



Peace
Lutheran Church

2021 Annual Report

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PLC.Life



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Whenever I write an Annual Report I am fascinated to look back at the road we have been on the last 12 months! As is true every year there have been changes and challenges, as well as much to celebrate and anticipate!

Staffing changes

The Staff at Peace is made up of an amazing group of people who are dedicated, creative and fun to work with! And this year we have had to say some good-byes and hellos.

In the area of Worship and Music, we said goodbye to our long-time (and founding) **Bell Choir Director, Maurine Pederson**. Maurine had been instrumental (pun intended) in securing gifts to purchase and grow the number of bells and chimes used by the choir. Over the years our bell players have grown in their skill and continue to provide beautiful music for our worship thanks to Maurine. We are fortunate that **Nancy Leander** has stepped up to be the next Bell Choir Director.

We are also grateful that **Darya Levesque** agreed to expand her hours and take on the responsibilities of **Worship Media Coordinator** after Audrey Shattuck's departure.

At the end of May our **Business Manager, John Hilleson**, retired after faithfully serving Peace for a number of years. Before he left he carefully trained his replacement, **Teresa Neugebauer**, to fill that role.

We were very excited that our Youth Ministry team was able to find and call a candidate to complete our Faith Formation staff. **Deacon Amanda Randall** started in December in her role as **Faith Formation Director—Youth and Family**. She joins Pam Tetzlaff (Faith Formation Director—Children's and Confirmation Ministry) and Holly Marty (Faith Formation Director—Confirmation and Adult Ministry). We are looking forward to having a fully-staffed team in 2022!

And maybe no one was more surprised than **Pastor Chris Matson** when the Spirit led her to accept the call to serve Church on the Street, following Pastor Rebel's departure. Our congregation has been so blessed over the past five years that Pastor Chris sojourned with us! It was hard to let her go. But we have learned over the years that the Holy Spirit is faithful, and we trust that Spirit will richly provide for us. A Call Committee has been formed and is in the process of interviewing several pastoral candidates, hoping to have one to recommend to the congregation soon.

Rejuvenation Fund

When we paid off the mortgage in September of 2020, 3

many members chose to continue their giving to grow a Facilities Rejuvenation Fund. Their gifts have been timely when we suddenly found ourselves needing to replace not only the A/C for the sanctuary (\$30,000) but the A/C for the fellowship hall, too (\$31,000). We also were

able to be good stewards of our parking lot by crack-sealing the places that needed it (\$3,400). And we have updated the main bathrooms off the Gathering Area (\$30,000). We are making plans to replace the garage in 2022. We will continue to maintain a \$100,000 balance in that fund to cover emergency repairs.

Peace NEXT

At a Special Congregational Meeting in October, the Congregation voted to proceed with a Capital Campaign to raise the needed funds for the first phase of Peace NEXT estimated to cost \$7 million dollars. It is a bold and visionary step to increase our capacity for ministry, making possible brand new areas of ministry.

The Capital Campaign will conclude at the end of February, and assuming that the congregation will generously respond, the final phases of planning will get rolling and we could be breaking ground before the end of summer!

Looking ahead

Besides getting started on new construction, and welcoming a new pastor to join the team, we are continuing to work on several long-term goals set by Council. Those goals are found in the Council President's report and they will impact the ministry at Peace in ways just as significant as new building space.

I couldn't ask for better partners in ministry than the congregation of Peace Lutheran and the Church Council. And I am truly privileged to work with the Peace Pastors and Staff each and every day! Thank you for the gift of serving you in 2021!

Pastor Paul Stjernholm
Senior Pastor





**“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”
Ecclesiastes 3:1**

The most quoted verse from the book of Ecclesiastes, we can relate to the dichotomy presented, that each matter under heaven has its own time. We get that there is “a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away, and a time to gather together.” What we wrestle with most is discerning in what time we are in.

2021 did not see a return to normal, at least not in the way that we might have hoped in early 2020. Instead, it came with its joys and challenges. And with each joy and challenge, new opportunities for life and ministry together. A few of the highlights for me include:

A revamp of confirmation with the addition of the University Model as an independent track, the welcome of parents in the Journey Together times, helping to bridge the gap between what students learn in confirmation and caring conversations at home. It has been a joy to see the initial results. In particular, the conversations between parents have been a powerful reminder of how we can be connected and supported in our life of

faith. Thanks to Holly Marty, who has been at the forefront of moving these changes in vision and organization.

Another highlight has been the formation of a Youth Ministry Team made up of adults and students. The task of reshaping our ministry with young people is long, hard work that will require lots of energy. But, the end will be worth it. In November, to help push this transformation forward, the congregation called Deacon Amanda Randall, and we look forward to her ministry amongst us.

One of the hallmarks of Peace’s ministry is children’s ministry. The children of this congregation bring so much energy and personality to us. Whether Sunday/Wednesday School, VBS, summer camp, or one of the music offerings, it is such a blessing to have all of these kids with whom to share God’s love. Thanks to Pam Tetzlaff, who offers great planning and coordination of all the volunteers that make this happen. And to Darya Levesque and all of the musical programming made possible for our kids.

2022 will be another year like none other at Peace Lutheran. I look forward to where the Holy Spirit calls us NEXT. Thanks to all of you, everyone connected to this ministry who travels the road together.

In Peace,

Pastor Jonathan



“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

It’s true that 2021 was a year full of things that made us weary. We were worn out by serving others in a world full of needs (which is a great kind of being tired!). And we were also tuckered out by all the struggles and pain, the dissension and disagreements, the illness and the loss. There are a lot of words to describe **2021**, but “uneventful” is definitely NOT one of them.

As a church community, we made our way through the year together – and created some truly amazing connections even when circumstances haven’t been ideal:

- We continued to gather for **worship** – six times most weeks, but in excess of 15 times on weeks of special celebration, like Christmas and Easter. And, each time, we heard the good news of Christ’s powerful gift of love that truly does **claim** our lives and **overcome** the ills of this world....and we need to be reminded of that over and over and over again.
- We answered so many **calls** to love and care for one another and the world around us – by serving as Stephen Ministers and Communion Visitors, by providing worship at local nursing homes and assisted living centers, by walking with families without a church connection through the loss of a loved one, or by listening to the stories of our geographical neighbors that we are called to get to know better.
- We have had **tough conversations** that push us to a better understanding of others in forum groups and our My Story gatherings, Enneagram classes and support groups. By engaging in scripture and each other’s lives we have worked to move from a place of misunderstanding and dissention to a place of connection and healing.

And, as we look forward to **2022**, we know that our God will continue to call us into the messes and heartaches of our world to love and care for others who desperately need to know God’s love

just as much as we do!

In fact, in our recent engagement with the **ELCA’s Congregations Lead Initiative**, part of our joint call is to figure out how to **welcome**



those who haven’t found a sense of belonging in the church before, to listen to their stories and to create space in our lives and community for the wide variety of people who are Children of God.

We will continue to **share stories** of how God is active in each of our lives and sharpen our skills of noticing God’s movement and stirrings in the world around us. We look forward to Lent when we will figure out together that there is **“More to Our Story”** – by talking about our individual lives and callings but also our shared story as Jesus-followers.

Yes, it’s true that life is challenging and wearisome at times....but it is also true that we have an incredibly faithful God and a welcoming church community that is always there to remind us again and again who we are and whose we are. And, with that knowledge in our heads and hope in our hearts, we will thrive yet again in 2022! I can’t wait to share another year with you!

Pastor Renae



Church Council President

In many ways, it's seemed that 2020 and 2021 has been an extra-long blended year of treading water. But in other ways, there were numerous blessings and developments that were exciting to witness, with many taking place right at Peace. I thought it might be helpful to give members a recap of what your Council, in addition to pastors, staff and special committee members, have been up to this past year.

Every year during our annual Council retreat, we set a new 5- year goal. So in addition to the 4 goals that Council has been working on, this year we decided to set a goal of growing our online ministry. We want to develop an online worship community that would include providing pastoral care, one that would include online participants in faith formation ministries, and one that would facilitate more online small group opportunities. We feel there are so many connections that could be made with those who choose to worship with us virtually.

We were in our first year of our goal to develop our faith community. This team has been attempting to address questions such as "What does welcome and inclusion look like, and how can we improve upon it?" We have been working on creating an inclusivity statement, which as you can image is no easy task.

Our Stewardship Team has not only been working tirelessly on strengthening financial stewardship, but also strengthening vocational callings and spiritual gifts, and how to go about

bringing those into the world. This always seems to be an ongoing task and one that is necessary for the sustainability of our congregation.

We were in the third year of our "claimed and called" goal whose purpose has been to build connections with our neighbors. We want to create a culture where all people connected to Peace can say, "I am claimed as I am and I am enough." We have invited people to share their individual and collective stories to create a sense of belonging and purpose. Infinity groups have been formed and we are working on finding better ways to interact with neighbors of Peace.

As you hopefully know by now, a special congregational meeting was held in October and members voted on launching a capital campaign to renovate our building! The purpose of the first phase of Peace NEXT will be to enlarge our gathering area, build a new music ministry hub and construct a new family activity center.

I feel thrilled to be a member of a vibrant church that values progress and inclusivity and hope you all do as well!

2021 was my last year serving as Council President and I have truly enjoyed getting to know the other council members who have offered up so many great suggestions and fresh ideas. Thank you all for giving me this opportunity to serve Peace.

Sincerely,

Carissa Dice

2021 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes



President Carissa Dice called the meeting to order at 12:30 January 31, 2021. A quorum was present. Pastor Paul led with an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes

The 2020 Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed. Bob Hanson made a motion to approve the minutes, Joe Bunkers seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously. Carissa thanked Linda Johnson for serving as secretary.

2020 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jamie Dooley presented the treasurer's report. Overall, Peace had a positive year. 1) In October we paid off the mortgage of approximately \$941,000. 2) Income was three percent more than projected in the 2020 budget. The PPE loan of \$186,000 helped. 3) Staff expenses were \$98,000 less than budgeted (partially related to not hiring a Youth Director). 4) Program expenses were also less than budgeted.

In expenses two areas were greater than what was budgeted: office expenses of \$87,062 and property expenses of \$48,000 for a new cooling unit.

A new fund called a Facilities Rejuvenation Fund has been created to replace the mortgage fund; it will be used toward repairs/renovations.

2020 showed a positive net operating income of \$147,955.98.

Amy Dreke made a motion to approve the report, and Linda Johnson seconded it. The motion passed.

Council Elections

Carissa thanked all who served on the council for 2020

The 2021 ballot was presented as follows:

- Dillon DeBoer—President
- Luanne Larson and Jared Nesje –Members at large for 3 year terms
- Rod Ward-member for 2 year term
- Evan Kuenzi and Audrey Prostrollo—Youth members

No additional nominations were received from the floor, so all nominees were elected by unanimous consent.

2021 Endowment Team Elections

The ballot was presented as follows:

- Tim Miller—3 year term; Matt Dreke, Ashley Kracke, Dillon DeBoer, Amy Dreke, Holly Marty, Pam Tetzlaff, and Adam Hatle.

No nominations were received from the floor; all nominees were elected by unanimous consent.

Nominating Committee

Thank you to those who served on the nominating committee for 2020: Amy and Matt Dreke, Dillon DeBoer, Holly Marty, and Ashley Kracke.

No additional nominations were received from the floor; the committee was elected by unanimous consent.

Pastor Reports

Pastor Paul

In March due to COVID, we had to shift to no in person church and gatherings. Thankfully, the congregation stepped up and continued giving with some people giving above their pledged amount.

Thanks to everyone who helped ensure that Peace's ministry can

continue to happen. The PPE loan also helped.

Pastor Paul thanked staff for meeting the COVID challenges with creativity and enthusiasm. The council and staff will be deciding when restrictions on worship can be removed.

Council now sets new 5-year goals each year. Goal #1 was to address Peace's space needs. We are finishing the third year of that goal and have a master plan. Pastor shared five slides showing the master plan, including a floor plan and views showing a new education wing and multi-use gym, new west and east entrances with doors aligning through a large hall, and an enlarged gathering space. The Design Team has created phases which will be shared with the congregation later this year.

Pastor Chris

This has been a year like no other. Chris thanked the entire worship crew for continuing to be creative and flexible by offering creative, new options: online, parking lot, lawn chair and modified in-person services. A positive benefit of the outdoor services has been that neighbors have noticed and sometimes stopped by.

We continue to serve our neighbors in a number of ways by supporting Charis ministries: Necessities for Neighbors in the parking lot and Food to You. Starting in January, the second Monday of each month, we will be an additional site for Feeding SD.

Council goals include the mission of being a welcoming and inclusive congregation/community. A team is working on that goal.

Pastor Jonathan

The year 2020 and COVID called on us to truly practice our Prayer of Good Courage. Peace had to move worship and activities online. Two years ago, we began the idea of planning for on-line services to broaden our role as a meaningful church community. One year ago, we offered our first on-line worship service. "Peace listens to the call of the Spirit" and what it means to worship.

Thanks to the staff for their focus on relationships and telling the story of Jesus in confirmation, Sunday School, and VBS—in spite of significant challenges.

We are forming a Youth Ministry Team to lead activities for youth and college adults.

Pastor Paul on behalf of Pastor Renae

Pastor Renae continues her focus of pastoral care ministries. A number of new Stephen ministers have been trained and offer ongoing pastoral care to those in need. The council goal of Claimed and Called has been addressed through sermons and various groups which "...put voice to our stories of how we are claimed and called by God to put into practice in our day to day life being Disciples of Christ."

Old Business —There was no old business.

New Business

Treasurer Jamie Dooley presented the 2021 Mission Plan, a balanced budget of \$1,669,542.70. That includes \$174,100 in expenses and a Rejuvenation fund of \$125,000. Questions were answered. Gene Nelson made a motion to approve the plan, and Joe Bunkers seconded it. Motion passed.

Pastor Jonathan closed the meeting with prayer. Carissa Dice adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Johnson, Church Council Secretary



New Members and Baptisms

Luka Achen
Jack Andersen
Debbie Anderson
Ron Anderson
Jenna Ayotte
Lucas Ayotte
Elizabeth Bitton
Allen Bradley
Berklee Brandt
Wendell Brandt
Jones Brown
Praxton Butzer
Ellen Cannefax
Sandie Childs
Caden Clem
Brodie Crevier
Parker Darger
Jim Dewey
Lisa Dewey
Michael Doss
Hadley Dunagan
Elijah Else
Jacob Else
Baylor Falk
Joshua Falk
Howard Flisrand
Christoffer Gilbertson
Brinlee Haugen
Kelly Haugen
Michelle Haugen
Hudson Haugestuen
Elizabeth Helm
Jason Helm
Sarah Helm
Slade Hildebrandt
Harper Sexton

Fletcher Kraft
Carter Langland
Owen Lehr
Elliana MacFarlane
Jason MacFarlane
Myra MacFarlane
Reagan Marks
Michael McBride
Ann Melham
Carson Miler
Justin Miller
Max Miller
Tricia Miller
Weston Miller
Beth Neal
Bennett Neu
Emma Neu
Matt Neu
Presley Neu
Renee Neu
Doug Newman
Ember Newman
Fitzpatrick Nolan
Joanna Nolan
Bill Nolz
Mary Nolz
Coral Olson
Jeff Olson
Lucy Olson
Atticus Ott
Mallory Park
Mara Park
Wren Park
Christopher Peters
Kari Peters
Cora Popham
Tyler Reiners

Rhonda Ribstein-Newman
Cora Rindsig
Lauren Robinson
Selina Rydell
Marv Schulz
Alleana Schwiesow
Denton Schwiesow
McKenna Schwiesow
Quinten Sedelmeier
Emmeline Sexton
Bonnie Skjerven
Jeff Skjerven
Caden State
Eliza Stotz
Jacob Stotz
Kristen Stotz
Mike Stotz
Nora Stotz
Quinn Strating
Austin Studenski
Krew Thies
Paityn Tillma
Rebecca Tillma
Ryan Tillma
Christopher Walker
Graham Walker
Ian Webster
Scott Wieseler
Jason Yttreiness
Kris Yttreiness
Lila Yttreiness
Reegan Yttreiness
Riley Yttreiness



MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Beginning membership:	4124
Baptized members received:	102
Baptized members removed:	68
Change:	
Year-End Members:	4158
Total Confirmed Members:	2816
Notables:	
Baptisms (15 and younger)	39
Baptized members confirmed:	56
Total number of people (including children) actively participating:	4114





Fern Swearingen Library

“Without libraries, what have we? We have no past, and we have no future.”
-Ray Bradbury

We are constantly reminded when starting a new year to move forward to not look back. It seems to be a theme for every new beginning. However, if we do not look back, how can we learn? The library this year has added new nonfiction books to the youth collection that will inspire young people to explore history and learn about topics that are relevant to our future. The series “Who Was,” “What Was,” and “Who Is” provides young readers the opportunity to grow in their knowledge of our world and the people who live among it. If you have not been down to the library to look at these delightful books, I encourage you to do so.

Peace Care continues to utilize the library space making a daily activity of reading and gaining knowledge through the written word. We have done our best to provide young people with the books and series that they enjoy which include: *Dogman*, *Babysitters Club Graphic novels*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, and books by Raina Telgemeier.

The Young Adult collection is moving into the future, adding popular series such as the *Lunar Chronicles* and *Daughter of Smoke and Bones series*. *The Hate You Give* and *If I Was Your Girl* encourages conversation and promotes understanding and are just a few books in this collection that address hard topics that face young adults.

If it is the past you wish to explore, we have added new historical fiction books to the collections. Delightful stories that are sweeping tales across the prairies and overseas to far-off lands. Popular authors such as Karen Kingsbury and Tracie Peterson lead readers into the past and future through vivid stories of family and love. The adult nonfiction section has also added some books about dinosaurs and presidents, and they are ready to find the right reader.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and visited the library this year. We are grateful for your support. As we move into the coming year, the library will continue to expand its collection of youth, young adult, and adult books, ensuring that when a patron enters the library, they will find a book that represents them and provides them with joy and comfort as they read. The library is a part of a vibrant community that welcomes all who enter. We are proud that the library gets to be a part of the mission of this church and we are looking forward to our future as we embrace our past.

Kara



The Peace Endowment offers a great opportunity to contribute to the present and future needs of Peace Lutheran Church. Contributions remain as principal in the Endowment into perpetuity. The Endowment Principal is now over \$166,000—a growth of \$24,000 over the last year.

Interest from the Fund this year was able to provide 12 scholarships for campers; an inflatable “Gaga Ball Pit” for Youth Ministries; and a Continuing Education scholarship for two of our staff members who are developing a brand new dimension to Peace’s ministry.

Two ongoing missions of the Endowment Team are to seek ways to educate the congregation about planning future gifts to Peace Lutheran and to the Endowment, and to say “thank you” to those who have made donations. Along those lines the team had planned an Endowment Dinner in November of 2021, which ended up being postponed. The new date for the Dinner is Sunday, April 30th, at a downtown location complete with musical guests!

As always, all donations to the Endowment our welcome whether they be a few dollars or gifts from end-of-life estates

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

Tim Olson, Chairman
Sheryl Johnson, Secretary
Brent Veeder, Treasurer
Craig Matson
Tim Miller

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

Tim Olson, Chairman



Building and Administration

As we turn the page to begin another year, we look back at some highlights of 2021:

- 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 making 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.
- After 20 years of running, the condensing unit in the fellowship hall stopped working. The decision was made to replace the unit and due to national supply chain issues everywhere, it took eight months to get a new one onsite and have it installed. Thank you to everyone who was patient through that process.
- New blacktop was added on west side of parking lot.
- Walls were painted in the preschool rooms, bathrooms in the preschool hall and some additional offices.
- Outside work was done to clean up some overgrown brush and tree branches. Attention was put in to cleaning up

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 Brock Contracting (Snow removal); Travis Electric (electrical); Climate Control (HVAC); Mr. Rooter (plumbing); Roto-Rooter; and Tru-Green. 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Panek, Facilities Manager



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

2021 has been a sigh of relief for us in Music & Worship as we have been able to offer special music all year. Although we had to make adjustments as to how the various groups performed in the first part of the year, we ended the year strong with our Christmas Concert, Christmas Cantata, live Children's Christmas Musical, and special music at ALL eleven Christmas Eve services.

With covid-19 concerns still looming at the beginning of 2021, we were able to find ways to creatively keep our music groups together, including having the Adult Choir sing in smaller ensembles and having individual soloists and instrumentalists offer special music at our services. As spring rolled around, we were able to have larger groups share their music. Aside from Peace Brass, Adult Choir, Adult Bells, Youth Handchimes and Bells, and Jubilation & Celebration children's choirs, we also were blessed by several outside groups, including Ann Okins' Handbells Quartet and the Sioux Falls Singing Legionnaires. Throughout the summer and into October, we offered lawn chair worship weekly at 11:20. This service was well received and is one we plan to bring back for the summer of 2022! In September, we enjoyed a weekend of Polka worship at our 8:00 and 9:00 services. In the summer and fall, we were fortunately able to resume many of our live music opportunities for our children again, including Music Camp and VBS, in-person Sunday/Wednesday School, and our Children's Christmas musical in December!

Of course, there is always change and with that we were saddened to have Maurine Pedersen retire as the Director of Adult Bells. She has been a staple here at Peace and has always gone above and beyond to share her gifts with Peace. She is greatly missed. Fortunately, Nancy Lenander was willing to assume the position of Director of Adult Bells, along with being Director of Adult Choir, Youth Bells, and Children's Handchimes. Also retiring from her position as pianist at the Saturday worship service was Pat Steele. She has been leading Saturday worship for many years and it was a tough decision for her to stop playing on Saturdays. She continues to direct the Adult Ministries and also "fills in" for us occasionally as a

pianist at worship. Once again, we were blessed when we were able to hire Denise Edwards as the Saturday worship pianist. Her piano skills are wonderful and she brings a joy to Saturday worship.

With most of our worship services and programs being live-streamed, we were able to add six more people to our Audio/Video team making them a total of 14. The team is involved in working the cameras, running the slides for worship and events, and handling the audio for both in-person and live-streamed events. If you happen to be by the sound booth at one of these services or events, be sure to express your thanks to this "behind-the-scenes" team who make it all happen.

Judy Lucas continues as our Worship coordinator and she has added two more to her team. Sonja Steever and Judy Hilleson both work with Judy Lucas to provide continued worship support for ALL of our worship services. They make a great team and allow for seamless worship to happen every week. Many thanks to these unsung heroes. Let's make 2022 a year of action – If you know you'll be at a church service, please sign up to volunteer for one of the many worship support opportunities, like ushering or serving communion. If everyone volunteered at one service throughout the year, we would have more than enough people serving all year long. I'm sure it would make life easier for our worship coordinators and our pastors.

As always, you can find Kyle Quanbeck at the organ leading traditional worship services or accompanying Adult Choir or Peace Brass. His willingness to step in and do what needs to be done in any area is always appreciated.





opportunities here at Peace. We will continue to provide worship and music opportunities throughout 2022 in whatever way it is possible to do so in hopes that you will find peace and joy in your life through these opportunities.

Thank you 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 to 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

Also, many thanks to the members of Spirit of Peace, Lifeline, Saved By Grace, Peace Brass, Peace Symphonic Band, Peace Jazz Band, Peace String Trio, Adult Choir, Adult Bells, Jubilation Choir, Celebration Choir, Youth Bells, Children's Handchimes, and the many instrumentalists and soloists who were able to give of their time and talents to provide special music throughout 2021. You truly have blessed Peace throughout the year and I hope that you feel God's blessings on you.

I am thankful for Darya Levesque (Children's Music Director & Special Music Coordinator) for all her tireless efforts in working with the children's choirs, leading Sunday/Wednesday school music, directing Music Camp, directing the Christmas musical, and leading music for VBS. She also works in scheduling special music at all of our worship services, planning special services, such as our Polka and Blue Grass services, and coordinates all the scheduling of our A/V team in addition to providing the worship scripts for our camera team and helping prepare slides for worship.

I feel extremely blessed to be a part of Peace and to be able to share my musical gifts here. In addition to overseeing the music and audio/visual aspects of our worship services and programs, I continue to enjoy directing the Peace Brass and Symphonic Band and leading our contemporary worship teams – Lifeline, Spirit of Peace, and Saved by Grace.



We are still blessed with so many musical



Communication Ministry for 2021 again was video after video after video...after making so many videos when we were shut down in 2020, we continued making offering videos for worship every week. Some are talking heads of our pastors, sharing stories about this congregation's amazing work. Others are "wordy" videos of poetry and messages from Pastor Jonathan, sharing God's love through movement and photos. Plus, we continue sharing upcoming events and happenings through our Mission Opportunities videos – which are decided, produced, and edited every single week ahead of services.

PeaceNEXT is a new, big project that got its communication start this past year. The PeaceNEXT Communication Team developed an Introduction Video script that we got to put together. It included an explanation from Pastor Paul of the building plan, reasons why Peace is "at capacity" and stuffed full, as well as showcasing how Peace has grown in the past. We also began developing pledge cards and pieces needed for the campaign.

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

- We keep diving into our database (Planning Center), learning different ways it can serve Peace
- Connected PLC.Life to Planning Center's app (Church Center) and online info center to make communication easier and more direct for our members
- Continuing use of our Digital Bulletin (peacelutheran.com/Bulletin) since we stopped distributing paper copies to save both money and time – updated every week!
- Graphic designs: making announcements, logos, stories, social media posts, etc. easier to read and more visually appealing.
- Social media keeps growing. Facebook is now up to 2,154 Followers and 2,055 Page Likes. We continue to see some posts reach tens of thousands of people
- We continue to stream every service at peacelutheran.com/Live and on our [YouTube channel](#). Plus, we stream every 9:00am & 10:10am service to our Facebook Page.
- Daily Bread Devotion emails continue every single day, sent out via Mailchimp. We currently have 550 subscribers.
- 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 a billboard again inviting all to join us for Easter and Christmas worship!

Looking ahead, we will keep striving for the best when it comes to sharing how great Peace is and showing God's love to one another. I always look forward to finding new and improved ways of communication for our Peace family and I don't see 2022 being any different. Let's make this another awesome year!

Dustin Pederson
Director of Communication
dustin@peacelutheran.com



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.

2021

This year we were still met with having to deal with COVID and trying to become more creative with the ways that we fostered faith in church and at home. We had smart tv's installed in the Sunday School rooms so that we could minimize the amount of exposure the kids and volunteers had with each other. We had an in-person Sunday and Wednesday School option and an online option for all ages. We recorded the lesson video's ahead of time and had them shown in-person and online at the exact same time so that the ones at home could have the same experience as our in-person kids. Darya Levesque, the Children's Music Director also recorded music so that we could continue our Large Group Opening experience. We had 182 kids registered for in-person Sunday/Wednesday School, 31 registered for in-person 6th-7th grade Confirmation, 76 kids registered for online Sunday and Wednesday School and 11 registered for online 6th-7th grade Confirmation.

We were blessed to have had the ability to have our annual Children's Christmas program in person. We had a little over 70 kids participate by either playing in the prelude before the program, to acting, singing and learning lots of lines. The kids start learning the songs in September and with only 2 large group rehearsals, learn the whole program. A huge thanks to Darya Levesque who is the musical director and Bob Levesque for all the sound and technical work that he does and the many volunteers it takes from set-up to managing kids to tear down.

One of the highlights each year is our annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) event. We were so thrilled to be able to host that in-person! We had about 300 kids attend either in the morning or in the evening. It was so good to be able to do something "normal" and have the kids back together again in the building! There is nothing better than to hear them singing all together in one place sharing their love for God.

We continued with milestones happening in-person. 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 making Easter bags for Church on the Street and packed backpacks filled with school supplies for Lutheran World Relief.

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.

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 382 kids enrolled in the fall for Sunday and Wednesday School.

I want to give a huge thanks to Tamara Shaw, who was the Assistant Director of Children's Ministries up until July. She has been a tremendous asset to this ministry, took on several "behind-the-scenes" duties, putting together all the videos for our online Sunday and Wednesday School option, spent several hours organizing VBS materials and activities and countless other duties that are not mentioned. Thank you so much for your time, the relationships you have built and the many lives you have touched and are continuing to touch and being willing to continue in the program as a volunteer. We wish you all the best!

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Tetzlaff
Director of Faith Formation
Children, Early Teens & Family



^^^ 10:10 4th-5th grade Class

<<< AM VBS 2021



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 319 middle and high school students meeting on a regular basis!

This past year brought out some new ideas to help further develop our Confirmation program. Two new programs were launched:

- 1) Journey Together – faith conversations that happen at home are the most foundational parts of our student's faith. To help nurture and encourage these conversations, we've invited parents to join students one session per month where we have conversation between student and parent, a time of learning, and then an opportunity for parents to talk with other parents while students engage in their own team-building activity.
- 2) Family Combo – a new family-based home learning option for 6th and 7th graders. Meeting once a month, they learn the lesson together, then have activities to do together as a family throughout the month.
- 3) Peace University – for those students who would like to direct their learning a little more and have flexibility with scheduling, we've launched Peace University as an option for 8th and 9th grade Confirmation students. They meet once a month for a Journey Together session (students and parents), but then select from a variety of course options the other activities they will participate in. Each season (fall, winter, spring, summer) they receive a list of new options. Traditional style students, along with high school students and other adults, are invited to check out these courses as well!

Highlights from the program this year include:

- Bible Study – our 6th and 7th 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 8th and 9th 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.
- 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.
- Leading or Assisting with Worship – both 8th and 9th 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, 6th and 7th 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 – 10th graders and their parents participated 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 Dymas, 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 (6th & 7th grade), or Holly Marty (8th, 9th and 10th 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 Great Bear, ThunderRoad, tie blankets for Family Connections, packed food bags for Kids Against Hunger, ice skating, played games and went to the Corn Maze. If you'd like to help with planning, let Amanda Randall know!

HIGH SCHOOL

While some of our high school students (9th and first part of 10th 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 games and small groups. As we move into 2022, 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!

Some of our high school students had begun planning for the next **National Youth Gathering** (NYG), which was rescheduled to summer 2022. 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. Peace again had many campers enjoy time at Outlaw Ranch, Klein Ranch and NeSoDak.

In Christ,

Holly Marty

Director of Faith Formation: Adults & Confirmation



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, 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 education field for a few weeks 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 Prayer of Good Courage, with groups meeting throughout the week.

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, and discussion. Nearly 35 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, a driver for Meals on Wheels, a meal preparer for PeaceMeals, a quilter or knitter, a musician for worship, a counter or office volunteer, 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:
Adults & Confirmation





Seniors Ministry

SENIOR MINISTRY

The year of 2021 gave us a few more liberties in our Senior Ministries coming together for fellowship and programs. We were eager to get together and continued to require masks thru June of 2021. Even though we still faced challenges, Isaiah 41:10 comes to mind....

“So do not fear; for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Our theme for 2021 was “an Evening with...”

2021 Programs:

January 24: Pastor Paul and Feasibility Study Team

February 22: Matt Gassen, CEO, Feeding South Dakota

March 29: Ken Teunissen, SD Veterans Cemetery

April 20: Pastor Rebel Hurd, Church on the Street

May 24: Short Notice concert

June 28: Sing-a-Long with Pastor Paul and Sandra Larsen, Sertoma Park

July 26: Brad Jans, Thrivent Financial Planner

August 23: Pastor Paul, Peace NEXT, Imagining the Possibilities

September 27: Pastor Wayne Gallipo, St Dymas of SD Prison Ministry

October 25: Shannon Ausen, Engineer for City of Sioux Falls

November 24: Sioux Falls Chief of Police, Jonathan Thum

December 13: The highlight of the year was to gather for our first and last Potluck of the year, followed by singing Christmas carols in the sanctuary. Thanks to Nancy Lenander and Jackie Bailey for leading us in singing and thanks to the boy scouts for their awesome help!

Most meetings were available online and masks were required thru June.

Other Activities:

Over 480 **Birthday Cards** were mailed out in 2021 to our members 62 and older.

Please join us for our **Friday Morning Bible Study** at 10:00 for socialization prior to the 10 :30 Bible Study.

Transportation:

The Senior bus has increased ridership to the point we have now begun running for two services (9:00 and 10:10am). We also continue picking up for Friday morning Bible Study and for other special occasions. It is always so fun to see those smiling faces when the bus rolls up. A special thanks to Brian Moncur, Ken McQuisten and Joe Painter for volunteering your time and talents to drive. If you have an interest in joining the driver pool, please contact Ron@peacelutheran.com.

It's been a pleasure getting to know all of you and seeing how much you care for one another. THANKS to all of you!!

Respectfully submitted,

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





Peace Lutheran Preschool & Pre-K opened in January 1985. As of January 2022, we will be in our 37th year of operation.

- The preschool & pre-k 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 & pre-k 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 were privileged to have Pastor Chris come once a month for chapel time and will miss her greatly, but are very excited and blessed to be welcoming Pastor Renae to monthly chapel visits with the kiddos and continue to share with them God's amazing love and promise to 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 & pre-k experience. Shelley Bitz and Alyssa Avery continue to be a valued part of our teaching team!

Peace Lutheran Church continues to provide the preschool & pre-k 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 2021 and we are hopeful that 2022 will bring healthy kiddos and environments so we all can continue to love what we are here for!

DeAnna Dreesman,
Preschool Director



~Peace Care Daycare & Afterschool Program~

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. The program cares for approximately 85+ children through the year!

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 program cares for approximately 50 children through the year!

2021 Highlights:

As a State licensed program, Peace Care has had opportunities for grant funding through Child Care Services!

We continue to maintain high quality staff and keep our client turnover low!

Remained open during Covid outbreaks & maintained a healthy environment!

2022 Goals:

Continue to act as a “mentor program” for WestSide Lutheran by starting a licensed summer program in 2022!

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.....	\$696,253
~Registrations	
~Grants	
~Activity fees	
~Interest Income	

Expenses:

Payroll.....	\$615,842
~FICA	
~Workman’s Comp	
~ELCA Benefits	
~Training	
Program Expense.....	\$42,260
~Children materials	
~Food/snack	
~Activities/Fieldtrips	
Preschool Services.....	\$ 11,350
Utilities.....	\$ 3,600
~Building use	
Transportation.....	\$ 6,407
Office.....	\$ 8,119
~Advertising	
~Phone, postage, copier, etc...	
~Office supply	
~Computer related	





WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

The Women of Peace once again 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 2021 for the WELCA unit are Linda Jensen, Leader; Millie Horton, Treasurer and Kathy Porter, Recorder. Any woman wanting to be added to the email list for WELCA updates can contact Linda—310-9865, or lin-daajensen11@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 in the community.

The Sunrise Ladies Bible Study is meeting every Wednesday morning at 6:30 am on zoom. Ruth Circle meets the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 am in the Shalom Room, and Hannah Circle meets on the third Thursday of each month at 2 pm in the Shalom Room. Study materials are taken from the WELCA Gather magazine for both circles. There are also the Peace Quilters, Peaceful Stampers, and the Prayer Shawl groups for you to join. Please pick up a Womens' Ministries Booklet at the Welcome Center to get the contact names and numbers to find out more about any of these groups.

Many thanks to Holly Marty for organizing an online Women's Christmas Gathering "Love's Pure Light" 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. Many thanks also to Bev Philliber and Diane Feller for using Thrivent Action Teams and collecting the donations and delivering 2 full carloads of items to Good Sam. There were also collections for the local Veterans Service Center and Berakhah House, 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 2,320 items for the 2 projects, making many trips to deliver items.

The Prayer Shawl group made 170 shawls for those needing comfort and 20 were sent to the Good Sam Village. The rest of the shawls are available to members and pastors for those in need of them.

The Quilting group made 258 quilts! They were distributed to Lutheran World Relief (141) Children's Inn (26) the Furniture Mission (24), the Church on the Street (26), Glory House (19), and the Veterans Outreach (22). The Good Sam Village was given 11 lap robes. Peace Quilters sold lefse in November, and had their Quilt/Craft sale in December to earn money for purchasing supplies needed to make more quilts.

The Funeral Committee served 12 funerals during 2021, with 1,050 people served. Left over food was given to the families and friends, or taken to St. Francis House and Lifescapes as directed by the families. There were 83 servers, and 56 cakes provided.

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 2021: *Good Samaritan Village Hair Cuts and Christmas gifts *Veteran's Outreach Center, * The Berakhah House for Unhoused Veterans *Winter wear and other items for local school kids, Pueblo de Dios Vacation Bible School, Peace Families Christmas Gifts, Necessities for Neighbors, Family Visitation Center, St. Dysmas Christmas Meal and other needs, SOS, Pastor Appreciation gifts, Peace VBS, Lunch is Served, and Bethany Lutheran Nursing Home in SF for Christmas gifts for residents. The largest gift was for \$2,400 for Peace Lutheran Campers. 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 14 meeting at 6:30 pm 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 12, 13, and 16, 2022.



Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of Charis Ministry Partners, I would like to thank you for all the ways you have supported our ministry in 2021. Our partner congregations are the backbone of our organization; and without you we could not do what we do. You are the ones that support us financially, the ones that serve on our board, the ones that help with distributions, and you are our prayer partners.

My name is Cindy Haiar, and I started October 1, 2021 as the Director for Charis Ministry Partners. While I am new to this position, I am not new to Charis. I am a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and have served on the Charis board as their representative for over six years. I've also been a weekly volunteer at Food to You since the beginning of 2019 and have helped at the Necessities for Neighbors distribution every month at First Lutheran Church since that distribution started in September of 2018. I love the ministry that Charis is able to provide to our neighbors in the Sioux Falls area, it's far more than just handing out food and necessities. Our last distribution of the year was a dual distribution of both Food to You and Necessities for Neighbors together at First Lutheran Church. It was a busy night and we had record numbers for both programs, but the one moment that sticks out in my mind the most was when I received a gift. One of our regular guests, one that I visit with every month, because you truly do build friendships with them, stopped at my station even though they already had their food and necessities. They wanted to wish me a Merry Christmas and give me a gift, a tin of popcorn. There are no words to express what that gift meant, for someone who doesn't have much, to have thought of me and spent what was probably a lot to them on a gift for me. This is ministry, this is Charis, and this is why I love being a part of what we are doing.

With the help of one of our partner churches, WestSide Lutheran Church, we're in the process of building a new website. The new website (charissf.org) will be much more user friendly and easier to find. With their help, we have also updated our logos so they look more uniform and up to date. Next on my list is to start working on updating the brochures for both Food to You and Necessities for Neighbors, then I can start spreading the word in our community who Charis is and what we do.

2021 continued much like 2020, we stayed outside with our distributions for both Food to You and Necessities for Neighbors. We were able to bless over 3,700 families through Food to You and over 4,500 families through Necessities for Neighbors. We had generous people in our community step up and purchase turkeys at both Thanksgiving and Christmas; it was such a joy to be able to offer families a turkey for those holidays. Healthy Rides is our third program and it is normally pretty self-sufficient, however Covid-19 shook things up in the health industry and in other areas where rides were being given. A normal year for Healthy Rides was 1,200-1,400 rides; however in 2021 we will be well over 3,500 rides and 2022 is looking to be very similar.

Again, on behalf of Charis Ministry Partners, I would like to thank your congregation for all you do to help us help others. Because of your generosity, we don't just hand out food, necessities and give rides; we show God's love and grace to each and every guest we come in contact with.

Blessings,
Cindy Haiar
Director, Charis Ministry Partners



Church on the Street Annual Report- 2021



Well, hello! I am Pastor Chris Matson, the new pastor at Church on the Street. It is an honor and a thrill to accept this new call. At the same time, both Church on the Street and I miss Pastor Rebel Hurd! It was a beautiful day in October when she blessed us during her final worship. This past year, Pastor Rebel accepted a call to serve as Bishop Bill Tesch's Director of Evangelical Mission, to accompany other Mission Developers and new churches in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA. Thankfully, she is still behind the scenes mentoring me into this new call. For the past 13 years I've served as a pastor in the South Dakota Synod, most recently at Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls where I oversaw Worship and Music as well as serving with many of the mission partners, such as Church on the Street.

While I'm the new pastor, much of the amazing ministry remains the same. Long time staff and volunteers are active. Harriet Munson, Laundry with Love Director, stepped up and led during the pastoral transition. Her position is possible because it is financially underwritten by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Thank you for this partnership! The board is a *working* board, volunteering at a moment's notice to provide the support needed.

The Lord continues to provide new opportunities for relationships to grow and flourish. New churches are entering into a covenant partner relationship. Every time we're running short on a kit someone is looking for, another shipment of donations arrives - often from places we weren't even expecting. On top of donations of needed supplies, we've been blessed to have many people use Thrivent Action Team cards to provide financial support to buy kit supplies. Thank you Thrivent members for supporting Church on the Street!

It's amazing what being Church together does for all of God's beloved children. Giving and receiving the love of God happens in so many ways. In my short tenure, I have walked with families moving from a shelter into their own home, and others who are facing eviction. Still others are reeling from the effects of addiction, trafficking, and mental illnesses. In the hardest times in people's lives, Church on the Street is there providing a meal or a prayer or some other form of support. Whenever a Church on the Street staff or volunteer walks the streets we quite often meet with a smile because people know that person is there to offer a little something for their day and often a conversation begins. Communion is served out of backpacks and in the office at the Bishop Dudley where weekly pastoral care is available.

In times such as these, gathering as the people of God wherever we find ourselves is the only thing that can see us through because we are a people of a promise: that no matter what, we are God's and, in the words of the Apostle Paul, nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Being Church together means we pray for one another and celebrate what God is up to. God is at work providing a place for those often overlooked in our community. You are part of God's work in the world providing tangible grace and goodness. Thank you for all the ways you support this ministry! You are a blessing!

God's peace,
Pastor Chris Matson



Heartland Ephphatha Ministries operates to bring those who are Deaf and hard of hearing the message of Christ's love. We are part of the South Dakota ELCA Synod and are headquartered right here at Peace Lutheran Church. We have weekly interpreted worship every Sunday at 9:00 in American Sign Language. Sarah and Jason Andera are the directors and our board members are Angela and Mark Koterwski and Belinda and Jeff Panek. Together we provide worship, learning, fellowship and service opportunities for our community. This year we continued to have Bible studies and worship opportunities despite the pandemic. We stream our ASL interpreter on our Facebook page each week and try to meet bi-monthly for Bible study. We are also part of the ELDA which is a group of ministries across the country who provide worship opportunities for the Deaf community in the ELCA.

Our current goals are to:

- Get our group to the ELDA conference in Pennsylvania later this year.
- Continue making sure our community has an opportunity to worship in ASL weekly.
- Support interpreted worship across South Dakota and SW Minnesota
- Create several service opportunities for our members.
- Continue teaching ASL in person when it is safe to do so.

If you have any questions about our ministry please contact Jason or Sarah Andera Jason.andera@gmail.com

God's peace to this outstanding church community that has supported our ministry for decades.

God's Peace

Jason and Sarah





Income-Expenses

Peace Lutheran Church 2021 Annual Report INCOME & EXPENSES

General Income:	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Regular Envelope Offering	\$778,052.70	\$828,000.55	\$905,000.00
First Fruits-General Fund	\$530,000.00	\$488,989.22	\$550,000.00
Loose Offering	\$72,000.00	\$19,519.03	\$19,519.03
Initial Offering	\$1,000.00	\$395.75	\$395.75
Seasonal Offering	\$28,000.00	\$1,948.69	\$1,948.69
Encounter Offering	\$200.00	\$607.52	\$607.52
Interest Income	\$100.00	\$57.96	\$37.06
Transfer Prior Year	\$100,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$47,456.93
Offsetting Income	\$35,190.00	\$30,465.12	\$30,465.12
Total General Income:	\$1,544,542.70	\$1,454,983.84	\$1,555,430.10
Benevolences			
Mission Partners			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
St Dymas Reentry Team	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Lutheran African Ministry	\$3,000.00	\$4,554.10	\$2,000.00
Pueblo de Dios Lutheran	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Congregations in Solidarity	\$2,000.00	\$1,775.00	\$2,000.00
St. Dymas Reentry Initiative	\$250.00	-\$368.10	\$250.00
St. Dymas Holiday Meals	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$500.00
St. Dymas Lutheran Undesignated	\$1,000.00	\$225.00	\$1,000.00
Church on the Street	\$2,000.00	\$750.00	\$2,000.00
Westside Lutheran	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Augustana Lutheran	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
LOGOS Pueblo de Dios	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$550.00
Domestic Poverty Ministries			
Community Outreach	\$2,500.00	\$1,581.25	\$2,500.00
Needy Families	\$1,500.00	\$920.06	\$1,500.00
Charis Ministry	\$2,000.00	\$1,677.67	\$3,000.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$850.00	\$850.00	\$850.00
Safe Families	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
St Francis House	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kid's Against Hunger	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
Food to You Mobile Food Pantry	\$1,600.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,050.00
The Banquet	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Necessities for Neighbors	\$300.00	\$246.78	\$300.00
Ayuda	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Educational			
Shetek Bible Camp	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
Lutheran Outdoors	\$1,625.00	\$1,625.00	\$1,625.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
PreSchool Scholarships	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Camp Counselor Scholarships	\$1,000.00	\$750.00	\$1,500.00
Seminary Scholarships	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Augustana PACT	\$500.00	\$400.00	\$600.00
South Dakota Synod			
Mission Support - SDS	\$82,892.00	\$80,825.00	\$82,892.00
Crossroads Conference Dues	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
God's Work Our Hands			
GWOH Seed Money	\$1,000.00	\$1,029.45	\$1,000.00
World Missions			
World Hunger(SD Synod)	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Global Missions	\$4,495.00	\$0.00	\$4,495.00
Missionary Support to Columbia	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Benevolences	\$123,787.00	\$106,866.21	\$122,387.00

Income-Expenses Continued



	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Staff Expense:			
Pastoral Staff:	\$425,274.63	\$411,933.25	\$434,679.33
Other Staff:	\$643,140.07	\$555,117.00	\$643,773.77
Total:	\$1,068,414.70	\$967,050.25	\$1,078,453.10
Office Expense			
Postage-Church	\$5,000.00	\$5,504.77	\$5,000.00
Hospitality	\$4,000.00	\$1,877.69	\$4,000.00
Office Supplies-Church	\$5,000.00	\$5,313.05	\$5,000.00
Employee Appreciation	\$1,000.00	\$100.00	\$1,000.00
General Fund Envelopes	\$750.00	\$781.06	\$500.00
Software Subscription Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Computer/Software Exp-Church	\$12,000.00	\$18,016.93	\$12,000.00
Communications Soc Media-Church	\$0.00	\$33.43	\$0.00
Marketing tools	\$2,165.00	\$1,672.33	\$2,165.00
Advertising-Church	\$3,426.00	\$5,465.04	\$3,425.00
Church Online	\$3,000.00	\$278.00	\$3,000.00
Insurance Church	\$27,000.00	\$30,418.05	\$27,000.00
Bank Charges-Church	\$2,800.00	\$259.86	\$2,800.00
Milage/Transpertation Church	\$0.00	\$113.73	\$0.00
Leadership Development-Church	\$1,000.00	\$1,739.61	\$1,000.00
Synod Assembly Fees-Church	\$3,000.00	\$1,809.02	\$3,000.00
Faith Chest Expense	\$3,000.00	\$5,282.40	\$4,000.00
Office Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Leadership Development	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Computer Support	\$26,000.00	\$27,182.04	\$26,400.00
Copier-Printer Support-Church	\$15,000.00	\$9,781.18	\$15,000.00
Total:	\$114,141.00	\$115,628.19	\$115,290.00
Program Expense:			
Music Ministry	\$15,500.00	\$12,087.96	\$15,500.00
Children Ministry	\$41,700.00	\$20,926.22	\$41,700.00
Youth Ministry	\$9,000.00	\$3,429.73	\$9,000.00
Confirmation Ministry	\$2,400.00	\$1,118.35	\$2,400.00
Adult Ministry	\$3,800.00	\$517.34	\$3,800.00
Senior Ministry	\$6,600.00	\$391.73	\$6,600.00
Connecting Ministry	\$9,350.00	\$875.72	\$9,350.00
Total:	\$88,350.00	\$39,347.05	\$88,350.00
Stewardship Expense			
	\$750.00	\$2,956.31	\$750.00
Total:	\$750.00	\$2,956.31	\$750.00
Library Expense			
	\$2,000.00	\$1,629.10	\$2,000.00
Total:	\$2,000.00	\$1,629.10	\$2,000.00
Building Operating Expenses			
Utlities	\$58,500.00	\$62,244.38	\$59,600.00
Property Maintenance/Expense	\$55,000.00	\$68,115.14	\$55,000.00
Snow Removal	\$9,000.00	\$8,902.20	\$9,000.00
Building/Property Supplies Expense	\$16,000.00	\$15,274.12	\$16,000.00
Frontage/Real Estate Tax	\$3,600.00	\$3,806.54	\$3,600.00
Van Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lawn Care	\$5,000.00	\$740.63	\$5,000.00
Total:	\$147,100.00	\$159,083.01	\$148,200.00
Grand Total Expenses:			
	\$1,544,542.70	\$1,392,560.12	\$1,555,430.10
Net Operating Total:			
	\$0.00	\$62,423.72	\$0.00



Income-Expenses Continued

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Offsetting Income			
Facility Usage	\$3,500.00	\$3,460.00	\$3,460.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$6,000.00	\$7,671.00	\$7,671.00
Faith Chest Income	\$660.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Faith & Family Income	\$1,200.00	\$472.00	\$472.00
Youth-Programming	\$0.00	\$18.36	\$18.36
Sunday School Income	\$2,400.00	\$1,015.55	\$1,015.55
Vacation Bible School Income	\$8,670.00	\$5,792.28	\$5,792.28
Coffee Corner	\$0.00	\$811.93	\$811.93
Preschool Space Rental	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Child Care Space Rental	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
PeaceCare Preschool Work Comp	\$3,360.00	\$3,310.00	\$3,310.00
Misc. Income	\$1,000.00	\$1,190.00	\$1,190.00
Senior Ministry Income	\$3,000.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
Transfer in From Prior Year	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$47,456.93
Total Offsetting Income:	\$135,190.00	\$30,341.12	\$77,798.05

2021 Summary of Accounts



2021 Summary of Accounts

Cash:	Dec 2020 Ending Balance	Dec 2021 Ending Balance
General Fund Checking	\$107,408.84	\$94,099.48
Peace Lutheran Endowment Fund	\$137,942.07	\$166,661.30
Buisness Savings Account	\$2,399.89	\$3.02
Sub Total:	\$247,750.80	\$260,763.80
Special Funds	\$184,510.57	\$212,340.04
Peace Next	\$0.00	\$212,566.85
Current Mortgage/Rejuvenation Fund	\$1,375.25	\$150,612.93
Petty Cash	\$100.00	\$100.00
Totals:	\$433,736.62	\$846,383.62

Special Funds:	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expense	Ending Balance
Children Yth Camp	\$7,367.14	\$47,851.29	\$48,274.37	\$6,944.06
Children Ministry	\$376.96	\$575.00	\$0.00	\$951.96
Youth Programs Designated	\$838.27	\$1,129.85	\$855.37	\$1,112.74
Youth Gathering Funds	\$4,000.00	\$13,346.39	\$6,091.60	\$11,254.79
Summer Youth Trips	\$1,173.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,173.83
Youth Servant Trips	\$986.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$986.77
HyVee Cards	\$5,936.57	\$18,565.00	\$21,491.95	\$3,009.62
Youth Event Payments	\$0.00	\$3,651.76	\$3,437.14	\$214.62
Youth Programming	\$45.00	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$0.00
Giving Jar	\$13,025.11	\$11,514.11	\$18,768.61	\$5,770.61
Christmas Program offering	\$1,531.95	\$883.18	\$108.61	\$2,306.52
Scrips Program	\$15,342.98	\$51,969.45	\$51,928.25	\$15,384.18
Confirmation	\$3,018.77	\$3,047.78	\$1,638.02	\$4,428.53
Fundraising Children and Youth	-\$488.73	\$17,015.91	\$8,654.44	\$7,872.74
Children & Youth Total:	\$53,154.62	\$169,549.72	\$161,293.36	\$61,410.97
Music:				
Memorial Music & Mis.	\$7,564.74	\$10,897.22	\$9,705.69	\$8,756.27
Music camp inc./Exp	\$0.00	\$553.68	\$274.77	\$278.91
Adult Choir Funeral Gifts	\$768.74	\$0.00	\$177.96	\$585.78
Music Total:	\$8,328.48	\$11,450.90	\$10,158.42	\$9,620.96



2021 Summary of Accounts Continued

Ministries:

	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expense	Ending Balance
Connecting People-Xmas Dinner	\$2,010.97	\$259.50	\$346.41	\$1,924.06
Stephen Ministry	\$1,577.33	\$544.78	\$0.00	\$2,122.11
VBS-Bilingual	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00
Start UP programs	\$713.02	\$382.26	\$717.60	\$377.68
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Gr	\$29,620.80	\$0.00	\$171.38	\$29,449.42
Rent Assistance /Needy Families	\$3,544.62	\$1,660.80	\$60.10	\$5,145.32
St Dysmas	\$368.10	\$223.60	\$368.10	\$223.60
Global Mission Peace Bank	\$24.31	\$0.00	\$24.31	\$0.00
Prayer Shawl Ministry	\$1,076.07	\$569.00	\$423.79	\$1,221.28
Peace Quilters	\$0.00	\$5,147.32	\$1,067.04	\$4,080.28
Global Mission	\$908.05	\$15,393.42	\$5,873.32	\$10,428.15
World Hunder	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Orphan Ministry	\$88.78	\$0.00	\$88.78	\$0.00
Necessities for Neighbors	\$21,539.46	\$23,443.85	\$30,863.70	\$14,119.61
Banquet	\$426.12	\$1,234.95	\$293.30	\$1,367.77
Health Wellness Ministry	\$909.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$909.02
Total Ministries:	\$62,881.65	\$43,712.16	\$39,305.79	\$71,368.30
Designated/Undesignated				
Designated Income/Expense	\$345.31	\$5,475.00	\$1,604.50	\$4,215.81
Designated Memorials	\$16,106.50	\$0.00	\$1,989.15	\$14,117.35
Undesignated Memorials	\$5,650.63	\$2,420.00	\$0.00	\$8,070.63
Designated/Undesignated Totals:	\$22,102.44	\$7,895.00	\$3,593.65	\$26,403.79
Peace				
Peace Shop	\$20.00	\$157.70	\$177.70	\$0.00
Coke Machine	\$398.63	\$2,673.35	\$2,453.31	\$618.67
Flowers for Altar	\$586.40	\$0.00	\$586.40	\$0.00
Peace Meals	\$2,260.51	\$0.00	\$23.40	\$2,237.11
Wedding fees in out	\$3,548.27	\$6,556.33	\$3,096.67	\$7,007.93
Shuttle Bus Account	\$1,266.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,266.00
Revolving Assistance Fund	\$17.05	\$0.00	\$17.05	\$0.00
Peace Quarterly Mission	\$326.18	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$351.18
Sanctuary Improvements	\$392.07	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$642.07
Capital Improvement	\$15,938.23	\$3,202.04	\$319.49	\$18,820.78
Library Dedicated	\$1,330.54	\$20.00	\$146.41	\$1,204.13
Bequest Proceeds	\$4,033.19	\$3,300.88	\$7,334.07	\$0.00
Endowment Gifts	\$1,505.89	\$7,280.00	\$7,000.00	\$1,785.89
Endowment Operating	\$5,964.53	\$12,006.50	\$9,455.27	\$8,515.76
Peace total:	\$37,587.49	\$35,471.80	\$30,609.77	\$42,449.52

2021 Summary of Accounts Continued



	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expense	Ending Balance
Adult Education				
Adult Ed Events	\$46.14	\$1,139.01	\$995.40	\$189.75
Adult Ed Book Sales	\$409.75	\$487.00	\$0.00	\$896.75
Adult Education Totals:	\$455.89	\$1,626.01	\$995.40	\$1,086.50
Totals: \$	184,510.57	\$ 269,705.59	\$ 245,956.39	\$ 212,340.04



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

"In the beginning was THE WORD, and THE WORD was with God, and THE WORD was God. ... THE WORD became flesh and made his dwelling among us."



Dear partners in ministry 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! – **Thank you** for your generosity to the ministry of the South Dakota Synod as we *journey together in Christ*. Because of your generosity and our ministry partners, hope and new life in Christ is cultivated in people and communities.

You have made a difference in Susanne's¹ life. Susanne faces daily challenges as she roams the streets of Sioux Falls as a person who is housing insecure. But because she connected with "Church on the Street" she now has a monthly worship to look forward to and a community to connect with as she hears the good news of Christ's love for her. On behalf of Susanne, **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference in Dillon's life. Dillon grew up on the farm and a caring church family. After his high school graduation, he set out to attend college. While the first few days were new and exciting, the excitement soon wore off, and Dillon fell in a hole of anxiety and depression, wondering if he would make it. Then he remembered the speaker from Lutheran Campus Ministry that had visited his home church one Sunday and decided to look them up on campus. Dillon still goes to college, and while life at times can still be overwhelming, he now has a community which supports him and cares for him when he is away from home. On behalf of Dillon, **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference in Pedro's life. Pedro lives in Nicaragua with his family. His family doesn't have much, but they survived by farming a small plot and sharing a small space they call home. All that changed when first a drought and then hurricanes devastated the little the family had. His parents would prepare the little food the family had for their children, but the family would go to bed hungry each night. But because of the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua's partnership with the South Dakota Synod and 'Helping Kids' Round First', Pedro and his family received meal kits that provided much-needed nourishment for the family. On behalf of Pedro, **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference in Tony's life. Tony admits that he has made some bad choices and deserves to be incarcerated. But because of St Dymas' weekly worship services at the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, Tony has found new life in Christ. He hears weekly that his choices are not what defines him, but instead Christ's mercy is for him. On behalf of Tony, **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference in the life of the synod staff. As we travel the state and work with you, we see the impact your generosity makes in people's lives. Every time THE WORD of THRUTH is proclaimed in the pulpit, washed over a person in the waters of baptism, and celebrated at the Lord's Table we give thanks for your faithfulness. Our gathering makes a difference, because when we gather God shows up. Your witness, you showing up, and your generosity make a difference in your neighbor's life as the community of Christ bears witness to the defeat of sin and death. On behalf of your synod staff, **THANK YOU!**

It is my sincere hope that your synod staff has made a difference in the life of your congregation as we strive to live our shared vision of journeying together in Christ. Please know that your synod staff is always happy to be in conversation with you. We are committed to show up – just let us know where, when, and why.

Looking forward to the continued journey,

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

¹ Names and stories are fictitious and altered to protect the individuals.



Forewell



It has been the greatest blessing of my career to be entrusted with the stewardship of LSS and its glorious ministry. Every minute of the past fifteen-plus years has been a journey that has left me at times overwhelmed and always awestruck. I am grateful for all who have walked this journey alongside me sharing both the burdens and the joys. Godspeed to all who support and lead the ministry of LSS.

Betty Oldenkamp PRESIDENT AND CEO



I have been blessed to spend twenty years of my professional career with LSS. Throughout my time here I have been inspired by the richness of the agency's programs and the myriad ways that LSS helps to strengthen South Dakota communities. I've witnessed the team at LSS follow in Christ's footsteps and respond to community needs with creativity, compassion and a deep respect for those we serve. I feel honored and humbled to carry on the tradition of strong executive leadership and help shape the agency's vision in its next century of service.

Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen COO, INCOMING PRESIDENT/CEO

OUR MISSION

Inspired by God's love, we care for, support and strengthen individuals, families and communities.

OUR VISION

All people in South Dakota will be healthy, safe and accepted.

OUR VALUES

Lutheran Social Services is a social ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As such, we believe that God's love compels us to serve and to value all people. Our core values are grounded by our faith in God—they guide our hands and feet, our hearts and words as we serve our neighbors as God intended. Our core values guide our work with the people we serve and those who serve them.

COMPASSIONATE

We will be empathetic in our interactions with others and non-judgmental in the delivery of our services.

APPRECIATIVE

We will acknowledge the quality, significance and magnitude of the contributions of our clients and employees and seek to develop their capacity.

RESPECTFUL

We will engage in collaborative and professional relationships with our clients, partnership organizations, and each other.

ETHICAL

We will demonstrate our commitment to quality services and high standards in acts, words and deeds.

STRATEGIC

We will anticipate and respond strategically to service trends and our communities' needs.

COMMITMENT TO WORK TOWARD RACE EQUITY

LSS acknowledges racial and ethnic differences because of the profound impact they have on individuals, groups, communities and society. In order to foster an organizational culture that is cognizant of race and ethnicity, we will engage in honest and respectful conversations about the role of race and culture in the work we do. We will hold ourselves accountable for continual improvement in working toward racial equity. We will advocate for solutions to the social injustices that result from systemic racism. We invite you to join us on this journey.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PAUL BRUFLAT
Chair, Sioux Falls

MIKE JAMISON
Chair Elect, Sioux Falls

TOLCHA MESELE
Secretary/Treasurer, Sioux Falls

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Rapid City

KIM COURNOYER
Dell Rapids

ELIZABETH DUFFY
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BISHOP CONSTANZE HAGMAIER
Sioux Falls

PHIL HOGEN
Black Hawk

ERV NESHEIM
Hill City

REV. BECKY PIPER
Rapid City

REV. CRAIG WEXLER
Pierre



LIFE STORIES

"I have witnessed firsthand how kindness and empathy can fill a vital need for humans and that is something I will always strive for in my professional and personal life."

AMY FETERL
LSS Better Together,
Serving three years

TAKE SHAPE AT LSS

"I see the best in people and teach the kids to see it in themselves. I am most proud to see the young people I have worked with go out into the world and do amazing things."

SHANNON TRUAX
Direct Support, New Alternatives,
Independent Living Services,
Serving seven years



"I was several years into my job with LSS Foster Care Services when it dawned on me that this wasn't just a job. It was a calling."

DEEDE MOGCK
Children & Youth Services,
Serving 42 years



"Once we are past that exterior, we are often met with stories of pain, hurt, loss and trauma. But we also get to see hope, resilience and determination."

JAY MARCHAND
Director, Re-Entry Services,
Serving nine years



"Along with the financial counseling and support, he (client) really appreciated having someone take the time to understand and advocate so he didn't have to walk the journey alone."

SARA RAMIREZ
Director, Center for Financial Resources,
Serving nine years

"To see the difference a family can make in the life of a child and to know that I was able to facilitate and be a part of that changed my life and my career."

AMY WITT
Vice President, Children & Youth Services,
Serving 19 years



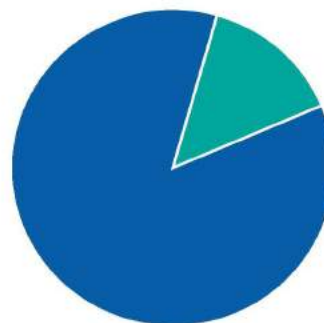
TRANSFORMING PEOPLE'S LIVES 27,759 TIMES

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	4,671
RESIDENTIAL	540
Children & Youth	203
Family Counseling	337
ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION	5,748
Children & Youth	1,756
Family	3,992
INDEPENDENT LIVING	607
FOSTER CARE	1,036
Children	144
Foster Parents	60
Kinship	832
RESOURCE FAMILY SERVICES	1590
ADOPTION	362
Adoption Services	60
Education	302
CENTER FOR FINANCIAL RESOURCES	3,562
Counseling Services	1,478
Education	2,084
CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS	6,745
Refugees Resettled	23
Secondary Migrants	49
Immigration Counseling	630
ESL Training	210
Interpreter (hours provided to 150 entities)	5,833
MENTORS/MENTEES	1964
CHILDCARE & EDUCATION	934
TOTAL	27,759

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the number of people served in the last year. Although LSS continued to provide services on-site as well as through telehealth when possible, the numbers are lower than in previous years.

EXPENDITURES



13%
Administration,
Philanthropy
& Marketing
\$3,137,273

87%
Client
Services
\$20,485,056



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

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

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”



Change and the need for creativity have become constants over the last year and a half in many aspects of life, including the church. This was the case for **Living Christ Lutheran Church** in Flagstaff, Ariz., even before a global pandemic caused many of us to rethink what it means to be church. Generosity from all three expressions of the ELCA (the churchwide organization, the Grand Canyon Synod and members of Living Christ) helped turn a congregation “on the road out of town, near the mall” into an online presence reaching over 500 people a week from Phoenix to the Philippines. (Read more about Living Christ in the current issue of “**Stories of Faith in Action**” at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).)

Many other congregations have found new ways to connect both when in-person worship was impossible and when congregations began to return to their sanctuaries. Generosity, especially through Mission Support, helped us find and support these new ways of being connected. Early in the pandemic, ELCA Worship launched the “Worship in the Home” webpage, with Scripture, hymn links, prayers and reflections for each

Sunday. These resources were and continue to be used in congregations across the ELCA—even at **Sitka Lutheran Church** in Alaska, whose members printed and hand-delivered “Worship in the Home” resources to fellow members without internet access.

Change and creativity have taught us many things. As Pastor Sandra Rudd of Sitka Lutheran Church noted, “The pandemic was a stark illustration of the fact that the church is not a building. A lot of people say that, but we didn’t fully know it until we didn’t have a building to use. We learned that there are many ways to be connected as the church.” Throughout the pandemic, the ELCA has changed and adapted, doing ministry in new and creative ways, because of the generosity of its members. Even now, you may be gathering in a new way for your annual meeting, to discern how you will steward the gifts shared generously with your congregation to do ministry in your community and beyond. As you have these important conversations, remember that your gifts of time, talent and resources have helped create new spaces beyond our walls and buildings where we continue to worship, serve and love God and each other.

ANNUAL REPORT

2021