next Sunday they will be hiding Easter eggs for the Sunday School children. They are also planning a lock-in at the church sometime in May.

## Outreach

Loaves & Fishes: Jerry gave an update regarding the last Wednesday service.

River Park: Victor reminded the council this group only meets once every quarter now.

Food Pantry: Peter mentioned that the Scouting for Food drive drop off is Saturday 4/22.

The collections from North Fond du Lac will come to the Church of Peace.

Stewardship Ministry Team: Matt reported the group met last month to finalize the chili cook off plans and Earth Day neighborhood cleanup event, both scheduled for Saturday 4/22.

## Scholarship Pinkert Fund

Pastor Steve spoke with Tom Schultz and Karen Babler regarding the fund and the idea for administering the scholarship money. Tom mentioned that we don't receive a lot of applications and asked that we offer more than we originally planned, as long as the students remain an active member.

He would also like us to create a new "new member" form for future confirmands.

The council agreed that a special council meeting needs to be scheduled to further discuss. A meeting has been tentatively planned for 5/23 at 6:30 PM pending Mike and Justin's availability.

## Church Administration

Pastor Steve mentioned he will be taking vacation soon.

Pastor Steve reported that a friend of a church member would like to donate a piano to the church. The council all agreed to involve Siera and Pat to help determine the piano's condition before agreeing to accept it. We also likely need to get rid of the worst piano we currently have as space is a concern. Faye reminded the council that Saint Vincent's takes used pianos.

Pastor Steve asked that each council member review the church Constitution and highlight anything that they have questions on, or sections/statements that need to be reworded, etc. prior to the next council meeting. Then we can review those sections in which people made similar notes or have similar questions.

## Buildings and Grounds

The two exterior doors leading up to the sanctuary (east side of original building) need to be replaced. Peter will work on obtaining a quote.

Pastor Rob to send Pastor Steve information on the railing used in another church (railing for the stairs leading up to the altar).

Peter will work on obtaining costs for replacing the bell tower ladders. The current ladders are a safety concern.

Peter mentioned Mike will drop the cameras off at church so he can start working on installation

Peter shared the quote from Leasa Electric to rewire the kitchen lighting (\$831). Peter shared another quote for \$65/hour from a licensed electrician with the assumption the job would only take about 2 hours. The electrician can also take a look at the flickering light fixtures in the Fellowship Hall. The council agreed to go with the second quote.

Bobbi requested a need for a sign to be placed in the Narthex letting visitors know how to get to the elevator if they come in through a door other than the elevator door on the west side of the building. Victor reported that we have one and will put it to use.

Victor mentioned the mailbox is installed but it needs some bracing to keep it from leaning. Still work to do.

## Capital Campaign:

Tabled discussions until next meeting. Pastor Steve mentioned he filled out a form to update contact info.

## [Adjournment and Closing Prayer](#)

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

*Historical Corner*

Mary Strauss, Historian

Back 60 years ago in 1963 in May we held a Special Congregational Meeting to discuss having a Student or Associate Pastor serve our church. A motion passed to contact a seminary student to come in June for 14 months. They would earn \$300/month with a car allowance and living quarters. David Martens arrived in June and we rented a mobile home for him in a Fond Du Lac trailer court. On May 23 we celebrated ascension day and had a 7:30 PM choir and graduation service.

In 1963 Joe Michalowski presided over our congregation, our budget was \$58,377 and we had three services each Sunday, had a Boy Scout troop, Dartball league, and two prayer meetings weekly.

1963 we decided not to pursue having many remodeling projects including artificial beams on the side walls of the chancel, new church offices, or a new kitchen.

Our Pilgrim and Boys Choirs traveled to Manitowoc to perform in a cantata of "Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo" at Rev. Schrankler's church.

In 1973 the NE Wisconsin conference hosted workshops and our attendees were Mrs. Edith Leonhardt and Mrs. Karl Koehler.

40 years ago in 1983 Rev. Steve Welch left by the beginning of May after serving five years, our President was Ginny Boyke, the budget was \$168,440, we continued with three services and we joined a YMCA church softball league.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED for 2023-2024!**

**Have you ever thought about becoming a Sunday School teacher?**

**Are you at least 16 years old?**

**We'd love for you to join our team!**

**No experience necessary...**

**Little prep required...**

**Multi-age classroom...**

**If interested, contact Heather Reader-Schubert ASAP at [msreaderschubert@gmail.com](mailto:msreaderschubert@gmail.com) or call/text (920) 979-4277.**



Church office closed

May 29th

in observation of Memorial Day!  
Happy Memorial Day!

## *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
Jerry Johnson	jjjohnson@charter.net	920-238-9716
Nancy Pahnke	alnan_pahnke@hotmail.com	920-269-4885
Peter Peterson	Peter_Peterson32@yahoo.com	920-266-2731
Justin Poirier, BTS	poirier.bubba@gmail.com	262-623-8857
Faye Smith	dzsm8445@gmail.com	920-266-6035

### *FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT*

Hello. I hope everyone is doing fine. We could use a little warmer weather but we will have to take what we get.

The church rummage sale is coming and the ladies could always use a few more people to help. You don't have to be there all day, a couple of hours would be appreciated. It's a great time for fellowship and helping the church.

The council is working hard to get a few things done. We are also checking on a few other projects. The council has agreed to up grade the lighting in the kitchen. The council would like to hear from you if you have any input or concerns, just contact myself or one of the other council members. Our numbers are in the messenger. Remember we are the church. We will be stronger in faith when we are together. So have a safe and healthy spring and help if you can. May the Lord bless you always. See you in church.

Blessings, Victor



Did you know that you don't have to be **GOLDEN** to attend our social time?

**NO**, you don't. All ages are invited to attend.

**MAY** will bring the fun time of a picnic and hopefully the weather will be nice so we can have our picnic in the park. Place will be decided closer to the date.

We will be grilling and everyone will bring a dish to pass.

**May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00**

Watch the bulletin insert and Thursday News for more information.

**RSVP BY MAY 15<sup>th</sup> -- SIGN UP SHEET ON BULLETIN BOARD**

In 2023, we have immigrants that wait at the borders of countries all over the world. These immigrants have fled their countries for many different reasons. Famine, war, and social injustice are the main reasons. And let's face it migration from one land to another has been going on for a very, very, long time. For example, Joseph's brothers tell the Pharaoh in Genesis 47 verse 4, "...We have come to live here for a while, because the famine is severe in Canaan and your servants' flocks have no pasture. So now, please let your servants settle in Goshen." The book of Ruth begins, "In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab." When they went into those lands, the people cared for the foreign migrants until they were able to go home. Some of those migrants stayed even after the turmoil or famine ended because they found a way to support themselves and their families. My ancestors migrated to the Americas back in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century. They came because of turmoil in their home country and they decided to stay and make this continent their home.

Today, we still have events that send people packing, leaving their homes to find a new safe place for themselves and their families. For example, people in East Palestine, Ohio are leaving their homes because of a toxic train derailment. Another example that we at Church of Peace experience recently is the migration of the homeless in our community. They began at a warming shelter at the Salvation Army, migrated to Church of Peace, then to the library and finally, back to the Salvation Army.

With this knowledge, if we believe being a servant of God is serving God's people as it is told in the Bible, "What does it mean to truly be a servant of God as today's migrants look for a safe place for themselves and their families? It begins by opening our hearts and our minds. Then we ask God for guidance and love as we open our lives in a Christ-like manner to those seeking refuge by reflecting God's love and glory to the people God so loves.

Summer is coming quickly and will we have many opportunities to continue the mission of God. What would you like to see our church do this summer to make a difference in Fond du Lac, in Wisconsin, and in the world. Bring your ideas to church and share them or give me a call and tell me how we can make a difference in God's kingdom here and now.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Steve




## Birthday Cards

We are asking members of our church to send birthday cards to members who are 90+ years young. Each month in the messenger and the bulletin insert, there will be names of members celebrating a special birthday.

Please consider sending a card to these people. Let's shower them with cards and love. **Update:** We have received many positive comments and thanks from those who have received cards. Thank you, members, for sending cards.

### MAY birthday is:

**May 20** – Patricia Krueger N6027 Esterbrook Rd. Fond du Lac, WI 54937



## *A Mother's Day Prayer*

*Dear Lord,*

*Please watch over  
and support all mothers  
on earth and in heaven . . .*

*and help them to know how much  
they are loved and appreciated  
on Mother's Day and every day.*

*Doreen Oirtue  
EarthAngel.com*



# May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																								
	<b>1</b> 9:00 AM -3:00 PM Rummage Sale Set up	<b>2</b> 9:00 AM -3:00 PM Rummage Sale Set up  11:30 AM LOP Meeting	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM -3:00 PM Rummage Sale Set up  6:30 PM Boy Scout Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM -3:00 PM Rummage Sale Set up	<b>5</b>  9:00 AM -6:00 PM Rummage Sale	<b>6</b>  9:00 AM -2:00 PM Rummage Sale																																																																																																								
<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Worship with communion	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:00 PM Martha Society Meeting  6:30 PM Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Boy Scout Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:30 AM Ethics Committee  1:30 PM Bazaar Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>																																																																																																								
<b>14</b>  9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Youth Group	<b>15</b> 1:30 PM Bible Study	<b>16</b> 6:30 PM Stewardship Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  11:00 AM Golden Fellowship "Picnic in the Park"	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 11:00 AM -1:30 PM Plant Pick-up																																																																																																								
<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Last Day of Sunday School  Family Fund Day at the YMCA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Messenger Articles Due!</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>																																																																																																								
<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Youth Group	<b>29</b>  Office Closed <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> REMEMBER AND HONOR	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Apr 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Jun 2023</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Apr 2023							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							Jun 2023							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	
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CHURCH OF PEACE  
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MAY

*"Prayer in action is love, and love in action is service. Try to give unconditionally whatever a person needs in the moment. The point is to do something, however small, and show you care through your actions by giving your time ... We are all God's children so it is important to share His gifts. Do not worry about why problems exist in the world – just respond to people's needs ... We feel what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but that ocean would be less without that drop." - Mother Teresa*