

# September TIDINGS

Volume 85 September 1, 2025

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Office Hours:  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9AM—2:30 PM  
Thursday 9AM—Noon Pastor Paula in office.

*"Peace United Church of Christ is a multigenerational community of faith. We welcome people of all ages, races, and life situations to join with us in service."*

Website:  
[www.peacechurchelkader.org](http://www.peacechurchelkader.org)  
Facebook:  
[facebook.com/peacechurchelkader](https://facebook.com/peacechurchelkader)  
YouTube Channel:  
Peace Church—Elkader



## From the "Pen" of Pastor Paula

"The Rise and Fall of Sunday School," that article title in September's THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY magazine by Rev. Stephanie Perdeu jumped from the page. It included her memories when churches were full every Sunday. Sunday Schools were bursting at the seams, requiring many churches to build Sunday School wings. The Sunday School mirrored the school with classes divided by grades and lessons that emphasized learning by rote along with many arts and craft projects. Rev. Perdeu writes, "Those Sunday School wings were built at the height of American church attendance. It was the spike in the curve, not the overall norm." "It was the spike in the curve, not the norm." It is very important to remember that that time period does not represent the norm.

"It is hard to remind people witnessing a death that there will be resurrection. It took awhile for the disciples to believe it, too," Rev. Perdeu makes this observation concerning the changing times.. While the curriculum kept progressing with the times, attendance regressed in Sunday School and church due to big cultural and demographic shifts. Here is the story of my hometown church in Lake Mills, Iowa, a very typical story: in the 50's and 60's, that church of 1200 members offered 3 Sunday School hours on Sunday mornings, 2 Christmas programs because the Sunday School numbered over 500, 3 choirs—2 youth and 1 adult. School and other organizations set their schedules not to interfere with church activities because town life revolved around the churches.

Today? In that hometown church, there are now 2 services with less than 300 active members, no choirs, 1 Sunday School hour, 1 Christmas program. There is quite a bit of technology in the church with the worship service bulletin on screens. During the summer, the early service is an outdoor worship, weather permitting. How tempting to look in the rearview mirror and long for the "good old days", indulge in "remember when the church was full" etc/ And times have changed with the absence of extended families living together. Instead, families are scattered to the four winds. In order to be in their grandchildren's lives, grandparents have to travel to be with them. Besides that, our world is full of so many activities that were not part of life 50 years ago.

A church full of gray hairs and not so many of the younger generation is not a church in decline—it is a church full of wisdom, full of possibilities as long as we don't judge ourselves by the past and try to recreate it. Let us rejoice in the present and seek opportunities to serve God just as we are. A church is not a building, not numbers but a people seeking to live as Jesus lived. Let us believe in the words of Corrie ten Boom, "The best is yet to be." This world needs the Good News of Jesus and people passionate in their faith! And that is us! God believes in us. God believes in us.

Have a blessed September!

Pastor Paula and Nova

# September 2025

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

					<b>1</b> Church Office Closed	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Worship</b> Happy Birthday, Ruth Grau & Hannah Koehn	<b>4</b> Church office— 9AM-2:30PM Stephens Minis- ters 3PM Happy Birthday Debbie Crane & Dawn Anderson	<b>5</b> Church office— 9AM-2:30PM 11AM—Clergy Text Study	<b>6</b> Church office— 9AM-2:30PM Happy Birthday Sandra Kramer	<b>7</b> 9AM—Noon Pastor Paula in office. Secretary by appointment Choir "Amazing Grace"	<b>8</b> Church office Closed	<b>9</b> Happy Birthday Jerry Koons, Millie Burns and Jamison Feickert
<b>10</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Worship</b>	<b>11</b> Church office— 9AM-2:30PM 5:30 PM Church Council	<b>12</b> Church office— 9AM-2:30PM 11AM—Clergy Text Study Happy Birthday Wayne Frentress	<b>13</b> Church office— 9AM-2:30PM	<b>14</b> 9AM—Noon Pastor Paula in office. Secretary by appointment Choir "Follow Jesus"	<b>15</b> Church office closed Happy Birthday Jonathan Fangman	<b>16</b> Happy Birthday Don Wilke
<b>17</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Worship</b> Happy Birthday Brian Wilker	<b>18</b> Church office— 9AM-2:30PM Happy Birthday JoAnn Butikofer Peacemakers meet (2nd Thurs for the following months)	<b>19</b> Church office— 9AM-2:30PM 11AM—Clergy Text Study Happy Birthday Debbie Wilke	<b>20</b> Church office— 9AM-2:30PM <b>REHEARSAL Begins!</b> Bell Choir —5:30 Choir—6:30	<b>21</b> 9AM—11:30 Pas- tor Paula in office. Secretary by ap- pointment 1:30 Elkader Care Center Worship 5-6:30 GraceCafé Happy Birthday Penni Loenard	<b>22</b> Church office Closed Happy Birthday Brenna Buckman	<b>23</b> Bell Choir "The God of Abraham Praise"
<b>24</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> <b>Worship</b> Erin Dittmer, Pat Drips <b>31</b> 10AM Worship @ Founders Park Perform- ance Shelter- Followed by potluck	<b>25</b> Church of- fice—9AM- 2:30PM	<b>26</b> Church office— 9AM-2:30PM 11AM—Clergy Text Study	<b>27</b> Church office— 9AM-2:30PM Bell Choir —5:30 Choir—6:30	<b>28</b> 9AM—Noon Pastor Paula in office. Secretary by appointment	<b>29</b> Church office Closed	<b>30</b>

**Choir and bell choir will start rehearsals again on Wednesday, September 20. Bells at 5:30 and choir at 6:30. If you are interested in either choir, contact the office or just come to the first rehearsal. All are welcome!!**

## October Tidings Deadline

**October tidings newsletter deadline will be Monday, October 25**

## Council Minutes for 8-11-2025

**Present:** Mike Anderson, Donna Buckman, Steve Mc Corkindale, Pastor Paula Anderson, Marlis Huinker, Elaine Martin, Dean Gray.

Mike called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM. Special guests from the Memorial Committee, Sue Gnagy, Sue Stott, Penni Leonard and Ketaki Hauber, presented information on updating our website and potentially other social media platforms. Pastor Paula provided devotions. Mike asked for approval of the July minutes, Steve made a motion to approve seconded by Donna, motion passed. Council welcomed Dean Gray who will be completing Dwight Freitag's term.

**Financial Report:** Concerned about significant increase in electrical bill, will continue to investigate. Plan to place another ad in INDEED music director in September. Steve moved to approve the financial report, Donna seconded. Motion passed.

**Pastor's Report:** In the past month, Pastor Paula has participated 3 clergy text study, prep for 4 Sunday worship (bulletins and sermons), Tidings article, miscellaneous secretarial duties, helping with Becky's orientation, calls and visitations, Elkader Care Center Service. Steve moved to approve the pastor's report, Donna seconded.

**Building and Grounds:** Still concerned about water seepage in hallway outside Herbster Hall by staircase, so far no solution is available after multiple projects have been completed to address this water issue. Dave Dennler was able to quote the parsonage work, \$150 per basement window, 6 are needed, also bathroom vent fan needed, and the door from garage to house needed to be evaluated. Dave will be able to fix the door from the library to sanctuary.

**Worship and Altar:** Planning outdoor service for August 31st, Founders Park shelter has been reserved. Service will be at 10AM with potluck to follow. Stephen Ministers will provide service on the 8-24th (Backpack Sunday) to allow Paula a staycation.

**Christian Education:** no report

**Missions:** Grace Cafe proceeds going to Central School Caring Closet to help those students in need..

**Memorial:** Elaine brought 2 proposals forward for Council for approval 1) Christmas light displays for the City Park and one for in front of the Christian Ed building on church property, monies given for Fred Knoke memorial will be used for these purchases. 2) 2 stools for the Bell Choir. Steve made a motion to approve Donna seconded, motion carried.

**Old Business: Phones:** Elaine brought in a phone to be trialled, it was determined that there is a need for a phone system to accommodate 2 lines, A 2-line example was sent by Elaine to Becky for consideration. Steve made a motion seconded by Donna to purchase the 2-line phones. **Background check:** waiting for results **INDEED ad:** plan to place ad in September for music director. **New Commerce credit card:** Marlis and Kristina on account, old card was hacked.

**New Business: Presentation of website redesign:** Council voted to move forward with the project as outlined by Ketaki Hauber. **Salary for interim Bell and vocal music director** tabled. **Becky's schedule:** out for surgery September 8-10, can work the 11-12th, okayed by council **Need for paper shredder:** Marlis has one at home that she can donate to church. **Electrical bill:** Discussed the significant increase in electric bill for church and parsonage for month of July, will continue to monitor and investigate the reason for such an increase.

The next meeting is September 8th at 5:30.

Marlis made the motion to adjourn at 7:24, Dean seconded. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by: Elaine Martin, Council Secretary

### NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Church Secretary — Monday through Wednesday, 9AM—2:30PM

Pastor's office hours — Monday 9AM—Noon

Tuesday 8AM—10:45AM

Wednesday & Thursday—9AM—Noon

Third Thursday of each month 9AM—11:30 AM (this is to allow time for pastor to prepare for Care Center worship)

# Prayer Requests

## Attendance & Worship Offerings

Greg Anderson, Eli Belser, Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns family, Deb Dennler, Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Penny Jacobson, Ruth Grau, Ruth Olson, Sharon Reichert, Father James, Dee Koehn, Wayne & Kim Frentress, Pat M, Joyce M, Elaine Radloff, Tammy, Jane I, Elaine P.

August 3, 2025	47	\$3704
August 10, 2025	36	\$1425
August 17, 2025	48	\$519
August 24, 2025	54	\$2111

### Care Center/Assisted Living Residents

Karen Glesne, Joyce Hoth, Ruth Grau, Ruth Olson,

### God's Grace in the Workplace—Outdoor Worship Service—10AM

Funders Park Performance Shelter House with Potluck following Worship. This year's outdoor worship is being held on a very special weekend known as Labor Day weekend—the unofficial end to summer. So, let us join together to thank God for all workers in every job! Then, let us continue with fellowship and potluck after worship! **PLEASE NOTE**—The change in worship for this one Sunday—10AM NOT 9AM!

Sign up for Weekly Volunteer Opportunities by scanning this QR Code



**HOSPITAL VISITATION:** Due to patient privacy laws, pastors are not notified when parishoners are hospitalized unless parishoners or family members ask that the pastor be notified. When contacting Pastor Paula in regard to a person who is hospitalized, please indicate which hospital. If the hospital is some distance away, Pastor Paula will contact chaplaincy services there.  
**Contact information:** Church: 563-245-2126  
 Landline Home phone: 563-245-8022  
 Cell phone (flip, not smart phone): 1-618-292-5105 DO NOT TEXT

### BLESSINGS & WELCOME!

Jane Hatton joined Peace in July,  
 Sharon Taylor will join on September 3

### Bread for the Journey

#### Readings for 9/7/2025

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 & Psalm 1  
 Philom 1: 1-21  
 Luke 14: 25-33

#### Readings for 9/14/2025

Exodus 32: 7-14 & Psalm 51,1-10  
 Psalm 33: 12-22  
 1st Timothy 1: 12-17  
 Luke 15: 1-10

#### Readings for 9/21/2025

Amos 8: 4-7 & Psalm 113  
 1st Timothy 2: 1-7  
 Luke 16: 1-13

#### Readings for 9/28/2025

Amos 6: 1a, 4-7, Psalm 146  
 1st Timothy 6: 6-19  
 Luke 16: 19-31

### Opening/Closing

9/7	Bruce Landis	9/7
9/14	Dean & Joanne Gray	9/14
9/21	Sue Stott	9/21
9/28	Gary Kuehl	9/28

### Usher/Greeter

Dean & Joanne Gray
Florence Gifford
Kim Frentress
Carl & Lauara Moser

### Reader

9/7	Steve McCorkindale	9/7
9/14	Sue Gnagy	9/14
9/21	Kristina Bente	9/21
9/28	Laura Moser	9/28

### Fellowship

McCorkindales
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed

### Communion Prep & Clean Up

8/3	Bruce Landis
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### Food Shelf Donation Driver

Penni Leonard
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If you can Not volunteer on the date, Please call Or email the office.

Thank you for volunteer-  
 ing

# Time & Talent



# Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

## NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2025



WOW... Where did the summer go? We just completed our Back to School event. We had over 300 referrals. That is a lot of kids! If you missed the event and wanted to donate, you still can.

Also, if you happen to see any backpacks on clearance, those are **MOST NEEDED!** **The children just loved the character ones.** Check out our Facebook page or our website for pictures from the event. It was a great day. Again, we could not do this with out the help from our volunteers and donors. Thank you!

October 5<sup>th</sup> is our annual Hog Roast Fundraiser. In-person dining will be at the auditorium and take-outs will be at the civic center across the street. Serving times are 4 pm until 7pm.

We are serving pulled pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, salads, delicious desserts (provided by the WELCA groups in our conference) and beverages. Our ladies in the conference churches will be donating their hand- crafted beautiful quilts for auction. Online viewing/bidding will be available on Facebook by September 15! In-person bidding will end at 6:00pm the day of the Hog Roast.

### Clothing Center Updates:

Our renovations are complete. We have new lights in the thrift store and 2 new fans. We have some cement that was replaced and the central air. We truly are blessed to have people who support us to keep it safe and comfortable for me and our shoppers!

We will be accepting summer clothing through August. September we will be doing our change over to fall and winter. Please continue to schedule a day to drop your donations off so I can staff accordingly.

If you have any "grandma handkerchiefs" that you are not using, I have a customer who is looking for a bunch for a craft project. Let me know if you have any to donate.

### Shepherd Conference News:

Dr. Deborah Tidwell and I will be traveling to Cleveland, Ohio to represent our Synod at the ELCA World Hunger Leaders' Event. This event will be September 18-21. We will share all the great things we learned along with pictures. We are looking forward to this event and are proud to represent NE Iowa Synod.

The Operating Fund pays the utilities, insurance on the building, supplies, salaries and Lawn/Snow Care.

The Crisis Fund is used to help families with emergency rent or utilities and our sponsored events throughout the year

Please utilize the MEMO LINE on your check to specify Crisis or Operating Fund!

Please indicate what church you are from as well to provide better bookkeeping.

### IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES:

**Hog Roast Fundraiser**  
October 5<sup>th</sup>, 4pm-7pm  
St. Olaf Auditorium  
(Take-outs available)

**Christmas for Kids**  
December 17-18  
(more information will be made available soon)

\*Any event may be subject to change

### Shepherd of the Hills:

Heather Hageman  
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**Telephone: 563-783-2409**

**Fax: 563-783-2428**

**E-mail: [shephill@neitel.net](mailto:shephill@neitel.net)**

**Business Hours: Monday-Friday  
9am-12pm and 1pm-4 pm**





## Grace Café

Our brinner that we hosted in August was a winner! We served 77 meals of pancakes and egg bakes, over 20 were take-outs. Our donations over food costs were \$264 which allowed us to give \$250 to the Central School Caring Closet. This closet is set up for the teachers and staff to be able to go to and get something a student may need for the day, from clothes, personal supplies to paper.

Our next Grace Café is [Thursday, September 18](#) th from 5-6:30pm. We will be serving walking tacos this month. Our committee has talked to Central School and we have decided that we would like our donations over food costs for September and October to go to the school lunch program. We think that feeding a child for a day in school is an excellent way to honor the man who started Grace Café, John Cantwell. He did not want anyone to be hungry.

As you know we do not charge for our meals, but should you decide to give something in our "basket" the monies over food input costs goes toward the mission work of Peace UCC. Please check our marker board in Herbster Hall to see our donations to date for 2025.

We do provide take outs for our meals and will also deliver within city limits. Come and join us everyone is welcome.

Hello! My name is Becky Meisner, the new church secretary. I grew up mainly in Farmersburg , a few years in Morris-town MN and then back again to finish HS at MFL. I graduated from Upper IA University 1998 and NICC 2019. I have worked in finance, retail and remote/at home processing FMLA/disability claims. Also, I currently work as a caregiver for elderly and disabled in their homes. I am divorced, have a daughter and 2 grandsons. I lived in McGregor for about 27 years then bought a 2nd house in Garnavillo in 2021. Besides spending time with the grandsons, My parents are Ivan and Jeanne Meisner. I love gardening, crocheting, cooking/baking/canning and caring for animals. I have dogs, cats and chickens. I am excited to be here and for the cool fall weather!

**SEEKERS? Before COVID, there was a group called Seekers who participated in various activities inside and outside the church. Is there interest in re-starting that group and seeking new ways to be followers of Christ in this fast paced, ever changing world? If so, let us meet after worship on September 14<sup>th</sup>!**

**CONFIRMATION: this year, Peace UCC will hold a Confirmation class, schedule to be determined. At this time, there is one student, Cooper Burns.**

**Please pray for him as he enters this new chapter in his spiritual journey!**

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*September 2025*