

Annual Report

2023



PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Be At Peace

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Sharing God’s love, growing in faith, and creating community.

Our Guiding Biblical Principles:

1. Worship of the triune God is central to our life together.
2. We are grounded in Scripture & prayer & we encourage each other to question, listen, & learn.
3. We believe everyone is loved & worthy of love; all people are welcome in God's kingdom.
4. We respond to the needs of our neighbors near and far, following Christ's example.
5. We use our time, talents, and finances for the glory of God.
6. We promote love and justice for all of God's creation.

AGENDA
Congregation Meeting
February 4, 2024

- **Call to Order and Welcome - Kathleen Wage**
- **Opening Prayer - Pastor Krista Vingelis**
- **Approval of Minutes from September 10, 2023 Congregational Meeting**
- **Update from the Call Committee - Jordan LaPier**
- **Pastor's Report**
- **Report on the Year-End Financial Results - David Whitten**
- **Presentation, Discussion, and Vote on the 2024 Budget**
- **Other Business**
- **Closing Prayer and Adjournment**



**Council President
Kathleen Wage**



Dear People of Peace,

What a whirlwind of a year it has been! We welcomed our new music director Liz Mun in February 2023. In her first three months, she started a children's choir and organized an incredible Concert for Healing and Hope.

In June we bid farewell to Pastor Sarah Scherschligt, and in December we bid farewell to Nadia Fitzcharles. While we miss Pastor Sarah and Nadia enormously, we are grateful for their years of leadership that helped us build the momentum that we have today.

In June we celebrated our 30th anniversary of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. From June through early October, our Sunday worship was led by supply pastors organized by indefatigable council member Rose Stillwell. The one Sunday that a pastor was unavailable, Diane Yeager and other volunteers planned and led an uplifting service of morning prayer.

Pastor Krista Vingelis arrived in October to guide us through the next phase of our transition. We appreciate her thoughtful approach to ministry and pastoral care. The council especially appreciates her guidance and encouragement as we navigate staffing changes and other challenges. In November we renewed our partnerships with

REACT DC and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services for another year. In December we celebrated with a Christmas pageant and a concert. Throughout the year, the Racial Justice Team offered a variety of educational events. A new women's Bible study began in the summer. Even in a year of immense change and transition, we are still growing, learning, and trying new things.

I am continually amazed by our congregation's creative energy. Peace has an incredible amount of "creating" going on: musicians, quilters, knitters, property problem-solvers, gardeners, photographers, artists, worship leaders, Bible study facilitators, and the list goes on.... Thank you for sharing your gifts with our congregation and the surrounding community. You are a blessing.

To all the ministry leaders, thank you for your service to Peace. I especially want to thank:

- Our past council president Norm Phillion for his wise guidance and good humor in managing an organization in transition;
- The Congregation Council for all their work;
- The Call Committee for their effort creating our ministry site profile and starting the process of calling a new pastor;
- The Property ministry, especially Anna and Don Hartmayer, Sue Clark, Charlie and Judy Hughes, who handle major repairs, fire inspections, grounds maintenance and beautification, and the occasional bat in the belfry;
- The Tech Team who keep us online on Sundays and Andrew Tlusty, sound engineer extraordinaire.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to sharing God's love, growing in faith and creating community.

Peace be with you all,

Kathleen Wage

Interim Pastor's Report Pastor Krista Vingelis



Dear People of Peace,

I am honored to be serving as your Interim Pastor. Your Council's Spirit charmed me last summer under the leadership of then-President Norm Philion. Conversations created pastoral excitement at the thought of being part of the works God was doing here. And when I arrived, I was impressed by the Council Spirit under the leadership of newly elected President, Kathleen Wage. It has been a true joy to be part of the PEACE MISSION of God here. I honestly look forward to our Council meetings and to spending time in partnership with my fellow disciples of Christ. There is great depth of leadership at Peace and great love of God in Christ. The Spirit has poured out wondrous gifts and talents upon you all and the abundance of life and vitality can be keenly felt. Surely, the presence of God is in this place.

I start with a litany of thanksgiving for all who have been and continue to be a big reason that Peace is moving through this time of transition with such faith, hope, and love. Obviously, you have ALL contributed by remaining present and engaged. But I cannot name each of you by name. The report would never end. Please take this thank you knowing you matter. And, if I miss someone who you think should get a shout out, please know that I am fully aware that there are many working "behind the scenes", quietly going about fulfilling their commitment to Jesus and His church. Let me know who those folks

are. I will recognize them beyond this report.

- **Pastor Sarah Scherschligt** for her faithful service to the Office of Word and Sacrament and for her faith in each of YOU so as to build up the staff and create structures that opened the door for you to, "Share God's love, grow in faith, and create community."
- **The Staff** – Josh Keiter (Parish Administrator), Nadia Fitzcharles (Director of Community, Children, Youth and Family), Liz Mun (Music Director & Organist), Paul Sticha (Bell Choir Director), Jim Nice (Creative Worship Leader) and Autumn Kendrick (Communications Director), Aina Ramampandrisson & Sophia Morgan (Nursery Attendants). You are amazingly creative, talented, passionate, and Christ-centered. Your desire to serve faithfully while stepping up to take extra responsibilities after the loss of Pastor Sarah is noted. You have worked hard and well, being a team that supported one another and the people of Peace with the heart of Christ.
- **The 2022-2023 Council** – Norm Philion (President), Kathleen Wage, Stu Whitehead, Rose Stillwell (Secretary), David Whitten (Treasurer), Itosi Marealle, Mary Dallao, and Martha Siles-Munoz **AND the 2023-2024 Council** – Kathleen Wage (President), Stu Whitehead, Rose Stillwell (Secretary), David Whitten (Treasurer), Mary Dallao, Martha Siles-Munoz, Judy Hughes, and Bill Penoyar. Leading congregations through pastoral transitions is not an easy responsibility to carry. But I can attest that you have carried yourselves with grace and faith, showing love of God and neighbor in the decisions you've made, the discussions you've held, the manner in which you've held those discussions, and the works you've undertaken. You are gifts from God.
- **Finance & Admin Team** – David Whitten (Treasurer), Ray and Debbie Marquardt (Financial Secretary and Counters), Carol Randall (Comptroller), Ramsey Woodworth and Sue Clark (Check Signers), Hilda Crabtree (Office Assistant). You work diligently to ensure that congregational gifts and offerings, as well as expenses, are accurately recorded and documented so that we might, with all faith and wisdom, support the works of God with our financial treasures. The work is not glorious but is important. Thanks.

- **Musicians and Worship Leaders** – Andrew Tlusty (Tech and Sound Engineer), Judy Gallagher (Accompanist), Margo Roig-Tlusty (Accompanist), Messengers of Peace, Bells of Peace, Voices of Peace, The Little Angels, Technology Crew. You give yourselves to weekly rehearsals and services, last minute filling in, etc. You sacrifice, on a regular basis, your own experience of worship to ensure that others have the best experience of worship that we can provide in God’s honor. Your gifts of time and talent are remarkable.
- **“Lay Staff”** – Anna and Don Hartmayer (Property), Sue Clark (Grounds and Fellowship), Kathy Nice (Deacon’s Team), Jim Buchanan (Personnel). You are the people who were here at all different hours of the day and night, multiple times a week, and in all different weather conditions to provide safe and beautiful spaces for those who gather here. You were here to partner with the staff in mutual support and encouragement, assuring them of the mutuality of care. You made visits and phone calls and brought bulletins and cared for the community. You poured yourselves out. You are gifts, indeed.
- **Call Committee** – Kara Danner and Jordan LaPier (co-chairs), Ron Maree, Shannon Spence, Endrias Assen, Natalie Cain and Emily Mills...You are prayerfully discerning the next spiritual leader for Peace. You have sought the Spirit’s, the people’s and the Synod’s guidance. You have communicated while standing in the gap to represent the people here to interested candidates. We cannot wait to see the fruits of your labor!

And I can’t forget to acknowledge our quilters, Sunday School teachers, bible study leaders, worship assistants, fellowship servers, artists, parents, givers, prayer warriors, greeters, ushers, gardeners, tutors, community friends, N2N volunteers, lawn mowers and grounds keepers, seasonal decorators, committee and team members, justice seekers, advocates, bulletin copiers, and so much more. Well done, good and faithful servants!

When I arrived last fall, I had covenanted to help Peace in several areas:

1. Partner with Nadia in her work.
2. Provide and grow an environment of inclusive welcome and hospitality for any person.
3. Support the staff and partner with the council to address the needs of staffing.
4. Partner with those leading Adult Education opportunities.
5. Help the congregation to grieve while preparing Peace for the future.

Suffice it to say, several of these quickly merged and became a larger conglomerate of covenanted tasks. Within weeks, Nadia and Josh had identified and communicated their need to move on with their personal changes of calling. Each had had begun discernment conversations with Pastor Sarah, and in the wake of her move, chose to put their plans on hold for the sake of Peace. But both now needed to move forward.

And so, we set them free to pursue their hearts’ calls – to spend more time with and be closer to their children, and also (for Nadia) to step beyond her work in CYF and dive more deeply into ministering beyond the walls of “the church.” Nadia’s last Sunday with us was December 17, 2023, and Josh will be leaving the office in February of 2024. We are extremely thankful for their time, presence and work with us and among us. They will be deeply missed for they were truly talented and their gifts unique. No one will ever be able to “fill their shoes.”

Which is why I’m so excited to see the direction Peace is heading as it identifies staffing needs. We are committed to searching for people with gifts to fill the Position Descriptions and not to take anyone’s place. Interviews have started for the newly coined “Church Administrator” job and after several important Open Table listening sessions with parents, Council will now look at drafting a new Position Description for CYF while considering an integration of community ministry into the expectation of each staff position. We are in

negotiations with Liz about possibilities as we believe she brings such wonderful talents to the table. Expect to hear more.

Secondarily, I have been working with the Racial Justice Team on education and witness opportunities for Lent and Easter seasons while offering open Porch Sitting times on Sunday mornings for discussions of life, faith, God, relationships, etc. Sunday morning 8:00 a.m. worship continues to be a bible study centered experience with interactive conversation around the morning Scriptures. Dialogue is deep and engaging and I am honored to share time walking with this group of disciples as they worship and grow in faith.

Lastly, I have been more quietly doing the work of helping people to process and heal after the loss of their beloveds, Pr. Sarah and Nadia. One on one conversations, attention to matters in preaching, and presence with people have been key elements. Encouraging you as laity to own your ministries and your sense of mission and direction is another vital piece. As people have wondered about whether you must “wait” to make decisions or take action on matters until you call a new Pastor, I have encouraged you to move forward and trust your gifts and God’s presence with you now. A new Pastor will be excited and thankful to walk in on day one and not find everything “waiting on their desk” for them to handle or decide or do. Ours is a MUTUAL ministry, and here at Peace, you have learned to do that well. Keep on keeping on. Run the race with perseverance. Most pastors long for the kind of partnerships with their congregations that are a part of the fabric and DNA of life here at Peace. Many other things may have to change in this transition and process, but THAT is not one of them. Remember what I said in my opening paragraph, surely the presence of GOD is in this place. And they are.

In 2024, I believe the work of Peace will be focused in three major ways:

1. Attention to staffing for the sake of mission, care of church and neighbor, and inclusivity.
2. Attention to property and grounds for the sake of mission, welcome and accessibility.
3. Attention to love of neighbor for the sake of mission, justice, and love itself.

I look forward to the time I will remain among you and to discovering what God can yet do among us. And I pray for your next chapter of life in mutual ministry. From the beginning, this congregation has been on a PEACE MISSION, and I don’t believe that has changed. The methods may look different, and the community of people may have seen some turnover and change, but the mission remains the same. Be a people who make for peace in this neighborhood and world, “Sharing God’s love, growing in faith, and creating community.”

Be at Peace. Be the peace.

God loves you and so do I!
Pastor Krista Vingelis



Parochial Report
Josh Keiter

Parochial Report for year ending December 31, 2023

Baptized/confirmed members, at the end of 2022 was 296

Baptized members received during 2023:

By baptism:	4
By transfer:	0
By affirmation of faith	13
Total Received this year:	17

Baptized members removed during 2023

By death:	3
By transfer	2
For other reasons and adjustment	0
Total removed this year	5

Baptized/confirmed members, end of 2023 is 308.

Total number of people, including members and non-members who are actively participating in the life of the congregation is 321.

Parish Notes 2023

Baptized:

Eleanor Marta Mills, 3/26/23
Oliver Quinn Christopher Lecaroz, 4/16/23
Aveline Riffe, 7/23/23
Magdalena Riffe, 7/23/23

Deaths:

Kay Dameron
Bill Duerre, 4/18/23
Sandra Wargowsky, 7/23/23

New Members (by affirmation of faith/transfer):

Charles Hughes, 2/12/23
Judy Hughes, 2/12/23
Jenny Tigney, 2/12/23
Nathan Tigney, 2/12/23
Emerson Tigney, 2/12/23
Eliza Tigney, 2/12/23
Sandy Lindamood, 2/12/23
Kenneth Davis, 2/12/23
Chun Davis, 2/12/23
Sebastian Lance Johnson, 5/21/23
Evan Richard Manchester, 5/21/23
Madeline Lucille Mangi, 5/21/23
Josephine Elizabeth McElveen, 5/21/23

Transferred:

Mark Blice-Baum, 7/11/23
Christine Louise Blice-Baum, 7/11/23

Financial Highlights of 2023

David Whitten

As we end 2023, the church is in a sound financial place. The amazing gifts of time, talent, and money from the members and friends of the church are what enables the church to fulfill its mission.

- We continued partnerships with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and REACT DC in 2023. LIRS used the basement of Lauxman House to continue their work with hundreds of refugees. REACT DC worked out of our Education Wing, providing their support to the refugee community.
- We gave away over \$52,000 to the missions of the Metro DC Synod, Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA), the Village of Hope in Haiti, and other various needs
- We ended the year without a budget deficit. The final portion (\$23,101) of the Synod grant for the Community Ministry position was used to fund part of the salary for that position in 2023. The Council decided to use some of the Undesignated Funds (~\$8,000) to balance the budget for the year. Many thanks to the Peace community for its continued generosity.
- We rely on the Property Repair and Replacement (R & R) Fund to pay for significant improvements and repairs to the church, the Lauxman House, and the grounds. In 2023 this fund was used to pay for a new HVAC system (cost ~\$30,000) in the Education Wing. At the end of 2023, this fund has a negative balance of \$7,583.
- The Community Ministry Fund supports a variety of outreach activities. including the food bags for Belvedere Elementary.
- The departure of Pastor Scherschligt, the use of supply pastors, and having an Interim pastor resulted in many of the budget line items being different than what was planned for.

Expenses			
Adult Education			
5101 Living Lutheran	388.17		
5104 Teaching Materials	195.72	150.00	130.48%
Total Adult Education	\$ 583.89	\$ 150.00	389.26%
Children, Youth and Family			
5201 Nursery Attendant	4,677.15	3,500.00	133.63%
6205 Children & Youth Materials & Activities	1,790.86	2,000.00	89.54%
Total Children, Youth and Family	\$ 6,468.01	\$ 5,500.00	117.60%
Fellowship			
5301 Supplies and Food	1,604.91	800.00	200.61%
Total Fellowship	\$ 1,604.91	\$ 800.00	200.61%
Miscellaneous			
5401 Congregation Conventions	69.00	600.00	11.50%
5410 Staff Expenses and Schooling	425.00	1,500.00	28.33%
5411 Racial Justice	175.00	1,000.00	17.50%
6605 Senior Pastor Expenses and Schooling	768.11	2,400.00	32.00%
6703 Portico Benefits	60,889.87	82,000.00	74.26%
6990 New Employee Search		200.00	0.00%
Total Miscellaneous	\$ 62,326.98	\$ 87,700.00	71.07%

Office and General			
5402 Payroll Taxes (FICA)	11,900.66	10,000.00	119.01%
5403 Postage & Office Supplies	1,439.32	1,700.00	84.67%
5404 Accounting and Legal	2,743.30	3,200.00	85.73%
5405 Parish Administrator	26,359.75	25,500.00	103.37%
5406 Telephone and Internet	4,764.33	4,840.00	98.44%
5407 Workers' Compensation	913.00	1,300.00	70.23%
5409 Copier Lease & Service	3,852.36	4,500.00	85.61%
Total Office and General	\$ 51,972.72	\$ 51,040.00	101.83%
Others			
5500 Synod and ELCA	36,000.00	36,000.00	100.00%
5501 ACCA	5,000.00	5,000.00	100.00%
5503 Others Ministry Expenses		150.00	0.00%
5504 Director Children, Youth, Community	68,000.00	66,000.00	103.03%
Total Others	\$ 109,000.00	\$ 107,150.00	101.73%
Property			
5801 Electricity	2,652.90	2,000.00	132.65%
5803 Gas	8,473.69	6,800.00	124.61%
5805 Insurance	11,102.00	9,220.00	120.41%
5806 Janitorial Expenses	16,200.00	13,000.00	124.62%
5809 Organ/Piano Contracts	2,041.00	3,300.00	61.85%
5812 Grounds & Snow Removal	1,981.44	5,000.00	39.63%
5813 Common Maint. (Plumb, Elect, Heat, AC, Fire, Lock, Bulb)	12,675.55	10,000.00	126.76%
5814 Discretionary Property	4,708.61	8,000.00	58.86%
5816 Water Bill	3,720.53	4,500.00	82.68%
Total Property	\$ 63,555.72	\$ 61,820.00	102.81%
Senior Pastor			
6701 Salary	37,934.51	43,000.00	88.22%
6702 Housing Allowance	38,500.02	60,000.00	64.17%
Total Senior Pastor	\$ 76,434.53	\$ 103,000.00	74.21%
Stewardship			
5901 Stewardship Ministry		150.00	0.00%
Total Stewardship	\$ 0.00	\$ 150.00	0.00%
Thrivent Mortgage			
5808 Mortgage Payments	38,688.00	38,688.00	100.00%
Total Thrivent Mortgage	\$ 38,688.00	\$ 38,688.00	100.00%
Uncategorized Expense	3,361.50		
Witness			
6003 Technology and Online Infrastructure	3,455.42	2,700.00	127.98%
6004 Materials and Signs	36.65	350.00	10.47%
6005 Communication Specialist	15,438.50	12,480.00	123.71%
Total Witness	\$ 18,930.57	\$ 15,530.00	121.90%
Worship			
6101 Music Director & Organist	33,332.31	36,000.00	92.59%
6102 Director Bells	9,449.93	9,500.00	99.47%
6103 Director Messengers	8,290.80	8,300.00	99.89%
6105 Music Supplies	1,165.75	1,600.00	72.86%
6106 Guest Pastors & Musicians	8,150.00	4,960.00	164.31%
6107 Worship Aids	1,918.69	2,000.00	95.93%
Total Worship	\$ 62,307.48	\$ 62,360.00	99.92%
Total Expenses	\$ 495,234.31	\$ 533,888.00	92.76%

We paid for these expenses as shown in the following chart.

Income	2023 Actual
Online Giving	\$169,443
Checks	\$216,693
Loose Cash	\$1,990
All Other Receipts	\$8,938
HOFI	\$1430
Bank Account Interest	\$6,947
T-Mobile Lease	\$27,788
LIRS	\$18,000
REACT DC	\$21,000
Synod Grant	\$23,101
Total Income	\$495,324



Assets	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	Change
Time and hard work of members	Huge!	Huge!	
Liquid Assets			
1100 Checking Account	57,101.94	53,827.92	-\$3,274
1101 Money Market Account	388,137.91	345,368.25	-\$42,770
Total Bank Accounts	\$445,239.85	\$399,196.17	-\$46,044
Liabilities			
Where liquid assets are dedicated:			
Capital Funds			
2307 Property R&R	12,544.83	-7,583.29	-\$20,128
2310 Peace for the Future	311,249.43	311,314.39	\$65
Discretion of Council			
2228 Recital Fund	1.00	1.00	\$0
2302 Undesignated	31,975.92	47,295.73	\$15,320
Discretion of Ministry			
2209 Quilter's Ministry	1,166.86	2,184.23	\$1,017
2210 HS Quilts	210.06	210.06	\$0
2212 Youth Fund	1,258.67	1,258.67	\$0
2213 Pastor's Fund	16,228.04	5,827.64	-\$10,400
2219 Music Fund	5,285.94	2,578.69	-\$2,707
2220 WRAP	1,031.56	1,031.56	\$0
2223 Comm Ministry Grant	23,101.00	0.00	-\$23,101
2224 Community Ministry Fund	7,659.77	2,454.97	-\$5,205
2229 Neighbor to Neighbor	7,725.58	5,540.03	-\$2,186
2344 Racial Justice Fund	316.00	316.00	\$0
2701 Retreat Fund	3,076.79	3,076.79	\$0
Others Ministry Directs			
2211 Village of Hope in Haiti	3,250.89	482.69	-\$2,768
2206 Gifts of Hope	0.00	0.00	\$0
2232 Devotional Books	150.00	160.00	\$10
2234 Ordination Gifts	-135.56	616.12	\$752
Pay Out			
2201 ACCA	0.00	778.20	\$778
2207 Special Offerings	3,349.59	4,817.59	\$1,468
2226 ELCA World Hunger	1,710.00	2,810.00	\$1,100
2230 Refugee Support	570.00	675.00	\$105
Total Dedicated Funds	\$431,726	\$385,846	-\$45,880

We received over \$11,000 in new contributions to the endowment fund in 2022. Due to the nature of the financial markets, the amount of interest available for distribution is only \$3,456 as of the end of the year. The committee will make decisions about potential disbursements from the fund.

Restricted Assets		
Endowment Fund Principal	\$ 119,945.70	No change from 2022
Endowment Fund Interest	\$14,197.73	Increase of \$10,551 in 2023
Total	\$ 134,143.43	
Mission Investment Demand Account	53,436.87	
Endowment Fund A	80,706.56	
Total	\$ 134,143.43	
William E. Woldt Memorial Fund	\$ 18,075.00	
Other Memorials	\$ 325.00	
Gene Gallagher Memorial	\$ 225.00	

We are holding just over \$300,000 in the Peace For The Future fund in reserve for future, to be determined projects that are in line with our long term vision. We continue to consider how the church property and buildings can best serve Peace's mission, and possible building improvements.

Peace for the Future as of 12/31/2023	
Donations	Total To Date
Money Donated in 2022	\$ 860
Total Money Donated	\$ 901,081
Total Spending	Total To Date
1) Inspired Worship	\$25,591
2) Inviting and Accessible Welcome	\$212,368
3) Community Ministry	\$20,764
4) Creation Care	\$163,266
5) Partnerships and Contingencies	\$167,778
--Detailed Expenses for 2022	In 2023
(1) Cables	\$125
(1) Microphones	\$670
Funds in PFTF Account	\$311,314

Children, Youth and Family

Nadia Fitzcharles

Dear Council and People of Peace,

I write to share news that God is calling me down a new road. As you might know, I have been in discernment for quite some time, since I finished seminary in 2021, really. It has been a joy, an honor and a privilege to follow Jesus alongside you over the past seven years. I have witnessed so much love, and seen God move with and through us as church together in beautiful ways. I have watched children and families grow, relationships flourish, and partnerships emerge. In seminary, as I was learning a world of new things and coming to understand the breadth and depth of what it means to be a community of Christ-followers, I experienced Peace as a powerful reflection of what church can be. Thanks be to God!

I have grown so much, learned so much, and received so much through your care and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I cherish the fact that you have helped me raise Na'im, and now he is a young man following his own path and living with his dad in Atlanta. A large part of my discernment is that I want to be near him (same city near him) for these next four years until he graduates high school - I know they will fly by. While I don't know exactly what I'll be doing yet, I trust God to show me the way and sustain me through it. It's terrifying and also faith-forming. I have been in a wilderness place before, and one of the things that have come out of such times was finding Peace. That is comforting!

Peace is a beautiful and resilient community. There's been a lot of change recently, but it seems that change is also the essence of transformation...If I know something about Peace, it is that the Spirit is moving here, she is moving indeed.

With love and gratitude,
Nadia



Outreach and Advocacy

**Sue Clark, Linda Delk, Ron Maree,
Jen Landis Santos, Chris Solem
Staff liaison: Nadia Fitzcharles**

OUTREACH

The Outreach and Advocacy team no longer meets as several members moved away or withdrew. Individual members of the congregation continue the work of this ministry in their association with some of Peace Lutheran's organizational partners, e.g., ACCA, VICPP, and ICD.

Interfaith Communities for Dialogue - One of Peace's partners is Interfaith Communities for Dialogue (ICD), which works to bring people of different faiths together to engage in meaningful learning and social opportunities to build knowledge and understanding among diverse people in our community. Peace is one of 12 faith-based Fairfax County organizations belonging to ICD. This past year, Peace's two representatives to ICD, Linda Delk-Hoveskeland and Lucy Gebre Egziabher, kept the Peace community informed about interfaith events sponsored by ICD through the weekly e-news and communication with the church's leadership. In addition, Lucy provided assistance to ICD to get their new website up and running - Interfaith Communities for Dialogue | Fairfax County Nonprofit | Celebrating Different Faiths (interfaithfairfax.org). Linda worked on the ICD Education committee to develop the ICD 2023 Webinar dialogue series on Faith and Culture and helped organize the August picnic for the 14 Afghan families in the Neighbor to Neighbor program. Peace made an additional financial contribution to help support this event. Peace Lutheran, as a member of ICD, also became a signatory to a letter of support from ICD to Little River United Church of Christ in Annandale, when vandals destroyed a Black Lives Matters and Reject Racism signs in front of that church. As liaisons, Peace's representatives bring issues like this to the pastor and Church Council for their review and approval. Linda continues as a representative of Peace and is assisting Council with identifying a second representative to fill Lucy's now vacant position.

ADVOCACY

Peace provided financial support through a monthly offering to **Bread for the World**, an advocacy organization focused on ending hunger throughout the world through its work with the federal government. We also support the **Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy** (VICPP), focused on social justice issues in Virginia. Our primary advocacy effort was a series of sessions to learn about and support the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as **SNAP**. The first session, offered in conjunction with packing food bags for **Belvedere Elementary** school children, presented a short video on school lunches. In FY2019, before COVID, program provided 4.9 billion free or low cost lunches. This number increased during the pandemic. Two weeks later, Sue Clark talked about SNAP, what it does, who it serves, and why advocacy is necessary to support the program. Next Michael Fay, who retired from a food program at USDA and currently volunteers at a farmers' market, came, spoke and answered questions about SNAP and introduced us to GusNIP, a federal program providing incentives to increase the purchase of fruits and vegetables by low-income consumers. He also emphasized that the federal food programs are under threat from congress people who want to cut the budget. In our final session we wrote letters to our Senators and Representatives advocating for full funding for SNAP and GusNIP. An advocacy effort by VICPP to reduce the use of solitary confinement in Virginia prisons came to fruition in 2023. Peace participated in 2022 by hosting a prayer vigil on the lawn and contacting our state legislators. The legislature in Feb. 2023 added a number of requirements to the use of solitary, including codification into law a requirement that inmates be allowed to spend at least four hours outside their cell every day. The goal is elimination of solitary.

All are encouraged to become advocacy activists. Sign up for action alerts sent by VICPP during the Virginia legislative session, at virginiainterfaithcenter.org. Scroll down to sign up and explore policy issues on the website. If your interest is more at the federal level, learn more about Bread for the World at Bread.org. The ELCA maintains an advocacy office in Washington, DC. Sign up for ELCA action alerts at elca.org/advocacy. At this time there are 13 active alerts. Respond to your area of greatest interest. The emphasis and motto of these organizations is learn, pray, act.

Teller Teams Ray Marquardt

The purpose or goals of the teller team are to receive, record, count, summarize and deposit into PEACE Lutheran's bank account, monies and checks received through the mail and offerings / donations received at Sunday church services and other special events (i.e. Souper Bowl Sunday, Spring Music Concert & Summer Flea Market Sales to name a few)

conducted throughout the calendar year.

The main contact person or persons: Head Teller: Ray Marquardt. Assistant Tellers: Tammy Heppner, Steve Bernauer, Karen Grubbs & Alan Byroade.

The teller team's current and future ministry is to continue with current activities and procedures. The addition of 1-2 persons from the congregation interested in performing these duties would be most welcomed. A large number of church members fulfill their pledges through online giving via BREEZE which my wife, Debbie Marquardt, records.

A team of at least two persons who gather together a minimum of 1-2 times a month, usually after Sunday church services, to record, count, summarize and deposit monies and checks received since the last accounting. Prior to the pandemic in March 2020, such 2-person teams performed these duties on a weekly basis. During the 3-year pandemic, Alan Byroade and myself performed these duties.

Stewardship

Dan Manchester, Matthew Mills

Summary

Peace's Stewardship Committee works with congregants to invest their time, talent, and resources at Peace. Through these investments, it seeks to further Peace's mission while strengthening each person's relationships with God and the

church, with fellow parishioners, and with the community.

The committee began preparing a time-and-talent assessment in the fall of 2023. One of the assessment's aims will be to connect parishioners with ministries, committees, and initiatives they're not yet involved in but that may interest them and be a good use of their personal gifts.

As part of the assessment, the committee has been compiling a catalog of Peace's ministries and committees, to be disseminated with a survey in early 2024.

The committee also conducted Peace's annual pledge campaign in early 2023. It will do so again in early 2024. This campaign seeks to confirm financial giving from the congregation that will support Peace's operations throughout the year.

Current Needs

The Stewardship Committee welcomes anyone who would like to facilitate parishioners' investments in the church! Needs in early 2024 will include interpreting survey responses and helping to make connections from them, as well as working through the responses to the pledge campaign.

Longer-term needs include applying the catalog of ministries and committees to purposes beyond the time-and-talent assessment, like updating the Peace website; working with those ministries and committees to help fill emerging needs they have for volunteers or expertise; and interfacing with the Treasurer and Congregation Council to monitor the church's financial health and coordinate a response as needed.

Deacon Care Team Nadine Krutzky-Mitchell

For most of 2023 the current core Deacon/Care Committee members were: Pastor Sarah, Ron Maree, Kathy Nice, Sue and Jim Buchanan, Sue Clark*, Sue Czarnetzky*, Carol Randall and Nadine Krutzky-Mitchell. As the year progressed, we lost Pastor Sarah to her new church in Minnesota and Sue Clark and Sue Czarnetzky

*reported in via email. Interim Pastor, Pastor Kristi has been included in some meetings.

After a hiatus in the spring and summer months, zoom meetings picked back up typically meeting once per month in the fall. At the meetings, members relayed back to the group (or report in via email updates) whom they have reached out to and how that Peace member is doing. The support included: phone calls, cards, emails, visits, trips to doctor's appointments, rides to church, meeting for lunch, and any other help needed.

Committee members continued to be in touch with their folks or any church member needing attention via cards, phone, email or in person. Additionally, the members reported back informally to other members and made Pastor Sarah aware of pertinent happenings.

One of the highlights of the year included periodic lunch visits, organized by Kathy Nice, to Greenspring Senior Living Community in Springfield to visit residents Liesa Kirste and Gene Wunderlich. More and more attendees came to the visits which was a treat to both the residents and the attendees.

The relationships made among the committee members and their care recipients continue to flourish and remain beneficial to both caregiver and receiver. Their work continues.



Music Ministry

Liz Mun, Jim Nice, and Paul Sticha

Martin Luther's most famous quote on music is this, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music."

In 2023, Peace's Music Ministry expanded its potential and accepted new musical challenges under the direction of Peace's new Director of Music, Liz Mun, who began in this position in February. Under her leadership, 2023 provided the opportunity for our music groups to restore, reform, and improve our ability to deliver music with passion and dedication. Liz led the Voices of Peace, accompanied worship on organ and piano, and coordinated Peace soloists and small vocal groups to provide special music throughout the year. Liz also started the Children and Youth Choir, Singing Angels, which have sung three times during the year: on Easter worship, and at the Spring Concert and Advent Carol Festival. Paul Sticha continued to lead the Bells of Peace and provided music on the 1st Sunday of each month. In addition, he directed a bell quartet, Belltastic Four, which debuted during the year. Jim Nice continued to lead the Messengers of Peace to provide alternative worship music on the 3rd Sunday of each month. With the departure of Ridgeway Addison, The Messengers of Peace welcomed a new pianist Margo Tlusty and singer, Shannon Spence. Sylvia Alimena led the Brass of Peace, an auditioned group of high school brass players, on Easter Sunday and Advent Caroling Festival, providing special music and hymn accompaniment and collaborating with the Bells of Peace and the Voices of Peace.

Special services in 2023 for which Peace music groups provided music included:

- Ash Wednesday- Voices of Peace
- Holden Evening Prayer vespers during Lent – Voices of Peace, the Messengers of Peace
- Maundy Thursday – Voices of Peace
- Good Friday – Becca Sticha, Jim Nice and Paul Sticha
- Palm Sunday – Bells of Peace
- Easter Sunday – Trumpet. Alexander Ferrari, Trombone. Henry Price from Brass of Peace, Voices of Peace, Singing Angels, Ridgeway Addison and guest timpanist, AJ Rios.
- Spring Concert "Healing and Hope" – Voices of Peace, Bells of Peace, the Messengers of Peace, Singing Angels and Guest Artist. Flutist- Mr. Norman Brentley, Drummer and Pianist- AJ Rios and Soprano- Kendyll Melton
- Summer Concert- Brass of Peace
- Pr. Sarah Farewell- Voices of Peace/ Special Music by Jim Nice and Paul Sticha
- Advent Caroling Festival "Peace on Earth" – Voices of Peace, Bell of Peace, the Messengers of Peace, Brass of Peace, Singing Angels and Guest Artist. Organist and Pianist- Dr. Samuel Springer, Timpanist, Drummer and Pianist- AJ Rios
- Nadia Farewell – Paul Sticha
- Christmas Eve (combined) Service- Paul Sticha, Jim Nice, Liz Mun and Janine Woldt
- Lessons and Carols – Voices of Peace, Judy Gallagher on Organ



Peace's Music Ministry raised over \$2000 through the spring concert "Healing and Hope" and donated the offerings to The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and supported the Music Ministry. We also raised over \$1000 through the Advent Carol Festival "Peace on Earth" and donated to the Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to all our singers, ringers, and instrumentalists; from the heart of praising God to share his love to the world through the gifts of music that God gave us to use. We encourage all those who wish to be part of this ministry to contact the church office at info@sharingpeace.org or liz@sharingpeace.org
Respectfully submitted,

Liz Mun, Music Director

Jim Nice and Paul Sticha, Leaders

Racial Justice Team

Natalie Cain, Mary Dallao, Charlie Hughes, Judy Hughes, Shannon Spence, Nadia Fitzcharles

Indigenous Peoples Worship Liturgy: On October 8, worship at Peace commemorated Indigenous Peoples Day through a special service that used many elements from “Indigenous People’s Celebration: A Service of Indigenous People,” crafted by the American Indian/Alaska Native Lutheran Association. Peace’s former Pastor Sarah Scherschligt and the

Racial Justice Team, with permission of the authors, adapted the service for use in worship to recognize our relationship with Indigenous peoples by virtue of our common humanity, shared faith, and intertwined history. The special offering that day benefitted the Coalition to Stop Violence against Native Women. Advocating for justice for Indigenous people is an extension of our faith. Peace is on the ancestral homelands of the Piscataway People.

Recommitment to Reconciling in Christ: On June 11, Peace reaffirmed our commitment to being a Reconciling in Christ congregation during the 10:30 service. This meant that we affirm and celebrate all gender identities, sexualities, and family make-ups in every aspect of the church (and life): pastoral leadership, ministry, and partaking in the sacraments. Council President Kathleen Wage also shared a testimony about why Peace’s status as an RIC congregation matters to her.

Film Viewings and Discussions: The Racial Justice Team hosted two film viewings and discussions after the 10:30 service. In January, we watched an episode from the 1987 PBS documentary series, “Eyes on the Prize,” which retells the story of the civil rights movement in the United States. Guided by Sue Clark, we discussed the historical events we’d witnessed, most notably the murder of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American boy who was beaten and killed in Mississippi in 1955 after talking to a white, married woman proprietor of a small grocery store. In September, we screened an episode of “The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross” titled “Rise.” The episode featured historical events from 1955-1968, including some key moments in the civil rights movement. Several members of the congregation who witnessed these events firsthand shared their perspectives.

Faith in Action Racial Equity Network Block Party: In July, the Racial Justice Team tabled at the synod’s Faith in Action Racial Equity Network Block Party, which was held on a Saturday afternoon at Peace. The block party brought together several congregations to share more about our diverse cultures, who we are, and where we come from.

NAACP Tour of Bull Run Cemetery: In March, Racial Justice Team members participated in a tour of the Bull Run Regional Park Slave Cemetery and Church organized by the Fairfax County NAACP. Located near the popular Atlantis Water Park, the cemetery holds the graves of 91 formerly enslaved people—graves that were only recently discovered. The group learned about the history of the site and how we, as Christians, can “advocate for those who weren’t able to advocate for themselves in this life.” You can learn more about this little-known aspect of Virginia history, and our connection to it today, by watching a half-hour PBS documentary called “Unmarked.”

Sacred Ground Series on Race & Faith: From July through December, Mary Dallao, Charlie Hughes, Judy Hughes, Ardell Hoveskeland, Linda Delk-Hoveskeland, and former member Stan Thiemann participated in a Sacred Ground small group discussion convened by two synod leaders. Over the course of twelve sessions, we learned about Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian Pacific Americans and their histories. Our discussions and prayerful engagement with each other were illuminating, challenging, and often deeply moving and unsettling. Perhaps because we all already knew each other, we felt more comfortable discussing difficult and painful topics than we would have if we weren’t all members of the same church. Each of us came away from the experience with a broadened perspective and deeper understanding of these issues, and a humble resolve to continue to advocate for racial justice in our own lives and as a congregation. In the coming year, we will share more about our Sacred Ground experience with the congregation. We encourage others to also participate in this meaningful experience.

Men's Ministry

Jim Nice & Ron Maree

The Brothers of Peace ministry focuses its members on what it is like to be a Christ-Like man. We provide each

other with spiritual support and fellowship, discuss what's happening in our lives, do Bible study, offer our prayer concerns, and participate in community service. Our group provides a way for the men of Peace to stay connected and share experiences. We meet the first Thursday of each month in Peace's narthex. We had a wonderful dinner gathering at Clyde's at Mark Center in Alexandria on July 20th. We plan to do more fun outings and community service in 2024.

Please contact Jim Nice or Ron Maree if you are interested in joining us.

Jim Nice and Ron Maree
Brothers of Peace Men's Ministry Leaders



Mission Endowment Fund

Ramsey L. Woodworth, Chair

Our committee is responsible for the management of Peace's Mission Endowment Fund and the encouragement of giving to the Fund. As of November 30, 2023, we had a balance of \$130,479 in our Endowment Fund. Roughly 59% (\$77,042) of these funds are

invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust and 41% (\$53,437) in our interest-bearing Mission Investment Demand Account. The Demand Account earned \$564 in interest for the year, roughly a 1.1% return. The ELCA Pooled Trust performed somewhat better than last year. Income distributed and then reinvested in the Fund for the first nine months through September 30 was \$2,255, roughly a 4.2% annualized return on investment, and the Fund market value overall (as of November 30) increased by \$4,068 (5.8%), reflecting better equity market conditions for the year. The Committee will closely follow the performance of the Funds in 2024. Our goal, as managers of these investments, is to maintain a safe and prudent balance between equity and fixed income funds.

We encourage all members of Peace to consider making Peace part of your long-term charitable giving and estate planning and become a member of our Legacy Society. As you wish, this can be done either through a gift designated specifically to our Mission Endowment Fund or on an unrestricted basis to address the current needs of the congregation and our community.

Ramsey L. Woodworth
Chair, Mission Endowment Fund Committee



Prayer Shawl Ministry Nadine Krutzky-Mitchell

The Peace Prayer Shawlers are a group inspired by their shared love of knitting/crocheting projects and praying for others joined in mission to make prayer shawls, baby Afghans, washcloths, hats and scarves. The group met regularly (except for a renovation period late summer) on Fridays at the Barcroft Starbucks from 1-3 pm to share stories, support one another and pray for those in need. Zoom meetings occurred on the same date and time. Anne Whitten turned the zoom caretaker duty over to Nadine Krutzky-Mitchell this year. We were thrilled to be joined by ladies from afar such as CA, DE, FL, NC, NJ, MO, and RI. The shawlers caught up on concerns for others, personal well being of our members, yarn sales, pattern suggestions and special charity concerns the groups could contribute to.

Contact: Ministry is group led with a fluctuating yet vibrant membership including Peace current and former members, friends from other churches and just friends we've met along the way. 2023 Members included: Carol Crouse (FL), Mary Downs, Chris Jensen*, Nadine Krutzky-Mitchell (DE), Debbie Marquardt, Carol Randall, Rhonda Rose, Martha Silas-Munoz, Beth Westerberg, and Anne Whitten. Longtime members/friends include: Sheelagh Crowley (NC), Barbara Gray, Margarete Heber (NJ), Vicky Haugen (MO), Joan Malcolm (FL), Joan McIntyre (RI) Janet Miller, Cindy Nothom, Bernadette O'Donoghue and Marcy Rita. If someone is interested in joining or wants to know more about our group, please contact any of the ladies above directly via your latest church directory or check with the church office. (*Chris creates our laminated prayer tags that go with our items.) Highlight of 2023: Sue Czarnetzky became our self-appointed "delivery angel" this year. She hand delivers and/or mails out shawls as needed. This year 101 knitted or crocheted items were made and donated with others ready to go. That number included 54 blankets and hats donated to "Kids Give Back", a charity in the Fairfax area. All are welcome to join the Prayer Shawlers - an informal and fun group. Arrangements can be made to make yarn, needles and notions available for those who would like to join the group and need such supplies.

Property

Don and Anna Hartmayer Outdoors: Sue Clark

Mission: To enhance the worship and fellowship experience of our church family by caring for our property in a way that glorifies God.

Vision: We will do this by

- PROVIDING a safe and clean environment
- MAINTAINING the facilities
- IMPROVING the church's property

Strategy: This Ministry performs God's work at the church through the upkeep and stewardship of the church's buildings. The Ministry ensures that the church property is maintained and repaired as necessary, and develops and implements proposals and long-term plans for the care and preservation of church property.

Main responsibilities:

- Perform routine and preventative maintenance.
- Coordinate outside contractors such as plumbers and electricians.
- Manage major projects.
- Schedule periodic clean up days for grounds and buildings.
- Identify smaller maintenance and repair tasks and bringing them to the attention of the congregation.
- Address fire and safety issues, handicap access and building code requirements.
- Plan for replacement of major items such as roofs, lighting, pavement, and heating/air conditioning systems.

“Many Hands Make Light Work” We are grateful for the people who have donated their time and talents to assist with the property issues and maintenance in 2023. Anna & Don Hartmayer are the “Buildings” Co-Chairs and Sue Clark is the “Grounds” Chair. If you would like to join us, please contact Anna & Don or Sue, or email: annakris95@icloud.com or chezclark3417@gmail.com

Want to get involved but don't want to be forced into someone else's schedule? Do we have a deal for you! We have a long list (think 95 theses) of projects of varying sizes that we would be happy to share and you can choose one and pick away at it as you have time. No pressure to show up a particular day or get it done in a particular time frame and honestly it does come with the perk of some self-satisfaction of seeing it get done. Just send an email to annakris95@icloud.com and we will send you the list.

Let's start with what DID get done in 2023.

2023 Projects

Big news for 2023/2024 and beyond: Charlie Hughes joined the property committee in 2023 and we have truly appreciated his help. Judy Hughes is a member of Council and has taken on being the property committee liaison to Council which is not a small task. Don and Anna as well as the entire family of Peace appreciate them both.

Again a special thank you to Anna D'Andrade and her family Kara, Mckayla and Peyton for building the amazing stable with lighting for Christmas 2022. Truly a work of art. The animals stayed indoors in the



Sanctuary this year and everyone enjoyed having them there. Where will they be Christmas 2024? We will have to wait and see.

Briana and Don touched up the paint on the animals and for Christmas 2024 we will have a new star

Elite Cleaning Solutions will continue cleaning the entire building on a weekly basis for Peace as well as cleaning carpets etc on an as needed basis and they are also being contracted by LIRS and REACTDC to come an additional day for them. If you have any cleaning concerns please send those to Don and Anna.

Property committee and others looked at recovering the floor in the Fellowship Hall where the carpet is stained and coming up. A report will be sent to Council with recommendations (probably before this comes out)

Baldinos replaced the lock on the cipher door and if you have used it we think you will agree it works GREAT

Densel replaced the HVAC that services Fellowship Hall with a heat pump with a gas backup. This should be MUCH more efficient than the 1960s furnace that was removed.

Converted more of the lights to LED to get rid of the buzzing and improve the overall light quality

We replaced several flappers and other parts for toilets throughout the complex. With 10 toilets repair is almost a constant process.

Worked with LIRS and REACTDC throughout the year to keep the buildings clean and functioning with the additional usage.

Lighting in the Lauxman garage was upgraded in 2023 but the Lauxman House building still needs a lot of work: Electric service issues, brickwork, porches and steps on both sides all need work as well as accessibility issues.

Moved in Pastor Krista after having her office patched and painted.

Got bids on HVAC maintenance contract and that will start in 2024 (Anna is happy because she does not like crawling inside the furnace under the Sanctuary to change the six filters)

We changed the uplights in front of Fellowship Hall to solar lights.

Lights that light the Dove on the Lincolnia side of the building were replaced and are considerably brighter than the old ones.

Speaking of lights, if you came in the front door on the Lincolnia side for the Christmas Eve service you appreciated, almost as much as Don and Anna did, that Charlie went out and got a new solar light and installed it at that doorway so that it was not pitch dark and a tripping hazard just in time for Christmas.

Placed mail slot in Lauxman door in order to receive mail more securely. Also painted the Lauxman door.

Placed grab handle on Lauxman door to provide a little more accessibility however it is still really not even close to be accessible and this needs to be addressed.

It took most of the year but we finally got everything taken care of including changing out the sprinkler heads to pass both the 2022 and 2023 Fire Marshall inspections.

Property Ministry – 2023 Outdoors

Sue continues to put in countless hours working on keeping weeds in the beds at bay along with organizing volunteers to help. Volunteers are always welcome and feel free to pull any weeds you see out as you walk by :-)

Hats off to Stu Whitehead for keeping the mowing team scheduled, to the mowers for sticking with their responsibilities and especially to Mike Stumpf for maintaining the equipment. Mike, Stu and the Lawn Team are still enjoying the battery operated zero turn mower that is apparently fun to drive along with doing a good job cutting the lawn

New members are always welcome for the lawn team; please contact Stu Whitehead or Sue Clark if you would like to join the team.

Also for 2024 Sue is planning on having someone come in multiple times during the year to do cleanup rather than one giant clean up in the fall. We feel this will be both more effective and less expensive.

Sue has her own report (below) but we wanted to mention what a Herculean job she does here at Peace keeping up the expansive grounds.

Property Ministry – 2023 Grounds (Sue Clark)

Independent Landscape contractors used more frequently

Independent contractors were hired four times during the year for general maintenance: to maintain the back wall, to trim branches and vines hanging over Oak Ridge Road, to maintain the circle and the “butterfly garden.” The butterfly garden concept has been abandoned as it proved impossible to maintain. Now select volunteer trees, mostly oak and redbud will be allowed to grow and in the future, the area is redubbed as the shade garden.

Car accident knocks down tree

In July a car driven by a young man came over the curb on Lincolnia Road and onto Peace property. A large Holly tree was uprooted. Fortunately no one was injured. The police report was available and the driver was contacted. He had no insurance and offered to do volunteer work to cover the cost of removing the tree and putting sod down in the area. Estimates for the work came in with the low bid being \$900. His offer was not accepted and after considerable discussions he provided Peace with a cashier’s check for \$900.

Memorial Gift to Peace in memory of charter member Kay Dameron

A friend of Kay Dameron, Lisalyn Roth, gave a generous gift and requested that the funds be used either for a native tree or plants. As the scatter garden needed a major overhaul, it was cleared of all vegetation except existing daffodil bulbs. A number of native fall plants were installed in October, including asters, black-eyed Susan and coneflower. The area was mulched and additional plants will be installed in the spring.

Thanks to the mowing team

Again in 2023, the mowing team performed admirably. Special thanks to Stu Whitehead, leading the team and doing all scheduling and to Michael Stumpf for his care of our many machines. I shudder to think of the cost if we didn’t have volunteer mowers and Michael keeping all the equipment operating.

Proposal to Council accepted

The difficulty of maintaining our large 3 acre property has become overwhelming and the cost of hiring landscapers on an as needed basis is rising. Council accepted a proposal for a ten month contract for landscaping maintenance. The concept will be implemented in 2024.

Looking ahead

In 2024 I plan to consult with Michael Stumpf to evaluate the life of mowing machines and other tools for the lawn. Ideally we will begin to replace older electric or gas powered tools with battery operated eco-friendly tools.

More plants will be added to the scatter garden, more mulch will be added, the area maintained regularly. A structure for support of the native honeysuckle will be built and the plant trained onto it.

Property Ministry – Plans for 2024 and possibly 2025 and beyond depending on budget

The HVAC system for the Nursery Wing is being held together with bubble gum and folded matchbook covers. It was installed in the early 60s and has FAR outlasted anyone's version of life expectancy. We don't want to replace it until a decision is made as to what we are going to do with that wing, the system will have to be designed differently if the congregation decides to move the offices back over to the main building from Lauxman but it will have to be replaced immediately for both comfort and building preservation reasons (think frozen pipes in the winter or mold in the summer) if it fails which will be a problem if that happens before a decision is made.

New handrails on the stairs to the choir loft will be installed (thanks David that's a great idea) and the light on the landing will be replaced with something that actually lights up the landing.

With the repair of the brickwork around the stained glass windows being accomplished we can now turn to looking at repairing the drywall that was damaged by the water. We will also have the wood around the windows checked for water damage.

There is a spotlight bulb that is burned out in the ceiling that will almost certainly require scaffolding to replace.

The sanctuary needs to be repainted and the area around the Sacristy that was damaged by water and termites needs to be repaired before that is done.

Getting the scaffolding to do these jobs is expensive and we would like to do all the scaffolding work at the same time to prevent being charged for multiple scaffolding events.

The floor grates have never fit again since the carpet was replaced and they all present a trip and fall hazard. They need to be replaced with ones that fit

We had a plumber come in and install shut off valves in several locations making it possible to turn the outside water off in the winter and isolate areas of the plumbing in case of a leak. The faucet in the Sacristy was also replaced and now has both hot and cold water and does not leak.

The parking lot is in need of serious work, we have an estimate to replace the sidewalk by the circle on the nursery side and resurface the parking lot with the exception of the Lincolnia side lot as we are still contemplating what to do with that entrance. The Estimate is about 61,000 if we only do the main lot, the circle and the Lauxman lot, and about 80,000 if we add the backlot and the road going out to Oak Ridge Drive.

The gutters needed to be cleaned and repaired; no one could remember how long ago it was that that was done last and Anna climbed up on a ladder and looked inside and they were FULL of gunk and leaking. Early in January they were cleaned and patched but will need more work in 2024/2025 due to the way they are constructed.

Soffits around the gutters in the courtyard and on the side of the nursery closest to Summit are rotting from the leaking and the weather and we are exploring whether they can be removed or if repairing them is the only option.

Wood around the windows etc. need to be scraped, sanded and repainted to prevent damage to the wood.

Carpet in Fellowship Hall needs to be replaced with something more durable so it will last longer and look nicer. Right now it is a tripping hazard. A proposal was given to Council early in January and more information will be forthcoming once a comprehensive look has been given to how this and any other work fit together and mesh with Peace for the Future. Stay tuned for more info.

Carpets throughout the complex will need to be cleaned to prevent permanent staining.

Some of the chairs in Fellowship Hall have seat cushions that are coming apart, we either need to get rid of those chairs or order new seats.

The walls in the basement stairwell on the nursery side need to be scraped, patched and painted as they are peeling due to age and the dampness. Between when we started this report and now this has already been accomplished (January 2024) and honestly it's hard to believe it's the same stairwell, having the holes patched and the mold removed makes a huge difference.

There are two broken shelves in the kitchen cabinets, we will contact REICO to see about parts

We are working on addressing the lack of accessibility to both the main building and Lauxman. Lauxman is worse but the main building is really not much better. It is pretty much impossible for a person in a wheelchair to enter the building without assistance and those on crutches or using a walker don't have it much better. We are looking at installing doors that open with the push of a button in at least one location in the main building. Even if we get a ramp for the stairs at Lauxman the front door is too narrow to accommodate a wheelchair so we are still working on solutions there. Please let us know if you have any ideas.

AND on the subject of maintenance we would also like the congregation to consider the idea of hiring a property custodian for the building who could work maybe 8-16 hours a week to start and keep up with the myriad of things that come up and small jobs around the complex.

We are sure that there are more fun things to do but in the interest of the Lorax who speaks for the trees we will stop here.



Quilters Mary Downs

Our quilting year is usually from June of one year to the next June. We take a holiday break for Christmas and then continue our gatherings to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. In 2023, after our Christmas break, the quilters met January 5, 2023, to continue our cutting, designing, sewing, and backing of the quilts. By May of 2023, we had finished 119 quilts plus some for the LIRS group.

Starting Sunday, May 7, 2023, we displayed the quilts in the Sanctuary for a couple of weeks. Pastor Sarah blessed them and 3 were given to our graduating seniors. We also gave 5 to the "Neighbor to Neighbor" group that meets at the church.

June 1, 2023, Arle Samuels hosted the group at her home for a special celebratory brunch. We had a delicious meal and a great time commemorating Arle's return to her home and the completion of another quilting year.

June 4, we presented Pastor Sarah with a quilt made especially for her and signed by members of the quilting group and congregation.

On June 26, 2023, a group of 3 cars, 7 people with 112 quilts (16 bags of 7 quilts each) set off for New Windsor, Maryland, to deliver the quilts to one of the two warehouses in the USA for Lutheran World Relief. We made a day of it by touring the warehouse and then having lunch at Baugher's Restaurant. In 2023, Lutheran World Relief distributed 194,983 quilts to nine countries. Our quilts could have gone to the Congo, Tanzania, Turkey or the Ukraine. They also provide school kits, personal care kits and baby care kits and fabric kits to 14 countries.

For our Christmas celebration this year, Sandi Penoyar hosted a luncheon at her home on December 14, 2023. It was very well attended, and a marvelous lunch was enjoyed by all. We are very thankful for our members who keep us well fed as well as helping with the quilting.

When Nadia Fitzgerald left in December, we presented her with a "Farewell" quilt. We shall miss her helpfulness and cheerful attitude. We also want to thank all those who contributed to our plea for material and sheets to use in the quilts. Thanks to you our "stash" of material grew, and we were able to keep quilting.

We are off to a good start for 2024. We are now at our mid-year point and our quilting closet holds a good many quilts which are ready for June 2024. We meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday mornings and invite any and all to come who would like to join us. Be Prepared! We have 29 quilts in progress that need to be tied. One of these days we may be asking you to join a "Tying Party" to help us tie knots with yarn or string to keep the insides of the quilt from shifting around. Not hard but necessary!

No reports this year from:

Fellowship
Faith Foundations
Peace Community Gardens
Personnel

Project Boomerang
Beading for Haiti
Witness Ministry
Worship Ministry
Technology Committee
Women Renewing at Peace (WRAP)



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