



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



Peace Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community of believers called to **love God, love people, and serve the world!**

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 worshipping 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



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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

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Peace Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community of believers called to **love God, love people, and serve the world!**

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).



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2023 Annual Meeting

January 28, 2024

Peace Lutheran Church
1147 S Walnut Ave, New Braunfels, TX
Pastor: The Rev. Jake Fain

Officers and Congregation Council

President	Carol Franz
Vice President	Megan Wenzel
Secretary	Matt Simmont
Treasurer	Don Hodde
Member at Large	Kathi Anderson
Member at Large	Vicki Hillmer
Member at Large	David Thomas
Member at Large	Forrest Willis

Ministry Team Chairs

Faith Formation	Deacon Andrew More
Fellowship	Becky Voges & Jim Johnson
Financial	James Huston
Outreach	N/A
Property	John Kassel
Service	Brandi Raschke
Worship/Music	Judi Miller

Staff Members

Pastor	Jake Fain
Deacon of Faith Formation	Andrew More
Finance Administrator	Valerie Wood
Office Administrator	Theresa Robinson (Dec. 2023 – Present)
	Elizabeth Hoenemeyer (Thru Oct. 2023)
	Madison Clark (Sept. 2023 – Present)
Organist	Jeannie Kawazoe
Custodian	Donna Braune



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2023 Annual Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

Carol Franz

Opening Liturgy

Pastor Jake Fain

Reports to the Congregation

- a. Pastor
 - Deacon
 - President
- b. Ministry Teams
 - Faith Formation
 - Fellowship
 - Outreach
 - Property
 - Service
 - Worship
 - Compassion
- c. Mission Endowment
- d. Council Nominees
- e. Summary

Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Approval of 2023 Financial Report

Business Items

- 2. Approval of the 2024 Peace Lutheran Church Budget
- 3. Election of Council Members
- 4. Other Business as Required

President's Comments

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

Pastor Jake



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2022 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2023

1. Call to order by church council president, Don Hodde at 11:45 am. 41 members are required for a quorum, 62 in person members and 5 Zoom meeting members were present. Quorum established.
2. Opening Liturgy – Pastor Jake Fain
3. Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes – John Kassel made motion to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes. Fritz Friesenhahn seconded motion. Motion carried.
4. Approval of 2022 Financial Report – Will Voges made a motion to approve the 2022 Financial Report. Bill Purcell seconded motion. Motion carried.
5. Council President Don Hodde gave special thanks for those taking on roles of leadership and handling unexpected challenges. There has been a recent concerning trend with the financial picture of the church, special gifts to the church would be very much appreciated. He lifted a message of the hope to set a new normal for Peace Lutheran.
6. Vision Team presentation and update by Patti Kassel.
7. Approval of 2023 PLC Budget – Dave Heise made motion to approve 2023 PLC Budget. Fritz Friesenhahn seconded motion. Motion carried.
8. Election of Peace Church Council (*indicates nominees): No additional nominations from floor. Will Voges made motion to approve nominees, Fritz Friesenhahn seconded motion. Motion carries.
 - Don Hodde: for 2nd year of 2nd term
 - Matthew Simmont: for 2nd year of 2nd term
 - Forrest Willis: for 2nd year of 2nd term
 - David Thomas: 1st year of 2nd term*
 - Megan Wenzel: 1st year of 2nd term*
 - Carol Franz: for 1st year of 2nd term*
 - Vicki Hillmer: for 2nd year of 1st term
 - Kathy Anderson: 1st year of 1st term*
9. Meeting adjourned.
10. Closing Prayer - Pastor Jake



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**Peace Lutheran Church - New Braunfels TX
Treasurer's Report as of December 2023**

Thursday, January 11, 2024 9:43 AM

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Income					
401.010	General Offering Income	42,508.75	383,758.49	413,336.00	29,577.51
401.026	Interest - Prosperity Bank Checking	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
401.027	St. Andrew Collaborative Income	1,210.96	7,746.89	6,416.00	(1,330.89)
401.028	Faith Formation Income	0.00	2,416.06	500.00	(1,916.06)
401.030	Verizon Tower Income	1,000.00	1,000.00		
401.031	Flowers Income	326.00	2,632.00	2,000.00	(632.00)
401.032	Worship Income	0.00	334.00	0.00	(334.00)
401.033	Offering Envelopes Income	0.00	290.00	100.00	(190.00)
401.036	Christmas Tea Income	215.00	532.00	600.00	68.00
401.037	Fellowship Income	196.00	3,039.89	2,500.00	(539.89)
401.038	Outreach Income	27.00	27.00	0.00	(27.00)
401.039	Miscellaneous Income	501.57	8,613.17	8,000.00	(613.17)
401.040	SOS Food Bank Income	161.00	301.00		
401.041	Family Promise Income	60.00	250.00		
401.042	Lutheran Advantage Scholarship Income	0.00	0.00		
401.043	Family Life Center Income	0.00	602.21		
401.044	Comal County Crisis Center Income	0.00	544.00		
401.045	NB First Footing Homeless Shelter Income	10.00	1,969.81		
	General Fund	\$46,216.28	\$414,056.52	\$433,452.00	\$24,062.50
410.010	Building Fund Income	945.00	9,510.00	16,805.00	7,295.00
410.020	Interest Income Building	6.67	68.10	100.00	31.90
410.030	Miscellaneous Income - Building	0.00	8,524.29	0.00	(8,524.29)
	Building Fund	\$951.67	\$18,102.39	\$16,905.00	(\$1,197.39)
410.050	Peace Mission Endowment Fund - Income	130.00	2,010.00	1,200.00	(810.00)
410.060	Interest Income - Peace Mission Endowment Fund	3.11	31.95	30.00	(1.95)
	Peace Mission Endowment Fund	\$133.11	\$2,041.95	\$1,230.00	(\$811.95)
411.070	ELCA Endowment Investment Fund - Income	0.00	3,806.20		
411.071	ELCA Endowment Investment Fund Market Adjustment	0.00	3,344.07		
	ELCA Endowment Investment Fund	\$0.00	\$7,150.27		
411.010	Deferred Maintenance	0.00	0.00		



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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
	Fund - Income				
411.020	Interest Income - Deferred Maintenance	8.28	107.80		
	Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$8.28	\$107.80		
412.010	Aid To Needy Fund Offerings	0.00	100.00		
412.015	Peace's Little Pantry Fund Offerings	521.00	1,936.68		
412.020	Disaster Relief Fund Offerings	40.00	320.00		
412.025	Stephen Ministry Fund Offerings	0.00	0.00		
412.070	Family Promise Fund Offerings	0.00	528.44		
413.010	Pastor Gary and Loy Lange Scholarship Fund Off	0.00	0.00		
414.071	Youth Fund Offerings	0.00	6,386.39		
414.072	ELCA Youth Gathering Offerings	1,253.97	2,496.90		
418.010	Memorial Fund Offerings	200.00	4,555.00		
418.040	Musician's Fund Offerings	0.00	0.00		
419.000	Hunger Fund Offerings	0.00	200.00		
419.001	LWR Fund Offerings	0.00	180.91		
419.003	Additional Benevolence Fund Offerings	0.00	0.00		
419.005	Food Bank Fund Offerings	0.00	650.00		
419.010	Other Funds Offerings	0.00	1,823.19		
419.015	Peaceful Piecers Quilt Fund Of	1,450.00	2,230.92		
419.020	Mission Projects Fund Offerings	600.00	4,200.00		
419.040	Building Expansion Fund Offerings	0.00	0.00		
	Total Other Funds	\$4,064.97	\$25,608.43		
	Total Income	\$51,374.31	\$467,067.36	\$451,587.00	\$22,053.16
Expense					
501.010	General Benevolence	2,260.81	32,416.93	37,000.00	4,583.07
501.050	SOS Food Bank Benevolence	1,185.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
501.075	Family Promise Benevolence	1,074.22	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
501.080	Lutheran Advantage Scholarship Benevolence	0.00	775.00	775.00	0.00



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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
501.089	Family Life Center Benevolence	300.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
501.090	Comal County Crisis Center/Serve Spot	1,456.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
501.091	New Braunfels First Footing Homeless Shelter	0.00	1,959.81	1,000.00	(959.81)
	Benevolence	\$6,276.03	\$42,151.74	\$45,775.00	\$3,623.26
502.010	Salary - Pastor	3,995.00	47,940.00	47,940.00	0.00
502.020	Housing - Pastor	2,496.92	29,963.04	29,963.00	(0.04)
502.030	Pension/Medical - Pastor	3,704.44	44,808.11	44,453.00	(355.11)
502.040	SS Offset - Pastor	496.66	5,959.92	5,960.00	0.08
502.050	Auto Allowance - Pastor	37.34	1,405.00	1,500.00	95.00
502.060	Supply Pastors	0.00	1,000.00	500.00	(500.00)
502.070	Continuing Education - Pastor	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
502.089	Phone Allowance - Pastor	100.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
502.090	Professional Expense - Pastor	0.00	79.84	250.00	170.16
	Pastoral	\$10,830.36	\$132,355.91	\$133,266.00	\$910.09
503.011	Salary - Organist	1,409.26	16,911.12	16,911.00	(0.12)
503.012	Salary - Choir Director	400.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	0.00
503.013	Salary - Director Music Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
503.015	Bell Choir Music/Equipment	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
503.020	Music Substitute	550.00	650.00	500.00	(150.00)
503.022	Special Service Musicians	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
503.023	Puppet Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
503.024	Music Equipment Replacement	0.00	0.00	350.00	350.00
503.030	Music	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
503.040	Professional Expense - Organist	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
503.050	Professional Expense - Choir Director	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
503.060	Licensing	0.00	1,615.00	1,332.00	(283.00)
503.070	Professional Expense - Director Music Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Music Ministry	\$2,359.26	\$23,976.12	\$24,843.00	\$866.88
504.001	Salary - Deacon	3,417.84	41,014.08	41,014.00	(0.08)
504.002	Pension/Medical - Deacon	1,816.44	23,240.64	13,065.00	(10,175.64)
504.004	Auto Allowance - Deacon	0.00	605.81	500.00	(105.81)
504.006	Cont Ed/Prof Exp - Deacon	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
504.007	Phone Allowance - Deacon	33.34	400.08	400.00	(0.08)



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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
	Deacon		\$5,267.62	\$65,460.61	\$55,179.00 (\$10,281.61)
504.009	Pray Ground	19.99	239.88	300.00	60.12
504.010	Babysitting-Church Functions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
504.011	Salary - Nursery Attendant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
504.012	Summer Camp	0.00	2,220.00	4,000.00	1,780.00
504.013	VBS Materials/Supplies	0.00	1,242.48	2,000.00	757.52
504.014	Cradle Roll-Splash	0.00	159.22	100.00	(59.22)
504.015	Confirmation Material	0.00	457.82	200.00	(257.82)
504.016	Celebrations	0.00	147.80	400.00	252.20
504.017	Confirmation Retreats	0.00	2,265.49	4,000.00	1,734.51
504.018	Christmas Program	9.00	9.00	100.00	91.00
504.019	Middle School Youth Group	0.00	408.24	200.00	(208.24)
504.020	Senior High Youth Group	0.00	164.25	200.00	35.75
504.021	First Communion Instruction	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
504.023	Passing on the Faith	9.99	444.15	500.00	55.85
504.024	Young Family Ministry	0.00	551.28	300.00	(251.28)
504.026	Small Group Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
504.028	Adult Classes	0.00	108.67	200.00	91.33
	Faith Formation Ministry		\$38.98	\$8,418.28	\$12,550.00 \$4,131.72
504.029	Miscellaneous Worship Supplies	5.10	534.51	500.00	(34.51)
504.030	Bulletins	34.08	577.92	50.00	(527.92)
504.031	Communion Supplies	0.00	140.05	300.00	159.95
504.032	Baptismal/Funeral Supplies	0.00	177.67	100.00	(77.67)
504.033	Organ/Piano Repair	0.00	120.00	350.00	230.00
504.037	Flowers	633.00	3,128.31	600.00	(2,528.31)
	Worship Ministry		\$672.18	\$4,678.46	\$1,900.00 (\$2,778.46)
504.038	Stephen Ministry	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
504.039	The Living Lutheran Magazine	0.00	117.50	150.00	32.50
504.040	Neighborhood Outreach	37.54	97.71	250.00	152.29
504.042	Outreach General Events	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
504.043	Advertising	0.00	45.00	600.00	555.00
504.044	Outreach Care Ministry	0.00	126.00	500.00	374.00
504.045	Senior Social Ministry	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
504.046	Newborn Ministry	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
504.048	Memorial Plaque	48.00	48.00	75.00	27.00
504.049	Christ In Our Home	0.00	512.00	500.00	(12.00)
	Outreach Ministry		\$85.54	\$946.21	\$2,775.00 \$1,828.79
504.051	Offering Envelopes	0.00	317.73	100.00	(217.73)



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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
504.052	Stewardship Resources	0.00	464.17	100.00	(364.17)
	Support Ministry	\$0.00	\$781.90	\$200.00	(\$581.90)
504.061	Family Promise Expense	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
504.064	Service Projects	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
504.065	Lutheran World Relief Projects	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
504.066	GWOH/Big Serve	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	Service Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
504.070	Fellowship Supplies	88.46	3,694.49	1,500.00	(2,194.49)
504.071	Christmas Tea	0.00	686.23	100.00	(586.23)
504.072	Church Picnic	0.00	285.79	500.00	214.21
504.074	Retreats	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
504.075	New Member Supplies	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
	Fellowship Ministry	\$88.46	\$4,666.51	\$2,700.00	(\$1,966.51)
505.010	Utilities	1,696.16	18,172.15	18,000.00	(172.15)
505.020	Salary - Custodian	964.58	11,574.96	11,575.00	0.04
505.021	Substitute Custodian	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
505.030	Custodial Supplies	0.00	1,803.75	1,000.00	(803.75)
505.040	Insurance	0.00	14,515.00	12,000.00	(2,515.00)
505.050	Maintenance	28.08	974.78	4,200.00	3,225.22
505.060	Telephone	0.00	1,396.18	1,000.00	(396.18)
505.080	Landscaping Expense	400.00	6,242.82	5,200.00	(1,042.82)
505.090	Security/Fire System	0.00	2,039.40	3,600.00	1,560.60
505.100	Termite-Pest Control	0.00	444.00	600.00	156.00
505.101	Durable Goods	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
505.105	PPE (Property Plant Equipment) Reserve	0.00	9,000.00	12,000.00	3,000.00
	Property Ministry	\$3,088.82	\$66,163.04	\$69,825.00	\$3,661.96
506.010	Salary - Business Administrator	3,686.50	30,943.00	29,358.00	(1,585.00)
506.011	Salary - Office Administrator	1,560.00	22,358.09	23,596.00	1,237.91
506.015	Leadership Development	0.00	300.00	250.00	(50.00)
507.020	Office Supplies	0.00	407.98	1,200.00	792.02
507.021	Office Equipment	0.00	1,300.50	800.00	(500.50)
507.030	Postage Expense	31.45	299.65	1,000.00	700.35
507.031	Technology	220.89	2,124.53	4,000.00	1,875.47
507.040	Reproduction Expense	239.04	3,672.59	4,200.00	527.41
507.050	Conventions	0.00	630.00	1,000.00	370.00
507.060	Miscellaneous Expense	112.22	5,971.77	1,500.00	(4,471.77)
507.070	Payroll Taxes	875.03	9,784.46	9,735.00	(49.46)
507.080	Background Checks	0.00	132.50	500.00	367.50
507.081	Workmens' Compensation Insurance	0.00	1,182.00	1,000.00	(182.00)



Peace Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community of believers called to **love God, love people, and serve the world!**

**Peace Lutheran Church - New Braunfels TX
Treasurer's Report as of December 2023**

Thursday, January 11, 2024 9:43 AM

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
507.082	Staff Appreciation	0.00	312.65	300.00	(12.65)
	Administrative	\$6,725.13	\$79,419.72	\$78,439.00	(\$980.72)
	Total General Fund Exp.	\$35,432.38	\$429,018.50	\$433,452.00	\$4,433.50
510.010	Note Payment	0.00	0.00		
510.011	Advance Building Payments	0.00	0.00		
510.014	Building Expansion Expense	0.00	0.00		
510.015	Roof Replacement	0.00	0.00		
510.016	Shed Replacement	0.00	0.00		
510.017	Insurance Claim	0.00	11,018.30		
510.018	Building Improvements	5,407.00	7,407.00		
510.019	Mold Remediation	0.00	0.00		
	Building Fund Expenses	\$5,407.00	\$18,425.30		
510.050	Peace Mission Endowment Fund Paid Out	0.00	0.00		
	Peace Mission Endowment Fund Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00		
510.060	ELCA Endowment Investment Fund Paid Out	0.00	0.00		
510.061	ELCA Endowment Investment Admin. Fees	0.00	0.00		
	ELCA Endowment Investment Fund Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00		
511.010	Def. Maint Fund Paid Out	0.00	4,854.00		
	Deferred Maintenance Fund Expenses	\$0.00	\$4,854.00		
512.010	Aid To Needy Fund Paid Out	0.00	0.00		
512.015	Peace's Little Pantry Fund Paid Out	0.00	0.00		
512.020	Disaster Relief Fund Paid Out	40.00	320.00		
512.025	Stephen Ministry Fund Paid Out	0.00	0.00		
512.070	Family Promise Fund Paid Out	0.00	528.44		
513.010	Pastor Gary and Loy Lange Scholarship Fund Pd Out	0.00	0.00		
514.010	ELCA Youth Gathering Paid Out	107.26	2,211.75		
518.010	Memorial Fund Paid Out	0.00	5,267.58		



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Peace Lutheran Church - New Braunfels TX
Treasurer's Report as of December 2023

Thursday, January 11, 2024 9:43 AM

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
518.040	Musician's Fund Paid Out	0.00	0.00		
519.010	Other Funds Paid Out	0.00	1,823.19		
519.011	LWR Fund Paid Out	0.00	180.91		
519.013	Additional Benevolence Fund Paid Out	0.00	0.00		
519.015	Food Bank Fund Paid Out	0.00	650.00		
519.040	Building Expansion Fund Paid Out	0.00	0.00		
520.020	Hunger Fund Paid Out	0.00	200.00		
520.050	Youth Fund Paid Out	0.00	4,811.98		
520.060	Peaceful Peicers Quilt Fund Paid Out	1,358.72	5,859.85		
520.070	Mission Project Fund Paid Out	0.00	2,020.00		
	Total Other Funds Exp.	\$1,505.98	\$23,873.70		
	Total Expenses	\$42,345.36	\$476,171.50	\$433,452.00	\$4,433.50
	Difference	\$9,028.95	(\$9,104.14)	\$18,135.00	



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Peace Lutheran Church - New Braunfels TX
Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2023

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/ JE's	End Balance
300.010	General Fund	26,610.76	414,056.52	429,018.50	4,608.37	16,257.15
300.020	Building Fund	12,875.55	18,102.39	18,425.30	(1,059.00)	11,493.64
300.025	Peace Mission Endowment Fund	7,310.69	2,041.95	0.00	0.00	9,352.64
300.026	ELCA Endowment Investment Fund	119,333.64	7,150.27	0.00	0.00	126,483.91
300.030	Deferred Maintenance Fund	5,801.43	107.80	4,854.00	5,450.63	6,505.86
300.035	Food Bank Fund	0.00	650.00	650.00	0.00	0.00
300.040	Aid To Needy Fund	1,483.19	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,583.19
300.050	Pastor Gary and Loy Lange Scholarship Fund	1,309.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,309.00
300.060	ELCA Youth Gathering Fund	3,307.77	2,496.90	2,211.75	0.00	3,592.92
300.070	Family Promise Fund (PLC)	0.00	528.44	528.44	0.00	0.00
300.075	Disaster Relief Fund	0.00	320.00	320.00	0.00	0.00
300.080	Stephen Ministry Fund	175.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	175.00
300.100	Memorial Fund	14,993.77	4,555.00	5,267.58	0.00	14,281.19
300.110	Other Funds	0.00	1,823.19	1,823.19	0.00	0.00
300.115	Hunger Fund	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00
300.116	L.W.R. Fund	0.00	180.91	180.91	0.00	0.00
300.118	Additional Benevolence Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
300.140	Youth Fund	2,138.97	6,386.39	4,811.98	0.00	3,713.38
300.150	Musician's Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
300.160	Peaceful Piecers Quilting Fund	4,099.36	2,230.92	5,859.85	0.00	470.43
300.170	Mission Projects Fund	6,429.03	4,200.00	2,020.00	0.00	8,609.03
300.180	Peace's Little Pantry Fund	0.00	1,936.68	0.00	0.00	1,936.68
300.190	Building Expansion Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		\$205,868.16	\$467,067.36	\$476,171.50	\$9,000.00	\$205,764.02



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Peace Lutheran Church
2024 Proposed Church Budget

<i>Expense</i>		2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Income Offset	2024 Proposed Budget
501.010	General Benevolence	\$37,000.00	\$32,416.93		\$32,126.37
501.050	SOS Food Bank Benevolence	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	301.00	\$1,000.00
501.075	Family Promise Benevolence	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	250.00	\$1,000.00
501.080	Lutheran Advantage Scholarship	\$775.00	\$775.00		\$775.00
501.089	Family Life Center Benevolence	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	602.21	\$500.00
New	Comal Cty Crisi Center/ServeSpot	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	544.00	\$0.00
New	NB First Footing Benevolence	\$1,000.00	\$1,959.81	1969.81	\$1,000.00
	Benevolence	\$45,775.00	\$42,151.74	\$3,667.02	\$36,401.37
502.010	Salary - Pastor	\$47,940.00	\$47,940.00		\$48,899.05
502.020	Housing - Pastor	\$29,963.00	\$29,963.04		\$29,963.07
502.030	Pension/Medical - Pastor	\$44,453.00	\$44,808.11		\$45,536.40
502.040	SS Offset - Pastor	\$5,960.00	\$5,959.92		\$6,032.95
502.050	Auto Allowance - Pastor	\$1,500.00	\$1,405.00		\$1,500.00
502.060	Supply Pastors	\$500.00	\$1,000.00		\$500.00
502.070	Continuing Education - Pastor	\$1,500.00	\$0.00		\$700.00
502.089	Phone Allowance - Pastor	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00
502.090	Professional Expense - Pastor	\$250.00	\$79.84		\$100.00
	Pastoral	\$133,266.00	\$132,355.91	\$0.00	\$134,431.47
503.011	Salary - Organist	\$16,911.00	\$16,911.12		\$10,400.00
503.012	Salary - Choir Director	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00		\$4,800.00
503.013	Salary - Director Music Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
503.015	Bell Choir Music/Equipment	\$200.00	\$0.00		\$200.00
503.020	Music Substitute	\$500.00	\$650.00		\$300.00
503.022	Special Service Musicians	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
503.023	Puppet Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
503.024	Music Equipment Replacement	\$350.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
503.030	Music	\$250.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
503.040	Professional Expense - Organist	\$250.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
503.050	Prof Exp - Choir Director	\$250.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
503.060	Licensing	\$1,332.00	\$1,615.00		\$1,615.00
503.070	Prof Exp - Director Music Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
	Music Ministry	\$24,843.00	\$23,976.12	\$0.00	\$17,315.00
504.001	Salary - Deacon	\$41,014.00	\$41,014.08		\$41,834.33
504.002	Pension/Medical - Deacon	\$13,065.00	\$23,240.64	\$7,746.89	\$15,943.64
504.004	Auto Allowance - Deacon	\$500.00	\$605.81		\$500.00
504.006	Cont Ed/Prof Exp - Deacon	\$200.00	\$200.00		\$200.00



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Peace Lutheran Church
2024 Proposed Church Budget

<i>Expense</i>		2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Income Offset	2024 Proposed Budget
504.007	Phone Allowance - Deacon	\$400.00	\$400.08		\$400.00
	Deacon	\$55,179.00	\$65,460.61	\$7,746.89	\$58,877.97
504.009	Pray Ground (Children's Church)	\$300.00	\$239.88	\$100.00	\$200.00
504.010	Babysitting-Church Functions	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
504.011	Salary - Nursery Attendant	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
New	Summer Camp	\$4,000.00	\$2,220.00	\$440.00	\$1,500.00
504.013	VBS Day Camp	\$2,000.00	\$1,242.48	\$1,260.00	\$1,000.00
504.014	Cradle Roll-Splash	\$100.00	\$159.22		\$100.00
504.015	Confirmation Material	\$200.00	\$457.82	\$117.38	\$200.00
504.016	Celebrations	\$400.00	\$147.80		\$300.00
504.017	Confirmation Retreats (Camp)	\$4,000.00	\$2,265.49	\$96.75	\$3,000.00
504.018	Christmas Program	\$100.00	\$9.00		\$100.00
New	Middle School Youth Group	\$200.00	\$408.24	\$70.81	\$200.00
New	Senior High Youth Group	\$200.00	\$164.25	\$160.00	\$200.00
504.021	First Communion Instruction	\$50.00	\$0.00		\$50.00
504.022	New Member Supplies	move to Fellowship			
504.023	Passing on the Faith	\$500.00	\$444.15	\$71.12	\$300.00
New	Young Family Ministry	\$300.00	\$551.28	\$100.00	\$400.00
504.026	Small Group Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
504.028	Adult Classes	\$200.00	\$108.67		\$100.00
	Faith Formation Ministry	\$12,550.00	\$8,418.28	\$2,416.06	\$7,650.00
504.029	Miscellaneous Worship Supplies	\$500.00	\$534.51	\$310.00	\$200.00
504.030	Bulletins	\$50.00	\$577.92	\$24.00	\$100.00
504.031	Communion Supplies	\$300.00	\$140.05		\$300.00
504.032	Baptismal/Funeral Supplies	\$100.00	\$177.67		\$200.00
504.033	Organ/Piano Repair	\$350.00	\$120.00		\$300.00
504.037	Flowers	\$600.00	\$3,128.31	\$2,632.00	\$0.00
	Worship Ministry	\$1,900.00	\$4,678.46	\$2,966.00	\$1,100.00
504.038	Stephen Ministry	\$250.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
504.039	The Living Lutheran Magazine	\$150.00	\$117.50		\$150.00
504.040	Neighborhood Outreach	\$250.00	\$97.71	\$27.00	\$250.00
504.042	Outreach General Events	\$250.00	\$0.00		\$250.00
504.043	Advertising	\$600.00	\$45.00		\$600.00
504.044	Outreach Care Ministry	\$500.00	\$126.00		\$500.00
504.045	Senior Social Ministry	\$150.00	\$0.00		\$150.00
504.046	Newborn Ministry	\$50.00	\$0.00		\$50.00
504.048	Memorial Plaque	\$75.00	\$48.00		\$75.00
504.049	Christ In Our Home	\$500.00	\$512.00		\$500.00



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Peace Lutheran Church
2024 Proposed Church Budget

<i>Expense</i>		2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Income Offset	2024 Proposed Budget
	Outreach Ministry	\$2,775.00	\$946.21	\$27.00	\$2,525.00
504.051	Offering Envelopes	\$100.00	\$317.73	\$290.00	\$0.00
504.052	Stewardship Resources	\$100.00	\$464.17		\$100.00
	Support Ministry	\$200.00	\$781.90	\$290.00	\$100.00
504.061	Family Promise Expense	\$1,000.00	\$0.00		\$500.00
504.064	Service Projects	\$1,000.00	\$0.00		\$250.00
504.065	Lutheran World Relief Projects	\$3,000.00	\$0.00		\$3,000.00
504.066	GWOH/Big Serve	\$1,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
	Service Ministry	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,750.00
504.070	Fellowship Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$3,694.49	\$3,039.89	\$500.00
504.071	Christmas Tea	\$100.00	\$686.23	\$532.00	\$0.00
504.072	Church Picnic	\$500.00	\$285.79		\$250.00
504.073	Fellowship Food	move to supplies			
504.074	Retreats	\$500.00	\$0.00		\$250.00
New	New Member Supplies	\$100.00	\$0.00		\$100.00
	Fellowship Ministry	\$2,700.00	\$4,666.51	\$3,571.89	\$1,100.00
505.010	Utilities	\$18,000.00	\$18,172.15		\$18,000.00
505.020	Salary - Custodian	\$11,575.00	\$11,574.96		\$12,131.06
505.021	Substitute Custodian	\$150.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
505.030	Custodial Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$1,803.75		\$2,000.00
505.040	Insurance	\$12,000.00	\$14,515.00		\$14,500.00
505.050	Maintenance	\$4,200.00	\$974.78		\$2,000.00
505.060	Telephone	\$1,000.00	\$1,396.18		\$1,400.00
505.080	Landscaping Expense	\$5,200.00	\$6,242.82		\$6,200.00
505.090	Security/Fire System	\$3,600.00	\$2,039.40		\$7,600.00
505.100	Termite-Pest Control	\$600.00	\$444.00		\$600.00
505.101	Durable Goods	\$500.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
505.105	PPE (Property Plant Equip) Reserve	\$12,000.00	\$9,000.00		\$12,000.00
	Property Ministry	\$69,825.00	\$66,163.04	\$0.00	\$76,431.06
504.082	Middle School Youth Group	Moved to FF			
504.083	Senior High Youth Group	Moved to FF			
504.084	Young Family Ministry	Moved to FF			
504.089	Jr/Sr High Camp/Retreats	Moved to FF			
504.090	Day Camp	Moved to FF			
504.092	Elementary Camp	Moved to FF			
	Youth Ministry		\$0.00	\$0.00	



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Peace Lutheran Church
2024 Proposed Church Budget

<i>Expense</i>		2023 Budget	2023 Actual	Income Offset	2024 Proposed Budget
506.010	Salary - Business Administrator	\$29,358.00	\$30,943.00		\$25,350.00
506.011	Salary - Office Administrator	\$23,596.00	\$22,358.09		\$19,080.00
506.015	Leadership Development	250.00	300.00		0.00
507.020	Office Supplies	1200.00	407.98		300.00
507.021	Office Equipment	800.00	1300.50		500.00
507.030	Postage Expense	1,000.00	299.65		250.00
507.031	Technology	4,000.00	2,124.53		1,000.00
507.040	Reproduction Expense	4,200.00	3,672.59		3,000.00
507.050	Conventions	1000.00	630.00		500.00
507.060	Miscellaneous Expense	1500.00	5971.77	\$8,613.17	1000.00
507.070	Payroll Taxes	9,735.00	9,784.46		8,403.17
507.080	Background Checks	500.00	132.50		150.00
507.081	Workmens' Comp Ins	1000.00	1182.00		1200.00
507.082	Staff Appreciation	300.00	312.65		0.00
	Administrative	\$78,439.00	\$79,419.72	\$8,613.17	\$60,733.17
	Income Offset Total			\$29,298.03	
	General Fund Offerings			\$383,758.49	
	Total General Fund Exp.	\$433,452.00	\$429,018.50	\$413,056.52	\$400,415.04



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Reports to the Congregation

Pastor's Report

Have you ever shaken a snowglobe and watched all snow pieces whirl around and slowly settle to the bottom? That's what the past few years have felt like. Disruption and settling. More disruption and more settling. It's hard to stay focused when this happens over and over again.

Furthermore, rather than settling to its former state, in the post-pandemic era, the world has shifted. Even though things have returned to a state of normalcy, and we've found a new rhythm, the very shape of the snowglobe has changed.

Therefore, in 2023 we spent in discernment listening to God's voice speaking to us. How will we be the church in this new world? If the world is different, and we called to be God's people in the world bringing good news, then we'd better figure out where God is moving.

We engaged in prayer, study, scripture, holy conversations, special worship series, and leadership retreats with the purpose of rediscovering where God is moving in the world and how the church is called to follow.

Our guiding Vision Team helped facilitate the discernment process with the congregation and took all the various inputs to distill a clear direction for who God is calling us to be in this season.

Throughout our congregational discernment, one thing became very clear – the word love was the standout that anchored the mission of God.

Therefore, after this year-long process we finally came up with our mission, vision, and values. I am proud of the congregation's work to pause and reflect listening to God's call and to be able to clearly name who we are as God's people.

What is God's vision and how are we called to partner with God so that we may move toward that vision?

God's vision is a world made whole through love.

What is our purpose as Peace Lutheran Church?

Our mission is to love like Jesus so that each person experiences God's Way.

What core values will guide our daily life?

Shalom – Actively pursuing reconciliation and wholeness.

Compassion – Recognizing and entering into our shared humanity.

Service – Responding to the needs of others.

Grace – Sharing the love that God first gives us.



Peace Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community of believers called to **love God, love people, and serve the world!**

This mission and vision and our core values will shape every decision with precision. Though we've had our challenges these past few years, we are primed for ministry that is focused and impacts our lives and the world around us.

I'd like to thank the Vision Team: Darcy Mittelstaedt, Mike Stallings, Dave Heise, Patti Kassel, and Deacon Andrew for their countless hours of positioning our congregation to be still and know God.

A special thank you to our leadership:

- Council: Carol Franz, Megan Wenzel, Don Hodde, Matthew Simmont, Dave Thomas, Forrest Willis, Kathi Anderson, and Vicki Hillmer
- Ministry Team Leads: Becky Voges, Judi Miller, Jim Johnson, John Kassel, Brandi Raschke, James Huston, and Terry Westerman.
- Bruce Rockstroh who helped facilitated our visioning retreats and provide expertise and language for the process of discernment.
- And to the congregation at large for entering into this time of discernment, engaging with identity, and boldly claiming the call to be the church in this new time.

In this season of change we celebrate some wonderful staff members who have been such a critical part of our team. We give thanks for Elizabeth Hoenemeyer who served as our Office Administrator for the last four years; for Jeannie Kawazoe who served as our organist for the past twenty years; and for Valerie Wood who served as our Business Administrator for the past twenty-two years.

We welcome our new staff Theresa Robinson (Business Admin) and Madison Clark (Office Admin), and we continue to look for new musical leadership while giving thanks for Steven Robbins who has graciously served as our choir director and agreed to help us as we transition.

I'm excited about what this next year will bring. We are in a position to move with intentionality and live into God's mission to love like Jesus so that each person experiences God's way.

I look forward to the journey with you.

Peace,
Pastor Jake Fain



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2022/23 Membership

2023 Statistics

Baptized Membership - 317

Confirmed Membership - 265

Total New Members – 32

Total Members Removed – 23

Household – 165

In-Person Attendance – 91

Online Attendance – 102

Estimated Average Attendance – 193

2022 Statistics

Baptized Membership - 305

Confirmed Membership - 257

Total New Members – 16

Total Members Removed – 21

Household – 158

In-Person Attendance – 80

Online Attendance – 109

Estimated Average Attendance – 189



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New Members

<u>How Came to Membership</u>	<u>Name (Last, First)</u>	<u>Membership Date</u>
Transfer from other Luth	Davis, Carola	10/29/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Freeman, Alan	03/05/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Freeman, Sandra	03/05/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Goodson, Gary	03/05/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Goodson, Maxine	03/05/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Hank, Dennis	03/05/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Healey, Brendan	03/05/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Healey, Connor	03/05/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Healey, Dan	03/05/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Healey, Evelyn	03/05/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Healey, Sinead	03/05/2023
Baptism (15 or younger)	Johnson, Cora	02/19/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Krause, Frank	03/05/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Krause, Pamela	03/05/2023
Transfer from other Luth	Martin, Amanda	10/29/2023
From non-Luth	Martin, Chase	10/29/2023
Transfer from other Luth	McNeill, Robert	10/29/2023
Transfer from other Luth	McNeill, Rory	10/29/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Pampell, Kimberly	03/05/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Pampell, Shelby	03/05/2023
Transfer from other Luth	Phillips, Charlie	03/05/2023
Transfer from other Luth	Phillips Sr, Clint	03/05/2023
Transfer from other Luth	Phillips, Jennifer	03/05/2023
Baptism (15 or younger)	Raley, Lila	09/17/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Robbins, Steven	03/05/2023
From non-Luth	Rodriguez, Gabe	10/29/2023
Transfer from ELCA	Simpson, Michael	03/05/2023

Count: 27



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Members Removed

Inactive Reason	Name (Last, First)	Inactive Date
Transfer	Alston-Schintgen, Kaitlyn	10/24/2023
By request	Bell, Debbie	06/15/2023
Inactive	Butrico, Gabriel	10/24/2023
Inactive	Butrico, Ivory	10/24/2023
Transfer to ELCA	Clark, Johnana	02/20/2023
Transfer to ELCA	Clark, Stephen	02/20/2023
Death	McClintock, Linda	12/11/2023
Inactive	Miller, Bill	10/24/2023
Inactive	Miller, Cason	10/24/2023
Inactive	Miller, Cody	10/24/2023
Inactive	Miller, Dayna	10/24/2023
Inactive	Miller, Kate	10/24/2023
Death	Monroe, Sharon	02/20/2023
Death	Nale, Virginia	07/11/2023
Transfer to ELCA	Podojil, Sharon	02/20/2023
By request	Purcell, Bill	12/31/2023
By request	Purcell, Sharron	12/31/2023
Death	Rust, (Gus)	09/01/2023
Death	Schmidt, Rhonda	06/02/2023
Death	Sexton, Boots	06/17/2023
Death	Smith, Cody	10/23/2023
Inactive	Tudlong, Tina	10/24/2023
Death	Woollven, Margo	11/12/2023

Count: 21



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Deacon of Faith Formation Report

2023 has been a year of joyful celebrations and new opportunities. Some highlights from this year include:

- Elementary youth and family retreat at Slumber Falls (“All About the Bible”)
- Family confirmation weekend retreat at Ebert Ranch
- Combined St. Andrew & Peace worship service at Cypress Bend Park
- GraceWorks Youth Servant Camp (hosted at both St. Andrew and Peace)
- Youth Mission Trip to Lutheridge in Arden, North Carolina
- VBS Day Camp
- Registration and preparations for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
- Fall confirmation retreat (“Affirm”)
- Middle School retreat at Camp Chrysalis
- Live Nativity
- Children’s Christmas program

In 2023, our church completed its journey towards a new Mission, Vision, and Values statement. I am deeply appreciative of how the congregation engaged so fully in this process, and am excited for how this journey will prepare us for many years of ministry focused on how God is working through this congregation. Big thanks also to our Vision Team, our Church Council, our Ministry Team leaders, and our facilitator, Bruce Rockstroh. Our congregation is also embarking on an exciting new venture at Peace, the Life of Faith Initiative. Through a series of in-person and virtual meetings, a group of us here have taken the first step to complete our training in this initiative, which seeks to empower people in congregations to more fully connect their faith to their daily life.

In terms of professional development, I continue my training as an ELCA Coach, and have completed both Level 1 and Level 2 certifications this year. I also served as a group leader at the ELCA Deacon Discernment Retreat, a national annual retreat for candidates for diaconal ministry.

Of course, being a regular part of the worship and community life at Peace continues to be a blessing. I am grateful for all the ways you allow me to use my gifts to serve you through worship leadership, preaching, teaching, and ministering to our children, youth, and families. Peace is a congregation filled with faithful people who love God and find so many wonderful ways to live out the gospel as a community of faith.

Finally, 2023 was a bittersweet year for me personally. My joy was sharing the news of my engagement to Grace Otani. In September, Grace was able to come for a two week visit from Japan, and worshipped with us in person after worshipping with us online for two years. She is most grateful for the heartfelt welcome she received and looks forward to seeing everyone again.



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In October of this year, my father died, rather suddenly from heart related issues. I am grateful to all of you who reached out in my family's time of grief to provide comfort, support, and a witness to the hope we all have through the resurrection of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Andrew More



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Council President's Report

Dear Beloved Members of Peace Lutheran Church,

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for your unwavering commitment, dedication, and support to our church family. Your faithfulness and contributions, whether through worship, service, or fellowship, have profoundly impacted our community.

You have shared in the spirit of unity and love in times of joy and celebration. In moments of challenge and reflection, your strength and resilience have been a source of inspiration. Together, we have cultivated a place of worship that is not just a building but a haven for spiritual growth and communal bond.

Your generosity, kindness, and willingness to lend a helping hand have not gone unnoticed. Whether volunteering, offering a comforting word, or simply being present, each act of kindness has contributed to the vibrant tapestry of our church life.

I want to thank Pastor Jake, Deacon Andrew, the 2023 Council members, and our church staff for their endless efforts to keep our church business running seamlessly. Working with them as Council President has been a joy. We are so lucky to have this caliber of leadership in our church.

This last year, I resolved to continue working to invent, encourage, and enhance social gatherings among our members. So many great church groups are already in place here. This includes our quilters, bible studies, prayer groups, growing clusters of musicians, and committees doing great work. It is all about helping these groups thrive; we saw many instances of this around our church this year. More gathering time before and after church, new members coming through our doors every week, and volunteers raising hands to help with any cause.

One of our successes this year was completing our Mission/Vision/Values. The Vision Team worked for many months, sharing, and working with the leadership teams and congregation to craft a personal Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Values that represent who we are and want to be as a congregation. Most importantly, seeking God's vision for us through the process.

Additionally, we got volunteers to help with reinstating our Mission Endowment Committee. With new requests coming in, we need this committee to help manage this fund for the church. Thank you for stepping up.

Earlier this year, an opportunity was presented to host a Verizon microwave tower on the property. The council saw this as a potential long-term source of income, which is very much needed now. We are working with the developer and reviewing all the necessary permits and approvals with the city. Peace will bear no financial burden throughout the process, which could take up to 18 months to finalize. You will hear more on this initiative as it is finalized.



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This year has been a time for goodbyes to several of our church staff members. In September, we said goodbye to Elizabeth Hoenemeyer, our Office Administrator. Elizabeth left to spend more time with her grandchildren. We were very fortunate to get Madison Clark as her replacement. Madison is the daughter of Tim and Rebecca Clark and has a wealth of Lutheran knowledge and technical skills and talents. Our Valerie is retiring at the end of this month after 20-plus years of service. Valerie just recently was blessed with a new grandson, Flint Harrison Smith. After retirement, Valerie plans to care for Flint for her daughter during the day. We have been blessed with Theresa Robinson as her replacement. Theresa comes to us with a history of bookkeeping experience. She has worked alongside Valerie for the past two months to transition her responsibilities. You can rest assured we are being left in good hands. Lastly, Jeanie Kawazoe, our Worship and Music Coordinator, is retiring. We just celebrated Jeanie's 20th anniversary with our music ministry. We are still searching for her replacement. A BIG thank you to all our staff members leaving us. May God bless them in their new pathways. Also, thank you to our new staff members for taking a leap of faith with us and bringing us your talents.

As we move forward into the future, let us continue to stand together, united in faith, love, and purpose. Your ongoing support is the cornerstone of our church's success, and I am truly blessed to serve alongside such a remarkable congregation.

May God's grace continue to guide us, and may our shared journey be filled with joy, peace, and abundant blessings.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Carol Franz
2023 Council President



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Fellowship Report

This has been an exceptional year for our Board. When I look back on all the wonderful events we hosted, I am incredibly thankful for our amazing team. Jim Johnson (Co-Chair), Judy Johnson, Martin & Carol Franz, Kathleen Anderson, Vicki Hillmer, Dave & Ann Keeler, David Martin, Becky Perkins, Ceretta Daum, Sandy Freeman, Fritz Friesenhahn, and Wil Voges. Our goal for the Fellowship Board is to bring our congregation together with warm hospitality, offering compassion with prayer support, celebrating life events and sharing the love of God with our neighborhood and our community.

This is our year in pictures!



Valentine Breakfast



Little Pantry



Prayer Vigil



Day Camp



Jeannie's 20th



BBQ Crew



Mother's Day Cooks



Father's Day Cooks



Church Picnic



Peace 35th



German Service



Fall Festival



Thanks be to God for another year of hospitality and service!

Becky Voges



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Property Report

2023 has continued to challenge us once again...

Our annual irrigation backflow and annual fire inspection was completed early in the year. Everything passed and several fire extinguishers were replaced per their required rotation schedule. Due to code requirements, 10% of our fire sprinkler heads were removed for inspection and replaced. Additionally, one head was replaced that was leaking in the quilter's room. All removed heads passed inspection.

Damage to our sheetrock continues as building settlement is still occurring. Ground settlement had caused a major leak to our main water supply line. The water to the building had to be turned off as several pieces of pipe were split and needed to be replaced.

We have continued our contract for lawn maintenance services with Liberty Lawn and Landscaping of New Braunfels. They have done a very good job maintaining the property, including eliminating the weeds and keeping the shrubs trimmed in our planting beds.

Our attic stairway continues to have issues. Although adjustments were made to the limit switches on the new motor to allow the door to close fully, drive chain and cable problems persisted causing the stairs to be inoperable for several weeks. Temporary repairs were made as we explore a more permanent solution.

An opportunity presented itself in the form of a potential contract with Verizon to have a microwave tower located on the back of the property. The tower is free standing and will require only a small footprint. However, it allows us to benefit financially each month for years to come once installed.

As always a special thanks goes out to our Property Team members for helping with our normal maintenance activities including replacing all the HVAC filters, replacing light bulbs, trimming trees, moving mulch, pressure washing the playground equipment, draining the hot water heater, and assisting with any clean-up items.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Kassel



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Service Report

Dear Peace Family,

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for your generous and faithful service to our church and our community. You have shown the love of Christ in so many ways, and we want to celebrate some of the highlights with you.

Mission Spotlight

Every month, we collected a special donation for a different community organization that is making a positive difference in the world. We also learned more about their work and mission through informative temple talks. This year, we supported the following causes:

- Local:
 - Volunteers In Medicine
 - Headwaters at the Comal
 - First Footing
 - Family Life Center
 - Crisis Center of Comal County
 - CASA of Central Texas Gift Drive
 - Family Promise
 - Peace Little Pantry
- Regional:
 - Eagle Pass Frontera Ministries
- Global:
 - Lutheran World Relief
- Youth:
 - Peace Youth Camp
 - Youth Mission Trip

S.O.S. Food Bank

We are proud of our Peace members who volunteer regularly at our local Spirit of Sharing (S.O.S.) Food Bank. They help distribute food and other essentials to our neighbors in need. We appreciate their dedication and compassion.

Peace Little Pantry

Our Peace Little Pantry, led by Becky Voges, continues to provide food and hygiene items to anyone who needs them. Thanks to our Peace Pantry Angels, who adopt the pantry for a month and keep it stocked, we have been able to serve many people in our community.

Family Promise

We are thankful for our Family Promise Coordinators, Karen Laughlin and Shannon Johnson, who ensured that the families we hosted felt comfortable and welcome. We are also grateful for all the volunteers who provided meals and hospitality to our guests.



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Peace Quilters

Our Peace Quilters have been busy making beautiful quilts for various causes. This year, they completed 519 quilts and donated them to Lutheran World Relief and other local organizations. We admire their skill and generosity.

The Big Serve

In October, we participated in the New Braunfels' city-wide day of service: the Big Serve. We helped set up the new location of the First Footing Shelter, which will soon open its doors to the homeless in our city. We are excited to see how this new shelter will transform lives.

Angel Tree & Salvation Army

This year, our Angel Tree took a different shape as we aimed to support local community organizations. We were able to make Christmas wishes come true for 20 CASA of Central Texas kids! Also in the month of December, we also rang the bell for the Salvation Army for an entire Saturday out in front of Granzin's Meat Market.

We know that there are many other ways that you have served our church and our community throughout the year, and we are thankful for each and every one of them. You are a blessing to us and to many others.

(See photos on next pages)



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Peace Lutheran Church at 1147 S. Walnut in New Braunfels planted their Little Pantry in the front lawn of their church in July 2022. Since that time our congregation has kept it filled. Our pantry is filled almost daily by our Pantry Angels, who take a month to monitor the Pantry and keep it filled. To our delight and surprise, our neighbors are even placing items in the pantry out of love and support for our "love in a box". We have a bench under the tree so people who come by can rest in the shade and enjoy something from our Little Pantry. We have a Prayer Box below the Pantry so people can leave Prayer Requests. We are always so very touched when we find a prayer request in the box. When the weather gets colder we have gloves, hats and scarves. Last year during a bitter cold spell, we placed a bin with blankets in for additional comfort. | Submitted Photo



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Peace,
Service Team



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Worship Report

Acts 2: Life among the Believers

“⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

I often wonder what the earliest believers would think about the church of today – so very different from their own. Not an integral part of people’s daily lives as theirs was. Not grounded in daily simple and deeply personal and corporate spiritual worship. Yet here at Peace it seems we are attempting, through our new Mission, Vision, and Values statement, to recover that “faith in daily life” approach and learning to live as our ancestors in the faith. Still, Sunday is the primary day that we gather and our goal with our worship space and time is to fill it with radical hospitality and make worship transforming and inspirational for all.

Worship is at the center of all we do for God. It was in worship that we began the Mission, Vision and Values conversation. During Lent we created the “dreamcatchers” which decorated the sanctuary. Week by week they collected peoples’ thoughts and ideas. As these “dreams” were compiled, various vision boards were made and displayed in their place to share these hopes and dreams. When the Mission, Vision and Values statements were finally written and introduced in the fall, beautiful scrolls replaced them on the walls so that everyone could clearly appropriate what the congregation’s defining ministry was to be. During those six weeks we incorporated our Mission, Vision and Values statement in place of the traditional creed so that everyone could verbalize and personalize this new defining statement. Worship brought together the gospel by which we live and the vision and values we aspire to uphold in our daily lives as disciples of Jesus. Other than the Mission, Vision and Values items, the “neighborhood” on the walls brought visual to the sermon series “Who Is Our Neighbor” (we shall plan more strategically next year as we seek to invite our neighbors to share our Blessings of the Animals) and new banners, flower arrangements by Jim Johnson, and seasonal items are continually being added to enhance the worship space and together with the screens add a “visual” component to our worship experience. .

Worship forms the children of God into a community in Christ. Bringing people together was emphasized as our pre-worship fellowship time grew exponentially under the leadership of Becky Voges and the Fellowship Team. That fellowship time opens the door to growing relationships within the worshipping community. It provides a time for newer members and visitors to be introduced to current members and hear about the worship experience. In this coming year we will open a “Welcome Center” in the narthex staffed with regular, trained volunteers who will orientate visitors and help them feel comfortable in this new place.



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Worship is a public and corporate experience that values each member of the community and seeks to involve them in the worship experience. This past year we welcomed two new and diverse assisting ministers – Brody Johnson and Elise Davenport – to help lead the services. In addition, other children and youth took roles in facilitating our liturgies and reading the lessons from time to time. It would benefit the entire community to add more persons to this community of leaders. We broadened our relationship with St. Andrew by including them in our annual church picnic with a joyful service led by musicians Bruce Rockstroh and Deacon Andrew and youth; and also, into our Advent worship – a series of reflections – which Pastors Jake and Kris, and Deacon Andrew portrayed. We incorporated twelve men into the roles of the disciples on Maundy Thursday as they gathered around the Last Supper table to tell their stories and then welcome all the worshippers to that same table to receive holy communion from the hand of Pastor Jake as Jesus. In place of a homily Pastor Jake opened the floor for attendees of the Longest Night Service (December 21st) to comfort one another with personal stories of their faith and grief experiences. We will seek to share our faith and our ability to proclaim it as we give more persons opportunities for personal storytelling and testimony - along with the Mission Spotlights - during our worship time.

Worship has a time and place for everyone. The addition of the PrayGround has brought about blessings for our younger children by giving them some time to explore, read, color, or create items that are related to the lessons for the day and age appropriate for elementary students. To build upon this we are seeking, together with the Faith Formation Team and input from our young families, to increase this ministry in the immediate future. While the PrayGround will remain intact, children will be guided in God's Story Time during the “word” – readings and sermon - section of the service. Led by well-trained adults, in their own space (the Fellowship Hall) they will hear the theme or story of the lessons read, played out, or enacted in age-appropriate language, given the opportunity to converse about what they are hearing, and think creatively about how faith makes a difference in their lives at home, school and in daily activities. Occasionally they may learn songs that then will be shared with the entire community in the sanctuary.

Worship – when it is created to be dynamic, transformational, and inspiring – will have its challenges. Our biggest worship challenge during the year past and future lies with music. We have been blessed with a faithful and steady organist in Jeannie Kawazoe for the past twenty (20!) years. When music resumed following the pandemic - and with the loss of previous music leaders - Becky Voges volunteered to gather former and new choir members for occasional offerings and she and they did a wonderful job. With Pam Kurczewski as the volunteer director for the bell choir, that music ensemble resumed slowly and surely to the delight of all. When Steven Robbins was hired part-time as choir director last year, there were high hopes that the choir and additional musical offerings would evolve naturally and expand. When Jeannie became suddenly ill over the holidays, we were grateful to Judy Johnson and Carol Thatcher for quickly filling in. However, we recognized that this patchwork could not continue. With Jeannie announcing her retirement and Steve needing to step back for a while, the Worship Team began planning for what would serve the congregation's needs best. A Job Description for a “Worship Leader” – someone who could accompany, sing, teach and lead music - was created and



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distributed widely to schools and music organizations. There were few interested parties and to date a suitable candidate has not been identified either for the full or any smaller part of the job. Therefore, we enter the year with a simpler plan for our services. Formal organ liturgy will be scaled back to simpler and very singable songs most often accompanied by guitar - which our very talented Steve Robbins has agreed to do "for a season." With attention to our younger attenders, we will be singing more hymns and songs geared to our children's, tween's, and teen's favor. We will count on volunteers to accompany our singing from time to time. We will encourage our youth who play musical instruments and sing to share their talents in worship. We will "hire -in" substitute musicians when there are weddings, funerals, or special occasions. With a very lively and engaged singing congregation we believe that all can support and rise to this occasion - to become more and more like our first Christian ancestors – faithful and loving in simple and deeply personal spiritual ways. And we will continue to seek for the "right" person to lead this ministry.

Worship takes preparation and work. We give thanks to the other numerous volunteers who work to make our worship services happen each week. To the Altar Guild members, the usher crew, the audio-visual teams, the assisting ministers, the PrayGround Shepherds, the lectors, the communion assistants, the "decorators," Deacon Andrew and our faithful leader, Pastor Jake Fain, we say thanks and blessings.

On behalf of the Worship Team and with my personal thanks to them: Kathy Anderson, Martin Franz, Steve Robbins, and Pastor Jake Fain,

Judi Miller,
Team Chair



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Compassion Report

In May of 2023 Pastor Jake gathered a group of members, some of whom were Stephen Ministers, to join him in a discussion of what a “Compassion Ministry” at Peace Lutheran would look like. Because one of the 4 core values that the Vision Committee established was COMPASSION, we dreamed about ways we could support members who were facing any stresses and crises that arise in one’s life. Pastor Jake shared that it had become increasingly more challenging for him to respond to these pastoral care needs alone. He reminded us of the priesthood of all believers and invited us to assist him in ensuring that this core value was being met at Peace.

I am thankful for the following members who agreed to join this Team: Merle Cavanaugh, Barbara Doleshal, Ceretta Daum, Cathi Fain, and Lupe Travis. Each of us together are visiting shut-ins, contacting members who have lost a loved one, and assisting Pastor with individual needs as they arise.

As this new Ministry Team is being formed, we are meeting monthly to assess ways that we can be more effective in offering support to members facing any of a multitude of life challenges—hospitalizations, chronic illness, death of a loved one, loss of employment, divorce, financial struggles, end of life issues, etc. If you are struggling with a challenge and would benefit from a friend who is compassionate and available to walk with you on this journey, please contact me (210-573-4509 or terrywesterman@outlook.com).

Terry Westerman
Deacon & Team Leader



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Mission Endowment Report

As we all know, the Covid pandemic caused many activities in this world to be put on hold. Among those activities was the functioning of the Peace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund Committee. During 2023, the Church Council “restarted” the committee with the appointment of five members. The members of the committee are Nathan Anderson (Chair), Cheryl Braaten, Dennis Hank, Trice Kastein and Megan Wenzel (Council Representative). Pastor Jake Fain also serves as a non-voting advisory member of the committee.

The Endowment Fund Charter describes the purpose of the fund as to “further the mission of Peace Lutheran Church beyond the allocation of its general operating budget”. The first task of the committee was to educate the congregation on the existence of this fund and to communicate that grant applications needed to be received by 10/31/2023 to be considered for fund disbursement during 2024. Two applications were received within the timeline, and the committee voted to recommend to the Church Council that they approve both requests be allocated amounts from the fund. Both requests were approved at the November Church Council meeting. Fundacion Camino de Emaus Evangelical Lutheran Church of Columbia will be granted \$1200 in 2024 for their mission, and \$8188 was granted over the next 2.5 years for Peace’s comprehensive process of looking at changing the culture of the church in a post-pandemic era.

For 2024, the committee would like to continue to improve the communication efforts to educate the congregation on the Mission Endowment Fund. These efforts would involve both communicating the availability of this fund resource for grant applications and the importance of continued donations to the fund. Please feel free to contact any member of the committee if you have any questions about the fund. The committee is excited to be a part of the process to help further the mission, vision, and values of Peace Lutheran Church.

Yours in Christ,

Mission Endowment Fund Committee



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2024 Church Council Nominees

Select **four (4)** names for election to the Church Council to serve a two-year term.

Tom Braaten	Carola Davis
Brandy Huston	Dan Hill



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Church Council Nominee Profile

Name: Dan Hill

How Long have you been a part of the Peace community? Since the Fall of 2019

What drew you to Peace? My wife, Anita, and I were looking for a Lutheran church home in New Braunfels and we loved the feel of Peace Lutheran Church. The imperative to “Love God – Love People – and Serve the World” really resonated during the service.

Profession: Semi-retired sales and marketing executive. Currently a substitute teacher at NBISD.

Interests: Enjoy spending time with family (1 son, 3 daughters), football, and all things Texas A&M.

Spiritual Gifts: Through my faith, I’ve been blessed with the opportunity to help individuals grow. Also, the opportunity to gain knowledge and wisdom during my travels and experiences.

Faith Background/History: I was raised Lutheran and confirmed at Hope Lutheran Church in San Antonio. I was a member of ELCA churches throughout my adult life in; Littleton, CO, Green Bay, WI, and most recently Christ Lutheran Church in Alamo Heights, prior to joining Peace.

What excites you about Peace? I look forward to continuing my faith journey, giving more of myself while serving others at Peace. I believe our core values will help us to grow our mission to “Love like Jesus so that each person experiences God’s Way.”

Vision for Peace’s Ministry: Through our service ministry of “responding to the needs of others” we can continue to grow our presence in and around New Braunfels. This growth can power our vision of “A world made whole through love.” I view it as a success loop, powered by God!



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PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINEE PROFILE

Name: _____Tom Braaten

How Long have you been a part of the Peace community? ____2 years

What drew you to Peace? ____ELCA affiliation and location

Profession: ____Semi-retired CPA, CFO

Interests: ____Traveling, reading, family activities, and a couple hobbies

Spiritual Gifts: ____Patience, Self-Control, Leadership,

Faith Background/History: ____Raised in a Baptist Church in Minnesota.

____Prior to marriage joined the ELCA Church to worship with my future wife.

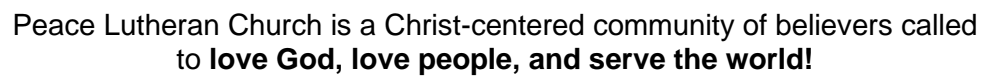
What excites you about Peace? _Members' commitment of their time and talents

____to the Church and their faithfulness. The service programs offered by the Church.

____ (Examples: Family Promise, SOS Food Bank)

Vision for Peace's Ministry: _To support the vision for Peace's ministry with the

____talents God has given me.



Name: Carola McNeill-Davis

What drew you to Peace? My parents

Interests: Bible study, historical preservation, relational ministry

Spiritual Gifts: Wherever God calls me

Faith Background/History: Lutheran and Presbyterian _____

What excites you about Peace? Compassionate, serving people; Pastors Jake and Deacon Andrew teaching/preaching_____

Vision for Peace's Ministry: LOVE GOD AND LOVE THE WORLD

Bring more people to know the Lord thru His word-- to learn the truth and power of scripture



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Peace Lutheran Church
New Braunfels, TX

❖ **STRATEGIC PLAN** ❖

Mission (Why do we exist?)

To love like Jesus so that each person experiences God's Way.

Vision (What kind of community is God calling us to be?)

A world made whole through love.

Core Values (What guides our daily actions and decisions?)

Shalom	<i>Actively pursuing reconciliation and wholeness.</i>
Compassion	<i>Recognizing and entering into our shared humanity.</i>
Service	<i>Responding to the needs of others.</i>
Grace	<i>Sharing the love that God first gives us.</i>

Three Imperatives

Love God, Love People, Serve the World

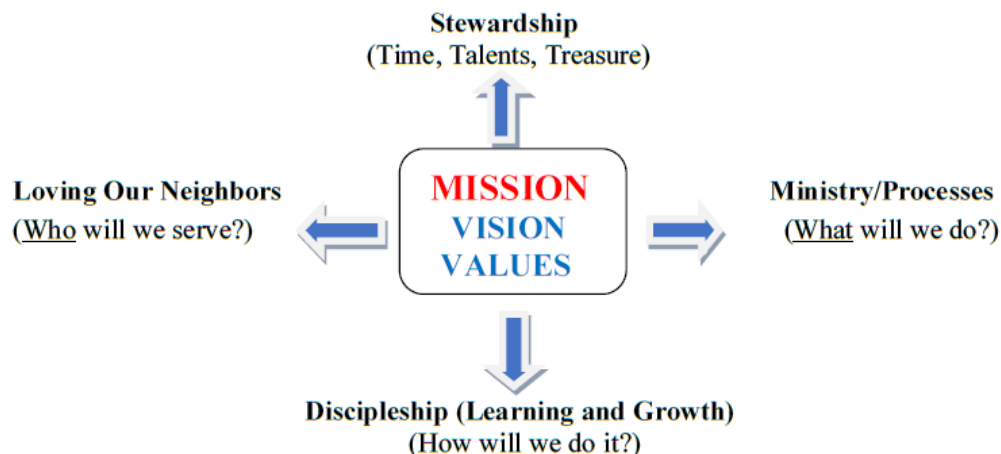
Strategies

Perspective

Stewardship
Loving Our Neighbors
Ministry/Processes
Discipleship

Strategic Goal

*Increasing our capacity for ministry
Walking along side of people like Jesus
Be a Good News church
Equipping people to follow God's Way*





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Peace Lutheran Church Objectives (Goals)

D – R – A – F – T

Perspectives (Which parts of our church will we focus on?)

I. Stewardship Perspective

Strategy: *Increasing our capacity for ministry*

Objectives:

1. Increase financial stability
Maintain a 2-3 month cash balance in our general fund
Market our space(s) to outside sources aligned with our mission
2. Align skills/talents to realize our vocations
Identify and define the role each person's gifts add to God's story

II. Loving Our Neighbors Perspective

Strategy: *Walking along side of people like Jesus*

Objectives:

1. Live a life in service to others
Identify people's needs in our congregation, city, and world
Assist everyone to find an area of service
2. Build relationships with people not connected to a community of faith
3. Connect to the larger city to serve those in need
Partnering with other faith communities

III. Ministry/Processes Perspective

Strategy: *Be a Good News church*

Objectives:

1. Provide transformative and inspiring worship
2. Improve and integrate technology with each of our ministries
Partner with TLU for social entrepreneurship
3. Nurture community building
Provide opportunities for inspiring fellowship
Develop on-boarding protocols (e.g., "new to us" disciple/visitor buddy system)

IV. Discipleship Perspective

Strategy: *Equipping people to follow God's Way*

Objectives:

1. Train and educate people for discipleship
Create a leadership development program for our various ministries
Develop and implement a training program for meaningful discipleship
Provide more educational options for parents and their families
2. Facilitate culture change for long-term vitality
Implement the ELCA Life of Faith initiative