



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America  
God's Work. Our Hands.



St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
Northfield, Minnesota

*Believe. Belong. Become.*



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## 2022 Annual Meeting Agenda - 2/5/2023

Call to Order  
 Approval of agenda  
 Devotions  
 Message from the Pastor  
 Message from the President  
 Team/Board Reports  
 Elections  
 Financial Report-2023 Budget  
 Old Business  
 Adjourn

[Click to access annual meeting Zoom](#)

## 2022 Staff

David Weeks, Pastor  
 Mary Kay Bougie, Director of Music  
 Cariann Strauch, Director of Children's Ministries  
 Terrence Hassanally, Financial Administrator  
 Megan DeMaris, Administrative Assistant &  
 Volunteer Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who submitted reports, articles, photos and other items for the past year!

To get your photos included, post them to facebook, either tag St. Peter's Lutheran or post right on the St. Peter's page. Or, of course, just send them to the church office, [megandemaris@northfieldstp.org](mailto:megandemaris@northfieldstp.org) or [pastordavidweeks@northfieldstp.org](mailto:pastordavidweeks@northfieldstp.org).

## 2022 Council

Mark Shaw, President  
 Ashley Terpstra, Vice President  
 Tom Picha, Treasurer  
 Jolene Manzey, Secretary  
 Mary Bleckwehl  
 Megan Culhane  
 David Hendee  
 Naomi Ziegler



# 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

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).

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## OPENING LITURGY

### Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

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 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wear it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,  
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;  
 I sec - your cross; there teach my heart to cling,  
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!  
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860  
 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897  
 Text and music are in the public domain. Reproduced from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, hymn #800. May be reproduced without restriction.

# A Message From Pastor David



Dear Saints of St. Peter's:  
**Believe. Belong. Become.**

This is the abbreviated version of our Mission Statement. Our full Mission Statement reads "To express God's love and grace in building a community where

people Believe in God, Belong to Christ, and Become disciples who serve in day to day living."

We are a fellowship of believers. We teach, share, and live out our belief in a loving, gracious, and forgiving God. Though we don't agree on everything (perhaps even little with some), we belong to each other, because first and foremost, we belong to Christ. Baptized, we are not our own, but we are Christ's.

I want to focus on Become. God is forever calling the Christian church to become something new and different. While COVID has certainly had tremendous implications for the church and world, I think we sometimes forget that we have always been becoming by adapting to a changing world.

Life is filled with transitions and adjustments. We are always in the process of becoming what we are not. As individuals, and as a community, we never arrive at a place where we need no adjustments or improvements.

I use the devotional book "Daily Texts". In addition to providing daily biblical readings and a prayer, it recommends doing a T.R.I.P. prayer. Thanksgiving. Regret. Intercession. Purpose. I find it helpful (though definitely not enjoyable) to name my regrets, pray for the joys and sorrows of others, and to prayerfully name a purpose for the day—or week, month, year.

Confession is purging ourselves of baggage—bad habits and mistakes. We all regret things done and not done, said and not said. As Christians, we confess that our sin does not define us. Instead, we are set free from our failures and empowered to live with purpose.

The past year was one of many transitions on our staff—farewell and welcome. We said farewell and Godspeed to Julie Klock and Terra Wierson. Julie retired and Terra is applying her talents with full-time employment. We welcomed Cariann Strauch (Miss Ann) and Megan DeMaris. We are grateful for the gifts

and talents each of them brings.

When Cariann began in May, she had a job description that included responsibilities previously covered by Julie and Terra. She had a bit of a hybrid position. But, we learned quickly what did and did not work. We adjusted and tweaked her responsibilities.

Cariann will be moving from full-time to part-time, and we are seeking a half-time Director of Youth Ministries. This person will focus on middle and senior youth while Cariann works with children birth through fifth grade.

COVID exposed some of our vulnerabilities. After not being able to meet for a couple of years, some of our ministry teams are vacant and need people to serve. Mark Shaw, our new president, is making this a priority for our congregation. We could use more of you to return your Time and Talent forms. It is helpful for staff and congregational leaders to know who wants to do what.

One of my highlights in 2022 was backpacking at Christikon (ELCA wilderness camp) in Montana with three of our high school students along with St. John's. I cherish the time getting to know our youth better and I am hopeful that this trip will be yeast for future trips. We are planning to again partner with St. John's this summer on a servant trip to Nashville for both middle and senior high students.

I am grateful for the opportunity to complete the sabbatical I began in 2020. I look forward to seeing and experiencing the churches and artwork in Florence, Italy, and plan to share highlights with you.

I am blessed to work with an incredibly faithful, creative, and dedicated staff. I am grateful for how they communicate, love, support, and work together. We are blessed with an outstanding ministry team.

Thank you to the Church Council, ministry team members, worship leaders, kitchen servers, Meals on Wheels volunteers, etc.

We belong together. We are the body of Christ known as St. Peter's Lutheran. Together, we Believe. Belong. Become.

Peace,  
David

# Christikon Camp Photos



# 2022 Pastoral Records

## ***New Members***

Don & Roberta Bonrud

## ***Confirmands***

Maddison Hanson  
Landon Mills

## ***Baptisms***

Emerson Marie Vouma . . . . . March 6, 2022  
Jaxson James Neset . . . . . June 19, 2022  
Caden Lewis Sabyan . . . . . October 23, 2022  
Camri Lynn Condon-Lawson . . . . . October 23, 2022  
Octavia Lynn Olson . . . . . October 23, 2022

## ***Funerals***

Karlo Fischer . . . . . April 2, 1939 – November 14, 2021  
Florence Elstad . . . . . September 6, 1931 – April 1, 2022  
Peggy May Lane . . . . . March 30, 1928 – February 18, 2021  
Pamela DeBoer . . . . . November 26, 1943 – June 9, 2022  
James Plante . . . . . July 25, 1937 – August 14, 2022  
Bernadine Reese . . . . . August 25, 1933 – October 28, 2022  
Dorothy Johnson . . . . . November 26, 1936 - November 25, 2022  
Ruth Hansen . . . . . August 19, 1923 - December 25, 2022

# A Message from the President of the Congregation

by Mark Shaw, Council President



As I prepared to summarize the 2022 St. Peter's Church year, I looked back to review what a number of previous presidents had reported in years past. I noted that previous congregations seemed to experience some of the same challenges with their annual budget and attracting new members as we do today, not to mention our recent

need to adapt to Covid-19 and ministering in a world that has changed dramatically. But despite these challenges, St. Peter's remains relevant to our faith community and the Northfield Community at large. This could not be happening without a strong Church Council. St. Peter's has been faithfully served this past year by the elected church council members that include Ashley Terpstra as Vice President, Jolene Manzy as Secretary, Tom Picha as Treasurer, and at-large members David Hendee, Naomi Ziegler, Mary Bleckwehl and Megan Culhane. These leaders have met monthly throughout the church year to conduct the business of the church and provide support to our staff positions.

St. Peter's is blessed to have Pastor David Weeks, Mary Kay Bougie as Director of Music, Cariann Strauch as Director of Children's Ministries, Megan DeMaris as Administrative Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator, and Terrence Hassanally as Finance Administrator. We continue to seek a Director of Ministry for Middle School

and High School Aged Youth. Though small in number, our staff work creatively to meet the needs of all St. Peter members. During the past year this has included several occasions in which St. Peter's collaborated with other Northfield congregations to support youth activities.

Many wonderful things happen each day at St. Peter's and our members and staff step up in countless ways to support these activities. Whether those activities be serving meals to children before school, supporting a program that provides sober living to women, sewing quilts, BeFriending members in need or bringing meals to shut-ins, and maintaining the condition of our worship space, the work of St. Peter's congregation is as important today as it was the day our founding members first opened our doors.

As we move forward in a new church year with renewed hope and commitment to living God's Word, I paraphrase from an excerpt from Thom S. Rainer in his article I am a Church Member , in which he suggests that God didn't give us local churches to become country clubs where membership means we have privileges and perks, but rather he placed us in churches to serve, to care for others, to pray for leaders, to learn, to teach and to give. Let us do so with the best of our abilities.

In Christ,

Mark Shaw, Council President

# St. Peter's Music - Highlights of 2022

by Mary Kay Bougie, Director of Music

In February of 2022, our  
choir room was refreshed!



In February of 2022, we also hosted a professional group, Caritas, out of the cities. They were very well received, and will be returning to our church on Sunday, April 16, 2023 for a 3 pm concert.



Our bell choir, 2022 – from left to right: Kris Johnson, Claire Hill, Ginny Paulson, Mary Bleckwehl, Megan DeMaris, Marilyn Finneseth, Skip Wagner, and Bernice Christianson. Missing newest member: Bill Bleckwehl.



On April 10, the Worship Choir performed a cantata, "Come to the Cross and Remember". Choir members include: Jim Anderson, Bob Baker, Sandra Bremer, Julia Daly, Megan DeMaris, Marilyn Finneseth, Claire Hill, Steve Hill, Sonja Link, Josie Lynn, Phil Olson, Pete Pedersen, Mark Shaw, David Weeks and Michon Weeks. Richard Collman accompanied, Sheryl Kleppe was the Narrator, and Connie Albers provided visuals. Also singing with the worship choir in 2022: Faith Bergemann, Kristi Hayes, and Jolene Manzey.



We enjoyed having this St. Olaf brass quintet bring extra excitement to Reformation Sunday, October 30, 2022. Listen for them again at another festival in 2023!



The **Worship Band** leads music each month. Members include: Bill Bleckwehl, Mary Kay Bougie, Megan DeMaris, Claire Hill, Pete Pedersen, and Skip Wagner.

A **Vintage Band from Wisconsin** played for us on July 31st, 2022.

**NEW:** Julia Daly, Skip Wagner, and Mary Kay Bougie have started a Gospel Music Combo which hopes to lead music quarterly.

At **Lessons and Carols** on December 11, 2022, the music and readings took on a theme of "the manger". The congregation was invited to bring in a manger scene from home to display for the morning. We had an awesome participation with 46 mangers for all to see! (pictured are just a few) Thanks to Megan Culhane for heading up the displays. Worship choir and bell choir performed, with added instrumentation provided by Alaia and Madeleine Douah. Readers were Connie Albers and Patrick Bougie.



# Children & Youth Ministries Report:

by Cariann "Miss Ann" Strauch, Director of Children's Ministries

What a year it has been! Coming out of the pandemic required a jump restart and revamp of many of our children's and youth ministries at St. Peter's. We embraced a return to "normal" and celebrated a fresh start -- full steam ahead!

## Guess Who?

Miss Ann dresses up as someone or something related to her Children's Message each Sunday during worship.



## Sunday School Shake-Up!

We restructured Sunday School this year. Instead of requiring multiple volunteer Sunday School teachers each week, Miss Ann leads Sunday School in our new Sunday School Large Gathering Room. Sunday School children of all ages (preschool to 5th grade) meet as a group for fellowship and to hear the gospel lesson of the week. Following the large gathering, the students enjoy music with Miss Josie Lynn, our senior St. Olaf Music Education intern, and then head to their individual classrooms for a fun, age-appropriate activity related to the lesson. Thank you to everyone that volunteered to help with the activities!



## Let there be light!

A power outage couldn't stop our **Rally Day** fun! The new school year started big and we've been going strong ever since.



## Fellowship + Faith

Fellowship + Faith is a new, parent-led discussion offered each Sunday in the **Parent's Room** during Sunday School. Miss Ann creates a discussion guide each week based on her Children's Message and the gospel lesson of the week. The parents discuss the lesson and how it can be applied to their lives as individuals and families. Parents have enjoyed spending time together again in fellowship around their faith.

## Refresh!

At St. Peter's, we are **blessed with space!** Especially, in our Education Wing. Creating our new Sunday School Large Gathering Room required clearing out prime real estate being used for storage. After a lot of clearing out and cleaning up, we now have a space perfect for all of our children to gather together! The classrooms, the Youth Room and the Parents' Room were all cleaned out and cleaned up too!

## Breakfast Club

Our reimagined, faith-based Breakfast Club has taken off! We maxed out our registration before school started! God is smiling on this program and we couldn't be happier with the community's interest in this Children's Ministry!

Thank you to the Cooks and everyone that continues to support us!



## Vacation Bible School

VBS is back! We had an incredible turnout for our two outdoor, evening Vacation Bible School events at Bethel in June full of faith and fun. #VBSArmorUp



## Good Earth Village

Our 5th graders had a blast at Good Earth Village! Go Pathfinders!



## Family Time!

It's been great to spend time together again!  
We had a great time at Windy Willow Farm.



## Congratulations to our 2022 Confirmands:

Maddison Hanson  
& Landon Mills!



## Confirmation Lock-in



The confirmation students had an end of school year lock-in. Will it be a tradition?

## Praise at the Pool 2022

We joined Northfield Area Churches Children's Ministries in sponsoring a family night out at the Northfield Memorial Pool. This night at the pool included free dinner from Knight of Columbus food truck. It was a great chance for us to gather together and share information about our children's ministry programs with the public.



## SonShine Project

We had two Confirmation SonShine Project events this summer including a Scavenger Hunt downtown Northfield and the fan-favorite Romans & Christians at St. John's. SonShine Project is a cooperative fellowship initiative with Bethel's and St. John's youth.



(SPY) "Hang Time" is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month during confirmation hour from 6:30-7:30pm following worship.

## Blessing of the Animals

All creatures great and small... including 8 dogs, a cat and a bearded dragon were blessed at our annual Blessing of the Animals.



**We look forward to a new year of continued growth in faith, fellowship and FUN!**  
**Full steam ahead!**

# BeFrienders

(normally meets on the third Thursday at 9:15 am.)

Trained BeFrienders provide a listening, compassionate presence to people experiencing a challenge or transition in their life. This is done with one-on-one, confidential conversations either in person or on the phone. Those who receive a BeFriender connection feel less alone by being able to talk with another about their concerns. Currently, three BeFrienders are providing care. BeFrienders meet monthly to focus on training topics, such as grace, forgiveness, grief, listening, joy.

Training for new BeFrienders will be held for 8 Mondays, 6:45 - 8:45 p.m. during February and March at Bethel Lutheran Church. For additional information on this training or to sign up, please contact Mary at [fransenmk@gmail.com](mailto:fransenmk@gmail.com). If you wish to learn more about receiving BeFriender care, please contact Pastor David.

For more information about befriender ministry visit <https://befrienderministry.org>



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## Breakfast Club

(Wednesday mornings when school is in session)

Sheryl Kleppe, Cariann Strauch contributing

Breakfast Club has been running again since the beginning of the school year in September 2022. There have been three changes to the program since its inception. The first is that the program is open to any elementary student grade K-5 in the community regardless of what school they attend or whether they are a member of St. Peter's. The second is that the children enrolled are not charged for their meal or for the activities that follow. The third is that the morning's activities are now rooted in faith. Breakfast Club is a children's ministry of St. Peter's church similar to other church's after school Wednesday programs. Each week, we focus on a theme and a related biblical verse. The students are engaged in an opening activity, sing a mealtime prayer and have a faith-based question to discuss while they are eating during "Table Talk". The discussions are led by either a staff member or by one of the older students at the table. Group activities related to that week's theme follow breakfast before the students leave for school (walk or drive in the St. Peter's van). We have twenty (20) students in the program. There is a core group of approximately sixteen (16) Cooks who are committed to serving a hot breakfast in teams of three or four. Each week a different team is responsible for preparing, serving and cleaning up after the meal. There are also a number of people who are available to substitute for the regular cooks should that become necessary. If you are interested in helping with this ministry contact Doris Welke, Sheryl Kleppe, Cariann Strauch or Pastor David.

### How you can help with this outreach ministry?

- Volunteer to serve on a team or substitute for a cook.
- Make a monetary contribution to the program.



## BGs (normally meets on the first Thursday at 8:00 am)

The BGs (Bucket Gals) meet in the kitchen at 8:00 on the first Thursday of the month for around an hour. The group works to keep the kitchen organized, wipes down all counters and stainless steel, checks and cleans the refrigerator, cleans the coffee pots, checks on the oven, wipes down tables and chairs, and dusts areas in the Fellowship Hall and Fireside Room. Occasionally, the group cleans the pews and wipes down the hymnals. Call JoAnne Olson (507-321-1350) if you would like to join this group. Doing that would get you on the call/text list in case there is any change in when the group will meet.



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## Eve Circle

(normally meets on the second Monday at The Vault, 9:30am; Jan.-May & Sept.-Dec.)

Chairperson: Linda Rowan; 507-581-6665

Eve Circle alternates yearly studies between contemporary Christian books and Bible studies offered in the ELCA Gather magazine. We have twelve members in our group and new members are always welcome!



Our main service focus has always been to contribute to families in need of assistance within our community. With our yearly budget of \$500 in contributions from our circle members, we have again accomplished this project in the Christmas season by giving to Sarah's House within our community. As our circle membership has grown, we are exploring other areas to also support throughout the year.

# Hannah Circle (normally meets on the second Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.)

by Diane Boyum, Treasurer

<b>Opening Balance</b> . . . . .	<b>\$32.69</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Offerings and income . . . . .	\$742.01
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>\$774.70</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Lutheran Disaster Relief . . . . .	\$100.00
Community Action Center . . . . .	\$250.00
Good Earth Village . . . . .	\$50.00
Senegal Project . . . . .	\$102.83
St. Peter's Songbooks . . . . .	\$43.50
Flowers . . . . .	\$21.37
Sarah's House . . . . .	\$100.00
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>\$767.70</b>
<b>2022 Ending balance</b> . . . . .	<b>\$7.00</b>



We assembled and donated 25 Baby Care Kits for 2022.  
Thank you to all who donated and helped.

# LUV Quilters (normally meets Fridays at 9:00 a.m.)

by Celena Witt, Treasurer

136 quilts were distributed in 2022 by the LUV Quilters:

- Lutheran World Relief (LWR) - 64;
- Northfield's Operation Joy - 67
- Northfield High School Graduates - 2
- Habitat for Humanity - 3.

The Quilters assembled 97 school kits for LWR.

<b>Opening Balance</b> . . . . .	<b>\$1,141.29</b>
<b>Income</b>	
.....	\$0
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>\$1,141.29</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Quilting Supplies . . . . .	\$746.55
Donation to Carleton for sheets . . . . .	\$200.00
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>\$946.55</b>
<b>2022 Ending Balance</b> . . . . .	<b>\$194.74</b>



# New Spirit Circle

Bible study leaders: Hazel Peterson & Phyllis Swanson

Meeting once a month for Christian fellowship we use "Gather," the magazine of Women of the ELCA, for inspiring Bible studies and articles.

Two favorite hymns include "We Gather Together to Hear the Lord's Blessing" and "Count Your Blessings." Present members include Joann Morgan, Deb Groenwold, Roberta Morse and co-leaders Hazel Peterson and Phyllis Swanson.

The new 2023 gathering day will be the last Monday of each month at 2pm. Usually meeting in St. Peter's beautiful Fireside lounge. Visitors always welcomed.

Questions: Call Hazel at 507-645-9276 or Phyllis at 507-645-4231

**"Do not worry about anything." Philippians 4:6**

**Pray: "Creator God, you designed us in unique and wonderful ways. Lead us to find and use practices that keep us healthy." Amen**

# Rachel Circle (normally meets on the second Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.)

by Evonne Clay, Treasurer

Once again Thrivent provided us a gift card for \$250.00. We were then able to purchase 50 Personal Care Kits. We thank member Joyce and husband Borris Mokoff for delivering the kits to the Lutheran World Relief Warehouse.

<b>Opening Balance</b> . . . . .	<b>\$47.00</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Monthly Offerings . . . . .	\$830.00
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>\$877.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salvation Army . . . . .	\$100.00
Rice Co. Habitat for Humanity . . .	\$100.00
Sarah's House . . . . .	\$100.00
CAC/Food Shelf . . . . .	\$175.00
Lutheran World Relief . . . . .	\$100.00
St. Peter's General Fund . . . . .	\$200.00
Special Needs Gifts . . . . .	\$85.00
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>860.00</b>
<b>2022 Ending balance</b> . . . . .	<b>\$17.00</b>



# Sarah's House

by Sheryl Kleppe

St. Peter's continues to rent our parsonage, now known as Sarah's House, as a shelter for women coming out of treatment for drugs and/or alcohol. Most recently, the house was home to five women who are committed to continuing their sobriety, who are currently working or seeking employment, who submit to regular drug screenings, and who attend AA and work with their case manager. The goal, ultimately, is for these women to find housing of their own and, when possible to be reunited with their families. The rental agreement changed this past October when Sarah's House took over the monthly utilities themselves. Previously, St. Peter's had been receiving rent but also paying the utilities at the house. The rent remains the same as it was the previous year, with this change. Any questions should be directed to Sheryl Kleppe or Bette Lee. Thank you.

## How you can help:

- Donate coffee. We have been told that these women keep the coffeepot on 24/7. Coffee is always a welcome donation.
- Consider covering a month's rent for the house (currently a \$300 donation). This can be done with a group if one person in the group is responsible for submitting the payment.
- Watch the newsletter or announcements for a listing of other needs as they arise.



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# SOLOS

(normally meets on the third Thursday at 12:30 for lunch.)

The SOLOS meet monthly at various restaurants for lunch and fellowship with other singles.

We'd like to thank Phyllis Swanson and Hazel Peterson who started the group many years ago and kept it going. Now they've turned over the reins to Evonne Clay and Marilyn Finneseth. If you want more information or have questions call Evonne at 507-663-1732 or Marilyn at 612-877-0959

Peace ~ Marilyn



# Treasurer & Business Management Report

submitted by Tom Picha, Treasurer

## Income Statement:

For 2022 the church ended the year with a \$29.6K deficit vs. a plan of a 19.6K deficit. The main contributing factor for not hitting the plan was actual Income-offerings of \$363.3K being down \$8.8K from the planned income of \$372.1K. Income was up \$7.3K from what we received in 2021. From a cash inflow stand point we started out the first four months of the year with giving being right on plan. For the summer months giving "went on vacation" and we were \$40K below plan. The last four months of the year contributions made a nice rebound to bring us to being \$8.8K short overall for the year. Kind of a roller coaster ride. I would like to encourage members to sign up for automated giving through Vanco or your own financial institution. I know not everyone can do it, but for those interested, please see us and we would be glad to review the various options with you. Actual expenses for 2022 of \$392.9K were just \$1.2K above plan. Expenses were \$13K higher than in 2021. The increase in expenses was mostly due to the church being open in 2022 vs. 2021 and the costs associated with inflation, principally in utility and facility costs.

## Balance Sheet:

As of the end of 2022 the church still has a strong balance sheet and financial position with cash reserves between checking and savings accounts of \$195.3K. The cash balance was down \$23.6K from where we ended 2021. The main cash outflow, other than the operating deficit, was the final invoices paid on the flat roof repair of \$45.2K. We were able to apply \$15K of the insurance money we received for the shingled roofs (items we elected not to replace) to payments on the flat roof replacement. Going forward into 2023, we still have about \$11K of remaining insurance money to complete the repairs in the middle school room. We also have \$11K of member donations for upgrades to the Narthex area of the church in a dedicated fund account for that purpose. These two areas will be the main focus for the Facilities Team in 2023.

Overall, church council is concerned by the size of the deficit we incurred this year. In the long term, it is not a sustainable mode of operating. Methods for generating more income, and a closer look at some of our expenses will be receiving more attention in 2023 from council. Some of these are also incorporated in the proposed budget for 2023.

## 2023 Budget:

For 2023, the council is recommending a budget with a deficit of \$17.6K. The budgeted income of \$372.3K assumes an increase in offerings of 2.5% over that what we received in 2022, or about a \$9K increase. This is basically the same amount of income we budgeted for 2022. Council is taking a step in faith that the congregation will step up to make this happen! Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help. On the expense side, the budget assumption is that we will reduce expenses \$3K from that of 2022. Most of the reduction was in the area of staffing and benefits, a \$9K reduction. About \$6K of this is offset by expected increases in building, grounds, and maintenance costs. The largest of these increases is in insurance premium costs of \$4K. The insurance claims by the church for the shingled roofs and the fellowship hall floor repairs in aggregate of \$226K over the past two years was the main driver of this cost increase.

I would like to thank Pastor, Staff, and Church Council, for their help and guidance provided this past year. - Tom

# 2022 Financial Summary

## Income Statement (Statement of Financial Activities) :

	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	Proposed 2023 Budget
Income :	\$355,978	\$372,083	\$363,242	\$372,287
Expenses :				
Worship	\$10,046	\$10,230	\$9,465	\$11,850
Education	\$2,655	\$2,485	\$1,846	\$2,025
Benevolence/Missions	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$12,046	\$11,000
Administration	\$17,619	\$17,830	\$17,198	\$17,229
Witness	\$704	\$1,300	\$352	\$600
Stewardship	\$800	\$800	\$763	\$763
Congregational Life	\$1,055	\$900	\$2,316	\$3,900
Salaries/Benefits	\$268,759	\$269,985	\$268,154	\$258,507
Building/Grounds/Maint..	\$22,174	\$29,570	\$31,670	\$36,415
Utilities	\$17,660	\$20,529	\$23,221	\$21,975
Interest & Mortgage	\$27,343	\$27,064	\$25,877	\$25,648
Total Expenses	\$379,815	\$391,693	\$392,908	\$389,912
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$(23,837)	\$(19,610)	\$(29,666)	\$(17,625)
Balance Sheet (Statement of Financial Position - Key Accounts):				
Account Type	At 12/31/21	At 12/31/22		
Checking Accounts	\$175,709	\$152,152		
Savings Account	\$43,174	\$43,178		
Total Cash Accounts	\$218,883	\$195,330		
Dedicated Accounts	\$164,035	\$185,008		
Mortgage Balance	\$78,669	\$56,757		

# Mission Endowment Fund 2022 Report

Balances as of 12/31/2022

## 12/31/22 TREASURERS REPORT ST. PETER'S MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

### STATEMENT OF FUND ACTIVITY FOR PERIOD 01/01/22 - 12/31/22

<b>Beginning Fund Balance 01/01/22</b>		\$354,509.02
<b>Plus:</b>		
<b>Cash Contributions</b>		-
<b>Market Value Change - ELCA Endowment Fund</b>		(47,325.42) <small>(as of 11/30/22)</small>
<b>Income:</b>		
Interest Income - ELCA Mission Plus Account	243.44	
Dividends - ELCA Endowment Fund	11,354.96	
		<u>11,598.40</u>
<b>Less Cash Distributions:</b>		
Ukrainian Support (Lutheran Services)	(1,000.00)	
Good Earth Village-Staffing Assistance	(1,000.00)	
LUV Quilters	(1,500.00)	
Lutheran Disaster Fund	(1,000.00)	
Capital Improvement Fund	(2,000.00)	
		<u>(6,500.00)</u>
<b>Ending Fund Balance 12/31/22</b>		<u><u>\$312,282.00</u></u>

### FUND BALANCES BY INVESTMENT

		12/31/2021 Balance	12/31/2022 Balance
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Cash And Bank Accounts</b>			
	ELCA Mission Plus	45,087.45	52,185.85
	<b>TOTAL Cash And Bank Accounts</b>	<u>45,087.45</u>	<u>52,185.85</u>
<b>Invesments</b>			
	ELCA Endowment Fund	325,055.57	277,730.15 <small>(as of 11/30/22)</small>
	<b>TOTAL Investments</b>	<u>325,055.57</u>	<u>277,730.15</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>370,143.02</u>	<u>329,916.00</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
	Capital Improvement Fund	15,634.00	17,634.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>15,634.00</u>	<u>17,634.00</u>
<b>NET</b>		<u>354,509.02</u>	<u>312,282.00</u>

# St. Peter's 2023 Missional Budget

submitted by Pastor David Weeks

## Worship & Music

Worship--confessing our sins and in Jesus' name being forgiven, singing, hearing God's Word in scripture, sermons, and prayers is central to our Christian faith. Worship inspires and motivates us to a life of service in the world as disciples of Jesus. We worship with a variety of styles and formats--organ, piano, keyboard, percussion, bells, and vocalists feed our souls. We are both an inviting and welcoming community, and using digital media, we are sharing the Gospel and connecting with others throughout Minnesota and our country. **\$170,000**

## Faith Formation (Education)

We continue to adapt and respond to our changing world. Under the leadership of Miss Ann, our Sunday School has a new format. Our St. Olaf intern, Josie, works with the music portion of Sunday School. Miss Josie wrote and directed an incredible Sunday School Christmas program. Confirmation classes (grades 6-8) begins with worship. This year we are exploring the New Testament. We continue offering a "J-term" with St. John's and Bethel. Three of our senior high youth and Pastor David went backpacking in Montana at Christikon. This coming year we plan to do a servant/mission trip to Nashville. Our women's circles, which provide opportunities to grow in faith as well as support for one another. We are grateful for our many opportunities to grow in our faith. **\$110,000**

## Christian Service & Witness

The Church does not exist to focus on itself, but to serve the world. We deliver Meals on Wheels twice a year for 2-week blocks each time. We hope to return to serve at Sharing & Caring Hands in Minneapolis. Twice a year we clean a two-mile section of Highway 246 and we support the Community Action Center's food shelf and Operation Joy. Our quilters send quilts and we send backpacks and health kits to Lutheran World Relief. **\$60,000**

## Christian Care & Fellowship

We presently have 7 BeFriender ministers. It is our practice to offer a BeFriender to all in our congregation after a death in the family. BeFrienders are listening ears to people in many circumstances. Though not organized by any ministry team, many of us make phone calls and run errands for one another as they live their calling to serve our neighbor. Our funeral teams provide vital Christian care as families gather for a meal to mourn and remember their beloved. The Christian faith is lived in community. We are the body of Christ, called to love and be loved by one another. **\$50,000**



# Southeastern Minnesota Synod



At our 2022 Synod Assembly, we gathered under the theme *Imagine: Endless Possibilities in God's Grace*. As we live into the future God has for us, we see what we had once only imagined start to take shape in concrete ways.

This year has brought a new way of meeting the needs of congregations in transition as we have explored various models for pastoral ministry. Most prominent among them is what we call a Bridge to Settled model. This new model allows congregations to work with a Bridge pastor (different than an intentionally trained interim) while forming a call committee and engaging in the call process with the understanding that both the pastor and congregation are open to transitioning from the Bridge into a settled call. It is not the right model for every congregation, but it has greatly benefited many.

We have also seen a gentle uptick in individual congregations exploring partnerships of all kinds. Some congregations are forming new joint parishes, others are working together to meld two part-time calls into full-time work for a single candidate, and still others are merging weekly confirmation classes. More and more of our congregations are realizing the profound benefits and joy of collaboration.

It has been fun to walk alongside folks as they lead their congregations into new ways of being the People of God in their community in this time and place.

As 2023 approaches, I remain ever hopeful for all that the Spirit will continue to do in and through us as the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. Looking ahead to our next Synod Assembly, I am excited to announce that we will be joined by Drs. Susan Brower and Matt Bloom. Drs. Brower and Bloom will give us tools to understand our communities as they are presently and as they are projected to be. They will also explore ways congregations can ignite flourishing in the communities to which they are called.

I am excited to continue imagining alongside each of you as we discern what God is doing in our midst and calling us to do. What a wonderful time to be the church together for the sake of the world.

In Christ,

  
Bishop Regina Hassanally

[www.semnsynod.org](http://www.semnsynod.org)



As you gather, the following questions are frequently asked about giving and the work of the church. These may be helpful as your congregation engages in conversation about how to grow and thrive in the future.

**What is missional giving?**

One way individuals and congregations participate in missional giving is when their financial contributions, often called offerings or tithes, to and through their congregation, or other charitable organizations, are intended to do God's work in the world. We believe this work can be done faithfully through ELCA ministries.

**Why give?**

For some the answer is God first gave to us, thus through our life we have an opportunity to share God's generosity with others. This understanding demonstrates giving is a spiritual issue, not a financial one. For other Lutherans, the answer is also an identity issue. We are faithful Lutherans and this is what we do – share with others. This is not an individual experience only, for we are church together, and through our unified giving we do God's work.

**Who gives?**

All are invited to give as God has blessed them and as the Spirit moves them.

**What to give?**

As the apostle Paul wrote of the Christians in Macedonia, "They first gave themselves to the Lord." Through baptism, confirmation and our confessional statements, each person first gives of themselves to God. Within each person's faith walk, they are asked to give of their time, talents and resources. This can take many forms.

**How much to give?**

We teach to grow toward a tithe (10 percent of household income), to a tithe and beyond a tithe as God has blessed you. This may also apply to one's time.

**When to give?**

Individuals and congregations are encouraged to give regularly. The practice of "first fruits" giving, sharing a portion of God's blessings when they are received, is encouraged. This may be weekly, monthly or quarterly. There are also times for special giving. This is often in response to specific needs or opportunities. There are also times for planned gifts. This is often for major projects or at the end of life. All these forms of giving are encouraged.

**Where to give?**

Most supporters of the ELCA do the majority of their giving to and through their congregation. When growing toward and beyond a tithe, giving to all charitable organizations is considered.

**How to give?**

All regular giving received by ELCA congregations is considered undesignated. This means the dollars received can be used as determined by a missional budget or expense plan approved by a quorum of the membership and as managed by elected leaders. An increasing percentage of total giving to congregations is being designated for specific purposes. While we appreciate and celebrate all giving and respect the wishes of the donor, we also trust members and elected leaders to make financial decisions that support God's work in and beyond the local community, both in the present and for the future.

**What is Mission Support?**

This is the portion of your congregation's regular financial offering that is shared with your synod. The synod then shares a percentage for God's work that we do together through our ELCA churchwide organizations, both domestically and globally.

## St. Peter's Lutheran Church 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2022

### **St. Peter's Mission Statement: Believe, Belong, Become**

To express God's love and grace in building a community where people **believe** in God, **belong** to Christ, and **become** disciples who serve in day to day living.

**Call to Order:** President Steve Hill called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

**Approval of agenda:** Sheryl Kleppe moved to approve the agenda. Diane Boyum seconded. Motion carried.

**Devotion:** Pastor Dave used the devotions as printed in the annual report.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ginny Paulson moved to approve the minutes of the congregational meeting 2020. Bette Lee seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor David:** Thank you to St. Peter's as we have had a challenging year. One of the highlights would be the Senegal bus project bake sale which was fun as well as successful fund raising. Another was the Habitat for Humanity house on Archibald Lane which is soon finished. St. Peter's finished lunches and help in building the house. Julie Klock will be retiring in June. This is bittersweet for St. Peter's as we wish her the best in retirement but she will be missed in her position as Faith Formation director.

**President Steve Hill's message:** A big thank you to the staff, church council and congregation for being loyal and supportive to St. Peter's this past year. Thank you to Bette Lee, Sheryl Kleppe and Patrick Bougie and President Steve Hill for their work for four years on the church council.

**Ministry Teams:** There were no comments in addition to those printed in the annual report.

**Financial Report:** Highlights to the printed report:

We missed the budget plan by \$12,000. Our expenses for this year came in under budget. We have \$219,000 in bank and \$96,000 in memorial currently in checkbook. There is \$355,000 in Mission Endowment.

Tom Picha moved the purposed budget as printed in the annual report to be St. Peter's budget. Sheryl Kleppe seconded. Motion carried.

**Election:** Steve thanked Patrick, Sheryl and Bette for their service and great job on council.

Sheryl moved we cast a block verbal vote for the election ballot. Diane Boyum seconded.

President: Mark Shaw

Vice President: Ashley Terpstra

Treasurer: Tom Picha

At Large Members: Megan Calhane, David Hende





St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
Northfield, Minnesota

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[www.northfieldstp.org](http://www.northfieldstp.org) | [www.facebook.com/northfieldstp](https://www.facebook.com/northfieldstp)

***Believe. Belong. Become.***

## Did You Know...???

St. Peter's Building space gets used throughout the year by many groups in the community, as well as families wanting to host larger gatherings than what their home can provide. The following are a list of groups which have and/or continue to use St. Peter's space:

4-H  
Boy Scouts  
Cannon Valley Elder Collegium  
Election Polling location  
Habitat for Humanity  
I Cantanti office space  
Red Cross Blood Drive  
Rice County Social Services  
Sons of Norway