

Peace Lutheran Church Council Meeting
November 13, 2025, 6:30pm

Present by zoom: Bill Schmidt, Kim Reid, Greg Loberg, Ginger Walker, Brian Grubbs, Mary Steege, Lisa Nelson, and Jared Steinberg

Not Present: Nicole Harris and Dan Lobejko

Ex-officio: Pastor Valerie Brown-Greenly

Call to Order: The zoom meeting was called to order by President Bill Schmidt.

Prayer by Pastor Valerie Brown-Greenly.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the October 9, 2025, meeting were reviewed online. Mary moved to accept the minutes, Lisa seconded, motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

Chester is retiring. A part-time custodian will be hired to replace him.

Forty-five families will receive Thanksgiving food baskets from Peace. Wal-Mart will provide the fresh food needed at a cost of \$29.00/basket (a substantial savings from our previous supplier with no loss of quality in product selection).

Between 12-15 families each week rely on our food shelf. Bags of food for distribution are kept in the cabinet under the sink in the office workroom. The food shelf is in good shape for now thanks to the congregation's generosity in donating items.

A small wedding will be held at Peace on Saturday, November 15.

Pastor will use her discretionary funds for member families affected by job losses as well as for elderly members who may need financial help.

The temporary secure door policy will likely continue for several more months.

Wednesday night dinners are on a temporary pause and will resume next fall.

Pastor Val will take a much-needed vacation in January.

President's Report:

Bill has been working to resolve a water bill from the city of Coon Rapids.

Bill will contact Tony Murillo concerning the possible need to change the check-writing policy for the Preschool as discussed at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Reviewed the Statement of Activities October 2025 on screen. Brian moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Kim seconded, motion passed.

MN Paid Leave begins in January 2026. This is a new tax on wages of 0.88% for large employers and 0.66% for small employers (fewer than 30 employees).

A plan for paying the tax needs to be in place in December for payroll in January 2026.

In order to comply with this new tax, Greg made the following motion:
The Minnesota Paid Leave payroll tax starting in January of 2026 will be paid as follows:
Peace Lutheran and Peace Lutheran Preschool will pay the required employer's tax rate, currently 0.22% on payroll wages. Employees will pay the rest of the tax, currently 0.44% on their payroll wages.
Lisa seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Women of Peace Quarterly Report by Mary Steege:

The WOP held their annual Boutique in October and the Mini-Boutique will be in December. Proceeds from the Boutiques are used to fund various projects both inside PLC as well as ministries world-wide. The Women of Peace hosted several events for the congregation this year (Easter egg decorating contest, hot dogs, root beer floats, etc.) and will serve pie during the Fellowship hour on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Preschool Quarterly Report by Lisa Nelson:

The Preschool is doing very well. Rachel, the Preschool Director, is doing a great job of growing the Preschool and balancing the budget. The Preschool has monthly activities for the children such as visits by firemen, trips to a pumpkin patch, etc. Bingo/spaghetti dinner and other activities are held to raise funds for scholarships and classroom supplies.

Upcoming Dates:

Next Council Meeting – Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 6:30 pm by zoom
January Council Meeting – Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 6:30 pm by zoom
Annual Meeting – Sunday, February 8, 2026

Greg moved to adjourn, seconded by Greg, motion passed.

The Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginger Walker, Secretary