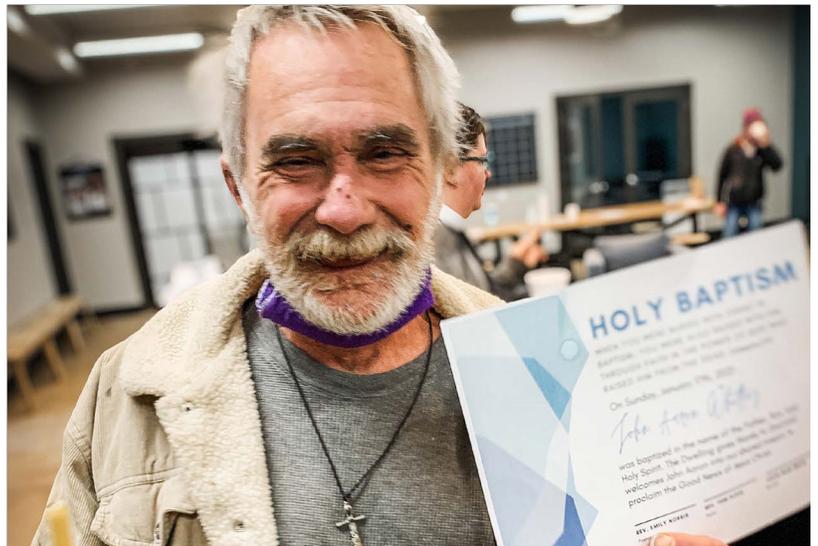


ANNUAL REPORT

2021





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our

neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

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

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Litany

Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember: **God has called us for such a time as this.**

We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God’s hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember: **God has called us for such a time as this.**

We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember: **God has called us for such a time as this.**

We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God’s love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember: **God has called us for such a time as this.**

And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.

You have called us for such a time as this.

God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed, to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread; forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused, your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

All Creation Sings #1063

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**O God,
you have called your servants to
ventures of which we cannot see the**

**ending, by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.
Give us faith to go out with good
courage, not knowing where we
go, but only that your hand is
leading us and your love supporting
us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen. (ELW, p. 317)**

Peace Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting for 2021 Agenda
Sunday, January 23, 2022
11:00 a.m. virtual via Zoom

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Declaration of a Quorum

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes – 2020 Congregational Meeting

Council President Report

Pastor's Report

Recognition of Council Members

Treasurer's Report and 2022 Budget Approval

Committee Reports

Council Nominating Committee Report

Election

Installation of New Council Members

Sending

Adjournment

Peace Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2021

Call to Order and Certification of Quorum: The meeting was called to order by Earle Knapp, Council President. A quorum of 10% of 114 voting members was required. The quorum was met with 41 voting members present.

Opening Prayer: led by Pastor Shannon Anderson.

Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes: Gretta Williams made a motion to approve the 2020 minutes and they were unanimously approved.

President's Report: presented by Earle Knapp. Earle is looking forward to resuming community events this year. He is pleased with the successful continuation and generous support of the food pantry. Concerning unfinished business, a letter has been sent to the MD State Attorney General to address Tesla/Smeco solar panel billing issues.

Pastor's Report: presented by Pastor Shannon Anderson. Pastor Shannon recounted the unexpected turns in worship services this year in unprecedented times: from 2 Sunday services, to 1 Sunday service and Wednesday evening service, to livestreaming service, to pre-recording online services, to outdoor service, to indoor service (while continuing online services), to back to all online services. Per Pastor Shannon, "I have no doubt that in 2021 we will continue to find creative and new ways to make God's love known."

Treasurer's Report: Gail Bentz gave an update on the 2020 Budget and presented the proposed 2021 Budget of \$326,828. A motion to approve the 2021 Budget was made by Susan Herrin and seconded by Charlie Warren. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Election of Council Members: Thank you to outgoing members for your service, including Earle Knapp (President), Robert Polk (Youth Member) and Jill Fronck (Vice President – now running for President).

The nominations for new Council Members are:

Jill Fronck – President

Lou D'Ambrosio – Vice President

Treasurer – Gail Bentz (2nd Term)

Members At Large – Gretta Williams (2nd Term), Sharon Altman, Anna Barba and Heidi Bishop

Earle Knapp made a motion to approve the entire slate of candidates, which was seconded by Charlie Warren. The candidates were all elected by unanimous vote.

Closing Prayer: led by Pastor Shannon

Meeting Adjourned: by Earle Knapp

Pastor's Report

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” -Harriet Tubman

God says something about dreams. I've thought a lot about the Old Testament Joseph, the eternal dreamer, when listening to many of you during our time together. You see, for Joseph, life didn't always turn out as planned. (Check out Genesis 39:1-23). Visions and dreams took time to make manifest.

During the past three months I have listened to your dreams. I've met with some of you in-person while others I have visited via Zoom or within a phone call. Most of you have visions and dreams for Peace Lutheran Church. Some of you have felt dreams dashed, sang the song of sorrow reaped by deep divisions. Others had dreams for Peace Lutheran Church that didn't always turn out as planned. The church didn't grow, or a spiritual connection didn't occur. In the middle of your past visions and dreams, an epic pandemic ensued and only accelerated membership loss accompanied by political divisions and revealed injustices. Others at Peace Lutheran Church grieved the loss of a pastor, too. Even youth participation waned alongside the changing congregational demographics which also echoed throughout other mainline denominations.

Now, more than ever Peace Lutheran Church needs new visions and dreams. Together, we have come together collectively and individually to enunciate visions and dreams during the past three months.

Part of preparing for something new begins with building a foundation from which to work moving forward. One of the first steps was for the parish leadership to work with this interim pastor to review the membership rolls. This membership review process ushered in more grief through saying good-bye to long-time members to make room for new visions and dreams. So, too, God is always doing a new thing in the middle of loss.

Scripture promises us, “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young will see visions, your old will dream dreams.” (Acts 2:17; Joel 2:28)

The youth of Peace Lutheran Church have re-formed once again in the past three months so that they, too, can experience God's vision in their own lives and within this community of faith while the old continue to dream dreams.

Let Joseph enter in here. God gave him dreams and the ability to interpret dreams. So, what might Joseph the Dreamer say to Peace Lutheran Church as the people of God anticipate new visions and dreams? What can we learn from Joseph if we are to take our God-given dreams all the way into the adjacent community, ministering with (not *to*) those that surround the facility? Here are two encouraging things God gave Joseph in the realization of his dreams that will help Peace Lutheran Church with its visions and dreams moving forward.

Lesson 1 – Don't give up on dreams even if they don't start off well.

Joseph's dreams came early. He was just 17 (Genesis 37:2-5). Joseph's dreams generated more enthusiasm than wisdom, at times. Even his own family did not react well to his dreams because of the way he shared them and how scary they were for those older in age. Not all pastors, me included, know the best way to enunciate dreams. However, Joseph with some spiritual maturity came to realize that implementing dreams for the faithful takes time especially among those that do not see the writing on the wall about a future in decline if remaining on the current path. After leading the Advent book discussion, "Radical Welcome", together we discussed that change would need to come sooner than later but with patience and love that springs from spiritual maturity.

Dreams are conceived long before they are achieved--between the birth of a dream and its realization is always a process. Together, in recent months, we named what happened and what stopped happening in ministry. We agreed that a period of bringing new visions and dreams will be filled with doubts, adversity, and surprises.

Peace Lutheran Church will experience good days and bad while discerning future visions and dreams. There will be times in the coming months this community of faith will be faced with a dilemma: "Do we give up on all we have known, or move into the community embracing other cultures and the Other which might change the way we worship and share power?" Without hesitation, I can give you the answer and underline God's word of promise in scripture during such times, "Don't give up on your dreams."

Joseph was young. He was immature. Yet Joseph didn't give up. Scripture says, "The Lord was with Joseph, and he prospered... (Genesis 39:2); "But while Joseph was there in prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness..." (Genesis 39:21) "...the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did." (Genesis 39:23).

Get the message? Even in times of struggle, God is with Peace Lutheran Church. God will be with you through visions and dreams. Don't give up on the visions and dreams even if it doesn't start as you imagined.

Lesson 2 – Don't lose focus when distractions come.

A new pastor will bring a new direction. Change will continue to be too difficult for some. Yet, be reassured God will find the right spiritual home for those that can't or don't want to adapt in an evolving world. You can count on this--those that resist a changing community of faith will work to install barriers thus trying to stop new wineskins from coming into being. Don't lose focus that God is doing a new thing both yesterday and today. I've listened. You've experienced this in your past as a community of faith. Don't lose focus when distractions come.

I've also listened to others of you that are awaiting to see the next steps before continuing with or deciding to be a part of Peace Lutheran Church. Be patient and remain focused in the middle of distractions on the road to embracing new visions and dreams. God's visions and dreams will become clear in time.

My hope is that this new year will bring a deepening of the work for justice, with increasing focus on partnerships and collaborations full of visions and dreams—but also with increasing attention to who Peace Lutheran Church is as a community of faith within a very diverse community.

May new visions and dreams rise in your hearts as you begin again in love.

May you hold one another in love through the uncertainty and even the fear.

May you feel yourselves held and loved by something greater than yourselves.

May you hold and wave the banner of Justice in every neighborhood.

May you welcome others so “The Other” can share power and influence new ways of worship for our world today.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Karis

President's Report 2021

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. – 1Corinthians 16:13-14

This is the scripture I have leaned on throughout this past year of 2021. It has been another year of dealing with a global pandemic and political discourse, and the fallout. We as a congregation have seen and felt this fallout with the loss of family and friends to illness, and members that left due to disagreements, budget cut of our paid office administrator position, and the resignation of Pastor Shannon Anderson. We have mourned the loss of regular in-person worship, fellowship events, regular youth nights, holding hands in prayer together, singing freely, shaking hands and hugging. All these things and more have been lost to the way we have always done them together and I mourn them all with you. BUT we have worked hard together to figure out NEW WAYS to connect and worship together and be there for each other and our community as God willed us to do with love in our hearts and strength through our faith.

I have learned a lot about Peace Lutheran Church and seen the people here this past year show me their firm faith, courage, and love!

- The strength and caring and creativity shown by our **Pastors and the Worship Team!** They constantly worked hard to create meaningful safe worship experiences for us online, outside and in the sanctuary.
- The dedication, faith and love of the **Peace Quilters and Elsie's Pantry volunteers** has been inspiring! The courage and friendliness on the faces of community members seeking assistance is forever humbling.
- The **generosity of time and resources by members** and their faithful loving response when asked to help with unexpected needs such as office tasks, property maintenance, budget shortfalls, car rides and deliveries, constant prayers for all, and more. The openness to sharing of the church building and sanctuary with outside groups and community members.
- The **courage to try** and be a part of **NEW ideas!** The Yard/Bake Sale and Book Give Away fundraiser chaired by Sharon Altman was met with *many* hands and feet, and generous resources. The start of a Senior Ministry program meeting regularly working together to support one another and find ways to be in the community.
- The **welcome** shown to our Interim Pastor, Pastor Karis Graham, and the courage to hear, the faith to discern, and the positive response to her message of change.
- Our **Wellness Team** led by Laura Polk continued to regularly meet most of the year to provide guidance to the council on best how to keep our most vulnerable safe. This at times was a thankless task, so I say, "Thank you!".
- Your **devoted council members** are beyond amazing in their faith, courage, and love for Peace Lutheran Church! They regularly attend all council meetings and extra retreat and Synod meetings, and quickly reply to important emails and texts. They have stood firm in Peace's RIC statement when selecting an Interim Pastor, and listened with love, and responded with courage and faith to proposals from members and the community. They always supported me at every opportunity.

Now we start a New Year - 2022! And what a start we are having! That's right! We are starting the year with a healthy general fund carryover, an *awesome* Call Committee ready to start the call process for our next pastor, a youth group meeting and preparing to attend the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering, faithful strong ministries, and an Interim Pastor sharing exciting new ideas! We are starting the year with endless possibilities and HOPE! Hope in new possibilities with a new pastor. Hope in the faith journey of our youth! Hope in the ever-changing world we live in today because we know better and want to do better and have Courage, Faith and Love in God and our brothers and sisters at Peace to continue to seek His will for us!

May God continue to bless us and give us the courage to do His work with boundless love in our hearts!

Jill Fronck

Social Concerns

The members of Peace kept many Social Concerns programs running during the closure of the church in the beginning of the year. **Elsie's Pantry** and **Safe Nights** and the monthly **Angels Watch** shelter meal were some of those. Social Concerns has had several projects since Peace returned to in person worship. We participated in "**God's Work. Our Hands.**" day of service by sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive for the community in our Fellowship Hall and participating in Farming 4 Hunger with Good Samaritan and St. Nicholas Lutheran churches. School supplies were collected for **Middleton Elementary** and delivered in September. For several years, Peace has supported **Village of Hope in Haiti** by providing Christmas gifts for children at the school or providing funds for the staff to purchase gifts on the Haitian economy. So, in September a check was sent to the Village of Hope School to purchase the Christmas gifts. In November, Peace is one of many churches who sponsor the **Charles County Walk to End Homelessness**. It was the 17th year the walk was held. For those of you who walked or just made a donation, we thank you. Beginning with the first Sunday in Advent, an alternate method of giving, **Gifts of Hope** was kicked off within the Metro DC Synod. And finally, **Christmas Connection** was hosted by Peace during the week before Christmas.

Respectively Submitted

Charlie Warren

Jill Fronck

Treasurer's Report

Submitted By: Gail Bentz

Thank you for your generous gifts to Peace Lutheran Church. Your consistent and continued support has allowed us to finish our year with a minimal mission fund deficit and with designated funds of over \$90,000. We start 2022 with a surplus in our mission fund of around \$42,000. With the changes ahead, the finance committee recommended that we postpone developing a new budget until we call a pastor. This will provide an opportunity for the council to develop a budget with the leadership and vision of a new pastor. Therefore, our recommendation is to continue with the current budget and review/revisit the budget for adjustments in June 2022. The finance committee remains committed to providing transparency regarding our finances and to closely monitor our expenses.

Mission Fund 2021	
Beginning Balance:	\$44389
2021 Deficit:	2104
Ending Balance:	\$42285
Mission Fund	229,227
Transfer Peace It Together	38,000
Total Contributions	267,227
Total Expenses	269,331
Total Deficit	(2104)

Peace It Together Campaign	
Concluded Dec. 2021	
Pledges	315,269
Total Gifts Received	240,094
Expenses	
Consultant	29,500
Family and Youth Director	39,972
New Connections to Synod	3000
Mortgage Principal Payments	107,281
Additional Principal	30,000
Total Expenses	209,753
Remaining Balance	\$30,341*

***Final additional principal payment will be made after January council meeting**

2022 Proposed Budget			
	2022 Proposed	2021 Adopted	2021 Actual
Program Support	12500	12500	7848
Property	125989	125989	104641
Admin Support	10160	10160	5223
Personnel	179491	179491	151697
Total Budget	328140	328140	269409

Property	2022 Proposed	2021 Actual	Personnel	2022 Proposed	2021 Actual
Insurance	3800	4412	Pastor Salary	57588	61318*
Electricity	24000	8026	Pastor Housing	30000	28750
Telephone	3912	4252	Pension and Benefits	46092	31020
Water and Sewer	450	220	Director of Music	23604	23607
Natural Gas	1788	1442	Sub-organist	1000	0
Maintenance	10000	9589	Bell Choir	2772	2775
Janitorial Services	12000	6890	Social Security	3648	2120
Property Tax	475	245	Workman's Comp	775	750
Mortgage	69564	69565	Safe Sanctuary	700	23
			Administrator	13312	1335
Subtotal	125989	104641	Subtotal	179471	151697

Program Support	2022 Proposed	2021 Actual	Administrative	2022 Proposed	2021 Actual
Social Ministry	1200	548	Postage	360	148
Worship Expenses	1800	1879	Supplies	1800	930
Music	1200	155	Office Machines	1000	659
Christian Education	1500	297	Leadership Development	0	300
Finance	4500	4940	Pastors Bus. Expense	4800	861
Fellowship	500	29	Computer	600	0
Youth	1800	0	IT	1000	2325
Subtotal	12500	7848	Subtotal	10160	5223

*Includes Pastor Shannon, Pastor Karis, and Supply Pastors

Designated Funds-December 2021

Fund	Starting Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
Des-CC Memorials (U)	2400	0	0	0	2400
Des-CC Prepaid Pledge (U)	0	16000	0	0	16000
Des-CE Christian Education (U)	624	0	0	0	624
Des-CE Sunday School (U)	534	0	0	0	534
Des-CE VBS (U)	234	0	0	0	234
Des-CE Womens Group (U)	247	0	0	0	247
Des-FE Fellowship (U)	0	1268	0	0	1268
Des-PA Discretion (U)	350	0	0	0	350
Des-PR Emergency Repair (U)	8321	1764	481	0	9605
Des-SC Food Pantry (U)	5930	1803	709	0	7023
Des-SC Peace Quilters (U)	75	500	0	0	575
Des-SC Special Events (U)	0	500	0	0	500
Des-WH Welcoming & Hospitality (U)	3175	0	0	0	3175
Des-WM Audio Visual (U)	2550	0	0	0	2550
Des-WM Flame & Flower (U)	0	175	0	0	175
Des-WM Special Projects (U)	705	0	0	0	705
Des-YO Youth Activities (U)	0	62	0	0	62
Des-YO Youth Gathering (U)	14267	0	0	0	14267
Peace it Together Campaign (U)	19180	14421	0	3260	30341
TOTALS	58592	36492	1190	3260	90634

Worship Annual Report

Our Mission: The Worship and Music Team members interface to create a rich, healing, spiritual worship experience. In 2021, through persistent monitoring, we kept the worship space safe for the health of worshippers and other groups who use our building. We promoted the renewal of the congregation's individual and corporate faith life in worship and in the world. We practiced these mindsets in liturgy and music. Worshippers of *all ages* were able to deepen their connections with God and one another. Contending with the ongoing issues of COVID-19, we provided the needed in-person and virtual worship service options needed to prevent infection in our congregation and the community.

Worship and Music is supported by worship assistants of all ages who serve as ushers, cantors, lectors, eucharistic ministers, acolytes, Peace Singers and Peace Ringers, altar guild workers and multimedia technicians. We are led by our Pastor and by our Minister of Music, Will Derr, as we plan, train, and coordinate the various areas of worship through the year.

Guided by the research-based leadership of Council, led by Jill Fronck, the Wellness Team led by Laura Polk, we implemented various worship delivery modes, as shown in his pictorial report.

In-Person Worship following mask, singing, capacity, and distancing protocols...



Multimedia Annual Report

Multimedia was graciously run by Columbus Williams, Alex Brown, and David Constantine. The three of us are doing well, but we need more volunteers in order to meet the increased demand of the position. The equipment is performing well, however we need to complete some updates and re-tooling of the system to better accommodate live-streaming services. These changes can be performed with little to no cost to the church. We are also looking into updating the internet capabilities in the building. DenPro has provided a competitive quote and we have decided to have them make the upgrades that are much needed. Unfortunately, due to supply chain issues, we are on hold for this project until the equipment we ordered comes in and can be installed.

Dr. David W. Constantine
Multimedia Engineer

2021 Music Annual Report

Will Derr, Music Director & Virtual Worship Technician

As 2021 began we had settled in to presenting worship online in pre-recorded videos. We had an established process and format, now we were refining the process. The addition of video lights improved the quality of our indoor videos, and we sought to include more footage that reminded people of being at Peace even if they weren't there physically.

During Lent, we began to experiment with livestreaming our midweek evening services. Finding a platform that was quick and easy to learn, gave us the flexibility we needed to display on-screen graphics, supported high quality audio, and was easy to learn was a challenge. I looked at several streaming options including OBS, a free streaming solution. Ultimately, an app called Switcher Studio won me over. The fact that it gave us exactly what we were looking for and was really easy to use and learn made the subscription worth it.

Switcher Studio is an app that runs on any iPhone or iPad. It allows you to wirelessly connect to several other iPhones/iPads and use them as remote cameras. It incorporates gimbal control so that a phone/camera mounted on a gimbal can be moved remotely. It also allows the display of on-screen text, titles, and graphics during the livestream.

As we began streaming services, we learned quickly that the wireless network at the church was unreliable and unable to support streaming. We resorted to using my phone as a mobile hotspot to support our streams. This worked fairly reliably during Lent and was the perfect solution when we made the move to outdoor worship.

When transmission rates dropped in the spring, the wellness committee decided it would be safe to hold worship outdoors. We decided to hold worship in the front parking lot so that we would be more visible to the community, even though that meant a greater distance to move equipment when setting up and tearing down. I built a platform that would allow us to move the keyboard and sound equipment while leaving it set up to cut down on setup and tear down time. I also donated a rolling cabinet/table for the sound board. We now have a ready to go solution any time we want to hold worship outdoors.

When we started to meet for in-person worship, it was our goal to continue to include those who didn't feel safe worshipping in person. We continued to record a virtual hymn each week, and we continued to livestream the service on Facebook. It wasn't until the wellness committee determined that it was safe to sing indoors with masks on that we stopped recording virtual hymns and returned to live congregational hymn singing.

As restrictions eased in the late summer, we resumed in-person choir and bell rehearsals. We were able to use the techniques we had practiced recording our virtual hymns to do hybrid performance in which some parts were recorded and some were performed live. We were glad to be able to sing, ring, and get together again. It was great to finish out the year with an in-person Christmas Eve service together.

Sunday School Annual Report

As 2021 began, Peace Sunday School continued to provide pre-recorded lessons for Sunday School children and their families to watch at home. Thank you to Andi Eberly, Pastor Shannon, Rebecca Clark, Elizabeth Constantine, and Will Derr for all of their work to create the weekly lessons. Between January and June children learned songs during Sunday School and made recordings of themselves to include in the worship services.

As we returned to in-person worship this fall, in-person Sunday School began. Thank you to Rebecca Clark for creating all of the lesson plans for the fall. Thank you to Tara Derr, Karen Nale, Jill Fronck, Deb Foster, and Elizabeth Constantine for teaching our Sunday School classes this past fall.

As we look toward the upcoming year and the impact of the pandemic on our youngest church members, we will continue to discuss how best to reach all of them, whether they are at home or in the church building.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Constantine

PLC Property Management Annual Report

January 9, 2022

Fellow members of PLC, I wanted to provide you with an update on the property management side of PLC. Thanks for the support of our members who have step forward to help in many ways to complete tasks around the church.

Just an update on projects completed in 2021 and a couple to be completed in 2022.

- I installed a 3' high deer fence in the wooded area near our neighbor's dumpster in order to keep the cardboard from coming onto our property.
- Thanks to Destry Fronck for being persistent and getting the LED sign up and running.
- Thanks to John Nales for relamping the lights in the sanctuary and around the church.
- The parking lots were retrofitted with LED bulbs.
- Found a contractor to mow, trim, and edge the sidewalks for \$150.
- Booths HVAC had to make a couple of repairs on our AC units. One was a bad condenser coil, and the other was to add Freon to a unit since someone took it out.
- The PLC shed was broken into and the lawn equipment was stolen, except for the older riding lawn mower. Thanks to Destry Fronck for getting it running and replacing the belt. We may want to look into replacing some of it this year. I installed new high security hasps and combo locks
- In order to meet Charles County Board of Health code, we will have to have the kitchen grease trap inspected annually.
- For 2022 - fire alarm system is still in need of a minor repair. I am still trying to get someone from Johnson Controls to respond to my emails to give us an estimate on repair of the communication device circuit board.
- For 2022 – purchased much needed doorstops that will be installed on doors in the high traffic areas.

Mike Leggett
PLC Property Manager

Seniors Group

The Seniors Group (originally called the Lunch Bunch), was restarted towards the end of summer with about 14 people attending a meeting after church shortly after Peace began in in person worship. We discussed the types of activities that fit our life style and keep us safe from covid. As a group, we decided the third Wednesday of the month would be our meeting day. So far, the seniors have toured the Port Tobacco Court House and associated building and viewed a movie at church. We also plan to tour other historical sites within Charles, St. Marys and Calvert Counties.

If you have any suggestions for activities, please contact Charlie Warren at 301 374 6587 or cmwjbr@verizon.net.

Respectively Submitted

Charlie Warren

Fellowship Annual Report

Starting in October of 2020 bags full of treats, activities and information were delivered to each home of those who are a part of Peace Lutheran. Bag deliveries took place in October (Halloween theme) and November (Thanksgiving/Advent theme) of 2020 as well as in February (Lent theme), March (Easter theme) and May (Pentecost theme) in 2021. Different individuals helped plan and prepare the bags for each household. A group of 5-9 volunteers delivered the bags based on geographic regions.

In the middle of an ongoing pandemic and worshipping remotely this was a way of letting folks know they were not forgotten and that we still have a connection as a community even though we could not be together in person.

When we were able to be together again in person, we celebrated our High School Graduates in June with a special worship service and a reception with cupcakes and punch outside. On a Saturday in June we gathered at Port Tobacco River Park for a scavenger hunt, snacks and an impromptu card game! On September 12th we said Good-bye to Pastor Shannon at a special reception in the Fellowship Hall with food and farewell speeches and gifts. During this time we also started offering pre-packaged snacks and drinks after worship services outside, and then as the pandemic numbers went down, in the Fellowship Hall. In December we celebrated our friend and longtime member Amy Bell on her 90th Birthday with a small party in the Fellowship Hall. We did our best to celebrate safely whenever we could! Thank you especially to Jennifer Tallman and to ALL who helped with these celebrations and events!

Submitted by Sharon Altman and Jill Fronck

2021 Peace Quilters' Review

In June, 2021 we delivered 145 60" x 80" quilts to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in New Windsor, MD. These quilts were completed since our last Quilt Sunday in November 2019. We are thankful for Lutheran World Relief and its partners who deliver our quilts to locations in this world where there is need for comfort, warmth, shelter and/or security.

Peace Quilters graciously and tirelessly made hundreds of fleece chemo hats because we were not able to schedule a Chemo Hat Day. We also thankfully received more than 100 handmade, crocheted chemo hats. We distributed 771 fleece or crocheted chemo hats to eight facilities during the past year – local oncology and radiation centers, hospital infusion centers and requests from friends of quilters.

Additionally, we gave one farewell quilt and one healing/comfort quilt.

Peace Quilters are blessed as we continue to meet regularly at church while observing social distancing procedures. We joyfully share in fellowship while volunteering our time and talents to make gifts of love for others.

Leah Fowble

2021 Annual Report Elsie's Food Pantry

Elsie's Food Pantry has been greatly blessed, and in turn, continues to serve those in our community who are hungry and remain food challenged. The pantry continues to distribute groceries, with curbside service, on the first and third Saturdays of each month. During 2021, the pantry served 584 families (1,411 adults and 612 children), with 88 families coming to the pantry for the first time. The pantry gathered an estimated 9,890 pounds of food for distribution, mostly from the Southern Maryland Food Bank. In November, the pantry received 1,793.2 pounds of food from Cub Scout Pack 1771 and Boy Scout Troop 1781. The food was collected from Scouts annual can drive. We are grateful to the Boy Scouts for their continued support and donation.

In December the pantry, along with support of congregation members and Living Waters Kiononia, was able to give 13 senior citizens in our community with financial limitations, a gift bag containing a \$50 gift cards to Food Lion which enabled them to purchase their own food preferences for a lovely Christmas dinner, along with a small personal gift. The seniors expressed much gratitude as the gift bags were delivered.

As we journey into 2022, with its joys and challenges, I would like to use this opportunity to thank the all the volunteers that tirelessly devote their time and energies to this ministry, and also to the congregation for all the ways it continues support this ministry, recognizing the significance of helping to meet the challenge of providing food to families in our community who are in need.

To GOD be the glory as we continue to do "GOD'S work our hands".

Respectfully Submitted by,

Nilda Cirino
Elsie's Food Pantry Co coordinator

Yard Sale/Bake Sale/Book Give Away

Ad-hoc Ministry

On Saturday, October 3, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to noon we held a Yard Sale/Bake Sale/Book Give Away in the parking lot along Smallwood Drive. We had beautiful weather, lots of volunteers and folks who came out to see us and help us raise some needed funds.

I truly am thankful for everyone who stepped up in so many ways to help, including donating items for the sale, baking goodies, making signs, sorting and pricing items, setting up, being present at the sale, cleaning up, providing refreshments for our volunteers and even buying some items! Thrivent provided start up funds, t-shirts and a link for folks to donate online to our event through an Action Team.

Between the monetary donations we received from members, the sale of items and baked goods on that Saturday, the free will donations given for the left-over baked goods on the following Sunday morning and the donations folks made through the Thrivent link, we made about \$2,000 for our Mission Plan.

There were 44 volunteers who helped in some way (and this number does not include those who donated items)! All of the left over items were donated to Purple Heart through Green Drop who provided a truck and picked everything up at church immediately following our event as pre-arranged.

Again, many thanks for coming together to make our Yard Sale/Bake Sale/Book Give Away a success!

Sharon Altman

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Solar Power Update

Peace has had a continuing issue with Tesla and SMECO over the solar system on our roof. The problem is the Tesla system produces more power than Peace uses from SMECO. When this happens, SMECO tariffs require the customer be charged an extra fee based on what is called a Power Factor. The Power Factor is a measure of energy efficiency typically expressed as a percentage—the lower the percentage the less efficient power usage from the grid is. Since April of 2019 we have been frustrated at every turn in our efforts to get the problem fixed—to no avail. Covid restrictions have greatly exacerbated the problem.

Finally, there appears to be some progress with both SMECO and Tesla. SMECO stopped adding the power factor charge to our bill in July 2021. We were told unofficially it was a test. On December 1 we received a letter from William Bradford, SMECO's Vice President, Rates and Energy Procurement, telling us that SMECO has suspended the Power Factor for Peace and other solar generators like ourselves while SMECO evaluates possible revisions to their tariffs.

Meanwhile, on October 27, after months of delays, Tesla sent a service technician to Peace to adjust the solar system's inverters to see how the adjustments will affect SMECO's Power Factor calculations. The Power Factor issue is complex and not unique to Peace; other SMECO commercial customers with similar-sized solar systems (several owned by Tesla) have been experiencing the problem too. Hopefully, we are now on the path to a successful resolution. Please continue to pray for resolution that allows us to be good stewards of our environment and our limited financial resources.

Peace Prays

Annual Report for January 2022 Congregational Meeting

Peace Prays was a monthly time of corporate prayer for the church and the people who call Peace their spiritual home. From January to September, Alice Young, Don Zimmer, Pastor Shannon, and Sharon Altman met monthly via Zoom for a time of prayer and planning. We continued to offer prayer services the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. using Zoom, with the exception of during Lent since there was a weekly Wednesday evening service offered.

Our last meeting was held in September to bid Pastor Shannon farewell as she left for her new call. It was decided that we would no longer meet as a group. Members continue to pray for the congregation and the hope is that each of you will continue to pray for us, for each other, for our church, for our community, for our country, for the world.

As we move forward amidst changes and transitions may we remember to be thankful to God for all we have. We might lament some things that we have lost, but may we stay open to the possibilities God is giving us through these changes and transitions and to be always hopeful with God by our side. May the Holy Spirit guide us now and always. May we love others as Jesus showed us in the way he lived on this earth.

God's Peace,

Sharon Altman and Don Zimmer