

Annual Congregational Meeting 2024

Reports of Rostered Staff, Council and Committees

Alphabetical List of Committees with Reports

Interim Pastor—Pastor Linda Hanus

Interim Pastor---Pastor Cliff Hanus

Deaconess—Sister Dottie Almoney

Council President—Greg Hand

Cemetery Committee—Lois Benton

Children's Ministry—Sister Dottie

Communications—Jill Emmert

Endowment Fund—Steve Gegg

Evangelism—Betz Lind

Fellowship—Lynn Fyfe

Finance—Paul Berkebile

Human Resources—John Kerchner

Mutual Ministry—Sherry Weller

Parish Life—Christine Smith

Pastoral Care—Nancy Lefevre

Preschool—Heather Cramer

Property—Mark Aho

Stewardship—Betsy Linn

Tanzania Mission—Alan Swanson

Worship & Music—Jordan Lambert & Tom Berdos

Youth and Family—Leslie McCarthy

We ask that you take time to read how these ministries contribute to the mission of building a community of faith by God's grace and how you are called to support the mission of St. Peter's.

Interim Pastor's Report

November 2024

Dear Siblings in Christ,

"Where do I begin to tell the story...?" A good place to start is at the beginning of our time together. Thank you for welcoming me to St. Peter's so warmly back in July. It's hard to believe that we have been worshipping and learning and serving and fellowshiping together for over four months. It has been a time of grieving, rejoicing, questioning, worrying, discerning, dealing with both expected and unexpected happenings and changes, and moving forward in faith, trusting that God is good and continues to journey with us during this time of intentional transition. And, yes, this is a journey that we are on, not a day trip to the shore. It will take as long as it needs to take to get us to the place where St. Peter's is ready to call your next senior pastor. Thank you for hanging in there. Deep breaths, everyone... and prayers for patience. In God's time.

Thank you to the rostered and lay leadership and staff for your dedicated efforts to keep us planning and moving ahead in our mission and ministries and for taking care of the many daily tasks that are both necessary and time-consuming. It is a joy to serve with you. Thank you to the teachers who instruct our children and adults, helping them to grow in their relationship with God and their understanding of Scripture and discipleship. Thank you to our music team for blessing our worship with wonderful music and singing to the glory of God. Thank you to our property folks who can be seen most days of the week fixing things and tending to the needs of our large campus. Thank you to our many committee heads and members for your commitment of time to meetings and your ongoing ministries, both in-house and out into the community and world. Thank you to our many volunteers who often work behind the scenes to make sure that ministry happens and do so humbly in service to Christ's Church. Thank you to all who give of themselves to build up the body of Christ in this place.

Cliff arrived at St. Peter's on November 6th, joining me as your co-interim pastors. His time of service at Holy Trinity has ended and he is now looking forward to this next

chapter of interim pastoral ministry here. We are sharing one full-time position, meaning that each of us is serving half-time. We enjoy serving together and I'm sure that you will see how well we complement one another in our leadership styles.

As I close this brief epistle, I would like to thank you again for your faithfulness and commitment to this congregation and the work of Christ's church. As I shared with you when I first arrived, I share with you again a prayer that should be prayed regularly throughout this time of transition, as a reminder of God's faithfulness and presence with us: "O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (ELW, page 304)

Yours in Christ's Service,

Pastor Linda Hanus

Sister Dottie's Staff Report—2024

As I write this report, I have just returned from a trip to the US/Mexico Border. I was reminded of how lucky I am to be a citizen of the United States and the safety and security my family and I have. I pray that we continue to work for a just and humane immigration system as we move forward.

We are at an important juncture in our church. Pastor Ross retired this past June, and we have had many staffing changes. We are blessed to have Pastor Linda working with us as our interim and will look forward to Pastor Cliff Hanus as well. We have an opportunity to really take a hard look at our mission and vision of this church and what we envision moving forward as an ELCA congregation.

I have taken over the Children's ministry as well as overseeing the Youth and Family, Education and outreach ministries. I am also part of our preaching and worship schedule. I am always in search of volunteers to help out with our different ministries and am grateful for those who stepped up to lead on Sunday mornings.

I am ending my tenure as the Chair of the board of directors of the Deaconess community and will continue to be part of the Poor People's Campaign, Global Refugee (formerly LIRS) and how we serve those marginalized persons in our local, national and global communities.

My goal is to help our congregation understand it's mission to our communities as a congregation of the ELCA, to recognize what it means to be Lutheran, and what our polity tells us about how we follow Jesus in a chaotic world. In the words of Martin Luther,

"God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does".

President's Report— 2024

Greg Hand

I want to thank members of council, our committees and many of you who serve in volunteer roles to serve the body of Christ in worship, service and education. Each of you is a vital part of the body of Christ.

The following are some of the matters that St. Peter's Church Council has worked through this past year:

- Retirement of Senior Pastor Ross: On June 30, St. Peter's said farewell to Senior Pastor Craig Ross, who had served St. Peter's for 38 years. We miss Pastor Ross and wish him God's blessings in his retirement.
- Interim Pastor and Transition: Prior to Pastor Ross's retirement, we reached out to the Lower Susquehanna Synod regarding placement of an intentional interim pastor. Pastor Linda Hanus began her service on July 2. Pastor Cliff Hanus begins his service on November 6.
- Music and worship: St. Peter's continues to build on its 2023 outreach to the community in our worship and music programs. The Musical Arts program continues to reach out to members of the community, and we hope that the performances of the Messiah this December can proclaim the glory of God to even more members of the community.
- Property: Members of the property committee continue to do an amazing job of the structural and maintenance needs of our building and grounds have been met at minimal cost.
- Finance: The finances of St. Peter's stabilized in 2024. This occurred in large part due to the payoff of the variable rate loan at the end of 2023. Working with Human Resources, Finance presented a budget that ensures that we can resource vital ministry needs of St. Peter's in 2025 and positions us to move forward as we enter a new chapter.
- Human Resources: We are going through a transition in hiring a new parish administrator. I am very grateful to the work that the HR Committee has put in to support St. Peter's.
- Constitution: We will vote on changes to the Constitution and Bylaws in 2024. These changes are intended to make the terms of officer positions more consistent and to improve continuity and expertise in key areas.

Moving forward in 2025:

- Transition: Members of Council have met with representatives from the Lower Susquehanna Synod on our transition and future call process. This is a time for prayer for guidance, introspection and communication. If you have

questions or concerns, please feel free to contact a member of council with those questions and concerns.

- Stewardship and Ministry: Stewardship is part of our discipleship and is a continuing call to follow Jesus. Needs include further reduction of the debt on the remaining balance to the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund provides St. Peter's the opportunity to support benevolence in our community and in our world. The Mission Fund will also provide an opportunity for St. Peter's to make a difference in the community around us. We are looking for ideas for ministry to the community and volunteers for the Mission Fund Advisory Board.

We affirm the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This truth compels us to believe, as C.S. Lewis asserted, that Christianity "is of infinite importance." This calls us to serve and love one another and others in our community. It compels us to follow Jesus and to share the good news of what he has done for us and humanity.

We encourage you to join us and build a community of faith by God's grace here at St. Peter's during the coming year.

As I leave the office of council president at the end of 2024, I want to express my appreciation for the work that you have carried out to support the ministry of St. Peter's. Thank you to the members of council, the committees and the congregation for the support, input and grace that you have given me.

Cemetery Committee Report—2024

Lois Benton, Chair

St. Peter's Lutheran Church has several different options for your final resting place. Please consider taking a ride by our beautiful cemetery located on 62 Valley Road, which includes a cremation garden or visiting the Memorial and Meditation Garden located on the side of the church facing Delp Road. If you have two or three hours a year to contribute to St. Peter's, we encourage you to join the cemetery committee. Your input and support will be appreciated for the two or three meetings held yearly. Each meeting is approximately one hour, never longer. We can also be flexible selecting the day of the week or the time of the meeting.

On July 1, 2024, there was a twenty percent increase in the price for all three options due to the cost of materials and labor. Creations Landscaping will continue to maintain the grounds for cutting the grass and trimming, and snow removal when needed. George Groff remains the caretaker for the cemetery. But at his advanced age...he needs help. We are seeking one or more people to shadow George and to learn from the master. There is a modest stipend paid for the services of the Cemetery Caretaker. In addition to this position, we are seeking someone who can dig the graves for urns in our Memorial and Meditation Garden at the church alongside Delp Road.

Children's Ministry Report

While there have been staffing changes in our Children's ministry, our programs continued without a hitch! Sister Dottie is overseeing Children's ministry along with Brittney Booher who is the chair of our committee.

Our numbers in our Sunday school continue to climb and we have a great core group of volunteers who help lead, teach and prepare.

We combined our Easter Egg hunt with our Palm Sunday breakfast, had an end of year breakfast along with a Bible presentation, and our *Under the Sea* VBS had 60 participants and over 20 youth and adult volunteers.

We began the 2024/2025 SS year with a God's work our hands Sunday in which the children and youth together made blessing bags, cards, and Birthday cake kits for the food bank. We also created snack bags for Power Packs.

This past Reformation Sunday we had a Reformation Scavenger hunt for our children who were assisted by our youth. We finished the morning celebrating with donuts and cider. Our annual trunk or treat event on October 27th with the largest crowd we had from our church and preschool. Planning is in the works for an event in December.

Our Sunday School children in PreK/Kdg meet in our playground area for class and have access to multiple hands-on activities, along with stories, crafts and snacks.

Grades 1-4 meet in Augsburg Alley with a focus on the Old Testament books and rotate through three stations, which include crafts, science, cooking, games and stories.

If you want to learn more about our Children's ministry events for how to volunteer, reach out to Sister Dottie.

Communications Committee—2024

Jill Emmert, Chair

The Communications Committee facilitates the management of the overall public image of St. Peter's. Our goal is to raise the level of awareness about the church, our ministries, and our events to our members and the community.

Over the past year, we have been busy striving to keep you informed. Online, we continue to oversee content on the website, social media platforms including Facebook and YouTube, and the live stream of worship services. We have actively sought and used various other means to keep all of our membership informed. Direct email, postal mailing, the Herald newsletter, church signage, press releases and LNP and Merchandiser ads, as well as worship service walk-in slides. We also help with editing and proofreading any letters, documents, bulletins, and other publications generated by staff and committees.

We continue to contract with Lakelands Institute to manage our website and to provide professional production of our weekly Herald newsletter and "Three Things You Need to Know" emails. They also produce our advertising, both for print and on Facebook. Our website is beginning to show its age with pages that are unable to be updated as is, so Lakelands will be working to upgrade our website as we enter 2025. In the meantime, we ask for your patience if you encounter areas of the website that don't work as they should.

We have a small and dedicated committee! They work behind the scenes to create content you never thought about someone having to create, like the press releases to the local paper when the church hosts an event or the slides that show on our live stream broadcast and on the narthex TV. I am so grateful to them. We would be happy to welcome new members and to hear your ideas of how we can better connect with you. And we encourage committee chairs or other event organizers to reach out to us to help us tell your story.

Endowment Fund Report—2024

Steve Gegg, Chairperson

The mission of the Endowment Committee is to consolidate, manage and utilize in a responsible and effective manner all existing and future bequests, memorial gifts and other gifts designated for the Endowment.

We accomplish our mission by:

- Investing the endowment assets in a prudent manner that allows for a maximum return on the fund investments while at the same time diversifying the portfolio to mitigate risk.
- Distributing income generated for benevolence or other church expenditures that are not part of the annual budget and that meet specific guidelines established by the Committee.
- Educating the Congregation and others about the Endowment to encourage and generate future contributions.

Endowment Committee members include Stephen Gegg (Chair), Scott Glassford, (Treasurer), Karen Peiffer (Secretary), Greg Hand, (Church Council President). Pastor Linda Hanus will also participate in the interim.

Market & Investment Fund Returns as of September 30, 2024

- 2024 has proven to be a solid investment year with positive gains realized in 8 of 9 months. Only April saw a pull back.
- Year-to-date, as of September 30, 2024, on a combined portfolio basis, we have a realized gain of \$14,805 and unrealized appreciation of \$112,789.
- The S&P 500 year to date is up 23.26%, the MSCI AC World index is up 18.66% and the Bloomberg Int. Govt/Credit Index is up 4.68%. Treasury bill yields are about 4.17%. Money market yields have recovered from several years at nearly 0%..
- Year-to-date, the Endowment Fund has returned 13.45% versus a blended benchmark of 13.65%. Over the last 5 years, the Endowment Fund has returned 9.32% versus a blended benchmark of 8.67%.
- Year-to-date, the General Reserve Fund has returned 12.71% versus a 12.95% blended index return. Over the last 5 years, the General Reserve Fund has returned 8.76% against a blended benchmark of 8.13%.

Endowment Fund Report—2024 (Continued)

- Slight over performance has been realized in both portfolios over the last 10 years.

2024 Related Activity

- Endowment Committee members received reporting from our investment advisor, Fulton Financial Advisors, and we discussed and approved several gifts during 2024. We also met with Fulton on two occasions, October 30 being the most recent meeting.
- With Fulton, we reviewed our Investment Policy Statement (IPS). Investments remain in line with the IPS and asset allocations are in line with commonly accepted investment standards for long-term portfolios.
- The Committee and Fulton believe our Investment Policy Statement remains appropriate and our investment goals are in line with expectations and the nature of a long-term investment accounts such as these.
- Investment Policy guidelines are 65% equity and 35% fixed income/cash for the Endowment and 60% equity and 40% fixed income/cash for the General Reserve. The policy provides additional asset investment restrictions and limits and provides an additional target range for asset classifications.
- The blended benchmark used by Fulton for our portfolio includes the MSCI All Country World Index, the Barclays Capital US Intermediate/Corporate Bond Index, and the FTSE 3 Month Treasury Bill Index.
- We remain satisfied with the service and professional expertise we receive from Fulton.

2024 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT ENDOWMENT FUND

- *Fund Balance 9/30/2023 (last annual meeting)*
\$818,714.64
- **Fund Balance 12/31/2023** **\$885,977.57**
- ***Increases consist of the following:***
- New Contributions \$10,000.00 (loan repayment)
- Investment Income YTD 9/30/2024 \$13,456.57
- Realized Gains YTD 9/30/2024 \$12,906.51
- Unrealized Gains YTD 9/30/2024 \$92,230.22

- ***Decreases consist of the following:***
- Disbursements for benevolence (2024 YTD) (\$8,600.00)

Endowment Fund Report—2024
2024 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT ENDOWMENT FUND (Continued)

- Investment Manager Expense (\$6,357.09)
- Accrued Income Adjustments (\$9.05)

Fund Balance 9/30/2024 **\$999,604.73**

- **St. Peter's Church loan activity:**
- Loan Granted for Debt Reduction 2/1/2011 \$100,000
- Loan Granted for Debt Reduction 3/18/2011 \$35,000
- Total Original Debt \$135,000
- Loan Payments Received in 2024 (\$10,000)
- **Life to date and future interest forgiven in 2022*
- *Loan Outstanding 9/30/2023* *\$110,199*
- **Loan Outstanding 9/30/2024 *** **\$100,199**
- ****outstanding loan balance is not included in Endowment value report***

2024 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT GENERAL FUND

- *Fund Balance 9/30/2023 (last annual meeting)*
\$176,512.90
- **Fund Balance 12/31/2023** **\$204,505.76**

- ***Current Year Increases consist of the following:***
- New Contributions \$0
- Investment Income YTD 9/30/2024 \$3,549.91
- Realized Gains YTD 9/30/2024 \$1,898.74
- Unrealized Gains YTD 9/30/2024 \$20,559.10
- ***Decreases consist of the following:***
- Approved distribution (2024 YTD) \$0.00
- Investment Manager Expense (\$1,453.69)
- Accrued Income Adjustments (\$10.06)

Fund Balance 9/30/2024 **\$229,049.76**

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Betz Lind, Chair

Our mission is to promote the growth of the congregation by supporting prospective members into an active role in the Body of Christ.

The committee continues to track visitors and prospective new members by reviewing the weekly attendance logs and entering information into the church database.

Welcome letters with additional contact information are sent out after the first and fourth visits.

The church office is currently handling most of the contact with new members due to the absence of a full-time senior pastor. There have been no formal information sessions; however, new member classes are expected to resume in 2025.

Eight new members joined St. Peter's during 2024.

Fellowship Committee—2024

Lynn Fyfe, Chairperson

2024 saw the return of mid-week meals, as we shared a soup dinner on Ash Wednesday before services. We also celebrated Palm Sunday with our annual Pancake Breakfast. Our major event this summer was Pastor Ross's retirement party. Sincere gratitude for the many people who contributed their expertise, time, and food.

Many thanks to Donna Aho for organizing our coffee bar and the schedule of volunteers, and to the volunteers that keep the kitchen clean, stocked, and operational for the fellowship and ministry groups that use it.

We are always looking for new ideas and people to help – please contact Lynn Fyfe if you are interested in helping with Fellowship events.

Financial Committee—2024

Paul Berkebile, Chair

The primary responsibility of the Finance Committee is to formulate, recommend to council, and monitor the adherence to appropriate internal controls, policies, practices, and procedures for all financial matters and activities of the church not otherwise delegated by the governing documents of the church.

I want to thank Sherry Moul for her two years of service as our church Treasurer. In addition, my thanks to Mark Linn who continues as Assistant Treasurer, Janelle Almoney our bookkeeper and to Paul Schultz our former parish administrator. Thanks as well to the other members of St Peter's who served on the Finance Committee this year including Greg Hand, Terry McGuigan, Carolyn McNaughton, Jen Schlener-Thomas, Randy Shue, Larry Wilcox, Adrian Young, Pastor Craig for the first half of the year and Pastor Linda since July 1st.

The Walz Group was contracted again in 2024 to perform a compilation review of our prior year (2023) financial records. Their report was provided to representatives of the Finance Committee on September 24th.

From a financial standpoint the reduction of our debt load by nearly \$600k in 2023 brought us into 2024 with a realistic and balanced budget.

As reported again last year, in 2012 the congregation borrowed \$110,000 from the Endowment Fund. Interest respective to the internal loan has been gifted to the congregation by the Endowment Committee; however, the principal of loan needs to be paid back to the Endowment Fund. In 2024 we paid \$10,000 towards the loan and have \$10,000 in the proposed 2025 budget for a second payment.

In 2024 the Finance Committee formed an IT subcommittee which completed two projects. The first was a review of the phone system in conjunction with the Property Committee which resulted in moving away from rental of our phones to the purchase. This decision resulted in a \$9,000 prospective annual savings in our phone costs. The IT Committee was also instrumental in our planning and budgeting for the necessary sunset of Microsoft 10 and its implication for our congregation. Members of the IT Committee included Randy Shue, Alwin Philippa and Paul Schultz.

Representatives of the Finance Committee in conjunction with representatives of the Property Committee reviewed our commercial insurance policy with our agent in early September. We made some minor changes and raised our deductible from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to control the premium increase.

Of concern to the Finance Committee is the size of our beautiful church building. And the aging nature of even the newest parts of our building. We are grateful to Mark Aho and the Property Committee for their leadership in managing our property at the lowest cost possible in these challenging financial circumstances.

We encourage all members who are not currently using one of our electronic giving options to prayerfully consider doing so in 2025. We have seen significant growth in the numbers of members participating and the related contributions, which provides stability for our monthly cash flow.

The preparation of the annual budget and the ongoing monitoring of income and expenses is a major role of the Finance Committee. Like the approach the past two years we formed a budget sub-committee in August of this year to begin assimilating the 2025 budget requests of the various committees and ministries. All involved were very cooperative resulting in a proposed 2025 budget that while attendance and giving has not returned to pre-pandemic levels we were able to propose a realistic budget, which was reviewed and adopted by church council on October 8th.

Prospectively, the Finance Committee could use a few additional committee members to assist with this ministry. Questions or to volunteer feel free to reach out to any member of the Finance Committee. May God continue to bless us, guide our community of faith, challenging us to develop ideas to sustain our beautiful building while providing for a robust ministry both within our congregation, our community, and the world.

Human Resources Committee—2024

John Kerchner, Chair

The mission of the Human Resources Committee is to support the Council and the staff by assisting with human resource-related tasks including calculating benefit cost changes, reviewing salary recommendations, ensuring that staff evaluations are completed, and carrying out any other human resource-related issues. Our responsibilities include, but are not limited to: reviewing and updating job descriptions for all church staff as needed; determining and setting staff salaries and benefit packages; formulating and proposing the HR budget for the upcoming year; reviewing all rostered leaders with input from the Council president; auditing all non-clergy staff reviews; reviewing a list of official holidays for the upcoming year; submitting a report of yearly activities for the annual congregational meeting; and, upon recommendation of the Preschool Committee, providing for preschool personnel, salary, and benefits adjustments.

The 2025 HR budget was prepared and submitted to the Finance Committee. In the upcoming year(s) the Human Resources Committee will help in supporting the Interim Pastor in our transitional period as well as the Call Committee as we search for a new Senior Pastor.

Applications are currently being received and reviewed for the open position of Parish Administrator.

Mutual Ministry Committee—2024

Sherry Weller, Chairperson

The Mutual Ministry Committee supports the rostered leadership, congregation, staff, and community. Its goal is to help build a healthy relationship between these groups, by encouraging open dialogue, recognizing areas that warrant attention, and taking appropriate measures to prevent repercussions or retaliation. The Committee will help build a broad vision of ministry, embrace a healthy practice of inclusion, and develop mutuality. This will be done through, but not limited to, the following:

- Serve as a conferring and consulting Committee for the rostered leaders, advising them about conditions in the congregation.
- Being a resource for the rostered leaders, in whom they can confide in times of need.
- Serve as a point of spiritual and communal growth for the rostered leaders and others.
- In the spirit of mutual ministry between the rostered leaders, the congregation, and the community, serve as an agent of reconciliation between all, not overstepping the bounds of the Constitution of the congregation or ELCA.
- Work to further the church's growth and vision.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to share their concerns, both positive and negative, with members of the Committee, the Pastors or Sister Dottie. Open dialogue is critical to the health of the church. Without the opportunity to share opinions regarding all types of concerns, they may go unnoticed and therefore not addressed.

There were many topics of discussion this past year including, but not limited to: On-going church safety, the evolving needs of children/youth Christian education, church/community programs, preschool updates, and the process to call a Pastor, upon the retirement of Pastor Ross, including the journey with our intentional Interim Pastors.

Meetings occur every other month. Each member plays an important role, sharing their opinions, as well as a brief Bible study, Prayer, and leading meetings. We hope we function in a way that supports all people, the mission/vision of the church, and the community at large.

Membership: Pastor Linda, Pastor Hanus, Sister Almoney, Sherry Weller, Mark Aho, Mark Beauregard, Angela Moshos, Melissa Sasso, and Shirley Dombach.

Parish Life Committee Report—2024

Christine Smith, Chair

Parish Life is comprised of various sub committees that include outreach opportunities and offerings. It includes W.E.L.C.A., Prayer Chain, Sages Special events, Funeral Hospitality, Altar Flower Deliveries, and Meal & Transportation requests. Parish Life's goal is to enhance and support members in a variety of ways through fellowship and when the opportunity or need arises.

W.E.L.C.A. Much thanks to Kathy Berkebile and Nancy LeFevre for their leadership with WELCA. It has been a very active and exciting year! A huge THANK YOU to all who participate in this ministry. We continue to have an average attendance of 20 to 25 ladies and have seen many new faces join the group. These dedicated ladies have collected items and packed 82 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits were delivered by Ed and Nancy LeFevre to our drop off point where they were transported to the central warehouse and then arrived just in time to help victims of the hurricanes in the south.

WELCA has also been a large supporter for Vantage House which is a home for ladies recovering from addiction in Lancaster. It is the only home where women can have their babies and children with them. Personal care items as well as necessary items for babies have been provided to the residents. These donations have totaled well over \$1000. Donations that are collected include Christmas and Easter gifts along with other monthly donations.

WELCA is excited to continue these ministries and partner with the Quilters as we move into 2025. WELCA meets the second Thursday of the month at 9:00 AM in Augsburg Alley. We share a light breakfast followed by a program at 9:30. We have had many interesting topics. Please join us and bring a friend or neighbor!

Prayer Chain- the Prayer Chain currently consists of more than 30 members under the continued leadership of Angela Moshos and Ginny Gerhart. Your Prayer Chain continues to be a very active committee! We sadly lost our last two founding members this year, Pat Ross and Thelma Aurand. We have added a new member but would love to add a few more! With Pastor Ross' retirement, we are now under the direction of Pastor Linda. We continue to receive requests almost daily and they are prayed for a week or more depending on the situation. A committee that only requires time at home to pray for members and family. New members are always welcomed.

Sages Special Events- The three planned Sages events are thriving in attendance. Events are held 3 times a year with an early Christmas service, Maundy Thursday service and an August Sunday Recognition celebration. Attendance continues to grow with at least 50 Sages attending each time in 2024. Sages' events are open to anyone who have celebrated 80 or more birthdays.

Funeral Hospitality- A ministry that provides luncheon support or a small reception before or after a funeral service from the direction of the family to plan. Still a quiet ministry but open to those who want. Volunteers would be welcomed to be available to help when requested.

Altar Flower Deliveries- Altar flowers deliveries are made by 12 volunteers on a rotating weekly basis. The team also manages the Christmas poinsettia and Easter plant deliveries to an expanded group of homebound members with extra church members helping out. It continues to offer the opportunity to have an Easter plant placed on the gravesite of a loved one. This outreach has been increasing in popularity the past few years and will continue to provide the offering.

Meal & Transportation Requests- Very few requests so far in 2024. Definite need to expand a list of volunteers to give members a ride or make a meal. Need to build a new base. Contact Christine Smith at 610-213-6624 if available to help.

Pastoral Care Committee—2024

Nancy LeFevre, Chair

The mission of our Pastoral Care Committee is offering mutual care to the people of St. Peter's Parish. We call and offer concern and help after a significant event in their life has occurred. The event could be a hospitalization, a death in the family, an illness, or a transition in their life experiences. We also contact people who have not been in church for a while. Sometimes we learn about a reason or can offer help to them. Our Visitation Pastor (Pastor Hand), The Nightingales (hospital visitors), our Home Communion visitors, and our Card Team, all coordinate information among our groups. Everyone in these groups has become aware of keeping our parish members connected. Our Card Team makes beautiful handmade cards. They send cards for: thinking of you, get-well, and congratulation wishes for babies and weddings. We also have someone who sends birthday cards to those members who have reached the age of 80. We refer to these members as our Sages.

In spite of the challenges which we have faced this year, we have been keeping connected with our parish members.

Preschool Report—2024

Heather Cramer, Preschool Director

Our current 2024/2025 school year began on Monday, September 9th. We have three 4/5- year-old classes, two 3-year-old classes, and a young 3-year-old class. Our Tuesday/Thursday 3-year-old class has become a “supplemental” class with ministry involved. This class is called “Bible Bunnies” and is run by Patti Corll. We currently have 60 children enrolled in preschool, with 13 teachers and 6 substitutes on staff.

Because of the creation of the preschool scholarship given by Sandi Hirko in memory of Andy and other contributions, we were able to sponsor a few children whose families would not otherwise be able to afford the tuition.

Our after-school lunch program, Prayground, is off to another great start this year with 16 children attending. This is a Christian education program that includes Bible stories, crafts, free play and of course lunch! It is really gratifying knowing that so many of our preschool students attend our Prayground program and continue to have parents enroll their children.

Our preschool is involved in community service projects—in recognition of Breast Cancer month, we have been collecting items for Thrive and Grit, a group organized by two of our preschool teachers, Boni Sauder and Jacquelyn Iannello. They collect certain items and put together goodie bags for people undergoing cancer treatment at the Ann Barshinger Cancer Center. We also collect soda tabs for Ronald McDonald House.

We have a relationship with Millersville University as we have several student teachers who come and spend time with our classes. These students are enrolled in the early childhood education degree program.

I am currently working with Linville Hill Christian School to offer an early childhood education internship opportunity for one of their students. This would start in January and run for 12 weeks.

We are also working with Christine Smith to develop an intergenerational program. One of our 4/5-year-old classrooms will be meeting with a few of our older church members for an hour on the first Thursday of every month to play some games, make a craft and have a snack together. We hope this will help the church learn more about our students and programs.

Our preschool holds many crossover fellowship and service events. Many of our preschool families attended our trunk or treat event in October, they will be invited to all our upcoming St. Peter's events. Children are attending our egg hunts, as well as VBS. We also currently have families attending our worship services. We continue to promote worship, fellowship and educational events to our preschool program.

Our preschool is grateful for the space and the joint ministry with St. Peter's. We are also grateful for the volunteer work of Mark Aho and his property team who make sure that we have what we need to educate our preschoolers. We will begin re-enrollment in January. Questions can be directed to Heather Cramer at heather.cramer@stpeterslutheran.org

Property Committee—2024

Mark Aho, Chair

I am pleased to report that we have continued to make progress addressing long-standing facility needs and updates in the past year.

- 3 failed heat pumps replaced
- Conversion of over 80 lighting fixtures to LED for energy savings
- Replacement of failed water shut off valves due to hard water
- Numerous roof repairs and leak fixes
- Correction of long-term water leak in south penthouse
- Thermostat programs for all rooms on old side for energy savings
- Separation of Café and FLC for HVAC for energy savings
- Improvements to HVAC controls in 2025 addition for better control

A significant project was completed during the summer to replace the large heat pump serving the Café and FLC. These 2 areas can now be controlled independently and remotely. We were able to install a more efficient and smaller capacity unit after analyzing the current use of the spaces.

Aside from all the large projects there is always a continuous flow of smaller projects and maintenance needs. In a very large facility with parts dating back to 1959 hardly a week goes by without finding something in need of attention.

- Cleaning and repairs to the playground
- Replacement of a number of safety EXIT lights
- Replacement of batteries in Emergency lights
- Installation of railings in the choir loft
- Repair of door closers in the entire building
- Electrical work – switches, outlets, lighting
- Wear and tear of just about everything!

Property has also undertaken an effort to improve the energy efficiency of the building. We continue to convert lighting to LED, optimize both heating and cooling systems and educate the staff on their best use. Our multi-year contracts for electric and natural gas supply end in 2024-25 with current market prices higher. The improvements we have made are saving in excess of 10% of usage for both electric and gas in an effort to mitigate the impact of higher costs.

Heading into 2025 our 2 biggest challenges remain planning ahead for major potential replacements like roofs, boilers, HVAC units and the need for volunteers with skills that match typical maintenance needs. The heat pumps that provide the heating and cooling in the older parts of the building are mostly 25+ years old and near the end of

life. We are replacing them as they fail and trying to stay current with preventive maintenance. A survey of all the roof areas was completed to better plan for future repairs and replacement.

St. Peter's has been extremely fortunate over many years to have the volunteer efforts of members with plumbing, electrical, wood working, HVAC and general construction skills. Many are now aging out and the alternative is paying contractors. My hope is to interest a new generation in making similar contributions. Volunteers can work on individual projects too without being a committee member – give me a call!

My sincere thanks to current volunteers for their many contributions to the progress made in 2024. George Groff deserves special recognition as our resident plumbing guru who tirelessly repairs all manner of sinks, toilets, and piping. If it leaks, George is on it! Bill Schlener provided expert advice and thermostat programming with his years of HVAC knowledge. Rich Larrick is a dedicated jack of all trades helping with whatever is needed.

Stewardship Committee—2024

Betsy Linn, Chairperson

Mission Statement - St. Peter's Stewardship Committee's mission is to inspire church members to share their God-given time, talent, and treasure to enrich their personal faith journey (and the lives of others).

2024 Activity – The Stewardship Committee engaged in a variety of productive conversations and activities throughout the year. Our focus was on the time and talents of our members and how we can encourage more members to become involved. At our invitation, Tim Brown, Director, Congregational Stewardship, ELCA, met with the committee in May to discuss trends in congregational giving. Also, Beth Glassford has sent 258 thank you cards to volunteers in the past year.

The offerings donated to St. Peter's are used in a multitude of ways and benefit all members. Without them, we would have no building to use, no Pastor, no staff and no heat! But our best resource is our members. Without all the volunteers we would have no choir, no Sages' luncheons, no paraments on the altar, no youth programs, just to name a few. The lifeblood of this congregation is our people. Without you, St. Peter's would look very different.

Committee Members – Bob Bowman, Lynn Fyfe, Sherry Moul (ex officio), Paul Berkebile (ex officio), Jennifer Schlener-Thomas, Randy Shue, Adrian Young, Beth Glassford and Betsy Linn (chair)

Tanzania Mission Committee (TMC)—2024

Alan Swanson, Chairperson

TMC's three goals for this year were:

1. Raise \$6,000 for the Busoka orphans and Itete Hospital.
2. Raise and donate \$5,000 or more to help continue the building of the new Busoka Lutheran Church.
3. Pray for the Busoka community and the orphans at each of our church services.

The TMC sent \$7,335 raised from 2023 to Busoka with \$6,135 to assist the Orphans and \$1,201 to purchase a rice processing machine Busoka and surrounding villages can use.

Through the generosity of everyone at St. Peter's, we also sent \$5,000 in 2023 and have now sent \$40,000 in total to help rebuild their church. The Busoka people have made great progress constructing their new building.

The TMC held our 2024 Sub Sale and raised \$1,289. We already sent \$1,000 of those funds to Busoka to help pay for the new cement floor in their new church building.

Peter Murdock visited Busoka in October/November 2023 and brought back pictures and stories from the Busoka people and construction activities moving forward on their new church building.

Inside the church building with new cement floor.

Church architect outside the new Church building.



The TMC received another \$5,000 grant from St. Peter's Endowment Fund. The funds were sent to Busoka this spring for the new church building and bring our total funding of the new church building to \$45,000.

Communications between people from Busoka and the TMC and Peter Murdock and Judy Wenrich have continued highlighting the church rebuilding activities and the Busoka people's on-going prayers for the people of St. Peter's.

The Konde Dioceses, where Busoka is located in Southwest, Tanzania rotates their pastor every few years. Busoka's current Pastor, Pastor Sarafina Mwalukawa had rotated out of Busoka. A new Pastor has been assigned and will start soon to continue serving the Busoka people and the area around Busoka.

The Tanzania Mission Committee is planning a Cookie Walk on Saturday December 14, 2024. The Cookie Walk is the largest annual fundraiser the TMC has for the people of Busoka.

The people of Busoka and St. Peter's continue to pray for each other each Sunday, strengthening our relationship and the bond between us that is now 18 years old.

Worship and Music—2024

Jordan Lambert, Worship Chair

Tom Berdos, Music Director

St. Peter's worship and music ministries continue to help us praise God with joyful liturgy and musical excellence for the community at large. Although contemporary worship has been paused this year, we offer two traditional services most Sundays, with additional services during Advent and on Christmas Eve, Holy Week and Easter. We have a small team of livestream operators who enable us to broadcast one Sunday worship service, as well as musical performances, to members of St. Peter's and the public. During 2024 under direction of Tom and Deborah Berdos, St. Peter's offers a wide range of music ministries (vocal, handbell, orchestra, youth and children's choirs). In addition to Herald Choir, the Canticle Choir sings at 8:00 a.m. services and we hope to expand it. Our handbell choirs include St. Peter's Ringers and Exultate Ringers. Our Youth Choir of 5th-8th graders has continued. We praise God for the musical gifts in our congregation that has enabled us to strengthen our ensembles.

Operating in parallel with the Worship and Music ministries, the Musical Arts Concert Series (MACS) has an annual season of five concerts featuring both professional and volunteer musicians. At least ten percent of gifts collected by MACS are returned to the community as outreach grants. In 2024 we began featuring two annual choral outreach events, inviting singers from the region to participate with us. Building on great success in 2023, St. Peter's will offer two performances of Messiah with a 100-voice community chorus and orchestra on December 15, 2024. In the spring, we again opened our doors to new singers with the St. Peter's Choir Festival. This MACS program raised a \$5000 freewill offering that we contributed to Manheim Township first responders.

It has been wonderful to receive very generous support for the MACS from St. Peter's and the community at large. Many thanks to all our patrons, committee, ushers, refreshment bakers, and others who make this series a strong outreach. MACS is completely self-sustaining through donations and offerings.

We are also grateful for the opportunity to have participated in the 70th annual Ocean Grove Choir Festival in Ocean Grove, NJ, including a larger contingent of St. Peter's singers than ever before. This historical choral event features a choir of hundreds of singers and draws participants from all over the east coast. This is another opportunity for us to open our doors and welcome guests in.

A reminder that our ensembles - choirs for adults and youth, handbell choirs, intergenerational orchestra - are always open to new musicians. Please do not hesitate to email Tom for more information, or to participate (tom.berdos@stpeterslutheran.org). And, special thanks to those who work behind the scenes to organize music and help with the many details of keeping a music ministry moving forward. We are indebted to all of our volunteers, working hard for the glory of God in our worship services.

We have a faithful core committee assisting the clergy and music ministers. We invite anyone to join the discussion as a part-time or full-time member of the committee, which meets 10 months of the year on the second Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Please contact us to discuss our work or if you would like meeting notices.

Youth and Family Committee—2024

Leslie McCarthy, Chair

The past year has been an exciting one for the St. Peter's youth program as we continue to grow. In January we held a very successful food drive and delivered five carloads of donations to the St. Paul Penryn food pantry for our MLK Day of Service. The youth toured the food pantry facility and heard about the work they do serving the community. This inspirational experience led us to volunteer monthly to support the pantry on their food distribution days. In January we also participated in the annual Youth Sunday service. In February the youth attended their weekend retreat to Camp Kirchenwald and enjoyed an outing to Laserdome. On Maundy Thursday the youth were "locked-in" to the church for the evening, for games and activities centered around the theme of forgiveness. The following morning, on Good Friday, they led Stations of the Cross for their families. We closed out the school year with an inter-generational trivia contest and an end of the year game night.

Over the summer, a group of our grades 5-8 youth attended Confirmation Camp at Camp Kirchenwald in June, and older youth attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana in July. Due to the Covid pandemic, this was the first Youth Gathering held since 2018. It was an inspirational and memorable trip (including a very eventful and long trip home due to a global computer software glitch).

We kicked off the school year in September with a Youth Group Pizza Party and Game Night, and we are excited to announce the return of Senior High Sunday School for youth in grades 10-12. In the fall we are continuing bi-monthly youth group meetings, with themes on family and service, and will attend the Capture the Flag Spectacular at Camp Kirchenwald. We will close out 2024 with our annual Christmas Dinner Theater on Sunday, December 8th at 5:30 PM. This year's show is entitled "Christmas at First Lutheran Church," and free will offering ticket donations will go to benefit youth programming and to defray the cost of attending camps and retreats.

In 2025, the Youth and Family Committee is dedicated to growing the St. Peter's youth program, increasing fellowship and leadership opportunities, and creating space for all of the youth in our church to feel welcomed and valued.