



Ministry Board Meeting Agenda
September 15, 2026
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call / Attendance
- III. Devotions – Julie Maas-Kusske
- IV. Open Forum
- V. Adopt Agenda
- VI. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Approval of Ministry Board Meeting Minutes from August 18, 2026
- VII. Reports
 - A. Finance – Monthly Financials and Minutes
 - B. Pastor's Report
 - C. I-Team Report
 - D. Ministry Team Reports
 - i. Altar Care: *No Report*
 - ii. Christian Education: *No Report*
 - iii. Hospitality: *September*
 - iv. Missions: *September*
 - v. Outreach: *No Report*
 - vi. Prayer & Care: *September*
 - vii. Property: *September*
 - viii. Technology: *No Report*
 - ix. Worship & Music: *No Report*
 - x. Youth Activities: *No Report*
 - E. Committee Reports
 - i. Nominating: *No Report*
 - ii. Safety: *No Report*
 - iii. Search Team: *No Report*
 - iv. Stewardship: *September*
- VIII. Old Business
 - A. I-Team Update
 - B. Director of Youth & Family Update
 - C. May 3 Congregational Vote Discussion
- IX. New Business
 - A. Ministry Board Representative Duties
 - B. 2027 Leadership Workshop
 - C. Missions Ministry Team Chair
 - D. Church Directory
- X. Adjourn
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Information
 - A. Next Meeting: October 20, 2026 | Executive Board Meeting: October 15, 2026
 - B. October Meeting Devotions: Ted Pew
 - C. October Communion Assistants: Ted Pew and Ron Boettner

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
UNAPPROVED Board Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2026

- I. Call to Order:** 6:36 pm by Jon Peterson at Peace Lutheran Church.
- II. Members Present:** Ron Boettner, Teri Dressel, Julie Maas-Kusske, Dan Nelson, Jon Peterson, Ted Pew, James Walz, and Pastor Jim VerBout

Absent:

Others:

- III. Devotions:** Done by Teri Dressel

- IV. Open Forum:** No activity

- V. Adopt Agenda:** Addition of Finance, Stewardship, and Hospitality minutes

Motion to approve Ministry Board Meeting Agenda with additions. TP / DN / Carried

VI. Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of Ministry Board Meeting Minutes from July 21, 2026.

Motion to approve July 21, 2026, Ministry Board meeting minutes as written. RB / JW / Carried

VII. Reports:

- A. Finance – Monthly Financials and Minutes: Minutes were distributed at the meeting.

Reviewed Financials: Teri reviewed the financials and Finance Ministry Team minutes.

Motion to approve finance report as written. DN / TP / Carried

- B. Pastor's Report:

Those who participated in Coffee, Cake and Conversation felt like it was poorly planned and didn't flow well. There wasn't coffee, cake, or any refreshments available in the room where they met. This is just a result of a change in leadership and was a learning experience. The next event is in October.

- A couple of suggestions: MB on duty should be expected to participate if they are the closer.
- Someone needs to be assigned to make sure our guests are offered a snack and beverages before starting the conversation.

Motion to approve Pastor's report as written. TD / TP / Carried

- C. I-Team Report: No Report

- D. Ministry Team Reports

- Altar Care: No Report
- Christian Education: No Report
- Hospitality: July and August (August report was distributed at the meeting. A copy can be requested from the office.)
- Missions: July
- Outreach: No Report

We discussed that the Corn Feed was a success! Numbers were down a bit compared to the previous year, but we still had over 600 people; the weather was great, and people seemed to linger to enjoy all we had to offer.

We didn't have a float in the Rails to Trails parade this year as we didn't have enough volunteers. So many of our members are involved in the parade for other reasons, and summer is busy. We quickly discussed maybe having a booth downtown rather than having a float in the parade, but that will be up to the Outreach Ministry Team to discuss. We still had walkers in the parade who handed out every Corn Feed fan we had!

- Prayer & Care: No Report
- Property: August
- Technology: No Report
- Worship & Music: August

Having context added to the readings each Sunday is being well received. The team is working through some sound issues, trying to balance all of the instruments. Pastor Jim is doing great and continues to refine his flow, etc. during services.

- Youth Activities: No Report

E. Committee Report

- Nominating: No Report
- Safety: No Report

We discussed adding front door safety to the building project since we will have service providers on site already. No clear plan to implement this was discussed.

- Search Team: No Report
- Stewardship: Ron shared his report at the meeting, and it will be available from the church office.

Ron shared some of what the Stewardship Committee is working on.

During the discussion, James W shared that younger generations have a different take on donating, and they need to feel compelled. A better understanding of how each dollar is spent could be helpful for everyone, as the finance reports can be overwhelming. Showing the results of our Missions spending at work can be compelling.

Motion to accept Reports as written and/or presented RB / TP / Carried

VIII. Old Business:

A. I-Team Update:

James verbally shared his handwritten notes from recent meetings. Communication to the Ministry Board continues to be a struggle, with few updates being shared. The most recent meeting of the I-Team was cancelled. There are three permits that need to be submitted and approved before we can start building. To our knowledge, those have not been submitted yet.

Key members of the I-Team are to meet with Nor-son on August 24, 2026, to go through the new round of bids for the project. After that meeting, we should have final numbers for the project.

The Ministry Board has asked the I-Team to give updates to the congregation every other week, so the next update should happen on August 23, 2026.

B. Director of Youth & Family Update:

The posting is live on LCMC and Augustana District websites. The interview committee is complete, and they have assessed two applicants. One they dismissed as not viable, and the other is being considered. Since it's early in the process, they want to screen a few more applicants before moving

forward. Pastor Jim will lead confirmation until a replacement is found, with much help from the congregation.

C. May 3 Congregational Vote Discussion: tabled

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Rally Sunday:

Discussed the blessing of the backpacks. Do we want to open it up to include “blessing of the bus drivers” and/or “blessing of the teachers?” No final decision made.

B. Pie Auction:

Hospitality notes indicate that the funds raised will go towards a new, indoor bounce house to be used for Storytime. Also, Youth Mission Trip and Hospitality fund.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting. TD / JW / Carried. Adjourned at 8:52 pm

XI. Closing Prayer – Led by Pastor Jim VerBout

XII. Information:

- Next meeting September 15, 2026 | Executive Board Meeting September 10, 2026
- September Meeting Devotions: Julie Maas-Kusske
- September Communion Assistant / MB serving: James Walz and Julie Maas-Kusske

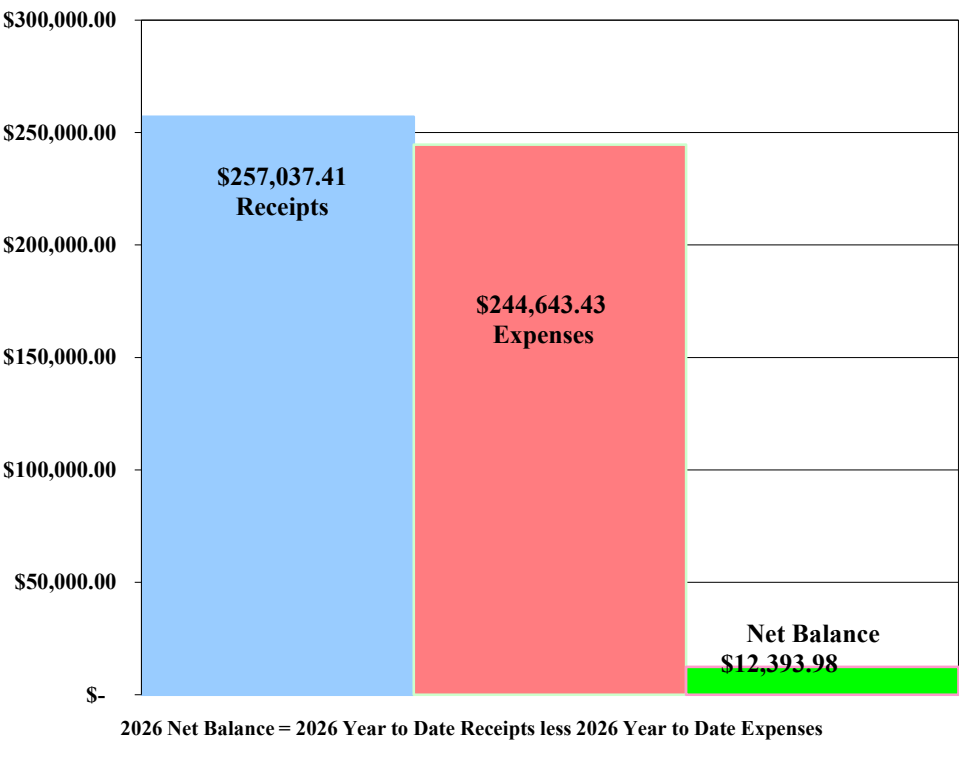
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT

August 31, 2026

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

General Fund 2026 Receipts and Transfers In	\$	257,037.41	
General Fund 2026 Expenses	\$	244,643.43	
General Fund - 2026 Net Balance			<u>\$ 12,393.98</u>

**2026
Year-to-Date
General Fund**



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 31, 2026

Statement of Activities for Period 8 - August
Company#: 1 Name: Peace Lutheran Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2026

	<u>Current</u> <u>Period</u>	<u>Current</u> <u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Prior</u> <u>Y-T-D</u>
Income			
Operating Income			
401010 General Fund	\$21,098.00	\$231,386.60	\$254,346.62
410010 Easter Offering	\$0.00	\$4,662.00	\$4,422.60
410015 Lenten Offering	\$0.00	\$3,351.00	\$5,093.25
410030 Cash Offering	\$563.00	\$3,368.06	\$4,105.55
410035 Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00	\$480.00	\$0.00
410040 Mid-week Summer Worship Income	\$150.00	\$726.00	\$0.00
410050 Interest Income	\$365.81	\$7,310.25	\$6,367.43
410200 Youth Events Income	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$800.00
410300 VBS Registrations Income	\$0.00	\$2,948.50	\$2,600.96
410305 VBS Donation Income	\$0.00	\$220.00	\$53.96
410400 Education-Confirmation Retreat Income	\$0.00	\$2,435.00	\$2,265.00
410450 Education-Adult Events Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$658.00
Total Operating Income	\$22,176.81	\$257,037.41	\$280,713.37
419090 Nesvold Matching Gift Income	\$100,000.00	\$218,500.00	\$100,000.00
419091 Capital Campaign 2024/2025/2026 Income	\$14,710.00	\$55,814.68	\$182,880.00
419092 Capital Campaign Interest Income	\$1,180.76	\$20,874.64	\$15,411.32
419125 Good Samaritan Fund income	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$480.00
419145 Repairs & Maintenance Fund Income	\$0.00	\$6,332.00	\$0.00
420160 Thrivent Mission Fund Income	\$93.00	\$1,152.00	\$1,121.00
430110 Noisy Offering Fund Income	\$0.00	\$4,223.33	\$2,936.66
430115 Youth Ministry Fund Income	\$1,010.00	\$2,483.50	\$0.00
430122 Youth Mission Trip Fund Income	\$0.00	\$16,906.00	\$17,551.33
430126 Sunday School Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
435100 Mission Ministry Fund Income	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
440100 Outreach Fund Income	(\$1,413.59)	\$1,276.00	\$2,120.04
440105 Outreach Events Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,353.00
440200 Hospitality Fund Income	(\$2,000.00)	(\$1,850.00)	(\$1,800.67)
440205 Lenten Suppers Fund Income	\$0.00	\$927.00	\$802.00
440210 Hospitality Events Fund Income	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$234.00
440220 Easter Breakfast Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$369.00
440300 Technology Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,793.34
445050 Altar Care Fund Income	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
445100 Altar Care Special Gift Fund Income	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
445105 Easter Flowers Fund Income	\$0.00	\$933.00	\$1,344.00
445110 Corn Feed Fund Income	\$3,413.59	\$6,413.59	\$0.00
490010 Refunded Transactions Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,238.77
490020 Baptismal Gifts Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
490040 Refunded - Coffee Income	\$244.00	\$1,957.00	\$1,774.00
490100 Refunded - Donations Income	\$0.00	\$971.02	\$1,696.95
490200 Office Income	\$0.00	\$294.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$139,414.57	\$599,645.17	\$627,418.11

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 31, 2026

Statement of Activities for Period 8 - August
Company#: 1 Name: Peace Lutheran Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2026

	<u>Current</u> <u>Period</u>	<u>Current</u> <u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Prior</u> <u>Y-T-D</u>
Operating Expenses			
Benevolence			
Total Benevolence	\$2,950.00	\$28,950.00	\$27,800.00
Insurance			
Total Insurance	\$3,876.00	\$14,460.66	\$14,205.79
Salaries			
Total Salaries	\$14,798.78	\$142,290.98	\$156,394.73
Pastor Benefits			
Total Pastor Benefits	\$50.00	\$2,954.86	\$12,268.03
Office			
Total Office	\$1,587.76	\$12,898.71	\$16,949.40
Other Finance			
Total Other Finance	\$88.13	\$2,809.84	\$5,093.59
Total All Finance	\$23,350.67	\$204,365.05	\$232,711.54
Property			
Total Property	\$3,090.84	\$18,902.15	\$14,274.86
Education			
Total Education	\$25.41	\$7,664.82	\$10,261.44
Youth Activity			
Total Youth Activity	\$131.95	\$2,547.84	\$3,840.95
Missions			
Total Missions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$43.28
Stewardship			
Total Stewardship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Prayer & Care Ministry			
Total Prayer & Care Ministry	\$0.00	\$617.76	\$677.91
Outreach			
Total Outreach	(\$1,461.39)	\$3,199.97	\$7,334.75
Hospitality			
Total Hospitality	\$407.84	\$2,398.44	\$2,884.93
Music			
Total Music	\$1,096.00	\$1,932.89	\$2,436.74
Altar Care			
Total Altar Care	\$0.00	\$826.95	\$1,350.11
Technology			
Total Technology	\$424.74	\$2,187.56	\$1,214.10
Total Operating Expenses	\$27,066.06	\$244,643.43	\$277,030.61

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 31, 2026

Statement of Activities for Period 8 - August
Company#: 1 Name: Peace Lutheran Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2026

	<u>Current</u> <u>Period</u>	<u>Current</u> <u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>Prior</u> <u>Y-T-D</u>
810090 Nesvold Matching Gift Expense	\$1,250.00	\$63,748.00	\$110.00
810121 Good Samaritan Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$4,500.00	\$1,000.00
810154 Properties Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$203.75
830110 Noisy Offering Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$4,286.15	\$3,968.12
830115 Youth Ministry Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$6.63	\$0.00
830122 Youth Mission Trip Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$21,649.89	\$21,001.12
830125 Mission Trip Fundraiser Expense	\$0.00	\$308.82	\$993.95
830135 High School Scholarship Fund Expense	\$2,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,000.00
835100 Mission Ministry Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
840100 Outreach Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$960.00
840200 Hospitality Fund Expense	\$89.60	\$1,560.83	\$1,736.47
840205 Hospitality Events Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$214.83
840300 Technology Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,806.02
845100 Special Gift-Altar/Flower Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$293.70	\$511.50
845105 Altar Care Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$974.54	\$1,125.20
845110 Corn Feed Fund Expense	\$3,413.59	\$6,413.59	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$33,819.25	\$352,035.58	\$314,661.57
Net Income	\$105,595.32	\$247,609.59	\$312,756.54

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT**

August 31, 2026

August 31, 2026	2026	2025
Operating Income	\$ 257,037.41	\$ 280,713.37
Operating Expense	\$ 244,643.43	\$ 277,030.61
Balance	\$ 12,393.98	\$ 3,682.76

Previous Month YTD Comparison

July 31, 2026	2026	2025
Operating Income	\$ 234,860.60	\$ 229,329.65
Operating Expense	\$ 217,577.37	\$ 235,744.43
Balance	\$ 17,283.23	\$ (6,414.78)

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

August 31, 2026

Statement of Financial Position for Period 8 - August
Company#: 1 Name: Peace Lutheran Church
Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2026

<u>Account</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Current</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>2025</u>
Assets		
Citizens Alliance Checking	\$2,782.17	\$5,359.81
Citizens Alliance HY Money Market	\$132,660.82	\$204,956.21
Edward Jones - 6 mo. CD	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
Edward Jones - 12 mo. CD	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
Edward Jones - 4 mo. CD	\$140,000.00	\$140,000.00
Edward Jones - 6 mo. CD	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
Edward Jones - 6 mo. CD	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Edward Jones - 6 mo. CD	\$75,000.00	\$0.00
Edward Jones - 6 mo. CD	\$50,000.00	\$0.00
Edward Jones - 6 mo. CD	\$150,000.00	\$0.00
Edward Jones - 3 mo. CD	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
Edward Jones - Investment/CD	\$25,129.03	\$25,129.03
Edward Jones - Investment Interest (3)	\$57,777.31	\$18,077.61
Total Assets	\$1,363,349.33	\$1,023,522.66
Liabilities		
Credit Card Payable	\$1,581.31	\$5,950.76
PFML MN Tax Payable	\$538.44	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$2,119.75	\$5,950.76
Net Assets		
General Fund Balance	\$165,013.99	\$112,834.86
Nesvold Matching Gift Fund (1)	\$450,096.81	\$295,344.81
Capital Campaign 2024/25/26 Fund	\$568,207.68	\$459,862.00
Capital Campaign Interest Fund (2)	\$54,771.56	\$21,515.92
Prepaid Faith Promise - 2025	\$0.00	\$4,420.00
Executive-Undesignated Memorials Balance	\$480.00	\$480.00
Brick & Mortar Fund Balance	\$25,129.03	\$25,129.03
Good Samaritan Fund Balance	\$2,663.74	\$4,420.69
Rainy Day Fund Balance	\$16,362.06	\$16,362.06
Seminary Support Fund Balance	\$394.40	\$394.40
Properties Fund Balance	\$351.17	\$351.17
Repairs and Maintenance Fund Balance	\$21,332.00	\$15,000.00
Thrivent Mission Fund Balance	\$3,980.00	\$2,695.00
Music Ministry Fund Balance	\$5,465.08	\$5,465.08
Noisy Offering Fund Balance	\$173.71	\$234.51
Youth Ministry Fund Balance	\$3,043.70	\$1,158.88
Youth Mission Trip Fund Balance	\$5,228.48	\$2,827.83
Sunday School Fund Balance	\$200.00	\$200.00
High School Scholarship Fund Balance	\$700.00	\$4,200.00
Mission Ministry Fund Balance	\$3,539.47	\$3,539.47
Outreach Fund Balance	\$7,023.33	\$5,102.18
Hospitality Fund Balance	\$20,060.78	\$17,536.37
Technology Fund Balance	\$1,527.62	\$1,527.62
Care Ministry Fund Balance	\$773.12	\$731.25
Altar Care Special Gift Flower Fund Balance	\$1,119.80	\$867.39
Altar Care Fund Balance	\$606.15	\$218.80
Corn Feed Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00
Refunded Transactions Fund Balance	\$2,985.90	\$15,152.58
Total Net Assets	\$1,361,229.58	\$1,017,571.90
Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,363,349.33	\$1,023,522.66

(1) Nesvold matching gift total \$600,000

(2) Separated Capital Fund interest income from the Capital Fund account (earned, not raised)

(3) Interest recorded from Edward Jones investment CD's

Current building funds available:

\$1,098,205.08

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 31, 2026

Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 8 - August 66.67%
 Company#: 1 Name: Peace Lutheran Church
 Fiscal Year Beginning 1/1/2026

<u>Acct # Description</u>	<u>Budget Annual</u>	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Variance for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Var. Actual to Annual Budget Dollar</u>	<u>Var. Actual to Annual Budget %</u>
Expenses								
Operating Expenses								
Total Finance								
Benevolence	40,200	2,950	2,950	-	28,950	28,950	(11,250)	72.01%
Insurance	15,750	4,250	3,876	(374)	15,750	14,461	(1,289)	91.81%
Salaries	232,406	20,498	14,799	(5,699)	145,016	142,291	(90,115)	61.23%
Pastor Benefits	13,700	1,050	50	(1,000)	5,100	2,955	(10,745)	21.57%
Office	20,358	1,641	1,588	(54)	13,696	12,900	(7,458)	63.36%
Other Finance	3,175	150	88	(62)	2,875	2,810	(365)	88.50%
Total Finance	325,589	30,539	23,351	(7,189)	211,387	204,366	(121,223)	62.77%
Property	27,875	2,350	3,091	741	18,825	18,902	(8,973)	67.81%
Education	15,550	-	25	25	13,650	7,665	(7,885)	49.29%
Youth Activity	9,200	767	132	(635)	6,133	2,548	(6,652)	27.69%
Missions	1,032	-	-	-	491	-	(1,032)	0.00%
Stewardship	1,500	125	-	(125)	1,000	-	(1,500)	0.00%
Prayer & Care Ministry	1,000	50	-	(50)	425	618	(382)	61.78%
Outreach	10,660	1,310	(1,461)	(2,771)	8,050	3,200	(7,460)	30.02%
Hospitality	4,600	275	408	133	2,900	2,398	(2,202)	52.14%
Music	3,062	1,222	1,096	(126)	2,192	1,933	(1,129)	63.13%
Altar Care	2,000	-	-	-	1,000	827	(1,173)	41.35%
Technology	5,150	-	425	425	2,650	2,188	(2,962)	42.48%
Total Operating Expenses	407,218	36,638	27,066	(9,572)	268,703	244,644	(162,574)	60.08%

Finance Team Minutes
Sept 9th, 2026 at 6:00pm

Opened Meeting: 6:00

Adopt Meeting Agenda for 09/09/26: Approved

Approved Minutes from 8/11/2026: Approved unanimously

Attending: Julie Potter, Dan Beulke, Teri Dressel, Dan Cowger, Bill Hilfritz, Pastor Jim, Linda Senne, Sue Beulke

Reports:

Special Giving Committee: – No updates

August Financials – Julie Potter

See report provided by Julie. Reviewed expense tracking for Capital Campaign. Julie will also start working on budget information late Oct. early Nov. for each group.

August Giving and Capital Campaign – Sue Beulke

See report provided by Sue. Reviewed regular giving and also capital campaign income. Nesvolds have completed the matching gift and Sue sent a thank you card to them.

Discussed other income that comes in from outside sources (example: Legion sends gifts for youth mission trips), The youth all sign thank you cards but, the congregation does not know about these gifts. Possible putting it in the bulletin announcing such gifts.

Capital Campaign gifts are projected to pay building costs into the May-June timeframe. This is the point at which we would either need additional gifts or we would have to borrow money to complete payments. I-Team building cost is projected at \$1,364,651. Capital Campaign funds are projected at \$1,247,369. At this time the shortage is \$117,282. Since these are projections, we feel a safer number is \$150,000.

CD Tracking – Dan Cowger

3 CDs will mature in September it was agreed to renew them for another 3 months.

Current Building Status – Teri Dressel

Discussed that the I-team is meeting regularly and hopeful to break ground in October.

Tracking Building Expenses: Linda Senne

An expenditure sheet was created for Finance, I-team and MB for ease of tracking expenses, and who approves. Arvin, Kristi and James Walz are the current members that can sign off on invoices (we need 2 of the three to sign off). I-team will code each expense as follows:

- Norson quoted expense
- PLC expense
- Unbudgeted Expense

Old Business:

*Candidates for new team members for finance. Pastor Jim informed us of the 2026 Stewardship program that will focus not only a pledge but also sharing your time and talents but with a one-year commitment. Pledges will be turned in Oct. 25th.

*Document retention – agreed that per policy, the records that are no longer needed may be shredded or disposed of.

*Insurance during building process, Dan B is discussing with Bob R more info at the next meeting.

New Business:

Laptop for New Youth Director- discussed which funds to purchase out of – tabled to next meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13th @ 6:00 pm

Meeting adjourned 7:12pm

September 2026 Pastor's Report

It's hard to write this report without smiling. Fall has arrived at Peace, and with it comes a season full of life. Our classrooms are filling back up, our youth programs are launching with energy and a remarkable crew of volunteers behind them, and new families keep finding their way through our doors. There are babies to baptize, students to bless, Bibles to place in young hands, and more shared meals, gatherings, and celebrations on the calendar than I can list here. What strikes me most is not the number of events but the number of people making them happen — the folks who show up early to cook breakfast, who step into a gap without being asked, who coordinate, teach, bake, serve, and clean up afterward. That spirit is the real story of this report. God is doing good work in this congregation, and it is a joy to be part of it.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Baptism** – Chloe Jo Porter (Cheyanne & Dylan Porter, new members) – October 4
- **Wedding** – Ryan and K Kohls, September 6th 3 pm, Hutchinson, MN (interested in membership)
- **Vacation** – Sandy is taking off: September 11, 24, 25, and tentatively taking November 5-9 off.
- **Holiday** – Labor Day (church closed) – September 7

OUTREACH

- Coffee, Cake and Conversation – October 11.
- New Member Sunday is November 8. We already have one family who has submitted paperwork.
- Pineapple delivery weekend – October 23-25

WORSHIP & MUSIC AND TECHNOLOGY

- Rally Sunday – September 13
- Bible Sunday – September 20 – four 3rd graders and eleven 7th graders will be receiving Bibles. Students will be reading Scripture.
- Youth Sunday – Celebrating Our Youth in Worship!
We're making a few exciting changes to the last Sunday of each month to create even more opportunities to celebrate, encourage, and involve our children and youth in worship! These changes give our children and youth more opportunities to serve, lead, sing, give, and be part of worship—and give all of us more opportunities to celebrate them! We're excited to see how this new rhythm helps our whole congregation grow together.
 - On the last Sunday of each month, our Confirmation students will have the opportunity to read Scripture, including the Gospel reading, during worship.
 - Our Noisy Offering is moving to the last Sunday of the month, keeping the focus on our youth and giving everyone an opportunity to support important causes together.
 - September: The Royals Room
 - October: Operation Christmas Child*Have an organization or ministry you think would be a great future recipient? Let Nicole know!*
 - Children's Choir is also moving to the last Sunday of the month! While we're in a bit of a "low season" for our number of young singers, we want to make the most of every opportunity our children have to share their voices and their gifts. Whenever Children's Choir sings, it will be another special way to keep our youth front and center in the life of our congregation.
- Mission Sunday is being moved from the last Sunday in September. While a new date has not been set, we are looking at a Sunday in January or February.

STEWARDSHIP

- October is traditionally stewardship month as we plan for the 2027 budget. I am working with Ron, Dan, and Sue on what it will look like this year.

EDUCATION / YOUTH

- Continuing to work with Christian Ed. / Youth / Family ministry teams to update safe ministry best practices procedures



- Fall Story Time got off to a great start on September 1! This has become a wonderful opportunity for young families to connect, visit, and build friendships while their children play and enjoy time together. We're excited to see this ministry continue to grow! A special thank you to Shelby Dressel for stepping in to coordinate Fall Story Time while we search for our new Director of Youth and Family. We're grateful for her willingness to help keep this growing ministry going!
- We have decided not to attend the MEA High School Retreat in October this year, focusing instead on providing consistent and meaningful opportunities for our high school students here at Peace.
- Confirmation:
 - Kickoff night (parent meeting and class start) is September 16.
 - We are currently expecting eleven 9th graders, 18-8th graders, and nine 7th graders for a total of 38 confirmation students.
 - Augustana confirmation retreat is February 26-28, 2017
- Sunday School and Middle School Youth Group kicks off on September 20 with a fun outdoor activity! Then, on September 27, we'll officially head back into the classrooms for another year of learning, growing, and having fun together. We have been blessed with lots of volunteer teachers and helpers this year – THANK YOU! We're excited to welcome our kids back and look forward to a great year of faith, friendship, and fun!
- High School youth group kicked off on September 9.
- The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is starting up again with the new school year!
 - Peace will be hosting FCA on the third Wednesday of each month, with the first gathering on September 16. We provide the space and breakfast for attendees, and we are so grateful for the volunteers who make it happen! A special thank you to our FCA moms and Morning Coffee guys who faithfully help prepare, serve, and clean up breakfast each month. Their willingness to show up early, pitch in, and serve is a wonderful example of how Peace continues to support and encourage local youth!
 - FCA is an international, non-denominational Christian sports ministry that brings faith and athletics together, creating opportunities for students to connect, build friendships, and grow in their faith.
 - While Peace is excited to provide space and host one FCA gathering each month, and many of our youth participate, FCA is not a ministry of Peace and is not coordinated by Peace. We're happy to support this opportunity for local students and look forward to welcoming them each month!
- See You At the Pole is September 23.
- The Search Team has reviewed two resumes so far. They have decided to allow a little more time for additional resumes to be submitted before making a decision. This will give the team an opportunity to consider a broader pool of candidates and find the person who is the best fit for the position and for Peace.
- Luke Bible study will be starting on September 20. There will be three opportunities to participate – Sundays at 6 pm, Thursdays at 9 am, and online (livestreamed on Sundays to Facebook and posted to YouTube and our website on Tuesdays). Due to the LCMC Gathering, there will be no class the week of October 4.
- Trick or Treat for the food shelf is October 25. More details to follow.
- **Peace Lutheran Youth Mission Trip 2027 — Memphis, Tennessee, July 16–24, 2027**
- We're heading to Memphis! Next summer, our youth will spend a week serving alongside Monument of Love Baptist Church — the same faithful community we partnered with in Louisiana. Getting to work with them again is something special. These are people who welcomed us, poured into our students, and showed us what it looks like to love a neighborhood well. Now we get to do it all over again in a new city.
- Children's Christmas Program – December 13
- A special thank you to Nicole Johnsrud and Meghan Weaver for stepping in to coordinate and lead our youth programming while we search for our new Director of Youth and Family. We are so grateful for their willingness to step up, keep this growing ministry moving forward, and—most importantly—for the love, encouragement, and support they continue to show our youth!

MISSIONS

- Feed My Starving Children quarterly packing event is October 15. This is MEA weekend, a great opportunity for families to participate.



HOSPITALITY

- Rally Sunday – September 13
- Peace Potluck Progressive Dinner – November 14
- Cribbage Tournament – November 20
- Christmas Bazaar & Cookie Walk – December 5. Planning is underway for our Christmas Bazaar & Cookie Walk! Bazaar applications have been sent to past participants, and they'll begin accepting applications from new vendors on October 1. Know a crafter, maker, artist, or small business owner who would be a great addition to the Bazaar? Let Lindsey Walz know. Cookie Walk sign-up will begin sometime in October. It's never too early to get into the Christmas spirit!
- A lot has happened over the past year, and so many special moments have brought our Peace family together! A huge thank you to Jill Blair and the entire Hospitality Team for coordinating and making all of these events so wonderful—from Pastor David's retirement celebration, to the Corn Feed, to my welcome party, and Mark's farewell celebration. Their time, creativity, hard work, and attention to all the details have helped make each event special and memorable. THANK YOU for everything you do to bring people together and create such a welcoming spirit at Peace!

PASTORAL VISITS

- I've been busy reaching out to members and have had the opportunity to meet with some over coffee, lunch, or dinner. I've really enjoyed getting to know people, hearing their stories, and building connections. I'll continue reaching out and look forward to connecting with even more members in the weeks ahead.

OTHER EVENTS

Augustana District Fall WOW Gathering – September 19. To our knowledge, no one from Peace is attending.

LCMC Annual Gathering – October 4-7. Pastor Jim and Julie are registered, and hotel rooms are booked.

SUMMER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

	2026			2025			2024		
	Date	In attendance	Notes	Date	In attendance	Notes	Date	In attendance	Notes
Summer Sunday Worship									
<i>Memorial Day Wknd</i>	05/24/2026	104		05/25/25	85		05/26/24	120	
	05/31/2026	156		06/01/25	189		06/02/24	190	
	06/07/2026	145		06/08/25	175		06/09/24	152	
	06/14/2026	149		06/15/25	214		06/16/24	193	
	06/21/2026	206		06/22/25	118		06/23/24	172	
	06/28/2026	189		06/29/25	161		06/30/24	141	
	07/05/2026	110		07/06/25	103		07/07/24	170	
	07/12/2026	121		07/13/25	132		07/14/24	147	
	07/19/2026	256		07/20/25	119		07/21/24	143	
	07/26/2026	140		07/27/25	125		07/28/24	116	
	08/02/2026	139		08/03/25	155		08/04/24	108	
	08/09/2026	152		08/10/25	172		08/11/24	202	
	08/16/2026	143		08/17/25	302		08/18/24	156	
	08/23/2026	168		08/24/25	143		08/25/24	163	
	08/30/2026	182							
<i>Labor Day Wknd</i>	09/06/2026	146		08/31/25	163		09/01/24	130	
Total		2506			2356			2303	
Average		157			157			154	
Percent Increase / Decrease		-0.28%			2.30%			11.63%	
High		256			302			202	
Low		104			85			108	
Total without Memorial or Labor Days									
		2256			2108			2053	
Average		161			162			158	
Percent Increase / Decrease		-0.62%			2.68%			10.79%	
High		256			302			202	
Low		110			103			108	



Hospitality Minutes from Tuesday, September 8th, 2026

Present: Pastor Jim VerBout, Karen Lotito, Laurie Langner, Lindsey Walz, Julie Maas-Kusske, and Jill Blair

Rally Sunday/Pie Auction/Goodies Sale:

- Pie Auction
 - Glen Hully – will be the MC again this year
 - Julie is the replacement for Rachel for the computer
 - # of pies – 18 out of 25 signed up for
 - Will push all the tables back a bit to allow for the auction and pie display. This has already been set up.

Potluck: need a couple more main and side dishes and watermelon

- Pastor Jim will send out an email with this request
- Will set up tables and have serving lines on both sides

Goodies

- # of items 14 out of 25 signed up for
- Free will offering – Sandy has the box and will put signs on them
- The items will be set up on the peninsula
- Where are we going to set up these tables

Where will the proceeds go and what percentage

- Hospitality
- Jumper- total cost was \$429.00, may arrive before Sunday. If so, we will set it up. This is something designed for Toddlers
- Youth mission trip
 - Discussed setting up a mission trip scholarship fund and youth could volunteer for a portion of the money. There will be more discussion to follow and this likely isn't a hospitality-related discussion item.
- Can figure out % afterwards when we know the total proceeds

Laurie is leaving on October 10th until April sometime. She's happy to order supplies

Progressive Dinner

- Update from Pastor Jim on conversation regarding childcare. Either November 7th or 14th will work. **Decided on Saturday, November 14th**
- Clever name with a tag line. We struggled...Peace Progressive Dinner, Peace Potluck Progressive Dinner
- Get sign-up out after Rally Sunday
 - Name, how many, bringing what, want to host – Jill will work with Sandy to design this. We will do this after Rally Sunday. Likely a half sheet insert in the bulletin and a SUG.
- Childcare will be provided starting about 4:35-40 & will end when everyone arrives for dessert at church.
 - 5-5:45pm appetizers and drinks
 - 6-6:45 salad, entrée
 - 7:00 dessert back at the church with everyone
 - Timeline is tight'ish we will see how it works. Likely only hosting 6-8 people
 - Will send out a feedback form after the event to the participants
- Sign up will go through Sunday, October 25th
- This is NOT Guess Who's Coming to Dinner. This is casual and everyone brings something to one of the three stops.

Sunday School Treats:

Starting the 27th of this month

- Lindsey Walz will be in charge of Sunday School Treats
- Sandy made labels for Peace Café and Sunday School Treats. It's in a drawer along the peninsula.

Peace Café:

1st of the month – donut holes

2nd of the month cookies

3rd of the month – strudel bites

4th of the month – leftovers/variety

- Need to provide something that isn't sugar each Sunday, cracker & cheese and pretzels or bananas

Missions Ministry Team Notes September 2026

Friends for Life Food Shelf

- The corn feed in August collected 345 lbs. of food and \$247 in cash/checks

Orphan Grain Train

- Ike Carlson, Troy's mom and Jaime's mother-in-law, made and donated 52 pillowcase dresses, and she isn't even a member of Peace!
- Sharon, would you be willing to bring these to Sue Ziermann for transportation, as you have done in the past?

Love INC

- Golf Tournament Fundraiser is Sept. 21st.

FMSC

- Quarterly packing event is Oct. 15. It is MEA weekend, a great opportunity for families to participate.

Missions is still looking for a team leader. If you or someone you know is interested, please reach out.

Our next meeting is Nov. 10 @ 6:30 and we will review/set Peace's missions and benevolence budget for 2027.

Prayer and Care Team Minutes September 9, 2026

In Attendance: Mary Fritz-Barfnecht, Sue Beulke, Susie Kohls, Cathy Malone, Faye Rothenberger, Pastor Jim VerBout

Unable to attend: Karen Lotito, Julie Maas-Kusske, Rhonda Swanhorst

Open with Prayer: Mary

Old Business:

Card Box:

- Mid-Sep to Mid-Oct: Faye (parents of graduates who have left for school for 1st time)
- Mid-Oct to Mid-Nov: Mary (send Veterans Day cards)
- Mid-Nov to Mid-Dec: Cathy (send Thanksgiving cards)

New Members

We will begin sending cards a couple of weeks after each new member Sunday to touch base that our newest members are feeling connected and finding their place at Peace. Pastor Jim will do the first check-in. Before our next meeting, we will come up with a list of questions/suggestions/offers to help connect and have it prepared to include with future check-ins. In the future the person with the card box will send.

Parents Sending Students off for the first time

Likewise, we will begin sending cards to parents who have first-time students who have left home after graduation, acknowledging this change in life for them and their families. Showing support and understanding of this change in the family dynamic and excitement and joy for them and their student. Again, keeper of the card box will send the card.

Cards, well in advance of Veterans Day, will be sent to members currently serving in the military Curtis Sagstetter and Issac Meyer and homebound veterans Bob Carlson and Robert Dean. As Thanksgiving approaches, we will also send cards to our homebound members, Lillie T., Robert D., and Bob & Jan C.

Prayer Shawls

The prayer shawl baskets are overflowing (YAY God!) We are thankful to all who lovingly knit and crochet the shawls. We are in need of more yarn. Susie and Mary will coordinate purchasing yarn. (Hobby Lobby offers 30% discount on yarn every other week.)

Threads of Love update (from Susie)

Busy Bags - Patches ordered for busy bags will be in this week and Susie will coordinate getting them sewn on to the new black bags.

Banner ideas - tabled for now due to time constraints, to be revisited in late fall.

October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Month

Planned for October 11 worship service - Carnations and prayer card will be handed out. Mary will place an order for 20 red carnations. Cathy Malone found a beautiful prayer which we will ask Sandy to print on cards. We will place the flowers and cards on a table by the sanctuary exit, and we will invite those who have experienced a loss to take one. (Assume Pastor will be announcing this as part of the service?)

Surviving the Holidays

Planned for Sunday, November 15, from 3-5 pm. Pastor Jim will invite community churches to participate as well. Grief booklets will be handed out (10 currently available).

Remembrance wreath and readings will follow, and gift of a remembrance ornament will be handed out (8 available). Mary will coordinate with Sandy the ordering of any additional booklets, ornament supplies needed, and the printing of cards announcing the event to be passed out in town. We can assemble additional ornament gifts at our October or November meeting. We will ask for available team members to lead, run DVD, prepare cookies, etc. as the date gets closer.

Veterans Day

At November 8 worship, we will honor veterans in our congregation. We will ask Sandy to place a bulletin notice for new members since last year who are veterans to submit a service photo, branch of the military, and where they served for the slideshow. We need to confirm with JoAnn that she will play the medley of songs for each branch, as has been done in the past.

Dinner

As we have done in the past, we will prepare and serve dessert for the Veterans Day dinner held at the Community Center in Watertown on Veterans Day – Wednesday, November 11. We will be looking for 6 people to make a 9x13 pan of Apple Cake (same recipe to be provided to all bakers) and 2-3 people who can serve at the actual event. (Do we have enough toothpick flags from last year?) We can finalize numbers at the October meeting.

Grief booklets

Sent to congregation members who have lost a family loved one. 4-part series, sent quarterly. 12 families received the grief book series in 2026. Mary will coordinate with Sandy on ordering a dozen more (we have 4 left).

Prayer Needs

Mary and Sandy continue to update Facebook Peace Prayer Page as new requests are made. Our prayer list is now a google document that we can each access to add notes/updates. Here is the link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gvjuvr3mzTUCvxWE2woaXLc9_jT3LR-EB-Mt4uAgamE/edit?usp=sharing

As you make contact with your assigned prayer list families please update the google doc so it is as complete as possible. Sandy does not automatically get these updates so if there is a change that would take a person off the list please let her know with a phone call or email so our prayer list in the bulletin can be updated as well.

Budget Update – will request \$1500 for 2027 budget year

Our Daily Bread expense – will give \$100, same as last year

Closed with the Our Father

Next Meeting October 14th at 10 am

Thank you ALL for all you have done and contributed.

Property Ministry Team Notes
September 2026

- Right-hand front door needs repair and will be done soon.
- Remove fences around the a/c condensers.
- Two outer front doors yet to be painted. Will be done soon.
- Two inner doors were painted.
- Youth director's office will also be painted soon.
- Prep irrigation system before construction starts.
- Fall cleanup is set for October 31 at 8:00 am.
 - Two shrub stumps to be removed.
 - Transplant some shrubs.
 - Cut down five trees on the southeast side of the property.
 - Cut back the rest of the shrubs.

Stewardship Committee Notes

September 2026

We have landed on a plan for stewardship this October.

WHAT WE'RE DOING DIFFERENTLY

When people hear "stewardship," they brace for a pitch about budgets and building upkeep. We want to change what October means at Peace.

Yes, we will ask every household for a financial commitment toward our shared mission — we won't be shy about that. But we're asking for something larger alongside it: a pledge of time, energy, and spiritual growth. Where are we going this year, and where is the Holy Spirit moving?

Ron shared a story with me that stuck with me. The Iceman found in the Alps carried live embers in a birch-bark container, wrapped in maple leaves, so he'd never depend on a cold spark when night fell. He was intentional about carrying the fire everywhere he went. A congregation can let its fire drift into a chill — doing things out of routine, leaving the spark to a select few. October is our season to tend the flame on purpose.

There's a practical gift in this, too. Establishing an annual commitment cycle gives our volunteers a natural rhythm to step up AND step down. Too often, saying yes to serve feels like a life sentence, and people burn out because there's no clear exit. A yearly cycle gives permission to rest, hand off a torch, or step into something new. It keeps ministry fresh and spreads the load.

THE FOUR WEEKS

Week 1 — Oct 4 — Tending the Flame

Personal devotion and daily habits. Prayer, scripture, individual spiritual practice.

Week 2 — Oct 11 — Fueling the Community

Generosity and financial stewardship. Giving as joy and discipline, not obligation.

Week 3 — Oct 18 — Sharing the Light

Time, serving, and healthy rhythms. Finding your place, sustainable seasons of service.

Week 4 — Oct 25 — The Legacy We Pass On (Commitment Sunday)

Honoring those who carried the torch to us, and praying for those who will hear the Gospel for the first time in our new addition.

Each week also carries a letter to the congregation with seven reflections, and a two-minute temple talk in worship building toward Commitment Sunday. Pastor Jim and the Stewardship Committee will work on the reflections

COMMUNICATION TIMELINE

Mon, Sept 14 — Ron sends a congregational email inviting members to join the Stewardship Team. Goal is 2-3 new people.

Thu, Sept 24, 6:30 pm — Stewardship Team meeting. Confirm assignments for letters, temple talks, and pledge card logistics.

Sun, Sept 27 — Countdown begins. First weekly letter goes out; 29 days to Commitment Sunday.

Sun, Oct 4 — Week 1. Series launch.

Approx. Oct 11 — Faith promise and pledge cards mailed, roughly two weeks ahead so households have time to pray and decide.

Sun, Oct 11 — Week 2. Pray and encourage engagement with the Peace community

Sun, Oct 18 — Week 3. Pray and encourage engagement with the Peace community

Sun, Oct 25 — Week 4, Commitment Sunday. Pledge cards returned. Financial commitments and time/service/growth commitments received together.

STILL TO SETTLE

A few things to settle:

1. Commitment Sunday on Oct 25 lands on Reformation Sunday; All Saints is Nov 1. Reformation and All Saints (legacies we leave for others) make for 10/25 to be a very strong connection for commitments we are making to Peace and to sharing the Gospel with the outside community and future generations.

2. Four letters and four temple talks need to be written, and decided who will give the 2-minute talk

Grateful for all of you and for the way this is coming together.