

Presented at the Annual Meeting | January 31, 2021

# 2020 Annual Report



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Paul Stjernholm, Senior Pastor  
Chris Matson, Associate Pastor  
Renae Boehmer, Associate Pastor  
Jonathan Vehar, Associate Pastor







2020 will certainly be remembered as the year of the worldwide pandemic, and COVID-19 certainly changed how we had to do ministry at Peace Lutheran.

When the mayor of Sioux Falls restricted the size of public gatherings in March, we had to stop in-person worship. What a blessing this congregation had already purchased and installed a video system that could capture a worship service and livestream it over the internet. As a result, we never missed a single worship service. Even now, many of our members continue to worship with us online.

The way we did pastoral care also had to change. Instead of pastors and Stephen ministers being able to meet with people face to face, we took to the phones, and we mobilized others to do check-in phone calls and write notes to folks who were feeling isolated.

Our Children's Ministry, Confirmation, Adult Ministry all had to go online in the spring. The staff had to become very proficient at using Zoom not only to meet with participants, but to meet with each other to plan ministry.

But through it all our ministry stayed focused on our mission: proclaiming the love of God in Christ through worship, teaching, caring, and reaching out to those around us—in short proclaiming God's love in Christ through words and actions.

The family of Peace, though physically distant, continued to prayerfully and financially support our shared ministry. With the PPP loan we received, we always had enough. And we gladly tithed 10% of our offerings to our Benevolence ministries like Lutheran Outdoors, Church on the Street, and Pueblo de Dios.

So yes, it was quite a different year and quite difficult at times, but it was also a year we witnessed how God is faithful! We continue to celebrate how this community of faith rose up to care for one another and continue our ministry to Sioux Falls without missing a beat! And we paid off our mortgage of 23 years!!

Throughout the year we have been laying the groundwork for ministry in 2021. We are still searching to find a Director of Youth Ministry, but in the meantime we have found wonderful ways to

equip and empower our own members to be a part of that ministry. We are also searching for two part-time worship positions since our Worship Media Specialist, **Audrey Shattuck**, moved away.

The Church Council has continued to shape visionary five-year goals that will better equip and define our ministry together. The first of these five-year goals, "Providing additional or remodeled space to meet ministry needs", is entering its fourth year of planning. A Master Plan has been created out of which has grown a "First Phase" which will be presented to the congregation to study and discuss over the next few months. Read the Council President's Report for a summary of each of these long-range goals.

In looking back at 2020 what has been very clear is that the Staff at Peace—from Pastors to Receptionists, from Ministry Directors to our Facility Manager—every single person rose to meet the challenge of doing ministry in new ways, even though it often involved many more hours. Each of them has served above and beyond, and I am so grateful for each one of them!

And I am grateful to still have the privilege to serve this congregation. Peace is such a special place to so many, and it is to me, too. Thank you!

Pastor Paul Stjernholm  
Senior Pastor





## Pastor Jonathan Vehar

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At the onset of my report last year, I reflected on the first one-on-one conversation I remember having with Paul before I interviewed at Peace. What stood out was Paul's words, "we've never done anything the same way twice." Which, I of course knew wasn't entirely true, but knew that it meant Peace was a place of innovation. In retrospect, recalling that statement was a bad way to start off 2020. Because if there was ever a year when we would put to the test our ability to innovate, 2020 was it. I should have at least knocked on wood or something. Although, I know that God doesn't work that way.

Yet, as I look at what the past year brought, it is that idea of innovation that freed us and allowed Peace to respond so quickly. Online Worship became not what we planned it to be, but what it needed to be in this moment. Necessities kept going, even when other diaper ministries needed to stop. Through the generosity of Peace, we even managed to have enough TP when the shelves of every store in the state were bare. God is good!

But, knowing that God is good doesn't wholly remove our lament. And I would like to take a few moments to offer some thanks. To Pam, Tamara, and Darya, for quickly re-envisioning VBS and Sunday School to offer, first at home, then a hybrid option. I wouldn't be the first to say it, but I will certainly echo, if there is one thing we hope never to need to do, it is an exclusively at home VBS. We missed all our kids, the energy and excitement, the games and snack time, the telling

of God's story in creative ways. But, just because we hope to never do it again, doesn't mean that a lot of work and planning went into make something possible. So thank you again, Pam, Tamara, Darya, and countless others who worked to make it possible.

Thanks to Holly, who started the pandemic by organizing groups of callers to reach out to our congregation. It was such a blessing to hear about all the connections being made and how long some are able to talk on the phone. And as the year moved on, it kept us on task to lift up the ways that we are claimed and called.

Michael and Natasha have been faithful to our youth ministry, along with volunteers Amy Dreke and David Hammes. I had such high hopes for what this year would bring. But, I am grateful that as we look forward to the next plan for youth ministry at Peace, we have an expanding team forming.

Thanks to Dustin Peterson, Peace's Director for Communications. This year has necessitated a change in how often video is used in our ministry. From education to worship, we have endeavored to tell the story of Peace better.

Thanks to Lisa and our front office staff. One of the biggest (planned) changes of 2020 was the migration to a new church management system. It's a boring title for an essential tool. It is still a work in progress to figure out all of the tools available to us, but I am grateful for the team shepherding us through it.

And finally, thanks to the People of Peace. There were many parts of this year that I really did not enjoy much, but it has been a blessing to be in ministry here, where once again we have proved, we never do anything the same way twice.

Pastor Jonathan





2020! What a year?! As I look over the year I am amazed at the ways God's faithfulness saw us through. The covenant that God renewed with Moses is true for us too, that God is "merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation." Through all the changes in daily life and in all the noteworthy events of this year, God's faithfulness has seen us through, and will see us through this new year - and every year after.

My year was scheduled to begin during a **Helping Hands for Haiti** Trip which was canceled because of political unrest in Haiti. Even though we couldn't travel to Haiti, Peace continued to support the ministry there by providing school lunches all year, helping to fund repairs made to the school, and helping to make sure school teachers continued to receive their salaries, a total of about \$8,000 in support. Plans are in the works for a trip in December 2021.

In February, the first **Zoom Book Study** began as an experiment to see if members would want to connect remotely for our Lenten Book Study. By March, Peace Staff and people around the world all learned to connect via Zoom.

Also, in February, we began testing the new **camera system and livestreaming** equipment to keep those who couldn't attend worship in the sanctuary part of our worshipping community, and given that we had to move to online-only worship for several months after, having that infrastructure in place was a huge blessing. One critical component of the way we designed this is to include a way for online worshippers to connect with one another.

Currently, Chat Hosts welcome worshippers and we have even bigger dreams of the way we can connect with the use of an additional camera especially during Holy Communion and more worship volunteers. Once visitors are allowed in care centers trained lay leaders will gather with members to worship online and be equipped to serve communion.

The ways we worship expanded exponentially! Palm Sunday featured a special **Drive-In Worship** option with worshippers tuning in to an FM

transmitter from their vehicles. Drive-In Worship eventually added a lawn chair option, and eventually became **Lawn Chair Worship**.

These worship opportunities were great ways for our neighbors and guests to access worship. December featured a Drive-In Christmas Eve service as well as **Drive-Thru Communion** with a pastor presiding outside car windows. This spring I served on a Synod Worship Taskforce to discern best practices during COVID to worship especially with regards to the sacraments.

Caring for the needs of our neighbors became increasingly important, so the **Necessities for Neighbors** distribution moved into the parking lot beginning in April, and we began regularly serving over 300 families a month.

In March, the council set a goal for Peace to become a more **welcoming and inclusive** congregation. Small groups began meeting in the parking lot this summer discussing racism. A taskforce convened this fall to look at the gifts and growth areas when it comes to making the good news of Jesus known to all people. One taskforce member and I joined the South Dakota Cohort of Courage: Faith Leaders, a four-month training to be an active ally and advocate for our Muslim, immigrant, and refugee neighbors.

Yes, God is faithful, and God's love sees us through. This year Peace has been blessed in so many ways with members, friends, staff, and council who keep proclaiming the good news of Jesus. I am exceedingly thankful for our community, and our God who so graciously provides everything we need.

God's peace,  
Pastor Chris





## Pastor Renae Boehmer



### How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? - Psalm 13:1

The first verse of this lament psalm is pretty reflective of this last year, isn't it? While wishing time away is not something I am in the habit of doing, if ever there was a time that it has been justified to long for the future to arrive, the year 2020 may have been it. Between the worldwide pandemic, racial injustice that played out in some horrific ways, political division and an election we wouldn't want to repeat, perhaps we could take a few moments to find the **silver linings in the big black cloud of 2020**:

As a congregation, we cared for one another in some incredible ways last year. Phone calls and cards went out by the dozens as we reached out to people who were isolated. An additional class of **Stephen Ministers** were trained to provide companionship and a listening ear to dozens of people in our congregation and community. We devised new ways to gather in groups for **Terrific Tuesday Book Club, Power of Prayer group, Women's and Men's Weekly Bible studies, Enneagram class, Cancer and Long-Term Illness Support Group, Friday Morning Bible Study and New member classes**. And, because we kept listening and caring even when circumstances were difficult, we figured out how to start an **Enduring Covid support group, discussion groups that tackle difficult topics like racial injustice, and a support group for active grandparents**.

And you all were so generous – not only in keeping ministry going at Peace, but also in how you noticed and cared for the needs of others in our community. We received a **plethora of financial and gift card donations** to share with families in need at Christmas. You created mountains of **prayer shawls** that were shared with people who needed some warm consolation – and also donated to hospice programs and Good Sam Village residents who benefitted from a comforting reminder of God's presence and promises. With steady hands and humongous hearts, the **Peaceful Stampers** made cards that allowed others to write notes of encouragement and care during a time people needed reminders of God's great big love.

It's been a couple years since the church council created a goal that everyone who is connected to Peace feels **CLAIMED** (a sense of belonging that comes from being named a Child of God in baptism and accepted into a community **JUST AS YOU ARE**) and **CALLED** (nudged by the Holy Spirit to notice the needs of people around you and be equipped to care for and serve them). And 2020 was the year that you all proved that you are fully on board. You came together (often via online options rather than in person) to support one another as we all reached out to the world in so many ways. **Looking ahead**, 2021 is the year that we work on learning how to **tell our stories**, as individuals claimed by Christ and as a community brought together by the Holy Spirit.

Sure, there was plenty to lament in 2020, but that lament is **NEVER** the end of our story. Perhaps we should also read the final two verses of Psalm 13:

<sup>5</sup>But I trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.  
<sup>6</sup>I will sing to the LORD,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Whether it has been primarily online or in-person, thanks for being a Piece of Peace in 2020. I'm very much looking forward to rejoicing together in the bounty of 2021!

Pastor Renae





Dear Peace Members,

The year 2020 is a year that many are so thankful is over, and one that I personally want to put in the back of my mind. When I reflect on this past year, I am reminded of the inconceivable events that many of us had to endure. We have heard of so many businesses and institutions that were not well-equipped to weather the economic storm, and are no longer in operation. However, I am so amazed that Peace Lutheran was in a respectable position at the beginning of the year that we were able to endure it better than expected, and to continue with most of our programming.

In January, we had raised enough funds to purchase new cameras and projectors that allowed our services to be live-streamed and recorded to be viewed on demand. We never imagined that a year ago when we discussed doing online worship that this would become the only way we would be gathering for a while. Services weren't the only event that were held virtually; many of our other programs like Confirmation, Bible studies, Sunday School, book clubs and numerous small groups were able to continue to meet online.

We were thankful we received funding from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which was able to keep the church fully staffed. We were prudent with these funds and with expenses, so even though giving was not quite what we hoped it would be, we are in a stable financial position. From a financial standpoint, our most exciting news came October 1<sup>st</sup> when our mortgage was paid off! Thank you to those who have committed financially to this goal over the past few years, and to those who will continue contributing their mortgage designation to our newly created Facility Rejuvenation Fund.

You will be hearing more over the next few months, but our Design Team Committee has some exciting news to share regarding a potential expansion and remodel of our building. The suggested layout and floor plan from our architect is stunning; I am hopeful you all will see the potential benefit and impact this remodel will have for our members and for the larger community.

It has been such a joy to get to know and work with all the other members who serve on Church Council. We have a variety of opinions and personalities and we each offer different skills and strengths that collectively assist with moving Peace forward with fresh ideas to serve one another.

I would especially like to give a huge thank you to all four of our pastors who have put in so many extra hours this year. They were able to find different and unique ways to serve our members, spiritually and emotionally. Every time I talked to each of them, they were always so positive and upbeat, and I never once heard them say "I can't" or "that won't work." They creatively found new ways to worship (drive-thru style!) and new ways to connect with one another (COVID support groups). We are so blessed to have each of them at Peace Lutheran.

I am hopeful and excited for what this next year will bring. Whatever it is, I know Peace is well positioned in a variety of ways to weather what may come.

Sincerely,

Carissa Dice  
Council President



# 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2020

President Matt Dreke called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM. A quorum was present. Pastor Paul led an opening prayer.

## Approval of 2019 Minutes

2019 Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed. Holly Kleinsasser made a motion to approve the minutes. Correen Major seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. President Matt thanked Pastor Renae for serving as Church Council secretary for the last three years.

## 2019 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paul Hanson gave the treasurer's report. We are under a \$200,000 balance on the mortgage. The goal is to have it paid off by the end of 2020. We planned for \$1.5 million in receipts for the general budget in 2019. Actual receipts were \$1.39 million so we were short of our projections. In the expense category, we had expenses of \$1.39 million (which also was less than budgeted due to not fully paying benevolences, not hiring a youth director, and carefully watching expenses). We ended up in the black by \$36K. A lot of great work got done and we will strive to grow our giving in the future. Doug Vogel made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Joe Bunkers seconded the motion. The report was approved unanimously. Matt thanked Paul Hanson for his three years of work as Council Treasurer.

## 2020 COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Matt thanked all who served as council members in 2019, especially those finishing their terms.

The 2020 ballot was presented as follows:

Jamie Dooley – Treasurer

Jill Beck and Doug Vogel – Church Council At Large

Bailey Oberg – Youth Rep

Evan Kuenzi – Youth Observer

No additional nominations were received from the floor for any of the above positions.

All parties were elected by unanimous consent.

## 2020 ENDOWMENT TEAM ELECTIONS

Matt thanked all who have served on the Endowment Team in 2019.

The 2020 ballot was presented as follows:

Tim Olson – 3 year term

Brent Veeder - 2 year term to fill a vacancy

There is one additional vacancy. Dale Gullickson moved that we leave it up to the council to elect a third person.

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

Two of the three positions were elected by unanimous consent.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Thank you to all who served on the Nominating Committee this year.

The 2020 ballot was presented as follows:

Amy Dreke and Holly Marty – 2021 Nominating Committee  
No additional nominations were received from the floor.  
Elected by unanimous consent.

## PASTOR REPORTS

Pastor Chris: Big year! In the worship department, Jackie retired, Bob was promoted and new staff were brought on and all is going well. Records were broken with worship once again and it's exciting to see the potential work that can be done with the new video system.

Renae: What an amazing new emphasis on being claimed and called – and how real it is in each of our lives. All of the ministry we engage in together reflects this – from caring ministry to faith formation, from large and small groups to individual conversations. Thanks for sharing in being part of the Christ's promises and love that we share!

Jonathan: Another year that looked very different from the year before and looking forward to another year that looks different ahead. We look to change how we do youth ministry and worship with reformatting the youth program and the new camera system. He gave a visual for the new online worship that is coming soon.

Paul: Ministry here moves at the speed of light! Paul reported on the team that has been working on Space Planning for Peace's future. Thanks to an estate gift, we are ready to hire an architect to work with our Design Team to alleviate some pinch points and create space for even more big dreams. Another big THANK YOU to Jackie for all her years of service!

## Old Business:

There was no old business

## New Business:

Treasurer Paul Hanson presented the 2020 Mission Plan with an estimated income of \$1.5+ million based on estimates of giving turned in last fall. The operating budget for 2020 is estimated at \$1.53+ million, which is the money needed to fulfill staff dreams for ministry in 2020. This is a deficit budget of \$36,000+.

Discussion held.

Jim Pederson made a motion to approve the ministry plan. Pat Steele seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pastor Renae closed the meeting in prayer. Meeting adjourned by President Matt Dreke at 1:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Renae Boehmer  
Church Council Secretary





Adilynn Bunkers  
 Alex Cox  
 Alex Parker  
 Ava Skadsen  
 Baker Braun  
 Barbara Berg  
 Ben Cox  
 Brian Fox  
 Cary Myers  
 Charlotte Viereck  
 Cyndee Colwill  
 Derek Conover  
 Don Carlson  
 Elma Carlson  
 Eloreia Heutzenroeder  
 Emma Rotherham  
 Grace Traen  
 Griffin Mather  
 Hanna Rehome-Skadsen  
 Harrison Fox  
 Harrison Oelkers  
 Hudson Fox  
 Jacqueline "Jackie" Anderson  
 Jason Skadsen  
 John Parker  
 Joshua Nelson  
 Julie Lingen  
 Julie Parker  
 Jusu Gow  
 Karl Lund

Keagan Kress  
 Kerri Cox  
 Larry Broesder  
 Lindsey Holmquest  
 Madeline Cox  
 Madison Guebert  
 Maria Parker  
 Miranda Fox  
 Nora Peters  
 Oliver Fox  
 Riley Lund  
 Ryan Cox  
 Sandra Broesder  
 Shelbi Conover  
 Sierra Zevenbergen  
 Stephanie Becker  
 Tehra Nelson  
 Thomas McMacken  
 Westin Olson

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Beginning membership: 4115

Baptized members received: 80

Baptized members removed: 71

Change: 9

**Year-End Members: 4124**

**Total Confirmed Members: 2763**

### Notables:

Baptisms (15 and younger) 42

Baptized members confirmed: 42

Total number of people (including children) actively participating 3461



# Baptisms

Liam Archer  
Ashlynn Bauer  
Nova Bjorklund  
Baker Braun  
Adilynn Bunkers  
Bennett Carter Gronseth  
Kamden Cooper  
Logan Darger  
Maverick Dawson  
Brynn Degen  
Jim Dewey  
Lisa Dewey  
Adeline Erikson  
Nevaeh Gomez  
Elorea Heutzenroeder  
Nash Hudelson  
Aria J Peters  
Declan James  
Wyatt James Campbell  
Hudson Kress  
Keagan Kress  
Hope Lee Campbell  
Marnie Ann Lund  
Zoey June Maine  
Griffin Mather  
Geneva Munce  
Aria Ode  
Westin Olson  
Nora Peters  
Hattie Pottratz  
Conor Rans



Merci Reisz  
Graham Rhoda  
Jarred Roeber  
Karlise Roeber  
Maren Rolfes  
Nolan Smith  
Cooper Thompson  
Charlotte Viereck  
Graham William Hartje  
Sierra Zevenbergen





“I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning to sail my ship.”

~Louisa May Alcott.

This is one of my favorite quotes. It sits next to my bed, reminding me that we can handle what storms come our way. That is how this year has felt for many of us. We have made many adjustments and found innovative ways to do jobs. The library has found new ways to do things but has also maintained its function of providing a place for people to find books and space to learn.

Despite the many changes throughout the year, the Fern Swearingen Library continued to support the students who attended Peace Care. When many of us were at home, Peace Care continued to care for the children of those who went into work, and the library was there to provide them with a space that promoted education and fun. The kids and staff of Peace Care took care of the library, and when we were finally able to get into it to begin work, it was clear that they tended to it with love. Thank you to the kids and staff of Peace Care, who made sure the library was in tip-top shape for us to return to.

Although we worked from home, the library continues to get new books in. Watch the new bookshelves for some new series, new authors, and new characters you are sure to fall in love with. We have also created a topical book display that is worth checking out monthly. We have the books from the Terrific Tuesday book club, books from book discussions hosted by our pastors, and the books recommended by Pastors. Stop in and see if something fits your fancy.

Last year when I wrote the annual report, I had lofty goals for the library; however, those were put on pause as the year progressed. I still intend to host story hour, science projects, and other activities for the children who spend their day with us. Once it is safe for us to begin, I will be in touch with those of you who graciously have volunteered to be readers and supporters of the library. I am excited to start this adventure and hope that you are too.

The library has weathered the storm, and we have learned to sail our ship. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the library. We are so grateful for your patronage. The library is nothing without you.

Kara L. Vehar



The Peace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund encountered a variety of challenges in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. We were not able to gather for some of the social, fund-raising activities that were part of our 2020 plan. Nevertheless, the Endowment grew slightly during the year to reach just over \$142,000 by the end of 2020. And, we were able to continue to use the income generated by the fund to spread Peace's ministries in new directions.

In 2019, the Endowment committed to fund the first year cost of streaming our worship services over the internet. When COVID-19 required Peace Lutheran to suspend in-person worship in early 2020, those streaming services became vital to our congregation for worship, confirmation and other services. The Endowment also continued its sponsorship of camp scholarships for our youth attending summer camps. While camps were cancelled in 2020, the Endowment's sponsorship will continue in 2021!

Finally, the Endowment continues to seek ways to educate the congregation about planning future gifts to Peace Lutheran and the Endowment. In November 2020, the Endowment sponsored an Estate Planning 101 Seminar. This seminar provided information about several different ways to leave part of your estate to charitable organizations while still providing significant gifts to your family.

The Endowment offers a great opportunity to contribute to the present and future of Peace Lutheran Church. Contributions remain as principal in the Endowment into perpetuity. The earnings from the Endowment can be used to support needs and opportunities of our church. What an opportunity to fund a program with such possibilities. In 2021, your Endowment committee will explore ways to further educate and inform the congregation about the endowment and planned giving opportunities. All donations are welcome, whether they be a few dollars or end-of-life estates.

Members of the committee serve for three-year staggered terms: 2020 members were:

Tim Olson, Chairman  
Sheryl Johnson, Secretary  
Brittany Elsasser, Treasurer  
Craig Matson  
Brent Veeder  
Pastor Paul Stjernholm, ex officio

The committee wishes to thank all those who helped make this another memorable year for the Endowment.

Tim Olson, Chairman



## Building and Administration

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With every season, there is a change and that has been true here at Peace Lutheran Church as well in 2020. Covid 19 pandemic required we purchase more hand sanitizer, two Electrostatic sprayers and disinfecting wipes to ensure that the church, daycare and preschool was as clean and safe as possible. We hired a new cleaning contractor to clean the whole building which has been a big blessing. THANK YOU for your extra work and continued contributions to help in these efforts.

This past summer, Direct Digital Control Company replaced some thermostat controls. In doing so they gave us more control to thermostats via a computer. This will give us better control on pre-setting temperatures in each room and will hopefully serve as a cost savings.

A few of the external lights in the parking lot required some wiring to be repaired as well as changing of light bulbs. When we do this we are continuing to make the switch over to LED lights. We are also continuing to switch the Church's fluorescent lights over to LED which has started to lower our electric bill each month.

The 40 ton condensing unit broke down after running over 20 years. We decided to replace the unit and we are very fortunate the weather was cooperative with us (cool weather during break down) and didn't cause anyone to endure hot, stuffy rooms.

There was some vandalism to bus last year that required extra attention. Bus windows were shattered on one occasion. We were able to repair much of the work ourselves so we did not have to make an insurance claim.

We were able to invest in replacing carpet in the back hallway by the music room and down the A-E wing all the way to the fellowship hall. This allowed us to eliminate carpet that was becoming a hazard and we were able to match it fairly close in looks to the fellowship hall carpeting.

I would like to extend a note of thanks to all of our contractors and volunteers for the work each of you help cover. Major contractors are Broch Contracting; Travis Electric (electrical); Climate Control (HVAC); Jones Plumbing (plumbing); Roto-Rooter; Direct Digital Control (Thermostat control) and Tru-Green. A special thanks to the volunteers who have helped mow grass, remove snow, change lightbulbs and set up and tear down tables. Your support is truly appreciated!

If you have gifts that you would like to extend to the church in the form of volunteering this year, please know you are always welcome. We would love to help you stay connected and use your time and talents to benefit the wonderful congregation we are a part of. We welcome and appreciate your involvement.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Panek, Facilities Manager



**Mission Statement:** Through our instruments and voices, we gather to proclaim God's love.

2020 has definitely been a year like no other year! Music at Peace was off to a great start at the beginning of the year with all of our music groups sharing music with the congregation on a regular basis, special Bluegrass and Jazz style worship services in February, and our Lenten services being accompanied by a string quartet. Who could have imagined the turn our year would take in March when in-person church services were cancelled and our music groups stopped meeting due to COVID-19 concerns. We were faced with the challenges of providing meaningful worship services and creating music for those services in a way that kept everyone in our church community safe. It seemed like a new challenge popped up every day, and each challenge was unique.

We, at Peace, have realized these challenges and have taken steps to adapt. While we worked to improve our video projection, we were also able to expedite our livestream capabilities. In fact, we were able to get our livestream technology up and running before the pandemic hit. This allowed us to be able to livestream our worship services, giving opportunities for our congregation to worship from home. We went from a full house of worship to pastors and a very minimal worship support team bringing you worship via livestream each week. For traditional worship, Kyle or Pat would come in to lead the hymns which were sung by the pastors. For contemporary worship, we reached out to our musicians and had them record their parts for the music and I, along with one or two singers, were able to combine the recorded music with live playing and singing to recreate our worship team experience. In addition to our livestream services, we were able to offer drive-in parking lot services (transmitted to your car's radio) with a live band for Palm Sunday and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in May and June.

We were all very grateful that we could provide these worship experiences for you and felt blessed when we were able to open our doors again in July for in-person worship in the sanctuary. Knowing that there were people who wanted in-person worship but did not or could not come inside for that experience, we offered weekly drive-in worship and lawn chair worship services in our parking lot from July-November. For our Christmas services,

we knew we had to monitor the number of people worshipping in person. We offered 12 Christmas Eve services, including three contemporary services in our fellowship hall, one drive-in worship service, and the remaining services in the sanctuary. All of our sanctuary services were livestreamed and two of these sanctuary services featured our Peace Brass. We also offered our Blue Christmas, Early Christmas, and Christmas day services both in-person and livestreamed.

It was exciting to be able to offer many of our "usual" programming using technology. We offered virtual VBS with various teams recording the various parts of our usual VBS programming and then sharing that with you online. We were able to have a virtual quartet of High School seniors offer special music for our High School Senior Quilts worship services. With the addition of TVs for our classrooms, we were able to teach music to our Sunday and Wednesday School children at the beginning of class each week. The TVs enabled our Sunday and Wednesday School children to stay with their classes in their individual classrooms and participate in our virtual opening sessions, which include lots of singing, instead of gathering all of the classes together in one large room for our opening sessions as we have in the past. We were able to put together our first virtual Children's Christmas program, "The Wonder of Christmas," and our first virtual Christmas Cantata performed by our adult choir. We also had the opportunity to livestream a virtual concert featuring the Hegg brothers for Bethany Lutheran Homes' fundraiser. While virtual performances wouldn't always be our first choice as a way of doing things, we were able to share music with you in so many new and different ways.

It has been nice to be able to slowly resume our music programming. In August, with many COVID safety precautions in place, we held our summer music camp for 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Music camp week ended with two live performances of the musical, "Faith News," which were both livestreamed. The music camp kids also performed two songs from the musical at one of our lawn chair services on the Sunday following the camp week. In September, we were able to bring back our beloved Polka services. With the start of the school year, we were able to start up our music groups again. Adult Bells, Youth Bells, Youth Handchimes, Jubilation & Celebration children's choirs, Peace Brass,



# Music and Worship Continued



and the Adult Choir all resumed weekly rehearsals in the fall and began sharing special music with the congregation on a regular basis again. We have adapted these groups with safety precautions in an effort to provide a safe environment while still being able to provide live special music in the sanctuary. It was nice to be able to bring back our string trio for Advent Wednesdays, and I look forward to having that string trio return for Lent Wednesdays.



I am thankful for Darya Levesque (Children's Music director & Special Music coordinator), Nancy Lenander (Adult Choir director & Youth Bells & Youth Handchimes director), and Maurine Pederson (Adult Bells director) for their continued dedication and commitment to their respective programs and for finding ways to continue with them safely. Special thanks to Kyle Quanbeck & Pat Steele for being there week after week to ensure our worship services have music. Thanks to Cara Hetland and our Audio/Visual team for operating the sound equipment, cameras and slides, and making the livestreaming of our services possible. Though you may not see her if you're worshipping from home, thanks to Judy Lucas and her team of volunteers for taking care of all the necessary preparation for worship, including communion (inside and outside), organizing ushers and greeters, and taking care of the countless other needs that arise each and every week. Thanks also to all our volunteer musicians who give of themselves each week.

We were sad to lose Audrey Shattuck, our media creator, who moved to Kansas in November. She was responsible for creating all the worship slides used in worship, scheduling and coordinating our livestream presence, and working with Judy with all the worship support. Hopefully we will soon have a replacement for her.

Lastly, I would like to thank you, the congregation, for entrusting us to carry out God's work inside and outside the walls of Peace. Your prayers and support are what enable and inspire us do God's work.

We would love to have you be a part of our music ministry. If you are interested in joining one of our music groups or providing music in any way, please contact Bob Levesque.



May you be blessed by our Music & Worship Ministry!

Bob Levesque  
Director of Music and Worship



Communication Ministry for 2020 was video after video after video after video...

Because of the pandemic shutting the church down back in the spring, we immediately knew worship was now online only. Which meant every part was now a video in some way or another – live or otherwise. So, my focus was then directed on making videos!

Mission Opportunities became a more thoughtful process, thinking ahead what should be lifted up rather than “forcing” the pastors to memorize what should be said. Getting creative with offering, adding a new video EVERY WEEK! This is a project Pastor Jonathan and I have dove head first into. Instead of doing Pieces of Peace each week, which showed photos/videos of events that have happened, we became limited as the immediate shut-down canceled all of our events and happenings. So, we started showcasing Peace’s ministry in new ways. We have done talking heads with b-roll images, voice overs (from members) lifting up Peace’s past, poetic words with cool animation focused on our thanking you for continuing to give, and so on. For Christmas (starting with the Virtual Christmas Musical), I developed “moving announcements” to play before worship/the program. This project is a little harder to implement weekly as it takes longer to produce, but it is something that will hopefully get seen more often before worship and events.

A really fun video we created was for when we went back to in-person worship this summer. We had to inform members and the public of newly implemented Safety Measures and we went “flying” with an idea. Airlines have to give a safety message before takeoff, and that’s exactly what we did. Pastors Jonathan and Renae (as flight attendants) took us through wearing masks, keeping a safe social distance, no handshaking, etc. in a video that not only got 4,000 views but the idea was borrowed by other churches in their safety measure videos!

Along with videos, we continue communicating to our members and the community. Here are just a few ways in which we have either newly implemented or kept going strong:

- Connected our new database (Planning Center) to MailChimp, combining Peace’s information and making targeted direct messaging easy and useful
- Created a Digital Bulletin since we stopped distributing paper bulletins as a means to help keep worshipers safe – updated weekly
- Graphic designs: making announcements, logos, stories, safety measures, etc. easier to read and more visually appealing
- Social media keeps growing. Facebook is now up to 2,044 Followers, 1,964 Page Likes, and we continue to see posts reach tens of thousands of people
- YouTube subscribers have grown, allowing us to create a unique page URL (YouTube.com/PeaceLutheranSF) – we also live stream every worship to YouTube
- Daily Bread Devotion emails continue every single day, sent out via Mailchimp
- Twelve newsletters filled with stories about the people that make Peace Lutheran great and the information you need to know for that month
- Communicating news that matters about Peace to the public – including another billboard with a Christmas message of hope from us!

2020 was a weird year for everyone and made for quite the challenge when it came to communicating. I think Peace staff as a team really stepped up and pushed through the difficulties, finding new and better ways to reach you and our neighbors. Here’s to another exciting new year!

**Dustin Pederson**

Director of Communication



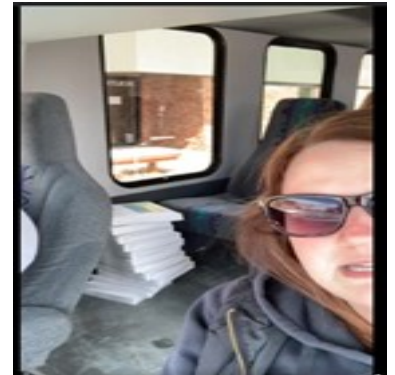
## Goals:

Our programs are built around the desire to help children experience God and clearly hear God's promises to them. By hearing God's story told in a variety of ways in Sunday school and worship, engaging in hands-on activities in small groups (sometimes with like-age peers and sometimes in inter-generational groups), and building relationships with others, God's love becomes more real to children.

## 2020

What a year it was this year! We endured having to come up with creative ways of doing programming starting in March due to the pandemic. Our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday and Wednesday School programs continued through the use of Zoom.

While our younger Sunday and Wednesday School programs did not meet over Zoom, but we did put together "Take-Home Sunday School" boxes that were delivered by Pam Tetzlaff, Director, Ron Stout, our Senior Ministries bus driver and Pastor Chris! We delivered over 50 boxes in and around Sioux Falls to our families. Inside those boxes and available on online, was our Peace "Dove Hunt" logo. We made copies of our church logo and asked members to color and stick them up in a front window of their home and asked people to go on a "dove hunt" – a walk around their street and neighborhood to spot members in our church community. That was so much fun! Maybe you were a house that someone spotted?



One of the highlights each year is our annual Vacation Bible School (VBS). Due to Covid, we weren't able to hold this event in-person, but we did put together bags with materials and supplies for families for pick up. We turned this year's VBS into a multigenerational, all age, and all member event. So if you watched worship or participated in a small group, you were involved! Families who specifically registered participated in virtual lessons and games and crafts at home. It was a great time, but not the same as being in-person.

We continued with milestones the best we could, mostly online via Zoom. Kids that were supposed to have their First Communion in April were able to complete that in September with a special service for them and their families.

We also took part in some community outreach programs this year. Our fourth and fifth graders made tie blankets for Project Warm Up, and various families and members participated in the "scavenger hunt" for Church on the Street.

With the offering money in the Giving Jar, we have been supporting an orphan in Liberia, supported children in the Safe Families program and purchased solar Bibles for the kids in Haiti. Right before Christmas, we had author Tom Roberts come and share his new Christmas book and afforded him the opportunity to sell his books and raise money for the Children's Home Society.

We are so grateful to the support we have had from our families with continuing in-person educational opportunities during Covid and the many volunteers who are helping make that possible! We have about 257 kids enrolled in the fall for Sunday and Wednesday School. Not the number we typically have, but still a pretty good number considering the times we are in. We are so thankful to have been able to start of this school year in-person!

We have worked hard over the summer putting together an online opportunity for families who are not yet comfortable being in-person, to continue their faith education online. Each week we film lesson videos that students in-person and at home can watch for those in preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades that are online, participate in class on a weekly basis via Zoom. We also have the same opportunity for our confirmation students as well. We have about 112 kids registered for our online option. We have certainly learned a lot about technology!



Respectfully submitted,

**Pam Tetzlaff,**

Director, Faith Formation Children, Early Teens & Family

**Tamara Shaw**

Assistant Director of Children's Ministries



# Middle School-High School Ministry

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation at Peace Lutheran Church begins in sixth grade and continues into the start of tenth grade when they are invited to participate in an Affirmation of Baptism Service on Reformation Sunday. This past year that included over 265 middle and high school students meeting on a regular basis!

What a year 2020 was! With the pandemic, the recommendations to shelter at home last spring, and the recommendations for gatherings this past fall called for us to be creative and flexible. In the spring, Confirmation continued, but all groups were moved to online learning. As we moved into a new school year this fall, we followed the lead of area school districts by offering both online and in person learning opportunities, with the in person learning modified to reflect smaller group sizes, more social distancing between groups, an agreement to wear masks, and an agreement to not attend if you are sick or have been exposed to the virus. For online learning, we asked parents to participate each week, to help insure reading or viewing of the materials happens before the weekly sessions, as well as participate in the weekly conversations.

Highlights from the program this year include:

- Bible Study – our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders have focused their study on the Bible. Through storytelling, creative reflection and dialogue, sixth graders are discovering the overall biblical narrative. Our seventh graders are digging in deeper and using multiple lenses to explore the books of the Bible.
- Small Catechism, Lutheran Theology and More – our 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students dig into the small catechism and explore what it means to be a Lutheran; they also learn more about faithful stewardship, healthy relationships, and world religions, which this past year was even easier with the ability to watch worship services from other denominations, which are also being held online.
- Building Relationships – in addition to connecting weekly with their confirmation small groups, students are encouraged to participate in the weekly youth group activities for high school students, monthly activities for middle school students, weekend retreats, and/or week-long summer camp or mission trip experiences. While the pandemic limited the number and types of activities available (no summer camps, for example) we still found creative ways (like youth group on Zoom) to help students connect.
- Leading or Assisting with Worship – both 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students have an opportunity to lead a worship service. Whether it is reading scripture, doing power point, sharing the Children's sermon or leading music, the students have the opportunity to plan, prepare for and lead all of the service – a great chance to see first-hand what goes into planning worship! In addition, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade small groups each have an opportunity to assist with a worship service, and students are encouraged to assist individually as well.
- Faith in Action – all students are encouraged to get involved in volunteer service opportunities. Whether it is serving a meal at The Banquet, assisting with Vacation Bible School or Necessities for Neighbors here at church, or connecting in some other way in the community, students are encouraged to try a variety of volunteer experiences.

Life/Death Discussion – 10<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents par-

ticipated in this conversation about creation/new life, life/choices/consequences and end of life/death. We modified the conversation this year to hold the entire conversation here at Peace, and included three community leaders (a nurse educator, the pastor at St Dysmas, and a funeral director from Miller Funeral Home) in the event.

Thank you again to the parents, pastors, congregation members and leaders who are helping to ensure that the promises made to our youth in their baptisms are realized! For questions about Confirmation, contact Pam Tetzlaff (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade), or Holly Marty (8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade).

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

In addition to weekly Confirmation activities, middle school students are invited to get involved in **Middle School First Fridays**. Activities this past year have included a lock in at SkyZone, laser tag provided by Thunder Road, swimming at Midco Aquatic Center, an evening of connecting via Zoom, water games in the parking lot, and a corn maze. Covid put a damper on some of the fun this past year, but activities are being planned again for this coming year. If you'd like to help with planning, let Pam Tetzlaff know!

## HIGH SCHOOL

While some of our high school students (9<sup>th</sup> and first part of 10<sup>th</sup> grade year) are also involved in Confirmation, they are also invited to weekly **High School Youth Group** on Sunday evenings. Under the guidance of Pastor Jonathan and a few parents and college students, they have met regularly for a time of worship (thank you Mike Leffring and Natasha Snedeker for organizing the musicians), games and small groups. As we move into 2021, we will continue to try to broaden the vision for high school ministry. Have some ideas or want to be part of looking into the future, let us know!

For those who have been interested in going a little deeper, Suzanne Hansen (along with a couple college students!) have been leading **Peer Ministry Leadership**, helping students connect with, care for and affirm their peers. This training flows from the Good Samaritan Story, which helps to define who our neighbor really is.

Some of our high school students had begun planning for the next **National Youth Gathering** (NYG), which was to be held in Minneapolis, MN summer of 2021. While the NYG has now been delayed until summer 2022, plans will continue to include registration, training and fundraising throughout 2021. Typically held every three years, the NYG pulls together high school students (often as many as 35,000!) from across the United States for a time of worship, servant projects and connecting with fellow Lutherans. Interested in attending or being a small group leader? Let Pastor Jonathan know!

**Summer Camps and Mission/Immersion Trips** have been a staple part of the children and youth ministry here at Peace. While we were unable to participate in these activities in 2020 due to COVID, plans are underway for these activities to return summer of 2021. Watch for more details about these opportunities, along with details about the fundraising efforts that help make them affordable, to be coming out soon!

In Christ,

Holly Marty, Director of Faith Formation: Teens & Adults





## Adult Ministry

The adults who make Peace home have many different ways to connect, as seen in a number of the summaries in this Annual Report. Here is a quick recap of some of those options:

**Ongoing studies** range from the women's circle groups and book club that meet once a month, Theology on Tablet that meets twice a month, to Forum, Men's Tuesday and Women's Wednesday morning groups, Friday Morning Bible Study each week.

**Small groups** offer another way to connect. Whether it's a small group of grandparents who take an active role in bringing up their grandkids, or a short term Lent study, we offer a variety of meeting options and reasons for connecting. This past year we launched a new short term small group pulling together those who work in the health care field for a few weeks of Zoom calls to talk about their work in the midst of the pandemic and how we as a church and community of believers can be supportive. The Lent study this past year was based on the book, *Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions* by Jacqueline Bussie. While we initially offered a variety of meeting options (Sunday Brunch Study, Wednesday Soup Lunch Study, Wednesday evening study and Saturday morning study), we had to modify all groups to online via Zoom before the study completed. Thank heavens for online options!

**Women's events**, which have become a tradition with spring and fall retreats and the Women's Advent Meal, weren't able to happen as planned, but we did have an online

event, featuring music, devotions, discussion and sharing recipes. Nearly 40 women took part of this re-imagined event!

**Volunteering** is yet another way many of our adults connect. Whether helping with Necessities for Neighbors, as a volunteer for worship, weekly as a leader for Sunday/Wednesday School or Confirmation, as a driver for Meals on Wheels, as a meal preparer for PeaceMeals, as a quilter or knitter, as a musician for worship, as a counter or office volunteer, as a leader for youth activities, or a member on church council, there are many ways to use your gifts and interests to help make ministry happen here at Peace.

Interested in getting connected or starting a new small group? Contact Pastor Renae or me!

Holly Marty  
Director of Faith Formation:  
Teens & Adults





# Seniors Ministry

## **SENIOR MINISTRY**

The year of 2020 came with many challenges and the pandemic certainly made some new challenges for our Senior Ministries activities. But, as Paul writes in Romans 15:3 *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”* And I’m excited and hopeful we will be able to receive the vaccine soon and will be able to meet again.

How wonderful to stay connected via Zoom for our Friday morning Bible studies! We were also able to support one another by staying in touch via phone calls, texts, emails and mailing cards. Thanks to all who looked out for one another. What a blessing you have been to each another!

### **2020 Potluck/Programs:**

- January 27: **Rebel Hurd, Church on the Street**
- February 24: **Short Notice Concert – Dave Jordheim, Nathan Anderson, & Jodie Nielsen**
- March 30: We were disappointed we had to cancel **Riham Sassi, exchange student from Tunisia**
- June 24: **Picnic & Sing-a-long at Sertoma Park**
- August 31: **Sing-a-long with Pastor Paul and Sandra Larsen (in sanctuary and live stream)**
- September 28: **Aaron Matson, Christian ethics and our responsibility to vote (in sanctuary and live stream)**
- October 19: **Constanza Haigmaier, Meet the Bishop (in sanctuary and live stream)**
- November 23: **Jeff Gould, Storyteller (in sanctuary and live stream)**

### **Other Activities:**

We certainly missed our game day afternoons. Once we can meet in person again, we will look forward to our gatherings the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday afternoon. We were able to meet at the Marion Road Park a couple

times for fellowship and dessert.

We certainly missed our annual trip to **Joy Ranch** and singing our favorite Christmas carols at **Nora General Store**.

**Birthday Cards** are mailed monthly to members 62 and older.

**Transportation:** We continued through March providing transportation to the Friday 10:00am Bible Study and the 10:10 worship service. However, with the stay at home recommendations issued by the CDC all rides were halted. Attempts were made to start rides again but due to COVID guidelines, people were advised to remain home and worship online. We are hopeful that 2021 will allow us to start providing rides again and we will continue to be in touch with our existing riders as well as new prospects the plan for resuming transportation once it is established. We also will be looking for more volunteers to drive the bus, so if you are interested, please talk to Ron at [Ron@peacelutheran.com](mailto:Ron@peacelutheran.com).

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Steele , Director of Seniors Ministry  
Ron Stout, Transportation Driver







Peace Lutheran Preschool opened in January 1985. As of January 2021, we will be in our 36th year of operation.

- The preschool is an outreach ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We strive to provide quality education for children ages 3-5 years. Those who are served include children of Peace, The Hope Coalition, other Lutheran churches, various denominations of faith and those with no church affiliation. The preschool is also privileged to serve 20 children from the Peace Care Daycare Program.
- The mission of our preschool is to nurture the child in areas of social-emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual development.
- Through the preschool, children experience Bible stories, learn about God's love for them, and participate in many learning activities and field trips that engage them and prepare them for their adventures in kindergarten.
- This past year, COVID-19 has definitely disrupted our program but we have instilled some safety/health protocols and have been able to come together, staff and families and still create a wonderful learning experience and environment for our kiddos to enjoy! We have still been privileged to have Pastor Chris come once in a while for chapel time. The kids have enjoyed her enthusiasm and joy she brings to chapel time and the fun stories and songs she has done with them while teaching them about Jesus and God's love for them!



I feel extremely blessed to be able to not only teach the kiddos in our preschool family here at Peace in their first steps in their academic journey, but also to be able to share with them the immense love our Lord has for them and watch them grow in their faith as well. Our program has been privileged to serve so many children in and around our community and I am honored to continue to provide those services to as many families as we can in the coming years. I have also seen my staff really step up to provide the most safe environment we can amidst the pandemic and they have been willing to do whatever we need so that we are still able to operate and provide these families a valued preschool experience. This fall we have welcomed Alyssa Avery as a full time teacher to our program and Shelley Bitz continues to be an amazing teacher with us as well.

Peace Lutheran Church continues to provide the preschool with a wonderful place to educate, nurture and minister young children. Spaces used include the triple preschool classroom, the art room, Room I and the fellowship hall as our "gym."

We have yet again been blessed with terrific families and amazing kiddos who have all been understanding, flexible and positive through the chaos of 2020 and we are hopeful that 2021 will bring healthy kiddos and environments so we all can continue to love what we are here for!

DeAnna Dreesman,  
Preschool Director



# PeaceC.A.R.E.

~Program History/Information – State Licensed since 1997

- \* September 1996 – Present (Peace CARE Afterschool Program – School aged children)
- \* September 2004 – Present (Peace CARE Daycare Program – Birth to Pre K children)

~Director: Tara Foley

~Mission Statement:

- \* Peace Care Afterschool Program provides care for children in school from age five to age twelve. Our promise is to provide a safe, enriching, and recreational program conducive to learning and social interaction structured to the children’s requests. We encourage children to pursue their interests and develop friendships, independence, and confidence. Peace Care provides a stimulating and loving environment for children to flourish in this challenging society by using their God-given gifts and talents. Peace C.A.R.E. maintains a qualified staff committed to the safety and care of each child.
- \* Peace CARE Daycare is a quality, all day childcare facility available to children between Birth and 5 years old. The program provides professional care for children not yet in school. The center is sponsored by Peace Lutheran Church. The goals of Peace CARE Daycare are to provide a developmentally safe, positive experience for every child that is conducive to learning and social interaction with a structure. In addition, we aim to encourage children to pursue their interests and develop friendships, independence, and confidence. Peace CARE Daycare also desires to create, and maintain, a stimulating and loving environment for children to flourish in this challenging society, using their God-given gifts and talents. The staff is a group of trained professionals who promote respect and understanding for individual differences by maintaining a caring environment that allows freedom of choice and exposure to new experiences.

~2020 Accomplishments:

- \* Cared for approximately 135+ children through the year!
- \* We continue to maintain a consistent staff and keep our client turnover low!
- \* Remained open during Covid (March through December) & maintained a healthy environment with minimal Covid cases!
- \* Began process to license a new “sister site” located Within WestSide Lutheran Church for summer of 2021!

~2021 Goals:

- \* Continue to act as a “mentor program” for WestSide Lutheran by starting a licensed summer program
- \* Dedicate time to find ways in providing quality care and quality pay/benefits for employees working at Peace Care!
- \* Continue to prioritize enrollment opportunities to our church membership first!

~2020 Year End Budget:

Income:

Tuition and Fees..... \$771,150  
 ~Registrations  
 ~Activity fees  
 ~Interest Income

Expenses:

Payroll..... \$588,600  
 ~FICA  
 ~Workman’s Comp  
 ~ELCA Benefits  
 ~Training

Program Expense..... \$ 37,852.43  
 ~Children materials  
 ~Food/snack  
 ~Activities/Fieldtrips

Preschool Services..... \$ 18,035

Utilities..... \$ 3,600  
 ~Building use

Transportation..... \$ 1,264

Office..... \$ 7,504  
 ~Advertising  
 ~Phone, postage, copier, etc...  
 ~Office supply  
 ~Computer related





## WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

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This past year has been a tough one, but the Women of Peace still made a difference in many people's lives. We couldn't do it without the support and hard work of many; we want to thank everyone who participated in the activities and volunteered. Officers for 2020 for the WELCA unit are Linda Jensen, Leader, and temporary Treasurer, and Kathy Porter, Recorder. Any woman wanting to be added to the email list for WELCA updates can contact Linda—310-9865, or lindaajensen11@gmail.com. We typically have about 6 meetings a year on an "as needed" basis, and they are an opportunity to have some fellowship, help raise and disperse funds for good causes, and learn more about Peace Lutheran. All women are considered members and are welcome to come! There's no minimum number of meetings you have to attend, and there are no dues.

We would especially like to thank everyone who donated to our February and September Love offerings; these funds make it possible for us to give benevolence gifts to Peace ministries as well as to many local charities the community.

The Sunrise Ladies Bible Study is still meeting every Wednesday morning at 6:30 am, and the Ruth Circle Bible Study started up again in November on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 9:30 am in the Shalom Room. Hannah Circle will be starting up again sometime in the future, so check the announcements for that information or call the Peace office. Please pick up a Womens' Ministries Booklet at the Welcome Center to get the contact names and numbers to find more out about any of these groups.

Many thanks to Holly Marty for organizing an online Advent Tea "Quiet Moments at Christmas" in December! We collected many Christmas gifts and funds for haircuts for the residents at the nearby Good Samaritan Village, along with giving them a WELCA donation. Bev Philliber and Diane Feller collected the donations and delivered them to Good Sam. There were also collections for the local Veterans Service Center and local school children, along with a check for each for more purchases of items. Thrivent Action Teams supplemented the collections. The donation and purchases of items are too long to list, so let Linda Jensen know if you'd like a full list of what was taken to the schools and Vets Service Center. Thank you to Deb Patzlaff for heading up both of these projects! She purchased or collected and delivered over 1,500 items for the 2 projects, making 24 trips to deliver items.

The Prayer Shawl group made 206 shawls for those needing comfort. 25 were sent to the Good Sam Village, and 50 to Ava's House Hospice. The rest of the shawls are available to members and pastors for those in need of them.

The Quilting group made 5 beautiful Stoles for our pastors to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the ELCA. They made 216 quilts and 738 other items for a total of 945 donation items! They were distributed to Lutheran World Relief (119) Children's Inn (36) the Furniture Mission (12), the Church on the Street (18), Glory House (19), and the Veterans Service Center (12). The Children's Inn was given 19 pillowcases, Good Sam Village was given 25 lap robes, and 685 Covid face masks were sewn.

The Funeral Committee served 4 funerals during 2020, with 544 people served. Left over food was given to the families, or taken to St. Francis House and the Children's Inn as directed by the families

The Love Offering funds were supplemented by many \$250 Thrivent Action Teams applied for by WELCA members, providing thousands more in donations. Because of the generous support from the congregation, Peace WELCA was able to support the following organizations/projects in 2020: \*Good Samaritan Village Hair Cuts and Christmas gifts \*Veteran's Outreach Center \*Winter wear and other items for local school kids, Pueblo de Dios Vacation Bible School, Fern Swearingen Library for books, Peace Families Christmas Gifts, \*Necessities for Neighbors, Family Connection, Love Offering for the WELCA Spring Gathering, and Bethany Lutheran Nursing Home in SF for Christmas gifts for residents. WELCA also headed up collections of items or additional funds for the projects marked by an asterisk. Thank you to the congregation, the women of WELCA, and others who gave generously to support these causes! Please join us at our March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting in the Shalom Room to help raise and distribute funds to other great charities and Peace programs! The Spring WELCA Love Offering will be February 10-13-14, 2021.





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

On behalf of the Board of Charis Ministry Partners, I would like to thank you for being a partner congregation of Charis and your continued support in prayer, volunteers, and financial donations for our Food to You, Necessities for Neighbors, and Healthy Rides programs.

2020 was a year like no other; because of the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning in March our Food to You and Necessities for Neighbors distributions were shifted to an outdoor, “drive-thru” model of distribution for the safety of our volunteers and our guests. Despite the difficulties and changes in distribution logistics, volunteers and organizers – especially our Food to You Coordinator, Todd Smith – have done a wonderful job adjusting and helping us continue to fulfill our mission of providing help to our neighbors in need. We still are able to serve around 800 families through our weekly Food to You distributions and monthly Necessities for Neighbors distributions at Peace Lutheran and First Lutheran.

The global pandemic and resulting economic struggles for so many people in our community have made our services more important than ever, and we couldn’t fulfill the needs we see without the support of generous people, organizations, businesses, and especially congregations like yours.

One example of the difference your support makes comes from an email we received after the Food to You distribution that took place the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Along with the regular types of food we have at distributions, we were able to raise funds to also give each family a turkey for the holiday.

The person who emailed us told us that her family hadn’t needed any food assistance in years but had found herself in a position where she didn’t have any choice. She found out about us from an internet search and didn’t know what to expect. Not only was she pleasantly surprised by the warm, friendly greeting of the volunteers, she was amazed at the amount of, and quality of the food her family received – including the turkey. This was the first time her family had ever cooked a turkey, and the first time her family had a home-cooked meal for Thanksgiving. Not only did Charis give her family food, she wrote, Charis gave her hope – and some wonderful holiday memories.

Each year, Charis Ministries serves thousands of families in our area just like this, families who need some help to get by. Again, on behalf of the Charis board, I want to thank your congregation for all you do to help us give families food, rides, and household necessities, and most importantly, hope.

Peace,  
Aaron Matson  
Director, Charis Ministry Partners



## Church on the Street Annual Report- 2020



Twenty-twenty was a year like no other, and we're not even talking about the pandemic! Let us celebrate what God has done! Church on the Street (COTS) celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> Year of worshipping as a Congregation. This milestone included a village of people who loved their neighbor and followed God's plan and the Holy Spirit's guidance. Congratulations to all who played a role in this significant milestone!

As the congregation and ministry of COTS have continued to grow, the church structure and leadership also grew. Harriet Monson was named Laundry with Love Director with financial support for the position underwritten by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Elizabeth Yoder, after providing generous staff support during my shared time of internship at St. John American Lutheran and COTS, resigned her employment and now sits solely on the COTS Board. Formal Board positions were identified and filled, and a Pilot Project between Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Church on the Street commenced in September, providing a one-year opportunity for Pastor Shelly Gehring to come on board as Associate Pastor.

And this, from the COTS Board, "After a Ministry Site Study, including prayer and reflection, Church on the Street selected a Lead Pastor to serve, and through the SD Synod Council, on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, a Letter of Call was extended to Rebel Hurd, Founding Mission Developer, to serve as Pastor of Church on the Street." We continue to dream forward with genuine faith and trust in God's plan.

By God's grace and faithfulness, and your faithfulness, too, we made it through 2020 together. There was pain and death, changes of in-person events, political division, racial trauma, job loss, sickness, sadness, and evictions. The emotional dexterity it took to simply be human during this time is overwhelming. And yet, as Christians, you have modeled genuine faith, a steady calm, unwavering support, and trust in God's plan for the ministries of Church on the Street.

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things?*

*If God is for us, who can be against us? ROMANS 8:31*

**What then might happen** when we put these two little words together to propel us into 2021?

**What then,** when people hear the Good News for the first time, and they are changed forever?

**What then,** when we become a church who loves our neighbors in reality instead of illusion?

**What then,** when grace, mercy, and justice overflow to bring peace to the hurting?

**What then,** when generosity is poured out like a dam breaking, and gratitude spills over?

**What then,** when we work together, with all of God's people, as a response to 2020?

By God's grace, we will continue to ask, "**What then?**" We will continue to live into the answers. God promises to be with us, and our faith propels us forward. We invite you to bring your "**What then?**" questions, and together we will live into becoming a faith community that feels like family - a community of witness, in the good, the bad, the beautiful, and the ugly.

In God's mission together.

# Heartland Ephphatha Ministry



Heartland Ephphatha Ministry is the ELCA ministry for the deaf and hard of hearing in South Dakota. We are based here at Peace Lutheran Church. We provide interpreted worship in American Sign Language at the 9:00 service weekly. We also provide service opportunities and fellowship for our community.



Every other year we join other ministries around the country for a conference. This year's gathering was canceled because of the pandemic. We also had to change interpreted worship to accommodate our members. We streamed our worship on the Heartland Ephphatha Facebook page.

Many of our members stayed connected by serving on the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) board and volunteering for service projects. We also hope to resume American Sign Language classes soon.

If you have any questions about our ministry please contact Jason or Sarah Andera  
[Jason.andra@gmail.com](mailto:Jason.andra@gmail.com)

God's Peace

Jason and Sarah





# Current Mortgage

## 2020 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNT CURRENT MORTGAGE

	Jan 2020 Beginning Balance	Dec 2020 Ending Balance
Cash:		
Current Mortgage Fund:	\$33,042.10	\$1,375.25
<b>Totals:</b>	<b><u>\$33,042.10</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,375.25</u></b>
	Receipts for 2020	Expenses for 2020
Interest Income:	\$2.38	
Offering Envelopes:		\$0.00
Current Mortgage & Imagine Offering:	\$172,957.88	
Mortgage Payment Thrivent:		\$0.00
Interest on Mortgage		\$199,173.55
		<u>\$5,453.56</u>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b><u>\$172,960.26</u></b>	<b><u>\$204,627.11</u></b>

**Thrivent Loan Balance: \$941,254.46 12/31/2016**

**Thrivent Loan Balance: \$678,589.49 12/31/2017**

**Thrivent Loan Balance: \$434,624.54 12/31/2018**

**Thrivent Loan Balance: \$199,173.55 12/31/2019**

**Thrivent Loan Balance: \$0.00 12/31/2020**



Peace Lutheran Church 2020 Annual Report

## INCOME\_EXPENSES

	<b>2020 Budget</b>		<b>2020 Actual</b>		<b>2021 Budget</b>
<b>General Income</b>					
Regular Envelopes	\$ 815,000.00	\$	714,051.34	\$	778,052.70
First Fruits	\$ 560,000.00	\$	530,611.09	\$	530,000.00
Loose Offering	\$ 70,000.00	\$	28,531.07	\$	72,000.00
Initial Offering	\$ 1,000.00	\$	746.75	\$	1,000.00
Seasonal Offering	\$ 18,000.00	\$	27,762.80	\$	28,000.00
Rejuvenation Income	\$ -	\$	40,939.54	\$	125,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 365.00	\$	81.82	\$	200.00
Awaken Offering	\$ 400.00	\$	-	\$	100.00
Offsetting Income	\$ 38,030.00	\$	207,454.94	\$	135,190.00
<b>Total General Income:</b>	<b>\$ 1,502,795.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,550,179.35</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,669,542.70</b>
<b>Benevolences</b>					
<b>Mission Partners</b>					
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center	\$ 1,000.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	2,000.00
St Dymas Reentry Team	\$ 250.00	\$	-	\$	-
Pueblo de Dios Lutheran	\$ 2,500.00	\$	2,500.00	\$	2,500.00
Congregations in Solidarity	\$ 1,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
St. Dymas Reentry Initiative	\$ 500.00	\$	500.00	\$	250.00
St. Dymas Holiday Meals	\$ 500.00	\$	-	\$	500.00
St. Dymas Lutheran Undesignated	\$ 1,000.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
Church on the Street	\$ 1,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
St Paul Lutheran -- Humboldt	\$ -	\$	708.78	\$	3,000.00
Westside Lutheran	\$ 1,000.00	\$	2,250.00	\$	1,000.00
Augustana Lutheran	\$ 1,100.00	\$	1,100.00	\$	1,100.00
<b>Domestic Poverty Ministries</b>		\$	-	\$	-
Community Outreach	\$ 2,600.00	\$	2,600.00	\$	2,500.00
Needy Families	\$ 1,860.00	\$	546.40	\$	1,500.00
Charis Ministry	\$ 2,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 850.00	\$	850.00	\$	850.00
St Francis House	\$ 1,200.00	\$	1,200.00	\$	-
Safe Families	\$ 1,000.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	2,000.00
Kid's Against Hunger	\$ 900.00	\$	900.00	\$	900.00
Food to You Mobile Food Pantry	\$ 2,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	1,600.00
The Banquet	\$ 1,100.00	\$	691.56	\$	1,000.00
Necessities for Neighbors	\$ 200.00	\$	3,000.00	\$	300.00
Ayuda	\$ 500.00	\$	-	\$	-
<b>Educational</b>					
Shetek Bible Camp	\$ 225.00	\$	225.00	\$	225.00
Lutheran Outdoors	\$ 1,625.00	\$	3,625.00	\$	1,625.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$ 500.00	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
PreSchool Scholarships	\$ -	\$	4,000.00	\$	-
Camp Counselor Scholarships	\$ 1,000.00	\$	-	\$	1,000.00
Seminary Scholarships	\$ 1,250.00	\$	-	\$	1,250.00
Augustana PACT	\$ 1,600.00	\$	300.00	\$	500.00
<b>South Dakota Synod</b>		\$	-	\$	-
Mission Support - SDS	\$ 88,305.35	\$	76,100.00	\$	82,892.00
Crossroads Conference Dues	\$ 300.00	\$	300.00	\$	300.00
<b>God's Work Our Hands</b>		\$	-	\$	-
GWOH Seed Money	\$ 1,000.00	\$	641.89	\$	1,000.00
<b>World Missions</b>		\$	-	\$	-
World Hunger(SD Synod)	\$ 2,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
Global Missions	\$ 4,495.00	\$	4,495.00	\$	4,495.00
Missionary Support to Columbia					
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 126,360.35</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>120,033.63</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>123,787.00</b>

\*This does not include the almost \$30,000 given by members to Necessities to Neighbors and Global Missions





# Income-Expenses Continued

	<b>2020 Budget</b>		<b>2020 Actual</b>		<b>2021 Budget</b>
<b>Staff Expense:</b>					
Pastoral Staff	\$ 419,278.72	\$	419,773.91	\$	425,275.63
Support Staff	\$ 669,649.21	\$	571,008.26	\$	643,140.07
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,088,927.93</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>990,782.17</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,068,415.70</b>
	<b>2020 Budget</b>		<b>2020 Actual</b>		<b>2021 Budget</b>
<b>Office Expense</b>					
Office Supplies	\$ 6,400.00	\$	6,286.92	\$	5,000.00
Postage	\$ 5,000.00	\$	5,385.73	\$	5,000.00
Hospitality	\$ 4,000.82	\$	2,346.38	\$	4,000.00
Employee Appreciation	\$ 1,000.00	\$	46.38	\$	1,000.00
Software Subscription Services	\$ 12,000.00	\$	11,177.55	\$	12,000.00
Computer IT Support	\$ 23,000.00	\$	26,173.21	\$	26,000.00
Church Online	\$ -	\$	-	\$	3,000.00
Office Equipment	\$ -	\$	9,656.37	\$	-
General Fund Envelopes	\$ 1,000.00	\$	1,173.29	\$	750.00
Synod Assembly Fees	\$ 3,000.00	\$	-	\$	3,000.00
Leadership Development	\$ 1,000.00	\$	305.00	\$	1,000.00
Communications - Social Media	\$ 2,165.00	\$	3,025.95	\$	2,165.00
Advertising Expense	\$ 3,425.00	\$	784.69	\$	3,425.00
Bank Charges	\$ 3,200.00	\$	2,970.54	\$	2,800.00
Copier Support	\$ 12,000.00	\$	16,132.95	\$	15,000.00
Faith Chest Expense	\$ 3,000.00	\$	1,597.50	\$	3,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 80,190.82</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>87,062.46</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>87,140.00</b>
<b>Program Expense:</b>					
Music Ministry	\$ 15,500.00	\$	12,580.83	\$	15,500.00
Children Ministry	\$ 41,700.00	\$	14,826.25	\$	41,700.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 9,000.00	\$	5,378.60	\$	9,000.00
Confirmation Ministry	\$ 2,400.00	\$	1,200.59	\$	2,400.00
Adult Ministry	\$ 3,800.00	\$	370.53	\$	3,800.00
Senior Adult Ministry	\$ 6,600.00	\$	2,766.61	\$	6,600.00
Connecting Ministry	\$ 8,650.00	\$	7,304.58	\$	9,350.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 87,650.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>44,427.99</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>88,350.00</b>
Stewardship Expense	\$ 1,000.00	\$	959.25	\$	750.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>959.25</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>750.00</b>
Library Expense	\$ 2,000.00	\$	796.60	\$	2,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>796.60</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>
Utilities	\$ 57,000.00	\$	51,252.44	\$	58,500.00
Insurance	\$ 27,000.00	\$	26,204.40	\$	27,000.00
Property Maintenance/Expense	\$ 37,000.00	\$	53,124.57	\$	55,000.00
Snow Removal	\$ 11,000.00	\$	4,533.81	\$	9,000.00
Building/Property Supplies Expense	\$ 12,500.00	\$	18,845.13	\$	16,000.00
Frontage/Real Estate Taxes	\$ 3,400.00	\$	3,420.06	\$	3,600.00
Van Repairs	\$ -	\$	468.69	\$	-
Lawn Care	\$ 5,000.00	\$	312.17	\$	5,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 152,900.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>158,161.27</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>174,100.00</b>
Miscellaneous - Rejuvenation Fund	\$ -			\$	125,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ -</b>				
<b>Grand Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 1,539,029.10</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,402,223.37</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,669,542.70</b>
<b>Net Operating Total:</b>	<b>\$ (36,234.10)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>147,955.98</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>

# Income-Expenses Continued



Offsetting Income	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Facility Usage		\$5,150.00	\$3,500.00
PPP Income	\$ -	\$186,058.00	\$0.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$5,000.00	\$5,065.00	\$6,000.00
Faith Chest Income	\$7,000.00	\$240.00	\$660.00
Faith & Family Income	\$1,000.00	\$303.00	\$1,200.00
Youth - Programming	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	
Sunday School Income		\$908.55	\$2,400.00
Vacation Bible School	\$2,400.00	\$516.68	\$8,670.00
Coffee Corner	\$8,670.00	\$221.71	\$0.00
PreSchool - Space Rental	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Childcare Space Rental	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
PeaceCare PreSchool Work Comp	\$3,360.00	\$3,360.00	\$3,360.00
Misc. Income	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Senior Ministry Income	\$3,000.00	\$232.00	\$3,000.00
Transfer in from prior year	\$0.00	-	\$100,000.00
<b>Total Offsetting Income:</b>	<b>\$38,030.00</b>	<b>\$207,454.94</b>	<b>\$135,190.00</b>



# 2019 Summary of Accounts

## 2020 Summary of Accounts

	Dec 2019 Ending Balance	Dec 2020 Ending Balance
<b>CASH:</b>		
General Fund Checking	\$ 25,455.74	\$ 107,408.84
Peace Lutheran Endowment Fund	\$ 137,754.10	\$ 137,942.07
Business Savings Account	\$ 1,343.41	\$ 3,751.06
<b>Sub total:</b>	<b>\$ 164,553.25</b>	<b>\$ 249,101.97</b>
Special Funds	\$ 192,833.24	\$ 180,201.21
Current Mortgage Fund	\$ 33,042.10	\$ 1,375.25
Petty Cash Fund	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 390,528.59</b>	<b>\$ 430,778.43</b>

Special Funds:	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expenses	Ending Balance
<b>Children &amp; Youth</b>				
Children Yth Camp	\$ 5,630.13	\$ 3,862.01	\$ 2,125.00	\$ 7,367.14
Children's Ministry	\$ 226.35	\$ 240.00	\$ 89.39	\$ 376.96
Youth Programs Designated	\$ 838.27	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 838.27
Youth Gathering Fund	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
Summer Youth Trips	\$ 1,173.83	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,173.83
Youth Servant Trip	\$ 986.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 986.77
HyVee Cards	\$ (450.07)	\$ 12,310.00	\$ 5,923.36	\$ 5,936.57
Youth event payments	\$ 1,301.45	\$ -	\$ 1,301.45	\$ -
Youth Programming	\$ 45.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45.00
Giving Jar	\$ 13,944.73	\$ 3,355.56	\$ 4,275.18	\$ 13,025.11
Christmas Program Offering	\$ 2,026.59	\$ 35.00	\$ 529.64	\$ 1,531.95
Scrips Program	\$ 11,997.40	\$ 63,490.77	\$ 60,145.19	\$ 15,342.98
Confirmation	\$ 3,505.78	\$ 765.00	\$ 1,252.01	\$ 3,018.77
Fundraising Children & Youth	\$ 6,552.60	\$ 5,310.00	\$ 12,351.33	\$ (488.73)
<b>Total Children &amp; Youth</b>	<b>\$49,778.83</b>	<b>\$91,368.34</b>	<b>\$87,992.55</b>	<b>\$53,154.62</b>
<b>Music</b>				
Memorial Music & Misc	\$ 7,322.74	\$ 310.00	\$ 68.00	\$ 7,564.74
Music Camp Inc/Exp	\$ -	\$ 341.22	\$ 341.22	\$ -
Adult Choir Funeral Gifts	\$ 771.84	\$ -	\$ 8.10	\$ 763.74
<b>Total Music</b>	<b>\$ 8,094.58</b>	<b>\$ 651.22</b>	<b>\$ 417.32</b>	<b>\$ 8,328.48</b>

# Summary of Accounts Continued



Ministries	Beginning Balance	Restricted		Ending Balance
		Revenue	Expenses	
Connecting People - Xmas Dinner	\$ 2,010.97	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,010.97
Stephen Minsitry	\$ 1,730.48	\$ 75.00	\$ 228.15	\$ 1,577.33
VBS - Bilingual	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75.00
Start Up Programs	\$ 744.24	\$ 230.00	\$ 261.22	\$ 713.02
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Gr	\$ 30,486.69	\$ -	\$ 865.89	\$ 29,620.80
Rent Assistance/Needy Families	\$ -	\$ 5,110.00	\$ 1,565.38	\$ 3,544.62
St Dysmas	\$ 368.10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 368.10
Global Mission Peace Bank	\$ 24.31	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24.31
Prayer Shawl Ministry	\$ 1,385.04	\$ 421.36	\$ 730.33	\$ 1,076.07
Global Missions	\$ 8,221.45	\$ 3,253.26	\$ 10,566.66	\$ 908.05
World Hunger	\$ 218.84	\$ 1,486.00	\$ 1,704.84	\$ -
Orphan Ministry	\$ 88.78	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 88.78
Necessities for Neighbors	\$ 6,622.62	\$ 26,357.81	\$ 11,440.97	\$ 21,539.46
Banquet	\$ 411.12	\$ 15.00	\$ -	\$ 426.12
Health Wellness Ministry	\$ 509.02	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 909.02
<b>Total Ministries</b>	<b>\$ 52,896.66</b>	<b>\$ 37,348.43</b>	<b>\$ 27,363.44</b>	<b>\$ 62,881.65</b>
<b>Designated/Undesignated</b>				
Designated Income/Expense	\$ 17,124.58	\$ 12,982.22	\$ 30,961.49	\$ 345.31
Designated Memorials	\$ 8,146.50	\$ 14,955.00	\$ 5,795.00	\$ 16,106.50
Undesignated Memorials	\$ 2,405.63	\$ 3,245.00	\$ -	\$ 5,650.63
<b>Total Designated/Undesignated</b>	<b>\$ 27,676.71</b>	<b>\$ 31,182.22</b>	<b>\$ 36,756.49</b>	<b>\$ 22,102.44</b>
<b>Peace</b>				
Peace Shop	\$ (849.70)	\$ 869.70	\$ -	\$ 20.00
Coke Machine	\$ 493.09	\$ 2,666.82	\$ 2,761.28	\$ 398.63
Flowers for Altar	\$ 586.40	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 586.40
Peace Meals	\$ 2,195.51	\$ 65.00	\$ -	\$ 2,260.51
Wedding Fees in Out	\$ 4,523.27	\$ 3,875.00	\$ 4,850.00	\$ 3,548.27
Shuttle Bus Account	\$ 1,266.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,266.00
Revolving assistance fund	\$ 17.05	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17.05
Peace Quarterly Mission	\$ 685.62	\$ -	\$ 359.44	\$ 326.18
Sanctuary Improvements	\$ 392.07	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 392.07
Capital Improvement	\$ 13,119.45	\$ 3,065.18	\$ 246.40	\$ 15,938.23
Continuting Ed	\$ 497.68	\$ -	\$ 497.68	\$ -
Library Dedicated	\$ 1,154.16	\$ 176.38	\$ -	\$ 1,330.54
Bequest proceeds	\$ 25,307.39	\$ 4,097.26	\$ 25,371.46	\$ 4,033.19
Endowment Gifts	\$ 730.00	\$ 9,083.86	\$ 8,307.97	\$ 1,505.89
Endowment Operating	\$ 3,806.05	\$ 8,309.76	\$ 6,151.28	\$ 5,964.53
<b>Total Peace</b>	<b>\$ 53,924.04</b>	<b>\$ 32,208.96</b>	<b>\$ 48,545.51</b>	<b>\$ 37,587.49</b>



# Summary of Accounts Continued

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<b>Adult Education</b>								
Adult Ed Events	\$	133.02	\$	245.00	\$	331.88	\$	46.14
Adult Ed Book Sales	\$	290.00	\$	743.50	\$	623.75	\$	409.75
<b>Total Adult Education</b>		<b>\$423.02</b>		<b>\$988.50</b>		<b>\$955.63</b>		<b>\$455.89</b>
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>\$192,793.84</b>		<b>\$193,747.67</b>		<b>\$202,030.94</b>		<b>\$184,510.57</b>





**South Dakota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
 God's work, Our hands.



Dear Siblings in Christ of the South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

"But we had hoped" – is probably the most used phrase of 2020. However, this is also the phrase of the two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus after Christ's death and resurrection. While on the road wrestling with things

that they cannot understand, Jesus joins them on the road, sharing with them how all of these things rested in God all along. It is not until the breaking of the bread that the holy heartburn the two disciples felt all along propels them to run back to their friends to share that Christ truly is alive and not dead, and that therefore his followers need to live into the promise that they too are alive and that death has lost its power.

I cannot help but come to understand that this story is our story. It has always been our story, but 2020 has brought this story alive for me in new and profound ways. We too have found ourselves saying countless times this year, "but we had hoped." We too wrestled with the hard questions about what to make of the events of this past year as they unfolded in our life. We have wished many times to go "back to normal." As I heard from people, I invited them to expound on what going back to normal means to them. Creating this space allowed for a deeper reflection on who we are as people of God in South Dakota. Jesus accompanied the disciples on the road and shared scripture with them to open their eyes to God's continued provision and presence in the world. Even in the midst of these life-altering and events of Christ's death and resurrection God is alive and at work. My staff and I have accompanied your community of faith during this life-altering pandemic assuring you that God's Holy Spirit is inspiring and sustaining.

Early on, we hosted weekly Zoom meetings for rostered and lay leaders. We continue these meetings on a monthly basis. Task forces were created to provide resources and training for congregations to continue ministry, such as "Canvas" an online resource platform and network for everything educational. Two worship documents and guidance were created: "Extending the Table, Expanding Participation" and "Come Let us Worship in a New Way." I can say that the pandemic and the challenges of living into a new way of being church has created some heartburn. Many may not call it a holy heartburn, but remember neither did the disciples until they sat at the table with Jesus and ate. Only when bread was broken, and wine was poured, did they remember the promises that God's got them and that they have nothing to fear. I pray that you too will come to recognize and interpret your heartburn as *holy heartburn* that empowers you to be church in a new and different way for the sake of the Gospel.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Now, as we move forward, let's commit ourselves to journey together in Christ, and in Christ alone.

*C. Hagmaier*

Journeying with you in Christ,  
 Rev. Constanze Hagmaier  
 Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA





## 2020 Annual Report to Congregations

# Life Stories Take Shape at LSS

LSS helps to transform the lives of people of all ages, faiths, races and economic status with professional, confidential and affordable services. With vital services offered statewide, LSS touched the lives of those we serve 38,099 times last year. LSS is where life stories take shape. We strive to care for, support and strengthen those in need, bringing clarity, stability, family and support to people of all ages, families of all kinds and communities of all sizes.



*"I honestly don't know what we would be doing without LSS. The extra bit of normalcy is what matters most right now (COVID-19 pandemic). If my daughter didn't have routine, I think she would be more scared or confused about what is happening."*  
– first responder parents of children at LSS Childcare & Education Services

LSS has assisted with **4,184 ADOPTIONS SINCE 1920**. We are ready for a second century of service.

The COVID-19 pandemic created many challenges. LSS has reacted quickly, safely and compassionately to offer many of our services using telehealth technology. It is a good alternative for individuals and families experiencing overwhelming stress and anxiety associated with separation and isolation.

Clients receiving outpatient counseling experienced a **23%** reduction in symptoms from the first session to the fourth session.

LSS continues to improve its capacity to deliver trauma-informed care. **91%** of youth in Psychiatric Residential Treatment and **83%** of youth in Foster Care showed a reduction in trauma symptoms upon discharge.

**85%** of clients who received financial counseling reported reduced stress after their session. **88%** of clients participating in a debt management plan successfully completed their payments.

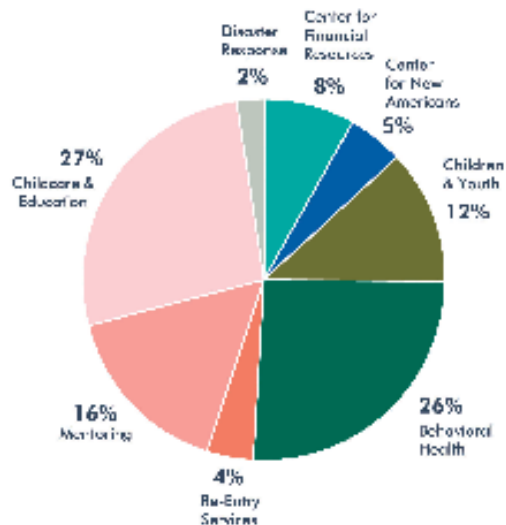
**100%** of the residents of the New Alternatives Intensive Independent Living Services improved their independent living skills and improved their overall wellness and health.

Youth who participate in the Arise Shelter Care are successful. **90%** of youth are discharged to safe and stable housing.

For 100 years, LSS has not just been about looking at one person and trying to help them with their situation, but coming from a bigger, more holistic picture. It's not just one person's life today, it's about what do we do to make things better into the future, for other people.

Betty Oldenkamp  
President and CEO

## How Your Gift is Used





## A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Dear friends in Christ,

This year has been a challenging one! The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the church and society. We have had to shift the ways we engage in ministry from a focus on in-person worship and meetings to livestream worship, virtual meetings and gatherings in the parking lot. We have had to shift to teaching children at home and working from home. We have not been able to travel to see friends or relatives or to celebrate life events. This has also been a time to address economic and social justice issues, to shift our thinking and our way of life.

In times such as this, our baptism in Christ makes a difference and makes us different. Like Christians before us, we recall that God is faithful to God's promises and God's people. We see that God enables us to connect with one another even when we are separated. Shifts in the world invite us to be innovative in how we do God's work and reach out to all ages in making disciples. We see that God is at work not only in our buildings but beyond them as well. We have found new ways to serve our neighbors and reach those in need.

As we experience this time of uncertainty, we sense something new emerging. In many places there are new strategies and renewed energy for ministry, often generated by emerging leaders. We have developed a framework to build on, and now is the time to engage in hard work together. As you do in your congregation, we want our collaborative efforts to be both faithfully thoughtful and sustainable. We want to build up the body of Christ today and for the future.

Looking across the church, I am grateful for your generous giving of time, talents and resources. Yes, God does continue to bless us! God will provide both relief from life's struggles and hope for a stronger church, God's church. We do not need to know how the future will unfold. As members in the body of Christ, we need only trust that God is with us and will provide.

Building up the body of Christ together,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." —Ephesians 4:11-16*





In the early verses of Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus, a city on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of a river and at the intersection of three trading routes. The letter was written about ten years after the church had started. During the early years of this congregation, Jews and Gentiles from several ethnicities and nationalities had come together to form "one body." Paul was aware that they had done well and commended them for their faith and love.

The word "one" appears more than seven times in the first four verses. This reflects the importance Paul gave to being called into the "unity of Christ." He wanted to note that, although many of the church members came from far off, there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." This oneness reflects God's gift of reconciliation in Christ.

A second emphasis from Paul was that, as believers, they were to "bear with one another in love." This would require humility, gentleness and patience as each of them practiced their faith. It would require tolerance to "maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

A third emphasis was that each person had been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. Because the Ephesian church was a young congregation and its members were just beginning in their faith journey, their understandings were often tossed to and fro. But as they grew in faith, each person contributed to building up the body of Christ.

The fourth and final emphasis was that by "speaking the truth in love," each person must grow into Christ. This means taking time to learn about one another and their gifts. Knowing these gifts, we can do God's work both within and beyond the faith community. When there are decisions to make or relationships to reconcile, we know to begin with prayer and reflection, always desiring to speak the truth in love — not for our own benefit but for God's glory, that we might become more complete.

As our members and friends gather today, whether face-to-face or online, we are reminded of our calling into "unity in Christ." We come from many places and work in many contexts, and yet we recognize "one Lord, one faith, one baptism."

Whether new to a worshipping community or further along the journey, we realize that humility, gentleness and patience are required both in the good times and especially in times of uncertainty and struggle. God wants us to be more complete through our work. Christ provides the way. The Holy Spirit is with us for guidance and courage. Each of us has been given the gifts to be complete, and through our faithfulness we will grow stronger and work together as one body.

**LET US PRAY: LORD, LET THE WORDS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL DWELL IN US DEEPLY. MAY WE EMBRACE THE RECONCILING POWER OF ONENESS WITH CHRIST. MAY THIS ONENESS GUIDE OUR CONGREGATION AS WE LIVE INTO THE NEW REALITIES OF THESE TIMES. AS WE MEET NEW PARTNERS IN MINISTRY, MAY WE TAKE TIME TO GET TO KNOW THEM WITH PATIENCE, HUMILITY AND LOVE. HELP US TO SEE HOW SHARING OUR GIFTS WILL MAKE YOUR WORK EASIER AND MORE FULFILLING WHILE BRINGING ALL OF US CLOSER TO CHRIST. MAY THE BLESSINGS YOU GIVE EACH DAY STRENGTHEN US TO A LIVING, DARING CONFIDENCE IN YOUR GRACE. AMEN.**