

Presented at the Annual Meeting
January 28, 2024



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Paul Stjernholm, Senior Pastor
Alex Smith, Associate Pastor
Elizabeth Platts, Associate Pastor

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What a year of transitions! We weathered two pastors taking new calls and continued to negotiate through the construction process!

Staffing changes

The Staff at Peace is an amazing group of dedicated, creative people who bring a lot of energy and fun to the work they do! This year we hated to hear **Pastor Renae's** announcement that she was going to pursue fulltime education in chaplaincy care in the Twin Cities. She had served Peace in a variety of ways, first as an organizer of the Faith and Family Team, then as our Nursery Coordinator, then as our Director of Children's Ministries, then as a pastoral Intern, and then as one of our four pastors. Her innovative thinking and her heart for people impacted and changed how we do ministry at Peace.

Then the Holy Spirit called **Pastor Jonathan** to do critically needed work in the South Dakota Synod as the Director of Evangelical Ministry. Over the years he served Peace we leaned on him heavily to get our livestream worship ministry up and running. He also did heavy lifting for the Peace NEXT campaign that helped the congregation raise \$1.4 million for the first two years. He also served as the Construction Liaison between the Staff and the General Contractor, keeping track of dozens of details that naturally arise during any construction project. He, too, has helped forever change the ministry of Peace Lutheran.

AND, we celebrated **Jeff Panek's** retirement as our Facilities Manager. We have been so blessed by Jeff's ability to get things done, both inside and outside of the building. Besides the usual maintenance demands, Jeff completed a multi-year project to trade out every fluorescent light in the building with LED lights, which involved rewiring each of the fixtures. You would be surprised how many lights are in the building, and what huge savings this means for the church!

Fortunately, saying goodbye to friends is followed by saying hello to new friends! In the area of Facilities Maintenance, we were blessed to hire **Jordan Simon** as our Facilities Coordinator, and **Jose Nevarez** and **Kristen Seeman**, Custodial support and equally blessed to have one of our members, **Dave Hatle**, bring his experience to help with some of the big projects that needed to be addressed during this time of construction.

And we were blessed to call **Pastor Elizabeth Platts** to serve Peace! The congregation has already been blessed by her ministry, and it has been a joy to get to know her! Among other responsibilities, she will work closely with our Faith Formation directors as Peace expands its ministry in that area. And I am so grateful for the way Pastor Alex has partnered with me to navigate through both pastoral transitions!

And at our Annual Congregational Meeting we will vote on calling **Pastor Jason Kramme** to fill out the pastoral team. The Call Committee and the Staff who have met Pastor Jason are very excited to introduce him to the

congregation and look forward to the gifts and energy he will bring to Peace Lutheran!

Finally, we are thankful that **Pat Grieben** and **Miranda Fox** has stepped up to help our team of Worship Hosts.

Peace NEXT

It's been exciting to celebrate different completions of the PeaceNEXT project this year, starting with the Playground which we were able to start using in September. Then the Music Hub addition opened in November. And the Family Activities Center opened the first weekend in January! Already the YMCA has been hosting youth basketball games in that new facility!

During this past summer the congregation voted to expand the PeaceNEXT project to include the remodeling and expansion of the Gathering Place. That project is scheduled to be completed by Easter. That new space just off the sanctuary will be very appreciated, providing a place to connect with each other before and after worship and throughout the week (think post-pickleball game)!

Funding

To date Peace members have given \$2 million dollars toward this \$8.1 million project. We have borrowed \$6.1 million from the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA (25 years at 3.875%). Our monthly mortgage payments begin early this year and will be just over \$32,000 monthly.

When I look at those numbers, I am awed at the generosity and sense of mission of our members! That same passion is going to translate into creating life-giving ministries in all those new spaces.

Looking ahead

In the pages ahead you will learn about all the significant ministry we did together this year, and the exciting directions we are headed in 2024! The Holy Spirit has poured out blessings in abundance upon Peace beginning with the gifts that each of you brings. But that blessing also includes a dynamic Staff, and now brand-new spaces for ministry! The changes we lived through this past year have put into place the pieces we need for doing ministry in brand new ways in 2024.

Thank you all for your prayers and participation! You make it fun and so rewarding to be a pastor at Peace!!





Pastor Alex Smith



Grace and peace to you, people of God!

This coming Easter marks two years for me here on staff... and what a fantastic time it has been! Through all of the transitions, I have continued to be grateful to be here with you. Thanks again for calling me to be one of your Associate Pastors; I can't wait to see what our future together has in store! Here's a little bit about some of the ministries where I've been involved throughout this past year:

Serving on our **Worship & Music Team** has been a joy! I get to help Bob with selecting hymns, prayers, and words for worship, as well as arranging our preaching series and weekly services. (Also, if you have a favorite hymn you'd like to hear, please let me know!) Worship of Jesus is the center from which all of our other mission and ministry flows.

I've have the privilege of teaching **6th Grade Confirmation** as well. These are a bright, energetic, and sweet group of kiddos! This year, we did a curriculum called "Echo the Story" as we learned foundational texts of the Old and New Testament. I hope that they will echo that story back to you in many ways.

Along with the **shared pastoral duties** of preaching, teaching, sacraments and visitation, this past year I was honored to lead several weddings and funerals. It's a privilege to be here with you at these big life stages and milestones. Thank you for your trust.

I get to serve as your congregational ambassador by welcoming **New Members** into our community. We have seasonal services where we pray, print out bios, and put up pictures to welcome our newest siblings to this church family. If you know anybody who is interested, please let me know...you'd be delighted to see how many new people we meet with each month to discuss making Peace Lutheran their church home!

During the summer and fall, I've enjoyed leading the **Small Groups** of in-person Pub Theology and online-based Jesus & Justice Book Club. Both of these gatherings are informal and welcoming, and we would love for you to join us with a friend!

Stephen Ministry has been one of the highlights of my time at Peace. It's been an honor to step into this ministry and be welcomed by some truly talented and faithful people from our congregation. Thank you, Stephen Ministers, for how you have stepped up to be part of our Visitation Team (monthly, to nursing homes and hospitals) and our Hospital Team (weekly, to our various healthcare facilities). You have also risen to the occasion of attending and/or leading Grief Group, Blue Christmas, and other support group gatherings. In the absence of a full-time pastor who can take on the ministry of Visitation, you have been a blessing from the Lord. I appreciate all that you do!

As your Associate Pastor for Care of the Neighbor, my primary calling is working with **God's Work, Our Hands** and all of the service ministries that we do together in Jesus' name. We couldn't do any of this love and care without your generous donations of time, talent, and treasure, so please hear my sincere appreciation for you, our great volunteers! THANK YOU, PEACEMAKERS! I make it my goal to show up as a worker and pastoral presence at the following events. Come and join us!

- Necessities for Neighbors (1st Sundays)
- Feeding South Dakota (2nd Mondays)
- Church on the Street (2nd Saturdays & Events)
- Food to You (4th Thursdays and As Needed)
- Charis Ministries Board (2nd Tuesdays)
- St. Dysmas Prison Worship (Quarterly)

In the coming year, I'd love to gather with anyone who was connected with and passionate about LONK (Loving Our Neighbor Kids), CLI (Congregations Lead Initiative), and Story Junction so that we can apply your awesome skills. With your help, I'd love to host our Summer Fun Carnivals again. Also, in 2024, I'd also like to start up a new Learning & Service Team to care for our Native & Indigenous neighbors, in partnership with Pine Ridge Retreat Center (ELCA). Let me know if you want to be part of this newest accompaniment team here at Peace.

Many blessings to you this wild and wonderful new year!

In Christ, P. Alex



“And let us consider how to spur on one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” —Hebrews 10:24-25

I have only been here two and a half months, but already I feel at home! It has been a blessing to be called as an Associate Pastor here at Peace. Since I arrived, I have tried to attend as many functions as I could to meet as many people as possible!

I love working with Pastor Paul and Pastor Alex. I enjoy leading worship, preaching, and sharing hospital visits with them. (I am super-impressed with the incredible music program here as well—Thank you, Bob!) And the fact that I get to be a part of the Faith Formation Team is a dream come true. Christian Education for all ages is my passion. Working with Holly, Deacon Amanda and Pam is fantastic!

Pam has taught me about the Children and Family Ministry here. I have already been a part of some milestone events (more to come this spring!) and the Christmas program with Darya. I am also looking forward to working with VBS and Camp.

With Deacon Amanda I have been involved with the youth, especially the 8th and 9th grade Confirmation program, with Youth Groups (including 1st Friday and 2nd Saturday). I am also blessed to be attending The Gathering in NOLA this summer!

Holly has included me in the DIY Confirmation Program on Sunday mornings as well as Adult Forum. I love tag teaching with Holly, whether it is Friday Bible Study, a Senior Group, or a Grief Support Group.

I am also working with a lot of small groups, including the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Quilters, WELCA circles, the Wednesday Women’s Bible Study, and Book Club. I am eager for other things I will lead in 2024, including Prayer Ministry, Contemplative Worship, a Zoom



Bible Study on the Minor Prophets, and Divorce Care. I also will be working with some neighborhood outreach as well as our global partners with Haiti, Nicaragua, and Cameroon.

So, thank you to everyone for welcoming me (including Lisa who sat and helped me with all the new systems!) And I hope that this year we can truly “spur each other on” as we do good together!

Peace,
Pastor Elizabeth



Church Council President

2023 was a year of new beginnings. You never know where the spirit will lead and that was most certainly true this past year at Peace Lutheran.

A year ago, we were eager with anticipation of the start of construction and as the months have gone by, watching the walls go up and see the plan come to fruition was such a great marvel to witness. It has been fun to see how the music hub has so quickly filled with the life of Peace. As a musician myself, I have been getting my use out of it and it is great to see how all the music groups have settled in their new home. We also had the opportunity to add the gathering place expansion to the project and while we are still in the process of that, the end result will be here before we know it and will provide a much more welcoming place to gather, interact and cultivate relationships with one another.

The council usually establishes a new five-year goal each year. As we reviewed our current goals and the additional complexities of having new space to consider, we opted not to add a new goal this year which turned out to be a wise decision. Because of this, we were able to have time for discussions on new and exiting ways to utilize our new space while also keeping a focus on our current goals.

Some of these 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. You can see echoes of these in many aspects of our ministries including our collective generosity to expand our gathering place. This expansion will help create a more welcoming physical space to reflect the way we treat guests as well as neighbors. We have also added technology in the Music Hub to be more engaging in groups that have an online presence.

In addition to these goals, we have been looking

deeper at how our other two goals interact. The first of these is that we are all “Claimed and Called” to be God’s children. This is the important first step in our faith journey to know that God has chosen us, and we all have something to contribute to the community. But, what next? What do we do with that information? The other goal is “Energize and Empower the People of Peace to: Care For, Reach Out To, and Engage With Each Other & New People”. This is the call to action, to take our gifts and work to help others find how they are “Claimed and Called”. Council focused on how to amplify that message and create a positive environment for all to explore ways they can get involved.

The council also established 2 call committees this past year. While saying goodbye to Pastor(s) is not pleasant, it also provides an opportunity to meet someone new that has a unique set of gifts to bring to Peace. Pastor Elizabeth is definitely unique and now that she’s here it is hard to imagine Peace without her. The second call committee has brought a candidate for recommendation and with him brings a whole new opportunity for the future of Peace Lutheran.

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

2023 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order by President Adam Hatle on January 29, 2023. There was a quorum of 50 or more members in attendance. Some also participated through ZOOM.

A prayer was given.

The minutes of the 2022 meeting were available in the annual report. Cara Hetland moved to approve the minutes, and Amanda Painter seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer Jamie Dooley reviewed the 2022 treasurers report. We did not quite meet our budget goal of \$1,555,430.10 with \$1,429,514.60. The loss is not deemed a concern at this time considering the size of our budget. Staffing expenses were about \$73,000 less than planned. This was due to Pastor Alex starting a little later into the year and some reduced office staff hours. Office expenses were a little over budget with some one time expenses (call for Pastor). Building expenses were more than budgeted with some unexpected AC expenses. The rejuvenation fund can be used in an unexpected time of need. There was some discussion regarding the construction project through PeaceNEXT. We have closed on our loan and have also been using the funds that were raised for the project. Rachael Hatle moved to approve the treasurers report, and Tim Jensen seconded the motion. The report was approved by the members.

A video was viewed to highlight activities at Peace.

The nominating team presented nominees for church council positions, the endowment team, and nominating team. There are 6 council positions to fill. A ballot was distributed with the positions and nominees. They are as follows: President-Elect-Janet Schlueter, Treasurer-Jamie Dooley, Council-at-large-Amy Stensland and Tony Turgeon, Council-at-large (partial term)-Lori Ollerich, and Youth Rep-Emma Witt. The nominees ran unopposed for all positions and were declared elected to their terms with unanimous consent. The Endowment Team had two nominees for two positions. They are Craig Matson and Holly Kleinsasser. They were elected by unanimous consent. The Nominating Committee had two nominees for two positions. They are Amanda Randall and Cara Hetland. They were elected by unanimous consent.

A video was viewed regarding Christmas at Peace.

A video was viewed regarding PeaceNEXT.

Pastor Reports were given by each pastor. Their full reports are in the Annual Report.

Pastor Alex Smith highlighted her gratefulness to be called to Peace and to be a part of our staff. She encourages us to contact her with any questions, needs, or further information.

Pastor Renae Boehmer had a commitment during this time. She provided a video highlighting outreach to the neighbors with various activities and opportunities.

Pastor Jonathan Vehar spoke on unprecedented ways we have reached out and interacted with the neighbors surrounding our church. Due to rising prices of over 25% by about \$1.25 million from the first estimate, the building project needed to be revised. It was split into 2 phases. We are now in Phase 1 part A, and we are about to start Part B. Expanding of the gathering space needed to be moved to Phase 2. The Family Activity Center is part of Phase 1. He is working closely with the actual construction. He is thankful with how we came through the pandemic although we still have some areas to grow.

Senior Pastor Paul Stjernholm has been working closely with the business aspect of the PeaceNEXT building project. He is also thankful for generous giving from the congregation. He expressed thanks for the Council and Council members whose terms have ended (Carissa Dice-President and Jill Beck-Secretary). The Council selects a new 5-year goal each year. Each goal progresses for approximately 5 years. He predicts the Family Activities Center will have a significant impact on our church.

Old Business-none was suggested

New Business-Treasurer Jamie Dooley presented the 2023 budget. The proposed budget of \$1,600,371.43 is about a 3% increase from 2022. Gene Nelson moved to approve the 2023 budget. This was seconded by Duane Larson. The budget was voted on by the members and was approved.

The staff was acknowledged for their work.

Pastor Alex closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted by

Jill Beck, Secretary



Special Congregational Meeting

October 15, 2023

President Adam Hatle noted we had a quorum (of at least 50 members) and called the meeting to order.

Lori Ollerich, Chair of the Call Committee, provided information about the process and the Associate Pastor candidate that was chosen to present to the congregation. It was then open to members present to share questions and/or comments. After all questions were answered, Cara Hetland made the motion to call Pastor Elizabeth Wilder Platts to be an Associate Pastor at Peace Lutheran Church.

Matt Dreke seconded the motion.

A paper ballot vote was taken. Once done voting, ballots were collected and counted. The results were:

Yes = 165

No = 1

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Painter



New Members

Steven Batterman
Houston Bohlen
Danielle Brandner
Owen Buckmiller
Glenna Burns
Joan Buttenhoff
Hayes Cain
Calvin Connor
Declan Connor
Linda Conover
Neil Conover
David Dahle
Denise Fields
Lon Fields
James Fishback
Nadene Fishback
Owen Fishback
Banks Freudenthal
Blair Gathje
Marlee Grimmus
Emmett Habeck
Gary Hansen
Kinley Haugestuen
Westyn Hedstrom
Holly Hemmer
Piper Henjum
Skyler Henjum
Susan Hove
Madyson Jarrott
Skye Kirby
Andrew Knutson
Brian Knutson
Kristin Knutson
Sawyer Lewis
Jackson Lowry
Harrison Lyden

Tatum Martin
Thomas Menge
Marcia Muller
Ellanora Nelson
Arthur Nesbitt
Walter Nesbitt
Isabelle Ochowicz
Reeghan Osthus
Max Oyan
Asher Perman
Avery Perman
Amelia Peters
Jayde Ramstad
Knox Ramstad
Tyler Ramstad
Noah Rhoda
Megan Rock
Tyshawn Rydell
Vivian Schaefer
Andrew Schmidt
Julie Schneider
Shaun Schneider
Lainey Snyder
Maleiah Spindler
Judy Stanga
Amelia Steen
Andrew Steen
Kristen Steen
Theo Steen
Grayson Stemper
Augusta Swartz
Brady Swartz
Caitlin Swartz
Bristol Thompson
Chase Walker
Harper Wanner
Nicholas Wanner₉

Shirryka Wanner
Jaxon Weibel
Zachary Wessels
Lilly Whitcomb
Bennett Wiese
Clare Wieseler
LuAnn Yoder



Mollie Anderson
Aniyah Bauer
Houston Bohlen
Owen Buckmiller
Calvin Connor
Declan Conover
Rhett Dunagan
Brooks Dybehdaahl
Owen Fishback
Banks Freudenthal
Blair Gathje
Marlee Grimmius
Emmett Habeck
Kinley Haugestuen
Westyn Hedstrom
Skyler Henjum
Nora June Rolfes
Sawyer Lewis
Harrison Lyden
Autumn Marks
Tatum Martin
Thomas Menge
Ellanora Nelson
Arthur Nesbitt
Walter Nesbitt
Maria Parker
Asher Perman
Avery Perman
Amelia Peters

Conrad Peterson
Knox Ramstad
Noah Rhoda
Tyshawn Rydell
Vivian Schaefer
Lainey Snyder
Grayson Stemper
Kelly Techen
Bristol Thompson
Miles Tillma
Paityn Tillma
Chase Walker
Harper Wanner
Agnes Weah
Jaxon Weibel
Lilly Whitcomb
Bennett Wiese
Clare Wieseler



MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Beginning membership: **4188**

Baptized members received: 81

Baptized members removed: 256

Change:

Year-End Members: 4013

Total Confirmed Members: 2791

Notables:

Baptisms (15 and younger) **47**

Baptized members confirmed: **54**

Total number of people (including children) actively participating: **3631**



Fern Swearingen Library

I am excited to report that the library is good hands, God's hands. It has been humbling and exciting to see how He is working through a multitude of different folks to accomplish great things in and through Peace Lutheran's library ministry.

A year ago, my big question was how to make the library more visible and accessible to all church members and people who use our building?

In the past 12 months, we have been empowered to take our library into cyberspace, where it can be used by anyone with internet access on their phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer! Many hands have bar-coded, re-labeled and entered over 5,000 books into our online database so far, with at least another couple thousand to go. You can go to our library by using this web address:

www.librarycat.org/lib/newpeacelutheran

If patrons 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. Also, there is a clipboard on the library desk where anyone can register and check out books and materials whether someone is at the desk or not.

Beyond that, we have added a bookcase display full of inspiring and popular books, along with a book drop for returning books near the welcome desk and future gathering area. These all have "quick checkout cards" which simply need to be filled out and put in the book return slot. We will get your information entered and you should receive an e-mail confirming your due date (always 30 days with multiple renewals possible).

The result of all the above has been an increase in people using the library and the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives through the materials we have ready and available.

I am extremely grateful to the army of volunteers for their time and assistance to make this happen, to the Scouts who have their Eagle projects planned for much needed improvements to the library, to the electricians volunteering their time and labor to our window project, to WELCA for financial assistance to upgrade the children's shelving and area rugs to brighten the space, to all who have given their Thrivent matching grants to our fund-raising efforts through Coffee Corner and book sales, and those who have donated books, furnishings and office supplies.

God has blessed this ministry through each and every one of you, thank you!

June Gillespie, Library Coordinator



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 nearly \$8000 in new gifts. Thank you for your contributions! There has been a rebound in the financial markets, so this year the endowment principal balance ended at \$169,009. That is an increase of nearly \$14,000 from last year's ending balance of \$155,237.

The endowment's principal balance earns interest, which the endowment team uses to fund various ministries at Peace. In 2023, the endowment financially supported new library shelves, Pastor Renee's farewell dinner, camperships for youth who helped serve at the dinner, and campership gift certificates. The total amount of funding for these items was \$4,400.

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 say thank you to those who have made donations. Along those lines, the committee has developed a video to be shown at Church services periodically, and also have the video shared on social media. We also saw a greater awareness by including the endowment fund as a giving option on the pledge cards. We are pleased with the efforts of our committee, and we have received pledges of \$32,166 for the year of 2024.

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. 2023 members were:

- Craig Matson, Chairman
- Brent Veeder, Treasurer
- Holly Kleinsasser, Secretary
- Michelle Adams
- Tim Miller

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

Craig Matson, Chairman



Building and Administration

Wow, has it been an exciting year for our building and grounds here at Peace Lutheran. As you know by now, we have undergone an extensive addition and are in the midst of remodeling our Gathering Place. These are such exciting projects and will bring Peace new spaces to create lasting memories!

Projects in 2023:

- Continued work on replacing lights throughout the church to eventually become fully LED.
- New garbage disposal in the kitchen
- New garage built—rearranging, organizing and downsizing
- Painting and touch up work in several spaces throughout the church
- A bit of landscaping—removing thistle patch and preparing to plant new flowers next spring
- Assembled new chairs and tables for the north addition
- Continued to work diligently to keep all spaces clean and presentable

We would like to extend a note of thanks to all of our contractors and volunteers for the work each of you contributed at Peace Lutheran. Major contractors are: Brock Contracting (Snow removal); Travis Electric (electrical); Safe-N-Secure (Secured doors and cameras); Climate Control (HVAC); Mr. Rooter and Hander (plumbing); ELBO (network); McGough (construction); Verum Technologies (audio/visual); TSP (architects) and a whole host of others who have helped in one way or another here over the past year. A special thank you to Dave Hatle for lending his expertise and skills as we said good-bye to Jeff and continue working to transition from one Facilities Manager to another.

We welcome your support and encourage you to reach out should you have any questions or want to volunteer for various projects that will keep us busy in 2024.





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

2023 was an exciting year for Music & Worship with us getting our NEW Music rehearsal space! It is a grand room with incredible acoustics and technology. All of our groups have commented on how we can hear every little nuance when rehearsing. We are all feeling more productive and notice our music quality has stepped up a notch or two!

In addition to Peace Brass, Peace String Ensemble, 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, Jazz and Mariachi Bands, we also premiered a new group, the Peace Symphonic Orchestra. We were also blessed by a Middle/High School Vocal Ensemble. Throughout the summer and September, we offered lawn chair worship weekly at 11:15. This service is a very popular worship service that we will continue to have in 2024! In August, we enjoyed special music by the Dakota Chord Company, a guest barbershop quartet, at our 9:00 and 10:10 services. Throughout the year, 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 services as well as for the 9:00 and 10:10 services on the last day of Sunday School!

The Christmas Cantata was fantastic as it was shared at our Saturday 5:30 worship and our Sunday 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. Please consider being a part of these groups, you can 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 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 other events in the sanctuary, 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 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 2024 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.

I'm sure you will agree that we are extremely blessed by 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 2023. 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 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, Peace Symphonic Orchestra, 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 2024 in whatever way possible in hopes that you will find peace and joy in your life through these opportunities and experiences.

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

Music and Worship Pictures





Communications

Communication Ministry for 2023 was again jam-packed with video production. Week after week, we make a new Offering video for worship: showcasing so many different parts of Peace's ministry, giving a word of gratitude (because you're all so amazing), or sitting down with outside groups that Peace supports. Another weekly video in worship shares upcoming events, details, and happenings through our Mission Opportunities videos – which are decided, produced, and edited every single week ahead of services.

A big part of the communication year is the Stewardship Campaign – this year's theme being "Celebration"! The theme came from the song "Celebration" by Kool and the Gang, and we even made a whole Peace parody of the song. This Peace version of the song was then used in a music video showing all sorts of Peace ministries dancing to the sound of God's praise.

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

- PLC.Life/MyPeace/Church Center App is our online info center and continues to be utilized more and more. Making life at Peace a little easier for all members!
- Continue using our Digital Bulletin (peacelutheran.com/Bulletin), eliminating the need to distribute paper copies – saving both money and time, which is updated every week!
- Designing all sorts of needed graphics: announcements, logos, stories, social media posts, etc. Making Peace stand out, show a welcoming and inviting presence, and have a positive impact on all who come across our church community. We've also started incorporating more video graphics for worship, striving to keep worship at Peace in current times and engaging.
- Social media keeps growing. Facebook is now up to 2,414 Followers and 2,279 Page Likes. We continue to see some posts reach tens of thousands of people! Instagram now has 448 followers and YouTube is up to 454 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. That list also keeps growing as we are currently up to 647 subscribers.
- Twelve newsletters were produced and distributed. This monthly packet is filled with stories about the people that make Peace Lutheran so great and the information you need to know for that month.
- Communicating news that matters about Peace to the public – including multiple billboards, inviting all to join us for Easter and Christmas worship services!

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 into the year 2024, 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.

2023

We continue to have a strong children's ministry program here at Peace. We have around 340 kids that we minister to. Like last year we have been 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. We have separated out the third graders this year as this age group is in that in-between stage of being too big for the lower grade curriculum and not quite old enough for the upper-level curriculum. The curriculum that we are using for kindergarten through third grade this year offers an "older kid" supplement to the original lesson to allow them a little deeper thinking and a little more to the activity they do each week.

We were blessed to have had our annual Children's Christmas program. 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 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, 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



^^^ 2023 Christmas Musical
<<< 2023 VBS
2023 Wed night 4/5th grade tie
blankets >>>





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. 55 students affirmed their baptism this year (between Affirmation of Baptism and other services)!

Highlights from the program this year include:

- **6th Grade**—Our new class of 6th grade students have been walking through the Bible with Pastor Alex. We've been encouraging creative expression in each week's lesson. The small groups are still in their forming phase and learning what it means to be in a small group together. The energy in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evenings is high and it is a delight to spend time with them each week. In October, they served at Kids Against Hunger and are looking forward to other service projects coming in the back half of the year.
- **7th Grade**—Our 7th grade students are in their Small Catechism year. We continue to use project-based learning for this year. So far, they have completed their Lord's Prayer video (check it out; it's amazing!), the 10 Commandments, and are currently working on the Apostles' Creed. This small but mighty crew are quite the budding theologians!
- **8th & 9th Grade**—Our 8th & 9th grade students have delved into their Living Lutheran year, where we start to help them draw connections between their faith at church and what that means out in their everyday lives. In September, Pastor Chris came from Church on the Street to do a service project with them. Up to now, they have spent a lot of time reflecting on who they are from their spiritual gifts to their enneagram type, talking about faithful stewardship, and are just delving into healthy relationships. It's been a privilege to see these students grow and to be a part of their self-discovery!
- **Life/Death Discussion** – 10th graders and their parents participated in this conversation about creation/new life, life/choices/consequences and end of life/death.

Thank you again to the families, 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 Confirmation) 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, Air Madness, photo scavenger hunt, Skate City, Corn Maze, and a Christmas movie. We have anywhere from 25-60 stu-

dents who participate in these events. These events are filled with organized chaos and plenty of fun! Thank you to all of our adult volunteers who help make our events happen and invest in our youth. We couldn't do it without you!

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. I often will say that we have the best students and families, and I truly mean that. Our students are compassionate, empathetic, kind, and have deep calls to serving others. They are a blessing to this church, this community, and the world. Thank you to our regular volunteers and college students who take time each week to spend with these amazing students.

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!

YOUNG ADULTS

We have taken a bit of a hiatus as our group has shrunk. However, Tyler Egge (Holy Cross Lutheran Church) and I applied for a grant from ELCA Young Adults to create a Gather community here in Sioux Falls. There are a handful of other sites across the country of communities of young adults who gather to worship, fellowship, and support each other through this time of big change. Stay tuned for a launch date!

As we look ahead, we are eagerly anticipating the **2024 ELCA Youth Gathering** in New Orleans! We have **64 incredible students** from 8th-12th grade attending and for the first time we have a youth participating in the tAble, a pre-event for youth with a wide array of disabilities. We have started meeting monthly to dive deep into the theme **Created to Be** and eat together. I cannot wait to see how this group continues to form and support each other. A huge thank you to this community for your generosity as we fundraise for the journey ahead. I am blown away by how Peace shows up and surrounds our youth with support, financially and spiritually. We have **11 adults** headed with our students. We will also be traveling with First Lutheran Church in Brookings and Shalom Lutheran Church in Harrisburg. Pastor Elizabeth and I are so excited for the next few months and for our time at the Gathering. If you would like to help support our students, please reach out to me for ways to give and serve.

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 and grow, support and care, 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 that meet on the third Thursday of each month, two book clubs that meet once a month, and Pub Theology that meets once a month summer and fall. Weekly studies include Men’s Breakfast on Tuesdays, Women’s Wednesday morning group, Friday Morning Bible Study and Forum that meets on Sunday mornings. In addition, during Lent we offer short term studies, this year based on the book, “Meeting Jesus at the Table,” a conversation about all the ministry that happened around a gathering with food. New this year was the self-paced Confirmation program for adults, called Confirm It!, where we had three adults complete the program and confirm their faith during worship. And another new study in 2023 was based on the made-for-tv series, The Chosen, depicting the life and ministry of Jesus and those who were close to them. The first two seasons were watched and discussed, and study of the third season is underway now.

One of the adult milestones this year was the **Anniversary of Marriage Milestone** held in February. A nice dinner, some games and activities and words of encouragement were included in this year’s event. Watch the February calendar for next year’s event!

Small groups offer another way to connect. Whether it’s a small group that meets to paint inspirational messages on rocks, Peaceful Stampers who make cards, Bible journaling, these groups meet around an activity and include devotions or a text study.

Senior Ministry at Peace includes a variety of gathering opportunities. Game day is on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month, and offers time for fellowship and card/dice/board games – picked by those in attendance. On the fourth Monday of each month we have Senior Potluck. During October through March, the potlucks are held at noon followed by a concert or program at 12:45 PM. In the summer, we meet at 5:30 for the potluck followed by a potluck or program. This year’s list of programs included a PeaceNext update, picnic and sing-a-long at Sertoma Park, picnic and concert at McKennan Park, Short Notice concert, Driving Tips for Seniors, Veterans Community Project, Midwest Honor Flight, and Mona Hjerpe Christmas Concert. In addition, we added some additional “Seniors on the Move” activities, including concerts at McKennan Park, the Levitt, and a trip to Nora Country Store in Nora, SD.

Transportation

We have been running the Senior bus for both the 9 and

10:10am services as ridership has continued to grow. 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, Joe Painter and LuAnn Yoder for volunteering your time and talents to drive. If you have an interest in joining the driver pool, please contact Ron@peacelutheran.com.

This year’s **Women’s Event** had the theme, “Wrapped in God’s Love,” and was a reminder to the women of all ages (multiple generations!) who attended of the many ways God cares for us.

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 Holly Marty or one of the pastors!

Holly Marty
Director of Faith Formation: Adults

Ron Stout
Transportation Coordinator/Driver



Peace Lutheran Preschool



Peace Lutheran Preschool & Pre-K opened in January 1985. As of January 2024, we will be in our 39th 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. We are 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. We are fortunate to have had Pastor Alex come and share some fun Bible stories with the kids and now Pastor Elizabeth who will continue doing Chapel time for us!
- This past year has brought a lot of excitement as the building expands—we were without the playground last year so it has been amazing to get the children outside on the awesome new playgrounds and they absolutely love it! We are also very excited about having the new gym space soon!



I feel extremely blessed to be able to not only teach the children 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 this past year brought our Preschool & Pre-K and all 3 teachers, nominations for Educator Of The Year through The Hood Magazine! 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 during 2023 include the triple Preschool & Pre-K classroom, the art room, the fellowship hall as our “gym” and the playgrounds! We have been wonderfully blessed with amazing families who are truly invested in the education of their children and have worked alongside us to ensure their children are getting the educational and faith forming foundation in their early learning years! We can't wait to see what 2024 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!

2023 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!
- Opened our new playgrounds in July 2023!

2023 Goals:

- Continue to act as a “mentor program” for WestSide Lutheran by operating their 2024 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!

2023 Year End Budget:

Income:

Tuition and Fees.....	\$769,196
~Registrations	
~Grants	
~Activity fees	
~Interest Income	

Expenses:

Payroll.....	\$713,194
~FICA	
~Workman’s Comp	
~ELCA Benefits	
~Training	
Program Expense.....	\$50,108
~Children materials	
~Food/snack	
~Activities/Fieldtrips	
Peace Care Playground.....	\$ 61,252
Utilities.....	\$ 5,000
~Building use	
Transportation.....	\$17,729
Office.....	\$ 9,757
~Advertising	
~Office supplies	
~Phone, postage, copier, etc...	
~Computer related	
~Misc	



Heartland Ephphatha Ministry



Heartland Ephphatha is the ministry for deaf and hard of hearing people in the South Dakota synod and it operates right here at Peace Lutheran Church! We worship at 9:00 every Sunday with an (ASL) American Sign Language interpreter. We also do Bible studies, service projects and provide fellowship opportunities to our community.

We also offer ASL courses for individuals who want to learn. Contact us at the email addresses below if you would like more information.

This year our main focus is planning a national conference for ASL ministries around the country. We will be hosting the ELDA conference in June of 2024 with ministries from Florida to California coming to South Dakota.

We want to thank Peace Lutheran for its commitment and support to our mission.

jason.andra@gmail.com or sarahandra@yahoo.com

God's Peace

Jason and Sarah





WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

The purpose statement for Peace Lutheran's Women's Ministries: as a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness, in the church, the society, and the world.

The Women of Peace Lutheran have been active in 2023 making a difference in the lives of many. The WELCA Officers for 2023 were Linda Jensen~Leader, Millie Horter~Treasurer, and Kathy Porter~Recorder.

Meetings were held on March 20, 2023 following the February Love Offering and on October 16, 2023 following the September Thank Offering. The officers and members met to discuss and vote on the distribution of benevolence gifts as following: Pueblo de Dios VBS, Peace Campers, Peace VBS, Lunch Is Served, Necessities for Neighbors, Family Connections, SOS (Supply Our Students), Peace Library, Pastor Appreciation gift cards, Boy Scouts, Veteran's Service Center, Global Missions (school lunches), Winter Clothes for School Kids, Good Samaritan Village (for haircuts), St. Dymas, Nicaragua~Bishop Victoria Memorial Fund. A total of \$8,300 plus the use of the \$1,250 of Thrivent Grant money was used to supplemental the benevolence giving. Thank you to Kathy Porter, Diane Feller, and Beverly Philiber for utilizing their Thrivent Grant Cards. Donation tubs were available for Peace members to provide additional gifts for the School Kids, Veterans, and Good Samaritan Village.

A meeting was held on July 24, 2023 to discuss the kitchen garbage disposal and the funeral committee. It was decided to contribute \$1,000 in repairing the kitchen garbage disposal. Changes were made on the number of workers and cakes needed for funerals and a list of instructions is now posted in the kitchen. Eighteen funerals were conducted with 1,783 people served by the funeral committee and volunteers.

Both Circles met on the third Thursday of the month from September to June at church. Ruth Circle meets at 9:30 am, and Hannah Circle meets on 2:30 pm. The *Gather* magazine is used by both circles for the lessons that are discussed each month. In December, the Circles held a joint meeting at the All Day Cafe for lunch with Pastor Elizabeth leading the bible study.

The Peace Quilters met the first and second Thursday of each month plus additional times during the summer months. The Quilt group sent 161 quilts to Lutheran World Relief, gave 12 quilts to Children's Home Shelter for Family (formerly called Children's Inn), 9 quilts to Veteran's Outreach Center, and 22 quilts to Church on the Street, 8 quilts to the Furniture Mission, and 4 quilts were given to hospice facilities. The Peace Quilters raised funds through their annual lefse sales and December craft sale to purchase quilt batting, flat sheets, other quilt supplies as needed, and \$1,000 to the Peace Campers. The group sold raffle chances on 2 quilts and donated \$1,325 to PeaceNEXT.

The Peace Prayer Shawl members met on the third Tuesday of each month. The group made 196 prayer shawls in 2023. The group gave 22 prayer shawls to Good Samaritan Village; 60 prayer shawls and 190 pocket prayer shawls were given to Sanford Hospice (Ava's House). Church on the Street received 1200 pocket prayer shawls. Prayer shawls were given throughout the year to grieving families and 29 prayer shawls were distributed during the Blue Christmas Service on December 21st.

The Peaceful Stampers continue to supply Peace Lutheran with Baptismal cards and Thinking of You cards for Peace Meals.

Thank you to Holly Marty for planning the Annual Women's Advent Meal: Wrapped in God's Love.

Marilyn Boese, Millie Horter, Linda Jensen, and Kathy Porter attended the Spring and Fall Crossroads Conference Gatherings. Updates were shared and questions were answered regarding the ways local groups can support the work of Lutheran World Relief.

WELCA is grateful to those who give and support the February Love Offering and September Thank Offering.

Submitted by Millie Horter & Kathy Porter



To our generous partners in ministry: THANK YOU for your continued faithfulness as we work together to care for our neighbors in need through Charis Ministry Partners! This past year, we were able to serve hundreds of families each month with critical items not covered by food stamps (Necessities for Neighbors) and boxes of fresh, frozen, and healthy foods (Food To You). These events, hosted by various churches in our community, are a lifeline for many in times of crisis. Thank you for responding to Jesus' invitation to care for those in need! (Matt. 24:40)

As of January 2024, the Charis Board is working to the best of our abilities to steward resources and provide ongoing care while we search for a new Executive Director. In the meantime, you may contact any the following leadership team for questions related to distribution events:

Pastor Chris Zuraff, President (Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls)
 Pastor Alex Smith, Secretary (Peace Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls)

Please review the calendars below for upcoming distribution events. Note we are still in need of sponsors for the many dates highlighted in yellow. Sponsors provide 10-15 volunteers for the event, plus a sponsorship gift of \$350.00 for items/food costs. If you are willing to be a sponsor, please contact our leadership team as soon as possible. We need all of our 13 mission partners!

FOOD TO YOU - 2024 CALENDAR				
	1ST THR @ EAST SIDE	2ND THR @ MESSIAH NEW HOPE	3RD THR @ AUGUSTANA LUTH	4TH THR @ ST. JOHN'S
JAN	1/4 East Side Lutheran	1/11 Messiah New Hope	1/18 Wenger Roofing	1/25 Tre Ministries
FEB	2/1 Gloria Dei Lutheran	2/8 Grace Lutheran	2/15 sponsor needed!	2/22 St. John Lutheran
MAR	3/7 East Side Lutheran	3/14 sponsor needed!	3/21 sponsor needed!	holiday 3/26 Holy Cross
APR	4/4 E sponsor needed!	4/11 West Nidros, Benton, Willow	4/18 Peace Lutheran	4/25 Trinity Lutheran
MAY	5/2 First Congregational	5/9 sponsor needed!	5/16 sponsor needed!	5/23 sponsor needed!
JUN	6/6 sponsor needed!	6/13 Grace Lutheran	6/20 sponsor needed!	6/27 Renner Lutheran
JUL	holiday 7/4 sponsor needed!	7/11 sponsor needed!	7/18A WestSide Lutheran	7/25 sponsor needed!
AUG	8/1 sponsor needed!	8/8 Peace Lutheran Church	8/15 sponsor needed!	8/22 St. John Lutheran
SEP	9/5 sponsor needed!	9/12 Gloria Dei Lutheran	9/19 Holy Cross Lutheran	9/26 sponsor needed!
OCT	10/3 East Side Lutheran	10/10 sponsor needed!	10/17 sponsor needed!	10/24 sponsor needed!
NOV	11/7 Peace Lutheran	11/14 sponsor needed!	11/21 Renner Lutheran	holiday 11/26 WestSide
DEC	12/5 sponsor needed!	12/12 sponsor needed!	12/19 sponsor needed!	12/26 sponsor needed!

NECESSITIES - 2024 Calendar		
MONTH	1ST SUN @ PEACE LUTH	3RD TUES @ FIRST LUTHERAN
JAN	1/7 Peace Lutheran	1/16 sponsor needed!
FEB	2/4 sponsor needed!	2/20 sponsor needed!
MAR	3/3 sponsor needed!	3/19 Renner Lutheran
APR	4/7 sponsor needed!	4/16 sponsor needed!
MAY	5/5 Holy Cross Luth	5/21 sponsor needed!
JUN	6/2 sponsor needed!	6/18 sponsor needed!
JUL	7/7 Peace Lutheran	7/16 Holy Cross Luth
AUG	8/4 Gloria Dei	8/20 Grace Lutheran
SEP	9/1 Peace Lutheran	9/17 sponsor needed!
OCT	10/6 Renner Luth	10/15 sponsor needed!
NOV	11/3 Grace Lutheran	11/19 sponsor needed!
DEC	12/1 sponsor needed!	12/17 sponsor needed!

**Thank you to our
Lutheran Church partners!**

Augustana	East Side
First	Gloria Dei
Grace	Holy Cross
Peace	Renner
Spirit of Joy	WestSide
Our Savior's	St. John
Messiah New Hope	



Church on the Street

Annual Report 2023

ChurchontheStreetsf.org

Church on the Street continues to show up with the good news of Jesus, especially where folks are experiencing homelessness and poverty. You'll find us on the streets, visiting folks in shelters, cars, hospitals, laundry mats, and jails. This year, our offices moved to 515 N. Main. Ave inside the Multi-Cultural Center and are accessible through the Minnehaha County building, so more people are stopping by since they're already in the building for other things. Skylar Allen, Director of Organization, oversees record growth in food requests, with 242 families accessing the pantry during the year's first quarter and 885 families in the fourth quarter.

Also, this year, we and several of our partners worked with Sioux Falls Thrive to get the Eat Well Sioux Falls Mobile Market into food deserts in our town. Luke Senst is the Market Manager in addition to being our Director of Media Ministries. The mobile market is one example of how partnerships and collaborations are how we help share God's love in tangible ways.

Finally, it is a blessing to be Church together, sharing the best and worst of life and leaning on the promises of our Savior. Harriet Monson, Director of Laundry with Love, said it best: "One of the best moments for me this year was when the young single mom who moved into a place with a washer and dryer (so she doesn't need our services anymore) but she came back to visit."

Thank you for all the ways you are part of Church on the Street through your prayers, financial donations, in-kind donations, visits, and sharing our story. You are a blessing!

It's great to be Church together!

Rev. Chris Matson, Pastor & Mission Developer
515 N Main Ave
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104
Chris@churchonthestreetsf.org
605-215-1143



Third Cross Quarterly

a publication for friends and partners
a network of ministry for South Dakota inmates

Annual Report 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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

Greeting from your sisters and brothers in Christ at St Dysmas Lutheran Church!

There is an old saying that the only constant is change; and 2023 lived up to that statement. Working inside the walls, especially in 2023, has seen some significant changes to policies, visitation requirements, and schedules. What we see as stumbling blocks, God uses to his glory. Even amidst the many challenges, God has been at work in amazing ways in the lives of people inside and outside the walls.

Firstly, thank you for your support to insure that the ministry of St Dysmas stays vibrant and active. We do not exist without the support and engagement from you. St Dysmas is YOUR ministry to those experiencing incarceration; and we are grateful for your partnership.

Here are a few highlights for this year:

- On any given day, there are approximately 3750 people incarcerated in the South Dakota Department of Corrections system. In 2023, we worked with and saw attendance of approximately 574 individuals to worship, Bible studies, and one-on-one pastoral care visits. Worship and Bible study attendance has steadily increased over the year at each site.
- We had 31 baptisms of adult men including 3 affirmations of baptism.
- We were able to hold special worship on Easter and Christmas Eve inside the facilities.
- Our Reformation Festivals took place at both Sioux Falls and Springfield on Reformation Weekend in October. A special meal was served at Springfield, and inmates were allowed to share the meal with their family that could attend.
- The annual special meal was held in Sioux Falls in August sponsored by Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls.
- Worship switched to Tuesday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00 at Springfield. We have seen great participation by visitors to Springfield since this change occurred.
- Worship in Sioux Falls changed to Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30. While this is not ideal, we have still had visitors attend very regularly.
- We have seen increasing engagement and attendance with our reentry work on the inside. Mitch Wilson worked with 244 individuals preparing to be released from incarceration.
- Mitch accompanied 156 individuals once they were released to help them transition back into life on the outside.
- Mitch also works in the Minnehaha County jail with individuals housed there. In his work there, he met with 541 people in 2023.
- Over 3700 Christmas Treat Sacks were distributed the week before Christmas. Every person in the South Dakota Prison System received a sack, also people in the Minnehaha County, and Yankton County jails.
- The Sioux Falls congregation again took up the challenge to support a ministry outside of themselves. All inmate offering goes to this fund, and for 2023, they will give Church on the Street a check for \$2271.
- The Springfield congregation took up the same challenge. They will distribute their funds after the January Inside Council Meeting. They will have approximately \$750 to distribute.
- I was able to visit 46 congregations to tell the story of St Dysmas and worship together.

These are just a few of the ways God has been at work through St Dysmas. I give thanks to God for the many gifts that he has entrusted to us. Through the faithful partnership of many of you, we continue to be able to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to this who need to hear it most; "setting the captives free..."



Grace and peace to you always,

Pastor Jeff Backer
Senior Pastor/Development Director



Income-Expenses

Peace Lutheran Church 2023 Annual Report
Income & Expenses

Accounts	2023 Budget	Actual 2023	2024 Budget
General Income			
Regular Envelope Offering	\$910,000.00	\$903,018.71	\$965,000.00
First Fruits-General Fund	\$550,000.00	\$412,592.16	\$565,000.00
Loose Offering	\$50,000.00	\$43,720.66	\$50,000.00
Initial Offering	\$500.00	\$252.00	\$500.00
Seasonal Offering	\$6,000.00	\$10,267.83	\$6,000.00
Encounter Offering	\$200.00	\$192.00	\$200.00
Interest Income	\$7.43	\$6,842.73	\$4,500.00
Total Miscellaneous Income	\$36,398.77	\$41,188.79	\$64,198.77
Transfer in Prior Year	\$50,000.00	\$0.40	\$15,000.00
Offering Income	\$1,603,106.20	\$1,418,075.28	\$1,670,398.77
Benevolences			
Mission Partners			
Charis Ministry	\$3,000.00	\$22.55	\$3,000.00
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
FLAM	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
Pueblo de Dios Lutheran	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Congregations in Solidarity	\$2,000.00	\$3,715.74	\$0.00
St. Dysmas Reentry Initiative	\$250.00	-\$15.00	\$250.00
St. Dysmas Holiday Meals	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
St. Dysmas Lutheran Undesignated	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Church on the Street	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Shepherd's Table	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Augustana Lutheran	\$1,100.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00
LOGOS Pueblo de Dios	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$1,050.00
	\$17,900.00	\$6,723.29	\$18,400.00
Domestic Poverty Ministries			
Community Outreach	\$2,500.00	\$5.38	\$500.00
Needy Families	\$1,500.00	\$1,815.06	\$3,500.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$850.00
Kid's Against Hunger	\$900.00	\$460.00	\$900.00
Food to You Mobile Food Pantry	\$1,050.00	\$225.80	\$1,050.00
The Banquet	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Necessities for Neighbors	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
	\$8,100.00	\$2,506.24	\$8,100.00
Educational			\$0.00
Shetek Bible Camp	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$225.00
Lutheran Outdoors	\$1,625.00	\$275.00	\$1,625.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Camp Counselor Scholarships	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Seminary Scholarships	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$950.00
Augustana PACT	\$1,200.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,800.00
Total Educational	\$6,300.00	\$1,875.00	\$6,100.00
South Dakota Synod			
Mission Support - SDS	\$82,892.00	\$49,000.00	\$82,892.00
Crossroads Conference Dues	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
God's Work Our Hands			
GWOH Seed Money	\$1,000.00	\$264.98	\$1,000.00
World Missions			
World Hunger (SD Synod)	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Global Missions	\$4,495.00	\$4,123.95	\$4,495.00
World Missions Totals	\$7,795.00	\$4,388.93	\$7,495.00
Total Benevolences	\$122,987.00	\$64,493.46	\$123,287.00

Income-Expenses Continued



Accounts	Income-Expenses Continued		
	2023 Budgeted	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Pastoral Staff:	\$449,387.15	\$389,724.18	\$500,854.48
Other Staff:	\$642,457.05	\$617,137.96	\$664,523.99
Total	\$1,091,844.20	\$1,006,862.14	\$1,165,378.47
Office Expenses			
Postage-Church	\$5,000.00	\$6,222.77	\$6,428.62
Hospitality	\$3,000.00	\$3,922.85	\$3,000.00
Office Supplies-Church	\$5,000.00	\$4,316.34	\$4,500.00
Employee Appreciation	\$750.00	\$829.78	\$750.00
General Fund Envelopes	\$650.00	\$639.22	\$650.00
Computer software-ACS-Planning Cent	\$12,000.00	\$10,976.69	\$12,000.00
Communications Soc. Media-Church	\$0.00	\$869.29	\$1,000.00
Marketing Tools	\$2,700.00	\$3,352.28	\$3,500.00
Advertising-Church	\$3,500.00	\$1,731.84	\$3,000.00
Church Online	\$3,000.00	\$3,054.42	\$3,000.00
Project Car	\$1,000.00	\$621.50	\$1,000.00
Insurance-Church	\$33,600.00	\$40,229.69	\$38,700.00
Bank Charges-Church	\$200.00	\$798.22	\$1,000.00
Milage/Transportation Church	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00
Call Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,118.34	\$10,000.00
Leadership Development-Church	\$750.00	\$573.02	\$750.00
Synod Assembly Fees-Church	\$2,500.00	\$1,513.20	\$2,500.00
Library Expense-Church	\$2,000.00	\$1,903.25	\$2,000.00
Faith Chest Expense	\$3,500.00	\$2,205.35	\$3,500.00
Office Equipment	\$4,000.00	\$1,330.43	\$4,000.00
Total:	\$83,150.00	\$86,228.48	\$101,278.62
Program Expense			
Children Ministry	\$43,750.00	\$23,227.98	\$43,350.00
Youth Ministry	\$9,000.00	\$7,649.95	\$9,000.00
Confirmation Ministry	\$2,400.00	\$688.73	\$2,400.00
Senior Adult Ministry	\$3,500.00	\$1,093.28	\$3,500.00
Adult Ministry	\$3,800.00	\$1,807.04	\$3,500.00
Music Ministry	\$15,500.00	\$14,127.83	\$15,500.00
Connecting Ministries	\$7,150.00	\$3,331.36	\$7,250.00
Stewardship Expense	\$2,000.00	\$1,975.35	\$2,000.00
Total:	\$87,100.00	\$53,901.52	\$86,500.00
Building Operating Expense			
Utilities	\$68,500.00	\$66,410.10	85200
Property Maintenance/Expense	\$32,400.00	\$32,441.65	\$30,000.00
Church Cleaning	\$35,000.00	\$22,990.80	\$0.00
Property Security	\$6,600.00	\$4,100.25	\$0.00
Snow Removal	\$11,000.00	\$22,825.79	\$12,000.00
Building /Property Supplies Expense	\$14,050.00	\$13,021.89	\$15,000.00
Frontage/Real Estate Tax	\$3,725.00	\$3,833.02	\$4,000.00
Maintenance Contracts	\$41,650.00	\$43,096.18	\$44,754.68
Lawn Care	\$5,100.00	\$1,635.45	\$3,000.00
Total:	\$218,025.00	\$210,355.13	\$193,954.68
Grand total Expense:	\$1,603,106.20	\$1,421,840.73	\$1,670,398.77
Net Operating Total:		-\$3,765.45	



Income-Expenses Continued

Accounts	Income and Expense Continued		
	2023 Budgeted	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Facility Usage	\$5,000.00	\$4,482.00	\$25,000.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$7,000.00	\$9,894.16	\$7,000.00
Bible Study income	\$124.00	\$54.00	\$124.00
Faith Chest Income	\$550.00	\$405.00	\$550.00
Faith & Family Income	\$800.00	\$268.50	\$800.00
Youth-Programming	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
Sunday School Income	\$1,250.00	\$1,164.38	\$1,250.00
Vacation Bible School Income	\$5,750.00	\$5,682.14	\$5,750.00
Coffee Corner	\$1,200.00	\$690.88	\$1,200.00
Preschool Space Rental	\$1,800.00	\$1,875.00	\$3,600.00
Childcare Space Rental	\$6,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00
Peace Care Preschool Work		\$4,110.00	
Comp	\$3,480.00		\$3,480.00
Misc. Income	\$1,190.00	\$712.00	\$1,190.00
Senior Ministry Income	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$500.00
Congregational Lead	\$1,734.77	\$1,750.73	\$1,734.77
Transfer from Prior Year	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Total Offsetting Income:	\$86,398.77	\$41,188.79	\$79,198.77

2023 Summary of Accounts



Cash	Cash	
	Dec 2023 Beginning Balance	Dec 2023 Ending Balance
General Fund Checking	\$50,111.17	\$31,765.01
Peace Lutheran Endowment Fund	\$166,661.30	\$164,511.58
Business Savings Account	\$192.20	\$19,194.84
Sub Total	\$216,964.67	\$215,471.43

Special Funds

Peace Next	\$167,396.96	\$544,872.00
Rejuvenation Funds	\$253,372.93	\$269,392.37
Petty Cash	\$100.00	\$75.42
Totals	\$420,869.89	\$814,339.79

Special Funds:	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expense	Ending Balance
Children Yth Camp-LO	\$7,905.90	\$41,908.37	\$44,636.39	\$5,177.88
Children Ministry	\$976.96	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$1,226.96
Youth Programs Designated	\$1,196.29	\$1,987.17	\$184.66	\$2,998.80
Youth Gathering Funds	\$571.67	\$52,188.07	\$23,341.19	\$29,418.55
Summer Youth Trips	\$1,173.83	\$1,478.29	\$1,404.28	\$1,247.84
HyVee Cards Des-Holly	\$1,047.90	\$12,246.00	\$7,479.51	\$5,814.39
Children Camp -Des	\$6,485.89	\$5,100.00	\$5,950.00	\$5,635.89
Youth events Middle School	\$195.76	\$2,232.73	\$1,856.52	\$571.97
Youth Adults-Youth Programing	\$0.00	\$3,555.24	\$310.24	\$3,245.00
Giving Jar	\$11,941.00	\$6,660.87	\$7,574.16	\$11,027.71
Christmas Program Offering	\$2,728.65	\$849.00	\$310.70	\$3,266.95
Scrips Programs-Lisa	\$15,830.07	\$34,942.20	\$39,516.87	\$11,255.40
Confirmation	\$5,675.32	\$591.00	\$1,539.92	\$4,726.40
Fundraising Children and Youth	\$12,649.39	\$24,063.52	\$17,198.35	\$19,514.56
Children & Youth Total:	\$68,378.63	\$188,052.46	\$151,302.79	\$105,128.30

Music

Memorial Music & Mis.	\$7,013.32	\$361.69	\$1,655.45	\$5,719.56
Music Camp Inc./Exp.	-\$0.06	\$483.58	\$483.52	\$0.00
Handbell Fund-Des	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Adult Choir Funeral Gifts	\$433.72	\$0.00	\$377.57	\$56.15
Music Total:	\$7,446.98	\$845.27	\$2,516.54	\$5,875.71



2023 Summary of Accounts Continued

2023 Summary of Accounts Continued

Ministries:	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expense	Ending Balance
Connecting people X-mas Dinner	\$1,570.97	\$1,873.50	\$1,708.26	\$1,736.21
Stephen Ministry	\$2,147.11	\$104.90	\$0.00	\$2,252.01
Start Up Programs	\$1,492.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,492.13
Youth & Young Adult Ministry Gr.	\$29,296.06		\$0.00	\$29,296.06
Rent Assistance/Needy Families	\$3,854.28	\$0.00	\$23.15	\$3,831.13
St Dysmas	\$223.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$223.60
Prayer Shawl Ministry	\$1,375.45	\$243.00	\$178.14	\$1,440.31
Peace Quilters	\$5,556.40	\$4,870.45	\$3,862.50	\$6,564.35
Global Missions	\$4,853.15	\$15,400.01	\$15,383.60	\$4,869.56
Peace Sport Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	-\$750.00
World Hunger	\$0.00	\$65.00	\$0.00	\$65.00
Orphan Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Necessities for Neighbors	\$23,155.18	\$17,293.03	\$18,468.60	\$21,979.61
Banquet	\$1,367.77	\$1,821.48	\$0.00	\$3,189.25
Health Wellness Ministry	\$909.02	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$909.02
Total Ministries:	\$75,801.12	\$41,671.37	\$40,374.25	\$77,098.24
Designated/Undesignated				
Designated income/Expense	\$555.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$555.13
Designated Memorials	\$17,547.86	\$108.00	\$108.00	\$17,547.86
Undesignated Memorials	\$11,370.63	\$1,530.00	\$0.00	\$12,900.63
Kids against Hunger	-\$460.00	\$1,310.00	\$0.00	\$850.00
Designated/Undesignated Totals:	\$29,013.62	\$2,948.00	\$108.00	\$31,853.62
Peace				
Roof Insurance Proceeds	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
Peace Shop	\$5.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
Coke Machine	\$218.97	\$2,513.32	\$1,896.31	\$835.98
Flowers for Altar	\$0.00	\$4,619.51	\$4,619.51	\$0.00
FLAM-Portico	\$59.03	\$8,500.00	\$8,559.03	\$0.00
Peace Meals	\$2,867.11	\$398.33	\$991.81	\$2,273.63
Wedding Fees out	\$6,475.92	\$4,596.19	\$6,461.73	\$4,610.38
Shuttle Bus Account	\$1,266.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,266.00
Des-Project Car	\$484.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$484.50
Peace Quarterly Mission	\$351.18	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$351.18
Sanctuary improvements-Des.	\$642.07	\$730.00	\$0.00	\$1,372.07
Thrivent Cards	\$0.00	\$1,252.50	\$656.54	\$595.96
Capital Improvement	\$21,262.82	\$1,983.68	\$0.00	\$23,246.50
Library Dedicated	\$1,304.13	\$2,107.07	\$1,848.87	\$1,562.33
Bequest Proceeds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Endowment Gifts	\$5,686.47	\$8,064.95	\$5,000.00	\$8,751.42
Endowment Operating	\$7,824.75	\$6,914.30	\$6,750.00	\$7,989.05
Peace Total:	\$48,447.95	\$41,949.85	\$37,033.80	\$53,364.00

2023 Summary of Accounts Continued



2023 Summary of Accounts Continued				
Adult Education	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expense	Ending Balance
Adult Ed Events	\$289.94	\$884.36	\$570.50	\$603.80
Adult Ed Book Sales	\$1,047.61	\$453.95	\$951.20	\$550.36
Adult Education Totals:	\$1,337.55	\$1,338.31	\$1,521.70	\$1,154.16
Totals	\$230,425.85	\$276,805.26	\$232,857.08	\$274,474.03



PeaceNEXT Financial Report

Contractor Fees – McGough Construction

Guaranteed Maximum Price (Family Activity Center & Music Hub)	\$6,435,466.00
Guaranteed Maximum Price (Expanded Gathering Place)	\$1,091,308.00
Total Guaranteed Maximum Price	\$7,526,774.00

Architect Fees – TSP

Fees for the Family Activity Center & Music Hub	\$450,300.00
Fees for the Expanded Gathering Place	\$104,822.38
Total TSP fees.....	\$555,122.38

Owner Expenses – Peace Lutheran

Pre-Construction Costs	
Site Survey, Soil Testing, Loan Closing, Fundraising	\$16,914.74
Contingencies (Change Orders)	
Fire Code upgrades, Asbestos Mitigation, Foundation repair, Divider walls in Music Hub, Add'l fire sprinklers, Replace existing carpet in Gathering Area	\$158,036.58
Furnishings/Technology	
Chairs and Tables, Audio/Visual, security cameras, door entry system, Grant for security cameras and door entry systems (-\$35,000)	\$121,620.15
Playground	
Surface/Equipment, Grant (-\$14,385.46), Peace CARE donation (-\$61,252.14)	\$61,252.15
Total Owner Expenses	\$357,824.00

Total Cost **\$8,439,720.38**

PAID to date

Payments to McGough Construction (as of 1/8/24)	\$6,315,296.50
Payments to TSP (as of 1/8/24)	\$529,067.51
Owner-covered expenses	\$246,038.88
TOTAL.....	\$7,090,402.89

Remaining expenses

McGough Construction	\$1,211,477.50
TSP Architects	\$26,054.87
Owner-covered expenses	\$111,785.12
TOTAL.....	\$1,349,317.49

Funds available

PeaceNEXT account (12/31/23)	\$544,872.00
Peace NEXT pledges still pending.....	\$100,000.00
Transfer from Rejuvenation Fund	\$200,000.00
Large Gift pending.....	\$400,000.00
Unspent contingency (Family Activity Center & Music Hub)	\$78,000.00
Reduce # of skylights (Gathering Place).....	\$26,747.00
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE.....	\$1,349,619.00



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Triune God!

On behalf of your close to 200 partners across the South Dakota Synod I come to you to say *thank you*. *Thank you* for your generosity! Your benevolence to the ministry of the South Dakota Synod doesn't just keep the lights on and pays salaries, but mainly supports ministry on the ground. Please take a look at the "2023 South Dakota Synod Ministry Celebrations" insert included in this annual report. You will notice that YOU showed up in many and various spaces. Sometimes your presence was felt close to home through a grant you may have received or a synod staff that came to visit. At other times your presence impacted ministry in other parts of the world, such as our companion partners in the Lutheran churches in Nicaragua and Cameroon. *Thank you* also for your generosity above and beyond your benevolence. Our partners in Cameroon appreciated the synod's \$52,000 gift to support putting roofs on churches. The generosity of the congregations in the synod never ceases to amaze me, and I give thanks for your continued generosity as we journey together in Christ!



While many places celebrated an abundant year of ministry, I also want to acknowledge that for other ministry sites 2023 has not been as hoped for. Our mission statement commits us to "Journeying Together in Christ" and is based on Luke 24:13-34. Two disciples are on the road post resurrection and ponder in disbelief all the things that have happened before their eyes. They were overwhelmed and didn't know what to make of it all. I have heard from many ministry sites a similar account about 2023. "Bishop, things in 2023 were not as we had expected and hoped for. What do we do now?" In Luke's story Jesus, unrecognized by them, joins them and walks alongside to listen and remind them of the promises in scripture. But it isn't until they sit down at the table, and Jesus breaks bread that their eyes are opened. They recognize who he is and that the 'holy heartburn' they had experienced along the way was a sign that their love for Jesus and the way he calls them to live has changed them forever.

How about your community of faith? Where do you hear the promises of scripture assure you that God's got a plan for you and your ministry? Where are you called to follow the 'holy heartburn' God's Spirit ignites in you as you are fed at the table of love? I pray that your annual meeting will be an experience where you can voice what you had wished for as well as lament the unmaterialized hopes. And at the same time, you can hear where God promises new life and renewed faith in your very own midst.

Your South Dakota Synod staff and partners across the church are committed to accompany you in your ministry ventures, whether it means to take small courageous steps or giant leaps of faith. We are here to journey with you in Christ. Therefore, it is with great joy and delight that I am announcing to you that we, the South Dakota Synod, are a recipient of a \$1,137,384 grant Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative. Details about the grant can be accessed through the synod's website www.sdsynod.org as well as through the synod office. The STAR (Small Town and Rural) Table also offers two types of grants, which are only possible



through the generosity of the people and congregations of the SD Synod when we gather for rural ministry fundraisers. Again, details about the grant opportunities, and how you can apply for a grant are found on the synod's website www.sdsynod.org.

Last but not least, I would like to invite you to the 2024 Synod Assembly on May 31st and June 1st at Our Savior's in Sioux Falls, SD. We will gather under the theme of "(Re)Connect." It will be a celebration of the partnerships we share across the synod and the wider ELCA. Stay tuned for more information about the business coming before the assembly and the fun opportunities. I hope to be able to welcome you to the assembly in person, be in conversation with you and hear about ministry in your world and how you might best be accompanied as well as accompany your fellow members of the SD Synod and the ELCA.

Journeying with you in Christ,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

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

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5