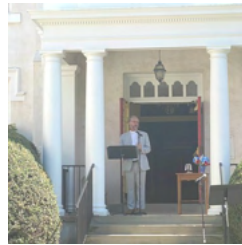


St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

North Wales, PA

ANNUAL REPORT



2023



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOUNDED 1776

211 South Main Street North Wales, PA 19454
 Phone 215-699-4604

Website: www.stpetersnorthwales.org

Worship at 8:30 & 10:30 am
Children's SPARK (Sunday School) Program at 10:30 am

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Andreas Wagner Pastor
 Jennifer Bodolus..... Directory Family Faith Ministries
 Sam Tarasenko Director Music Ministry
 Lisa Miller Office Manager
 Liz Allen Director Handbells

CHURCH COUNCIL 2022

Name	Liaisons	3 Year Term Expires January
Suzanne Shaffer	President	2025
	Vice President	
Maryann Gerhart	Secretary	2024
Dave Kinda	Treasurer	Elected each year by Council
Brooke Alderfer	Social	2025
Nicole Alunni	Family Faith	2023
Diana Blum	Hospitality	2023
Steve Frescator	Technology	2025
John Ledder	Finance	2024
Dooug Mahan	Oktoberfest	2023
Diana Sundar	Worship & Music	2024
Maureen Tang	Adult Faith	2025
Steve Wright	Property	2024
Diane Zenker	Prayer Team	2024

247th ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

January 29, 2023



**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in the church sanctuary,
January 29th
between the 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM services.**

We are counting on the presence and input of all our members.

- Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- Approval of Minutes: 246rd Annual Meeting, January 30, 2022
- Staff and Volunteer Acknowledgments
- St. Peter's Overview and Plans
- Finance Report & Adoption of 2023 Budget
- Election of New Council Members
- Other Business
- Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer

Prior Year - 2022 MINUTES

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church 246th Annual Congregational Meeting

January 30, 2022

Pastor started the meeting with asking Anita to provide the opening prayer at 10:00am. Anita Bailey opened the meeting with a prayer thanking the Lord for his unending grace and the blessings he has bestowed on the "Little Church that does big things." Then Council President, Suzanne Shaffer called the 246th Annual Meeting to order at 10:32 AM via the Zoom platform. Eric Jacobson moved to accept the minutes from the last annual meeting of January 2021 and Joy Jacobson seconded. Approved by majority count (no opposed votes).

President's Report: Suzanne gave a heartfelt message to the congregation.

Church Statistics for 2021:

- 7 Baptisms
- 1 Wedding
- 17 New Church Members
- 10 Funerals/Passed
- 6 Confirmands
- 8 First communion

Staff Reports: available upon request

Budget Review:-Suzanne Shaffer presented the balanced budget for 2022.

David Kinka, our treasurer, spoke to review the following highlights:

Overall, 2021 ended with a surplus in the General Fund of \$21,615 and a shortfall in the Maintenance Fund. A large capital expense, the long-overdue painting of the steeple, is expected in 2022.

The 2021 General Fund surplus will be utilized as follows:

- \$5000 for a future cushion
- \$4000 to the maintenance fund
- \$8000 to capital reserve
- \$2000 to benevolence
- \$1000 to Manna on Main Street
- \$1000 to Silver Springs

The approval of the budget is an important part of the annual meeting. Your church council and finance committee provided the following highlights and notable changes from last year:

- The 2022 budget is being balanced using \$5,000 of our 2020 surplus.
- The staff is getting 3% raises. In addition, the church secretary's salary reflects the additional 5 hours a week which was begun mid-2021.
- The Family Faith budget has been reduced but has money in the Family Faith Fund to cover planned expenses.
- Pastor's discretionary money is being removed from the budget line but has sufficient funds that have been donated and are available in a non-budget Discretionary Fund.

David Kinka moved to accept the budget as presented. Frank Gillian / Meg Matlack seconded. Approved (no opposed)

Church Council:

Election of new council members for 2022:

Diana Sundar – 2 year term

Nicole Alunni - 1 year term

Brook Alderfer – 3 year term

Maureen Tang – 3 year term

Steve Frescatore – 3 year term

Leaving counsel, thank you SO much for your service – Martha Heinze, Sharon Baker, Anita Bailey.

Continuing on counsel: Suzanne Shaffer (taking a new 3 year term), Steve Wright, Diana Blum, Diane Zenker, John Ledder, Doug Mahon, Maryann Gerhart.

Frank Gillian moved to accept the new nominations, Meg Matlack seconded. Approved (no opposed)

Other Business: none.

Frank Gillian moved to adjourn the meeting. Linda Hubler seconded. Approved (no opposed)

Meeting adjourned at 11:11 AM with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Gerhart, Council Secretary



From the Pastor's Desk

"I thank my God every time I remember you."

"... I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 1: 3-6

Dear church,

I was reminded of Paul's greeting to the Philippians because it corresponds so perfectly with how I feel about you. I am immensely grateful for the many people who make this church pulsate with life, who bring ideas, offer help, and step up when leadership is needed. It is always easy to point out areas where more help and more involvement and leadership are desired. Yet, undoubtedly it is much more important to acknowledge what people already give on a regular basis. As I write this, two of our church members are cleaning up and putting away Christmas decorations. The AA group is meeting over in the Fellowship Hall. And the women are selling bargains in the Thrift Shop downstairs. It's a typical midday Wednesday at St. Peter's. Church life and ministry are defined by partnerships. As a pastor, I partner with the lay leaders in our church, and often they come up with the cool ideas. As a church, we partner with many social ministry organizations and with our synod to have an impact in our community. You will find that we often post events on our daily email that are not directly St. Peter's ministries but are worthwhile and deserve our support. As I am writing this, the Wissahickon Faith Community is preparing for their annual Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Service on January 15, one of the events we support every year.

Over this past year we have seen attendance at church rebound and I expect that we see a further rebound of church attendance and ministry activities in the year ahead of us. I will point out on a special page in this report some of the bigger projects planned for this year that are already in the works. In addition to other things that are not yet on our radar screen... every year is a holy adventure. The Spirit of God usually leads us places in the summer that we didn't even imagine in January. And some of those places are brought up by our members. You! Paul wrote with great faith to the Philippians that "he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." I understand this to mean "toward completion." I don't think the work of the church will ever be "complete." But we keep working toward completion with all the saints involved in this community—with you and with those God will lead our way this year. In joyful anticipation of what is to come...

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Andreas Wagner



Greetings and Message from Council President

2022 began with so much uncertainty. We were 100% virtual again after all the hard work and planning to reopen that previous Fall. It was hard not to be a little discouraged, but I am so grateful for how this past year turned out. My faith was strengthened and my love for St. Peter's grew exponentially. We were all saddened to learn Kirsten would be retiring in the Spring, but through God's provision and your prayers we quickly found Sam to fill this position. I think Kirsten's retirement party is really where St. Peter's found its "new normal" as we continue on our post-Covid path. For the first time in over 2 years the Fellowship Hall was filled with the joyful noises of music, laughter, chatter, hugs, happy tears and more music. St. Peter's ministries got louder and more bustling:

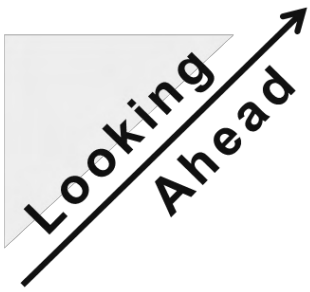
- we helped gather and pack thousands of items to support Ukraine
- performed a much needed church clean out
- did brisk business in the thrift store
- staged a rally to bring attention to the crushing rise in gun violence
- started on the path of equitable pay within our Synod
- learned more about social justice, mysticism and the first hand experiences of those living in and aiding Ukraine during their war with Russia
- welcomed boisterous children to Spark in rising numbers
- collected much needed supplies for Gemma, Manna and our local schools
- rolled up our sleeves at New Creation
- made music of all kinds

We stepped in where our church family needed: with help, meals, comfort, and most importantly, we prayed. I know I missed happenings at St. Peter's during 2022, but this church is always moving, doing and helping, it's just who we are at St. Peter's. We really are the "Little Church that Does Big Things."

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Shaffer

Church Council President



Looking ahead... to 2023

Completion of the Devotional Book Project

Since the beginning of the pandemic, twenty writers have been working on this project, and this year it will be finished. By June 30, we expect all 365 devotions to be completed. Once the holiday season 2023 comes around the corner, we will offer 500 books with a devotion for every day of the year. This book will be unique because it is not written by experts or spiritual professionals, if you don't count my contributions. It is written from the hearts of people in our congregation. It is written from different viewpoints. It contains different writing styles. It will be a nice gift for family members who are hungry for spiritual food or just for a different take on the Bible (even some gripping!!!) I expect that the book will go for \$15 per piece.

Major Upgrades in our Historic Cemetery

This is also the year when will make significant improvements to our cemetery. This includes a professionally graded walking path from the Prospect Ave entrance to the Columbarium, complete with a paved walkway around the burial site. This will allow people with disabilities easier access. The project includes eight new historic markers that tell the story of people buried there. It includes work on the most dilapidated wall, which has already begun. Night lights and signs have been added for security; several memorial benches and memorial trees will enhance this place. In the first part of the year we will hold a cemetery fundraiser to offset costs and also to promote the sale of available niches in the Columbarium.

Stephen Ministry Transition

Our Stephen Ministry Leaders Rebecca Ledder and Laurie Kane are "retiring" this year. Rebecca will still be available as a Stephen when needed. The new leader is Yvonne Garrity. She is attending an extensive training program and will start working with our Stephen Ministers toward the middle of this year. Stephen Ministry is a caring one-on-one ministry for people who are going through difficult times. Some of our Stephen Ministers were under-utilized during the pandemic and we will be using this transition to offer this ministry anew for the mental and spiritual health of our people.

Volunteer Coordination

One of the areas that need attention is volunteer coordination. During the pandemic many of our mem-

continued

bers took a break and some areas frankly need some help. Examples are the coffee hour that hinges mostly on the dedicated work of Diana Blum or the ongoing challenges of filling worship assistant spots for Sunday morning services, to name just a few. Our council will take on this challenge as one of the priorities for this year.

A Night with the Mystics

Once upon a time we organized an event to promote the amazing vibrancy and diversity of mystical writings (short poems mostly) in our world. That was in 2020 and was postponed because of the pandemic. A new date hasn't been set yet, but we are planning to have this event in the fall of this year at the Ambler Theater. It will be an opportunity to invite people who are on the fence about religion but are interested in core spiritual questions, practices and writings. We will keep you posted.

Mission Trip and Global Ministry

Our Global Ministry Team has been dormant since 2020 but not inactive altogether. After all, we have released funds for projects in Puerto Rico, New Creation Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, and in Ukraine. Discernment about a possible Mission Trip in 2023 and projects that we want to support beyond the scope of our community will take place, beginning soon.

And those are only some of the areas that will receive our attention this year. May the Spirit of God lead and guide us!

Pastor Andreas Wagner



Membership 2022

New Members:

Boris & Joanne Borichevsky
Elizabeth & Steven Fitzgerald
Karen Haber
Rick & Pat Hagy
Thea Johnson

Melissa Kalb
Chris Keep
Doug & Tara Longwill
Linda & Bill O'Brien
Barbara & David Rodgers

Betty Rogers
Liz Salerno w/Nola
Ronnie & David Sensinger
Carol Seipp
Joan Schiele

Rite of Baptism:

Bryan Auxier, Jun. 12
Daniel R. McGlynn, Sep. 18
Caroline R. McGlynn, Sep. 18
Sydney Kratz, Oct. 9
Nola Salerno, Oct. 30

First Holy Communion:

Mae Garrity
Austin Han
Fox Kane
Brody Inman
Grant Staudt
Stephen Staudt
Nora Staudt

Rite of Confirmation:

Brianna Bodolus
Curt Hussey
Karl Hussey
Erica Worman

Weddings:

July 9: Maggie Hayes & Ryan Spletzer, Michigan

Funeral Services:

Gertrude Carpenter, Jan. 28
John Youk, Jan. 22 **
Evelyn Kane, Feb. 10
John Wagner, Mar. 16 **
Robert Hahn, Mar. 25 **

William Gutsche, Sr., Apr. 30
Haakon Pederson, May 1 **
Suzanne Pederson, May 1 **
George Peers, Jun. 7 **
Suzann Giangiacomo, Jun. 10
Ruth Hoifjeld, Jun. 11 **

Albert Kinzinger, Jun. 18 **
Rachel Teller, Jul. 13 **
Michael Arena, Oct. 15 **
Paul Smith, Oct. 24 **
Oswilla McGovern, Nov. 21
Alfred Ledder, Dec. 3

** non-members

New Members



First Holy Communion



Confirmation



We lost a dear friend,
Oswilla McGovern

Baptisms





Mindfulness Walk



Exploring ancient faith traditions.



Clean-Up Crew



Mural donated by the Zenker family.



Steeple Painting



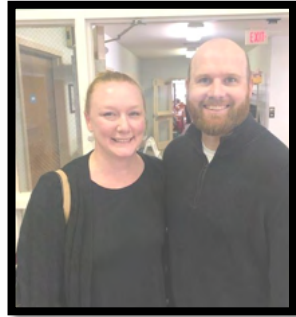
Returning to "normal" - parties, friends, and coffee hours!



Children, & Youth



Oktoberfest 2022



Our Committees and Ministries In 2022

ADULT FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

Thank you Charlene Bance, Stephanie Freidly, Bill & Linda Hubler, Jamie Nouri, Trisha Riordan, Rob Strauss, Maureen tang, Pastor Andreas Wagner (chair)

In 2022, Adult Faith Formation looked both inward, to better appreciate the spiritual life within, and outward, to how our Christian beliefs inform our actions in the world. We reflected on the inner life of spiritualism through weekly Bible Study, a Mindfulness Walk, the writings of Richard Rohr, and an introduction into shamanic practices guided by Bill and Linda O'Brien. We applied our faith in our outward actions, learning from Father Mykola of the Ukrainian church and through involvement with the Synod's Task Force on Urban Ministry. Most recently, we united these two directions by learning from Ben Carlson about spiritual trends among Millennials, Gen-Z, and younger. 2023 will surely bring more prayer and discernment of how our little church can and should adapt to changing times. We invite you to join us on this journey.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Thank you Gretchen Flanagan, Darin & George Gross, Suzanne Shaffer, and Karin Clark.

Another year has flown by here at St. Peter's. We have surely seen many changes last year and this year in our programs. Simply put, 2022 was a time for perseverance and moving forward, not just in our faith, but seeing things in a different ways to make them work. We continue to strive to provide safe, healthy, and fun learning environments for our St. Peter's children's and youth programs. We have seen an increase in our children, youth, and families attending our programs in person this year. We had a wonderful group of seven children receive the Rite of Holy Communion in September and four teens received the Rite of Confirmation in June. The 6:00 pm family Christmas Eve service was filled with lots of children and families and it was so nice to see! We had two interns from Gwynedd Mercy University work with our teachers and students. I am so grateful for our volunteers that give their time and talents to our programs. Without them it simply could not happen. A big thank you to Darin and George Gross, Gretchen Flanagan and Suzanne Shaffer.

Thank you to all for your continued love and support of these programs here at St. Peters.

With Gratitude,

Jennifer Bodolus

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thank you Charlene Bance, David Smith, Brooke Alderfer, Bill Gutsche, , John Ledder, David Kinka

The committee meets roughly every other month with special meetings added as needed. We analyze income and expenses, make recommendations for spending, address financial concerns and develop the annual budget. For 2022, we again set a goal of balancing the budget and thanks to your generous giving, we succeeded! The proposed 2023 budget is again balanced, meaning that the planned expenses equal the planned income. We were able to propose increases to the staff salaries.

The committee would like to thank the dedicated counters who show up each week to count and deposit the offering: Terry Riesz with Linda and Bill Hubler.

GREEN TEAM

Thank you Robin Aldefer, Anita Bailey, Charlene (chair) & Keith Bance, Sharon Brenfleck, Linda & Bill Hubler, Cathy Simcox, Nancy Simpson

During 2022 the Green Team

- Provided weekly Green Tips and recycling opportunities via the announcement section of Pastor's Daily Email.
- Developed and received Council approval of "Eco Friendly Guidelines" for use of our facilities.
- Participated in the ELCA Energy Audit. (We are awaiting feedback.)
- Participated in Caring for Creation Sunday, May 1, held in the Weingartner Park.
- Published solar information in Steeple Views for member's consideration.
- Began work on a Butterfly Memorial Garden to be installed in the front of the Education Building.
- Installed an informational bulletin board across from the restrooms.
- Placed bins in the entryway next to the restrooms to collect and recycle eyeglasses, cell phones, and aluminum can tabs.
- Collected candy bar wrappers during the Halloween season for recycling.

We look forward to these efforts continuing with more information and activities for 2023. Let us know if you would like to join our team.

MEN'S GROUP

Coming out of the pandemic, the Gentlemen of St. Peter's quickly decided that seeing one another on Sunday mornings was just not enough. So, we decided to form a Men's Group for the simple purpose of getting together at various times during the course of the year to share one another's company and fellowship. There was also one other required contingency: every meeting had to include the sharing of food.

Our first meeting last year was a breakfast in Fellowship Hall. While most of us thought we knew each other quite well already, we learned even more by sharing personal stories, hobbies, concerns, anecdotes and interests that brought us even closer together. In the fall, we enjoyed an outdoor barbecue with the most incredible smoked spareribs, baked beans, macaroni and cheese and delicious homemade sides and desserts. There was no formal program other than just getting together and sharing a few stories and adult beverages.

St. Peter's Men's Group is open to any member, whether young or old, seeking to enjoy and grow in the companionship of other members of our Church. Please watch for the announcements in Pastor's daily messages and in Steeple Views for upcoming gatherings. We look forward to having you join us!

Respectfully submitted,
Bernie Heinze

OKTOBERFEST

We had a blast! It was another successful Oktoberfest with probably over a thousand people in attendance at our site and perfect weather throughout the afternoon. It's always great to see the community come together like that, to greet friends you haven't seen in a while and have a good time. Some highlights: we received 28 donated silent auction baskets, 14 local grocery store gift cards, and the Kid's Zone ran out of pumpkins because it was so popular. A new addition this year was the Wissahickon High School Robotics Team displayed their award winning devices which drew in many curious children and their families. This year we raised more than \$8,000 net profit for the church!

The Oktoberfest Committee would like to thank everyone for all of your help and support. Once again, there were over 100 volunteers working behind the scenes to make Oktoberfest a memorable one. Oktoberfest would not be able to function without the kindness and hard work of our congregation and friends!

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Mahan

PROPERTY

Thank you Keith Bance, Mike and Linda Cipriano, Bill and Linda Hubler, Bill Johnson, Cathy Simcox, Steve Wright (chair)

As always, special thanks to the entire Thursday Gang for all the big and even routine things they do throughout the year. I also understand that steps are being taken to show our appreciation to Bill Johnson -- who's 24/7 handyman efforts on behalf of the Church are greatly saluted. He has become our "first alert" system!

The biggest Property project this year was the painting of the Steeple (last done 12-15 yrs. ago), along

with and surrounding fret work. At the same time, the large, round window (below the steeple) was painted and the external windows on the 2nd floor of the Education Building (facing Church Street). The urinal in the Ed. Bldg. was repaired to stop and prevent future leaks. Also addressed was the 100-year old trap and pipe (beneath the urinal) -- both now replaced with PVC.

Insulation was added to the attic above the Narthex to provide protection against another pipe freeze problem. And just recently, Scott Lauro (one of our Church members) replaced the six concrete walkway blocks that were damaged by the weight of the crane used to paint the Steeple. This cost for that replacement was covered by the painter's insurance plan. And finally, a lot of parts were replaced and/or updated to the heating system to keep the boilers running most efficiently and preventing further loss of heat.

This is an old building! It requires diligent and frequent system follow-ups to protect her from all those mechanical things that can and do wear out.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Wright

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Thank you Mark Baker, Sharon Baker, Bill and Linda Hubler, Joy Jacobson, Brian Brenfleck, Steve and Eileen Wright, Robin Alderfer (chair)

The King reply, "Truly I tell you whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me." Matthew 25:40

- We continue to collect food which we donate to both Manna on Main St and New Creation Lutheran Church in Philadelphia.
- **Good Gifts** raised \$2167.81. We purchased 3 family farms totaling 3 cows, 6 goats, 36 chicks, 6 pigs, 1 rooster, plus tools, seeds and agricultural training for three families.
- We continued our support of **Gemma** (Silver Spring and Martin Luther School):
 - **Undy Sunday** collection: new socks and underwear for the children living in the residential program.
 - We also collected over 50 **Christmas** gifts for the children.
 - **Pie Days** haven't returned yet since Covid but hopefully will resume this year.
- The **Mother's Day Blanket** appeal, **Easter Flowers** and **Christmas Dedication** moneys were collected for various local charities and Ukrainian relief.
- Once again we participated in the North Penn School District **Build-A-Bag** program where we collected school supplies and backpacks for local students.

- In October, four St Peter’s runners laced up their running shoes to support Laurel House (Nehemiah’s Way) by participating in the **Laurel House 5K Dash Against Domestic Violence**. The team raised \$430 through their efforts.
- **Caring Chefs** cooked about 25 meals this year.
- We worked on three projects on **North Wales Day of Service**: St Peter’s cemetery clean up and beautification, work on the New Creation Apartment in Kensington, and work on a parishioner’s house who had been hospitalized.
- **The Little Free Lending Library** is up and serving the community at the corner of East Montgomery and Main Streets.
- We are continuing our partnership with **New Creation Lutheran Church** in Philadelphia. We have been helping them by collecting blankets, sleeping bags, and men’s clothing that are delivered to the homeless in their area. We also have an ongoing work project in the parsonage/apartment which helps them raise much needed rental income.
- **Family Promise of Montgomery County** (Inter Faith Hospitality Network): In June, St. Peter's FINALLY served as a host congregation in the Interfaith Hospitality Network. (Our efforts to host families were suspended in 2021 due to COVID). In June, we provided emergency shelter and support for 4 families receiving services from Family Promise MontCo PA while they awaited permanent housing solutions. This effort involved over 50 volunteers including folks from Gwynedd Friends Meeting, St. Rose of Lima, Sanctuary Methodist, Congregation Beth Or, Grace Baptist Blue Bell, as well as our own great team from St. Peter’s. Thank you!

Thank you St. Peters, for making Social Ministry at our church living and growing ministry in our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Alderfer

STAFF SUPPORT

Thank you Judy Jones

Judy Jones has continued to serve as Staff Support. She ensures that all staff members receive necessary support, fair assessment, and reasonable objectives that are aligned with the church’s growth goals.

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you Pastor Wagnere, Maryann Gerhart (chair)

We first want to thank all those that give to St. Peter’s throughout the year! Your generosity helps to support everything the church does and keeps the church’s “branches” strong! Our theme this year was John 15:5, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears

much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” This year we almost made our goal of 100 pledges. We received 95 pledges total; 37 pledges on paper pledge cards and 58 through our online pledge card. Your confidential pledges provided the Finance Committee with the projected offering you/your family will give to the church in the coming year, and they used this information to complete the budget for 2023. We truly appreciate all those that participated in the pledge drive this year!

Respectfully submitted,
Maryann Merhart

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Thank you Meg Matlack , Nancy Simons , Sharon Skrzat, Diana Blum, Robin Alderfer, Steve Moyer, Rebecca Ledder and Laurie Kane (co-chair)

In 2022, the Stephen Ministry and its ministers saw a return to in-person meetings. This was a most welcome change and a much needed boost to moral. The ministers have hung in there and managed to provide care and listening support to their charges without missing a beat. But being able to meet face to face made it so much more a gratifying experience for all involved. And that included the ministry’s leaders Rebecca Ledder and Laurie Kane, as we were able to conduct monthly supervision meetings in person as well. But 2023 will be a year of change for this ministry.

Often we say ‘Out with the old and in with the new.’ Well this year, the Stephen Ministry is taking that to heart. Rebecca and Laurie who began as leaders together ten years ago have, after much thought and reflection, decided to retire together from leading the ministry. Though we are stepping down as leaders, to our very great joy the Stephen Ministry will continue to thrive and provide support to individuals who are hurting or in need of someone to walk along side them on their path. Yvonne Garrity, a lifelong Lutheran, a newer member of St. Peter’s church and the daughter of Diane Zenker, felt a nudge to explore taking on the soon to be vacant leadership role. After several meetings and Q and A sessions, Yvonne felt confident in her desire to take on this merry band of ministers. Yvonne has a bright and friendly demeanor, is full of energy and is a good match for the program here at St. Peter’s. She will be a terrific addition to the ministry and we look forward to her stepping into her new role. But she will not do it without the program’s requisite leadership training. Nor will she do it without support. The ministers are quite a warm bunch and are looking forward to taking Yvonne into their flock after she completes her training in the early spring. Likewise, the current leaders, will be available to help make it a smooth transition and lend a hand during the periodic recruitment and training of new ministers.

Please keep all our ministers in your prayers as they continue fearlessly into the new year with such changes ahead. And please also keep Yvonne in your prayers as she begins her leadership training in mid January. The support of the members of St Peter’s. Church is the driving force behind a ministry such as

this. You are what makes this ministry special and we could not do what we do without your prayers. Thank you. Wishing you and your families God's blessings now and throughout the new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Kane

Rebecca Ledder

TECHNOLOGY (TECH) TEAM

Thank you Brian Brenfleck, Diana Sundar, John T. MacInnes, Bernie Heinze , Noah Shaffer, Peter Wagner, Francis Gillan, Ted Riesz, Roy Schmidt, Lisa Miller, and Steve Frescatore (chair)

The Tech team was active in 2022, bringing St. Peters' worship services to our virtual congregation. Virtual Zoom services (averaged 20 household participants) continued into 2022 and we added Live Stream services (averaged 14 household participants) in June as well. The Tech Team continues to research ways to enhance the Live Stream audio and video components, as well as finding ways to share our rich inventory of online content from past services, such as meaningful sermons and wonderful music selections, with our congregants.

We are grateful for all the Tech team volunteers who offered their time to "stream" our worship services and we continue to seek more volunteers, as Zoom and Live Stream are here to stay, as St. Peters' branches continue to reach outside the walls of St. Peters to include congregation members far and wide to be part of our worship services.

THRIFT SHOP

Thank you JoAnn Rittenhouse (chair), Ginny Benner (secretary), Bill Kesack (treasurer), Peg McConnell (internal communications), Lisa Miller (social media)

St. Peter's Thrift Shop saw a robust rebound from the Covid years of 20/21. Contributions to our targeted charities in 2022 were \$22,580, just shy of our record giving in 2019. (\$22,700). The checkbook had a balance of \$1,463.73 at the beginning of 2022 and now stands at \$341.77

- Receipts for 2022 were \$21,458.04
- Contributions in 2022 were \$22,580 as follows
- Nehemiah's Way/Laurel House - \$12,800
- Silver Springs - \$3,260
- Ken Crest - \$3,260
- Manna on Main Street - \$3,260

\$419,990 has been distributed to targeted charities since the Thrift Shop inception in 1992. A detailed report is available if anyone would like to see who received the funds. Excess clothing and household items have been donated to, and picked up by, the Salvation Army. Additionally, clothing is donated to other organizations when the need is presented.

These successes are possible due to the quality and quantity of donations and the hundreds of hours of work put in by our wonderful volunteer staff. Come join us.....we need YOU!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Sam Tarasenko, Director of Music

Dear Friends,

Over the four months of working at St. Peter's in 2022, I got to know the various musical groups, identify individuals with untapped musical talent, and experiment with some of the worship forms familiar to the congregation. The groups at St. Peter's include the choir, A Common Thread, the Belles, and an emerging men's group. In September, I immediately got to work with the choir and A Common Thread, two strong pillars in the music ministry. I was heartened to see the choir grow gradually to include youth and men and similarly delighted by the enthusiasm of A Common Thread's members to bring contemporary worship in a traditional setting. Over time, I put together a special music list that included as many of our volunteers as possible. This cemented the gaps where the choir was not leading worship and brought out talented individuals in our midst. By the time Advent rolled around, I implemented a few of my ideas into the worship form including Schubert's Kyrie, improvisation to hymn melodies, and (most importantly) prayer before services with the musicians. Christmas Eve brought out the best of what St. Peter's had to offer including an eighteen member choir; our own brass players; and three unique services bridging family, tradition, and spirituality.

While I hesitate to lay down a grand vision for 2023, I do have three goals in mind: seeking out more musicians in our midst, growing the choir (especially with men), and engaging children in music. Pastor Wagner, Liz Allen, and Kirsten Olson have done a tremendous job building a ministry with great momentum. I believe 2023 will be a year of growth for all of us and I'm excited to be on this journey with you!

Enthusiastically,

Sam

TREASURY REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2022

We would like to extend thanks to the generous support of its members and associates. Behind the actual financial support is the non-financial volunteering provided by members which combined with the financial support builds a strong foundation at St. Peters.

St. Peters ended another successful year of financial support by the congregation. We ended the year with a surplus of \$20,500. Contributing to the surplus was a savings of \$6,515 of not having a fulltime music director for 2022 and \$5,000 surplus from 2021 in balancing the 2022 budget. The balance came from good faith general offerings exceeding expectations.

Outside the general fund in the maintenance account, we absorbed the excess remaining maintenance cost of the Cemetery Ops and Maintenance Fund of \$3,808. (Non-Budget Item) We did move to maintenance \$4,000 of the 2021 surplus which basically absorbed the excess Cemetery Ops. Along with a credit of return of LED lights the maintenance account increased \$911 year over year with ending balance of \$7,097. Note the account was \$15,459 at the beginning of 2021. In 2022 the account absorbed 2 major items. (New entrance door and refrigerator) totaling \$11,740 which was non-budget items for maintenance.

The capital reserve account started the year at \$25,890. The church required a large expenditure of \$23,850 to maintain its steeple. Special appeal brought in contributions of \$17,755. General donations of \$6,980 and \$8,000 from 2021 surplus covered this expenditure and also were able to build up the reserve to \$34,775 which is a more respectable balance for the future.

From Pastor's daily posts you will have seen notes in preparing the 2023 budget by the finance committee and approved by council. We asked the congregation for approval of the 2023 budget.

ST. PETER'S PROPOSED BUDGET 2023

The 2023 Budget for St. Peter's Lutheran Church has thoughtfully and carefully been prepared by the Finance Committee and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29th

Budget Notes: Some of the line items have notable changes from 2022.

Income Notes:

- The "Family Faith From Campaign" is decreasing by \$2,500. The funds from this campaign have been fully expended. Note that this campaign was many years ago and these funds lasted longer than expected.
- The Miscellaneous Donations line was decreased by approximately \$3,000 to be conservative since much of this is unexpected donations.

Expense Notes:

- All staff will receive a 4% salary increase. Note, the Director of Music's salary has been prorated based on the 5 months worked in 2022.
- The Secretary/Office Manager position received an additional increase based on updates to the job description and expanded responsibilities.
- The Family Faith line is decreasing by \$3,000 because there is money in a Family Faith Fund to supplement this.

ST. PETERS BUDGET – COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

GENERAL FUND			
INCOME	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
General Fund Offerings	268,687	284,512	281,151
Plate Offerings	4,000	6,549	4,000
Initial Offerings	500	500	500
Holiday Offerings	7,500	5,845	7,500
Sunday School	0	0	0
Flowers & Altar Decorations	500	655	600
Building Rental	4,500	5,796	6,500
Fund Raising	7,000	8,504	7,000
Family Faith from Campaign	3,000	3,000	500
Miscellaneous Donations	10,500	10,066	7,426
Miscellaneous Income	6,500	6,123	6,000
TOTAL	312,687	331,550	321,177
EXPENSES			
Pastor Salary/Housing/Social Security	66,717	65,790	68,517
Pastor Pension/Auto/Education/Medical	44,912	45,838	47,578
Director of Music Salary	29,128	20,959	27,450
Handbell Director	9,018	9,018	9,379
Family Faith Director Salary	33,785	33,785	35,136
Secretary/Office Manager Salary	28,810	28,823	31,200
Employer Staff Taxes	7,867	7,082	7,867
Office Expense	6,500	7,734	7,000
Postage Expense	1,000	831	1,000
Telephone & Internet	2,100	2,239	2,100
Gas & Electricity	15,000	17,327	17,000
Cleaning Service	10,500	10,500	10,500
Trash Removal	1,200	1,851	1,200
Water & Sewer	1,000	1,537	1,000
Landscaping	5,200	4,823	5,200
Adult Education	300	300	300
Family Faith Expense	6,000	6,000	3,000
Convention Exp	400	0	400
Hospitality Outreach	200	327	400
Communication/Technology	2,500	3,010	2,500
Music Expense	1,500	1,658	1,500
Worship Exp	2,000	2,212	2,000
Flowers & Altar	100	0	100
Social Ministry	50	0	50
Stewardship	2,400	2,326	2,800
Stephen Ministry	200	0	200
Worship Guest Musicians	500	750	500
Worship Supply Pastor/Organist	800	2,200	800
Insurance Exp	12,000	13,126	13,500
Benevolence	21,000	21,000	21,000
TOTAL	312,687	311,046	321,177
DEFICIT/SURPLUS	0	20,504	0
MAINTENANCE FUND			
Maintenance Income	15,000		15,000
Maintenance Expense	15,000		15,000
CAPITAL RESERVE FUND			
Capital Reserve Income	25,000		25,000
Capital Reserve Expenses	As required		As Required

ST. PETER'S CORE VALUES

As members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church...

- 1. We value and embrace service driven ministry and being “other-oriented” serving God by serving people both locally and globally.**
- 2. We value and strive for meaningful vibrant worship, enhanced with purposeful liturgy, powerful relevant messages, devout prayer, glorious music and participation by both clergy and lay ministers.**
- 3. We value spiritual growth for all generations defined by well thought-out programs available for all ages and strong support for families of all types.**
- 4. We value and commit to being an inclusive community promoting authentic, caring relationships with each other and our partners in ministry, always treating each other with respect.**
- 5. We value and commit to community hospitality, placing importance on being an integral part of our community by using both our building facility and our actions.**

