

ANNUAL REPORT



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
of SAINT CHARLES, MARYLAND



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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To reduce the environmental impact of mass printing, the 2023 Annual Report is presented in digital format, with printed copies available upon request. This report will be available digitally on the church's website, where it can be downloaded and printed. Please recycle any printed copies of this report.

Organizational Statements

Welcome Statement

In response to God’s unconditional love for all people, we at Peace Lutheran Church affirm that every person is a child of God. All believers and seekers regardless of your age, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, relationship status, abilities or economic circumstances are a part of the body of Christ. We recognize that there are differences among us and believe that we can love alike even though we may not always think alike. We invite you to join us in our faith journey toward greater love and understanding.

2022 Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Declaration of Quorum
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
6. Elections
7. New Business
 - a. Adoption of new organizational statements
 - b. Adoption of 2023 budget
8. Motion to Adjourn
9. Closing Prayer

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting was held virtually on Sunday, January 23, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

Opening Prayer – by Pastor Karis Graham (Interim Pastor)

Declaration of Quorum: A quorum of 10% of 130 voting members was required. The quorum was met with 33 voting members present.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve by Jennifer Tallman. Second by Karen Nale. Unanimously approved.

Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve by Carole Crawford. Second by Tara Derr. Unanimously approved.

President’s Report: Jill Fronck expressed her thanks to everyone for this opportunity to serve as President. Thank you to all for faithfulness, bravery and love of community. Thank you to Pastors and Wellness Team for navigating changes in worship – online, outside, in person again. Thank you to Sharon Altman for her help with the yard/bake sale. Thank you to Council.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Karis is Grateful to be at Peace! Enjoyed conversations with members. “Hopeful, blessed and excited to see how you move forward with God’s guidance.”

Recognition of Council Member: Thank you to Gretta Williams who has faithfully completed 2 terms on the council.

Treasurer’s Report and 2020 Budget Approval:

- **Mission Fund** – Began year with a surplus of \$44,389 and ended the year with a \$42,285 balance remaining in the Mission Fund. Ended the year with a deficit of \$2,104. Contributions this year were \$267,227 and expenses were \$269,331.
- **Piece it Together Fund** – The capital campaign ended at the end of 2021. Total pledges were \$315,269. Total funds received was \$240,095. There is \$30,431 remaining in the Piece it Together Fund. Council voted to move \$10,000 from the Mission Fund to the Audio/Visual Fund to go toward a new screen for the sanctuary wall as promised in the Capital Campaign. The remaining \$21,341 will go toward paying down the principal on the mortgage.
- **Designated Fund** – The Emergency Repair Fund has a balance of \$9,605 which puts us in a good position to cover expenses. The Food Pantry Fund remains well funded. The Youth Gathering Fund is also strong.
- **Benevolence** – We will add Benevolence donations back into the budget.
- **2022 Budget** – Gail proposed to continue the budget of \$328,140 while calling a new pastor. Gail Bentz made a motion to accept the 2022 budget with the stipulation of revisiting it when a new pastor is called. Second by Lori Arguelles. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes Cont'd.

Committee Reports: Included in the Annual Report

Council Nominating Committee: Elizabeth Constantine reported that the committee proposes the following candidates for Council positions: Secretary – Cindy McCallam, At Large Member – Jennifer Tallman and At Large Member – Karen Nale.

Election: Elizabeth Constantine made a motion that we accept the 3 nominations for Council. Second by Sharon Altman. Motion passed with unanimous approval.

Installation of New Council Members: by Pastor Karis Graham

Ending Prayer: by Pastor Karis Graham
Meeting adjourned at 12:02pm.

Reports to the Congregation

Congregation President's Report

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

Wow! 2022 gave us many opportunities to refer to and lean into this scripture verse! The year started with electing a call committee of dedicated members to spend a lot of time in faithful contemplation with one another, and with us, to decipher our needs and how we want to be in the surrounding community. We had to deal with a second wave of the Covid virus and the Wellness team stood firm in its faithful discussions and decisions with how best to keep our vulnerable safe. Pastor Karis Graham stood with us and guided us through these things as well as through loss and sickness of beloved members. We unanimously elected our new pastor, Eric Randolph, to shepherd us, and we gave emergency space to a Waldorf family childcare program after a house fire. Through all of this Elsie's Pantry continued to serve, AA, Quilters, Cub Scouts, and the Bell Choir continued to safely meet, and for this we are grateful. In fact, in many things and for many people and to God this year I have been grateful!

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1Thessalonians 5:16-17

When writing my reports each month for the council meetings this past year I intentionally took time to think back on the month and God would show me reasons to be grateful. I would like to share some of the 71 Gratitude's I shared this year to help you *rejoice* and *give thanks* for the year God has given us!

- Worship team who quickly switched to online virtual worship when our community became overwhelmed by the Covid virus again.
- For a hardworking, conscientious, and prayerful Call Committee.
- Sharon creating and preparing Lenten devotion bags for distribution at our Drive Thru Ash Wednesday
- Our Wellness Team taking time to thoughtfully come up with modifications in a "step down approach" to our Covid protocols that cares for all.
- Our Cub Scout Pack families for cleaning up trash and leaves and sticks all around the playground and property of Peace.
- The finance team and tellers' quiet faithfulness in their weekly care of our monies.
- Celebrating the completion of the MSP by our hardworking Call Committee!!
- Mike, for all the ways he takes care of God's church building, and the relationships he is building in the community.
- Polk family for providing 1,000 stuffed plastic eggs for our community egg hunt!
- Gretta, who shows hospitality and grace every Sunday to every person who walks through the doors.

- Cindy and Nilda and Earl who keep Elsie's Pantry running seamlessly along with faithful Tuesday baggers and Saturday distributors.
- Will for always taking time to answer my questions patiently.
- Jennifer T. for all her efforts to make sure there are refreshments at fellowship time after worship.
- A successful Call Vote meeting! Vicar Eric starting August 22!
- Consistent patient giving members and friends during this transition time.
- Robinson family who took initiative to find ways for their *whole* family to be involved in serving during worship.
- Don Zimmer's patience and resilience with advocating for justice for Peace with Tesla and SMECO.
- Gail who watches carefully over our monies and keeps us posted on our revenues and expenses.
- To ALL those who are saying "YES" to helping with volunteer opportunities!
- The wonderful reception held for Pastor Eric's Installation! Thank you especially to Menardo Divino, Stephen Foster and Jennifer Tallman for leading and organizing.
- Pastor Eric leading council members through strategic planning sessions to discover what we feel are Peace's core values and creating a new mission statement.
- Trusting friendships being formed with community members who are renting space at Peace for parties and family events.
- Peace Lutheran's Memorial Wall in the narthex for our saints that have gone before us.
- For the hope and love that is found in our faith in God and the birth of our savior Jesus!

And my list goes on! I am grateful for each and every one of you who have kept alert, stood firm in your faith, were courageous and strong with your giving and did it all with the love and grace of God guiding you. I am especially grateful for the council members who I served with the past two years as president. Their dedication and love for God's people here at Peace and in this community we live in has been the greatest gift from God to me.

May we all Rejoice and give Thanks in the Lord for all He is doing here at Peace, and may we continue to lead with compassion as we walk with the poor and powerless.

In His Service,
Jill Fronck

Pastor's Report

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Dear Siblings in Christ:

Normally, a pastor's report would begin with a review of the previous year, but I want to begin where we are now—a time of new beginnings and new possibilities. Peace is still in transition as you welcome me back as your new pastor and, with humility and prayer, consider where the Spirit is directing our faith community. As a result, my report to you is more of a pastoral letter than a populated assessment of 2022.

As we dip our toes into the open waters of 2023, I invite you to join me in making this a **Year of Gratitude** at Peace Lutheran Church. Here I am reminded of something Pope Francis said to a general audience in 2020:

*Above all, let us not forget to thank: if we are bearers of gratitude,
the world itself will become better, even if only a little bit, but that
is enough to transmit a bit of hope.*

Right now, in the world, there has been a lot of reimagining of what it means to be a church. The world is facing so many challenges from practically every direction that it requires greater hope. Whether it is the fighting in Ukraine, or the poverty and homelessness felt at home, hope can appear to be in short supply. As Christians, beloved children of God and disciples of the resurrected Christ, we should be radical bearers of hope in the world—and, for us here in our community, bearers of hope in Charles County and the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan region.

Pope Francis went on to say:

*The world needs hope. And with gratitude, with this habit of saying
thank you, we transmit a bit of hope. Everything is united and
everything is connected, and everyone needs to do [their] part
wherever we are.*

In her report, your congregation president, Jill Fronck, acknowledged many people for their giving of time, talent, and treasure in supporting the life and purpose of this community. From the enormous richness of love within the Godself, God has given us so much—the gift of life, family, and friends. We are invited into relationship with one another by our very nature as creatures formed in the image of God.

Giving thanks to God and others teaches us that we cannot achieve everything on our own. When we enter relationships, we not only experience but are benefited by the blessings that others

contribute through their gifts. God has given every one of us distinct gifts that, when combined to live out our vocations and church ministry, become a strong force of good—of hope! We also know that God is with us in all of this. We also recognize that when we engage in relationships, we experience Jesus.

I've made several new connections with local church and non-profit leaders in the last few months. The fruits of these partnerships are already beginning to bloom, as seen by combined worship services earlier in December, with more scheduled for 2023. Following Peace's dedication to the LGBTQIA+ community and inclusivity efforts, I am developing partnerships with the local PFLAG chapter (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). As PFLAG's programming increases, Peace Lutheran Church can provide not just physical space but also the resource of our time and talent to reach out to the community with hope— demonstrating to our neighbors that there are places of worship that truly embrace all of God's children as they are.

So, let us embrace the discomfort that comes with taking risks in this year of gratitude. In our instance, where in our lives and at Peace Lutheran Church are we willing to take risks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ? Taking risks is crucial as we continue to transition and redefine what church is to fulfill the needs of today and the future. But, as I previously stated, we are not alone in this; we have God, and God has our back. We know we're not alone because we have each other as we enter what may be uncharted ground for the larger church and ourselves, and with that assurance comes our particular gifts that will uplift and support the community on its journey.

Gratitude takes various forms, and you will witness it from me as your pastor in a variety of ways, whether through one-on-one conversations or sermons and other events. As you contemplate methods to make gratitude a habit in your life, consider spending three minutes a few times a week calling or texting someone in your life or within the church to express your gratitude. Then ponder how you will express your thanks to God and the gifts God has bestowed upon you. As we prepare to discuss and vote on this year's budget, I ask us all to explore how we can offer a bit more of our time, talents, and treasure to support Peace's ministry in 2023.

God's Beloveds, I am thankful for every one of you and the various ways you contribute your gifts to make Peace Lutheran Church a beacon of hope in the community. I am grateful to be your pastor and to have the privilege of walking beside you in our shared faith journey, reconnecting and discovering new ways in which God asks us to serve our neighbors following Jesus' example. Your love and prayers have given me hope during difficult moments in my personal life, as well as strength in my pastoral ministry here at Peace Lutheran Church. Thanks be to God for each of you.

Martin Luther, defining hope, said:

Faith and hope are different affections, for faith is not hope nor hope faith; and yet, because of the great affinity that exists between them it is impossible to separate them. By faith we began [our spiritual life], by hope we continue it, and by revelation we shall obtain the whole. Meanwhile, as long as we live, we preach the Word and spread the knowledge of Christ among others, because we believe.

May the knowledge of Christ that burns within your heart motivate you to take a little more risk in faith, to give thanks a little more often, to live and share radically the hope we discover in Him who came to be the change the world needed and still needs. We are not alone in our calling because we have each other and the knowledge that He will always be with us. Amen.

In Christ and with Christ's love,
Pastor Eric+

Treasurer's Report

Thank you for your generous gifts to Peace Lutheran Church. Your consistent and continued support has allowed us to continue our ministries. Through a strong December and the transfer of remaining Peace It Together funds, we start 2023 with a surplus of \$32000. The finance committee remains committed to providing transparency regarding our finances and to closely monitor our expenses.

Mission Fund (2022)	
Beginning Balance	\$41,950
2022 Deficit	-21,216
Peace It Together	12,190
Adjustments	-1,504
Ending Balance	\$31,420
Total Contributions	\$229,538
Total Expenses	250,754
Total Deficit	-21,216

The mortgage balance as of 31 December 2022 is **\$732,932**.

2022 Designated Funds: \$63,281

Designated Funds (2022)

Peace Lutheran Church

Designated Funds- 2022

Fund	Starting Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
Des-CC Memorials (U)	2400	1230	762	0	2868
Des-CC Prepaid Pledge (U)	16000	0	0	-16000	0
Des-CE Christian Education (U)	624	0	0	0	624
Des-CE Sunday School (U)	534	0	267	0	267
Des-CE VBS (U)	234	0	0	0	234
Des-CE Womens Group (U)	247	0	0	0	247
Des-FE Fellowship (U)	1268	2403	1150	-683	1837
Des-PA Discretion (U)	350	0	0	0	350
Des-Pass Thru (U)	0	0	610	610	0
Des-PR Emergency Repair (U)	9605	26206	16832	935	19913
Des-SC Food Pantry (U)	7023	10413	10974	1000	7463
DES-SC Grief Ministry (U)	0	0	500	500	0
Des-SC Peace Quilters (U)	575	1208	793	0	990
Des-SC Special Events (U)	500	0	100	-400	0
Des-WH Welcoming & Hospitality (U)	3175	60	750	583	3069
Des-WM Audio Visual (U)	2550	0	1665	10000	10885
Des-WM Flame & Flower (U)	175	220	0	0	395
Des-WM Special Projects (U)	705	111	700	-106	10
Des-YO Youth Activities (U)	62	0	240	500	321
Des-YO Youth Gathering (U)	14267	41	0	-500	13808
In-Kind Donations (U)	2228	1038	3265	0	0
Peace it Together Campaign (U)	30341	12784	20000	-23125	0
Totals	92862	55713	58608	-26686	63281

Respectfully submitted by,
Gail Bentz, Treasurer

Property Report

I would like to provide you with an update on the property management side of Peace. First, thanks for the support of our members who have stepped-up to help me in many ways to keep up the maintenance in and around our church.

Some of the tasks that were completed this past year, include:

- Certification of the kitchen to be used as a commissary kitchen. This allowed us to rent out the space to the Night Owl Food Trailer and even hold a cooking class.
- Thanks to Don Zimmer for getting the freezer and dishwasher back online after a few issues came up with the appliances.
- We were fortunate to find Jose Reyes' Lawn Services to keep our landscape looking great.
- Thanks to Destry Fronck for diligently working on the repair of the LED sign for several months to get it back online.
- We finally did some reorganizing of the kitchen and adjacent storage closet to make them more user friendly.

I would like to make folks aware that as nice as our facility looks, it is showing its age. The original structure was built in 1981 and it needs much more tender loving care. The costs to give the loving care has risen over the past year.

For example, we have 12 HVAC units that need regular maintenance to heat and cool the church. Over the course of the year, we have spent an estimated \$6,000 or more on the HVAC units, and it has been recommended that we replace a couple of the aging units.

The other costly item that we must maintain is our fire alarm system, without it operating properly, the church would have to shut down. The Council has contracted with Johnson Controls to overhaul the old system and bring PLC up to the current standard of state fire regulations.

Please keep this in mind that it will take a little extra from all of us to keep our space looking great. PLC is on its way in becoming a vital part of the community of Charles County.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mike Leggett

Fellowship Ministry

The Fellowship Ministry seeks to foster friendship and fellowship and hospitality, integrating current and new members to share our faith as one in Christ. The position serves the congregation by providing Sunday refreshments, coordinating and arranging for special events including annual congregation meetings, budget meetings, council meetings, rallies, yard sales and other activities that require coordination and set up of refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. We also assist Pastor Eric by providing care packages for congregation members when needed. Fellowship also coordinates with the local women's shelter through Angel's Watch. Angel's Watch is one cooked dinner on the last Tuesday of the month to an average 75 women and children. Prior to the pandemic the meal was prepared in the volunteer's home. During the pandemic, volunteers switched to catering the meal from local restaurants at an increased expense. Now that the pandemic is largely over, we are conducting a cost comparison of catered vs volunteer in home preparation of these meals. Our sincere thanks to the members of the Living Waters Koinonia Group for supporting this ministry.

Since returning to in-person services, Fellowship has been active. In addition to regular Sunday refreshments, activities included:

- Pastor Karis' (Interim Pastor) weekly discussions on adjusting to change in the church
- Pastor Karis' Farewell
- Ice Cream Social
- Community Yard Sale
- Pastor Eric's Installation Dinner
- After Service Potluck w/Hope Lutheran Church in Clinton
- Memorial Service Repast for Judy Rudolph
- Angel's Watch (Women's Shelter) monthly meals

We are extremely grateful for the congregation members that volunteer regularly (Gretta and Columbus Williams, Sue Washburn) and others that stepped in and helped along the way. Like other ministries, our volunteer team is extremely small. As we continue into 2023 the Fellowship team wants to engage visitors more often to garner feedback on their experience with us. We cannot do that and other planned activities without a team of dedicated volunteers.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jennifer Tallman

Food Ministry Report

Elsie's Food Pantry has continued to provide groceries to families in need of food in our community. The pantry continues to distribute groceries on the first and third Saturdays of each month. During 2022, the pantry served approximately 512 families including 78 new families. In February, the pantry underwent an inspection from Southern Maryland Food Bank who monitors its food distribution partner sites for safe food handling, proper maintenance of freezers, pest control etc. The inspection also included video training for pantry volunteers. I am happy to report that our facility passed the inspection with flying colors.

The pantry has depended on several sources for supplies including the Southern Maryland Food Bank, independent shopping at local supermarkets, and Bag Hunger Southern MD with 800 packages of soup, fortified pasta, oatmeal, and protein meal packs. During the early part of the year, the pantry was able to distribute covid testing kits, received from Charles County Health Department to families who needed them. In the month of November, a donation of 28 turkeys was received from a private donor, and 2,407 pounds of food was received from Cub Scout Pack 1771 and Scout Troop 1780. The food donated was a result of the Scout's annual food drive. In December 2022, the food pantry coordinated the sponsoring of 13 senior citizens for the Charles County Senior Christmas Connection. The seniors were gifted with gift bags containing a \$50 gift card for them to purchase their preferred items for a Christmas dinner, along with a small personal gift.

The pantry could not function without the dedicated and consistent work of the volunteers who shop, bag, and assist with the distribution food each month. The culmination of this process is when the joy of giving is truly felt in the expressions of gratitude we receive from our clients. Some of these examples are the gratefulness of the single mom struggling to feed her family, or the expression of gratitude from one of our clients who was so surprised when she saw a turkey being loaded into her car, that she excitedly hugged the turkey tightly and didn't let go, as she expressed her thankfulness for having a turkey for her family for Thanksgiving, or the determination of the older gentleman who comes to the pantry by foot to get needed food for his family and carries his bags of food back to his household on his shoulders. These are just a few examples of how the pantry is able to bless those in our community who we serve.

The pantry fondly remembers Judy Rudolph, who had been a faithful volunteer with the pantry for many years. She will surely be missed.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the dedicated volunteers that tirelessly devote their time and energies to this ministry, and to the congregation for all the ways it continues to support this ministry.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nilda Cirino
Elsie's Food Pantry Co-Coordinator

Worship & Music Committee Report

Our Mission: The Worship Team members interfaced to create a rich, healing, spiritual worship experience in 2022. We now continue to foster the renewal of the congregation’s individual and corporate faith life in worship and in the world. These mindsets are evident in our liturgy and music. Through the deliberate visioning for our physical worship spaces, we set a tone for even more mindful worship engagement. This ensures that worshippers of *all ages* can continue to deepen their connections with God and one another. Mindful of the ongoing community health issues related to COVID-19 and concomitant viruses, we continued to address and nurture the in-person and virtual worship service options.

The Worship Team is supported by worship assistants of all ages who serve as ushers, cantors, lectors, eucharistic ministers, communion assistants, acolytes, Peace Singers, Peace Ringers, Altar Guild workers and Multimedia technicians. Led forward by our pastor, Rev. Eric Randolph, and our Minister of Music, Will Derr, we prayerfully planned, trained, and coordinated the various areas of worship throughout the year. Thanks be to God!

Respectfully submitted by,
Gretta Williams



Minister of Music Report

At the beginning of 2022, as the COVID-19 transmission rates rose we made the difficult decision to suspend in-person worship and rehearsals. Fortunately, we'd been through this before and were well-practiced at putting together a polished and meaningful online worship experience.

To further streamline and enhance the process of recording virtual hymns we began using a free app called "Band Lab," which allowed singers and instrumentalists to add their part or layer to constantly evolving cloud recording and immediately hear how their part fit in with others who had recorded previously. Other benefits included saving users the step of submitting their recordings to me and saving me the step of having to get everyone's recordings in synch with each other.

After two months of online-only services, we returned to in-person worship in March. As a precaution, we made the decision to stay masked when singing because of the increased risk for spreading COVID-19 when singing. It was a difficult decision to make at a time when many people had grown weary of mask-wearing and were either putting their faith in vaccinations or not concerned about the risks. What amounted to an entire section of our already small choir was not comfortable singing with masks on, so I made the decision to delay the resumption of choir rehearsals.

Under the leadership of our interim pastor, our worship services were pared down to just the essentials, omitting most of the liturgical music from the services. The selection of hymns remained my responsibility, and I made the decision to primarily use familiar hymns and settings as we navigated the transition and call process.

In late March, the wireless network infrastructure at Peace was upgraded by DenPro, significantly increasing the reliability of our live-streaming equipment. This also enabled us to make a connection between the multimedia computer and the Switcher Studio app, allowing us to incorporate the service PowerPoint into our online streaming worship. We continue to receive compliments from viewers on the quality of our livestreamed worship services.

It was exciting to welcome Eric as our new pastor in August. He has taken over the hymn selections and has re-introduced parts of the liturgy to our worship services. It has always been my goal as minister of music to include music in our worship from a variety of styles, time periods, cultures, etc. but I've always felt limited by the resources available to us (ELW, WOV, TFF, etc.). Under Pastor Eric's leadership, we've acquired three new hymnals (Journeysongs, African American Heritage Hymnal, and Voices), and have been making regular use of All Creation Sings, the new supplement to the ELW. We've also begun to incorporate a new style of through-composed psalm. I look forward to learning new hymns and songs while still taking the time to enjoy old favorites.

Finally, I am happy to report that choir rehearsals have resumed. We are singing and rehearsing mask-less and performing from downstairs (easier to film for online worship, and easier on our

singers with knee issues). Though we are small in number, we were able to perform a cappella in four-part harmony for Christmas Eve. We have a strong foundation for some growth in 2023.

Respectfully submitted by,
Will Derr

Multimedia Report

Multimedia was graciously run by Columbus Williams, Don Robinson, and David Constantine. The three of us are doing well, but we need more volunteers 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. There are also some video upgrades that we are looking at, including relocating the projector in the sanctuary and adding a video monitor in the back of the sanctuary. These upgrades should greatly improve the visual aspects of the worship experience. These changes can be performed with little to no cost to the church. The network infrastructure in the building was successfully upgraded this past year.

Respectfully submitted by,
Dr. David Constantine

Peace Quilters Report

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 and/or security. In June we delivered 100 60" x 80" quilts to the LWR warehouse in New Windsor, MD.

Peace Quilters graciously and tirelessly made hundreds of fleece chemo hats. We also received almost 100 handmade crocheted chemo hats. We distributed 633 fleece and crocheted hats to six facilities in 2022 - local oncology and radiation centers, hospital infusion centers and requests from friends of quilters.

Additionally, we gave two healing/comfort quilts and one farewell quilt. Peace Quilters are blessed to meet regularly at church. We joyfully share in fellowship as we volunteer our time and talents to make gifts of love for others.

Respectfully submitted by,
Leah Fowble

Social Concerns Report

The people of Peace kept the needs of the community forefront as they served with compassion the needs of the poor and powerless. We worked diligently with the Wellness team to keep our doors open to our many **AA support groups** meeting in the building during the uprise of the Covid virus. The leaders of these groups have shared that these meetings can be a matter of life or death for some people. We used \$2000 from the generous giving to the Food Pantry to donate to **LifeStyles** to cover one week of meals for **Safe Nights** in February. **Red Cross Blood Drives** were held in Peace’s Fellowship Hall in March and September with all appointments being filled by the community, and Peace volunteers welcoming all. A group of members marched in the **DC Pride Parade** to show support for the rights of those of the LGBTQIA community. School supplies were collected and delivered to **Middleton Elementary School** students and Welcome Back gift bags were put together for the teachers and staff. In September we came together for “**God’s Work. Our Hands.**” and assembled about 120 To Go Bags of snack foods donated by members for **Our Place Waldorf** soup kitchen clients at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC). Sharon Altman applied for and received Thrivent Grant monies to purchase food for a meal for the soup kitchen, and then a group of Peace volunteers prepared and served the meal to some 100 people at GSUMC. Living Waters Koinonia continued to purchase and deliver monthly meals to the **Angel’s Watch Women’s Shelter**. A new choir program, **Arts4All Singers** (an inclusive opportunity for those living with developmental disabilities in SMD) started meeting in the fall at Peace in partnership with the Chesapeake Choral Arts Society. We provided **emergency childcare space** in rooms 2 & 3 to My Sweet Baby Childcare after a fire destroyed their Waldorf home daycare addition thus putting many families’ livelihood in jeopardy. Members were also encouraged to give to **The Walk for the Homeless** sponsored by LifeStyles, and the Metro DC ELCA’s **Gifts of Hope** program funding programs all over the DC Metro area serving people in need.

THANK YOU, Peace members and friends, for loving and caring for ALL God’s people this year!

This ministry is always looking for new members to join to share and discuss ways for Peace to “walk alongside and stand with the poor and powerless” in this community and beyond.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jill Fronck



Scouting Report

Cub Scout Pack 1771 has had a successful year. Our membership growth has slowed as compared to 2021, but we are maintaining a healthy and active Pack. Our annual service project, "Scouting for Food" brought in over 2,000 pounds of food for Elsie's Food Pantry. The scouts distributed flyers to local neighborhoods, then collected, sorted, and weighed the food at Peace. Last May, we partnered with Troop 1780/1781 at Good Shepherd for the Pinewood Derby. Other activities included two campouts, several hikes, and other advancement activities.

Our Cubmaster and Committee Chair, Josh and Kirsten Byrd, will be moving to Tennessee this year. We would like to thank them for their leadership and contributions to the Pack and to Peace. This means that we will have some leadership changes coming soon but we are confident that the Pack will continue to thrive.

Finally, we would like to thank the members of Peace for chartering Pack 1771. Without your continued hospitality and support, the Pack could not exist. We are looking forward to another successful year!

Respectfully submitted by,
Dr. David Constantine

Yard Sale & Bake Sale Report

*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*

On Saturday, October 8, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to noon we held a Yard Sale and Bake Sale in the parking lot along Smallwood Drive. We had beautiful, if chilly, weather, lots of volunteers and folks who came out to see us and help us raise some needed funds. Individuals reported that they learned about our event through online notices, seeing our signs around the neighborhood or seeing us when they drove by that morning.

I truly am thankful for everyone who stepped up in so many ways to help, including donating items for the sale, baking goodies, sorting items, setting up, being present at the sale, cleaning up, providing refreshments for our volunteers and even buying some items! A special thank you to Ginny Wolford for coordinating the Bake Sale portion of our event. I am also grateful to Thrivent for providing startup funds, t-shirts and a link for folks to donate online to our event through an Action Team.

We changed things slightly this year and, rather than pricing each item, we offered things for a Free Will donation. This was well received by attendees as well as by the volunteers. Between the monetary donations we received from donors both in person and through Thrivent's link, the free will donations for items and baked goods on that Saturday, and the free will donations given

for the left-over baked goods on the following Sunday morning we made about \$3,300 to go toward repairing our alarm system.

There was a total of 37 volunteers who helped; 33 came on Saturday and 18 showed up during the week before to sort and organize items for the sale (and this number does not include those who donated items and baked goodies). We had approximately 120 people attend this event! All of the left-over items were donated to Pepe 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 a success!

Respectfully submitted by:
Sharon Altman

Financial Secretary Report

Bonnie and I as your Financial Secretary team focus on the accounting and statement of your generous contributions. However your efforts beyond the giving you have made. There is a spirit of excitement and hope at Peace that is moving through the congregation that goes well beyond dollars. Thank you for all that you do.

In the new year we are planning to transition into a new Church Management Program. We hope that this system will ease the burdens on our hard-working tellers and treasurer, and the administrative challenges of keeping congregational records straight with people and addresses. I ask for your patience as we work up the learning curve and transition records from the current to the new system.

This year Peace will have available giving envelopes for those who desire them. We plan to use envelopes that were not distributed last year, in lieu of buying additional envelopes. They will have last year dates, but will be serviceable in keeping track of your giving. At our end we will associate the number on the envelope with you so we can properly attribute contributions.

Statements from your 2022 contributions should be available on Jan 22 after the worship service for you to pick up. These can also be mailed to you if that is necessary. If there are any questions you should reach out to us.

Glen and Bonnie Simperts
GlenBon@myplc.org

Peace Lutheran Church joins the larger church in confessing the sin of colonialism and the church's complicity, as well as striving to nurture and preserve the dignity of American Indian and Native Alaskan individuals, congregations, communities, and the church, by adopting this land recognition.

Land Acknowledgement

Peace Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Piscataway peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

2023 Proposed Budget

	2023 Proposed	2022 Actual	2022 Proposed
Program Support	22,500	16,024	12,500
Property	131,698	106,557	125,989
Administrative Support	5,625	2,562	10,160
Personnel	122,196	125,611	179,491
Total Budget	\$282,019	\$250,754	\$328,140

Property	2023 Proposed	2022 Actual	Personnel	2023 Proposed	2022 Actual
Insurance	5,000	4,901	Pastor's Salary	42,000	59,990
Electricity	24,000 ^a	7,171	Pastor's Housing	38,004	30,329
Telephone	4,500	4,476	Pension & Benefits	11,364	4,099
Water & Sewer	450	98	Director of Music	23,607	23,604
Natural Gas	1,900	1,790	Bell Choir	2,772	2,772
Maintenance	17,800 ^b	8,648	Social Security	2,016	2,016
Janitorial Services	9,000	9,640	Workman's Comp.	773	732
Property Tax	300	269	Safe Sanctuary	100	17
Mortgage	68,748	69,564	Supply Pastor	1,560	2,050
Subtotal	\$131,698	\$106,557	Subtotal	\$122,196	\$125,611

Program Support	2023 Proposed	2022 Actual	Administrative	2023 Proposed	2022 Actual
Benevolence	10,000	9,620	Postage	125	128
Social Ministry	1,200	48	Supplies	1,000	418
Worship Expenses	1,800	1,195	Office Machines	500	0
Music	1,200	0	Leadership Develop.	400	400
Christian Education	1,500	76	Pastor Bus. Expense	1,000	0
Finance	4,500	5,081	Pastor Cont. Ed.	1,000	500
Fellowship	500	4	Computer	600	0
Youth	1,800	0	IT	1,000	1,116
Subtotal	\$22,500	\$16,024	Subtotal	\$5,625	\$2,562

^a Electricity includes anticipated settlement and regular monthly payments to Tesla.

^b Maintenance includes anticipated contract for fire alarm upgrade of \$650 per month.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

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

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).