

2018 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2018 AT 9:15 AM



2017 Annual Report of the Congregation of

Peace Lutheran Church

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Peace Lutheran Church Annual Congregation Meeting

JANUARY 28, 2018

9:15 A.M.

AGENDA

Call to order and determination of quorum

Opening Prayer

Adopt Guidelines

Ballot for Representatives of Peace Lutheran and Nominations from
the Floor

Presentation of the Year 2018 Spending Plan

Closing Prayer and Adjourn Meeting

Guidelines For Congregational Meeting

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Oshkosh WI

JANUARY 28, 2018

Per our Constitution, we will conduct our meeting following Robert's Rules of Order. To facilitate our discussion and decision making process, we want to follow these additional procedures:

1. We will limit discussion on any item/issue to a maximum of 30 minutes, then determine if we are ready to vote.
2. Anyone who wishes to speak at any time in the meeting should use one of the microphones so everyone can hear. Come to the microphone and wait to be recognized by the chair.
3. After being recognized by the chair, speakers should give their names to identify themselves so the secretary and others know who is speaking.
4. There are three microphones available in the nave for member's use.
 - A. Anyone who wants to ask a question, make or second a motion may use any of the microphones.
 - B. Those who want to speak in favor of the motion, should hold up a green card.
 - C. Those who want to speak against the motion, should hold up a red card.
5. We will alternate speakers so each "side" will have an equal opportunity to discuss/present their views/ideas as long as there are people wishing to speak to both sides (within the 30 minute limitation in number 1).
6. If there is no one wanting to present an "opposing view", people may continue to be recognized and speak consecutively.
7. To allow as many people as possible to participate, each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes.
8. After you have spoken, anyone else who wants to speak to that item/motion will be given the opportunity before you may speak again.
9. To close discussion, a motion to "call the question" must be approved by 2/3 vote. If achieved, the next item is to vote on the original motion before the body.

*"Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year."
(Constitution of PLC, C8.02 c)*

Pastor's Annual Report

“We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

How does one sum up the first seven months of a new call to a new (well, somewhat new) congregation? Excited? Nervous? Anxious? Humbled? Scared? Mesmerized?

These words might be a good place to start. When I first talked with Christ Rabe, the chair of the call committee, I wasn't sure if Peace was the place that God needed me to be. I had spent a marvelous year among the people of Peace in 2010-2011 but can I really go back to that place? They've changed, I've changed – is it a good idea? I entered the call process unsure if this was where God needed me to be and I came out on the other side knowing that this was in fact the place God was calling me to be and I am thankful for the stirring of the Spirit to get me to this place.

You have welcomed me to Peace with open arms and I am grateful. You have taught about what it means to be a community of believers in this place, what it means to work together, play together, argue together and believe together. I think one of the things I've always liked about Peace is how we seem to come together to help others. There is a generosity in this place that is contagious and I am thankful for that.

Seven months in and I have learned many things from you and hopefully you've learned from me as well. The biggest thing that I've learned is we need to always keep our focus on what's in front of us and not worry about what's happened in the past. We can learn much from past experiences but we also cannot recreate them, as much as we might like to at times. Together is the best way forward, together is the best way we can grow, together is how we to focus on the future.

What is in store for us in 2018 and beyond? I want to continue to explore more ways to do things together, especially for the people outside our walls. One of the things that attracted me to Peace was the dedication of this community to reach out to others. I want to see that continue and expand in 2018. I've got some ideas on how to do that and I'm sure you do as well.

I want to see us get even better at communication with each other as we do this work. The more we can be open and transparent about what we are doing and why we are doing it the more successful we will be.

I am thankful for so many people who have made my first few months smooth. I am thankful for a staff who has helped me learn the ropes but also who are willing to try new things. I am thankful for a leadership team who believe in the future of Peace and who have wonderful ideas on how to move us forward. I am thankful for the musicians, teachers, volunteers, worshippers and anyone who has a hand in making Peace the community that it is. I am thankful for YOU, for without YOU we would not be doing the things we are doing. Never doubt your abilities and never doubt the impact you can have on one another. I give God thanks daily for you.

As always, my office door is always open and I would love to spend time getting to know people better. You will find with me that I appreciate people who come to me directly with their ideas, concerns, questions, joys – this way we can work on them together. I will know better how to serve you if we can spend some time in conversation. Stop in to say hello, invite me over for an afternoon chat or let's sit down together for a piece of pie at your favorite café. I would love to hear what God is up to in your life. May you have a blessed 2018 filled with amazing possibilities!

Shalom,

Pastor Brad

Vicar's Annual Report

I often walk around with hymns in my head. If you ask my husband, you'll learn that when I'm at home I am often walking through the house singing them. Hymns are written to be expressions of our faith, and I've found that just like gifts, there's a hymn out there for everything. So as I think and reflect on my time as your intern pastor, my mind naturally goes toward hymn lyrics...

"Praise the Almighty! In wonder my spirit is soaring! All that has life and breath, come now with praises outpouring. Let the amen sound from God's people again, gladly forever adoring!"

-Verse 3 Praise to the Lord, The Almighty by Joachim Neander

That line of lyrics accurately sums up how I feel as I reflect on my time as the Intern Pastor at Peace. I give thanks and praise to God for my year of learning that was made possible by the congregation of Peace. Through your support, I was able to step into a truly formative experience that played a huge role in shaping me to lead a congregation as a pastor in the future. Thank you all for that.

I know that 2017 is a year that will forever stand out as a year of exploration and experimentation in my mind, because it's the year I was given the space to act on just about every crazy ministry idea that made its way into my head. A couple highlights included standing outside on 9th Avenue in a snowstorm to impose ashes on people's foreheads on ash Wednesday, working with this congregation to give away 128 free bicycle helmets to those in the community, taking questions from the pew and weaving them into worship during Lent, planning an Earth Day worship service with an incredibly gifted group of young leaders in this congregation, and teaming up with other ELCA churches in Oshkosh for a summer evening prayer service. Through all of that exploration and experimentation, there were countless valuable lessons that I learned that I will carry with me into the future.

Along with the work I did at Peace, I was also incredibly blessed to be placed with the 8th Day Project. 2017 was a year of growth for that ministry, as our gatherings grew in numbers throughout the year, and a small team of leaders eventually emerged. Given the intimate nature of our worship and gatherings, leading at the 8th Day Project provided a very unique learning environment that was incredibly different from the learning environment at Peace. Once I returned to classes on campus at Wartburg Seminary, I found that nobody else in my class could speak to leading worship in bar, which I took to be a solid testament to the uniqueness of this developing ministry. Though the work of starting a new faith community is very challenging work, I found that it's work I loved doing! My hope for the 8th Day Project going into the future is that they are able to continue to grow in relationship with one another and with Christ as they move forward.

What all the ministry and learning that I experienced in 2017 as your intern speaks to is your commitment to being a teaching congregation. Without this congregation and the support and care of my intern committee, my learning experiences would not have been possible. Special thanks goes out to Pr Dennis Ellisen, who served as my intern supervisor; Paula Harvot, who served as my intern committee chair; and members of the intern committee: Heather Miller, Samantha Felker, Donna Lord, Michael Stromberg, and Eric Duwell. I give thanks to God for those folks who nurtured and supported me as I navigated my year with Peace and the 8th Day Project, and I give thanks and praise to God for the congregation of Peace for all your support!

Peace be the journey,

Vicar Dara

Message from the Director of Faith Formation

Peace Lutheran Church Team Reports

Leadership Team 2017

Greetings to you on behalf of the Leadership Team of Peace Lutheran Church.

Our Leadership Team consists of the following, Kathy Berholtz, Kristi Cocking, Mary Davis, Joe Friday, Gene Kangas, Heather Miller, Dave Nelson, Chris Rabe, and myself. Our Treasurer is Patty McClelland and is a non-voting member of the team. Some of us will be finishing our leadership commitments at the end of January. Please join me in thanking them for a job well done. Also thank you for the team members that will continue on and for the new members taking the places of those leaving. Your dedication to Peace Lutheran Church is greatly appreciated.

During this year we said goodbye to our Janitor Tom Klabunde. Thank you Tom for the years of janitorial service that you gave to Peace Lutheran Church. We greatly appreciated your time here. God's blessings to you as you continue on your life journey. We also said good bye to our Interim Pastor Dennis Ellison. Thanks for getting us through the transition as we awaited the call of a new pastor. We also said goodbye to Vicar Dara as her internship ended with us during the summer. She returned to seminary to finish out her schooling. Thanks Dara you did a great job and we know the church that you will serve will truly be blessed with your presence!

We then welcomed Dara Clifford back! She came back as Discipleship Coordinator on a part time bases. Dara does some volunteer recruiting for various areas of the church. She also helped out in other ways around the church on an as needed basis.

In June we welcome Pastor Brad Dokken along with his wife Pastor Stephanie Lorenz into our midst as the new pastor at Peace Lutheran Church. Our call team worked very hard and did a great job in a very timely manner. Welcome to the Peace family Pastor Brad and Pastor Stephanie. We are glad to have you with us!

We also welcome Mary Wiley as our new janitor. She has been doing a great job for us and at times her husband has helped her strip and wax our floors. Mary we thank you for the fine job you are doing in keeping Peace a clean and great looking place to worship.

2017 was a busy year at Peace Lutheran. The following are some of the highlights of the year.

- .We welcomed new members into our Peace Family.
- . We celebrated the 1 year anniversary of the Little Free Pantry with a Community Spud Feed
- . A community garden was built by Ryan Kangas as an Eagle Scout project for members and people from the

community to enjoy

. We sent a group of people to Biloxi MS on a mission trip and some of those same people helped paint the parsonage as well.

.We continue to serve those in need in our community such as the Day By Day Warming Shelter, Growing Oshkosh, and those around our church neighborhood

. We have a great group of people at PLC that make this a great place to worship

These are just a few of the things that took place during the year at Peace Lutheran Church. We continue to offer many opportunities for all to get involved. If you are interested in doing so, please contact anyone of us. We would be happy to have you help out.

I hope 2018 is a good year for all! As my term comes to an end I want to thank you all for the support that I have been given. It has been a pleasure to serve PLC in the capacity that I have over the last few years. God's blessings to you all and may you all be a blessing to others.

God Bless ,

Jean Andersen

Finance Team 2016

Peace Lutheran is blessed to have many members who have generously given of their time, talents and resources, and, we are truly grateful.

We wanted to share a 2013 study by Indiana

University – the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

One outcome of the study is that congregational giving is not just about money, it's about four key characteristics: Relationships, Vision, Trust, and Faith Formation.

***Relationships:** Giving is personal to donors. Giving reflects a donor's interests and passions, commitment to the mission of the congregation, and trust in leadership. Prayerfully consider and challenge yourself what you can to give.*

Our Leadership Team is made up of quality leaders with the upmost integrity.

***Vision:** Clear and repeated articulation of vision helps supporters understand why generous giving is important. Does the congregation have a sense of tomorrow?*

We have a vision and have many wonderful programs and outreach. Having a Director of Faith Formation on staff helps to implement this vision.

Communication with members regarding needs of the church.

(Continued on page 9)

Trust: True transparency about how money is received and how it is spent helps build assurance for supporters. Cultivate trust and confidence in supporters, so they can say: "I know what I give makes a difference and is important because I see it."

Financial statements are available at any time or feel free to contact us.

Implementation of a giving campaign and communicating progress towards our goal.

Faith formation: Generous giving reflects the donor's personal religious values and beliefs.

Pastor Brad and "Mo" will help us all on this journey

We will have additional Stewardship Campaigns to educate the importance of our time, talents and gifts to be good stewards of God's Earth and serving our neighbors.

Let's continue to grow and keep the momentum as a vibrant church community and good stewards of God's Resources.

Patty McClelland, Treasurer

Care of the Congregation Team

The Care of the Congregation Team works to care for all the people of Peace.

We coordinate the Meals that Heal program, and annual pointsettia delivery to homebound members at Christmas. We also mail birthday cards to all members over the age of 80, we mail cards to our military, homebound, sympathy, new baby, and thank you's.

Our meetings are on the 2nd Wed of the month @ 5pm. New members are always welcome.

Team members are, Barb Molash (chair), Donna Lord, Darlene Gehrke, Barb Mezera, Lori Kleveno, Connie Paulick and Mo.

If you have any ideas on how we can further care for Peace members, please contact one of us. God Bless

Barb Molash, Team Leader

Home Bound Pastor's Report

Caring for the congregation includes the ministry to approximately 47 home bound persons each month. This ministry includes a visit with Holy Communion being served. Since June of 1994, retired Pastor, Ralph Hanusa has served in this way. In 2017 230 hours were worked, 1660 miles were traveled and over 550 visits and communions were served. These visits are usually made during the middle of the month. Anyone who desires to be included may call the church office or Pastor Hanusa at his number, 235-7582.

Pastor Hanusa

Mutual Ministry Team

The primary purpose of the Mutual Ministry Team is to:

Provide support and serve as a sounding board for employees of Peace Lutheran as well as all members of Peace Lutheran Church. All conversations are held in strict confidence and any actions taken by the team are only done at the request, and with the approval of the respective individual. If any employees and/or members have issues or concerns they are not comfortable discussing with the pastor, they are encouraged to contact any member of the team to set up a meeting.

Assist and conduct performance evaluations for employees of Peace Lutheran Church.

Assist with employee issues, (new hire) interviews, etc., as may be requested by the Pastor and/or Leadership Team.

Members of the Mutual Ministry Team include: Diane Friday, Team Lead, Mary Davis, Katlyn Molash, and Cory Andersen.

Diane Friday

The Lutheran Food Pantry

The Lutheran Food Pantry is sponsored by Calvary, Christ, First English, Peace, and Zion Lutheran Churches.

The pantry continues to be open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings from 8-10am. The number of families and single adults has remained constant. Numbers have not risen due to a boost in the economy and more clients working. The pantry does remain very busy.

The first Sunday of each month continues to be Food Pantry Sunday at Peace, this is when food can be brought to the altar. Food can also be brought any time the office is open and placed in the gray cupboard in the circle drive entrance. The food donated is taken to the pantry every Tuesday morning. Peace has once again been very generous with donations in 2017. The fall festival of food along with the Preschool drive was tremendous, bringing in 334 pounds of food.

As always the pantry can use volunteers. One hour, one day or any amount of time you are able to give would be appreciated. Bev and I continue to be the only volunteers from Peace. Thank you once again for your generous donations of food and money. Monetary donations allow us to purchase meats, fresh vegetables and fruit from Feeding America along with cased food at the cost of .19 per pound. God Bless!

Mary Davis, Food Pantry Coordinator

Mission Endowment Fund Team

Annual Report—January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017

FUND VALUE - JAN. 1, 2017	\$939,752.10
RECEIPTS	
Memorials	710.00
Bequest—Howard Miller Estate	9,757.78
Charitable Grants	25,300.00
Student Scholarships	10,000.00
PLC New Program Support	21,750.00
Management Fees	5,392.63
INVESTMENT Gain	139,683.49
FUND VALUE - Dec. 31, 2017	\$1,027,460.74

2017 Grant Recommendations

Christine Ann Center	1,500
Bella Medical Clinic	1,000
Food Pantry	3,000
Crossways Bible Camps	2,000
Wave Robotics	600
ELCA Missionary Sponsorship	1,000
Lutheran Campus Ministry	2,000
LHO Clinical Pastoral Education	1,500
PLC Preschool Scholarships	2,000
Back Bay Mission	2,000
Acts of Peace Players	1,200
National Youth Gathering	2,400
Day by Day Warming Shelter	2,000
Oshkosh Seniors Center	1,000
Boys and Girls Club Camp	1,000
Father Carr's Place to Be	1,000
Samaritan Counseling Center	1,000
Valley Christian School	1,800
8th Day Project	1,000
Church Camp Scholarships	1,500
Peace Promotion	2,000
Adult Mission Trip	1,000
Urban Camp/VBS	3,000
Special Evnets Outreach	2,000
Special Worship Services	1,000
Dicipleship Coordinator	6,000
New Community art Center	4,100
Scholarships—College students	10,000
Undesignated Funds	5,000

The purpose of the Peace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund is to enhance the mission outreach of our congregation.

Since the Fund was established in 1986 over \$980,000 has been given to support—

- Special Missions in our Synod and throughout the World
- Charitable and Educational Agencies in our Community
- Scholarships for our College Students
- New Programs in our Church

A special thank you to members and families who have given generously to support our Endowment Fund.

Their bequests, memorials, and gifts remain in the Fund—the earnings from investment of these gifts are used to expand our mission outreach.

Your decision to include the Peace Lutheran Mission Endowment fund in your will, along with your memorials and special gifts to the fund, assures that the missions of our church will continue for many generations to come.

Enowment committee members"

Mark Klein, President; Mike Thomas, Secretary, Kenley Steinert, Treas. ; Eric Duell, Randy Hartman, and Steve Berholtz

Submitted by: *Kenley Steinert*

Outreach Team

The Peace Lutheran Church mission statement says that we are “sent to share Christ”. The mission of the PLC Outreach Team is to coordinate opportunities for our members to reach beyond our walls to participate in the work that Jesus Christ started.

Opportunities for 2017 included, but were not limited to:

Coats For Kids
Christmas Angel Tree
PLC Little Free Pantry
Hat and Mitten Tree
ELCA God’s Work Our Hands day
Back Bay Mission Trip
Loose change offerings
Hoops Against Hunger
Hurricane Relief
Trunk or Treat

Peace Lutheran Church partnered with the following service organizations in 2017:

Peace Christian Preschool
Growing Oshkosh
Day by Day Warming Shelter
The Christine Anne Center
The 8th Day Project
Crossways Camping Ministries
Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW-Oshkosh
ELCA World Hunger

We are excited to continue these programs and partnerships in 2018 while exploring even more ways to serve God’s creation. If you have service suggestions, please contact a member of our team: Andy “Mo” Moscinski, Barb Molash, Katelyn Molash, Molly Smiltneek, Kelly Zeller, and Chris Rabe.

Promotions Team

Our Team leads, assists and supports the pastoral staff, office staff, church leaders, mission teams, activity groups, educational programs, and others in producing and disseminating important messages to both the church’s internal and external audiences. In pursuit of these goals during 2017, the Promotions Team:

- Executed a year-long advertising programs in the Oshkosh Northwestern, and social media sites. Specific placements included ads for our services for Easter, Jazz, Bluegrass, Welcoming Pastor Brad, Kick-Off Sunday and Oktoberfest as well as special congregational gatherings and fundraisers
- Oversaw the portrait photography and pre-production of a new Pictorial Directory which we expect to be delivered to the church in February of 2018
- Maintained and updated the PLC Website to include more features, to improve navigation, and accessibility, and to facilitate integration with other online media.
- Assembled, edited, and distributed *The Prints of Peace* newsletter
- Produced new signage in support of the Peace Christian Preschool.
- Produced a 70 second video of Pastor Brad inviting the Oshkosh community to worship at PLC during the Advent and Christmas seasons which was available on the PLC website and Facebook page.

- Expanded the use of social media to enhance and extend our evangelical outreach.
- Submitted regular contributions of Peace Lutheran events to the public announcement sections of local print and broadcast media for articles

Our agenda for 2018 includes maintaining a suitable advertising presence in the Northwestern while expanding publicity and our use of social media.

*- Donna Lord, Joyce Nikolaus, Sally Wilde
Dennis Baldry, Andy Moscinski,
Marie Beede, and E. R. Waskawic*

Property & Grounds

We had some very good accomplishments in 2017, but we also had some setbacks as well.

We said goodbye to our Janitor Tom Klabunde and we hired Mary Wiley to replace him. We also hired Andy Jahnke as our grounds keeper, meaning cutting the grass and shoveling snow.

Here is a list of our accomplishments:

- . The parsonage was painted with the help of many volunteers
- . We hired a new Janitor being Mary Wiley
- . The tree was removed from the circle drive area. Again with the help of many volunteers.
- . We hired Andy Janke as our new grounds person
- . The cabinets and sinks were updated in the Headstart area. George supplied the labor to remove the old cabinets while Headstart paid for everything involved.

. Spring and Fall Clean Ups with the help of UWU students

Here is a list of our setbacks.

- . We continue to work on the gym floor project which was caused by a leak in the roof.
- . We had a disaster in the boiler room when both sewage pumps quite working and the boiler room got flooded. The cost to replace one of the pumps was \$4500.00.
- . We had to install a new main water shut off valve. The cost was split 3 ways with the church, Preschool, and Headstart.
- . We were notified the eyes in the elevator doors needed to be replaces costing \$2900.00.

So we had some unexpected bills for 2017, but with a building this size and age it can only be expected. We have kept maintenance costs down because of George and other volunteers that have helped out. We continue to work on energy efficiency to keep our energy costs down.

Many thanks go out to George Sawall and Rock Jungwirth for helping with the disaster in the boiler room. Also, thanks to all the other volunteers that have helped do projects around the church when needed. We would not be able to do it without you!

Members

Jesse Andersen George Sawall Steve Elza
Dave Nelson Jessica Felker

Respectfully, *Jesse Andersen*

Sunday School Program

The Peace Lutheran Sunday School Program continues a steady course in Bible study and faith formation for our young people. Our calendar for the 2017-2018 season includes 32 class sessions.

Participation

Our average attendance for all grades from September through December was 32 students, down a bit from last year. The ongoing support and involvement of parents and grand parents is greatly appreciated by our staff.

Teaching Volunteers

The Sunday School Program covers Pre-K through 8th Grade. Our teaching staff includes Lucinda Porter, Penny Angell, Patricia Waskawic, Madeline Ruedinger, Samantha Felker, Alicia Alsberg, and E. R. Waskawic. During the fall term, we've been assisted by Grace Moscinski who has helped with teaching responsibilities for our younger students. Each week this fall, we had several parent volunteers participate as adult monitors in our safe sanctuary policy.

Curriculum

We began the school year with a multi-week unit on Creation. Lesson content was supported with age-appropriate projects and fun activities. Our curriculum often mirrors the lectionary being used to guide regular services. In addition, we gather materials from online resources such as *sermons4kids.com*. Our experienced teaching staff used their creativity, experience and know-how to develop lesson plans and other learning activities. Our middle schoolers focused on Martin Luther and The Reformation, but also dealt with contemporary social issues and had discussions meant to enhance their confirmation experience.

Other Activities

Worship Involvement

The Middle Schoolers created a special "matchbook prayer" gift for an ELCA church in Missouri that has almost no children in its congregation. This was a small folder holding a lifesaver that instructed the recipient to put the life saver in his/her mouth, begin saying a prayer of thanksgiving, and then keep praying until the candy was gone. Our younger students gave a candy cane reverse offering to the congregation during the 2017 Christmas Program.

Christmas Program

We had a large group of students participate in this year's

Sunday School Christmas Service. The 2017 program was called Countdown to Christmas and focused on the season of Advent. Students participated in the main video message, short humorous clips about Advent calendars, scripture readings, an "Adult Sermon", and traditional music. Even our new pastor got into the act by portraying a salesman for an imaginary store called "Advent Calendars R Us."

Giving

In the spring of 2017, the Sunday Schoolers donated money to Peace Lutheran's Bike Helmet Fundraiser. In the fall, our kids gave money to churches in Texas and Florida that had suffered hardships from hurricane flooding. Additional giving and community support projects are planned for the winter/spring term of 2018.

Bible Bucks

Our Bible Bucks reward program continues its popularity. Students are rewarded for attendance with Bible Bucks. About every third month, we have a sale where students can spend their Bible Bucks on toys and prizes. The merchandise has been donated or purchased by Sunday School staff. Anyone who would like to contribute to our prize inventory should talk to one of our staffers.

Singing

Erin Tedesco, who leads the *Instruments of Peace* during 10:30 services, continues leading the musical opening to Sunday School for our students. She is assisted by Alyssa Nelson, another member of the *Instruments*. Their skill, talents, and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

Future Plans

We hope to keep growing our Sunday School in the coming year. We have plans for fun projects that will involve the whole school and hopefully attract students from our new member families. We're always open to ideas and suggestions for exciting and creative ways to bring God's message to our youngest members — they're the future of Peace Lutheran Church.

-Pat and E. R. Waskawic

Worship Mission Team

The main goal of the Worship Mission Team is to provide a diversified, meaningful, and inspiring worship service with a friendly atmosphere to all of those who attend. We do this by providing three different types of services—traditional (8 am), praise (10:30 am) and casual worship on Wednesday evenings (5:30 pm)

During the summer months one service was held at 9:30 am, with special services such as Jazz, Bluegrass, Polka, and Gospel. Lenten and Advent services were held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm with soup suppers and hospitality togetherness before the services.

We participated in a Thanksgiving Eve service at Christ Lutheran Church. This year four Lutheran Churches in town were involved.

Beautiful music provided by the Instruments of Peace, organists, choir, and bell choirs have enhanced the worship services.

The Hospitality Committee (Between services and after the 9:30 service in the summer) provide a friendly, welcoming atmosphere with delicious food, coffee, tea, and juice.

Thank you to all members, for welcoming all who enter the Peace doors and proving everyone in attendance with inspirational and meaningful worship services.

Submitted by,

Kim Blake-Jungwirth, Chairwoman

Technology Team

Overall we have been avoiding spending unless something breaks. As such this year, we have put off replacing the Alter Mic, and upgrading some internet switches. This has lead to the Technology budget being hardly utilized.

We have requested the same budget for 2018 in hopes of having an overall better budget for the church that will allow us to do some upgrades to older equipment.

We did have a failure of a HDMI distribution amplifier in December causing the TV's not to display the service. We were forced to replace that to get the screens to work. However this was relatively inexpensive.

Michael Stomberg

Peace Lutheran Cemetery

I wish to report that 2017 was very uneventful. This year saw 14 total burials, one lot sale with 4 transfers. Prices for 2018 will not be changing. We have grave spaces available at \$600.00 per space. Our groundskeeper Dennis continues to work on trimming the trees and shrubs throughout the cemetery. We ask for your continued financial support to keep the cemetery looking clean and beautiful. Please consider naming Peace Lutheran Cemetery a beneficiary in your will.

Robert G. Reinke, Jr. Sexton

Discipleship Coordinator Report

2017 saw the emergence of a new staff position at Peace: the discipleship coordinator. Though the specifics of the role are continually being defined, the overall goal of the position is to *equip and empower people for service both within and outside of the church walls*. Though the position only existed for the final four months of 2017, much work was done in that time!

Within Church Walls

One of the first things I began work on when I stepped into this position was coordination of worship volunteers. Lay leadership and service is a huge part of worship at Peace, and Worship stuff

Discipleship guides

Training sessions

Scheduling updates

Training videos to come

Community Spud Feed

Serving outside church walls

Day by Day Warming shelter

Plugging people into community resources as they come up

Dara Q. Clifford

Little Free Pantry Report

2017 was the first full year that the Little Free Pantry and Gardens at Peace were in existence. During the year we focused on outreach to the community -- both to potential donors and supporters as well as potential patrons of the Little Free Pantry and Garden. We also worked to create a network of stewards around Oshkosh and around the country to brainstorm better ways to address food insecurity via our communities in just a "little" way.

Regarding outreach to the community, we rely heavily on Facebook to communicate with our supporters as well as those in need in the community. Additionally, we developed a PowerPoint presentation and gave talks to other community organizations, spoke on local television and participated in a community back to school fair for students and families in need. We set up an online system for people to "sponsor" the Pantry for the week and had approximately 20 weeks "adopted" by various community and church members. Additionally, a Girl Scout Troop and Carl Traeger Middle School conducted food drives benefiting the Pantry.

We ended the year with a Community Spud Feed, where we opened our doors to our neighbors and patrons of the Pantry in celebration of one year of the Little Free Pantry. It was outstanding to see so many community members who support -- and are supported by -- the Pantry come in for a warm dinner in our Social Center.

While we cannot quantify how many people have taken food and personal care items from our Pantry or how many enjoyed fresh vegetables from our Gardens, we can say that the demand seems constant and items disappear very quickly. On the rare occasion that we are able to interact with patrons of the Pantry, whether they are students grabbing a bite to eat for breakfast on their way to Jefferson School or parents messaging us on Facebook thanking us for diapers or formula or a woman stopping by the Pantry to drop off a few items, they all clearly appreciate this outreach and see it as a very valuable effort. In our own little way, we are helping to address food insecurity in Oshkosh and we thank everyone at Peace Lutheran Church for your continued support.

Molly Smiltneck, Coordinator

The Teachers Closet Report

The Teachers' Closet would like to report that we have had 904 visits from area teachers during 2017. We continued having our "shoppers" fill out an enrollment card. We now have 420 enrollees. Most public and private schools are represented, as well as every grade level. We gave invitations to all new teachers in the Public Schools in Oshkosh, Winneconne, and Omro and opened two full days the week before school started so that new teachers would have supplies to set up their classrooms. The first day we were open we had 65 shoppers!

We again received assistance from New Life Community Church when they held a "Stuff the Bus" event in August. Organizations that have supported us this year are: AT&T Pioneers, Altrusa Club of Oshkosh, American Paper Converters, Inc., Bemis Women's Network, First Weber - Oshkosh, Fox Communities Credit Union, Lunch Box Restaurant, Oshkosh Eagles Auxiliary, Oshkosh Fine Arts Association, Oshkosh Noon Optimist Club, Oshkosh Public Library, Peace Lutheran Church - Endowment Fund, Preceptor Alpha Lambda - Woman's group, Dennis and Gail Schwab Fund - Oshkosh Community Foundation, Service League of Oshkosh, UW Oshkosh - College of Education, United Methodist Women's Group, Winnebago County Retired Educators Association, and Winneconne Thrift and Gift. We continued to receive monetary donations and donations of goods from private citizens. These are also very important. We spent \$13,930.35 on needed supplies during 2017. Our donations in 2017 totaled \$14,254.07. We are continuing to also fulfill special requests. Some of the special requests this year included bean bag chairs, ear buds, electric pencil sharpeners, fidget spinners, rubber cement, special dice, play money for a High School History class, and canvases for Art class.

Our biggest buying months are July, August, and September when we restock our shelves, getting ready for the new school year. At that time we can buy supplies on sale and like to buy ahead. We continue to buy supplies in bulk, and research suppliers in order to get the best prices for our items.

We have continued our Saturday openings once a month. We

are open the third Saturday of each month from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. We continue to be open Wednesday and Thursday, 3:00 to 5:30 - days the OASD is in session.

We have six retired ladies that volunteer to man the closet when we are open. Those ladies are Wendy Thompson, Pam Schettle, Denise Bittner, Jean Collier, Kathy Stadler, and Debbie Laffin. Susan Sapaula, a retired bank officer, volunteered and audited our Financial Records for 2015. We also have ladies who make items for distribution through The Teachers' Closet. Marcy Hale makes us bag sleeves and small aprons. Cathy Tratz crocheted 100's of winter hats. Suzanne Youngwirth supervised the making of fleece mittens with other volunteers. The Teachers' Closet is entirely run by volunteers and no one receives compensation for their time.

Communication with teachers, volunteers, and donors is accomplished through a Facebook group page titled Oshkosh Teachers' Closet. Newsletters are also sent out four times a year. First Weber - Oshkosh donates the paper and printing of our Newsletter. We also added The Teachers' Closet, Inc. Website through Facebook this year and tried an online fundraiser through the website.

Other new things this year were changing our storage area, labeling the books and published items in our inventory so we can track how long we are housing them, displaying a sign outside when we are open, and adding more items that we stock at all times.

The governing board of The Teachers' Closet, Inc. consists of Wendy Thompson, Kris Kroll Wood, and Alan Stenerson. Kay Kuenzl-Stenerson is the managing Director.

This outreach has grown since 2011 when it was started. In 2012 there were 401 visits to the Closet, last year we had 789 visits, we increased that by 115 visits this year. The number of people using the closet and the number of children impacted by this outreach continues to grow. We added 72 new teachers to our enrollment this year.

We want to thank Peace Lutheran for partnering with us. Thank you to the many parishioners who have supported us with money and supplies. Without the support of Peace Lutheran Church members this outreach could not exist.

Kay Kuenzl-Stenerson

Preschool 2017 Report

Greetings Members of Peace Lutheran Church,

As we reflect on 2017, we have much to celebrate and are preparing for the year ahead.

Our current staff is as follows:

Heather B. Miller, Center Director Since 2011
Susanne Selle; 3K Lead Teacher Since 2017
Heidi Nelson; 3K Assistant Teacher Since 2017
Meredith Deimund; OASD 4K Lead Teacher @ Peace Since 2017
Jill Stanuch; 4K Assistant Since 2013
Rehana Kinderman; OASD 4K Lead Teacher Since 2013
Rebecca Hayes; 4K Assistant Teacher Since 2008

Our Preschool Board is as follows:

Molly Smiltneek; Board Chairperson
Brooke Koeppel; Treasurer
Andrew Mocinski; Church Liaison
Shirlene Narveson-Woodrow; Member at Large
Barbara Probst

Celebrations

- January: Children celebrated winter with a Spirit Week and a special visit from Rick the Magician. The magician's visit was sponsored by a generous donation from a PLC member.
 - May: Prepared and planted the Butterfly Garden and the Sensory Garden on the preschool playground!
 - May/June: A new arrangement was reached with the Oshkosh Area School District to change the preschool's 4K model plan. The new plan added a second 4K classroom, and the lead teachers for both classrooms were hired directly by the OASD with their payscale and benefits.
 - Using funds raised from the Annual Preschool Carnival (May) and the Annual Park Dance (July) the preschool office underwent a renovation--excess furniture removed, two walls were fitted with cabinets and counters to make a more cohesive shared working space.
 - July/August: Room 102, formerly known as Bibleland, was updated to be used as the 3K classroom. Carpets were professionally cleaned, 2/3 of the walls were given a fresh coat of paint--preserving the murals, new countertops and cabinets were added to the east wall, and an intricate plumbing system was approved so that a sink could be added to the classroom.
 - August: Two new staff members were hired for the 3K classroom--Susanne Selle and Heidi Nelson. Barbara Probst left the position for family reasons and Jill Stanuch moved to the 4K program.
- November: Purchased new gymnasium toys which foster control of large motor movement with fund raised by the Annual VP raffle. Purchased new gym mats which were mounted on the gym walls.

Direct Involvement with Peace Lutheran Church:

- Preschool children sent out 60 homemade greeting cards for Valentine's Day, Easter, and Christmas to special Valentine's Day, Easter, and Christmas to special senior members of Peace Lutheran church.
 - In February the preschool worked with PLC to raise funds to rejuvenate the nursery off of the Social Center. Funds were raised through the Annual Chili Cookoff. Improvements included: carpet professionally cleaned, fresh paint on walls, new (to us) furniture--shelving, children tables, adult table, couch, and cleaned out unnecessary items.
 - The preschool was able to allocate \$1500 from funds raised at the Annual Park Dance to go towards onsite improvements. Improvements included new signs on both 8th Avenue and 9th Avenue (\$750), a new commercial grade vacuum for the classrooms (\$350), remaining funds went towards elevator repairs.
 - October: Completed and implemented a comprehensive security plan for Peace Christian Preschool, Peace Head Start, and Peace Lutheran Church.
- November: The preschool children and families participated in the annual Canned Food Drive for the Lutheran Food Pantry.

Goals for 2018:

- Maintain a strong relationship and proper communication with Peace Lutheran Church.
- Work to keep a strong relationship with OASD for the 4K Community Approach Partnership and the Early Childhood Integration Program.
- Find additional members for our Preschool Board.
- Continue the collaborative effort to fund raise for facility improvements; refinishing the gymnasium floor is one particular improvement.

Grow in our mission of ministry to God's young children.

We are very thankful for the many blessing that have been shared with our program.

Wishing you all Love, Peace, and Happiness,

Heather Balch Miller

The 2017 Review of Peace Lutheran Church

PLC 2017 Statistical Report

BAPTISMS

Name	D.O.B	Baptism Date	Officiant
Emelia Louise Tedesco	07/22/2016	02/19/2017	Rev Dennis E. Ellisen
Kaylee Schlenske	01/19/2005	04/02/2017	Rev Dennis E. Ellisen
Bleu LE Price	02/25/2017	06/25/2017	Pastor Bradley L. Dokken
Abel Keith Nachman	12/05/2016	07/02/2017	Vicar Dara Q Clifford
Jordan David Quella	12/15/2016	08/27/2017	Pastor Bradley L. Dokken
Noel Christopher Nelson	07/05/2017	11/12/2017	Pastor Bradley L. Dokken
Vyolette Ryder Henckel	04/19/2017	11/19/2017	Pastor Bradley L. Dokken

2017 FIRST COMMUNION April 14, 2017

Alix Hayes (3rd Grade)	Joshua Booth (4th Grade)	Josie Weber (5th grade)
Ethan Tigert Brayshaw (5th grade)	Riggs Nelson (6th Grade)	Kaylee Schlenske (6th Grade)

2017 YOUTH CONFIRMATION May 14, 2017

Name	Birth Date	Baptism Date
Timothy Hall	2/05/2003	4/12/2003
Ryan Kangas	4/20/2003	
Lauren Case	10/4/2002	11/10/2002
Mercedes Stromberg	7/15/2003	8/31/2003

2017 YOUTH CONFIRMATION May 21, 2017

Name	Birth Date	Baptism Date
Isabella Albright	6/19/2003	8/17/2003
Mason Berndt	7/14/2003	
Kaylyn Brandl	7/29/2003	9/21/2003
Grace Weber	12/25/2002	02/16/2003

MEMBERS REMOVED

Death	Death Date	Funeral Date	Officiant
Donna M Wegener	12/28/2016	01/3/2017	Rev Dennis Ellisen
Jerry F Marshek	04/05/2017	04/11/2017	Rev Dennis Ellisen
Jeanne Metzger	04/20/2017	04/28/2017	Rev Dennis Ellisen
Lowell E Steinhilber	05/12/2017	05/18/2017	St Peter's/Zittau
Mavis M Eppinger	06/29/2017	07/16/2017	Pastor Bradley Dokken
Donald H. Miller	08/02/2017	08/15/2017	Chaplain Nancy Twichell
Richard Koch	08/31/2017	09/14/2017	Fox Cities Funeral Home
Donald L. Radig	09/09/2017	09/16/2017	Lake View Memorial
Robert Henke	09/26/2017	09/30/2017	Pastor Bradley Dokken
Mary Ann Edmonds	10/09/2017		Private Service
June S. Miller	10/21/2017	10/27/2017	Nancy Twichell
Barbara Kametler	10/22/2017		Pastor Bradley Dokken
Charlotte M. Yearwood	10/28/2017	11/4/2017	Pastor Bradley Dokken
Gayle Bartow	12/13/2017	12/18/2017	Lake View Memorial
Alton Ziebell	12/27/2017		

MEMBERS ADDED

Roger & JoAnne Stecker
Cathy Lain Smith

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED

Paul & Susan Frederickson