



Ministry Board Meeting Agenda
October 20, 2026
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call / Attendance
- III. Devotions – Ted Pew
- IV. Open Forum
- V. Adopt Agenda
- VI. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Approval of Ministry Board Meeting Minutes from September 15, 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 – *October*
 - iii. Hospitality – *October*
 - iv. Missions – *No Report*
 - v. Outreach – *No Report*
 - vi. Prayer & Care – *October*
 - vii. Property - *October*
 - viii. Technology – *No Report*
 - ix. Worship & Music – *October*
 - x. Youth Activity – *October (combined with Christian Education report)*
 - E. Committee Reports
 - i. Nominating – *No Report*
 - ii. Safety – *No Report*
 - iii. Search Team – *No Report (see below)*
 - iv. Stewardship – *No Report*
- VIII. Old Business
 - A. I-Team Update
 - B. Director of Youth & Family Update
 - C. Communion Volunteers
 - D. May 3 Congregational Vote Discussion
 - E. 2027 Leadership Workshop – February 5-6
 - F. Church Directory
 - G. Missions Ministry Chair
- IX. New Business
 - A. Christmas Eve Ministry Board Duties
 - B. Christmas Tree
- X. Adjourn
- XI. Closing Prayer
- XII. Information
 - A. Next Meeting: November 17, 2026 | Executive Board Meeting: November 12, 2026
 - B. November Meeting Devotions: Teri Dressel
 - C. November Communion Assistants: Teri Dressel and Ted Pew

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
UNAPPROVED Board Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2026

- I. Call to Order:** 6:37 pm by Jon Peterson at Peace Lutheran Church.
- II. Members Present:** Teri Dressel, Julie Maas-Kusske, Dan Nelson, Jon Peterson, James Walz, and Pastor Jim VerBout
- Absent:** Ron Boettner, Ted Pew
- Others:** none

III. Devotions: Done by Julie Maas-Kusske

IV. Open Forum: none

V. Adopt Agenda:

Motion to approve Ministry Board Meeting Agenda as written. JMK / JW / Carried

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of Ministry Board Meeting Minutes from August 18, 2026.

Motion to approve August 18, 2026, Ministry Board meeting minutes as written. JMK / JW / Carried

VII. Reports:

A. Finance – Monthly Financials and Minutes:

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

- An analysis shows that the amount of money we will be short for the building addition may be less than originally thought. This is due to cost savings found by the I-Team.
- The budgeting process will likely start in October.

Motion to approve Financial Report as written. JMK / JW / Carried.

B. Pastor's Report: As printed. He did include a lot of information from the various committee meetings he attended. We let him know that the secretary for each committee will file their own report, so he doesn't need to be so inclusive with his report, if he doesn't want to.

C. I-Team Report: no report, see below

D. Ministry Team Reports

- Altar Care: *No Report*
- Christian Education: *No Report; Pastor reports that the confirmation parent meeting is September 15. Bibles will be handed out to youth of certain ages on September 20.*
- Hospitality: *September – They will help with Coffee, Cake, and Conversation if they are given enough advance warning. Rally Sunday was A LOT this year. The group picture, birthday Sunday, potluck, bake sale, pie auction and praying over the bus were very hectic for volunteers.*
- Missions: *September*
- Outreach: *No report. They will be at Ladies Night Out in downtown Watertown on October 8, handing out cookies to participants. They will be selling Butter Braids again as a fundraiser.*
- Prayer & Care: *September – They are working on a design concept for a banner to hang in the reception area of the church.*
- Property: *September*
- Technology: *No Report*



- Worship & Music: *No Report*
- Youth Activities: *No Report*

E. Committee Reports

- Nominating: *No Report*
- Safety: *No Report*
- Search Team: *No Report, see below*
- Stewardship: *September*

Motion to accept reports as written. TD / DN / Carried

VIII. Old Business:

- I-Team Update: The final survey was completed September 14. We don't have the building permit yet, but it's close. The plan is to pray over the building site and photo op on October 4 and start digging October 5. There was talk of inviting the newspaper for the official groundbreaking. We've learned that the same foreman who worked on our last project will be here again. That continuity is nice. We have one bid on the Cross that will be the focal point on our exterior, but we are going to receive another bid from a local vendor, Heckel's. Interior design concepts are still being finalized.
- Director of Youth & Family Update: Still only two candidates. The ad runs through September 30. Pastor is doing some sourcing through contacts in various Christian communities too.
- May 3 Congregational Vote Discussion: To be carried over to next month. Julie to share with us how they handle public comments during their city council meetings to aid us in our preparation for our changes.

IX. New Business:

- Ministry Board Representative Duties: After some confusion during communion at the September 6 worship, we wanted to reiterate what the responsibilities are for the Ministry Board (MB) representatives when they are serving. The MB members are to distribute the wine. They are also to find a child to help hold the basket. Pastor will ask congregants to help with the bread. A MB member was made aware that some parents would like their children to be involved in holding the basket during communion. Teri will put a note in the bulletin and ask parents who have children interested to reach out to her.
- 2027 Leadership Workshop: Discussed; will carry over to next meeting.
- Missions Ministry Team Chair: Amy is stepping down as chair effective at the end of the year, and no one has stepped up to replace her. Teri questioned whether the congregation knows. Do we need to put this out to the congregation? Will we figure it out during the stewardship drive, looking for someone with those talents?
- Church Directory: Some discussion, no firm decision made. Julie will research what other churches might have and bring it to the next meeting.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting. DN /TD / Carried. Adjourned at 9:02 pm

XI. Closing Prayer – Led by Pastor Jim VerBout

XII. Information:

- Next meeting October 20, 2026 | Executive Board Meeting October 15, 2026
- Teri will be absent from the October 20, 2026 meeting
- October Meeting Devotions: Ted Pew
- October Communion Assistant / MB serving: Ted Pew and Ron Boettner

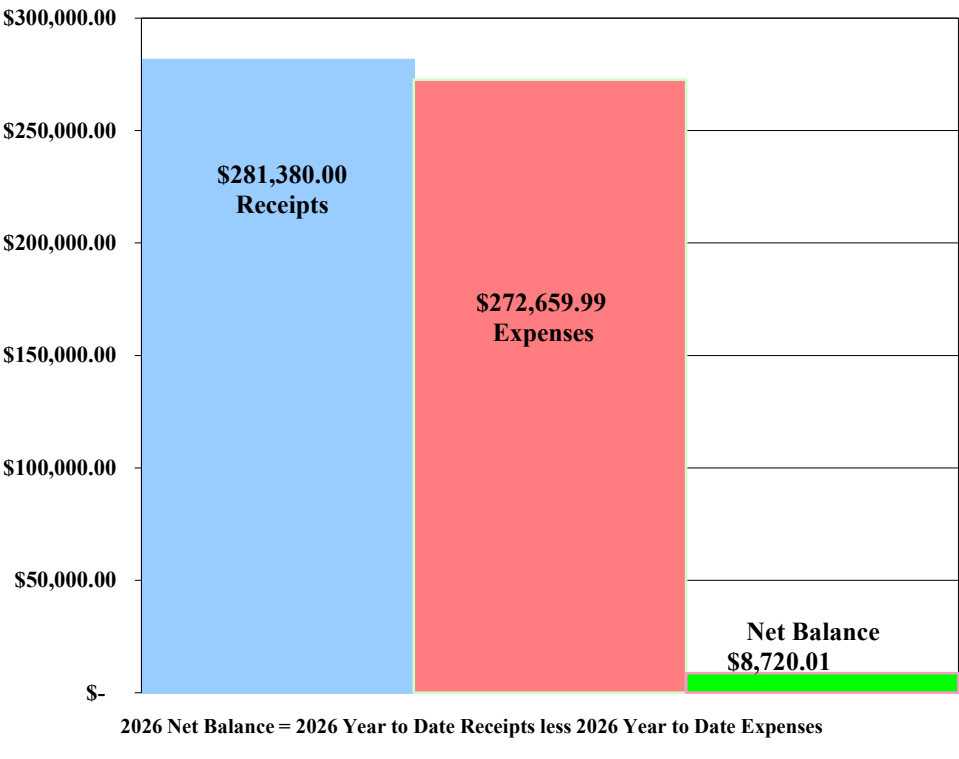
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT

September 30, 2026

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

General Fund 2026 Receipts and Transfers In	\$	281,380.00	
General Fund 2026 Expenses	\$	272,659.99	
General Fund - 2026 Net Balance			<u>\$ 8,720.01</u>

2026
Year-to-Date
General Fund



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 30, 2026

Statement of Activities for Period 9 - September
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	\$22,415.27	\$253,801.87	\$287,481.72
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	\$284.00	\$3,652.06	\$4,553.55
410035 Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00	\$480.00	\$0.00
410040 Mid-week Summer Worship Income	\$0.00	\$726.00	\$0.00
410050 Interest Income	\$1,441.32	\$8,751.57	\$7,274.81
410200 Youth Events Income	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$950.00
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	\$202.00	\$202.00	\$658.00
Total Operating Income	\$24,342.59	\$281,380.00	\$315,353.85
419090 Nesvold Matching Gift Income	\$0.00	\$218,500.00	\$100,000.00
419091 Capital Campaign 2024/2025/2026 Income	\$101,195.57	\$157,010.25	\$199,508.00
419092 Capital Campaign Interest Income	\$4,976.27	\$25,850.91	\$18,220.20
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	\$25.00	\$1,177.00	\$1,121.00
430110 Noisy Offering Fund Income	\$412.04	\$4,635.37	\$3,208.68
430115 Youth Ministry Fund Income	\$0.00	\$2,483.50	\$0.00
430122 Youth Mission Trip Fund Income	\$0.00	\$16,906.00	\$20,446.33
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	\$0.00	\$1,276.00	\$2,120.04
440105 Outreach Events Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,353.00
440200 Hospitality Fund Income	\$0.00	(\$1,850.00)	\$1,129.33
440205 Lenten Suppers Fund Income	\$0.00	\$927.00	\$802.00
440210 Hospitality Events Fund Income	\$498.00	\$698.00	\$606.00
440215 PIE Auction	\$7,036.00	\$7,036.00	\$0.00
440220 Easter Breakfast Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$369.00
440300 Technology Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,793.34
440500 Care Ministry Fund Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
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	\$0.00	\$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	\$155.00	\$2,112.00	\$2,027.00
490100 Refunded - Donations Income	\$300.00	\$1,271.02	\$1,696.95
490200 Office Income	\$0.00	\$294.00	\$161.00
Total Income	\$138,940.47	\$738,585.64	\$688,378.49

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 30, 2026

Statement of Activities for Period 9 - September
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	\$3,750.00	\$32,700.00	\$31,440.00
Insurance			
Total Insurance	\$0.00	\$14,460.66	\$14,205.79
Salaries			
Total Salaries	\$14,777.24	\$157,068.22	\$171,265.41
Pastor Benefits			
Total Pastor Benefits	\$50.00	\$3,004.86	\$12,352.03
Office			
Total Office	\$1,736.71	\$14,635.42	\$19,614.85
Other Finance			
Total Other Finance	\$0.00	\$2,809.84	\$5,329.92
Total All Finance	\$20,313.95	\$224,679.00	\$254,208.00
Property			
Total Property	\$3,119.22	\$22,021.37	\$15,339.55
Education			
Total Education	\$440.63	\$8,105.45	\$10,564.13
Youth Activity			
Total Youth Activity	\$185.82	\$2,733.66	\$3,929.09
Missions			
Total Missions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$693.28
Stewardship			
Total Stewardship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$318.92
Prayer & Care Ministry			
Total Prayer & Care Ministry	\$218.74	\$836.50	\$671.51
Outreach			
Total Outreach	\$356.13	\$3,556.10	\$7,792.62
Hospitality			
Total Hospitality	\$352.47	\$2,750.91	\$3,064.47
Music			
Total Music	\$82.39	\$2,015.28	\$2,436.74
Altar Care			
Total Altar Care	\$79.96	\$906.91	\$1,350.11
Technology			
Total Technology	\$2,867.25	\$5,054.81	\$1,257.44
Total Operating Expenses	\$28,016.56	\$272,659.99	\$301,625.86

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 30, 2026

Statement of Activities for Period 9 - September
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	\$16,203.08	\$79,951.08	\$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	\$0.00	\$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	\$1,130.85
840200 Hospitality Fund Expense	\$354.62	\$1,915.45	\$1,885.68
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	\$75.00	\$368.70	\$511.50
845105 Altar Care Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$974.54	\$1,125.20
845110 Corn Feed Fund Expense	\$0.00	\$6,413.59	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$44,649.26	\$396,684.84	\$339,576.88
Net Income	\$94,291.21	\$341,900.80	\$348,801.61

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT**

September 30, 2026

September 30, 2026	2026	2025
Operating Income	\$ 281,380.00	\$ 315,353.85
Operating Expense	\$ 272,659.99	\$ 301,625.86
Balance	\$ 8,720.01	\$ 13,727.99

Previous Month YTD Comparison

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

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 30, 2026

Statement of Financial Position for Period 9 - September
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	\$2,795.14	\$2,656.16
Citizens Alliance HY Money Market	\$220,389.05	\$154,480.28
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	\$75,000.00
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)	\$63,863.76	\$21,302.61
Total Assets	\$1,457,176.98	\$1,048,568.08
Liabilities		
Credit Card Payable	\$1,117.75	\$1,842.03
PFML MN Tax Payable	\$538.44	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$1,656.19	\$1,842.03
Net Assets		
General Fund Balance	\$161,795.02	\$123,294.09
Nesvold Matching Gift Fund (1)	\$433,893.73	\$295,344.81
Capital Campaign 2024/25/26 Fund	\$669,403.25	\$476,490.00
Capital Campaign Interest Fund (2)	\$59,747.83	\$24,324.80
Prepaid Faith Promise - 2025	\$0.00	\$3,315.00
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	\$4,005.00	\$2,695.00
Music Ministry Fund Balance	\$5,465.08	\$5,465.08
Noisy Offering Fund Balance	\$585.75	\$506.53
Youth Ministry Fund Balance	\$3,043.70	\$1,158.88
Youth Mission Trip Fund Balance	\$5,228.48	\$5,722.83
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	\$4,931.33
Hospitality Fund Balance	\$27,240.16	\$20,689.16
Technology Fund Balance	\$1,527.62	\$1,527.62
Care Ministry Fund Balance	\$773.12	\$731.25
Altar Care Special Gift Flower Fund Balance	\$1,044.80	\$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	\$9,366.66
Total Net Assets	\$1,455,520.79	\$1,046,726.05
Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,457,176.98	\$1,048,568.08

(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:

\$1,188,173.84

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 30, 2026

Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 9 - September 75.00%
 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	3,750	3,750	-	32,700	32,700	(7,500)	81.34%
Insurance	15,750	-	-	-	15,750	14,461	(1,289)	91.81%
Salaries	232,406	20,822	14,777	(6,045)	165,838	157,068	(75,338)	67.58%
Pastor Benefits	13,700	3,450	50	(3,400)	8,550	3,005	(10,695)	21.93%
Office	20,358	1,821	1,737	(85)	15,517	14,635	(5,723)	71.89%
Other Finance	3,175	235	-	(235)	3,110	2,810	(365)	88.50%
Total Finance	325,589	30,078	20,314	(9,764)	241,465	224,679	(100,910)	69.01%
Property	27,875	3,225	3,119	(106)	22,050	22,021	(5,854)	79.00%
Education	15,550	900	441	(459)	14,550	8,105	(7,445)	52.13%
Youth Activity	9,200	767	186	(581)	6,900	2,734	(6,466)	29.71%
Missions	1,032	300	-	(300)	791	-	(1,032)	0.00%
Stewardship	1,500	125	-	(125)	1,125	-	(1,500)	0.00%
Prayer & Care Ministry	1,000	50	219	169	475	837	(164)	83.65%
Outreach	10,660	30	356	326	8,080	3,556	(7,104)	33.36%
Hospitality	4,600	275	352	77	3,175	2,751	(1,849)	59.80%
Music	3,062	100	82	(18)	2,292	2,015	(1,047)	65.82%
Altar Care	2,000	500	80	(420)	1,500	907	(1,093)	45.35%
Technology	5,150	-	2,867	2,867	2,650	5,055	(95)	98.15%
Total Operating Expenses	407,218	36,350	28,017	(8,333)	305,053	272,660	(134,558)	66.96%

Finance Team Minutes
October 13, 2026 at 6:00pm

Opened Meeting: 6:05pm

Adopt Meeting Agenda for 10/13/26: Approved

Approved Minutes from 09/08/26: Approved unanimously

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

Special Guest: Bob Rieckenberg

*Bob gave us information on possible needs for insurance during the building process. There is a possibility that Nor-Son has adequate insurance coverage, which is being looked into, if they do have us covered, Bob is requesting it in writing from Nor-Son; he and Kristi Mittelstaedt will look into it.

*If additional insurance is needed, we have options- a policy that is phased during the building process and billed in completed phases. Or a one-time policy for the duration of the build for the projected total cost of the project. Julie said we have \$ left in the insurance budget from 2026 as cost of insurance came in lower than the budgeted amount. We can use that first to offset any costs. Bob will keep us posted.

Reports:

Special Giving Committee: – No updates

September Financials – Julie Potter

See report provided by Julie.

Julie has sent out Q3 budget information to all groups, she will work with them in the coming weeks on budgets for 2027. Julie is hoping to get all budgets turned in before Thanksgiving.

September Giving and Capital Campaign – Sue Beulke

See report provided by Sue.

General giving is down, but expenses are also down.

A very generous non-pledged donation came in for the Capital Campaign

CD Tracking – Dan Cowger

3 CDs will mature in October \$465,000, approved to renew these for another 3-month term.

Current Building Status – Dan C.

We all know the project has started and looking forward to see it progress. Dan C. provided a Capital Campaign and Building Summary sheet. Assuming we stay on budget and pledges come in as expected we may need to borrow approx. \$20,000.

Tracking Building Expenses: Linda Senne

We have had a few invoices for the building project come in and the approval process of getting at least 2 people to sign off is going great. We attached the approvals to the invoice and process the payments to vendors in a timely manner.

Old Business:

Candidates for new team member (insurance and building)- please keep thinking of members that might want to join this team.

New Business:

*Discussed Faith Promise Cards turn in by Oct. 25th, We know building expenses will increase due to the new addition for budget planning.

*Pastor discussed new Youth Director but thinking a replacement for Mark might not happen until April or May at the earliest.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10th @ 6:00 PM

October 2026 Pastor's Report

ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Baptism** – Chloe Jo Porter (Cheyanne & Dylan Porter, new members) – October 4
- **Vacation** – Sandy is tentatively taking November 5-9 off.
 - Pr. Jim is taking off 1/17/27-1/18-27; Pr. John Hopper has agreed to lead worship and preach
- **Holiday** – Thanksgiving (church closed) – November 26-27

OUTREACH

- Coffee, Cake and Conversation – October 11. (6 adults and 5 kids)
- New Member Sunday is November 8. We already have one family (2 parents, 2 kids), transfer from St. Paul Lutheran who have submitted paperwork
- Pineapple delivery weekend – October 23-25

STEWARDSHIP

- Looking ahead we want to be more intentional with this and inviting a few more members on board. So far devotions have been well received and celebration of faith promises

EDUCATION / YOUTH

- Continuing to work with Christian Ed. / Youth / Family ministry teams to update safe ministry best practices procedures. Final step is connecting with Bob Reichenberg
- Confirmation: Eliminating soda and will start confirmation in sanctuary; have had some behavior issues but should be resolved
- Search team update; connection at Crown College and connections with Faith Lutheran in Hutchinson
- Luke Bible study started on September 20 with about 40 people attending one of the three options.
- Trick or Treat for the food shelf is October 25. We are coordinating with local churches.
- Peace Lutheran Youth Mission Trip 2027 — Memphis, Tennessee, July 16–24, 2027
- Children's Christmas Program – December 13

MISSIONS

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

HOSPITALITY

- Peace Potluck Progressive Dinner – November 14 – this is a new casual fellowship opportunity. Guests go to one house for appetizer, then another house for dinner, and round out the evening at church for dessert. Childcare will be provided at church.
- 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!

PASTORAL VISITS

- No physical visits. Calls with members who have had surgeries recently and/or going into medical procedures

OTHER EVENTS

LCMC Annual Gathering – October 4-7. Pastor Jim and Deb Butler attended. Attended seminars on best practices children/youth safety, Stewardship reframed, and Theological perspective on community life with Luther's theory of bondage of will



Christian Education & Youth Activities Ministry Board Update | October 12, 2026

Christian Education

Sunday School (PreK–4th Grade)

We've had a wonderful start to our Sunday School year! We kicked things off with Rally Sunday on September 13, followed by Bible Sunday and our Bible Adventure scavenger hunt on September 20. Regular classroom lessons began September 27, using Concordia Publishing House's *Enduring Faith* curriculum.

We currently have **46 children registered in PreK–4th grade**, divided into four classroom groups. We begin our Sunday mornings with music and a large-group gathering before moving into classrooms for Bible lessons, activities, snacks, and prayer.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers serving this year!

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers

- **Preschool:** Ashley Braegelmann and Katie Young
- **PreK–Kindergarten:** Lindsey Walz, Amy Prok, and Taylor Laumann
- **1st–2nd Grade:** Megan Hunter and Tiffany Molitor
- **3rd–4th Grade:** Bill Holmquist and Leslie Schultz
- **Music:** Meghan Weaver and Addison Weaver
- **Youth Helpers:** Lexa Underdahl and Addi Weaver
- **Floaters and Coordinators:** Anne Holmquist and Nicole Johnsrud
- **Snack Coordinators:** Rylee May and Addison Johnsrud

Sunday School Substitutes: Shawn Perez, Kacie Mullaney, Ruth Clark, Julie Maas-Kusske, Emily Sandquist, and Rylee May.

We are continuing our **weekly Sunday School emails to families**, which include a recap of the previous Sunday's lesson, Scripture references, a short devotional and prayer, and information about what's coming up. This has been a nice way to keep families connected and encourage them to continue conversations about faith at home.

We've also been working on attendance charts, birthday recognition, and classroom supplies. Lindsey Walz is helping coordinate Birthday Sundays.

Middle School (5th–8th Grade)

We currently have **11 students registered in grades 5–8**.

Our Middle School program meets Sunday mornings following worship. Students begin with a snack and large-group activity before breaking into smaller groups for Bible lessons and discussion.

Middle School Teachers and Helpers: James Walz, Anissa VerBout, Karleen Boettner, Meghan Weaver, Becky Forland, and Elizabeth Schulze.

Our goal is to provide a welcoming place where these students can build relationships, ask questions, and grow in their faith as they prepare for High School Youth Group. Our current challenge right now has to do with keeping our 7th and 8th graders coming after church. We will continue to offer a place to gather and pray over this group and their involvement on Sunday's. The 5th and 6th grade group is currently thriving quite nicely and is likely due to the routine they've been in coming out of traditional Sunday School.

Noisy Offering

Our Sunday School children continue to learn about generosity and serving others through Noisy Offering.

Our recent offering supported **The Royals Room, with \$412 collected**. Families were also invited to contribute requested items.

It's wonderful to see our children learning that even small gifts can make a difference when we work together.

Confirmation (7th–9th Grade)

We currently have **37 students registered for Confirmation** this year:

- **7th Grade:** 9 students
- **8th Grade:** 17 students
- **9th Grade:** 11 students

This year, we're studying the **Old Testament**, learning about God's promises, His relationship with His people, and how the Old Testament connects to our Christian faith today.

Pastor Jim is leading Confirmation, with a wonderful group of adult helpers and table leaders: **Ron Boettner, Colette Thorson, Deb Butler, Meghan Weaver, Andrea Plahn, and Nicole Johnsrud.**

With a group of 37 students, we're continuing to make adjustments to help create a positive learning environment. We plan to move our large-group lesson into the sanctuary to provide more space, better separation, and hopefully encourage greater focus and participation before students break into their smaller discussion groups.

We recently held a faith-sharing evening where Pastor Jim shared his personal faith story with the students. This gave them an opportunity to get to know him better and hear how God has worked in his life.

We're also continuing **weekly Confirmation emails to families**, providing information about the upcoming week's lesson, schedule, and important reminders. This helps parents stay informed and involved in what their children are learning.

Youth Activities

High School Youth Group (9th–12th Grade)

High School Youth Group continues to meet on Wednesday evenings from **7:30–9:00 p.m.**, and we've had some really great participation!

Our attendance has ranged anywhere from **8–25 students**, and we've had some pretty exciting and fun evenings together.

We typically begin with time to gather and connect, followed by a large-group activity or game. From there, we come together for a short Bible lesson and then break into smaller groups for discussion.

We've been working our way through the book of **James**, focusing on what it means to not just hear God's Word, but to put it into action. We've also been talking about the different voices and influences we're listening to in our lives and, ultimately, whose voice we should be following.

It's been encouraging to see the kids participating, having fun, and becoming more comfortable with one another and with our adult leaders.

Youth Group Helpers: Pastor Jim VerBout, Alyssa Paschke, Becky Forland, Deb Butler, Dan Langner, and Nicole Johnsrud.

We've also been making an effort to reach students where they are. Nicole has been promoting Youth Group through Instagram, and a couple of our students have been using Snapchat to invite and encourage other kids to attend. This has been a great way to spread the word and help bring new faces into the group.

Youth Activities Planning

We are planning to move to **quarterly Youth Activities planning meetings** going forward.

Pastor Jim will be meeting with the Watertown churches in early November to discuss opportunities for working together and coordinating activities; which might include opportunities to combine youth groups and do large groups together.

Following that meeting, our Youth Activities team will get back together in November to review our budget and begin scheduling activities for the first six months of the upcoming year.

Our hope is to have activities on the calendar well in advance and provide a variety of opportunities for our youth to connect, serve, and grow in their faith.

Upcoming Youth Activities

October 25 – Trick or Treat for the Food Shelf

Our next scheduled youth activity is Trick or Treat for the Food Shelf on Sunday, October 25. This is a great opportunity for our youth to serve others and support families in our community.

November – Youth Activities Planning

Following Pastor Jim's meeting with the Watertown churches, we'll gather to discuss our budget and begin putting together our activity calendar for the first six months of the upcoming year.

Looking Ahead

As we continue through October and November, our focus will be on maintaining consistent Sunday School routines, supporting our teachers and volunteers, continuing to build our Middle School and High School programs, and planning opportunities for youth involvement.

We're also beginning to plan for Advent and Christmas. I'm exploring an Advent devotional resource for the entire congregation, along with an additional resource specifically for families with younger children. In addition, the Annual Christmas Program will be held on December 13th, and Nicole was able to encourage Ella Sames (f.k.a. Ella May) to direct the program this year, which is very exciting.

I would love to continue finding ways to encourage families to grow in their faith together at home, not just on Sunday mornings. Our weekly Sunday School and Confirmation communications are an important part of that effort.

Thank You

We have so many people giving their time and talents to Christian Education and Youth Activities this year. From our Sunday School teachers and helpers to our music leaders, snack coordinators, substitutes, Confirmation table leaders, and Youth Group volunteers, it takes a wonderful team to make these ministries happen.

I'm thankful for the willingness of so many to serve and encouraged by the participation we're seeing across our programs. I'm looking forward to continuing to build on this strong start to the year.

Hospitality Minutes Sunday, October 11th, 2026

Present: Julie Maas-Kusske, Karen Lotito, and Jill Blair

Pie Auction Donations:

- About \$7,000 raised between pie auction and bake sale
 - Hospitality fund needs to be reimbursed for the jumper \$429 and the cart \$35.99 these items were purchased prior to Rally Sunday.
- Much discussion about how to split the remaining money. For now, hospitality will keep in their account. If Youth Mission Trips need money or something is requested for Youth with the new build. Thinking about \$3,000.00 for Youth something.

Review of Rally Sunday:

- Need more serving spoons and tongs for large potluck type of events. Some utensils are industrial size
- Hospitality will provide main dish for next year; likely something catered from Hollywood.
 - Need a few less side dishes and less desserts
 - Fruit didn't have any utensils because we ran out
- Start the bake/treat sale at 8:30am

Funeral line for expenses:

Hospitality budget needs funds for snacks, water, etc. prior to the funeral for the family. Apparently, this isn't budgeted for. Jill will talk to Julie Potter

Peace Café Supplies:

Laurie Langner purchased some gray dish towels and gray dish rags. It's hard to keep things looking clean. We will try this and evaluate in 6 months

Progressive Potluck Saturday, November 14th:

Two more weeks to sign up. Have Pastor Jim hold up the sign-up in the bulletin and tell people to place it in the offering plate or place it at the welcome desk.

Next meeting Tuesday, November 10th We will meet/email to assign guests to homes. This isn't secretive and will be posted November 8th at church.

Prayer and Care Minutes November 14, 2026

In attendance: Rhonda Swanhorst, Susie Kohls, Faye Rothenberger, Cathy Malone, Pastor Jim and Mary Fritz-Barfnecht

Unable to attend: Sue Buelke, Julie Maas-Kusske

Open with prayer: Done by Rhonda

Old Business:

Card Box:

- Faye has done an amazing job with cards!
- Mid-October to Mid-November: Mary
- Mid-November to Mid-December: Cathy including Thanksgiving cards and cards to the new members from November 8th.
- Mid December to Mid January: Rhonda

Prayer Shawls and Threads of Love:

- Susie, thank you for getting the Thrivent card to purchase more yarn! Great idea for the little snippet in the bulletin.
- There are 2 areas for the kids to pick up the new beautiful Busy Bags.
- There will be no fall craft day this year.
- After the first of the year will start working on the Welcome Banner for the church.

Infant and Pregnancy Loss:

- Cathy M developed a prayer for the cards. We are going to extend the flowers and cards to this week as well.

Surviving the Holidays:

- November 15th 3-5 pm
- Sandy will send out the letters we have made to the local area Pastors.
- Pastor Jim states he has a couple of opportunities to tell others about this event as well. Meeting with the local Chamber of Commerce and with the local pastors and his local chiropractor.
- Distributing cards and flyers to local stores and will list the event on Facebook in many of the local city sites.
- We have alerted people with cards on Ladies Night Out and will be handed out with the pineapple delivery as well.
- Plan to play the Surviving the Holidays DVD next meeting so everyone knows what it is all about.
- Gift Ornaments for the event are compliments of garage sale in Chaska.
- Need volunteers for the event: Registration table, coffee/snack person. Attend the session. Faye, Mary, Pastor, Rhonda, and Cathy Malone will be present.

Veteran's Day Dinner:

- November 11th at 5:30 pm at the Watertown City Hall.
- Susie, Faye, and Cathy M to cut, plate, and serve.
- Need 6 cakes, the recipe for the Apple cake was handed out and it will be a 9X13 pan with the glaze. Rhonda, Mary, and Cathy will make cakes. Need 3 more cakes. Cakes to be scored in 4X4 pieces. Flag toothpicks have been ordered.

*Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting is 11/11/26 at 10 am

Thank you ALL!

Property notes
October 2026

The fire protection alarm system panel has gone bad. There was no room in the panel for the addition, so a new panel is going to be installed when the addition is completed. A temporary panel was installed on Tuesday, October 13 to get us to that point.

Fall cleanup will be on Saturday 10/31 at 8:00.

Troy Sandin removed the trees on the north side due to construction. A money saver. The trees will not have to be replaced because we planted them.

The main entry doors were all painted.

There was some repair done to the front doors, and they are working the way they should.

Five dead trees were cut down by the fire pit. They all fell into the tall grass where there is no activity, so they will lay there and rot. Dan Dressell volunteered to cut them up so they would be less visible.

Due to construction, the right-hand storeroom by the north door was cleaned out somewhat. A lot went into the empty Director of Youth & Family office. The shelving was put out in the dumpster enclosure.

Kris Hanson has resigned from snow removal. Currently have 2 bids to plow the parking lot. One is a snow season contract that covers 5 months for \$4,000. The other is per-time removal for \$150 per time.

The upcoming property budget will be a challenge with all the unknowns due to the construction.

Worship & Music Ministry Team

October 2026

Notes

We're excited to have held our first online planning meeting! As we try this new approach, we'll continue to learn, make adjustments, and improve along the way. Thank you for your flexibility and participation! Here's the plan we put together.

Please save the sign-in information for CCLI. When in the account, please be careful not to change the password or userid/email.

CCLI website: <https://us.ccli.com> | Email: office@come2peace.com | Password: PraiseB@nd1!

NOVEMBER'S MUSIC PLAN for Sundays

Sunday, November 1 – All Saints Sunday

- Communion Sunday
- Daylight savings ends
- Special Service of Remembrance
- No JAM
- Scripture: Revelation 7:(2-8) 9-17; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
- Sermon Title: Thanks Be to God for the Saints
- Text: Revelation 7:9-17

Music Plan:

Praise Prelude: “Blessed Be Your Name” – CCLI #3798438

Praise Prelude: “Worthy is the Lamb” – CCLI #3217555

Call to Worship/Processional Song: “For All the Saints” – LBW #174

Sermon Song: “There will Be a Day” CCLI #5322390

Special Music: “Make My Life an Alleluia” Peace Choir

Offering Response: “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” – LBW page 86

Candle Lighting Special Music: “It Is Well with My Soul” – Celebration #705

Distribution:

- “Come to the Table (of Mercy)” – CCLI #675056
- “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” – LBW #499
- “Come, Share the Lord” – Celebration #462

Closing Song: “Revelation Song” – Praise Band

Praise Postlude: “Revelation Song”

Sunday, November 8 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

- Birthdays and Anniversaries Celebration
- Honor Veterans – Prayer & Care will have a video to go with the closing song
- Scripture: Amos 5:18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
- Sermon Title: Grateful While We Wait
- Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Music Plan:

Praise Prelude: “Cry of My Heart” – CCLI #844980

Praise Prelude: “Our God Reigns” – CCLI #7250322

Call to Worship: “Shout to the Lord” – CCLI #1406918

Sermon Song: “Open the Eyes of My Heart” – CCLI #2298355

Special Music: JoAnn Deveny – “Armed Service Medley” (photo tribute to our veterans and active service members)

Offering Response: “Now Thank We All Our God” – LBW #534

Closing Song: “How Great Is Our God” – CCLI 4348399

Praise Postlude: “How Great Is Our God” – CCLI 4348399

Sunday, November 15 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

- Communion Sunday
- Photo tribute to veterans and active service members at the close
- Scripture: Zephaniah 1:7-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
- Sermon Title: Grateful Stewards of What We Are Given
- Text: Matthew 25:14-30

Music Plan:

Praise Prelude: “Because He Lives” – CCLI 7027887

Praise Prelude: “Sanctuary” – CCLI #24140

Call to Worship: “Here I am to Worship” – CCLI #3266032

Sermon Song: “Heal Our Land” – CCLI #5217

Special Music: “Take My Life, That I May Be” – LBW #406

Offering Response: “This Is the Feast of Victory for Our God” – LBW page 81

Distribution:

- “O Living Bread from Heaven” – LBW #197
- “Oh, How He Loves You and Me” – CCLI #15850
- “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” – WOV #711

Closing Song: “Mighty to Save” – CCLI #4591782

Praise Postlude: “Mighty to Save” – CCLI #4591782

Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday of Advent

- Thanksgiving Weekend
- Noisy Offering
- Youth Sunday
- Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
- Sermon Title: Giving Thanks for the Grace Already Given
- Text: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Music Ideas:

Praise Prelude: “Awesome God” – CCLI 41099

Praise Prelude: “Goodness of God” – CCLI 7117726

Advent Candle Lighting: “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” – WOV #630

Call to Worship: “O Come to the Altar” – CCLI #7051511

Sermon Song: “I Surrender All” – CCLI #4850760

Special Music: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” – LBW #543

Offering Response: “Praise and Thanksgiving” – LBW #409

Closing Song: “Good Good Father” – CCLI #7036612

Praise Postlude: “Good Good Father” – CCLI #7036612

Sunday, November 22 – Christ the King Sunday

- Choir sings “Christ Is King” in worship
- Scripture: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Matthew 25:31-46
- Sermon Title: Thankful Subjects of the Shepherd King
- Text: Matthew 25:31-46

Music Ideas:

Praise Prelude: “King of Kings” – CCLI #7127647

Praise Prelude: “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)” – CCLI #6016351

Call to Worship: “You are My King (Amazing Love)” – CCLI #2456623

Sermon Song: “Lift High the Cross” – LBW #377

Special Music: “Christ Is King” Peace Choir

Offering Response: “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” – LBW #565

Closing Song: “In Christ Alone” – CCLI #3350395

Praise Postlude: “In Christ Alone” – CCLI #3350395