

Council president Jeff Rehder presided at the PLC Annual Meeting January 24 7:00pm. Agenda topics included treasurer's and pastor's reports, and committee updates - Benevolence, Deacons, Mission Ukraine, Music and Worship, Property, Adult and Youth Sunday School, and Women of Peace. The salary package for the pastor was approved. Projects include basement restoration remodels and repurposing a space for a Youth Room. Scott Campbell and Muriel Koedam were elected to the Council; Tim Huffman and Joe Ranschau will serve as deacons. See 2024 Council officers listed on page 2 of this publication.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL EXPLORES REVELATION MESSAGE

Last Stops Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicia, western Turkey

The above listed churches are the final seven to whom John addressed his letter in Revelation. All cities of wealth, they were chosen, like the others, for their unique challenges to the Christians.

Thyratira was know for its textiles and beautiful purple dyes, a color worn only by Roman royalty. Christ asked the Christians here improved faithfulness. Citizens of this city (was originally part of Greece) were deported back to Greece in 1922, a post WWI human genocidal disaster.

Sardis had, like Thyratira, been part of the Greek Empire until it was ceded to the Romans. Foods from Sardis include baklava, stuffed grape leaves, and kebabs. Jews had been settled here by an earlier king, and they thrived in readiness to be called to Christianity. Christ rebuked them in Revelation for spiritual deadness and warned them to repent. Formality and ritualism had replaced true Christianity, with lack of discernment in compromising Christianity to current culture.

Philadelphia's Christians received only praise from Christ through Revelation, and thus Protestant churches today may have Philadelphia in their name as a way to express faithfulness. The Christians here were vigorously persecuted, but they received Jesus' encouragement that while the Jews and Romans might then reject and persecute them, the God of the Jews would not. The Christians here were also deported in the Turk-Greek War post WWI disaster.

Laodicia thrived on a major trade route and lay on exceptionally fertile soil between rivers. In 200BC, 2000 Jews had been transported here from Babylonia as spoils of war, and thus they were ripe to establish a Christian church. Known for black wool trade, they city's renowned wealth is referred to in the Bible; some of its wealth supported the temple in Jerusalem. The medical school here was famous for its special ointment for treatment of eye problems. Paul the Apostle mentions his concern for Laodicia in the the book of Colossians, and first Timothy was written in Laodicia.

Join us Sunday mornings!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES SUPPORT THROUGH COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

Monthly Contributions to Two Children in Brazil and El Salvador

After their previous two supported children "grew up and graduated" from their educational institutions, the Sunday School children selected two new children to support through Compassion International. Each child receives \$43 per month. The children exchange letters and news.

Ayla has just turned seven years old. She lives with her grandmother in Brazil. This little girl is described as an average student, her favorite school subject is Art. Ayla likes doing art, drawing, playing ball games, dancing, dolls, stories, games and music.

Samuel is twelve years old. He lives with his mother in El Salvador. He attends Sunday School and Bible class at church. He is described as an average student, with his favorite subject being Physical Education. Samuel likes Bible stories, eating, friends, bicycling, and playing soccer.



PLC NEWS

Monthly Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church



Pastor's Pen:
Pastor's Favorite Bible Verse
Matthew 5:12

BY PASTOR WILLIAM NELSON-LOEFKE

Radical Reconstruction

Rejoice and be glad,
because I have a great reward
waiting for you in heaven
Matthew 5:12

In the Sermon on the Mount ...what Jesus promised is not a gimmick to give you goose bumps nor a mental attitude that has to be pumped up at rallies. No. Matthew describes God's radical reconstruction of the heart.

Observe the sequence. First, recognize we are in need (we are poor in spirit). Next, we repent of our self-sufficiency (we mourn). We quit calling the shots and surrender control to God (we are need). So grateful are we for His presence that we yearn for more of Him (we hunger and thirst). As we grow closer to Him, we become more like Him. We forgive (we are merciful). We change our outlook (we are pure in heart). We love each other (we are peace makers). We endure injustice (we are persecuted).

It is no casual shift of attitude. It is a demolition of the old structure and a creation of the new. The more radical the change, the greater the joy. And it is worth every effort, for this is the joy of God.

*Prayer: Father God, cause a Radical Reconstruction in us.
Make it so complete that we see Your joy in all we say and do.
In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen*

2024 Church Council

President - Matt Lammers '24
Vice President - Dave Winterfeld '26
Secretary - Vicki Ranschau '25
Treasurer- Ryan Ranschau '25
Benevolence - Muriel Koedam '27
Head Usher - Scott Campbell '27
Education Liaison - Ryan Ranschau '25

2024 Deacons

Tim Huffman Joe Ranschau
Mary Schmidt Darrell Vermeer

Building Committee

Dave Heuer Warren Gradert
Scott Campbell Steve Rehder

December Treasurer Report

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 26,973.11
Income	
General Fund	\$ 25,868.17
Pastor Appreciation Fun	\$ 9,000.00
Total Income	\$ 34,868.17
Expense	
General Expense	(\$ 13,611.13)
Ending Balance	\$ 48,230.12

Benevolence Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 1.00
Income	
Benevolence Offering	\$ 5,850.00
Expense	
Whispers of Love Hope Joy	(\$ 4,350.00)
Ending Balance	\$ 1,501.00

DECEMBER 2023 Congregation Report
[Communion - 40](#) [Average attendance - 72](#)

FEBRUARY 2024 Sunday Benevolence

Village Northwest Unlimited, Sheldon IA

...is dedicated to serving adults with intellectual disabilities, including autism and brain injuries, and providing them an environment of privacy, purpose and dignity, and with residential and vocational opportunities.



Member Ministry

WORSHIP service Sundays at 10:15am, Sacrament of Holy Communion first Sunday of month (second Sunday if holiday weekend). Next Communion: Feb 04.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL ages 3 through high school meets Sundays 9:00am.

CONFIRMATION students meet Wednesdays 7:00pm.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL meets Sundays 9:15am.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY meets third Thursday of month (note day change), supper 6:30pm, Bible Study 7:00pm. Next meet Feb 15.

LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) students in Confirmation and High School. See *Bulletin* for info.

PLAY (Peace Lutheran Active Youth) young adults do special projects and activities for the church. See *Bulletin* for announcements.

Schedules

Lectors / Prayers

Feb 04: Mike DR / Darrell V	Feb 21 (Wed Lent 1) - MaryAnne L / Tim H
Feb 11: Kevin R / Darrell V	Feb 25: Matt L / Joe R
Feb 14 (Ash Wed): Vicki R / Tim H	Feb 28 (Wed Lent 2): Jeff R / Darrell V
Feb 18: Tim S / Mary S	

Scripture Readings

Feb 04 - Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; I Corinthians 9:16-23
Feb 11 - 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Feb 18 - Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; I Peter 3:18-22
Feb 25 - Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25

Acolyte / Praise Team / AV Techs / Organist(s)

Feb 04: Ellie DZ / Praise Team / Daniel Neil / Matt
Feb 11: Alina H / - / Steve Tasha / Becky
Feb 14 (Ash Wed): - / - / Steve Tasha / Gin
Feb 18: Sophie DZ / Praise Team / Jeff Neil / Matt
Feb 21 (Wed Lent 1): - / - / Jeff Ryan / Matt
Feb 25: Nazariy H / Praise Team / Tim Ryan / Gin
Feb 28 (Wed Lent 2): - / - / Tim Tasha / Becky

PLC Ministry and Talent Opportunities

We welcome musical talent, vocal and instrumental; contact Marissa R 605.203.1234.
To train on the soundboard, or with AV, contact Neil R 712.470.2710.
To join the Children's Ministry team, contact Lindsey DZ 712.470.1639

February Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

01 Carter Helmers	18 Don Winterfeld
03 Paul VanVeldhuizen	19 Mathias Harris
08 Borys Bondarenko	21 Tim Winterfeld
10 Rebecca Gradert	22 Scott & Marlene Campbell
Rosario Oteri	Oksana Roshko
12 Tonya Helmers	27 Brooklyn Helmers
17 Dale Ranschau	Adelyn Winterfeld