




PEACE
LUTHERAN

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Sharing God's
Love by
Serving Our
Community
and Our
World

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Annual Meeting
January 26, 2025
Following Worship

2024 Annual Meeting Agenda January 26, 2025

- Welcome/Introductions
- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Open Forum
- Adopt Annual Meeting Agenda
- Approve Meeting Minutes
- Ballot Presentation
- Reports
- Recognition of Ministry Teams
- Remembering Our Departed Members
 - ◆ Maggie Grosshuesch
 - ◆ Renata Dahl
- 2024 and 2025 Finance Review
- New Business
- Nominating Committee - Election Results
- Thank You
- Adjournment
- Closing Prayer



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." ~ [Philippians 4:6-7](#)

Dear Lord, we praise You and we love being in Your presence. Thank You for the sacrifice you made for us on the cross. Thank You for helping our hearts to rest in Your presence. In a busy world, it is here that we find truth, grace, and mercy. Our hearts are overwhelmingly grateful. As it overflows with gratitude, may You present opportunities for us to serve. In Jesus' Name, I pray, Amen.

As I reflect on the past year, my heart is filled with everything this congregation has accomplished and the goals it has set forth. The year has gone by very quickly and this report has thankfully given me an opportunity to quietly reflect. Our church has seen many changes in a short period of time, and I am excited to see what God has planned for the future.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the congregation for a successful capital campaign led by a committee of Jon Peterson, Terri Dressel, Brevik Tharaldson, Amy Prok, James Walz, and Sue Beulke. The group came together last March and worked with guidance from Pastor David, Hal Johnson, and Sandy to involve every member of the congregation with informational meetings and opportunities to pledge their support. I know the process is far from over but that was a major section in the wheel to accomplish, and it's time to transition to the

design team led by Norm Bauer with Elizabeth Shulze, Cory Meyer, Lindsey Schmidt and James Walz. Thank you.

Our ministry teams and staff consistently impress me with how much they are invested in our church and community. Everything from cleaning the facilities, lawn and landscaping, to walking the parade and hosting a corn feed is staffed and coordinated with volunteers. Pastor David consistently provides guidance and support from not only the pulpit, but attending every meeting and function possible. Mark's life is growing busier with new additions at home and growing the youth program, while Sandy calmly provides support to our teams and keeps all of us informed and organized throughout the months. Everything from finances to recruiting board members, there is so much that happens behind the scenes that people don't see or hear about that I'd like to take the time to acknowledge your accomplishments and express appreciation for everything you do. Our church wouldn't be able to function without the efforts from people like you.

I would like to wrap up with a heartfelt thank you to the my fellow Ministry Board members. The team has had new faces over the last few years, but the group has been consistently devoted and respectful of one another. I thank each one of you for your support and guidance while serving as your President.

Thank you for your time.

Mike Rupp
Michael Rupp
Congregational President

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A MESSAGE FROM Pastor David Hanson

Dear Peace Family,

Stephanie and I are very grateful for this past year with you. We are truly blessed to share in this ministry together. The year ahead will wrap up my tenth year as your pastor and the 40th anniversary of my ordination. I'm amazed at how fast time goes by. We thank you for all your love and support. It has been a joy!

When I first began here at Peace, Sunday morning worship attendance was around 80 souls. When the children were invited up for JAM, we may have had 8 kiddos. After 10 years, we are now worshipping on average 190 souls and there are 2 dozen kiddos up for JAM. What do you say, except "Thank You God!" for continually blessing this church.

I remember the first days on the job, sitting in the little pastor's office waiting for the phone to ring. It rarely did, except copier salespeople. I was the only staff person. Everyone else was a volunteer. Barb Schansberg was the office volunteer. She typed up the bulletin and ran off 80 copies on a printer that did 4 copies a minute, just one side. Now Sandy runs 160 bulletins, color, two-sided, and folded in less than 15 minutes.

Thinking back to important decisions, the debate in the Ministry Board meeting was about hiring the church office administrator, full time or part time? One person asked, "What in the world will they do all day?" Another asked, how are we going to find the funding for full-time?" Sandy began in 2017, and you can see the difference it has made in how we communicate and support our ministry together. What was a worry, a doubt, in a step of faith, became a blessing that has born much fruit. We are truly blessed by her ministry with us.

In 2020 we had the same conversations about building a dynamic youth and family ministry. Then Mark was called to full-time youth and family ministry at Peace.

Now, confirmation has gone from just one student ten years ago to 36 students. Each summer 24 students go on a faith-changing mission trip experience. Weekly, parents and preschoolers, gather for story time, and middle school and high school students gather around games, scripture and fellowship. It's amazing to see. What can you say, except "Thank You God!" for continually blessing this church.

As I look to 2025, we will have some very important decisions to make. We will need every person, every family to share in the shaping of the future God is calling us to. We will need your participation and prayers.

Most immediate, of course, is the need for facility expansion to support the growing ministry. Second, is the financial support for that expansion, called 10,000 Reason Capital Campaign. Third, is the opening up of more worship opportunities, offering two worship times on Sunday mornings. Fourth, is the development of Small Group Ministry. Relationship growth is key to a vital church. In the coming year, we will find ways to deepen our relationship with God in Jesus Christ and with one another in faith.

Fifth, is building a solid ministry team with Sandy, Mark, and the 2025 hire of a Director of Worship & Music. This will support our growth in worship opportunities and lift up the gifts of music in praise of God. In addition, we will focus on the recruiting and supporting an Office Volunteer Team and a Facilities Volunteer Team.

2025 will be an incredible year with many challenges, for sure, but also many moments of joy and celebration. It only takes a small step of faith and God will do the rest. Give thanks with a grateful heart... for God is good! All the time!

Pastor David

**And God is able to make all grace abound to you,
so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need,
you will abound in every good work.**

2 Corinthians 9:8



A MESSAGE FROM MARK NISSEN

Director of Youth & Family Ministry



I truly can't believe another year has gone by already. I continue to be blessed to serve here at Peace. It has been a fantastic year of ministry, seeing new students come in the door, some going off to college to do great things, and students continuing to grow in their faith and love of God.

Our confirmation program continues to grow. This year we have 37 students from 7th - 12th grade learning about their faith! We have ten wonderful adults who give up their Wednesdays to serve and learn with these students. This year we are working our way through the Old Testament and learning the immense value and importance it has in our faith. Our goal is to help students get comfortable with opening their Bibles so they know how to find answers to their questions about God. Another big highlight of confirmation is the annual confirmation retreat. Last year, over 150 students gathered together to grow in their faith.

The backbone of our high school ministry continues to be our Wednesday night youth group. We meet every single Wednesday unless there is a national holiday (I'm looking at you Christmas and New Year's....) Our goal is to offer students a safe and consistent place to grow deeper in their faith and in their relationships with other believers and a time to have fun amid their busy lives. This fall we

routinely saw 20-25 students on a Wednesday night. Many of these are Peace students, but we are also excited to see students who don't have a church home or youth group at their church. This is always open to guests and friends, as we want to spread the good news of Christ to all. In the next year, we will be talking about evangelism, the gospel of John, godly relationships, and so much more.

The High School MEA Retreat is a ministry that continues to grow. Last fall we were joined by six other Augustana District Churches for a fantastic weekend away talking about the book of Galatians.

Another major highlight is our High School Mission Trip. In 2024 we traveled to Colorado Springs. While there, we painted houses, cleaned out flooded homes, worked on Pike's Peak, and did a variety of other jobs. These trips are an amazing opportunity to serve, but are also a chance for our youth to spend a week growing in relationships with each other and in their faith. In 2025 we will be going to Elliot County, Kentucky to serve. We are hoping to bring around 30-35 students and 5-6 adults.

Our youth group has started to develop a special relationship with the food



shelf in town. The last several years we have done Trick or Treat for the Food Shelf (2024 shattered our previous donation record!) This year we found new ways to get involved. Over the summer, students unloaded trucks, organized food, and helped in whatever way was needed. Our local food shelf does amazing work, and it is a joy to serve there!

This next year promises to be a big one at Peace! I hope to see our Sunday night Bible study return. I also hope to provide leadership training and opportunities for high school students that will give them a foundation on which to grow and prepare for being Christian leaders in the world.

On a personal note, I would just like to say thank you again for the opportunity to serve here. It has been a big year in the Nissen house with Micah coming to join the party. It has been so wonderful to see my kids become part of this Peace family and that I get to see them surrounded by people who love our God. I cannot wait for what this next year holds for all of us!

Spread Joy,

Mark Nissen

Mark



Trick or Treat for the Food Shelf



2024 Confirmation Retreat



2024 Mission Trip

2025 Peace Ministry Board Candidates

3-Year Term - Vote for up to two (2)



Dan Nelson

My wife, Lori, and I have been married for 38 years and live in Delano. We have two adult children: Eric and his wife, Stephanie, live and teach in Buckeye, Arizona and Sarah lives in Delano and works with dogs. In 2023 I came to Peace for the first time, not sure of how well received I would be. After my first

service, so many people came up to me and introduced themselves, making me feel right at home. The gratitude that I felt was overwhelming. After becoming a member, I have been on the usher team, worked the Corn Feed, and participated in a number of small group studies. But my favorite was working with Jon and Amy Peterson on Operation Christmas Child. These activities have broadened my experience and relationship with God at Peace. I am honored to be considered for the Ministry Board and will do my best to continue to represent Peace Lutheran as a welcoming place where families can grow in faith with our Lord. Growing in faith in Christ. God bless you.



Ted Pew

My wife, Sharon, and I have three grown sons and grandchildren. We moved to Watertown in 2011 and are lifelong Lutherans. I am a horticulturist by trade and work at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. I enjoy fishing, observing and enjoying nature, walking, and following

Minnesota sports. We have been members of Peace for three years and enjoy being here.



2024 Ministry Board

(top left to right) Jon Peterson, Tory Schmidt, Mike Rupp, Bill Helfritz
(bottom left to right) Marla Erickson, Pastor David Hanson, Karen Dressel, Cathy Rieckenberg

Thank You!

We have much to be grateful for this year. We give thanks to God for those who have led our congregation. We are a better church because of their insight, dedication, discernment, and faithfulness. For those who are leaving the Ministry Board (Mike Rupp and Marla Erickson) we thank you and pray that God will bless you in whatever area of ministry you will serve next. Thank you!



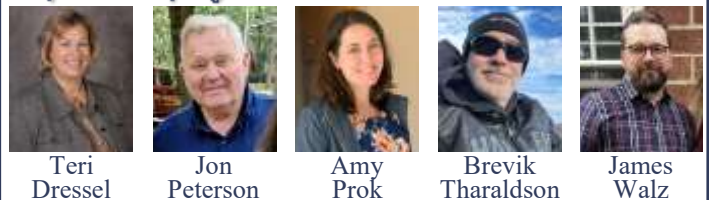
Life gets busy, and so much has happened this year that it can be easy to forget that we are in the middle of a capital campaign. On February 11, the congregation voted to proceed with a Capital Campaign. The goal is to raise \$1.5 million over three years. The Capital Campaign Cabinet presented the information to Peace members. At the end of this year, members pledged \$629,330 toward the expansion project. As of the end of 2024, we have received \$276,982 toward the campaign. The Nesvold family has pledged a matching gift of up to \$600,000. Yay God for your generosity.

We would like to extend a **THANK YOU** to the Capital Campaign Cabinet and Administrative Team for all your hard work on the 10,000 Reasons Capital Campaign.

On November 17, the congregation voted to appoint a Design Development Team. This team is hard at work meeting with Ministry Teams and staff to hear the needs of our church. They will then meet with an architect firm to design the expansion. The plan is to have a design to present to the congregation after Easter Sunday. The next step would then be for a congregational vote, which may include appointing an Implementation Team (I-Team) and a Construction Finance Team.

Stay tuned for more details, and continue to keep this project in your prayers.

Capital Campaign Cabinet



Capital Campaign Administrative Team



Design Development Team



2025 Peace Nominating Committee Candidates

2-Year Term - Vote for up to three (3)



Stephany Allen

Hi, I'm Stephany Allen. I have been a member of Peace for about 3 years now. I am joined by my husband (Joe) and my daughter (Elly). We joined Peace originally because of the youth program. It was the first time I had ever heard my daughter ask to go to church. My favorite days are the days

Peace hosts FCA, and I can help make breakfast for all of the student athletes! Everyone within Peace is so welcoming and really has made us feel right at home. I have loved watching the church, especially the youth program, grow. I am honored to be a part of helping the church grow to new heights through the discovery of talent utilization of all its members!



Nicole Johnsrud

My name is Nicole Johnsrud. My family and I have been members at Peace since 2013. My husband, Andy and our three kids, Tristan (17), Landon (15), and Addison (12) have been very active since joining. I have been serving in the Sunday School, Children's Choir, Christmas Program

and VBS as well as the Adult Choir and Praise Band. Since 2013 I have served on the Christian Ed, Youth Activities, Worship and Music, Missions, and Outreach Ministry Teams. When I'm not at church, you'll find Andy and I typically following our three kids around at baseball, football, basketball or soccer games. As a family we love to hike and ski or be on a lake in the summer. When I'm not at a kid's event or being a realtor, I love baking and cooking. It's truly been amazing to be a part of the growth of Peace. I am sure those early members who have gone on to their heavenly homes would be proud of how far this church has come. I have always considered it an honor to even be considered for this or any role in this church. Sincerely, thank you.



Mary Lobitz

Hi, my name is Mary Lobitz. My husband, John, and I have lived in Watertown for about 40 years. We share 4 beautiful children, who have also graced us with 10 wonderful grandchildren. We enjoy camping, fishing, pontooning, and spending time with family and friends. Being a

member of Peace Lutheran Church has been an amazing experience. Coming on Sundays and feeling welcomed and blessed has been so heartwarming to us and our family. The presence of God is definitely a wonderful feeling, and it fills you up as soon as you step foot in the door. We are very thankful to Pastor and everyone involved that helps make Peace a great place to be.



Nancy Sandin

My name is Nancy Sandin, and along with my husband, Troy, and our son, Colton, we have been members of Peace for five years. I have worked for a local financial planning firm for 25 years and enjoy gardening, cooking, and cheering on our favorite sports teams. At Peace, I am currently serving

on the Youth Activities Ministry Team and have also helped with property maintenance, Operation Christmas Child, Peace Café, and greeting. Through these experiences, I have had the opportunity to meet and interact with many members of Peace at different levels. I believe these experiences will help guide me in making informed decisions on the nominating committee. Thank you for your support.



RaKel Schroeder

Hello. My name is RaKel Schroeder. I live here in Watertown. My husband Kevin and I have 4 beautiful children: Olyvia Richards, Vanessa, Dayvin, and Karver. I have worked at the Luce Line Lodge in Watertown for the past 18 years, along with our company K&K Funtime. In our free time we love to

travel, play cards, and just hang out with family.



Colette Thorson

I am Colette Thorson. My family and I started attending church at Peace when it was still at the Community Center. I have served on Youth Activities and Christian Education and have assisted with teaching confirmation for 10 years. Over the years I have helped in various ways during Sunday service,

from greeting, serving fellowship, ushering, reading, and JAM. Most recently, I was given the opportunity to be a chaperone for the youth mission trip. The Nominating Committee's role in selecting the future leaders of our congregation is vital to its success. If chosen as a member of the committee, it would be an honor to help select candidates who, with God's help, will lead our congregation into the future. I would greatly appreciate your support.



Meghan Weaver

My family and I have been members here at Peace for over ten years. I live in Waconia with my beautifully blended family. As a member of Peace, I have enjoyed serving with the praise team, teaching/helping with Sunday School, teaching music at VBS, serving on the nominating committee, and

staying active with youth activities. I am currently a full-time student and my husband works for Life Time in Chanhassen. In our free time, we enjoy football and spending time with family. I truly love being a part of Peace and I feel so blessed to be considered for this committee.

Altar Care

Submitted By: Wendy Ely, co-chair

Who We Are

Lexi DiBenedetto, Karen Dressel, Brian Ely, Wendy Ely, Wendy Forland, Charlotte Helfritz, Kristina Hickel, Karen Lotito, Robert Lotito, Cathy Rieckenberg, Doreen Seal, Deb Wasser, and Sharon Weinzierl



A special thank you to Jackie Cramb and Audrey Nickleby for their past service.

Any member of Peace is welcome and encouraged to join the Altar Care Ministry Team. We are devoted and feel very privileged to serve our Lord and hope you may also be ready to experience this joy!

Care

Submitted by Mary Fritz-Barfnecht, chair

Who We Are

Thank you to our team members for their ideas and dedication: Sue Beulke, Marla Erickson, Stephanie Hanson, Karen Lotito, Mary Fritz-Barfnecht, and special-need helpers.

A special thank you to Cathy Rieckenberg and Jan Carlson for their past service.

What We Do

We believe that we can change the world through prayer and acts of kindness to others by demonstrating Christ's love. We provide a window to the life-altering power of a relationship with Jesus. At Peace we strive to show compassion to our church family by supporting each other as we experience life together.

Highlights of 2024

Visited homebound members Glenn Johnson, Renata Dahl, and Mary Ann

What We Do

We are the caretakers of the altar, lectern, and baptismal font along with their presentation based on the church calendar and events. Our duties consist of setting up and maintaining supplies for Holy Communion, Baptism, and the various festivals and seasons of the church year as well as to care for the acolyte robes. Our responsibility is also to assist with seasonal decorations in our worship sanctuary.



Highlights of 2024

Special Events: Pentecost, Confirmation Sunday, Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month, All Saints' Day, Veterans' Day, Advent, Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, etc.

Hoese.

Mailed cards for various holidays, celebrations, sympathy, get well, and thinking of you.

Delivered May Day baskets.

Provided send-off prayer card and gift to youth going to Bible camp and the mission trip.

Provided flowers for Pregnancy and Infant Loss month.

Recognized veterans during worship and provided dessert for Watertown Legion Veterans Day dinner.

Held our first Loss of a Spouse grief class followed by the 13-week GriefShare series. Just before Thanksgiving we hosted *Surviving the Holidays*. We will be planning another community grief series in 2025.

Several prayer shawls were given away this year. Prayer Shawl kits are available by the mission display, once finished, they can be returned to the church for distribution to people who are ill, suffering a loss, or are in the midst of a life crisis. If you know someone who could use a prayer shawl, please talk to a Care team member.

We had 70 flowers/plants for our Easter Garden. We supported 13 baptisms and confirmation for 12 students.

Due to growth in our congregation, it was decided to purchase a new Christ candle every year and purchase additional acolyte robes. With the rise in baptisms, we are very grateful for the women of the church who continue to make the beautiful blankets to be shared with families on this special occasion.

The opportunity to share altar flowers is available to everyone. The sign-up calendar is on the bulletin board by the Connect Counter. Thank you to everyone who has so graciously provided us with beautiful flower arrangements over this past year!

Contact Information:

Wendy Ely: 763-221-5328 / wendyjohansonmn@hotmail.com
Sharon Weinzierl: 952-955-2400 / jsweinzierl@gmail.com

A four-part devotional series called *Journeying Through Grief* is sent quarterly for one year to members who experienced a death of a loved one. In 2024 we sent to six new families. We hope they have found these helpful on their grief journey.

Several meal trains were coordinated for members. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this ministry.

Facebook Prayer group continues to be a great way to communicate and lift up prayer requests. This is a private group that Peace members are welcome to participate in, look for Peace Prayer in the Facebook groups and ask to join.

As we reflect on 2024, we are thankful to be able to make a difference in lives of those in need. We pray our Lord continues to help us identify ways to love our congregants and our community.



Mary Fritz-Barfnecht, Karen Lotito, Stephanie Hanson, Marla Erickson

Christian Education

Submitted by: Nicole Johnsrud, Chair

Who We Are

Our team includes Nicole Johnsrud, Colette Thorson, Mark Nissen, David & Kim Tetzlaff, Elizabeth Schulze, and the many volunteers who help with Sunday School, adult Bible studies, Confirmation, the Children's Christmas Program and VBS.

What We Do

Christian Education provides opportunities for our church family and the community to grow in spirit and faith.

Highlights of 2024

Sunday School:

Sunday school continues to see significant growth. We use a curriculum called *Enduring Faith* which the kids really seem to enjoy. Learning with a Lutheran base was something important we wanted to work towards. It has been exciting to see this come together.

We had over 40 kids register for our PreK-4th grade Sunday School program.

Our wonderful Sunday School teachers include:

PreK: Laura Wendland & Becky Forland

K-1st: Lindsey Walz, Megan Hunter, and Taylor Laumann

2nd: Leslie Schultz & Brenna Demeules

3rd - 4th: Elizabeth Schulze & Billie Tharaldson

Our 5th-8th graders gather for Middle School Youth Group Sundays after worship. This helps accommodate busy schedules while still providing valuable

Biblical lessons.

We believe there is very little as important as having our youth grow strong in their faith, which comes with a solid curriculum and a wonderful group of dedicated teachers. We are always open to ideas and encourage anyone interested in teaching or subbing to reach out. We would love to put you into the rotation of this very rewarding program.

VBS:

The 2024 VBS, *Breaker Rock Beach*, provided kids an opportunity to discover that God's truth never changes, everyone needs Jesus, and how to speak the truth in love. This was a great week with lots of games, fun snacks and learning. We had many adult and youth volunteers, and were blessed with 60 kids, highest attendance yet. In 2025 we will proclaim the Lord's greatness with *Magnified*. It's sure to be another really fun week.

Noisy Offering:

Noisy Offering is collected during worship the second Sunday of each month. Donations are used to assist congregations, families, or areas impacted by disasters or tragedies. This year we helped victims of Hurricane Helene, supported the Royals Room and Bethany's place, and donated to help with the roof repair of St. Paul's church in Alaska. Talk to a Christian Ed member if you have an idea where donations can be directed. **THANK YOU** for helping us teach kids the value of being generous and helping others in need.

Confirmation:

The confirmation program is stronger than it has ever been with 37 registered

students this year. They meet at 6:20 p.m. on Wednesdays. This enables them to participate in youth group following confirmation. This year, students are studying the Old Testament.

Pastor David and Mark have done an amazing job with the confirmation program and have successfully created Peace's own confirmation curriculum. The program is designed to present the core of the Christian and Lutheran faith through the study of scriptures and Luther's Small Catechism. We use these texts as the context for exploring current issues in confirmands' lives.

Teachers include Colette Thorson, Jon Peterson, Andrea Plahn, Josh & Cary Sommer, Lindsay Schmidt, Deb Butler, Nicole Johnsrud, Mark Nissen, and Pastor Hanson.

Adult Education:

There were opportunities for adults to partake in education this year as well, A women's small group on 1, 2 & 3 John facilitated by Kim Tetzlaff, Colette Thorson, and Nicole Johnsrud was held over the summer. Last fall there were three opportunities: *No Other God's* women's study facilitated by Kim Tetzlaff, *Grace Changes Everything* small group facilitated by David and Kim Tetzlaff, and *The Lutheran Toolkit* facilitated by Pastor David and Stephanie Hanson. Over the winter there was an Advent Devotional made available to families.

The Education committee is looking into additional opportunities this upcoming year which may include a parent gathering, as well as other Bible studies and small groups.

We are always looking for more people who have an interest in growing this ministry. Please reach out to anyone on the committee.



Deb Wasser with her VBS students



First Communion Bread Baking



Graduation Sunday

Finance

Submitted by: Dan Cowger, chair



Who We Are

The members of the Finance Ministry Team for 2024 were Judy Jacobson, Dan & Sue Beulke, Andy Johnsrud, Nathan Wendland, Bill Helfritz, Dan Cowger, RaKel Schoeder, Julie Potter, Linda Senne, Cathy Rieckenberg (MB Liaison).

What We Do

The Finance team oversees the financial matters of the church, proposes budgets, and keeps the congregation informed of its finances. Their goal is to be good stewards of the congregation's gifts to God and to encourage stewardship in all areas of ministry and mission.

Highlights of 2024

The Finance Ministry Team would like to thank the members of Peace Lutheran Church for their generous gifts this year. The 2024 budget projected a 6% increase

in expenses to account for the growing cost of our ministries. The 2024 budget also projected a 6% increase in giving to cover those costs. We are very pleased to report that our current numbers indicate that we will have a budget surplus for the 2024 calendar year of approximately \$25,000. Our giving has come in above projections, and expenses have come in below expectations. We thank God for such a wonderful blessing...#1.

A financial review was conducted by an outside accounting firm and showed that everything was in good order, following generally accepted accounting principles.

I would like to extend a very special thank you to Judy Jacobson (Financial Administrator). Judy will be stepping down at the end of 2024, but will remain available as an advisor. I would also like to introduce Julie Potter as our new Financial Administrator and Linda Senne as the new Assistant Financial Administrator. Both Julie and Linda have graciously volunteered to fill these roles and are already doing a fantastic job. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the entire Finance Ministry Team for their hard work and dedication this past

year. Tracking, recording, analyzing, and reporting Peace Lutheran Church's financial condition would not be possible without the efforts of the entire Finance Ministry Team.

2024 marked the beginning of our next Capital Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$1.5 million over a three-year period. At the end of this year, congregational members have pledged \$629,330 toward the expansion project with \$276,982 already received. The Nesvold family has pledged an additional matching gift of up to \$600,000. We are very blessed to have such a generous and supportive congregation here at Peace. We thank God for such a wonderful blessing...#2.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are anticipating a \$20,000 budget deficit. We are projecting a 3-4% increase in giving with an 8-9% increase in expenses. The increased expenses are due to budgeting for a new staff position of a "Director of Worship & Music." The 2024 budget surplus will help increase our savings and help offset a projected budget deficit in 2025. We, again, thank God for such a wonderful blessing...#3.

Hospitality

Submitted by: Dani Hahn, chair

Who We Are

The 2024 Hospitality Ministry Team was: Laurie Langner, Jill Blair, Dani Hahn, Karen and Robert Lotito, Billie Tharaldson, Rachel Sagstetter, Lindsay Schmidt, Alyssa Paschke, Marla Erickson, Kevin and RaKel Schroeder, Beth Seefeldt, Charlotte Helfritz, and John Weinzierl.

What We Do

The Hospitality Ministry Team's primary responsibility is to provide a welcoming atmosphere where members of the Peace family can enjoy time together around our favorite things: Jesus, coffee, and snacks. We enjoy facilitating events to bring members of the congregation together for fellowship and fun.



Jake & Henry Bohler

Highlights of 2024

We had a busy year with the chili feed, Welcome Neighbor Corn Feed, cribbage tournaments, pie auction, Easter breakfast, fish fry, Christmas decorating, craft weekends, and the Christmas Bazaar & Cookie Walk. These events are growing and becoming more fun with each passing year. This year we even added back some fun events such as the Tater Tot Hotdish contest and Movie Night.

Peace Café is as busy as ever with coffee, donuts, pies, Kringle's and other treats. We have recently implemented options for healthier snacks as well! We are grateful for those who help serve after worship on Sundays. Snack highlights from this year include Bread of Life Sunday and State Fair Snacks on a Stick!

On an ongoing basis, we coordinate the greeters, provide support for funeral receptions and other luncheons, organize Easter breakfast, and maintain and order all the various supplies for the Peace Café.



Alex Hickel, Glen Hulley, Rachel Sagstetter

This year (2024) our church Hospitality group has been dedicated to fostering a warm and welcoming environment as we embrace a growing number of new and

returning members. We look forward to continuing the spirit of hospitality, building deep relationships, and making every member feel at home as our church family continues to expand.

We praise God for the fun and joy He has brought to our gatherings and for blessing us with the presence and growing friendships of new members. Every event is a celebration of His love and grace and we are continually grateful for the opportunity to grow together in Christ. As we look ahead, we remain committed to honoring God through our hospitality, sharing His goodness, and building a stronger, more connected church community.

If Hospitality is something you are interested in joining, or you would like to help out for specific events, please let us know— we would be so happy to have more members join the committee!

Property

Submitted by: John Weinzierl, chair

Who We Are

The Property Ministry Team is made up of volunteers who offer their time and talents to ensure the facilities are maintained and are in good repair and appearance. Team members are Bill Hoernemann, John Lobitz, Tom Mittelstaedt, Paul Nesvold, Jim Grosshuesch, Kris Hanson, Andy Johnsrud, Tim Dressel, Leif Pederson, Cory Meyer, Troy Sandin, Les Forland, John Weinzierl and Mike Rupp (MB liaison).

What We Do

This group maintains the heating, plumbing, mechanical, electrical and security systems within the church. Property is responsible for the maintenance of supplies, carpet cleaning, light bulb replacement, HVAC monitoring and the job of custodial services, which includes regular cleaning (once per week and on an as-needed basis.) The exterior maintenance includes regular gardening, weeding, mowing, fertilizing, irrigation system maintenance and snow removal.

This group works diligently all year to keep Peace looking well maintained.

Highlights of 2024

Brevik Tharaldson was able to secure a grant from Xcel Energy to change all the fluorescent bulbs to LED. The church is now 99.9% LED.

A special thanks to all of the helpers who responded as needs arose. Special thanks to the Monday morning cleaning group, Bill Hoernemann, Paul Nesvold, Jim Lindgren, Bill Helfritz, Ted Pew, Dewey Swenson, Bob Rieckenberg, Harlan Sundblad, Les Forland, Dan Beulke, and Jake Jacobson. Thanks to Jerry Berg for providing the lawn care services, Kris Hanson and Tom Mittelstaedt for providing the snowplowing, and John Lobitz and Paul Nesvold for taking care of the sidewalk snow removal.

There is always a need for more members. Contact John Weinzierl if interested.

Missions

Submitted by Amy Peterson

Who We Are

Current team members: Karleen Boettner, Jaime and Troy Carlson, Ruth Clark, Teri Dressel, Jim Grosshuesch, Edie Hanson, Karen Hoernemann, Karen and Robert Lotito, Julie Maas-Kusske, Nikki McClurg, Amy and Jon Peterson, Sharon Weinzierl, and Cathy Rieckenberg (MB Liaison). Sadly, Maggie Grosshuesch passed in 2024. We still miss Maggie and her passion and commitment, especially to the food shelf and Global Health Ministries. Maggie was a blessing to Peace and the many people she helped.

Our quarterly meetings are open to all and whether or not you choose to join us at meetings, we ask that you continue to support us via prayer, donations and/or event participation.

What We Do

The Missions Team recommends recipients of Peace's annual benevolence dollars (see listing on page 17 for 2024 and page 18 for 2025) and uses its operating and designated funds to financially support those in need. In addition to monetary gifting decisions, the Missions team organizes various opportunities for Peace members to volunteer and serve those in need. Organizations supported are both local and global. Also, some Peace Thrivent policyholders use Thrivent Action Plans to help fund various missions (i.e., blessing bags and quilting supplies).



Students working on Missions projects

Highlights of 2024

August - Welcome Neighbor Corn Feed/"Stuff the Truck" Food Drive: This event yielded 476 pounds of non-perishable food and \$409 monetary donations which were delivered to Watertown Gather & Grow.

September - Missions Sunday: The guest speaker was Angie Cruzen of Gather & Grow. Angie spoke of her faith journey, why she felt compelled to do this type of work, and how Gather & Grow is making a difference in the needs of people in our community. Peace Missions volunteer activities for the year were highlighted with a video and bulletin insert. The Missions team served as greeters and ushers, provided special music for worship and served in Peace Café. A representative of the Gideons was available after worship to answer questions and provide additional information about the Gideons.

November - Confirmation Servant Night: We partnered with the Confirmation students for a Servant Night at Peace. Fleece blankets were cut and tied (donated to the Ronald McDonald House), white sheets were ripped and rolled to create bandages (donated to the Global Health Ministries), and Operation Christmas Child was highlighted by video.

November - Operation Christmas Child: Peace members filled 123 shoe boxes. New this year, Peace was a satellite location for shoe box drop. We collected an additional 290 boxes from the surrounding community.

December - Advent Giving Calendar for the Food Shelf: A 24-day Advent calendar listing various needed food items was included in the Sunday bulletin during the Advent season. We collected 277 pounds of non-perishable food items and \$100 for the Watertown Gather & Grow Food Shelf.

continued →



Karen & Robert Lotito, Owen & Tiffany Molitor and Jon Peterson

Supported Missions in 2024

Organization	Coordinator(s)	Peace's Active Participation
Brittany's Place	Jaime and Troy Carlson	A new mission, Brittany's Place is a sister organization to Hope House and is a safe place for young girls and women who have been rescued from sex trafficking. In December, 25 fleece tie blankets and 42 blessing bags containing self-care items and teddy bears were assembled. Also donated were new pajamas, bras, and underwear for residents of Brittany's Place.
Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)	Ruth Clark	Several times during the year, Peace members of all ages traveled to Chanhasen to hand-pack Manna meals for malnourished children.
Gather & Grow (Watertown food shelf)	Jim Grosshuesch	Gather & Grow Food Shelf & Connection now oversees the Watertown food shelf. In combing forces with Gather & Grow's super shelf, the Watertown location remodeled its physical space, added indoor shopping, and provides more fresh grocery items and new services and programs. On the fourth Sunday of each month, Peace collects cash and non-perishable food. In total, including "Stuff the Truck" and Advent donations, Peace contributed approximately 1,250 lbs. of food and \$4,045 above Peace benevolence gifting. In addition, youth and leaders from local churches participated in the annual Trick or Treat for the food shelf which collected 3,367 lbs of food and \$1,060. — Yay God!
Global Health Ministries (GHM)	Jim Grosshuesch, Cathy Rieckenberg	Donated white cotton sheets were ripped, rolled, and rubber-banded, thereby creating compact bandages. The bandages were delivered to GHM for distribution around the world. Volunteers rolled 1,925 bandages.
Homeless Blessing Bags	Ruth Clark	The high school youth helped assemble 18 summer blessing bags. The bags were made available to Peace members for distribution to homeless victims they encountered in their daily lives. Each bag contained non-perishable food items, seasonal clothing, and a New Testament outreach pocket Bible.
Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) - Heartland	Nikki McClurg Karleen Boettner	Peace continued to partner with Trinity Lutheran to provide personal care items (PCI) quarterly to families participating in the "Fresh Start" program. PCI donations are collected the second Sunday of the month.
Mittens of Hope	Sharon Weinzierl	In November and December, Peace members purchased 30 Christmas gifts for students whose names were anonymously submitted by the WM school social worker. The social worker then wrapped and distributed the gifts to the students.
Nutritional Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS)	Nikki McClurg	Peace coordinates distribution of NAPS boxes the third Tuesday of the month. NAPS provides low-income seniors, age 60 or older, with a free box of nutritious food provided by Second Harvest. Two seniors are currently using NAPS at the Watertown food shelf site. There is discussion of moving the drop-off to Delano. If you know a senior who may benefit from NAPS, contact Nikki.
Operation Christmas Child (OCC)	Amy & Jon Peterson	Peace expanded its participation in OCC and is now a satellite drop-off location. In November, Peace members filled 123 shoe boxes and some included a \$10 donation for postage. An additional 290 shoeboxes were dropped off at Peace by area churches, groups, and individuals. These boxes were brought to the central drop-off location in Plymouth where a total of 10,826 boxes were collected.
Orphan Grain Train (OGT)		Peace members continued to make diapers from used white t-shirts, make baby quilts, and collect onesies. Total donations for 2024 included 62 diapers, 40 baby quilts, and 75 onesies.
Ronald McDonald House (RMH) @ Gillette Children's Hosp.	Karen & Robert Lotito	Peace collects tabs from pop and pet food cans for monetary support of RMH. In addition, Confirmation youth and other Peace members cut and tied about 15 fleece blankets for children receiving medical care and staying at RMH.
Royals Room (RR)	Sharon Weinzierl	Located at the WM Elementary School, the RR houses nutritious food, school supplies, clothing & winter gear for students who come to school hungry or inadequately dressed. Peace collected and delivered non-perishable food and clothing throughout the year.

Outreach

Submitted by: Karen Dressel, chair

Who We Are

Our committee members include Brenna Demeules, Brian & Wendy Ely, Mary Fritz-Barfnecht, Robert & Karen Lotito, Tom & Audrey Nickleby, Cathy Rieckenberg, Karen Dressel (chair) and Pastor David.

What We Do

We work to share the love of Christ to the community of Watertown and surrounding areas, supporting and hosting community events.

Highlights of 2024

Pineapple Express: 200+ pineapples were delivered to new households in the area by church members this past year. Thank you to all of the volunteers and to Cathy Rieckenberg for leading the project.

February begins our Spring flower and plant sale, providing an opportunity to order flowers, flats, vegetables, and herbs, in the comfort of your home. Proceeds support the Welcome Neighbor Corn Feed.

In March we hosted a chili feed and fixins' for the Watertown Fire Department and EMTs. We have fun, and our first responders enjoy the chili – seems the 'hotter' the better! It's a great way for all of us to get to know our community volunteers, plus it's a fun event to do.



Pastor David & Stephanie ready for the parade



The Saturday before Easter we welcomed families to Watertown's Easter Eggstravaganza and handed out bracelets and pinwheels - both imprinted with "He Is Risen." Lots of smiles and fun for all!

In July, we sponsored a Watertown Red Devils vs Mayer Blazers baseball game. We set up a 10x10 tent and offered baseballs, tattoos, and coloring for the kids. Another way for Peace Lutheran to be in the community.

Watertown Rails to Trails Parade is held the last Saturday of July. We had a GIANT corn cob on our float to advertise our Welcome Neighbor Corn Feed. We also had some very dedicated volunteers to walk the parade route.

August was the Welcome Neighbor Corn Feed (WNCF). The weather was beautiful and may have contributed to our record turnout from the community coming and enjoying the afternoon. All committees and many members volunteered their time by helping with set up, roasting corn, cooking hotdogs, concessions, various booths, and cleanup. Every year it gets bigger and better. Thank you all!



In October we hosted a table at the Watertown's Ladies Night Out. We handed out the Chamber of Commerce bags and, from Peace, we gave out 240 cookies with information about grief support, fall Bible studies and the Christmas Bazaar. A great time for camaraderie and local shopping.

We rounded out the year with a Poinsettia & Wreath Sale in November. This gave members an opportunity to purchase a poinsettia in honor/memory of a loved one. These poinsettias decorated the church during Advent and Christmas. Members could also purchase a poinsettia, wreath or spruce tip pot to decorate their homes. Thank you to Wendy Ely for coordinating this event. Proceeds support the Welcome Neighbor Corn Feed.

Four times a year Outreach hosts Coffee, Cake & Conversation after worship followed a few weeks later by New Member Sunday. New members are given a WELCOME to our church family swag bag. We continue to be blessed with people who have heard about Peace from the WNCF, a pineapple delivery, a postcard mailing, social media or by YOU. Thank you to all our new members and for sharing our love of Peace to others.

I want to thank our hard-working team for always being there, helping out, sharing ideas and making Peace a place to call home for everyone. Special thanks to Sandy Fleischman for her help with Outreach posters and handouts. And to Pastor and Sandy for their artistic creativity.

We also thank our Peace members for their help.

The Outreach Ministry Team meets the first Monday of every month at Peace, at 6:00 p.m. We always welcome new people to our team, as we enjoy new ideas, inspiration and energy! Please consider joining.



Kevin Schroeder delivering guests to the WNCF



Ellie Nissen delivering her first pineapple



Roslyn & Kelly Schubert helping at the Easter Eggstravaganza



Nancy & Troy Sandin enjoying the corn

Safety

Submitted by Bob Rieckenberg, chair

What We Do

The Safety Ministry Team is responsible for implementing security policies, procedures, and for monitoring the church during worship and other events.

Highlights of 2024

We continue to review and update our safety procedures here at Peace. We will be working with the design team to suggest safety enhancements for the new addition. If you are interested in being on the safety team, please reach out to Bob Rieckenberg. We would like to meet with those who have law enforcement, medical, firefighter, and EMT backgrounds.

Technology

Submitted by Kevin Schroeder, chair

What We Do

The Technology Team is responsible for the electronic equipment throughout the church including the office equipment, telephones, PCs, and audio/video equipment, as well as coordinating upgrades and changes to software.

Highlights of 2024

Early this year, Peace had fiber optic internet installed. Our WI-FI speed has improved and is available for anyone to use at church. This upgrade also improved the quality of our online streaming of worship. The Technology Team continues to improve our gear for worship. We have replaced outdated microphones. We now have two new Shure hand-held microphones, as well as two new belt packs. This improvement brings all our tech up to the same level. Most noticeable is the sound quality for JAM children's message, giving the presenter freedom to use their hands and not hold a microphone.

Planning ahead for 2025 we are considering rebuilding the tech booth to better serve the space needs for video streaming. A unified receiver antenna will be installed in late January or early February. This antenna combines all the individual microphone antennas into one more powerful antenna, giving our wireless microphones much better reception anywhere in the sanctuary. We will be experimenting with worship software called ProPresenter, which would replace PowerPoint. More and more visitors to Peace are watching our worship online before visiting the church. Future improvements to our worship streaming will be to add cameras to capture the kids during JAM, baptisms, instrumentalists, and worship band.

In the church office, several of our computers are outdated and the Microsoft software will no longer be supported. Our hope is to see these upgraded in 2025.

Stewardship

Submitted by: Tricia Rupp, chair

Who We Are

Our team includes Sue Beulke, Amy Peterson, Bob Rieckenberg, Tricia Rupp, Bill Helfritz (MB liaison), and YOU! It is your time, your talents, and your gifts that allow Peace to spread God's word and do God's work all year long. Fun Fact: did you know there are at least 30 volunteers and over 36 volunteer hours needed for one Sunday morning worship with communion and children's Sunday School, and even more if the Praise Band is playing?

What We Do

Stewardship 360 is a yearlong effort focusing on time, talents and gifts.

Highlights of 2024

Our fall theme focus was on the Fruit of the Spirit and John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches..." The congregation was able to take a Spiritual Gift Inventory to determine what their God-given gifts

88
2025 Faith Promises Received
\$341,326
2025 Total Pledged
15
Brand New Pledgers
33
Households Increased 2024 Giving

are to serve at Peace and to further God's kingdom here on earth. In October, we had a Faith in Action – Ministry Fair where each team at Peace had a table with a board explaining how they contribute to the success at Peace and what needs they have. 170 stewardship packets were picked up at church or mailed. We are very thankful for the responses.

We are excited to see how God works this year through each of our gifts! Peace needs YOU! Please pray about how you can become more involved at Peace.

We're looking forward to our Stewardship journey in 2025!

Ministry Fair



Meghan Weaver



Billie Tharaldson, Laurie Langner, Jill Blair, Karen Lotito



Nicole Johnsrud



Edie Hanson

Worship & Music

Submitted by: Edie Hanson, chair

Who We Are

We are thankful to the many people who contribute to the Worship & Music ministry: Pastor David, for his wonderful leadership and quick wit. JoAnn Deveny, for her tireless devotion to our music and scheduling of special guest musicians. Marla Erickson, for scheduling our special music and directing the choir. Marla and Ruth Clark who provide accompaniment when JoAnn is on vacation. Our Children's Choir led by Nicole Johnsrud and the volunteers who plan a wonderful Christmas Program. All our volunteer musicians and vocalists. The members of the Worship & Music Ministry Team, for their support in selecting our music. The ushers, greeters, sound board operators, recorders, and slide presenters. Mark Nissen, who arrives early to set up the video recording. Kevin Schroeder, who ensures the sound system is set up and ready for every worship. There are so many who contribute behind the scenes to make our worship time blessed.

Adult Choir

Submitted by: Marla Erickson, (763) 331-2525

Adult Choir Director & Special Music Coordinator

Who We Are

A group of adults who love to praise the Lord in song.

What We Do

Peace's Adult Choir continues to enjoy adding music to our Sunday worship. We welcome and encourage new members to join choir at any time throughout the September-to-May choir year **or** to share your special music gifts.

Highlights of 2024

CHOIR HIGHLIGHTS:

We changed up our rehearsal opportunities going into 2024, where we rehearsed the last two Wednesdays of

We thank our Lord Jesus Christ, for what He has done in our lives and the people He has guided to our Peace doors. We welcome all feedback regarding the music selections, flow of the worship experiences, and worship atmosphere of Peace.

What We Do

Worship & Music volunteers are a group of people who graciously share their gifts and talents, volunteering as musicians, greeters, ushers, readers, and more. Members of the core team meet monthly to plan worship services.

Highlights of 2024

The continuing goal for Worship & Music in 2024 has been to create a worship experience that is meaningful for everyone who attends Peace. To that end, we strive to select music that includes traditional hymns and newer praise music. The intent is to find something that speaks to each worshiper's heart. We believe that a blended worship experience benefits everyone, and we want all to feel blessed and filled with the Holy Spirit.

We are continuing to develop our live

the month at 5:00 p.m. and sing for worship the first Sunday of each month. This gave our choir more rehearsal time together, with an eye towards Holy Week, Easter and beyond, in addition to honoring the many requests for special music on a Sunday morning.

Peace hosted this year's Watertown's annual Thanksgiving Eve community worship, which was lots of work and greatly rewarding. Lots of practice, rehearsals and creative energy flowed from the participating churches, which featured both adult and children's choirs, trumpet (from Trinity Lutheran), flute, piano/organ and Peace's wonderful praise band. Always a stimulating and exciting opportunity to work together with the area directors collectively and to dream big musically for future years, while fostering that welcoming community environment that Peace strives to offer.

SPECIAL MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS:

Peace continues to be blessed with ever-increasing numbers of music vocalists,

streaming of worship. Every Sunday people join us online and others view worship later via YouTube and Facebook. We are thankful to the volunteers who manage the live streaming worship, especially our youth who seem to adapt to it so quickly.

During the year, we hold monthly meetings to plan for Sunday worship and special worship opportunities, such as Lenten mid-week, summer mid-week, and more. We're excited about the increased number of people worshipping with us at Peace. We continue to work with the Technology Team and Ministry Board to improve the sound quality. If you are interested in volunteering to present slides, record worship, read scripture, operate the sound board, or present a children's message for JAM, please contact the church office and let us know. We're always happy to train new volunteers. All ages are invited to volunteer to serve during worship. We have found that our middle school and high school members are extremely good with technology and enjoy doing live streaming, slide presentation and soundboard operations. We are so grateful for their service!

flutists, trumpet players, drummers, guitar and bass players and others, who greatly enhance our worship by adding their talents to both weekly worship and also Lent, Easter, Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve worship. A special thanks this year to the five Hoernemann grandchildren who participated with the Christmas Eve 9:00 p.m. worship, and also to Ruth Clark, who not only traditionally covers that 9:00 service, but has filled in on both trumpet and piano throughout the year. Please remember that summer worship always offers an even greater opportunity for special music. If needed, JoAnn and I are both ready to assist you in both song choices and rehearsals in this regard. Please know that your God-given musical gifts are a welcome enhancement to Peace's music ministry.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise and rejoice and sing praise." Psalm 98:4

Sol Deo Gloria!
("Glory to God alone.")

Youth Activities

Submitted by: Meghan Weaver

Who We Are

Committee Members: Mark & Gladys Nissen, Meghan Weaver, Nicole Johnsrud, Andrea Plahn, Nancy & Troy Sandin, Grace Carlin, Clay Thaumert, and Jon Peterson – MB rep

What We Do

Our Youth Activities Team strive to strengthen our youth to develop a mature and active relationship with Jesus Christ and to be disciples and leaders for Him in this church and in the community. We seek to demonstrate care and concern for all students. This ministry focuses on youth who have completed their first communion through 12th grade.

Highlights of 2024

The youth activities ministry had a busy 2024! I always say it is hard to believe another year has gone by! When you look around during worship or on a Wednesday night, you will see a huge blessing: so many kids! The number of kids attending Sunday service, Wednesday confirmation and youth group just continues to grow each year. If you look around in the sanctuary, you will see our youth as readers, special music, J.A.M, ushers, running the slides and the live stream for online worship!

Mark continues to lead youth group every Wednesday night for high school and after worship on Sunday for middle school. Youth group is not only available for members of Peace but is also open to friends and our community. We continue to see kids who are not members of Peace join Mark and the

youth. A typical youth group night or event sees about 20-30+ kids!

The youth committee and Peace's youth planned and partook in multiple service events this year. Some of these include: yardwork day, Trick-or-Treat for the food shelf, summer food shelf help, a youth-led Easter celebration, See You at the Pole, college care packages, and a youth-led Valentines' Dinner. The youth and committee also can be seen helping our fellow committees with events like VBS, Rally Sunday, and the Corn Feed!

Our committee made sure to have some extra fun events in 2024 as well. Some of the events were: Urban Air, a middle school lock-in, bowling, Valley Fair, egg olympics, a water war, a nerf war, swimming, and multiple Bible Studies led by Mark at his home, with dinner!

Yay God, Peace went on a fourth mission trip! We had 24 youth and 4 adult leaders head to Colorado Springs to spread the good news of our Savior and to volunteer their time serving the community. They painted houses, cleaned flooded homes, helped the Pike's Peak parks department, and pitched in wherever needed. They spent time every day in worship and prayer, and building relationships, and had some fun as well on the way! Peace has a fifth mission trip on the books for summer 2025. The youth will be heading to Elliot County, KY to serve and spread the good news of our amazing Lord!

Our committee is excited for the future. It is hard not to be! One word that continues to come to mind when thinking about the future is GROWTH! I say this every year, but boy, God is good! We have many families that are excited for their kids to be a part of Peace's youth, and we are having more and more interest from families outside of Peace, as well. As a committee, we

are excited to see the youths' faith grow. We continue to support them with their faith walk and strengthen our relationships with them. With the continued support from our congregation, I believe this program is only going to gain more and more momentum and be able to reach so many more youth.

We know 2025 is going to be a busy year! We are looking forward to continuing traditions and building and strengthening our current youth group. Nothing is impossible with God!

"Lord, I want to give you all the glory for giving us our youth, the events we get to partake in, the work that is being done inside and outside our church. Lord, it is our desire to grow your Kingdom and bring more and more kids to personally know, love and worship you. I pray that everything we do is pleasing in your eyes."

I would like to thank our congregation for supporting Mark's position and our youth. We can be a rowdy bunch, but this church is home to these kids, and they take much comfort in these walls and in all of you. I would also like to thank Pastor Hanson for always giving his time and talents, for loving and supporting our youth, and being a real good sport hanging out with a bunch of teens! I need to thank Mark for being an amazing asset to our church, youth, families, and community. Your love and passion for our youth and our church is easily seen in everything you do. Thank you. Last, but not least, I want to thank my fellow committee members for giving their time and talents. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Praise God!



Water Day - Case McClurg and Derek Dressel



Summer Camp - Chloe Knutson and Vienna Miller



Colorado Springs, CO Mission Trip



Colorado Springs, CO Mission Trip

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING - January 28, 2024

Welcome given by President Mike Rupp. Following Robert Rules of Order. We have a quorum.

I. Call to Order: Call to order at 10:25 a.m.

II. Opening Prayer: Opening prayer lead by Pastor David Hanson

III. Open Forum: None

IV. Adopt Agenda:

Motion to adopt Annual Meeting Agenda as written. Mark Nissen / Greg Tesch / Carried

V. Approve Congregational Meeting Minutes:

- a. Special Congregational Meeting – January 15, 2023
- b. 2022 Congregational Meeting Minutes held on Sunday, January 29, 2023.

Motion to approve the congregational meeting minutes held on January 29, 2023, and the special congregational meeting held on January 15, 2023. Chuck Venske / Wayne Kuehn / Carried

VI. Nominating Committee Ballot Presentation Given by Kelsie Simon:

- a. Ministry Board Positions (3-Year Term) Vote for Two: Karen Dressel, Teri Dressel, Marla Erickson, and Jon Peterson
- b. Nominating Committee (2-Year Term) Vote for Three: Dan Juncewski, Diane Malmin, Jessica McGowan, Bob

Rieckenberg, Harlan Sundblad, and Greg Tesch.

- c. Discussion on the wording of the Constitution change regarding Absentee Voting led by President Mike Rupp.

VII. Reports

- a. Pastor's Report given by Pastor David Hanson.
- b. Director of Youth & Family Report given by Mark Nissen.
- c. Ministry Board Report given by Mike Rupp.

VIII. Recognition of Ministry Teams

IX. 2023 and 2024 Finance Review Presented by Dan Cowger, Finance Chair and Judy Jacobson, Financial Administrator.

- Audit Report of 2023 Financial Records – Done by an independent agency, Jeanne Matter CPA, and found our books to be in order. Verified accurate.
- Review of 2023 Finance Report – Dan reviewed income and expenses.
- Proposed 2024 Budget – Dan discussed the 2024 budget forecasting a balanced budget for 2024.

Motion to approve 2024 Budget: Duane (Dewey) Swenson / Beth Seefeldt / Carried

X. New Business:

- John Weinzierl, head of Property Team, announced all the fluorescent lights in the church will be changed over to LED lights thanks to a donation from a member.

XI. Nominating Committee Election Results Presented by Mary Fritz-Barfnecht

- Elected Nominating Committee Members for the 2024 year serving a 2-year term are: Diane Malmin, Bob Rieckenberg, and Greg Tesch
- Elected Ministry Board Members for the 2024 year serving a 3-year term are: Karen Dressel and Jon Peterson
- Constitutional Amendment on Absentee Ballots Passed

Motion for Mike Rupp to be President of the Congregation was made by Jake Jacobson / Edie Hanson / Carried

Motion to destroy ballots: Bill Helfritz / Larry Cramb / Carried

XII. Thank You Past Ministry Board Members, Past Nominating Committee Members and Candidates

XIII. Adjournment: Closing statement from the president of the congregation, Mike Rupp.

Motion to adjourn Duane (Dewey) Swenson / Megan Weaver / Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

XIV. Closing Prayer: Closing Prayer by Pastor David Hanson.



Thanksgiving Community Worship Pie Fellowship



Thanksgiving Community Worship Choir Trinity Lutheran, Evangelical Free, Immaculate Conception, Peace Lutheran

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2024 SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Welcome given by President Mike Rupp. Following Robert Rules of Order. We have a quorum.

I. Call to Order: Call to order at 10:26 a.m.

II. Opening Prayer: Opening prayer led by Tory Schmidt

III. Adopt Agenda:

Motion to adopt Special Congregational Meeting Agenda as written. Ruth Clark / Marla Erickson / Carried

IV. Open Questions/ Discussions

V. Nominating Committee Ballot Presentation

a. Capital Campaign

Motion: "To move forward with a capital campaign to be contracted with and conducted by Hal Johnson & Associates not to exceed \$28,750 with the first priority of the facility expansion construction being the education and administration wing."

b. One Year Ministry Board Position –

- Marla Erickson

VI. Congregational Vote and Collection of Ballots

VII. Congregational Vote Results Presented by Bob Rieckenberg

- Capital Campaign: Passed- 82 Yes / 23 No
- Ministry Board: Marla Erickson - Unanimous

VIII. Motion to Destroy the Ballot

Motion to destroy ballots: John Weinzierl / Greg Tesch / Carried

IX. Adjournment: Closing statement from the president of the congregation, Mike Rupp.

Motion to adjourn Mark Nissen / Jake Jacobson / Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 11:07 am.

X. Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer all together led by Pastor David Hanson.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2024 SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

I. Welcome

Welcome given by President Mike Rupp. Following Robert Rules of Order. We have a quorum.

Mike reviewed the building proposal wheel and where we are in the process. Opened the discussion up to those present. There were no questions.

II. Call to Order: Mike called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

III. Opening Prayer: Led by Pastor David

IV. Adopt Agenda:

Motion to adopt the Special Congregational Meeting Agenda as written. Bob Rieckenberg / Julie Maas-Kusske / Carried

V. Nominating Committee Ballot Presentation:

Motion: To authorize the Ministry Board to appoint a Design Development Committee of five people to work with Peace ministry teams and the

retained architecture firm to complete the Design Development phase no later than Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, and to approve the expenditure of Capital Campaign funds for the Design Development not to exceed \$40,000, after which the congregation will vote on the next phase of the project and to appoint an Implementation Team (I-Team) and a Construction Finance Team. Dan Langner/ Bill Helfritz/ Carried

VI. Congregation Vote

VII. Collection of Ballots by Nominating Committee

VIII. Congregation Vote Results: Presented by Bob Rieckenberg. Yes- 82; No-5; Blank-4.

IX. Motion to Destroy the Ballot

Motion to destroy the Ballots. Jon Peterson / Doreen Seal / Carried

X. Adjournment: at 11:03 am by Mike Rupp

XI. Closing Prayer: Led by Tory Schmidt



JAM with Peace Puppet Pals



Pastor David with the Trevena family following Declan's baptism



Peace Choir

INCOME SUMMARY	2024	2023	2022
Faith Promises - General Fund	\$ 375,696	\$ 358,854	\$ 328,853
Cash Offerings	4,726	7,385	5,921
Holiday Offerings	14,992	8,981	10,908
Interest Income	4,688	1,847	439
Miscellaneous Income	2,800	1,555	500
Education & Youth Events	<u>7,776</u>	<u>7,434</u>	<u>-</u>
OPERATING INCOME	<u>\$ 410,678</u>	<u>\$ 386,056</u>	<u>\$ 346,621</u>
Capital Campaign	\$ 383,087	\$ -	\$ -
Prepaid Faith Promise	13,260	-	-
Undesignated Donation Fund	-	100,000	67,335
Youth Mission Trip	27,260	23,984	17,787
Various Funds	59,232	41,944	46,374
Memorials—Undesignated	410	50.00	-
Refunded Transactions	<u>5,543</u>	<u>7,347</u>	<u>3,524</u>
NON-OPERATING INCOME	<u>\$ 488,792</u>	<u>\$ 173,325</u>	<u>\$ 135,020</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 899,470</u>	<u>\$ 559,381</u>	<u>\$ 481,641</u>
EXPENSE SUMMARY	2024	2023	2022
Altar Care+	\$ 1,966	\$ 1,575	\$ -
<i>+(previously combined with church supplies)</i>			
Benevolence	35,640	32,000	29,710
Care	1,097	1,165	1,338
Christian Education	10,459	8,942	4,969
Communications & Technology	3,847	3,808	2,215
Hospitality	3,535	2,975	3,333
Missions	1,470	1,987	2,844
Office and Church Supplies	22,998	26,942	15,317
Outreach	7,348	6,999	6,236
Property	31,717	33,253	31,092
Salaries & Benefits	249,390	244,693	232,277
Stewardship	1,078	2,864	1,475
Worship & Music	3,311	2,183	1,262
Youth Activity	<u>6,675</u>	<u>8,903</u>	<u>4,524</u>
OPERATING EXPENSE	<u>\$ 380,531</u>	<u>\$ 378,289</u>	<u>\$ 336,592</u>
Brick & Mortar Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,691
Build the Future	29,986	18,721	-
Properties Fund	-	13,220	1,554
Rainy Day Fund	-	-	6,781
Noisy Offering	3,604	1,200	1,948
Youth Mission Trip Fund	26,376	21,220	14,646
Outreach Fund	7,982	12,465	6,640
Projector/Technology Fund	1,628	-	25,636
Various Funds	7,327	13,280	10,930
Memorials	-	1,348	771
Refunded Transactions	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,376</u>
NON OPERATING EXPENSE	<u>\$ 76,903</u>	<u>\$ 81,454</u>	<u>\$ 74,973</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$ 457,434</u>	<u>\$ 459,743</u>	<u>\$ 411,565</u>

**totals rounded to the nearest dollar*

Cash & Fund Balances

as of 12/31/2024

General	\$ 161,995
Capital Campaign Fund	515,905
Brick & Mortar	24,261
Prepaid 2025 Faith Promise	13,260
Memorials - Undesignated	480
Rainy Day	11,216
Altar Care	1,379
Christian Education	394
Noisy Offering	1,266
Care Ministry	731
Hospitality	21,883
Mission Ministry	3,557
Good Samaritan	5,370
Thrivent Mission	1,574
Outreach	2,589
Property	555
Worship / Technology	1,540
Music Ministry	5,465
Youth Ministry	
High School Scholarship	6,200
Youth Mission Trip	<u>15,005</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 794,625</u>
Credit Card Payable	\$ 4,885
CASH IN BANK	<u>\$ 799,510</u>

2024 Benevolence & Missions

LOCAL	
Blessing Bags	\$ 180
Carver County Veterans Council	2,000
Gather & Grow Food Shelf	3,000
Gas Cards	1,400
Holiday Meal Baskets	500
Hope House	2,000
LCMC	2,000
LCMC - Augustana District	4,000
Love INC	3,000
Lutheran Bible Translators	500
MN Asst Council for Veterans	2,000
Noisy Offering - St. Paul Lutheran	3,254
Noisy Offering - Brittany's Place	350
Philomena House	640
Ronald McDonald House	500
GLOBAL	
Feed My Starving Children	4,000
Global Health Ministries	500
Tanzania Well Project	500
New Hope Mission Society	2,500
Orphan Grain Train	6,500
Samaritan's Purse	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 41,324</u>

2025 Estimated Income

Faith Promises (101/88)	\$ 341,326
Other Giving	\$ 50,000
Other Offerings	\$ <u>21,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ <u>412,326</u>



- Faith Promises (87%)
- Other Giving (10%)
- Other Offerings (3%)

2025 Benevolence Budget

LOCAL

Blessing Bags	\$ 800
Carver Cty Veteran's Council	\$ 2,000
Gather & Grow Food Shelf	\$ 3,000
Holiday Meal Baskets	\$ 750
Hope House	\$ 2,000
LCMC	\$ 3,000
LCMC—Augustana District	\$ 5,000
Love INC	\$ 3,000
Lutheran Bible Translators	\$ 600
MN Asst Council for Veterans	\$ 2,000
Philomena House	\$ 640
Ronald McDonald House	\$ 500

GLOBAL

Feed My Starving Children	\$ 4,000
Global Health Ministries	\$ 600
New Hope Mission Society	\$ 2,500
Orphan Grain Train	\$ 6,500
Samaritan's Purse	\$ 2,000
Tanzania Well Project	\$ 600

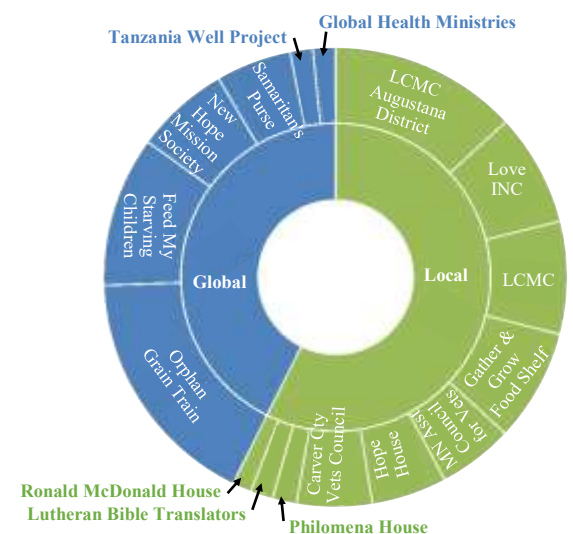
TOTAL **\$ 39,490**

2025 Budget - Ministry Team Summary

	2025 BUDGET	2024 BUDGET
Finance	\$ 353,606	\$ 319,366
Property	\$ 23,960	\$ 25,395
Education	\$ 14,760	\$ 8,460
Youth Activity	\$ 9,100	\$ 7,000
Missions	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,550
Stewardship	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Care	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
Outreach	\$ 11,710	\$ 8,545
Hospitality	\$ 4,900	\$ 4,850
Music	\$ 4,385	\$ 3,830
Altar Care	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,980
Technology	\$ <u>3,435</u>	\$ <u>9,168</u>
TOTAL	\$ <u>434,206</u>	\$ <u>394,944</u>

2025 Budget & Income Comparison

Budgeted Expenses	\$ (434,206)
Estimated Income	\$ 341,326
Other Giving	\$ 50,000
Other Offerings	\$ <u>21,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ <u>21,880</u>



Membership & Worship Stats

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
◆ Baptized Membership	496	527
◆ Confirmed Membership	346	373
◆ Number of Member Households	170	185
◆ Members Removed	26	24
◆ Average Sunday Worship Attendance (not including Easter or Christmas Eve)	177	189
◆ Average Midweek Worship Attendance		
• Ash Wednesday	171	157
• Lent	85	104
• Maundy Thursday	154	130
• Good Friday	110	122
• Summer Series	N/A	26
◆ Easter Worship Attendance		
• 7:00 am	129	112
• 9:00 am	270	247
• 11:00 am	68	140
◆ Thanksgiving Community Worship	N/A	231
◆ Christmas Eve Worship Attendance		
• 3:00 pm	237	238
• 5:00 pm	110	147
• 9:00 pm	57	102



Bible Presentation Sunday September 15, 2024

3rd Grade

- ✠ Arthur Hokenson
- ✠ Nehemiah Kamps
- ✠ Elise Schultz
- ✠ Casper Tharaldson
- ✠ Aanahlisa Thompson
- ✠ Xander Walz
- ✠ Parker Wendland

7th Grade

- ✠ Oliver Butler
- ✠ Callan Cox
- ✠ Hanna Gosha
- ✠ Owen Lahr
- ✠ Lucas Matson
- ✠ Sawyer Meis
- ✠ Addison Paschke
- ✠ Jack Plahn
- ✠ Sawyer Schmidt
- ✠ Wyatt Sprenger
- ✠ Avalynn Underdahl

Weddings

- Rebecca Underdahl and Jody Forland
March 16, 2024
- Rachel Lotito and Curtis Sagstetter
June 22, 2024

Funerals

- Margaret Lena Grosshuesch
September 9, 2021
- Renata E. Dahl



Baptized

- 2023 — 13 2024 — 13
- Kysen Timothy Jerome Tillman
January 7, 2024
 - Declan John Trevena
February 4, 2024
 - Motley Daniel Thaumert
March 24, 2024
 - Teagan Isabelle Williams
May 12, 2024
 - Benjamin Rodney Walz
June 23, 2024
 - Samuel Nicholas Clement
July 14, 2024
 - James Edward Bohler
September 22, 2024
 - Sully Jackie Jobe
October 13, 2024
 - Tala Sevilay Ismail
October 13, 2024
 - Skylar Ray Young
October 27, 2024
 - Madelyn Rose Kasprick
November 24, 2024
 - Adeline Kay Carlin
December 1, 2024
 - Jack Sullivan Mullaney
December 8, 2024

First Communion

- Thursday, March 28, 2024
- Addison Johnsrud
 - Harper Kleve
 - Grady May
 - Nolan McGowan
 - Roslyn Schubert
 - Owen St. Aubin
 - Austin Seefeldt
 - Charley Stuntebeck
 - Juliana Wendland

Confirmed

- Sunday, May 19, 2024
- Elly Allen
 - Trevor Anderson
 - Benjamin Butler
 - Cole Forland
 - Emma Kleve
 - Henry Kleve
 - Cullen May
 - Brecken Miller
 - Kailey Paschke
 - Karver Schroeder
 - Holly Sinnen
 - Teagan Williams



	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Baptized Members	45	39
Households	15	13

Sunday, March 24, 2024

- 11 people / 4 households
- AnaLeigh & Jared Duske
Duke; Mac
 - Wendy & Leslie Forland
 - Lynn Hendricks
 - Carolyn & Sean Trevena
Corrin; Declan

Sunday, June 9, 2024

- 5 people / 2 households
- Karleen & Ron Boettner
 - Samantha Hawkins
Lauren; Emery

Sunday, October 13, 2024

- 23 people / 7 households
- Jill & Russ Blair
 - Kristina & Alex Hickel
Garrison; Chloe; Reagan; Addilyn
 - Julie Maas-Kusske & Bart Kusske
 - Becky & Mitch Lahr
Owen; Evelyn
 - Ali Matson
Logan; Lucas
 - Denise & Tyler Meis
Maddison; Sawyer; Truett
 - Heidi Mengis

Congratulations!

2024 Graduates

Graduate Recognition
Sunday, May 5, 2024



- High School** — Dylan Anderson, Elizabeth Demeules*, Emily Hanson*, Lauren Hawkins*, Ava Heun*, Jackson Pawelk, Hailey Sinnen*

- College**—Matthew Clark, Seth Junczewski, Adam Kusske, Andrew Kusske, Isaac Tesch

*High school students who received Peace Graduate Scholarships