



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



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 LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA.



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

St. Peter's Lutheran Church - Northfield, Minnesota

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2024 Staff

- David Weeks | Pastor
- Mary Kay Bougie | Director of Music & Worship
- Terrence Hassanally | Financial Administrator
- Allie Machacek Iversen | Communications
Coordinator & Admin

Notes

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2024 Council



- Sheryl Kleppe | President
- Nick Paulson | Vice President
- Phil Olson | Treasurer
- David Hendee | Secretary
- Beth Eaves | Council Member
- Mary Bleckwehl | Council Member
- Brian Kopack | Council Member
- Kirsten Thompson | Council Member

Sarah's House

submitted by Sheryl Kleppe

St. Peter's and Suzanne Fox, director of Sarah's House and Ruth's House, signed the annual lease with Sarah's House on November 1, 2024. The rent continues at \$1100 per month with utilities being paid by Sarah's House. The house can have five residents at a time and when the lease was signed they were full with a waiting list of potential residents. We have been encouraged to notice that some of the residents are now joining us for worship and participating in some of our activities. Brian Kopeck, a Church Council member, and I went over to the house recently to check the sump pumps as there had been water in the basement during the June rains. Both sump pumps will be replaced by Brian Kopeck when his schedule allows. One of our members regularly delivers baked goods to the deck at the back of the house. The women are greatly appreciative of this gift. Again, thank you for your willingness to utilize our parsonage for this needed ministry.

A special thank you to the MG's (Maintenance Guys) for your continued effort in tending to repairs around St. Peter's, keeping our church in great shape!

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

All around us, we see signs of God's love and goodness. A person who has stepped away from church for many years steps back into a congregation, feeling the call of the Holy Spirit. Young adults feeling isolated in a digital-first world start gathering in person in a small group, enjoying the warmth of a hug and a new friend asking about their week. A mother plants a garden, and it yields fruits and vegetables, giving her nutritious food for her kids and extra produce to sell at the local market. Everywhere we look, we see signs of Christ's love. In Psalm 93, we read: "More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore" (4-5).

God's love is a majestic thing, and it moves us to share it in word and deed. The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, across our country and around the world.

I am so grateful for you, dear church. Your generosity to each of these three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has bolstered the church's ability to share the message of God's love to people who are longing for it. Through your

“More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.”

—Psalm 93:4-5

financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices, you've helped carry this message of God's majestic love. Thank you, dear church. As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to stand steadfast in God's promises, sure of God's love and goodness.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

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



A Message From Pastor David

Dear Saints of St. Peter's:

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.

We sing the above words with gusto and confidence. Grateful for the presence of the Holy Spirit to give us courage and strength when we endure challenges, we trust that God will protect and guide us in the days to come.

Long before us, God has been the help and hope of peoples' in the past, and we trust that God will guide us today and tomorrow.

The Christian church has faced myriad challenges and difficulties through the centuries. Traveling to Italy and Spain, Michon and I have toured any churches, learned church history, and learned stories of God's faithfulness through the saints.

Our travels have been a helpful reminder of the resilience of the Christian church.

I want to lift up two things. First, God is alive and well at St. Peter's Lutheran. You continue to rise to challenges and opportunities before us. Second, the world has changed. Culture has shifted. It is not easy to be Church or a practicing Christian in today's culture.

Almost ten years ago, Julie Klock and I, along with pastors and lay staff from St. John's Lutheran and Bethel Lutheran, spent a couple days at Luther Seminary listening to Tod Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. The book uses Lewis and Clark's expedition as a metaphor for today's church in today's world. They expected to travel by water, i.e., canoe to the Pacific Ocean. Obviously, they could not.

For decades, the church's role in our culture has been shifting. For most of us, it has only recently become apparent. COVID expedited and exposed the shift that was already happening.

We have been short-staffed this year. This has been frustrating for many of us—self included. We have advertised, and we have received applications, but none of the applicants list experiences or interests that match our position.

But you have adapted. Several parents have stepped up and taken on leadership for our Sunday School.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church | 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2024

Financial Report/2024 Budget: Presented by Treasurer Olson printed on page 18-19 of report Highlights include the church ending the year with a positive net surplus of \$8,453.63. Actual expenses were \$32,026.30 below the budgeted amount for 2023. Regular giving will be incredibly important to stay on track for 2024. The congregation is asked to consider automated giving. *** During the Jan council meeting it was discussed that, had the Middle/High School Youth Director position been filled as budgeted, we (most likely) would have had a deficit in 2023 rather than a surplus. ***

Projects for 2024 include remodeling the 2nd floor bathrooms, repairing the bell tower and eventually the narthex, updating the electrical panel both at St Peter's and Sara's House & finally changing the parking lot lights to LED.

Olson also notes that he expects the mortgage to be paid off within the next 2 years.

Council is recommending a budget with a projected deficit of \$9,325 for 2024. The budgeted income of \$380,800 includes an increase in income of \$3,661 or 1% plus \$10,800 in rent from the synod. This budget does not include the need to fill the position for a Middle/High School Youth Director.

Nick Paulson moved that St Peter's approve the proposed budget for 2024 as printed in the report. Brian Kopack seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: No old business.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Nick Paulson. Julie Klock seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Minutes by Megan Culhane, Church Council Secretary 2023

St. Peter's Lutheran Church | 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2024

St. Peter's Mission Statement: Believe, Belong, Become

Call to Order: President Mark Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:17 A.M., and he noted that there was a quorum of the membership present.

Approval of agenda: Sheryl Kleppe moved to approve the agenda. Nick Paulson seconded. Motion carried.

Devotion: Read by Pastor Weeks - using the devotion as printed on page 6 of the report.

Message from Pastor Weeks: Provided on page 4 & 5 of the report; highlights include the Council's use/reflection on the book "Growing Young." Which talked about unlocking keychain leadership, placing emphasis on today's young people, taking Jesus' message seriously, fueling a warm community & being the best neighbors. Pastor's report also touched on trips taken by both the youth and adults, the fall stewardship drive, the Synod's move to St Peter's and looking ahead for summer trips for 2024.

Message from President Shaw: Provided on page 8 of the report; highlights include characterizing the 2023 year as a new "post-pandemic normal" and the realization of how important the live streaming service is to the congregation of St Peter's but also far beyond. Maintenance was also mentioned and noted, flooring, general painting, decluttering and more. Lastly Shaw thanks the staff of St Peter's for their work this past year.

Team/Board Reports: There were no comments in addition to those printed in the annual report.

Elections: Shaw stated that the nominating committee has successfully filled the vacancies on church council for the term beginning 2024. New council members/renewed members are as follows:

Sheryl Kleppe - President
Nick Paulson - Vice President
David Hendee - Secretary
Beth Eaves - Member at Large
Brian Kopack - Member at Large

(The following members are continuing their term on council; Phil Olson - Treasurer, Mary Bleckwehl - Member at Large & Kirsten Thompson - Member at Large).

Lorraine Rovig moved to elect the members to the positions stated above. Ginny Paulson seconded. Motion carried.

We started a new ministry—4F—this past spring. 4F (Faith, Fellowship, Fun, and Food) provides opportunities for people who are retired. We have gone hiking, had campfires and outdoor games, biking (with ice cream), and we've seen the gingerbread houses at the Norway House.

We took a bold step of faith this fall with our Stewardship Drive. Rather than open and tabulate the Estimates of Giving and estimate the giving by those who do not turn in an Estimate, we left the envelopes sealed.

In June, we will make the final payment on our Long-term debt. Our monthly payment has been \$2078.26, or an annual total of \$24,939.12. Eliminating this debt.

Eleven years ago, we owed \$252,412.00—financed at Community Resources Bank on a five-year note with a balloon payment. In 2014, we refinanced with the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund with a lower interest rate.

While paying off this debt, we also completed several capital improvements. We refurbished the sanctuary, converted the fluorescent tubes in the fellowship hall to LED strips, renovated two sets of restrooms, replaced the narthex doors, added a concrete entrance to the south narthex entrance, added a concrete entrance in the parking lot off Ames Street, improved the sidewalk leading to the offices, installed a handrail along the sidewalk, and renovated several rooms upstairs for the SE MN Synod. These projects totaled around \$150,000.

We did all the above projects, and paid off our Long-term debt without ever borrowing another penny. Thank you for your faithful generosity and support of this community of believers.

The hallmark of Lutheran theology is **grace**. I believe that we need to lean into grace in these uncertain and challenging times.

I give thanks to God for the staff I get to work with—Mary Kay, Allie, Terrence, and Richard. I am grateful for the leadership of our Church Council, and I am so pleased with the many faithful saints who love St. Peter's Lutheran and serve Christ in many and various ways.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.

Pastor David

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Confident in God's generosity and gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us praise God and give thanks ...

God, we praise you and give you thanks.
You are good, and your mercy endures forever.

You gave us a garden with good food to eat.
We praise you for food that nourishes us.

You rescued your people from slavery.
We praise you for freedom.

You gave us prophets to correct, rebuke and encourage us.
We bless you for your justice and mercy.

You gave us your Son, Jesus, to love, redeem and save us.
We praise you for his death and resurrection.

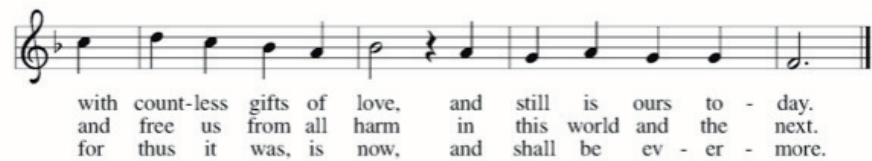
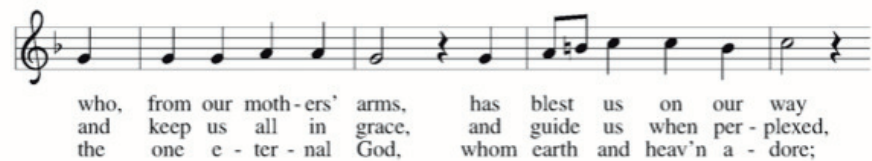
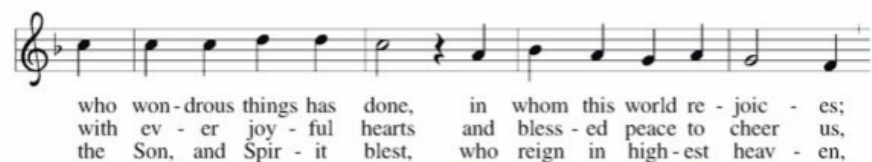
You gave us your Holy Spirit to be our Advocate and Comforter.
We bless you for the gifts of every tribe and nation.

Strengthen your church with every spiritual gift
and commission us again to be your servant people.

Multiply in us the fruit of the spirit:
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Send us in your love and mercy,
that the world may know you and praise you.

Now Thank We All Our God



Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 840
Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Cathering Winkworth, 1827-1878
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Let us pray.
Gracious God, you are the giver of every good gift. Bless us with all that we need for ministry in your name, that we might be a blessing to others. In the name of the one who broke bread and fed the multitudes, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

In the first part of 2025, members of the Office of the Bishop will intentionally collect stories of God's work in the world from members throughout the synod. Our hope is to create a library of stories told by all kinds of voices that give testimony to what God has done and hopes of what God will yet do.

How have the promises of God been fulfilled in your life? In the lives of those you love? In the aspects of creation you explore? In the life of your congregation or larger community? What testimony can you share for the sake of building up the community of faith?

The life of discipleship is, in the words of the late Rev. Eugene Peterson, "a long obedience in the same direction." It is an obedience best undertaken in community with a chorus of believers surrounding us crying, "Yes!" and "Amen!" as we lift our voices to do the same.

May this year in ministry be one in which we claim and proclaim the fulfillment of all the promises of God so that our faith might grow and the world might live more fully into abundant life.

How is the Spirit inviting your congregation to join the chorus of "Yes!" and "Amen!"?

In Christ,

Rev. Regina Hassanally

Bishop Regina Hassanally



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- Synod Assembly took place with roughly 360 people in attendance, celebrating the theme: **"Every Congregation Connected"**
- Fall Theological Retreat took place with 145 attendees (including Rostered Ministers and congregation staff) in La Crosse, WI, with the theme **"Will You Be My Neighbor? Called to Community"**
- Gatherings were hosted to support leaders who are new to the synod, in their first years of ministry, and retired



Southeastern Minnesota Synod ELCA
Looking Toward Ministry in 2025



**2024
HIGHLIGHTS**

- **42** congregations were engaged in call process
- **13** Rostered Ministers were welcomed to the synod
- **1** new worshiping community was created: the Nuer Community Lutheran Church
- **3** Power+Boundaries workshops were hosted to equip lay people, church staffs, and Rostered Ministers
- A Chrism Mass Advent Worship was offered to leaders for the first time



For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so, through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 1:20, NIV)

The Use of the Means of Grace, a teaching document of our denomination, emphasizes the importance of baptism happening in the midst of the gathered assembly. In baptism, we claim the promises of God for the baptized, and the gathered assembly has the distinct privilege of hearing those promises for themselves, too.

Baptism happens in community because the promises of baptism are for the community.

Indeed, in the rite of baptism, members of the congregation participate as the newly baptized is welcomed among them. Promises to accompany the newly baptized in the journey of faith are spoken aloud.

In baptism, we remember the promises of God as we hear them spoken, again and again, by those in our midst.

I spent a number of years in a faith tradition that emphasized the power of personal testimony. Individuals would testify to the work and power of God in their lives and the lives of those they knew. In these spaces of testimony, we collectively remembered the promises of God. The faith of those gathered was buoyed as they were reminded of God’s work in the world.

Testimony. Reclaiming of the promises. These essential practices in the Christian faith keep us grounded and assured in who God is and what God does, especially in times when it is hard to see. We hear the promises of God over and over again because we often need to be reminded of them. We need to be reminded that in Christ, all God’s promises are “Yes!” Practicing faith in community strengthens us to reply, “Amen!”

As we look ahead to the coming year, I want to pay particular attention to our claiming, naming, and proclaiming of God’s promises for us and all of creation. There may be days in which our faith wobbles, when the promises of God seem a far cry from fulfillment. On those days, harkening back to our baptisms, we benefit from hearing the promises of God proclaimed by our communities loud enough for others to hear. *(continued)*

Pastoral Records

Confirmands

Jon Wierson
 Noah Hanson

Baptisms

Riley Lynn Crase.....Baptized on February 25, 2024
 Hayes Richard Humann.....Baptized on April 7, 2024
 Owen Weeks Suurmeyer.....Baptized on July 28, 2024
 Noah William Vikla.....Baptized on November 3, 2024

Funerals

Helen Peterson.....February 9, 2024
 Sharon Bauer.....June 20, 2024
 Marvel Dreier.....June 27, 2024
 Barbara Johnson.....August 22, 2024
 Mark Larsen.....December 6, 2024
 Jaynie Rezac.....December 30, 2024

New Members

Skip Wagner
 Rick + Cindy Opatrny



A Message from the President of the Congregation

Sheryl Kleppe, Council President

To My Treasured St. Peter's Friends,

It was with some trepidation that I took the gavel in hand after my election as President at the 2024 Annual Meeting. This year has proven to be a year of growth for me, the learning curve at times has seemed steep, but I have felt supported through it all by not only by a terrific Church Council, Pastor and Staff, but all of you. Thank you for your love, your prayers and your willingness to support the mission of St. Peter's.

It constantly amazes me how things at St. Peter's just "get done". I was told many years ago now that the impression people had of St. Peter's was that it was a "working" church. In fact, one person told me that if I were to join St. Peter's I would be "put to work". I have found that to be true. We are a congregation that recognizes talents in each other and utilizes them for the good of all. It is not at all unusually to see someone working behind the scenes, using their own unique God-given gifts to accomplish something that needs to be done. I am so grateful for all of you.

We have had both successes and disappointments as a church body this year. Early in the spring, the MGS (otherwise known as the Property Committee) approached the Church Council with several issues. First, we had a leak in the window/door area in the hallway to the kitchen. Second, with the addition of the Synod Staff upstairs, it became clear that the bathrooms upstairs needed updating. Third, we were told that emergency agencies in the City would appreciate the numbering and labeling of the outside doors around the building. Fourth, we needed to improve the labelling of the office doors in that wing of the building. The Church Council voted to take on all these projects at once and to approach the congregation for the necessary funds. I was thrilled when it became clear that our fundraising effort was successful. We now have two brand new bathrooms on the second floor and our leaking window has been replaced. The office wing has proper signage, and the outside doors are numbered and labelled. More to the point, we successfully raised the funds to cover the expenses.

In April the Personnel Committee met with each staff member individually. The staff were asked to be prepared to discuss both their successes and challenges in the previous year. We had very enjoyable conversations with Pastor David, Mary Kay Bougie, Terrance Hassanally, and Allie Machacek. We are blessed with a very committed staff and can feel success in their accomplishments.

Worship & Music

Worship--confessing our sins and in Jesus' name being forgiven, singing, hearing God's Word in scripture, sermons, and prayers is central to our Christian faith. Worship inspires and motivates us to a life of service in the world as disciples of Jesus. We worship with a variety of styles and formats--organ, piano, keyboard, percussion, bells, and vocalists feed our souls. We are both an inviting and welcoming community, and using digital media, we are sharing the Gospel and connecting with others throughout Minnesota and our country.

\$180,000

Faith Formation (Education)

We have been without a staff person dedicated to Sunday School and youth, but our laity have stepped up and taken on more leadership. Our St. Olaf intern, Zoe, continues to work with the music portion of Sunday School. Confirmation classes (grades 6-8) begin with worship and then transition to a traditional class time. This year we are exploring the Old Testament. We continue offering a "J-term" with St. John's and Bethel. We had two of our youth go canoeing at Amnicon last summer.. This coming year we plan to return Christikon to hike/backpack in Montana. Our women's circles, which provide opportunities to grow in faith as well as support for one another. We periodically have Sunday adult forums or discussion in the Fireside Room. Faith on Tap meets monthly during the school year. We are grateful for our many opportunities to grow in our faith.

\$110,000

Christian Service & Witness

The Church does not exist to focus on itself, but to serve the world. In August, the three ELCA congregations came together to do "God's Work Our Hands"--an intentional ministry of service to our community. We deliver Meals on Wheels twice a year for 2-week blocks each time. We have a partnership with Sarah's House, providing our parsonage as the home for women who have gone through substance abuse treatment. Twice a year we clean a two-mile section of Highway 246 and we support the Community Action Center's food shelf and Operation Joy. Our quilters send quilts and we send backpacks and health kits to Lutheran World Relief. This year, we are excited to welcome the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA, to our building. As members of the ELCA, we are in a partnership with other congregations and ministries--we are the body of Christ in partnership with them.

\$60,000

Christian Care & Fellowship

Though not organized by any ministry team, many of us make phone calls and run errands for one another as they live their calling to serve our neighbor. On the last Sunday of each month, we celebrate all birthdays of that month. We have a team of individuals who send a birthday card to all our members, letting them know they are appreciated and loved. Our funeral teams provide vital Christian care as families gather for a meal to mourn and remember their beloved. The Christian faith is lived in community. We are the body of Christ, called to love and be loved by one another.

\$50,000

2024 Financial Summary

Income	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
OFFERINGS (5)	\$281,392.00	\$271,116.33	\$283,741.00	\$261,280.30	\$399,610.26
SPECIAL INCOME (10)	\$76,251.00	\$80,010.68	\$71,294.00	\$80,607.37	\$0.00
OTHER INCOME (20)	\$15,442.00	\$15,212.32	\$25,765.00	\$22,872.72	\$0.00
Total Income	\$373,085.00	\$366,339.33	\$380,800.00	\$364,760.39	\$399,610.26
WORSHIP (30)	\$11,850.00	\$9,008.28	\$8,053.00	\$9,813.64	\$9,000.00
EDUCATION (35)	\$2,025.00	\$1,557.89	\$1,885.00	\$265.37	\$1,000.00
BENEVOLENCE/MISSIONS (40)	\$11,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00	\$11,500.00
ADMINISTRATION (45)	\$17,229.00	\$16,020.27	\$15,260.00	\$18,630.25	\$17,000.00
WITNESS/ADS (46)	\$600.00	\$671.95	\$550.00	\$172.55	\$550.00
STEWARDSHIP (48)	\$763.00	\$1,183.52	\$800.00	\$753.25	\$800.00
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE (49)	\$3,900.00	\$5,314.81	\$4,500.00	\$9,078.52	\$7,500.00
SALARIES (50)	\$204,269.00	\$190,336.14	\$199,800.00	\$180,927.88	\$216,800.00
BENEFITS (55)	\$54,238.00	\$54,478.97	\$55,800.00	\$35,765.42	\$59,148.00
BLDG. GROUNDS & MAINT. (70)	\$36,415.00	\$27,911.51	\$44,820.00	\$41,974.20	\$40,000.00
UTILITIES (75)	\$21,975.00	\$18,506.04	\$18,207.00	\$12,679.59	\$20,000.00
INTEREST & DEBT RETIREMENT (80)	\$25,648.00	\$22,896.32	\$25,200.00	\$24,939.12	\$12,312.26
YOUTH MINISTRIES	-	-	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Total Budget For Liabilities	\$389,912.00	\$357,885.70	\$390,125.00	\$346,249.79	\$399,610.26
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$16,827.00)	\$8,453.63	(\$9,325.00)	\$18,510.60	\$0.00
Balance Sheet (Statement of Financial Position - Key Accounts)					
Account Type		At 12/31/23		At 12/31/24	
Checking Accounts		\$170,357		\$125,658	
Savings Accounts/CD		\$43,177			
Total Cash Accounts		\$213,534			
Dedicated Accounts		\$176,545		\$91,022	
Mortgage Balance		\$35,747		\$12,312	

With the Synod’s assistance, we offered the congregation an opportunity to anonymously review the health, programming and vision of St. Peter’s. Many people chose to participate in this endeavor and we hope to use the information we collected to drive our visioning for the future.

Our online presence remains strong. It is a vital link not only to our shut-ins but to the community at large. We currently have six members trained to run the equipment during our services. We are in process of updating and replacing equipment as deemed necessary.

With the resignation of Cariann Strauch in early 2024, the Council was faced with two issues. First the rest of the staff and able volunteers needed to step up to fill the position she left vacant. Fortunately, they have done an admirable job leading Sunday School, doing Children’s Sermons, and many other behind the scenes jobs. The second issue was doing some real work discussing what qualities we needed in the next Christian Life Coordinator and what his or her job responsibilities would entail. As you know, we have been seeking applicants for this position for several months but, thus far, have not been successful. This is disappointing. We ask for your continued prayers that this position will be filled.

In closing, I want to again thank the people who quietly work behind the scenes to help St. Peter’s function so effectively. We are blessed with many servants who give of their time and talent both in the church and in the community. It makes me so glad to call St. Peter’s my home church.

In Christ,
Sheryl Kleppe, Council President

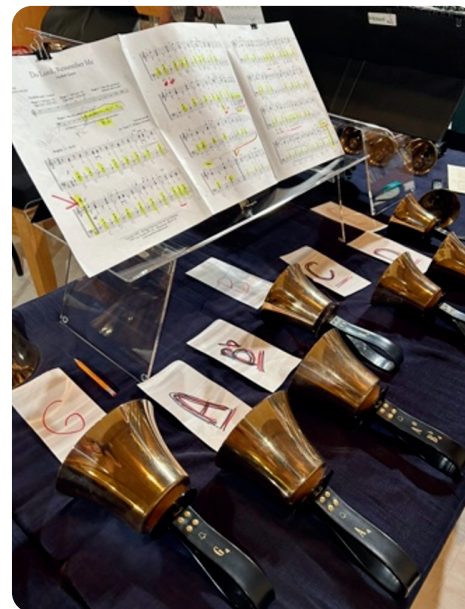
St. Peter's Worship and Music

Mary Kay Bougie, Director of Music + Worship

Worship Band and Gospel Band enhance worship services one Sunday a month. Worship band members include: Bill Bleckwehl, Claire Hill, Pete Pedersen, and Skip Wagner. Gospel band members include: Julia Daly, Phil Olson, and Skip Wagner. New members are ALWAYS welcome! (we also love when kids help us play).



Jubilee Bells ~ members include: Patti Baker, Bill Bleckwehl, Mary Bleckwehl, Megan DeMaris, Marilyn Finneseth, Claire Hill, Sonja Link, Ginny Paulson, and Skip Wagner. Filling in on occasion were Richard Collman, Kira DeMaris, Alaia Douah, Alison Kavanaugh, Julie Zdenek, and two St. Olaf College ringers, Cole Monson and Ella Pribyl. New folder stands were purchased this year. If you were in high school band, played piano, or sang in a choir and can read music – please consider joining us! We would love a few new members to use all of the bells we have available!



Treasurer & Business Management Report

submitted by Phil Olson, Treasurer

Income Statement: For 2024 the church ended the year with a positive net surplus of \$18,510.61. This is only the second time to end the year with a positive net surplus after many years with a negative result. The actual expenses were \$43,875.22 below our budget for 2024, and it was \$11,636.52 below 2023 expenses. Also, the church income was \$6,874.69 more than 2023. What is the real bottom line for all these positive results? The budget was set for one more staff person and a much colder and stormier winter. So, we still did not have enough financial support for a Christian Life Director.

BALANCE SHEET: At the end of 2024 the church has a strong balance sheet and financial position. On a very positive note, our mortgage balance of \$12,312.26 will be completely paid off this June. The second-floor restroom remodeling and upgrades was completed at a cost of \$40,000.00. Extra member donations and expenditures from dedicated funds and Mission Endowment contributions covered the total costs. It should also be noted that Steve Schmidt Construction came in under budget.

THE 2025 BUDGET: For 2025, the council is recommending a total for liabilities of \$399,298.00. This includes an increase of \$9,173.00 for expenditures and assumed matching income. The council is also doing this without knowing member pledges this year. The budget does include the cost of a new staff person, and increases in salaries, benefits, and utilities.

Mission Endowment 2024

submitted by Tom Tollefson

12/31/24 TREASURERS REPORT ST. PETER'S MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

STATEMENT OF FUND ACTIVITY FOR PERIOD 01/01/24 - 12/31/24

Beginning Fund Balance 01/01/24	\$335,336.41
Plus:	
Cash Contributions	-
Market Value Change - ELCA Endowment Fund	21,432.99
Income:	
Interest Income - ELCA Mission Plus Account	463.33
Dividends - ELCA Endowment Fund	11,748.00
	12,211.33
Less Cash Distributions:	
Leader Wise Continuing Education Course (Pastor Weeks)	(2,900.00)
Lutheran Bible Translators	(1,000.00)
Bathroom Remodel (Total \$20,000)	(2,181.00)
Capital Improvement Fund	(2,000.00)
	(8,081.00)
Ending Fund Balance 12/31/24	\$360,899.73
Note:	
From: Capital Improvement Fund	
Bathroom Remodel (Total \$20,000)	(17,819.00)

FUND BALANCES BY INVESTMENT

		12/31/2023	12/31/2024
		Balance	Balance
ASSETS			
Cash And Bank Accounts			
	ELCA Mission Plus	56,274.87	44,586.20
TOTAL Cash And Bank Accounts		56,274.87	44,586.20
Investments			
	ELCA Endowment Fund	294,880.54	316,313.53
TOTAL Investments		294,880.54	316,313.53
TOTAL ASSETS		351,155.41	360,899.73
LIABILITIES			
	Capital Improvement Fund	15,819.00	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		15,819.00	-
NET		335,336.41	360,899.73

Worship Choir ~ members include: Jim Anderson, Sandra Bremer, Julia Daly, Megan DeMaris, Marilyn Finneseth, Claire Hill, Steve Hill, Sonja Link, Jolene Manzey, Phil Olson, Pete Pedersen, Mark Shaw, Zoe Vorbach, David Weeks and Michon Weeks. Occasional singers include Kira DeMaris + Cooper McDonald. Also singing at Lessons and Carols were Jessica Link and Julie Zdenek. Richard Collman continues to accompany the choir. All are welcome to come and sing! Practice Wednesdays at 7 pm!

Helping Palestinian Olive Wood Carvers – St. Peter's former St. Olaf intern, Maddi Froiland along with her mother, Rev. Dr. Lisa Bates-Froiland, helped distribute 8,000 olive wood hearts that were used in an ecumenical worship service on Dec 28, 2023, in Bethlehem to commemorate the Slaughter of the Innocents. The artisans have had little work since the war began due to the lack of tourism. St. Peter's members bought 200 of these hearts. We used them in our Ash Wednesday service, then distributed them to those who had purchased them.



Easter Sunday - we had a dramatic beginning to our Easter service this year, with a visual performance of the three women going to the tomb and finding it empty – while the choir sang Dolly Parton’s “Light of a Clear Blue Morning”.



Acquiring New Music ~ St. Peter’s was blessed with choral music from Mary Kay’s former church. 159 anthems (over 3,000 pieces of music!), many of which were near and dear to Mary Kay, as her mother had directed these anthems years ago.



Special Music/Special Days ~ Pictured here: 1. Pastor Weeks’ sons, Christian and Isaac performing at grandson Owen’s baptism. 2. when receiving bibles and trunk or treat are on the same day! 3. celebrating the work of the LUV quilters.



SOLOS

submitted by Marilyn Finneseth

The St. Peter’s Solos group meets the 3rd Thursday of the month for lunch at various restaurants. Our mission is “Caring, Sharing and Fellowship” with others that are without partners. In the past year we have been to George’s Vineyard, Perkins, Applebees, Hogan Brothers, Arby’s, Culver’s, Northfield Gold Club, Fairfield Inn, New Buffet, Quarterback Club, and Gran Plaza. If you are interested in joining us contact: Evonne C. 507-663-1732 or Marilyn F. 612-877-0959.



Bucket Gals

The BG’s (Bucket Gals) meet in the kitchen at 8:00am on the first Thursday each month for around an hour. By: Joanne Olson The group works to keep the kitchen organized, wipes down all the counters and stainless steel, checks and cleans the refrigerator, cleans the coffee pots, checks on the oven, wipes down tables and chairs, and dusts areas in Fellowship Hall and in the Fireside Room. Call JoAnne Olson (507-321-1350) if you would like to join this group. Doing that would get you on the call/text list in case there is any change in when the group will meet.

LUV Quilters

submitted by Celena Witt, Treasurer

Approximately 120 quilts were distributed in 2024 as well as 101 school kits.

Opening Balance \$961.61

Income

Donations \$500

Memorial \$25

Total \$1,486.61

Expenses

Quilting Supplies \$755.83

2024 Ending Balance \$730.78

LUV Quilters received two Thrivent Grants each for \$250. The cards were use for fabric and batting.



Hannah Circle

submitted by Diane Boyum

The Hannah Circle continues to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall at St. Peter's. The Gather magazine is our source for our bible study. This year we continue to support our local community with our group offering. We have donated to Sarah's House, the food shelf, Operation Give Joy, St. Peter's improvements, TORCH, and Good Earth Village. We welcome new members to join us.



Rachel Circle

The Rachel Circle continues to meet on the second Tuesday at 1pm at St. Peter's. We continue to use The Gather magazine for our bible study. It was decided to again give individually to the choice of one's organization/charity.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship, November ~ Our joint worship with the 3 ELCA churches in town is a wonderful, worshipful service. The massed choir is well represented.

Eve Circle

submitted by Linda Rowan, chairperson

Eve Circle evaluates yearly whether to use studies in contemporary Christian books and/or Bible studies offered in the ELCA Gather magazine. We have twelve members in our group and new members are always welcome!



Our main service focus has always been to contribute to needs within our community. With our yearly budget of \$500 in contributions from our

circle members we have again accomplished this project in the Christmas season by giving to Northfield Union of Youth (The Key). As our circle membership has grown, we are exploring other areas to also support throughout the year.

Lessons and Carols + Sunday School Program, December – we tried something new this year,

combining the adults and childrens programs into one! The high school musicians also accompanied all of the congregational singing and added to the group anthems as well. Thanks to all of the musicians. We also purchased a new nativity scene which the children dramatically helped set up during the program.



Children's Ministries

The year began with Director of Children's Ministry, Cariann Stauch stepping away. Sunday School survived the rest of the school year. Most families and students returned to our Sunday School program this year and it has been going well thanks in large part to the work of dedicated Sunday School teachers (Laura Gilligan, Megan Culhane and Tammy Paulson). Miss Zoe returned this year to lead the kids in music and they have sung during worship a number of times. This year, Sunday school kids learned about being good stewards and taking care of God's creation, by cleaning up the playground, and about walking in Jesus' footsteps. Several kids hit Bible milestones (either receiving a storybook bible or their 3rd grade bible) and two kids took first communion instruction. In conjunction with the senior choir, bell choir, worship band and more, Sunday school kids took part in the 2024 Christmas Program.



Youth Ministries

Saint Peter's Youth, better known as SPY, has been flourishing over the past year. God has blessed our community with smart, social, and active high school youth who make time for each other on Wednesday night. We gather in the youth room and engage in conversation about school, social life, and the word. SPY engages with the church community through the gift of music and service. The youth also enjoyed several social outings throughout the year and a lock-in. This Christmas, SPY hosted a cookie fundraiser drive. Church members donated plates of cookies, which SPY sold for \$10 after the Christmas program. We raised \$941, over three times our goal! The donations are going to Lutheran World Relief to purchase school supplies for children. Last summer, our summer trip was canoeing in Wisconsin, through Amnicon, a Lutheran camp with youth from St. John's and First UCC. This coming summer, we are going hiking/backpack at Christikon, a Lutheran camp in Montana. We thank the Lord for a blessed year together, and pray for more wonderful times to come.