



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



ANNUAL REPORT
2024



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

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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



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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,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;



with countless 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 ever 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.



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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**.



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2024 Annual Meeting January 26, 2025

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

Officers and Congregation Council

President	Megan Wenzel
Vice President	Dan Hill
Secretary	Brandy Huston
Treasurer	Tom Braaten
Member at Large	Carol Franz
Member at Large	Vicki Hillmer
Member at Large	Kathi Anderson
Member at Large	Carola Davis

Ministry Team Chairs

Faith Formation Transition	Bruce Rockstroh
Fellowship	Becky Voges & Jim Johnson
Finance	James Huston
Outreach	N/A
Property	Forrest Willis
Service	Karen Laughlin
Worship/Music	Martin Franz
Compassion	Terry Westerman
Mission Endowment	Nathan Anderson

Staff Members

Pastor	Jake Fain
Deacon of Faith Formation	Andrew More (Thru October 2024)
Finance Administrator	Theresa Robinson
Office Administrator	Madison Clark
Musician	Steven Robbins
Custodian	Donna Braune



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2024 Annual Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

Megan Wenzel

Opening Liturgy

Pastor Jake Fain

Reports to the Congregation

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

Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Approval of 2024 Financial Report

Business Items

2. Approval of the 2025 Peace Lutheran Church Budget
3. Election of Council Members
4. Other Business as Required

President's Comments

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

Pastor Jake



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2023 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order by church council president, Carol Franz at 11:31 am. 41 disciples are required for a quorum, 55 in person disciples and 6 virtual meeting disciples were present. Quorum established.
2. Opening Prayer by council president Carol Franz
3. Opening Liturgy – Pastor Jake Fain
4. Looking back on 2023, review of A Life of Faith initiative – Mission, Vision and Values
5. Acknowledgement of staff that have separated from Peace – Jeannie Kawazoe, Valerie Wood and Elizabeth Honemeyer
6. Highlighting of Mission Endowment Awards
 - a) Vision Team
 - b) Emmaus Road Foundation (Columbia) – Pastor Nathanael Lizarazo
7. Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes – Patti Kassel made motion to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes. Fritz Friesenhahn seconded motion. Motion carried.
8. Approval of 2023 Financial Report – Fritz Friesenhahn made a motion to approve the 2023 Financial Report. Brody Johnson seconded motion. Motion carried.
9. Presentation and review of the proposed 2024 PLC Budget – Don Hodde.
10. Approval of 2024 PLC Budget – Fritz Friesenhahn made motion to approve 2024 PLC Budget. John Kassel seconded motion. Motion carried.
11. Thanks to outgoing Councilmembers – Carol Franz
12. Election of Peace Church Council (* indicates nominees): No additional nominations from floor. Patti Kassel made motion to approve nominees, Brody Johnson seconded motion. Motion carries.
 - a) Tom Braaten: 1st year of 1st term*
 - b) Dannie Hill: 1st year of 1st term*
 - c) Carola Davis: 1st year of 1st term*
 - d) Brandy Huston: for 1st year of 1st term*
 - e) Megan Wenzel: 2nd year of 2nd term
 - f) Carol Franz: for 2nd year of 2nd term
 - g) Vicki Hillmer: for 1st year of 2nd term
 - h) Kathy Anderson: 2nd year of 1st term
13. Adjournment – Motion by Don Hodde, second by Fritz Friesenhahn to adjourn. Motion carries.
14. Closing Prayer - Pastor Jake



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Peace Lutheran Church - New Braunfels TX
Treasurer's Report as of December 2024

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
Income					
401.010	General Offering Income	38,423.68	390,783.40	373,762.00	(17,021.40)
401.026	Interest - Prosperity Bank Checking	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
401.027	St. Andrew Collaborative Income	0.00	8,017.30	7,852.00	(165.30)
401.028	Faith Formation Income	0.00	2,232.37	2,000.00	(232.37)
401.030	Verizon Tower Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
401.031	Flowers Income	120.00	1,184.00	2,000.00	816.00
401.032	Worship Income	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
401.033	Offering Envelopes Income	0.00	87.00	0.00	(87.00)
401.036	Christmas Tea Income	215.00	665.00	500.00	(165.00)
401.037	Fellowship Income	329.00	2,242.00	2,500.00	258.00
401.038	Outreach Income	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
401.039	Miscellaneous Income	420.18	9,445.68	8,000.00	(1,445.68)
401.040	SOS Food Bank Income	50.00	1,706.24	1,000.00	(706.24)
401.041	Family Promise Income	50.00	705.98	1,000.00	294.02
401.042	Lutheran Advantage Scholarship Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
401.043	Family Life Center Income	0.00	635.59	500.00	(135.59)
401.044	Comal County Crisis Center Income	0.00	482.02	0.00	(482.02)
401.045	NB First Footing Homeless Shelter Income	10.00	2,432.86	1,000.00	(1,432.86)
	General Fund	\$39,617.86	\$420,619.44	\$400,264.00	(\$20,355.44)
410.010	Building Fund Income	560.00	7,415.00	7,360.00	(55.00)
410.020	Interest Income Building	0.00	64.32	100.00	35.68
	Building Fund	\$560.00	\$7,479.32	\$7,460.00	(\$19.32)
410.050	Peace Mission Endowment Fund - Income	50.00	600.00	600.00	0.00
410.060	Interest Income - Peace Mission Endowment Fund	0.00	33.27	30.00	(3.27)
	Peace Mission Endowment Fund	\$50.00	\$633.27	\$630.00	(\$3.27)
411.070	ELCA Endowment Investment Fund - Income	0.00	4,109.20		
411.071	ELCA Endowment Investment Fund Market Adjustment	0.00	12,540.41		
	ELCA Endowment Investment Fund	\$0.00	\$16,649.61		
411.010	Deferred Maintenance Fund - Income	40.00	640.00		
411.020	Interest Income - Deferred Maintenance	0.00	24.74		
	Deferred Maintenance Fund	\$40.00	\$664.74		
412.010	Aid To Needy Fund Offerings	0.00	(248.40)		
412.015	Peace's Little Pantry Fund Offerings	0.00	2,231.00		
414.071	Youth Fund Offerings	1,037.25	1,037.25		
414.072	ELCA Youth Gathering Offerings	0.00	5,011.40		
418.010	Memorial Fund Offerings	315.00	2,867.50		



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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
419.000	Hunger Fund Offerings	0.00	2,850.00		
419.001	LWR Fund Offerings	0.00	750.00		
419.003	Additional Benevolence Fund Offerings	0.00	156.99		
419.010	Other Funds Offerings	641.00	2,228.26		
419.015	Peaceful Piecers Quilt Fund Of	75.00	1,363.50		
419.020	Mission Projects Fund Offerings	1,450.00	6,850.00		
	Total Other Funds	\$3,518.25	\$25,097.50		
	Total Income	\$43,786.11	\$471,143.88	\$408,354.00	(\$20,378.03)
Expense					
501.010	General Benevolence	0.00	30,302.94	32,126.00	1,823.06
501.050	SOS Food Bank Benevolence	0.00	1,656.24	1,000.00	(656.24)
501.075	Family Promise Benevolence	0.00	655.98	1,000.00	344.02
501.080	Lutheran Advantage Scholarship Benevolence	0.00	0.00	775.00	775.00
501.089	Family Life Center Benevolence	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
501.090	Comal County Crisis Center/Serve Spot	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
501.091	New Braunfels First Footing Homeless Shelter	0.00	2,372.86	1,000.00	(1,372.86)
	Benevolence	\$0.00	\$34,988.02	\$36,401.00	\$1,412.98
502.010	Salary - Pastor	4,074.92	49,069.12	48,899.00	(170.12)
502.020	Housing - Pastor	2,496.92	29,963.04	29,963.00	(0.04)
502.030	Pension/Medical - Pastor	3,794.70	41,458.72	45,536.00	4,077.28
502.040	SS Offset - Pastor	502.76	6,027.02	6,033.00	5.98
502.050	Auto Allowance - Pastor	0.00	818.74	1,500.00	681.26
502.060	Supply Pastors	250.00	1,250.00	500.00	(750.00)
502.070	Continuing Education - Pastor	495.00	550.00	700.00	150.00
502.089	Phone Allowance - Pastor	100.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
502.090	Professional Expense - Pastor	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
	Pastoral	\$11,814.30	\$130,436.64	\$134,431.00	\$3,994.36
503.011	Salary - Organist	0.00	0.00	10,400.00	10,400.00
503.012	Salary - Choir Director	1,600.00	13,750.00	4,800.00	(8,950.00)
503.013	Salary - Director Music Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
503.015	Bell Choir Music/Equipment	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
503.020	Music Substitute	0.00	1,350.00	300.00	(1,050.00)
503.022	Special Service Musicians	600.00	600.00	0.00	(600.00)
503.023	Puppet Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
503.024	Music Equipment Replacement	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
503.030	Music	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
503.040	Professional Expense - Organist	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	(1,000.00)
503.050	Professional Expense - Choir Director	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
503.060	Licensing	155.00	1,762.00	1,615.00	(147.00)
503.070	Professional Expense - Director Music Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Music Ministry	\$2,355.00	\$18,462.00	\$17,315.00	(\$1,147.00)



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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
504.001	Salary - Deacon	0.00	33,118.52	41,834.00	8,715.48
504.002	Pension/Medical - Deacon	537.88	17,211.91	15,944.00	(1,267.91)
504.004	Auto Allowance - Deacon	0.00	223.78	500.00	276.22
504.006	Cont Ed/Prof Exp - Deacon	0.00	25.00	200.00	175.00
504.007	Phone Allowance - Deacon	0.00	316.73	400.00	83.27
	Deacon	\$537.88	\$50,895.94	\$58,878.00	\$7,982.06
504.009	Pray Ground	0.00	273.68	200.00	(73.68)
504.010	Babysitting-Church Functions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
504.011	Salary - Nursery Attendant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
504.012	Summer Camp	0.00	600.00	1,500.00	900.00
504.013	VBS Materials/Supplies	0.00	2,599.15	1,000.00	(1,599.15)
504.014	Cradle Roll-Splash	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
504.015	Confirmation Material	0.00	247.36	200.00	(47.36)
504.016	Celebrations	0.00	178.21	300.00	121.79
504.017	Confirmation Retreats	1,000.00	6,238.87	3,000.00	(3,238.87)
504.018	Christmas Program	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
504.019	Middle School Youth Group	0.00	106.24	200.00	93.76
504.020	Senior High Youth Group	0.00	187.76	200.00	12.24
504.021	First Communion Instruction	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
504.023	Passing on the Faith	0.00	282.72	300.00	17.28
504.024	Young Family Ministry	0.00	218.27	400.00	181.73
504.026	Small Group Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
504.028	Adult Classes	0.00	84.70	100.00	15.30
	Faith Formation Ministry	\$1,000.00	\$11,016.96	\$7,650.00	(\$3,366.96)
504.029	Miscellaneous Worship Supplies	12.00	192.67	200.00	7.33
504.030	Bulletins	6.00	71.15	100.00	28.85
504.031	Communion Supplies	0.00	332.70	300.00	(32.70)
504.032	Baptisma/Funeral Supplies	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
504.033	Organ/Piano Repair	0.00	321.50	300.00	(21.50)
504.037	Flowers	100.00	1,780.44	0.00	(1,780.44)
	Worship Ministry	\$118.00	\$2,698.46	\$1,100.00	(\$1,598.46)
504.038	Stephen Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
504.040	Neighborhood Outreach	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
504.042	Outreach General Events	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
504.043	Advertising	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
504.044	Outreach Care Ministry	0.00	278.00	500.00	222.00
504.045	Senior Social Ministry	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
504.046	Newborn Ministry	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
504.048	Memorial Plaque	0.00	0.00	75.00	75.00
504.049	Christ In Our Home	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
	Outreach Ministry	\$0.00	\$278.00	\$2,375.00	\$2,097.00
504.051	Offering Envelopes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
504.052	Stewardship Resources	0.00	70.00	100.00	30.00
	Support Ministry	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$100.00	\$30.00
504.061	Family Promise Expense	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
504.064	Service Projects	24.15	24.15	250.00	225.85
504.065	Lutheran World Relief Projects	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
504.066	GWOH/Big Serve	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Service Ministry	\$24.15	\$24.15	\$3,750.00	\$3,725.85
504.070	Fellowship Supplies	642.04	4,265.98	500.00	(3,765.98)



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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
504.071	Christmas Tea	386.72	658.61	0.00	(658.61)
504.072	Church Picnic	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
504.074	Retreats	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
504.075	New Member Supplies	0.00	171.09	100.00	(71.09)
	Fellowship Ministry	\$1,028.76	\$5,095.68	\$1,100.00	(\$3,995.68)
505.010	Utilities	1,601.08	18,183.25	18,000.00	(183.25)
505.020	Salary - Custodian	1,010.92	12,131.04	12,131.00	(0.04)
505.021	Substitute Custodian	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
505.030	Custodial Supplies	177.30	1,681.29	2,000.00	318.71
505.040	Insurance	0.00	13,209.00	14,500.00	1,291.00
505.050	Maintenance	0.00	6,513.13	2,000.00	(4,513.13)
505.060	Telephone	0.00	0.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
505.080	Landscaping Expense	450.00	7,270.33	6,200.00	(1,070.33)
505.090	Security/Fire System	0.00	8,240.00	7,600.00	(640.00)
505.100	Termite-Pest Control	0.00	462.98	600.00	137.02
505.101	Durable Goods	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
505.105	PPE (Property Plant Equipment) Reserve	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
	Property Ministry	\$3,239.30	\$67,691.02	\$76,431.00	\$8,739.98
506.010	Salary - Business Administrator	2,112.50	29,274.08	25,350.00	(3,924.08)
506.011	Salary - Office Administrator	1,590.00	18,880.31	19,080.00	199.69
506.015	Leadership Development	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
507.020	Office Supplies	0.00	1,640.33	300.00	(1,340.33)
507.021	Office Equipment	0.00	875.74	500.00	(375.74)
507.030	Postage Expense	0.00	401.00	250.00	(151.00)
507.031	Technology	485.77	7,421.96	1,000.00	(6,421.96)
507.040	Reproduction Expense	300.59	3,008.71	3,000.00	(8.71)
507.050	Conventions	0.00	2,198.10	500.00	(1,698.10)
507.060	Miscellaneous Expense	110.37	1,996.64	1,000.00	(996.64)
507.070	Payroll Taxes	483.00	8,197.42	8,403.00	205.58
507.080	Background Checks	0.00	205.15	150.00	(55.15)
507.081	Workmens' Compensation Insurance	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
507.082	Staff Appreciation	0.00	437.23	0.00	(437.23)
	Administrative	\$5,082.23	\$74,536.67	\$60,733.00	(\$13,803.67)
	Total General Fund Exp.	\$25,199.62	\$396,193.54	\$400,264.00	\$4,070.46
510.050	Peace Mission Endowment Fund Paid Out	0.00	2,407.64		
	Peace Mission Endowment Fund Expenses	\$0.00	\$2,407.64		
511.010	Def. Maint Fund Paid Out	0.00	5,525.00		
	Deferred Maintenance Fund Expenses	\$0.00	\$5,525.00		
512.015	Peace's Little Pantry Fund Paid Out	0.00	24.32		
514.010	ELCA Youth Gathering Paid Out	0.00	10,826.01		
518.010	Memorial Fund Paid Out	0.00	644.08		
519.010	Other Funds Paid Out	0.00	1,477.26		
519.011	LWR Fund Paid Out	0.00	750.00		
520.020	Hunger Fund Paid Out	0.00	2,350.00		



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**Peace Lutheran Church - New Braunfels TX
Treasurer's Report as of December 2024**

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

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Account #	Account Name	Period Activity	YTD Balance	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Remaining
520.060	Peaceful Peicers Quilt Fund Paid Out	181.68	4,712.76		
	Total Other Funds Exp.	\$181.68	\$20,784.43		
	Total Expenses	\$25,381.30	\$424,910.61	\$400,264.00	\$4,070.46
	Difference	\$18,404.81	\$46,233.27	\$8,090.00	



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**Peace Lutheran Church - New Braunfels TX
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for December 2024**

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

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Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
300.010	General Fund	34,504.81	39,617.86	25,084.53	0.00	49,038.14
300.020	Building Fund	10,172.96	560.00	0.00	0.00	10,732.96
300.025	Peace Mission Endowment Fund	7,528.27	50.00	0.00	0.00	7,578.27
300.026	ELCA Endowment Investment Fund	152,837.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	152,837.62
300.030	Deferred Maintenance Fund	1,605.60	40.00	0.00	0.00	1,645.60
300.040	Aid To Needy Fund	1,334.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,334.79
300.050	Pastor Gary and Loy Lange Scholarship Fund	1,309.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,309.00
300.060	ELCA Youth Gathering Fund	1,491.69	1,037.25	0.00	0.00	2,528.94
300.080	Stephen Ministry Fund	175.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	175.00
300.100	Memorial Fund	16,189.61	315.00	115.09	0.00	16,389.52
300.110	Other Funds	110.00	641.00	0.00	0.00	751.00
300.115	Hunger Fund	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
300.118	Additional Benevolence Fund	156.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	156.99
300.160	Peaceful Piecers Quilting Fund	(2,772.15)	75.00	181.68	0.00	(2,878.83)
300.170	Mission Projects Fund	14,009.03	1,450.00	0.00	0.00	15,459.03
300.180	Peace's Little Pantry Fund	4,143.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,143.36
Total		<u>\$243,296.58</u>	<u>\$43,786.11</u>	<u>\$25,381.30</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$261,701.39</u>



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2025 Proposed Budget Report

<i>Expense</i>		2024 Budget	2024 Actual	Income Offset	2025 Proposed Budget
501.010	General Benevolence	\$32,126.37	\$30,302.94		\$34,343.50
501.050	SOS Food Bank Benevolence	\$1,000.00	\$1,656.24		\$1,000.00
501.075	Family Promise Benevolence	\$1,000.00	\$655.98		\$1,000.00
501.080	Lutheran Advantage Scholarship	\$775.00	\$0.00		\$775.00
501.089	Family Life Center Benevolence	\$500.00	\$0.00		\$500.00
501.090	Comal Cty Crisi Center/ServeSpot	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
501.091	NB First Footing Benevolence	\$1,000.00	\$2,432.86		\$1,000.00
	Benevolence	\$36,401.37	\$35,048.02	\$0.00	\$38,618.50
502.010	Salary - Pastor	\$48,899.05	\$49,069.12		\$50,366.02
502.020	Housing - Pastor	\$29,963.07	\$29,963.04		\$29,963.07
502.030	Pension/Medical - Pastor	\$45,536.40	\$41,458.72		\$45,536.40
502.040	SS Offset - Pastor	\$6,032.95	\$6,027.02		\$6,145.18
502.050	Auto Allowance - Pastor	\$1,500.00	\$818.74		\$1,500.00
502.060	Supply Pastors	\$500.00	\$1,500.00		\$500.00
502.070	Continuing Education - Pastor	\$700.00	\$550.00		\$700.00
502.089	Phone Allowance - Pastor	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00
502.090	Professional Expense - Pastor	\$100.00	\$100.00		\$100.00
	Pastoral	\$134,431.47	\$130,686.64	\$0.00	\$136,010.67
503.011	Salary - Organist	\$10,400.00	\$0.00		\$10,400.00
503.012	Salary - Choir Director	\$4,800.00	\$13,750.00		\$9,600.00
503.015	Bell Choir Music/Equipment	\$200.00	\$0.00		\$200.00
503.020	Music Substitute	\$300.00	\$1,350.00		\$800.00
503.022	Special Service Musicians	\$0.00	\$600.00		\$1,800.00
503.024	Music Equipment Replacement	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$500.00
503.060	Licensing	\$1,615.00	\$1,762.00		\$1,300.00
	Music Ministry	\$17,315.00	\$17,462.00	\$0.00	\$24,600.00
504.001	Salary - Deacon	\$41,834.33	\$33,118.52		\$41,834.33
504.002	Pension/Medical - Deacon	\$15,943.64	\$17,211.91		\$15,943.64
504.004	Auto Allowance - Deacon	\$500.00	\$223.78		\$0.00
504.006	Cont Ed/Prof Exp - Deacon	\$200.00	\$25.00		\$0.00
504.007	Phone Allowance - Deacon	\$400.00	\$316.73		\$0.00
	Deacon	\$58,877.97	\$50,895.94	\$0.00	\$57,777.97



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504.009	Pray Ground (Children's Church)	\$200.00	\$273.68		\$100.00
504.012	Summer Camp	\$1,500.00	\$600.00		\$1,500.00
504.013	VBS Day Camp	\$1,000.00	\$2,599.15		\$1,500.00
504.014	Cradle Roll-Splash	\$100.00	\$0.00		\$100.00
504.015	Confirmation Material	\$200.00	\$247.36		\$250.00
504.016	Celebrations	\$300.00	\$178.21		\$300.00
504.017	Confirmation Retreats (Camp)	\$3,000.00	\$6,238.87		\$5,000.00
504.018	Christmas Program	\$100.00	\$0.00		\$100.00
504.019	Middle School Youth Group	\$200.00	\$106.24		\$200.00
504.020	Senior High Youth Group	\$200.00	\$187.76		\$200.00
504.021	First Communion Instruction	\$50.00	\$0.00		\$50.00
504.023	Passing on the Faith	\$300.00	\$282.72		\$300.00
504.024	Young Family Ministry	\$400.00	\$218.27		\$700.00
504.028	Adult Classes	\$100.00	\$84.70		\$200.00
	Faith Formation Ministry	\$7,650.00	\$11,016.96	\$0.00	\$10,500.00
504.029	Miscellaneous Worship Supplies	\$200.00	\$192.67		\$300.00
504.030	Bulletins	\$100.00	\$71.15		\$500.00
504.031	Communion Supplies	\$300.00	\$332.70		\$300.00
504.032	Baptismal/Funeral Supplies	\$200.00	\$0.00		\$200.00
504.033	Organ/Piano Repair	\$300.00	\$321.50		\$300.00
504.037	Flowers	\$0.00	\$1,992.55		\$100.00
	Worship Ministry	\$1,100.00	\$2,910.57	\$0.00	\$1,700.00
504.039	The Living Lutheran Magazine	\$150.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
504.040	Neighborhood Outreach	\$250.00	\$0.00		\$250.00
504.042	Outreach General Events	\$250.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
504.043	Advertising	\$600.00	\$0.00		\$500.00
504.044	Outreach Care Ministry	\$500.00	\$278.00		\$300.00
504.045	Senior Social Ministry	\$150.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
504.046	Newborn Ministry	\$50.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
504.048	Memorial Plaque	\$75.00	\$0.00		\$75.00
504.049	Christ In Our Home	\$500.00	\$0.00		\$500.00
	Outreach Ministry	\$2,525.00	\$278.00	\$0.00	\$1,625.00
504.051	Offering Envelopes	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$300.00
504.052	Stewardship Resources	\$100.00	\$70.00		\$200.00
	Support Ministry	\$100.00	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
504.061	Family Promise Expense	\$500.00	\$0.00		\$1,000.00
504.064	Service Projects	\$250.00	\$24.15		\$0.00
504.065	Lutheran World Relief Projects	\$3,000.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
504.066	GWOH/Big Serve	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
	Service Ministry	\$3,750.00	\$24.15	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
504.070	Fellowship Supplies	\$500.00	\$4,265.98		\$3,000.00
504.071	Christmas Tea	\$0.00	\$658.61		\$0.00
504.072	Church Picnic	\$250.00	\$0.00		\$250.00
504.074	Retreats	\$250.00	\$0.00		\$250.00
504.075	New Member Supplies	\$100.00	\$171.09		\$100.00
	Fellowship Ministry	\$1,100.00	\$5,095.68	\$0.00	\$3,600.00



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505.010	Utilities	\$18,000.00	\$18,183.25		\$18,000.00
505.020	Salary - Custodian	\$12,131.06	\$12,131.04		\$12,131.06
505.021	Substitute Custodian	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
505.030	Custodial Supplies	\$2,000.00	\$1,681.29		\$2,000.00
505.040	Insurance	\$14,500.00	\$13,209.00		\$21,860.00
505.050	Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$6,513.13		\$2,000.00
505.060	Telephone	\$1,400.00	\$0.00		\$1,400.00
505.080	Landscaping Expense	\$6,200.00	\$7,270.33		\$6,800.00
505.090	Security/Fire System	\$7,600.00	\$8,240.00		\$7,600.00
505.100	Termite-Pest Control	\$600.00	\$462.98		\$600.00
505.101	Durable Goods	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
505.105	PPE (Property Plant Equip) Reserve	\$12,000.00	\$0.00		\$12,000.00
	Property Ministry	\$76,431.06	\$67,691.02	\$0.00	\$84,391.06
506.010	Salary - Business Administrator	\$25,350.00	\$29,274.08		\$26,361.56
506.011	Salary - Office Administrator	\$19,080.00	\$18,880.31		\$21,200.00
506.015	Leadership Development	0.00	0.00		300.00
507.020	Office Supplies	300.00	1640.33		500.00
507.021	Office Equipment	500.00	875.74		500.00
507.030	Postage Expense	250.00	401.00		350.00
507.031	Technology	1,000.00	7,306.87		2,400.00
507.040	Reproduction Expense	3,000.00	3,008.71		3,000.00
507.050	Conventions	500.00	2198.10		600.00
507.060	Miscellaneous Expense	1000.00	1996.64		0.00
507.070	Payroll Taxes	8,403.17	8,197.42		8,368.79
507.080	Background Checks	150.00	205.15		500.00
507.081	Workmens' Comp Ins	1200.00	0.00		0.00
507.082	Staff Appreciation	0.00	437.23		400.00
	Administrative	\$60,733.17	\$74,421.58	\$0.00	\$64,480.35
	Income Offset Total			\$0.00	
	General Fund Offerings			\$390,783.40	
	Total General Fund Exp.	\$400,415.04	\$395,600.56	\$390,783.40	\$424,803.55



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Reports to the Congregation

Pastor's Message

Grace and peace to you Peace Lutheran Church of New Braunfels,

In 2020, the world shifted with the pandemic – technically it didn't shift as much as it exposed the paradigm shifts in our world. Our congregation spent energy on relearning what ministry is in a time in which we couldn't gather. We learned about digital ministry and forming partnerships and networks together.

In 2021, the congregation experienced the fallout from the Texas winter freeze as our building flooded and we focused a lot of energy on rebuilding.

In 2022-23, we entered an intentional of finding some stability time and discernment seeking to connect with God's mission and vision in this new era.

Finally, this past year we had the opportunity to implement our clarified mission: To love like Jesus so that each person experiences God's Way.

We focused on four major areas/perspectives to live out this mission:

Stewardship Perspective

Strategy: Increasing our capacity for ministry

The effects of the pandemic still linger. It still feels like we are trying to do more with less. But our hope is that with clear focus, we will maximize the way of God's love in powerful ways. Our strategy to increase capacity is to unleash people's inherent, God-given gifts both through generosity and through the spiritual gifts we share.

The Spiritual Gifts Team is a new ministry group who have created an assessment tool to build awareness of each person's gifts and to utilize them for God's purposes. In addition, our Finance Team has worked to cultivate generous hearts.

Loving Our Neighbors Perspective

Strategy: Walking along side of people like Jesus



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One of our core values is Compassion. It's the first characteristic God shares with Moses when they meet for the first time. Compassion is seeing and moving toward our shared humanity.

Our Compassion Team really came together this past year and brought the love of Jesus to those struggling in difficult circumstances.

In addition, our Prayer Team meets every Monday to lift up the prayers of the congregation and call upon the Lord sharing our joys, sorrows, and longings.

Some of the most exciting work is our growing relationship with the Salvation Army and a group of faithful folks that cook meals regularly. A special thank you to Kathi Anderson who has spearheaded this partnership and put in countless hours of service. More plans are being developed for 2025 concerning feeding ministries in our hungry world.

Ministry/Processes Perspective

Strategy: Be a Good News church

Being a Good News church means articulating our faith in the story of God. This past year we began utilizing the Narrative Lectionary in worship instead of the RCL (Revised Common Lectionary). As the culture becomes increasingly secular, the story of faith is less and less known. Therefore, the Narrative Lectionary is a tool to help the church go through the Bible more systematically to understand the narrative arc of God's Word and connect both Old and New Testament readings. This means we are not reading 4 RCL scripture passages; rather we focus on one larger portion of the biblical story. In the Fall we stay in the OT and in the spring we center on the life of Jesus and then the early church with the goal of developing our biblical fluency, so that we can be immersed in the Good News (Gospel).

We are also in the process of auditing our digital ministry recognizing that we need to be speaking the language of people where they are at – and people are online. Therefore, we have adopted a both/and strategy of ensuring the Good News is shared in person and online. Look for more implementation in 2025. One of the highlights was the creation of our Spiritual Gifts Assessment that is fully accessible online. A special thanks to Brandy Huston for her efforts in this project.

Discipleship Perspective



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Strategy: Equipping people to follow God's Way

Jesus charged his disciples with making disciples – that is, people who follow him. Therefore, the church is focused not only on sharing Good News and inviting people to know God, but to follow God.

We are in the 2nd year of a 2.5 year ELCA initiative called the Life of Faith in which we are looking at ministry beyond what happens as we gather together as the church, but also reclaim the vocational identity of God's partners in ministry in every aspect of our lives. Our Life of Faith team continues to meet with an outside coach as we work through steps to empower the congregation to recognize their vocational calling.

We began a Faith Talk group on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall to talk about anything and everything faith-related because anything and everything IS faith-related. We also dive deeper into the narrative lectionary scripture as we develop our understanding of God's Word and how we can live that out in our lives.

In 2025 we have interest in building some small group ministries to connect people.

Leadership

A special thank you to all our congregational leaders: our council, ministry teams, and staff. They have all been critical personnel launching our mission, vision, and values and putting them into practice.

- Council – Our council are the overseers of the church, making sure they provide insight (perspectives in our shared church life), foresight (vision for where we are going), and oversight (accountability to the mission). Megan Wenzel (President), Dan Hill (Vice-

President), Tom Braaten (Treasurer), Brandy Huston (Secretary), Carola Davis, Kathi Anderson, Carol Franz, Vicki Hillmer.

- Ministry Teams – These folks are the engines of ministry at Peace who sacrifice their time and energy to passionately serve and create the pathways to ensure we are living out the mission God has entrusted to us. There are too many folks to list here, but I encourage you to read through their ministry reports to celebrate the various ways we are living out God's mission.



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· Staff – We have an entirely new staff this past year which means every day was learning and adapting to the lifecycle of the church.

We were overjoyed to have Deacon Andrew More serve with us these past five years. God has called him to North Caolina to begin a new adventure and move closer to family. Currently we have created a Faith Formation Transition Team that is managing our faith formation programming for all ages and in 2025 will consider staffing for the future.

Madison Clark has been our Office Administrator primarily taking care of communications and creating everything we see in worship visually among a myriad of other jobs.

Theresa Robinson is our Business Administrator who handles our finances and building usage.

Steven Robinson transitioned from interim Music Lead to a permanent position. His gifts in worship bring not only playing music, but teaching congregational music/singing, and choir direction. At the close of 2024 and moving into 2025, we have added additional hours to help train instrumentalists and empower congregational musicians.

Donna Braune continues to be the sole long-term staff member who faithfully serves as our custodian keeping our facilities welcoming and clean.

God's peace to you as we continue to walk together in faith. I thank the Lord for your partnership in ministry and the way the Good News of Jesus is transforming us and the world around us. May we continue to be attentive to the Spirit's calling.

Peace,

Pastor Jake Fain



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2023/24 Membership

2024 Statistics

Baptized Membership - 327
Confirmed Membership - 275
Total New Members – 10
Total Members Removed – 11
Household – 172
In-Person Attendance – 83
Online Attendance – 82
Estimated Average Attendance – 185

2023 Statistics

Baptized Membership - 317
Confirmed Membership - 265
Total New Members – 32
Total Members Removed – 23
Household – 165
In-Person Attendance – 91
Online Attendance – 102
Estimated Average Attendance – 193



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New Members

<u>How Came to Membership</u>	<u>Name (Last, First)</u>	<u>Membership Date</u>
Transfer from other Luth	Carter, Carla	10/02/2024
Transfer from other Luth	Grimes, Michael	10/02/2024
Transfer from other Luth	Grimes, Jamie	10/02/2024
Transfer from other Luth	Johnson, James	10/02/2024
Transfer from other Luth	Johnson, Michelle	10/02/2024
Transfer from other Luth	Martinez, Matthew	10/02/2024
Transfer from other Luth	Martinez, Taylor	10/02/2024
Transfer from other Luth	Scott, Lorinda	10/02/2024
Transfer from other Luth	McCarthy, Judy	10/17/2024
Transfer from other Luth	Cunningham, Scott	10/17/2024



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Members Removed

<u>Inactive Reason</u>	<u>Name (Last, First)</u>	<u>Inactive Date</u>
Transfer	Khalil, Emily	08/29/2024
Transfer	Khalil, Salim	08/29/2024
Transfer	Khalil, Xenia	08/29/2024
Transfer	Khalil, Xander	08/29/2024
Transfer	Khalil, Vivienne	08/29/2024
Transfer	Ebert, Max	04/03/2024
Death	Karabinus, Marlene	12/17/2024
Death	Koester, Eleanor	11/11/2024
Death	Mosher, Greg	10/26/2024
Death	Ullrich, Jackie	10/14/2024
Death	Lange, Peter	06/01/2024



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Council President's Report

BLESSINGS AND LOVE TO YOU ALL! For those that do not know me, I am Megan Wenzel, married to the wonderful Michael and have two beautiful daughters, Haley and Lillian. I would first like to take this opportunity to thank them for the support that they have provided me during my absence as I have tackled the role of church council president for the 2024 year. This was my 4th year on council as I started in 2020 and 2021 as treasurer, and in 2023 I served as Vice President. I have been truly honored to have been trusted in this leadership position and have loved every minute of it.

Being treasurer, I learned about the heavy financial strain of being in a pandemic, dealing with a freeze shortly thereafter, and the changes in church attendance globally. Although many were struggling, I saw our congregation come together in grace-filled ways - with our gifts of love - volunteering to help in several ways. Despite the chaos, we stepped up monetarily to help with improving our space to provide more opportunities to help our growing community. We were able to make our space liveable so that we could provide shelter for those in need. Our congregation came together on different platforms, stretching our perceived limits and getting us out of our comfort zones to minister to each other- online and in-person, and all while social distancing. We were still very present in the mission to serve our community. Watching the growth of our Peace Pantry and the feedback from those that it serves, along with people in our community dropping off items to share with those in need, showed the true reason why we are here, our mission - to love like Jesus so that each person experiences God's way.

Other highlights of my time with council have been the reinstatement of our endowment fund and the blessings it has bestowed on those that were given grants. The grants that were approved this year alone were for The King's Embrace Group Home in Africa - allowing for a teacher to teach their school for the entire year with benefits, New Braunfels Housing Partner - First Footing to help with permanent housing, The Fundacion Camino de Amas which provided elementary education for impoverished youth, and the Labyrinth Grant to help improve our local space with a community prayer labyrinth. Finally, I also always enjoyed the retreats and being a part of the growth of our youth. It was a neat opportunity to bless and send our high school students this past year to New Orleans to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering. What a treat it was to be able to send them off to grow in spiritual connection with God!

We have learned new ways of life in the post pandemic world along with redefining our Mission, Vision and Values while keeping our three imperatives constant - to love God, Love people and serve the world. Pastor Jake will be going through how we are working to implement the strategies that align with this. I wanted to share some pictures that were shared in our Peace Facebook group so we could all enjoy some of Peace's community outreach (if you need help in joining this facebook group, please reach out). The Peace Pantry, Food Bank, Fall Festival at St Andrew's, Peace Live Nativity and a beautiful picture of our new cross wall.



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Many changes have occurred over the last year. We have experienced fear and uncertainty as we've lost staff to life changes, but have gratefully welcomed new additions that will shape and form our mission for years to come. One huge loss for us was the departure of Deacon Andrew as he went back to South Carolina to be closer to his family. We were so fortunate to have his love and guidance if only for a relatively short time. He leaves big shoes to fill, but we welcome the opportunities for lay person assisted worship and leadership, and will do our best, with God's guidance, to continue to grow the experiences he began with us.

We celebrated the retirement of organist, Jeannie, and are truly thankful to her for sharing her gifts with us all these years! What a blessing she has been to us. We were fortunate to hire Steve Robbins as musical director, and his musicianship and leadership have also been a blessing to us! Whether we're singing along with an organ or a guitar or a piano, God has always truly blessed us with wonderful musical ministry and we are grateful!

We also celebrated the retirement of our longtime finance administrator, Valerie, and are thankful for the many years of service. We welcomed Theresa into that finance roll and she has been doing an amazing job!

Unfortunately, we also experienced the insult and painful reality of living in a community that doesn't always strive to love God and their neighbors. We were victimized by vandals this past year, having a very expensive glass door and window shattered by someone hurling rocks into them. The congregation pulled itself together and dug a little deeper into it's pockets and paid for replacement parts. Security cameras have been purchased and installed by the congregation to help keep an eye on things in the future. It's a sad day when a church realizes it must venture into the world not just to help those in need, but to protect itself from those who seek to do it harm. As anyone who has suffered such a violation could attest, we had an opportunity to shut down some of our outreach. We had been given a reason to pull back our ministries to the community out of fear or frustration. However, I'm proud to say that we have neither shut down any of our outreach, nor have we slowed down any of our ministries. With God's grace and love, we weathered that storm and are stronger for it.

I look forward to watching where our spiritual gifts assessment will lead those in being a larger part of what makes Peace a community of believers to serve. I hope that we continue to make new partnerships with organizations aligned with our values to help the larger community.

Megan Wenzel
2024 Council President



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Faith Formation Transition Team

2024 Annual Report Update

After Deacon Andrew announced that he would be leaving Peace to journey to new ministries in North Carolina, the church formed a Faith Formation Transition Team to make sure his good work among us continued. The transition team members are Pastor Jake, Anita Hill, Patti Kassel, Jenny Phillips, Shelley Simmont, and Bruce Rockstroh.

The transition team met with Deacon Andrew before he left in September 2024 to review his activities, contacts, and resources. The team then began planning in October with the initial goal to summarize and prioritize what needed to be done to finish the calendar year. This included continuing some administrative duties of Deacon Andrew and following through on youth ministry activities for all grade levels (elementary, middle school, and high school).

We are pleased to report that the following activities were continued and/or completed in 2024:

- Child Protection Program (consent forms and security checks for volunteers)
- God's Story Time (held during Sunday sermons)
- SWT Synod Middle School Youth Gathering (Camp Chrysalis, November 2024)
- ELCA Youth Gathering Fund Raiser (Cocoa cones, December 2024)
- Children's Christmas Program

The transition team will continue to meet in the new year. Several youth events have already been planned:

- Winter Family Retreat (Ebert Ranch, Feb. 15-16, 2025)
- VBS Day Camp (June 9-13, 2025)
- Support for youth attending summer camp (Lutherhill and Camp Chrysalis)

Additionally, the transition team is working on plans for the spring and summer of 2025 including a one-day elementary retreat, a spring retreat for youth in Confirmation, and summer mission activities for our middle and high school youth. As our congregation plans for 2025 and beyond, the Faith Formation Transition Team looks forward to providing support for our strategic plan and helping to further our mission: To love like Jesus so that everyone experiences God's way.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Rockstroh, team member



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Fellowship Report



As I look back on a very busy 2024, I am incredibly thankful for our amazing Team of volunteers. Although each of us had some health challenges, someone always pitched in and carried an extra load. Thank you Wil Voges, David Martin, Fritz Friesenhahn, Dave & Ann Keeler, Martin & Carol Franz, Becky, Perkins, Sandy Freeman, Vicki Hillmer, Jim & Judi Johnson and Kathy Anderson,

Our Team loves to celebrate and celebrate we did! We had Valentine, Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day breakfasts. We gathered over 140 people at the Comal County Fairgrounds for our Annual Picnic and we honored our volunteers on "God's Work Our Hands Sunday. We honored our Graduates and Deacon Andrew and put up a Cross Wall in the Narthex. We sponsored a Good Friday Prayer Vigil, provided Lenten meals, assisted with Day Camp, and had a Booth at St. Andrew's Fall Fest. We closed out the year with Advent Suppers, Live Nativity and Christmas Caroling.

We have been responsible for keeping the Little Pantry filled, (with the help of our Pantry Angels), provided volunteers for Sunday morning refreshments, kept our Prayer Chain active, and assisted with Funerals/Memorial Services.

As you can see in this picture, we are wearing aprons that say "Joyfully Serving" and we do!



In His Service,
Becky Voges & Jim



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Property Report for 2024

Our annual irrigation backflow and fire inspections were completed earlier this year, with all systems passing inspection. As part of the required rotation schedule, several fire extinguishers were replaced. We are currently transitioning to a new inspection company, one that is certified to work on our existing fire alarm panel. Earlier this year, we also upgraded our monitoring system by replacing the existing landline-based monitoring with a Wi-Fi-enabled system, eliminating the need for the AT&T system and reducing associated costs. This transition did require modifications to our fire alarm panel, but we expect to recoup these costs within a short timeframe.

Building settlement continues to cause damage to our sheetrock. To address this, we obtained three proposals for leveling the east wing to prevent further settling and stabilize the structure. A contractor has been selected, and the work is scheduled for mid-February. Once stabilization is complete, we will engage a company to repair the sheetrock and repaint as needed.

We have renewed our contract with Liberty Lawn and Landscaping of New Braunfels for lawn maintenance services. They have been maintaining the property well, effectively managing weeds and ensuring that the shrubs in our planting beds are kept trimmed.

In addition, adjustments were made to our attic stairs to address an issue with the cable track vibrating, causing the cables to come off their pulleys. Temporary repairs were implemented to mitigate the movement as we continue to explore a permanent solution.

The proposed microwave tower project has been put on indefinite hold, as Verizon has withdrawn from the agreement in favor of another location. However, we may still benefit from another provider's interest in the site in the future.

We have installed video cameras throughout the campus, covering all access doors, the playground, sanctuary, and office. We are also exploring options to install additional cameras to monitor the storage buildings. Additionally, we updated the window tinting on the Narthex doors, office doors, and windows to enhance security for our staff. These updates were prompted in part by an act of vandalism this summer, when rocks were thrown through the entrance door and office window. To date, no suspects have been identified.

We entered into a monthly contract with AED123 on 04/02/2024 to help make sure the AED is up to code and operational.

A leak was discovered in one of our fire sprinkler lines, caused by moisture accumulation and subsequent rusting, which led to a crack. The affected pipe was replaced, and the system was reactivated without any interruption in service.



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We would like to extend our special thanks to our Property Team for their ongoing support with routine maintenance activities, including replacing HVAC filters, light bulbs, trimming trees, moving mulch, and assisting with general clean-up tasks.

Regards,

Forrest Willis & John Kassel



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Service Report

2024 has been a very productive year for Peace as we endeavor to serve our neighbors. Each month we have had a Mission Spotlight that has given us an opportunity to support worthwhile missions and charities that are global or in our backyard. Our Spotlights have given us the ability to support these causes financially or as volunteers. Our members are active in weekly and monthly outreach as well, core groups have staffed the SOS bank on a monthly basis, sewed hundreds of quilts from our homes and together on Tuesdays, and established an association with Salvation Army. Peace Lutheran serves with our hands, hearts and wallets.

In addition to being active givers of time, talents and finances for these established programs and missions, we have also had a School Supply Drive, made the Christmas Season brighter for children with our Angel Tree, and participated as Salvation Army Bell Ringers.

As we begin the New Year, we look forward to more opportunities to serve. There will be six rotations for Family Promise in 2025, as we shelter, nourish and nurture families experiencing housing insecurities a week at a time at the church. We will continue to support our missions with First Footing, Peaceful Quilters, and Peace Pantry and the SOS Food Bank, as well as community outreach such as Family Life Center, Comal County Crisis Center and Salvation Army.

Look for information in our newsletters on Mission Spotlights, the fourth Sunday of each month, and our EBlasts as giving and volunteering opportunities are announced.

Peace
Karen Laughlin
Service Chair



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Worship Report

Mission Statement

“Create a sacred space of extravagant hospitality to encounter God, be joined in unity, and empowered to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.”

What is Worship

I continue to ask myself this question; What is worship? How do I, how do you define ‘Worship’? While reading an article asking that same question, a quote from the book, ‘Engaging with God: a Biblical Theology of Worship’ by David Peterson resonated with me. Peterson states, “Is worship, then, an ... experience or feeling? Is it to be identified with a special sense of the presence of God, or with some kind of religious ecstasy or with expressions of deep humiliation before God? Are there special moments in a Christian meeting when we are truly “worshipping” God? Are church services to be measured by the extent to which they enable the participants to enter into such experiences? Such a subjective approach is often reflected in the comments people make about Christian gatherings, but it has little to do with biblical teaching on the matter.”

The Lexham Theological Workbook goes on to state, “Worship is the awed response to the saving acts and praiseworthy character of God.” The Eastons’ Bible Dictionary adds, “... homage rendered to God which is sinful (idolatry) to render to any created being (Exod 34:14, Isa 2:8). Such worship was refused by Peter (Acts 10:25, 26) and by an angel (Rev 22:8, 9)”.

Worship isn’t about you or me. God invites us to join Him in what He is already doing. Whether we realize it or not, we never stop worshipping. At any given moment we are directing our affections, attention, and allegiance either to the one true God or to idols that cannot satisfy, comfort or rescue us. There’s no way around it; we always live in the presence of God, coram deo.

A look back and a look forward

The Worship Team’s checklist of recommendations and accomplishments may not be that long, but each one focuses on providing an all-inclusive worship experience for the live and digital worship community.

- Narrative Lectionary: Beginning in September, we transitioned from the Revised Common Lectionary to the Narrative Lectionary which more closely follows the Bible from Genesis through Revelation
- Updating and revision of Worship Team Methods and Procedures: We anticipate completion before the end of 1st Qtr. 2025.
- Usher and Communication Assistant training: We have completed our first revised training session and added new members to both positions.



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- Welcome Center: This has become a focal point in the Narthex. Visitors and potential members receive a packet of information about Peace and programs available.
- Name Tags: After a rocky start, the name tags have become a very popular feature. Name tags are provided to visitors as well as congregants.
- Music Leader: We are happy to welcome Steven Robbins to become a part of the worship community assuming the role of Music Leader. Steven brings a fresh look and offers an abundance of musical knowledge and talent.
- Children's Church – God's Story: Designed for children K-5th grade, the children's service follows the theme of the regular service. Special thanks to Will Voges for making the Children's Cross
- Improve on-line worship experience: We continue to explore add-on enhancements to the digital media. We especially welcome feedback (criticism and compliments) from the online worshippers.
- Audio improvements: Installing additional equipment in the Sanctuary to enhance sound quality. Special thanks to John and Patti Kassel, and Martin and Carol Franz for the purchase of the Bose Controller. Coordinating with the Quilting Team to fabricate quilt-like acoustic curtains to hang in the Sanctuary and Narthex to reduce echo and improve the sound quality.
- Aesthetics: (2024-2025): Outdoor improvements include the addition of large pots with trees to be installed on either side of the entrance. A New Creche has been installed near the entrance. Special thanks to Jim and Judy Johnson. We will be soliciting through eblast for donations to cover the cost of one planter and one plant. Indoor improvements will include new signage to reflect our mission, vision and values as well as directional signage to various areas

I want to thank the members of the team, Kathi Anderson, Michael Simpson, Sharon Anderson, and Pastor Jake. In the military, a new commanding officer often looks to his experienced non-commissioned officers (NCOs) to guide him/her through the complexities of commanding a new unit. So it is with many

organizations... as well as the Worship Team. As the new Worship team leader this year, I was the proverbial 'duck-out-of-water' and needed a seasoned veteran's knowledge and insight to guide me. The person that I turned to, my NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge), was Kathi Anderson. Thank you, Kathi. I have learned a lot under your tutelage. So now the leadership role changes hands again. Michael Simpson has volunteered to lead the team.

Thank you,

Martin Franz



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Compassion Report

2024 Annual Report

In 2023 a group of members were asked to serve on a newly created Compassion Team whose purpose it is to fulfill one of the 4 core values (compassion) that the Vision Committee established. We met monthly to discuss which members were in need of someone to talk with about facing life changes, struggles and stress. We each visit members who are living in nursing facilities to take communion to them and listen to their concerns. We also visit members who have lost a loved one and are facing issues with grief, as well as sending them periodic grief booklets . In addition, this year we took holiday gift bags to our shut-ins. There most certainly has been a need for this ministry at Peace Lutheran as the number of elderly members is increasing. Also, with Deacon Andrew's departure to North Carolina, Pastor Jake cannot meet the needs of pastoral care alone.

I certainly appreciate the following members who stepped up to assist with these needs: Cathi Fain, Ceretta Daum, Jane Moeller, Merle Cavanaugh, Barbara Doleshal and Lupe Travis. Merle and Barbara both have had moves which prevents them from this participating any longer, and Lupe has had to move to a nursing facility as she requires more daily care from professionals.

No one in this journey of life gets through it without suffering and facing challenges that often leave us feeling overwhelmed. The Lord promises us that he is with us always. All of us as Christians I believe, aspire to be compassionate people. If you feel called to this very crucial ministry, to be the "hands and feet" of our Lord, please contact me about joining our team. And if you are struggling with challenges and need support, please reach out to me or Pastor Jake and we would be happy to assist.

Thanks,
Terry

Terry Westerman
210-573-4509



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Mission Endowment Report

Mission Endowment Fund Committee Report for 1/26/2025 Annual Meeting

2024 saw the continued post pandemic revitalization of the Peace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund Committee as several goals were accomplished. Many thanks to the other current members of the committee: Cheryl Braaten, Trice Kastein, Vicki Roda and Carola Davis (Council Representative). Pastor Jake Fain also serves as a non-voting advisory member of the committee.

First and foremost, the committee received 4 grant request applications in the fall of 2024 for 2025 fund disbursement. Grants are evaluated on their relevance to fulfilling the mission and vision of Peace Lutheran. Boosted by a very good year on returns from the fund's investment account and some individual donations, the fund balance allowed the committee to recommend approval to the Church Council of all 4 very deserving requests. The Council voted to approve the requests at their November meeting. These are the 4 grants that will be formally announced at the annual meeting on January 26th:

New Braunfels Housing Partners \$2000 (Project sponsor: Kellie Stallings)

The King's Embrace \$2000 (Project sponsor: Bruce Rockstroh)

Fundación Camino de Emaus \$1300 (Project sponsor: Pastor Natanael Lizarazo)

Peace Lutheran Labyrinth \$900 (Project sponsor: Becky Voges)

A main goal for 2024 was to provide better communication of the fund through development of a page on the Peace Lutheran website. That was rolled out last summer and contains information on the fund as well as general information on estate planning. The page can be reached through the Give drop down menu on Peace's main webpage. A shout out to Madison Clark in the church office who provided the knowledge and hard work to make the page possible.

In September, the committee sponsored a presentation by Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest (LFSW) on legacy giving. Thank you to the congregation members who attended and the hospitality committee for providing lunch. Hopefully everyone who attended gained some insight on estate planning and legacy giving. LFSW provides planning assistance to congregational members at no cost.

The committee is excited to be a part of the process to help further the mission, vision, and values of Peace Lutheran Church. Please feel free to contact any member of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee if you would like more information on the fund or legacy giving.

Yours in Christ,
Nathan Anderson
Mission Endowment Fund Committee Chair



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2025 Church Council Nominees

Martin Franz	Nathan Anderson
Cindy Thomas	



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PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINEE PROFILE

Name: Cindy Thomas

How Long have you been a part of the Peace community? 14 years

What drew you to Peace? It is an ELCA congregation with an open, wider view of the world today

Profession: retired high school science teacher

Interests: reading, presently learning a new craft, watching sports, enjoying the grandkids

Spiritual Gifts: teaching, service

Faith Background/History: I grew up in St. Martin's Lutheran/Austin, was a youth group leader in high school, Camp Chrysalis camper and counselor, graduated from Texas Lutheran (College). I have always been thankful for the faith mentors I have had in my life, from Sunday School teachers, clergy, peers, and especially my father.

What excites you about Peace? Peace is a congregation that reaches out rather than turning inward. I am inspired and grateful for the people that are here, and make up the heart of the church's ministry.

Vision for Peace's Ministry: My vision for Peace is to continue to see new faces each week during the service, and to increase the number of members involved in various aspects of ministry. I also would like to increase the opportunities for youth to become involved in the church.



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PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINEE PROFILE

Name: Martin Franz

How Long have you been a part of the Peace community? 5 years

What drew you to Peace? The feeling of family and Pastor Jake. (Plus we wanted to attend a church where the pastor had a better chance at outliving us).

Profession: Retired AT&T manager and contract Technical Trainer

Interests: Music – Love singing with Carol on Sundays, but not much of a choir person. Enjoy gardening, DIY projects, and like working with my hands

Spiritual Gifts: That's a hard one for me to define; I'm a people person, I see good in everybody, not too much in leading, more of a doer.

Faith Background/History: Attended a lot of different churches, revivals, celebrations until my Mom found St. Mathews Lutheran Church in Houston. I grew up in the LCMS all the way through high school; was no poster child for Christianity, faith was something for 'old people'. Now that I fit that 'old people's' profile, every day I question my faith, because every day is a gift, and I don't know if I deserve it.

What excites you about Peace? Everything about Peace excites me.

Vision for Peace's Ministry: My vision for Peace is to find that bridge to span the schism between the church and the younger adult community in and outside of the congregation. I just pray that we never go down that social conformity road where we temper our beliefs, our dogma to become more 'socially acceptable'.



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PEACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINEE PROFILE

Name: Nathan Anderson

How Long have you been a part of the Peace community? ~ 2 years

What drew you to Peace? My in-laws were charter members of Peace, and got to know Pastor Jake through them.

Profession: Retired

Interests: Travel, pickleball, games, golf

Spiritual Gifts: Compassion, service, administration

Faith Background/History: _____

My father was a Lutheran pastor, and I have remained a member of the Lutheran church through my lifetime.

What excites you about Peace? _____

The number of new members that have joined since we became members.

Vision for Peace's Ministry: _____

Continue to be a church for all people, with openness to varying viewpoints. For Peace to be seen in the community as a place of service that responds to the needs of others.