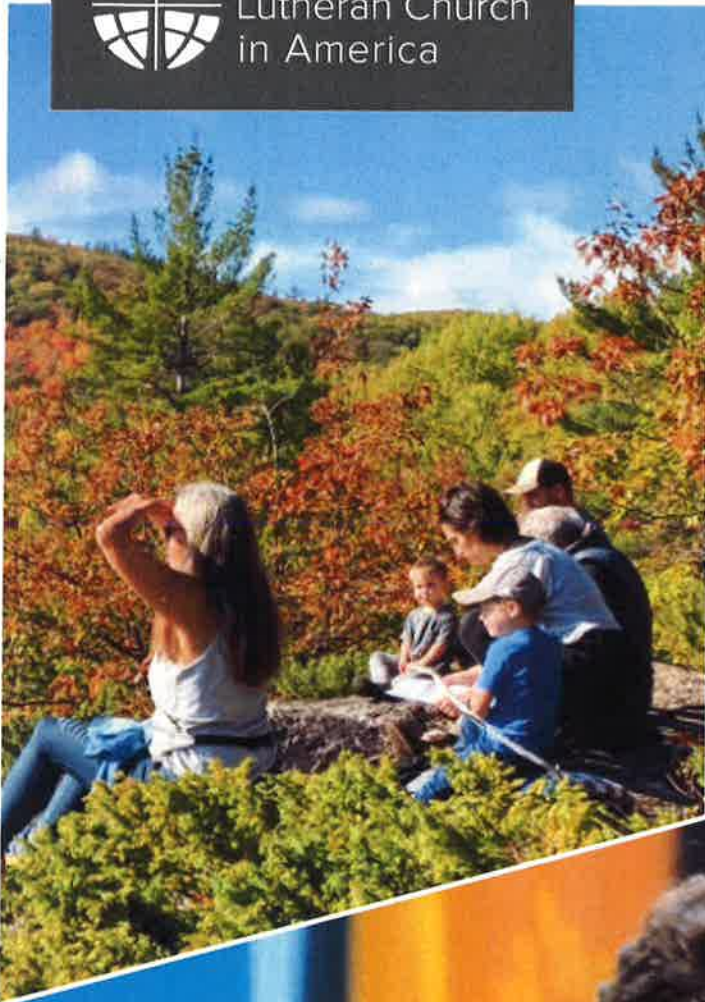




Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

All around us, we see signs of God's love and goodness. A person who has stepped away from church for many years steps back into a congregation, feeling the call of the Holy Spirit. Young adults feeling isolated in a digital-first world start gathering in person in a small group, enjoying the warmth of a hug and a new friend asking about their week. A mother plants a garden, and it yields fruits and vegetables, giving her nutritious food for her kids and extra produce to sell at the local market. Everywhere we look, we see signs of Christ's love. In Psalm 93, we read: "More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore" (4-5).

God's love is a majestic thing, and it moves us to share it in word and deed. The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, across our country and around the world.

I am so grateful for you, dear church. Your generosity to each of these three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has bolstered the church's ability to share the message of God's love to people who are longing for it. Through your

“More majestic than the thunders
of mighty waters, more majestic
than the waves of the sea,
majestic on high is the Lord!
Your decrees are very sure;
holiness befits your house, O
Lord, forevermore.”

—Psalm 93:4-5

financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices, you've helped carry this message of God's majestic love. Thank you, dear church. As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to stand steadfast in God's promises, sure of God's love and goodness.

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

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

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 19, 2025**

*St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement:
To worship and praise God boldly, witness to God's goodness,
and serve God with joy.*

Sign-in and confirm we have a quorum.

Video Celebrating A Year of Mission and Ministry at St. Peter (shown during sign-in).

Call to order Mike McCoy, Church Council President

Opening Prayer/ Devotion Pastor Miranda Klosterboer
(Page 1, and inside back cover)

Synod Update via Video

Approval of Minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting *(Pages 4-5)*

Pastors' Report *(Pages 6-10)*

President's report *(Page 11)*

Treasurer's report *(Page 23 and following)* Jan Waller, Finance Committee

Ministry reports *(Pages 11-20)*

Report of Nominations Committee *(Page 21)* Jeff Mink

- Elections for Church Council: *elect 1 for a two-year term and 4 for a three-year term.*
- Election of Synod Assembly Voting Members: *elect 3 voting members and 1 additional youth/young adult member, whom is confirmed and age 24 or under. (The Synod Assembly Caucus is March 6th and the Synod Assembly is June 6th-8th in Westby, WI. Registration fees and housing are covered by the congregation.)*
- Election of Voting Delegates for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Annual Mtg. *2 voting delegates. (2/23 at 2 p.m.)*
- Election of Nominations Committee for 2025 *2 outgoing Church Council persons and 4 additional persons, for a total of 6.*

Old Business

Update from Endowment Committee. At the 2022 Annual Meeting, the congregation voted to form an Endowment Committee with the goal of creating an Endowment Fund.

New Business

Budget Prayer *(Page 23)* Jan Waller, Finance Committee

2025 Budget Review and Approval *(2nd to last page)* Jan Waller, Finance Committee

Blessing Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer

2024 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

- Membership at the end of 2023 – 573
- New members received during 2024– 38
 - ◊ **8 through baptism (8 children)**
 - ◊ **20 through affirmation of faith (new members)**
 - ◊ **2 through transfer**
 - ◊ *8 through other sources and statistical adjustment*
- Members removed during 2024 – 94
 - ◊ **By death – 14**
 - ◊ **By transfer/moved—20**
 - ◊ *By other sources and statistical adjustment - 60*
- Membership at the end of 2024 – 519

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

- Average weekly worship on-site attendance (in-person) 2023: 115
- **Average weekly worship on-site attendance (in-person) 2024: 117**
 - ◊ *Average Saturday attendance – 31*
 - ◊ *Average Sunday attendance – 86*
- **Average weekly online worship attendance via Facebook - 49**
 - ◊ *(In 2023, we started calculating this number more conservatively for our own information. This number is based on total minutes viewed, divided by 60 minutes, multiplied by 2 which is an estimate of the average household size worshipping together. St. Peter's households are an average of 2.7)*
- **Total average weekly worship attendance (calculated conservatively) – 166**
- Worship participation using the ELCA's recommended process for calculating online attendance and factoring in the radio ministry (in-person, online, confirmed radio) – 243+
 - *When online worship attendance is calculated for the ELCA, it increases to 105 people per week; this is based on the number of views at least one minute in length, multiplied by 2. In addition, we broadcast worship on the radio weekly as a 50+ year outreach to the wider community and to our homebound members. In 2024 we hand-delivered an average of 20 bulletins each week to members worshipping with us via the radio.*

CONFIRMATION: Affirmation of baptism – 6

GIVING

- Regular envelope giving by members in the year 2023 – \$309,038
- Regular envelope giving by members in the year 2024 – \$310,313

WEDDINGS: Paige Duncan and Lucas Kaland—held at St. Peter with Guest Officiant

BAPTISMS: 8 (Pastor Miranda officiated – 5, Pastor Hillary officiated - 3)

FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

(Pastor Miranda lead officiant – 9, Pastor Hillary lead officiant – 9)

- Funerals (members) – 12
- Funerals (non-members) – 6

**St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 21, 2024**

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement:

To praise God boldly, witness to God's goodness, and serve God with joy.

Sign-in and confirm we have a quorum. It was also livestreamed on our Facebook page.

Call to order – Meeting was called to order at 10:19 a.m. by Aaron LaHaie, Church Council President

Opening Prayer and Devotion (page 1 and inside back cover) – Pastor Miranda Klosterboer

Synod Update – Message from Bishop Felix Malpica via video

Approval of Minutes – **A motion to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes was made by Rick Lenz, 2nd by Vivian Achenbach. All in favor, motion carried.**

Pastor's Report (pages 6-8) – See written reports submitted by Pastor Miranda Klosterboer and Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite

President's Report (page 9) – see written report submitted by Aaron LaHaie, Church Council President

Treasurer's Report (after page 17) – Aaron LaHaie, Church Council President

Overall, 2023 was mostly as expected/budgeted. Major 11, Mission Support, actual 2023 come in at \$341,978 from budgeted \$351,832 due to envelope offerings being down. Major 13, Designated Offerings, actual 2023 came in at \$37,098 compared to budgeted \$11,500. This was due to funding received for the piano, stoves, and bells. The bells and piano were funded through individual fundraising and the stoves were funded by the Women of the ELCA – all of which did not impact the budget. Major 25, Part Time Office, was a result of the overlap of Theresa's retirement and onboarding Robbie.

A motion to accept the 2023 Treasurer's Report was made by Luann Neumann, 2nd by Al Bunders. All in favor, motion carried.

Ministry Reports (pages 9-16) – Please take some time to read about all the wonderful things our committees and volunteers are doing here at St. Peter.

Mike McCoy, Church Council Vice President, and Head Trustee, gave a message of thanks and gratitude, highlighting some of the many ways our volunteers care for St. Peter. The Women of the ELCA for purchasing the stoves and refrigerator for the kitchen, as well as the upstairs refrigerator; Jeff Mink for his expertise and skills; Aaron LaHaie for his leadership and "getting things done"; Al Bunders for all his work at the parsonage; John Howe for snow removal; and the ladies of the church for all the beautiful painting and updates.

Nominations Committee Report (page 17) – Kathy Quamme

"Thank you" to the nominating committee and gratitude to those outgoing members of Church Council – Mary Peterson, Jan Weisensale, and Ruby Koeller.

Church Council Elections – The nominating committee presents Linda Shihata (2nd term), Michael Douglass, Jolene Atkins, Penny Ohlert, and Jasmine Olmstead as nominees for Church Council. **A motion to accept these five nominees as new members of the**

Church Council was made by Mary Jorgensen, 2nd by Cindy Standorf. All in favor, motion carried.

Synod Assembly Voting Members – Synod Assembly 2024 will take place June 7-9 at Three Bears Lodge in Warrens, WI. No volunteers were identified. Moved to Church Council.

Sugar Creek Bible Camp Annual Meeting Voting Delegates – The 2024 Annual Meeting will take place on February 18 at 2:00 p.m. No volunteers were identified. Moved to Church Council.

Nomination Committee Elections for 2024 – Nominees/volunteers to join the 2024 Nomination Committee are Jan Weisensale, Jeff Mink, Alex Jackson, and Pat Lenz. Additional nominees to consider and invite are outgoing Church Council members Mary Peterson and Ruby Koeller. Moved to Church Council for approval of complete list of nominations once determined.

Old Business – Many of the items discussed at last year's meeting have been completed. The Women of the ELCA donated a new stove and refrigerator to the kitchen; Council Member names and photos are posted on the back wall; Come for Supper is now back to being held in-house; and a new piano was acquired.

New Business – Open to the floor for ideas. Luanne Neumann voiced her support of global mission and urged for continued support and importance of maintaining global contact. St. Peter previously supported Pastor Kyle Svennungsen and family who are now back in the U.S.

Budget Prayer (page 16) – Rick Lenz

2024 Budget Review and Approval (2nd to last page)

Conservative approach with only 3% increase from 2023. If Stewardship Campaign is successful, this will be closer to 6-7%.

We are looking at \$380,057 for total expenses and \$358,116 for total income, resulting in a deficit of \$21,941. A negative number never feels good, but this is almost half of what we experienced during the last period of sustaining two pastors. It is the hope that with a successful Stewardship Campaign that we will close this gap.

Per inquiry from the floor, the Evangelism/Fellowship budget has increased to help achieve our goal of "Growing Christian Community".

A motion to accept the 2024 Budget was made by Jeff Mink, 2nd by Betty Keehner.

Motion to close, meeting ended.

Blessing – Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite

Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer

Pastor Miranda Klosterboer Annual Report 2024

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement:

To worship and praise God boldly, witness to God's goodness, and serve God with joy.

It is such a joy to journey with you as your pastor. In March, I will have served with you at St. Peter for five years. It is such a blessing and an honor to be in relationship with you and to engage in mission and ministry alongside you. I thank God for you all.

“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” –Romans 15:7

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” -1 Peter 4:10



As I look back over these five years, I see St. Peter as a community that has experienced the Wondrous Love of God... and is responding by sharing that love. The amazing love and welcome and grace that you have experienced from God is something that you desire to share.

- You seek to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you.
- You serve the community in practical ways.
- You want others to know the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ, and so you generously support the radio ministry, Facebook livestream, and other bold outreach ministries in the community like our Prison Ministry and weekly radio devotionals.
- You want children and youth and adults here at St. Peter to know that love, be grounded in it, and be reminded of that grace over and over again; and so you plan for meaningful worship services and discipleship ministries for all ages.
- In the midst of the stresses and struggles of life, you know that there is a need to hear that God's love is FOR YOU. You know how strengthening it is to hear the Lord's voice "Do not fear, for I am with you." You know there is a need to hear the good news of God's grace in Jesus Christ. And so you share it.
- St. Peter is a congregation that isn't turned inwards... you are looking beyond yourselves to share the love of God with others. Yes, we love to gather to worship God and encourage one another with the good news of God's presence and love. We regularly come together to be equipped and encouraged. But then we are sent out into the world to love others well in Jesus' name.



2024 Confirmation Class

Thank you for your investment in our shared mission and ministry. Thank you for the love you share with one another and with our community. Thank you for sharing your gifts of faith, skill, leadership, prayer, joy, relationship, and love as a part of the congregation this year. It is a joy to praise God, witness, and serve alongside you!

I invite you to take time to read through all of these ministry reports on the pages ahead. There is so much to celebrate as we look back on 2024. I will list a few additional highlights here as well:

- **Our Mission Goal for 2024 was "Growing Christian Community".** Throughout the year we have been working on increasing our engagement within St. Peter and beyond.
 - We had a "Shall We Gather At the River" emphasis. We planned for these outdoor worship services at consistent dates and times and created easy to handout communication pieces.
 - A Membership Team was formed to look carefully over our membership database. They have been reaching out to



Outdoor Worship at the River

members, seeking to encourage engagement; updating our database; and creating communications for invitation. This team will continue it's work in 2025.

- We had an "Open Pew" the day of the Election, with open times for prayer and reflection and resources available for individual Scripture reading, music, and prayer as well.
- We offered 4 "Worship Walk" experiences at La Riviere Park, where people could connect with God, nature, and one another.

- **We welcomed 30 New Members to our congregation in 2024**— and we are enriched by their presence among us.



Welcoming our newest brothers in Christ.

- **Thank you to our volunteers! It is so awesome to see the many ways that you serve God and neighbor with joy here at St. Peter.** There is committed lay leadership of committees and teams. Faithful servants are supporting all areas of worship, welcome, teaching, administration, mission, youth, meals, care for one another, and outreach. Thank you!!

- **Our in-person worship attendance has continued to grow.** The number of people worshipping with us via the radio and online has also grown. We have some regular visitors joining us from the east coast, Texas, Washington, and even Norway.

- **Retreats and Renewal Days with different groups are a highlight of ministry for me:** In 2024, I was able to be a part of a Church Council Development Day, First Communion Retreat, Youth Gathering Retreat, Middle School Confirmation Retreat, 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat, Outdoor Work days at Sugar Creek, and a Women's Renewal Event at St. Peter.

- **Pastoral Care in times of Grief and transition.** It is inspiring to see the ways in which you care for one another, and it is an honor to come alongside individuals and families in these times. I am thankful for the good news of Christ's love and the gift of eternal life that Christ gives as we gather.

- **We continued to strengthen ministry with and for High School Students.** This new ministry has been growing in numbers. We were able to send a team to the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2024. Other events included: a retreat at Sugar Creek Bible Camp, preparation meetings for the ELCA Youth Gathering, Youth-Led Worship services, twice-monthly Youth Group nights during the school year (with opportunities for sharing, prayer, games, service, and connection).



High School Ministry End of The Year Party

- **Continued growth in Stewardship.** The Stewardship for All Seasons Committee is so thankful for the generous response of \$18,588 in additional giving for 2025. This is from MANY households taking faithful steps in growing their giving (increasing \$50 per year or \$300 per year or \$600 per year). It also includes five households increasing by \$1000 or more for 2025. Thank you for your generosity, response, and participation as we engage in mission together in 2025.

- **We give thanks to God for the bequests and special gifts that have been received in 2024.** On behalf of the church council and the entire congregation we give thanks to God for JoAnne and Jim White (JoAnne named St. Peter as a beneficiary of an IRA); Susan and Joseph Ludvik (Susan named St. Peter in her will); Floyd and Norma Welsch (St. Peter was a recipient of Floyd's estate). "Gifts and Bequests" also includes Memorials and Special Gifts. We give thanks to God for the many Memorials received in memory of loved ones. We give thanks to God for the special gift given to St. Peter from Frank and Mary Weeks (gift of stocks). Gifts like these help keep St. Peter healthy and thriving.

- **Trust in Leadership:** A special thank you to our Church Council, Trustees, and Leadership Teams. Your faithful leadership, discernment, and stewardship of resources is such a blessing to this community. The

regular giving and bequests received this year are a testimony to the trust the congregation has in you and to the mission and ministry that people see done in Jesus' name through St. Peter. Thank you.

- **An Endowment Policy and Gift Policy were created and approved by the Church Council.** These documents as well as a summary document are available now. In 2025, we are also looking forward to an Estate Planning lunch hosted at St. Peter on February 12th.



Kid Talk during Worship

- **Our outreach has maintained and strengthened as well.** These vibrant ministries are a part of us loving our community. We host an NA Meeting in our building, Handy Home Ministries completed two projects, we maintain a Little Free Pantry, and our Come For Supper free meal is a source of needed fellowship and food for the community. We continue to share the good news of Jesus: the Prison Ministry leading worship services at the Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution, a 55+ year radio ministry, a 4+ year online ministry offering worship through Facebook, Worship services at Prairie Maison and Bluff Haven. Hands-on projects continue as well: "God's Work. Our Hands." serving days, food drives for the Coullee Cap Food pantry, sending encouragement to graduates and those in the nursing home continue as well, and making quilts for Lutheran World Relief.
- **Eligible for a Sabbatical Leave.** After March 2nd, I will have served as Senior Pastor of St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Church for 5 years. According to the current La Crosse Area Synod Guidelines, a rostered leader is eligible for a Sabbatical Leave of 3 months after 5 years in their current. I will work with the Church Council, the Mutual Ministry Committee, and the Bishop to discuss this further and to work out details.

As we head into 2025, there are many things to look forward to as we continue to strengthen mission and ministry and partner with others in our community. We Care. We Build Discipleship. We Give.

- Develop a Care Minister Team, with training and planning beginning in 2025
- Receive training to begin offering a Grief Support Group
- Bring back Sugar Creek Bible Camp Counselors for VBS
- Plan to offer an Intergenerational Mission Trip
- Send a team on a High School Mission Trip to Buffalo, New York
- Offer expanded First Communion Retreat options as we welcome more children to the table.
- Emphasize opportunities for adults to connect with one another and to grow in faith, by supporting the formation of additional adult fellowship and discipleship groups and events.
- Engage in meaningful times of community, fellowship, and vibrant worship during the Lenten season and other seasons of our worship life together.
- Plan for a 2nd summer with well-advertised outdoor worship services: "Shall We Gather At the River"
- Continue development of our new Intergenerational Sunday School
- Continue to develop our High School Ministry Leadership Team
- Partner with the community and schools to develop a Community Suicide Postvention Plan
- Explore how our Handy Home Ministries might help with next steps that come from the newly formed community-wide Crawford County Housing Team.
- Support the community effort going on now to offer a Drop-In Center in our Community.



ELCA Youth Gathering Team



Pie in the Face Fundraiser for the ELCA Youth Gathering

With much love and thanksgiving,
Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Miranda

2024 Report of Associate Pastor Ministry

Greetings to you, as we embark on another year of ministry together. It is an honor and blessing to be your pastor and serve beside so many of you. Our collective passions to share with the world messages of God's grace and peace are a gift to each other, the communities in which we live and the global church.

As I am reflecting on the year 2024, it seems that the year almost started off in the season of Lent, with Ash Wednesday occurring just six weeks into the year. Our Lenten mid-week worship series with "The Commute" skits really was a nice way to set the tone for an enthusiastic year of ministry.



I serve on the synod LYLE (Lutheran Youth Learning Evangelism) committee, which had quite a busy year. Aside from the National Youth Gathering over the summer, our team pulled off a great confirmation event in the fall. ConFest is a mini-festival, or synod ministries fair, for confirmation age youth to learn more about what their synod does and how to get involved. At one time, ConFest was an annual confirmation event within the La Crosse Area synod, as is in many synods across the Midwest, but it has been nearly a decade since the event had been held in our synod. The committee was proud to have been able to offer this event again and to have had such a great turn out (around 300 youth) and response. We are excited to get planning for ConFest 2025 :)

Pr. Miranda and I hosted our South Conference monthly gathering of colleagues in April. The women's group of St. Peter put on a beautiful spread for us! And I was excited to have my good friend, Sister Julia Walsh (FSPA), be our guest speaker for the day. As I remember it, that month seemed to have some particularly nice weather days which added to the joy of being outdoors for some spring events such as the "God's Work. Our Hands." tree planting day and two retreats at Sugar Creek (pre-National Youth Gathering event and Plan-it workshop for church leaders).

Using the National Youth Gathering theme, Created to Be, I organized three Vacation Bible School events through the summer. First, was the regular VBS for grade school age children in our church and community. The week included visits with several special community organizations (Unity Day Center, Bluff Haven residents, Fire Department), which were both fun and a little challenging for the kids. A few weeks later, we had a family VBS on a Sunday afternoon. This event focused on expressing ourselves using different artistic mediums. Finally, there was an energetic morning for PreK and Kindergarten children to experience a little taste of VBS. We had songs, craft time, games, play time and a snack! None of these would have been much of a success without the variety of volunteers who took time out of their summer to share their faith and God-given talents with the children and families connected to this church. I am so grateful to all involved in these VBS events.



The synod put on several nice events for both learning and fellowship. Synod Assembly is a significant commitment each year, but one that I always find to be rewarding. This year, at synod assembly, the idea of a synod-wide lay caring ministry was presented in one of the workshops. Having come to the workshop with some experience in this type of program and expressing an interest in seeing the new idea become a reality, I was asked to be on the directive board. Since then, training sessions have begun and applications are still being accepted. I would be more than happy to answer any questions if you are interested in becoming part of this ministry. Other synod-wide events I enjoyed this year include the Loggers Game and the social statements discussions on Civic Life and Faith.

In June, during a week many of our youth were at Sugar Creek, I spent the week as the camp on-site chaplain. Every year I look forward to this opportunity. Spending time in that valley is sacred to me and getting to do so alongside the



children and youth of St. Peter adds to the blessings of the week. It is a privilege getting to witness the ways in which these young people are challenged to grow and learn more about their faith. Camp gives kids an opportunity to discover who they are as a Christian, apart from the family with whom they attend worship at home. And, it is especially joyful to hear comments of how they feel different, in a good way, being separated from their electronic devices for a week ;)

Late in the summer, we started offering additional opportunities for outdoor worship, in the form of Worship Walks. Two were held in the summer. Then one in the fall with the confirmation classes and one in December. All of these were held at La Riviere Park. Each experience was unique as the groups received what each season had to offer in how we become aware of God and life all around us. I and the worship team are planning to offer more Worship Walks in 2025.



This fall was a very busy season, as it tends to be each year. It started with the kick-off for our new program, Inter-Generational Ministry! What has been known as Sunday school time is now Inter-Generational time, offering an opportunity for the youngest and the oldest, and everyone in-between, to gather for a time to live into the part of our baptismal callings where we teach and learn from one another. Participants meet as one large group and the time is structured using the principles of Faith5; share, read, reflect, pray, bless. I am enjoying how this ministry allows participants' natural talents to be revealed and how we get to know one another on a more personal level.

God's Work. Our Hands. project for the fall was the assembly and distribution of laundry care kits. This has been a fun project all around. There are still several kits available for distribution, which would be a great way to earn some service hours for confirmation students ;)

In the first two weeks of October, there were three substantial synod events; two of which I helped to organize. Fall Theological Retreat for synod clergy was held in Wisconsin Dells, during which we studied and discussed the gospel of Luke for the coming lectionary year. Next came ConFest, followed soon after by an evening at the jump park for youth; both were held in the La Crosse area.



The season of Advent, at the end of the year, always brings lots of activity. Each year we try to make space for and give recognition to the joy and the hardship that may be experienced. It was a delight having one of our newest families play a role in the Christmas program, this year. A big thank you to all who helped with set, props, costumes, scripts, video and sound. Special thanks is extended to our "Holly Family" players, the Gingrich Family; Danny, Aspen, Bexley and Ledger ;)

In this season also, as a way to acknowledge the pain that many of us feel during the holidays, noticing the absence of family and friends over the years, it is becoming a tradition to offer what is known as a "Blue Christmas" service. It is an opportunity to make space for a quieter, slower worship; tending to aching hearts.

One ministry I have been particularly passionate about this year is the development of a daytime, drop-in center for those needing a healthy and supportive environment to encourage their recovery process. It is still in developmental stages, but I look forward to sharing the progress with you all as this important ministry opportunity continues to take shape.

Wishing you all peace and hope in this new year,
Pr. Hillary Burns-Kite

Council President's Annual Report for 2024

Each year at Christmas time our family gets a new 1000-piece puzzle. We usually set out a card table next to the fireplace and bit by bit, piece by piece, the puzzle takes shape. Everyone contributes and, in a few days, the scattered tiles form a picture that's worthy of framing. But I have a confession: I rarely add more than a piece or two...if any at all!

When the St. Peter congregation, with their friends and family, attend a service like the one on Christmas Eve, we see the beautiful "big picture." I'm sure we all recognize the effort that led up to that memorable gathering. That is true throughout the entire church year.

As your Church Council President this past year, I witnessed all that goes into making St. Peter a healthy, thriving and welcoming place of worship. Thank You! Thanks to all who contribute to our weekly services: the ushers, musicians, choir members, acolytes, communion servers, assistant ministers and camera and screen operators. Thanks to our employees who do so much behind the scenes. Thank you to the many committees who meet regularly throughout the year. I know that when I'm at the church during the week, I'm always impressed with all the volunteers who stop by St. Peter and contribute in so many ways. Thanks also to our Sunday School teachers and all those involved in Come for Supper. We were blessed with many bequests and endowments this past year. Thanks to those families and to all who support our church financially. I am grateful to be a part of our Church Council and witness the work they all do! And of course, a big Thank You to Pastor Hillary and Pastor Miranda. St. Peter is in good hands.

That's a lot of Thank Yous, yet I'm sure I missed more than a few. Please know that each of you and your contributions to St. Peter does not go unnoticed. Like our Christmas puzzle at home, the St. Peter family pieces together a beautiful finished product.

God Bless,

Mike McCoy, St. Peter Church Council President

Church In Society Committee Annual Report for 2024

The Church in Society committee is grateful to everyone who has donated food, personal care products, clothing, and other much needed items to the **Little Free Pantry** (found near the corner of Wisconsin and Michigan Streets). The mission of the LFP is displayed on its front: "Take what you need; leave what you can". Items that turn over quickly include facial tissues, toilet paper rolls, bars of soap, boxed food products, mittens, gloves, and seasonally appropriate donations. What an opportunity the LFP provides to serve our neighbors!



Another responsibility for this committee is to designate the monthly recipients of the Hungry Jar. This year's support of the Hungry Jar was again amazing; we are thankful for the congregation's generosity! Below is the list of Hungry Jar recipients for 2024.

Confirmation Students Baking Snacks for the Little Free Food Pantry

2024 Hungry Jar Recipients:

January: ELCA World Hunger- Water is Life Project

February: Mothers Against Drunk Driving

March: Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

April: ELCA World Hunger- Water is Life Project

May: Little Free Pantry

June: Children of Peace International

July: W-ELCA School Kit Project

August: Lutheran Disaster Response

September: Passages of Richland Center



October: Come For Supper
November: Operation Santa
December: Pastors' Discretionary Fund

Come for Supper, another program under the umbrella of Church in Society, has again been serving in-house monthly meals since June, 2023. The number of volunteers involved in safely preparing and serving over 200 meals each month is a remarkable feat. We are especially grateful to the core Come for Supper Coordinators: **Leigh Carlson, Wanda Everson, Pat Lenz, Sandy Nagel, and Becky Rooney**. This team is a well-oiled machine with each coordinator performing tasks needed to successfully and graciously serve every guest. Thank you for providing this much-needed service to our neighbors! As CFS is not a budgeted item, this service depends on donations; we thank everyone who has donated to this service and ask for your prayers that CFS may endure into the future.



**"God's Work. Our Hands."
 Days of Serving the community**

This year we held some interesting **God's Work, Our Hands** community service projects. On Sunday, April 21st, following coffee hour, a group of volunteers, including Sunday School students, cleaned up debris on the blocks surrounding St. Peter Lutheran Church. Then on Saturday, April 27th, Dennis Kirschbaum led an intergenerational work crew in a tree and shrub planting activity at La Riviere Park; the Prairie Rod and Gun Club generously provided the trees and shrubs. During the last week of September, volunteers participated in God's Work, Our Hands Laundry Project, handing out laundry kits to patrons of Excalibur Laundromat during peak times. Laundry kits were assembled by the Intergenerational Sunday School attendees; each kit included a small detergent box, dryer sheet, money for one load of wash, and a granola bar for snacking. Thrivent provided funding for this project and Jay White donated laundry products and cash in remembrance of his mother JoAnne, a former member of St. Peter. Recipients were truly grateful for the kits.



**Serving Together for "God's
 Work Our Hands." Day of Serving**

As the Salvation Army was in need of bell ringers this Christmas Season, St. Peter members and friends once again volunteered to serve for this gratifying mission on Saturday, December 7th. Thank you to **Coordinator Ruth Skelly** and all the other volunteers for filling this need.

Lastly, we give thanks to the congregation for your support of this year's Good Gifts Tree Ornaments. Your purchases will help fight hunger and transform lives throughout the world!

Come For Supper Annual Report for 2024

Our Come For Supper meal continues to be well attended and is appreciated in our community. This program not only provides a good meal for all, but allows time to be with friends and enjoy good conversation. There are new people that come each month.



This event is made possible with volunteers from our St. Peter family, friends, and other community groups. Many hours go into preparing the meal and organizing the help, but "many hands make light work." There are many phone calls made requesting desserts, kitchen and dining room help and recruiting an elevator operator.

There were 3,167 meals served this past year, that was an increase of 57 meals from last year. The numbers show this program is popular in our community.

Come For Supper Team: Pat Lenz, Sandy Nagle, Leigh Carlson, Wanda Everson and Becky Rooney

Evangelism Committee Annual Report for 2024

In addition to sending college care packages, this year, the St. Peter evangelism committee added the Elf for Elders ministry in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We had seventeen members paired with twenty-two elders connected to the congregation. The volunteer elves are encouraged to send cards and care packages to their elder(s) throughout the year.

We sent about a dozen college care packages out this spring. For this mailing, we simplified them a bit and sent less snacks and goodies, with a fun study break activity that fit into an envelope instead of box. At the end of the year, we sent 19 college care packages. Our high school youth enjoyed an evening of baking together, providing goodies for their friends and family who are away at college.

Thank you, to all those who support these caring ministries with the generous donations of goodies or handwritten notes. When we receive thank you notes from a few, we are encouraged to trust that they are a blessing to many.

This committee continues to provide weekly devotions for WPRE's Wednesday morning line-up, monthly birthday cards for Meals on Wheels recipients and holiday cards for St. Peter homebound members.



High School Students
Baking Treats
for College Care Packages

Gifts and Memorials Committee Annual Report for 2024

The St. Peter's Scholarship Committee consisting of Pastor Miranda Klosterboer, Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite, Monica Olmstead, Tricia Koeller and Bette Keehner awarded \$11,250.00 to 6 recipients from the Arnold Weeks Scholarship Fund for the year of 2024.

We also came up with the following suggestions for people wanting to give memorial to St. Peters: New Hymnal Supplement, "All Creation Sings" (already done); Altar Guild Supplies/Paraments; Youth Ministry; Music Program; Building Fund; Radio Ministry; Come for Supper, AED equipment (defibrillator); and 2nd Screen for church.

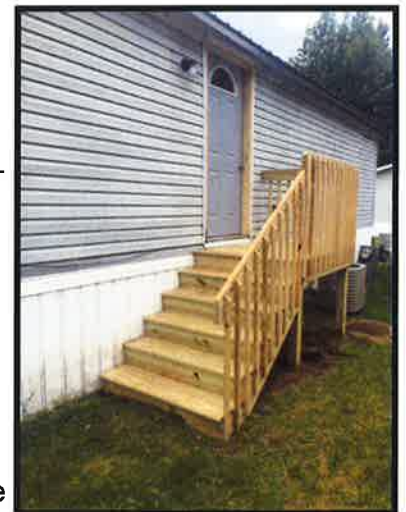
Submitted by Bette Keehner

Handy Home Ministries Annual Report 2024

This year our team accomplished two projects, one of which was a major bathroom rebuild. We also invested in community networks working to address the issue of housing in our community. We work with referrals and support from our community partners Community Development Alternatives, Inc., Crawford County Aging and Disability Resource Center, and Crawford County Health and Human Services.

Project one: Rebuild of a bathroom. An elderly woman and her disabled son were living in a home without a functional bathroom. The floor was rotting out, and it was unsafe. This project included rebuilding the floor; assisting with plumbing; and installing a new sink, bathtub, and vanity.

Project two: Building stairs for a mobile home, so that a young family could have a 2nd working exit. Homeowner's insurance company deemed the absence of stairs going out the back door was a safety hazard and requested that a landing, with stairs, be installed in order for the policy to continue. During project planning, our team determined that replacing the exterior door for this exit would be a benefit to ensuring a safe exit in case of an emergency.



Additional projects were also investigated. In addition, some volunteers got some skills practice with an outdoor staining project at the parsonage on a "God's Work. Our Hands." Day of service this past summer when other smaller community projects were being addressed as well.

Addressing Housing on the County Level:

- Crawford County Housing Meetings: Both Pastor Miranda and Pastor Hillary have been involved in the Crawford County Housing Meetings where community leaders from Crawford County and surrounding area are strategizing next steps to address the shortage of housing, quality of housing, and shortage of affordable housing in our county. Pastor Miranda continues to attend meetings regularly.
- Crawford County Emergency Food and Shelter Board: Pastor Miranda has also served on the board for Emergency Food and Shelter in Crawford County, which is working to release funds for Crawford County to address emergency food and housing needs.

As we head into 2025:

- We are looking for additional administrative assistance for this team. This could include helping with: communicating requests, working to source funding for materials, coordinating meetings, etc..
- We are looking for additional project leaders willing to make contact with homeowners, figure out what needs to be done, estimate and coordinate material purchases, and then do the work and direct the work.
- If you are willing to be a leader or you are willing to help in an administrative capacity, please let one of the pastors know.
- We also may be looking to expand partnerships with other community volunteers. It will also be exciting to see if there are ways that we can assist with next steps that come out of the wider Crawford County Housing Committee.

This year marked the second full year of St Peter's Handy Home Ministries actively working in the community. Many thanks to those who have supported this ministry in 2024.

Healing Connections Committee Annual Report for 2024

We provided materials at the church for individuals who might be looking to locate a 12-step program and provided information about a drop box to dispose of unwanted prescription drugs. We had representatives from the treatment court staff the table at the entry for Come for Supper so that people could learn more about that program. We again had a bulletin board display including materials promoting that all are welcome and accepted here and that we are all connected and need to support one another.

We had Dawn Adams from the Crawford County Public Health Department present to our committee about the concerns of opioid overdoses which are increasing in our area. She provided us with Narcan that is available both in the fellowship room and in the kitchen with the first aid items. It is administered just like a nasal spray. It can be administered by anyone and to anyone without specialized training.

Some of the members of our committee have been working on a project to establish a recovery drop-in center in our community. It would provide a safe and sober place for social interaction and would also provide meetings, educational offerings, peer support, etc. If anyone is interested in learning more about this, please reach out to Pastor Hillary or Lynn Rider.

We discussed establishing a Befriender Ministry to train lay people to minister to others.

Over the three years that this committee has been in existence, we have morphed from the substance abuse committee to healing connections. This has occurred because we came to realize that everyone is in need of healing and connection and a faith community is a wonderful place to support one another both in our congregation and in the community. Given this focus, we decided that it would be appropriate to merge our committee into the Church and Society Committee going forward. Some of the members of our committee expressed a willingness to serve on that committee.

Music and Worship Committee Annual Report for 2024

2024 Committee Members: Lynn Rider, Matt Lenz, Jackie Eckert, Pastor Miranda Klosterboer, Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite, Betty Brown, Jim Klosterboer (retired in 2024); Council Liaison: Michael Douglass – *Scribe*
Musicians: Gloria Bunders, Lori Frailey, Mary Jorgenson, Kim Curtis, Phil Stiemke, *Praise Band*, Tad Peak *Praise Band*, Jesse Klosterboer, *Praise Band*, *general back-up*

The Committee met regularly throughout the year to plan worship, music and other related issues and activities.

Highlights:

- Early in the new year we established a regular maintenance cycle for our new piano and generally enjoyed the addition of this beautiful instrument to our worship life. Duane Nagel was commissioned to build a music shelf to match the new piano and added yet another beautiful piece of furniture to our church.
- Lent included a return to our beloved mid-week suppers and worship including Holden Evening Service. An ensemble of high school youth and adults presented a weekly series of Lenten Dramas entitled *The Commute*. Worship attendance saw a marked increase over the past few years.
- Early in the year the Committee began to discern a revision of our church policy and tradition regarding first communion. The committee entertained a more flexible policy that would allow families to make the decision as to when it was time for their child to partake in Holy Communion. At the same time, we will continue to prepare students for their first communion during their 5th grade school year. A policy was drafted and presented to the Church Council where it was affirmed and instituted at the beginning of the school year.
- A series of five outdoor worship gatherings were held on the first Sunday of each month, June through October. All were held at the waterfront Gazebo and were promoted in part as an evangelizing tool to invite both prospective and lapsed members to worship with us. The July gathering was forced to relocate to Lochner Park because of Mississippi River flooding.
- Two outdoor worship hikes were planned for summer evenings at Lariviere Park. Led by Pastor Hillary they were enjoyed by a smallish but enthusiastic group of pilgrims. In the light of a full harvest moon in October, Pastor Hillary led another hike at Lariviere for our Confirmation students and in early December, a final advent perambulation.
- After faithfully serving as choirmaster since 2022 Betty Brown retired to return to work and family obligations. Lynn Rider and Laurie Klosterboer have since been sharing the baton until a suitable replacement can be found.
- Our WELCA group once again led their annual Thank Offering service with a special guest homilist from Sugar Creek Bible Camp, Deacon Stephanie Engle.
- A congregational set of *All Creation Sings*, supplement to our ELW Worship book, was purchased in late November as a memorial to Rick Hamann; now housed in a portable bookshelf crafted by Lynn and Jim Rider.
- Advent brought a joyful end to our worship year with a new Candle lighting litany, an exuberant Children's program, a deeply moving Blue Christmas service and a Christmas Eve of affirmation and Christian fellowship.
- We are indeed blessed to be led by two experienced, creative and devoted pastors. Worship-wise, 2024 was a very good year for St. Peter Lutheran church. Michael Douglass, Committee Recorder



Outdoor Worship at the River

Mutual Ministry Committee Annual Report for 2024

The Mutual Ministry Committee has continued to meet and function in 2024. For those that are unfamiliar with the committee, the purpose of the committee is to support our churches ministry, especially at the interface of our clergy and the lay members of our congregation. Most dynamic congregations (including our congregation) believe strongly that the ministry and mission is not just the result of the lay congregation, nor the result of just the clergy, but rather all are involved in our ministry and mission. The roles of each may be different, but even these differences can become blurred. And as in all human organizations, frictions can sometimes develop out of different visions as well as from our human failings. It is one of the primary goals of the committee to discuss issues that may come up in order to continue to improve how we all fulfill our mission. We support this committee to be a "safe place" where issues and feelings can be discussed in a supportive, collaborative, and confidential fashion with mutual respect. I do believe we have a wonderful, dynamic, and caring congregation.

One of the issues we faced was to help to develop a tool, or methodology, for assessing our ministry and evaluating our ministry in terms of what is working, what is not working, how we can improve, and what should be priorities in that we all realize that our church cannot do everything. We have worked with the church council on this. We realize that any tool we use will have it's own limitations, and will always be a document "in progress". Our committee also recently is having a turnover in members, and it will take some work to develop the trust that is necessary for collaboration and confidentiality as we go forward.

Respectfully, Kurt Jorgensen

Parish Education Committee Annual Report for 2024

Seasonal Highlights:

Winter / Spring Highlights: There were many highlights from last spring including preparing for the ELCA Youth Gathering, Bible discussions for youth and adults following worship, our First Communion Retreat for 5th grade students, confirmation assembling elder-person care kits, youth serving for Lenten suppers, "Plan-It" retreat at SCBC for pastors and youth leaders, youth involved in Lenten skits and helping to lead worship, Youth-Led Worship services, Graduate Recognition with quilt presentation, and End-of-the-Year parties.

Summer Highlights: "Created to Be" was the theme of our summer youth programs. Sugar Creek Bible Camp, St. Peter Vacation Bible School programs, and the ELCA Youth Gathering all focused on the Bible verse Psalm 139:14 "Created to Be". We also memorized the Bible Verse set to the tune of "Shake It Off", which kept us rocking and learning through the summer. At the end of the summer we heard from our youth during the "Youth Gathering Weekend" worship services and the "Stories from Sugar Creek" weekend.

Fall Highlights: The "Faith 5" spiritual practice (Share, Read, Talk, Pray, Bless) were integrating into discipleship ministries. We had a growth in the number of committed adults involved with youth ministries. The fall kick-off events went well, a highlight being the outdoor Rally Sunday event. The 9th Grade retreat at Sugar Creek is always a powerful time together as youth prepare their faith statements in preparation for Confirmation Sunday. The year ended with a wonderful Intergenerational Christmas Program and Christmas parties for Confirmation and High School ministries.

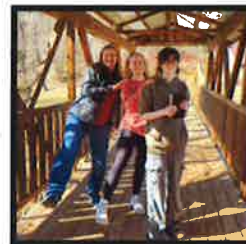
Other Updates:

- **Expanded Vacation Bible School offerings:** a PreK /K VBS morning and a family VBS afternoon were added. These were in addition to the 4-day VBS Week. Both Confirmation and Sunday School move to a large group teaching with small groups for highs and lows and prayer model.
- **ELCA Youth Gathering:** We were able to send a group of youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans over the summer for the first ELCA Youth Gathering since 2018. This is the largest gathering of ELCA Lutherans, and it has a 100+ year history. It was an experience that those that went will never forget. It was a meaningful week of amazing worship times alongside 16,000 other participants, immersive learning, inspiring speakers, and lots of fun.
- **Sugar Creek Bible Camp:** As members of the Sugar Creek corporation, we have been part owners of this transformational ministry for over 50 years. We were excited to support 18 youth K-12 with \$4330 in camperships for summer 2024. Julian Shedivy was a part of the LEAD program at Sugar Creek Bible Camp, which is a four-week leadership training program. Jasmine Olmstead received this training in 2023. Summer 2025 Brochures with information about summer programs for youth and all ages are available now. We are excited to welcome Deacon Stephanie from Sugar Creek for a High School



Youth Lock-In and a Team-Building Event for middle school and high school youth later this month. We hope to have even more youth attend Sugar Creek for summer 2025.

- **Sunday School Re-Design:** The Parish Education Committee formed a team to look at different curricula for Sunday School over the summer. The result of that team's work is our newly redesigned Sunday School, "Intergenerational Ministry" that has had wonderful support from parents and other loving adults. The ministry uses a large group / small group model, and incorporates the Faith Five into the rhythm of the day.
- **Confirmation Ministry:** This ministry transitioned to a Large Group / Small Group model for the fall, which has been a lot of fun. We have 21 youth registered for Confirmation this year, with 6 additional 9th grade students that prepared for their Affirmation of Baptism this year. The new format involves more leaders in mentorship roles, but focuses the teaching preparation on a smaller number of people. This seems to be working well for youth and adults. Highlights include: the fall retreat, ConFest in La Crosse, and a "Worship Walk" with campfire event at La Riviere Park.
- **High School Ministry Highlights:** Youth-Led Worship in April, End of the Year Party with large group games, ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans Mission Trip Weekend Worship, a Baking Night together, and a growth in participation in regular high school programming (with 7-12 high school youth regularly in attendance).



As a Parish Education Committee, we also accomplished some projects on the policy level alongside the Church Council (and Worship Committee.)

- **Expanding First Communion Preparation to all ages-** 1st Communion preparation is now open to all children expressing an interest in receiving the sacrament, upon parental agreement and pastoral authorization. If your child has been expressing an interest in beginning to receive Holy Communion, please contact one of the pastors. This was approved by the Church Council with the recommendation of both the Worship and Parish Ed committees.
- **Approval of Youth Protection Policy-** The Parish Ed committee worked together throughout portions of 2023 and 2024 to create a youth protection policy for St. Peter in order to ensure the safety of all our children, youth, and volunteers. This was approved by the church council. We have begun implementing the policy, which includes training and background checks for volunteers working with children and youth.



Stewardship Annual Report 2024

Committee Members: Michael Douglass, Jackie Eckert, Mike McCoy, Pastor Miranda Klosterboer

The Committee came together in early August and affirmed a planning process and timeline based on a template developed and refined in previous Stewardship planning processes. The Committee continued to meet regularly and frequently throughout the fall, wrapping up work in early December. Committee work continues to be informed by a program entitled *Stewardship for All Seasons* developed by Pastor Richard G. Sayther.

Identifying *Ministry Goals* was a process of sifting and winnowing information that came from the church council as well as from a detailed ministry evaluation conducted early in 2024. Ultimately three goals were identified, We Care, We Build Discipleship, We Give. A campaign goal was established to increase envelope giving by \$28,000. Moreover, the committee hoped to see an increase in intentional giving in the form of an intent card or commitment to an automated giving program.



Identifying an overall theme took some time and discernment. The title of an early 19th century hymn, from the Southern Methodist tradition, eventually percolated to the top: *What Wondrous Love is This*. This choice in part affirms the important role hymnology plays in articulating our core Lutheran theology and values.

A series of Bulletin Inserts and Temple Talks were planned to more fully explore and explain the stewardship goals. The committee opted to cut back on mailings which, in the wake of an onslaught of political mailings, proved to be wise. A poster was once again designed and exhibited in the church. The whole stewardship planning and sharing process went very smoothly and pretty much stayed on schedule. Individually crafted letters were mailed to congregation members in early November and an *Appeal* weekend was designated on November 16th and 17th.

A generous response was received both in terms of increased envelope planning and intentional giving as articulated by an intent card. By the end of December increase in total giving was \$18,588! Total intent cards, including simply giving was: 75!

A review of the 2024 Stewardship appeal will be held in late January. Feedback, ideas, and other thoughts for this process going forward are most welcome. As a committee we are continually humbled and inspired by the generosity of this congregation. Thanks be to God! Submitted by Michael Douglass

Trustee Annual Report for 2024

Many projects completed in 2024 to improve the quality and condition of our church and Parsonage:

- 1 A new roof on the parsonage and gutters
- 2 Gutters in the front of the church to control rainfall
- 3 Two new vacuum, cleaners, and dehumidifier for the basement
- 4 Replaced the front sidewalk and we moved the carpeting on the stairs out front
- 5 Replaced the shingles on the little storage shed at the edge of the parking lot
- 6 A group of ladies freshened up the fellowship room in basement with paint and decorative touches
- 7 The lower bathrooms were upgraded with the countertop and fresh paint
- 8 working on changing out the Florentino lights to LED's early 2025
- 9 in progress is a Radon mitigation system at both the church and Parsonage.

Women of the ELCA Annual Report for 2024

Purpose Statement

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

WELCA Officers

President: Laurie Klosterboer

Secretary: Bette Keehner

Treasurer: Jan Weisensale

WELCA Standing Committees:

-Mission Growth: (Pat Lenz) Assure adequate quantities of supplies are available to complete our programs, including coffee and paper products used in the kitchen.

-Mission Community: (Ruth Taylor) Assure transportation of food shelf donations to the food pantry, coordinate food collections at the church and other community-minded events.

-Mission Action: (Pat Harris and Alice Kirschbaum) Carry out projects which assist the poor and those affected by disaster, including Lutheran World Relief kits (quilts, school kits, health kits), and other relief efforts.

-Altar Guild: (Vickie Howe) Prepare the altar for worship, including preparations for communion services, hang banners, fill the oil candles, considering cleanliness of the altar and chancel, correct display of liturgical colors, etc. Volunteers take turns serving.



-Funeral luncheon chairs: Alice Kirschbaum, Gloria Bunders, Jan Weisensale. We provide this service to grieving families. Responsibilities are to make arrangements for a crew to serve the food provided, set up the Fellowship Hall, serve the lunch, and clean up.

2024 Summary

2024 was another ambitious year of service and support for the St. Peter Women of the ELCA. We met **monthly** for Bible study at Bluff Haven, to include our members who live there. We used the "Gather" magazine study and articles. We also held 9 general business and planning meetings. The group served 9 lunches for member funerals. The Prayer Chain was activated several times for members in need. With congregational and community contributions, our group raised \$3100 for camperships, local Operation Santa, regional storm relief, and national WELCA programming. The quilting group met 10 times (pus members' "home-work" on quilt tops), delivered 85 quilts, 25 health kits, and 25 school kits to Lutheran World Relief, plus a quilt for the Sugar Creek auction, and a quilt for each of St. Peter's graduating senior students. Members attended Spring and Fall synod women's gatherings, and in addition, hosted the Fall event. Food drives for Souper Bowl Sunday and Thankoffering netted generous amounts of food for Coulee CAP. See the budget for additional mission projects and contributions. We thank each of you who helped make these missions possible in your own generous ways. And a big thank-you to Robbie in the office!!



Laurie Klosterboer, President

**ST. PETER WOMEN OF THE ELCA
BUDGET FOR 2025**

Treasurer of LaCrosse Synod (send in 2 payments) \$ 200
Thankoffering (November offering to national WELCA)

Gifts to institutions in the area:

Sugar Creek Bible Camp	400
Disaster Fund (chosen annually)	100
2026 Triennial Gathering offering (total \$150)	50
LaCrosse Synod Spring Gathering offering	100
LaCrosse Synod Fall Renewal offering	100



Local needs:

Local community outreach (chosen annually)	300
Delegate expenses & mileage to Spring/Fall Gatherings	75
2026 Triennial Gathering delegate(to accumulate for 3 years)	500
Memorials-\$10 per each WELCA member who passes, up to	100
Miscellaneous	250
Postage, Shipping for LWR quilts & Kits (LaCrosse Synod)	300
Quilting expenses	300
LWR kit expenses	200
Sugar Creek Camperships (Food stand/Bake sale profits)	800
Youth (for National Youth Gathering or mission trip)	200
Global Ministry (chosen annually, from Lenten Meal fund)	200



TOTAL: \$ 4,175

Sugar Creek Bible Camp, Mission Partner Impact Report

Your Ministry Impact: 2024 in Numbers

Your support for Sugar Creek Bible Camp makes a lasting difference for kids, families, and churches! You teach skills for faith & life to strengthen their connections to your church through fun, Christ-centered adventures. Youth face big new challenges, but Jesus answers in a *bigger* way, through you! Celebrate all the "God stories" you made possible this year:



Summer Bible Camp

20 unique **Summer Camp Programs** for K-12 & Families

448 Overnight Summer Campers

129 Explorer/Forester Day-Campers onsite + **50** at Congregational Day Camps

154 Family Campers

29 Summer Youth Ministry Staff + **42** Professional Leaders Volunteering (pastors, youth leaders, nurses, doctors, & builders) at Summer Bible Camp

Special Programs led by Sugar Creek

- **20** Adult Programs & Events: craft retreats, bus trips, special events, and more
- **8** Weekend Youth Retreats including church lock-ins & synod youth events
- **3** Family Camp sessions with **36** families attending
- **33** Church Visits – preaching, WELCA, Council Visits, Camp Sundays & Trainings
- **15** Full-Time Equivalent (F.T.E.) Youth & Family Ministry staff employed at Sugar Creek through 2024, providing Christian Education with and for your church

Meaningful Retreats & Events

88 Retreats & Events at Sugar Creek in the "off season!" (Sept. to May)

- **3592** guests at **116** events for Churches, Families, Schools, and Hobbyists
- **117** guests at other **Christian Youth Retreats** at Sugar Creek
- **898** guests at multiple **Outdoor Education Days**
- **45** hard-working supporters at **3** Volunteer Weekend programs
- **56** Volunteer Day events: Volunteer Tuesdays, Mass Mailing & more
- **4176** guest-nights and **7227** guest-days graciously hosted
- **52** of **52** Weeks of 2024 hosting groups and events in lodges & cabins!

All are Welcome at Bible Camp

272 Summer Bible Campers awarded **financial aid** from camp totaling **\$74,300**

+15 Summer Bible Campers received extra need camperships totaling **\$7,740**

Recent Sugar Creek summer staff ordained as Lutheran Pastors in 2024: **+3**

Contact Hours of intentional Christian Education this year at camp: **51,454***

*conservative estimate

Thank you for YOUR ministry to the future of our Church and World!

SugarCreekBibleCamp.org † **608-734-3113** † **office@SgrCreek.org** † **ACA Accredited**

A Report from the 2024 Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee was elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting consisting of Pat Lenz, Jeff Mink, Dennis Kirschbaum, Jan Weisensale, Rod Boardman and Alex Jackson with Pastor Miranda Klosterboer assisting and advising.

The nominating committee discussed a range of names as possibilities using the most current edition of the Church Directory and considering the terms laid out in the Church Constitution and Bylaws: *Church Council members are to worship regularly, receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion often, provide regular financial support of the church, be a supportive presence in word and example, and lead (or be the liaison to) a committee or ministry team.*

The Nominating Committee is pleased to bring forward the following slate of nominees.

Lynn Rider has been a resident of Prairie du Chien since 1985 and became a member of St. Peter in 2001. Lynn was an attorney at a local law firm with a one term commitment as the Crawford County District Attorney in 1987-88. She became the Crawford County Circuit Court Judge in 2016, retiring in 2024. Lynn has been recently active at St. Peter's Church including the church choir and various church committees including Worship and Music, Healing Connections, and Endowment. Lynn feels that her recent retirement has given her the time to be active with the Church Council.

John Howe—The Howe family have been avid members of St. Peter for many years. My grandmother, Elise, as well as my father, Jack, were very proud of their church. Elise, the matriarch of Howe Printing and the Courier Press, along with her sons, ran the business after my grandfather Lyman passed away from a sudden heart attack at a young age. My cousin Gary and I carried on the tradition until retiring in 2017 and 2019. My partner, my wife, my best friend, always there for me, is Vickie Howe. She and I are very devoted to our church. I have served on council and many committees through the 40 years as a member of St. Peter. St. Peter is our church family and a source of strength in dark times and in the best of times. I'm looking forward to be serving on council again. In Christ respectfully, John Howe.

Jan Waller I am 65 years old and a lifelong member of St. Peter. I was born and raised in Prairie du Chien and graduated from Mankato State University in 1982. I was employed at Peoples State Bank from August, 1982 until my retirement in February, 2023. My wife's name is Lori and we have been married going on 42 years. We have two sons, Brent soon to be 41 and Michael (Anjuli) soon to be 38 and two grandchildren. Livey is 4 ½ and Drake is 2. I enjoy time with family and friends and also enjoy being outdoors and taking in the natural beauty of our area.

Alex Jackson just finished her first term on Church Council, serving for two years as Secretary, and will serve for a second partial term of two years. Alex and her husband, Brett, have three boys, Knox (9), Kruse (7), and Merrick (4), and live in Prairie du Chien. Alex works remotely for Emplify Health and enjoys thrifting, reading, decorating, and spending time with friends and family, and Brett is the Assistant Principal at MFL MarMac Middle School. As a family, they enjoy spending time outdoors hiking, sledding, exploring, or at Wyalusing beach in the summertime.

Endowment Committee Annual Report 2024

The Endowment Committee (Pastor Miranda, Rick Lenz, Jan Waller and Lynn Rider) has been meeting for a couple of years. The committee was formed in response to the congregation's approval at an annual meeting.

We started with some materials from the ELCA Foundation about creating a Mission Endowment Fund and also reviewed sample policies from the ELCA and from other churches.

An endowment gift allows a gift to remain in perpetuity with only the income derived from that gift to be spent on an annual basis. We recognize that this type of gift won't be right for everyone who wishes to make a special gift, but establishing an endowment policy provides more flexibility for people wishing to make special gifts. We decided on 4 separate ministries to be supported by endowment gifts: Building – to support facilities and technology, Education and youth – to support education for all ages and youth ministries, Outreach – to support the community, synod, missions of the ELCA, both in the US and worldwide and Budget support – to provide ongoing support for the ministry at St. Peter. The committee had a few concerns about the limited accessibility to the funds and wanted to provide a method for accessing the principal in an emergency situation. We included a provision such that with approval of the majority of the church council and a congregational vote of 2/3 of the voting congregation members, up to one-half of the principal held in the endowment funds can be used for expenditures of an emergency nature. This provision was supported by the ELCA advisor we spoke with. In addition, the committee decided that the funds to be used for building and technology should not have the same limitations on the use of the funds and thus the policy provides that the principal from that fund can be used to support facilities and technology upon approval of the Church Council. After numerous revisions, we finally presented our recommended Endowment Policy to the Church Council in December, and it was approved.

The committee also reviewed the current gift policy and created a new gift policy that was approved by the Gifts and Memorials Committee as well as the Church Council. Copies of both of these policies are available for anyone who wishes to review them. We plan to prepare some brochures for those who wish to give this further consideration.

Planned Giving Options

For those wishing to make gifts to support St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church and its ministries (hereafter St. Peter) above and beyond regular giving, we provide several options:

- 1. An unrestricted gift to the church** to be invested and used by the Church Council as needed to support St. Peter and its ministries.
- 2. A gift for a particular purpose (restricted gift)** to be used as directed by the donor in accordance with St. Peter's Gift Policy. This could be as part of a capital campaign or could be a special gift approved by the Church Council.
- 3. A gift to the building fund** which can be used to maintain the church facilities as well as technology and other physical property needs. These gifts will be subject to the Endowment Policy but unlike other endowment gifts, the principal may be used upon approval of the Church Council.
- 4. A restricted gift to the endowment fund.** The principal of this gift will remain in perpetuity with the annual return of up to 5% to be distributed each year. Restricted gifts shall be designated for one of the following categories:
 - 1. Education/Youth** including but not limited to scholarships, camperships, youth gatherings, youth mission trips
 - 2. Outreach** to support the community, synod, missions of the ELCA in the US and worldwide
 - 3. Support of the annual budget and ministry needs of St. Peter**
- 5. An unrestricted gift to the endowment fund.** The principal of this gift will remain in perpetuity with the annual return of up to 5% to be distributed each year. The gift shall be distributed to the 4 categories (Building, Education/Youth, Outreach and Budget Support) after consultation with the church council with at least 10% going to the Outreach ministry category.

Finance Committee Report 2024 and 2025

I want to open with a thank you to all the members and friends of St Peter for all you do for the congregation. The finance committee met several times as 2024 was coming to an end and also again during the first week of 2025 looking at the income, expenses, and the investments of St Peter. We thought we would provide a short explanation of a few points to go along with the budget.

I am going to break the 2024 income into two parts. First is our normal income from envelopes, plate offerings, and other income sources. Those sources came to a total of \$344,329 which was within 3% of what we had estimated in the 2024 budget. The second source of income is gifts and bequests which was \$306,460 for 2024. We had estimated \$5000 for the year. St Peter is very fortunate to have received this amount due to some generous donors this past year. Some were direct donations and others were from estates. With these extraordinary gifts we decided to continue our tithe as we have done in the past and sent \$30,646 to be used outside of St Peter operations.

Going into the expenses we budgeted \$380,058 for 2024 but our expenses were \$426,512 for the year. This is where I want to go into some additional details. Our normal operating expenses were just under our projected number for 2024. The church and parsonage were in need of a few updates and we made a decision as a council to do a few of the projects this year with the extra funds from the gifts and bequests. Two projects were approved by the congregation (parsonage roof and the front approach to the church). The other items included new lights in the basement to LED from the old ballast style lights, work on the gutters at the parsonage and church, and radon mitigation systems for the parsonage and church. After everything was done St Peter had a \$224,277 surplus in 2024 which we invested for future needs of St Peter. A very exceptional way to end the year.

Looking at the 2025 budget, it is almost identical to the 2024 budget with an increase that the finance committee feels comfortable with. Total income goes to \$380,757 and expenditures go to \$402,758. This is a projected deficit budget of \$22,002. We wish we could present a balanced budget but we wanted to project numbers as best we could. This budget was presented to the council for approval and was approved and we hope for approval from the congregation. If anyone has questions beyond what is presented please feel free to contact the finance committee with your questions. Thank you for putting your faith in us.

2024 Finance Committee

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET PRAYER

God of all things,

This budget is our intention to give and distribute money.

We give this money because you first loved us and we are grateful.

We give this money because we know you are God and money is not.

We give this money because we trust you to give us our daily bread.

This spending plan declares our intentions to volunteer, to minister to each other, to reach out to our community and our world. It says what we want to do in honor and praise of your great love. As givers, may we give joyfully and liberally extend your mercy to those who stand in need of it.

We want to do something more than just meet this budget, O God. We do not want it to be the limit or the target of our giving. We anticipate the celebration of going beyond it, and the ability to do more for you than our little faith allowed us to dream.

We declare our intentions to give and distribute as fully dedicated to you. May we be surprised by all that is done through these efforts and may you be pleased.

Amen

St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Church
Comparative Consolidated Balance Sheet
December 31, 2024

	General Funds 12/31/2024	Special Funds 12/31/2024	Consolidated Total 12/31/2024	Consolidated Total 12/31/2023
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Petty Cash	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ 100
Pastors Discretionary Petty Cash	200		200	200
Cash in Checking	50,789	45,357	96,146	133,998
Mission Investment Fund - Demand	690	-	690	129,209
Mission Investment Fund - Money Mkt	72	-	72	72
Mission Investment Fund - CD	155,449	-	155,449	-
Thrivent Savings	146,764	-	146,764	147,220
Accounts Receivable	542	-	542	40
Prepaid Expenses - Insurance	3,536	-	3,536	3,690
Total Current Assets	<u>358,142</u>	<u>45,357</u>	<u>403,499</u>	<u>414,529</u>
Long Term Assets				
Board Restricted:				
St. Peter Building Fund	71,402	-	71,402	60,628
St. Peter Operating Fund	195,891	-	195,891	66,973
LPL Financial - Brokerage Account	128,171	-	128,171	-
Donor Restricted				
Lillian Dillman Fund	-	13,536	13,536	11,903
Ann & Cecil Smith Fund	-	6,889	6,889	6,072
Arnold Weeks Fund	-	470,545	470,545	415,612
Marguerite Rogers Fund	-	42,760	42,760	37,786
Parsonage	125,000	-	125,000	125,000
Total Long Term Assets	<u>520,464</u>	<u>533,730</u>	<u>1,054,194</u>	<u>723,974</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 878,606</u>	<u>\$ 579,087</u>	<u>\$ 1,457,693</u>	<u>\$ 1,138,503</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	\$ 5,266	\$ -	\$ 5,266	\$ 250
Payroll Taxes Payable	1,390	-	1,390	1,309
Total Current Liabilities	<u>6,656</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,656</u>	<u>1,559</u>
Other Liabilities				
Deferred Revenue	14,050	-	14,050	6,600
Dedicated Funds (see next page for Special Funds detail)	<u>-</u>	<u>579,087</u>	<u>579,087</u>	<u>515,843</u>
Total Liabilities	20,706	579,087	599,793	524,002
Current Year Excess of Revenues over Expenses including Capital				
	505,961	-	505,961	262,562
Retained Funds from Previous Years	351,939	-	351,939	351,939
Total Equity	<u>857,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>857,900</u>	<u>614,501</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>\$ 878,606</u>	<u>\$ 579,087</u>	<u>\$ 1,457,693</u>	<u>\$ 1,138,503</u>

St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Church
Special Funds Account Balances
December 31, 2024

Spendable Funds:

National Youth Gathering	\$ 3,264
Come for Supper Fund	2,949
Sabbatical Fund	8,627
Lillian Dillman Interest Fund	2,225
Marguerite Rogers Interest Fund	5,091
Ann & Cecil Smith Interest Fund	1,291
Arnold Weeks Interest Fund	21,854
Handy Home Ministries	54
Total Spendable Funds	<u>45,357</u>

Endowed Funds:

Lillian Dillman Fund	13,536
Ann & Cecil Smith Fund	6,889
Arnold Weeks Fund	470,545
Marguerite Rogers Fund	<u>42,760</u>
Total Endowed Funds	<u>533,730</u>

Total Special Funds \$ 579,087

St. Peters Evangelical Lutheran Church
Income/Expense YTD Actual vs Budget vs PY - Detail
December 31, 2024

Income

	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
Major 11, Mission Support			
Envelope Offerings	\$ 310,313	\$ 309,038	\$ 318,309
Plate Offerings	2,737	2,401	2,000
Gifts and Bequests	307,845	30,539	5,000
	<u>620,894</u>	<u>341,978</u>	<u>325,309</u>
Major 12, Discretionary Funds			
Sunday School Collections	-	2	25
Interest & Dividends	13,423	9,698	21,282
Facility Use	1,349	665	500
Misc. Income	-	50	-
	<u>14,772</u>	<u>10,415</u>	<u>21,807</u>
Major 13, Designated Offerings			
Radio Broadcast	2,775	2,395	3,000
Hungry Jar	7,329	7,843	7,000
Capital Projects	468	25,921	-
Misc Designated Offerings	310	939	1,000
Transfer from Special Funds	5,625	-	-
	<u>16,507</u>	<u>37,098</u>	<u>11,000</u>
Total Income	\$ 652,174	\$ 389,491	\$ 358,116

Expense

	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
Major 20, Senior Pastor			
Sr Pastor Salary	\$ 52,900	\$ 48,749	\$ 52,900
FICA Allowance-Pstr	4,713	4,332	4,713
Medical Allowance-Pstr	1,000	1,000	1,000
Mileage/Travel-Pstr	1,584	1,791	1,750
Continuing Education-Pstr	793	760	800
Publications & Dues-Pstr	208	218	325
Health Insurance - Pastor	17,928	17,130	17,928
Retirement - Pastor	7,477	6,883	7,490
Health Ins-Other - Pastor	749	1,170	749
Housing Allowance - Pastor	-	-	-
	<u>87,351</u>	<u>82,033</u>	<u>87,655</u>
Major 22, Associate Pastor			
Assoc Pastor Salary	50,800	46,940	50,800
FICA Allowance-Assoc	4,526	4,182	4,526
Pension & Insurance-Assoc	-	-	-
Medical Allowance-Assoc	1,000	1,000	1,000
Mileage/Travel-Assoc	1,904	1,914	1,750

	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
Continuing Education-Asso	78	240	800
Publications & Dues-Assoc	75	71	300
Housing Allowance-Assoc	15,240	14,082	15,240
Health Insurance - Assoc.	35,123	32,928	35,136
Retirement - Assoc.	7,057	6,520	7,057
Health Ins-Other - Assoc.	706	1,108	705
	<u>116,507</u>	<u>108,986</u>	<u>117,314</u>
Major 24, Secretary			
Secretary Salary	35,786	35,171	37,310
FICA - Employer Share-Sec	2,738	2,691	2,854
Mileage/Travel-Sec	-	-	-
Health Insurance - Sec	-	-	-
Retirement - Sec	2,147	2,110	2,239
Health Ins-Other - Sec	375	677	588
Continuing Education - Sec	-	-	-
	<u>41,046</u>	<u>40,649</u>	<u>42,991</u>
Major 25, Part Time Office			
Salary/Wages - PT Office	-	5,375	-
FICA - Employer Share-PT Office	-	404	-
Retirement - Sec	-	173	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,952</u>	<u>-</u>
Major 26, Janitor			
Janitor Salary	3,727	3,111	2,912
FICA - Employer Share-Jan	285	267	223
	<u>4,012</u>	<u>3,377</u>	<u>3,135</u>
Major 30, Benevolence			
Monthly Synod Benevolence	61,934	35,183	32,531
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	1,000	1,000	1,000
Designated Offerings	310	939	1,000
Benevolence - Other	-	-	-
	<u>63,244</u>	<u>37,122</u>	<u>34,531</u>
Major 40, Office & Administration			
Office Supplies	2,096	1,891	1,800
Postage	1,804	2,340	2,300
ComputerSoftware/Repair	1,959	737	1,000
Copy Machine	2,956	2,888	3,000
Telephone/DSL	3,985	3,834	3,800
Administrative Expense	1,621	1,621	1,665
Worker Compensation Ins	1,100	1,173	1,255
Cap Proj (>\$5000) -Church	-	-	-
	<u>15,521</u>	<u>14,484</u>	<u>14,820</u>
Major 42, Church Upkeep & Utilities			
Insurance - Church	5,008	4,344	4,700
Utilities - Church	8,248	9,947	12,000
Elevator Inspec & Maint	1,904	1,801	1,825
Repairs & Maint - Church	13,391	3,971	4,000
Snow Plowing	-	-	-
Janitorial Supplies	611	1,074	900
Cap Proj (>\$5000) -Church	-	24,026	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>24,026</u>	<u>-</u>

	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
	29,161	45,162	23,425
Major 44, Parsonage Expenses			
Utilities - Parsonage	4,172	4,544	4,750
Telephone - Parsonage	571	556	600
Repair & Maint -Parsonage	3,851	2,079	1,000
Cap Proj (>\$5000) -Parsonage	12,580	-	-
	21,174	7,180	6,350
Major 51, Church in Society			
Church in Society	340	676	900
Pastors Discretionary	2,728	1,298	1,500
	3,068	1,974	2,400
Major 53, Evangelism			
Evangelism	181	192	400
Website Subscription	1,116	288	400
Devotional Materials	819	900	700
The Lutheran Magazine	-	279	350
Advertising - Print/Radio	-	-	750
	2,115	1,659	2,600
Major 55, Worship & Music			
Organist/Pianist	10,600	10,440	10,050
Choir Directors	-	-	-
Special/Contemp Music	1,650	1,650	1,800
Visiting Pastor Expense	177	233	400
Worship & Music	2,072	2,830	1,850
Projection System	210	210	210
Bulletins	208	125	100
Communion Supplies	832	730	800
Musical Equipment	1,449	225	800
Sound System Maintenance	-	(250)	400
Seasonal Flower Displays	227	59	100
Choir	-	10	50
Tone Chimes Music	-	-	50
	17,425	16,262	16,610
Major 57, Parish Education			
Parish Education	487	-	450
Adult Education	154	34	150
Confirmation Curriculum	704	679	650
Youth Curriculum	1,065	948	1,100
Sunday School Supplies	521	601	300
Vacation Bible School	715	389	750
	3,645	2,651	3,400
Major 59, Stewardship			
Stewardship	723	1,118	1,250
Offerng envelopes	575	629	550

	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
Vanco Srv Chrg/Simply Giv	972	1,100	1,200
	<u>2,269</u>	<u>2,847</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Major 61, Youth Ministry			
Baptismal Supplies	262	139	200
Junior Lutherans	-	-	100
Confirmation	640	1,691	1,200
Youth Council/High School	717	253	750
Sugar Creek Camperships	2,805	845	3,500
SS/Youth Disbursements	-	-	-
Youth Ministry - Other	-	128	250
	<u>4,424</u>	<u>3,055</u>	<u>6,000</u>
Major 63, Outreach/Social Ministry			
Radio Broadcasts	3,172	2,514	3,276
Hungry Jar	7,461	8,009	7,000
	<u>10,633</u>	<u>10,523</u>	<u>10,276</u>
Major 65, Fellowship			
Fellowship/CoffeeSupplies	37	199	400
Kitchen Supplies	145	152	50
	<u>182</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>450</u>
Major 70, Ad-Hoc/Miscellaneous			
Synod Assembly	1,929	1,242	1,800
Pastor's Theological	500	700	1,000
Call Committee	-	-	-
Sabbatical Reserve	2,300	2,300	2,300
Allow add'l Prof Staff	-	-	-
	<u>4,729</u>	<u>4,242</u>	<u>5,100</u>
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 426,508	\$ 388,509	\$ 380,057
G/L From Operating	\$ 225,665	\$ 982	\$ (21,941)
Major 80, G/L From Investment			
G/L-Op Res Fund Endow.	(8,918)	(1,546)	-
G/L Bldg Res Fund Endow.	(10,774)	(3,752)	-
G/L LPL Financial Brokerage	1,958	-	-
	<u>(17,734)</u>	<u>(5,298)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Expense	\$ 408,775	\$ 383,211	\$ 380,057
Income Less Expense	\$ 243,399	\$ 6,280	\$ (21,941)

St. Peter Ev Lutheran
2023 Actual vs 2024 Actual and 2025 Proposed Budget

	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2025 Proposed Budget</u>
Income and Other Cash Receipts			
Mission Support	\$ 341,978	\$ 620,895	\$ 336,000
Discretionary Income	10,415	20,397	33,757
Designated Income	37,098	10,882	11,000
Total Operating Receipts	389,491	652,174	380,757
Expense Accounts			
Staff Compensation			
Sr Pastor Salary	48,749	52,900	55,562
Sr. Pastor Housing Equity Allow	-	-	1,667
Sr Pastor Benefits and other	33,284	34,452	37,658
Assoc Pastor Salary	46,940	50,800	53,135
Assoc Pastor Housing Allow	14,082	15,240	15,941
Assoc Pastor Benefits and other	47,963	50,469	55,225
Admin Asst Salary	35,171	35,786	39,176
Admin Asst Benefits and other	5,478	5,260	5,543
Part-Time Staff	5,952	-	-
Janitor	3,377	4,012	5,426
	<u>240,996</u>	<u>248,919</u>	<u>269,332</u>
Synod Mission Support	35,183	61,934	33,600
Other Benevolence	1,939	1,310	1,500
Office & Admin	14,484	15,521	14,465
Church Utilities, Repairs & Maint	45,162	29,162	21,900
Parsonage Expenses	7,180	21,174	5,350
	<u>103,948</u>	<u>129,101</u>	<u>76,815</u>
Church in Society	1,974	3,068	3,400
Evangelism	1,659	2,116	2,150
Worship and Music	16,262	17,424	18,810
Parish Education	2,651	3,646	7,650
Stewardship	2,847	2,270	2,800
Youth Ministry	3,055	4,424	5,925
Outreach/Social Ministry	10,523	10,633	10,276
Fellowship	352	182	400
Other	4,242	4,729	5,200
	<u>43,565</u>	<u>48,492</u>	<u>56,611</u>
Total Expense	388,509	426,512	402,759
Excess/(To be funded by prior unspent mission support)	\$ 982	\$ 225,662	\$ (22,002)

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Confident in God's generosity and gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us praise God and give thanks ...

God, we praise you and give you thanks.

You are good, and your mercy endures forever.

You gave us a garden with good food to eat.

We praise you for food that nourishes us.

You rescued your people from slavery.

We praise you for freedom.

You gave us prophets to correct, rebuke and encourage us.

We bless you for your justice and mercy.

You gave us your Son, Jesus, to love, redeem and save us.

We praise you for his death and resurrection.

You gave us your Holy Spirit to be our Advocate and Comforter.

We bless you for the gifts of every tribe and nation.

Strengthen your church with every spiritual gift

and commission us again to be your servant people.

Multiply in us the fruit of the spirit:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Send us in your love and mercy,

that the world may know you and praise you.

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts, and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit- it blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 840

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Cathering Winkworth, 1827-1878

Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you are the giver of every good gift. Bless us with all that we need for ministry in your name, that we might be a blessing to others. In the name of the one who broke bread and fed the multitudes, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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 [LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA](https://www.lutheran.org/SOFIA).



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America