



ANNUAL REPORT
THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL
MEETING

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Empowered by God the mission of



is to recognize, worship, proclaim, serve, and love the one true God, who continues to create; who through Jesus, the Christ, forgives and establishes self-giving love; and who through the Holy Spirit calls us together. Therefore, we are to...

Reach out to others as we

- Invite, encourage, and welcome people into a deeper relationship with God
- Provide a place where people can find peace with God, others, and themselves
- Remain involved in our community
- Serve the needs of others through sharing our gifts
- Witness by action and word to the difference God makes in our individual and congregational lives
- Faithfully support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in extending the church's reach throughout the world

Strengthen and deepen our faith and ministry as we

- Encourage commitment to God in Christ and the Church
- Provide educational opportunities for all
- Nurture everyone in his or her spiritual development
- Care about and serve the needs of each other
- Reflect upon our direction, purpose, and mission; and create a level of Christian challenge
- Celebrate our Lutheran heritage
- Remember those who have gone before us

Create a climate of belonging as we

- Are open, warm, friendly, and available
- Help people feel accepted and included
- Foster open-mindedness and forgiveness
- Welcome a diversity of gifts within our unity
- Honestly seek to relate God to the world and our own lives

Toward these ends we pray for God's direction and help. May we reach upward to God, inward to ourselves, and outward to the world through faith in Christ.

We pledge our participation and support, as God moves us forward in our Christian mission.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
10:30 a.m., Feb. 21, 2021

VISION: Sharing Peace Faithfully
MISSION: To bring people into contact with the Gospel,
and help them grow in their relationship to God in Christ

1. Call to order & declaration of a quorum
2. Opening prayer
3. Motion/second & vote to adopt agenda
4. Ballots
 - a. Certification of nominations for election to Congregation Council
Motion/second & vote
 - b. Process of balloting explained (mail in votes, electronic votes & in-person votes)
 - c. Process for election
 1. For the two-year terms, the five nominees receiving the highest number of votes of those cast will be declared elected.
 2. In the case of a tie for the fifth person, a coin-flip will determine the winner.
 3. In the youth one-year term category, the one youth receiving the highest number of votes of those cast will be declared elected, with the same process as outlined in c.2 above if there is a tie.
 - i. Motion/second & vote for the process of election
 - d. Final call/casting of ballots for Council
5. Reading of the charter
6. State of the church reports
 1. Any questions regarding the annual reports from the committees?
 2. Any questions regarding the other reports?
7. Report on the long-range plan (E-1, E-2 & E-3)
 - a. Motion/second to approve 2021specific plans (E-3)
 - b. Vote
8. Results of balloting (if available)
9. Nominating Committee election (need six)
 - a. Nominations (if fewer than 6 are affirmed, Council will appoint the remaining)
 - b. Voting for a unanimous ballot of those named (show of hands online or voice in person)
10. Comments by Pastor Dave
11. Other comments, questions, concerns
12. Motion to adjourn
13. Closing prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Newly elected and returning Council members meet via Zoom at (or no sooner than) 11:30am for electing our officers for the coming year.

Dear Peace Lutheran Church Family,

Over the past two years I have had the privilege of serving on your behalf as the President of our church council. During this time much has happened that has moved our church onward and upward. Who am I kidding, 2020 was a year of tests and challenges and we survived.

Each month and sometimes every week brought new challenges to overcome. Some use the words pivot, shift, adapt, and alter. In this instance for our church the only word that comes to mind is evolve. Overnight we went from services with 80 to 100 people in the sanctuary to 25 to 500 watching online, on the lawn, and in our cars. At every hurdle we found a path to provide you with God's word each and every week. It is a testament to the resolve of our worship leaders and our congregation to come together to celebrate our beliefs. Heat, rain, cold, wind, snow, and more could not stop us. Certainly, COVID was no match for spreading God's word either.

Our streaming of services will be here to stay. This past October we invested into a state of the art streaming system which will continue to deliver our worship services and more to your phones, tablets, computers, tv's, and more. Our technology team is continuing to refine our presentation to bring you all the best experience possible. While our presence online grows every week with people viewing our services from 12 states and 3 countries, I can only hope when the time comes to return to the "old normal" of in the sanctuary services, we see you all again. Truth be told, for as impressive as the technology is, I miss seeing everyone and holding conversations over coffee and the treats of the hour.

We have kept our church financially stable while providing regular donations to our local community and ELCA initiatives. These include donations to Feed My Starving Children, LSSI, New Lenox Food Pantry, Morningstar Mission, Luther World Relief, Our Sponsored Missionary, and many more. Though giving has been ongoing since the start of COVID, so many of you stepped up when it mattered to continue to make our philanthropic goals realized.

We have again met our complete obligations to the Northern Illinois Synod in presence and in finances. The generosity of our congregation helps the Churchwide effort reach far beyond our community with a message of Christ, Faith, Community, and Grace. Though this looked very different this past year, the national ELCA still served those in need with our contributions as best as they could.

On the home front, we have also renovated our bathrooms, though many of you will not see them quite yet, it was very much a needed project. We repainted, updated fixtures, replaced counters, and more. We also invested in electrostatic sanitation sprayers and special cleaning agents to clean common areas to further halt the potential spreading of COVID and other seasonal viruses. There is a team of people who spray down the sanctuary, fellowship hall, and other areas that are used. Keeping everyone safe, healthy, and absorbing the word of God is our primary goal. The church continues to refine its website and social media presence as well.

As we move into 2021 and install new council members, I am excited to see how our church will continue to seek out new missions and remain relevant in so many people's lives. It has again been an absolute honor and pleasure to serve you as a council member these past four years. Though I now step aside, I will continue to serve our church as best I can and hope you will do the same!

Yours in Christ,

Kenneth R. George

President

*I look up to the hills. From where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Who would have thought last year at this time that we would have a year like 2020?!!! I know I didn't. The toll from COVID-19 in human life itself in the USA and around the world is difficult to imagine. Some of you have known its devastating results firsthand – loss of life, of jobs, of innocence, of school schedules, not to mention time with family and friends or simple things like freely moving about. No matter how little we could have imagined this in January, the reality is what we have all experienced, including in our church life.

Yet, gratefully, there have been so many wonderful gifts from God....the one from whom our help comes. There were (and are) gifts from scientists who have used their skills to create vaccines. There have been gifts from medical personnel who have at times risked their own health. There have been gifts from front-line workers, including those who have kept us in food and supplies. There were teachers, administrators, students and parents who were trying to do the right thing, even if no one could know for sure what that was. The list goes on.


There also were all the people of God who prayed, and sent cards, made phone calls, sent text messages, and did countless acts of kindness. Those people are you! You supported our church and the work of God locally and around the world with your online viewing and outdoor & drive-in worship faithfulness. There were people in the office and other volunteers who figured out how to do all kinds of technical wonders to keep us connected. You continued to bring clothes and coats and all kinds of food. You helped Vicar Mike to complete his internship and continue to grow as a pastor in training. You gave financially to support Peace and the work of the wider church in a way that kept us going. You supported our staff in heartfelt ways that matter.

It was quite a year! For all the losses that kept us feeling confined and sad, we don't want to minimize or pretend those aren't real – they are. We also can lift up our eyes to a God who has come alongside us every day, still blessing us and supporting us through all the ups and downs.

I am so grateful for our staff and for the privilege of being your pastor. The behind-the-scenes work of each of those dedicated people may go unnoticed by a majority of people, but it sure is what keeps the ministries of this church meaningful, vital, organized and reaching out to people in our congregation and beyond. Our partnerships with you keep our mission front and center: *To bring people into contact with the Gospel and help them grow in their relationship to God in Christ.*

May you be blessed in the coming year, looking for more gifts from God!

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Dave Hedlin

Pastoral Acts

11 Baptisms

19 Confirmations

9 Funerals

8 Weddings

Membership at the end of 2020: 1175

Deacon's Report

This has been a year of finding ministry and encountering God in some of the most unlikely ways. Our church has a type of theology called theology of the cross. This theology is the understanding that God takes what the world deems broken or less than and not only uses it but chooses it to glorify God's self and to promote the ministry of the Church. We call it the theology of the cross because the ultimate example of this is the cross itself and Jesus death on it.

I have found myself reflecting on this theology many times this year. I have been in awe of the ways in which God has taken and chosen a broken year, full of uncertainty and trauma and used it to glorify God's self and the Church. I have been amazed at the ways in which Peace Lutheran Church, whose building resides at 1900 E Lincoln Hwy, but whose ministry is in so many places, has risen to the challenge of doing ministry in a new way. You, as the members of Peace have reached beyond the walls of our building and even beyond the need to be in person, to share the love of God with those in need and to pray for a world in a time of pandemic.

As a part of my call to this congregation, I have the privilege to work specifically with our youth. Youth in their own essence are an example of the theology of the cross. They are often told that they are too young to make a real difference. However, what I have witnessed this year has not proven that to be true. Our youth have risen to the occasion. They have cared for one another by reaching out over text message and phone calls. They have brain stormed together creative ways of being Church for one another and for the world.

Before quarantine began we were able to have our Antioch retreat. I am deeply thankful that we were able to sneak this important retreat in. It, in it's own very special way, provided the energy and momentum to sustain our youth program through this challenging year. We were able to learn about God's promises, and how not even a pandemic can shake God's unwavering love for us. We had the opportunity to serve at Feed My Starving Children and see first hand what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ. During a year when so many people have suffered economically, having youth that understand the value of serving with and for one another, is more than important, it is necessary. I want to say a heart felt thanks to each and every adult who makes our youth program possible. Without you it does not happen. Without the love and care that you share with our young people, they cannot realize the unbelievable ways in which they can be the Church, not just in the future but right now!

We as a congregation have spent more hours than we probably want to count doing ministry in new ways this year. We have learned how to use zoom. We have worshiped on the lawn and even in our pjs at home. The only thing we have not changed is our devotion to serving God, worshiping God, and sharing God's love with the world. It has been a paradoxical year of joy and struggle. Obviously this year has had some struggles and tremendous loss for the whole world. Yet, the joy of serving and worshiping faithfully has been present time and time again. We have discovered ways of worshiping that have reached people we never imagined reaching. These types of ministry will forever be a part of our toolbox. We as a congregation have taken a year that could have completely broken us and instead with the grace and love of God, with the constant presence of the Holy Spirit and with the example Jesus have grown and become stronger as a part of the body of Christ.

I am overjoyed to be blessed to be a part of Peace Lutheran Church. I am thankful that this year has been a year of growth and I am excited to see what happens when we can come back into our building – but not be limited by its location. May this upcoming year be filled with more peace than last year but hold on to the theology of the cross that we have experienced in this year.

Profoundly changed by your witness,
Deacon Shari

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SERVICE COMMITTEE

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, challenges us all to serve one another, selflessly, as seen in the story of the last supper in John 13. He humbly washed the feet of his disciples to emphasize what he expects of us. Above all to love one another and serve your fellow humans. Pastor Dave has taught us well with this scripture.

We who are involved in Peace Service ministries sponsor and prepare the church's efforts to reach out to people in need, offering our help, support and encouragement. We seek to assist the needs of our congregation and their families, people in our community and those we can help with global efforts of the greater church, whether it be Lutheran or other denominations and non-profits. Our networks of volunteers have reached out to others through the following ministries, events and programs, some in years past, but also when we could in spurts throughout 2020 (*).

Art, craft & Hobby Fairs

*Addiction & Family Support Group (Tom Moore)

Alzheimer's Association Support Group (Karen Knutson)

Blood Pressure check between services

Blessing Bags for Homeless

Bread for the World's offering of letters

Book Project to collect books for school children in need

*Candy Collection for Service men & women

*Caregivers Support Group

CD Ministry with Renee Gatewood

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) disaster preparedness training info & events

*Christmas Gift Giving Tree (Santa Cruz , Augustana Open Arms Orphanage & ELCA Good Gifts Ministry)

*Clothes for job seekers & new employees/ Business Attire clothes distribution

*Collecting toiletry & make-up items for local women's shelters

*Community blood drives with Versiti Blood Center every 8 weeks

Community Active Shooter Survival presentation – Will County Sheriff's Dept.

CPR/AED training scheduling with NLFD

Events coordinated with Santa Cruz / 1st Lutheran church – dinners, fundraisers, special services

*Face Mask Creations Ministry made by hand & distributed for Covid-19 Protection

"Feed My Starving Children" food packing and donations coordinated with Marley Church

*Flu Shots at our location

*Food Drives and collections for New Lenox Food Pantry & Santa Cruz food bank

*Global Barnyard Lenten coin boxes and Christmas gifts

*Greeting cards for shut-ins

Grief-Share program and meetings

*Habitat for Humanity missions / efforts / Faith Build New Homes

*Hunger Appeal's Good Gifts Program

*LSSI updates and programs coordination (i.e. foster parents)

*Lutheran Theological Seminary food closet donations for seminarians

*Meals on Wheels deliveries for shut-ins

*Meals provided for members in need, e.g. following a birth or hospitalization

*Morningstar Treasure Chest clothing and household goods donations

Medicare supplements sessions with Dave Johnson

Mission Trip coordination

*Morningstar Mission meal serving, clothing donations, table top giveaways and blessing bags

NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) awareness presentation for our members

- *New Baby Welcoming Gift Bags
- *Peace Circle of Prayer Ministry
- *Peanut Butter Sunday drive
- *Prayer Shawl Ministry (Cheryl Gamen)
- *QKA Questions Kids Ask Spanish version books and website accessibility
- Santa Cruz after church luncheon & fellowship
- *School Supplies collection & distribution
- Sharefest Events collections and participation
- *Small Toys for Jodie Brugler's students
- *Souper Bowl of Caring for the hungry
- Sunday School Class Connections for elderly or needy organizations, incl. Sunny Hill
- *Warm Coats Drive (gloves,hats & boots too) collection and distribution
- World Food Day
- "Who Needs Help Right Now?" program
- *Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Awareness

Many of Peace Lutheran's ministries assist those in need throughout the year, some may be annual or seasonal, depending on the need. Some happen infrequently. Our service committee team has been blessed in 2020 with some success and progress for some of the ministries and programs that we sponsor. But it was a tough year due to COVID-19 concerns. Our Lord is helping and guiding us along the way, providing us with wonderful, selfless volunteers that make our projects a success. We are thankful beyond measure for the hard work and dedication our many leaders and helpers give and keep giving, honoring our Lord and our church in the process. In 2021 we will continue to look ahead for new ideas, guidance and feedback on our programs to better serve our congregation and others in need. As our church family grows and expands, so will our ministries, with the help of our volunteers. Thanks to all!

May our Good Lord bless and sustain our efforts as we strive to help others with the love we have for our neighbors, both near and far.

Your humble servant, Ed Cochran – Peace Service Committee

Worship Committee

This past year has been a challenge for all of us as we faced a pandemic of a new virus and scrambled to protect ourselves and our loved ones as best we could. At Peace, we were called upon to be creative in providing safe worship opportunities and our regular activities as we all craved some normalcy in our lives. Under the guidance of the Worship Committee and Church Council, and in accordance with health regulations, Peace continued to reach out to others, offering a variety of worship experiences in new formats. Our learnings and successes set us up for a brighter future in which we can continue to spread our reach even further through our new-found ideas and media channels!

Some of the highlights of the past year include:

- Drive-in worship in the church parking lot, broadcast over FM radio – “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night” can keep our congregation from meeting to praise the Lord!
- Socially distanced outdoor worship on the grass during the summer
- Continuing to offer communion by encouraging attendees to bring their own bread or crackers (and some new ideas for the future!)
- Livestream, video broadcast, and recordings of worship services on Facebook and the church website – we have had wonderful online attendance from near and far, including former members who have moved away and are excited to be able to view them!

- We still celebrated blessing of students and teachers for the start of school, and blessing of the animals for the October feast day of St. Francis of Assisi
- Special intentions and hymns for Earth Day and International Women’s Day, and honoring of graduates and teachers
- Many new volunteers for special music sharing their talents under new coordinator Karen Town
- An excellent article about our Shortest Day/Longest Night service and depression in the Farmers Weekly Review – which was needed more than ever this year with the heartache and loss we are all experiencing
- We even had outdoor worship with candles/lights on Christmas Eve
- We tried to keep things as normal as possible, providing devotional materials, picking hymns, supporting the Altar Guild, and sponsoring the ELCA Good Gifts/God’s Global Barnyard offering collection efforts. Unfortunately, some of our most beloved activities like the Meal in the Upper Room and Good Friday Services fell victim to the pandemic.

We are so fortunate that our congregation has been willing to roll with it and try new things, and in many ways we have grown and are better for it! We pray that soon our lives will return to our remembrances of pre-pandemic days, but with our new-found growth that the pandemic necessitated.

Jan Bentley and Deb Howell, Co-Chairs

Property Committee

This has been my tenth year serving as Chair of the Property Committee, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in and witness God’s work at hand. My purpose is to coordinate the maintenance of the church building and grounds. The year 2020 was a challenging year for everyone, including our church. But through it all, many projects were still completed to ensure a safe and welcoming worship environment.

A variety of tasks were completed with regard to the interior of our building and these include:

- Annual Fire Marshal inspection completed and passed all requirements met
- Annual sprinkler system inspection completed and passed
- Annual back flow system inspection completed and passed
- Fire alarms tested and battery replaced in fire alarm panel
- Nursery wall repaired and repainted
- Carpet seams repaired in Fellowship Hall
- Replaced locks on doors in classrooms 10 & 11
- Exterior door in Sanctuary repainted
- Repaired leak on exterior wall in Fellowship Hall, and repaired and repainted interior wall
- New heating/cooling unit installed in Sunday School Office, plus, repaired and repainted wall
- Ceiling repaired and ceiling tiles replaced in classroom 6; damage was caused due to leak in sprinkler system
- Bathroom remodeling project completed
- Numerous other small jobs

With the help of many volunteers giving generously of their time, the perennial task of landscape maintenance was performed. This includes the mowing, trimming, weeding, flower bed care, fertilizing, and watering throughout the growing season. At the conclusion of the season, the lawn mowers were winterized, the outside water valves shut off, and the soaker hoses used for watering the new landscaping were blown out to remove any existing water and the timers were removed from the water valves. In the spring, preventative maintenance will be performed in anticipation of the upcoming mowing season.

In addition to these outdoor chores, there were other exterior projects completed including:

- _ Soaker hoses for watering the new landscaping were placed around the outside perimeter of the church building, plus timers were installed on outdoor water valves.
- _ Sheet metal on air handler system was treated for rust and repainted
- _ Safety straps were installed on outdoor electrical boxes
- _ Replaced exterior light fixture on garage
- _ Education wing exterior light fixture replaced
- _ Garden hoses drained, repaired, and stored for the winter months

It has been a busy year here at Peace Lutheran Church. The Property Committee is in the process of working on other projects for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted
Ron Fullriede, Chair

Support Committee

The Support Committee serves to further the goal of sharing God's love and blessings with others in our church community, our local community, and our worldwide community including through financial support.

As with everything in the year 2020, support was different than normal. But it was no less inspiring. Nothing, including the pandemic, can stop the giving spirit of the people in the Peace Lutheran community.

Due to the pandemic, we had no stewardship appeal and no commitment cards. But although people didn't put it in writing, the commitment in their hearts continued on. Despite being unable to gather in our church building for much of the year, people have found ways to give. Financial support has continued from automatic donations, online donations through the website, mailed-in donations, and collections at our outdoor services. Through available regular funds, we were able to have the technology to enable us to bring our weekly services to church members and others at their homes via YouTube, Facebook, and our website.

We also supported the following additional ministries:

- Sponsored Vicar Mike Markwell through the end of his internship in July
- Sponsored Benjamin David through the end of his year-long service in July as a missionary in South Africa
- Collected funds to alleviate hunger through our Souper Bowl of Caring annual appeal and gave them to ELCA's World Hunger Appeal
- Donated all special holiday offerings to Lutheran Social Services, ELCA World Hunger, Santa Cruz and Resurrection Lutheran Churches, and local ministries for poor and underprivileged in the community
- Collected and distributed funds for our gift-giving tree for gift cards to Santa Cruz for children and homeless or struggling adults, to Augustana Center for Open Arms for orphaned children, and to ELCA Good Gifts to provide food, medical supplies, and animals for a self-sustaining food in third-world areas

We thank all the many different people who have continued their support of the church and its mission through thick and thin in this difficult year. Thank you especially to Pastor Dave, Deacon Shari, and the office staff for their continued work and patience in these difficult times.

With sincere gratitude,
Paul and Kathy Sons, Chairs

Outreach Committee

2020 has been a very different year for the Outreach committee, Peace Lutheran Church and the entire world. Due to COVID 19 many of our activities have been put on hold or delayed until the pandemic comes to a close. However, we are here and always thinking of new ways to introduce the community to our church and our mission regardless of difficulties in the outside world. Our social media outreach has been extremely important during this pandemic crisis which has reached people throughout our country with our church services.

Some of our typical activities in the past have included door knocking on a monthly basis in the neighboring area. This is a ministry of planting seeds about our faith and what Peace Lutheran Church is about with an emphasis in bringing the unchurched to worship.

There are welcome packets found in the doorway of our church. These packets highlight the mission of Peace and provide an introduction to new members about the services and activities offered along with other useful information. Please feel free to review these packets and offer to someone whom you think may be a prospective member or does not have a church home.

One of our previous missions was the formation of the 20 somethings group which later became the Young Adults Group and is now split between the women's group and the young parents group. These groups would meet periodically and are open to all ages. Various activities may include fellowship at the church, individual's homes, plays, ballgames, etc.

The Outreach committee also has a presence in being sponsors to new members which takes place in January, April and October.

Outreach also coordinates members of Peace sharing individual faith stories. Various individuals have written short stories about how their faith has been tested or strengthened at some point in time in their life. These stories appear in the monthly Peace newsletter.

Outreach also has sponsored the Out To Eat group get-togethers after the Saturday evening 5:00 PM worship service. The dates for these events varied and a local restaurant was chosen.

Other activities of the Outreach Group include the Genealogy group and the Caring Ministry team.

All members of Peace are really part of the Outreach team in spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ and how Peace Lutheran can assist in our faith development.

Yours truly,
Chuck and Jan Wolske
Outreach Committee

FAITH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Faith Development Committee is to enhance and expand your personal faith journey. We try to offer classes, discussions and events to broaden each individual's faith development. This year has indeed been a challenge. Yet, through technology we have managed to bring Peace and many of its offerings into our homes.

For Children:

Sunday School--Because of COVID restrictions, we have changed our Sunday School format. The children are given packets to work on at home. They are also meeting on Zoom.

VBS--Again, because of COVID our VBS looked a little different this year. There was a two-day VBS where people could come in shifts to sing, do a craft, serve others, and more outdoors.

For Teens:

Confirmation--Instruction is different also. To accommodate students, they are given the option to attend class either in person or to participate in a Zoom meeting.

Most of our other teen groups meet on Zoom which include:

Peace Buddies

Teen Bible Study

Peace 360

There have been several in person activities.

For Adults:

Through the power of technology and some tech-savvy people, many of our classes have moved to a Zoom format. These include:

Adult Education Hour--We meet on Zoom and meet approximately every other week.

Wednesday morning Bible class--Again, we are meeting on Zoom weekly.

Peace Page Turners--this Book Club continues to meet also. The dates for their meetings are listed in the weekly bulletin.

Perhaps one of the most significant additions is that Pastor Dave and Carol have started a daily Devotional message on Facebook. It's just a short 2 to 3 minute message. And of course, there is Wednesday Fun Day, where various games are played.

Our goal is to offer various faith building experiences and classes for all. This past year we've had to become creative in making that happen. But it is happening. Thanks to all the people like Pastor Dave, Deacon Shari, Todd Yetman and Ken George, we are meeting that challenge.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Park

Fellowship Committee

This year was a very interesting and exciting year for our church's Fellowship Committee.

Working with all other committees, we worked very hard to find new ideas and activities to bring members of our church together to get to know each other, have fun, and share in their relationship with Christ. The biggest challenge that we encountered this year was COVID 19. Along with all other church committees, we were still able to work around COVID 19 and help others while continuing fellowship at Peace Church.

Many different groups and activities make up the Fellowship Committee. Some of the group activities included Adult Fellowship, the Young Parents Group, Trailblazers, and Peace Buddies. These are just a few groups and activities that were enjoyed by many. A big thanks goes out to the social media group that was very instrumental in helping us continue our commitment to helping others.

Other Fellowship related activities that we were able to enjoy this year included:

- Enjoying our Peace variety show and dinner
- Our Slammer baseball game
- Chicago Black Hawks game
- Golf group
- The church trivia
- Pie luck and ping pong event
- Trips to different venues such as Disney on ice, plays and musicals
- An evening with kids of all ages
- Outdoor tree decorating
- Thanksgiving dinner - we fed over 200 people
- Different Zooming events, including a group dinner
- Halloween candy sharing with kids

We would like to thank all those who have been involved in our church fellowship events throughout this hectic year. We truly appreciate all you do!

A special "Thanks" to Pastor Dave, Deacon Shari and Vicar Mike for their continued support and leadership throughout this 2020 year.

In Christ, George Rumbaugh, Renee Gatewood and Chuck Vick

Peace Lutheran Church of New Lenox
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2020

01/28/21

	Dec 31, 20	Dec 31, 19	\$ Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
1010 · General Fund	163,394.33	169,737.20	(6,342.87)
1060 · Mission Investment Fund Reserve	38,333.86	37,278.98	1,054.88
1070 · Old Second Accounts	71,500.61	71,358.49	142.12
1080 · Reserve 4039 Town Center	112,503.07	112,503.07	0.00
1090 · LincolnWay Community Bank Accts	79,119.33	79,119.33	0.00
Total Checking/Savings	<u>464,851.20</u>	<u>469,997.07</u>	<u>(5,145.87)</u>
Total Current Assets	464,851.20	469,997.07	(5,145.87)
Fixed Assets			
1600 · Church Buildings	2,013,385.66	2,013,385.66	0.00
1700 · Organ	40,651.00	40,651.00	0.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>2,054,036.66</u>	<u>2,054,036.66</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,518,887.86</u>	<u>2,524,033.73</u>	<u>(5,145.87)</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities			
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	5,589.91	(5.53)	5,595.44
2110 · Direct Deposit Liabilities	(6,535.31)	(8,122.78)	1,587.47
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>(945.40)</u>	<u>(8,128.31)</u>	<u>7,182.91</u>
Total Current Liabilities	(945.40)	(8,128.31)	7,182.91
Long Term Liabilities			
2200 · Mortgage Payable	605,502.87	661,726.04	(56,223.17)
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>605,502.87</u>	<u>661,726.04</u>	<u>(56,223.17)</u>
Total Liabilities	604,557.47	653,597.73	(49,040.26)
Equity			
2900 · Opening Bal Equity	1,041,832.03	985,608.86	56,223.17
3900 · Fund Balances	854,464.12	859,740.75	(5,276.63)
Net Income	18,034.24	25,086.39	(7,052.15)
Total Equity	<u>1,914,330.39</u>	<u>1,870,436.00</u>	<u>43,894.39</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>2,518,887.86</u>	<u>2,524,033.73</u>	<u>(5,145.87)</u>

Peace Lutheran Church of New Lenox
Annual Calendar Year
 January through December 2020

01/28/21

	Jan - Dec 20	Jan - Dec 19
Income		
3000 · Weekly Offering	506,952.56	561,156.06
3010 · Sunday School	366.66	1,236.37
3020 · Flowers	1,386.00	3,036.00
3030 · Thanksgiving	1,820.00	1,606.00
3040 · Christmas	5,510.00	11,213.00
3050 · Lent/Easter	4,584.00	7,551.00
3060 · Lutheran	225.00	307.00
3070 · Initial	330.00	673.00
3080 · Donations	1,796.00	4,970.24
3086 · Mortgage Income	72,900.00	80,600.00
3090 · Interest	1,197.00	1,789.26
Total Income	597,067.22	674,137.93
Expense		
5000 · Cost of Flowers	981.48	3,141.51
5020 · Synod/ELCA Mission Support	59,672.38	52,167.77
5030 · Car-Professional Expenses	4,954.11	7,939.85
5040 · Pastor's Salary	91,128.00	89,818.00
5050 · Housing Allowance	17,304.00	17,304.00
5060 · Continuing Education	132.00	145.00
5070 · Pension	14,088.96	13,884.48
5075 · Rostered staff pension	6,298.56	6,206.40
5080 · Pastor's Insurances	23,105.94	23,265.96
5085 · Rostered Staff insurances	8,686.80	11,090.67
5090 · Utilities	17,644.33	19,076.09
5100 · Postage	1,588.24	1,991.83
5110 · Repair/Maint./Property	17,947.97	44,905.78
5125 · Office Supplies	7,983.79	7,627.46
5130 · Worship	4,326.96	6,260.53
5150 · Convent. & Represent.	0.00	609.00
5160 · Faith Development	2,734.61	5,214.98
5175 · Youth	15,433.50	18,805.06
5180 · Fellowship	(670.32)	3,944.39
5190 · Devotional Booklets	1,547.48	1,640.69
5200 · Lutheran Magazine	3,022.85	2,700.75
5210 · Outreach	113.96	915.95
5220 · Service	161.00	601.24
5240 · Support	762.16	862.10
5260 · Insurance	11,841.00	11,501.00
5270 · Miscellaneous	1,313.21	1,877.70
5290 · Pastor's Social Security	8,976.00	8,866.00
5300 · Staff's FICA	13,188.82	12,952.98
5305 · Transportation	0.00	1,128.57
5310 · Local Benevolence	12,479.00	12,480.00
5311 · Designated Mission	19,178.00	26,486.00
5320 · Staff Salaries	156,546.65	169,316.44
5330 · Mortgage	81,684.00	81,684.00
Total Expense	604,155.44	666,412.18
Net Income	(7,088.22)	7,725.75



Long-Range Plan for 2017 - 2021

OUR VISION:

Sharing Peace Faithfully

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Bring people into contact with the Gospel and help them grow in their relationship to God in Christ

**Called by God and because of what God has done for us,
we are compelled to share the Word.**

Each year over the course of the next five years we will set individual marks of evidence of success. Our overall plan includes that we....

REACH OUT TO OTHERS AS WE...

Help others experience God's love through demonstrable ways

Reach out and encourage people to make a difference in our community, nationally, and internationally

Find new ways to disseminate information to increase awareness of the ministries available through our church, including expanding our use of technology and social media

Model for our community an effective outreach to youth, young adults, young families and others who might be searching for a relationship with God

STRENGTHEN AND DEEPEN OUR FAITH AND MINISTRY AS WE...

Serve as a source of consistency in a changing world, as we express our faith relationship in various ways

Help people of all ages and backgrounds to be involved in a growing relationship with God

Inspire each other to give back

CREATE A CLIMATE OF BELONGING AS WE...

Provide multiple avenues for fellowship within our congregation

Encourage all to feel connected to the life and ministry of this church

**EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS FOR 2020
(IN FULFILLMENT OF THE 2017 LONG-RANGE PLAN)**

REACH OUT TO OTHERS AS WE . . .

1. Find new ways to reach out to the marginalized, including something specific to do with mental health
 - A. Workshop planned for April with invitations in March (was a good response, but cancelled because of COVID)
2. Expand our connections to social media in order to get Peace's ministries known electronically among our congregation and elsewhere
 - A. Vicar Mike worked with a committee to keep this up to date and then for it to continue after his internship
 - B. Going strong with daily videos & worship & other posts
 - C. Using Facebook to get teachers, graduates, other members online
3. Conduct a ministry fair to help people know about specific ministries and what the committees do
 - A. On March, April & May agenda -
 - B. on hold due to pandemic restrictions
4. Create a system to follow through with those who have their children baptized at Peace, especially for the first three years
 - A. Event planned for March with invitations - cancelled
 - B. Working on getting visuals that we can send to new members and baptism people
 - C. New plan to give helpful hints to each group

STRENGTHEN AND DEEPEN OUR FAITH AND MINISTRY AS WE . . .

5. Create a post-high school group - on hold
6. With a goal of sharing the difference their relationship with God makes, expand the methods and frequency of communicating stories of
 - A. people who are volunteering outside of Peace, and or
 - B. people's life stories, including the impact their faith has made on them - included in newsletters
 - a) Report: both A & B are now being done periodically in the newsletter
7. Explore alternate worship options in addition to the current schedule, especially a quarterly service for people with autism
 - A. On June agenda and beyond
 - B. Talked to Pastor Ben in June - now on hold

CREATE A CLIMATE OF BELONGING AS WE . . .

8. Expand the role of new member sponsors, with the goal of helping new members feel a sense of belonging
 - A. One step taken toward creating visuals to be sent on a regular basis (May)
 - B. Revised plan to follow #4-C above
 - C. On hold due to pandemic

Toward fulfillment of the Long-Range Plan for 2017 - 2021
Called by God and because of what God has done for us, we are compelled to share the Word.

PROPOSED EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS FOR 2021

REACH OUT TO OTHERS AS WE . . .

1. Find new ways to reach out to the marginalized, including something specific to do with mental health
2. Conduct an in-person or virtual ministry fair to help people know about specific ministries and what the committees do
3. Create a system to follow through with those who have their children baptized at Peace, especially for the first three years

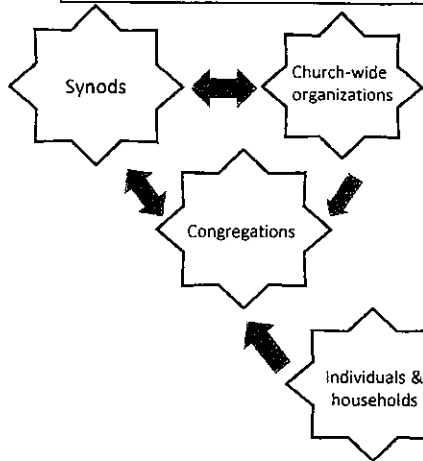
STRENGTHEN AND DEEPEN OUR FAITH AND MINISTRY AS WE . . .

4. Support efforts to keep reaching our Sunday School children and families of all ages
5. With a goal of sharing the difference their relationship with God makes, expand the methods and frequency of communicating stories of
 - A. people who are volunteering outside of Peace, and or
 - B. people's life stories, including the impact their faith has made on them
6. Explore alternate worship options in addition to the current schedule, especially a quarterly service for people with autism
7. Have a stewardship appeal that directly speaks to the joy of giving in these times

CREATE A CLIMATE OF BELONGING AS WE . . .

8. Expand the role of new member sponsors, with the goal of helping new members feel a sense of belonging

WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?



ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.75 billion in regular offering to support the ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their **congregations**, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local **synod** and the national **churchwide organization**.

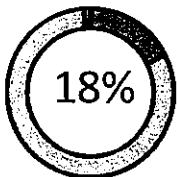
This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the churchwide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's operating budget.

Grow the ELCA in the United States



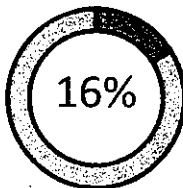
- **Enable congregations to renew their ministries** and reach out to their surrounding communities.
- **Work together** with our African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latina Members to develop networks and resources for ministry.
- **Develop and share resources** for faith, discipleship, prayer and worship.

Grow the Lutheran church around the world



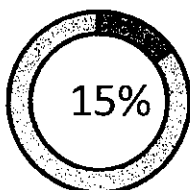
- **As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, we're in communion with 145 member churches** and directly connected to 85 companion churches in other countries.
- **Accompany new Lutheran churches**, expand ministries, and train leaders and evangelists.

Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries



- **Preserve and maintain archives and historic records** of the ELCS and its predecessor bodies.
- **Provide office space, equipment and human resources** for staff and operations.
- **Process 150,000 gifts** to ELCA ministries.
- **Equip congregations and synods** with resources to assist in risk management and legal matters.

Support and develop current and future leaders in the ELCA



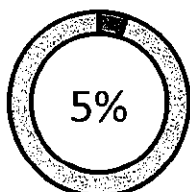
- **Support the work** of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities
- **Identify, connect and provide** ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.
- **Offer events and leadership opportunities** for youth and your adults.

Invest in **technology and communications**



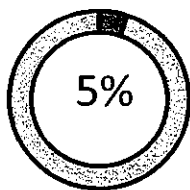
- **Connect members with one another** through new technology and systems.

Provide **governance and leadership**



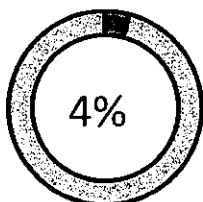
- **Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church to serve** on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.

Grow and sustain **financial resources**



- **Develop and promote** efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.

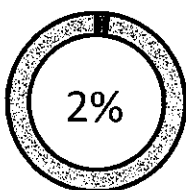
Address **social issues and work for justice**



- **Engage** in churchwide study and deliberation to create social statements and resources that address social, political, environmental and other public issues.
- **Equip** members and leaders to advocate with lawmakers in order to support policies that promote justice and peace.

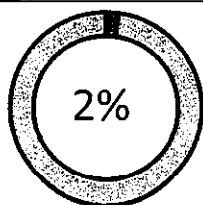
Your designated gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response provide additional funds annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering around the world.

Engage in **research and strategic planning**



- **Research and analyze trends that impact the ELCA and develop innovative strategies** to improve mission and ministry in the 21st century.

Sustain **ecumenical and interfaith relationships**



- **Facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths**, including the development of resources and communications for ELCA congregations.
- **Seek unity in faith and life** with all Lutherans and **six** full communion partners.