

2016 YEARBOOK



Touching Lives with the Love and Saving Grace of Jesus.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Dear Members of Peace,

It has been a long standing tradition that businesses and institutions provide annual reports telling how things went in the past year. Government leaders present state of the State or state of the Union reports. Churches also have found such reports to be useful. What you have before you is a summary of the activities of our congregation, Peace Lutheran Church. It shows the official acts, important financial information and brief reports of various groups - boards and committees - within the congregation. The purpose is to give the data necessary for determining the strengths and weaknesses of our ministries here at Peace.

Our annual report is provided at our congregation's annual meeting. It is at this meeting that leaders are elected and the budget is adopted for the coming year. Decisions can also be made that, hopefully, will enable us to improve in the ministry areas where we show weakness.

Whereas this report provides an assessment of our congregation as a whole, it is my hope that each of us, individually, would evaluate how we performed as a child of God this past year. Think in terms of church attendance, giving, serving at church and in the community, attendance at small groups and regular Bible study, activities that strengthen relationships with spouse, children and family members - the examples can go on. This world is not the right place. It is very important that we take advantage of those things the Lord provides that enable us to keep the main thing the main thing - that is, our commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ. May we diligently work at this in 2017!

The Lord's richest blessings to each of you in this new year!

Pastor Bode



Dear Members of Peace,

2016 was a remarkable year for Peace Lutheran Church as we celebrated our 125th anniversary. Members of Peace have been praising God, praying, serving, sharing the good news and touching lives for 125 years.

Peace Lutheran Church and its members today face many of the same challenges and opportunities that were present 125 years ago. In 1925 Peace had the vision to build a new sanctuary but also the challenge of paying for it. Just a few years ago Peace had the vision to build the new Little Lambs Christian Center but with that vision came the challenge of paying for it. In both situations the members of Peace prayed that God would guide them each step of the way and provide the means to allow the vision to become a reality.

Our vision statement is "Touching Lives with the Love and Saving Grace of Jesus". The facilities that our Lord has blessed us with are simply tools which assist us in growing our ministries and outreach in order to touch lives.

Beginning early in 2017 we will be highlighting one of our ministries each month and telling the story of how that ministry is allowing us to touch lives. One of the simplest and most basic ways to touch lives is described in Psalm 78:4 "Tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done."

God has blessed Peace Lutheran Church for 125 years. He has blessed us with dedicated and talented staff members. He has blessed us with devoted and generous members. He has provided us with unlimited ministry opportunities.

Looking forward, I am very excited to be a member of Peace and I am very excited about pursuing the opportunities that God will place before us. I would like to challenge each of you to evaluate the special gifts that God has given to you and to determine how you can use those gifts to grow one of the wonderful ministries here at Peace, and to "Touch Lives with the Love and Saving Grace of Jesus".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Cowger".

Dan Cowger, President

THOSE WHO SERVE US - 2016



Pastors: Gerhard H. Bode
John Pasche
Layton Lemke, Visitation Pastor

Minister of Music: Dr. Joan DeVee Dixon

Minister of Operations: Paul A. Berg

Director of Children's Ministry: Sandy Kephart

Director of Youth Ministry: Erika Durheim

Coordinator of Early Childhood Ministries: Lisa Kirchoff

Parish Services: Marlys Palmer

Administrative Secretary: Melva Plath

Custodians: Jerry Janicke, Sarah Radunz, Ken Wornson, Dennis Jannusch

Parish Health: Shirley Wurdell & Renee Clabo

Little Lambs Christian Center

Director: Laura Wendand (to Oct.) **Assistant Director: Rhonda Rokala**
(To Nov. - Director Beginning Dec.)

Preschool Education: Debbie Koglin **Childcare Center Aide:** Patty Lokensgard
Lynn Winslow

Infant Room: Karleen Cowger **Toddler Room:** Amanda Lokensgard
Janelle Katzenmeyer Andrea Rubischko
Kaitlyn Sterner

Preschool Room: Megan Skalberg
Robin Rokala
Crestin DiSanto

CHURCH OFFICERS - 2016

President: Dan Cowger 320-583-1250

Vice President: Nick Brellenthin 320-444-7338

Secretary: Lynn Brown 320-587-7046

Treasurer: Mike Eggert 320-583-5416

Mission and Ministry Board:

Justin Evenson Al Koglin Nancy Rickert
Joyce Tews Lee Uldbjerg

Board of Elders:

Ken Quast, Chairman
Doug Brown Scott Brusehaver Jerome Fischer
Jerry Haag John Lietz Matt Markgraf
Robbie Peterson Weston Plath George Quast



PARISH REPORT - 2016

Statistics	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Baptized	2655	2643	2636
Communicant Members	2041	2032	2025
Baptisms, Children	35	34	33
Baptisms, Adults	0	0	0
Confirmation, Junior	26	27	27
Adult Instruction/Affirmed Faith	14	14	15
Marriages	11	8	11
Deaths	33	31	39

COMMUNICANTS

GAINS - 2016		LOSSES - 2015	
Transferred in	13	Transferred Out	12
Recd. Other Synods	11	Released Other Synods	6
Adult Instruction	5	Released to non-Lutheran Church	6
Affirmed Faith	10	Requested Release	10
Confirmation, Juniors	<u>27</u>	Losses by Death	<u>39</u>
	66		73

CHURCH ATTENDANCE - HEAD USHER'S REPORT

Services	Number		Attendance for Year	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Sunday Morning Services	153	153	19,567	19,279
Saturday Evening Services	50	51	3,466	3,684
Ash Wednesday	2	3	326	400
Lenten Services	10	10	1,179	1,653
Maundy Thursday	3	3	428	415
Good Friday	2	2	326	225
Easter Sunday	4	4	983	946
Thanksgiving Eve	1	1	214	229
Thanksgiving Day	1	1	118	115
Advent Services	9	12	906	1,135
Children's Christmas Programs	2	2	832	896
Christmas Day	1	Sun.	146	Sun.
Candlelight Services	3	3	746	741
New Year's Eve	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>97</u>
	242	246	29,310	29,815

BAPTIZED



Date of Baptism		Date of Birth
Jan. 10	Brynn Nicole Vandenberg , daughter of Josh & Nikki Vandenberg	09/21/15
Jan. 17	Eliza Michelle Ulrich , daughter of Andrew & Heidi Ulrich	07/31/15
Jan. 19	Addison Ann Mueller , daughter of Nathan & Jennifer Mueller	12/12/15
Feb. 5	Aria Marie Suess , daughter of Cody & Daniëlle Suess	09/17/15
Feb. 21	Richard Allen Robinson Jr. , son of Richard & Crystal Robinson	11/30/15
Feb. 21	Maverick James Fredrickson , son of Justin & Kelsey Fredrickson	01/11/16
Feb. 28	Grant Aaron Nelson , son of Aaron & Amy Nelson	12/11/15
March 6	Micah Orlin Everett Henke , son of Perry & Desiree Henke	07/21/15
April 10	Zoe Evelyn Gaudin , daughter of Zachary & Amber Gaudin*	03/14/16
June 12	Willow Grace Duenow , daughter of Jessie & Hannah Duenow	09/19/15
July 2	Emma Lynnea Plotter , daughter of Michael & Elyssa Plotter	06/03/16
July 9	Payton Ann Richter , daughter of Zachary & Malary Richter	06/24/16
July 10	Bryce Cole Anderson , son of Jake Anderson & Erin Daak	05/07/16
July 16	Mason Lee Johnson , son of Warren Johnson & Kelly Nelson	05/05/04
July 16	Darren Joe Johnson , son of Warren Johnson & Kelly Nelson	03/05/05
Aug. 21	Vince William Opatz , son of Mitchell & Brittany Opatz	06/13/16
Aug. 28	Judah Aaron Sitz , son of Justin Sitz & Jacey Hargrave	05/12/16
Sept. 7	Macey Joyce Piehl , daughter of Travis & Tory Piehl	06/07/16
Sept. 10	Emalyse Diane Moreno , daughter of Ken Moreno & Brittany Mons	07/16/16
Sept. 11	MaKayla Mollie Breyer , daughter of Todd Breyer & Courtney Frick	07/14/16
Sept. 24	Brylie Mae Fasching , daughter of Dan Fasching & Harlie Courts	02/15/16
Sept. 25	Jordanna Rose Roepke , daughter of Aaron & Alicia Roepke	05/23/16
Sept. 25	Violet Jean Kaping , daughter of Blake & Amanda Kaping	05/16/16
Oct. 1	Isaac Lee Thomsen , son of Jeffrey Thomsen & Ashley Markgraf	09/28/15
Oct. 9	Lucas Jay Schultz , son of Levi Schultz & Megan Carlson	06/25/16
Oct. 16	Jerzey Marie Jackson , daughter of Bradley Jackson & Ashley VonBerge	05/14/16
Oct. 16	Hendrix Dean Melberg , son of Mitchell & Miranda Melberg	08/21/16
Oct. 23	Adalynn Ann Pearson , daughter of Nate Pearson & Allyson Hansen	07/16/16
Nov. 6	Calix Walter Van Overbeke , son of Jason & Courtney VanOverbeke	07/06/16
Nov. 13	Ryker Troy Root , son of Brandon Root & Kelci Goldschmidt	08/17/16
Nov. 20	Kipton Michael Dressel , son of Michael & Mindy Dressel	08/31/16
Dec. 22	Bradyden Timothy-Scott Johnson , son of Ryan Johnson	05/05/16
	& Amelia Preddy	
Dec. 25	Addison Jaye Schmidt , daughter of Joshua & Heather Schmidt	10/08/16

TOTAL BAPTISMS 2016 = 33

*Member at Trinity Lutheran Church, Waconia, MN



Halli Beilke
 Cassandra Butcher*
 Jadon Clabo
 Gabriel Cooper*
 Maisy Elder
 Kall Fitterer
 Tanner Gage
 Logan Hempel
 D.J. Heuer

Joshua Housenick
 Payton Jepsen-Lee
 Morgan Kaping
 Kallamae Kellerman
 Jackson Kirchoff
 Jasmine Kron
 Eamonn McCormick
 Eavan McCormick
 Cole Meyer

Shaylee Millerbernd
 Emily Olson
 Leyton Petersen
 Mitchell Radunz*
 Josiah Schmidt
 Cody Stock
 Owen Streich
 Connor Sturges
 Austin Willett

*New Members = 3

TOTAL CONFIRMATIONS = 27



Weddings

June 4	Susan Jorgensen & Bruce Olsen
June 18	Jayne McEdward & Kyle Sparby
June 25	April Rowley & Lance Jacobson
July 23	Brooke Goldschmidt & Wesley Corrigan
August 6	Ashley Damlow & Allen Broll
August 11	Kristin Kirchoff & Matthew Dostal*
August 20	Lindsay Stibal & Michael Kephart*
August 27	Terri Roepke & Dennis Jannusch
September 24	Dorothy Schroder & Gary Butler
November 12	Aleasha Prior & Timothy Roach*
November 19	Wanda Dudgeon & Ronald Wendlandt*

* Not held at Peace

TOTAL WEDDINGS = 11



DATE OF DEATH

01/1/16	Earl Thompson
01/23/16	Robert "Bob" Benshoof
01/28/16	Dorothy Schramm
02/04/16	Harvey H. Homan
02/09/16	Dustin Telecky
02/14/16	Rebecca "Becky" Seller
02/19/16	Phyllis Huis
03/08/16	Robert "Bob" Schafer Jr.
03/12/16	Rebecca "Becky" Albrecht
03/17/16	Mavis Plath
03/21/16	Lucy Schmidt
04/11/16	Virginia "Ginger" Yerks
04/27/16	Lucille Bauer**

DATE OF SERVICE

01/16/16
01/27/16
02/04/16
02/11/16
02/16/16
02/18/16
02/23/16
03/12/16
03/18/16
03/23/16
03/28/16
04/15/16
05/06/16

DATE OF DEATH		DATE OF SERVICE
10/20/15	Mary (Luedtke) White*	06/11/16
06/19/16	Elaine Boldt	06/23/16
07/02/16	Iven Alsleben	07/08/16
07/14/16	Bennett "Buck" Schaffer	07/19/16
07/14/16	Doris Havemeier	07/19/16
07/19/16	William "Willie" Markgraf*	07/26/16
07/19/16	Judith Schiebel	09/26/16
07/29/16	Esther Rauch	08/04/16
08/03/16	Charlotte Bye	08/06/16
08/04/16	Donald Wendorff	08/10/16
08/06/16	Adeline Roepke	08/10/16
08/06/16	Joan Pikal	08/13/16
08/15/16	Alice Friauf	08/19/16
08/17/16	Lucille Runke	08/20/16
08/17/16	Roberta "Bobbie" Blood*	08/24/16
08/20/16	Darvin Ziemann	08/25/16
08/24/16	Helen Retziuff	08/28/16
08/27/16	Brandon Randt**	09/01/16
09/09/16	Darlene Thulin	09/13/16
09/15/16	Virginia Becker	09/24/16
09/22/16	Lorraine Briese	09/27/16
10/03/16	Reba Radtke	10/08/16
10/15/16	Randy Cassens	10/21/16
10/15/16	Caroline Kuehl	10/28/16
10/28/16	James Glader**	11/02/16
11/02/16	Elizabeth Quast	11/05/16
12/05/16	Bennett Schleuter	12/11/16
12/20/16	Katherine "Joanne" Ahrens	12/23/16
12/25/16	Lynn Krasean**	Unknown

*Non-Member

TOTAL DEATHS = 42

** Funeral not held at Peace

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - 2016

Received by Transfer from Same Synod

Julie & Claudia* Hovendick
 Larry & Phyllis Stender
 Raymond & Mavis Muckala
 Sylvia Seifert
 Brittany Mons
 John & Cindy Mons
 Eric Arndt
 Brittani Waldorf
 Troy & Becky Puckett & Grace*

Received From Other Lutheran

Richard Robinson
 Chris & Karen Solien, Grace*, Lily* & Henry*
 Loyd & Laura Tjernagel
 Linda Larson
 Heidi Ulrich
 Mary Hansen
 Kimberly Hahn & Gabriel Gabrelcik*

LuAna Issendorf
 Helen Renstrom

Received Profession of Faith

Crystal Robinson
 Darla Levercom
 Tony Olson
 Justin Sitz & Cora*
 Jacey Hargrave
 Audrey Fox
 Linda Brandt
 Caroline Kuehl
 Jerome & Bonita Schanil

Received by Adult Instruction

Kelly Nelson
 Ann Janning
 Lance & April Jacobson & Alexis*
 Duane Remer



Received by Youth Confirmation

Cassandra Butcher
 Gabriel Cooper
 Mitchell Radunz

Transferred to LCMS Church

Aaron Briesemeister
 Kris Elam
 Mark & Linda Keehr
 Gary & Teresa Olson
 Elizabeth* & Joshua* Castaneda
 Rebecca Gordon*
 Donna Schuette
 Kathleen Bauer
 Skyler & Katie Wigen & Trey*
 Larry & Laurie Raisbeck

Transferred to Other Lutheran Churches

Troy & Trisha Lenarz, Ellie & Emily*
 Shawn Haarstad
 Brett & Sadie Christiansen, Paiton* &
 Brennan*

Released to Non-Lutheran Congregation

Dean & Deb Froemming
 Egan Schmoll*
 Judith Gorr
 Jennifer Iverson, Camryn*, Adrianna* & Mya*
 Brent & Jennifer Schmidt, Evan* & Aria*

Requested Release

Erwin & Lila Rusch
 Steve & Jill Auger, Jaclyn & Ross
 Gavin Schmidt*
 Patty Thul
 Aaron Barlau, Kaylee* & Austin*
 Betty Knaak

*Baptized Member

**AT PEACE LUTHERAN**

This past year we have been intentionally refining the Elementary programs to reflect and support the vision and values of Peace Lutheran. All of our programming is designed to "Touch Lives with the Love and Saving Grace of Jesus". We have also been striving toward more authentic relationships, empowered growth, energized serving and creative worship.

We continue to see strong numbers in each of our Children's programs. We see many members of Peace, but we also continue to see many visitors that attend each week. It is not unusual to have several visitors each week in any of our programs. We also see about 50% of the children that attend VBS programs are not members of Peace. It is important to appreciate that the majority of the visitors that attend our programs have no relationship with a church at all and that our children feel comfortable in asking friends to attend. This is a result of being intentional in teaching our children that it is each of our responsibility to tell others of the Love and Saving Grace of Jesus. This year we again invited all children in every program to participate in the Children's Christmas Program. This is helpful in giving the church the opportunity to build relationships with families and to share the love and saving grace of Jesus with these families.

Vacation Bible School continues to be one of the largest outreach events at PLC. Because of the effectiveness of this program, we offered it twice in 2016. An additional VBS was held over Spring Break for children age 3 to grade 5. This is our fourth year of doing the Spring Break VBS, with great response. It is important to note that because many adults were at work during this program, this was only possible because of the great Middle School and High School leadership at Peace.

The relationship between Little Lambs Christian Center and the programs at Peace has also grown significantly. These numbers are reflected in the Mission Awareness Program (M.A.P) and the Elementary Youth Group. Again, we have refined to reflect the core values and vision of PLC, and it has resulted in substantial blessings.

The awareness of our responsibility to others continues to grow through mission work. Some of the highlights were 206 shoe boxes of gifts for "Operation Christmas Child", birthday gifts for an orphanage in Costa Rica, collecting soap and toothpaste for Simpson Homeless Shelter, and an ongoing commitment to collect old shoes for Lutheran Island Camp. As a part of the anniversary celebration the children collected over \$1,000 coins in the "Noisy Offering" for missional purposes.

One of the biggest changes in our programming came in Elementary Youth. We have started "Workshop Wednesdays" where the children sign up for classes taught by Senior youth and adults on various topics. In small groups we strive for authentic inter-generational relationships centered around like interest.

Thank you for keeping God's children in your prayers.

If you would be interested in helping in Children's Ministry or have questions about any of our programs, please contact Sandy.

- Sandy Kephart



Early Childhood Ministry

Our Early Childhood Sunday School is touching the lives of 57 children and their families each Sunday morning. We're instilling in them the importance of a life-long relationship with Jesus through warm welcomes, true Bible stories, inspirational music, creative crafts and a monthly newsletter. The kids are enthusiastic and happy to hear God's word in all forms and it is a privilege to share the Love and Saving Grace of Jesus with them.

Sunday School enrollment increased about 20% from last year. While I am happy of this increase, we know there are many more kids and families to reach and tell the news of Jesus' love and salvation for all his children through Sunday School and Outreach Events.

Our goal in 2017 is to continue reaching out to children and their families by building authentic relationships and developing their spiritual roots, roots that will guide them with a life-long Christian moral compass.

I have an awesome dedicated staff that share their love for Jesus through teaching Sunday School...

Kindergarten teachers - Stacy Miller and Kati Katzenmeyer, Helpers - Mary Hilgemann and Nathan Weckwerth

4 yr old teachers - Becky and Brian Kobow

3 yr old teachers - Sara Witte and Mandy Sturges Helper - Eleanor Weckwerth

A typical Sunday hour ...

Small Group - 30 minutes includes a welcome, craft, reading a Bible story, snack

Large Group - 30 minutes includes Bible lesson with dvd, music, memory verse, birthday celebrations, closing prayer.

Outreach Events in 2016 ...

Mar...Spring Break VBS, Deep Sea theme...4 days, approx. 50 - ECM kids participated

Mar...Palm Sunday singing

May...Kindergarten Graduation..Family Worship, about 350 people attended, the kids sang, received diplomas and medals

June...VBS, Barnyard Round Up theme...4 days, approx. 100 ECM kids participated

Sept...Rally Day/Backpack Sunday

Sept...Extreme Birthday Party for 125th Anniversary

Dec...2 Children's Christmas Programs, 55 ECM kids participated

4 Family Worship Services in Peace Center, with ECM participation

Shell Ministry...Babies baptized this year received personalized baptismal shells and Christmas ornaments

Thank you to the members of Peace for your continued prayers and support for Early Childhood Ministry.

– Lisa Kirchoff



Loving, caring, nurturing: this is the atmosphere that children get to experience every day at Little Lambs Christian Center (LLCC) as our vision statement is based on the desire to teach and nurture the lives of children and families with the love and saving grace of Jesus through age-appropriate learning experiences in a loving and safe environment. Our childcare, which is licensed by the state of Minnesota, provides for all children ages 6 weeks to 12 years of age. In addition, LLCC offers a fully licensed preschool for ages 3 through 5 years old. The key to establishing a Christian environment at LLCC is the amazing teachers who have committed their lives to Jesus Christ and use His love to teach and care for all His little children!

2016 was an incredible year at Little Lambs Christian Center. As we saw our numbers reach the maximum that we can hold, we recognized the outreach of God's love that is being sent into our community through the families who are involved here at Little Lambs Christian Center. As we hear the parents of the children in our center tell us how their children are singing Bible songs at home and leading prayers before the family meal, we know our Christian message is spreading beyond our walls. The Little Lambs Christian Center's ministry has touched over 100 children and 80 families in 2016. In turn, these wondrous children touched many lives as they successfully ran a food drive and proudly donated 100+ pounds of food to the local food shelf. While we delight in the success of 2016, we welcome the many celebrations we anticipate for 2017.

Looking ahead, our main goal is to keep reaching out to our families and the community through the continuous teaching of the love and saving grace of Jesus as we continue to tell Bible stories, sing Bible songs, and do activities to help them understand the amazing God that we have. The Little Lambs Christian Center Board of Directors and Little Lambs Staff would like to thank everyone who is involved in making this ministry possible! It is with your prayers and financial support that we constantly see God's love in the many new faces and places within this community.



CONFIRMATION (7-8 GRADES)

Peace Lutheran is well into another Confirmation year! Dr. Dixon, Erika Durheim and I have been conducting opening worship with our 7th, 8th, and High School students each week. Dr. Dixon has done a wonderful job of asking students to sing and asking praise band members to help with music. What a great addition - time in song and God's word to begin our Wednesday evening classes. Since adopting the large group/small group style of teaching we have been working to improve the curriculum and the small group experience. The goal is to have enough mentors to keep our small groups down to 6 or less students per mentor. This year began with the 7th grade attending a retreat at Camp Omega. The 8th grade class will close out their year with a similar retreat. The retreats have become a great opportunity to get to know the students outside of a classroom setting. I am so thankful for the dedication and the care our small group mentors are providing for the students of our congregation! If you would like to help or learn more about Confirmation or being a mentor please contact Pastor John Pasche.

CONFIRMATION (6 GRADE)

This year Peace Lutheran asked our members to include 6th Grade as a part of a three year Confirmation Program. We felt that by requiring the 6th grade year we could better prepare our students for their 7th and 8th grade years. 6th grade has been focusing on a better understanding of the Bible. A majority of the year will be spent on discussing the books of the Bible. And we will complete the year with lessons on a better understanding of worship. If you would like to help or learn more about Confirmation or being a mentor please contact Pastor John Pasche.

POST HIGH SCHOOL

This past year Peace Lutheran had the honor of hosting the High School Baccalaureate Service. It is wonderful to see the large number of High School youth that come together for this special service. It is also wonderful to see the relationships Erika Durheim continues to develop with all of the High School youth.

Peace Lutheran has set a goal to reach out to those students who have recently graduated from High School or are currently away furthering their education. I am so thankful for the support and hard work on the part of our Peace Lutheran members. Judy Radunz and Melva Plath have helped with tracking the ongoing changes to students' contact information. Peace Lutheran has been working to establish "authentic relationships" with these students. Our prayer is that they know their church continues to provide prayer and support wherever they might be. And that we would like to help them get connected to an active church life while they are away from their home. Again helping them to understand how the Lord helps us to grow in our faith and serve in His name. We continue to look at ways to reach out throughout the year - mailing devotions, sending words of encouragement, etc. If you would like to help with or learn more about this ministry contact Pastor John Pasche.

- Pastor Pasche



"DOING LIFE TOGETHER"

*"May the Lord direct your hearts to the Love of God
and the Steadfastness of Christ"
2 Thessalonians 3:5*



Have you ever been on a trip in a car and you take the wrong turn and end up lost? Immediately one of the passengers says, "Why didn't you follow the GPS directions?" or "Why don't you look at a map?" or "Why don't you stop and ask for directions?"

We as Christians often face a similar dilemma. God makes it absolutely clear that we are strangers on this earth, far from our heavenly home. As we travel through life we too can end up taking the wrong road and end up lost, spiritually lost!

The Apostle Paul in his second letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 3, verse 5, reminds us we desperately need God's directions in our lives. That direction is available to each of us through the reading and study of God's Word, the Bible. This is accomplished through our commitment on a personal level to the reading of God's Word and by participating with others in a group Bible Study. God in His Grace has provided His Word that we may grow in knowledge and understanding of His plan and direction for our life. God has created, called, and redeemed us through faith in Jesus Christ, giving each of us gifts, abilities and purpose in life. The power of the Holy Spirit works through the Word and brings us growth in our relationship with Jesus and a greater understanding of the directions necessary to keep us on the road to eternal life.

Believing God desires us to be in His Word with our desire to intentionally walk alongside our Vision Statement and Core Values in our mission and ministry, the following opportunities were provided at Peace Lutheran Church for adults to grow in their faith in 2016.

- 1) A Wednesday Noon Bible Study/Lunch.
- 2) Two Bible Classes each Sunday morning.
- 3) Nine in Home Bible Studies
- 4) Fourteen Small groups took part in the "3:16 Numbers of Hope" Max Lucado Study.
- 5) Thursday Bible Seminar focused on the 2016 elections.
- 6) Seminar on "World Religions" with Dr. Paul Majer (canceled due to illness)
- 7) Launching a two-year Bible Reading Plan.

Those serving on the "Doing Life Together Committee" are Lesley & Nick Brellenthin, Jan Bakken, and Shirley & Lee Uldbjerg.

It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit will Bless you with a desire, a hunger, to be actively reading God's Word and seeking God's direction on your spiritual journey.

Blessings,

Paul A. Berg





MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

Nearly 70 singers of all ages participated in the 125th anniversary choir in September, plus Hosanna Handbells, and brass.

Several "PRAYZ TEAMS" have been formed, with older youth singing Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m., and Elementary children leading worship music in Advent and Lent at 5:15 p.m. Children have also been encouraged to sing at 10:30 a.m. and in the summer months at 9:15 a.m. when there is no conflict with Sunday School.

Solos and special music are planned throughout Advent, Christmas and Lent.

I am grateful to all musicians who participate in the various ensembles here at Peace.

One focus of the coming year, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, will be the hymody of Martin Luther.

- Dr. Joan DeVee Dixon

AUDIO VIDEO FUNDRAISING GOAL REACHED

We are thrilled to announce that we have reached our AV fundraising goal thanks to an anonymous \$20,000 donation. Please join us in saying a prayer of thanksgiving! The AV fund total is \$88,887.42.



Thank you to everyone who has supported this project through your prayers, support and financial contributions! Please continue to pray for this project – that we will be able to complete it in a successful and timely manner. Pray that the new equipment will enhance our worship, help us to produce quality recordings for Channel 10 and the internet, and will "touch lives with the love and saving grace of Jesus." Finally, pray for additional volunteers that will be needed for the AV crew in order to support all of our worship services.

2016 Youth Ministry Report

Youth Theme for Peace's 125th Anniversary and the 2015—16 School Year: Lead me to the Rock...Took on "new meaning" as 2016 unfolded.



Our theme verse was Psalm 61:2, acknowledging that during the turbulent teenage years, we can feel overwhelmed, but that's when we lean on God/The Rock the most. We also chose this theme verse to correlate with the "rock" theme of Peace's 125th Anniversary: Built on the Rock.

In the fall of 2016, a junior in high school took his own life. This suicide hit very close to home as many of our youth were friends with this young man. At the funeral, over 40 of our "regular" Peace youth gathered to mourn and ask many questions about life and faith. Throughout the year, not only because of this suicide, there has been an increased amount of pain and suffering our youth have been experiencing and exposed to.

Here are a few of our stories: A student placed into foster care and had to spend Christmas apart from his siblings. A student who tries not to sleep at home to avoid mom's alcoholic binges. A youth who is going to be a teenage father. Families experiencing divorce. A youth questioning their sexual orientation. A student who is being stalked and assaulted online, hurt that goes beyond the everyday "cyber-bullying." A student dealing with an eating disorder. We have seen many friendships break down or dissolve because of gossip or online "story" postings. We have many youth who participate in 'self harm' or cutting. Young love, dating and break-ups have dogged our youth group. The stories go on and on...being a teenager in 2016 is complicated. Two Phrases that have stood out in 2016...

"Church isn't a museum for good people, it's a hospital for the broken"
I loved you at your darkest – Romans 5:8

The stories shared above from our youth give us insight as to how Peace Lutheran's Youth Ministry is truly **"Touching Lives with the Love and Saving Grace of Jesus!"** (living out our vision statement). The young people who come to Peace Lutheran, and specifically Peace Place – the youth center across the street from the main church, have found our church to be a "harbor in the storm." Peace has become "the rock" for many of our young people. They look forward to Wednesdays at church and have been finding fellowship and authentic relationships here. They are experiencing prayer and creative worship as we gather weekly. And their faith is having empowered growth as we discuss, learn and practice our faith while also reaching out to others in energized service.

Intentional Outreach to Jerusalem: Wednesday After-School Program ("Recharge")

God continues to use our Wednesday after school program, called Recharge, to reach the unchurched or unconnected. After reading above about the many challenges our youth are facing, you can see how year after year this program draws more participants. We consistently average 35-45 students each week. The split is about 60/40. About 60% are Peace Youth and 40% friends or youth who have "found" us.

Since this program started two years ago, we continue to report, there are many of our youth who don't have a place to go after school and Peace Place has become a "haven in the storm" for them. We have witnessed amazing power in being able to let the youth come after school and find what they "need" at Peace.

To make Peace Place as safe as possible (that 'haven in the storm'), we need more adult volunteers for this program, to raise the adult to student ratio. Many parents are working from 2:30-5:30pm (when this program occurs), so we need to—as a whole congregation—be looking at this ministry opportunity. God has brought these young people to our door! We need ALL OF PEACE'S MEMBERSHIP to help nurture these young people.

We can also use help prepping, serving and cleaning up our weekly evening meal at 5:30pm. Some weeks we serve 50 youth/adult helpers. While we ask the youth for a suggested donation of \$2 to help offset the food costs, many of our young people come from families who are struggling financially. If you are able, please consider donating to help fund this nourishing ministry. Please prayerfully consider if you could volunteer for an afternoon. Talk to Erika if you are available to help.

Missional Focused Programming and Fundraising

Peace's Youth Ministry focuses on the core value of "Energized Service" throughout the year helping with projects within the church walls, in the greater community, and beyond – truly following the Acts 1:8 model.

We continue to spend a great deal of time fundraising for our youth ministry program following our 10-10-80 fundraising plan. We never want money to be a reason someone does not participate. We set aside

10% of all proceeds from fundraisers for youth scholarships. We also want to model tithing and giving back to ministry projects that are near and dear to our students, so 10% of proceeds go to dedicated youth missions – such as sponsoring a child in Africa through Compassion International. The remaining 80% of proceeds goes towards specific youth projects and programs. In 2016 we sent a few youth to Alaska Mission for Christ (see names below). In 2016, we had the always-expensive National Youth Gathering that happens every three years. This year we sent 10 youth to New Orleans (see names below). On a side note: the next gathering in 2019 will be in Minneapolis!

Summer 2016



In Christ Alone – 2016 LCMS National Youth Gathering & Alaska Mission for Christ

2016 offered two different servant events for our youth this summer. **Alaska:** Carl Christianson (10th Grade/Litchfield), Stephanie Henke (10th Grade), and Isaac Sickmann (9th Grade) Adult Leaders: Mary Henke, Anita Miller, Rev. Jeff Miller. **New Orleans:** Katelynn Ahlers (10th Grade), Madilynn Anderson (9th Grade), Kalli Fitterer (8th Grade), Ike Gehlen (10th Grade), Logan Hempel (8th Grade), Payton Jepsen (8th Grade), Dante Klima (9th Grade), John Oeltjenbruns (10th Grade), Brianna Schwartz (10th Grade), and Austin Willett (8th Grade). Adult Leaders: Erika and Jason Durham, and Laci Wichman

Middle School Sunday School (MS3)

Sunday mornings at Peace Place are alive with the crazy and raucous sounds of nearly 40 middle school youth. This is an increase in our attendance and we are maxing out the space available at Peace Place. We continue to use multi-week series curriculums with topics geared especially for preteens/middle school age youth as we work to empower their growth. We continue to need additional adult/parent support as we are trying to do more small groups for part of the time. Please let Erika know if you can volunteer.

Confirmation Ministry

Please look for a separate report for this ministry, as Pastor Pasche is still responsible for leadership of this program. A reminder, with the change to a part-time Director of Youth Ministry, Erika is not responsible for confirmation. She leads the Wednesday night high school youth. However, we should mention that the concurrent timing of our Wednesday night programming (6:15-7:45pm) is still going well, allowing us to begin with a "Gathering Worship" Experience for all youth for the first 15 minutes each week in the Peace Center. Much thanks to Dr. Joan for encouraging our youth to lead music and creative worship!

High School Youth Group

Our Wednesday night weekly gathering of youth in grades 9-12 continues to grow. The "regular" group of youth who attend, about 25-30 youth, is a mix of half Peace kids and half other youth, friends...many who are new to faith. We have very real conversations about matters of life and faith. Each week has a different topic, and the group has a great attitude of fellowship, fun as well as prayer and concern for each other. We continue to need additional adult/parent volunteers to join us weekly as we walk alongside these young people who are navigating their high school years. Please let Erika know if you can volunteer.

A Note from the Director of Youth Ministry: I am amazed at the constantly changing youth culture and the incredible impact the digital world and perpetual connectivity have on our youth and their families. The influence is stronger and more volatile than ever. I pray that the Holy Spirit will consume the hearts of our youth and their families – so that they may truly know *“the love and saving grace of Jesus”!*

2016 has been an interesting year for me both personally and professionally. Personally, ample illness and surgeries have affected my family, leaving me distracted and drained. I continue to ask for your prayers for my husband, Jason and me. Professionally, this past year has seen great joys and equally strong heartache. It has been one of the most tumultuous in my 11-year career working with youth in ministry. I pray for blessings to come to our youth ministry here at Peace and throughout Hutchinson.

I am eternally grateful for all of the volunteers who mentor, chaperone and drive for events, help with fundraisers, and those who prep, cook and serve meals – both at Peace Place for Recharge and for Thursday HEY! free lunches. I pray that more parents and other adults from our congregation will choose to invest in our next generation – your time and talent make our youth ministry possible. –Erika Durham (Romans 12:11-12)

CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

2016 was another busy year at Peace. Some of the events planned and carried out were:



- Lutheran Night at the Twins Game
- Annual Mystery Tour
- Served 2 Matthew 14:16 Dinners
- Organized the yearly schedule for Matthew 14 dinner hosts
- Trip to Plymouth Playhouse
- Prepared and served German Dinner
- Organized and baked for the Annual Christmas Cookie Sale
- Prepared & served Dairy Princess Banquet
- Baked pies and prepared food for Annual Ice Cream Social
- Organized and served the Advent and Lenten dinners
- Prepared food for 2 LLCC fundraisers
- Organized and prepared food for the recital series
- Collected purses, puzzles and games for various agencies in Hutchinson
- Made cookies for shut-ins
- Filled bags for Water Carnival parade hand-outs
- Prepared and served the 125th Anniversary hog roast
- Organized and assisted with 125th Anniversary dinner
- Filled and distributed Harvest Pails to area farmers

A few upcoming events are:

- Do another collection of purses and personal items
- Twins Lutheran Night
- Mystery Tour
- Barefoot Sunday
- Prepare and distribute spring planting pails to farmers
- Assist with fundraising for Alaska Mission trip and LLCC

One of the goals of Congregational Services is to organize and carry out servant and social activities for Peace Lutheran and the community. Any suggestions for activities are always welcome by contacting any committee member. Present committee members are: Jan Klockmann, June Beach, Diane Lind, Nina Mattkins and Judy Radunz. For 2017 we welcome new committee members, Marsha Volkenant and Darleen Knigge. Staff rep is Marlys Palmer. Many thanks go to this dedicated group of volunteers who meet monthly to plan activities.

We thank all the participants who attend the events and we sincerely want to express thanks for all the volunteers who so faithfully help carry out our events. Without them none of our activities would be possible. If you are interested in participating on the Congregational Service Board, please call Marlys at the church office.

Marlys Palmer, Director of Parish Services

***Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.***

PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY



Members this past year: Renee Clabo, Mary Haag, Sally Moehring, Marith Witte, Shirley Wurdell

The purpose of the Parish Health Ministry is to promote health and wellness of body, mind, and spirit for Peace congregation and the community. Our activities this year included:

- Coordinated the Red Cross Bloodmobiles on the 2nd Tuesday of each month to provide blood for McLeod County and others in need. We average over 100 donors per month.
- Sponsored the Taxi Program providing transportation to worship services with our church family who request it
- Hosted Driver Improvement Program to help seniors keep up with new laws and promote safer drivers and safer highways
- Maintained First Aid Kits and Defibrillator for church and LLCC
- Promoted and sponsored Peace Power Team in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life for McLeod County
- Supported the Lutheran Social Service Caregivers Program
- Provided blood pressure screenings on the second Sunday each month to help detect early signs of hypertension and provide contact to the congregation
- Supplied and/or presented prayer shawls to members and others as a way to share God's love in times of need
- Maintained Parish Health bulletin board on the ramp
- Wrote articles for the Messenger
- Worked with Common Cup Ministry projects, including filling bags for the Backpack program
- Continued monitoring procedures and safety equipment per state relations at LLCC by parish nurses and conducted SIDS/Shaken Baby Classes
- Taught first aid and Healthy cooking for the Wednesday After School Youth Workshops
- Sponsored a Matthew 14:16 meal for those in need of nutrition and socialization in Hutchinson
- Collected and shipped used pill bottles for The Malawi Project
- Sponsored a 6-week Cancer Companions Workshop for families affected by cancer

We appreciate the opportunity to serve.

In 2017 we plan to continue the services from 2016 and would like to encourage new congregational participation.

"Serve one another in love." Galatians 5:1

PEACE LUTHERAN CEMETERY

We sold 4 lots. There were 17 burials at our cemetery in 2016.

Thanks to all volunteers who assisted in the maintenance of the cemetery.



Lonnie Kohls, Superintendent

ENFOLDED IN GOD'S LOVE - VISITATION MINISTRY



The numbers haven't changed much during the last few years. If anything they have gone up just a bit. The visitation continues at about the same level, averaging 110 each month.

I thought I would share the closing prayer to give you a bit of the tone of the ministry:

O Lord Jesus, My Savior and only Refuge, I most heartily thank You that You have refreshed me so graciously with your sacred body and blood through this Sacrament. Continue to uphold me with Your grace and strengthen me by Your power for the days which lie ahead that I may never lose faith or doubt, but patiently wait for Your will to be done. – Into Your hand I commit my body and soul, whether for life or for death. Grant that when my last hour shall come, I may fall asleep in firm faith. – I Praise You who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit as one eternal Triune God. Amen.

Blessings to all in this new year.

– Layton Lemke, Visitation Pastor since 2000

BOARD OF ELDERS REPORT



For the 2016 year, the Board of Elders consisted of three new members and seven returning members. The new members were George Quast, Doug Brown and Jerry Haag. Jerry has held several terms of previous service on the Board of Elders. The returning members were John Lietz, Ken Quast, Matt Markgraf, Weston Plath, Jerome Fischer, Robbie Peterson and Scott Brusehaver.

The Board of Elders met to elect their new leadership positions. Ken Quast was elected as the Chairman of the Board of Elders, Scott Brusehaver was elected as the Vice Chairman and Jerry Haag was elected as the Secretary.

The Elders held 12 regularly scheduled meetings, and several sub-committee meetings, with minutes being submitted to Mission and Ministry and distributed to the other committees.

Continuing our support of Peace Lutheran Church's mission of "Touching Lives Through the Love and Saving Grace of Jesus" members of the Board of Elders:

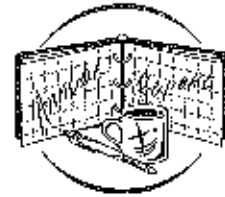
- 1) Assisted with the monthly Harmony River Worship services for Peace Lutheran members and non-members who currently reside at Harmony River Nursing Home.
- 2) Communicated with inactive members through a letter sent to members that have been absent for 5 years, and also supported the work of Jan Bakken who has volunteered to reach out to those who have been absent for a significant period of time.
- 3) Worked with Mission and Ministry in on-going discussion on how we work through various HR tasks, with the absence of a working HR committee.

As we move into 2017, the Elders will continue our interest in our Youth Ministries as a basis for building the future of our Congregation, as well as supporting our Pastors and other Worship and ministry leaders as we prepare for the future of our congregation.

– Ken Quast, Chairman

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

Members - Jerry Janicke, Louis Schmeling, Duane Arndt, Marvin Seller, Roger Kaufmann, Roger Lambert and Ron Swenson.



Projects Completed in 2016:

- 1) New Track Lights in the Sanctuary
- 2) New Roof on the Parsonage
- 3) New Water Heater in Peace Place
- 4) Painted Trlm and Deck on the Parsonage
- 5) New AC Compressor for 1st Floor Offices
- 6) New AC Compressor for Peace Place
- 7) New Furnace for Peace Place
- 8) New Carpet Chancel Area in the Sanctuary
- 9) New Carpet in Altar Area and Stage Edging in Peace Center
- 10) Repaired Roof on the Peace Center

Projects for 2017:

- 1) Bell tower repair.
- 2) Slab jacking concrete LLCC area
- 3) Seal parking lots

Once again thanks to all the volunteers who assist with various maintenance and grounds keeping projects throughout the year.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Many thanks to Sandra Hall for her many years of service as Worship Committee chair. She officially stepped down as chair in December 2016.

As we look forward the committee is seeking new members.

There are many persons that assist in facilitating worship – Pastors, Elders, Greeters, Ushers, Altar Guild, Readers, Acolytes, Custodial Staff and Musicians.

It takes a great amount of work to coordinate all of the volunteers. We are grateful to everyone who regularly participates in some way. If you are looking for a way to contribute by volunteering, please see a Pastor or member of staff.

One of the most successful additions to our worship schedule has been the 5:15 p.m. "family" services in Advent and Lent. We are delighted to see so many families worshipping at these times.

Dr. Joan DeVee Dixon

PEACE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL FUND

The Congregational Fund Committee was established in 1993 to encourage members and friends of Peace Lutheran Church to make lasting gifts and bequests that will continue serving in their memory long after the gift is made. It is set up as an endowment fund with only the interest allowed to be used by the church.



Currently interest earned from the Congregational Fund is being directed to help pay for the building mortgage at Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). The Congregational Fund contributed \$5,000/mo. towards the building mortgage payment in 2016.

The committee is available to serve and assist you, collectively or individually. Should you have questions regarding wills, trusts, estate planning, etc. you may contact the church office or any of the committee members: Marc Max, Jim Wendling, Scott Haag, Bonnie Lickfelt, Connie Lambert.



COMMON CUP CORNER

Thanks, once again, to all the supporters and partners of the Common Cup Ministry for your generosity that has enabled us to serve those in need throughout McLeod County.

Thru your contributions of food, clothing, school supplies, diapers, and financial support Common Cup assisted with the needs of numerous individuals and families in areas such as – Utilities, Car Repairs and Fuel, Housing, Rental, Lodging, Medical, Food and other miscellaneous needs.

Common Cup Ministry continues to coordinate a monthly delivery of FARE FOR ALL food packages. (This is a buying club for all - income does not matter). Contact Common Cup for further details.

Over 500 students were recipients of school supplies, the monthly diaper distribution averages 65 families and the 2016 coat drive distributed 500 coats to those in need.

Common Cup Ministry has partnered with Hunger Free McLeod County in the School Back Pack (now serving over 200 students per week) and Summer Feeding Programs along with supplying Personal Hygiene Products to students at area schools.

Hutchinson Location – 105 Second Ave S.W. - 320-587-2213

Glencoe Location – 925 13th St. E. - 320-864-5511

Web site: www.commoncup.org

The Mission of Common Cup Ministry is to gather and share Spiritual and financial resources of area churches into one "Common Cup" so that we may minister to those in need.

USHERS STAFF - 2017

CHIEF USHER: Mike McKimm
ASSISTANT CHIEF USHERS: Marlin Haag, (MID-WEEK) John Lietz



***Team Captain **Co-Captain**

Team #1 (8:00)

Glenn Witte
 Doug Witte
 Scott Lund
 Brian Koehler
 Roger Lambert

Team #2 (8:00)

Rod Huls*
 Dwayne Briese
 Ellsworth Huls
 Wally Kohls
 Allan Fuchs
 Rusten Huls
 Riley Huls

Team #4 (8:00)

Alan Hagen
 Scott Streich
 Mike McKimm
 Marlin Haag
 Nick Tews
 Troy Kurth
 Colin McKimm
 Owen Streich
 Zac Wacker

Mid-Week Services

John Lietz*
 Louis Schmeling
 Delton Haag
 Donald Janke
 Mel Klockmann
 Doug Brown

Team #3 (10:30)

Kyle Wendling*
 Dan Kellerman
 Ross Wendling
 Gus Wurdell
 Jason Van Marel
 Marc Max
 Mitchell Max

Team #5 (10:30)

Dale Froemming*
 Paul Lind
 Jerry Janicke
 Bryce Cassens
 Dale Schumann
 Joel Haag
 Robbie Peterson
 Ross Peterson

Team #6 (10:30)

Weston Plath*
 Brad Havemeier
 Roger Kaufmann
 Gary Havemeier
 Travis Brecht
 Ethan Kaufmann

Saturday Night Ushers - Louis & Arlene Schmeling, Richard & Corinne Higgins, June Beach, Kathy Hochsprung, Dean & Lisa Kirchoff, John Housenick

TEAM SCHEDULE FOR 2017

JANUARY	Teams 1 & 3	MAY	Teams 4 & 6	SEPTEMBER	Teams 2 & 5
FEBRUARY	Teams 4 & 6	JUNE	Teams 2 & 5	OCTOBER	Teams 1 & 3
MARCH	Teams 2 & 5	JULY	Teams 1 & 3	NOVEMBER	Teams 2 & 5
APRIL	Teams 1 & 3	AUGUST	Teams 4 & 6	DECEMBER	Teams 4 & 6

2017 SPECIAL SERVICES

Midweek Ushers

11:30 a.m. Lenten Services - (Wed.) March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5
 11:30 a.m. Maundy Thursday - April 13, Noon Good Friday - April 14
 11:30 a.m. Advent Services - December 6, 13 & 20

Mar. 1 Ash Wednesday	6:45 p.m. #4	Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Eve	6:45 p.m. #3
Mar. 8 Lenten (Wednesday)	6:45 p.m. #3	Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Day	9:00 a.m. #6
Mar. 15 Lenten (Wednesday)	6:45 p.m. #1	Dec. 6 Advent	6:45 p.m. #1
Mar. 22 Lenten (Wednesday)	6:45 p.m. #2	Dec. 13 Advent	6:45 p.m. #3
Mar. 29 Lenten (Wednesday)	6:45 p.m. #5	Dec. 20 Advent	6:45 p.m. #2
Apr. 5 Lenten (Wednesday)	6:45 p.m. #6	Dec. 17 Children's Service	3:00 p.m. #3
Apr. 13 Maundy Thursday	6:45 p.m. #4	Dec. 24 Children's Service	3:00 p.m. #2
Apr. 14 Good Friday	6:45 p.m. #6	Dec. 24 Candlelight	5:00 p.m. #1
Apr. 16 Easter Sunday	6:30 a.m. #2	Dec. 24 Candlelight	7:00 p.m. #4
Apr. 16 Easter Sunday	8:00 a.m. #1	Dec. 24 Candlelight	10:00 p.m. #5
Apr. 16 Easter Sunday	9:15 a.m. #5	Dec. 25 Christmas Day	9:00 a.m. #1
Apr. 16 Easter Sunday	10:30 a.m. #3		

Prince of Peace



901 Glen Street SW
Hutchinson, MN 55350
(320) 294-7588
Cell: (320) 583-2117
Fax: (320) 294-6355

Retirement Living

Website: www.poprl.org
E-mail: merline@poprl.org

Prince of Peace Retirement Living (POPRL) has been in operation since 1995. Our mission continues to be the top priority of the Board of Directors and the staff. We celebrated our 21st year, which is only possible by the grace of God and good staff. Please visit our web page, www.poprl.org for information regarding this mission.

Prince of Peace Retirement Living has undergone a continued change of residents; 38 apartments are rented as this report is being written. POPRL finished the year at 99% occupancy with 2 open apartments and seven individuals on the waiting list.

The ministry of "Touching the Lives of others with the Love and Saving Grace of Jesus" through Peace Lutheran Church also continues to be very rewarding not only to the Board of Directors and staff, but also to the residents. Paul Berg's willingness to help with the Spiritual growth of our residents through Tuesday Bible Study is such a blessing. Weekly, Our Savior's Bible Study group meets in the dining room. St. A's communion group meets weekly in one of their member's apartment and has conducted several series of Bible Studies in the conference room. Monthly, Pastor Lemke provides communion to PLC members. We are continuing to fulfill Prince of Peace Retirement Living's philosophy "to provide ministry and guidance to all our Christian residents" through these activities.

Prince of Peace Retirement Living started a fund raiser in late 2016 to be able to continue the amazing services we offer our residents at a low cost to them. The fund raiser was a success and once again, we will be able to keep and add several events throughout the coming year.

Special thanks are also in order to all the volunteers and professional persons that have provided special services (dining, entertainment, crafts, and assistance) to residents living at POPRL. 74 volunteers have provided over 1,459 hours of service this past year alone, many who are PLC members.

I entered my 19th year of service in July. Destini Doring, LouAnn Kulberg, Frank Pfarr, Lindsay Muchow, Angie Miller, Colleen Bird, Alex Siewert, and Dixie Pfarr complete the staff.

2016 Board of Directors - President Dale Froemming, Vice President Renee Clabo, Treasurer John Kalenberg, Secretary and Liaison to Peace Lutheran Church Doug Brown, Mark Ylra, Bev Wangerin and John Sanke.

By the grace of God and with the continued prayers and support of the members of Peace Lutheran Church, the ministry to Prince of Peace Retirement Living will flourish.

Merline Duering, Executive Director



*Be joyful always, pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thess. 5:16,17*

Make us a house of prayer!

We want to pray first and always, and continuously with Thanks. May each of us recognize that this is your desire for all, not just a few. Transform us into righteous men and women whose prayers are powerful and effective.

One of the main purposes of Prayer Chain is to intercede on behalf of the people who request prayers for themselves or others. We will receive prayers for health issues, family trials, marital problems, for our church, schools and our country, etc.

The prayer requests are called to the Prayer Chain members who write the request in a book. The prayers are highly confidential. To submit your prayers call the church office (587-3031) or Annette Koehler (587-6484).

We also encourage you to make use of the prayer calendar printed in the Monthly Messenger of Peace.

We welcome you to join the monthly Prayer Chain meetings. You may also be on Prayer Chain at home through the internet.

It is so important that we support our church family and others through prayer.

DORCAS: WOMEN IN MISSION

*"There was a disciple named...Dorcas,
who was always doing good and helping the poor."
Acts. 9:36*



Dorcas Society is the women's organization in Peace Lutheran Church dedicated to outreach with the message of the Gospel, both locally and throughout the world. We are a part of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) and support the Mission Grants adopted by that national organization.

During 2016, we funded several outreach projects each month. Much of this funding came from donations made by families who were served at 38 funerals by faithful Dorcas working groups, as well as other offerings by our members and friends. An active mission sewing group met bi-weekly and made 68 quilts and 67 layettes throughout the year, which were donated to Lutheran World Relief. Members also volunteered 200 hours at the Bethesda Thrift Shop in Minnetonka. We helped support a student at Concordia Seminary through the time of his ordination. Gifts from the Heart (clothing items) were collected for LWML Zone Rally offerings.

Mite boxes were filled with coins (and bills) by our members as well as by supportive members of the congregation to help fund the varied Mission Grants of LWML.

Within our own congregation, Dorcas provided support for the new AV system, 125th Anniversary, large print Portals of Prayer, Alaska Mission for Christ, Peace youth at National Youth Gathering, students at our Savior's School and Costa Rica/International Missions (Maizy). Other projects were Birthright, Lutheran Hour Broadcasts, Lutheran Braille Workers, Orphan Grain Train, Camp Omega, Bethesda Communities, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Wheat Ridge, LCMS Disaster Response, LCMS World Missions and Computer Bibles for the Military. Mite Box offerings supported additional LWML Mission Grants.

Meetings are held monthly, with various interesting programs. We invite all women in Peace congregation to attend. For those who are not able to make a commitment to attend regular meetings, your continued prayers and financial support are needed and greatly appreciated. Every woman of Peace Lutheran is welcome as a Dorcas member and we especially appreciate all support by contributions to the Mite Boxes.

-- Hazel Sitz, Secretary