



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Paul Stjernholm, Senior Pastor
Renae Boehmer, Associate Pastor
Jonathan Vehar, Associate Pastor
Alex Smith, Associate Pastor

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PLC.Life



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I love being a pastor at Peace! This congregation continues to be a leader in our community and is known for its' reputation for showing Christ's love in so many different ways. Our members are constantly pushing the envelope of how to become more involved in our neighborhood, and our Staff continues to energetically accept each new idea and problem-solve each new challenge!

Staffing changes

The Staff at Peace is an amazing group of dedicated, creative people who are fun to work with! This year we were saddened by the passing of **Judy Kirkman**, who served as our Financial Secretary and Receptionist. She was a long-time participant in our Music Ministry as well. She is missed!

In the Office we welcomed **Gwen Snaza** to the Office Staff to serve as Receptionist and who has been learning the ropes to assist with our Financial Secretary duties. We also reluctantly said goodbye to **Bob Sterud** as our part-time custodian but have welcomed **Jose Nevarez-Maturin** to serve in that position.

We have also welcomed **June Gillepsie** to serve as our Library Coordinator, replacing **Kara Vehar** who stepped down from that position. We have also added **Audrey and Belinda Prostrollo** to serve as Worship Hosts, joining our existing team of Worship Hosts. And after serving as our Seniors Ministry Director, **Pat Steele** has decided to step down as we come into the New Year. We certainly appreciate her years of service in that position!

And finally we got to add a wonderful pastor to the Staff! **Pastor Alex Smith** arrived after Easter and has enthusiastically been getting to know the congregation. We have enjoyed her passion, warmth, and theological gifts.

Peace NEXT

What a difference one year can make! A year ago, we were in the middle of a Capital Campaign, and now construction has begun! Early in the year we retained the services of McGough Construction, a long-respected firm based in the Twin Cities who has moved into the Sioux Falls area. They have been a great partner to add to the team and have provided us with a Guaranteed Maximum Price for the cost of construction.

Another partner of the team is the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) of the ELCA. MIF has offered us a \$6.1 million loan, locking in a 3.875% rate for the next five years.

Due to the unprecedented rise in construction costs, we had to reduce the scope of Phase One. We decided to proceed with the new construction elements—the Family Activity Center and the Music Hub—and will hold back on remodeling and expanding the Gathering Area until a later date. Construction is scheduled to be completed the end of October of this year!

The financial support from the congregation has been amazing. The Capital Campaign generated gifts and pledges for the next two years totaling \$1.2 million. Some of those gifts were large one-time gifts. Many are ongoing monthly gifts. Interestingly, the monthly gifts are just the amount needed to finance the mortgage... roughly \$32,000 per month.

Pastor Jonathan and I are attending weekly construction meetings to stay up to date on the progress and provide input as needed. He has been key in helping to coordinate the construction schedule with our ministry schedule.

Rejuvenation Fund

One of the ways I have seen the Holy Spirit provide for Peace's ministry has been the creation of the Rejuvenation/Maintenance Fund in 2020. Your faithful support of this part of our ministry has enabled us to pay for large ticket items like replacing the A/C units in both the sanctuary and fellowship hall. In addition it has helped us to maintain the parking lot, renovate the main bathrooms off the Gathering Space, and initiate building a much-needed new garage.

The current balance of that fund is over \$250,000. Our goal is to retain a \$100,000 balance in that fund for emergency repairs. Funds in excess of that amount will be used for ongoing improvements. One of the ideas for 2023 is to use a portion of those monies to retain the services of TSP so that they can begin the design work for the remodeling and expanding of the Gathering Space. That way we will have a better idea of what our fundraising goal for that phase of the project that we had to put on hold.

Looking ahead

In the pages ahead you will learn about the significant ministry we did together this year, and the exciting directions we are headed in 2023!

I'll say it again: I love being a pastor at Peace Lutheran! This congregation is so passionate about the ministry God has call us to do, and the Church Council has provided insightful leadership at every turn! I am so blessed to get to work with such an amazing Staff each and every day, including three of the best pastors in the Synod! Thank you for the gift of serving you in 2022!

Pastor Paul Stjernholm
Senior Pastor





Pastor Jonathan Vehar



The question I'm trying to answer at this moment, how is it the year 2023? Last year flew by quickly, even though it was an action-packed year. A few ministry highlights:

- Launch of the PeaceNext Capital Campaign, with 265 families pledging thus far.
- Pastor Alex joined us just after Easter
- We continued to make significant changes to better the Confirmation Ministry to nurture faith in the lives of our young people
- An awesome week with kiddos at a Lutheran Outdoors camp
- An awesome week at the Dwelling in North Carolina with high school students
- A summer full of dreaming about how to connect in more meaningful ways to the community around our church
- Groundbreaking for PeaceNext
- And there's more, but it's tiring to think about all that has been done

And the next year is already full of anticipated milestones:

- We set a goal to send a record number of kids to camp and rented out Outlaw Ranch for a week to help make that happen
- We anticipate taking occupancy of the new building additions before this year is done

2022 also was remarkable on a personal note. In the summer, I completed a two-year Master

of Business Administration in Non-Profit Leadership through Dakota Wesleyan University. This program gave me a wonderful opportunity for continuing education. I also accepted a role for the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2024. I will serve as the director for the tAble, an event for youth with disabilities. This is a ministry I have worked with over the last 20 years, and I am excited to take on event leadership. Plus, several extra trips to New Orleans mean fresh beignets.

All of this is to share better God's saving love and mercy through Christ Jesus. And that is key. This work and ministry we are about isn't about ourselves but about what God has done and revealing that hope to those around us.

This next year will have a few challenges as well. We continue to make sense of what has changed in the world as we settle into a new normal after the end of the pandemic. Life and relationships were hard for many people. It was easy to lose sight of where God had been at work. Now, continues to be the moment we have been called to lean into our faith and out into the world.

I want to thank Peace for the honor of serving as one of its' pastors. I don't take for granted the amazing place this community is. The impact of our ministry is felt throughout the community.

We have a wonderful pastoral team, A great staff with lots of passion. The Spirit is moving in this place.

In Peace,

Pastor Jonathan



**But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
Isaiah 43:1**

Through baptism we have each been given a new name: Child of God. God **claims** us. And this isn't a way to tie us down, but instead a way to remind us **who we are**. And, isn't that exactly what we do for each other every single time we connect?

Whether in a **small group** (Book Clubs, Cancer and Chronic Illness Support, PeaceRocks, Bible Journaling, or one of many Bible studies) or a **class** (Confirmation, Sunday school, choir or Adult Forum) or a **social gathering** (First Fridays, Youth Group, Pub Theology, or an Art Group) or maybe even when **servicing others** (Necessities for Neighbors, Prayer Shawl Ministry, or Feeding South Dakota), we share our highs and lows, we dive into God's word, and we remind each other that we care because we are part of the body of Christ. It's just **who we are**.

And, when we know who we are, we treat everyone else in the world a little differently... with a little more compassion and grace. After all, it's what we are **called** to do. This year, we've walked with people struggling with grief by forming short-term groups to care for each other. We've reached out to our **neighborhood** in an effort to build relationships and ask how we can do life together in ways that enrich us all. We've welcomed lots of **new members** into our fold and asked how we can create a sense of belonging for everyone who's already here.

When we know who we belong to, all of our entire lives look different.

In 2023, let's continue to remind each other of the promises we've received and find ways to share that in some new, life-giving, energy-

producing ways with people we already know....and also the people the Holy Spirit is still rustling up for us to connect with in the future.

Need some ideas? Want to know how to get connected as a **Claimed and Called Child of God**? Let's talk!



Become a Stephen Minister ♥ Paint a Rock ♥
Say a Prayer ♥ Join a Book Club ♥ Read your Bible ♥
♥ Volunteer to teach Sunday School or Confirmation ♥ **Introduce yourself to your pew partner** ♥ *Get a Stephen Minister* ♥ Talk to a Neighbor ♥ *Make some soup and share it* ♥ **Attend a new Bible Study** ♥ Go out for coffee with a pastor or Peace staffer ♥ Help with worship the next time you attend (you'll meet people!) ♥ *Join a music group* ♥ **Serve at a funeral** ♥ Take interest in one of our awesome youth ♥

The possibilities are endless....just like God's great love!

Pastor Renae



Pastor Alex Smith



Greetings, people of God!

I want to thank you once again for calling me to join this wonderful community here at Peace Lutheran Church. It means so much for me to live and work in Sioux Falls - a place I've called home since my Augustana days - and to be a part of a great congregation that is so vibrantly engaged with the mission and grace of Jesus. So: **thank you!** What a blessing it is to be here!

I started working here at Peace in April 2022, just after Holy Week and Easter services. I answered your call, and the call of the Holy Spirit, to be an Associate Pastor; primarily, in the role of "Care of The Neighbor." So, along with my regular, shared pastoral duties (teaching, preaching, Christian education, small groups, supervision, and visitation), my role here involves reaching out to and caring for our neighbors in need. This means that I get to be a part of the many different events and organizations: **Necessities for Neighbors** (every first Sunday of the month), **Feeding South Dakota** (every second Monday of the month), **Food To You** (quarterly), **Worship at St. Dymas** (quarterly), **Laundry with Love** (annually), and many more. It's been an honor to step into these roles after many great pastors and leaders before me. Thank you, once again, to all of our stellar volunteers. We couldn't do any of this without you.

On that note, we'd love for YOU to get involved by **volunteering** or **donating** towards these ministries in the coming new year. Nobody is ever 'too young' or 'too old' to make a difference, and there's no such thing as 'too small' of a gift. Every bit of your generosity matters, and it helps us to bless our neighbors with tangible signs of Christ's love in this world. So, if you ever feel inclined, and your schedule is free, please don't hesitate to connect with me for more info.

There are lots of great opportunities at Peace for fun and fellowship, too. It's been a pleasure to get to know some of you with our two newest small groups: **Pub Theology** (winter months on the Third Thursday; summer months every Thursday) and **Books & Brews** (winter months on Zoom/online only, First and Third Mondays). We get to learn, laugh, and share in our faith.

Another joy of mine has been working with the updates on our beloved **Peace Library**. I was delighted to be part of the process of hiring our new librarian, June, and to watch the program grow and bloom in creative new ways. Did you know that we are moving our books to an easy-to-navigate online archive called TinyCat? Or that we have new, engaging books for all ages? If you stop by the library to visit with June, you'll see just what I mean. It's wonderful!

Each of us as pastors is committed to helping with our yearly nominated Council Goals. I have inherited the **Digital Ministries** goal, shared with Pastor Jonathan, and I am also working on the **Inclusion & Welcome** goal. For each of these, I am part of the leadership teams with the South Dakota Synod. I'm excited to see what Peace comes up with next; no matter what, I know that it will proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in energized, grace-filled ways.

God bless you all! And many thanks, once again.

Your sibling in Christ, Pastor Alex



Church Council President

2022 was my first year as the Council President and the time seems to have flown by. I attribute that to all the exciting things we have going on at Peace Lutheran.

Breaking ground on Peace NEXT was one of our five-year goals that we all celebrated in completing this year. This was an exciting day to be a part of, which gives us a glimpse into Peace's future. The new spaces that come with this project bring new opportunities to engage with each other including our closest neighbors as well as our Sioux Falls community as a whole.

In addition to helping with the commencement of the Peace NEXT project, the Council has been working diligently on a new yearly goal.

Our new five-year goal for 2022 is to "Energize and Empower the People of Peace to: Care For, Reach Out To, and Engage With Each Other & New People". This goes hand in hand with our "Claimed and Called" goal as a call to action. We each are claimed by God and called to serve. When we know that God loves and accepts us, we understand that our talents are what make us individuals. Equipped with that knowledge, we are empowered to share God's Word using our specific talents and help others learn that they are claimed and called as well. The goal is to connect people and their passions to where God is at work.

Our other five-year goals include experiencing generosity in responding to what God has done, unconditionally welcoming and accepting all who encounter

Peace Lutheran, and expanding our ministry far and wide with an online platform.

Peace Lutheran has always been a place where all are welcome, and we continue to find new ways to maintain that attitude. Where some may see differences between themselves and others, Peace has shown what Jesus has taught, which is to love people where they are in their journey and walk with them even when it is unfamiliar territory. Some of these journeys are difficult and uncomfortable but we continue to show compassion in such a natural way that makes others want to be a part of Peace too.

Our digital engagement goes above and beyond the standard online live streaming and provides a place where a true community can engage. In addition to all our worship services, many of our small groups are including remote options to allow people to be engaged with Peace even when they are not able to be in the building.

With what we are doing inside our walls, how we are expanding our walls, and how we are extending love outside our walls, what an exciting time to be a part of Peace Lutheran!

Sincerely,
Adam Hatle

2022 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order by President Carissa Dice on January 30, 2022. There was a quorum of 50 or more members in attendance.

Pastor Stjernholm offered a prayer.

The minutes of the 2021 meeting were available in the annual report. Dan Elsasser moved to approve the minutes, and Gary Nelson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the members.

Treasurer Jamie Dooley reviewed the overview of our income and expenses. We went 11 months without a Faith Formation director, so staff expenditures were lower. Office expenses were a little over budget. Program expenses were cut back by the staff in 2021. Building expenses were over budget in utilities and property maintenance. We had an operating income of \$62,423.72. Last year the mortgage was paid off. The fund was renamed the rejuvenation fund. We currently have \$160,612.98 in the fund. Two air conditioning units were installed, cracks were sealed in the parking lot, and bathroom remodels all came from the rejuvenation fund in 2021. Tim Jensen moved to approve the treasurers report, and Dan Elsasser seconded the motion. The report was approved by the members.

The nominating team presented nominees for church council positions, the endowment team, and nominating team. A ballot was distributed with the positions and nominees. The nominees ran unopposed for all positions and were declared elected to their terms with unanimous consent. Cara Hetland volunteered to be on the nominating team.

Pastor Renae Boehmer provided an update on outreach ministries highlighting Stephen Ministries, prayer shawl ministry, Peace bus (now running 2 times on Sunday morning), new member process, and ELCA's Congregations Lead Initiative (welcoming others, making connections with others, and sharing stories).

Pastor Jonathan Vehar provided an update on in person and online worship attendance for 2021.

The percent of those worshipping at Peace online (from all over the country) has remained consistent throughout the year. Faith Formation has returned in person for children programming. Confirmation has added options including parental attendance once/month and an independent track called Peace University.

Pastor Paul Stjernholm presented on staffing changes, and we will have a special meeting February 6 to call a new pastor. Peace NEXT is raising funds for the addition and improvements to the church building. The goal is to raise \$1 million up front plus an addition \$375,000 in a 2 year period. We have raised approximately \$500,000 up front and \$190,000 in sustaining gifts. The project is estimated to cost \$7 million. The Capital Campaign will conclude at the end of February.

Treasurer Jamie Dooley presented the 2022 balanced budget with less than 1% increase. Staff expenses increased under 1%. Office expenses increased slightly over 1%. Building and Operating expenses increased by less than 1%. Dan Elsasser moved to approve the 2022 ministry plan and budget. This was seconded by Judy Kirkman. The budget was voted on by the members and was approved. There was no further discussion.

Pastor Renae closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Beck, Secretary



Special Congregational Meeting

February 6, 2022

President Carissa Dice noted we had a quorum (of at least 50 members) and called the meeting to order with the purpose of voting on the Call Committee's recommendation for a new pastor.

Pastor Paul Stjernholm lead the congregation in prayer.

Joe Bunkers, member of the Call Committee, provided information about the process. After the applications were reviewed, the committee met with three applicants through a Zoom call and then in person. They were very pleased with each candidate. They determined who best aligned with the values of the congregation and would work well with our pastoral staff and decided to call Alexandra Smith. She is a graduate of Augustana University and Wartburg Theological Seminary. She has most recently served as a pastor in the Webster area. She also has experience in camp ministry including codirector at Camp NeSoDak. The committee valued her experience and openness to others. She seems to have the skills and desire to bring people together. They watched several of her messages and reviewed some of her writings. Questions were taken from the congregation.

A paper ballot vote was taken.

While the ballots were being counted, Pastor Paul spoke about the progress of the PeaceNEXT campaign to expand a gathering space and build a family resource center. A

team has been formed to interview and select a construction company. Invitations for proposals have been sent out to 4 different companies.

The Youth Gathering for this summer in Minneapolis has been cancelled. However, the youth will be able to take a mission trip during that same time to North Carolina through The Dwelling.

102 voted yes to call Pastor Alex to Peace, and 10 voted no. Since she is the only pastor at her current church, she would like to serve there through Lent and confirm the students of the current confirmation class. Then she would start at Peace after Easter.

Pastor Jonathan Vehar led the congregation in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Jill Beck, Secretary.



New Members

Paul Snaza
Gwyn Snaza
Chase Weeden
Brandi Mandsager
Alyssa Crevier
Stephanie Hahn
Aiden Kollis
Keegan Wiseman
Orah Wright
Harper Chaney
Davin Chaney
Angela Chaney
Neil Chaney
Annette Miller
Analis Dannen
Laura "Laurie" Iverson
Allen Gjoraas
McKenzie Gjoraas
Mason Gjoraas
Charlotte Gjoraas
Karen Ruby
Carolyn Schulz
Mason Breitling
Tony Hendrickson
Luke Hendrickson
Eric Hendrickson
Zach Hendrickson
Grace Hendrickson
Katie Hendrickson
Madison Boss
Cindy Pederson
Holly Pederson
Michelle Church
Leonard Neugebauer
Carol Neugebauer
Emily Druley

Brandon Huether
Paige Weeden
Michelle Mazaralle
Michelle Magnuson
Tanner Zach
Bode Powell
Hannah Roed
Patricia Grieben
Brian Iverson
Ardis Iverson
Joseph Tyler
Rebecca Heumiller
Bradley Heumiller
Watson Heumiller
Sheri Evenson
Laura DeGroot
Finlee DeGroot
Wyatt DeGroot
Patti Paul
Heather Viergutz-McDonald
Tim McDonald
Braylon Viergutz
Linda Partridge
Emily Freudenthal
Spencer Freudenthal
Reese Freudenthal
Linda Baloun
Jerry Marrion
Lisa Micka
Graydon Dasheur
Malakai Dasheur
Penelope Cmelik
Izabella Viera Panchecho
Bryan Ruby
Logan Ruby
Carolyn Larsen
John Larsen

Robert Marlette
Keith Soderquist
Bonnie Soderquist
Owen Burbach
Greg Paul
Ila Johnson
Tate Hartje
Riley DeGroot
Reggie Tracy
Griffin Miller
Andrea Hedstrom
Glen Hedstrom
Anya Hedstrom
Ryder Hedstrom
Tucker Horn
Amelia Brynjulson
Gracelyn Hinojos
Alex Hinojos
Amari Zephier
Silas Haberer
Noah Delfs
Janice Hintz
Michael Hintz
Archer Schorzmman
Carter Lehr
Bill Van Dusen
Chandler Larson
Preson VanBerkum
James Fink
Kathy Fink
Sharon Foster
Del Genzlinger
Dawn Genzlinger
Craig Miller



Jenna Ayotte	Brinkley McDonald
Willa Bjorklund	Griffin Miller
Calyn Bornem	Jonna Pfaff
Berkley Braun	Bode Powell
Parker Busch	Jayde Ramstad
Quinn Buttemeier-Lovik	Hannah Roed
Caylen Clark	Archer Schorzmman
Penelope Cmelik	Ava Skadsen
Malakai Dasheur	Jack Skadsen
Blake Dawson	Reggie Tracy
Noah Delfs	Haevyn Underberg
Halley Fisher	Preson VanBerkum
Jada Fisher	Izabella Vierra Pancheco
Elouise Fox	Asher Weeden
Allen Gjoraas	Brody Yttreiness
Sean Globke	Gracie Zach
Silas Haberer	Amari Zephier
Tate Hartje	
Watson Heumiller	
Aaralyn Hinojos	
Alex Hinojos	
Gracelyn Hinojos	
Tucker Horn	
Ila Johnson	
Jameson Koch	
Chandler Larson	
Carter Lehr	
Luxton Lewandowski	
Witton Lewandowski	



MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Beginning membership:	4158
Baptized members received:	131
Baptized members removed:	101
Change:	
Year-End Members:	4188
Total Confirmed Members:	2894
Notables:	
Baptisms (15 and younger)	46
Baptized members confirmed:	65
Total number of people (including children) actively participating:	3880





Fern Swearingen Library

Great books help you understand, and they help you feel understood.

– *John Green*

We read to know that we are not alone.

- *William Nicholson*

With gratitude and thanks to Fern Swearingen and her family, who had the dream and the foresight to establish and carry the library through decades of change, and true appreciation for Kara Vehar and her family with their dedicated work to open up and brighten up the space, making it accessible to people of all mobilities and viewpoints, especially adding books that would interest and inform young people, it is now time to see what the future holds.

Since I was hired as library coordinator in October, my challenge has been to understand the mission of our church library and how best to move forward. This is God's library and a way for Him to minister to us through the written word. We have so many beautiful stories, inspiring devotionals, rich histories, books with new ideas and new viewpoints to explore in our library. There are boardbooks, picture books with timeless stories, and children's chapter books for families to share. There is a South Dakota history section and a section of books for young adults. We have so many volumes for people of all ages that bring Bible stories and today's stories to life and bring God's love into our hearts.

The question is, how to make all this more visible and accessible to all church members?

The answer is going online with our library catalog. We are currently in the process of adding our records to an online database, a process that may take up to a year but will soon be accessible to anyone using a phone, tablet or computer. If members register, they will be able to place holds on materials and check them out Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings when someone is in the library.

I am extremely grateful to all the folks who are volunteering their time and assistance to make this happen, and for all the support we receive from Lisa and the entire staff, especially Pastor Alex, who is most definitely our "possibility thinker"!

In Christ,

June Gillespie



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, generating interest year after year. The Endowment grew over the course of the year with over \$8,000 of new gifts. Thank you for your contributions! However, with the general decline in the financial markets during 2022, the Endowment principal balance is now over \$152,000 – a decrease of approximately \$12,000 from last year's balance.

The Endowment's principal balance earns interest, which the Endowment Team uses to fund various ministries at Peace. In 2022, the Endowment financially supported scholarships for youth campers, a youth service trip to North Carolina, the youth gathering planning extravaganza, and education and improvement to Peace's neighborhood 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 hosted an Endowment Dinner on Sunday, April 30th, at a downtown location complete with musical guests! At the dinner, the team was able to thank many of the Endowment's past donors and educate the group on the perpetual nature of gifts to the Endowment.

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

Members of the Endowment Team serve three-year, staggered terms. 2022 members were:

Tim Olson, Chairman

Brent Veeder, Treasurer

Michelle Adams

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

With every season, there is change and that has been true here at Peace Lutheran Church again in 2022.

- 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. We are close to being 100% LED lit.
- The condensing unit in the Library broke down after running for over 20 years. We decided to replace the unit which, due to supply chain issues, took over four months to replace. Thank you to everyone who was patient through that process.
- New blacktop was added on west side to preserve our parking lot.
- The main bathrooms near the sanctuary were renovated and updated with new automated lights and fixtures, stalls, sinks and paint.
- We divided an office into two by putting up a wall, mudding, taping, painting and installing a new carpet. We are still waiting on a door and HVAC to be completed but are grateful for the additional space.

Most exciting for this year is the commencement of the music hub and family activity center additions. The plan is to have these two spaces functional by Fall 2023.

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 (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.

2022 was an exciting year for Music & Worship as we have been able to continue our special music groups all year and add new groups and opportunities.

In addition to Peace Brass, Peace Symphonic Band, the Advent/Lent String Trio, Adult Choir, Adult Bells, Children’s Handchimes, Youth Bells, Jubilation Choir, Celebration choir, the Contemporary Praise teams, the Polka and Jazz Bands, we also premiered a new group, the Peace String Ensemble. We were also blessed by the Middle School Vocal Ensemble, a Trombone Quartet, a Brass Quintet, and some outside groups, including the SDSO Quintet and Quartet, the Mariachi Con Amigos group, Sioux Falls Singing Legionnaires, and the Bill Gibson Jazz Quintet. Throughout the summer and September, we offered lawn chair worship weekly at 11:15. This has proven to be a popular worship service and we will continue it in 2023! We continued our music opportunities for our children including Summer Music Camp, VBS, our Children’s Christmas musical in December, and Preschool and K-3rd Sunday/Wednesday School singing for Palm Sunday and Christmas Eve services!

The Christmas Cantata was wonderful, as usual, with singing and liturgical dancers, and we were excited to share that at our Saturday worship and our 10:10 worship services. Great work, Nancy! I’m sure Nancy would love to have many more join the Adult Choir, Adult Bells, Youth Bells, and Children’s Handchimes. If you are interested in being a part of these groups, please contact Nancy at nc.lenander@gmail.com.

Denise Edwards has done a great job as the Saturday worship pianist. Her piano skills are wonderful and she brings a joy to Saturday worship. Pat Steele continues to provide support as our substitute pianist when Denise or Kyle are unavailable.

Our Audio/Video team is going strong. However, we had several members graduate and go off to college so, if you’re interested in being a part of the AV team, please contact Bob Levesque (bob@peacelutheran.com). 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. She and her team continue to provide 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. This ministry does need more help so let’s make 2023 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 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.

Also, many thanks to the members of Spirit of Peace, Lifeline, Saved By Grace, Peace Brass, Peace Symphonic Band, Peace String Ensemble, Peace Jazz Band, Peace String Trio, Adult Choir, Adult Bells, Jubilation Choir, Celebration Choir, Youth Bells, Children’s Handchimes, the Polka Band, the Mariachi Band and the many instrumentalists and soloists who were able to give of their time and talents to provide special music throughout 2022. You truly have blessed Peace throughout the year and I hope that you feel God’s blessings on you.



Music and Worship Continued



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 coordinating special music at all of our worship services, planning special services, such as our Polka, Mariachi, Blue Grass, and other 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, Peace String Ensemble, and leading our contemporary worship teams – Lifeline, Spirit of Peace, and Saved by Grace.



We are still blessed with so many musical opportunities here at Peace. We will continue to provide worship and music opportunities throughout 2023 in whatever way possible 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



Communication Ministry for 2022 continues to be a whole lot of video producing. Each week, we strive to make a new Offering video, lifting up different parts of Peace ministry, giving a word of thanks, or taping of outside groups that Peace supports. We also continue sharing upcoming events and happenings through our Mission Opportunities videos – which are decided, produced, and edited every single week ahead of services.

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:

- PLC.Life, or the Planning Center app (Church Center), which is our online info center, continues to be lifted up more and more. Making life at Peace easier for each member!
- Continue using our Digital Bulletin (peacelutheran.com/Bulletin) since we stopped distributing paper copies to save both money and time – updated every week!
- Graphic designs: announcements, logos, stories, social media posts, etc. Making Peace stand out, be more inviting, and have a positive impact on all who come across us.
- Social media keeps growing. Facebook is now up to 2,332 Followers and 2,214 Page Likes. We continue to see some posts reach tens of thousands of people! Instagram now has 406 followers and YouTube is up to 346 subscribers.
- 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. The list also keeps growing, we are currently up to 611 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, inviting all to join us for Easter and Christmas worship!

On a personal note, my wife accepted a position with South Dakota State University in Fall 2022, which uprooted us to Brookings, SD! This transitioned my Peace schedule to three days in the church (mostly for video production) and two days of remote work. I am so grateful to Peace for being flexible in making this adjustment and allowing me to continue to serve in this capacity.

We'll keep doing all we can to not only communicate every Peace happening to all our members, but also share just how awesome Peace is with our community! As we continue to push forward in 2023, I look forward to our growth and positive change...whatever that may be and however that may look.

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.

2022

We continued to have a strong children's ministry program here at Peace. We have around 340 kids that we minister to. This year we have gone back to using the Narrative Lectionary which we used a few years back. We decided to come back to the Narrative Lectionary as this gives the kids more of an opportunity to connect with what they are doing in Sunday/Wednesday School, with what is happening in worship. One change that was made this year, is changing the curriculum that those in kindergarten through third grade use. Since this year in worship and with our educational programs, we went to using the Narrative Lectionary, this age group studies the same story that is being talked about in worship each week. Also, this age group this year, has a take-home family bag that has materials and most supplies to further their conversations on the stories each week at home as a family. It's a bag full of materials for five weeks. They bring the bag back and get it refilled for the next five weeks.

We were blessed to have had the ability to have our annual Children's Christmas program. We had a little over 60 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 that happens at the end of June. We had about 300 kids attend either in the morning or in the evening. There is nothing better than to hear them singing all together in one place sharing their love for God and doing various activities to learn more about Him and all that He does for us.

We also took part in some community outreach programs this year. Our fourth and fifth graders made tie blankets for Project Warm Up, collected quarters for Church on the Street's (COTS) Laundry with Love program, filled Christmas stockings for them along with Easter bags and then collected food items for Western Heights.

With the offering money in the Giving Jar, we have been supporting an orphan in Liberia, purchased solar Bibles for the kids in Haiti along with soccer balls and provided needy families with Christmas gifts.

We are so blessed with the best families at Peace Lutheran! I can't thank you enough for your support, for the many volunteers it takes to make the program successful each week and for the best kids a program could ask for!

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Tetzlaff

Director of Faith Formation

Children, Early Teens & Family



^^^ 2022 Christmas Musical

<<< 2022 VBS

First Communion Class >>>





Middle School-High School-Young Adult 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. 65 students affirmed their baptism this year!

Highlights from the program this year include:

- Bible Study – our 6th grade students are doing a Bible overview this year! Through storytelling, creative reflection and dialogue, sixth graders are discovering familiar (and unfamiliar) stories through a new lens. In September, they went to Kids Against Hunger for a pack that went to those affected by Hurricane Ian.
- Small Catechism – our 7th-9th grade students are piloting project-based learning. It has been such a delight to engage with our students in more creative ways as they work through Luther's Small Catechism.
- 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, and/or week-long summer camp or mission trip experiences.
- 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 two community leaders (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 Deacon Amanda Randall (traditional Wednesday programming) or Holly Marty (DIY Confirmation).

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 Faith Fest at Augustana University, ThunderRoad, Skate City, Bob Ross inspired Cocoa and Create, an escape room, Corn Maze, and a Christmas Party. If you'd like to help with planning, let me 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. We started **High School Second Sundays** as well! We meet regularly for games, service activities, and to talk about faith in our daily lives. The laughter is endless and I am so thankful for each of our students here at Peace!

In July, 19 of our 8th-12th graders, 6 parents, Pastor Jonathan and I went to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. We served alongside students and adults from across the country at The Dwelling, a congregation that primarily serves people experiencing homelessness, incarceration, mental illness, etc. It was a transformative experience for all of us. We served at different organizations in the community alongside members of The Dwelling and took a pilgrimage through the margins, which was based on the lived experience of our Dwelling Counselors. Our evenings were filled with worship, fun activities, and time together. Thank you to all who supported and prayed for our journey!

As we look ahead, we are planning for the next **National Youth Gathering (NYG)** in 2024! We will head to New Orleans, Louisiana for a time of worship, servant projects and connecting with fellow Lutherans. This is open to all **current 7th-11th grade students**. We even have floor seats for one night of worship! Interested in attending or being a small group leader? Let me know!

Summer Camps 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. We look forward to another summer of fun and encountering God!

In Christ,

Deacon Amanda Randall
Director of Faith Formation:
Youth and Young 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, and Forum, Men's Tuesday and Women's Wednesday morning groups, and Friday Morning Bible Study that each meet weekly.

Small groups offer another way to connect. Whether it's a small group that meets to paint inspirational messages on rocks in our community, or short term Lent studies, we offer a variety of meeting options and reasons for connecting. The Lent study this past year was based on the book, "More to Your Story," by Max Lucado, with groups meeting throughout the week.

Women's events returned to meeting in person this past year with a Women's Advent Gathering entitled, "The Gifts of Christmas." As part of this program, women donated Christmas candies and goodies both for a dessert buffet table for this event, along with making up goody packages for the pastors to take on their visits to shut ins or hospitalized during the month of December.

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, knitter, or stamper, as a musician for worship, as a counter or office volunteer, as a leader for youth activities, as a member on church council, or a volunteer for the LONK (loving our neighborhood children) activities, or someone who prepared and serves the Christmas Eve meal, 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

I'm happy to report the year of 2022 offered us opportunities to hear a variety of programs and once again enjoy delicious potlucks! More importantly much has been gained thru fellowship with one another and coming together for weekly Bible Study.

2022 Programs:

- January 24: Deacon Amanda Randall
- February 28: Church on the Street, Pastor Chris Matson
- March 23: Glory House, Allan Saugstad
- April 25: Call to Freedom, Monica Rilling
- May 23: Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, Madeline Shield
- June 27: Picnic and Sing-a-Long, Sandra Larson & Jeremy Skrenes
- July 25: PeaceNEXT, Pastor Paul
- August 22: Short Notice Trio
- September 26: Helpline Center, Wendy Mamer
- October 24: Mayor Paul TenHaken
- November 28: Deacon Amanda & Youth who attended The Dwelling in North Carolina
- December 12: Christmas Carol sung by Mona Hjerpe and A Christmas Cup of Tea read by Pastor Alex

All of our programs were available online and potlucks started again in September.

Other Activities:

Close to 800 **Birthdays Cards** were mailed out in 2022 to our members 62 and older. Our **Friday Morning Bible Study** continued to meet at 10:00 for socialization prior to the 10:30 Bible Study. A trip to Nora General Store in December was also a highlight

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. We have added Greg Paul to the driver list and look forward to his assistance in 2023. If you have an interest in joining the driver pool, please contact Ron@peacelutheran.com.

In closing, I'm sure you know by now that I (Pat) am going to try retirement again. I want to extend a huge thank you for letting me serve you in this ministry. Your friendship and time of fellowship will always be remembered.

Respectfully submitted,

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





Peace Lutheran Preschool & Pre-K opened in January 1985. As of January 2023, we will be in our 38th 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 & pre-k 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 has brought a lot of joy. We have been able to get back to having field trips, in person programs and inviting parents back in to help out in the classroom with fun activities!



I feel extremely blessed to be able to not only teach the kiddos in our preschool & pre-k 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. 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."

As usual, we have been wonderfully blessed with amazing families who are truly invested in the education of their kiddos and have worked alongside us teachers to ensure their kiddos are getting the educational and faith forming foundation in their early learning years! We can't wait to see what 2023 brings us!

DeAnna Dreesman,
Preschool & Pre-K 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!

2022 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!

2023 Goals:

- Continue to act as a “mentor program” for WestSide Lutheran by operating their 2023 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!

2022 Year End Budget:

Income:

Tuition and Fees.....	\$890,645
~Registrations	
~Grants	
~Activity fees	
~Interest Income	

Expenses:

Payroll.....	\$663,097
~FICA	
~Workman’s Comp	
~ELCA Benefits	
~Training	
Program Expense.....	\$ 45,746
~Children materials	
~Food/snack	
~Activities/Fieldtrips	
Preschool Services.....	\$ 9,970
Utilities.....	\$ 9,000
~Building use	
Transportation.....	\$7,618
Office.....	\$8,119
~Advertising	~Office supplies
~Phone, postage, copier, etc...	
~Computer related	~Misc





Heartland Ephphatha Ministry



Greetings from Heartland Ephphatha, the ministry for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing based right here at Peace Lutheran Church. We strive to make access to worship and church life for those who use American Sign Language. This year was another productive and amazing year. Our group went to the national ELDA conference in Malvern, Pennsylvania this summer. There we met with other ministries that offer

similar services to us. We worshipped, prayed, and had fun with some great people.



At home we had our first Deaf Awareness Sunday at Peace since before the pandemic. We also re-started ASL classes at the church. We are excited to be part of such a welcoming community.

Future plans for our ministry include a dedicated online worship channel that broadcasts mainly in ASL, is captioned and interactive. We are also in the process of planning a national gathering for Deaf Ministries in 2024. If you have any questions about our ministry reach out to Sarah or Jason Andera.

jason.andera@gmail.com or sarahandera@yahoo.com





WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

The Women of Peace once again made a difference in many people's lives, fulfilling our mission of *mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ*. We couldn't do it without the support and hard work of many; we want to thank everyone who participated in the activities, donated, and volunteered. Officers for 2022 for the WELCA unit were Linda Jensen-Leader; Millie Horton- Treasurer; and Kathy Porter-Recorder. We typically have about 5 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. The next meeting is March 20, 2023 at 6:30 in the Shalom Room.

We would especially like to thank everyone who donated to our February Love Offering and September Fall Thank Offering. These funds make it possible for us to give benevolence gifts to Peace ministries as well as to many local charities in the community. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Spring WELCA Love Offering which will be February 11, 12, and 15, 2023

The Sunrise Ladies Bible Study meets every Wednesday morning at 6:30 am via 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 for each of these groups.

Many thanks to Holly Marty for organizing the Women's Advent Gathering "The Gifts of Christmas" in December! Prior to the event, many Christmas gifts and funds for haircuts for the residents at the nearby Good Samaritan Village were collected, along with giving them a WELCA donation. Thanks also to Bev Philliber and Diane Feller for using Thrivent Action Grants and collecting the donations and to Bev for delivering the items to Good Sam Village on Marion Road. There were also collections for the local VOA Veterans Outreach Center, and winter wear for local school children, along with a check for each to purchase more items. Thrivent Action Grants supplemented the collections. We are grateful to Dianne Feller for coordinating and delivering the donations and the purchase of items for both of these worthwhile projects!

The Prayer Shawl group made 144 shawls for those needing comfort. 20 were sent to the Good Sam Village, and 60 went to Sanford Hospice/Ava's House. Church on the Street received 1,200 pocket prayer shawls! The rest of the shawls are available to members and pastors for those in need of them throughout the year.

The Quilting group made 236 quilts! They were distributed to Lutheran World Relief (160), Children's Inn (24), the Church on the Street (28), Glory House (12), and the VOA Veterans Outreach Center (12). Peace Quilters sold lefse in November, and had their Quilt/Craft sale in December to raise money to purchase supplies needed for more quilts. Thanks to all who supported this mission.

Peace WELCA honored Deb Patzlaff for all her work putting funeral lunches together. Due to a new job, Deb is no longer available to do all the personal requests for funeral cakes/volunteers. We now have a Funeral Committee (Marilyn Boese, Shireen Ranschau, Mary Quanbeck, Arlene Sorenson, and Betty Fokken) who lined up and coordinated volunteers and cakes for the rest of the 16 funerals during 2022, with 1,707 people served last year. Leftover food was given to the families/friends, or taken to St. Francis House or other charities as per the wishes of 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 2022: *240 Towels for Lutheran World Relief for personal care kits for Ukrainians, funds for gas for Bread Break/a non-profit that collects day old breads from bakeries and grocery stores to distribute to those in need such as at Food to You, *Good Samaritan Village Hair Cuts and Christmas gifts, *VOA Veteran's Outreach Center, *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. Dymas Christmas projects, SOS (Supply Our Students/school supplies), Peace Pastor Appreciation gifts, Peace VBS, Lunch is Served, the youth mission trip to NC, the Family Connection, and Nicaragua ministries through the SD Synod. The largest gift was for \$3,000 for Peace Lutheran Campers. WELCA also headed up collections of items or additional funds from Thrivent Action Teams 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!

Submitted by Peace Women of the ELCA



Greetings Charis partners, as another year comes to an end I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for all the ways you have supported these ministries in 2022. Without your support, we would not be able to continue to help so many in our community every month with items that are needed for basic living.

In July we were able to move our Food to You distributions back inside. This change allowed us to do a few different things, it gave us the ability to distribute the food better depending on family size instead of every family getting the same box of food no matter what their size; it gave the guests back their ability to make choices on different items they would prefer such as kinds of cereal, meat or soup; and it helped us to bring the ministry aspect back to the program. Bringing the distributions back indoors meant that not only would the guests be able to socialize with each other, it meant that our volunteers would be able to interact with and visit with the guests as well. It's been two years since we've been inside and some of our volunteers had never experienced our indoor distribution before, so this has helped them understand that we do far more than hand out food. The love and kindness we show to all who come through our lines is sometimes the best part of their day we've been told. Our distribution numbers for 2022 were up almost 900 families from 2021, from 3746 families in 2021 to 4634 in 2022.

In June we moved our Necessities for Neighbors distributions inside as well. This move allowed us to be able to move back to a system where we were able to register families and bring back the ministry aspect as well. Our guests have seemed to be happy with the changes and the opportunity to come back inside. We are always looking for different ways to connect with our guests and for ministry partners that would have services that they may be interested in. We had a woman that worked with a service offering free preschool for families that came to all of the Necessities for Neighbors and Food to You distributions for a month and visited with families, signing up any family that was interested in their services. Our distribution numbers for 2022 were down almost 1300 families from 2021, from 4519 in 2021 to 3528 in 2022.

Towards the end of 2022 the Charis board made the difficult decision to put our Healthy Rides program into a "hibernation" state. COVID changed everything for Healthy Rides, while the need for these rides had always been there, the ability to give those rides by Project CAR was not there. They had other customers that they were contracted to give rides to, but those customers ceased during COVID, so they were able to give more rides to our guests. The number of "health rides" skyrocketed. For years they had been giving 70-90 rides per month, but then it started climbing to 200, 300, and some months over 350. Both Avera and Sanford have been funding this program through grants since its inception, and so when the numbers started going up we did request an increase in the grant amount. However, the amount we received was not enough to be able to fund the program for another year. Project CAR submitted a request to Charis to take over the program under a different name "Rides for Wellbeing" which the board agreed with and we then put Healthy Rides to sleep, for now.

The main reason we moved our distributions back inside was to bring the ministry aspect back, that's what sets us apart from all the other "give-aways". A prime example of this happened at one of our Food to You distributions when one of our regular guests came up to us before the distribution started and explained that he was a diabetic and his blood sugar was dangerously low. He asked if we could find him anything to eat or drink, to help get his blood sugar back up, immediately I asked for some examples and then I went into the next room where we were setting up for the distribution and grabbed some food and juice for him. I brought it back to his table, opened it for him and told him that if he needed anything else to let me know. I checked on him a few minutes later to see if he needed anything else and he was eating and drinking, but said he was good and thanked me. When he came through to register he said he was feeling much better and thanked us for taking such great care of him. The following month when we were back at that location, this gentleman came up to me before we started to thank me again for taking such great care of him the previous month and to give me a donation. This man with so little gave me a monetary donation towards our ministry and it brought me to tears. This is why we do what we do, this is how we are different, we treat our guests like people and they know we truly care about them.

Again, I thank you for your partnership this year and I look forward to another year in service.

Blessings,

Cindy Haiar
Executive Director, Charis Ministry Partners



CHURCH ON THE STREET ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Dear Church on the Street Ministry Partners,

Your faithful generosity in prayer, kits, visits, quilt making, laundry pods, quarters, transporting donations, fundraising, Thrivent Action Teams, making and serving meals, telling the story, and making sure the good news of Jesus resurrection is known in hugs, tears, words, and clean laundry is remarkable. God's work is being done by a whole community by being Church together. Thank you for all so very much!

It is a joy for me to share what God is up to at Church on the Street, and I love getting to visit organizations and congregations all over the state and even in neighboring states! Frequently, a few lay leaders are able to join me. After a visit this summer, one of them leaned over and said, "I love hearing our story." And, in case you didn't know it, our story includes you! It is a story of God calling together a community that worships, serves, and walks together with those experiencing homelessness and poverty in Sioux Falls.

Here is a snapshot of who we are and what we do as a church:

- We worship monthly (6 months in the park & 6 months in the Multicultural Center)
- Our Laundry with Love ministry provides free laundry for families, a meal, new underwear, and fellowship
- We provide pastoral care at the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House, weekly
- We take countless walks to meet people where they are
- We ensure that folks are fed through our pantry and Fruits of the Freezer
- We collect, and pray over prayer requests are shared and prayed over and send them out to partners like you (email me chris@churchonthestreet.org to join those who pray for our individuals)

Because of you, we can better meet the growing needs in our community. We're relocating our annual Health and Healing event to include more ways for people to experience wellness through screenings and checks - in addition to feeling a bit more dignity through haircuts and new family photos.

We continue to have excellent staff and regular volunteers who work hard and deeply love the Church on the Streeters. When we gather for worship, in the laundry mat, or even on visits, someone is always handing me a little bit of food they got from a food giveaway or some warm clothing they won't be eating or using and tells me to pass it along to someone who needs it. Generosity abounds at Church on the Street!

We say it often because it is true – It's great to be Church together!

Together we do God's work and reach out to one another with hope and love. This hard, holy work is a blessing to so many. Thank you.

God's blessings,
Rev. Chris Matson

Pastor & Mission Developer
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57103
Chris@churchonthestreetsf.org
605-215-1143



DONATE NOW



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen!

Greetings from your brothers and sisters in Christ behind the walls of the South Dakota State Penitentiary system. Thank you all for the outpouring of support and encouragement we have received this year. It has been a big year of transitions, and God is at work in amazing ways in the lives of people inside and outside the walls.

The beginning of this year saw us restricted from even being allowed inside the prison due to lingering Covid restrictions, to again being able to gather for worship in-person. And you stepped up; we have had great groups visit both “The Hill” in Sioux Falls and at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, SD, to worship with us.

In February, we bid Pr. Wayne Gallipo a joyous farewell as he transitioned into retirement. I want to thank Pr. Wayne for his faithful service, hard work, and ministry to St Dymas. Our staff including our office manager, Susan Zacher, and music directors, Diane Larson and Joran Olson, all worked so hard to endure very challenging times in the history of both the St Dymas ministry and the world in general.

Emerging from Easter season in the promise that God makes all things new, on May 1, I began serving as the Senior Pastor and Development Director to St Dymas of South Dakota. Though I am new to leading this ministry, I inherited a strong legacy of God’s grace at work in challenging places. I give thanks that each and every day I get to witness God bringing new life from death in the lives of those who society often sees as undeserving. Worship attendance has increased at “The Hill,” MDSP, and the Yankton Unit. I am grateful for the work of Pr. David Bentz, who serves at MDSP, and Pr Dani Jo Bierwagen, who serves at the Yankton Unit. They are both faithful shepherds of God’s flock.

We are guided by a faithful and hardworking Associate Council that helps guide the strategy of the St Dymas ministry. Bringing my business management background with me into leading this ministry, I know I have certainly thrown new ways of thinking at them, and they have been greatly supportive.

Mitch Wilson continues to serve as our Re-Entry Coordinator. During Covid, a lot of the momentum of his work took a hit, but he has continued to accompany those transitioning from incarceration back into the “normal world,” and he does a great job. We look forward to talking to congregations about welcoming justice-impacted individuals to be part of your faith community. We know that making connections with these individuals leads to the success of their transition.

Above all, I give thanks to God for the many gifts he has entrusted to us. Through the faithful partnerships of many congregations, families, and individuals, we can do the work of proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to those who need to hear it most; “setting the captives free...”

Grace and peace to you always!



Pastor Jeff Backer
Senior Pastor/Development Director



Donate Now!



Income-Expenses

Peace Lutheran Church 2022 Annual Report

Income & Expenses

Accounts	2022 Budget	Actual 2022	2023 Budget
General Income			
Regular Envelope Offering	\$905,000.00	\$892,844.71	\$910,000.00
First Fruits-General Fund	\$550,000.00	\$442,176.16	\$550,000.00
Loose Offering	\$19,519.03	\$43,388.92	\$50,000.00
Initial Offering	\$395.75	\$255.00	\$500.00
Seasonal Offering	\$1,948.69	\$5,056.00	\$5,000.00
Encounter Offering	\$607.52	\$186.64	\$200.00
Interest Income	\$37.06	\$18.10	\$7.43
Offering Income	\$1,477,508.05	\$1,383,925.53	\$1,515,707.43
Benevolences			
Mission Partners			
Charis Ministry	\$3,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$3,000.00
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center	\$2,000.00	\$1,750.00	\$2,000.00
FLAM	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Pueblo de Dios Lutheran	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Congregations in Solidarity	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
St. Dymas Reentry Initiative	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
St. Dymas Holiday Meals	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
St. Dymas Lutheran Undesignated	\$1,000.00	\$950.00	\$1,000.00
Church on the Street	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Westside Lutheran	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Augustana Lutheran	\$1,100.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00
LOGOS Pueblo de Dios	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$550.00
Domestic Poverty Ministries			
Community Outreach	\$2,500.00	\$1,400.00	\$2,500.00
Needy Families	\$1,500.00	(\$518.03)	\$1,500.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$850.00	\$850.00	\$850.00
Kid's Against Hunger	\$900.00	\$500.00	\$900.00
Food to You Mobile Food Pantry	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00
The Banquet	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Necessities for Neighbors	\$300.00	(\$5.97)	\$300.00
Educational			
Shetek Bible Camp	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
Lutheran Outdoors	\$1,625.00	\$1,581.48	\$1,625.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Camp Counselor Scholarships	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Seminary Scholarships	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$1,250.00
Augustana PACT	\$600.00	\$900.00	\$600.00
Total Educational	\$5,700.00	\$3,206.48	\$5,700.00
South Dakota Synod			
Mission Support - SDS	\$82,892.00	\$74,716.90	\$82,892.00
Crossroads Conference Dues	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
God's Work Our Hands			
GWOH Seed Money	\$1,000.00	\$844.98	\$1,000.00
World Missions			
World Hunger(SD Synod)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Global Missions	\$4,495.00	\$4,495.00	\$4,495.00
Total Benevolences	\$6,495.00	\$6,495.00	\$6,495.00
Total Benevolences	\$134,582.00	\$113,240.84	\$134,582.00

Income-Expenses Continued



Accounts	Income-Expenses Continued		
	2022 Budgeted	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Pastoral Staff:	\$434,679.33	\$416,031.98	\$443,837.16
Other Staff:	\$642,273.77	\$587,443.22	\$640,074.85
Total:	\$1,076,953.10	\$1,003,475.20	\$1,083,912.01
Office Expenses			
Postage-Church	\$5,000.00	\$5,016.63	\$5,000.00
Hospitality	\$4,000.00	\$1,850.01	\$2,500.00
Office Supplies-Church	\$5,000.00	\$3,836.70	\$5,000.00
Employee Appreciation	\$1,000.00	\$295.36	\$750.00
General Fund Envelopes	\$500.00	\$642.51	\$650.00
Computer software-ACS-Planning Cent	\$12,000.00	\$11,528.15	\$12,000.00
Communications Soc. Media-Church	\$0.00	\$127.50	\$0.00
Marketing Tools	\$2,165.00	\$2,695.90	\$2,700.00
Advertising-Church	\$3,425.00	\$3,885.75	\$3,500.00
Church Online	\$3,000.00	\$3,744.42	\$3,000.00
Project Car	\$0.00	\$728.50	\$1,000.00
Insurance-Church	\$27,000.00	\$30,842.54	\$33,600.00
Bank Charges-Church	\$2,800.00	\$1,131.43	\$200.00
Mileage/Transportation-Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Peace Newsletter-Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supply Visitation-Pastors	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Call Expenses	\$0.00	\$8,829.18	\$0.00
Leadership Development-Church	\$1,000.00	\$477.30	\$750.00
Synod Assembly Fees-Church	\$3,000.00	\$1,539.59	\$250.00
Library Expense-Church	\$2,000.00	\$2,103.00	\$2,000.00
Faith Chest Expense	\$4,000.00	\$2,939.19	\$3,500.00
Office Equipment	\$0.00	\$433.66	\$0.00
Leadership Development	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$75,890.00	\$82,647.32	\$76,400.00
Program Expense			
Children Ministry	\$41,700.00	\$27,602.76	\$40,450.00
Youth Ministry	\$9,000.00	\$5,380.75	\$8,500.00
Confirmation Ministry	\$2,400.00	\$1,907.70	\$2,400.00
Senior Adult Ministry	\$6,600.00	\$1,422.69	\$3,800.00
Adult Ministry	\$3,800.00	\$780.44	\$3,550.00
Music Ministry	\$15,500.00	\$10,591.99	\$14,800.00
Connecting Ministries	\$9,350.00	\$3,616.03	\$7,150.00
Stewardship Expense	\$3,927.12	\$750.00	\$2,000.00
Library Expense	\$2,103.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Total :	\$94,380.12	\$54,052.36	\$84,650.00
Building Operating Expense			
Utilities			
Property Maintenance/Expense	\$67,408.73	\$55,000.00	\$75,100.00
Snow Removal	\$2,302.01	\$9,000.00	\$11,000.00
Building /Property Supplies Expense	\$15,734.29	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
Frontage/Real Estate Tax	\$3,600.00	\$3,720.40	\$3,725.00
Van Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lawn Care	\$6,601.06	\$5,000.00	\$6,500.00
Total :	\$95,646.09	\$88,720.40	\$112,325.00
Grand total Expense:	\$1,477,451.31	\$1,342,136.12	\$1,491,869.01
Net Operating Total:		\$41,789.41	



Income-Expenses Continued

Accounts	Income and Expense Continued		
	2022 Budgeted	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Facility Usage	\$3,460.00	\$4,425.00	\$5,000.00
Trivent Choice Dollars	\$7,671.00	\$6,775.00	\$7,000.00
Faith Chest Income	\$1,000.00	\$550.00	\$550.00
Faith & Family Income	\$472.00	\$800.09	\$800.00
Youth-Programming	\$18.36	\$0.00	\$20.00
Sunday School Income	\$1,015.55	\$1,351.62	\$1,250.00
Vacation Bible School Income	\$5,792.28	\$5,885.71	\$5,750.00
Coffee Corner	\$811.93	\$1,173.65	\$1,200.00
Preschool Space Rental	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
Child Care Space Rental	\$3,600.00	\$9,000.00	\$6,000.00
PeaceCare Preschool Work Comp	\$3,310.00	\$3,360.00	\$3,480.00
Misc. Income	\$1,190.00	\$7,625.11	\$1,190.00
Senior Ministry Income	\$200.00	\$495.00	\$500.00
Transfer from Prior Year	\$47,456.93	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
Total Offsetting Income:	\$77,798.05	\$43,241.18	\$84,540.00

2022 Summary of Accounts



Cash		
Cash	Dec 2021 Ending	Dec 2022 Ending
General Fund Checking	\$94,099.48	\$51,234.02
Peace Lutheran Endowment Fund	\$166,661.30	\$147,634.88
Business Savings Account	\$3.02	\$192.20
Sub Total	<u>\$260,763.80</u>	<u>\$199,061.10</u>

Special Funds		
Peace Next	\$212,566.85	\$167,396.96
Rejuvenation Funds	\$160,612.93	\$253,372.93
Petty Cash	\$100.00	\$100.00
Totals	<u>\$373,279.78</u>	<u>\$420,869.89</u>

Special Funds:	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expense	Ending Balance
Children Yth Camp	\$6,944.06	\$33,349.16	\$32,397.32	\$7,905.90
Children Ministry	\$951.96	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$976.96
Youth Programs Designed	\$1,112.74	\$165.55	\$80.00	\$1,196.29
Youth Gathering Funds	\$11,254.79	\$25,676.93	\$36,360.05	\$571.67
Summer Youth Trips	\$1,173.83			\$1,173.83
Youth Servant Trips	\$986.77	\$0.00	\$9,686.77	\$0.00
Hy-Vee Cards	\$3,009.62	\$12,857.94	\$14,819.33	\$1,047.90
Youth Events Payments	\$214.62	\$2,018.34	\$2,037.20	\$195.76
Giving Jar	\$5,770.61	\$12,343.43	\$6,173.04	\$11,941.00
Christmas Program Offering	\$2,306.52	\$685.00	\$262.87	\$2,728.65
Scripts Programs	\$15,384.18	\$27,299.02	\$26,853.13	\$15,830.07
Confirmation	\$4,428.53	\$3,103.09	\$1,856.30	\$5,675.32
Fundraising Children and Youth	\$7,872.74	\$14,010.80	\$9,264.15	\$12,649.39
Children & Youth Total:	<u>\$61,410.97</u>	<u>\$131,534.26</u>	<u>\$139,790.16</u>	<u>\$61,892.74</u>

Music				
Memorial Music & Mis.	\$8,756.27	\$267.00	\$2,009.95	\$7,013.32
Music Camp Inc./Exp.	\$278.91	\$455.67	\$734.64	-\$0.06
Adult Choir Funeral Gifts	\$585.78	\$180.00	\$332.06	\$433.72
Music Total:	<u>\$9,620.96</u>	<u>\$902.67</u>	<u>\$3,076.65</u>	<u>\$7,446.98</u>



2022 Summary of Accounts Continued

2022 Summary of Accounts Continued				
	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expense	Ending Balance
Ministries:				
Connecting people X-mas Dinn	\$1,924.06	\$0.00	\$353.09	\$1,570.97
Stephen Ministry	\$2,122.11	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$2,147.11
VBS-Bilingual	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Start Up Programs	\$377.68	\$1,114.45	\$0.00	\$1,492.13
Youth and Young Adult Ministr	\$29,449.42		\$153.36	\$29,296.06
Rent Assistance/Needy Familie	\$5,145.32	\$1,100.00	\$2,391.04	\$3,854.28
St Dysmas	\$223.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$223.60
Global Missions Peace Bank	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Prayer Shawl Ministry	\$1,221.28	\$311.50	\$157.33	\$1,375.45
Peace Quilters	\$4,080.28	\$4,705.46	\$3,229.34	\$5,556.40
Global Missions	\$10,428.15	\$10,158.64	\$15,733.64	\$4,853.15
World Hunger	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Orphan Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Necessities for Neighbors	\$10,428.15	\$10,158.64	\$15,733.64	\$4,853.15
Banquet	\$1,367.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,367.77
Health Wellness Ministry	\$909.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$909.02
Total Ministries:	\$67,676.84	\$27,598.69	\$37,776.44	\$57,499.09
Designated/Undesignated				
Designated income/Expense	\$4,215.81	\$1,289.32	\$4,950.00	\$555.13
Designated Memorials	\$14,117.35	\$5,925.00	\$2,494.49	\$17,547.86
Undesignated Memorials	\$8,070.63	\$4,505.00	\$1,205.00	\$11,370.63
Designated/Undesignated Totals:	\$26,403.79	\$11,719.32	\$8,649.49	\$29,473.62
Peace				
Peace Shop	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$0.00	\$5.00
Coke Machine	\$618.67	\$2,008.08	\$2,407.78	\$218.97
Flowers for Altar	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Peace Meals	\$2,237.11	\$630.00	\$0.00	\$2,867.11
Wedding Fees out	\$7,007.93	\$2,875.00	\$3,407.01	\$6,475.92
Shuttle Bus Account	\$1,266.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,266.00
Des-Project Car	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$15.50	\$484.50
Revolving Assistance Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Peace Quarterly Mission	\$351.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$351.18
Capital Improvement	\$18,820.78	\$2,442.04	\$0.00	\$21,262.82
Library Dedicated	\$1,204.13	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$1,304.13
Bequest Proceeds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Endowment Gifts	\$1,785.89	\$8,186.47	\$4,285.89	\$5,686.47
Endowment Operating	\$8,515.76	\$8,785.13	\$9,476.14	\$7,824.75
Peace Total:	\$41,807.45	\$25,531.72	\$19,592.32	\$47,746.85

2022 Summary of Accounts Continued



Adult Education	2022 Summary of Accounts Continued			
	Beginning Balance	Resticted Revenue	Restricted Expense	Ending Balance
Adult Ed Events	\$189.75	\$557.12	\$456.93	\$289.94
Adult Ed Book Sales	\$596.75	\$317.00	\$166.14	\$1,047.61
Adult Education Totals:	\$786.50	\$874.12	\$623.07	\$1,337.55
Totals	\$207,706.51	\$198,160.78	\$209,508.13	\$205,396.83



South Dakota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! On behalf of the 200 partner congregations and worshipping communities in South Dakota, your two companion synods, Cameroon and Nicaragua, and your 64 synod partners across the ELCA, I would like to thank you for your partnership. Together we have faithfully shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with “all nations” (Matthew 28:19).



Please know that your local ministry has touched people's lives and hearts. Every item you donated to your local food ministry, every Sunday school lesson you prepared and taught, every quilt you assembled, every cup of coffee you poured at a funeral luncheon, and every other way you served your neighbor in Christ's name has touched someone else in Christ's name. You may not think much of it, but be assured that every kind gesture, every caring act, and every kind word is a faithful response to the faith God's Holy Spirit ignites in you. Thank you, for living out your faith in these various ways in your local context.

Together with the 200 partner congregations and worshipping communities in the South Dakota Synod, we also continue to be able to reach even farther than anyone's own local context, and, together, make a positive impact in Christ's name in all parts of our Synod. Please take a look at the “Ministry Celebration” insert that was included in our annual year end mailing. It will give you a numerical snapshot of the many things we have accomplished together as the South Dakota Synod. Thank you for being a partner in this journey.

Personally, I am grateful for your support of my rural ministry emphasis. Because of your generosity and your synod council's courage, I was able extend a call to Pastor Alan Blankenfeld to serve as the first “South Dakota Synod Rural Liaison”. This position is not funded through the synod's mission plan but instead through your generosity and in part through “Listen God's Calling” capital campaign resources. Because of your generosity, Pastor Alan has impacted and continues to impact rural communities in big ways. You may want to be careful if he asks you out for coffee, though, because he is known for planting and cultivating the seed of answering the call to ordained ministry.

We are also able to look back on a successful inaugural “Farm to Table Dinner,” at which we raised over \$100,000.00 for Rural Ministry support. Through these gifts, and your synod council's support of Pastor Greg Johnson in his sabbatical project, we are now also able to offer you a free five-part study called “A Life of Faith,” which can be used in a variety of ways. You can check out the series on the synod's webpage www.sdsynod.org. And finally, I am delighted to announce to you that, because of a generous donor, the South Dakota Synod was able to establish the first “Rural Ministry Sustainability Endowment.” As it grows, it will assure that the Gospel of new life in Christ can be shared for generations to come.

In closing, let me share with you my deep sense of gratitude for the opportunity to serve the synod as your Bishop with a deep passion for rural ministry in times such as these. I am grateful for the call, your partnership in ministry and the grace of God, which sustains us in our daily life. Thanks be to God!

Journeying with you,

Bishop Constanze Hagmaier



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

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

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).