

**Our  
Narrative  
Mission Giving  
Plan for  
2017**



**St. Peter's Lutheran Church**

# **Our Mission Giving Plan for 2017**

## **St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

In these pages you will find the *Mission Giving Plan* for the 2017 church year. This “narrative” ministry budget presents our congregational mission in the context of ten major ministry areas of St. Peter's congregation, noting a few of the various activities and financial responsibilities in each area. Staffing, property, and administrative costs related to our program ministries **have been divided up into these various areas**. You will thus not see a total staffing cost, because the salaries and benefits of our church staff are divided up into each of the ministry areas based upon the amount of time spent in that ministry area.

The way in which we carry out our vision tells the world about our values and what we see as central to our mission. As Proverbs 3:9 reminds us, “Honor *the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.*” St. Peter's is committed to teaching the joy of honoring God through our giving, as we learn and grow in Christ, and model stewardship in our communal life. Only through the efforts of generous disciples, who grow and give in their own lives, is St. Peter's empowered to live out our mission here and now.

Through your joyful giving and serving we will reach our **2017 Mission & Ministry goal** of **\$1,175,580** and make our mission come alive in Neffsville, Lancaster, and throughout the world.

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## **Our Vision Statement**

***St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church is an inclusive family of faith, unified in Spirit. As members, we are called to worship God, learn and teach God's Word, and serve humanity, near and far.***

~~ Adopted November 8, 2009

To fulfill this vision, members support the ministries on the following pages.

*(These ten ministry areas are ordered from those with the largest proportions of mission dollars to those using the smallest number of mission dollars.)*

## **Worship Ministries**

*I will sing for joy for what the Lord has done. – Psalm 92:4b*

Our Mission: **Worship** through the use of liturgy, preaching the Word, administration of Sacraments, a varied music program, and a participatory membership role.

Our Ministry: We gather as the Body of Christ, so that as we are spiritually fed by God's gracious hand, and equipped for ministry in the world, through worshiping together in service of both traditional and contemporary praise



settings. Specifically, we utilize vocal and instrumental choirs and soloists; altar supplies; and our sanctuary, former sanctuary and chapel to enhance our worship experience; along with

*Why is worship important to me? For me, one of the most important benefits is a feeling of community and shared mission. To experience this you need to be "physically" present. Communing with nature can be inspiring, but nothing compares to standing with several hundred like-minded people praising God. A favorite quote from Martin Luther: "at home, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church, when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through."*

~~ Carol Esbshade

leading wedding and funeral liturgies, special services, and community gatherings for special events. Additionally, some of our concrete tools in support of worship are

instruments, memorial tributes for worship, liturgical vessels, altar dressings, bulletins and sanctuary dressings and decorations.

Our Commitment: **\$221,344 (22% of our Ministry Giving Plan)**

## **Local Social Ministry**

*Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.—  
1 John 3:18*

Our Mission: ***Promote community outreach and serve others as representatives of Christ, by effectively allocating staff, lay members and facilities.***

Our Ministry: We respond to God's call to reach out to the neighbor down the street, with a variety of tangible and relationship offerings of support. Specifically we support Love INC., the Lancaster County Council of Churches food ministries, Homes of Hope, the Community Meal program of the Council of Churches, Habitat for Humanity projects, and domestic disaster efforts.

Additionally, we collect food in our "Feed My Sheep" program in the narthex, host the MT Ministerium children's clothing bank, Lydia's Closet, offer direct aid to people in need through food offerings, gift cards, and utilities and gas needs, and support our local Lutheran retirement community, Luther Acres.



*Reaching out to help others less fortunate is a very gratifying way to serve the Lord. I have worked with the community meals, the quilters, and Lydia's Closet and is my way of giving back to the church and the community. Seeing the faces of a hungry or cold person (or child) after a warm meal, warm quilt, or new clothes, is the most gratifying feeling.*

*~~Jan Gigl*

Our Commitment: **\$150,370 (15% of our Ministry Giving Plan)**

## **Children's Ministries**

*So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the Word of Christ. -- Roman 10:17*

**Our Mission:** *Teach the Word of God* and nurture spiritual growth for the entire membership through varied educational experiences.

**Our Ministry:** We foster an environment that encourages study of Scripture, theology, contemporary religious culture, and church tradition for the purposes of deepening the faith life of believers. Specifically, we provide Sunday Church School; Vacation Bible School; Adult educational classes; Pub Theology; special educational offerings; seasonal family

celebrations; a library; and video and online educational resources. Additionally, we sponsor several educational retreats, a church sponsored Preschool, and support for continuing education events for staff and teachers.

*The children's ministry has been such an important part of my son, Alexander's, spiritual foundation. He has learned so many wonderful biblical lessons in Sunday school, and it has helped him to understand the unconditional love of God through the church. I was brought up with a strong religious and spiritual foundation, and it makes me happy to see my son excited to attend church with me. The children's ministry has played a vital role in our strong sense of belonging at St. Peters.*

~~ Laura Fehrenbacher



**Our Commitment:** **\$149,825 (15% of our Ministry Giving Plan)**

## **Membership Ministry**

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.—1 Corinthians 12:4*

Our Mission: ***Return to God with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us ... ourselves, our time, and our possessions.***

Our Ministry: We believe that we are blessed so that we may be part of God's plan to bless the world. Our members engage in blessing and thankfulness through our membership, stewardship and spiritual gifts ministries. Long-time and newly joined members are invited to participate in the life of St. Peter's by filling out Time and



Talent sheets. These sheets list several areas in which we can participate in the life of our church and community. Our membership team is able to connect how you want to spend your time and talent with leaders of the church, being a very important hub to God's call and our response. Sometimes we don't know where God is calling us, and our spiritual gifts coordinator can help connect your God-given gifts to areas of need. The stewardship team connects the three parts of giving—time, talent and treasure—and invites us to imagine our lives together as members of the body of Christ.

*The word membership brings to mind the body of people who call St. Peter's their home, and how we all give of our personal gifts to keep it a thriving community.*

*~~ Lynn Fyfe*

Our Commitment: **\$105,660 (10% of our Ministry Giving Plan)**

## **Youth & Family Ministry**

*Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.—2 Timothy 4:12*

Our Mission: ***Return to God with joy and thanksgiving*** what God has first given us... through discerning and sharing our Spirit-given (God-given) gifts as well as through proportionate growth giving.

Our Ministry: Our young adults are involved in virtually every level of congregational ministry, from worship to service to music to fellowship to education. Specifically we support education classes including Club 56 for 5th and 6th graders, Route 78 for 7th and 8th grade confirmands, 9th Grade Confirmation, and Senior High Sunday School; an active Youth Ministry that balances socialization with service and educational programs; winter, summer and ELCA youth retreats; a Youth Sunday worship service each year; and our second year of our Youth Council. Additionally, our youth are deeply involved in worship services as acolytes, ushers, lectors, crossbearers, musicians, bread & wine presenters, and nursery attendants, and help out with a number of Children's Ministry events.



*My name is Melanie Fink, and I have been a member of St. Peter's for 13 years. I have also been a teacher for the Children/youth program for 11 years. I currently teach 7/8th grade confirmation on a rotating schedule. I have loved teaching at St. Peter's because I get to experience first-hand, the diversity of thoughts and beliefs within our older youth. They are at a stage in their lives where they want to expand, experiment and learn to speak for themselves. My job is to make sure they have a voice while also trying to teach them to listen to what those around them have to say, even if it is different from what they, themselves have learned in the past. God has given us all gifts. Some just haven't blossomed yet, and I like to watch the wonder on the faces of my students as they come to finally realize the gifts they have been granted:). That is why I teach.*

*~~ Melanie Fink*

Our Commitment: **\$92,295 (10% of our Ministry Giving Plan)**

## **Global Social Ministry**

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

—Matthew 25:35

Our Mission: ***Promote community outreach and serve others*** as representatives of Christ, by effectively allocating staff, lay members and facilities.

Our Ministry: We follow Jesus' call to serve God and serve neighbor, and sometimes these neighbors may be a half a world away. We support a number of global efforts, including financial support toward ELCA World Hunger (to find out how the Lutheran church is transforming lives by fighting world hunger go to [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) and search World



*I cherish the opportunity to learn, help and make friends around the world. Exposure to other cultures simply reinforces that we are all more alike than different. Seeing the challenges that many in the world face every day makes you realize how truly blessed we are here at St. Peters. Reach out and touch someone today!*

~~ Mark Aho

Hunger). We help global neighbors through Lutheran World Relief and the ELCA Disaster Relief as well. We are mission partners with Busoka Lutheran Church, our companion congregation in the Konde Diocese, and offer prayer and support to the people of Busoka and the orphans in their care. This new year will see growing support to a designated missionary in the field.

Our Commitment: **\$84,770 (8% of our Ministry Giving Plan)**

## **Evangelism Ministries**

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. – Matthew 28:19*

Our Mission: ***Witness to others*** by sharing the Gospel of Christ and working both near and far for peace, justice, and ways to end human suffering.



Our Ministry: We follow Jesus' command to "go make disciples." We believe that this command begins in our hearts with our own discipleship and spreads to our families as we live out our baptismal call to be engaged in the Word of God, participate in the Sacraments, and be involved in God's community of fellow believers. We continue to follow Jesus' command by being an inviting congregation. As part of our ministry we actively welcome visitors and have a thorough follow-up process that helps them get connected to rostered leaders, ministries and the church community. Our evangelism programs involve visitor follow-up, name tag Sundays, new member

classes and receptions, shepherd programs, new member reunions, and communicating ways to become more deeply engaged in discipleship. Our community relations team enables our command to make

*My sister and her family are long-time members of St. Peters, and, over the years, I worshipped with them on several occasions. Each time I visited, I felt welcomed and left feeling gratified. My husband is Catholic, and we raised our sons in the Catholic faith. For many reasons, I chose not to convert, but felt the tug of finding "my own" church. I was raised a Lutheran and decided to return to my roots. I joined St. Peters a year ago and was seeking not only a place to worship but a church community into which I could immerse myself. I was guided toward the Evangelism Committee. Because I always felt so warmly received, I felt this was a ministry that was a perfect fit for me. Reaching out to visitors in a welcoming way is inherent to St. Peters. If you are worshipping with us for one Sunday or seeking to become a member, the warm reception is the same. That is a unique attribute of our church, and, as a member of the Evangelism Committee, I am able to play a small part in exhibiting that aspect of our mission.*

*~~ Debbie Musso*

disciples by helping to tell the story of God and God's good news for us. This story telling uses print media as well as social media platforms. A recently developed website found at [www.stpeterslutheran.org](http://www.stpeterslutheran.org)

Our Commitment: **\$81,800 (8% of our Ministry Giving Plan)**

## **Fellowship Ministries**

*If we are living in the light of God's presence, just as Christ is, then we have fellowship with each other. – 1 John 1:7*

Our Mission: ***Celebrate fellowship*** within the church family through small group ministries, by recognizing wide ranging interests and providing a welcoming, nurturing environment for new members.



Our Ministry: We strengthen both our human bonds and those which grow out of our communal faith, by gathering for fun and fellowship in both small and large events that are both on campus and out in the community. Specifically we support congregation-wide events like the Strawberry Festival; the New Year's Sauerkraut Dinner; Christmas dinner theater, Palm Sunday breakfast and mid-week Lenten meals, and other social events. Additionally, we have smaller gatherings like Women of the ELCA, Fifty Plus Group, Just for Fun, the Adventurer's Group, Food Faith & Fellowship for young singles, and our Coffee Bar ministries in both worship venues.

*Being part of the church family at St. Peter's has been very important to us. Our retirement has given us the opportunity to become involved in numerous activities. Whether we are attending Fifty Plus meetings, helping prepare Sage luncheons, filling food bags for Power Packs, collecting Personal Care Kit items or serving on committees we are enjoying the fellowship of being with and working with others. We appreciate the variety of fellowship opportunities that St. Peter's offers.*

*~~Barry & Kathy Caldwell*

Our Commitment: **\$78,081 (8% of our Ministry Giving Plan)**

## **Stewardship Ministries**

*Don't forget to do good and to share what you have with those in need, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to God. – Hebrews 13:16*

Our Mission: ***Return to God with joy and thanksgiving*** what God has first given us... ourselves, our time, and our possessions... through discerning and sharing our Spirit-given (God-given) gifts as well as through proportionate growth giving.



Our Ministry: We are people who are gifted by God with abundant blessings, and we strive to remind all believers of the additional blessing of returning a portion of these gifts to God through our stewardship of time, talent and treasure. Specifically, our stewardship ministry includes a year-round emphasis of stewardship awareness structured around an

*I SAY my prayers at mealtime, giving thanks to God for his goodness.  
I SAY my prayers throughout the day, giving thanks to God for his blessings.  
I SAY my prayers at bedtime, giving thanks to God for his generosity.  
I am always talking, talking, talking to God.*

*We are all familiar with the adage, "Actions speak louder than words". (I remember as a child being reminded of this on numerous occasions.) That phrase is what Stewardship means to me, giving thanks to God by putting words into action.*

*Stewardship is all about sharing our Time, Talent and Treasure. We all have something to share that can fit into one of these categories.*

*The Stewardship Committee challenges you to turn your words into verbs and unleash your inner "T".*

*~~Kelley Lutz*

“Ask, Thank, Tell” philosophy, and a current growth in giving challenge to “Tithe Your Tithe.” We are an active team that strives to model our commitment to helping all Christians grow in giving in all parts of our lives.

Our Commitment: **\$44,900 (4% of our Ministry Giving Plan)**

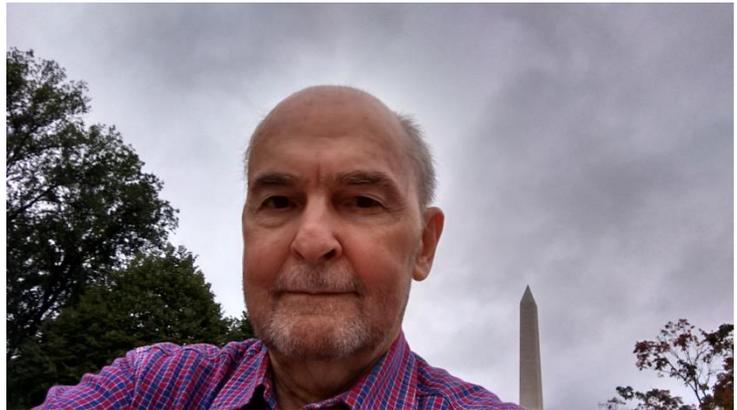
## *Ecumenical Ministries*

*Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. -- 1 Peter 2:17*

Our Mission: *Foster ecumenical faith ventures* with other congregations.

Our Ministry: We model Christian unity as a core part of our identity, through cooperative ministries with fellow believers in other denominational Christian traditions.

Specifically, we are an active part of our local Manheim Township Ministerium; we share mission and ministry with a number of ecumenical organizations in Lancaster, like the Lancaster County Council of Churches, Love, INC, Lydia's Closet, and the Samaritan Counseling Center. Additionally, we occasionally host



*You can watch St Peter's Faith Ventures arrive by the bus loads. They come from Luther Acres, Brethren Village, Landis Homes and hundreds of others for our Musical Arts Concert Series. They come because our members have taken the time to spread the word about St Peter's to other congregations. You can also watch the results of this ministry on the appreciative faces of the residents of Luther Acres when one of our pastors visits or participates in an important worship service. You can see the proof of the ministry with our vast internet presence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by the fact that just recently a new family joined St. Peter's because they heard about us "from the internet". These are only a small example of the first hand experiences that help keep our ecumenical ministries strong.*

*~~Bob Nace*

ecumenical services and community gatherings like Thanksgiving Eve worship, Manheim Township Baccalaureate Service, and ecumenical pulpit exchanges.

Our Commitment: **\$15,035 (1% of our Ministry Giving Plan)**

**Full line-item copies of the budget will be available upon request at the Annual Meeting.**

