

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Annual
Congregational Meeting
for the year 2024
January 26th, 2025

*Prince of Peace of La Crescent are people
Rooted in the Word, inspired by the cross,
making God visible
by Welcoming, Sharing and Serving.*

www.princeofpeaceoflacscent.org

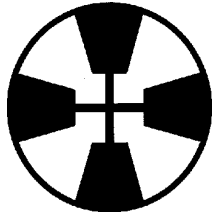
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
01/26/20205

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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Annual Congregation Meeting Agenda
January 26, 2025

1. Opening Prayer Pastor Libby Howe
2. Calling Meeting to Order Mark White, President
 - a. Review Agenda
 - b. Motion to accept minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting
3. Introduction of the Ballot
 - a. Ballot Distributions
 - b. Ballot Additions
 1. Church Council / Youth Seat
 2. Synod Assembly/Synod Assembly Youth
 3. Endowment Committee
 4. Nominating Committee
 5. Major Gifts Committee
4. La Crosse Area Synod 'State of the Synod' Bishop Malpica (Video)
5. 2024 Treasurer's Report Patti Dockendorff
6. Staff Reports – Year in Review
 - a. Pastor Updates
 - b. Cemetery Board
 - c. Engaging Children Initiative
 - d. Stewardship Report
7. New Business
 - a. 2025 Budget Proposal Patti Dockendorff
 - i. Motion to Approve 2025 budget
 - b. Election Results
8. Closing Benediction Pastor Anna Sorenson

A Special Congregational Meeting to call an Associate Pastor will take place at the conclusion of this meeting. **The Cemetery Board Annual Meeting** will follow the Special Congregational Meeting.



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

21 North Hill Street
La Crescent, Minnesota 55947
Phone: (507) 895-4440

2024 CURRENT CHURCH STAFF

Libby Howe
Lead Pastor

Anna Sorenson
Interim Associate Pastor

Chris Gustafson
Director of Music Ministry

Kendra Wieser
Director of Faith Formation

Michelle Tetzlaff
Office Manager

Beth Gonia
Youth Director

Patti Dockendorff
Treasurer

Cindee Bottcher
Bookkeeper

Bill Conroy
Custodian

David Riley
Peli Custodian

2024 PARISH VISITOR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen
Kay Snuggerud

Terri Discher
Tari La Rue

2024 PELI FAMILY CENTER STAFF

Haley Osborne – **Director**

Amy Hill – **4-K Teacher**

Trinity Norman – **3-K Teacher**

Taylor Lueck, Leah Thesing- **Toddler # 1 Teachers**

Violet Srock, Madison Marsh, Annaliese Bastyr, Bailey Fee- **Toddler # 2 Teachers**

Kate Walton, Jennifer Borkowski, Kari Feldman, Alexie Leonhardt- **Infant Teachers**

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL

Mark White (2025)
President

Ron Wilke (2024)*
Vice President

Melissa Lambrecht (2024)*
Secretary

2024 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joan Francois (2026)
Jim Howe (2024)*
Susan Michalke (2025)
Pastor Libby Howe

Annette Gittens (2025)
Ashley Hurley (2026)
Peter Petersilie (2026)

Paul Harris (2025)
Tracy Jaquette (2024)*
Pastor Anna Sorenson

***End of council term**

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 10:34 am by Council President Shannon Stremcha

There were 45 people in attendance in person and 28 people online with Zoom. Quorum was declared.

Pastor Kary opened the meeting with a prayer.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved for the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting minutes (01/29/2023).

Ballots were handed out to participants. There was a motion made and seconded to accept the ballot as presented in entirety.

New Church Council members are Joan Francois, Peter Petersilie and Ashley Hurley. The council will need to appoint a fourth member. Synod Assembly Voting members are Peter Petersilie, Nancy Wright, Christi Ziems, and Steve Mau. Eagle Crest Communities delegates are Carol Leidel and Sally Miner. Sugar Creek Bible Camp delegate is Carol Leidel. Cemetery Board members are Bruce Bauer, David Loberg, and Greg Stremcha.

A video was shown from Bishop Malpica from the La Crosse Area Synod

Treasurer's report was presented by Patti Dockendorff. The full report can be found within the annual meeting report packet. Summary highlights include:

- The church does not have any debt at this time.
- We are not expecting more revenues than occurred this past year.
- Staff are the biggest expense.
- There is a need to increase congregational giving.

Staff reports were given by Pastor Kary and Pastor Anna. (Other staff reports are in the packet.) Pastor Kary focused on POP looking forward to calling a new Lead Pastor. Pastor Anna reviewed accomplishments this past year.

Scott Pechacek gave information about the Call Committee and process this year. Questions for members were handed out, and time was given for members to fill out and discuss at tables.

2024 budget proposal was presented by Patti Dockendorff.

- We are expecting \$430,000 for the year.
- Peli will be contributing \$30,000.
- We have money from the Employee Retention program of \$287,000 that will cover this year's budget deficit, but that will need to be looked at by the 2024 Council. The rest of the money will be able to be used for other projects/needs as deemed by the Council.
- There are no changes in staff FTEs.

Questions were answered. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2024 budget. It passed.

A closing benediction was given by Pastor Anna. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.

Election Results:

- **Church Council:** Joan Francois, Ashley Hurley, Peter Petersilie,
- **Youth Rep. Church Council:** to be appointed by council
- **Endowment Committee:** to be appointed by council
- **Nominating Committee:** to be appointed by council
- **Synod Assembly Delegates:** Steve Mau, Peter Petersilie, Nancy Wright, Christi Ziems (2024)
- **Youth Rep. Synod Assembly:** to be appointed by council
- **Eagle Crest Communities Delegates:** Carol Leidel & Sally Miner (2024)
- **Sugar Creek Bible Camp Delegate:** Carol Leidel (2024)
- **Cemetery Board:** Bruce Bauer, David Loberg, Greg Stremcha (2026)

Submitted by acting secretary, Christi Ziems

Pastor Libby's 2024 Annual Report

Instructions for living a life.
Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.

—Mary Oliver

In these few words, Mary Oliver sums up what my work with Prince of Peace has been for nearly 100 days now.

Pay attention...to who comes in and out of the building on any given weekday...to the speedy tapping of tiny human shoes racing down the hallway to a Peli classroom...to the pain and prayers someone shares as they anticipate treatment for cancer...to Michelle when she fills me in on who is who and what is what...to the staff as they thoughtfully prepare for worship...to the Church Council as they respond to the question, “why did/do you choose Prince of Peace?” ...to the Holy Spirit as she reminds me to be patient with myself because 100 days isn't very many yet. It's enough to know a little bit, to get by, and see glimmers of belonging. But it's also just enough to see how much I don't and can't know yet. That kind of knowing takes thousands of days, not hundreds.

Be astonished...the quality of our Peli teachers astonishes me. The unseen, unsung volunteerism among members astonishes me. The well-oiled machine of our Food Ministry astonishes me. The eager participation of Confirmation students astonishes me. The generosity of spirit for our unhoused and food insecure neighbors astonishes me. The skill and competence of our staff and lay leaders astonishes me. And all the ways you Make God Visible astonishes me.

Tell about it...I will do my best to tell you what I see and hear God doing among us. I will tell about the ways God is both at work and at rest in our midst reminding us of the founding rhythms of Creation. I will tell about the compassion (shared suffering) and the companionship (shared bread) that weaves through the friendships and ministries of this church. I will tell about and test wonderments (hmmm...is wonderments a word?) and questions and insights gained through prayer and scripture study. I will do everything I can to tell you the truth about our world and what it means to live as the messy, weird, broken, and beautiful Jesus' people.

The poet says to pay attention, be astonished and tell about it are the instructions for “living a life.” I am so grateful that we are living our lives together now. Whether it's our hundredth day or ten thousandth day together, we will always pay attention to all that God is doing. We will forever be astonished by God's persistent grace. And we will never stop telling about ALL of it to one another and to friends, neighbors, and strangers far beyond us.

“See, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” -Isaiah 43:19

Dear friends, thank you for embracing me as your pastor. I can't wait to see the new thing God is doing among us.

Christ's peace be yours,
Pastor Libby Howe

Pastor Anna's 2024 Annual Report

Dear Prince of Peace,

Three years as your interim Associate Pastor has been marked by **transition**. I arrived here as you were learning how to worship together and be community in person again after the pandemic. We said thank you and goodbye to Pastor Mike Woods and parish visitor Linda Gasper, were led by Interim Pastor Kary Jonas, welcomed Pastor Mark Jolivet for regular worship leadership and brought on Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen to coordinate visitation ministry. In the six months we were without a lead pastor, I worked closely with Haley Osborne, Peli School Director, and our Executive Committee to ensure that essential ministry continued. We have been blessed with Mark White, Ron Wilke, and Melissa Lambrecht as our congregation's officers in 2024.

We've now welcomed Libby Howe as our Lead Pastor, and I'm hopefully optimistic about a call to stay on at Prince of Peace as your part time Associate. I am looking forward to sometime of **stability** and growth. We have long been discerning adding a regular **midweek** worship option, and I am looking forward to creatively and intentionally designing that experience and other community and faith growing opportunities outside of Sunday mornings.

It has been a joy to work with Beth Gonia in our **Confirmation** ministry program for 8th and 9th graders. By the time we reach the season of Lent, we will have dug deeply into 18 important scripture stories from the Old Testament. We've added an optional meal component to our classes (full bellies are good for learning brains). We are dreaming about taking this ministry **deeper** with intensive experiential learning opportunities like Confirmation camp and retreats. Finally, we are building cross-generational relationships with 10 adults who regularly participate in Confirmation as teachers, storytellers, and small group guides.

I'm very excited about the possibilities on the horizon with our part in the Engaging Children in Worship Initiative. In early 2024, Kendra Wieser and I approached the La Crosse Area Synod to sponsor a grant application to dream about taking the amazing multi-sensory arts based Christian education at Prince of Peace and finding ways to share it with congregations. We were pleased to be awarded the grant! For Prince of Peace, this means **opportunities** for learning from and with other congregations, quantitative and qualitative **assessment** of our faith formation and worship, financial and practical support, the opportunity to mentor other congregations and leaders, and possibilities for training lay leaders and volunteers. See the Faith Formation report elsewhere in this booklet for more details.

Blessed by your partnership in ministry,

Pastor Anna Sorenson

Pastoral Acts in 2024 at POP

Baptisms

Barton, Gram Patirck
Benish, Aiden Scott
Benish, Arielle Ellen
Brabbit, Keira Marit
Congdon, Sawyer Eugene
Friedl, Henry James
Klabunde, Beckett John
Landsom, Jack Michael
Manix, Monroe Catherine
McCain, Amelia Sue
Rushlow, Brooks Curtis
Schwartz, Conor William
Weber, Ripley Rae
Zoellner, Abraham William

Funerals/Memorials/Burials

Bennett, Leonard Lee
Benton, June Faith (Major)
Booth, David Ward
Brevig, Rosemary (Byers)
Brewster, Marlene Katherine
Brown, Pierce A.
Croese, Dorothy Ethel
Dahlen, Euncie M.C. (Fortun)
Engelhart, Warren "Bud" Stanley
Jorgenson, Susan Marie
Pervisky, Richard C.
Vedell, Thomas Dale

New Members

Brabbit, Aksel Lucus
Brabbit, Bjorn Christian
Brabbit, Jens Jacob
Brabbit, Katherine Marlen (Westergren)
Brabbit, Keira Marit
Frank, Allison
Frank, Brenda (Brewer)
Frank, Jeffrey
Highum, Karen
Howe, Rev. Elizabeth Anna
Olson, Barbara Jane

Transferred Out

Urness, Audrey Geraldine (Hanson)
Urness, Gary Albert
Woods, Cassidy Michelle
Woods, Karen Marie (Peterson)
Woods, Matthew Cody
Woods, Rev. Michael John

Confirmations

Boettcher, Nathan Dean
Conroy, Mason Allen
Hill, Austin Bruce
Johnson, Shelby Mae
Jorgenson, Quinn Lucille
Northrup, Lincoln Kent
Rasmussen, Makenna Rae
Stivarius, Braydon Thomas
Stremcha, McKinley Jo
Theede, Madelyn Lee
Timm, Mya Rose

Lead Pastor Libby Howe, 11/01/2025

Interim Associate Pastor Anna Sorenson

Interim Lead Pastor Kary Jonas, Contract end 04/30/2024

2024 Letter from our Church Council President, Mark White

It has been a great pleasure for me to serve as your Church Council president during the past year. It has been a momentous year at Prince of Peace for our congregation with the completion of the many steps in the call process and calling of Pastor Libby Howe. Pastor Libby is off to a strong start, in spite of a battle in December with COVID, with a review of church organization, planning, ministry, and more in the works for the coming year. Her previous experience as our synod's Assistant to the Bishop is a great advantage for Prince of Peace. She has been there, witnessed both the best and challenges of many congregations, and is well prepared for leading POP to new heights. Truly an exciting time!

Without the work of a dedicated Call Committee, which included Scott Pechacek, Maria Henry, Ron Wilke, Christi Ziems, John Haugan, Hannah Pederson and Addy Murilla, such a positive call result would not have been possible. Thank you very much to the Call Committee and to Pastor Jonas for supporting the Call Committee during her time with us.

In addition to the Lead Pastor call, we look forward to completing the official call process for our part time Associate Pastor position. Pastor Anna Sorenson has been with us for over three years, but not officially called. She is very excited to work closely with Pastor Libby, and the Church Council is equally excited to be working toward recommending her call at a congregational meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting on Jan. 26th. I have had the opportunity this year to work with an outstanding forward thinking church council. They have been thoughtful, understanding, and insightful. Thanks to each of the members, with special thanks to our additional two officers, Ron Wilke and Melissa Lambrecht, who I have worked with very closely this year.

While the interim period and call process was a huge undertaking, this year we were also blessed to commit to a LED lighting project upgrade. Generous donations, a grant from XCEL Energy, and our Building Fund made this possible. We expect to save about \$500 a month as a result of the new lighting, and the improvement in visual quality is outstanding! A second highlight is the Engaging Children in Worship grant from the Lilly Foundation that Pastor Anna and Kendra are leading with the synod. It will continue for five years and support our Faith Formation Ministry, connecting the church and families. A final highlight has been our work with the Stewardship for All Seasons program. With that expertise and a very generous congregation, we are in a much better place with our budget for 2025.

Finally, we were in a transitional mode this year with Interim Lead Pastor Kary Jonas, then no lead pastor, and finally Lead Pastor Libby Howe. Throughout the year, the church staff, led by Pastor Anna, have kept everything moving forward positively for Prince of Peace. We are most grateful to Pastor Anna, Kendra, Chris, Michelle, Patti, Cindee, and Haley. A special thanks for the work of Pastor Kathy and Pastor Mark during our transition.

Director of Music Ministry Annual Report for 2024

Becoming - Who are we becoming now?

We started examining this question in earnest five years ago, but it seems that a revisit may be in order. This kind of reflecting helps shape our intentions and helps us notice and raise our awareness of what path we may be travelling. It checks our alignment.

Singing - together

Musically, we are becoming much more confident again with our congregational song. We are becoming a congregation of people who can sing songs that reinforce our worship themes to enrich our understandings, lift up the music from other places, invite and allow music to touch our hearts and our souls, and most importantly praise God.

Listening - to one another and the Holy Spirit

Our congregational song teaches us how to listen to one another as we strive to sing as if we were one voice. We breathe together and put our individual singing inside the collective voice. We all long for us to sound as lovely as possible - no one voice sticking out louder than the rest and all voices joined together equally. We're also pretty fluent in listening and noticing the Holy Spirit in our midst.

Expanding – our hymnody

While some of us like the most familiar hymns best, others like to learn new hymns and consider the older hymns rather tired. We do our best to keep both preferences in mind, knowing that on any given Sunday it is unlikely everyone will sing their favorites. Our preferences are too eclectic. Worship music is not meant to be entertainment and sometimes we do need to be challenged. One of the multi-year goals for music ministry at Prince of Peace has been to expand our collective knowledge of hymns. Many have embraced the opportunity to see how some of the new hymns teach new ideas while touching our hearts and souls. Some of the hymns from our *All Creation Sings* supplemental hymnal have already become new favorites!

Inviting - sharing gifts

We've had a number of people during this past year join me for some music making during worship. This fills my heart. Prince of Peace has so many musically gifted people, it is wonderful when they step forward and share their musical gifts during worship. Whether it was to add their hands to mine at the piano, sing a solo, play an instrument as a solo or ensemble member, play organ, or ring in the Bells of Peace, we've had a lot of different people contribute musically this past year. Maybe this will be the year you step forward.

Growing and Enlarging - our understandings

Our Drum Circle Ministry is growing because our understandings about prayer, meditation, and the importance of community are expanding, and we are realizing our need and longing for all of these. We're drawing in a number of different folks from other places who want to be a part of this ministry. Prince of Peace is very unique in being able to offer this opportunity, and people are grateful.

Questioning – guides the way into 2025 for each of us

Are we striving to see God, deepening our faith, and trusting in a future that is filled with hope and love? In what ways are we Making God Visible through our Music Ministry at Prince of Peace? What might you have to offer?

Serving with you,
Chris Gustafson

Faith Formation Annual Report 2025

2024 Reflections This past year has blessed us with new families, faith-filled nudges from the Holy Spirit and on-going experimentation to meet the needs of busy families seeking a sacred life in a secular culture. Faith formation is made up of energizing events like VBS and all-year Faith Connect (Sunday School) offered near the end of worship every week. Veggie Tale nights have seen an increase in attendance while offering families a chance to pray and eat together after a hectic day, parents a chance to chat, and children a space to learn Christian practices and stories.

Joys It is a joy to collaborate with this staff each week. The depth of faithfulness and intentionality is such a blessing. The questions that guide our conversations are ‘what do our people need’ and ‘how is the Holy Spirit nudging us forward?’ The foundation of our ministries is Making God Visible through song, story, symbol, practice and serving within and beyond our faith community. It has also been a joy to work with Food Ministry for Summer Picnics with family-friendly worship, a VBS service project to provide meals to unhoused neighbors, an after-school event for 3rd-7th graders to make-and-take dinners and dreaming up new ways to celebrate with baptismal families by sharing a meal together. As I reflect on 2024, I see events like VBS and JAM club that need holy experimentation and traditions like Egg Hunts, Prayer Buddies and Bible Sunday that continue to bring us closer to God.

Going Beyond Our Walls with Faith Formation

In the spring of 2024, Pastor Anna came across an opportunity to take Prince of Peace’s approach to faith formation way beyond our walls. We proposed a collaboration between the synod, area churches and camps to experiment and refine our best practices for engaging children through multisensory ways in worshipful activities and prayer. Last September we received word that our proposal to lead a five-year project called “Engaging Children Initiative” was awarded \$1.25 million from Lilly Endowment Inc.

In the first phase, Prince of Peace will benefit by becoming a Learning Laboratory along with Sugar Creek and Luther Park Bible camps and up to five congregations yet to be determined. As a Learning Laboratory, we will receive a generous monthly stipend and be able to refine and share what’s working here while learning and experimenting with promising faith formation practices across our synod and camps. It is so exciting (and daunting) to imagine all the good impacts this project can have in the years to come, but it’s the relationships that you, the members of PoP, foster with our children that are the most impactful and absolutely priceless in my book. Here are just a few examples I’ve noticed:

- The families that show up and prioritize the importance of God and being part of a faith community, no matter how busy life gets
- The ushers who greet and play with our littlest ones (+ one who lets babies play with his beard)
- The big sisters who consistently help and encourage the little ones at Faith Connect
- The grandmas who bring their grandchildren to church when the parents are working
- The pew neighbors who hold a fussy baby so parents can help their frustrated toddler
- The members who greet older children by name and check in with them week after week
- The little ones who run up to greet a friend (50/50 chance they’re in the same generation)
- The grandparents who save a seat (even when that means sitting in a tiny chair)
- The preschool families who sit together and help one another through worship

These are just a few of the priceless actions I’ve noticed within our faith community. Thank you for the blessing to live and work among you and your children.

Kendra Wieser, Faith Formation Director

Annual Report to the Congregation - Beth Gonia, Youth Director

2024 was quite the year! I continue to develop programming that is the best fit for our youth, and I am excited about the future with two amazing pastors! Here are some highlights of the year:

Connect and Reflect

Started last year, this ministry offers our 11th and 12th grade students a time of continued ministry with each other through games, treats, and candle devotion time. We meet just 1-2 times a month to respect these students' busy schedules but still offer them a time and place to grow in their faith. After Confirmation in October, our 10th grade students are invited to this ministry, allowing them to continue their faith journeys.

YNOW-Youth Night of Worship

Starting last year, my fellow LCYFC (La Crescent Youth Faith Collaborative) coordinators and I are now hosting these events monthly for students in 8th-12th grade from the community to worship in a contemporary way. These nights include music similar to Workcamp and VBS, food, games, and a speaker who shares their faith story/journey. Each event is steadily growing in participation, and we are hopeful to reach even more students in the coming year.

10th Grade Stole Nights

I had the opportunity to again lead the 10th graders this fall as they prepared for the Rite of Confirmation service. This year, we spent a portion of the time creating their stole symbols combined with activities relating to faith development and how to live out your faith in daily life. The students really seemed to enjoy these activities, and I hope to continue these lessons next year.



Senior Events

As in previous years, Prince of Peace collaborated with La Crescent United Methodist on the Baccalaureate service for our high school seniors. The seniors were also recognized during our Senior Sunday and served communion to the congregation.





2024 Workcamp

For the first time in recent years, I decided to try out moving Workcamp to later in the summer, choosing to go in July instead of June. Our weather in Winchester, Kentucky reminded us that it was later in the summer! The camp had over 315 campers coming from 8 different states along with a group from Canada! Our students were part of 50+ work projects that ranged from ramp and stair building to extensive house painting. On our half day, we had the opportunity to visit Natural Bridge State Park. Another highlight of the trip for the youth was that many had the opportunity to try Cookout and Sonic for the first time. We also came home with lots of Ale-8, a pop (soda) that is bottled in Winchester, as

the company donated pallets of it to the camp for the week, and there was still some left to take home at the end of the week. Our trip home included a visit to the Louisville Slugger Museum in Louisville, Kentucky, an overnight in Bloomington, Illinois, and our annual family dinner at Cracker Barrel.

8th and 9th Grade Confirmation

This year, we have 24 students participating in Confirmation, and they are a fantastic group of young people. We brought back the tradition of providing a meal before each night of class, and it has been fun to see the two grade levels bond during this time. About 8-10 students take advantage of this meal each week. Thanks to six amazing guides, I have the opportunity to rotate through joining the small groups each week, allowing me to better get to know all the students. This group is very inquisitive, and it is fun exploring their questions together. A highlight of the fall was participating in the La Crosse Area Synod event for Confirmation students at Good Shepherd. Our students got to mix and mingle with other youth from area churches and learn about the different aspects of our synod.



I want to thank this congregation for its continued generous support of our youth programming and these students. We couldn't offer many of these amazing ministries without your generosity, and I am excited to see where 2025 takes us.

Youth Director, Beth Gonia

VISITATION MINISTRY 2024

shared by Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen

The visitation ministry of Prince of Peace moved forward in two important ways in 2024. In April, interim Lead Pastor Kary Jonas gathered a small team of lay people to visit some of our members who are unable to get to church. This team makes visits that include items to share from church, conversation, and holy communion. (Terri Discher, Kay Snuggerud, and Tari LaRue were the original team; since then, Tari needed to step away due to other commitments).

In July, retired Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen was brought on board to assist in visitation and to support the Visitation Lay Team. Since then, well over 100 contacts have been made with members at church, at home, and in care facilities. These include calls and cards as well as personal interactions. The team meets occasionally and has found resources to assist in visitation ministry which have been shared with other congregations who are thinking of starting a lay visitation team. Our team also receives items to share during their visits like the prayer cards circulated in the congregation late in the year.

The pastors on staff also continue their visitation ministry, more focused on hospital and hospice visitation, and pastoral conversations and planning around baptisms and funerals and other issues. Please keep this ministry in your prayers!

As we pray about once a quarter in worship: *Gracious God, bless the pastors and Lay Visitation Team members who visit others with open hearts and caring spirits. Remind us all that we are the body of Christ, and we all rejoice and suffer together. As those who visit embody your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive calls and cards, visits, and the sacrament of holy communion, so they may know and feel their continuing connection to this place; and bind us all together in your love and the abiding presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

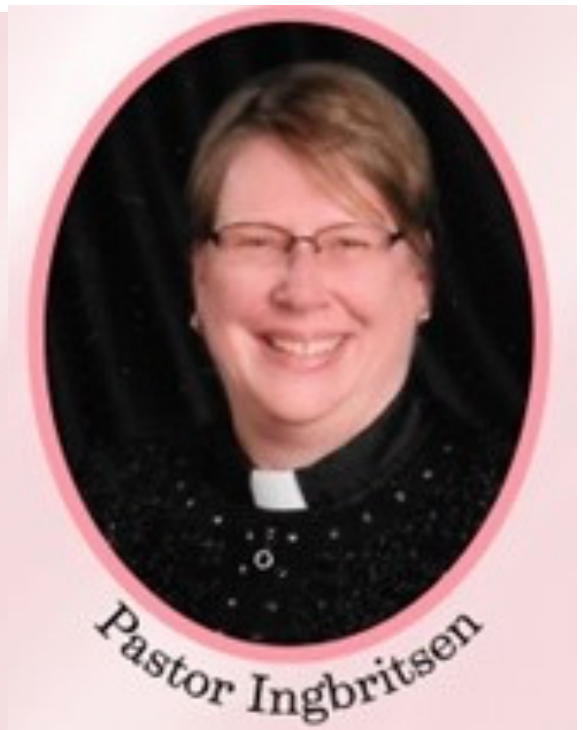
Blessing Our Parish Visitors

"Give them faith to
serve you with
gladness in this
ministry & kindle in
them your love so that
they see Jesus in
every face they visit.
Bless this holy work."
Amen!

from Sunday, April 14 Blessing



Kay Snuggerud, Tari LaRue, Terri Discher



Pastor Ingbritsen

Peli Preschool & Family Center Annual Report 2024

Peli Preschool and Family Center wrapped up another amazing year with many things to celebrate.

Highlights of our year:

- A curriculum check-in was held with Early Childhood Director staff at the school district, our directors and 3K/4K teachers. They helped us update our curriculum. It was mentioned that our Peli students have proven to be ready for kindergarten!
- State licensors had their annual visit in November. She commented on how positive the center felt, reviewed the grounds, and went over risk reduction plans.
- Our board has developed a Family Interview that will be given to families twice a year, at conferences times. This will gauge family satisfaction with the center.
- A security system was installed recently, giving families a greater sense of security with the doors locked.
- Kendra continues to hold “chapel time” with our students. They really enjoy their time sitting in the sanctuary and learning about Jesus. She also holds Friday night family times with Veggie Tales Movies, popcorn and supper!
- We’ve added to Taylor Lueck’s position and created time for her to direct the educational side of things: curriculum, staff training, and some of the administrative duties. She has a degree in Early Childhood Education.
- Deb White headed a Peli Toy Shower to update our toys, books and supplies for classrooms. Thanks, Deb, for thinking about this project.
- Peli purchased another shade sail to provide additional shade on our Toddler playground.

I want to end by thanking the staff at Peli for the wonderful gifts of inspiration they give to the children each and every day. I also want to thank all of our volunteers who deliver and serve lunch from La Crosse to Peli Preschool and Family Center.

Current Staff at Peli Preschool & Family Center (currently serving 38 children)

Haley Osborne –Director

Amy Hill – 4-K Teacher

Trinity Norman – 3-K Teacher

Taylor Lueck, Leah Thesing- Toddler # 1 Teachers

Violet Srock, Madison Marsh, Annaliese Bastyr, Bailey Fee- Toddler # 2 Teachers

Kate Walton, Jennifer Borkowski, Kari Feldman, Alexie Leonhardt- Infant Teachers

Peli had a busy 2024 as we continue to navigate staffing shortages. We are looking forward to a great 2025, full of exciting opportunities, and continued care for all children.

Thank You,

Haley Osborne

Director of Peli Preschool & Family Center

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Year End Financials 2024 Summary

2024 was a challenging year, in that many plans did not come to pass. Contributions to the General Fund lagged behind predictions. We are still waiting for the ERC credits, which were intended to help finance a deficit position this year. On the other hand, savings were achieved when we were without a Lead Pastor for six months. This was not a sustainable or desirable situation, but it did help us get through the year without borrowing on our line of credit or using ERC dollars. Overall, our General Fund cash declined by \$8,915.

A very generous bequest of \$96,000 was received at the end of 2024. It is being held in a separate fund until its final use can be determined by the Council. There are very few restrictions on its use but the family would like to be kept updated on our plans.

The entire line of credit of \$125,000 is available at 6.25%. It was not used during 2024.

Peli Family Center net revenue from tuition did not achieve budgeted levels due to lower than anticipated enrollment and higher than expected discounts.

The State of Minnesota continues to support daycare/preschool operators via its "Great Start Program". The grant is to be spent on sustaining and expanding the improvements in pay and benefits that have been made, and will be made, for Peli staff. The grants exceeded budget.

Expenses for the Center were below budget. Staffing shortages continue to plague the Center. Supplies and other costs were also below budget due to an increased focus on expense control. As a result, cash levels remained virtually unchanged from last year.

Looking ahead to 2025: The stewardship drive that was conducted in the fall of 2024 yielded a substantial increase in predicted General Fund giving, creating some breathing room in the 2025 budget. We will be fully staffed for the entire year and will experience higher costs than we did in 2024. Also, as reported last year, the Church applied for Employee Retention Credits (CARES Act) for the six calendar quarters during which the State restricted its ability to fully operate. Claims totaled \$296,000. The IRS placed a moratorium on processing claims received after September 30 of 2023, only recently resuming processing of the claims. It is hoped that the proceeds will be received in 2025. The Council is developing a plan for the use of this money: the intent is to focus primarily on expenditures that will have a long-term impact on the operations of the Church and Peli; perhaps to update or replace or enhance major equipment or building systems, or to provide seed money for new programs.

Thank you all for your generous support of Prince of Peace and its ministries.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patti Dockendorff, Treasurer

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Statement of Financial Position
General Fund

December 31, 2024 and 2023

	12/31/2024	12/31/2023	\$ Change
Assets			
Cash			
Checking	\$ 11,982	\$ 28,710	\$ (16,728)
Savings - General and Earmarked	1,422	(6,376)	7,798
Total Cash	<u>\$ 13,404</u>	<u>\$ 22,334</u>	<u>\$ (8,930)</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 13,404</u>	<u>\$ 22,334</u>	<u>\$ (8,930)</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payroll taxes & Withholdings	\$ (15)	\$ -	\$ (15)
Line of Credit <i>(\$125,000 available, not used)</i>	-	-	\$ -
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ (15)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (15)</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ (15)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (15)</u>
Net Assets			
Unrestricted			
General Fund	\$ 13,419	\$ 22,334	\$ (8,915)
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>\$ 13,419</u>	<u>\$ 22,334</u>	<u>\$ (8,915)</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>\$ 13,404</u>	<u>\$ 22,334</u>	<u>\$ (8,930)</u>

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Statement of Activities
General Fund
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	Budget	Actual	Prior Yr
Revenue			
Unrestricted Gifts & Offerings	\$ 430,448	\$ 421,781	\$ 429,272
Other Operating Revenue (Net)	-	340	389
Total Revenue	\$ 430,448	\$ 422,121	\$ 429,661

Operating Expenses

Compensation - Salaries and Wages	\$ 251,329	\$ 230,805	\$ 246,616
Compensation - Taxes and Benefits	106,195	83,366	100,185
Contracted Services	27,141	38,262	27,026
Supplies and Other	35,585	22,809	24,702
Tithes and Contributions	44,545	42,152	44,395
Utilities and Insurance	50,263	48,227	43,407
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 515,058	\$ 465,621	\$ 486,331

Other Revenue and (Expenses)

Interest Income	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,564	\$ 1,968
Miscellaneous Income	-	1,153	129
Interest Expense	(1,250)	-	-
Bank Service Charges	(960)	(960)	(941)
Online Giving Expenses	(400)	(276)	(326)
Total Other Revenue (Expenses)	\$ (910)	\$ 1,481	\$ 830

Other Financial Sources (Uses)

Transfers from Peli Family Center Fund	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Transfers from Scrip Fund	5,000	3,232	5,422
Transfer from Kitchen Ministry Fund	-	-	500
Transfer from Youth - VBS Fund	-	-	366
Transfer from Youth - Workcamp Fund	-	527	-
Transfer from ERC Credit Fund	50,000	-	-
Transfers (net) from Inactive Funds	-	1,666	-
Transfer to Instrument Maintenance Fund	(400)	(400)	(400)
Transfer to Sabbatical Fund - Lead Pastor	(1,150)	(1,150)	(1,150)
Transfer to Sabbatical Fund - Assoc Pastor	(771)	(771)	(771)
Total Other Financial Sources (Uses)	\$ 82,679	\$ 33,104	\$ 33,967

**Net Revenue Over (Under) Expenses
and Transfers**

\$ (2,841)	\$ (8,915)	\$ (21,873)
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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Peli Family Center, Large Motor Equipment, Restricted Gifts Funds

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2024 and 2023

	12/31/2024	12/31/2023	\$ Change
Assets			
Cash			
Checking	\$ 16,364	\$ 9,115	\$ 7,249
Savings - Donor-Restricted	\$ 2,931	\$ 3,190	(259)
Savings - General and Earmarked	74,025	80,259	(6,234)
Total Cash	<u>\$ 93,320</u>	<u>\$ 92,564</u>	<u>\$ 756</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 93,320</u>	<u>\$ 92,564</u>	<u>\$ 756</u>
Net Assets			
Restricted			
Peli Restricted Gifts Fund	\$ 2,931	\$ 3,190	(259)
Total Restricted	<u>\$ 2,931</u>	<u>\$ 3,190</u>	<u>(259)</u>
Unrestricted			
Peli Family Center	\$ 90,389	\$ 89,374	\$ 1,015
Total Unrestricted	<u>\$ 90,389</u>	<u>\$ 89,374</u>	<u>\$ 1,015</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 93,320</u>	<u>\$ 92,564</u>	<u>\$ 756</u>

Statement of Activities

Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	Budget	Actual	Prior Yr
Revenue from Operations			
Tuition/Fees/Registrations	\$ 424,065	\$ 399,065	\$ 380,615
MN DHS Grant	52,800	61,216	58,494
Total Operating Revenue	<u>\$ 476,865</u>	<u>\$ 460,281</u>	<u>\$ 439,109</u>
Operating Expenses			
Compensation - Salaries and Wages	\$ 377,240	\$ 371,456	\$ 409,142
Compensation - Taxes and Benefits	28,859	28,416	31,300
Contracted Services	2,300	2,100	2,301
Supplies and Other	34,650	29,111	29,070
Utilities and Insurance	4,716	3,501	3,180
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 447,765</u>	<u>\$ 434,584</u>	<u>\$ 474,993</u>
Other Revenue and (Expenses)			
Donations and Fundraisers	\$ 500	\$ 4,663	\$ 2,645
Miscellaneous Income	-	1,613	48,000
Other Expense	(1,500)	(1,217)	(1,217)
Total Other Revenue (Expenses)	<u>\$ (1,000)</u>	<u>\$ 5,059</u>	<u>\$ 49,428</u>
Other Financial Sources (Uses)			
Transfer to General Fund	\$ (30,000)	\$ (30,000)	\$ (30,000)
Total Other Financial Sources (Uses)	<u>\$ (30,000)</u>	<u>\$ (30,000)</u>	<u>\$ (30,000)</u>
Net Revenue Over (Under) Expenses and Transfers	<u>\$ (1,900)</u>	<u>\$ 756</u>	<u>\$ (16,456)</u>

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Cemetery Association and Cemetery Perpetual Care**

**Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2024 and 2023**

	12/31/2024	12/31/2023	\$ Change
Assets			
Checking and Savings			
Checking	\$ 1,298	\$ 5,367	\$ (4,069)
Savings - Edward Jones	147,237	129,126	18,111
Mission Investment Fund CDs	-	-	-
Total Checking and Savings	\$ 148,535	\$ 134,493	\$ 14,042
Total Assets	\$ 148,535	\$ 134,493	\$ 14,042
Net Assets			
Restricted			
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 132,778	\$ 114,402	\$ 18,376
Unrestricted			
Cemetery Association	\$ 15,757	\$ 20,091	\$ (4,334)
Total Net Assets	\$ 148,535	\$ 134,493	\$ 14,042

**Statement of Activities
Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

	2024	2023
Revenue		
Donor-Restricted Gifts	\$ -	\$ 2,420
Cemetery Plot & Columbarium Sales	1,900	6,150
Grave Opening Fees	5,675	2,225
Perpetual Care Fees	3,000	2,800
Sexton Fees	742	550
Other Fees	350	75
Total Revenue	\$ 11,667	\$ 14,220
Expenses		
Purchased Services	\$ 827	\$ 300
Sexton Fees	442	300
Grave Opening Expense	5,825	1,375
Grounds Upkeep	1,081	6,279
Other Equipment/Repair	-	168
Equipment	4,137	1,499
Gas & Oil	530	485
Maintenance & Cleaning Supplies	97	183
Electricity	810	816
Total Expenses	\$ 13,749	\$ 11,405
Other Revenue		
Investment Income (net of fees)	\$ 16,124	\$ 9,951
Net Revenue Over Expenses	\$ 14,042	\$ 12,766

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Endowment Interest and Principal Funds

Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2024 and 2023

	12/31/2024	12/31/2023	\$ Change
Assets			
Checking and Savings			
Checking	\$ 6,583	\$ 8,138	\$ (1,555)
Mission Investment Fund CDs	64,700	74,700	(10,000)
Total Checking and Savings	<u>\$ 71,283</u>	<u>\$ 82,838</u>	<u>\$ (11,555)</u>
Other Investments			
ELCA Foundation Ministry Growth Fund	\$ 30,238	\$ 26,137	\$ 4,101
US Treasury I-Bond	10,000	10,000	-
Certificates of Deposit; Securities America	35,393	25,538	9,855
Total Other Investments	<u>\$ 75,631</u>	<u>\$ 61,675</u>	<u>\$ 13,956</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 146,914</u>	<u>\$ 144,513</u>	<u>\$ 2,401</u>
Net Assets			
Restricted			
Endowment Principal Fund	\$ 139,478	\$ 135,402	\$ 4,076
Unrestricted			
Endowment Earnings Fund	\$ 7,436	\$ 9,111	\$ (1,675)
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 146,914</u>	<u>\$ 144,513</u>	<u>\$ 2,401</u>

Statement of Activities
Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
Revenue		
Donor-Restricted Gifts	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenue	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Expenses		
Baptismal Baskets	\$ 972	\$ 947
Blood Drive Expenses	284	-
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 1,256</u>	<u>\$ 947</u>
Other Revenue		
Investment Income	\$ 8,313	\$ 5,966
Other Financial Sources (Uses)		
Transfer to Endowment Earnings Fund	\$ 3,710	
Transfer from Endowment Principal Fund	\$ (3,710)	
Transfer to Youth - Workcamp Fund	\$ (4,656)	\$ -
Net Revenue Over (Under) Expenses and Transfers	<u>\$ 2,401</u>	<u>\$ 5,019</u>

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Building Fund Activity

	2024 Cash Activity
Balances at Start of Year	\$ 14,637
Donations Received	24,813
Interest Income	1,290
	-
HVAC repairs	(8,871)
Security system	(7,627)
Bell tower repair	(2,964)
WiFi upgrade	(1,497)
Misc repairs	(270)
Balances at End of Year	<u>\$ 19,511</u>

Notes:
Average annual contributions to this fund over last 6 years \$ 26,814
\$15,000 was transferred to the LED Lighting Fund in mid-January 2025.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

LED Lighting Fund Activity

	2024 Cash Activity
Balances at Start of Year	\$ 1,000
Donations Received	10,590
Interest Income	-
Lighting Project	(64,364)
Balances at End of Year	<u>\$ (52,774)</u>

Notes:
Grant monies of \$22,126 were received the first week of January 2025.
\$15,000 was transferred from the Building Fund to this Fund in mid-January 2025.
The remaining balance, \$15,648, will be covered by a combination of future donor-restricted gifts or a transfer from the General Fund.

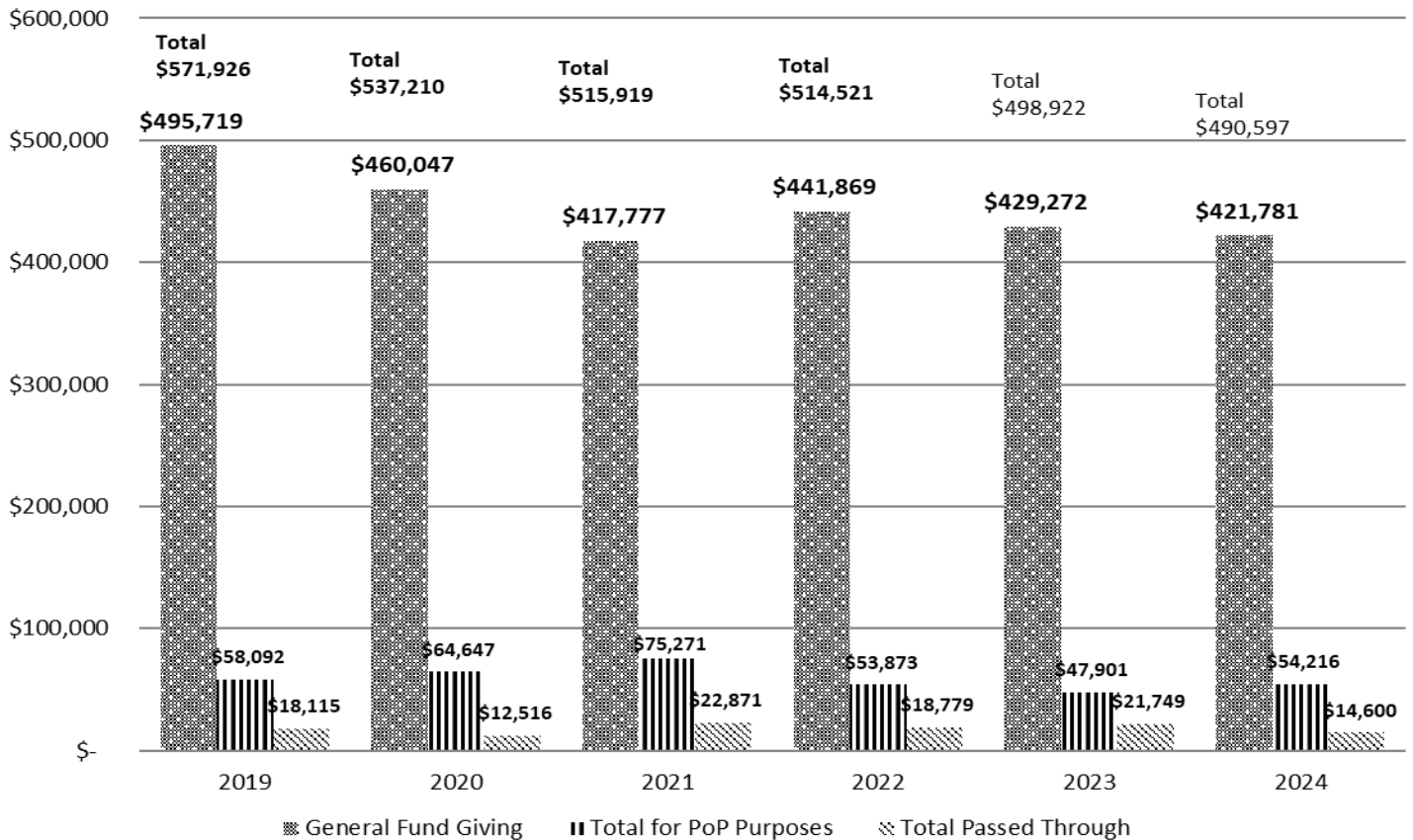
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Change in Net Assets - All Funds

January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Fund	Starting Balance	Receipts	Disbursement	Transfers	Ending Balance
Archive Church Records Fund (R)	\$ 1,692	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,692)	\$ 0
AV Equipment Fund (R)	520	595	548	28	595
Bells of Peace Fund (R)	2,461	110	-	-	2,571
Bequest - Major Gifts Committee (U)	-	96,000	-	-	96,000
Block Party Fund (R)	1,323	-	-	-	1,323
Building Fund (R)	14,637	26,103	21,229	-	19,511
Cemetery Association (U)	20,090	9,416	13,749	-	15,757
Cemetery Perpetual Care (R)	114,402	18,376	-	-	132,778
Chair Replacement Fund (R)	500	-	498	(2)	-
Endowment Earnings Fund (U)	9,111	4,237	1,257	(4,656)	7,435
Endowment Principal Fund (R)	135,402	4,076	-	-	139,478
ERC Proceeds Fund (U)	(9,000)	-	7,492	-	(16,492)
First Communion Cups (R)	55	-	69	14	-
General Fund (U)	22,334	426,056	468,076	33,105	13,419
Gods Glory Garden (R)	396	-	37	-	359
Instrument Maintenance Fund (U)	2,350	-	-	400	2,750
Kitchen Ministry Fund (U)	2,034	11,308	10,266	-	3,076
LED Lighting Fund (R)	1,000	10,590	64,364	-	(52,774)
Library Fund (R)	183	-	-	-	183
Lilly Grant Fund	4,880	-	1,889	(133)	2,858
Liturgical Arts Fund (R)	1,286	-	-	-	1,286
Making God Visible Fund (U)	460	-	-	-	460
Memorial Book Box Fund (R)	415	-	-	-	415
Music Ministry Fund (R)	1,714	875	873	-	1,716
Peli Family Center (U)	89,374	464,103	433,088	(30,000)	90,389
Peli Restricted Gifts Fund (R)	3,190	3,275	3,534	-	2,931
Prayer Shawl Fund (formerly Par Nse Fd)	149	-	-	(149)	-
PT - Beyond Doors Local Fund (R)	-	970	970	-	-
PT - ELCA World Hunger Fund (R)	-	4,467	4,467	-	-
PT - LIRS (R)	-	-	-	-	-
PT - Local Food Shelf Fund (R)	-	1,387	1,387	-	-
PT - Lutheran Disaster Respons (R)	-	1,600	1,600	-	-
PT - Lutheran World Relief (R)	-	-	-	-	-
PT - Pastor Emergency Fund (R)	195	6,176	6,371	-	-
PT - Sugar Creek Bible Camp	-	-	-	-	-
Quilters Fund (R)	333	624	12	-	945
Refugee Response Fund (R)	1,408	6,843	6,318	-	1,933
Sabbatical Fund - Assoc Pastor (U)	3,573	-	-	771	4,344
Sabbatical Fund - Lead Pastor (U)	6,135	-	-	1,150	7,285
Scrip Program (U)	15,726	74,900	75,833	(3,232)	11,561
Staff Support Fund (R)	767	-	181	-	586
Stewardship Fund (U)	873	-	1,161	-	(288)
Third Grade Bibles Fund (R)	(102)	-	-	102	-
Unrestricted Memorials Fund (U)	3,736	2,089	668	-	5,157
Visitation Fund (R)	16,108	1,750	3,198	257	14,917
Womens Retreat Fund (R)	108	-	-	(108)	0
Youth - After School Fund (R)	-	50	-	37	87
Youth - Sugar Cr Camperships (R)	756	1,110	1,261	-	605
Youth - VBS Fund (R)	17	67	76	53	61
Youth - Workcamp Fund (R)	1,310	22,293	28,909	4,128	(1,178)
Youth Ministry Fund (R)	13,455	835	898	(73)	13,319
Totals	\$ 485,357	\$ 1,200,281	\$ 1,160,279	\$ -	\$ 525,359

Prince of Peace Total Giving



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024**
Gifts for Prince of Peace Special Purpose						
Building Fund	\$ 25,542	\$ 26,280	\$ 34,469	\$ 27,833	\$ 21,947	\$ 24,813
LED Lighting Fund					\$ 1,000	\$ 10,590
Music Related (BoP, Music Min, Instr Repair)	\$ 590	\$ 610	\$ 825	\$ 805	\$ 1,155	\$ 985
Debt Reduction	\$ 14,135	\$ 26,680	\$ 17,965	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Refugee Response	\$ 6,904	\$ 1,886	\$ 760	\$ 1,350	\$ 5,630	\$ 6,844
Parish Nurse/Visitation Ministry	\$ 120	\$ 190	\$ 4,505	\$ 9,775	\$ 7,292	\$ 1,750
Peli Preschool and Family Center	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,851	\$ 2,320	\$ 3,275
Various Youth (Camperships, WorkCamp, VBS)*	\$ 6,357	\$ 5,498	\$ 1,396	\$ 7,192	\$ 1,833	\$ 3,192
Undesignated Memorials	\$ 3,278	\$ 2,235	\$ 9,646	\$ 2,426	\$ 3,304	\$ 2,088
Cemetery Association	\$ 220	\$ 220	\$ 2,450	\$ 630	\$ 2,420	\$ -
Endowment Principal	\$ -	\$ 35	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Various	\$ 946	\$ 1,013	\$ 3,055	\$ 1,011	\$ 1,000	\$ 679
Total for PoP Purposes	\$ 58,092	\$ 64,647	\$ 75,271	\$ 53,873	\$ 47,901	\$ 54,216

* Does not include fundraisers such as Stock Sales, Breakfasts, Sub Sales, etc.

** Does not include \$96,000 bequest received at year end - as yet undesignated

Gifts Passed Through to Other Charities

ELCA/Lutheran Causes	\$ 5,338	\$ 6,008	\$ 13,531	\$ 10,002	\$ 12,608	\$ 6,067
Local Food Shelf/Other Local Charities	\$ 6,025	\$ 5,153	\$ 5,610	\$ 1,212	\$ 2,706	\$ 2,357
Pastor's Emergency Fund	\$ 6,752	\$ 1,355	\$ 3,730	\$ 7,565	\$ 6,435	\$ 6,176
Total Passed Through	\$ 18,115	\$ 12,516	\$ 22,871	\$ 18,779	\$ 21,749	\$ 14,600

Electronic Giving at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Many donors enjoy the convenience of using some type of electronic giving instead of using cash or checks. One option for E-giving is to authorize the Church's bank to make automatic weekly or monthly ACH withdrawals from the donor's account. Another method to give electronically is by using the Tithe.ly application on your smartphone.

Last year, the church received 20% of its donations electronically.

E-giving with Merchants Bank

Merchants Bank is our regular bank. To do either weekly or monthly withdrawals from your checking or savings account, you contact Michelle in the church office for a form stating how much you choose to have withdrawn, which way (monthly or weekly), your choice for where the money is to go, i.e., regular giving, building fund or other giving. Then you will list your financial institution and your bank account number using a voided check or deposit slip. The information will be put into a special computer program at Merchants Bank and automatically be withdrawn each week or month.

Tithe.ly App Mobile Giving and Online Giving

Mobile: Download the tithe.ly app from Google Play or the app store. Online Giving: visit <https://get.tithe.ly/>
The Tithe.ly transaction fees are as follows: Credit / debit card transactions: 2.9% + 0.30 per transaction.
Example: \$100 donation --> \$96.80 deposited. Or \$50 donation---> \$48.25 donation. You may choose to pay transaction fees or have it come out of your donation. Minimum \$5 donation is required.

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN

Membership Record	2021	2022	2023	2024
Baptized [start of the year]	970	890	825	834
Confirmed [start of the year]	694	713	596	599
Detailed Statistics				
Baptisms	16	14	16	14
Confirmed this year (10th & 11th graders)	28	11	9	11
Confirmands now being instructed:				
8th Grade	15	14	12	13
9th Grade	17	13	13	16
Weddings	7	6	4	0
Funerals/Deaths (Members & Non-Members)	17	12	17	13
Transfers Out (Baptized)	10	10	4	6
Moved To Non-Participation (Baptized)	2	155	3	62
Received (Baptized)	35	5	15	12

Prince of Peace Cemetery Association

2024 Annual Report

The Prince of Peace Cemetery Board submits the following report for the 2024 calendar year.

Grounds – With the grounds crew of Don Hill, Les Snuggerud, Steve Chapman, Richard Jore, & David Loberg, the cemetery is kept as one of the best in Tri-State area. A workday in May was held and mulch was placed around the planters, bushes, and the gazebo. The below-ground pressure tank was replaced with an above-ground model and Les Snuggerud built an enclosure for it. A workday was also held in October.

Financial – See page 21 of this report. The Perpetual Care Fund balance of \$132,778 is invested in an Edward Jones Account. The Cemetery Association Fund balance is \$15,757; with \$1,298 in checking and the rest in the Edward Jones Account.

Personnel – The following individuals were elected to the Cemetery Board in 2024 for a 3-year term; Bruce Bauer, David Loberg and Greg Stremcha. Elected as officers, Joel Affeldt; President, David Ebner; Vice President, David Loberg; Secretary, and Bruce Bauer; Treasurer.

The Cemetery Board recognizes Richard Jore for his many years of service on the board. Richard was a charter member of the Cemetery Board dating back to 1987. In addition to volunteering countless hours to the upkeep of the cemetery, Richard has faithfully served as a long-time member of the board, serving as board president from 2007-2021. *Thank you, Richard!*

Observances – Pastor Anna presided over the Memorial Day service which was held in conjunction with the La Crescent American Legion. Following the service, refreshments were served by the Cemetery Board.

Other – The Cemetery Board appreciates the assistance of volunteers during the year and especially on designated workdays. The Board also thanks those who support the Cemetery through gifts, memorials, and bequests. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by

Prince of Peace Cemetery Association Board

Joel Affeldt-President, David Ebner-Vice President, David Loberg-Secretary, Bruce Bauer-Treasurer, Dewey Severson-Sexton, Tim Ferkingstad, Don Hill, Richard Jore, Gary Larson, Paul Harris - Council Representative, Pastor Kary Jonas.

2025 Nominations for Cemetery Board members are:

Don Hill, Scott Pechacek, Les Snuggerud

Prince of Peace Scrip Program-2024 Year in Review

The Scrip Program allows Prince of Peace to buy gift cards from area businesses and the RAISE RIGHT company at a discounted price, then sell them at face value. The Scrip Program was started in 2011 by the Peli Preschool program to raise funds. In 2025, the funds raised will go to the General Fund to help offset expenses. In 2024, total funds raised were \$3,553.

Many local businesses participate in the Scrip Program: Kaddy's Kafe, Sports Hub, Corky's, Time Out Tavern, Swing Bridge Pub, Quillin's, Hy-Vee, Festival, Woodman's and Kwik Trip. Gift cards for big box retailers and chain restaurants are ordered from RAISE RIGHT. To see everything available from RAISE RIGHT, check their website at www.raiseright.com or ask for a "purple sheet" from Michelle in the church office. Ordering dates for RAISE RIGHT are published in the Prince of Peace on-line newsletter or if we get an order >\$200.

Scrip gift cards can be purchased in three ways:

- 1) In the narthex from volunteer Jim Hermes the first and third Sundays of every month.
- 2) From Michelle Tetzlaff in the church office during normal business hours, 8am-3pm Monday-Friday.

Scrip gift cards are easy to use, so please consider buying Scrip and supporting our local businesses and Prince of Peace at the same time! For any questions about purchasing Scrip, contact Michelle in the church office or myself @ princeofpeacescrip@gmail.com.

Thanks for your support and the continued success of the Scrip Program at Prince of Peace.

Terri Discher, Scrip Program Coordinator

American Red Cross La Crescent Community Blood Drive 2024

Nationally, during 2024 the need for blood remained high and the supply was in heavy demand. A national blood shortage continues across the United States. All blood donated in our area stays in our area, so you are helping your fellow family and neighbors with your donation. **Five** American Red Cross La Crescent Community Blood Drives were held at Prince of Peace during 2024.

166 units of blood were collected in 2024, a decrease of 15 units from 2023. A decrease is not the goal. One of the biggest reasons may have been the drive the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend. Numbers were very low that day on a weekend when demand may have been large.

The tentative schedule for 2025 has been established. The first drive for 2025 is scheduled for Friday, February 14th from 11:00 - 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider giving the Gift of Life to another by scheduling your donation time now.

A huge THANK YOU:

- To the Church Council and pastors for their continued support of Prince of Peace's sponsorship of the Community Blood Drive.
- The Endowment Committee for their donation towards snacks for each drive
- Michelle and the Custodians who do their best to make the site welcoming and the drive successful
- To the volunteers who distribute posters, put our yard signs, and staff the registration table and the refreshment area for each drive. They show hospitality to all who come to the blood drive. New volunteers are always welcome!
- **To the donors who deserve special recognition for giving their time and blood. Your gift can save lives! Thank you!**

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Jerviss

Blood Program Leader La Crescent Community Blood Drive

Building & Grounds Committee Job listing for the Fix-It-Fellows - 2024

- Mowing of Church Lawn- John Haugan
- Peli Toddler - Shade Sail; Up - May, down - Nov. 2024
- Yearly Spring / Fall Maintenance on John Deere mower; Les Snuggerud
- Re-glue vinyl trim in many places within the church; Les
- Re-attached backboard on Peli Lockers; Les
- Repaired small tabletop in fellowship hall, Les
- Replaced ceiling tile north stairwell, Les
- Replaced two front tires on church riding mower: Les
- Bird Nest in bell tower, netting removed & replaced with wood block barrier, Les & Dewey Severson
- Bulb Recycling, Houston Co Recycling Day, April 25; Les
- Planted oak tree east lawn by driveway, Dewey
- Re-tied metal clips on Toddler North playground, Dewey
- Disposed of small classroom refrigerator, Les July 2024
- Drilled holes in art easel on playground, Dewey July 2024
- Grease trap in kitchen, cleaned out A-1 Pumping, Les assist July 2024
- Replaced Peli Soap dispensers, Les & Dewey July 2024
- Hung miscellaneous items around church & Peli classrooms, Les Dec. 2024
- Installed new shelf in T-2-bathroom stall for students supplies, Les Dec. 2024
- Installed art display boards for 4-K classroom, Les Dec. 2024
- Reenforced candle room shelving - support and add shelves, Les Dec. 2024

**Many thanks for the
hard work, hours, and
the care of our
building and grounds
from members of
Prince of Peace.**

**Truly we are blessed at
Prince of Peace to
have you all.**

Contracted Updating/Remodeling for Current Year

- PreMar Security; New main door security installed, Feb. 2024
- Deml Controls, New I-vu Controls for Roof Top Unit, Feb. 2024
- P & T Electric, replaced all fixtures with LED bulbs & ballast, Sept. - Dec. 2024
- Wieser Brothers, South Bell Tower: Soffit Repair & wood replaced, Oct. 2024

Contracted Repair for Current Year

- Bob Mach-Fellowship Hall Men's urinal, replaced hand valve, Jan 2024
- Bob Mach - water fountains throughout the building; adjust stream, Jan 2024
- P & T Electric, replacing electrical components on handicap west door, March 2024
- Steam cleaned carpets: 5 Peli classrooms each time, Lead Pastor Office, misc. office chairs, Niebeling Carpet, Feb. 2024, July 2024, Oct. 2024
- Woody's Tree Service (David Baumgartner) cut 4 maple trees on North lawn, May & July 2024
- Performance Foods (Reinhart), kitchen, dishwasher repair (water leak, hose repair) June 2024
- A-1 Pumping – kitchen grease trap cleaned, July 2024
- Woody's Tree Service, removed 3 large bushes from behind east fence, Sept. 2024

Year to Year Maintenance Contracts:

- Deml Controls, Changed filters & monthly church-wide inspections of HVAC.
- Schumacher Elevator Company, quarterly checkup of elevator & controls

Prince of Peace Food Ministry Team Report for 2023 Annual Report

The Prince of Peace Food Ministry Team is a dedicated group of Prince of Peace members who are committed to the mission of building Christ-centered relationships and community through the preparation and sharing of food with others. We oversee several important Prince of Peace ministries including meals for unsheltered neighbors, meals for our congregation during Lent, summer picnics, Wednesday suppers and Advent meals, funeral luncheon and Sunday Coffee Fellowship. We also collaborate with Kendra Wieser in her Faith Formation efforts with Baptismal Families, and Elementary and Middle School aged students. In addition, last June, our Food Ministry Team headed up the meal/refreshment planning for the La Crosse Area Synod Assembly. That included planning, securing and organizing a catered breakfast and lunch as well as refreshments for breaks at the Assembly, and securing and organizing a catered Chicken Q for the picnic lunch after Synod Wide Sunday Worship in Riverside Park. In 2025, we will again be in charge of securing catering and organizing the picnic after the Synod Wide Worship at Riverside Park on Sunday, June 8. We have other ideas for adding to our ministries in 2025 as well.

We have partnered with Sue Graf of “What I Need Now (WINN)” to feed and provide needed cold weather items to our unsheltered neighbors. This fall, through an envelope offering, and a drive through Soup Supper, the generosity of our congregation and community resulted in \$2400 in donations that were used to purchase warm gloves, long underwear sets, hats, mittens, scarves and boots, and hand/feet warmers for Sue Graf to share with those who need them.

Our expenses for food are primarily paid for through the generosity of our Prince of Peace members. For most of our congregational meals, we collect freewill offerings, and our congregation responds with amazing generosity. Other streams of income include gifts directly to Food Ministries and gratuities by families as a token of gratitude for our teams who set up, serve and clean-up funeral luncheons.

In 2025, we plan to continue the current work we’re doing, both inside the walls of Prince and Peace and outside of our walls. We’re always looking to find meaningful new ministries to experiment with, and to find and welcome more worker bees and leaders to join this wonderful ministry! Watch for our “You Can Be a Worker Bee” sign up opportunity in the spring, when you can add your name to our Worker Bee list and become a part of this meaningful and rewarding ministry. Actually, if you’re interested in joining us, you can do that at any time by letting one of us know, by calling, texting, email or talking at church!

Bobbie Bringe
608-738-4205

Bringe.roberta1@gmail.com

Nancy Wright
608-769-8858

nwcripplecreek@yahoo.com

Bobbi Haugan
507-429-2716

bobbihaugan@gmail.com

The past year has again been an exceptional one for the Food Shelf. As the numbers below reflect, the need continues to grow here in our community much like it has across the country. Incredibly, our volunteers and donors have stepped up to meet that need and for that we are most grateful. The Food Shelf experienced record-breaking household visits and increased needs during 2024, an increase from 77 to 85 households each week. By the end of 2024, half of the open weekdays had over 40 and up to 55 households visit in a 4 hour period. Many new shoppers have found us and are so grateful for the assistance making ends meet. We distributed over 180,000 pounds (90 tons!) of food in 2024, an increase of 24% over the 146,000 pounds of food in 2023, and a 52% increase over the 118,000 pounds in 2022. We are averaging between 14,000 and 15,000 pounds of food each month! We had 4,349 household visits in 2024. These large numbers of people served and food distributed represents an amazing amount of work performed by our dedicated group of over 100 active volunteers.

We are so grateful to the La Crescent-Hokah School District for the use of this beautiful space. We discontinued the backpack food program at the Elementary School, and we instead focused on working with school staff to make sure we find the best ways to help any children and families that need assistance. We completed the work of our Food System Transformation Grant from the Foundation For Essential Needs (FFEN) and Channel One Food Bank. A consultant developed a brochure to have in our community, and we purchased a big new sign on our building, so people can easily find us. We also received a SHIP grant to improve our inside signage, making it easy for shoppers to understand the categories of foods and how many choices they can choose from each section. We did this with the guidance and support from SuperShelf staff from the University of MN. Our goal is to make healthy fresh food choices easy, in a welcoming environment.

Community support continues to be very strong, from individuals, groups, businesses, schools and local churches. Our two annual 'proportional matching' grant fundraisers were successful. Our regular food drives (Halloween, Scouts & Letter Carriers) were successful but still at about half of what they were a few years ago. The CPKC Holiday Train had a pretty decent turnout considering the unusual time of 2 pm on Tuesday, Dec. 10th. Local schools held fundraisers to help us, and the Rotary Lights Food Collection was a very generous amount on Dec. 23rd, plus we received more food from their collections around the area. Local church support helps us greatly, and we received a new grant from the La Crosse church of one of our volunteers, First Congregational UCC. Ring and Run surprised us with a large donation this December, Thrivent Action Grants were helpful in our recognition and recruitment of volunteers, and the MN State Food Shelf Program Grant was increased to \$10,138.

We are also sustained by our food bank partners (Channel One Food Bank and The Hunger Task Force of La Crosse) and in September, Channel One increased deliveries to twice weekly trucks. Also new in the fall of 2024, we were fortunate to have donations of venison from Big Valley Meats in Houston, through the MN Hunter Donated Venison Program.

We received help this year through Xcel Energy's Non-Profit Energy Savings Program. We received the Business Energy Efficiency Grant through the MN Chamber of Commerce, and we have replaced our very old furnace and air conditioner. Also, Xcel will swap out our lighting for LED lights. These improvements will save us money on energy costs. We are very grateful for the help of the Wieser Brothers in replacing and enlarging our concrete pad outside our back door, which is very important for the high volume of food that comes to us each week.

We thank Steve Mau for creating the Margeen Mau Volunteer Service Award to donate in honor of a volunteer each year in memory of his wife Margeen. He chose to recognize Susan Oddsen for 2023, and for 2024 our volunteers elected Linda Thesing to receive this award. We honored her selfless and compassionate nature and her huge gifts of time helping manage operations. This fall, Volunteer Paula Konzem began making homemade laundry soap to give to our shoppers, with help from a Thrivent Action Grant card. In August, our Program Manager Susan Oddsen was chosen for the News 8 Hometown Hero Award. Volunteers secretly arrived when a truck was delivering food, and the news crew came in and filmed a nice video segment on our food shelf.

We are so grateful for all the support from our community. Thank you to all who have donated or volunteered and thank you to our shoppers for trusting us to share food with them and their families.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Oddsen, Program Manager

Refugee Response Team Annual Report for 2024

POP's Refugee Response Team has continued to carry out our mission which is: "We will make God's love for all people visible by welcoming, sharing and serving needs of migrants and refugees. We will learn about the process of immigration and about the needs of refugees and immigrants, while furthering our understanding and acceptance of diversity among people. We will act by advocating for and providing hope and a helping hand to support refugees, immigrants, and American citizens who are supporting family members who are refugees or immigrants." We work for AWARENESS, ACCOMPANIMENT, and ADVOCACY.

Here is a list of some of the things we have done in 2024:

- Donated to the following refugee projects: \$500 to a project of the Synod Migrant Justice Team to help with fees to provide basic services from an immigration lawyer to some immigrants in our synod; \$500 to Conversations with Friends, a program which provides for some of the needs of immigrants being held in detention in Minnesota.
- Paid \$300 per month for all of 2024 toward Zemecha's and Ojwor's rent (paid directly to the landlord). The reason we provided rental assistance was to support the needs of the growing young family. We gifted them with a car seat and a baby quilt to help them welcome their new baby girl. As planned several years ago, we raised all the funds needed to pay off the \$2,053 loan for the flights that brought Ojwor and Marobet to the U.S. for their family reunification. There was enough money left to cover a night's lodging for them at the La Crescent Best Western when we invited them to POP for a visit. They came from Albert Lea to worship and visit on October 13th. Marobet was presented a Bible and went to Faith Connect, Pastor Mark blessed the family, they visited during coffee hour, and the team enjoyed a simple luncheon with them after. They are very grateful for all we do. As they strive for independence while trying to navigate the systems and hurdles and the financial challenges that they encounter, our support now often comes in the form of advice.
- Individuals participated in Global Refuge (formerly LIRS) webinars and daily and weekly immigration updates from their website. Some attended the Immigration Summit in La Crosse and the Synod Immigration Webinar.
- Showed support to migrant families in detention by creating holiday cards and getting multiple signatures from the congregation, which were sent to Global Refuge for distribution for their "Hope for the Holidays" program.
- Continued to educate ourselves about refugee needs and ways to help those in our area and beyond. We shared that information with the congregation via announcements, bulletin board posts, and requests for support of projects. The bulletin board is located on the wall in the hallway across from the lounge. It contains updates, data, facts vs. myths, prayers, educational opportunities and announcements. There are many copies that are intended to be taken by interested individuals. Please check it out regularly and ask questions you may have.
- Prayers for refugees are included quite regularly in the church e-updates and are also available for take-home off the bulletin board.
- For 2025, we are planning a documentary movie night for our church and the community in collaboration with the La Crescent Public Library. We are also planning to participate in a La Crosse Area Synod book study during Lent with the book, "The Line Becomes a River." Both the documentary and the book are true life stories of people experiencing immigration at the U.S./Mexico border. Watch for more details!
- We are exploring ways to help our church members in advocacy.

Cyndy Reichgelt and Kathy Rosenberg serve on the Synod Church in Society Committee and its sub-committee the Migrant Justice Team. Cyndy will be part of a group doing a border immersion in late January and will plan to share her learnings. We find that our work at POP is influenced by what that sub-committee does. That is intentional!

We value the support of the congregation in this mission and we welcome anyone who would like to join our Refugee Response Team at POP!

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Rosenberg and Cyndy Reichgelt

Stewardship for All Seasons

The church council engaged Rev. Pete Reuss from GSB Fundraising to guide the Stewardship Team in best practices for an annual campaign and year-round stewardship education (hence the name: Stewardship for All Seasons).

Our annual campaign titled “A Firm Foundation for the Future” focused on three areas: 1) A Firm Foundation for the community, 2) A Firm Foundation for Creation, and 3) A Firm Foundation for the Church. For three Sundays in October, members of the congregation shared their excitement about how Prince of Peace reaches out to the community, how the LED project is good for the environment, and our budget and our excitement about the future of Prince of Peace with Pastor Libby Howe as our new Lead Pastor. Everyone was invited to prayerfully consider their financial support of ministry for 2025, and we were challenged by a small group of anonymous donors to exceed 140 individuals or households returning intention cards. **We received 147 intentions**, unlocking the \$10,000 challenge gift. We are pleased to say that our anticipated offering for 2025 has grown by \$55,643.

The Stewardship Team has turned from the annual appeal toward work on doing good storytelling about ministry at Prince of Peace and begun learning how to educate members about legacy gifts. Thank you to the committee members Tracy Jaquette (chair), Pastor Anna Sorenson, Pete Petersilie, Dave Peterson, and Steve Mau; stewardship speakers (Nancy Wright, Dave Peterson, and Hannah Pederson) and all who prayed and returned intention cards!

LED Lighting Project

LED lights are in place, helping us be good stewards of our electrical usage and of your offerings. The work was completed September through December; P & T Electric did a fantastic job installing new fixtures and bulbs and working around our busy building schedule. They also helped us complete an application for a clean energy grant with the state of MN. The new lights will give us an anticipated savings of \$500 per month on our electric bill.

The cost of this project will be covered as follows:

Designated gifts already received: \$11,590

Building Fund (2025): \$15,000

Clean Energy Grant, State of MN (2025): \$22,126

General fund or future designated gifts (2025): \$15,648 .

You’ll notice occupancy activated lights in bathrooms and some storage closets (they turn themselves off when the room is empty). Many of the fixtures are brighter – right after the lights were installed, we heard multiple “thank yous” from quilters and bell choir. Their ministries were made easier with brighter lights!

Sugar Creek Bible Camp Annual Report 2024

Your Ministry Impact: 2024 in Numbers

Your support for Sugar Creek Bible Camp makes a *lasting difference* for kids, families, and churches! You teach skills for faith & life to strengthen their connections to your church through fun, Christ-centered adventures. Youth face big new challenges, but Jesus answers in a *bigger* way, through you! Celebrate all the “God stories” you made possible this year:



Summer Bible Camp

20 unique **Summer Camp Programs** for K-12 & Families

448 Overnight Summer Campers

129 Explorer/Forester Day-Campers onsite + **50** at Congregational Day Camps

154 Family Campers

29 Summer Youth Ministry Staff + **42** Professional Leaders Volunteering

(pastors, youth leaders, nurses, doctors, & builders) at Summer Bible Camp

Special Programs led by Sugar Creek

- **20** Adult Programs & Events: craft retreats, bus trips, special events, and more
- **8** Weekend Youth Retreats including church lock-ins & synod youth events
- **3** Family Camp sessions with **36** families attending
- **33** Church Visits – preaching, WELCA, Council Visits, Camp Sundays & Trainings
- **15** Full-Time Equivalent (F.T.E.) Youth & Family Ministry staff employed at Sugar Creek through 2024, providing Christian Education *with* and *for* your church

Meaningful Retreats & Events

- **88** Retreats & Events at Sugar Creek in the “off season!” (Sept. to May)
- o **3592** guests at **116** events for Churches, Families, Schools, and Hobbyists
- o **117** guests at other **Christian Youth Retreats** at Sugar Creek
- o **898** guests at multiple **Outdoor Education Days**
- o **45** hard-working supporters at **3** Volunteer Weekend programs
- o **56** Volunteer Day events: Volunteer Tuesdays, Mass Mailing & more
- o **4176** guest-nights and **7227** guest-days graciously hosted
- o **52** of **52** **Weeks** of 2024 hosting groups and events in lodges & cabins!

All are Welcome at Bible Camp

272 Summer Bible Campers awarded **financial aid** from camp totaling **\$74,300**

+**15** Summer Bible Campers received extra need camperships totaling **\$7,740**

Recent Sugar Creek summer staff ordained as Lutheran Pastors in 2024: **+3**

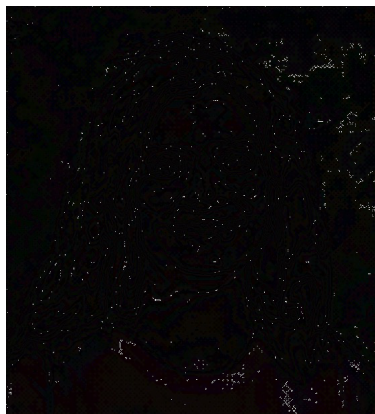
Contact Hours of intentional Christian Education this year at camp: **51,454***

*conservative estimate

Thank you for YOUR ministry to the future of our Church and World!

SugarCreekBibleCamp.org ☎ **608-734-3113** ☎ office@SgrCreek.org ☎ **ACA Accredited**

2025 Council Nominees



Melissa Lambrecht

Melissa has been a member of Prince of Peace since September of 1997. She and Eric have been married since 2013 and have three boys, Logan, Lyndon and Leyton. Melissa is a 3rd grade teacher at Houston School District.

How does Melissa see God at work through PoP? She sees God at work at PoP through our little ones. "The joy the children have when they collect money on Sunday is beyond fulfilling. Also, the children love to share stories and music with the congregation any chance they get. Besides all of this, they love to help others. They give and help others through community service projects. We are blessed to have such a great group of children being raised up in this congregation."



Terry S. Niebeling

Terry and his family just became members of Prince of Peace. He and Jessica have three children, Emerson, Teddy and Winona. Terry works for Viterbo University as a Maintenance Technician.

How does Terry see God at work through PoP? He sees God at work in the friendly and welcoming people and community within Prince of Peace. "We are so happy and proud to be members of Prince of Peace, and we look forward to worship each Sunday."



Barbara Olson

Barbara became a member of Prince of Peace in May 2024. Barbara is also the sister of Karen Bennett. She has volunteered at PoP for a variety of events as well as being an active participant in our Bells of Peace and Drum Circle group. She is a member of La Crosse Kiwanis Club and sings with the UW La Crosse Choral Union.

How does Barbara see God at work through PoP? She sees God at work in so many ways - serving the community through the Peli school and food ministries. "Children are encouraged to participate in worship, and teens are given the opportunity to serve through workcamp. God is also at work through the music ministry of the Bell Choir and drum circles, along with the music selected for the worship services. God's work is also seen in the welcoming atmosphere, which she experienced when she moved here. All churches hold worship services, but Prince of Peace emphasizes God's work outside our walls in the larger community."

2025 Council Nominees

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Hannah Pederson

Hannah became a member of Prince of Peace almost as soon as she was born back in 1992, being the daughter of David and Jane Peterson. She and Joe were married at Prince of Peace by Pastor Mike in 2018 and have two daughters, Avrie and Emery. She enjoys having both their girls currently in Peli, and her husband is the current the Chair of the Peli Advisory Board. Hannah also served on the Call Committee to call Pastor Libby. Hannah works for Emplify Health (formerly known as Gundersen Health System) as a Registered Nurse.

How does Hannah see God at work through PoP? She sees God at work at through Peli Preschool and Family Center, Faith Connect and our Food Ministry.



Keith Petras

Keith became a member of Prince of Peace back in 1998. Keith and Connie were married in 1989 and have two children, Aaron and Lindsey. Keith has volunteered over the years at Prince of Peace in many different ways, from being a past Council member to Stewardship Committee, Food Ministry, American Red Cross blood drives, and doing communion prep for Sunday worship.

How does Keith see God at work through PoP? He sees God at work at Prince of Peace in “using our building to provide meals for the community and to provide space for the Red Crosse blood drives.”



Nichole Pierce

Nichole and her family have been members of Prince of Peace since July 2023. She and Kris have been married since 2013 and have two children, Maxwell and Eleanor. Nichole works for Emplify Health (formerly known as Gundersen Health System) as a marketing consultant.

How does Nichole see God at work through PoP? She sees God through our support of WINN and the work of the Food Ministry team. It was the support of youth activities like year-round Sunday School (Faith Connect), JAM Club, VBS, and mission trips that drew her family to Prince of Peace. It is through our support of the youth that she sees God’s work the clearest.

Prince of Peace Delegate Information

Serving as a Prince of Peace Delegate means you are to be prepared to knowledgeably and faithfully vote in elections, approve ministry budgets, advocate for the needs and desire of the congregation to the meeting (without being beholden to “vote the way the congregation would”, and likewise advocate for the organization within the congregation. At their best, the delegate should be a means of communication and advocacy in both directions. Our expectation would be that the delegate would report to the congregation through a written report in the annual meeting booklet.

Synod Assembly Voting Members

Represent Prince of Peace at the La Crosse Area Synod Assembly, ***Fri.-Sun., June 6-8, 2025 in Westby, WI.*** There is a pre-assembly caucus (spring) with an expectation that the voting members will become informed on issues before the assembly (materials will be provided in advance). Most of what is voted on at assembly has been through the Executive Committee and comes to the voting members for final vote.

Attendance is expected at all sessions, Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. Friday night is opening with worship, Saturday is a full day, and Sundays seem to vary (always a worship +) depending on what is planned.

Nominating Committee

Work in the fall of 2025 to secure quality leadership for our church council and committees.

Sugar Creek Bible Camp Delegate

Represent Prince of Peace at the annual meeting of Sugar Creek Bible Camp in February 2025.

Eagle Crest Communities (formally known as Bethany Home) Delegate

Represent Prince of Peace at the Eagle Crest Communities Annual Meeting in spring 2025.

Major Gifts Committee: Serve alongside the lead pastor, president, treasurer, and chair of the Endowment Committee to receive, discern the use of, and manage large financial gifts in accordance with Prince of Peace's Major Gifts Policy. The term is for one year. The committee meets as needed at an agreed upon time of the members.

2025 Ballot of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Church Council

3 yr. term, vote for five **(5)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Barbara Olson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hannah Pederson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keith Petras
<input type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Lambrecht

<input type="checkbox"/>	Nichole Pierce
<input type="checkbox"/>	Terry S. Niebeling
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ (write-in)

Church Council Youth

1 yr. term, vote for two **(2)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	McKinley Stremcha
--------------------------	-------------------

<input type="checkbox"/>	Quinn Jorgenson
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ (write-in)

Endowment Committee

3 yr. term, vote for **two (2)**

☐ Kathy Ready

☐ Ron Wilke

☐ _____ (write-in)

Major Gift Committee

1 yr. term, vote for **one (1)**

☐ Sally Miner

☐ Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner

☐ _____ (write-in)

Nominating Committee

1 yr. term, vote for **three (3)**

☐ _____ (write-in)

☐ _____ (write-in)

☐ _____ (write-in)

Synod Assembly Voting Members

1 yr. term, vote for **four (4)**

☐ Peter Petersilie

☐ Christi Ziems

☐ _____ (write-in)

☐ _____ (write-in)

Synod Assembly Youth Delegate

1 yr. term, vote for **one (1)**

☐ _____ (write-in)

☐ _____ (write-in)

Eagle Crest Communities (Bethany Homes) Delegate

1 yr. term, vote for **two (2)**

☐ Sally Miner

☐ _____ (write-in)

Sugar Creek Bible Camp Delegate

1 yr. term, vote for **two (2)**

☐ Cyndy Reichgelt

☐ _____ (write-in)

Cemetery Board

3 yr. term, vote for **three (3)**

☐ Don Hill

☐ Scott Pechacek

☐ Les Snuggerud

☐ _____ (write-in)

Notes: