

Peace Notes

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Wise men (and women) still seek Him.
January 6, 2026

From the Pastor's Pen

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today
and forever.” -Hebrews 13:8

Happy New Year! 2026 is now upon us and by
the grace of God we stand at the precipice of a
new year.

Many will be making personal goals to discipline
ourselves with workouts, finance, vacation time,
and relational goals of better communication,
conflict management, or being a better spouse,
child, worker, etc.

As you prayerfully consider your personal goals,
please think about your personal discipleship
goals as you follow Jesus. In 2026, do you want
to make a better effort in your worship life,
prayer-life, generosity, acts of service, sharing
the faith? If so, write them down and keep it
before yourself.

Our text from Hebrews reminds us to consider
our spiritual leaders who speak God's Word and
to consider the outcome of their way of life and
imitate their faith without being led astray by
false teachings. Be led by grace!

While we set personal goals, it is also good for Peace to corporately consider the direction we are heading, based on the blessings God's given to us. We never compromise God's Word, Jesus Christ, or the Sacraments of Baptism & Lord's Supper. But it's also important for us to prayerfully map out our future.

Peace had 5/2 Ministries (and Randy Larson) from Texas share a visioning process with our Voter's on 12.14.25. On 1.11.26 Rev. Jeff Meyer from Auxano will share what makes them unique and helpful with a Visioning Process. A Visioning Process helps us understand a Vision Frame that helps us work through our Mission, Vision/Values, Strategy, Measures/Outcomes and Milestones.

On 2.1.26 Peace will have a Voter's meeting to decide if we as a church want to work with 5/2 Ministries, Auxano, or go a different direction. May God go in front, behind and alongside of us this new year with His tender grace and steadfast love.

Pastor Kruse



Angel Tree Recap

We would like to thank everyone who made Angel Tree happen again this year! We could not do it without all the volunteers! We were able to serve 22 children locally who live close to Peace (Muskego, Hales Corners, Franklin and Greenfield). Delivery Angel Teams delivered the gifts to those families. We also provided gift cards for children in rural Wisconsin communities who were not sponsored by a local church.

Both the children near and far also received Gospel materials to let them know just how

much Jesus loves them. The children we delivered to locally also received an age-appropriate bible or bible story book as a gift from our church and the children receiving gift cards through the mail also received a post card to send in if they would like a free bible mailed to them.

So, whether you purchased and wrapped a gift, or donated towards the gift cards, or you were one of the Delivery Angels who brought the gifts to the children's homes, thank you so very much! We cannot do Angel Tree without you!

Marilyn Thompson

January Mission Focus – MAF

Mission Aviation Fellowship is an organization that seeks to reach isolated people for Jesus and they have been doing it since the end of World War II.

Millions of people around the world live cut off from many of the things we take for granted, such as education, medical care, and even hearing about or experiencing the love of Jesus. The problem may be geographical barriers like jungles, mountains and deserts; or the problem may be social, political or religious barriers. In any case, isolation is a problem!

MAF's vision is to see isolated people changed by the love of Christ. They have the pilots and the flying expertise that can take people and supplies to places they could not get to without a plane.

Each year, MAF provides aviation services to more than 400 mission agencies, churches, and humanitarian organizations around the world. Without MAF, some of these organizations would be unable to reach the people they serve. Through these partnerships, MAF connects isolated people with vital services and goods while sharing the love of Christ in a tangible way.

Please consider contributing to this vital organization. Specially marked envelopes will be on the info desk during the month of January. Thanks!!

Marilyn Thompson

Ministry Council News

Happy New Year! As we step into 2026, my prayer is that it brings good health, abundant blessings, and many moments of joy for you and your loved ones. I hope the holiday season gave you time to rest, reflect, and enjoy meaningful moments with family and friends.

On December 14, we gathered for our first informational Voters' Meeting, where Randy Larson from Five Two shared how his organization helps churches engage in thoughtful visioning. It was a meaningful conversation, and we're continuing that journey with a **second informational voters' meeting on January 11 at 10:30 am**. At that time, Rev. Jeff Meyer from Auxano will join us to share how his ministry partners with congregations in a similar way.

So, what do we mean by *visioning*? At its heart, visioning is a shared process of listening—listening to God, to His Word, and to one another. It helps bring clarity, unity, and purpose as we seek to understand where God is leading us. When we have a clear sense of direction, we are strengthened as the body of Christ. We know no church can be everything to everyone, but together we can prayerfully discern where God is calling *Peace* in 2026 and beyond.

During the Q&A at our December meeting, members shared heartfelt ideas for mission and ministry. It was energizing to hear what God has placed on our hearts. A structured visioning process gives space for those ideas to surface and helps turn passion into practical, faithful action.

This is truly an exciting season for Peace. I hope you'll join us on January 11 to learn more about Auxano and continue the conversation. We will vote on how to move forward with visioning at

our **formal Voters' Meeting on February 1 at 10:30 am**.

Between now and then, let us prayerfully reflect together on where God may be leading us next. Blessings to all!

Carol Fontanez



Little Lambs Academy News

Happy New Year! We are excited to welcome the children back for the second half of the school year! A new year means new skills and new activities!

It also means registration for 2026-27 is right around the corner. Online registration will open towards the end of January. If you have a child or grandchild who is looking for a high quality, faith-filled preschool or child care program, please contact us at preschool@peacelutheran.org to schedule a tour. Open House will be January 20 from 6:00 - 7:00. We'd love to see you there!

"The Mitten by Jan Brett" is the theme for our 2T Toddler & Me (child with caregiver) class this winter. The children will read the classic folktale with Ms. Missy, and do art related to the story each week. This will become their memory book to take home at the end.

During January, the 3K and 4K classrooms will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland. We'll have sock skating, igloo building and lots of penguin play. Our 3K classes will learn and recite familiar nursery rhymes this month. Playful language teaches important pre-reading skills. We'll also learn to use scissors and sequence a story - verbally and on paper. At the end of the month, the children will have Winter

Fun Day, going outside to sled on the little LLA hill - always a favorite memory for the children - and teachers!

During January, 4K will learn letters K, L, M and N. They will learn about penguins and polar bears and write their own little books about these cold-loving creatures. They will enjoy Polar Pals storytime with a librarian from New Berlin. The children work on their math skills with hot chocolate addition, graphing, patterning, number writing and measurement. They work very hard to prepare for 5K, and have tons of fun, too! The 4K kids will get outside on Fridays to go sledding or play in the snow! During "M" week we also learn about Martin Luther King, Jr. and talk about how to be a good friend.

Thank you for your continued support of our great school.

Stacy Abraham, 3K and 4K Lead Teacher

Loving Hands Quilters

The Loving Hands Quilters welcomed two new members to the November meeting, Helen Hawke and Carol Hetrick.

Nine quilt tops were layered and pinned and are now ready for quilting. We thank our homebound members from Heritage West Allis for sending several of the completed tops.

2025 was a very busy year for the quilters: 28 of the finished quilts were donated to Froedtert Hospital, 4 were donated to Life Connection, 15 were donated to Peace members who were suffering from illnesses, and 21 were donated to Ysletta. Additionally, baby quilts were donated to each baby baptized at Peace during the year.

We thank everyone who donated supplies, fabrics and helping hands during the year. Our meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. if you'd like to join us.

You don't need to know how to sew to layer and pin a quilt and it's fun to see the quilt patterns and colors come together.

In December we met at Maggiano's Little Italy for lunch, and we are all looking forward to a productive 2026.

Vickie Schmidt



A Heartfelt Thank You

I reflect back on these many months, I realize how much I have to be thankful for. The many loving acts of kindness and caring are too numerous to count.

All the prayers that our Peace family have so diligently offered to God on our behalf are humbly acknowledged. Indeed many times both Don and I have been overwhelmed to the point of tears knowing how much we are cared for. God has richly blessed us in our time of need.

We are truly grateful and wish to thank the entire congregation for lifting us up.

Bridget Stachewicz



Coffee Sip News

In order for our weekly coffee-sip time to be successful, it's important that **ALL** team members of each weekly group participate. This includes bringing and plating treats, helping with set-up and clean-up.

Please remember to bring your treat on the week your group is scheduled. If you won't be in church on your scheduled week, you may bring your treat in early and place in the kitchen.

Please mark the item for coffee sip. Thank you.

Griff Gunderson



January Birthdays

Barry Kenyon	
Mitchell Morrell	January 1
Melena Glysch	
Garrett Luling	January 2
Eric Ossian	January 3
Kyle Jones	
Pat Packard	January 4
Clair Schulz	January 6
Lynn Kritter	
Wally Spitzer	January 7
Samantha Lau	
Maye Penas	January 8

Sara Henson	
Janet Kachelmeier	January 9
Pam Hart	January 12
Sue Eggold	January 13
Jennifer Hockett	January 14
Heather Miller	January 15
Holly Tyler Agathen	January 16
Laura Biscar	January 18
Angel Fontanez	January 19
Phillip Jakubowski	
John Morrell	January 21
Jeanne Fehlauer	
Kraig Henson	January 23
Helen Hawke	
Courtney Korselt	January 26
Gregg Abel	
Dana Jaeger	January 27
Scott Gridley	
Sherri Weiss	January 28
Nancy Davey	January 31



January Anniversaries

Kraig & Sara Henson
January 2, 2009

Craig & Mara Glysch
January 28, 2006