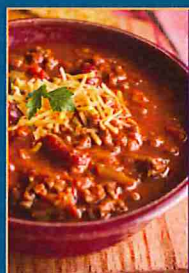




# ANNUAL REPORT



2021



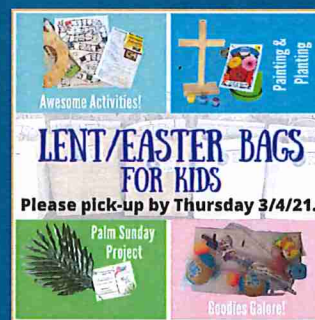
FREE  
Soup-to-Go  
Drive-Thru  
4:30pm-6:30pm  
Monday  
December 13  
White or Red Chili  
Corn Bread  
Cookie  
KIDS CHOICE MAC & CHEESE

Peace Lutheran Church  
2355 Clark Road, Dresser

FREE  
Clothing Event

TODAY  
September 27  
2:00-6:00pm

PEACE LUTHERAN  
CHURCH



Peace Lutheran Church

Called to Prayer. Called to Care. Called to Share.



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Dear Church Family,

As we have ventured this past year [still] amongst “pandemic life”, I am continually amazed at how God works in, around and through us. This past year, our Peace Lutheran Church family has trusted God to be the hands and feet of Christ in showing love to our neighbors. Let us celebrate the Neighborly Love that PLC has shared this past year (and the list goes beyond what I have even listed here!):

\* Online Worship and Online Presence: Our online worship and presence reaches people when they are unable to be with us in-person for worship. Every week, we hear how members are so incredibly grateful for our online worship services, but we also hear how our online presence goes far beyond Peace Lutheran Church! Assisted Living communities gather together to worship online with us each week, snow-birds feel connected all year, and those not ready to gather continue to feel a part of the church family. Members and non-members alike join in to hear the Good News of Christ through online means.

\* Community “To-Go” Meals: We were able to provide food to our community in a safe and welcoming manner multiple times throughout this past year. Our community meals have continued on from early on in the pandemic and have become an incredible and ongoing blessing to many.

\* Summer Barn Bash Shindig: At a time when we were thirsty for social interaction, God provided a time and place for us to gather in a safe way. The community was invited, music was played, and food was had. A great (and safe!) gathering event for all.

\* Homeless Shelter: Our Peace family has far surpassed our initial asking of furnishing one single bedroom at the new homeless shelter. Through our Peace family, God has provided the means for us to furnish multiple bedrooms and community/living rooms for this space as we care for our neighbors.

\* Live Nativity: The night was cold, but neighbors, family & friends gathered together to see, hear and experience the birth of Christ through the live nativity. Sharing this story is a true act of love that we shared with our community, so that all may hear the Good News.

\* Comfort & Care: While sick or grieving, it is amazing to see how people of Peace reach out to those in need. From opening up our building to host large community funerals, to phone calls, cards in the mail, caring for families as they are going through cancer treatments, setting up meal trains and making visits (when able!). Peace sure does know how to care for our community (and beyond!) in times of need.

I am thankful for all of you, Peace Family. I am thankful for a dedicated and committed council that has shown great servant-leadership throughout this past year, and I am thankful for an incredible staff who continues to let God work through them, going above and beyond always to share God’s love with all.

I give thanks and praise to God, who has loved us first, so that we can, in turn, share that incredible love with others, near and far.

Pastor Melissa Carmack, 2021

*“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” Romans 12:13 (ESV)*

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, DRESSER, WISCONSIN**

**AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022, 9:30 am**

1. Call to order - Council President

2. Devotions and prayer - Pastor Melissa

3. Identity and Mission Statement

Peace Lutheran Church of Dresser, Wisconsin, is a family of people, called by the Holy Spirit through the Word and Sacraments, to pray for the world and the coming of God's kingdom, to care about the needs of others in God's name, and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Peace Lutheran Church....

Called to Prayer, Called to Care, Called to Share.

4. Treasurer's Report on the **2021 Budget**

6. Old Business

7. New Business

a. Elections

1. Approval of the following members for Peace Church Council:

Gene Jaremczuk-Worship Ministry

Maggie Isaacson-Outreach & Stewardship Ministry

Joe Kahl-Property Ministry

b. Approval of the **2022 Budget**

8. The Lord's Prayer

9. Adjournment



## 2021 Peace Lutheran Treasurer's Report

Checking Balance 1/1/21	\$ 33,355
Giving and rent Received	\$ 494,165
Other income received	\$ 5,587
Spending (budgeted items)	\$ 490,009
Spending (non-budgeted items)	\$ 41,959
Checking balance 1/1/22	\$ 1,139

### Assets

#### Designated savings held at our bank

Emergency Operating Expense Fund	\$ 20,301
Larson Scholarship Holding Fund	\$ 2,020
Bus Fund	\$ 16,429
Choir Fund	\$ 413
Praise Band Fund	\$ 740
Feed My Starving Children Fund	\$ 3,118
Kitchen/Funeral Fund	\$ 9,109
Altar Guild Fund	\$ 253
Parish Nurse Support Group Fund	\$ 5,296
Parish Nurse Ministry Fund	\$ 744
Maintenance Fund	\$ 6,632
Designated Memorials Fund	\$ 2,712
Undesignated Memorials Fund	\$ 2,411
Contingency Fund	\$ 25,670
Siding Fund	\$ 1,482
Live Streaming Fund	\$ 17,782
Organ Fund	\$ 525
Sidewalk Fund	\$ 6,000
Temporary Holding Fund	\$ 226
Total Bank Savings	\$ 121,863

#### Investments Held at ELCA Pooled Investment Fund

Larson Scholarship Endowment	\$ 105,330
Pastoral Housing Fund	\$ 20,406
Total ELCA Investments	\$ 125,736

### Other Assets

Pastoral Housing Loan	\$ 5,985
Land, net of improvements	\$ 29,000
Building, net of improvements and depreciation	\$ 978,640
Total Other Assets	\$ 1,013,625
Total Assets	\$ 1,262,363

### Liabilities

Mortgage	\$ 778,129
Assets minus Liabilities (Net Worth)	\$ 484,234

Peace Lutheran - Dresser Presentation Budget Report						
Account #	Account Name	Yr Beg 01/2020	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	Comments 2022	% Change
4.901.01	Envelope Offerings	\$483,203	\$507,318	\$512,649		
4.903.01	Rent Dacare	\$30,000	\$24,000	\$24,000		
4.904.29	Pastoral Housing Int & Gain/Loss	\$314	\$300	\$300		
		<b>\$513,517</b>	<b>\$531,618</b>	<b>\$536,949</b>		
	<b>Benevolences</b>					
5.201.01	NW Synod/ELCA	\$13,127	\$13,127	\$13,127		0%
5.201.02	Apple River Conference	\$50	\$0	\$50		0%
5.201.03	Luther Point	\$2,265	\$2,265	\$2,265		0%
5.201.04	LSS	\$2,715	\$2,715	\$715		-74%
5.202.02	CRA	\$1,425	\$1,425	\$1,425		0%
5.202.03	Inter-Faith Caregivers	\$581	\$581	\$581		0%
5.203.01	Salvation Army	\$712	\$712	\$712		0%
New	Family Pathways/Open Cupboard		\$0	\$2,000	(\$1000/each)	0%
		<b>\$20,875</b>	<b>\$20,825</b>	<b>\$20,875</b>		0%
	<b>Ministry</b>					
5.300.01	Education Ministry Programs	\$2,750	\$2,750	\$3,750		36%
5.301.01	Youth Ministry Programs	\$3,300	\$3,300	\$3,300		0%
5.302.01	Life/Growth Ministry Programs	\$300	\$300	\$1,000		233%
5.303.01	Outreach Ministry Programs	\$300	\$300	\$450		50%
5.303.11	Parish Nurse Materials	\$300	\$300	\$300		0%
5.304.01	Stewardship Ministry Programs	\$350	\$350	\$300		-14%
5.305.01	Worship Ministry Programs	\$375	\$375	\$375		0%
5.305.03	Worship Supplies	\$2,650	\$2,650	\$3,500		32%
5.305.04	Altar Guild Expense	\$275	\$275	\$275		0%
5.306.01	Parish Relations Materials/Education	\$150	\$150	\$150		0%
5.307.01	Lav Education Materials	\$434	\$400	\$400		0%
5.307.03	Synod Assembly Expenses	\$500	\$0	\$0		0%
5.307.04	Leadership Development	\$300	\$300	\$300		0%
		<b>\$11,984</b>	<b>\$11,450</b>	<b>\$14,100</b>		23%
	<b>Mortgage</b>					
5.400.01	Mortgage Principal	\$47,430		\$51,511	Andrea	
5.400.02	Mortgage Interest	\$38,490		\$34,409	Andrea	
		<b>\$85,920</b>	<b>\$85,920</b>	<b>\$85,920</b>		0%

Peace Lutheran - Dresser Presentation Budget Report					
Account #	Account Name	Yr Beg 01/2020	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	% Change
	<b>Maintenance</b>				
5.402.01	Maintenance Materials, Exterior	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$3,500	-36%
5.402.02	Maintenance Materials, Interior	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$3,500	-42%
5.402.04	Building Inspections	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$1,000	-75%
5.402.07	Maintenance Labor Expense	\$6,000	\$6,500	\$5,000	-23%
5.403.01	Capital Improvements, General	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	-100%
5.403.03	Capital Improvements, General	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	-100%
5.403.04	Capital Improvements, Electrical	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000	400%
5.403.05	Capital Improvements,	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	0%
5.403.06	Capital Improvements, HVAC	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	0%
		<b>\$36,000</b>	<b>\$36,500</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>-23%</b>
	<b>Utilities and Insurance</b>				
5.308.08	Telecomm Utility Charges	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	0%
5.401.01	Electricity	\$12,404	\$12,400	\$12,400	0%
5.401.02	Propane	\$27,500	\$20,000	\$20,000	0%
5.401.03	Security System	\$250	\$250	\$250	0%
5.401.04	Garbage Service	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,600	0%
5.404.01	Casualty/Liability Insurance	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500	0%
		<b>\$53,754</b>	<b>\$46,250</b>	<b>\$46,250</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>Supplies and General</b>				
5.308.01	Office Supplies	\$2,500	\$2,250	\$2,250	0%
5.308.02	Tech Eqpt Purchase		\$0	\$1,500	149999900
5.308.03	Tech Service Expense	\$1,100	\$1,000	\$1,000	0%
5.308.06	Copier Equipment Purchase/Lease	\$3,132	\$3,132	\$3,132	0%
5.308.07	Copier Service Expense	\$268	\$250	\$250	0%
5.308.10	Subscriptions/Fees	\$1,800	\$2,400	\$2,500	4%
5.308.11	Copier Usage Expense	\$2,100	\$2,500	\$2,500	0%
5.308.12	Postage	\$2,100	\$2,000	\$1,800	-10%
5.309.01	Local Advertising	\$800	\$500	\$1,000	100%
5.309.02	Local Advertising, Employment	\$250	\$250	\$250	0%
5.309.03	Website/Social Media Expense	\$150	\$250	\$1,200	380%
5.310.01	Food/Beverage	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,200	0%
5.310.11	Kitchen Equipment	\$100	\$100	\$100	0%
5.402.03	Maintenance Supplies	\$1,850	\$2,000	\$2,000	0%
		<b>\$16,950</b>	<b>\$17,832</b>	<b>\$20,682</b>	<b>16%</b>

Peace Lutheran - Dresser			
Presentation Budget Report			

[illegible]

## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS – 2021

	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
Members on Jan. 1, 2021	1123	952
Members received by baptism:	11	
Members received by transfer:	6	5
Baptized members confirmed:		19
Inactive members reactivated:		2
Totals:	1140	978
Members removed in 2021:		
By death:	7	6
By transfer to another church:	2	2
By being put on inactive list:		
Totals:	1131	986
Members on Jan. 1, 2022:	1131	986

### Peace Lutheran Church Staff 2021 -2022

Youth & Family Pastor Melissa Carmack, 443 Evergreen Ct., N. Richmond	651-338-7459
Intern Pastor Ben Nelson (back to Seminary August 2021)	
Intern Hillary Toulson (started September 2021)	715-307-0063
Parish Nurse: Karen Fossum, 500 Lake View Ln, Osceola	715-494-9191
Secretary: Pat Adam, 2208 90 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Osceola	715-222-9404
Christian Educ. Director: Dana Paulsen (started April 2021)	715-533-1451
Director of Media: Tammy Brenizer, 2978 110 <sup>th</sup> St., Frederic, WI	612-817-9933
Interim Treasurer: Pete Peterson, 309 State Rd. 35, Osceola	715-417-2350
Bookkeeper: Cheryl Bjornstad, 508 Moody Rd., SCF	715-483-3908
Financial Secretaries:	
Bonnie Crary, 896 140 <sup>th</sup> St., Amery	715-268-4128
Maxine Spiess, 1617 210 <sup>th</sup> St., SCF	715-410-6952
Custodian: Jerry Rosenow (started March 2021)	651-764-1721
Choir Directors:	
Pete Peterson, 605 200 <sup>th</sup> St., Osceola	715-417-2350
Steve Swenson, 2218 140 <sup>th</sup> Ave., SCF	715-483-9797
Accompanists:	
Ronda Haley, 2543 86 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Osceola	715-294-3433
Dennis Alfveby, 905 Marshall Rd., New Richmond	715-246-4389



## **2021 Children, Youth and Families Report**

Greetings my PLC families,

In June of 2021, I was blessed to be hired as the Children, Youth & Family (C.Y.F.) Director at PLC. In that short amount of time, we have been busy organizing and hosting many events. The Pandemic has been difficult for all of us but especially our children. It is wonderful to be in-person and provide a faith foundation with hands on learning and fellowship.

This year, Sunday School changed its name to B.L.A.S.T. (Believe, Learn, and Seek, Truth). The Milestone Ministry has resumed along with Itty Bitty Book Bunch which meets monthly. Adult study is being offered by Intern Hillary. Confirmation classes and Sr. High youth meets every Wednesday evening for faith, food and fun. A special thank you to our teachers and small group leaders. Your time and dedication to our youth is immeasurable. We truly couldn't do this without you.

August: We had 57 kids attend our Rocky Railway VBS. This year it was held in the evenings and meals were provided for all children, staff and families.

September: B.L.A.S.T. kicked off Sunday School with Rally Day events of games, bouncy houses, food, prizes and sign up. This month also included PreK and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Milestone (Bibles).

October/November: B.L.A.S.T. honored veterans, service men and women and first responders. They were presented with cards, gifts and singing.

December: Christmas Program and a Birthday Party for Jesus were held.

B.L.A.S.T. and Confirmation held Silent Auction Baskets and Christmas Goodie Platters, which raised \$600 for the new homeless shelter. Thank you for your support and making this a huge success!!

January 2022: B.L.A.S.T. sponsored a Pancake Breakfast and Corn Hole Tournament to celebrate a New Year, resuming programming and have some good old fashion fellowship time with our Peace family and community members. This month also included the Prayer Pillow Milestone for Kindergarten.

We would like to invite you to become a part of our education team. All are welcome and we would love to have you. If you are interested in this amazing opportunity, please contact Pat, Dana or Pastor Melissa.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children and families,

Dana Paulsen

## Outreach Ministry Report for 2021

The mission of the Outreach Ministry is to carry on the work of Christ in our community, nation, and world; and to encourage the active participation of the members of this congregation in that work.

**Little Dresses for Africa:** No community sewing days due to covid. We make 'kits' that people sew at home. In 2021 we sent **505 dresses and 245 pairs of shorts** to Africa.

**Free Clothing Event:** We held an event in Sept. (missed 3 events due to covid), with tremendous donations. Many shoppers came, and we donated what was left to local charities, and to 'Shoe Away Hunger' in Fridley.

**Last Wednesday Meal and Thanksgiving Meal:** free meals canceled due to covid.

**Feed My Starving Children:** Scheduled twice and canceled twice due to covid.

**Military Appreciation:** Our 3 servicemen were given thermal tumblers, candy, and cards signed by the congregation at Christmas.

**Thrivent grants** used to support Little Dresses sewing and the quilting ministry.

**\*\*Held our first blanket drive.** Huge response - 50+. Donated to local charities.

**\*\*Held our first bazaar.** \$2,400 in donations split between Polk County Foster Care and Peace youth mission events. (Started by 2 confirmation students. We will continue it.)

**\*\*Attended meetings to help reorganize the Osceola Open Cupboard Food Shelf.**

**\*\*Gave congregation info on how to help Haitian earthquake relief at a local level.**

**\*\*Currently helping furnish the new Salvation Army homeless shelter for Polk-Barron Counties. We have 'adopted' 4 single bedrooms, 1 family bedroom, 1 living room, and 2 laundry rooms. Project continues into 2022.**

**\*\*New projects in 2022**

With gratitude for the congregation's help: Diane Lechman, Pat Carlson, Diane Moser, Pete Peterson, Robyn Bjornstad, Vicky Simpkins, Claire Cook-Chinander, Ann Moryn.

PARISH NURSE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021  
Karen Fossum, RN, BSN, Parish Nurse

The Parish Nurse extends the pastoral ministry of Peace Lutheran Church by focusing, holistically, on the health issues of individuals and families. The position is for 16 hours/week.

Services provided to individuals and families in 2021 include:

- \* Made 301 home, Hospital or Care Facility visits and 242 phone calls
- \* Communicated with members and/or their family via emails and texts
- \* Helped the ill or homebound feel connected to the congregation and its activities
- \* Helped people understand medication use and physician instructions
- \* Represented the love and concern of the congregation for its members
- \* Referred individuals to helpful community/county health and financial resources
- \* Assisted in finding caregivers for members wanting to stay at home but in need of help
- \* Assisted with the foot care of 18 people on a regular or semi-regular basis
- \* Maintained durable medical equipment to loan out to the congregation and community
- \* Delivered cards, treats and gifts to Peace's homebound members
- \* Delivered prayer shawls to those in need, with prayers of comfort
- \* Delivered food to shut-ins or families dealing with a health crisis

Services provided to groups:

- \* Co-facilitated in-person and call interactions with members of the Caregiver Support Group for those caring for a loved one – open to the community
- \* Coordinated a Service of Remembrance & Hope prior to Christmas for those grieving the loss of a loved one
- \* Maintained the AED/defibrillator + first aid supplies for church
- \* Obtained Spill Kits for our kitchen area as per PCHD requirement
- \* Wrote health/wellness articles of interest for the monthly Tidings

Training and Education I attended:

- \* Attended Zoom (and one in-person) meetings of the district Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurses Association

2022 Goals: I plan to continue to create ways to safely connect with and care for our members while we remain in a pandemic; also educate and encourage the use of COVID precautions for congregates and staff as dictated by the CDC, the Wisconsin Council of Churches, and local statistics. Doing more in-person visits safely will be one of my biggest goals for our members who are not getting to church.

## Peace Quilting Report for 2021

Quilting is a sub-division of Outreach Ministry. We had a fantastic year! We couldn't always meet, but many people continued to sew at home.

In 2021 we made and distributed **292 adult size quilts and 63 baby/child quilts**. In addition to these, we gave away many blankets, bedspreads, comforters, quilts, and pillowcases that were donated by church members.

Lutheran World Relief for Africa	73 adult
Sharing and Caring Hands (Minneapolis)	102 adult and 33 baby/child
Native American reservation in S.D.	90 adult and 25 baby/child
Grace Place (New Richmond homeless)	20 adult
CRA Women's Shelter (Milltown)	5 adult and 5 baby/child
Luther Point Bible Camp auction	3

Quilters meeting at Peace this year were: Christine Hanson, Vicky Simpkins, Sally Wulf, Diane Lechman, Gloria Hutton, Karen Andrie, Doris Johns, Candy Wheaton, and Mary Anderson. Others sew at home. Linda Meixner cuts squares. Pat and Bill Lones deliver quilts to the cities. You do not need to sew to help. Call Diane Lechman at 715-483-9791 if you would like to help.

**Peace members through their donations of fabric, sheets, and batting are crucial to the success of this ministry.**



## PLC Property Committee

The Property Committee meets bi-monthly (or as needed) to discuss any needs or concerns with the Church building and the grounds of Peace. We oversee the lawn mowing, snow plowing, custodial and any maintenance, which includes the upkeep of our HVAC system and yearly inspections as warranted for the sprinkler system and fire extinguishing equipment.

We have been compiling a list of projects and/or equipment that will be needed in the upcoming years at Peace. If you have any questions about the following items or wish to help or support that project, please talk to one of the property members.

Thank you for your support toward the upkeep of our church building.

- Video booth and equipment in Sanctuary - Spring 2022
- Electric window blinds for Sanctuary - Spring 2022
- New lighting above Altar - Spring 2022
- Narthex lighting - Spring 2022
- Office/hallway lighting replacement [LED] - Summer 2022
- Replace flooring in Ed wing hallway - Summer/Fall 2022
- Replace toilets in Ed wing - Summer 2022
- Front sidewalk replacement - Summer 2022
- Replace/repair bathroom partitions in Ed wing
- Small shed for storage [on cement north side of church]
- New perimeter parking lot lighting [in preparation for future blacktop]
- New church signs at highway 35 and parking lot [LED solar powered?]
- Replace Fellowship Hall lighting [LED]
- Replace Ed Wing lighting [LED]
- Ceiling banners in Fellowship Hall for sound
- Sand and polyurethane Altar wall
- New furniture in Narthex and Library

Property Committee members: Dallas Wynne, Scott Carlson, Larry Carlson, Jered Haase, Bryan Raddatz, Brandon Whittaker, Larry Koenig, Matt Adam

## **Stewardship Ministry Annual Report for 2021**

The Stewardship Ministry met several times during 2021. Our principal activity was publishing the "Stewardship Corner" article in each issue of the Tidings newsletter.

In addition, we solicited, reviewed, and awarded secondary education scholarships to ten Peace members as enabled by the Larson Scholarship Endowment.

We increased our membership by 50% during 2021 (from 2 members to three!) and we have plans to be more active in 2022, especially as regards thanking members who make especially significant gifts.

## **Media & Technology Report**

Thank you to everyone who has supported the technological livestream/audio needs! The outreach that continues to be done through livestreams and video presentations will continue to grow and reach many more individuals seeking a faith-filled world. We are fortunate to be part of filling this need.

We continue to move forward in purchasing and implementing our new equipment. Changes are happening! Our first step was to update our audio and to begin to expand on our knowledge base to make sure the proper equipment was purchased.

Over the next 8 weeks you will be seeing many more changes. We are moving our sound booth to make more room. It will be located in the back NE corner of the sanctuary. Our cameras are on their way as I write this. They will need to be mounted and wires ran, so it will still be a few weeks out until they are functional. We will also be purchasing a new computer system to run our on-screen presentation.

There are a few more needs that we have discovered as we have gotten back to church full-time and began implementing the changes/updates. If you would still like to contribute to this important ministry, we would welcome additional funding to continue to implement a few more changes/additions.

If you have an interest in technology/media, no matter your age, we welcome you to reach out to Dallas or Tammy. We will need additional volunteers as we move into this next phase of live-streaming.

Blessings  
Tammy Brenizer  
Director of Media & Communications

## Worship Ministry 2021

The pandemic that began in 2020 continued to impact gatherings at Peace in 2021, including our weekly worship services. Weekly service opportunities, and the start time, changed to meet the everchanging Covid-19 numbers. Even as we returned to our regular worship schedule in the fall, Covid-19 numbers increased once again. We ended the year with just one service each week as online worship numbers increased. Live-streaming, a new organ, choir gathering, and new banners and altar candles were highlights this fall. Through it all, God showed us how to navigate the pandemic and we continue to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide and direct all we do. To God be the Glory!

Ministry Members: Tammy Brenizer, Ronda Haley, Gene Jaremczuk, Pat Kirby, Michele Merritt

**Jan - May:** With the pandemic Covid-19 numbers still high, only one Sunday morning worship service was offered at 9:15am. Lenten services were recorded for online worship only. A Palm Sunday service was held March 28th, without a choir cantata again this year. By Easter, Covid-19 numbers had improved and we were able to hold three Easter services on April 4th at 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30am. We returned to two worship services after Easter which were held at 8:30 and 9:30am. Memorial Day weekend we returned to our regular summer schedule at 9:00am.

**Summer:** Outdoor services were held once a month in the summer and were well attended.

With the council decision to pursue the necessary technology for live streaming, two matching grants (both at \$5000) were received and more than \$20,000 was raised. The goal was set to transition to the new equipment and software by the end of 2021. In July, Tammy began transitioning our services from recorded to live streaming and our 17 months of recorded worship services came to an end.

Plans were finalized for returning to our regular worship schedule in the fall, with new items in our sanctuary to enhance our in-person and online worship experience: new banners, new altar candles and holders, new Christ candle and holder and seasonal décor baskets.

**Sept:** Worship services returned to 8:30 and 10:45am on Sept 19<sup>th</sup>. Choir began rehearsals after 18 months off, now singing the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month; Special Music pursued for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday; and Praise Band on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. The theme for the year was set as "Focus on the Word". October through December chosen words were ReConnect, Blessed, and Anticipate. To help us focus on the word of the month, worship services have included a skit, recorded talks by council and ministry members, special banners/bulletins.

**Oct:** Reformation and Confirmation services were held on October 31<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 and 10:45 respectively. A new banner was purchased for this special Sunday, "By Grace you have been Saved".

**Nov:** A Thanksgiving worship service was held Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, at 1pm. Pie and fellowship followed. Tammy and Dennis Alfveby found a "new" organ for Peace at a church that was no longer using it. The organ was moved in and set up November 29<sup>th</sup>. Plans have been made to sell the original organ, with proceeds to cover the costs of the new one. New microphones were purchased to improve the online sound.

**Dec:** With very low attendance at the 10:45 service and the online numbers increased, the decision was to only have worship at 8:30am followed by Sunday School and choir, already occurring since September. Two special services were held in the 10:45 time slot: Sunday School Christmas program and Service of Remembrance. The Choir Christmas Cantata was held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Christmas Eve services were held at 3:30pm (indoor), 5pm (outdoor/bonfire), 10pm (indoor). Thanks to the beautiful weather, the outdoor service exceeded expectations with over 100 attending and it was a very special service for all.



## **2021 Annual Youth & Family Ministry Report**

### **Youth & Family Ministry Mission Statement:**

*The primary purpose of the Youth Ministry is to be an instrument used by the Holy Spirit and to bring youth and families to faith in Jesus Christ. The strategies by which we accomplish this purpose are: Worship, Service, Education, Learning and Fellowship.*

### **Youth & Family Ministry meetings**

*The youth and family ministry meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Activities, fundraisers, and mission trips are planned and discussed. We have been able to meet in-person again for most of our meetings this year. Work is delegated among ministry members, youth, and other volunteers. New members are always welcome and appreciated!*

### **Highlighted Youth & Family Activities throughout 2021**

- Senior High (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) youth met weekly on Wednesday evenings. They were able to meet in-person again this year.
- Baccalaureate services were held in-person and also live-streamed.
- Confirmation was held at the 10:45 service and confirmation projects were displayed in the narthex. A reception was held with refreshments.
- Youth were able to go on a Mission trip to Idaho in June 2021!
- Jamaica Mission Trips for 2021 were postponed - a trip is scheduled for spring 2022.
- Breakfast club meetings were held for mission trip students

### **Fundraising**

#### **\*\*Our fundraising benefits youth, families, mission trips and Peace Lutheran Church**

- Maple syrup ministry (all year)
- Kwik Trip Gift Cards (February, December)
- Butter Braids sale (March)
- Palm Sunday "To-Go" Breakfast (March)
- Cinco-De-Mayo drive-up meal (May)
- Silent Auction (May)
- Garage Sale (June)
- Trollhaugen Bake Sale (October)
- Ham Dinner (October)
- Bazaar/Craft Sale (November)

### **2021 Year end report:**

**\$23,458.45 Beginning Balance 1/1/2021**

**\$53,501.06 Debits processed**

**\$59,593.98 Credits processed**

**\$29,551.37 Ending Balance 12/31/2021**

The Youth and Family Ministry Committee: Maria Gjovig, Vicki Koehler (treasurer), Trisha Slater, Kayla Stankowski (secretary), Kelly Bliese, Nicole Kovar (chair/council member), Pastor Melissa Carmack



## Annual Report and Thank You!

### From Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson January 2022



*Thank you, for joining us in the work of sharing the gospel!*  
Randy Olson, Laura Ramlow, Laurie Skow-Anderson, Greg  
Kaufmann, Liz Bartsch, Erin Nelson

Dear Pastors, Deacons, SAMs, and Lay Leaders of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Are you ready for your annual congregational meeting? As a parish pastor I did everything I could to make our annual meeting a **celebration of ministry**. It was a time to thank everyone for their part of the good work we were doing together in Jesus' name. We had door prizes, church appropriate joke contests, and one year we had a fashion show featuring clothes from our church's thrift store. I created a PowerPoint with photos highlighting every

aspect of our congregation's ministry and a narrative budget that explained how we supported all these ministries financially. We had party themed meals, decorations, childcare and music. We laughed and had fun. There was even time for a business meeting to approve the budget, elect officers and talk about the new ministries we hoped to do in the future. I hope you can celebrate at least a little at your annual meetings. This year, more than ever, we need to find some way to celebrate that:

1. **We are still here!** COVID didn't win. A pandemic and social unrest didn't stop us from proclaiming the God's good news of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
2. **The church never closed**, it found new ways to connect with the community and share the transforming love of Jesus.
3. **We learned** how to live with this virus, looking for new ways move forward in God's mission.
4. We are all listening, praying and planning to take **our next most faithful step** as disciples following in the way of Jesus.
5. We've become clearer about **our purpose as a church**. We exist so that the next generation will come to know and love Jesus and all generations will experience God's grace and forgiveness.

*I am grateful for your prayerful and financial support of the work that we do together as a public church.*

This is all amazing and worthy of a party. So throw a party during your annual meeting this year!

However, you and I both know that everything is not totally amazing and awesome. Yes, we can certainly give thanks and

celebrate. We can celebrate surviving, but we can't ignore the suffering, loss and the grief of the past two years. So we can celebrate this year at our annual meeting knowing that lament precedes joy. This joy is grounded on God's presence that was with us in our suffering and pain. Luther said "God can be found only in suffering and the cross,"<sup>1</sup> and that we can never be sure of God's presence unless we are looking at suffering. It is in the suffering that God is bringing hope and redemption. This is the basis of the Theology of the Cross and is what gives birth to a Theology of Joy.<sup>2</sup> It is from this place of deep joy, joy that remembers suffering, that we consider our next most faithful step: **What is your next most faithful step as a congregation?**

<sup>1</sup> [Martin Luther Helps Us See Divine Love in Pandemi... | Christianity Today](#)

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Anna Madsen, presentation to Region 5 bishops and staff, November 2021.

**April 30, 2022 Synod Assembly**

**OUR NEXT MOST FAITHFUL STEP:**

Taking it to the Streets-Being a Public Church  
Proverbs 1:20 *Wisdom cries out in the street;  
in the public places Wisdom raises her voice.*

That is the question we are asking at our annual synod learning events **Walking Together and EPIC** (Church Council Training) both on March 26 in person at UW EC Davies Center, and our **Synod Assembly** April at Trinity in Eau Claire.

Dear Partners in the Gospel, the theologian Douglas John Hall writes that “*the good news is good because it challenges and displaces bad news ... It is good news because it engages, takes on and does battle with the bad news, offering another alternative, another vision of what could be, another way into the future.*”<sup>3</sup>

The church is called is to proclaim good news that challenges bad news. We are called to join God in this work in the public arena. There is a gap between what is currently happening in our community and God’s will for all people to flourish and experience abundant life. The bad news is that gap. We see the gap as hunger, poverty, homelessness, sickness, violence, greed, and injustice. The church is called to do God’s work with our hands and feet and voice to bridge the gap between what is and what God intends. We gather in worship and are sent out into the streets to serve the Lord as we affirmed in baptism *to proclaim Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following in the ways of Jesus, working for justice and peace in all the earth.*<sup>4</sup>

We are called out of our church buildings and into the streets, into the public arena to be public witnesses to the way of Jesus, the life that God intended for all people. We are pulled out of of our church buildings and into the streets to be church for the sake of the world.

This year’s Bright Spots awards at the synod assembly will lift up congregations and organizations within this synod that are taking their ministry to the street, doing ministry out in public, engaged in the public arena.

Please let me know how your congregation is engaged as a Public Church. How is your church engaged in the public arena and taking its ministry to the streets? How are the members of your congregation being equipped/trained to be church in your community? I am truly grateful for your partnership in the gospel.

Bishop Laurie

**2022 Synod Calendar Dates**

**January 17 Winter Theological Event**-Guest Speaker-Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton-Luther Park

**January 22-26 Civil Rights Pilgrimage**-Atlanta, Georgia and Montgomery, Alabama

**March 15 Deadline for resolutions** to be submitted for synod assembly

**March 19 Synod Council Meeting**

**March 26 Walking Together and EPIC** Eau Claire Davies Center: Your Next Most Faithful Step

**April 21, 24, 25 Zoom Pre-Assembly Forums**

**April 30 Synod Assembly**-Taking it to the Streets: The Public Church

**July 18-24 ELCA Youth Gathering** in Minneapolis and MYLE-Multicultural Youth Leadership Event

**August 9-12 ELCA Churchwide Assembly** in Columbus, Ohio



Thank you for your partnership in ministry!  
NWSWI Council

<sup>3</sup> [Public Church Scholars - Religion and Philosophy - | \(augsburg.edu\)](https://www.augsburg.edu/public-church-scholars-religion-and-philosophy/)

<sup>4</sup> ELW 237

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remember before our God your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.