



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Annual Report of the Congregation
for the Year 2023**

**Submitted at the Annual Congregation Meeting
February 25, 2024**

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AGENDA

Opening Devotions	Pastor Mike Vinson
Call to Order	Allison Summerton
Overview of Ministry Team Reports	Allison Summerton
Strategic Planning Overview	Strategic Planning Team
Congregational Officer Reports	
Secretary	Steve Haigh
President	Allison Summerton
Treasurer - Presentation of 2023 Financials	Finance Team
Staff Reports	
Pastor	Mike Vinson
Administrator	Lynn Sherpe
Minister of Music	Beryl Fanslow Wilson
Family Ministries	Mary Pratt
Congregation Communications	Arielle Wilson
Nominations for Leadership Team	Allison Summerton
Presentation of Nominating Ballot	
Congregational Vote	
Presentation of 2024 Church Budget	Finance Team
Presentation of Budget	
Discussion	
Congregational Vote	
Closing Prayer	Pastor Mike Vinson
Adjournment	Allison Summerton

MISSION AND VISION AT SAINT PETER

The following Mission and Vision statements were revised in 2022 thanks to the work of the Transition Team.

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 (1st 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.



2023 at StPLC



MINISTRY REPORTS

Ministry Reports: Transition

Call Team

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

As 2023 began, the Call Team had identified a candidate to present to the Council. That candidate was Pastor Michael Jay Vinson. During interviews in December 2022, Pastor Mike quickly rose to the top. On January 4, 2023, the Call Team gathered to review and discuss our findings pertaining to reference checks and to prayerfully discern our next steps.

On January 17, 2023, the Call Team presented our findings and recommendation to the Council. With the Council's approval, a series of informational meetings were held with the congregation offering details of the Call Team's process and selection of Pastor Mike.

On January 29, 2023, the Call Team and Council offered Pastor Michael Vinson as StPLC's next Minister of Word and Sacrament. On February 12, 2023, the congregation voted to receive Pastor Vinson with an overwhelming YES! The vote also included Pastor Vinson's compensation package.

On April 15, 2023, Pastor Vinson was installed as the new Minister of Word and Sacrament for Saint Peter Lutheran Church.

In the months since, members of the Call Team continue to offer prayerful support for StPLC, the Council and Pastor Mike. The team has met periodically and still observes its Confidentiality Covenant. I want to especially thank each of the members of the Call Team! They are a talented, faithful group that devoted many hours to the process. It has been a great pleasure to learn, grow and pray with each member.

Now, we offer our prayerful support the Mission and Vision of StPLC and to Pastor Michael Jay Vinson as we continue to grow together!!

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Stokes (Team Chair)



Strategic Planning

Values

Welcoming All
Transforming through Christ
Making a Difference

Vision

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

Mission

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.

This is an exciting time for Saint Peter! Join us in the journey to live out our vision, mission and values.

During the transition process in 2022, the congregation updated our mission and vision statement and resolved to develop goals and strategies to help us live into our mission. In November 2023, a StPLC strategic planning committee began working with a facilitator to help us develop goals for the next three, five and ten years (2027, 2029 and 2034 respectively). The facilitator was Pastor Will Johnson, pastor for Nativity Lutheran Church in Broomfield and a trainer for the Synod Excellence in Leadership program. Karne Beighle, Jim Bunke, Steve Leighton, Jerry Paul, Allison Summerton and Pastor Mike, members of the strategic planning committee, worked together for almost four months to develop goals and to begin thinking of strategies and actions to achieve these goals. The committee members met with congregation members individually to gather feedback on the goals. The Council approved the goals on January 16, 2024, and presented the goals to the congregation in a Coffee and Conversation gathering following Sunday Worship on January 28, 2024.

The process to define the strategic goals involves a lot of reflection, discernment and synthesis, and we are thankful to the strategic planning committee for identifying the goals. This is a great accomplishment! The next phase of the process will be to develop and implement strategies and actions to achieve those goals and metrics to measure progress. Developing and implementing strategies and actions involves creativity and problem solving.

Do you have creative ideas to help make our worship services more vibrant? Consider joining the Worship workgroup to share your ideas! If you would like to help create a more welcoming and accessible entrance on Belleview, please join the property workgroup.

Please join one or more workgroups to share your ideas:

- Faith Formation
- Personnel
- Property
- Stewardship
- Worship
- Mission (Service)
- Evangelism and Outreach

We are going to do this together. Though, not all at once. The experience will transform us and how we welcome people and make a difference in our community.

If you have questions or would like to help, please contact a Council member or email council@stplc.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Summerton



Ministry Reports: Worship and Prayer

Altar Guild

Leader: Jan McGaw

Participants: Susan Greene, Pam Haigh, Jody Hinsey, 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 2023: I would like to thank our team for another remarkable year! The team is pleased to have Jody Hinsey join us. We would like to thank Kay Gerhart once again for doing our linens. Our responsibilities include taking care of baptisms, candles, flowers and paraments.

Vision and Objectives for 2024: We will continue to strive to meet the needs of our congregants. 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, Dolly Bunke and Valerie Watkins

Our team, with assistance from members of the congregation decorated and "de"decorated for the Advent and Christmas season and also the Lent/Easter season. We continued to provide appropriate liturgical colors for the other seasons of the year.

Our hope for 2024 will be to continue use of visual imagery to reflect the seasons of worship in the church's liturgical calendar 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.

A short-term goal is to evaluate how to be inclusive to others, including youth. Our focus is to include younger members during the Easter and Christmas Seasons.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Watkins



Prayer Team

Leader: Karen Clair

In February 2020, my good friend's daughter, Lilah, 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 people on the prayer list. Remember me back in early 2020 in the Narthex on the high-top tables with pen in hand?

The Prayer Team spent time together in November 2023. Six of us gathered to create and write a special note to our StPLC members and their families to celebrate our United States Veterans. We were able to send out 30 cards.

The Saint Peter Prayer Team has sent out a running total of 1522 notes 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 during their day. Please reach out if you have any questions about joining the Prayer Team!

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Clair



Technology Team

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

Participants: Cathy Dundon, Darlene Beals and Dave Mohrhaus

We continue to serve the congregation in two spaces, the sanctuary itself and the "Zoom Crowd" that continues to be a third to a quarter of attendees every Sunday. While COVID's ravages subsided (but alas not gone away), the ability to still join in on the service remotely due to travel, weather, "family spread bugs" or hospital stays continues to be useful. With the addition of Cathy, Darlene and Dave to the team, we are building redundancies at most of our stations. The only two stations where we only have two trained folks include the sound desk in-sanctuary and sound desk for Zoom.

For 2023, one main goal was to migrate our mash-up of equipment from the sanctuary into the former cry room and convert it to a tech room. We were able to consolidate, organize and store our equipment there. The sound desk itself needs to be where the sound is—in the sanctuary—but pretty much everything else is now in the tech room. We ALMOST have Beryl's new high-quality microphone. We ordered it late last year hoping to have it ready for Christmas services, but some order mix-ups are taking a while to resolve. Hopefully those will be cleared up by the time of the annual meeting.

We had a stretch goal of adding one more camera for Zoom to help better cover the altar and choir areas, which we are stretching into this year. Additionally for this year, we plan on some incremental upgrades to the building's wireless network to improve reliability, coverage and speed. Spoiler alert, as part of that we plan to add a password for the guest network. It will be simple and widely posted inside the building, but we feel this is a good protection measure. Finally, we plan on some major cable rewiring in the tech room and moving some equipment from the attic above the tech room into the room itself. The attic was a good place when it was the cry room, but now accessibility is preferred.

Lastly, don't forget to stop by the Zoom station in the Narthex on the way in and out of service or during sharing of the peace and say "hi" to the online folk!

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



Ministry Team Reports: Community Service

Christ in the City

Saint Peter Contact: Mary Pratt

<https://christinthecity.org>

Christ in the City is taking service from being transactional to being relational. This organization addresses the most debilitating need for those living on the streets: the need for human connection. The root of homelessness is often ruptured relationships. It is about healing through relationships and seeing humanity in all. Encountering Christ living within each of us. No exceptions.

You are invited to continue to donate needed items such as socks and hand/foot warmers. There is a collection box in the Narthex. You are also welcome to make and serve lunch, play games, hand out donations or simply visit on a 2nd Saturday of each month at Denver's Benedict Fountain Park alongside myself, other volunteers and a large cadre of young missionaries. This is an ongoing opportunity to be part of StPLC's commitment to be an outwardly-facing church, just as Jesus modeled.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Pratt



Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry

Saint Peter Contact: Laura Guthals

<http://covcupboard.org/>

Hosted by Covenant Presbyterian Church DTC and supported by Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, St. Catherine's Greek Orthodox 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 504 new families to our rolls and provided food for 27,936 individuals over the last year – both new records for us. Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry switched to Link2Feed software in January, started using Waitwhile to have clients get on a waitlist in April and became a 501(c)3 organization in November.

Ways to help:

- Sign up for morning preparation or afternoon distribution shifts every Friday at: <http://tinyurl.com/CCFPvolunteersignup>
- Weekly or occasional pickups from grocery stores or restaurants.
- Designate Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry to receive Community Rewards from your King Soopers loyalty card (% of your purchases donated at no extra cost to you).
- Support through food drives or financial donations; help sort food donations.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Guthals



Covenant Cupboard Food Pantry Toy Drive

Leaders: Vicky Simpson and Shelly Hunter

Over two Fridays in December, a huge community effort to provide toys for children of clients of Covenant Cupboard took place at Saint Peter Lutheran Church. Parents of 128 families, totaling 270 children, shopped for age-appropriate toys for the holidays.

This event was possible with the support from three faith partners: Saint Peter Lutheran Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church DTC and Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. Also volunteers from the food pantry, many businesses and community organizations like the Rotary and Sertoma clubs provided gifts, volunteers or money for gifts. New this year, hats and gloves were provided for the children, thanks to the many needlework groups, Colorful Yarns and Volunteers for America.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicky Simpson and Shelly Hunter



Habitat for Humanity

Saint Peter Contacts: Adam and Brittany Hass

Highlights from 2023: Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver (HFHMD) finished buildout of Aria Denver, a group of 28 new homes near Regis University, and its completion was celebrated in July 2023. The Mountain View project kicked off construction in September in Aurora, and ground was broken in November at the property donated by Augustana Lutheran Church for 8 new homes. The third annual Holy Hammers Hustle for Habitat fundraiser walk was held in May in Cottonwood Park.

Hopes for 2024: We hope to increase the number of volunteer days in which Saint Peter members participate in 2024, starting with one coming up later in February at the ongoing build called Mountain View Homes (three volunteers from Saint Peter are signed up). HFHMD will be continuing site development at Augustana's new build throughout spring and beginning vertical construction around July. They will start taking volunteers on-site when vertical construction begins. There will be a Holy Hammers 25th Anniversary Gala May 4, 2024, at Augustana—details to come. The goal for this event will be to raise \$150,000 to sponsor one of the eight homes to be built on Augustana's donated property. We will also be promoting the 4th Annual Holy Hammers Hustle for Habitat fundraiser walk, which will likely happen this coming September instead of May because of the Gala.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam & Brittany Hass



Reception Team

Team: Pam Prichard, Lynn Sherpe, Valerie Watkins and all the woman of the church.

Purpose: Provide support and food/refreshments following funeral/memorial services.

We hosted five memorial service receptions in 2023: Sandy Olson, Charles Wood, Don Doehling, Del Hooker and Sharon Bruen.

We receive a lot of help from all the members of our congregation to provide cookies, setup and cleanup as well as being gracious hosts during the services. Special thanks to Steve Haigh and Jeff Beighle for being our "go to" guys to set up tables and chairs, along with many others.

Goal: To develop written policies and procedures for those seeking the use of our facility for funeral or memorial services.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR SAINT PETER MEMBERS AND FAMILY



Sandy Olson



Charles Wood



Don Doehling



Del Hooker



Sharon Bruen

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Watkins



Saint Peter Stitchers

Saint Peter Stitchers Leader: Susan Greene

The Saint Peter Stitchers meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the church. Participants who attended the Saturday morning gatherings are Jodie Davis, Jane Dumler, Stephanie Guthals, Beth Pasterkamp, Janet Pasterkamp, Vicky Simpson and Allison Summerton. Several others participate by knitting/crocheting at home.

The Saint Peter Stitchers knit and crochet prayer shawls and blankets. The prayer shawls and blankets are given when celebrating a baptism and to those grieving the loss of a loved one 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. In 2023, 15 prayer shawls and blankets were provided to Saint Peter members, their families and friends. Knitted prayer squares were also given to confirmation and graduating students.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Greene



Stephen Ministry

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, loneliness or discouragement.

The "Journeying through Grief" books were sent to 12 congregation members/friends who experienced a death in the family in 2023. This is a series of four books written by Kenneth C. Haugk, Founder and Executive Director of Stephen Ministry. Each book is sent to a person experiencing grief at four crucial times during the first year after their loss.

Our team continues a special partnership with the Saint Peter Stitchers. Our Stitchers offer prayer shawls to share with individuals who have experienced the loss of a loved one or for those experiencing difficulties. This is such a wonderful gift of love. Twelve prayer shawls were sent to congregation members/friends along with their first "Journeying through Grief" book.

The team also was active in making home, hospital, and hospice visits.

In 2024, we will continue our work as lay ministers. We hope to offer training and skill-based classes to those interested in Stephen Ministry work themselves.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Stokes, Sharon Stokes and Lynn Sherpe



Tanzania Healthcare Mission Support

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

Thanks to you, it has been another successful year of support for our friends in Tanzania! We were excited to host Linda Jacobson at Saint Peter in August. Linda preached our sermon that day, sang with the Jubilate Choir, and gave us an update on the ministries we support in Tanzania during a session after the service. During her visit, Linda expressed that she would be interested in leading another trip to Tanzania for a group from Saint Peter.

We held our 15th annual 5K walk/run on September 16, and the weather was just perfect! 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. There was a great turnout, and fun was had by all. By the end of the year, we exceeded last year's donations and had a total of \$19,342.75 to disburse. Similar to last year, 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 Friends of Kafika House (formerly known as Plaster House) to fund surgeries for children, as well as their pre- and post-operative care.
- \$11,342.75 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).

The date for our next 5K Run/Walk has yet to be determined, but we would ask that you consider the following:

- Make a habit of donating throughout the year.
- Let us know that you would like to help with this year's event – we need some new blood!
- Help us organize another mission trip to Tanzania.

Thank you for your support over the past 15 years!

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Mohrhaus



Vitalant Blood Drive

Saint Peter Contact: Dave Mohrhaus

It has been a few years since the Greenwood Village Churches hosted a blood drive for Vitalant. We have mobilized and now have two drives (February 17 and April 27) scheduled in the first half of 2024 and have plans to add two more by the end of the year. We have invited the four churches that have participated in the past, which include Saint Peter Lutheran, Hope United Methodist, Cherry Creek Presbyterian and Church of Latter Day Saints. We also have invited three new churches to be included in the blood drives, which include Covenant Presbyterian Church DTC, Greek Orthodox and Resurrection Anglican Fellowship.

Please consider giving this gift of life in 2024 by signing up to donate when you are able. Your single blood donation can save and enhance the lives of up to three patients! The February 17 donation site will be Cherry Creek Presbyterian, and the April 27 donation site will be here at Saint Peter Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Mohrhaus



Village Resource Center

Saint Peter Contact: Sharon Stokes (VRC Treasurer)

Website: <https://www.villageresourcecenter.com/>

This Greenwood Village area church partnership continued its mission to keep families in their homes in 2023! In all, there are six churches in the partnership. Continuing to innovate, the VRC is now able to deliver applications online as needed. Our case manager in 2022 and early 2023 helped the VRC gain an online presence. Her computer skills were very helpful. With a greater online presence, the VRC had more applicants than it could help. Lisa Maris (Board President) and Sharon Stokes (Treasurer) stepped in to help fill the gaps. Every qualified applicant received financial assistance or referrals to outside resources!!

Since its inception, all six member churches had a change in clergy leadership! Some multiple times!! That said, the Board has been successful in keeping the "Village Clergy" engaged. Lisa Maris launched a new initiative requesting the return of at least one clergy member at our monthly meetings. Since then, the Board has been honored to welcome the new church leadership!

In 2023, the VRC aided more families with direct financial assistance; total rent/mortgage aid amounted to over \$35,000! Countless others were referred to other community partners when needed.

Due to funding challenges as VRC works to re-establish various fundraisers after COVID, the reserves to always keep the VRC solvent are low. The Messiah Sing-along at Hope United Methodist continues to be the most robust fundraiser.

Currently, the VRC is looking for a new case manager. Please know that the dedicated Board is involved, and we hope to have the position filled by March 1, 2024. Stay tuned to see how you can help in 2024 and beyond. If you have former social worker skills to offer this needed service, please get in touch with Sharon Stokes.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Stokes



Ministry Team Reports: Faith Formation

Confirmation

Ministry Leaders: Pastor Mike Vinson, Steve Leighton, and Nate Gerhart
Parent Participant: Sara Lancaster

One of the first great joys of the 2023 year was to celebrate the affirmation of faith with the Tieperman family. Bowen Kent Tieperman was confirmed on May 21, 2023. Congratulations Bowen!

For the 2023-2024 school year, we are doing confirmation together with Bethany Lutheran Church and Epiphany Lutheran Church at the Bethany location in Denver. This gives us the great opportunity to connect as a small Saint Peter group as well as enjoy an energetic large group experience with a lot of kids each week!

Confirmation meets on Wednesday nights and begins with a meal together. We then get to have our small group time where we share highs and lows along with catching up. This is also our time to read the scripture texts for the day and start talking about the topic.



Then we move into the large group, which is led by a pastor (including Pastor Mike a time or two) or an expert on the topic. We spent the fall talking about Baptism, Communion and Confessing the faith. We are going to spend the Spring discussing difficult faith questions.

The team would like to thank all of the parents for investing in this midweek model and supporting us as we do this work together. If you see a middle schooler, please share a word of encouragement. It will be a blessing for them and for you.

Respectfully submitted,
The Confirmation Team



Faith In Action

Leader: Open

Participants: Brittany Hass, Shelly Hunter, Jeanne Maloney, Sara Lancaster, Bethany Laurie, Mary Pratt, Lynn Sherpe, Sharon Stokes, Allison Summerton and Janet Weinz

FIA Vision Statement

Sparking Conversation with all

Fostering Curiosity among all

Embodying God's Love for all

The Faith In Action is currently on hiatus as we await a new Ministry Team Leader.



Sunday Funday (Sunday School)

Saint Peter Leader: Mary Pratt

Sunday Funday is a lectionary-based curriculum, adapted from Sparkhouse Activate Faith. It is designed for ages 3-years-old through 5th grade. Every Sunday, the children and middle school and adult team leaders leave worship with Ms. Mary following the Children's Message to take a deeper dive into the day's Gospel lesson. Hands-on, experiential activities are designed to activate curiosity and develop application to the children's lives outside of church. Our goal each week is to offer robust faith lessons that serve to be Relational, Experiential, Applicable and Lifelong (REAL).

Each week is a stand-alone lesson, using a consistent, predictable format, allowing ALL children to learn without feeling left out if not able to attend each week. Every lesson includes prayer, an opening activity (story, charades, a play, a game, etc.), large and small group discussions, and an opportunity to "choose an adventure", most often by participating in an outreach activity. Every child takes home a paper each week, for conversation/connection with parents/grandparents including ideas to continue the learning during the week.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Pratt (a.k.a. Ms. Mary)



Ministry Team Reports: Small Groups

All Daughters

Leaders: Karen Clair, Annie Heath, Jo Kurowski

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. ALL Daughters ministry is for all women at Saint Peter Lutheran Church; women are invited and encouraged to join this growing ministry and take on a leadership role and to be connected to God and to each other!

ALL Daughters (formerly known as Church Chicks) just completed its thirteenth 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 2023:

As we focused on our standing tradition of the Secret Prayer Sisters both as we worship online and in person, we are making use of the simple act of dropping a note either by snail mail or using the mailboxes at church. So, our participating Sisters were sent a red felt heart to have a visual reminder to pray daily for their specific sister.

ALL Daughters had a great act of kindness in 2023. After Lynn Sherpe was able to secure the best price on 560 hand warmers for our friends on the street, Mary Pratt took them to the organization Christ in the City. They were distributed at Francis Benedict Park on January 14, 2023. Such a beautiful and generous gift from the All Daughter's budget.

The 2023 leadership had a bit of a bumpy ride due to Karen having had a very trying personal year and Dori moving out of state. Please pray that we can try to keep this ministry strong for the ladies of Saint Peter. I appreciate Valerie Watkins keeping her annual ladies backyard get together going to keep us laughing and loving each other.

Vision for 2024:

We have a plan to honor our Lord in having an emphasis on serving the people on the streets of Denver in 2024, which includes collecting socks, backpacks and your blood. If you would like to get involved, please reach out to Karen Clair, Annie Heath or Jo Kurowski. May God continue to bless the women of Saint Peter Lutheran Church!

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Clair



Chick Lit

This wonderful group of dedicated readers continues to grow in knowledge, fellowship and deep and meaningful friendships. During 2023, Chick Lit gathered either exclusively via Zoom or a hybrid method including in-person and Zoom, on the third Thursday of each month. At each of these monthly gatherings, those present shared thoughts, insights, personal experiences and feelings, and yes, most often laughter while discussing the Chick Lit book of the month. In 2023 we read some amazing 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 selections, then gathers on a monthly basis to discuss that particular month's book. It is incredible to share with open hearts and minds true feelings inspired by literature. This December, we gathered once more for brunch to select our 2024 book list. We continue to learn more about each other, supporting and encouraging one another

through life's many adventures, joys and sorrows, while friendships rooted in words continue to bloom, grow 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 2024 book list, and for specific information regarding meeting logistics in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Williams and Heather Dahms



Men's Group

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. All are welcome. Send your cell number to Steve at 303-619-6351 to receive a 24-hour notification of meeting location and other information.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Haigh



Ministry Team Reports: Administrative

Nominating Committee

We are grateful for the service of StPLC Council members who have lovingly, respectfully and prayerfully served this congregation in 2023. Three members will be completing their terms this year. Each were first elected in 2020 and have served four years and helped us through important years of transition during Pastor Risendal's departure, a year of transition with Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward and Pastor Michael Mortvedt and the selection and introduction of Pastor Michael Vinson.

We would like to offer our words of gratitude to Jim Bunke, Shawn O'Keefe and Allison Summerton. We 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 Jody Hinsey, Terri Mohrhaus and Chris Vogelsong for their first term which will end February 2026.

Jody Hinsey

Jody grew up in Colorado and was raised Lutheran. She has been a member of StPLC for almost 20 years. She attends regularly with her husband, Mark, and their son, Charlie (17). She often gets mistaken for her identical twin sister, Jenn Stenbak. You will find them sitting together on Sunday mornings and often, Jody is singing and dancing with Jenn's daughter, Dorothy (2) (hence the confusion). Jody previously served as the Stewardship co-leader for two terms, helped lead the *God's work. Our hands.* team in years past and has sponsored the Selian 5K Run/Walk since inception. She was also actively involved in catechism while Charlie was attending. Jody is the founder and owner of Mint Financial Strategies, a comprehensive wealth management firm right down the street in Greenwood Village. She has taught Financial Peace University at StPLC and hopes to continue to use her professional experience to help StPLC grow. She is looking to get more involved and was excited to be approached to join Council.

Terri Mohrhaus

Terri was raised in a Lutheran family in central Ohio. After college at Ohio State and the University of Minnesota, Terri moved to Cincinnati to work in the clinical microbiology lab at the University of Cincinnati Hospital. She met her husband, Dave, on a ski slope in New York and have been married for 39 years. She and Dave have two sons, Andy and Brian, born in Cincinnati. The family moved to Colorado in 1990. Terri served for 9-years as a professional volunteer – running the Sunday School program at Saint Peter from 1992-1994, volunteering at Cottonwood Creek Elementary, coaching and scoring baseball games. Terri returned to paid employment in 1999 teaching science at various schools, mostly in the Cherry Creek School District. Terri retired from teaching in June 2023.

Terri has served in many roles at StPLC: as a choir member, assisting minister, organizer of blood drives, volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, organizer for “God’s work. Our hands.” program and organizer of the 5K Run/Walk for our Tanzanian Ministries. Terri considers visiting Tanzania in 2016 to see the work being done by the Jacobsons as a real highlight of her life. Last year, Terri served on the transition team and enjoyed gathering input from Saint Peter members to help prepare for calling Pastor Mike. Terri is currently serving as a board member for Covenant Cupboard.

Christopher Vogelsong

Christopher Vogelsong started attending Saint Peter Lutheran Church in 2016. Chris was born in California and as part of a military family traveled a bit when young. His family settled here in Colorado back in the 1980s and has lived here since. He graduated from Eaglecrest High School in 1994 and has his bachelor’s degree from Colorado State University. Chris served in the Navy and is now a project manager for Martin Marietta. He previously served on the landscaping team and is excited to volunteer his time serving on Council. Chris is married to Jennifer Stenbak, and he has one son, Jasper, who is twelve, and one daughter, Dorothy, who is two.

Respectfully submitted,
StPLC Congregational Council Nominating Committee
Jim Bunke and Allison Summerton



Property

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 doctor the trees, cut the grass and minimize the weeds, in addition to keeping the roof watertight, and the heat and A/C working. At other times, we schedule general cleanup days to trim bushes and tidy up flower beds. We extend our thanks to all who helped out in 2023 and we look forward to the beautiful days ahead.

Accomplishments during the year:

- Repainted the external metal trim, in particular those doors and window frames facing south
- Removed the overgrown junipers behind the garage
- Treated the crabapple trees for fire blight
- Replaced two sump pumps in crawl space to prevent future flooding of HVAC units under the sanctuary
- Cleaned out and discarded boxes, hymnals, hangars, etc., abandoned in the crawl space and covered the space in heavy plastic
- Restriped the parking lot, including the addition of six regulation spaces for people with disabilities
- Added pollinator garden on north side slope
- Reattached sacristy storage door to new roller track

2024 plans and wishes:

- Marshal funds to cover the labyrinth area with geometric-shaped, colorful, durable shading
- Continue transplanting volunteer trees around the property and add larger, drought-tolerant trees and shrubs
- Rework the garden design along the entrance sidewalk
- Continue saving for parking lot replacement
- Install proper signage over new handicapped parking spaces
- Illuminate the driveway off Bellevue

Late in the year, Dave Prichard stepped away from directing the landscaping aspect of the Property Team. We'll miss his expertise and leadership, but we'll still have his friendship and advice. Dave, who will be forever known as Property Chair Emeritus, added these words:

I would like to thank the Property Team members – Steve Haigh, Jerry Paul and David Kleberger – for their support and help during my time on the team. A special thanks to all the church members who have helped with work days and projects over the years, ranging from trimming and removing rabbit brush, trimming trees, sprinkler repairs, picking up trash and leaves on the church property, washing windows, painting the offices and many more too numerous to mention. A special shout-out to Jerry Paul for trimming and planting the pollinator garden on the north side of the church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve, Dave (property chair emeritus), Jerry and David



Ron Leighton Memorial Scholarship

Co-leaders: Lori Williams and Ken Gerhart

The Ron Leighton Memorial Scholarship program was established in 2015 to recognize and assist exceptional Saint Peter Lutheran Church members in pursuing their continuing education goals, through the awarding of a one-time scholarship. The Scholarship Committee seeks applicants from people of any age, with a clear educational plan, who are accepted into an accredited educational program, and who have been active and positive role models in the Saint Peter — and wider — community. This opportunity is not limited to those who are graduating from high school, eligibility is not based solely on “grades” and never on financial need. Since its inception, applicants have been asked to complete an application, write an essay, submit personal references, and participate in a face-to-face interview with the Scholarship Committee.

This past spring we were excited to award the scholarship to Amelia Dundon, an active member of our church family who is a 2023 graduate of Cherry Creek High School and is now enrolled in the Engineering program at the University of Colorado Boulder. Amelia's heartfelt comments and thank you to the congregation moved and inspired those who were present when she accepted her award on Scholarship Sunday this past July. We all wish her well in her future endeavors.

The Committee's plans for 2024:

- Organize 2024's scholarship “competition” to take place in the Spring and Summer
- Encourage a diversity of individuals to enter into the application process
- Recruit additional committee members in this important and meaningful effort

If you are interested in donating to the fund, if you would like to join the committee or if you have questions about or are interested in applying for a 2024 scholarship, please reach out to Ken Gerhart or Lori Williams.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Gerhart and Lori Williams



Stewardship

Leader: Sara Lancaster

Team Members: Darlene Beals, Cathy Dundon, Lynn Sherpe, Pastor Mike Vinson

2024 Stewardship Appeal: Rolling Out the Red Carpet

For all who participated in Saint Peter Lutheran Church's stewardship appeal, thank you for your financial commitment to support our congregation's ministries in 2024. We are so grateful for your generosity no matter the amount, and we believe that with our congregation's combined gifts, 2024 will be an inspiring and transformational year for our church.

Our goals for this year's "Rolling Out the Red Carpet" campaign included 100% participation from the congregation (receive 118 Statement of Intent Commitments, one from every active family) and a 15% increase in giving (\$589,000 pledged mission support) to allow us to become an even more welcoming community. The chart provided below outlines the results of our campaign.

We received a total of 77 Statement of Intent commitments for a total of \$475,700. Giving patterns for families that did not turn in a Statement of Intent commitment are \$62,410. This gives us projected receipts of \$538,110.

We are extremely grateful to all of you who gave special year end gifts that bring our 2024 projected receipts up to \$578,000!! What a difference this makes. THANK YOU!!

Final Report (January 22, 2024)

77 statements of intent received for 2024	\$475,700
41 active household giving patterns for 2023 (no statement of intent received for 2024)	\$62,500
Special end of year gifts.....	\$39,800
Projected Receipts for 2024	\$578,000

- 77 participating households that completed a statement:
 - 12 new statements of intents were received
 - 33 raised their intentions for 2024 by a total of \$77,410
 - 20 intend to contribute the same in 2024 as they did in 2023
 - 5 lowered their intentions for 2024 by a total of \$4,400
 - 7 households are not making a financial commitment in 2024 due to various changes [moved out of state (1), attending another church (4), death (2)]

Stewardship Reports Comparison for Last Three Years

	2022		2023		2024	
	Commitments	Amount	Commitments	Amount	Commitments	Amount
1 st Report	27	175,734	47	295,244	54	355,448
2 nd Report	39	269,194	70	350,024	69	416,188
3 rd Report	42	277,074	83	405,874	75	451,516
Final Report	70	422,754	90	441,334	77	475,700

Respectfully Submitted,
Stewardship Team



CONGREGATIONAL OFFICER REPORTS

Report from the Secretary of the Congregation

Minutes of Saint Peter Lutheran Church's Annual Congregation Meeting on February 19, 2023

Secretary Steve Haigh stated that a count showed 67 active, voting members in attendance – 49 in person and 18 on Zoom. The total of 67 met the quorum requirement of 34.

Interim Pastor Michael Mortvedt commenced devotions at 10:10 a.m. Council President Allison Summerton then called the annual congregational meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Allison asked for a motion to exempt this meeting from the constitutional requirement that the annual meeting be held no later than February 15. Bruce Guthals made the motion. The motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Allison referred to the ministry team reports found in the annual report. She announced the order of the meeting and reiterated the purpose of the annual meeting: to approve the annual budget, elect and re-elect council members, hear feedback, and answer questions about the year just finished and the year ahead. She thanked the 70-plus members actively supporting ministries and activities at Saint Peter. "That's what it takes to set the table for our Lord," she said. "It takes everyone being involved." She also encouraged everyone to pray about "how you feel God is calling us to move the future and the activities that you feel like you could participate in."

Steve moved that the congregation approve the secretary's report (minutes) on the February 27, 2022, annual meeting, found on page 22. Cathy Dundon seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

Steve made another motion that would require the council to review and approve minutes from the annual meeting at its regular March meeting, thereby eliminating the 12-month delay between annual meeting and approval of the minutes. Valerie Watkins seconded, and the motion carried by voice vote.

Allison kicked off the congregational officer reports by thanking several individuals and teams for their support during our "holy time of transition," including Pastor Vera, who served as bridge pastor before Pastor Michael joined us as interim pastor; Pastor Michael, who guided our transition; the Transition Team and all who attended the Coffee and Conversation meetings for reflection; the Call Team, who opened their hearts to the Holy Spirit to discern whom to call as our next pastor; our tremendous staff of Lynn, Mary, Sara, Barb, Beryl and Ariel, who enable and support our ministries with great care and professionalism; and our tireless Tech Team, who tie everything together face-to-face and online.

Lynn Sherpe, Church Administrator and Financial Secretary, reported on the financial results from 2022 (page 26) in the context of expenses and receipts. These were some of the areas she highlighted:

- Total receipts – "Almost spot on our budget. Only \$2,300 over what we had budgeted, so great job there."
- Benevolence – Has two things: \$5,000 to the Village Resource Center, and the rest goes to the (Rocky Mountain) synod, which receives 10 percent of our pledged and non-pledged giving.
- Member Services – Catch-all for operations expenses, supplies, postage, Living Lutheran magazine, conferences and conventions, etc.
- Property – Looks like we way underspent in 2022 compared with 2023, but we didn't spend the money to start phase 2 of the HVAC project. Instead, we signed a far less expensive, all-inclusive maintenance contract with our HVAC installer (Tolin Mechanical) to cover all units, including those units we plan to replace in coming years.
- Negative number in Staff Continuing Education (C.E.) – Lynn explained that the negative number in the Staff C.E. item resulted from (with Rocky Mountain Synod concurrence) our zeroing out funds no longer held for former Pastor Dave Risendal's continuing education. Funds were credited back to our general fund.

- Ultimately, expenses were 5.6 percent below what we budgeted, leaving a surplus of \$30,303. Assuming we would need to spend the surplus funds in 2023, council approved moving the \$30,303 into a fund designated for 2023 operating expenses.

Lynn shifted her report to discuss the Balance Sheet.

- The first five lines show our liquid cash, including money in the bank, savings accounts, and some of our investment funds. Liquid cash was down 4.8 percent compared with 2021.
- Accounts Payable line shows \$41,095, which includes \$30,290 of pre-paid giving. This is money given in 2022 with the intention that it be used in 2023.
- Thrivent mortgage balance is \$460,375.
- Accumulated funds for all-staff continuing education total \$3,353. CE funds for our new pastor will be a separate line item next year.
- Designated funds, or gifts given for a specific purpose, are separate from the general fund. More details on designated funds are available on page 30 in the financial secretary's report. Funds come in and go. If there's a balance in a designated fund, it's because the money was designated for a specific project.
- Overall, Lynn called our cash position "very strong," with more than \$26,000 in excess cash.

Dave Mohrhaus asked about the church's mortgage interest rate. Lynn answered 3.65 percent.

Lori Williams moved for approval of the 2022 financial report. Bruce Stokes seconded the motion, which carried by voice vote.

Pastor Michael gave his report and thanked the congregation for support during his interim year, especially after the passing of his wife, Sandy.

Allison directed the congregation to the staff reports in the annual report document.

Treasurer Shawn O'Keefe presented the 2023 budget proposal and thanked the congregation for its financial reliability. "We are doing really well financially," thanks to your generosity and our staff stepping up. "Everybody stepped up."

He pointed out a few notable areas in the 2023 budget proposal that were increased:

- Benevolence increased, based on higher projected receipts (10 percent of actual pledged/non-pledged receipts sent to RMS).
- Evangelism increased for marketing and outreach.
- Member services, including travel to El Paso, Texas, for the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly, and office operating expenses (printer/copier lease renewal).
- Music increased for band area and organ maintenance and reconfiguration. New computer needed for music minister.
- Total property expenses are expected to decrease. In 2022, \$11,891 was budgeted for the HVAC phase 2 project. Instead of moving forward with this project, we elected to enter into a full-service maintenance agreement with Tolin Mechanical. There will be some increases needed for utilities, insurance and cost of the maintenance agreement (the Administrative Discretionary Fund was used to in 2022 for this expense).
- Worship services increased because license/permits (copyright licenses) was moved from the music budget. There will also be an increase for contract help to cover pulpit supply (for pastor's four weeks of vacation and two weeks of CE), substitute accompanist (Arielle's vacation time), and nursery attendants.
- Salaries/benefits are 14 percent higher in 2023 because of new pastor salary/benefits, and salary increases and cost-of-living increases for staff.

Several members asked questions:

- Shawn confirmed to Angie Kleberger that the 2023 budget's salary lines include everything approved for Pastor Mike at the congregational meeting a week earlier.
- Jeanne Maloney asked for a ballpark estimate on the amount of staff salary increases. Allison replied the staff received a cost-of-living increase of 8 percent, which is slightly less than the Social Security COLA. Lynn Sherpe received a salary increase to bring her compensation closer to salaries for similar positions for churches in the area.
- Jeanne asked about our plans for the increased budget for evangelism. Allison said we plan to do more digital and community outreach, using post cards and social media, and let the community know about our new pastor. Pastor Mike's input will be very important too. Shawn reiterated the purpose of marketing was to grow our numbers by reaching out to people in proximity to the church.
- Bruce Stokes asked for a breakdown of \$542,000 in pledged and projected non-pledged giving. Answer: Pledged \$475,000, and \$67,000 for non-pledged.
- Lori Williams asked for a description of the increases for music and worship. Lynn explained that worship increased because license/permits were moved from the music budget to the worship budget. Contract help requirements would be greater in 2023 (pulpit supply, accompanist supply, nursery attendants). Money was included for general Tech Team supplies and maintenance. Music increased for band stand/organ maintenance and reconfiguration. Budget money is included to purchase new computer for music minister.
- Jerry Mayer inquired how many staff positions? Lynn differentiated between full-time and part-time positions. Only she and the pastor are full-time employees. There are four part-time employees (Mary Pratt, Sara Lancaster, Beryl Fanslow Wilson and Arielle Wilson) and one contractor (Barb Hinchey).
- Bruce Guthals brought up the parking lot's condition. Shawn said the council was talking about holding a special appeal but that painting the exterior was a higher priority because the funds were in place and the costs were less. Shawn estimated the cost of replacing the parking lot at \$170,000 or higher.
- Allegra Reiber suggested alternative revenue programs (Amazon Smile) as a way of bringing in more money.
- Bruce Stokes suggested tapping the Administrative Discretionary and Building Maintenance designated funds to supplement a special appeal in replacing the parking lot.

Shawn moved to approve the proposed 2023 budget. Cathy Dundon seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Allison thanked Bruce Stokes for extending his presidency during the pandemic and his capable leadership. She also thanked Cathy Bunch, who stepped down from the council.

Allison introduced three candidates up for election to the council – Cathy Dundon, Steve Leighton and Jerry Paul – and detailed the status of council members running for re-election and those council members who were stepping down by choice or term limit.

Valerie Watkins moved for the new candidates to be elected and current members to be re-elected by acclimation, to avoid using paper ballots. Cathy Dundon seconded. Voice vote carried unanimously.

Bruce Guthals asked about plans to fill the vice president's open position. Allison said the council had that responsibility.

After discussion about Roberts Rules of Order, Allison then asked for a motion to elect Cathy Dundon, Jerry Paul and Steve Leighton, plus re-elect Robyn Glaser, Steve Haigh and Gerry Rasel.

A motion to adjourn was approved, and Pastor Michael closed the meeting with prayer at 11:06 a.m.

✚

Report from the President of the Congregation

Where is God leading us...? God is leading us to love one another. Always and in all ways.

2023 was a year of rebuilding and looking forward. On April 15, 2023, Pastor Mike Vinson began his ministry with Saint Peter with a service of installation with Bishop Gonia. Pastor Mike was provided a warm welcome at a celebration on the same day. Pastor Mike was also welcomed to a special gathering of the men's group in May and special gathering of the Transition Team, The Call Team and the Council to introduce the new Pastor to our learnings and reflections during the transition and call process.

In August the Council and Staff participated in a "Leadership Foundations Retreat" facilitated by the Rocky Mountain Synod Excellence in Leadership (EIL) Team. The retreat provided Pastor Mike, the StPLC staff and council members time to connect, discuss the strengths and challenges facing the congregation, and develop relationships that will help us to work together as a team as we continue our journey of ministry together.

The purpose of this retreat was to identify where we align and areas we need to redefine and build capacity to get things done. As is common in many communities, we have diverse views on what we should work on first and how best to work together to pursue our shared vision. Although diversity in opinions can be challenging, we all view it as a strength. Doing so enables us to grow stronger together and to use our collective talents to serve the StPLC community with love and grace.

Our next step in the journey was to develop a formal strategic plan that captures and activates the StPLC mission and vision statement. A Strategic Planning Team worked with a facilitator from October through January to define 3-, 5- and 10-year goals for a strategic plan. The strategic plan was presented to the congregation at a Coffee and conversation on January 25th. I am grateful to Karne Beighle, Jim Bunke, Steve Leighton, Jeanne Maloney, Jerry Paul, and Pastor Mike Vinson for the time, prayer, interviews, and reflection that they dedicated to preparing the strategic plan. The next phase of the process will be to develop and implement creative ideas to achieve those goals and this will be accomplished with the collaboration of all Saint Peter members... new and old!

Our Saint Peter community has experienced many challenges and changes since 2020. The pandemic, loss of a Pastor, and the loss of many beloved members have been difficult. For some, these changes and the changes in the world have increased a level of anxiety that we are witnessing within Saint Peter, our country and around the world. I believe God has not willed any of these challenges upon us. God continues to remind us that God is with us and that we have what we need to grow through these challenges *together*. God has been with us in the caring and supportive services of Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward and Pastor Michael Mortvedt during our transition and the wonderful faithful and hard-working staff Lynn, Mary, Sara, Beryl, Ariele and Barb and the many volunteers who found creative ways to serve members throughout the pandemic and the transition. God has been with us in our steadfast and thoughtful leaders and volunteers who helped Saint Peter reevaluate and discern our mission, vision, and values for the future. God has been with the Call team who prayerfully called Pastor Mike Vinson to be our pastor. So many wonderful people have dedicated their time, talents, and prayers to this community at Saint Peter Lutheran Church.

Times of transition and change are not always easy and can be uncomfortable. God is with us and within us and calls us to love and serve one another as he loves us, even if we are anxious. God calls us to be in community especially for times such as these. With prayer and open hearts, God is guiding us to be a loving, welcoming and serving community.

I am so grateful for the privilege to serve alongside my fellow Council members this past year, Jim Bunke, Cathy Dundon, Robyn Glaser, Steve Haigh, Steve Leighton, Shawn O'Keefe, Jerry Paul and Gerry Rasel. These Council members care deeply about you and the whole Saint Peter community. If you have ideas, concerns and joy to share please connect with a Council member and Pastor Mike.

With love, gratitude and hope for our faith journey together,
Allison Summerton, President



Report from the Treasurer of the Congregation

Balance Sheet

ASSETS

	<u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>12/31/2022</u>
1st National Bank-Checking	67,814	53,217
1st Natl Special Business MM	169,412	188,674
Mission Plus Investment	6,293	6,268
U.S. Bank	329	329
Mint Financial Strategies	26,252	23,418
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
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,869,477</u>	<u>1,871,283</u>

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Accounts Payable	31,169	41,095
Thrivent Mortgage	429,737	460,375
Continuing Education	3,668	3,353
Total Long-Term Liabilities	433,405	463,727
Total Liabilities	464,574	504,822
General Fund	1,165,168	1,131,697
2024/2023 Operating Expenses Fund	39,787	30,303
Administrative Discretionary Fund	77,081	86,367
AV - Sound System Fund	1,478	1,585
Building Maintenance Fund	33,707	49,285
Catechism Fund	389	389
Covenant Cupboard Fund	5,307	323
Delores Project Fund	591	591
Facility Use Fund	169	397
LFS Refugee Fund	-	625
Memorial Funds	37,197	20,371
MOPS Fund	-	1,599
Music/Choir Fund	529	529
Rainbow Trail Fund	-	1,322
Saint Peter Stitchers Fund	772	815
Ron Leighton Memorial Scholarship Fund	38,437	35,972
Seminary Scholarship Fund	1,669	1,669
Stephen Ministry Fund	1,424	1,424
Youth Mission Fund	1,198	1,198
Designated Funds	239,735	234,763
TOTAL FUNDS	1,404,903	1,366,461
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUNDS	<u>1,869,477</u>	<u>1,871,283</u>

2023 Profit and Loss – 2024 Proposed Budget

	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget
Receipts			
Pledged/Non-Pledged Giving	516,048	542,290	538,110
⁽¹⁾ Miscellaneous	45,968	33,300	43,115
Seasonal/Holiday	26,963	6,000	9,000
Facility Use	3,400	3,100	6,500
Interest Income	763	300	700
Total Receipts	593,142	584,990	597,425
Disbursements			
Altar Guild	1,072	1,650	1,500
⁽²⁾ Benevolence	56,605	59,230	58,000
DESIGN	110	540	500
Evangelism	2,225	6,000	5,000
Faith Formation	465	2,300	2,300
Family Ministries	3,992	5,000	5,000
Group Ministries	-	200	200
⁽³⁾ Member Services	25,665	27,790	28,850
Music	8,425	11,000	8,825
⁽⁴⁾ Property	118,000	123,530	126,730
Stephen Ministry	141	1,000	1,000
Stewardship	650	650	650
Youth and Family	1,860	4,000	4,000
Worship	8,100	10,290	12,700
Salaries - Pastor/Office Staff	272,625	270,460	275,000
Benefits - Pastor/Office Staff	50,420	58,350	64,170
CE - Pastor/Office Staff	3,000	3,000	3,000
⁽⁵⁾ EOY Adjustment	39,787	-	-
Total Disbursements	593,142	584,990	597,425

⁽¹⁾ 2023 Actual Miscellaneous includes donations for loose currency, donations for special year end giving, Thrivent Choice, AmazonSmiles and \$30,303 surplus from 2022 allocated back to the general fund from the 2023 Operating Expense Designated Fund. The \$43,115 in the proposed budget includes the \$39,787 surplus from the general fund that was moved to the 2024 Operating Expense Designated Fund.

⁽²⁾ 2023 Actual Benevolence includes \$51,605 to RMS and \$5,000 to Village Resource Center.

⁽³⁾ 2023 Member Services expenses include general office supplies, office computer replacement, postage, devotionals, Living Lutheran subscription for members, offering envelopes, conferences/conventions, Pastoral transition expenses/receptions, office software/hardware, printer/copier lease, general fellowship supplies, service charges for online donation accounts.

⁽⁴⁾ 2023 Property expenses include \$46,932 for total mortgage payment (3.65% interest rate) and \$71,068 for property maintenance, landscaping, supplies, insurance, fire/security, utilities.

⁽⁵⁾ 2023 EOY Adjustment: Move surplus to 2024 Operating Expenses Designated Fund

Respectfully Submitted,

Finance Team

Shawn O'Keefe, Treasurer, Cathy Dundon, Angie Kleberger, Lynn Sherpe, Bruce Stokes & Sharon Stokes



STAFF REPORTS

Report from the Pastor

A reading from Jeremiah 29: 11-14a;

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord...

My hope in sharing this text with you is to see the future for ministry here at Saint Peter. We can also see the road map that continues to make us a faithful worshipping community rooted in being bound together in prayer and hope in God.

Since being called on February 12, 2023, marked the beginning of a new adventure for all of us. In that time, I enjoyed witnessing the growth of our Children's ministry with Sunday Funday and participating in the Christmas store. I especially like the collaboration we are doing with Confirmation and witnessing how Covenant Cupboard and Village Resource Center Ministries already address our need to be a church that is outwardly thinking.

This past Fall began the work of the Strategic Planning Team on our path moving forward. I have had a chance to learn a lot about the history of Saint Peter along with getting to dream with these leaders and have them dream with me. All this work together has come up with 3-, 5- and 10-year goals; a vision moving forward. Working on our vision moving forward has brought some things to light for me as Saint Peter works together on these goals. Let me share with you these thoughts.

We need to spend time intentionally restoring and nurturing meaningful relationships together. I have learned quickly that people here at Saint Peter like the family moniker. Like most families, we will have hard time and will learn hard lessons together. Also like most families we will not always agree on everything, but we have foundational truths. We are bound together by our Lord and Savior and his love and grace for all. My hope is that we can begin to have intentional meals together in what I believe was called "Three Squares". This will not only get old friends back together but will also be a way of welcoming new people into the family.

Please know that I want to hear about your thoughts and dreams for the future of our ministry together. If you are ever troubled or have questions – or even enjoy – things you hear from the pulpit or things you experience as part of this community, please share them with me. I want to hear from you. I faithfully look forward to our next year in ministry together and pray that the Holy Spirit continues to reveal God's preferred future for us.

In Christ,
Pastor Mike Vinson



Report from the Parish Administrator

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. [Ecclesiastes 3:1]

Ecclesiastes gives us many examples of seasons we'll face in life: times of birth, death, weeping and joy. I know that God promises to walk alongside each of us in every season of our life. God was there when my husband, Mike, and I celebrated the birth of our first grandchild in April – and when we were in deep despair at the death of my father in June. We have witnessed God's transformational work in our Saint Peter family as we continue to envision what we are called to do together as a faith community. I am thankful for a God who challenges us to be present to one another and to build meaningful relationships through communication, love and grace. May our work together be fruitful for years to come!

I am so fortunate to work alongside a staff and church community who possess different talents and gifts. Together we have done many things! Looking back at 2023, here are some general administrative duties performed:

- Assisted in special projects for all ministry teams.
- Participated as a member of the Stewardship Team.
- Assisted 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, 2023. These numbers are based on the total number of confirmed and baptized active members at Saint Peter Lutheran Church.

	Baptized <i>(total membership)</i>		Confirmed <i>(9th grade and older)</i>	
Active Membership, 12/31/2022		272		227
Members received by Baptism	3		0	
Members received by Transfer from ELCA Church	8		4	
Baptized youth, who were confirmed			1	
Total members received	11		5	
Sub-total		283		232
Members transferred to other congregations	0		0	
Members who died	3		3	
Members released from membership	3		1	
Members placed on <i>inactive</i> roster	34		24	
Total members removed	40		28	
Active Membership, 12/31/2023		243		204

Summary of membership removals:

- Saint Peter now has 107 active member families.
- 9 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.
- No family unit has transferred their membership to another congregation.
- 6 family units have moved out of town and have not transferred their membership.
- 3 members have been removed due to death (2 family units removed from membership).
- 1 family unit has requested to be released from membership.
- 1 family unit that was previously placed on the inactive list has transferred their membership to another congregation.

I also served as Financial Secretary in 2023. The following table summarizes the gross receipts received this year:

Financial Secretary Report

General Fund Receipts	January 1 - December 31, 2023	Comments
**Prepaid contributions received Dec 2022	\$30,290	5 pre-paid pledges for 2023
Pledged Mission Support	\$424,770	
Non-Pledged Mission Support	\$60,989	
Advent/Christmas	\$23,943	
AmazonSmiles	\$183	
Facility Use Revenue	\$3,400	
Initial Offering	\$10	Donations to defray offering envelope cost
Interest Income	\$763	
Lent/Easter	\$3,020	
Loose Offering	\$1,495	
Special Year End Giving	\$13,550	
Thrivent Choice	\$352	
Total General Fund	\$532,475	**Does not Include the prepaid contributions of \$30,290 that was received Dec 2022
Designated Fund Receipts		
Prepaid 2024 Pledges	23,770.00	
*Covenant Cupboard Fund General Fund	905.00	
Covenant Cupboard Fund Toy Drive	1,290.00	In StPLC's Designated Fund
*ELCA World Hunger Fund	1,525.00	
*Habitat for Humanity	340.00	
*Lutheran Disaster Relief	425.00	
*Lutheran Family Services Fund	308.00	
Memorial Fund	21,986.00	Gifts in loving memory of Rob Reiber, Charles Wood, Don Doehling, Ron & Verna Leighton, Doug Clair, Leonard Wall, Del Hooker and Sandy Olson
*Ministry Support	3,759.72	Donations for Strategic Planning expenses, ministry supply expenses, and purchase of flowers (Easter Lilies & Poinsettias)
*Pass-thru expense	25,446.51	Retreat registration fees, Staff Christmas gifts, Credit card bank fees paid by donors, Appreciation gift for Pastor Mortvedt
Ron Leighton Memorial Scholarship	1,550.00	
*Tanzania Mission Support	22,740.00	5K Run/Walk event, Donations to support health care ministries in Tanzania, Operation Bootstrap Africa, Plaster House, Selian Hospice. Net donated to organizations after expenses was \$19,340
*Village Resource Center	644.00	
Total Designated Funds	104,689.23	
Total Receipts	\$637,164.30	

*All designated funds were sent to respected organizations.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Sherpe



Report from the Congregation Communications

I joined the staff of Saint Peter in the role of Congregation Communications in June 2023. My goal is to continually educate the congregation about the mission and ministry of Saint Peter and create compelling invitations and motivation to participate. I also strive to convey gratitude for folks' engagement of time, talent and treasure. Everything I write or produce reinforces our mission of being welcomed and sent and advocates for the vision of supportive relationships, vibrant worship and active faith.

I work to inform and energize the congregation:

- I create regular social media posts, biweekly blog posts, and worship reminders.
- Together with Barb Hinchey, I produce the weekly newsletter. We strive for a professional, inspirational and informational product each week. One of my favorite runs this year was leading up to the Ministry Fair; we highlighted the work of multiple ministries every week – it was a fun and educational series!
- I promoted events/groups/campaigns like the Summer Music Bash, the Toy Drive, Sacred Choral Sunday, Stewardship, Advent Fest, Covenant Cupboard, etc.
- I designed posters, mailers, and other print media (handouts for Advent festivities, e.g.).

My major project this fall was to revamp and refresh the website (www.stplc.org)! I hope that it presents a hearty and attractive invitation to all.

In addition to my weekly duties and event promotion, in 2024 I want to:

- Create small postcards for folks to personally invite others to church.
- Update StPLC swag.
- Ensure that the time of church worship is lit up on the church sign.

It is a joy to work in this supportive and loving community!

Respectfully Submitted,
Arielle Wilson



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 in their infancy through elementary age but also embracing families of all sizes, combinations and ages. It's our goal to support faith building, community-building across generations and to inspire and empower others to employ what we learn "at church" in the home and in the outside community.

Highlights of Ministries and Actions 2023

- Epiphany Kits distributed at church and made available to all households
- Continued adaptation of Playground materials for children to stay in the worship center with their households, while engaged in activities that reinforce readings each week
- Blessing of Backpacks, First Day of School, HS Graduation
- Worship Kits maintained with new materials weekly and seasonally
- Ongoing collaboration with DTC-7 churches-"Better Together" event at StPLC (over 100 participants) April 1 focusing on understanding and serving the Unhoused, Crayon Recycling Project,
- Expanded offerings in Lending Library for Children
- Christmas Eve liturgy collaboration with Music Ministries-Lessons and Carols
- All-Church Advent Fest (SRO) including breakfast and stations for creating Advent wreaths, 3 Devotionals for at-home use, including the 12 Days of Christmas take-home spiritual practices, assembling Advent Calendars, Notecard stamping station and more

- Created Christmas Bags as gifts to every child attending Christmas Eve worship
- Gratitude Tree, Epiphany Stars, and Posters on the wall behind the Prayground are evidence of robust learning from our Sunday Funday kids. Wonderful melding of All Ages represented
- Day Camp-free to all attendees, July 10-13
- Weekly notes to 3-5 members who are online worshippers desiring a copy of the weekly
- Taught weaving of sleeping mats for the unhoused with the Guthals family at Annual Picnic of LDS in summer
- Activities for children during Selian 5K Run/Walk and Music Bash
- Children's Messages on occasion
- Adapt/Create lessons for Sunday Funday each week that follows the lectionary, using Spark Curriculum as foundation. Ages 3-5th grade, 6-8th grade Team Leaders and Adult Leaders
- Professional Development monthly online: Milestone Ministries, The Path Ahead online course-4 sessions October, Anxiety in Children webinar 5/31
- First Holy Communion Class-taught. Ryan and Macy Sullivan, Logan and Blake Costello
- LIFT Intergenerational Events including A Study of Lent (three classes of sacred practices), The Wisdom of the Ages (SRO), and other themes offered twice/month, including breakfast
- Sought, interviewed candidates, and hired an every-Sunday Nursery Attendant
- Organized youth for Lector opportunities
- Organized Movie Night June 23 Well-attended, for all ages. Snacks and movie on the lawn with outdoor games and Jumpy Castle beforehand
- Summertime "Take church with you" opportunities making Blessing Bags and sleeping mats for the Unhoused after church
- Two New Initiatives: Motorized Ministries and StPLC Cheer Squad
- Motorized Ministries-Wonderful volunteers sign up to help transport those needing a ride to church
- Cheer Squad-events that are happening in the lives of our children/youth are mentioned in OLT so others may attend and support our precious kids
- Birthday Card ministry-I send each child a card with a note for their birthday
- Participation in Faith in Action events, movies, book talks, outreach

2024 Goals

- Providing faith formation for children that is Relational, Experiential, Applicable, and Lifelong (REAL) through robust learning and opportunities to take Faith out the doors of the church and into the community both local and global.
- Continue to provide opportunities for Intergenerational relationships through gatherings and service projects.
- Continue to collaborate with the strong partnership already established with the DTC-7, with the goal of expanding further with more of our brothers and sisters in faith.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Pratt



Report from the Music Minister

It was another great year of music making at Saint Peter!

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 held the second annual 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), Christmas Eve, and two Sacred Choral Sundays (with the Castle Rock Chorale). Our choir's membership grew by a few singers this year, and we were always able to perform well thanks to our group of talented singers!

I was also able to restart the Children's Choir with a group of about 12 amazing kids. They were showcased during special worship services at the beginning of Advent, and during the Family Service on Christmas Eve. What a joy to work with our talented Saint Peter youth!

A highlight of my year was attending the ALCM (Association of Lutheran Church Musicians) Summer conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania over the 4th of July week. I was able to hear amazing concerts, take seminars and classes on almost any church-music topic imaginable, and connect/brainstorm with other Lutheran church musicians from across the country. I look forward to more of these learning opportunities in the future.

Goals for 2024:

- 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.
- Continuation of the Children's Choir for special services (Earth Day, Advent, Christmas Eve).
- Recruitment of volunteer musicians within the congregation for special projects (chamber ensembles, solo special music opportunities, etc.).
- Continue the band's "Summer Music Bash" as an annual event.
- Continued collaboration between the Jubilate Choir and the Castle Rock Chorale.
- Connect with colleagues outside of Saint Peter for collaboration opportunities for performances and continuing education sessions for our wonderful volunteer musicians.

Thank you to all the staff and congregation for your continued support of the Music Ministry. I would especially like to extend 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 will never be able to thank the Tech Team enough for all that they do to make worship go smoothly in-person and online each week.

I am so grateful for everyone who makes working at Saint Peter Lutheran so wonderful. It is a true blessing to get to know and work with all of you!

Respectfully submitted,
Beryl Fanslow Wilson



MINISTRY PARTNERS

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Saint Peter Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with about 4 million members in nearly 10,000 congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. For us, as the ELCA, this faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world.

We are a church that is always being made new, and at the same time, is deeply rooted in Scripture, Lutheran theology and Lutheran confessions. We are also rooted in the vibrant, diverse communities and rich histories of our congregations. It's through these roots that the Holy Spirit guides and nourishes us so that we can be a church that is both resilient and always new.

Learn more about the ELCA at <http://www.elca.org>



Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp

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.



Learn about RTLC at <https://www.rainbowtrail.org/>



Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains is a faith based, non-profit human services agency providing adoption, disaster response, foster care, older adult, family support & education, and refugee & immigration services since 1948. We provide help and support to children and families during their most challenging times regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation or age. At LFSRM, we believe that all people, from the newborn to the most elderly, are valued members of our community.



With locations in Albuquerque, Billings, Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins, Greeley, Las Cruces, Pueblo, and Salt Lake City, we partner with communities to meet the unmet needs affecting their most vulnerable populations. LFSRM strives to recognize areas in need and to find ways to serve those who have seemingly become invisible. Every day, hundreds of people turn to LFSRM for refuge, help and hope.

We don't do it alone! The hallmark of serving through LFSRM has always been a shared sense of being in this together; joined at the heart with volunteers, clients, donors and neighbors.

Learn more about LFSRM at <https://www.lfsrm.org/>





Rocky Mountain Synod: On the Way Together

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

To be a **synod** literally means to be *on the way together* - on the **way of Jesus** together.

With **profound gratitude**, we celebrate the many ways your mission support has empowered our ministry and mission as **Christ's Church, Better Together** in the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod in 2023.

- In May we met in **Assembly** in El Paso to experience the power of "Cruzando Fronteras/Crossing Borders" for the sake of the gospel, and in September our rostered ministers gathered in four locations across our synod to engage in the discernment about the 2024 bishop's election.
- The **Global Mission Network** supported RMS missionaries and began planning for a RMS border immersion trip and visit by Malagasy companion synod leaders in 2024.
- **Excellence in Leadership (EiL)** added trainings on healthy boundaries, adaptive leadership, conflict management & congregational systems. Since 2019, EiL has trained 179 leaders in courageous, resilient & effective leadership.
- **3E (Educate, Equip, Enact)**, funded by the Lilly Foundation, provided 11 mini-sabbatical grants for rostered leaders, stewardship learning opportunities for congregations, non-profit management training for 40 leaders, and funding to support rostered leaders engaging in counseling, coaching and spiritual direction.



Rev. Angela Chacon's ordination and installation at Ascension St. Matthew's Lutheran Episcopal Church in Price, UT.

BY THE NUMBERS

30

CANDIDATES
being accompanied
from discernment
through first call

6

ORDINATIONS
of new pastors &
deacons

28

INSTALLATIONS
of pastors and
deacons into new
ministry settings

21

FIRST CALL
deacons & pastors
being accompanied
through their first
three years of
ministry

47.5

% of MISSION
SUPPORT received
in our synod was
shared with our
Churchwide
Organization

TOGETHER IN 2023

- The **Campus Ministry Committee** regrouped to better accompany our seven synod campus ministries.
- **Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - Colorado** worked on a number of bills including the passage of House Bill 1112 (Rep. S. Bird), which will make significant changes for Colorado tax filers who claim the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. It's one of our state's most effective and proven anti-poverty measures.
- **Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - New Mexico** advocated successfully for \$10 million in additional one-time funding for low-income/affordable housing, \$30 million in additional annual funding for low-income/affordable housing, and an increase in the state's child-tax credit and universal healthy school meals for all New Mexico children.
- The **RMS Disaster Response Committee** organized to better accompany and support congregations in areas that have been impacted by major disasters
- The Synod was represented at board meetings & gatherings of our **Social Ministry Organization partners**, including Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains, Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center, Urban Servant Corps and Border Servant Corps.
- A **multi-cultural ecumenical pilgrimage** to Greece and Rome included members of the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Episcopal Church in Colorado walking in the footsteps of Paul while praying for peace in the Holy Land.
- **Vital Right Shaped Ministry** provided tools for congregations and rostered ministers to review their congregational life, set a course for their future, and strengthen leaders for their journey ahead.
- Our **Congregational Transition Team** supported ministries throughout the synod during their transition and call process.
- Synod staff accompanied two of our congregations as they moved into new spaces, with **Highlands Lutheran** in Denver relocating to the Lutheran Center and **Cristo Rey/Latino Ministry West Denver** moving into the building generously donated to the synod by Christ the King Lutheran upon its conclusion of ministry.

Your generosity fueled these ministry opportunities, while supporting the countless ministries of our whole church across this country and around the world.

**Thank you for your commitment to being synod -
on the way together!**

Pictured at right from top to bottom: Wyoming Conference Rostered Leaders Retreat, Cristo Rey/Latino Ministry West Denver's Christmas celebration, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Luther House in Albuquerque, NM gather for a meal, community time, and worship, Racial Justice train-the-trainer event in April.



2023 STAFF ROSTER

<p>Mike Vinson, Pastor mvinson@StPLC.org</p> <p>Mary Pratt, Family Ministries mpratt@StPLC.org</p> <p>Beryl Fanslow Wilson, Minister of Music bfanslow@StPLC.org</p> <p>Arielle Wilson, Accompanist & Congregational Communications (beginning in June 2023) awilson@StPLC.org</p>	<p>Lynn Sherpe, Parish Administrator & Financial Secretary lsherpe@StPLC.org</p> <p>Sara Lancaster, Congregation Communications January – June 2023</p> <p>Barb Hinchey, Weekly Editor bhinchey@StPLC.org</p>
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CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL ROSTER

2023 Executive Team / Congregation Officers

President	<p>Allison Summerton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • term expires January 2024; ineligible to be re-elected • first elected in 2020; currently serving second term
Vice President	<p>Cathy Dundon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • term expires January 2025; eligible to be re-elected • first elected in 2023; currently serving first term
Treasurer	<p>Shawn O’Keefe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • term expires January 2024; ineligible to be re-elected • first elected in 2020; currently serving second term
Secretary	<p>Steve Haigh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • term expires January 2025; ineligible to be re-elected • first elected in 2021; currently serving second term
Pastor	<p>Mike Vinson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • term: ex-officio; voice and vote
Financial Secretary	<p>Lynn Sherpe (not an officer of the corporation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serving “until her successor is elected” (constitutional language). First elected in 2011

2023 Congregation Council Members

At Large	<p>Jim Bunke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • term expires January 2024; ineligible to be re-elected • first elected in 2020; currently serving second term
At Large	<p>Robyn Glaser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • term expires January 2025; ineligible to be re-elected • first elected in 2021; currently serving second term
At Large	<p>Steve Leighton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • term expires January 2025; eligible to be re-elected • first elected in 2023; currently serving first term
At Large	<p>Jerry Paul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • term expires January 2025; eligible to be re-elected • first elected in 2023; currently serving first term
At Large	<p>Gerry Rasel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • term expires January 2025; ineligible to be re-elected • first elected in 2021; currently serving second term

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

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

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

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

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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

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

arr. Julius Röntgen

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