

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



# 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 signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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 Report of the Congregation  
for the Year 2022**

**Submitted at the Annual Congregation Meeting  
February 19, 2023**

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# AGENDA

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## MISSION AND VISION AT SAINT PETER

*The following Mission and Vision statements were revised in 2022 thanks to the work of the Transition Team. See page 9 for more information.*

### **Our Mission: Welcomed and Sent**

Saint Peter Lutheran Church revolves around two key convictions: We are welcomed...and we are sent. We are welcomed into God's love, just as we are. We are sent into God's world to be a reflection of Christ.

#### **We believe we are welcomed...**

- just as we are – with no need to prove ourselves or earn God's love (and with no fear of being judged by others)
- because we are all God's creation and equally loved by God regardless age, sex, nationality, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental ability, political stance or theological perspective
- into a living relationship with Jesus Christ and each other
- into the peace that comes from knowing God through Christ
- into this particular intergenerational community of faith we call "Saint Peter Lutheran Church"

#### **We believe we are sent...**

- to be a reflection of the love received from God
- to offer ourselves in service to those who are in need
- to reach out with compassion to those who are in pain
- to be a steward of the earth and an advocate for those needing justice
- to live generously with what God has entrusted to us

### **Our Vision**

Boldly sharing Christ's love, we are a welcoming church community focused on supportive relationships, vibrant worship and transforming faith into action.

### **Our Values**

#### **We are Biblically Grounded.**

- Saint Peter understands itself as the body of Christ, continuing our Lord's mission and presence in this community (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:4 - 13:13).
- Saint Peter reaches out to the world, seeking to share with others the faith that has touched our hearts and shaped our lives (Saint Matthew 28:16-20).
- Saint Peter takes its theological heritage seriously, and seeks both to understand it, and apply it to daily living (Saint Matthew 13:44-52).
- Saint Peter is committed to touching the hurts and the needs of the world, both within and outside of our community of faith (Saint Matthew 25:31-46).

#### **We Are Mission Driven.**

- Saint Peter is clear about its vision for ministry and focused on the mission it believes God has entrusted to it. Clarity of vision and mission enables congregational leaders to spend more time and energy on pursuing that mission, and less on peripheral matters.

**We Are Prayer Centered.**

- Saint Peter believes in the power of prayer and understands how important it is to surround any significant venture with prayer, entrusting the outcome to God.

**We Are Gifts Based.**

- Saint Peter's ministry is shaped by the gifts that God has given to its participants. People are not recruited to "fill empty positions" in the church's structure. They are encouraged to know their gifts and passions and find ways to serve that make use of them.

**We Nurture a Permission Giving Environment.**

- Every participant at Saint Peter is responsible to study and understand the congregation's mission. Based on that understanding, and working from their individual gifts and passions, they have permission to initiate and participate in ministries that promote Saint Peter's mission. Congregational leaders help individuals shape their ministries to best fit the congregation's mission, provide the training and support necessary to ensure their success, and find resources to allow their ministries to thrive.



# DISCIPLESHIP AT SAINT PETER

We have chosen to focus on Five Habits of Discipleship in our efforts to be faithful to God's claim on our lives. What follows is a description of these habits. Our hope is that these descriptions might provide a better understanding of what it is we are trying to accomplish, and a picture of how it might look in the lives of those who practice these habits.

## Daily Prayer and Bible Study

- A disciple of Jesus Christ is one who has a daily discipline of studying God's Word, and spending time with God in prayer. Studying the Bible can be a transforming experience, as we come to know God's word and God's will; likewise, with the discipline of prayer. As we spend intentional time each day in prayer, lifting up our fears and joys, our triumphs and defeats, we find that our spirit is strengthened and our relationship with God is deepened. We become more able to hear the still small voice of God that speaks to us.

## Weekly Worship

- A disciple of Jesus Christ is one who makes regular worship with God's people a central component in the rhythm of life. In worship we hear the words of absolution as if coming from God's own voice, Christ meets us in word and meal, the promises of our baptism are reaffirmed, and we join together with our brothers and sisters in faith and offer ourselves to God – that we might become instruments of love and grace and renewal for others. Worship is the lifeblood of a Christian, and so we commit ourselves to worshipping every week, and to preparing ourselves ahead of time.

## Generous Financial Support of Ministry

- A disciple of Jesus Christ makes use of wealth to accomplish great things for the sake of the Gospel. The call to generosity, ultimately, is a call to obey the first commandment. We are to fear, love, and trust in God above all things (according to Martin Luther's Small Catechism). And so, disciples of Jesus develop habits of generosity to guard against the possibility of trusting too much in our wealth. Generosity is not a burden that is imposed upon the Christian. It is the opportunity to say "thank you" to God, who has already provided so much, in that there is great joy, and a deep sense of meaning.

## Community Service

- A disciple of Jesus Christ is one who understands that servanthood is a central component of the faithful life. One cannot be a disciple of Jesus without seeking to love and serve others as he did. At Saint Peter, we promote a minimum goal of one act of community service each month. Our lives become more Christ-like as we discover a purpose outside of ourselves.

## Faith Nurture in a Small Group or Faith Partnership

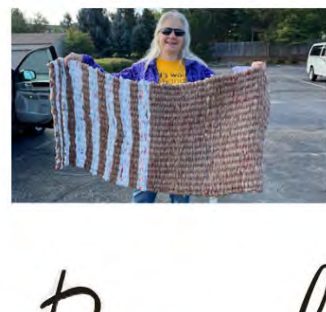
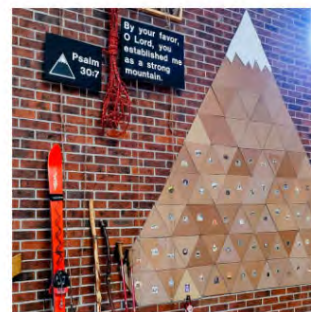
- A disciple of Jesus Christ is one who gathers with others to support and strengthen another for faithfulness. Making the commitment to grow with others often provides the discipline that we need to grow ourselves. At Saint Peter, active members belong to a small group or a ministry team, teach a Sunday school class, or meet with a faith partner for support and encouragement.

We have many ministry teams at Saint Peter. Some of them fit within one of the five habits, and others of them cross over to address numerous habits. In the following section, these Ministry Teams are listed in order of the Discipleship Habit to which they most closely relate.

†

# 2022

## STPLC YEAR IN REVIEW



*Beyond Grateful!*

# MINISTRY REPORTS

## Ministry Reports: Pastoral Transition

### Transition Team

Members: Pam Haigh, Adam Hass, Terri Mohrhaus, Walt Meyer, Dave Strezo, Allison Summerton (Transition Team Leader) and Pastor Michael Mortvedt

The Transition Committee facilitated 12 Coffee and Conversation sessions after church on Sundays and on Zoom on Wednesdays to hear individuals and families share their hopes and desires for StPLC. In addition, members of the committee personally interviewed regularly attending members and those who have not attended recently.

We also hosted a small-group discussion with young adults. The conversations focused on the core values of our community, a new vision statement, a revised mission statement, how we manage conflict and a final discussion on what are the church's strengths and what resources we need to work toward our Vision and Mission.

Much of what we learned in the conversations was incorporated into the Ministry Site Profile. The vision statement that was developed during the process is a new vision statement for StPLC. We updated the mission statement to include inclusive language and to express our desire to transform our faith into action to serve and advocate for those in need.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allison Summerton

†

### Call Team

Members: Darlene Beals, Nate Gerhart, Steve Haigh, Brittany Hass, Gerry Rasel, Lynn Sherpe, Dave Strezo and Sharon Stokes (Call Team Chair)

On October 15, 2022, the Transition Committee handed off the sacred journey to pray, discern and identify the next Minister of Word and Sacrament for Saint Peter Lutheran Church. The Call Team used the well-developed Ministry Site Profile (MSP) from the Transition Committee to match to hopeful pastoral candidates presented by the Rocky Mountain Synod. A special thank-you goes to the members of the Call Team.

Over the past few months, the Call Team met weekly and sometimes multiple times to pray, plan, vet candidates, interview candidates (Zoom and in-person), to discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to reflect. Their service during the holiday time was remarkable! At each step this team has moved forward in unity resolving even difficult issues at times. Due to the high level of confidentiality required to protect pastoral candidates that may be currently serving other churches, the Call Team continually asked for your prayers, support and trust as we worked in silence!! Thank you for your grace and understanding on this journey.

As this report is submitted, the Call Team has presented a candidate to the Council for consideration. The future for Saint Peter in 2023 and beyond is bright and has many opportunities ahead.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Stokes (Team Chair)

†



## **Ministry Reports: Prayer & Study**

### **Contemplative Ministries**

Leadership members: Bethany Laurie and Jeanne Maloney

Contemplative Ministries (CM) at Saint Peter continued to expand opportunities for meditation and contemplative prayer to members in 2022. Beginning in January and continuing on to Lent, CM offered weekly meditation and contemplative prayer practices. CM became a part of outreach for Saint Peter as friends and family of current members began to join the weekly meditations.

For Lent 2022, CM created an original contemplative series focused on the theme, "Led By the Spirit In the Wilderness." Take-away bags were created for participants to use throughout Lent in their prayer practice and to create their own sacred space. These "Contemplation Kits" contained a meditation journal, prayer cross, candle and altar cloth. Thirty kits were created and used by members, friends and families!

In 2022, Contemplative Ministries also collaborated with other groups at Saint Peter. Notably, CM partnered with the Saint Peter Faith in Action Team and prepared meditations and prayers to accompany the Fourth Friday Film series offered during the summer.

CM is grateful for the contributions of Pastor Michael and his valuable instruction on Centering Prayer for the Fall meditation series.

For Advent 2022, CM offered a series of meditations and opportunities for contemplation in preparation for the Christmas celebration using liturgies from *Every Moment Holy* by Douglas McElvoy.

As we enter into 2022, CM has already established Monday Morning Meditations via Zoom, reaching on average 10+ participants each week, including several participants from the community outside of Saint Peter. CM is currently planning a Lenten meditation series, contemplative retreats and ongoing opportunities for members to connect to Saint Peter through CM as well as collaboration with other Saint Peter ministries in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bethany Laurie and Jeanne Maloney

†

### **Catechism**

Leaders: Pastor Michael Mortvedt and Nate Gerhart

The past school year was a tough year for Catechism, between Pastor Dave departing mid-year and having to juggle a combination of fully remote and hybrid lessons. While we weren't able to participate in as many community activities (service projects, fellowship, retreats) as we might have in a normal year, we did start the return to a new normalcy.

We couldn't have done it without the help of our parents. Dawn Brodin, Jody and Mark Hinsey made up the core of the leadership team with other parents taking on special projects along the way. The school year ended with a bang. We were blessed to have both Pastor Vera and Pastor Michael lead us through an incredible Affirmation of Baptism service for Daley Harnett, Charlie Hinsey and Maiah Howie on April 24, 2022.

This fall we started off another year of Catechism, with Pastor Michael and I teaming up to lead the lessons on non-LIFT Sundays each month. We are blessed to be able to meet in person this year and have had a few more opportunities to safely gather for service and fellowship. As we settle into the new-normal, I look forward to the ever-increasing opportunities we will have to gather the youth for fellowship and service events. I am grateful for the inspiration and guidance that Pastor Michael has brought to the program this year and am excited for what our next pastor will bring.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nate Gerhart for the Catechism Team

†



## **Prayer Team**

Leader: Karen Clair

In February 2020 my good friend's daughter, who was only seven years old, passed away from a lung infection. This is when the HOLY SPIRIT called me to action to make a huge effort to hold ALL in need of prayer close to me. So, I began rallying many of you to write notes to folks on the prayer list. Remember me back in early 2020 in the Narthex on the high-top tables with pen in hand? Then, thanks to COVID, the Saint Peter prayer list became a little longer than usual. Given that combination, the Saint Peter Prayer Team organically formed and has sent 1250 notes (to date) to Saint Peter members and friends who needed extra prayers.

I appreciate ALL of my PRAYER WARRIORS whether it be writing a note or taking a moment for a thoughtful PRAYER. Please reach out if you have any questions about joining the PRAYER TEAM!

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Clair

†

## **Ministry Reports: Worship**

### **Altar Guild**

Leader: Jan McGaw

Participants: Susan Greene, Pam Haigh, Shelly Hunter, Deb Paul, Pam Prichard, Gerry Rasel, Brooke Tieperman and Valerie Watkins

Altar Guild Purpose Statement: We will maintain the Altar for all worship services.

Summary of Ministry & Special Events in 2022: Altar Guild adjusted to the needs of everyone during COVID and when we started meeting in person with no limit on attendance. We would like to thank Kay Gerhart for doing our linens. Our responsibilities include taking care of baptisms, candles, flowers and paraments.

Vision and Objectives for 2023: We will work hand in hand with the new pastor. We welcome anyone who would like to join our fabulous team.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet McGaw

†

### **D.E.S.I.G.N. Team (Decorate Everything Simply in God's Name)**

Leader: Valerie Watkins

Team: Jan McGaw, Karen Clair, Pam Pritchard, Linda O'Bryan, Deb Paul, Brooke Tieperman, Lynn Sherpe and Dolly Bunke

Our team, with assistance from members of the congregation, decorated and "de"decorated for the Advent and Christmas season, and we continued to provide appropriate liturgical colors throughout the year.

#### **Vision and Objections for 2023**

In 2023, we will continue to use visual imagery to reflect the seasons of worship with the primary focus on the Worship Center. A long-standing goal is to get a large reversal white banner that could be used on different "white" Sundays such as Holy Trinity and The Transfiguration of our Lord. Short-term goal is to evaluate how to be inclusive to others, including youth. Our focus is on the Easter and Christmas Seasons.

Special recognition to Verna Leighton for her long-time service to the D.E.S.I.G.N. team. We will miss her contributions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Watkins †

## Technology Team

Members: Annie Heath, Chuck Baker, Rick Brydum, Steve Howie and Will Beals

In early 2022 we were just getting started with our hybrid service support, allowing folks to participate as much as possible online along with the regular in-person service. For the year we have been fine tuning that process. As COVID cases and their severity has continued to decline after the winter 2021 surge, we were not sure how many people would continue participating online and we have been surprised how well attended it is. Whether it be due to a "family bug", folk traveling, or even in hospital, the "Zoom crowd" has continued to be strong, generally about one third of our total attendance.

The two big team changes have been Rick going full-time remote from Durango and Steve re-joining from either Denver or Kansas. While you don't see them in church, both are regular and full participants in the team. Rick shares slide creation duties with Will as well as being Zoom host while Steve manages the sound mix for the Zoom folk, something a lot more involved now that the service has live music. Annie, Chuck and Will juggle the in-house chores of Sanctuary sound, Zoom cameras and slide presentations. We have enough cross training that with any one of us out we are OK, we just need a pinch hitter on slides and for that we want to thank Dave Mohrhaus and Darlene Beals for filling in. In the rare cases when two these two folks are out, we have a "plan B" mode where the online service isn't quite as good.

For 2023, now that we are confident in how to run a hybrid service, it is time to get our spaces more organized and less visible and cluttered. We acquired the old cry room for tech purposes. So far we have just consolidated our equipment storage from many places to just there. Our big goal for early this year is to get some cabinetry to tidily organize and store everything. We also plan to move the video equipment into the tech room, freeing up sanctuary space and visible clutter. Stretch goals include an extra camera to enhance the online experience, upgrading a few pieces of audio equipment to be more flexible handling sanctuary setting changes and some higher quality vocal microphones.

Don't forget to stop by the station in the Narthex on the way in and out of service to say "hi" to the online folks!

Respectfully submitted,  
Annie, Chuck, Rick, Steve and Will

†

## Ministry Reports: Generosity

### Ron Leighton Memorial Scholarship Committee

Leaders: Ken Gerhart and Lori Williams

The Saint Peter Scholarship Committee invited applications for the Ron Leighton Memorial Scholarship during the Spring of 2022. All submitted applications were reviewed. Following the Committee's process which includes an application and essay review, candidate interview and reference check, we were thrilled to award Ron Leighton Memorial Scholarships to two qualified and very deserving candidates. Both Chelsea Ackman and Claire Koenig impressed the committee with their personal faith story, deep moral grounding, outstanding integrity, caring leadership, their ability to remain true to themselves and their self-confidence.

May God continue to bless these young women who are strong role models for their peers! We wish them the absolute best in their future endeavors.

We are looking forward to the 2023 scholarship year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Gerhart and Lori Williams

†

## **Stephen Ministries**

Leaders: Sharon Stokes, Bruce Stokes and Lynn Sherpe

Active Ministers: Carol Mayor, Janet McGaw, Valerie Watkins, Dick Watkins, Jim Bunke and Mary Pratt

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-on-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness and/or stress associated with living through a global pandemic. In 2022, each member committed to making Care Calls. Many of us also wrote notes to and called those on the Prayer List as well as distributed 47 *Journeying Through Grief* books and 7 prayer shawls to those who are struggling. The team also was active in making home, hospital and hospice visits.

In 2023, we will continue our work as lay ministers. We hope to offer trainings and skill-based classes to those interested in Stephen Ministry work themselves.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Stokes, Sharon Stokes and Lynn Sherpe

†

## **Saint Peter Stitchers**

Saint Peter Stitchers Leader: Susan Greene

Participants who attended Saturday morning gatherings: Darlene Beals, Jane Dumler, Stephanie Guthals, Beth Pasterkamp, Janet Pasterkamp and Vicky Simpson. Several others participate by knitting/crocheting at home.

The Saint Peter Stitchers met monthly in 2022. The Stitchers ministry provides prayer shawls and blankets to celebrate baptisms and to those grieving or experiencing illness or other life struggles. Our prayer shawls and blankets provide warmth and comfort and are accompanied by a special prayer offering support. Nine prayer shawls and blankets (2 were baptismal blankets) were distributed by the church office to Saint Peter members, their families and friends in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Greene

†

## **Ministry Reports: Community Service**

### **Faith in Action**

Faith in Action Leadership members: Brittany Hass, Shelly Hunter, Sara Lancaster, Bethany Laurie, Jeanne Maloney, Mary Pratt, Lynn Sherpe, Sharon Stokes, Allison Summerton and Janet Weinz

The Faith in Action team hosted a Fourth Friday Film series throughout the summer. Thanks to Bethany Laurie for the hospitality of her beautiful backyard. It was a nice combination of fellowship and an opportunity to explore important social issues. The discussions centered around: Native Americans' food sovereignty, the environment and homelessness. The final gathering was on Afghanistan and the families that Saint Peter sponsors were our special guest. They provided authentic Afghan food for us to try and shared their personal stories. FIA led a clean-up of the Highline Canal and took the lead on this year's God's work. Our hands.

The Faith in Action team remains committed to our vision statement moving into 2023 and looks forward to working with our new pastor on exciting ways to engage the congregation. If you'd like to get involved in this ministry, please reach out to any of the members.

### **FIA Vision Statement**

- Sparking Conversation With All
- Fostering Curiosity Among All
- Embodying God's Love For All

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Maloney †

## **“God’s work. Our hands.”**

2022 leaders: Jeanne Maloney and Sara Lancaster

2023 leaders: OPEN

In 2022, God’s work. Our hands. (GWOH) at Saint Peter wasn’t one day of service. It was seven weeks! The team kicked things off on Sunday, August 28, with a special Worship Service and an equally special Mission Fair in the Narthex.

The fair featured science-fair type displays on housing, hunger, immigration/refugees and the environment sharing information on the subjects and thoughts on how us Lutherans can do our part. The goal this year with the science fair theme was to offer more than just service projects, it was to raise awareness around the systemic issues behind the need for the service projects. In all, there were 15+ service projects folks could participate in including composting at home, weaving sleeping mats out of used plastic grocery bags, a visit to Casa de Paz, Christ in the City and The Delores Project as well as an afternoon on the Highline Canal cleaning up litter.

Thank you to all who participated and made this annual Lutheran-wide tradition a rich one. If you enjoy GWOH or have ideas on how Saint Peter Lutheran Church might recognize the event next year, please consider leading the event.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Maloney and Sara Lancaster

†

## **Ministry Reports: Small Groups**

### **Chick Lit**

Leaders: Lori Williams and Heather Dahms

Resilient is only one word to describe Chick Lit! During 2022, Chick Lit pivoted and met either exclusively via Zoom or inclusive of both in-person and Zoom on the third Thursday of each month. Chick Lit gathered to share thoughts, insight, feelings and yes most often laughter while discussing the Chick Lit book of the month – and we read some wonderful books!

This vital ministry is enjoyed by several enthusiastic readers whose love for literature spans generations and genres. Each year Chick Lit reads 11 member-suggested and voted for books, including both fiction and non-fiction, then gathers monthly to discuss that particular month’s book. It is heart-warming to share thoughts and personal experiences inspired by literature.

This December, we gathered once more at a brunch to select our 2023 book list. We continue to support and encourage one another through life’s adventures, joys and sorrows, while friendships rooted in words continue to blossom and thrive.

It is never too late to join! Members and friends alike of Saint Peter Lutheran Church are invited to participate in Chick Lit gatherings, held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Please contact Lori Williams or Heather Dahms for a copy of the 2023 book list, and for specific information regarding meeting logistics in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Williams and Heather Dahms

†



## **ALL Daughters (formerly known as Church Chicks)**

Leaders: Karen Clair and Dori Babcock

Participants: Ladies of Saint Peter Lutheran Church

Purpose Statement: To love and honor God and each other through fellowship, fervent and daily prayer, and as stewards and caregivers to each other and our world. Church Chicks ministry is for all women at Saint Peter Lutheran Church; women are not only invited but encouraged to join this thriving and growing ministry, to take on a leadership role and to be connected to God and to each other!

Church Chicks just completed its twelfth year of ministry. The group was formed in response to the interest of the women at Saint Peter to enjoy times of fellowship with other sisters in Christ and to share our love of God in service and prayer.

### Summary of Ministries and Actions 2022:

- We continued the standing tradition of Secret Prayer Sisters. Since COVID still has a hold on our society we had a strong pull to reiterate that the Secret Prayer Sisters are really focusing on PRAYER and it was fun to share many gifts in previous years but, with many SISTERS worshipping online we knew the mailboxes at church would not be the perfect drop off site. So, our participating SISTERS were sent red felt hearts to have a visual reminder to pray for their sisters as often as possible, and of course, drop them an old-fashioned card in the mail from time to time.
- The 2022 budget for ALL Daughters was put toward purchasing hand warmers for the people on the streets of Denver. Lynn Sherpe shopped for the best deal and then Mary Pratt took them to the organization Christ in the City. They were distributed at Francis Benedict Park on January 14, 2023. A total of 7 boxes containing 80 hand warmers were distributed. That's 560 hand warmers!!! Such a beautiful and generous gift from the women at StPLC.
- The 2022 leadership had a bit of a sporadic feel due to Karen and Dori having had very trying personal years. Please bear with us as we try to keep this ministry strong for the ladies of Saint Peter. We have a quarterly plan to honor our LORD in focusing on serving the people on the streets of Denver in 2023, which includes collecting hand warmers, socks, gloves and backpacks. If you would like to get involved, please reach out.

May God continue to bless the women of Saint Peter Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Clair and Dori Babcock

†

## **Men's Group**

Leader: Steve Haigh

The Men's Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at a nearby tavern, on a member's patio or a local park. Ninety-minute gatherings usually start at 5:30 p.m. and are dedicated to fellowship. After skipping our annual ALL Daughters Mother's Day event 2020-2022, we're hopeful of resuming the event in May 2023 at the church. All are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Haigh

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## **Ministry Reports: Administrative**

### **Evangelism Team**

Leader: Open

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### **Nominating Committee Report**

We are grateful that Robyn Glaser, Steve Haigh and Gerry Rasel are willing to be nominated to serve their second terms through February 2025. Bruce Stokes' term ended October 15, 2022, and Cathy Bunch's term will end February 2023 and is not eligible to be reelected.

On behalf of the congregation, we would like to offer our words of gratitude to Bruce Stokes and Cathy Bunch who have faithfully served God as members of our Congregation Council, and whose service will end at this Annual Congregation Meeting. We are very grateful for their service and look forward to the new ways they will put their gifts to work through this congregation in years to come.

We are pleased to nominate Cathy Dundon, Steve Leighton and Jerry Paul for their first 2-year term.

Cathy Dundon grew up Lutheran in Omaha, Nebraska, and moved to Minneapolis/St. Paul for graduate school, where she met her husband, John. Their family moved from Minnesota in 2008 and joined Saint Peter in 2011. Currently, she is a biotechnology patent agent and a co-owner of a tax and bookkeeping business (Taxpayer Advocacy Services, Inc.) with John. They have two children, Hank (a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student at CSU in the College of Agriculture) and Amelia (a senior at Cherry Creek High School). She has previously served on the Saint Peter Congregational Council as the Congregational Secretary and as a member-at-large. She has also participated on the Stewardship committee during several Stewardship Appeals.

Steve Leighton is a lifelong Lutheran and Financial Systems Manager for the First Advantage Corporation. He met the lovely wife, Mrs. Leighton (Denise), in 1986 and they were married four years later. Steve and Denise have two wonderful children, Kyle and Stephanie, and have a new grandchild, Clara Lee Crews, who was born in October 2022. Steve and Denise moved to Colorado in 2016 to be closer to Mom and Dad (Ron and Verna Leighton) and became members of Saint Peter in February 2017. Steve sings in the church choir and loves to play the guitar in the church band when he can. His favorite thing about Saint Peter is the love that binds this community together and the incredible ways that Saint Peter reaches out to share that love and serve our community and the world.

Jerry Paul and his wife, Deb, have been members since moving here from Chicago in 1994. High school sweethearts, they will celebrate their 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary this August. Jerry and Deb have two adult children and five grandchildren including, Mila and Ava, who you've likely seen around Saint Peter. Deb and Jerry have always thought of the people of Saint Peter as extended family, and they are excited as the congregation takes these next steps forward.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allison Summerton

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### **Property Team**

Property Team Leadership members: Steve Haigh, Dave Prichard, Jerry Paul and David Kleberger

Under Dave Prichard's leadership, our landscaping has never looked better. The hard work pays off, but following a good plan pays off better. Professionals help us keep the trees healthy, the grass cut and weeds under control. At other times, we schedule general cleanup days to trim bushes and tidy up flower beds. We extend our thanks to all who helped in 2022 and look forward to the beautiful days ahead.

## Here are some of our accomplishments during the year:

- Repaired and replaced Pella window hardware.
- Finalized conversion of parking lot lamps to LED.
- Cut access to crawl space in Fellowship Hall to ease the work of HVAC maintenance crews.
- Reorganized and cleaned the garage (thanks, Valerie Watkins).
- Maintained 15-person van, with help of Dick Watkins' son, Pete.

## 2023 plans and wishes:

- Repaint the external metal trim, in particular those surfaces facing south.
- Remove overgrown junipers behind the garage.
- Treat crabapple trees for fire blight.
- Marshal funds to cover the labyrinth courtyard with sail shades.
- Continue saving for parking lot replacement.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve, Dave, Jerry, David

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## Stewardship Team

Participants: Darlene Beals, Jim Bunke, Cathy Dundon, Sara Lancaster, Pastor Michael Mortvedt, Shawn O'Keefe and Lynn Sherpe

The StPLC Stewardship Team is so grateful for all the participation and positive feedback for the 2023 Stewardship Campaign. Unlike previous years when the Stewardship Team asked for a dollar amount from the congregation, we asked for a simple commitment of any kind: giving, not giving, an increase or decrease in giving. We simply wanted participation.

Our goal was to receive 92 Statement of Intent cards and we received 93!

The inspiration behind the campaign theme – “Climbing to the Mountain Top” – is the fact that the best views come after the hardest climbs. In other words, we knew things felt different amid a pastoral transition, which made the commitments received even more inspiring.

## 2019 – 2023 Stewardship Campaign Summary

Year	(1) Total Actual Congregational Revenue	(2) Total Actual Pledged Revenue	(3) Total Pledges Commitments	(4) Total # of Pledges Received
2019	\$625,600	\$542,800	\$499,700	98
2020	\$610,500	\$531,000	\$551,000	99
2021	\$574,600	\$485,300	\$504,400	89
2022	\$529,000	\$429,000	\$422,750	70
2023			\$445,000	93

(1) Total Actual Revenue (All General Fund Revenue): Pledged Mission Support, Non-pledged Mission Support, Easter/Christmas, Miscellaneous Income (Facility Use, AmazonSmiles, Thrivent Choice, Loose offering), SBA PPP (2020 and 2021 only), Interest Income (\$/year)

(2) Total Actual Pledged Revenue Received: Member pledges, Youth pledges, Non-member pledges (\$/year)

(3) Total Pledge Commitments: Member pledges, Youth pledges, Non-member pledges (\$/year)

(4) Pledges Received: Total number of Member pledges, Youth pledges, Non-member pledges

In the spring of 2023, the Stewardship Team will host another campaign focused on participation again, except this time more specifically around volunteering within the Saint Peter community. We need Worship Servants and choir singers, an Evangelism Team leader and more. We also hope to hold a special appeal in 2023 to help fund some needed property maintenance needs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Sherpe and Sara Lancaster †

## **Ministry Reports: Partners**

### **Christ In the City**

Saint Peter contact: Mary Pratt  
<https://christinthecity.org/>

Aims to know, serve and love the poor with a vision to create a culture of encounter. Saint Peter members are invited to donate items to our unhoused friends in Denver. Regular community meals are served when possible and volunteers are welcome.

At Saint Peter in 2022, we initiated a weaving project to provide sleeping mats for the unhoused by collecting and repurposing grocery bags. We joined with four area churches, Hope, Covenant, St. Gabriel and Cherry Creek Presbyterian in collecting materials for making mats. Plus, we received and distributed a generous donation of 400 peanut butter squeeze packs from Justin's of Boulder and a gift of 560 hand warmers from StPLC ALL Daughters that we were happy to provide to CIC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Pratt

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### **Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry**

Saint Peter contact: Laura Guthals  
<http://covcupboard.org/>

Hosted by Presbyterian Church of the Covenant and supported also by Good Shepherd Episcopal Church and Saint Peter Lutheran Church.

Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry continues to serve many families experiencing food insecurity in the metro Denver area with the help of numerous volunteers from StPLC. We added 210 new families to our rolls. In all, our services provided food for 24,174 individuals over the last year. More info: [covcupboard.org](http://covcupboard.org)

Ways to help:

- Sign up for Friday morning or afternoon shifts for our distribution day at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084aabab28a1f58-2023#/>
- Thursdays to set up desserts and bread received with donations.
- Weekly or occasional pickups from grocery stores or restaurants.
- Assist with grant writing or setting up a 501(c)3 organization (currently under the Presbyterian Church).

Contact Laura Guthals (303) 641-5645/[guthals@msn.com](mailto:guthals@msn.com) with questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Guthals

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### **Covenant Cupboard Toy Drive**

Saint Peter contact: Shelly Hunter and Vicky Simpson

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### **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

<https://elca.org/>

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## **Holy Hammers/Habitat for Humanity**

Saint Peter contact: Adam and Brittany Hass

<https://www.habitatmetrodenver.org/our-supporters/faith-sponsors/holy-hammers/>

### Highlights from 2022

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver (HFHMD) made a lot of progress building Aria Denver, a group of 28 new homes near Regis University. Saint Peter members participated in at least three build days within 2022. The Holy Hammers group voted to commit its 2022 tithe to a fund supporting clean water and flood resilience in Ethiopia. The second annual Holy Hammers Hustle for Habitat fundraiser walk was held in May in Cottonwood Park. Adam built a simple website for Holy Hammers and periodically updated it throughout the year.

### Hopes for 2023

In 2023, HFHMD will break ground on a group of eight new homes on property donated by Augustana Lutheran Church, as well as continuing to work on the Aria project. We hope to increase the number of volunteer days in which Saint Peter members participate in 2023, as we recover from COVID restrictions and pastoral transition. We will also be promoting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Holy Hammers Hustle for Habitat fundraiser walk this coming May.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam & Brittany Hass

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## **Lutheran Family Services**

<https://www.lfsrcm.org/>

Inspired by the compassionate love of Christ, Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains walks with the vulnerable, through services that heal, strengthen and provide hope.

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## **Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA**

<https://www.rmselfca.org/>

Find the 2022 RMS Annual Report here:

[https://rmselfca.org/sites/rmselfca.org/files/media/annual\\_report\\_2022.pdf](https://rmselfca.org/sites/rmselfca.org/files/media/annual_report_2022.pdf)

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## **Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp**

<http://www.rainbowtrail.org/>

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, just outside of Hillsdale, Colorado, is an outreach ministry of the Rocky Mountain Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is a year-round ministry that offers an extensive summer camping program that includes on-site programs for all ages as well as Compass Points outdoor adventure program for Junior High and Senior High youth and Bridging Borders mission trips designed for Senior High youth. In addition, Rainbow Trail offers retreating opportunities for the other nine months of the year including sponsored confirmation retreats, men's Fly-Fishing retreats, church worker training events and family weekends amongst other retreat opportunities.

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## Tanzania Mission Support

Saint Peter Contacts: Terri Mohrhaus, Carol Mayer and Valerie Watkins

This could have been a difficult year for our Tanzanian medical missions. First, Pastor Dave, who was instrumental in connecting us to these ministries, retired at the end of 2021. We have seen our numbers drop since the beginning of the pandemic. Then in February, our dear friend, Dr. Mark Jacobson, lost his battle with glioblastoma. Despite this, our support has remained strong!

In May, we were fortunate to be able to host Sarah Rejman from The Plaster House as she traveled to Denver. The “tea” was well attended by Saint Peter members as well as a few visitors from other Lutheran congregations.

We held our 14<sup>th</sup> annual 5K Run/Walk on September 10 as part of our participation in “God’s work. Our hands.” We enjoyed fellowship and excellent food from Msosi Kenyan Cuisine, live music from the Saint Peter Worship Band and kids’ activities planned by Miss Mary and her crew. For the first time, the weather did not cooperate very well, and we had to move everything inside except the walk/run due to cold, rainy conditions. Even then, we had excellent participation. By the end of the year, we exceeded last year’s donations and had a total of \$18,615.29 to disburse. In consultation with Linda Jacobson, we made the following disbursements:

- \$1000 through Global Health Ministries as our commitment to be a Selian (Hospice) Sustaining Sponsor.
- \$2000 through Operation Bootstrap Africa to fund two scholarships to the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre (ALMC) School of Nursing.
- \$2000 through Operation Bootstrap Africa to the Mark and Linda Jacobson Endowment Fund (to support medical school students and medical specialty training).
- \$3000 to The Plaster House to fund surgeries for children, as well as their pre- and post-operative care.
- \$10,615.29 to the Foundation for Cancer Care at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (to be shared 50/50 between their general fund and the brain cancer initiative).

What does the future hold? You may have noticed that we have renamed our branding from “Selian Lutheran Hospital” to “Tanzanian Mission Support” because the scope of our participation has widened over the years and because it has become more difficult to make direct donations to Selian Hospital/ALMC through the synod in Tanzania. Linda Jacobson has expressed a desire to visit Saint Peter sometime in 2023 to give us an update on all the missions we support. A date for our next 5K has yet to be determined. If you have a special place in your heart for these incredible ministries, please consider joining us as we start planning for 2023.

Thank you for your support over the past 14 years!

Terri Mohrhaus

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## **Village Resource Center**

Saint Peter contact: Sharon Stokes (VRC Treasurer)

<https://www.hopechangeslives.org/partners/village-resource-center/>

This Greenwood Village area church partnership continued its mission to keep families in their homes in 2022! In all, there are six churches in the partnership. Continuing to innovate, the VRC is now able to deliver applications online as needed. Our new case manager in January 2022, Tara W., brought new skills helpful in creating a dynamic website for VRC, its potential clients, partner churches and new donors! The new website is live now and will be a helpful tool in the future to reach more families.

In 2022, the VRC aided more than 61 families with direct financial assistance; total rent/mortgage aid amounted to over \$28,000! Countless others were referred to other community partners when needed. With continued financial support in 2023, VRC will continue to aid families and serve the community to the best of its ability.

In 2023, the VRC Board will look to add additional community partners as the client base grows. Stay tuned to see how you can help in 2023 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Stokes

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## **Vitalant**

Saint Peter contact: Karen Clair

<https://www.vitalant.org/>

Saint Peter partners with multiple area churches to put on regular community blood drives. However, this year those were put on hold due to COVID. Vitalant is still hosting blood drives. Donors are in GREAT demand. Please try to find time to donate whole blood or plates it won't take too much time out of your day. If you can't donate...find a replacement!

Keep an eye out for a big blood drive in 2023...someone will be celebrating a BIG (60<sup>th</sup>) birthday and will be calling on ALL of you to participate in her celebration!

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# CONGREGATIONAL OFFICER REPORTS

## Report From the Secretary of the Congregation

### **Minutes of Saint Peter Lutheran Church's Annual Congregation Meeting February 27, 2022**

President Bruce Stokes called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Council Secretary, Steve Haigh, reported that attendance (50 in-person, 35 Zoom) satisfied the quorum requirement of 45 voting members.

Bridge Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward led devotions. She encouraged the community to "choose life and to cultivate an attitude of positivity. ... I invite you to live well and positively. ... Choose well, my new friends. Choose life in Jesus."

Bruce praised Administrator, Lynn Sherpe, and Congregational Communications lead, Sara Lancaster, for their work on the 2021 annual report.

Council Vice President Allison Summerton, encouraged members to read all the ministry reports and thanked the leaders from ministries, including Cards, Care Calls, Tech Team, Music (instrumental and vocal), Design Team and Altar Guild. "We were not apart during this Covid," Allison said. "We were together."

Thanks went out also to Nate Gerhart for his contributions to the Catechism program; to Jeanne Maloney, and Karyl and Walt Meyer, for help with Wednesday Bible studies; and to the Congregational Council for giving financial support to the Village Resource Center.

Council members Jim Bunke, Allison Summerton (Vice President) and Shawn O'Keefe (Treasurer) were re-elected. Bruce announced that he was willing to delay the conclusion of his presidency, scheduled for the end of 2021, until the pastoral transition process was solidified. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to create the necessary constitutional exception to re-elect him.

Shawn kicked off discussion of the 2022 budget by thanking the congregation for their generosity and giving details about the 2021 financials. He called the end-of-year balance sheet "very strong," citing cash reserves and reduced expenses and contract costs.

Shawn and Bruce Stokes gave more details about the end-of-year financials and answered questions from the congregation.

Bruce Guthals asked about the difference in accounts payable balances from 2020 to 2021. Shawn answered with a description of pre-paid giving amortized across 2022.

Two other questions from Bruce Guthals:

- Why is there a zero balance in the music minister's 2021 Continuing Education fund? The unused CE funds for former Music Minister Steve Howie was moved to the Staff CE funds (to be used for education funds for rest of staff). It was also noted that \$1,500 was included in the 2022 budget for continuing education for our new Music Minister, Beryl Fanslow Wilson.
- Status of the HVAC project? Shawn explained that the council had decided to postpone completing the Phase 2 project for a couple of years, but had acquired a three-year, full-service warranty plan with Tolin Mechanical, the company hired to complete Phase 1.

Bruce Stokes moved on to review the balance sheet as of Dec. 31, 2021, our revenue and expenses for 2021 and our proposed budget for 2022.

- You can find the balance sheet as of December 31, 2021, on page 34 of the Annual Report.
- The first five lines of the assets represent liquid assets: checking, savings and investment accounts. They totaled \$285,594, a 45.1% increase from 2020.

- On the liabilities and fund balances side, designated funds totaled \$206,396, up 8.3%. The balance sheet lists 25 of these funds, which have been received for a specific purpose and are outside of our general operating funds.
- Liabilities included pre-paid giving toward 2022 of \$51,050 and our mortgage balance of \$489,916.
- For more details, see the Financial Secretary's report on page 40.
- Bruce Stokes then reviewed the proposed 2022 budget, which includes salary increases for staff and reduced benefit expenses for the pastor position, and more money for property expenses, in particular landscaping.
- Support for the Rocky Mountain Synod of 10% continues at 10% in 2022. Giving was reduced a percentage point in the 2021 budget.
- Vicki Simpson asked if the 2022 budget could handle staffing the nursery for young and old? Bruce responded that it's hard to say and that the future of nursery staffing might be up to the parents.
- From the Zoom chat, a question was asked about the building's air quality. Bruce responded that ionization units had been installed on all furnace units.
- Jeanne Maloney asked about salary for an interim pastor. Bruce said the interim pastor's salary likely would be \$10,000 a month for 10 months, including benefits and all expenses.
- Jeanne also asked if the church could pay benefits for staff members. Bruce said benefits would kick in if a staff member worked at least 30 scheduled hours a week.
- Jerry Paul moved for approval of the 2022 budget. Dave Prichard seconded. The budget motion was approved unanimously, including members' votes in the Zoom chat.

Valery Watkins rose to recognize Verna Leighton for her dedication and service to the church as a longtime leader of the Design Team. Verna was presented a bouquet and a standing ovation.

A motion to adjourn was seconded and approved, but before closing, Bruce repeated his thanks to Pastor Vera for her "right amount of spice," to the office staff, tech team, musicians and all the ministry leaders and teams and the congregation for its financial support. "Stick with us. Be involved," he urged.

He also announced that the council would be interviewing an interim pastor candidate the following Tuesday and that Allison Summerton was heading up the Transition Team still to be formed.

Pastor Vera said a prayer, and the annual meeting closed at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Steve Haigh  
 Saint Peter Council Secretary

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## **Report from the President of the Congregation**

**Resilience.** When I look back at the past few years and think about the challenges our community has experienced, I am awed by the resilience I have witnessed and continue to witness within Saint Peter Lutheran Church. Traditional definitions describe resilience as the ability to adapt, respond and to recover from challenging life experiences. In an interview, Richard Rohr discussed how resilience is a secular word for faith for “without a certain ability to let go, to trust, to allow, you don’t get to any new place”. Well, StPLC has progressed to a wonderful place of renewed hope and enthusiasm.

It is the acts of faith of Saint Peter members who provided online worship, delivered iPads to those who could not access online worship, who recorded and assembled worship music from remote locations, delivered Advent and Lent materials to families, provided contemplative reflections and Faith in Action studies throughout the pandemic and many more faith-filled, spirit-inspired loving acts that reflect the loving God who is with us always.

Upon Pastor Dave Risendal’s departure, we began a year of transition, and we were blessed to have Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward serve as our bridge pastor January through April 2022 and Pastor Michael Mortvedt serve as our interim pastor through April 2023. Pastor Michael and the Transition Team facilitated a series of conversations with the congregation over six months to rediscover a new and deepened sense of identity and purpose for the congregation and to identify values and skills for our next rostered minister.

The Call Team began their work in October with prayer, reflection and discernment to build on the work of the Transition Team and to identify a candidate who is best suited to lead StPLC into the future. The Call Team felt blessed and guided by the Holy Spirit in their growth as a team and in their candidate interviews. The Call Team presented their recommendation to the Council in January and the Council voted to present to the congregation Pastor Michael “Mike” Vinson for the position of Minister of Word and Sacrament for StPLC. The congregation will vote on Pastor Mike’s call on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Throughout this “Holy Time of Transition,” Saint Peter has been blessed to have Pastor Michael Mortvedt as our interim pastor and the entire StPLC staff who serve this community with dedication and love. Thank you to Lynn, Mary, Sara, Barb, Arielle and Beryl. The staff has enabled and supported our weekly worship, family and youth ministries, music ministries, pastoral and Stephen Minister visits to members, communication and outreach and services to the community. Our dedicated tech team enables StPLC to welcome almost a third of our Sunday service attendance online. Thank you to Will Beals, Chuck Baker, Annie Heath, Rick Brydum, Steve Howie, Darlene Beals and Dave Mohrhaus for your service.

We are grateful for the continued financial generosity of the congregation. Thank you to the staff (Lynn and Sara) and volunteers (Cathy Dundon, Darlene Beals, Shawn O’Keefe and Jim Bunke) who organized the 2023 Stewardship Appeal and achieved their goal of engagement, with 93 pledges! Thank you all, for the enhanced resources to empower StPLC to begin a new chapter in 2023!

Finally, I would like to offer a special thank you to Bruce and Sharon Stokes and Cathy Bunch. Bruce served as Council President for over two and a half years throughout the challenging time of the pandemic and the departure of Pastor Dave. Sharon led the Call Team with guidance of the Holy Spirit in prayerful discernment to select a new pastor for StPLC. Cathy Bunch served on the Council for over 5 years. Thank you, Bruce, Sharon and Cathy, for your faithful, steadfast and wise leadership.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Allison Summerton, Council President

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## Report from the Treasurer of the Congregation

### Balance Sheet

#### ASSETS

	<u>12/31/2022</u>	<u>12/31/2021</u>
1st National Bank-Checking	53,217	64,440
1st Natl Special Business MM	188,674	188,444
Mission Plus Investment	6,268	6,242
U.S. Bank	329	329
Mint Financial Strategies	23,418	26,140
Building & Related Costs	1,143,341	1,143,341
Land	98,750	98,750
Office Equipment	12,530	12,530
Furniture/Equip/Furnishings	306,021	306,021
Playground	16,087	16,087
Vehicles	22,648	22,648
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>1,871,283</u></b>	<b><u>1,884,972</u></b>

#### Liabilities and Fund Balances

<b>Accounts Payable</b>	<b>41,095</b>	<b>59,864</b>
Thrivent Mortgage	460,375	492,329
Continuing Education	3,353	7,189
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>463,727</b>	<b>499,519</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>504,822</b>	<b>559,382</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>1,131,697</b>	<b>1,102,464</b>
2023 Operating Expenses Fund	30,303	
Administrative Discretionary Fund	86,367	100,163
AV - Sound System Fund	1,585	2,015
Building Maintenance Fund	49,285	48,113
Catechism Fund	389	389
Covenant Cupboard Fund	323	-
Delores Project Fund	591	719
Facility Use Fund	397	930
Habitat for Humanity	-	15,979
LFS Refugee Fund	625	5,345
Memorial Funds	20,371	4,166
MOPS Fund	1,599	1,599
Music/Choir Fund	529	801
Operation Bootstrap Africa	-	385
Rainbow Trail Fund	1,322	818
Saint Peter Stitchers Fund	815	815
Ron Leighton Memorial Scholarship Fund	35,972	36,432
Seminary Scholarship Fund	1,669	1,669
Stephen Ministry Fund	1,424	1,590
Youth Mission Fund	1,198	1,198
<b>Designated Funds</b>	<b>234,763</b>	<b>223,125</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>1,366,461</b>	<b>1,325,590</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUNDS</b>	<b><u>1,871,283</u></b>	<b><u>1,884,972</u></b>

## Treasurer's Report 2022 and Proposed Budget 2023

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Proposed Budget
Pledged/Non-Pledged Giving	521,091	520,000	542,290
(1) Miscellaneous	1,645	1,000	33,300
Seasonal/Holiday	4,570	5,000	6,000
Facility Use	1,430	500	3,100
Interest Income	256	200	300
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>528,991</b>	<b>526,700</b>	<b>584,990</b>
Altar Guild	1,235	1,500	1,650
(2)Benevolence	57,109	57,000	59,230
DESIGN	371	540	540
Evangelism	611	4,000	6,000
Faith Formation	2,616	2,500	2,300
Family Ministries	4,307	5,000	5,000
Group Ministries	188	200	200
(3)Member Services	18,488	21,450	27,790
Music	7,924	8,000	11,000
(4)Property	119,505	130,623	123,530
Stephen Ministry	49	1,000	1,000
Stewardship	394	650	650
Youth Education/Day Camp	3,149	3,500	4,000
Worship	5,261	6,100	10,290
Salaries - Pastor/Office Staff	237,639	240,311	269,960
Benefits - Pastor/Office Staff	42,776	42,826	58,850
(5) CE - Pastor/Office Staff	(2,933)	1,500	3,000
(6)EOY Adjustment	30,303	-	-
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>528,991</b>	<b>526,700</b>	<b>584,990</b>

(1) 2022 Miscellaneous includes donations for loose currency, Thrivent Choice and AmazonSmiles. The \$33,300 in the proposed budget includes the \$30,303 surplus from general fund that was moved to the 2023 Operating Expense Designated Fund.

(2) 2022 Benevolence includes \$52,109 to RMS and \$5,000 to Village Resource Center.

(3) 2022 Member Services expenses include general office supplies, office computer replacement, postage, devotionals, Living Lutheran subscription for members, offering envelopes, conferences/conventions, office software/hardware, general fellowship supplies, service charges for online donation accounts.

(4) 2022 Property expenses include \$46,932 for total mortgage payment and \$72,573 for property maintenance, landscaping, supplies, insurance, fire/security, utilities.

(5) 2022 EOY Adjustment: Zero out Pastor Risendal's Continuing Ed liability account. Unused funds credited back to CE account in general fund.

(6) 2022 EOY Adjustment: Move surplus to 2023 Operating Expenses Designated Fund

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shawn O'Keefe, Treasurer

†

## STAFF REPORTS

### Report from the Pastor

Dear Friends at Saint Peter,

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as the pastor for the interim these past ten months. You have been very welcoming and gracious to Sandy and to me, which I appreciate!

I want to especially thank the excellent staff, Lynn, Mary, Beryl, Arielle, Sara and Barb. Their dedication, creativity and compassion are inspiring. Saint Peter is blessed to be led and served by this wonderful team.

I appreciate the faithful service of Past Council President Bruce Stokes and Current Council President Allison Summerton and the rest of the Congregation Council for their excellent leadership and stewardship of the ministry of Saint Peter. I am especially thankful and appreciative of the care and support given to me following my wife, Sandy's, death.

I had the privilege to work with a dedicated Transition Team, which led and assisted with Coffee and Conversations after worship, one-on-one interviews, developing a new Vision and Mission statement and numerous fruitful conversations that went into generating the Ministry Site Profile used by the Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop and synod staff to recommend candidates for call to the congregation.

Some primary goals of interim ministry during the transition process are to:

1. Come to terms with the history of the congregation and grieve and celebrate the past in preparation for a richer and faithful future.
2. Clarify the identity of the congregation and update the congregation's sense of who they remain and who they are becoming in changing world. The Transition Team led in the process of updating the Vision and Mission statements of Saint Peter.
3. Support and nurture growth in established leadership and new and developing leadership.
4. Deepen relationships with the Rocky Mountain Synod and ELCA, especially with respect to the pastoral call process.
5. Assist in the transition to new pastoral leadership.

We have accomplished much during the transition, and I am confident in the future ministry of Saint Peter Lutheran Church.

It has been my great honor to lead worship and Bible study at Saint Peter. I have also enjoyed visiting and providing counsel for members and friends of the congregation and attending the regular parts of being called as a pastor.

In Christ,  
Pastor Michael Mortvedt

†

## Report from the Administrator

*Lord God,*

*You have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*(The Lutheran Prayer of Good Courage, from the community of Holden Village)*

This past year has been a time of change and transition for our Saint Peter community. Quoting Bishop Jim Gonia: "Transitions are a part of life, filled with both challenge and opportunity. For communities of faith, transitions are fertile ground for God's transformational work."

There are so many things I have been grateful for this year. Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward and Pastor Michael Mortvedt have shepherded us with purpose, faithfulness, love and grace. During this interim period, they invited us to take time to reflect on our ministries and the future of Saint Peter. The Transition Team led us through an intentional process reminding us to celebrate the past, assess the needs of the congregation and to prayerfully discern God's call into the future. When the Call Team was formed in October 2022, they were provided with the Ministry Site Profile that was created by the Transition Team. This incredible road map has given the Call Team direction during the pastoral call process. As I write this report, a candidate has been identified and presented to the Congregational Council for consideration.

It has been an amazing year of growth! I am excited to dream, pray and envision what God has in mind for us in 2023!

### 2022 Activities

- Attended the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly in Loveland, CO May 9 – May 11, 2022
- I completed a graduate/executive level certificate program designed to advance rostered ministers' and lay leaders' knowledge and skills for effective management of congregations and ministries. Educate, Equip, Enact through the RMS is partnering with the Arizona State University Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation to offer the six-month course *Best Skills Best Churches*.
- I worked with Sara Lancaster to help lead the 2023 Stewardship Campaign – *Climbing to the Mountain Top*.
- I was a member of the Call Team.

I am so fortunate to work alongside staff and membership who possess different talents, gifts and personalities. Together we can do many things! Looking back at 2022, here are some general administrative duties performed:

- Assist in special projects for all ministry teams.
- Assist Sara Lancaster in some of the congregational publications: This includes annual congregational reports, stewardship materials, promotional materials, worship folders and church directories.
- Congregational fiduciary/government reporting responsibilities: This includes coordinating invoices for payment, handling all payroll functions, state and federal reporting and ensuring that all written policies and procedures are followed.
- Maintenance of congregational records: All member and visitor records in the church's database are maintained; this includes home addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, worship attendance, donation records and membership changes. A big thank you to Annie Health for inputting weekly attendance into our database!
- Maintenance and scheduling of congregation's physical facilities: This includes maintaining the church calendar, review/negotiate contracts as needed, insurance review, fire and security system monitoring review, supervising the contract cleaning service and working with outside vendors.

- Data Maintenance and Membership Statistics: The following chart illustrates the membership status that we are reporting to the ELCA as of December 31, 2022. These numbers are based on the total number of confirmed and baptized active members at Saint Peter Lutheran Church.

	<b>Baptized</b> <i>(total membership)</i>		<b>Confirmed</b> <i>(ninth grade and older)</i>	
Active Membership, 12/31/2021		323		268
Members received by Baptism	2		0	
Members received by Transfer from ELCA Church	3		3	
Baptized youth, who were confirmed			4	
Total members received	5		7	
Sub-total		328		275
Members transferred to other congregations	6		6	
Members who died	2		2	
Members released from membership	2		2	
Members placed on <i>inactive</i> roster	46		38	
Total members removed	56		48	
Active Membership, 12/31/2022		272		227

Summary of membership removals:

- Saint Peter now has 123 active member families.
- 12 family units have been moved to our *inactive roster* due to non-participation (they did not commune or contribute during the calendar year – our constitutional definition of an *inactive member*). Although their membership status has changed, we still have a pastoral responsibility to them.
- 2 family unit have transferred their membership to another congregation.
- 3 family units have moved out of town and have not transferred their membership.
- 2 members have been removed due to death (1 family unit removed from membership).
- 1 family unit has requested to be released from membership.
- 2 family units that were previously placed on the inactive list have transferred their membership to other congregations.

I also served as Financial Secretary in 2022. The following table summarizes the gross receipts received this year:

## Financial Secretary Report

General Fund Receipts	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2022	Comments
**Prepaid contributions received Dec 2021	51,050.00	5 pre-paid pledges for 2022
Pledged Mission Support	378,370.50	
Non-Pledged Mission Support	91,670.30	
Advent/Christmas	2,567.00	
AmazonSmiles	216.22	
Facility Use Revenue	1,430.00	Donations from outside groups using the facility for meeting space
Initial Offering	45.00	Donations to defray offering envelope cost
Interest Income	255.59	
Lent/Easter	2,003.00	
Loose Offering	1,167.48	
Thrivent Choice	216.00	
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>477,941.09</b>	**Does not Include the prepaid contributions of \$51,050 that was received Dec 2021
<b>Designated Fund Receipts</b>		
Prepaid 2023 Pledges	30,290.00	
Building Maintenance Fund	3,567.00	Xcel Energy Rebate - HVAC Installation
Covenant Cupboard Fund *	2,827.00	
ELCA World Hunger Fund *	11,027.00	
Habitat for Humanity *	522.00	
Lutheran Disaster Relief *	2,030.00	
Lutheran Family Services Fund *	2,042.00	
Memorial Fund	16,205.00	Gifts in loving memory of Dick & Liz Rusk, Jim Hallstrom, Ron & Verna Leighton, Sandy Olson
Ministry Support *	1,780.71	Donations for landscaping expenses and purchase of flowers (Easter Lilies & Poinsettias)
Pass-thru expense *	22,102.40	Retreat registration, Staff Christmas gifts, Credit card bank fees paid by donors, Reimbursement by lawn company for broken window
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp *	1,635.00	Includes donations for both RTLC and the RTLC Day Camp held at StPLC
Ron Leighton Memorial Scholarship	1,040.00	
Tanzania Mission Support *	20,717.00	5K Run/Walk event, Donations to support health care ministries in Tanzania, Operation Bootstrap Africa, Plaster House, Selian Hospice
Tech Team/AV Sound System	1,500.00	
Village Resource Center *	20.00	
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>117,305.11</b>	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$595,246.20</b>	

\*All designated funds were sent to respected organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Sherpe

†



## **Report from Congregation Communications**

In September 2018 I joined Saint Peter as a part-time staff member in the role of Congregation Communications. My primary duties include producing the weekly newsletter, *Our Life Together*, together with Barb Hinchey, publishing the bi-weekly "What's Happening" blog post/email as well as managing other communication tools like the StPLC website and Facebook/Instagram.

Over time, my role has grown to include other publications like the annual report and worship folders as well as the print materials found in the Narthex on the information boards. More generally, my role is to help StPLC's ministry leaders get the word out about their activities. If you have news to share, please let me know!

In 2022, a variety of special projects came up, too, including:

- Cleaned out and organized the bookshelves in the Fellowship Hall to create a usable shared library.
- Created a "thank you" memory book for Pastor Dave.
- Worked with Jeanne Maloney to create the materials and get the word out about "God's work. Our hands."
- Worked with Lynn Sherpe to lead StPLC's Stewardship Team in the fall financial commitment campaign.
- Created colorful cards for each of StPLC's ministry groups for display in the Narthex. More coming soon!

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Lancaster

†

## **Report from the Family Ministries Leader**

Family Ministries at Saint Peter Lutheran Church aims to build relationships with families, focusing on our households with children infant through elementary age but embracing families of all sizes and ages. It's our goal to support faith building, community-building across generations and empower others to employ what we learn "at church" in the home and in the outside community.

### **Highlights of Ministries and Actions 2022**

- Epiphany kits distributed at church and to households
- Adaptation of LIFT (Living In Faith Together) for in-person delivery and hybrid
- Newly designed Worship Kits for children at church
- Pray-Ground re-established
- Blessing of the Backpacks, First Day of School, HS graduation
- Monthly collaboration with 5 area churches-Project CURE and bowling activities HS and MS
- Expanded offerings in Lending Library for children
- All Ages Movie Nights over the summer
- "Parents Night Out" in September and December for faith building and fellowship
- Journey to Bethlehem -- Christmas Eve -- 23 storytellers of all ages
- Christmas Eve liturgy including stations for prayer/lighting a candle and Baptismal blessing
- Advent Faith Building at-home resources created and distributed: mini-Advent wreaths with devotional cards, meal prayer cards, weekly liturgical activity sheets
- "Bucket List" Faith Building-Summertime activity kits for kids
- Day Camp July 10-13
- Ongoing connection to all ages through notes, calls, gathering opportunities
- GWOH participation making mats for the unhoused, all ages
- 5K activities for children
- Children's Messages, Veterans Day liturgy and celebration, Sunday School
- Ongoing Professional Development every month, including webinars, classes, book studies, Synod Assembly, Intergeneration Conference
- Seder Meal planning
- First Holy Communion training

### **2023 Goals**

- Continued collaboration with StPLC Staff, Faith in Action and all faith formation builders
- Continued collaboration with five area churches for expanded HS/MS opportunities
- Working with our new pastor to offer Milestone Celebrations for all ages that are planned and predictable for the lifespan of all
- Continue to create intergenerational faith building opportunities
- Continued growth through webinars, classes, books, mentors

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Pratt a/k/a Ms Mary

†

## **Report from the Music Ministries Leader**

Since it was my first year as Music Minister at Saint Peter Lutheran Church, 2022 was a year of excitement, newness and possibility for me. I had so much fun meeting people and connecting with the congregation through music. I am proud of what we have accomplished in the Music Ministry during my first year, especially since I started just as Saint Peter was returning to in-person worship after the COVID shutdowns.

The worship band created a great musical foundation for worship this year. With the tenured band participants and their depth of talent, we were able to create good and consistent music all year long. We also put on the End-of-Summer Music Bash, which was a fun community-building event!

The Jubilate Choir had an exciting year as well! They led special worship services such as Easter (along with the Lone Tree Symphony's Brass Quintet) and the Sacred Choral Sunday (with the Castle Rock Chorale). While membership fluctuated throughout the year, we were always able to perform well thanks to our core group of talented singers!

### Goals for 2023:

- Continue to engage the congregation through meaningful and connected music during worship.
- Continue to grow connection and participation within the Music Ministry through recruitment of new band and choir members.
- Recruitment of volunteer musicians within the congregation for special projects (chamber ensembles, solo special music opportunities, etc.)
- Make the band's "End-of-Summer Music Bash" an annual event.
- Continued collaboration between the Jubilate Choir and the Castle Rock Chorale.
- Refine the music area in the worship center as a music "flex" space, so it is more usable for any and all musical endeavors.

Thank you to all the staff and congregation for your continued support of the Music Ministry. A giant "thank you" to Arielle for always making great music in worship, no matter the style, and for being my constant brainstorming/idea partner and sounding board. I tell the Tech Team this weekly, but I can't thank them enough for all that they do to make worship go smoothly in-person and online each and every week.

I am so grateful for everyone who has made my first year at Saint Peter Lutheran so wonderful. I feel like I have come home here and am in disbelief that this is what I get to do for my job!

Respectfully submitted,  
Beryl Fanslow Wilson

†

## 2022 STAFF ROSTER

<p><b>Michael Mortvedt, Interim Pastor</b>  <a href="mailto:pastor@StPLC.org">pastor@StPLC.org</a></p> <p><b>Mary Pratt, Family Ministries</b>  <a href="mailto:mpratt@StPLC.org">mpratt@StPLC.org</a></p> <p><b>Beryl Fanslow Wilson, Minister of Music</b>  <a href="mailto:bfanslow@StPLC.org">bfanslow@StPLC.org</a></p> <p><b>Arielle Wilson, Accompanist</b>  <a href="mailto:awilson@StPLC.org">awilson@StPLC.org</a></p>	<p><b>Lynn Sherpe, Administrator/Financial Secretary</b>  <a href="mailto:lsherpe@StPLC.org">lsherpe@StPLC.org</a></p> <p><b>Sara Lancaster, Congregation Communications</b>  <a href="mailto:slancaster@StPLC.org">slancaster@StPLC.org</a></p> <p><b>Barb Hinchey, Weekly Editor</b>  <a href="mailto:bhinchey@StPLC.org">bhinchey@StPLC.org</a></p>
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## CONGREGATION COUNCIL ROSTER

### 2022 Executive Team / Congregation Officers

<b>President</b>	<p><b>Bruce Stokes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>term expires January 2022; ineligible to be re-elected</li> <li>first elected in 2018; currently serving second term</li> <li>Agreed to remain as President until end of Transition Process – term ended October 15, 2022</li> </ul>
<b>Vice President</b> (Jan 1 – Oct 15, 2022)	<p><b>Allison Summerton</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>term expires January 2024; ineligible to be re-elected</li> <li>first elected in 2020; currently serving second term</li> </ul>
<b>President</b> (Oct 16, 2022)	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<p><b>Shawn O’Keefe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>term expires January 2024; ineligible to be re-elected</li> <li>first elected in 2020; currently serving second term</li> </ul>
<b>Secretary</b>	<p><b>Steve Haigh</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>term expires January 2023; eligible to be re-elected</li> <li>first elected in 2021; currently serving first term</li> </ul>
<b>Interim Pastor</b>	<p><b>Michael Mortvedt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>term: ex-officio; voice and vote</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	<p><b>Lynn Sherpe</b> (not an officer of the corporation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>serving “until her successor is elected” (constitutional language). First elected in 2011</li> </ul>

### 2022 Congregation Council Members

<b>At Large</b>	<p><b>Cathy Bunch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>term expires January 2023; ineligible to be re-elected</li> <li>first appointed in 2017 (partial term); currently serving second term</li> </ul>
<b>At Large</b>	<p><b>Jim Bunke</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>term expires January 2024; ineligible to be re-elected</li> <li>first elected in 2020; currently serving second term</li> </ul>
<b>At Large</b>	<p><b>Robyn Glaser</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>term expires January 2023; eligible to be re-elected</li> <li>first elected in 2021; currently serving first term</li> </ul>
<b>At Large</b>	<p><b>Gerry Rasel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>term expires January 2023; eligible to be re-elected</li> <li>first elected in 2021; currently serving first term</li> </ul>

# NOTES



## NOTES

# 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.**

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are as follows:

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,

wean 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 see 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

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Lutheran Church  
in America