



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



ANNUAL REPORT
2024

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

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,
2 Oh, may this houn - teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

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.

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.

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



January 1, 2025

Dear Siblings in Christ,

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things...If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:22-23, 25)

Why are you here? Most likely you’re reading this at your congregations annual meeting. And perhaps you are pondering this same question: “why am I here when I could be doing something else that’s more exciting than a boring church business meeting?”

But what if congregation annual meetings were seen as more than just a “business meeting?” What if we thought of our Annual Meetings as the exciting continuation of our year-long discernment about where God is calling our congregation to go AND, even more exciting, as taking the first and biggest step of the new year into the calling from God that we discerned together?!

Annual Meetings are the time, usually the only time of the year, when the majority of your congregation gathers to make important decisions about leadership for the congregation (president, council members), finances (the budget, compensation packages), and how the congregation hopes and plans to do its ministry over the next year and beyond.

These necessary decisions are hopefully ignited from the values and principles sparked by the Holy Spirit through spiritual discernment. They emerge from hearts and spirits made bold by the transforming love of Christ and empowered through by the Spirit’s fruit in “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” They come from a mutually discovered purpose (why are we doing this?) and vision (where is God calling us to go?) in conversation with one another and with God.

What if we entered into our Annual Meetings with the perspective of opportunity and the mindset of generosity rather than just one more church-thing to do on a Sunday afternoon in January that’s keeping us from watching the NFL playoffs? Imagine what God could accomplish in and through us for the sake of Christ’s congregation, Christ’s Church, and the wider world!

Congregations are not the only part of the church that have annual meetings. The Montana Synod, composed of congregations from across Montana and Northern Wyoming will also be having its Annual Meeting (also known as the Synod Assembly) in Great Falls, MT on May 30-31, 2025. As a Synod, we will walk on Christ’s way together to elect the synod’s leadership including a bishop, manage with generosity the blessings God has given to this Synod, and equip each other for listening to the Spirit’s guidance, proclaiming Christ’s Gospel, doing Christ’s love, and collaborating for Christ’s ministry. The theme for the 2025 Montana Synod Assembly is “Equipping for Hope.”

There is a third Annual Meeting that will be happening this year – the ELCA’s triannual Churchwide Assembly will meet in Phoenix, AZ on July 28-August 2, 2025. As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, voting members will gather from diverse places across this country to discern the direction of the Holy Spirit in electing a new presiding bishop and new Churchwide

secretary, managing the blessings the ELCA has been given, deciding how we will live as Christ’s Church together, and how God is calling us as the ELCA to move toward God’s future together.

In all of these opportunities to gather for “Annual Meetings” in the name of Jesus Christ, let us remember that we are each and all parts of Jesus’ Church, the body of Christ, and let us be emboldened to live out our faith through the hope, love and joy poured into us by the Holy Spirit.

May your congregation be blessed in this New Year by the new life that comes to us only in Jesus Christ!

In Christ’s Love,

Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling
Bishop, Montana Synod, ELCA



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January, 2025

People of Peace,

What does it mean to have success in ministry?

Over the years, congregations have answered this question through the lens of “bucks and butts,” as long as there are dollars in the offering plates and people in the pews, things are good. This *can* be an ok way to measure success. It *can* mean that a congregation is doing good work that people want to be a part of, that people want to put their money and their time toward the work of the community.

If we do measure success in this way, Peace Lutheran had a very successful year. Our numbers of people attending worship have been relatively steady in this post-pandemic landscape. As you will see in the budget reports, we ended 2024 with a budget surplus of over \$56,000. We were able to give to partner ministries and our own outreach ministries in amounts larger than previous years. If we measure success by “bucks and butts,” 2024 was a successful year!

However, I think we can agree that these metrics alone do not measure the success of a ministry. There are plenty of small congregations who are struggling to make ends meet that are doing vital ministry in their communities. There are many large congregations with enormous budgets that are on spiritual life support. I think it can be said that Peace was successful in regards to money and attendance in 2024. Even more importantly, Peace was successful in less tangible ways; ways that I would like to highlight in the rest of this letter.

Starting with the internal ministries of Peace, we saw success in a number of ways. Peace Lutheran celebrated 75 years of ministry- a testament to the lasting power of this congregation and a history of perseverance in faith. We weathered seasons of staffing upheaval, where volunteers stepped up to continue the tasks necessary to

keep the church functioning until we could fill open positions. We had the first First Communion class since before 2020. We sent nine of our youth to Christikon at no cost to their families. We sent out birthday cards to the members for whom we had birthdays on file. We experienced the connection of relationships in small-group ministries, such as WELCA circles, Men’s Breakfast, Parents of Peace, and Thursday Morning Bible Study, just to name a few. I’m sure there are other examples that you can think of that I have not included here. The vibrancy of Peace continues to shine in the Billings community!

Turning to outward-facing ministries, success is again not hard to come by. Our Food Pantry was bustling throughout the year. We hosted multiple weeks of Family Promise guests, providing safety and stability for our neighbor families in need. We gave financially to various ministries, including disaster relief, homelessness relief, child/youth/family programs near and far, and refugee resettlement. We hosted Nations to Neighbors in our office space and in our classroom areas to help them in their mission of supporting new arrivals to the United States and to Billings. Again, this is not an exhaustive list. We are involved in supporting so much good work that it is impossible to summarize the entirety of all Peace does in this letter.

As you read through this Report, I encourage you to consider what success looks like in the ministry areas highlighted throughout. I believe that you will see repeated in these pages examples of successful ministry, filled with the love of God and led by our experience of Christ.

Ultimately, that is what success in ministry means to me- sharing God’s love with the world in the ways that we can, with the resources God has given us. Put another way, we might consider ministry success in this way: “Making Christ available to all, but Rejoicing, Renewing, and Reaching out.”

Thank you for a successful ministry year in 2024, and may God continue to bless Peace Lutheran, so that we may bless others in 2025 and beyond.

Peace,

Pastor Seth

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PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING 2025

AGENDA

- 1. Opening Devotion**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Annual Meeting 2024 Minutes**
- 4. Treasurer's Report**
- 5. Elections**
- 6. Staff, Council, and Committee Reports**
- 7. Old Business**
- 8. New Business**
 - i. 2024 Budget Surplus Conversation**
- 9. 2025 Budget Approval**
- 10. Closing Prayer and Hymn**
- 11. Next Annual Meeting**
 - i. January 25, 2026, After Worship**



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STAFF

Pastor Seth Rumage 1929 Custer Ave 59102 406-298-2672
Admin Asst Kim Braaton
Youth Director *Vanessa Steiger

Church Council 2024

PASTOR: Seth Rumage
PRESIDENT: Jeff Murray **VICE PRESIDENT:** Holli Miller
SECRETARY: Molly Johnson **TREASURER:** Steve Frank

COMMITTEES

Abundant Life..... Bob Bakko, Jeff Murray
 Congregational Life..... Molly Johnson, Holli Miller, Jeff Murray
 Executive..... Jeff Murray, Holli Miller, Molly Johnson
 Education/Youth..... *Lisa Donovan, Jody Pierce
 Finance..... Steve Frank, Jeff Murray
 Mission & Service..... Ann Barsness
 Mutual Ministry..... Holli Miller
 Personnel..... Bob Bakko, *Lisa Donovan
 Property..... Jeff Murray, Louis Taylor
 Scholarship..... Holli Miller
 Worship..... Ann Barsness, Julie Draeger

Name	Address	Phone	Term up	# Terms
Bakko, Bob			2024	1
Barsness, Ann			2024	2
*Donovan, Lisa			2024	1
Draeger, Julie			2024	2
Johnson, Molly			2024	1
Miller, Holli			2025	1
Murray, Jeff			2025	2
Pierce, Jody			2025	2
Taylor, Louis			2025	1

Email Addresses

Bob Bakko: dr.bobbakkolcpc@gmail.com
 *Lisa Donovan: lisadonovan14@hotmail.com
 Steve Frank: frankystorm01@msn.com
 Holli Miller: h.miller1@bresnan.net
 Jody Pierce: bjjipierce@hotmail.com
 *Vanessa Steiger: peacelcyouth@gmail.com
 Ann Barsness: aandebarsness@outlook.com
 Julie Draeger: julie.draeger@icloud.com
 Molly Johnson: m64johnson@gmail.com
 Jeff Murray: jeffreytmurray@yahoo.com
 Seth Rumage: pastorrumage@gmail.com
 Louis Taylor: ejltaylor@gmail.com

*Resigned during 2024 Calendar Year

OTHER BOARDS AND COMITTEES

		Term up
St John's Ministries	Holli Miller	2024
	Mary Mosdal	2025
Christikon	Lois Gorseth	2024
	Katrina Rumage	2025
	Tony Pecarina	2026
Lutheran Center	Pastor Seth	2024
	Rhonda Heidner	2024
Shepherd Cluster	Joan Brown	2024
	Deb Sider	2024
Endowment Trustee	Dean Welliever	2024
	Dave Draeger	2025
	Melissa Sider	2025
	Kristi Bummer	2026
	Greg Popp	2026
Synod Assembly	Dave Draeger	2024
	Julie Draeger	2024
Mutual Ministry Committee	Mike Brown	2025
	Holli Miller	2025
	Chuck Sider	2025
	Bob Peterson	2025
	Sharon Schatzke	2025
Nominating Committee	Bob Peterson	
	Deb Sider	
	Peggy Welliever	
	Julie Draeger	
	Molly Johnson	



Peace Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting

January 24, 2024

The 2024 Annual Meeting was called to order at 11:20 AM by Council President Jeff Murray. Pastor Seth opened with prayer. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Linda Strosky, with a second by Mary Mosdal. Motion passed. Next, was the approval of the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes. A motion was made by Rhonda Sappington to approve the minutes, with Bob Peterson seconding. Motion passed. We then went to the Treasurer's Report. Steve Frank started on pages 28 and 29 of the meeting booklet. Projected unrestricted offerings for 2023 were \$324,884.00, and the actual unrestricted offerings were \$265,655.63. He then went over a few line items that were over budget and explained why they were. New checks were to be ordered, which was an extra cost, as well charges for using Vanco; the direct deposit system. At the end of 2023 the budget came in at \$332,698.15, which left a deficit of -66,049.50. Dewey Anderson asked what the proposed percentage of increase in salaries would be. Steve explained that would be talked about later in the meeting. A motion was made by George Simek to accept the 2023 budget, with Paul Strosky seconding. Motion passed.

The next item of business was Elections. George Simek asked how many Council members we can have. That number is 12. Ann Barsness presented the ballot for Council members. Nominations for Council members from the floor were asked for. Sylvia Peterson made a motion to close nominations from the floor, with Holli Miller seconding. Motion passed. Bonnie Hovik Clausen made a motion to accept the slate for Council, with George Simek seconding. Motion passed. Bernie Mason made a motion to accept the slate for Boards and Committees, with Deb Sider seconding. Motion passed. Synod Assembly representative nominations were next. Julie Draeger nominated herself and Dave Draeger as the Synod Assembly representatives. George Simek made a motion to cease nominations and select Dave and Julie Draeger as representatives. Louis Taylor seconded, and the motion passed. Lastly for nominations were for the Nominating Committee. The Council will nominate 2 people that are going off of Council in 2025. Nominations from the congregation include Deb Sider, Bob Peterson, and Peggy Welliever. Tony Pecarina made a motion to close nominations, with Melissa Sider seconding. Motion passed.

Staff reports began with Pastor Seth highlighting a few items from the year. He thanked the congregation for calling him and their continued support, and that he was looking forward to the next year. He also talked about the Council Retreat held in May of 2023. Pastor Seth thanked Vanessa for building the Wednesday night program back from the ground up. Lastly he talked about the Office Manager vacancy. The personnel committee will meet to go over a plan. Vanessa also gave a report on Youth activities. In June of 2023 a shift was made in the program, splitting the kids into K-3 groups and 4-8 groups. She asked for volunteers to help.

There was no Old Business, so we moved to New Business. Pastor Seth put together a proposal for a Building Reserve Fund. The proposal suggested that we redesignate the House of Peace Fund to the Building Reserve Fund. Also, moving the Building Fund into the new Building Reserve Fund. Kristi Bummer asked if a written policy would be prepared that describes the use of the fund. Pastor Seth suggested that Peace should have a written policy. George Simek asked if someone donates to the Building and Reserve fund if 10% would be taken out and put in the general fund? Pastor Seth said it would be treated as a Designated Fund, which 10% is taken if the donation is over \$10,000. There was concern about putting \$500 into the fund each month. After much discussion, Tony Pecarina made a motion to move ahead with the document, allowing discussion and amending the Building Reserve Fund Proposal, with Bob Bakko seconding. Tony Pecarina made a motion to adjust the monthly giving to state a budgeted amount that is agreed up at the annual meeting. The new resolution will state "be it further resolved that Peace Lutheran Church transfer an amount from the approved annual budget per month in perpetuity from its General Fund to its newly designated Building Reserve Fund". Julie seconded the motion. There was further discussion, Pastor Seth read the amended resolution. The resolution reads "And be it further resolved that Peace Lutheran Church transfer an amount approved by the annual budget in perpetuity from its General Fund to its new designated Building Reserve Fund". Pastor Seth inquired if anyone would call the question, and it

was called by Linda Strosky. A vote was needed to end discussion and vote on the amendment. One opposed, and the motion passed. Next, Jeff asked for a vote on the amendment. Motion passed, none opposed. Tony then added another amendment to the proposal. The new amendment was to add an additional paragraph stating "Be it further resolved that any expense needing to be paid from this account in the sum of \$10,000 or more must be approved by the congregation in a special meeting or an Annual Meeting". George Simek seconded. Motion passed. Paul Strosky called the question. George Simek made a motion to accept the proposal as amended by the congregation. Lisa Donovan seconded. Motion passed, with one opposing.

Moving to the Budget proposal, Steve Frank stated that committees bring their budgets to the Council. Some items pointed out included a 6.25% increase in wages. This is the recommendation from the Synod. Benevolence went from 6% for the Synod and 5% for quarterly gifts to 4% and 4% for each. There were a few new line items added to various budget categories. Kristi Bummer brought forth concern about the reduction in the percentage of benevolence. She strongly encouraged that our benevolence stay the same or be increased. A question was asked if it was practical to assume the giving was going to increase 25% to meet the budget? Jeff felt that the budget was workable, and that people would give more. Kim Wilker spoke about the Pastor's Compensation. He said that the Montana Synod's compensation numbers are lower than other synods. He believes that the increase was overdue. Encouraged support for Pastor's compensation. As discussion continued about the budget, George Simek made a motion to cut the Building Reserve Fund to \$250 a month. Ione Bloom seconded, and the motion passed. Julie Draeger made a motion to lower the 75th Anniversary budget from \$3000 to \$1500. Bernie Mason seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Dean Jensen made a motion to raise the quarterly gift to 6%. Kristi Bummer seconded. Motion passed, with 4 opposed. Lastly, a motion was made by Molly Johnson to approve the amended budget, with Holli Miller seconding. Motion passed, with 2 opposed.

The meeting was closed with a hymn and a closing prayer. A motion to adjourn was made by Tony Pecarina, with Lisa Donovan seconding. The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Goodheart, Secretary

CONTINUING RESOLUTION: BUILDING RESERVE FUND

CR2024 (1)

At the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024, the congregation adopted the resolution that follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that Peace Lutheran Church, at its annual meeting on January 28, 2024, redesignate the House of Peace Fund as its Building Reserve Fund;

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Peace Lutheran Church, at its annual meeting on January 28, 2024, absorb the already existing Building Fund into this newly redesignated Building Reserve Fund;

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Peace Lutheran Church transfer in perpetuity an amount from approved annual budget from its General Fund to this newly redesignated Building Reserve Fund;

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Peace Lutheran Church allow members and givers to designate offerings toward the newly redesignated Building Reserve Fund, if they desire to do so;

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this newly redesignated Building Reserve Fund be used exclusively for planned property maintenance, emergency property costs, and for housing down payment assistance to Pastors under call when invoices received for these expenses would create undue burden on the General Fund Budget.

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any expense above \$10,000 needs to be approved at a special or annual Congregational meeting.

COMMITTEE & STAFF REPORTS

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As we reflect on 2024, we are grateful for the many blessings that have strengthened our faith, fellowship, and service. Below are key highlights of the year:

- **75th Anniversary Celebration:**

We celebrated our 75th anniversary with a worship service and meal, honoring our church's history and the faithful work of those before us.

- **Community Building:**

Fellowship remained central to our church life through potlucks, "Refuel" meals, Easter brunch, and outdoor events, deepening connections within our congregation.

- **Food Pantry Ministry:**

Our food pantry continued to support those in need, thanks to the generosity of our congregation.

- **Nations to Neighbors Program:**

This year, we supported the resettlement of refugees who have entered the country legally, embodying our mission to care for strangers among us.

- **SAIL Program (Staying Active and Independent for Life):**

We introduced the SAIL program to help seniors stay active and independent, fostering connection within the church.

- **Family Promise:**

We partnered with other local churches to support Family Promise, providing shelter and meals to homeless families.

- **Outreach and Community Support:**

We assisted with the St. John's United outdoor concert, distributed 16 Thanksgiving food baskets, and gathered gifts for families in need during Christmas.

- **Welcoming New Staff:**

Kim joined our team as office assistant, bringing organizational skills and a welcoming presence.

- **Stewardship and Faithful Giving:**

Through the "Impossible Promise of Enough" stewardship program, your generosity helped us meet budgeted expenses and continue our mission.

- **Bishop Laurie's Visit:**

We welcomed Bishop Laurie for a visit, which included a pie social and discussion about the Montana Synod's challenges and opportunities.

As we look to 2025, we are excited for what God will do through our church. We remain committed to serving others and are grateful for each of you who make Peace Lutheran a caring community.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our ministry.

Jeff Murray
Council President

PASTOR

It is nearly impossible to remember everything that happens in a year of ministry. In acknowledgement of this fact, the way I create this Annual Report is by going back through the reports that I shared with the Congregational Council through the months of the previous year. I figure, if it was important to mention then, it is probably important to mention in my yearly review.

What a gift this practice has become! Because I can't remember everything we have done together as a congregation, the reminders provided by the previous twelve months' reports are a huge blessing. It's like opening up a treasure chest full of meaningful items and going back through them to revisit the associated memories. I hope these reminders are as much a gift to you as they have been to me.

Here are a few of those memories I would like to share:

Peace 75th Anniversary Celebration

October 3, 2024 marked the anniversary of Peace's incorporation seventy-five years prior. We had a wonderful anniversary service the following Sunday in which we welcomed Pastor Kay Wittman, Director of Evangelical Mission for the Montana Synod of the ELCA, who helped us mark the occasion. Pastor Kay and I shared a dialogue-style sermon, in which we discussed the history of Peace, moments in the larger culture, and God's grace through it all. Lunch was catered, Ann Barsness and Eddy Popp shared memories of their experiences at Peace, and we displayed mementos from the past. As we looked back, we also dreamed of the future, a future in which Peace continues to follow God's call in the lives of its members. Here's to another 75 and more!

Youth Communion Classes

Peace held First Communion classes in preparation for a First Communion service on Maundy Thursday 2024. Kids and their parents joined for fellowship, education, and fun over a number of weeks in the spring. We communed six children for the first time during Holy Week, and celebrated this momentous occasion in the lives of our children.

Bishop Visit

Bishop Laurie Jungling of the Montana Synod visited Peace in April 2024. This was the first visit from a bishop in recent memory, and Peace was delighted to host her. Bishop Laurie gave a memorable sermon about being a sheep, and conducted an adult forum in which she shared about ministry happenings at the Synod level. The congregational Life committee hosted a Pie Social, and we all had chances to ask questions and hold discussion around the bishop's address.

Youth Ministry Transition

In April, we celebrated a decade of youth ministry led by our beloved Vanessa Steiger. In July, we bid her well wishes as she moved into different ministry focuses with American Lutheran Church. During the interim, the Education/Youth Committee (now Education/Youth & Family Committee) saw changes in membership, stepped up to continue providing excellent ministry to our youth, and supported me in our search for a new Director of Youth & Family Ministry. We excitedly closed the year announcing that our new staffperson, Natalie Olson, would begin the first Monday of January 2025. Through all this, God sustained this important ministry and reminded us that not only are the youth the future of the church, they are the present as well. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." (Matthew 19:14)

Change of Administrative Assistant

The main office at Peace saw challenges in 2023 and early 2024. Dean Jenson retired in early 2023. Sue Vigesaa served a short tenure through the end of 2023. The first quarter of 2024 saw Vanessa, volunteers, and I filling gaps the best we could as we searched for a new Administrative Assistant. Eventually, we hired Kim Braaton, who began April 2, 2024. Kim has blessed Peace with her work for eight months now, and has shared her joy and appreciation for the people of Peace.

New Member Classes and Welcome

On Pentecost weekend, we welcomed eight new members to the congregation. In preparation for doing so, we provided a short, two-week course discussing Lutheran Theology, history, and Peace Lutheran's history and ministries. These new members have already contributed to the life of Peace in a number of ways, including volunteering, leading committees, and sharing generous financial offerings. We will welcome new members again in January 2025, and hope to continue building the community at Peace through all our members, guests, visitors, and volunteers.

Nations to Neighbors

Through the fall months of 2024, Peace hosted Nations to Neighbors (N2N), providing office space and areas for conducting an after-school program. This partnership had its challenges to work out, but also served to bless both parties as we envisioned what cross-cultural understanding and care can look like. Unfortunately, due to funding and time/space constraints, Peace and N2N will not continue this same partnership in 2025, but we do hope to continue to support their ministry financially and with volunteers and resources as we are able.

Stewardship Series

In October and November, the Abundant Life Committee helped me conduct a five-week Stewardship Series, in which we discussed the "Impossible Promise of Enough." With this series, we shared how God kept God's promises to the Israelites throughout the Hebrew Bible, how God shared God's blessings through the ministry of Jesus Christ, and how we continue to live in the promises God has shared with all God's people. We saw an excellent response in our Estimate of Giving Cards and feel we are on good financial footing to end 2024 and spring into 2025. We will continue revisiting the theme of stewardship throughout the year, as we remind each other God's extraordinary promises continue to come true in our lives!

Conclusion

As I wrote in my letter, success in ministry can be difficult to define. However, I have tried to do that exact thing here. As you read my words, and all the words, facts, and figures to come, you will hopefully see a snapshot of another wonderful year of ministry at Peace Lutheran Church. It is impossible to capture every moment in a report, even a report as robust as this booklet. But rest assured, 2024 was an excellent year for Peace, and we are carrying strong momentum into 2025. May God continue to richly bless us all!

Peace,



ABUNDANT LIFE COMMITTEE

The Abundant Life Committee is a combination of stewardship and evangelism. We established a visitation program for those who are shut-ins and cannot attend church very often. Committee members were assigned names on the list and were responsible for follow-up phone calls and visitations (with communion) if desired. We also sent each person on the list a Christmas card on behalf of the church. We utilized a new stewardship program this year that included 5 weeks of sermon content by Pastor Seth. The presentations went very well.

We helped volunteer at one of the St. John's summer concerts, participated in some Wednesday night youth dinners and a Lent soup supper.

This next year we will continue to concentrate on our member visitations, the stewardship program, refuel meals on Wednesday nights, St. John's summer concert program, the Consecration dinner and other requests we may get for the benefit of Peace Lutheran Church.

Committee members- Bob Bakko, Mike Brown, Pastor Seth, Jeff Murray. Bob Peterson, Danny Quanbeck, and Rhonda Sappington.

Blessings to all,
Bob Peterson, Chair

ALTAR GUILD FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance from December 31, 2023 Report **\$5,411.76**

Income

Memorial Donations January 2024-December 2024

Karen Johnson	\$20.00
Kathy Gilbertson	\$50.00
Gift to Altar Guild	\$30.00

Expenses & Disbursements

Clavinova (Memorial Fund)	\$1,887.26
New Christmas Tree (Altar Guild)	\$538.20
Food Pantry (Memorial)	\$50.00
Peace Food Pantry (Memorial)	\$789.03
Peace Youth Group (Memorial)	\$789.03

Ending Balance

Report balanced to December 30, 2024 Statement **\$1458.24**

Breakdown of Ending Balance

Altar Guild Funds	\$1,458.24
Memorial Funds	\$0.00
Total	\$1,458.24

Memorial Funds will no longer be included with Altar Guild account.
They will be shown in the list of Designated Funds.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

The Congregational Life Committee has the responsibility of planning and providing events for fellowship among the members of our congregation and in our community. These opportunities hope to nourish and strengthen our relationship with God and Jesus. Over the past year these events included the following:

Annual Meeting Potluck	Coffee Hour Fellowship
Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner	Lenten Soup Suppers
Easter Continental Breakfast	Peace in the Park Barbeque
Rally Day Participation	Lutefisk Dinner
Peace 75th Anniversary Celebration	Youth Corned Beef Meal
Caroling	Helping as needed with Refuel Meals

Congregational Life is thankful for the generosity of the Peace members. A special thanks to Bob Gilbertson for preparing the corned beef and cabbage dinner as a fund raiser for the Youth Fund. The members of Peace graciously donated to the 75th Anniversary celebration, allowing the event to be funded without using money from the Peace budget. The annual Lutefisk dinner was a remarkable success. Thank you to Bob Gilbertson, Mike Brown, Nate Sider, the youth kids, Ann Barsness, Sylvia Peterson, Dean and Peggy Welliever, and Muriel Overstreet for helping the Congregational Life Committee with the meal. Overall, for the Lutefisk dinner and the 75th events, there was a surplus of funds. \$259.10 from the anniversary and \$2,165.16 from the Lutefisk dinner, combined for a total of \$2,424.26. This net balance was divided equally and donated to Habitat for Humanity, ELCA Hurricane Relief Fund, Peace Quilters, and the Peace Christikon Scholarship Fund.

The committee's duties also included developing and supporting the monthly serving committees, stocking the kitchen with needed supplies (thank you to lone Bloom for her time in this area) and updating member information for a church directory.

The Young Parent/Family Group continued with their monthly events. This group offers bi-monthly gatherings for young families to enjoy a meal, have fellowship and establish relationships with each other. The group meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:30. Childcare is provided. A special thank you to Katrina Ramage for planning and organizing this wonderful group.

Overall, it was a busy, blessed year for the Congregational Life Committee. Thank you to the members: Molly Johnson, Debbie Sider, Jeff Murray, Melissa Sider, Joan Brown, lone Bloom, and Pastor Seth.

The committee would like to thank the members of Peace for participating in and supporting congregational fellowship.

Blessings,
Holli Miller, Committee Chair

EDUCATION/YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE

It has been a year of transition, discernment, excitement, and fun for the Education/ Youth & Family Ministries Committee!

Last winter we experimented with “Super Sundays.” It turned out not to be quite what we hoped, but we had a very fun intergenerational Valentine party and visit from Zoo Montana while we tried it out! Proceeds from the Fat Tuesday pancake feed and BINGO night supported the Parents of Peace Group. On St. Patrick’s Day we held another wonderful Youth Fundraiser dinner. Thanks to master chef Bob Gilbertson for cooking the corned beef & cabbage, as well as everyone who donated a fabulous dessert for the auction. Thanks to your generosity, we raised enough money to send NINE kids to Christikon this summer. As they shared during Youth Worship this fall, it was an amazing experience for each camper from Peace. (And we learned the church van can handle the Boulder Road well!)

This summer brought another successful week of Vacation Bible School, where 24 volunteers served 87 participants. After our first ever “Peace at the Pool” trip to the Oasis, we bid farewell and Godspeed on new adventures to Vanessa. We are thankful for her 10+ years of ministry at Peace! We also experienced some turnover in committee members. It has been exciting to welcome new voices and dream about the future together. Much of the work that the committee has been doing in the last half of 2024 is covering volunteer needs for Wednesday Nights, re-visioning the roles of the committee and a new Youth Minister, and planning for a new Sunday School program. Thanks to everyone who completed the survey this fall to help our discernment.

We are very proud of all the youth who were involved in leading the camp-themed worship this fall, and the Christmas Program in December. From sharing a message, leading songs, collecting offering, or helping usher, we love seeing kids participate in worship! Children’s messages the last couple of months of the year focused on different parts of worship and why we do what we do.

Older youth also had the opportunity to visit other ELCA congregations in Billings as they participated in the monthly Lutheran youth collective and joined King of Glory youth on “Mystery Bus” service project outings.

On Wednesday nights, the Peace Pals (Kindergarten - 4th grade) follow the lectionary Bible stories each week, with lots of games and crafts along the way. The Peace Youth (4th grade and up) began a new “Echo the Story” curriculum, which involves reflective listening, journaling, and drawing as they make their way through the Biblical story. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has volunteered as a second adult during lessons, driven the van, or provided ReFuel meals this year! Another huge thank you to Melissa Sider for coordinating all the volunteers in the absence of youth staff. We are always excited to welcome new volunteers; it is a fantastic way to get to know the kids of the church and develop intergenerational faith relationships.

Another opportunity to connect with kids is providing childcare once a month for the Peace Parents group. The group moved from Congregational Life to the Youth & Family Ministry Committee this year. Our community is growing! Several new families have joined in the last few months, and it is such a joy to see young families build friendships and deepen their connection to the church. Some of our “Family Fun” events in 2024 included: crafting T-shirts, Valentines, and gingerbread houses,

Trips to the Zoo, a baseball game, and an alpaca ranch, and potlucks, cookouts, and Friendsgiving at each other’s homes. We also held a “Stuff Swap” for hand-me-downs, a “book swap” for summer reading, and our first ever mom’s night out. In addition to our monthly Family Fun Events and Parent’s Nights at the church, in 2024 we added Parent’s Night Out opportunities and monthly stay-at-home parent playdates.

In 2025, the Education/Youth & Family Ministry Committee is looking forward to collaborating with our awesome new Director of Youth & Family Ministries, Natalie! We are so excited to welcome her to Peace. New in 2025 will be offering envelopes for kids, as another opportunity to learn and participate in worship. We also purchased materials for a Montessori-based Sunday School program called “Godly Play.” In the new year, we will be sharing more about this program, as well as opportunities for the congregation to help implement it. We are looking for woodworkers & crafters to help create learning materials, as well as financial support to train volunteers in the Godly Play theory. It’s going to be another wonderful year of faith, fellowship, learning, and fun! Thank you for all the ways you support Youth and Family Ministries at Peace.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katrina Ramage, Co-Chair

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

In 2024 the Endowment Trust Fund had a net income of \$2,311.49. The Committee made the decision to distribute the income to the Interests listed below.

Christikon Camperships for Peace Youth	\$500.00
Peace Quilters	\$500.00
Nations to Neighbors	\$500.00
Peace Lutheran General Fund	\$500.00
Re-Invested in Endowment Trust	\$311.49

Melissa Sider, Dave Draeger, Kristi Bummer, Greg Popp and Dean Welliever are the committee members. The committee encourages anyone in the congregation to discuss with them the benefits of investing in the Endowment Trust. Future plans are in place to provide public presentations on the purpose of Endowment Trusts and how your investments can be a benefit to many people for many years in the future. Feel free to contact any member individually or the committee as a whole if you have any questions or interests in the Endowment Trust.

Thank you,
Dean Welliever, Treasurer

MISSION AND SERVICE COMMITTEE

As part of the Reaching Out portion of Peace's Mission Statement, the Mission and Service Committee identifies and provides opportunities for Peace members to serve others, doing God's Work with Our Hands. The Bible says "And do not forget to do good and to share with others for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:16). Thank you to all the members for your continued willingness to demonstrate your faith in this way.

The congregation of Peace Lutheran Church did a wonderful job of serving our brothers and sisters in Christ. 2024 Reaching Out included:

Food Pantry: supplied and distributed 33,148 pounds of food with 1,398 volunteer hours. The Pantry saw 2,157 visitors and served a total of 6,592 in need.

All Congregational Days of Service: Peace members, volunteering 30 hours of service, made 380 sandwiches for Salvation Army.

Family Promise: We continue to house homeless families through the Family Promise program. When families are at the church, Peace members volunteer to bring meals, spend the night, set up beds, tear down beds, and do laundry. We partner with First English and Bethlehem Lutheran in this ministry. It takes a village to support these families. Family Promise has a high rate of success. Ann Barsness has been the coordinator for this program for many years. She retired in September. Thanks to Ann for all her years of service. Debbie Smith and Jan Bakko are the new coordinators for Family Promise at Peace.

Promoted monetary donations locally, nationally, and globally through Souper Bowl of Caring (\$248.85), Lenten offerings, Buck a Chick (\$555.22), and shipment of quilts.

Lenten offerings supported the following causes:

Lutheran World Relief	\$930.00
Family Service	\$287.00
MRM	\$362.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$376.00
Amani for Africa	\$293.00
Friendship House	\$242.00

Family Service Backpacks: assembled school backpacks for distribution for a total of 12 volunteers and 24 volunteer hours.

Adopt a teacher: Peace congregational members were able to assist teachers in setting up classrooms at Highlands Elementary school. Six hours of time were donated by congregation members.

Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets: Donated meal items, assembled and delivered Thanksgiving baskets to 16 families. Due to the generosity of the congregation, grocery and gas gift cards were included for each dinner basket recipient. The total basket offerings were \$1,131.24.

In As Much Tree: Our congregation generously adopted one family from Family Promise at Christmas.

Thank you to the Peace members who spent approximately 1,398 hours in service Reaching Out doing God's work with Their Hands. We pray we continue to recognize those in need and continue to serve in God's name. The Mission and Service Committee meets monthly, new ideas are always welcome. Committee members for 2024: Pastor Seth Ramage, Ann and Erl Barsness, Linda and Paul Strosky, Nancy Taylor, Rick and Barb Olson, Paula Jackson, Rich Robbins, Jan Bakko, and Debbie Smith. Thank you to Rich Robbins who was the chair of this committee in 2024.

Submitted by Debbie Smith, Committee member

PEACE QUILTERS

The Peace Quilters continue in their mission of helping others as one of Peace's main outreaches. 10-12 members meet 3 or 4 times every month to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and enjoy each other in fellowship. The ingathering of quilts is in May and we boxed and sent 160 quilts in 2024. 2 quilts were given to the Christikon Auction, 2 to the Rescue Mission, 2 to St John's Dignity program and Vanessa was given one as a farewell gift. We also raffled 2 quilts to donate the proceeds to LWR for shipping quilts to disaster areas. Another quilt was raffled to raise funds for batting and other needed supplies since the cost of batting and shipping went up this past year. Thank you to those who used their Thrivent Action Team cards for the purchase of supplies since we've doubled the number of quilts being made and are using twice the amount of batting. Thank you also to all who continue to donate to our fabric supply. The quilters meet every Wednesday from 9:00-12:00, except the 3rd Wednesday of each month during the school year. No skills are needed and we would love to have you join us in helping others.

Submitted by Cinda Robbins, Quilter

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Minor repairs and updates were necessary throughout the year to maintain our grounds and building. We entered a contract with Jayret Lawn & Landscape for watering, mowing, and snow removal. We replaced the upstairs women's commode with a handicap-accessible fixture. We placed doors on the storage room off of the Fellowship Hall and painted them to match the colors of the trim and walls. We replaced the deadbolts in the downstairs bathroom to help ensure privacy for those using the bathrooms. We removed vines that were covering our furnace intakes and relandscaped the area around the air conditioning units.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Congregational Clean-Up Days in March and December. Your help in keeping our space clean and maintained is greatly appreciated!

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Morning Bible Study met regularly throughout the year at 9:00 am. We started 2024 with the final chapters of a study on C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*. In the Spring months, we transitioned to a study on the Prophetic Books of the Hebrew Bible before taking Summer Break. After the break, we finished our study of the prophets and began working through Paul's letter to the Romans.

For the first few weeks of 2025, we will finish our study on Romans. If you're interested in a fun, sometimes challenging, sometimes silly group of folks to read the Bible with, we encourage you to join us on Thursday mornings at 9:00am in the fellowship hall. We'll have the coffee on!

Peace,
Pastor Seth

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee serves the congregation of Peace Lutheran Church in Billings, Montana and its visitors through word, sacraments, and song. The congregation worshipped every Saturday and Sunday via Facebook, The Peace Website, Channel 7 TV and in person Led by Pastor Seth Ramage, guest preachers, Youth Director, and lay leaders. Office Manager Kim Braaton also deserves a huge thank you for her part in making worship available online and ministering through slide show visuals. Our Keyboardists, Robin Goodheart, John Goodheart, Dulais Rhys and Kerry Ellertson were faithful in using their gifts of music for our services. Katrina Ramage helped with children sermon's throughout the fall. All are a blessing to our congregation and will be the reason that worship continued with this year with reference to our God

We used the Revised Common Lectionary for the entire year. Multiple Liturgies were celebrated for worship. Those included several from the ELW, Lenten worship was lead with the Night Prayer, Compline with leaders and congregation singing acapella. The kids with the help of Pastor Seth and Katrina Ramage lead the congregation with a special Christmas program. The Holden Evening Service was every Wednesday during Advent, Katrina Ramage, Wendy Goodheart, Ann Barsness, Dave Draeger, Molly Johnson, and I lead this worship. We worshipped outside one weekend in August. We continue our 13th St. Worship on Good Friday in 2025. This long-time relationship with First Presbyterian Church has been a blessing to the neighborhood.

Those who served as worship assistants, lectors, keyboardists, organists, musicians, ushers, communion assistants, power point and camera operators were ever faithful and always appreciated. Members of the band lead by John Goodheart included Pastor Seth, Molly Johnson, Rhonda Sappington, Paul Strosky, Wendy Goodheart, Justin Pierce, and Jacob Pierce. Bells of Peace took a break in the fall after some medical concerns that dogged the group. We hope to begin a new with new ringers and experienced in February of 2025. Wendy, Ann, Pastor Seth, occasional visitors Robin, John and Erl Barsness continued to be faithful members of the Worship Committee at Peace. We thank each of these for their commitment, time, and service.

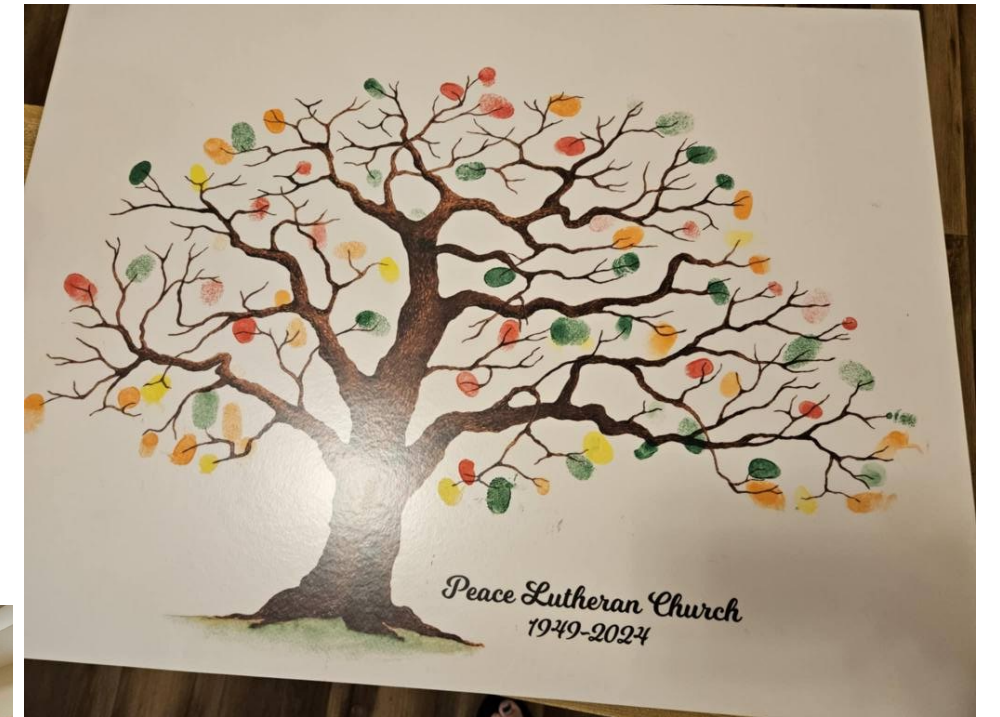
Peace, See you in worship,
Julie Draeger, Worship Committee Chair

WOMEN OF PEACE

WOMEN OF PEACE			
2023 & 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT			
INCOME		EXPENSES	
LWR SHIPPING	\$2,232.50	MARTHA CIRCLE STEWARDSHIP	\$100.00
MARTHA CIRCLE	\$45.50	RALLY SUNDAY	\$67.11
MARTHA STEWARDSHIP	\$127.50	MT SWO OFFERING	\$176.25
RUTH CIRCLE	\$108.00	KATIE STEWARDSHIP	\$199.00
RUTH STEWARDSHIP	\$108.00	RUTH STEWARDSHIP	\$108.00
LUKE FUND	\$180.44	LWR SHIPPING	\$2,232.50
KATIE CIRCLE	\$199.00	QUILTING SUPPLIES	\$402.40
KATIE STEWARDSHIP	\$199.00		
QUILTING	\$504.00		
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,703.94	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,285.26
LEDGER ACCOUNTS			
LUKE FUND	\$2,297.76		
KITCHEN FUND	\$4.67	BALANCE ON HAND 12/31/21	\$4,717.87
FUNERAL LUNCHEON	\$17.00	TOTAL INCOME FOR 2023 & 2024	\$3,703.94
QUILTING	\$1,028.60	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,285.26
LWR SHIPPING	\$0.00	BALANCE 12/31/24	\$5,136.55
RETREAT FUND	\$189.33		
SHEPHERD CLUSTER	\$478.00	*ABOVE BALANCE DOES NOT INCLUDE THE \$25	
MARTHA STEWARDSHIP	\$27.50	TOTAL REQUIRED FOR THE SAVINGS ACCOUNT	
		AS IT IS NOT A SPENDABLE TOTAL.	
SPENDABLE	\$1,093.69		
TOTAL	\$5,136.55		

The Luke Fund is a fund to help our fellow members of our congregation when they need some financial help. This fund is used by our Pastors and the recipients names are kept confidential. This fund has helped many members of our congregation in need. The women of our church have started this mission and are proud to help our members in need.

Submitted by Connie Hausauer



2024 Congregational Statistics

Members Received

Janice Benge	Marilyn Bertsch
Gary & Arlene Elsom	Taryn Hauglie
Weyland & Dorothy Zeller	

Baptisms

Halvor Richard Quanbeck

Members Removed

By Death

Lillian Hausauer	Kathy Gilbertson
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By Transfer

Jean Graham	Andraya Hawks
Bernie & Debbie Hedrick	Bryan & Jodi Peterson
Brock Peterson	Bryce Peterson
Greta Peterson	Josie Peterson
Rich & Cinda Robbins	Vanessa Steiger

By Inactivity

Bob Bloom	Andrew Hayashida
Gayle Kingston	[Redacted]
Ben & Sue Vigesaa	

2024 Statistical Summary

I. Membership as of 12/31/2023		V. Pastoral Acts	
Baptized Members	215	Baptisms (children)	1
Confirmed Members	194	Confirmation (youth)	0
Voting Members	155	Funerals	2
		First Communion	6
II. Additions		Weddings	0
By baptism of children	1		
By baptism of adults	0	VI. Services	
By confirmation of youths	0	Sunday services	52
By confirmation of adults	0	Saturday services	50
By transfer/reinstatements	7	Special services	20
		Communion services	121
III. Losses		VII. Average Attendance at Weekly Worship	X
Release of Membership	17		
Deaths	2	VIII. Net Gain/Loss in Membership	
IV. Current Membership as of 12/31/2024		Baptized Net Loss	13
Baptized Members	202	Confirmed Net Loss	13
Confirmed Members	181	Voting Net Loss	6
Voting Members	149		

Monthly Offerings

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	\$18,986	\$22,248	\$27,946	\$18,261	\$15,109	\$15,458
February	\$21,745	\$20,484	\$17,295	\$18,330	\$14,506	\$18,545
March	\$42,482	\$24,978	\$25,047	\$19,493	\$14,615	\$34,152
April	\$21,700	\$19,295	\$25,271	\$24,728	\$36,060	\$20,134
May	\$18,161	\$29,609	\$36,689	\$46,795	\$15,818	\$19,273
June	\$24,620	\$27,157	\$13,790	\$15,866	\$13,751	\$22,441
July	\$15,460	\$17,508	\$18,945	\$20,830	\$19,117	\$20,951
August	\$19,674	\$21,719	\$19,343	\$22,194	\$25,433	\$28,485
September	\$26,213	\$17,742	\$15,806	\$18,511	\$17,700	\$18,545
October	\$16,826	\$20,964	\$22,594	\$21,140	\$21,464	\$17,118
November	\$19,999	\$26,236	\$28,249	\$23,522	\$20,324	\$43,780
December	\$42,300	\$26,797	\$21,985	\$48,801	\$46,422	\$56,615
TOTALS	\$288,166	\$274,737	\$272,960	\$298,471	\$260,318	\$315,497

Average Weekly Worship Attendance

<i>Not including Online or Television Viewership</i>								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
January	138	142	135	142	n/a	81	98	82
February	135	162	111	141	n/a	70	88	92
March	210	190	168	101	n/a	77	89	92
April	226	170	203	n/a	97	117	124	96
May	140	127	136	n/a	86	116	102	88
June	128	117	132	n/a	116	83	80	76
July	133	108	117	n/a	52	80	91	88
August	120	119	103	n/a	70	86	91	78
September	126	137	132	n/a	73	98	97	93
October	145	136	126	n/a	70	92	96	89
November	134	135	141	n/a	77	89	90	80
December	183	205	202	n/a	112	108	122	102
Average	151	145	142	128	63	91	97	88

Peace Lutheran Church Designated Offering	
	12/31/2024
Amani For Africa - Lent	0.00
Adult Education	5.77
Bells Of Peace	100.00
Benevolence	0.00
Buck-A-Chick	0.00
Building Fund	2,453.69
Christikon Camp Scholarships	606.00
Christikon Staff Endowment	0.00
Coffee & Donuts	67.30
Consecration Brunch	318.00
Cookie Postage	343.24
Council Discretion	0.00
Easter Brunch	70.48
ELCA World Hunger	0.00
Endowment of Peace	0.00
Family Promise - Yellowstone	0.00
Family Promise - Internal	479.23
Family Service - Lent	0.00
Food Pantry	10,583.16
Friendship House - Lent	0.00
Funeral Fund	853.73
Good Samaritan Fund	1,969.51
Habitat For Humanity	606.00
In As Much Tree (Family Promise)	138.95
Kitchen Supplies Fund	182.32

Lutefisk Dinner	0.00
Luke Fund (Women of Peace)	0.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	0.00
Lutheran World Relief - Lent	0.00
Meals On Wheels	0.00
Memorials	0.00
Montana Rescue Mission - Lent	0.00
Nursery	166.28
Palms	0.00
Parents of Peace	104.35
Pastor's Continuation Study	35.02
Quilting/Shipping - Women of Peace	606.26
Refuel Meals	630.58
75th Anniversary Celebration	0.00
75 Anniversary - T-shirts	0.00
Souper Bowl Of Caring - Food Pantry	0.00
Thanksgiving Baskets	717.75
Tim Magee Memorial Fund - MOW	6,337.00
TV Ministry	35.01
Van Fund	1,028.23
Youth Fund - Brawl of the Wild	0.00
Youth Fund - Loaves & Fish	809.25
Youth Fund - Halloween	192.16
Youth Fund - Hygeine Kits	350.00
Youth Fund	7,185.25
Youth Fund-Scholarship	2,847.04
TOTALS	\$39,821.56

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH BUDGET 2025								
	2022	2023	2024	2025	Year To Date Actual			
CATEGORY	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
REVENUES								
Unrestricted Offering	314,150.00	324,884.00	331,900.00	293,783.50	314,614.67	265,655.63	269,150.66	270,304.51
Interest Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	178.30	173.42	73.60	18.38
Building Use Donation	<u>721.00</u>	<u>747.00</u>	<u>819.60</u>	<u>960.00</u>	<u>1,220.00</u>	<u>819.60</u>	<u>916.00</u>	<u>721.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	314,871.00	325,631.00	332,719.60	294,743.50	316,012.97	266,648.65	270,140.26	271,043.89
EXPENDITURES								
PERSONNEL								
Pastor Salary/Housing	58,700.00	60,719.00	63,371.00	65,808.00	66,108.45	62,218.84	36,123.04	37,416.52
Pastor SS Offset	4,147.02	4,289.66	4,477.02	4,649.19	4,649.13	4,289.48	2,552.00	2,643.35
Auto/Staff	2,800.00	2,800.00	2,800.00	2,800.00	252.86	1,916.97	405.14	134.99
Pension and Medical	31,172.00	32,700.00	34,263.00	36,546.00	33,298.18	32,412.40	17,534.71	22,616.51
Substitute Pastor	12,000.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,750.00	1,725.00	825.00	3,970.00	9,140.00
Intern Pastor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,397.19
Conference & Convention	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,700.00	2,200.00	866.00	2,169.23	675.00	90.00
Pastor's Continuation Study	700.00	700.00	3,600.00	4,700.00	4,676.90	173.78	145.59	0.00
Office Manager	31,719.00	34,320.00	36,465.00	19,295.00	12,018.50	35,006.56	32,837.75	32,156.99
Office Manager Pension & Medical	3,330.00	13,119.00	13,461.00	0.00	0.00	12,005.90	3,089.18	2,997.96
Office Manager Insurance Offset	6,879.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,879.60	6,768.00
Maintenance Person	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	679.80	289.28	1,514.15
Worship Accompanist	8,500.00	8,500.00	8,500.00	8,500.00	7,670.00	6,825.00	7,400.00	5,925.00
Youth Director	26,791.00	28,131.00	29,889.00	29,250.00	22,072.68	32,566.52	26,790.92	28,009.88
Youth Director Pension & Medical	8,365.00	8,526.00	8,608.00	0.00	5,664.29	8,463.25	8,082.02	8,346.42
Continuing Education	600.00	600.00	600.00	1,000.00	580.54	860.76	548.20	55.52
Music Assistance	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	206.92	100.00	0.00	0.00
FICA	6,779.05	5,576.42	5,876.95	4,538.77	2,551.22	5,872.22	5,644.23	5,764.22
Workers Compensation	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>800.00</u>	<u>800.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>802.44</u>	<u>700.79</u>	<u>515.07</u>	<u>1,248.70</u>
Total Personnel	207,132.67	203,251.08	215,880.97	182,386.95	163,143.11	207,086.50	153,481.73	175,225.40
BENEVOLENCE								
ELCA - Montana Synod (4%)	18,849.00	19,493.04	13,276.00	11,751.34	13,031.00	15,903.00	14,649.00	16,384.00
Quarterly Gift (6%)	15,707.50	16,244.20	19,914.00	17,627.01	17,319.00	8,993.00	10,320.00	10,877.50
Family Promise	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Habitat For Humanity	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Benevolence	37,056.50	38,237.24	34,690.00	30,878.35	31,850.00	27,396.00	27,469.00	29,761.50
PROPERTY								
Office Equipment	1,500.00	500.00	900.00	900.00	26.49	5,841.19	1,502.98	599.99
Church - Maintenance	11,000.00	30,000.00	12,000.00	10,000.00	7,540.96	36,593.94	11,155.00	3,472.53
Janitorial Service	5,500.00	5,500.00	7,800.00	7,722.00	7,605.00	5,965.00	4,900.00	5,300.00
Real Estate Taxes	600.00	850.00	880.00	890.00	860.81	841.57	671.45	549.68
Bi Annual Deep Cleaning	1,500.00	600.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance - Church	6,601.00	7,008.00	8,683.00	9,128.00	8,683.00	7,008.00	6,601.00	6,255.00
Van Operation & Insurance	5,280.00	5,280.00	5,280.00	2,500.00	1,824.64	1,625.41	1,604.92	0.00
Office Supplies	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00	5,942.33	6,633.44	4,267.02	3,180.88
Church - Utilities	11,583.00	11,000.00	15,000.00	12,400.00	12,236.82	13,874.59	11,430.52	9,862.08
Building Reserve Fund	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lawn Mowing/Snow Removal	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,500.00	4,235.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Service Agreements	<u>2,110.00</u>	<u>2,240.00</u>	<u>3,740.00</u>	<u>5,650.00</u>	<u>3,007.45</u>	<u>2,294.17</u>	<u>2,151.23</u>	<u>1,316.98</u>
Total Property	49,374.00	66,678.00	65,483.00	60,890.00	54,962.50	80,677.31	44,284.12	30,537.14

EDUCATION/YOUTH & FAMILY								
Refuel Meals	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	335.76	813.32	0.00	0.00
Confirmation /1st Communion	1,200.00	200.00	500.00	500.00	12.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vacation Bible School	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,329.72	2,413.07	1,906.81	781.15
Sunday School	200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,153.63	593.28	624.90	225.64
Adult Education	200.00	200.00	200.00	500.00	427.06	444.93	210.16	0.00
Bibles	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	252.94	319.12	91.96	0.00
Mission Trip	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parents Group	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,051.49	2,514.02	2,007.57	2,045.38
Total Education/Youth	6,400.00	6,400.00	7,300.00	7,600.00	6,563.58	7,097.74	4,841.40	3,052.17
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE								
Gifts	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	337.69
Funeral Reception	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	100.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	104.88	1,191.07	10,219.98	1,075.25
Devotional Books	550.00	600.00	800.00	800.00	568.00	568.00	506.40	506.40
Consecration Brunch	1,200.00	2,100.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00	1,920.00	1,900.00	0.00
Peace 75th Anniversary	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Congregational Life	2,050.00	3,000.00	2,600.00	3,600.00	672.88	3,679.07	12,626.38	1,919.34
ABUNDANT LIFE								
Stewardship Supplies	400.00	400.00	510.00	600.00	583.00	0.00	374.70	325.55
Advertising/Gazette/Locator	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	435.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Evangelism Supplies	800.00	800.00	800.00	800.00	115.96	220.00	200.00	357.68
Peace Web Site	<u>300.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>795.43</u>	<u>264.00</u>
Total Abundant Life	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,810.00	1,900.00	1,133.96	220.00	1,370.13	947.23
MISSION AND SERVICE								
Family Promise Hosting	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00	337.34	0.00	0.00
Service Days, Supplies & Postage	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Mission and Service	100.00	100.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	337.34	0.00	0.00
WORSHIP								
Christian Copyright License	1,250.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,391.15	1,364.00	1,325.00	1,251.00
Worship Supplies	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	690.87	978.55	966.02	643.59
Media Ministry	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	321.16	464.97	0.00	0.00
Music Supplies	150.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	25.00	136.18	200.75	52.45
Instrument Upkeep	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Worship	3,300.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	2,428.18	2,943.70	2,491.77	1,947.04
Call Committee	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,501.26	3,576.85
FINANCE								
Check charges	900.00	900.00	900.00	1,300.00	1,082.65	1,050.49	843.94	718.65
Accounting	<u>2,040.00</u>	<u>2,040.00</u>	<u>2,280.00</u>	<u>2,280.00</u>	<u>1,980.00</u>	<u>2,210.00</u>	<u>1,870.00</u>	<u>2,040.00</u>
Total Finance	2,940.00	2,940.00	3,180.00	3,580.00	3,062.65	3,260.49	2,713.94	2,758.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	314,853.16	325,606.32	334,843.97	294,735.30	263,816.86	332,698.15	251,779.73	249,725.32
NET INCOME (LOSS)	17.84	24.68	(2,124.37)	8.20	52,196.11	(66,049.50)	18,360.53	21,318.57

2024 / 2025 Budget Comparison				
(Does not include designated monies)				
CATEGORY	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	%	2025 Budget
REVENUES				
Unrestricted Offering	331,900.00	314,614.67	95%	293,783.50
Interest Income	0.00	178.30	2%	0.00
Building Use Donation	819.60	1,220.00	149%	960.00
TOTAL REVENUES	332,719.60	316,012.97	95%	294,743.50
EXPENDITURES				
PERSONNEL				
Pastor Salary/Housing	63,371.00	66,108.45	104%	65,808.00
Pastor SS Offset	4,477.02	4,649.13	104%	4,649.19
Auto/Pastoral	2,800.00	252.86	9%	2,800.00
Pension and Medical	34,263.00	33,298.18	97%	36,546.00
Substitute Pastor	1,320.00	1,725.00	131%	1,750.00
Conference & Convention	1,700.00	866.00	51%	2,200.00
Pastor's Continuation Study	3,600.00	4,676.90	130%	4,700.00
Office Manager	36,465.00	12,018.50	33%	19,295.00
Office Manager Pension	13,461.00	0.00	0%	0.00
Worship Accompanist	8,500.00	7,670.00	90%	8,500.00
Youth Director	29,889.00	22,072.68	74%	29,250.00
Youth Director Pension & Medical	8,608.00	5,664.29	66%	0.00
Continuing Education	600.00	580.54	97%	1,000.00
Music Assistance	150.00	206.92	138%	150.00
FICA	5,876.95	2,551.22	43%	4,538.76
Workers Compensation	800.00	802.44	100%	1,200.00
Total Personnel	215,880.97	163,143.11	76%	182,386.95
BENEVOLENCE				
E.LCA - National Synod (4%)	13,276.00	13,031.00	98%	11,751.34
Quarterly Gift (4%)	19,914.00	17,319.00	87%	17,627.01
Family Promise	1,500.00	1,500.00	100%	1,500.00
Total Benevolence	34,690.00	31,850.00	92%	30,878.35
PROPERTY				
Office Equipment	900.00	26.49	3%	900.00
Church - Maintenance	12,000.00	7,540.96	63%	10,000.00
Janitorial Service	7,800.00	7,605.00	98%	7,722.00
Real Estate Taxes	880.00	860.81	98%	890.00
Bi Annual Deep Cleaning	500.00	0.00	0%	500.00
Insurance - Church	8,683.00	8,683.00	100%	9,128.00
Van Operation & Insurance	5,280.00	1,824.64	35%	2,500.00
Office Supplies	3,700.00	5,942.33	161%	3,700.00
Church - Utilities	15,000.00	12,236.82	82%	12,400.00
Building Reserve Fund	3,000.00	3,000.00	0%	3,000.00
Lawn Mowing/Snow Removal	4,000.00	4,235.00	0%	4,500.00
Service Agreements	3,740.00	3,007.45	80%	5,650.00
Total Property	65,483.00	54,962.50	84%	60,890.00

CATEGORY	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	%	2025 Budget
EDUCATION/YOUTH				
Refuel Meals	500.00	335.76	67%	500.00
Confirmation/1st Communion	500.00	12.98	3%	500.00
Vacation Bible School	2,000.00	2,329.72	116%	2,000.00
Sunday School	1,200.00	1,153.63	96%	1,200.00
Adult Education	200.00	427.06	214%	500.00
Bibles	300.00	252.94	84%	300.00
Parents Group	600.00	0.00	0%	600.00
Youth	2,000.00	2,051.49	103%	2,000.00
Total Education/Youth	7,300.00	6,563.58	90%	7,600.00
CONGREGATIONL LIFE				
Gifts	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00
Funeral Luncheon	100.00	0.00	0%	100.00
Miscellaneous	200.00	104.88	52%	200.00
Devotional Books	800.00	568.00	71%	800.00
Consecration Brunch	0.00	0.00	0%	2,500.00
Peace 75th Anniversary	1,500.00	0.00	0%	0.00
Total Congregational Life	2,600.00	672.88	26%	3,600.00
ABUNDANT LIFE				
Stewardship Supplies	510.00	583.00	114%	600.00
Advertising/Gazette/Locator	500.00	435.00	0%	500.00
Evangelism Supplies	800.00	115.96	14%	800.00
Peace Web Site	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00
Total Abundant Life	1,810.00	1,133.96	63%	1,900.00
MISSION AND SERVICE				
Family Promise Hosting	300.00	0.00	0%	300.00
Service Days, Supplies & Postage	100.00	0.00	0%	100.00
Total Mission and Service	400.00	0.00	0%	400.00
WORSHIP				
Christian Copyright License	1,400.00	1,391.15	99%	1,400.00
Worship Supplies	1,300.00	690.87	53%	1,300.00
Media Ministry	500.00	321.16	64%	500.00
Music Supplies	200.00	25.00	13%	200.00
Instrument Upkeep	100.00	0.00	0%	100.00
Total Worship	3,500.00	2,428.18	69%	3,500.00
FINANCE				
Check charges	900.00	1,082.65	120%	1,300.00
Accounting	2,280.00	1,980.00	87%	2,280.00
Total Finance	3,180.00	3,062.65	96%	3,580.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	334,843.97	263,816.86	79%	294,735.30
NET INCOME (LOSS)	-2,124.37	52,196.11		8.20

2024 ELCA Montana Monthly Giving Report

Annual Budgeted Goal = \$33,190.00

	ELCA	Qtrly Gifts	Total Giving	Total Paid	Total Paid To FP	Remaining Balance
Jan-24	\$621.00	\$925.00	\$1,546.00	\$621.00	\$0.00	\$925.00
Feb-24	\$743.00	\$1,110.00	\$1,853.00	\$743.00	\$0.00	\$1,110.00
Mar-24	\$1,368.00	\$2,046.00	\$3,414.00	\$1,368.00	\$0.00	\$2,046.00
Apr-24	\$792.00	\$1,185.00	\$1,977.00	\$6,058.00	\$0.00	(\$4,081.00)
May-24	\$771.00	\$1,156.00	\$1,927.00	\$771.00	\$0.00	\$1,156.00
Jun-24	\$897.00	\$1,340.00	\$2,237.00	\$897.00	\$0.00	\$1,340.00
Jul-24	\$830.00	\$1,248.00	\$2,078.00	\$830.00	\$0.00	\$1,248.00
Aug-24	\$1,141.00	\$1,708.00	\$2,849.00	\$1,141.00	\$0.00	\$1,708.00
Sep-24	\$740.00	\$1,108.00	\$1,848.00	\$6,192.00	\$0.00	(\$4,344.00)
Oct-24	\$678.00	\$1,016.00	\$1,694.00	\$678.00	\$0.00	\$1,016.00
Nov-24	\$1,750.00	\$2,628.00	\$4,378.00	\$1,750.00	\$0.00	\$2,628.00
Dec-24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,752.00	\$0.00	(\$4,752.00)
Total YTD	\$10,331.00	\$15,470.00	\$25,801.00	\$25,801.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Budget Surplus = **(\$7,389.00)**

Detail of Additional Designated \$:

<u>Jan</u> - \$329.13 = Christikon	<u>Feb</u> - \$329.13 = Christikon
\$329.13 = Lutheran World Relief	\$329.13 = Lutheran World Relief
\$329.13 = Freedom In Christ PM	\$329.13 = Freedom In Christ PM
\$329.13 = Friendship House of CS	\$329.13 = Friendship House of CS
<u>Mar</u> - \$329.13 = Christikon	<u>Apr</u> - \$329.11 = Christikon
\$329.13 = Lutheran World Relief	\$329.11 = Lutheran World Relief
\$329.13 = Freedom In Christ PM	\$329.11 = Freedom In Christ PM
\$329.13 = Friendship House of CS	\$329.11 = Friendship House of CS
<u>May</u> - \$340.75 = Christikon	<u>Jun</u> - \$340.75 = Christikon
\$340.75 = Lutheran World Relief	\$340.75 = Lutheran World Relief
\$340.75 = Good Samaritan Fund	\$340.75 = Good Samaritan Fund
\$340.75 = Friendship House of CS	\$340.75 = Friendship House of CS
<u>Jul</u> - \$340.75 = Christikon	<u>Aug</u> - \$340.75 = Christikon
\$340.75 = Lutheran World Relief	\$340.75 = Lutheran World Relief
\$340.75 = Good Samaritan Fund	\$340.75 = Good Samaritan Fund
\$340.75 = Friendship House of CS	\$340.75 = Friendship House of CS

<u>Sep</u> - \$277.00 = Christikon	<u>Oct</u> - \$254.00 = Christikon
\$277.00 = Lutheran World Relief	\$254.00 = Lutheran World Relief
\$277.00 = Food Pantry	\$254.00 = Food Pantry
\$277.00 = Friendship House of CS	\$254.00 = Friendship House of CS
<u>Nov</u> - \$657.00 = Christikon	<u>Dec</u> - \$0.00 = Christikon
\$657.00 = Lutheran World Relief	\$0.00 = Lutheran World Relief
\$657.00 = Food Pantry	\$0.00 = ?
\$657.00 = Friendship House of CS	\$0.00 = Friendship House of CS

Building Reserve Fund

(As of 12/31/2024)

12/31/2022	\$3,763.74	
2/17/2023	(\$971.97)	Ck to Lynnrich (Gutters)
4/19/2023	(\$2,335.00)	Ck to Tony Pecarina (Office Remodel Supplies)
6/20/2023	(\$456.77)	Ck to Tony Pecarina (Remaining partial payment on shed)
7/25/2023	\$4,000.00	Offering Donation
10/22/2023	\$571.93	Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Reimbursement
11/26/2023	(\$1,818.60)	Ck to Yellowstone Electric Co.
11/28/2023	(\$2,181.40)	Ck to ServPro of Billings
12/17/2023	\$1,881.76	Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Reimbursement
1/27/2024	\$44,478.65	House of Peace Fund Merge
12/31/2024	\$3,000.00	Yearly General Fund Allocation
Balance	\$49,932.34	

Christikon — Serving on behalf of
Peace Lutheran Church
Billings, Montana

Christikon was founded and continues to operate as an arm of ministry for the Church. As a member of Lutheran Bible Camp, Inc., your congregation shares in owning the camp.

What a great year for ministry up the Boulder!

Christikon was blessed beyond measure again this year—the numbers below reflect something of the Spirit at work in and through this place and people we love:

2... year-round full-time staff. Kerry Ellertson (administrator) and Taryn Hauglie (assistant director) were hard at work all year and are blessed beyond measure to be able to call this work.

1... Major construction project at camp. During Work Weekend, our crew of volunteers did demo on the living center deck, and during staff training, Langlas Construction out of Livingston came to build the new deck. It has a new forward-facing set of stairs and we hope to establish a gathering space in front of the living center soon.

20... summer staff this year, hailing from Montana, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Washington. 16 new, 4 returners.

0... camper health/medical evacuations occurred! We were blessed!

35,000+...miles Mark flew to preach, visit donors, new and existing user congregations, trainings and other camp-related events.

\$27,000...amount spent on food for staff and summer guests.

2... Continuing Education Retreat leaders. Dr. Jason Mahn, theologian and professor at Augustana in Rock Island, IL, helped us connect gifts and gift economies to our lives of faith. Rev. Kent Gubrud (Christus Victor, Apple Valley MN) introduced us to the gifts and blessing of Spiritual Direction.

74 (and counting)...years Christikon has served God's people faithfully and well; we consider ourselves an arm of ministry to congregations and the larger Church, both near and far.

2... CLC Participants: Christikon Leadership Camp engaged high school students in our session for adults with developmental disabilities. They helped summer staff plan and organize camp activities, assisted with our health care staff, helped with dishes and mealtimes, and did an incredible job!

61...campers at our former staff reunion, who spent a few days at the end of the summer sharing stories,

playing trivia games, reminiscing, and learning about the different generations in our camp's history.

10...number of trails groups that went out in three different sessions.

1...Accreditation! Every five years the American Camp Association conducts an accreditation visit in order to see that we meet industry-wide standards regarding camp safety, administration, health care, site adequacy, programming, and staffing. Visitors looked over written documentation, interviewed staff, and observed a camp in session. On October 31, we received official word that we passed!

1...Executive Director moving on to new adventures! We thank Mark for nearly 12 years of faithful service and wish him and Julie the best that Southern California has to offer.

1...Call Committee established for a new Executive Director. We continue to pray for the committee and the candidates being considered. We are in great hands with a committed group of folks seeking the right fit.

We remain deeply grateful for the prayers, encouragement, support, and dedicated work of all involved in the Christikon life. Thank you for all the ways you support this ministry we love and share.

Camping Association (ACA accreditation indicates that a camp meets rigorous industry-wide standards for camp safety, administration, health care, site adequacy, programming, and staffing)

Christikon is blessed by its member congregations who also provide ongoing annual support for the camp's work. Together with gifts from individuals, this support enables ongoing facilities renewal and helps keep camper fees within reach of nearly everyone. In 2024, Peace contributed \$5,357.50. Thank you!

And we're grateful for those from your congregation who share in offering leadership for Christikon's work: Lois Gorseth, Katrina Ramage and Tony Pecarina served as Corporation Delegates; Katrina served on the Executive Director Call Committee

We remain deeply grateful for the prayers, encouragement, support, and dedicated work of all involved in the Christikon life. Thank you for all the ways you support this ministry we love and share.

Blessings on behalf of Christikon's ministry



St. John's United

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

LEGACY BUILDING EVOLUTION

In 2019, a three-phase sequence of demolition and construction commenced on the St. John's United Legacy building that first opened as a home for residents in 1963. The original three residential areas, named Wings, were repurposed to become a Transitional Rehab Center, affordable housing for older adults, and a new location for Center for Generations, business offices, Foundation offices, the CEO office, and a board room. Wing Four is currently under construction to become moderate-income rate housing for older adults and an outpatient therapy clinic. Wings Five, Six, and Seven were demolished and removed at year-end to clear the land for future construction of the Aeries housing community and Centrum public spaces.

RESPITE CARE SUITES

St. John's United recently acquired a twelve-room hospice cottage on its property that had been owned and operated by Riverstone Health. A decision was made to utilize the cottage as a respite care site to be operated by SJU's At Home staff. Respite care provides short-term relief for primary caregivers of older adults, allowing caregivers time to rest, travel, manage personal tasks, or spend time with other family and friends. Primary caregivers will be able to place their loved ones into the welcoming, supervised, and safe context of SJU's respite care suites for a minimum of three hours to a maximum of all-day. Private rooms with comfort amenities and public spaces for social activities and meals will be available to guests. Personalized care services will also be offered for additional fees.

AERIES

Design work on the Aeries residential community for adults fifty-five years of age plus is completed. Architectural construction documents, pursuit of financing, legal contract development, and the process of securing entrance fee deposits are all advancing. Priority membership deposits of \$1,000 continue to be received to reserve placement or exercise right of refusal during the development phase of the project. Residents within Aeries will enjoy panoramic views, maintenance-free living, convenient amenities, and access to St. John's United healthcare services. For more information call (406) 655-5203.

OUTPATIENT THERAPY CLINIC

A portion of the Legacy building's Wing Four was reconstructed at year-end to be a modern outpatient therapy clinic to help people recover from surgery, illness, accident, or other health issues. Services offered within the clinic include physical therapy, occupational therapy, aquatic therapy, and speech therapy. Personalized treatment programs are designed to meet the needs of each patient.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED FAMILY SERVICES

Sustained in part by donations from individuals and congregations, SJU Family Services connects with children, families, and individuals through compassionate programs. The C.A.R.E.S. program, funded by a grant from Lutheran Services in America, empowers families to utilize their natural and community resource supports to reduce referrals to the foster care system. In 2024, the C.A.R.E.S. team worked actively with 95 families who reported improved family relationships. Since 2022, C.A.R.E.S. has received referrals for 268 households. In 2024, Family Services licensed clinical social workers met in-person or via telehealth for over 300 counseling sessions with individuals. Education and counseling services were provided without fee to 41 expectant parents and their support people. One infant was placed into an adoptive home. Contract adoption services were provided to 20 families, and assistance was offered to 29 post-adoption cases, including two reunions. The Wendy's Wonderful Kids Adoption Recruiter, funded by a grant from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, helped 20 Montana youth in foster care build connections and pursue permanent placements. Four permanent home placements were completed.

PHILANTHROPY

Our thanks to generous financial donors and volunteers who continue to sustain SJU with love and support.

For volunteering, please contact our Director of Volunteer Services at (406) 655-7727.
For financial donations, please contact our Foundation Gift Planner at (406) 655-7783.
For on-line volunteer registration or donations, go to www.stjohnsunited.org. Thank you!

2024 ANNUAL REPORT FOR CONGREGATIONS



80 YEARS.

That's how long congregations like yours have shined Christ's light in the world through Lutheran World Relief. What started as a response to World War II has grown into an outpouring of love for every neighbor in need, everywhere in the world.

Wherever there is war, disaster or poverty, your compassion is there to offer help and hope. And in 2024, our ministry together has expanded to reach our neighbors here in the United States. Thank you for making history with us!



Watch the 80th anniversary video at lwr.org/80



Dilan Cabiroğlu working on a robotics project at the youth center.

IN TIMES OF CRISIS: TÜRKIYE

SITUATION: In February 2023, massive earthquakes destroyed 90% of the buildings in the city of Antakya. More than 50,000 people died, and nearly 2 million became homeless in what survivors called an "apocalyptic" disaster.

IMPACT: Your congregation's generosity meant emergency supplies reached the epicenter in record time. Since the quakes, you have provided hot meals, clean water, LWR Quilts & Kits, temporary shelter and even longer-term container homes to help families get back on their feet.

For a tragedy of this magnitude, the scars of emotional trauma run deep. In a matter of minutes, our neighbors lost their homes, jobs and loved ones. Schools were destroyed, and playgrounds were filled with rubble and broken glass. As families work to rebuild their lives, you are helping them heal.

Seventeen-year-old Dilan Cabiroğlu's family was grateful to move into their new container home, built with your support, after losing everything. But she soon grew bored and listless. She watched her father fall into depression. Dilan still attends school online, because hers is too damaged to open in person.

Everything changed when she started hanging out at a youth-friendly community center that — through your generosity — offers games, sports, activities, classes and counseling for teens. The goal is to help youth process the disaster and find hope for the future. Today, Dilan has a new outlook. She's attending counseling to address her trauma and, inspired by the opportunities you've provided, is dreaming of being a nurse.

"Here, I learn new things and meet new people, my head is cleared, and I become more energetic," she said. "If it wasn't for this place, I would probably still be experiencing the shock of the earthquake."

QUILTS & KITS: UNITED STATES

SITUATION: In September, Lutheran World Relief announced that the Quilt & Kit Ministry was expanding to reach our neighbors in the U.S. Unexpectedly, hurricanes Helene and Milton ravaged communities in North Carolina, Florida and beyond just days later.

IMPACT: Thanks to the quilters and kit makers who faithfully fill our shelves, LWR began packing trucks before the storms reached land. An initial shipment of 10 truckloads of Quilts & Kits were distributed in hard-hit communities in North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana. Immediately after the storms, your generosity also made it possible to rush bottled water and other essentials to western North Carolina and Florida. Then we provided cash grants to our local partners to distribute food, water and other urgently needed supplies to provide comfort and dignity to families in their time of need.



Edward Lynch lives at a shelter for homeless veterans in Asheville, North Carolina. After Helene flooded their home, all 165 residents were moved to a hotel until the shelter can be rebuilt. Edward was excited to pick out his LWR quilt. "I'd just like to say thank you to the people that put their time and love and patience in making these beautiful blankets for everybody," he said. "It is going to remind me where I've been and where I'm going. I can say I got this when I lost everything, and this is one of the first, nicest things I got. And it gave me something to hold on to in the midst of a crisis."



Gabriel Gatluak, who is disabled, and his family received seeds and support when they arrived at the camp. Today, Gabriel works for LWR to support other new arrivals to the camp. Watch a video about him at lwr.org/gabriel

FOR THE LONG TERM: SOUTH SUDAN

SITUATION: Violence, grinding poverty and four years of extreme flooding have uprooted over 4 million people. While this is an urgent crisis, you are helping families learn skills to thrive in difficult circumstances.

IMPACT: Your compassion has traveled to the hardest-to-reach displacement camps, where exhausted families arrive starving, traumatized and empty-handed after walking for days.

When they arrive, your love greets them with a medical screening to check for malnutrition. Parents with malnourished children receive nutrition counseling and support, along with seeds and training on how to grow a variety of nourishing foods in their home gardens.

Congregations like yours have also made it possible for 10,000 people — primarily widows and single mothers — to receive livelihoods training in fishing, raising poultry or vegetable farming. They also learn the basic business and financial skills needed to launch small businesses to sell their products. Thanks to your enduring compassion, food security has increased by 50% among camp residents. Malnutrition has significantly decreased, and thousands of people have lifelong skills and stable ways to feed and support their families.

Your compassion makes all of this possible. **THANK YOU!**
Until your love reaches every neighbor.

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](https://www.livinglutheran.org/SOFIA).

