

# CHURCH OF PEACE MESSENGER



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## "Souper Bowl of Caring" **Meat Drive**

Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

We will be collecting 1-lb. packages of ground beef, chicken and turkey for our food pantry.

Meat must be in the original packaging.

(Any item for our pantry is always welcome!)

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Christian Marriage Sunday

February 10

We'll be honoring members who have been married 50 years or more.

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# Church Family News

## In Our Prayers



Lucy Zahn, Harry Peters, Janet Rymer, Randy Stafford, Elise Sonnenberg, Don and Geraldine Gerbing, Iris Abitz, Shirley Hanke, Norm Abitz, Virgil Kraemer, Bill Whittaker, George Graff, Lisa Moriarty, Chris Abitz, Janet and Eugene Willis, Cynthia Brajdic, Don Gruenwald, Amy Mitchell's daughter: Amy Jo, Lola Shady, Ken Meyn, Betty Hall, Carol Kremer, Shirley Griffin, Daniel Griffin, Jim Moon, Brian Fryman, Matt Moore, Odin Nett.

### January Social Hour Schedule

- February 3: Hospitality Committee
- February 10: Council (half)
- February 17: Schultz Family
- February 24: Worship Enhancement Team

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Church of Peace is in need of a volunteer **Website Guru!**  
If you'd like to lend your expertise with this — we'd love your help!  
Call Barbara at the church office.  
Thank you!

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February "Soup Sunday" is  
Feb. 24: Bean with Ham  
Home-Made, Carry-Out Soup  
Order by Feb. 17  
\$8 per Quart/ \$15 per 2 Qts.  
Proceeds Donated to Church of Peace General Fund

### "Gentle Yoga"

for COP members and friends.  
Wednesday evenings 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.  
For all levels – but will progress.  
\$3.50 /each Wednesday – donated back to COP.  
Wear comfortable clothes – bring a yoga mat.  
Upcoming dates:  
Jan: 30<sup>th</sup>, Feb: 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

### FOOD PANTRY

We are very grateful for a grant to our food pantry from the **Fond du Lac Area Foundation, and the many local residents who donated to their 2018 "Stock the Shelves" campaign!** For February, we can use **canned meat** and **rice**. Non-food items include **laundry soap** and **dish soap**. Our shoppers also ask for **coupons** that you might not use; these help with the cost of items for the pantry. Thank you!



*What good is the  
warmth of summer,  
without the cold of winter  
to give it sweetness.*

*~ John Steinbeck ~*



Balance as of December 1, 2018: \$18,936.55  
 Deposits in December: \$7,061.30  
 Disbursements in December: \$0  
 Balance as of December 31, 2018: \$25,997.85

## From Pastor Jack

### Catastrophic Expectations

Catastrophic expectations are debilitating thoughts people experience when they think something bad can happen and therefore expect it will. I think most people at some time have experienced catastrophic expectations even though most of those expectations are irrational. I personally have allowed irrational thinking to affect me at moments in my life. I have had the irrational fear that a friendship or relationship would crash and burn. And then, it did. Go figure.

It is easy to encumber life with expectations that hover around us and then come true. It is especially true of catastrophe. Otherwise well-adjusted people fall prey to lengthy episodes of negative thinking in which they consciously or unconsciously obsess about what can go wrong. It is something individuals, businesses, families and even countries can do.

An example would be a person I knew that believed something terrible would happen to her because she came out of a hopelessly dysfunctional life situation and therefore knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that she would experience ending up a dysfunctional person herself. She obsessed on this daily and went to many doctors because she knew she either had a physical or psychological disease. Of course she didn't, but she found a doctor willing to do surgery on her body to correct her imaginary symptoms. She made her catastrophic expectations come true. Luckily for her, she had friends that were able to get through the resistance and barriers she put up. Eventually, she saw that she was neither her parents nor her siblings. She saw that she was a unique person and therefore different than the dysfunction from which she emerged. She began to listen and hear her counselor and friends alike, affirm that she was both healthy and relatively normal and could function in the world.

I have worked with congregations that have fixated on catastrophic expectations and could not help them. The issue was often about there being a scarcity of money that prevented doing anything that would enrich and enhance the life of the congregation. Because they could not imagine the possibility of there being abundant resources available to them, there never were.

Maybe a maxim could be, "as you think therefore you are." I find that in reality some folks can keep a family, an organization or a church, for that matter, hostage to one person's catastrophic expectations, no matter how irrational.

The only possible way to survive this is with determination to not play into the catastrophic expectations of others whether individuals or organizations. There is generally, at first glance, a measure of truth to one's catastrophic expectations. However, after a bit of scrutiny you see flaws in what is being obsessed about.

A congregation I served was always low on funds on hand. They forever were talking about not having enough and that there would never be enough. Enough folks bought into that crazy line of thought and they never did have enough. After a short period of time, I explained that if they did not change their minds and begin to think about a longitudinal view to their problems, choosing to solve them one step at a time, then I would leave because I had a finite period of time before my life was over. I thought I should be having a little bit of fun before I died. Sure enough, after grumbling, and whining for a few months, the congregation came up with a plan to look with a workable reality at what they might want to do, and they did it. A little success led to slightly larger successes until they began taking risks in the belief that they could not only do something, they could do a lot. They did and the spirit of the place changed.

I think I have prevented myself from doing greater things in life because I lived out of catastrophic expectations. I choose not to live in fear today because it is a waste of precious energy. I choose each day when I wake up to enjoy the day to its maximum. I choose to love, be generous and not concern myself with worst fears realized type of thought. It is for most of us, difficult to make a move to another manner of thought. It is not enough to stay the course when you can do something more.

A longitudinal view requires forethought. It amounts to visualizing in your minds eye, where you want to be in three or five years. It requires an adjustment in thinking, and yes possibly lifestyle. That might require self-denial or greater risk depending on the circumstance. It requires the discipline of following the plan and at its conclusion celebrating the accomplished goal. It is not rocket science.

I have watched people and organizations embark on ridding themselves of their catastrophic expectations and have seen it happen as they recreate themselves in a beautiful manner. I have only seen a handful of congregations and clients believe the lie that, "the way things are today is how they will be tomorrow." The waste of time and energy it takes to allow our catastrophic expectations to hold us hostage in its entropic grip saddens me. That might be the only thing that could keep me from remaining shiny and new. I will not let that happen to me, and I hope you will not either.

Jack

## COUNCIL MINUTES from the January 8, 2019 Meeting (adapted from minutes taken by Mike Petersen )

Balance as of December 1, 2018: \$10,985.33

Deposits in December: \$24,259.76

Disbursements in December: \$20,875.42

Balance as of December 31, 2018: \$14,369.67

Present: Brenda Post, , Victor Abitz, Kim Portier, Rev. Jack Kraaz, Mike Petersen, Tom Letourneau, Rob Giese, Bobbi Thomma, Jack Eysers, Jack Kiefer, Vicki Goeden-Hoch.

Absent: Justin Poirier, Matt Moore

Special Guest: Faye Smith

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m. with opening prayer from Rev. Jack.

- Brenda P asked for a volunteer to take notes, in the absence of Council Secretary, Matt Moore. Mike P volunteered.
- Minutes of previous meeting accepted.
- Financial Report was accepted.
  - Justin P will work on a financial presentation for the Annual Meeting.
- Worship:
  - Discussion regarding issues with the organ. An electrician was needed to repair a problem with a circuit.
  - There is no timeline on the organ repositioning in the balcony.
  - Rev Jack indicated that Christian Marriage Sunday is upcoming. Discussion as to what the congregation would be anticipating.
- Pastoral Care: Rev. Jack has been busy visiting church members.
- Christian Education:
  - Brenda P and Rev Jack will select a date for Confirmation.
  - Many members of the Council thought that the Christmas Program was well attended by the congregation and well received.
- Outreach: Victor A indicated that River Park was going well and that crime was reported to be decreasing in the area.
- Groups in the Church: Faye S. reported for Ladies of Peace — Rummage Sales: May 3 & 4; Nov. 1 & 2.
- Youth: a “lock-in” is scheduled for Friday night, January 25, at the church.
- Church Administration:
  - The Annual Congregational Meeting was discussed; the agenda is being worked on.
    - Testimonials will be given by Mike P, Victor A, and Bobbi T.
    - A report regarding the Building to Serve Fund will be prepared and discussed at the meeting.
- Building & Grounds:
  - Coat Racks: one was coming off the wall; contractor was called — determined it’d been incorrectly installed. It has been fixed.
  - Building Use Fees: a discussion on this; Mike P, Tom L, Faye S, and Rob G will come up with a policy and present to the Council.
  - Apartment Residents in Parking Lot: Victor A discussed this with River Park.
    - Victor will contact the owner regarding having them removed; then, ticketing will begin.
- Concerns of Council President:
  - Brenda P shared that the Yoga Group has donated \$200 back to the Church General Fund.
  - Brenda P raised the issue of Pew Communion; was determined to have it on the 3rd, 6th, 9th and 12th month.
  - Brenda P thanked Kim Portier for her time and insight on the Church of Peace Council.
- Concerns of the Pastor:
  - Rev. Jack informed the Council that he is coordinating with a Jazz Band to provide music on the Sunday before Lent (March 3).
- Concerns of Council Members:
  - Bobbi T informed the council that she is almost finished with the Huterra application process for additional church fundraising.
  - Coolers will be needed for “Souper Bowl” Sunday, as part of the annual Meat Drive. Many Council members will bring coolers.

Announcements:

- Annual Congregational Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on January 27, 2019.
- Church Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on February 12.

## MARTHA SOCIETY

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

~Helen Keller

Winter can be so deceptive...as I look out the window as I'm writing this, the sun is out, the fresh snow is glistening — actually almost blinding, and it looks to be a beautiful winter day outside...but the reality is, the temperature is all of 4 degrees. I have to admit, any other year in January this might feel like a warm up, but with the mild winter we've had, it's a shock back to reality that we are still in the depths of winter. There is always a choice...I can look outside and be disappointed at the cold, or I can look outside and be excited about a day with the possibility of NEEDING my sunglasses to go places. It's all a matter of perspective... Regardless of what the rest of the month brings, spring is right around the corner, and before you know it, those of you who hate the heat will be as miserable as I am in the cold.

The Martha's are choosing to look forward to spring! We are already making plans for the 76<sup>th</sup> annual Mother/Daughter banquet. Reservation forms will be out in the next month or so, but consider this a "Save the Date" for May 14<sup>th</sup>. We are excited about the entertainment for the year and as always excited about being able to host such a wonderful time of fun and fellowship. Start getting your groups together...we're excited to see everyone's smiling faces as part of this ritual of spring that we have.

The next Martha Society Meeting will be held February 12 at 6:00pm. As always, anyone is welcome to attend.



## LADIES OF PEACE

Does Your Cup Runneth Over?

(Cupboards too?)

Were "After-Christmas Sales" Too Tempting?

(Desserts too?)

We Welcome All Your "Must Have Shrunk in the Dryer"

## CHURCH OF PEACE SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

(Collection Begins 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Easter)



**CHOIRS**

- 1934 Ladies Choir; Senior Choir: Men's Choir
- 1936 Junior Mixed Choir
- 1944 Girl's Choir
- 1948 Old robes of Senior Choir given to a church in need of them
- 1950 Grew from 1 choir to 6 voice choirs
- 1960 Pilgrim choir received new robes (32 members)
- 1962 Teen Choir became Youth Choir
- 1964 Carol Choir formed & directed by Karen Rose
- 1965 Senior Choir became Chapel Choir  
Boy's Choir wore red sweatshirts
- 1967 Karl Koehler Memorial Handbell Choir  
Dedicated 11/26/67 with a starter set of 25 bells.  
Joan Wegner arranged first piece of Music - "Fairest Lord Jesus"  
Disbanded for a while due to lack of ringers.
- 1968 September - 210 choristers registered
- 1979 Boy's Choir began wearing red jackets with full ties.
- 1998 Bell Choir resumed playing; Helene Schrankler, Director
- 2009 Disbanded due to Helene's scheduling problems.

Greetings,

As we welcome 2019, many changes will be coming our way. Our Search Committee has been formed and approved by the Congregation at the Special Congregational meeting that was held on January 6. Our Search Committee members are: Brenda Roehl, Ray Beilke, Jody Marcoe, Meg Kiefer, Autumn Smet, Jack Eyers and Cassie Poirier. The Congregation will be kept informed as the search progresses. Please remember to keep them all in your prayers during this important process.

This year we have four Confirmands that will be confirmed on Palm Sunday, April 14. What a special time for these wonderful young people.

Have you ever given thought to doing visitation ministry? We are in need of help with this wonderful outreach. If you are interested, please contact me or the Church office.

We are always in need of members to be on the Usher list. If this is something you would be interested in, please let a Council member know or you may contact the Church office.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Brenda Post

*Church Council*

Brenda Post, President	920-266-8510	Rob Giese	920-921-5227
Justin Poirier, Treasurer	262-623-8857	Vicki Goeden-Hoch	920-748-4123
Matt Moore, Secretary	920-979-4309	Tom Letourneau	920-602-2896
Victor Abitz, Vice President	920-933-7126	Kim Portier	920-979-5169
Mike Petersen	920-266-2036	Jack Kiefer	920-933-9659
Jack Eyers	920-923-6512	Bobbi Thomma	920-921-5544



## Are You Ready for the 2019 Fond du Lac MobilePack?

This year's Fond du Lac MobilePack goal is to pack 209,952 meals with 950 volunteers. Over a dozen churches will again join together to help raise the \$46,189 needed to have this event in our community. Your prayers, helping hands, and financial gifts, are all necessary to help those in dire need around the world to receive the food and hope that is life-saving. Join us in "being the Church" as we love others in Jesus' name and partner with Feed My Starving Children to turn "Hunger into Hope".

### Important dates:

Feb. 10 City-wide "Have-a-Heart" Campaign. Please select a paper heart ornament and giving envelope from the lobby display on Valentine's Day. Send in the dollar amount on the heart in the addressed envelope to FMSC. If all the hearts at all the churches are taken and mailed in, we should be at our financial goal before the event! Everyone can help — Heart gifts begin at just \$5.

April 1 Online Sign-up opens — to volunteer at the event. Give & Volunteer at <http://bit.ly/FDLFMSC2019>

May 4 *One-day-only* MobilePack at the Fond du Lac Fairgrounds Rec Building.

Contact Starla Rebedew with any questions: 920-539-3256.

Thank you for your generous prayers, gifts, and service!



# February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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CHURCH OF PEACE  
158 SOUTH MILITARY ROAD  
FOND DU LAC, WI 54935

FEBRUARY