

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

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

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

I.	Agenda	Cream	Page 1
II.	Congregational Minutes, February 5, 2023	Gray	Pages 2-3
III.	Pastor's Report	White	Pages 4-5
IV.	Membership Statistics	Green	Page 6
V.	2023 Attendance	Green	Page 7
VI.	President's Report	Blue	Page 8
VII.	Nominating Committee	Yellow	Page 9
VIII.	Congregational Committee Reports	Pink	Pages 10-19
	a. Community Service	Pink	Page 10
	b. Evangelism	Pink	Pages 11-12
	c. Faith Formation	Pink	Pages 13-14
	d. Fellowship	Pink	Page 15
	e. Property	Pink	Pages 16-17
	f. Stewardship	Pink	Page 18
	g. Technology	Pink	Page 19
IX.	Thrivent Action Team	Purple	Pages 20-21
X.	Treasurer's Report	Ivory	Pages 22-24
	Peace Lutheran Proposed 2024 Budget	Ivory	Page 25
	General Fund 2023 Expenses and 2024 Proposed Budget	Ivory	
	2024 Reserve Account Carry Over Balances	Ivory	
	Proposed 2024 Budget-Capital Fund	Ivory	
	Power Point Slides		Pages 1-5

PEACE LUTHERAN CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING

January 28, 2023

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Agenda Acceptance
- Congregational Minutes – February 5, 2023
- Reports
 - 1) Pastor's Report
 - 2) Membership Statistics
 - 3) President's Report
 - 4) Congregational Committee Reports
 - a) Community Service
 - b) Faith Formation
 - c) Evangelism
 - d) Fellowship
 - e) Property
 - f) Stewardship
 - g) Technology
 - h) Thrivent Action Team
- Action Items
 - 1) Treasurer's Report
 - a) Summary
 - b) 2024 Budget
 - i. Operating Fund (Motion by Council)
 - ii. Capital Fund (Motion by Council)
 - 2) Election of Council Members
 - 3) Election of Synod Assembly Delegates
 - 4) Election of Nominating Committee
- Old Business
- New Business
- Motion to Adjourn
- Lord's Prayer

2022 ANNUAL MEETING

February 5, 2023

Zoom and In-person

Attending: 39 voting members

President Henry Harms declared a quorum.

Pastor Mary led us in prayer.

MSC Andy Spiro/Linda Shudrowitz accepted the agenda.

MSC Congregational meeting minutes from Nov. 21, 2021 and Jan. 22, 2022, Andy Spiro/ Jean Neptune approved with correction of spelling of Kim Efird's name.

Verlene Urekar's death date was corrected to Aug. 21, 2022, in Membership Statistics

MSC Linda Shudrowitz/Jeff Sandstrom accepted Presidents Report, Membership Statistics and Attendance Report.

MSC Joe Henkle/Ann Becker accepted committee reports.

Treasurer's Report presented by Treasurer Tracy Scaduto

Operating fund balance as of Dec. 31	\$ 95,313
Mission Investment Fund	\$285,355
Rainy Day Fund	\$ 31,275
Total	\$411,943

MSC Jeff Sandstrom/Norma McFarlan accepted the Treasurer's Report.

Finance Committee/Church Council presentation of giving projections by Mike Barker.

2023 Budget presentation by Tracy Scaduto.

Proposed Budget for 2023	\$280,553
--------------------------	-----------

MSC 2023 Budget Kim Efird/Joe Henkle.

MSC 2023 Capital Budget Jeff Sandstrom/Andy Spiro.

Election of Council Members for 2023

Elizabeth Mitchell

Adam Miller

Tracy Scaduto
Linda Rice
Claire Edgecomb
Ron Krause
Lois Moorman
Andy Spiro

Nomination of 2023 Synod Assembly Delegates
Kim Efird volunteered; remainder of seats will be filled by new council.

Nomination Committee for 2023
Henry Harms; remainder of committee will be filled by new council.

No old business

New Business
A new church directory was requested.

Pastor will let new council members know when there will be the next meeting.

MSC adjourned Joe Henkle/Jeff Sandstrom

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

As I reflect on 2023, its JOYS and its CHALLENGES, I cannot help but to thank God for God's faithfulness to us as we continue to participate in the mission to which we have been called as baptized children of God! In the waters of baptism, we are chosen and claimed by God as God's own beloved Daughters and Sons, our sins are forgiven, and we are given the promise of eternal life. The moment of our Baptism is a moment to celebrate. Yet, even as we celebrate our identity as beloved children of God, it is what happens "*after baptism*", that truly shows who we are! Our mission statement at Peace Lutheran reads: *As disciples of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.* That's the "*after baptism*" part for us here at Peace!

As you read the reports in this document you will see for yourself the many ways that we have actively lived out our baptismal identity. Even though finances were a challenge this past year, we were still able to support many worthy causes, and have continued to find joy in doing the ministry that comes "*after baptism*"!

We continued to open our doors to various community groups: (to name a few)

- Springfield Quilters
- Stamp Club
- Youngston Hills Neighborhood Association
- Central Southern Synod of Illinois (Council meetings and other)
- Violin recital
- St. John's Lutheran Church (Leadership Retreat)
- Synod Sponsored Envision Meeting
- Chorale Rehearsal

We reached out to those in need on a local level:

- Supported Grace Food Pantry through monetary gifts, volunteer hours, food donations
- We keep Peace's micro-pantry stocked
- Filled local Little Free Libraries around the Springfield area
- Prepared Meals for Helping Hands (twice in 2023)
- Provided a FREE pancake breakfast to our neighbors in Youngston Hills
- Provided volunteers in the Blackhawk School Library
- Donated new books to Blackhawk Library via "For the Love of Reading"
- Souper Bowl Sunday of Caring supported Grace Food Pantry
- Monetary donations were made to Mini-O'Bern, Habitat for Humanity, Central Illinois Food Bank, Contact Ministries, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois,

We supported those in need on a more global level:

- Quilts were sewn and sent to Lutheran World Relief
- School kits and Personal Care Kits were assembled and sent to LWR
- Monetary offerings were sent to Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

We welcomed new members!

- In July we welcomed 5 new members to our congregations – Michael Horn, Valerie Spurgeon, Norman Koefoed, Robert and Libby Letterly. They have already become active in the ministry here at Peace!
- In May, Carter Kim affirmed his baptism through the Rite of Confirmation.
- In August, Isaac Morrison was welcomed into the church family through Baptism.

Of course, these are just a sampling of how we at PEACE continue to live out our baptismal identity. As we move forward into a new year, we will need to find ways to engage our sisters and brothers in Christ in the ministry to which we are all called. We will need to intentionally invite and challenge one another to take our baptism seriously – to do what “*comes after*” baptism! We will need to address our financial challenges and find creative and new ways do the ministry to which God is calling us.

As we read in the letter to the Hebrews: *Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*” Hebrews 10:23-25

May the Peace of God that surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Mary E. Zupansic

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Beginning from membership statistics from the congregational report for the year ending December 31, 2022. Additions, subtractions and corrections from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023.

	Baptized
1. Membership as of 12/31/2022	233
2. Members received through 12/31/2023	
a. by baptism: Children (15 & under)	2
b. by baptism: Adult	
c. by affirmation of faith	5
d. by transfer from ELCA congregation	
3. Baptized members confirmed	1
4. Total	240
5. Members removed through 12/31/2022	
a. by death	4
b. by transfer to ELCA congregations	0
c. by transfer to non-ELCA congregations	0
d. removed per request	2
6. Membership as of 12/31/2022	234

Event

Date

Members removed by death:

Janet Turner	February 9, 2023
Larry Weyhrich	February 13, 2023
Robert Hart	March 29, 2023
Rev. Thomas Christell, Jr.	April 14, 2023

Members removed by request:

Ron Krause
Susan Krause

Transfers to ELCA congregations: None
Transfers to Non-ELCA congregations: None
Confirmands: None
Weddings: None
Weddings Non-members: None
Funerals Non-members: 1

2023 ATTENDANCE

Peace Lutheran Church members – and visitors – participated in worship and Holy Communion in 2023 in any or all of three ways:

- Attendance at weekly Sunday (and Lenten, Holy Week, Advent and Christmas Eve) worship services.
- On-line viewing on our You Tube channel, either live-streamed or recorded.

In 2023, we averaged attendance of 54 persons at in-person Sunday worship compared to 44 in 2022.

Our on-line views in 2023 averaged 73 per week. Note that this does not count the number of individuals who viewed a service, so one view may actually equal 2 or more people.

We eliminated Drive-Thru Communion in 2023 as numbers had dwindled significantly.

Monthly Saturday dinner church was suspended at the start of the pandemic, and with there being no interest in resuming, this was not continued in 2023. We will re-evaluate in 2024.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2023

As we look back on 2023, there has been a lot of work done to make sure our physical space is well cared for as well as our spiritual needs are being met.

The **Finance** committee as well as all of our committees have worked really hard to create a budget that is living within our means. Many discussions have been had about how to make sure bills are paid while still allowing programs and projects to continue.

A new roof is in our future with the hard work of the **property and finance** committee

Our **Fellowship** committee has made sure we always have refreshments after worship and opportunities (Oktoberfest, Advent, Ladies Breakfast, etc.) to come together over a meal. We are fortunate so many are willing to help make sure we are fed and caffeinated.

Property committee has worked tirelessly this year making sure the church is looking good, from painting to mowing and upkeep on both the parsonage as well as the church and making sure everything is in good working order. It is a BIG job!

Worship and Music always makes sure that we have beautiful music to go along with the service and that our worship space is inviting and ready each week.

The **Community Service Committee** has planned and completed many projects this year from local meals for the homeless, highway clean-up, and donations to Grace Food Pantry and the Peace Micropantry to the collection and packing of school and health kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Evangelism has provided opportunities to reach out to our neighbors via a well-attended pancake breakfast, Dwelling in the Word after worship, and baking and decorating of sugar cookies to share with our homebound members and as refreshments after the children's Christmas Program.

Faith Formation has done a tremendous job making sure that ALL ages have opportunities for Christian education. From our Little Lambs to Sundays at Six; Peace has a program for everyone.

Stewardship-Peace members have been given an opportunity to select ways to be involved by completing the Time and Talent survey. This will continue and EVERYONE is encouraged to consider how they can become involved. Many hands make light work, and this is so important for Peace.

Technology-we have certainly had technology needs and learned how to incorporate technology into our services, and we look forward to getting a committee up and running in 2024 to address our growing technology needs.

We are also fortunate to have hired and retained a wonderful **Office Manager**, Yvonne Nass. She has been a positive and conscientious addition to Peace.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2023

Members: Charlene Sampson, Judy Barhoover, Becky Hendricks, Linda Rice (rotating off council), Pastor

Council members serve two years and are eligible to serve a second two-year term.

2023	2024
Claire Edgecomb	Claire Edgecomb
Andy Spiro	Andy Spiro
Ron Krause (Joe Henkle)	Joe Henkle
Lois Moorman	Lois Moorman
Tracy Scaduto	Michael Horn (2yr)
Linda Rice	Amanda Kim (2yr)
Adam Miller	Annie Allen-Jones (2yr)
Elizabeth Mitchell	Elizabeth Mitchell (2 nd term)

Nominations for 2024 Synod Assembly Delegates:

June 6-8 Decatur, Illinois

One Male: Bob Letterly

Alternate Male: Bill Spindel

One Female: Libby Letterly

Alternate Female: Pamela Scott

Nominations for Nominating Committee 2024:

1. One rotating off Council: TBD
2. Rose Hamilton
3. Adam Miller
4. Doug McFarlan

COMMUNITY SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

*****We typically meet the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 and have been doing via Zoom (link in weekly News You Can Use)***

2023 Projects

1. *Easter, *Thanksgiving and *Christmas food baskets for Blackhawk (20), JMS (10)
2. Continuing to support the Peace Micropantry.
3. Thrivent Action Team was used to purchase shelving for storage of Micropantry donations
4. Blankets (30) and Stuffed Animals (60) are sent to Reservation
5. For the Love of Reading Project-members purchased books from a provided list, then donated to Blackhawk School library
6. Facilitated getting monitor installed in Narthex to announce upcoming events and CSC projects
7. Volunteers to help staff the Blackhawk Library 2 days/week
8. Volunteers at Grace Food Pantry. More people than ever (in over 50 years) are being served through Grace Food Pantry.
9. Souper Bowl of Caring Canned Food Drive (310 cans)
10. *Have provided 2 homecooked meals for Helping Hands (7/24/23, 9/14/23). CSC provided Italian Beef and Chicken and Peace members made sides, milk and desserts
11. Budgeted funds used to purchase books for Blackhawk Library (\$1000)
12. Adopt-a Highway Clean up days (5/70/23, 10/07/23)
13. *Lutheran World Relief-73 Quilts, 80 Health Kits, and 89 School Kits donated
14. Provided 21 students at Blackhawk School with toys and winter jackets, gloves, and hats
15. Little Free Library Donations have been ongoing and delivered since March 2023

*****Many of these projects were partially funded by Thrivent Action Team Grants (\$250 seed money to help support projects). If you have an account with Thrivent, please consider using or offering your Action Team Grant to be used for worthwhile projects.**

EVANGELISM/FAITHFUL INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

The Evangelism/Faithful Innovations Committee focused its attention to two main areas during 2023:

- 1) How to best serve/reach those children of God who are reachable but not yet familiar with Peace Lutheran Church; and
- 2) How to assist in equipping Peace Lutheran Church to share the good news of God's presence in their lives with those who have not yet heard.

Vital Congregations - The Committee participated in a four-part webinar series, "Vital Congregations," which the ELCA offered this summer. The webinars engaged participants to think about new and creative ways to go about ministry. The training emphasized that a "vital" congregation is a congregation that has a clear sense of purpose (rooted in God's mission), a willingness to embrace change, an environment where leadership is shared and is a place where people are growing spiritually.

Dwelling in the Word - The Committee continued to promote "Dwelling in the Word," a practice C/SIS encouraged congregations to participate in as a routine part of committee meetings, Bible studies and other gatherings. The practice invites us to consider a text from scripture over a period of time and, within the small group setting, to share our responses to the following:

- What captures our attention?
- What questions do we have or what do we wonder?
- Where might God's Spirit be nudging us?

The purpose of Dwelling in the Word is not about answering the above questions, but it is about allowing ourselves to be present with God's Word.

Faithful Innovations - Peace assembled a team and participated in a nine-month training provided by the Faithful Innovations initiative of the C/SIS, which supports developing the congregation into a community that provides a space and structure for people to come together to help each other address shared challenges and opportunities. It is based on the premise that a congregation provides an environment characterized by trust, vulnerability, and distributed leadership that generates and multiplies learning.

Pancakes at Peace - The C/SIS distributed seed money to those congregations that participated in the Faithful Innovations training program. The money was intended to spark an idea for ways to engage the community. The committee chose to host a Pancake and Sausage breakfast (*Pancakes at Peace*) in September, which included a targeted invitation to the neighborhood north of the church. The committee was pleased with the response. Those attending seemed

comfortable and receptive to the hospitality shown them. The participation of the Community Policing officer from SPD was a positive addition to the event. There was a good volunteer response from the congregation and the event gave us an opportunity to get to know each other better as well. The committee plans to repeat this type of event and hopes for increased congregation participation.

Cookies at Christmas - The committee hosted a cookie decorating party in December that gave participants an opportunity to display their creative talents. The cookies were baked, decorated and then delivered by volunteers to those homebound members of the congregation. The cookies were also served after the Children's Christmas program. Decorating and delivering the Christmas cookies provided an opportunity for those who participated to share some valuable time with our church family at Christmas.

The Committee hopes that you will prayerfully consider joining in these efforts and others in 2024!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Moorman, Chair

FAITH FORMATION 2023

Committee Members: Annie Allen-Jones, Debi & Pete Ellertsen, Amanda Kim, Pastor Mary

Little Lambs completed the Sparkhouse Frolic Family Board Book series and began the Storybook series in 2023. Frolic Story Books help young children solve common childhood challenges with biblical solutions, including lessons on being patient, doing your part, being brave and thankfulness. The Frolic Family curriculum has provided wonderful opportunities for moms and Little Lambs to grow in faith together. Regular attendance includes Neilsen, Ollie, Jacob and our newest lamb, Isaac.

We're looking forward to beginning the Old Testament series in 2024, which will introduce our Little Lambs to key Bible stories like Creation, Baby Moses, David and Goliath, and Jonah.

In addition to regular Faith Formation, we gathered together over the summer for a play day where we learned about God's Creation.

Submitted by: Annie Jones-Allen

Young Disciples 2023 Report: Our Young Disciples group has been meeting for Faith Formation following Sunday services 1-2 times per month throughout 2023. January through May 2023, our lessons focused on the gospel lesson of the week. Following our summer break, we resumed in September with lessons from **The Radical Book for Kids: Exploring the Roots and Shoots of Faith**. We also held Cross-generational Faith Formation events, including a presentation on Little Free Libraries, which kicked off our on-going collection for Little Free Libraries around Springfield, and a make-and-take Kindness Advent Calendar. We also hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for our Little Lambs and Young Disciples and a Backpack Blessing for our kids and school personnel for the beginning of a new school year. Our Young Disciples have also been thinking about how to put their "Faith in Action" and have invited the congregation to join in celebrating all the ways we share our faith with others by filling out Faith In Action slips for a banner to be placed in the Narthex. Our Young Disciples, Little Lambs, and their families prepared and presented the Nativity Story for the congregation during the Christmas season as well.

Submitted by: Amanda Kim

Confirmation: We have two young people currently participating in Confirmation programs. Lucas Roach is working his way through the on-line Confirmation program – “Toolbox for Faith”. Harrison Allen is attending the in-person Confirmation program at Grace Lutheran.

Submitted by: Pastor Mary

Adult Faith Formation: Sundays@6, our online adult faith formation group, was a resounding success in 2023. It started as an ad hoc book study in early 2022 when COVID restrictions were in place and several members with health concerns were not able to take part in face-to-face activities at the church. Others who are able to go to in-person church activities have joined us as well. Discussions are lively, and plans are to continue with a format that has so far proven very successful.

The group meets Sunday evenings at 6 p.m. (hence the name) and meets for one hour a week. Books are purchased through Thrivent Action Team grants, and our congregation's Zoom setup is used for meetings. Attendance has varied, but a core group of 8 to 10 people and sometimes as many as 15 have taken part in our weekly sessions. In 2023 we read *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor and *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. Beginning in February 2024, we plan to read *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism* by Jemar Tisby.

Submitted by: Debi & Pete Ellertsen

The **church library** added 36 new books to the library shelves in 2023. The titles of these were published in News You Can Use in the hopes church members would find something that interested them. New book reviews were also published in News You Can Use to spark interest among members. All members are encouraged to browse the church library. Someone is always available to show them how to check out a book or help them find something in the church library that matches the kinds of books they like to read. Book suggestions are always welcome.

Submitted by: Norma McFarlan

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT 2023

Members: Sandy Barker, Linda Shudrowitz, Doris Nobles, Ann Becker, Janet Rigdon, Janet Kocis and Linda Rice

We've continued with our refreshments after church each Sunday. Participation has been amazing with members signing up to provide a variety of treats. The Fellowship Committee provides a cake and goodies for baptisms, confirmation and other receptions.

To support our election officials, we provided an assortment of snacks and beverages for the Primary Election and plan to provide snacks for the Primary Election and General Election in 2024 with the help of Thrivent Action Teams.

We sent 12 Valentine's goodie boxes to college students and military personnel with the help of a Thrivent Action Team.

Fellowship hosted a potluck in conjunction with the Faith Formation Committee for Reformation Sunday/Oktoberfest also with the help of a Thrivent Action Team.

We provided dinner-church style Advent meals with the help of a Thrivent Action Team. The first week was a pizza/salad dinner; the second week we had a baked potato bar with sour cream, butter, bacon, ham, cheese and chili and the last dinner was Jimmy John's subs and chips.

During the six weeks of Lent we provided different meals each week with lunch also provided on Ash Wednesday with the help of a Thrivent Action Team. In 2024 we plan to go back to the soup/bread/dessert menu.

We served one funeral luncheon, providing meat, cheese, rolls and condiments; with members bringing sides and desserts to share.

The Fellowship Committee continues to provide kitchen supplies, coffee and paper goods for our meals and receptions.

Many thanks to all our hardworking committee members and those who participate in worship events, potlucks and funeral luncheons.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE/2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Members of the Property Committee, and additional volunteers, have continued throughout 2023 to maintain and improve the church property as well as the parsonage.

Our motto and goal for 2023 was to "Renew and Refresh." Keeping this in mind:

A group of volunteers painted the Narthex, updated the white cabinet, built the shelving, painted and installed the unit in the children's nook.

The library and lounge was painted by Linda Shudrowitz.

A monitor was installed, again by volunteers, in the Narthex, for broadcasting announcements

The faded ELCA logo on the outdoor sign was replaced.

The carpet in the entire building was professionally cleaned.

Broken concrete at the main entrance was replaced.

The double doors at the east entrance were stripped, sanded, painted and had new hardware installed.

In addition to refreshing the premises, routine care was provided and problems addressed. The State of Illinois was contacted and broken culverts along our Jefferson entrances were repaired and the ditch grading corrected. (Thank you Elaine Urekar for being our State of Illinois contact with this matter.) The refrigerator in the church kitchen was repaired. Electrical issues in the church and parsonage were addressed. The blower in the Narthex furnace was replaced. Grading of the yard around the church and parsonage was done and the parsonage fence and gate repaired. Gary and Linda Shudrowitz mowed and maintained the church and parsonage yards. (Thank you SO much.) Various volunteers assisted with trimming, branch pick up, filling and maintaining the planters. Much more work was done that is too much to list.

As we all know, we have continued to experience leaks in the sanctuary roof. After inspections and multiple discussions with roof professionals, a decision has been made to replace the roof of the entire church building. This was not a quick, or easy decision, however, we trust it is the right one. Thank you to Mike Barker for meeting contractors multiple times, developing a plan, and obtaining a contract to get our roofs replaced.

Thank you to the many members and helpers that maintained the building and grounds. Without all of you working together, we could not accomplish what has been done.

If you are not on this committee, please consider assisting in any small way you can help, whether it is watering during dry periods, maintaining planters, pulling weeds/even one time, picking up branches or picking up supplies. This work can be overwhelming to our small committee and any help would be a blessing.

Submitted by:

Claire Edgecomb, Property Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Our annual Stewardship Campaign ran in October 2023. A letter and “Estimate of Giving Card” was mailed out in late September inviting disciple/members to return the EGC by October 15th. A Time & Talent survey was conducted in March – 19 responses were received.

Below is a summary of giving estimates and actual General Fund offerings for the past eight years. This year a total of 43 giving units estimated they will contribute \$178,890.00 in 2024. This is down 1 unit and \$11,1100.00 from 2023. As you can see below, historically actual offerings have exceeded the estimates.

PEACE ESTIMATES OF GIVING AND ACTUAL OFFERINGS

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>PLEDGE</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>PLEDGE AS % OF ACTUAL</u>
2017	63	197,000	297,000	66%
2018	59	205,000	299,000	69%
2019	55	256,000	265,000	97%
2020	56	211,000	251,000	84%
2021	46	208,000	240,000	87%
2022	47	199,000	238,000	84%
2023	44	190,000	222,708	85%
2024	43	178,890	210,459**	85%

**Estimate for 2024 actuals is based on pledges comprising same % of total as they did in 2023 (85%)

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

In 2023 we did not have an active "Technology Committee". We welcome anyone with a degree of technology savvy to join the team!

Towards the end of 2023, Janet Kocis (camera operator for our livestream) and Lind Rice (PowerPoint operator) resigned their volunteer positions. We thank them for the many months they volunteered at the audio/visual desk on Sunday mornings!

Thank you to Michael Horn, Amanda Kim, Carter Kim, Valerie Spurgeon, and Elizabeth Mitchell for stepping up and taking over the Sunday morning running of the audio/visual desk! We could use one or two more volunteers!

The monitor was installed in the Narthex this past year. Michael Horn and Pastor got the computer set-up and ready to use. Sunday mornings the Narthex monitor runs announcements before and after worship. Currently we are using an old computer from the main church office. It would be helpful if at some point we could obtain a small laptop for the Narthex.

THRIVENT MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT PEACE AND BEYOND/2023

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans helps Christians make wise decisions with their finances and live generously, making a difference in the world. This year alone, members and friends of Peace Lutheran used their Action Team seed money totaling **\$9500** to fund projects and events, helping our congregation, our community and those in need around the world. Some of the projects supported by Action Team seed money of \$250 per project or event were:

Holiday food baskets for Blackhawk School, through purchase of perishables such as ham, milk, eggs, bread as well as supplementing the non-perishable donations and boxes used for delivery (Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas)

Quilting supplies for Lutheran World Relief quilts shipped around the world

Towels to make health kits for Lutheran World Relief

Gloves made into snowmen at Christmas for grade school children

Clothing supplies for Blackhawk emergency closet

Two meals for Helping Hands shelter

Food for Peace's micro-pantry

Valentine packages for friends and members of Peace in the military and in college

Support for Peace events including Advent and Lenten meals, and our inter-generational event

Books for adult book studies

Christmas cookies and supplies for shut-ins and the Christmas program

Food for Senior Services Christmas food pantry

Supplies for stripping and painting the green double doors

Supplies to update Blackhawk library bulletin boards

And many times supporting Grace Lutheran Food Pantry purchasing food, as well as supplies for meal kits, for distribution to families in need and the homeless population

Action Teams: Each Thrivent member, whether they have an insurance or financial product, is given 2 opportunities per year to form a team of volunteers to meet a need, with Thrivent providing seed money of \$250 each time to jump start the financing of the project. This is a gift from Thrivent to their members each year and does not affect their personal finances or benefits. All of these Action Teams, plus more, have supplemented our church budget, helping finance our community service or other projects at church or in the community.

Please contact Claire Edgecomb or the church office:

*If you have a Thrivent contract and want to use this gift from Thrivent to live generously and make a difference.

*Or, if you are not a Thrivent member, but have an idea that could benefit with starting the project by receiving \$250 toward expenses.

If you are about to start any project at the church or for any committee, please take a moment to think if a Thrivent Action Team would be appropriate.

Thrivent Choice Dollars: Additionally, any Thrivent member with an eligible financial product will also receive Thrivent Choice Dollars. Again, these are also a gift from Thrivent, which can be directed to the charity of the member's choice. Thank you to all who have directed their Choice Dollars to Peace Lutheran, as a supplement to their regular giving.

Please note: Choice Dollars for the year not directed by March 31 of the following year are forfeited and will be directed to a charity of Thrivent's choice.

PEACE LUTHERAN 2023 TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 2024

For calendar year 2023, Operating Fund expenses of \$250,957 exceeded year to date income of \$222,707 by \$28,250. In 2022, expenses were \$242,071 and income was \$232,495, a deficit of \$9,576. This is the third year we have ended the year with a deficit.

At the end of 2023, our checking account had a balance of \$82,132 and our Thrivent fund had a balance of \$35,133, totaling \$117,265. This amount minus special accounts designated by members of \$19,136, gives us \$98,129 in reserve that can be used to cover any deficit in the General Fund. That would cover approximately four months of general expenses. However, we have been drawing those reserves down in recent years due to year-end deficits. So, while the \$98,129 is a nice reserve to have, it will disappear in a few years if we continue to have General Fund deficits like this year's. In short, our General Fund position today is relatively healthy; our recent trend of drawing down reserves is not.

The General Operating Fund includes set asides or accounts, as mentioned above, which are designated by members for special purposes as directed by members' contributions. Among these are:

- Youth fund-\$8,284, balance at 12/30/23. Special funds reserved for youth trips/special events.
- In-reach-\$1,533, at 12/30/23. Assist members of the congregation who are in need.
- Pastor's discretionary fund-\$2,082. Reserved for special community needs at Pastor's discretion.

Designated Special funds used to cover approved expenses outside the General Operating budget-and which are funded by members' directed contributions-are kept in an interest-earning ELCA Mission Investment Fund. The balance in this fund as of 12/31/23 was \$264,860. In September 2023, the Finance committee moved \$100,000 of these funds into a high yield interest account (still with the ELCA) to maximize profits. These funds are earning an APR of 4.7% for the period of one year.

The following accounts are kept in this fund and had these book balances as of December 31:

- Capital account - \$70,790. This is used to pay capital expenses (building projects, remodeling, landscaping, equipment purchases, etc.) approved by the congregation, or, if less than \$2,500, by the church council. Members' contributions to the building fund are put into this account.

- Memorials Account, Unrestricted - \$55,666. May be used for any expenditure approved by the congregation, or if less than \$2,500, by the council.
- Special Bequests - \$100,000. This represents the proceeds from life insurance policies from several deceased members to the church and is unrestricted.
- Special Bequest – Bonde - \$9,079. For specific purposes as outlined by the Bonde family.
- Roof Replacement fund- \$26,618. Funds were reallocated from the Capital fund and Special Bequests to create a roof replacement fund. Members also contribute to this fund. Repairs on the church roof will start in April 2024; the first installment payment has been paid to Central Roofing Company.
- Interest - \$388- Interest received during 2023 (\$5,492) was transferred to the General Operating fund to help offset the deficit at the suggestion of the Finance Committee.

Following is a summary of activity in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund this year:

Total Capital and miscellaneous spending through 12/31/23 (itemized below): \$51,947

Total Income through 12/31/23 (itemized below): \$28,738

Expenses for accounts in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund through 12/31/23 include:

• Church carpet cleaning	(Capital)	\$ 977
• Signage and door repairs	(Capital)	\$ 438
• Yard leveling supplies and work	(Capital)	\$ 2,450
• Sanctuary monitor, system repairs	(Capital)	\$ 1,065
• Office computer	(Capital)	\$ 769
• Concrete repairs	(Capital)	\$ 1,800
• 1 st installment roof replacement	(Roof)	\$ 38,645
• Shelving for micro pantry storage	(Bonde)	\$ 311
• Transfer interest to Operating fund	(Interest)	\$ 5,492
• Total		\$ 51,947

Income for accounts in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund through 12/31/23 (itemized below)

• Interest	\$5,880
• Memorials, Unrestricted	\$2,690
• Capital Fund member donations (via weekly offerings)	\$11,095
• Roof Replacement fund	\$9,073

- Total \$28,738

Members have generously contributed for the following organizations in 2023, over and above budgeted contributions:

Grace Lutheran Food Pantry	\$ 6,410
World Hunger	\$ 3,975
Food Baskets	\$ 1,520

Year-end Bank Account Balances	2023	2022
Operating/Checking Account	\$ 82,132	\$ 95,313
ELCA Mission Investment Fund	\$ 264,860	\$ 285,355
Thrivent Rainy Day Fund	\$ 35,133	\$ 31,275
Total	\$ 382,125	\$ 411,943

PEACE LUTHERAN PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

After reviewing submissions from the working committees and recommendations of the Finance Committee, the Church Council is submitting for the congregation's consideration a 2024 Operating Budget of \$247,316.

This is a 12% decrease from the \$280,553 budget which was approved for 2023. Total expenses for 2023 were \$250,957 which is less than the budgeted amount by \$29,596.

Peace has spent significantly less than budgeted since its inception as committees have used conservative cost estimates and contingencies. The 2022 budget was \$284,640, while expenses were only \$242,071. The 2021 budget was \$309,933, while expenses were only \$245,470.

We are estimating total revenue for 2024 to be approximately \$213,000. This is based on the number of pledges received (from 43 giving units) and prior year's historical patterns.

As always, payroll is the single biggest component of the budget, comprising approximately 58% of the total budget. Staff salaries for 2024 remain the same as 2023 salaries. The custodian pay has been reclassified to the Property budget as this position is currently held contractually. The cost for Pastor's health insurance has been significantly reduced due to her transition to Medicare.

The Community Service budget has been reduced as the committee has plans to raise funds during the year via special collections for some of the non-local organizations that are no longer included in the budget. The decision was also made to budget 9% of general offerings as support for the Synod rather than 10% as has been done in the past. Church insurance has increased primarily due to the condition of our roof. This will be fixed in 2024 and the Finance committee hopes to put the insurance policy out for competitive bids once that is done. Many committees continue to use Thrivent Action Team funds to supplement their projects whenever possible.

Committees were asked to carefully review their budgets and reduce them if possible. Most of the budgets are less than 2023's. Thanks to all the church committees for their work. Thanks also to the Finance committee who spent many hours working to identify possible cost savings for the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Scaduto, Church Treasurer

GENERAL FUND 2023 EXPENSES AND 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

EXPENSES	2023 BUDGET	2023 Expenses	PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET	BUDGET DIFF (+/-)
Adult Sunday School	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00	
Confirmation	\$ 100.00	\$ 37.00	\$ 100.00	
Cross Gen.	\$ 250.00	\$ 74.04	\$ 125.00	
Library	\$ 200.00	\$ 33.14	\$ 200.00	
Grades K-6 Education	\$ 250.00	\$ 68.01	\$ 100.00	
Grades 7-12 Education	\$ 100.00	\$ 148.42	\$ 150.00	
Kids In Mission	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 175.00	
Total Faith Formation Expenses	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 360.61	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (250.00)
Advertising	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	
Outreach - Internal	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 25.90	\$ 450.00	
Outreach Activities/Faithful Innovations	\$ 500.00	\$ 276.03	\$ 150.00	
Supplies/Other Evangelism	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	
Faithful Innovations Projects	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	
Total Evangelism Expenses	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 301.93	\$ 1,400.00	\$ (1,800.00)
Valentine Cookies	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ -	
New Members	\$ 80.00	\$ 61.08	\$ -	
Confirmation	\$ 80.00	\$ 85.95	\$ -	
Ash Wednesday/Lent	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	
Advent	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	
High School Graduation	\$ 80.00	\$ 44.53	\$ -	
Oktoberfest	\$ 80.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Gods Work. Our Hands	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	
Funerals	\$ 800.00	\$ 123.96	\$ 200.00	
Pastor Appreciation Month	\$ 50.00	\$ 121.79	\$ -	
Plastic/Paper Products	\$ 50.00	\$ 18.57	\$ 50.00	
Coffee	\$ 100.00	\$ 35.93	\$ 100.00	
Special Occasion treats	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800.00	
Total Fellowship Expenses	\$ 1,560.00	\$ 491.81	\$ 1,300.00	\$ (260.00)

EXPENSES	2023 BUDGET	2023 Expenses	PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET	BUDGET DIFF (+/-)
Background Check	\$ 50.00	\$ 22.95	\$ 50.00	
Conference Fees	\$ 300.00	\$ 22.00	\$ 300.00	
Convention/Synod Fees	\$ 300.00	\$ 528.96	\$ 300.00	
Flowers	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Insurance - Umbrella	\$ 9,267.00	\$ 10,210.12	\$ 10,580.00	
Insurance - Workers Comp	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,188.73	\$ 1,025.00	
Mileage Expenses - In Area	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Office Equipment/Maintenance	\$ 150.00	\$ 99.99	\$ 150.00	
Office Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 992.98	\$ 1,200.00	
Postage	\$ 500.00	\$ 455.98	\$ 500.00	
Staff Cont. Ed	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00	
Strategic Planning	\$ 100.00	\$ 134.30	\$ 100.00	
Pastor - Car	\$ 4,778.00	\$ 4,777.88	\$ 4,778.00	
Pastor - Cell Phone	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,326.91	\$ -	
Pastor - Continuing Education & Business	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ 1,250.00	
Pastor - Housing	\$ 6,821.00	\$ 6,508.26	\$ 6,821.00	
Synod Benevolence Tithing	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 22,222.98	\$ 18,000.00	
Total General Office/Finance Expenses	\$ 48,166.00	\$ 48,492.04	\$ 45,204.00	\$ (2,962.00)
<i>Pastor Salary</i>				
Salary	\$ 57,981.00	\$ 57,981.12	\$ 57,981.00	
FICA/MED	\$ 4,435.00	\$ 4,428.24	\$ 4,435.00	
Insurance	\$ 16,629.00	\$ 16,835.60	\$ 6,732.00	
Pension	\$ 8,666.00	\$ 8,761.78	\$ 8,666.00	
Total Pastor Salary	\$ 87,711.00	\$ 88,006.74	\$ 77,814.00	\$ (9,897.00)
<i>Music Director Sunday</i>				
Salary	\$ 12,225.00	\$ 10,187.60	\$ 12,225.00	
FICA/MED	\$ 935.00	\$ 779.39	\$ 935.00	
Total Music Director Sunday	\$ 13,160.00	\$ 10,966.99	\$ 13,160.00	\$ -
<i>Worship Coordinator</i>				
Salary	\$ 2,652.00	\$ 2,210.00	\$ 2,652.00	
FICA/MED	\$ 203.00	\$ 169.01	\$ 203.00	
Total Worship Coordinator	\$ 2,855.00	\$ 2,379.01	\$ 2,855.00	\$ -
<i>Music Support Staff</i>				
salary	\$ 500.00	\$ 305.00	\$ 400.00	
FICA/MED	\$ -			
Total Music Support Staff	\$ 500.00	\$ 305.00	\$ 400.00	\$ (100.00)

EXPENSES	2023 BUDGET		2023 Expenses		PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET	BUDGET DIFF (+/-)
<i>Organist</i>						
<i>Salary</i>	\$	12,225.00	\$	12,265.12	\$ 12,225.00	
<i>FICA/MED</i>	\$	935.00	\$	938.33	\$ 935.00	
<i>Total Organist</i>	\$	13,160.00	\$	13,203.45	\$ 13,160.00	\$ -
<i>Office Manager</i>						
<i>Salary</i>	\$	20,475.00	\$	18,602.85	\$ 18,720.00	
<i>FICA/MED</i>	\$	1,566.00	\$	1,253.42	\$ 1,432.00	
<i>Total Office Manager</i>	\$	22,041.00	\$	19,856.27	\$ 20,152.00	\$ (1,889.00)
<i>Cantor</i>	\$	600.00	\$	-	\$ -	
<i>Power Point Operator</i>	\$	200.00	\$	-	\$ -	
<i>Camera Operator</i>	\$	200.00	\$	-	\$ -	
<i>Dinner Church Accompanist</i>	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	
<i>Substitute Organist</i>	\$	900.00	\$	-	\$ 600.00	
<i>Supply Pastor</i>	\$	1,000.00	\$	800.00	\$ 1,000.00	
TOTAL PAYROLL SALARY & BENEFITS EXPENSE	\$	142,327.00	\$	135,517.46	\$ 129,141.00	\$ (13,186.00)

EXPENSES	2023 BUDGET	2023 Expenses	PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET	BUDGET DIFF (+/-)
Yard Maint & Supplies	\$ 800.00	\$ 68.85	\$ 700.00	
Church Electric/Water	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 12,895.50	\$ 13,000.00	
Church Gas	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 3,578.85	\$ 4,300.00	
Church Maintenance	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 1,799.47	\$ 4,000.00	
Custodian Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 911.14	\$ 1,000.00	
Fire Alarm Monitoring	\$ 650.00	\$ 387.50	\$ 500.00	
HVAC (Church & Parsonage) Service	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,288.00	\$ 1,600.00	
Mowing - Equipment Maintenance	\$ 500.00	\$ 182.96	\$ 200.00	
Parsonage Maintenance	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,152.61	\$ 1,200.00	
Parsonage Electric/Water	\$ 1,620.00	\$ 1,604.50	\$ 1,620.00	
Parsonage Gas	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,311.82	\$ 1,300.00	
Pest Control (Church & Parsonage)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,074.12	\$ 2,100.00	
Fire Alarm Extinguishers	\$ 220.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 180.00	
Snow & Ice Removal	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 560.00	\$ 1,500.00	
Waste/Recycle	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,518.30	\$ 700.00	
Tree Trimming/Removal	\$ 3,200.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	
Custodian	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	
TOTAL PROPERTY EXPENSES	\$ 54,940.00	\$ 41,893.62	\$ 48,900.00	\$ (6,040.00)
Offering Envelopes	\$ 300.00	\$ 226.28	\$ 250.00	
Postage	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	
Printing	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	
TOTAL STEWARDSHIP EXPENSE	\$ 500.00	\$ 226.28	\$ 400.00	\$ (100.00)
Bulletins	\$ 100.00	\$ 104.25	\$ 150.00	
Church Periodicals	\$ 430.00	\$ 460.25	\$ 325.00	
License & Fees	\$ 1,210.00	\$ 1,608.59	\$ 1,400.00	
Music Sunday	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 311.55	\$ 800.00	
Music Workshops	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 700.00	
Piano/Organ Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Worship Supplies	\$ 390.00	\$ 264.41	\$ 300.00	
Communion Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 14.99	\$ 350.00	
Dinner Church	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	
WAM Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL WORSHIP & MUSIC	\$ 5,330.00	\$ 2,924.04	\$ 5,125.00	\$ (205.00)

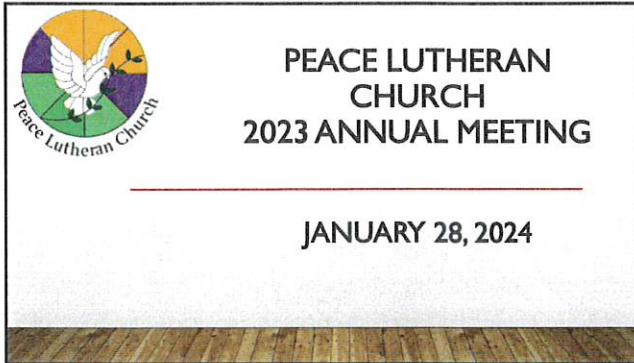
EXPENSES	2023 BUDGET	2023 Expenses	PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET	BUDGET DIFF (+/-)
Blackhawk School Library	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00	
Central Illinois Food Bank	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Contact Ministries	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	
ELCA Disaster Relief	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	
Food Baskets	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	
Grace Food Pantry	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,700.00	
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	
LSSI	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	
Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	
Sister Synod in Madagascar	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	
World Hunger	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	
Lutheran Immigration/Refugee Services	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	
LWR Kits	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Donuts for highway clean-up	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	
TOTAL COMMUNITY SERVICE	\$ 14,725.00	\$ 13,450.00	\$ 6,050.00	\$ (8,675.00)
Church Windows Software	\$ 420.00	\$ 637.00	\$ 650.00	
Microsoft Office 365	\$ 100.00	\$ 109.74	\$ 100.00	
Webroot Anti Virus Backup	\$ 160.00	\$ 169.99	\$ 170.00	
Idrive Cloud Backup	\$ 35.00	\$ 39.75	\$ 40.00	
Communications - Office	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,533.38	\$ 3,700.00	
Communications - Parsonage	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 672.93	\$ 1,536.00	
Copier Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,115.17	\$ 1,000.00	
Zoom (2 accounts)	\$ 300.00	\$ 299.80	\$ 150.00	
LogMeIn	\$ 400.00	\$ 349.99	\$ -	
Website	\$ 440.00	\$ 371.88	\$ 450.00	
A/V system maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	
TOTAL TECHNOLOGY	\$ 8,555.00	\$ 7,299.63	\$ 8,796.00	\$ 241.00
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$ 280,553.00	\$ 250,957.42	\$ 247,316.00	\$ (33,237.00)
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 222,707.63	\$ 222,707.63	\$ 223,000.00	
DIFFERENCE (+/-)		\$ (28,249.79)		

2024 RESERVE ACCOUNT CARRY OVER BALANCES AS OF 12/31/2023

FUND	CARRY OVER AMOUNT
Blackhawk School Library	\$ 100.00
Faith Formation	\$ 89.23
Peace Library	\$ 160.98
Youth	\$ 8,284.09
Flowers	\$ 722.47
Property	\$ -
Fellowship	\$ 391.66
Community Service	\$ 7.68
Building Use	\$ 2,839.00
Building Fund	\$ 1,978.25
Storybook	\$ 22.90
In Reach	\$ 1,533.36
Miscellaneous Donation	\$ 115.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 2,082.00
Women's Group	\$ 250.00
Men's Group	\$ 100.00
Peace Lutheran MicroPantry	\$ 459.35
 Total Reserve Account Carry Over	 \$ 19,135.97

PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET-CAPITAL FUND

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Parking lot restriping	\$ 1,400.00
Replace sidewalk at east entrance (use Building funds first; then Capital)	\$ 4,200.00
Paint sanctuary walls (Thrivent action team)	\$ 500.00
Paint fellowship hall (Thrivent action team)	\$ 500.00
Clean & refresh fabric walls in lounge	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
	\$ 6,700.00



1



2

OPERATING FUND 2023	
Balance as of Dec. 31	\$ 82,132
Restricted Accounts	\$ 19,136
Unrestricted Cash	\$ 62,996
Rainy Day Fund (Thrivent)	\$ 35,133
Operating Fund reserves	\$ 98,129

7

OPERATING FUND		
Full Year	2023	2022
Contributions	\$222,708	\$ 232,495
Expenses	\$250,957	\$ 242,071
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$ (28,249)	\$ (9,576)

8

OPERATING FUND SUB ACCOUNTS

• Youth	\$ 8,284
• In Reach	\$ 1,533
• Pastor's Discretionary	\$ 2,082
• Building Use	\$ 2,839

9

MEMBERS' DIRECTED CONTRIBUTIONS AS OF 12/31/23

• Grace Food Pantry	\$ 6,410
• ELCA World Hunger	\$ 3,975
• Holiday Food Baskets	\$ 1,520
• Lutheran World Relief	\$ 515
• LSSI	\$ 100

10

ELCA MISSION INVESTMENT FUND BALANCE 12/31/23 -- \$262,541

Major Sub Accounts

Capital	\$ 70,790
Memorials, Unrestricted	\$ 55,666
Bequests	\$100,000
Roof Replacement Fund	\$ 26,618
Accumulated Interest	\$ 388
Bequests – Restricted – Bonde	\$ 9,079

11

ELCA MISSION INVESTMENT FUND AS OF 12/31/23

Major Expenses in 2023

• Church carpet cleaning	(Capital)	\$ 977
• Signage and door repairs	(Capital)	\$ 438
• Yard leveling supplies and work	(Capital)	\$ 2,450
• Sanctuary monitor, system repairs	(Capital)	\$ 1,065
• Office computer	(Capital)	\$ 769
• Concrete repairs	(Capital)	\$ 1,800
• 1 st installment roof replacement	(Roof)	\$ 38,645
• Shelving for micro pantry storage	(Bonde)	\$ 311
• Transfer interest to Operating fund	(Interest)	\$ 5,492
Total		\$ 51,947

12

CASH/INVESTMENTS AS OF 12/31/23

Operating/Checking	\$ 82,132
Thrivent (Rainy Day)	\$ 35,133
ELCA Mission Investment	\$264,860
TOTAL	\$382,125

13

OPERATING BUDGET DONATIONS

	Pledges	Actual
2024	43/\$179,000	
2023	44/\$190,000	\$222,708
2022	47/\$199,250	\$232,495
2021	46/\$208,460	\$239,985
2020	56/\$210,820	\$250,901
2019	55/\$256,216	\$264,562
2018	59/\$205,203	\$298,730

14

COUNCIL MOTION 2024 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

2024 Proposed Budget	\$247,316
2023 Budget	\$280,553

15

COUNCIL MOTION – PROPOSED 2024 CAPITAL BUDGET

Council moves that the congregation approve expenditures from the Capital/Building Fund as follows:

Parking Lot Restriping	\$ 1,400
Replace sidewalk at east entrance (use Building funds first, then Capital)	\$ 4,200
Paint sanctuary walls (Thrivent action team)	\$ 500
Paint fellowship hall (Thrivent action team)	\$ 500
Clean & refresh fabric walls in lounge	\$ 100
Total Proposed Capital Budget	\$ 6,700

16

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Charlene Sampson/Judy Barhoover
Becky Hendricks Linda Rice (rotating off council)
Pastor

Council members serve two years and are eligible to serve a second two-year term.

2023	2024
Claire Edgcomb	Claire Edgcomb
Andy Spiro	Andy Spiro
Ron-Krausa (Joe Henkle)	Joe Henkle
Lois Moorman	Lois Moorman
Tracy Scaduto	Michael Horn (2yr)
Linda Rice	Amanda Kim (2yr)
Adam Miller	Annie Allen-Jones (2yr)
Elizabeth Mitchell	Elizabeth Mitchell (2nd term)

17

Nominations for 2024 Synod Assembly Delegates: June 6-8 Decatur, Illinois

One Male: Bob Letterly Alternate Male: Bill Spindel
One Female: Libby Letterly Alternate Female: Pamela Scott

Nominations for Nominating Committee 2024:

1. One rotating off Council: TBD
2. Rose Hamilton
3. Adam Miller
4. Doug McFarlan

18

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give,
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

Text and music are in the public domain. May be reproduced without restriction.

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America