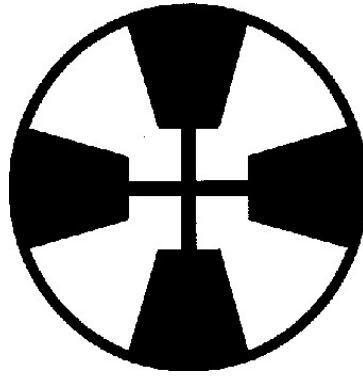




Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Annual
Congregational Meeting
for the year 2025
January 25th, 2026

*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

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

Founded on Faith

1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
 2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
 3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
 4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
 5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ered to serve,

pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
 Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
 Em - pow'ered to serve with gifts, both great and small,
 we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
 we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.

The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
 Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
 we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
 a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
 Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!

Al - le - lu - ia!

All Creation Sings, 1048
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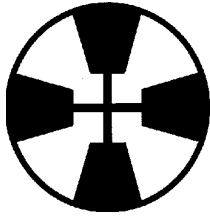
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, January 25, 2026

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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting of the Congregation - AGENDA
January 25, 2026

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Opening Liturgy & Prayer | Rev. Libby Howe |
| 2. Call to Order | Mark White, President |
| 3. Review & Approve Agenda | |
| 4. Review & Approve Minutes from 2025 Annual Meeting | |
| 5. Election | |
| a. Ballot Distribution | |
| b. Nominations from the Floor | |
| i. Church Council – Adult & Youth | |
| ii. Endowment Committee | |
| iii. Major Gifts Committee | |
| iv. Cemetery Board | |
| v. Synod Assembly – Adult & Youth | |
| vi. Sugar Creek Bible Camp | |
| vii. Eagle Crest Communities | |
| 6. ‘State of the Synod’ address (video) | Bishop Felix Malpica |
| 7. Legacy Gifts | Rev. Libby Howe |
| 8. 2025 Treasurer’s Report | Patti Dockendorff, Treasurer |
| 9. Youth Ministry (8 th -12 th Grades) | Beth Gonia |
| 10. 2025 Stewardship Report | Rev. Anna Sorenson |
| 11. Faith Formation Ministry | Kendra Wieser |
| 12. Employee Retention Credits | Members of Church Council |
| 13. Music Ministry | Maria Higgins |
| 14. 2026 Budget Presentation | Patti Dockendorff |
| 15. Engaging Children Initiative | Rev. Anna Sorenson and
Kendra Wieser |
| 16. Pastor’s Report | Rev. Libby Howe |
| 17. New Business | Mark White |
| a. Vote to Enter Reconciling in Christ discernment process | |
| b. Adopt 2026 Ministry Budget | |
| 18. Election Results | Barb Olson, Secretary |
| 19. Benediction | Rev. Anna Sorenson |

The Cemetery Board Annual Meeting will follow the Congregational Meeting.



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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

2025 CHURCH STAFF

Libby Howe
Lead Pastor

Anna Sorenson
Associate Pastor

Chris Gustufson (Retired 08/31/2025)
Director of Music Ministry

Kendra Wieser
Director of Faith Formation

Michelle Tetzlaff
Office Manager

Beth Gonias
Youth Director

Patti Dockendorff
Volunteer Treasurer

Cindee Bottcher
Bookkeeper (Retired 10/15/2025)

Bill Conroy
Custodian

David Riley
Peli Custodian

2025 PELI FAMILY CENTER STAFF

Haley Osborne – **Director**

Trinity Norman – **4-K Teacher**

Madison Marsh – **3-K Teacher**

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

Sara Nordmeyer, Brooke Soost - **Toddler # 2 Teachers**

Jennifer Borkowski, Kari Feldman, Alexie Leonhardt, MacKenzie Smith, Emma Hruby - **Infant Teachers**

Payton Carothers, Sydnee Werner, Bella Hollis, Sophia Meyer – **Float Teacher**

2025 PARISH VISITOR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen
Kay Snuggerud
Christi Ziems

Terri Discher
Seth Jones

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Mark White (2025)*
President

Ashley Hurley (2026)*
Vice President (Jan-Oct.)

Barbara Olson (2027)
Secretary

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joan Francois (2026)
Ashley Hurley (2026)
Terry Niebling (2026)
Keith Petras (2027)

Annette Gittens (2025)*
Quinn Jorgenson (2025)*
Hannah Pederson (2027)
Nichole Pierce (2027)

Paul Harris (2025)*
Susan Michalke (2025)*
Peter Petersilie (2026)
McKinley Stremcha (2025)*

***End of council term**

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2025

Minutes taken by Melissa Lambrecht (2024 council secretary)

Meeting was called to order at 10:35 am by Council President Mark White

There were 85 people in attendance in person and 10+ people online with zoom. Quorum was declared.

Pastor Libby Howe opened the meeting with a prayer.

A motion was made by Christi Ziems to approve the 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes, Motion was seconded by Jim Hermes. Motion was carried.

Ballots were handed out to participants via paper and Google forms link.

There was a motion made by Dave Ebner to accept the ballot as presented in entirety. Motion was seconded by Jim Hermes. Motion was carried.

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

- Gift of \$96,000 was given and is being held in a CD until designated for use
- Peli had a decline in enrollment in 3K/4K and suffered staffing shortages- maintained the budget
- Offerings are under budget, operating expenses are under budget due to not having a full-time pastor most of 2024
- \$30,000 transferred from Peli School and money is transferred to POP from Scrip Fund
- Applied in 2023 for Employee Retention Credits under the Cares Act (have not received this money yet)
- Church Council decided to hire a professional to help with Stewardship Campaign through Stewardship for All Seasons
- Insurance costs have gone up dramatically

Staff reports were given by Pastor Libby, Pastor Anna, and Joe Affeldt from the Cemetery Board. (Other staff reports are in the packet.) Pastor Libby focused on gratitude for all those that give to our church via staffing, volunteering, or monetary donation. Also, discussed goals for 2025. Pastor Anna focused on Engaging Children Initiative

New Business

2025 budget proposal was presented by Patti Dockendorff

- We are expecting a 15% increase for the year from giving
- \$18,445 from Engaging Children Initiative Grant
- Peli will be contributing
- Personal costs will be back to normal
- Insurance costs have increased greatly
- Reduction in electrical cost due to lighting project
- We have money from the Employee Retention program of \$287,000 that we have not received yet- the council will develop a plan for the usage of this money

- There are no changes in staff FTEs.
- We are debt free

Questions were answered. A motion was made by Bobbi Haugen to approve the 2025 budget. Monique Howe seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

A closing benediction was done by Pastor Anna. Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Hermes and seconded by Lynn Arends. Motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Election Results:

- **Church Council:** Barbara Olson, Keith Petras, Hannah Pederson, Nichole Pierce, Terry Niebling
- **Youth Rep. Church Council:** McKinley Stremcha and Quinn Jorgenson
- **Endowment Committee:** Kathy Ready and Ron Wilke
- **Major Gifts Committee:** Sally Miner
- **Nominating Committee:** to be appointed by council
- **Synod Assembly Delegates:** Steve Mau, Peter Petersilie, Jodi Gonia, Christi Ziems
- **Youth Rep. Synod Assembly:** to be appointed by council
- **Eagle Crest Communities Delegates:** Jim Hermes and Sally Miner
- **Sugar Creek Bible Camp Delegate:** Cyndy Reichgelt and Joan Francois
- **Cemetery Board:** Don Hill Les Snuggerud, and Scott Pechacek

Pastor Libby's 2025 Annual Report

They (you know the wise ones without names) – THEY tell us when you begin in a new congregation not to make any changes the first year because just having a new pastor is plenty change enough. So there were no changes this past year except for placing a pulpit apart from the table, switching to a new bulletin format, opening Holy Communion to all ages, beginning Worship on Wednesdays, reviving our greeter ministry, scheduling communion servers/praying with servers before worship, introducing different versions of the Lord's Prayer, having a rotation of 4 wonderful worship musicians for 4 months, beginning a structured program for grief ministry, ending the In the Word Bible Study, and beginning Faith Webs. But other than that...no changes at all!

I realized it's impossible not to have some changes when you introduce a new leader to the system – and that's ok. I think we have done a good job of getting used to each other after living together for a little over a year. It has reminded me that human beings have a tremendous capacity to adapt and learn and try and adjust. We do it ALL THE TIME, often without even realizing it. We may not feel like we are very good at it, because it causes some discomfort or tension, but most of the time, we quickly metabolize the discomfort and tension and move on. So, I just wanted to take a moment and celebrate that we are still living together – and having a new life partner is not easy work. Thank you for talking directly with me when you have had questions or are unhappy or confused. Thank you for your patience and openness as we keep going together.

One of my big learnings this year has been living into the new role as head of staff. Between Peli and PoP we have about 25 staff, 11 of whom are my "direct reports." Did you know they don't teach how to manage and grow human resources in seminary? I know you're shocked!! I feel greener than ever when it comes to these things, but I am working with an HR coach, and I have asked some gifted, experienced people to be part of a Personnel Committee. We will do everything we can to recruit and support staff who further the growth and mission of this congregation by making sure we are a good employer with just wages, fair policies, and high standards. It's important to me that Prince of Peace is a relaxed, kind, and compassionate atmosphere where staff can grow into who God is calling them to be. One of the post-Covid realities we continue to face is the "slow-goingness" of people re-engaging in ministry and programs that were part of their lives before the pandemic. There is a large gap between the number of members in our database and the number of people who are actively involved. Sometimes I think we are doing ALL the things with or for about half the people. I can see it in how we are trending financially, but I can feel it in how our staff over-functions, trying to sustain programs that are simply not the right "fit" for who we are now.

And that brings me to my last point – who we are NOW. Not before the pandemic. Not in five years. Right. Now. Here's how I answer that question, and I invite you to reflect on it, too. We are a diverse community of faith who listens to the Spirit, the cries of our neighbors, and to one another. We are mindful of our mission to Make God Visible to people through inspiring worship, generous service, and vibrant storytelling. The thing we seem to care about most is generous hospitality – extending God's enthusiastic welcome and friendship to all people no matter what, especially because the world needs places where people can come to believe the truth about themselves no matter how beautiful it is. In other words, we are a church that doesn't just want to "make God visible" – **we are a church that is striving to make Love accessible.** We don't hope people only see God with their eyes – **we want people to feel loved in their whole souls.** My star word this year is "examine." So, let's examine how our words, actions, physical building space, social media presence, programs, and community service might make the Love of Jesus more and more accessible to all people of all kinds. Who is missing – and who has checked on them recently? What barriers need removed for folks who want to be among us, but are not? What relationships need mending? And what new dreams need to be realized so God's Love can flow more freely through us? Even as I ask these questions, I am already eager to discover the answers with you. I thank God every day for bringing you into my life. My cup of blessings overflows! In Jesus' service,
Pastor Libby Howe

Pastor Anna's 2026 Annual Report

Dear Prince of Peace,

I continue to be blessed to serve as your part time associate pastor. In 2025, with Pastor Libby serving as our lead pastor, I've been able to focus my time a bit more, taking primarily (but not sole) responsibility for confirmation ministry (with Beth Gonja), stewardship (with Pastor Libby), Worship on Wednesday and the Engaging Children Initiative (with Kendra Wieser) and sharing worship planning and leadership (with Pastor Libby and Maria Higgins). I am preaching somewhere between 1/3 and 1/2 of services, and doing a small amount of pastoral care and visitation. I also continue some administrative and planning pieces: staff meetings, executive committee, council and occasional data management and looking at processes.

Stewardship and the Engaging Children Initiative have their own reports elsewhere in this booklet.

Worship on Wednesday

Prince of Peace staff have long heard a desire for a year-round midweek worship opportunity. We were excited to continue Wednesday worship following Lent 2025. By Mid-June we saw a dramatic decline in attendance and heard from people who had been attending in the spring that midweek in summer was difficult. We decided to pause for July and August, picking up a regular mid week service again in September.

We struggle with consistent attendance. Our 'target group' of families of elementary students, who told us that mid week would be a convenient time for worship have not materialized in a significant way. Rather, we find that some confirmation students and families and a few who work on weekends are the primary participants. We have decided that offering two different services is no longer tenable and in 2026, Wednesday will more closely mirror Sunday, but we will also seek to incorporate more, participatory child-friendly opportunities in Sunday worship. This spring, I will be asking the council to assess the future of this service as a year-round, school-year or seasonal (Advent and Lent) option.

Average Wednesday attendance:

	April	May	June	September	October	November	December
Attendance	88	32	22	37	42	31	70

Blessed by your partnership in ministry,
Pastor Anna Sorenson

Pastoral Acts in 2025 at POP

Baptisms

Ronnie, Eliana Mae	12-Jan-25
Johnson, Colbie Marie	9-Mar-25
Cross-Williams, Xavier Jeremy	6-Apr-25
Welke, Brantley Daine	10-Aug-25
Larsen, Harper Rae	7-Sep-25
Wiese, Owen Thomas	5-Oct-25
Carroll, Rivie Lorraine	30-Nov-25

Confirmations

Oct. 26, 2025

Johnson, Brynn Ann
 Kettner-Kershner, Hudson Daniel
 Larson, Daniel Stephen
 Misch, Lydia Jayne
 Moen, Emelia Marie
 Oitzman, Tyler William
 Smith, Alanna Marie
 Webinger, Owen Daniel
 Wilde, Landon James Garvin
 Winters, Adeline Jean

Funerals/Memorials/Burials

Las, Janet Arleen	27-Jan-25
Anderson, Darlene Marjo (Hartel)	24-Feb-25
Brown, Rita Gail (Hoveland)	1-Mar-25
Breyer, David Everett	1-Mar-25
Rock, John Charles	18-Mar-25
Meyer, Terry Lee	5-May-25
Holy, Rev. Richard Frank	15-Oct-25
Elsen, Mary Carol (Berg)	27-Nov-25
Worrell, Gayle 'Bud' Roderick	3-Dec-25
Johnson, Dr. Lee A.	6-Dec-25
Rodeberg, Joy Kathleen (Stanton)	28-Aug-25
Rodeberg, Keith Alan	28-Aug-25

Marriages

October 4 - Ashley Hurley & John Howard
 November 15 - Mallory Hahn & Jenny Rattle

New Members

Bedsted, Krissa Lea-Sanden
 Jones, Seth D.
 Larsen, Heath Everett
 Niebeling, Emerson Lynn
 Niebeling, Jessica Lynn (Dalbec)
 Niebeling, Teddy Scott
 Niebeling, Terry Scott
 Niebeling, Winona Lynn
 Ronnie, Jennifer Helen (Munoz)
 Sorenson, Dennis Robert
 Sorenson, Elijah
 Sorenson, Jacob
 Sorenson, Luanne Timm
 Sorenson, Nathanael
 Sorenson, Rev. Anna
 Van Arsdall, Amy Jo

Lead Pastor Libby Howe

Associate Pastor Anna Sorenson

2025 Letter from our Church Council President, Mark White

It has been a very good year for Prince of Peace. We have been blessed with a wonderful and dedicated staff, as well as a hardworking church council and thoughtful congregation.

My time as President of the congregation will end this month as my term on the POP Church Council comes to an end. Three years ago, as I started on the council, Prince of Peace was a much different place coming out of COVID with Pastor Mike serving as Lead Pastor for his final months. We have a new Lead Pastor, have solidified our Associate Pastor position and have a new Director of Music Ministry. I am very pleased that we now have Pastor Libby, Pastor Anna, and Maria as our staff leaders, along with Kendra. It does also remind me that it has been a busy time as we have transitioned from interim positions to our current staff.

With this kind of significant transition comes change and new procedures, processes, and voices. There have been changes that may have been and will be uncomfortable for some, and other changes that are most welcome by some. All of us are unique and have varying levels of comfort with change. We will all grow together as we seek to do what God has called us to do. As leaders we have tried to not miss a beat, however, if you feel we have, we ask for your patience and understanding.

I believe we are in an awesome position as we move forward. Your council will be finalizing decisions on the use of the Employee Retention Credit funds with your feedback this Spring. A wonderful legacy gift from the estate of POP founding Pastor Richard Holy has put our annual operating finances in a good position to start the new year. A true blessing. Pastor Libby and Pastor Anna are a great combination with many terrific ideas and guiding principles. I know we are in good hands with their guidance. They are supported by Maria, Kendra, and Michelle, who provide the necessary work to develop and carry out exciting plans. I would be remiss by not thanking Patti Dockendorff, our outstanding treasurer, who provides daily excellence to keep our finances in line and understandable for the council and congregation. We are so very fortunate to have Patti shepherding our finances. I also want to thank retiring Director of Music Ministry Chris Gustafson for her excellence, thoughtfulness, and the musical/spiritual gifts that she shared for over ten years with us.

It has been a pleasure for me to serve as President of the congregation the past two years, and as Vice-President my first year on the council. It has been a very consequential time for our congregation and your church council to say the least. We are blessed with a great staff and wonderful opportunities for our members to get involved with which allows them to grow in their faith life. We have built on the strong and solid base that our previous staff and congregation leaders have provided. I am thrilled about the opportunities that lie ahead for Prince of Peace.

Director of Music Ministry Introduction and Prayers for 2026 - Maria Higgins

Hi everyone! My name is Maria Higgins and I am so thankful and honored to join the team as your new Director of Music Ministry. I live in Galesville, WI and my husband and I have 5 mostly grown children and two grandchildren. Church music is my passion and I am so excited to step into this new role.

From my first visit to Prince of Peace, I was struck by the warmth and welcome of this community as well as your rich musical heritage. I can feel the spirit of love and service of past musical directors and I pray God enables me to continue that legacy.

One of the prayer requests that was shared by a church member at my interview was that Prince of Peace would be a **community that people want to be a part of** and that it would help people **connect with what they were created to do**. This has been my personal experience here and I pray it is for you as well.

The **Bells of Peace** is one ministry I see God working. I see it in the love and respect the ringers have for each other and their commitment to step up, show up and play their unique part to create beautiful music. We could use more ringers! Don't be intimidated. Everyone is so kind. Check it out!

Drum Circle is a very accessible, welcoming and healing community where we have the opportunity to connect with the natural rhythm inside us and with those around us. My experiences with it so far have been deeply meaningful and I'm so excited to experience and learn more about this ancient practice of communal prayer and meditation. It's a great way to meet people from outside the congregation as well.

I have felt the Holy Spirit's Presence in Worship on Sundays and Wednesdays in your joyful singing! It is my prayer that each one of you feel **empowered to sing boldly** regardless of your musical ability. I also look forward to incorporating those of you with special musical talents, **vocal or instrumental**, in our worship services!

Choral singing is a great love and passion of mine and I'm excited about starting **"Voices of Peace"** which we are looking at Sunday mornings after worship from 10:30am to 11:30am in the Music Room, watch for more information. This will be a great way to strengthen our relationships and our voices, learn more about the hymns and songs we sing in church, and prepare special anthems for worship.

Another dream I have is to bridge the gap between our traditional roots and our contemporary future. I plan to host at least two informal **"Pizza and Praise"** events this year where we will mix the timeless beauty of the classic hymns with the energy of more modern worship songs followed by delicious pizza! Stay tuned for details!

You have been incredibly welcoming and encouraging! Thank you! I pray I will have the opportunity in this new year to meet and get to know all of you!

Faith Formation Annual Report for 2025



Reflections on 2025

It's been another year of transitions within our church and tumult beyond our walls. We reflect on what has been, look for a Light in the darkness and seek ways to move forward with the guidance of Christ and the nudges of the Holy Spirit. Last year we celebrated our traditions, widened our welcome to more ages at Holy Communion and tried new events like our PoP presence in the Light Up La Crescent Parade and POP Up Christmas Pageant. The Birthday Kits we created and shared with the La Crescent Food Shelf was yet another example of sharing beyond our walls, as our congregation equipped our children to serve those in need.

Faith Connect, our year around Sunday School, continues to form the faith of all ages near the end of worship with a variety of Bible Stories, activities, games, crafts and connections between our sacred and secular lives. ***In this place, we teach our children that they are loved by God (and us), they always belong here, they are worthy as they are, God can handle all their big feelings and they are Never Alone.***

Gold Stars

I wish I could hand out a gold star to EVERY parent, grandparent, aunt/uncle/godparent and caregiver EVERY time they find a way to get their little ones to worship and faithful events in this place. It isn't easy with all the demands on family schedules, yet EVERY time a child worships and participates in faith formation, it is another step on their faith journey. I love the question Cyndy heard, "Grandma, can we go to your place? The one with prayer bears where they let us help." ***In this place, we respect the gifts and energy our children bring, as we find ways for them to serve in worship and help the world beyond our walls.***

Engaging Children Initiative (ECI)

"At ECI, we believe God invites our whole selves, as we are, into a relationship with the Divine and the beloved community of faith. For children, that means acknowledging that "play is the work of the child" (Maria Montessori, child development expert) and fostering active participation within worship, prayer and the life of the church."

In 2025 we were able to use part of our Learning Lab stipend to purchase items that enhance worship and offer hospitality to young people. Some of the items you may have noticed are baskets of hand instruments for sending songs in worship, fidget bags created by JAM club for older children worshipping in the sanctuary, laminated prompts for worshipping and a rolling whiteboard for volunteers to serve at Worship on Wednesdays as ushers, readers and more.

Prince of Peace continues to be an innovative leader with a long history of hospitality to families with children. Our participation as a Learning Laboratory with ECI allows us to share what we do and continue to experiment and engage our children in worship and the life of the church. I am looking forward to an upcoming Site Visit and Parent Focus Group in late February as it should give us insights into the needs of families, their desires to raise children in the Christian faith and additional ways we can offer hospitality to new families in the future. ***In this place, we ask questions, listen and discern a path forward.***

Faith Webs for Sugar Creek Campers

One of our biggest experiments in late 2025 and the first half of 2026 is adapting Faith Webs (a community-raiser program from First Lutheran) to help support and deepen relationships between our members and our children going to Bible Camp in the summer. I am excited that half of our campers will be going for the first time this year! ***In this place, we invite new participation, seek deeper connections and support one another.***

Looking Forward

- I look forward to my time with 3K-4K in Peli Chapel, especially as we prepare for Peli Sunday, March 1st with Noah's Ark: the Musical.
- I am encouraged by the community being built during Veggietale dinners/movies and appreciate the POP volunteers who help provide the meal to families hungry to connect!
- I am excited to continue creatively enhancing worship and the possibilities of faith formation with the support of ECI as a learning lab.
- I am energized to continue adapting our traditional events (like Palm Sunday Egg Hunts) and VBS as a more collaborative model this summer.
- I love planning JAM club and service projects for all ages to be the hands and feet of Christ (watch for info on a Lenten Service Project coming soon!)
- I hope to offer faith formation options at Worship on Wednesdays and work to align our Baptismal Promises Project (an annual mailing to each child baptized at PoP).

Gratitude

Lastly, I am deeply grateful to work with the staff and people of this church. I love serving in this place and leave you with the words of one of our favorite Peli Chapel and JAM club songs: ***"The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people. I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!"***

In Faith, Kendra Wieser
Faith Formation Director

Annual Report to the Congregation 2025 - Beth Gonia, Youth Director

2025 offered many opportunities for reflection, growth, and understanding as I worked to develop programming to best meet the needs of our youth in grades 8-12. Here are some highlights of the year!

Connect and Reflect

Started in 2024, this ministry offers our students in grades 9-12 a time of continued ministry with each other through games, treats, and candle devotion time. We meet a few times a month to respect these students' busy schedules but still offer them a time and place to grow in their faith. The students in this group have developed a great connection with each other, and I am excited for this ministry to continue to grow.

YNOW-Youth Night of Worship

Started in 2024, 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, I decided to have the students attend the YNOW nights in September and October as an introduction to another faith activity for those who hadn't attended.

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 when they were presented with their gift from the congregation. Having been with this group since their freshman year, it has been truly a blessing watching them grow into the amazing young people they have become. Being part of this growth is one of my favorite parts of this role!



2025 Workcamp

After a transportation concern changed our original destination, we headed back to Westfield, Indiana, our same location from 2023. I was quite hesitant to repeat a location, but it was such a great camp the previous time, and it was a fun experience returning to a previous location. A highlight of this decision was that one student even ended up in the same area of her house in 2023, so she was able to revisit her resident! Our students were part of 45 work projects that ranged from ramp and stair building to extensive house painting. On our half day, we battled the weather and spent the afternoon at an indoor adventure park complete with mini golf, bowling, laser tag, and an arcade. Later, during our traditional Walmart trip, the power went out, and we had quite the adventure waiting for the registers to turn back on. Our trip home included our annual family meal at Cracker Barrel.



8th and 9th Grade Confirmation

This year, we have 21 students participating in confirmation with five small group guides. Thanks to these amazing guides, I have had the opportunity to rotate through joining the small groups each week, allowing me to better get to know all the students. While many of the students attended the high school band trip, the remaining students had the opportunity to create college care kits for some of our Prince of Peace alumni, which even included freshly baked cookies. Another highlight of the fall was attending the Bethlehem Event at English Lutheran in December, where the students got to learn about different areas of the town and even got to pet goats and hold chickens! Below is our photo op with Bishop Felix Malpica!



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 2026 takes us.

VISITATION MINISTRY 2025

shared by Pastor Kathy Ingbritsen

In July of 2024, I was brought on board to assist in visitation and to support the Visitation Lay Team. In the calendar year of 2025, approximately 350 contacts and visits were made with members at church, at home, and in care facilities by all the pastors and lay team members, including 100 hand-written seasonal cards sent to members mid-summer and in Advent.

Our team right now only includes Terri Discher, along with a few other people who help with visits sporadically and who may become regular team members. We thank Kay Snuggerud for her participation in the team for the last few years! We also receive items to share during our visits – art and cards created by congregation members are always appreciated! I have been asked by several colleagues this year for advice on resources and information about how to get a visitation team started. The called pastors on staff are also involved in visitation ministry, of course, which includes some homebound and facility visits, and mostly all of the hospital and hospice visitation, and pastoral conversations and planning around baptisms and funerals and other issues. We partnered with the food ministry and had wonderful member participation in delivering Lenten soup meals to shut-ins, which we definitely plan to do again in 2026!

We are also starting a grief follow-up ministry with a devotional resource given after a funeral, and a contact of support at the one-year anniversary of a death when the funeral/life celebration at Prince of Peace and/or by a pastor at POP.

If you have ever wondered if visitation ministry is something you might do, please contact me!

And I ask you all to keep this ministry and its recipients in your prayers!

As we pray on fifth Sundays in worship:

Gracious God,** you love all the human family with the tender love of a parent. As the prophet Elijah was sustained with heavenly bread, and as Jesus assures those who gather around him that he is the bread of life who gives us what we need for our bodies and spirits; accompany the visitation team members and the pastors of this church who are sent out to have holy conversation and share your word and sacrament with those who are unable to be present here in public worship. Give them open hearts and caring spirits. Remind us all that we are the body of Christ, and we all rejoice and suffer together. As these visitors embody your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who receive calls and cards, personal visits and the sacrament of communion, so they may know and feel their continuing connection to this place. We also pray for those in our food ministry as they share your love here and out in our community, especially as they visit and share the bounty of our celebrations with those who do not have safe places to live. Bind us all together in your love and the abiding presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.



Peli Preschool & Family Center Annual Report 2025

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

Highlights of our year:

- State licensors had their annual visit in December. She commented on how positive the center felt, reviewed the grounds, and went over risk reduction plans.
- Many families are thankful for our security system that was installed last year. This gives families a greater sense of security with the doors managed.
- 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!
- Taylor Lueck continues to teach in the Toddler #1 room and assists with many administrative tasks.
- Our Toddler playground on the north end of the building continues to be used almost daily. The addition of the second shade sail provides excellent shade for our Toddlers.

Current Staff at Peli Preschool & Family Center (currently serving 37 children)

Haley Osborne –**Director**

Trinity Norman – **4-K Teacher**

Madison Marsh – **3-K Teacher**

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

Sara Nordmeyer, Brooke Soost - **Toddler # 2 Teachers**

Jennifer Borkowski, Kari Feldman, Alexie Leonhardt, MacKenzie Smith, Emma Hruby - **Infant Teachers**

Payton Carothers, Sydnee Werner, Bella Hollis, Sophia Meyer – **Float Teacher**

Peli had a busy 2025 as we continue to navigate staffing shortages. We are looking forward to a great 2026, full of exciting opportunities, and continued care for all children.

Special Thank You's!!!

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. Lastly a special Thank you to Les Snuggerud and Dewey Severson for all their help with so many projects within our rooms.

Thank You,
Haley Osborne
Director of Peli Preschool & Family Center

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Year End Financials 2025

Summary

The most carefully laid plans do not always come to pass. Last year's stewardship drive, which had a wonderful response from members, was expected to yield contributions to the General Fund of about \$478,000. Unfortunately, the actual giving lagged behind expectations all year, and while expenses were also running below budget, by the end of November it looked like there would be a deficit of revenue over expense of \$35,000-\$40,000. Then the unexpected occurred. A check in the amount of \$38,385 arrived in the mail from the estate of Pr. Holy. This gift, when added to the very generous gifts received from members during the month of December, helped PoP to end the year with a net revenue of \$9,108...just a few hundred dollars off the budget projection.

Expenses overall came in under budget. The main reason was that there was a staff vacancy for 4 months, which was partially covered by contractors. The savings in electrical costs did not reach hoped-for levels; however, that was partially mitigated by lower-than-expected insurance costs.

The cash balance is \$22,159, which represents about 17 days of expenses, and the entire line of credit of \$125,000 (7%) remains available for use, if needed. It was not used in 2025.

The Peli Preschool and Family Center was close to budget in overall revenues. Enrollment in the daycare program for infants and toddlers is the most consistent. Preschool enrollment dips substantially in the fall as preschool parents have other facilities from which to choose.

The state of Minnesota continues to support daycare/preschool operators via its "Great Start Compensation 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 state has assured providers that this grant program will not be negatively impacted by recent federal freezes on childcare funding.

Expenses for the Peli Center were below budget. Staffing shortages continued to plague the Peli Center for the first half of the year. A raise in the pay scale for hourly staff was implemented in November in an ongoing effort to be competitive in this market.

Peli maintained its strong cash position, which is about 70 days of expenses.

The discernment process continues with regard to the use of the Dahlen bequest and the ERC proceeds. To date, nothing has been spent of the Dahlen bequest. The ERC proceeds received have been invested in certificates of deposit at local banks, and have been used for stewardship campaigns (\$18,875), LED lighting (\$13,648), a copier (\$7,595), and computer workstations (\$4,755).

Thank you all for your generous support of Prince of Peace and our ministries!

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Dockendorff, Treasurer

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Statement of Financial Position
General Fund
December 31, 2025 and 2024

	12/31/2025	12/31/2024	\$ Change
Assets			
Cash			
Checking	\$ 21,012	\$ 11,982	\$ 9,030
Savings - General and Earmarked	1,147	1,422	(275)
Total Cash	<u>\$ 22,159</u>	<u>\$ 13,404</u>	<u>\$ 8,755</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 22,159</u>	<u>\$ 13,404</u>	<u>\$ 8,755</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Payroll taxes & Withholdings	\$ 11	\$ (15)	\$ 26
Line of Credit <i>(\$125,000 available, not used)</i>	-	-	\$ -
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 11</u>	<u>\$ (15)</u>	<u>\$ 26</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 11</u>	<u>\$ (15)</u>	<u>\$ 26</u>
Net Assets			
Unrestricted			
General Fund	\$ 22,148	\$ 13,419	\$ 8,729
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>\$ 22,148</u>	<u>\$ 13,419</u>	<u>\$ 8,729</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>\$ 22,159</u>	<u>\$ 13,404</u>	<u>\$ 8,755</u>

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Statement of Activities

General Fund

December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025		2024	
	Budget	Actual	Prior Yr	
Revenue				
Unrestricted Gifts & Offerings	\$ 477,764	\$ 462,556	\$ 421,781	
Other Operating Revenue (Net)	18,445	19,563	340	
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 496,209</u>	<u>\$ 482,119</u>	<u>\$ 422,121</u>	
Operating Expenses				
Compensation - Salaries and Wages	\$ 281,299	\$ 269,848	\$ 230,805	
Compensation - Taxes and Benefits	93,127	83,073	83,366	
Contracted Services	31,652	34,333	38,262	
Supplies and Other	24,009	23,226	22,809	
Tithes and Contributions	49,276	49,350	42,152	
Utilities and Insurance	46,907	51,304	48,227	
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 526,270</u>	<u>\$ 511,134</u>	<u>\$ 465,621</u>	
Other Revenue and (Expenses)				
Interest Income	\$ 1,400	\$ 2,141	\$ 1,564	
Miscellaneous Income	500	-	1,153	
Interest Expense	-	-	-	
Bank Service Charges	(960)	(1,134)	(960)	
Online Giving Expenses	(400)	(458)	(276)	
Total Other Revenue (Expenses)	<u>\$ 540</u>	<u>\$ 549</u>	<u>\$ 1,481</u>	
Other Financial Sources (Uses)				
Transfers from Peli Family Center Fund	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 30,000	
Transfers from Scrip Fund	5,000	3,106	3,232	
Transfer from Kitchen Ministry Fund	-	-	-	
Transfer from Youth - VBS Fund	-	-	-	
Transfer from Youth - Workcamp Fund	-	-	527	
Transfer from ERC Credit Fund	-	-	-	
Transfers (net) from Inactive Funds	-	460	1,666	
Transfer to Instrument Maintenance Fund	(400)	(400)	(400)	
Transfer to Sabbatical Fund - Lead Pastor	(1,200)	(1,200)	(1,150)	
Transfer to Sabbatical Fund - Assoc Pastor	(771)	(771)	(771)	
Total Other Financial Sources (Uses)	<u>\$ 38,629</u>	<u>\$ 37,195</u>	<u>\$ 33,104</u>	
Net Revenue Over (Under) Expenses and Transfers	<u>\$ 9,108</u>	<u>\$ 8,729</u>	<u>\$ (8,915)</u>	

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Peli Family Center & Peli Restricted Gifts Funds

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2025 and 2024

	12/31/2025	12/31/2024	\$ Change
Assets			
Cash			
Checking	\$ 40,795	\$ 16,364	\$ 24,431
Savings - Donor-Restricted	5,141	2,931	2,210
Savings - General and Earmarked	49,803	74,025	(24,222)
Total Cash	<u>\$ 95,739</u>	<u>\$ 93,320</u>	<u>\$ 2,419</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 95,739</u>	<u>\$ 93,320</u>	<u>\$ 2,419</u>
Net Assets			
Restricted			
Peli Restricted Gifts Fund	\$ 5,151	\$ 2,931	\$ 2,220
Total Restricted	<u>\$ 5,151</u>	<u>\$ 2,931</u>	<u>\$ 2,220</u>
Unrestricted			
Peli Family Center	\$ 90,588	\$ 90,389	\$ 199
Total Unrestricted	<u>\$ 90,588</u>	<u>\$ 90,389</u>	<u>\$ 199</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 95,739</u>	<u>\$ 93,320</u>	<u>\$ 2,419</u>

Statement of Activities

Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025		2024
	Budget	Actual	Prior Yr
Revenue from Operations			
Tuition/Fees/Registrations	\$ 453,472	\$ 450,142	\$ 399,065
MN DHS Grant	60,000	50,864	61,216
Total Operating Revenue	<u>\$ 513,472</u>	<u>\$ 501,006</u>	<u>\$ 460,281</u>
Operating Expenses			
Compensation - Salaries and Wages	\$ 406,654	\$ 396,003	\$ 371,456
Compensation - Taxes and Benefits	31,109	30,294	28,416
Contracted Services	2,300	2,100	2,100
Supplies and Other	27,436	31,295	29,111
Utilities and Insurance	4,000	3,312	3,501
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 471,499</u>	<u>\$ 463,004</u>	<u>\$ 434,584</u>
Other Revenue and (Expenses)			
Donations and Fundraisers	\$ 500	\$ 1,610	\$ 4,663
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	1,613
Other Expense	(1,350)	(1,405)	(1,217)
Total Other Revenue (Expenses)	<u>\$ (850)</u>	<u>\$ 205</u>	<u>\$ 5,059</u>
Other Financial Sources (Uses)			
Transfer to General Fund	\$ (36,000)	\$ (36,000)	\$ (30,000)
Transfer from Scrip Fund	-	212	-
Total Other Financial Sources (Uses)	<u>\$ (36,000)</u>	<u>\$ (35,788)</u>	<u>\$ (30,000)</u>
Net Revenue Over (Under) Expenses and Transfers	<u>\$ 5,123</u>	<u>\$ 2,419</u>	<u>\$ 756</u>

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Cemetery Association and Cemetery Perpetual Care

Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2025 and 2024

	12/31/2025	12/31/2024	\$ Change
Assets			
Checking and Savings			
Checking	\$ 9,578	\$ 1,298	\$ 8,280
Savings - Edward Jones	160,211	147,237	12,974
Mission Investment Fund CDs	-	-	-
Total Checking and Savings	\$ 169,789	\$ 148,535	\$ 21,254
Total Assets	\$ 169,789	\$ 148,535	\$ 21,254
Net Assets			
Restricted			
Cemetery Perpetual Care	\$ 148,675	\$ 132,778	\$ 15,897
Unrestricted			
Cemetery Association	\$ 21,114	\$ 15,757	\$ 5,357
Total Net Assets	\$ 169,789	\$ 148,535	\$ 21,254

Statement of Activities
Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Donor-Restricted Gifts	\$ 7,170	\$ -
Cemetery Plot & Columbarium Sales	10,712	1,900
Grave Opening Fees	2,750	5,675
Perpetual Care Fees	1,238	3,000
Sexton Fees	425	742
Other Fees	1,550	350
Total Revenue	\$ 23,845	\$ 11,667
Expenses		
Purchased Services	\$ 750	\$ 827
Sexton Fees	525	442
Grave Opening Expense	2,025	5,825
Grounds Upkeep	13,598	1,081
Other Equipment/Repair	170	-
Equipment	-	4,137
Gas & Oil	447	530
Maintenance & Cleaning Supplies	94	97
Miscellaneous Expense	94	-
Electricity	861	810
Total Expenses	\$ 18,564	\$ 13,749
Other Revenue		
Investment Income (net of fees)	\$ 15,973	\$ 16,124
Net Revenue Over Expenses	\$ 21,254	\$ 14,042

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Endowment Interest and Principal Funds

Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2025 and 2024

	12/31/2025	12/31/2024	\$ Change
Assets			
Checking and Savings			
Checking	\$ 9,151	\$ 6,583	\$ 2,568
Mission Investment Fund CDs	64,700	64,700	-
Total Checking and Savings	<u>\$ 73,851</u>	<u>\$ 71,283</u>	<u>\$ 2,568</u>
Other Investments			
ELCA Foundation Ministry Growth Fund	\$ 34,956	\$ 30,238	\$ 4,718
US Treasury I-Bond	10,000	10,000	-
Osaic Investments	36,047	35,393	654
Total Other Investments	<u>\$ 81,003</u>	<u>\$ 75,631</u>	<u>\$ 5,372</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 154,854</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 146,914</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,940</u></u>
Net Assets			
Restricted			
Endowment Principal Fund	\$ 142,319	\$ 139,478	\$ 2,841
Unrestricted			
Endowment Earnings Fund	\$ 12,535	\$ 7,436	\$ 5,099
Total Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 154,854</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 146,914</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,940</u></u>

Statement of Activities
Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Donor-Restricted Gifts	\$ -	\$ -
Total Revenue	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Expenses		
Baptismal Baskets	\$ 219	\$ 972
Blood Drive Expenses	212	284
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 431</u>	<u>\$ 1,256</u>
Other Revenue		
Investment Income	\$ 8,371	\$ 8,313
Net Revenue Over (Under) Expenses and Transfers	<u><u>\$ 7,940</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,057</u></u>

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Building Fund Activity

	2025 Cash Activity
Balances at Start of Year	\$ 19,511
Donations Received	18,095
Interest Income	830
	-
Parking lot repairs	(4,465)
Shed roof replacement	(3,185)
Peli bathroom partitions	(3,210)
Share of dishwasher	(3,420)
HVAC repairs	(294)
Transfer to LED Lighting Fund	(15,000)
Balances at End of Year	<u>\$ 8,862</u>

Notes:

Average annual contributions to this fund over last 7 years	\$ 25,568
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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church LED Lighting Fund Activity

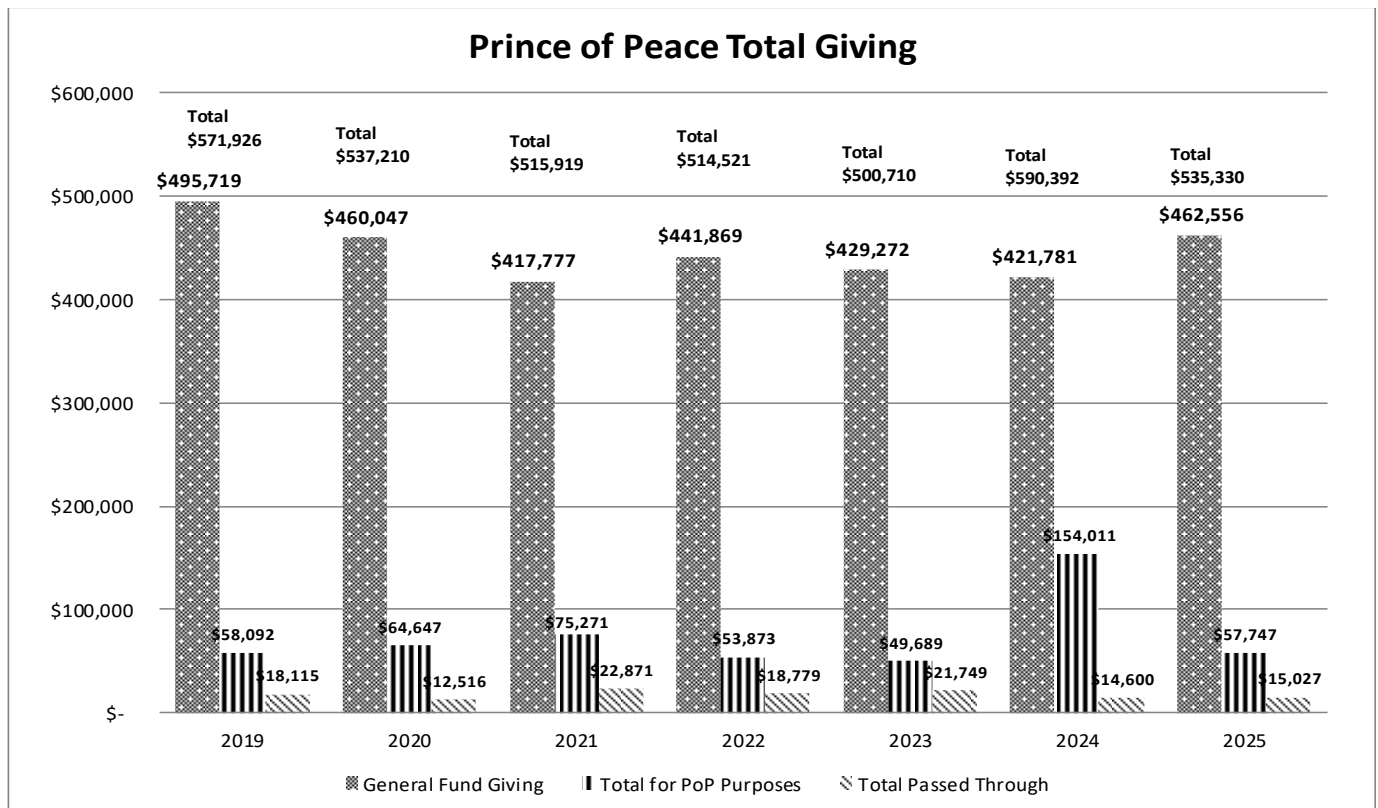
	2025 Cash Activity
Balances at Start of Year	\$ (52,774)
Donations Received	2,000
Grant Income	22,126
Transfer from Building Fund	15,000
Transfer from ERC Proceeds	13,648
Balances at End of Year	<u>\$ -</u>

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Change in Net Assets - All Funds

January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Fund	Starting Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
AV Equipment Fund (R)	595	-	-	-	595
Bells of Peace Fund (R)	2,571	145	-	-	2,716
Bequest - Major Gifts Committee (U)	96,000	2,275	-	-	98,275
Block Party Fund (R)	1,323	-	-	(1,323)	0
Building Fund (R)	19,511	18,925	14,574	(15,000)	8,862
Cemetery Association (U)	15,757	13,921	8,564	-	21,114
Cemetery Perpetual Care (R)	132,778	25,897	10,000	-	148,675
Endowment Earnings Fund (U)	7,435	5,530	431	-	12,534
Endowment Principal Fund (R)	139,478	2,841	-	-	142,319
Engaging Children Fund (U)	-	3,000	1,630	-	1,370
ERC Proceeds Fund (U)	(16,492)	350,085	23,734	(13,648)	296,211
Food Ministry Fund (U)	3,076	14,695	16,111	1,323	2,983
General Fund (U)	13,419	485,020	513,486	37,195	22,148
Gods Glory Garden (R)	359	-	9	-	350
Instrument Maintenance Fund (U)	2,750	250	1,022	400	2,378
LED Lighting Fund (R)	(52,774)	24,126	-	28,648	-
Library Fund (R)	183	-	27	-	156
Lilly Grant Fund	2,858	-	1,092	(1,766)	-
Liturgical Arts Fund (R)	1,286	-	-	-	1,286
Making God Visible Fund (U)	460	-	-	(460)	0
Memorial Book Box Fund (R)	415	-	-	(415)	-
Music Ministry Fund (R)	1,716	-	-	-	1,716
Pastor Retreat Fund ®	-	2,000	2,000	-	-
Peli Family Center (U)	90,389	501,848	465,861	(35,788)	90,588
Peli Restricted Gifts Fund (R)	2,931	2,220	-	-	5,151
PT - Beyond Doors Local Fund (R)	-	978	978	-	-
PT - ELCA World Hunger Fund (R)	-	5,666	5,666	-	-
PT - LIRS (R)	-	-	-	-	-
PT - Local Food Shelf Fund (R)	-	1,528	1,528	-	-
PT - Lutheran Disaster Respons (R)	-	1,490	1,490	-	-
PT - Lutheran World Relief (R)	-	-	-	-	-
PT - Pastor Emergency Fund (R)	-	5,365	5,365	-	-
PT - Sugar Creek Bible Camp	-	-	-	-	-
Quilters Fund (R)	945	440	749	-	636
Refugee Response Fund (R)	1,933	10,632	11,258	-	1,307
Sabbatical Fund - Assoc Pastor (U)	4,344	-	-	771	5,115
Sabbatical Fund - Lead Pastor (U)	7,285	-	-	1,200	8,485
Scrip Program (U)	11,561	74,925	67,095	(3,318)	16,073
Staff Support Fund (R)	586	-	52	1,766	2,300
Stewardship Fund (U)	(288)	-	(288)	-	-
Unrestricted Memorials Fund (U)	5,157	390	2,648	415	3,314
Visitation Fund (R)	14,917	-	6,826	-	8,091
Youth - After School Fund (R)	87	-	87	-	-
Youth - Sugar Cr Camperships (R)	605	1,489	1,756	-	338
Youth - VBS Fund (R)	61	-	61	-	-
Youth - Veggie Tales Fund (U)	-	221	268	-	(47)
Youth - Workcamp Fund (R)	(1,178)	18,500	25,812	6,000	(2,490)
Youth Ministry Fund (R)	13,319	1,889	2,691	(6,000)	6,517
Totals	\$ 525,359	\$ 1,576,291	\$ 1,192,583	\$ -	\$ 909,067



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Gifts for Prince of Peace Special Purpose							
Building Fund	\$ 25,542	\$ 26,280	\$ 34,469	\$ 27,833	\$ 21,947	\$ 24,813	\$ 18,095
LED Lighting Fund					\$ 1,000	\$ 10,590	\$ 2,000
Music Related (BoP, Music Min, Instr Repair)	\$ 590	\$ 610	\$ 825	\$ 805	\$ 1,155	\$ 985	\$ 395
Debt Reduction	\$ 14,135	\$ 26,680	\$ 17,965	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Refugee Response	\$ 6,904	\$ 1,886	\$ 760	\$ 1,350	\$ 5,630	\$ 6,844	\$ 10,632
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	\$ 2,230
Various Youth (Camperships, WorkCamp, VBS)*	\$ 6,357	\$ 5,498	\$ 1,396	\$ 7,192	\$ 1,833	\$ 3,192	\$ 3,121
Food Ministry	\$ 511	\$ 100	\$ 590	\$ 586	\$ 1,788	\$ 3,795	\$ 11,514
Undesignated Memorials and Bequest	\$ 3,278	\$ 2,235	\$ 9,646	\$ 2,426	\$ 3,304	\$ 98,088	\$ 390
Cemetery Association	\$ 220	\$ 220	\$ 2,450	\$ 630	\$ 2,420	\$ -	\$ 7,170
Endowment Principal	\$ -	\$ 35	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Various	\$ 435	\$ 913	\$ 2,465	\$ 425	\$ 1,000	\$ 679	\$ 2,200
Total for PoP Purposes	\$ 58,092	\$ 64,647	\$ 75,271	\$ 53,873	\$ 49,689	\$ 154,011	\$ 57,747

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

Gifts Passed Through to Other Charities							
ELCA/Lutheran Causes	\$ 5,338	\$ 6,008	\$ 13,531	\$ 10,002	\$ 12,608	\$ 6,067	\$ 7,156
Local Food Shelf/Other Local Charities	\$ 6,025	\$ 5,153	\$ 5,610	\$ 1,212	\$ 2,706	\$ 2,357	\$ 2,506
Pastor's Emergency Fund	\$ 6,752	\$ 1,355	\$ 3,730	\$ 7,565	\$ 6,435	\$ 6,176	\$ 5,365
Total Passed Through	\$ 18,115	\$ 12,516	\$ 22,871	\$ 18,779	\$ 21,749	\$ 14,600	\$ 15,027

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. Last year, the church received 27% of its donations electronically.

One option of E-giving is to authorize the Church's bank to make automatic ACH withdrawals from the donor's account. Currently we have 17 families signed up for weekly withdrawals and 35 families for a monthly withdrawal.

Another method to give electronically is by using Tithe.ly.

E-giving with Merchants Bank

Merchants Bank is our regular bank. To set up either weekly or monthly withdrawals from your checking or savings account, contact Michelle in the church office. You will need to complete a form stating how much you choose to have withdrawn, how often (weekly or monthly), 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 submitted to Merchants Bank and your gift will begin to be automatically withdrawn each week (Mondays) or month (3rd day of the month).

Tithe.ly: A 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/>
Tithe.ly does charge a fee for handling these gifts. Tithe.ly offers donors the options to increase their gift to cover the fees. Minimum \$5 donation is required.

STATISTICAL REPORT FOR PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Membership Record

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Baptized [start of the year]	890	825	834	781
Confirmed [start of the year]	713	596	599	554

Detailed Statistics

Baptisms	14	16	14	7
Confirmed this year (10th & 11th graders)	11	9	11	10
Confirmands now being instructed:				
8th Grade	14	12	13	13
9th Grade	13	13	16	16
Weddings	6	4	0	2
Funerals/Deaths (Members & Non-Members)	12	17	13	12
Transfers Out (Baptized)	10	4	6	7
Moved To Non-Participation (Baptized)	155	3	62	17
Received (Baptized)	5	15	12	29

**Prince of Peace Cemetery Association
2025 Annual Report**

The Prince of Peace Cemetery Board submits the following report for the 2025 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. Workdays were held in May and October. Mulch was placed around the planters, bushes, and the gazebo. The road was maintained with chip seal and faded memorial plaques at a number of the flower beds were replaced.

Financial – See page 24 of this report. The Perpetual Care Fund balance is \$148,675. Of that, \$145,380 is invested in an Edward Jones Account. The remainder is in checking. The Cemetery Association Fund balance is \$21,114 with \$6,283 in checking and the rest in the Edward Jones Account.

Personnel – The following individuals were elected to the Cemetery Board in 2025 for a 3-year term; Don Hill, Scott Pechacek and Greg Stremcha. Elected as officers, Joel Affeldt; President, David Ebner; Vice President, David Loberg; Secretary, and Bruce Bauer; Treasurer.

Observances – Pastor Libby 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, Bruce Bauer-Treasurer, Dewey Severson-Sexton, Les Snuggerud, Don Hill, Scott Pechacek, Greg Stremcha, Terry Niebling- Council Representative, Pastor Libby Howe.

2026 Nominations for Cemetery Board members are:

Joel Affeldt, Dewey Severson, David Ebner



ENGAGING CHILDREN INITIATIVE

Prince of Peace has been and continues to be a leader in hospitality and creative intergenerational engagement. As a Learning Lab, we can share our Holy experiments with others and are equipped to innovate sacred and welcoming experiences for families with children in the years to come.

The Engaging Children Initiative is a five-year grant program through the La Crosse Area Synod. We help equip leaders to creatively engage children in prayer & worshipful experiences through the arts, movement, curiosity and story. ECI adds connectivity, intentionality & supportive resources to empower ministry leaders to create spaces where children of all abilities and their families feel truly welcomed in the life of the church.

Phase One: 2025 - Spring 2026 Learning Laboratories (camps & congregations experiment with creative ways to engage children)

Phase Two & Three: Two rounds of cohorts 2026-27 & 2027-28 (learning labs will mentor the cohorts in these phases)

Phase Four: 2028-2029 Sharing our learnings

The following congregations and camps are ECI Learning Labs: Cashton Lutheran Parish, Immanuel- Viroqua, Luther Park Bible Camp- Chetek, Prince of Peace- La Crescent, St Peter-Prairie du Chien, Sugar Creek Bible Camp- Ferryville and Trinity-Sparta. Learning Labs have been experimenting and collaborating with other regional leaders in creatively welcoming and engaging children in worship and prayer.

What we've done so far

- Learning Labs have gathered four times to support, learn from one another and explore available resources. · Lent Parent and Caregiver Survey- <https://tinyurl.com/ECISurveyResults>
- Summer Camp parent survey to assist in program improvement and ECI goals.
- Fall Retreat at Sugar Creek Bible Camp including an Interactive Training with Pastor Jen Rome to equip church staff and volunteers.
- Compiling resources and ideas to share via Worship Wonders monthly email (sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/WorshipWonders>) and our website at <https://eci.lacrosseareasynd.org/home>

Coming in 2026

- Site visits and parent focus groups in congregational Learning Labs
- Applications and selection of the first round of cohorts
- Fall training event on Saturday, September 26 at Luther Park Bible Camp

Respectfully submitted by ECI Staff,
Pastor Anna Sorenson, Kendra Wieser & Caleb Kvale
engagingchildren@lacrosseareasynd.org

Prince of Peace Scrip Program-2025 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 2026, funds raised will go to the general fund to help offset expenses. Funds raised in 2025 were \$3569, about the same as 2024 when 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 "SCRIP order sheet" from Michelle in the church office. Ordering dates for RAISE RIGHT are published in the Prince of Peace on-line newsletter or can be ordered anytime 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. In 2025, Jim handled about 75 transactions. Thank you, Jim!
- 2) From Michelle Tetzlaff in the church office during normal business hours, 8am-3pm Monday-Friday. In 2025, Michelle handled about 150 transactions! Thank you, Michelle!
- 3) Directly from Raise Right with your personal credit card. You will the church's authorization number from Michelle to order.

Scrip gift cards are as 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 2025

Nationally, during 2025 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 2025.

166 units of blood were collected in 2025. That is the very same as 2024! How interesting is that? Can we say we're consistent? Let's try to grow it for 2026!

The tentative schedule for 2026 has been established. The first drive for 2026 is scheduled for Thursday, February 5th from 12:00 - 6:00 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 a great job making 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 & Terri Discher
Blood Program Co-Leaders La Crescent Community Blood Drive

Building & Grounds; Fix-It-Fellows - 2025

- Mowing of Church Lawn- John Haugan
- Peli Toddler - Shade Sail; Up - May, down - Nov.
- Yearly Spring / Fall Mnt. on John Deere Mower; Les Snuggerud
- Replace ceiling tiles throughout the building, Les & Dewey, Jan.
- Moved balance of ceiling tiles in upper WELCA closet, Les & Marv Bringe Jan.
- Installed Artwork display boards in 4K & Toddler #2 Peli Rooms, Les Feb.
- Cleaned out drain spout on East side of building, Les, March
- Repaired doorknob on boiler room, Les, May
- Installed door stops throughout the church, Les, May & June
- Installed two corkboard - Peli 3-K room, Les, May
- Repaired Basketball hoop and replaced net, Les & Dewey, June
- Replaced door sweeps on East & North entrances, Les, June
- Vinyl support pole cover on South Carport, Les & Dewey, June
- Repaired rock wood barrier on Peli West playground, Les, June
- Repaired tire on wheelchair, Les, June
- Cleaned out roof drains - flat roofs, Dewey, July
- Added Paper towel dispenser to Peli Toddler #2/3-K Bathroom, Les, July
- Roof garden removal - on Sunday School wing, moss, tree and weeds, Les, August
- Repair cabinet door Toddler #1 room, right side of changing table, Les, July
- Pastor Libby's office door, shave down sides & bottom for easy opening, Les, August
- Peli Infant chair to recycle, Les, July
- Peli 3-K bathroom door replaced with full door, Les, Oct.
- Install new full-length door Peli 3-K bathroom, Les, Oct.
- Cleared brush 5' up on west bank, Dewey & Les, Oct.
- Installed drawer latches in Toddler #2 room - Les, Oct.

**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

- P & T Electric, Bell switch key changed to light switch, Paul Siegersma, July
- Wieser Brothers, Bathroom divider 4-K, Sept.
- Niebeling Cleaning - Strip & Reseal Sacristy bathrooms tile, Sept.
- Shed Roof, DDI General Contactors, New Metal roof on shed, Sept.
- Weiser Brother's, Cement Patch South Parking lot, Sept.
- Kitchen Ovens, Karl's Appl., Sept.
- Metal Roof on Shed, DDI Contractors, Oct.
- Weiser Brother's, Cement Patch #2 South Parking lot, Oct.
- Benedict Sales & Service, New Stero Dishwasher, December
- Niebeling Cleaning; Steam cleaned carpets: 5 Peli classrooms each time; Feb. 2025, Aug. 2025

Contracted Repair for Current Year

- A-1 Pumping, drain plug, March 2025
- Instate Roofing, inspection of Metal roof (Good Shape), April 2025
- American Lock & Key, Rekeyed West/South doors, office file cabinets, April 2025
- Woody's Tree Service, Removed many limbs on westside bank, May 2026
- Bob Mach, fixed classroom sink & toilet in T-2-bathroom room, June 2025
- Shed Roof replacement with Metal roof, by: DDI Contactors, October 2025

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 2025 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, & Advent meals; Funeral Luncheon Serving; and Sunday Coffee Fellowship. We also collaborate with our Faith Formation Ministry in efforts ranging from a Congregational Family Baptismal Brunch to feeding Confirmation students prior to their Confirmation sessions. We also financially contributed to local organizations dedicated to food insecurity. We again organized and carried out the Synod Assembly picnic following Sunday Worship, and in addition, fed the West Conference Pastor's at their fall gathering, as well as the Synod participants during their full day Boundary Training

We continue to partner with Sue Graf of "What I Need Now (WINN)" in providing a hot meal to her clients once a month. In the summer, a group of PoP members delivered and shared a picnic lunch with Sue's clients at Copeland and Burns Parks. We found that to be a meaningful experience, that we hope to expand on during 2026. We also, for the second year, provided needed cold weather items to our unsheltered neighbors. This fall, we offered a Drive Thru Chili Supper to the community, where folks contributed a free will donation to receive a quart of chili, dinner rolls and homemade dessert bars. The proceeds were used to purchase long underwear sets, warm gloves and hand warmers for our unsheltered neighbors.

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 serve funeral luncheons. In 2025, our Food Ministry Group was gifted a generous donation of \$4,000 from Mike and Karen Woods to be used for new stoves in the kitchen. As a result of this generous donation, we now have two new stoves, two new range hoods, and a new dishwasher. We are so grateful to the Woods' for this generous donation.

All of this describes a wonderful ministry and a good example of how we work for good at Prince of Peace. In addition to the good we do for others, our team of Food Ministers are a group of dedicated members who have built a community through doing important work together, having fun, and caring for each other in the process.

In 2026, we hope to widen our reach to provide opportunities to do more good for those who need it. Watch for our "You Can be a Worker Bee" sign up opportunity in the spring, to 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



La Crescent Food Shelf 2025 Annual Report

Dear Prince of Peace Church Members: We are so grateful for your kind and generous donations throughout the year - over 530 pounds of donations and \$1,528.32 – plus all the donations made directly, and all the volunteer hours by many members!

The Food Shelf has seen and responded to the ever-increasing needs in our community, and 2025 was our busiest year yet! It was a year of scarcity and abundance. We had such an increase in shoppers that we struggled to keep up within the budget we set. We first tightened our spending by focusing on the most important foods as noted by our shopper surveys and then increased our food budget to be able to keep our shelves filled. Incredibly, our volunteers and donors have stepped up to help us meet the demands, and for that we are most grateful.

In 2025 we had 4,832 household visits (about 100 households/week) and distributed a total of over 196,000 pounds of food, an average of 16,000 pounds of food each month. We broke a daily record by having 61 households in 4 hours. 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.

In January we had our new HVAC system installed thanks to grants from Xcel Energy and the MN Chamber of Commerce. Also, Xcel and Frontier Energy swapped out our lighting for LED lights. These improvements have already begun to save us money on energy costs.

Our partnerships with Channel One Regional Food Bank and The Hunger Task Force of La Crosse sustain us with food and support weekly. Thanks to the Foundation for Essential Needs (FFEN) for their support, and their Food Sourcing Analysis, helping us prioritize our spending on the most important foods. Because we center our work on the needs of our shoppers, we did a Shopper's Voice Project: interviewing 15 people and surveying 39 more, to learn more about their needs and their lives, to be able to better serve them. A month later, we participated in the 2025 MN Statewide Food Shelf Survey to gather more information to help direct our work.

We had several new fundraisers in the community, started an email newsletter, and did outreach at the Farmers Market twice, at Neighbors Night Out, and at a La Crescent Live concert. We hosted a few tours by preschoolers and Sunday School groups and continued growing our relationship with area organizations like the Rotary and Lions Clubs. Support from area schools, churches and businesses were also vital to helping us with our work!

Volunteers were thanked and celebrated at CRVC's Volunteer Breakfast in the spring, and at our fall Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. Steve Mau presented the 2025 Margeen Mau Volunteer Service Award in honor of Len Huegel. Len has been a volunteer for many years, starting back when we were at PoP. He helped start the current Food Shelf Advisory Board and has provided compassionate and level-headed financial oversight, among many other things. Len is leaving the board, but we are in good shape thanks to all his work! We thank Steve Mau for his generous yearly gift honoring his late wife Margeen, and Thrivent Action Grants for helping us with this event.

Our annual MN state grants and increased community support during our matching grant fundraisers and in all our food drives this year provided a strong foundation for us. There was less free federal food to order due to cuts to some programs, and then when the government shutdown affected families receiving SNAP benefits, the MN Emergency Grant helped us continue to meet the needs we saw. With a large donation from Ring and Run, we distributed ham to each family during the holidays. Lastly, we were overjoyed to receive an Altra Credit Union Community Assistance Award, and a Great Rivers United Way Basic Needs Grant for 2026!

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



What is LuMin?

LuMin (Lutheran Campus Ministry) is a ministry of the La Crosse Area Synod that serves all three institutions of higher education in La Crosse, WI: UW-L, Viterbo, and Western Technical. LuMin is known as a safe, comfortable, and welcoming place—a community where students can grow in faith by finding true community, building relationships, and exploring what it means to love and serve God and others in the world today.



Highlights of 2025-26

- First student board member
- Board adapted a new mission statement, welcome statement and guiding values



2025-26 Focal Points

- Developing relationships with departments on the three campuses to provide programming on each one
- Accompanying students and working for peace and justice concerns



2025-26 Programming

- Western Residence Hall events and presence in The SPACE @ Western
- Weekly Gathering at LuMin for community building, faith exploration, and fun
- Student and staff support through pastoral care conversations
- Weekly cookie ministry @ UW-L
- Co-sponsor of Viterbo DEI events, creating an "ofrenda" for campus
- Presence at community and campus social justice events
- Intergenerational community worship series
- Connecting Synod congregations through LuMin Sundays



Thank You!

- Thank you for your volunteer and financial support of LuMin. By joining us in our mission, you become part of the fabric of LuMin, supporting students through:
 - Making campus and community connections for student outreach
 - Supporting a transient population on the threshold of adulthood
 - Welcoming all, regardless of categories and labels of society
 - Providing a reflection of the radical hospitality practiced by Jesus

Congregational and individual gifts account for 47% of our general income budget. We invite congregations and individuals to consider supporting LuMin through their benevolence funds. We also invite you to consider becoming a LuMin volunteer. Contact us for more info!



CONTACT US

1334 Pine Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

pastorkathryn@luminlax.org
admin@luminlax.org
www.luminlax.org



Refugee Response Team Annual Report for 2025

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 2025:

- In January, Cyndy Reichgelt joined a team from the synod on a border immersion trip to the southern border. That provided first hand experience to bring back and share in the synod.
- In February, organized and promoted a community viewing of the PBS Frontline documentary film "Separated: Children at the Border," in collaboration with the La Crescent Public Library. It was held at Corky's and there were 20 people in attendance. As a result of that opportunity there was expression of desire to work together in an ecumenical way with the initial emphasis being on immigration. Out of that has come the organizing of a group being called, "Light for the World—La Crescent." POP is represented in that group. We are considering how our Refugee Response Team will coordinate our efforts with them.
- Donated \$1,000.00 to a project of the Synod Migrant Justice Team to help support a migrant family in the La Crosse Area Synod who are asylum seekers.
- Provided financial support to Zemecha and Ojwor Gora during difficult periods of time when they had a limited income and then when both were unemployed. Our congregation responded to our request for help that kept food on the table, a roof over their heads, utilities and insurance paid, and their car operating. Once they were both employed, some of our team members met with them to reinforce how to budget. We also explained to them that we feel that it is time for them to become financially independent of POP. That has been a common goal for several years. With the help of Pastor Libby, we also helped them make a connection with an ELCA congregation in Albert Lea to have a relationship with a church closer to home. They are very grateful for all we have done.
- Individuals participated in Global Refuge webinars and daily and weekly immigration updates from their website. Some attended the Immigration Summit in La Crosse. Others attended a workshop on immigration through the Franciscan Spirituality Center.
- 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. 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.
- We are exploring ways to help our church members in advocacy. With all that is happening in regard to immigration in the U.S., advocacy has become even more important than ever.

Cyndy Reichgelt and Kathy Rosenberg serve on the Synod Migrant Justice Team. We find that our work at POP is influenced by what that team 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 Report, 2025

We love to tell the story

The Stewardship team continued to work with Rev. Pete Reuss from GSB Fundraising to help us shape our stewardship work throughout the year. Our annual campaign titled “We love to tell the story” drew upon three phrases from the classic hymn.

“Tell the story of Jesus and his Love” to strengthen our commitment to Faith formation, Youth Ministry and Worship on Wednesday. **“Tell the story for those who know it best”** to continue our commitment to our existing ministries that serve the people already a part of Prince of Peace. **“Tell the story for some have never heard”** to plan for communication and sharing the story of Jesus throughout our community. These big dreams were based on needs and desires we heard from the congregation as well as prayer and discernment among staff, council and stewardship team.

We were challenged to return 150 intent cards (4 more than 2025) and fell short of that goal.

This chart shows the number of intention cards and their amounts, as well as offerings received (all general fund). 2024 (and prior years) showed a pattern of those who returned intent cards giving above their intended gifts, along with additional generous gifts from those who did not return an intent card. The shortfall from intentions to gifts we attribute to several things: 1) Change in life situation for some givers (moving, death in family, etc.) 2) economic uncertainty led some to reduce giving, 3) we did not provide an update with actual giving to intent near the end of the 2025.

	2026	2025	2024
Intention cards returned	137	146	
Regular electronic givers (without intention cards)	11	10	
Total	148	156	113
Total of intentions	\$364,835	\$378,578	\$291,756
Total gifts from those that returned intention cards		\$349,773	\$300,304
Other offerings		\$59,316	\$102,024
Total General fund offerings		\$409,089	\$402,328

We celebrate: 122 people or households that returned intent cards for both 2025 and 2026 (75% intend an increase), and 15 new people or households returning intent cards, the excitement we have and vision God is putting in front of us to continue telling the story of Jesus and his love.

Moving forward, we will continue to refine our story telling and inviting people to be part of what God is up to at Prince of Peace. We are turning toward cultivating and telling stories about how God is at work in the congregation and community. The team is grateful to Patti Dockendorf for her generosity of time and knowledge helping us prepare reports and understand financial projections.



Your Ministry Impact 2025 by the Numbers

Together in mission, we celebrate **60 years** of partnership with churches across the Midwest. You make a lasting difference through Sugar Creek Bible Camp's programs for all: children, youth, families, adults, and congregations. You inspire stronger connections to your church with fun, Christ-centered adventures, cultivating skills for faith and life together. Thank you for the amazing "God stories" represented in the numbers:

Summer Bible Camp

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

30 Summer Youth Ministry Staff + **32 Professional Leaders Volunteering** (pastors, youth leaders, nurses, doctors, helpers, and builders) at Summer Bible Camp

376 Overnight Summer Campers

135 Explorer/Forester Day-Campers onsite + **120** more at traveling Day Camps

201 Family Campers

Special Programs led by Sugar Creek for your Congregation

- **26 Programs & Events for Adults:** craft retreats, bus trips, special events & more
- **6 Weekend Youth Retreats** including church lock-ins & synod youth events
- **3 Family Camp** sessions with **41** families attending
- **33 Church Visits** – preaching, council visits, WELCA, Sunday worship leadership
- **16 Full-Time Equivalent (F.T.E.) Youth & Family Ministry staff** employed by Sugar Creek for 2025, offering experiential Christian Ed. for our youth, adults & families

Meaningful Retreats & Events

175 unique Retreats & Events at Sugar Creek... *beyond* Summer Camp:

- **907** guests at multiple **Outdoor Education Days**
- **193** guests at other **Christian Youth Retreats** at Sugar Creek
- **33** hard-working supporters at **2** Volunteer Weekend programs
- **3461** guests at **143 events** for Churches, Families, Schools, and Hobbyists
- **53** Volunteer Day events: Volunteer Tuesdays, Mass Mailings, & more
- **3791** guest-nights and **7170** guest-days graciously hosted
- = **ALL 52 Weeks** hosted guests & events at your Camp & Retreat Center

All are Welcome

219 Summer Camp kids in our communities received Camperships (**financial aid**) from Sugar Creek directly, totaling **\$102,770**

Sugar Creek summer staff alumni attending Lutheran Seminaries in 2025: **3**

Contact Hours of intentional **Christian Education** this year at camp: **53,958***

* a conservative (low) estimate

Thank you for your ongoing work to GROW this important ministry!

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

2026 Council Nominees



Paul Harris

Paul has been a member of Prince of Peace since 1962. He has 3 children; Jamie, Jacob & Kaleb. Paul retired from carpentry work and now is a bus driver (safely transporting our workcampers!) for Ready Bus Line. Paul's community involvement includes being a past Applefest member, a football/basketball coach for 7th-9th graders, and he was a past zoning administrator for La Crescent. Paul has served Prince of Peace as a music cantor, being a past choir member, a building & grounds committee member, and our workcamp bus driver & chaperone. Paul is seeking another 3 year term on Church Council, stating "I don't think I am done yet".

How does Paul see God at work through PoP? He sees the way we are a true family church, through our great youth programs and how we are so community involved reaching beyond our doors.



Barbara Kruse

Barbara is married to Ed. She has been a Prince of Peace member since 2019. Barbara has shared her gifts and talents with Prince of Peace serving as a worship reader, enjoys helping with some of the preparation for Food Ministry events, active member of Martha Circle and is involved with Refugee Response Team.

How does Barbara see God at work through PoP? She sees God at work through Prince of Peace in many ways; year-round Sunday School, Food Ministry, Children helping with the offering, Music Ministry, Drum Circle, Building available for community, etc.



Sally Miner

Sally was married to Dr. Ed until his passing in 2019. She has been a Prince of Peace member since 1990. Retired from Gundersen Health Systems in 2010 and serve as a volunteer on some committees there.

She has been on many different boards and committees at Prince of Peace over the years; her latest adventure was on the Major Gift Committee. She enjoys life and encourages travel. She believes It's a beautiful world that God created and we need to see it.

How does Sally see God at work through PoP? She sees God at work through Prince of Peace in our outreach programs. She appreciates and values the sense of family and peace we have at Prince of Peace, that our church is welcoming to ALL.



Annette Gittens

Annette is married to Kevin and has 4 children and 7 grandchildren. She has been a Prince of Peace member since 1990. Annette has served the LaCrescent community by opening her home to provide daycare. At Prince of Peace she has been involved as a Sunday school teacher, an usher and a reader. Annette is seeking another 1-year term on Church Council, hoping to fill the remainder of Ashley Hurley's term, who resigned from the council in October due to her new marriage to John and moving to the cities.

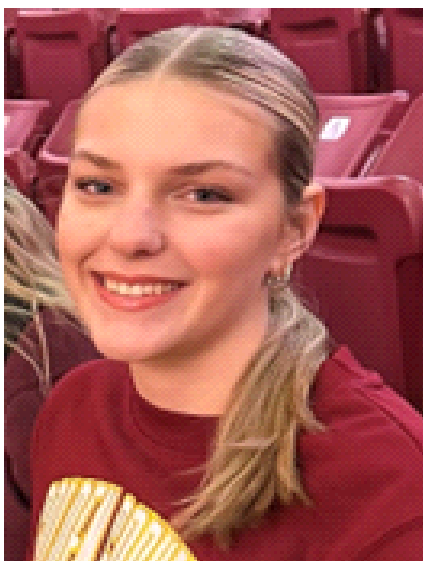
How does Annette see God at work through PoP? She sees God at work through Prince of Peace in our outreach programs. She appreciates and values the sense of family and peace we have at Prince of Peace, that our church is welcoming to ALL.



Daniel Larson (1 yr Youth seat)

Daniel is the son of Eric and Katie Larson, is a sophomore at La Crescent-Hokah high-school. He plays soccer and jumps in track and field for La Crescent. Daniel also plays trumpet in the band and pep band as well as at church on special occasions. At school, he is also involved in the Ski and Snowboard Club. He works at Bauer's market and garden center.

Daniel loves going to YNOW (Youth Night of Worship) and has volunteered at Vacation Bible School and Workcamp. He is eager to serve on the Church Council.



McKinley Stremcha (1 yr Youth seat)

McKinley, daughter of Shannon and Greg Stremcha, is a junior at La Crescent-Hokah High School. She is ABLE, working with individuals with disabilities, and spends a lot of her free time at that job. At Prince of Peace, she loves interacting with everyone, the young kids and older folks. McKinley enjoys art and music and will be pursuing a degree in criminal justice after high school. She names Work Camp as one of the most significant experiences that has helped her grow in faith.

Standing Committee Descriptions for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Church Council:

Members elected to the Church Council attend monthly meetings to carry out the business of the congregation between annual meetings. The main task of the Council is to hold the congregation and its staff accountable to its current mission and ministry goals. The Council is responsible for all financial activities of Peli Family Center and the church. In addition to fulfilling constitutional governance requirements and fiduciary oversight, members of the Church Council offer constructive feedback to ministry staff, learn and play together, and, most importantly, listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit to guide the congregation's work.

Major Gifts Committee:

One member is elected each year to 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.

Cemetery Board:

Members of the Cemetery Board oversee all operations and finances related to the care and maintenance of the Prince of Peace Cemetery. They meet several times throughout the year to coordinate clean up days, review financials, and new and pending activity with the sale and use of plots and columbarium spots.

Endowment Committee:

Members of the Endowment Committee meet regularly (every other month) to oversee the promotion and investments of Prince of Peace's Endowment Fund. In 2026, they will be responsible for defining the purposes of the Endowment Fund, educating the congregation about it, and encouraging members to consider the Endowment Fund in their end-of-life plans.

Prince of Peace Delegate Information

What does it mean to be an elected delegate to a partner ministry organization?

You should be prepared to knowledgeably and faithfully vote at their annual meeting in elections, approve ministry budgets, and advocate for the needs and desires of Prince of Peace related to the organization. Your votes are your own, meaning you are not required to vote a certain way. Prince of Peace has elected you to vote your conscience. In addition to representing Prince of Peace to the annual meeting of the organization, you are an advocate for that organization within this congregation. As a delegate, you are a conduit of communication and advocacy in both directions. You may be asked to speak or write a report informing our congregation about the ministry activities of the organization.

Synod Assembly Voting Members

Represent Prince of Peace at the La Crosse Area Synod Assembly. Represent Prince of Peace at all activities related to the La Crosse Area Synod Assembly. Attendance is required at the Pre-Assembly Caucus on April 19 and at all sessions on Saturday, June 6. Here are the dates you need to be available. Those dates marked with an asterisk are required attendance.

- **Sunday, April 19, 2026, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM***
 - Caucus Meeting @ Our Savior's Lutheran in West Salem, WI
- **Monday, June 1, 2026, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**
 - Pre-Assembly Q&A Session on ZOOM
- **Saturday, June 6, 2026, 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM***
 - Synod Assembly @ Stoney Creek Hotel in Onalaska, WI
- **Sunday, June 7, 2026, 10:00 AM**
 - Synod-wide Worship @ Riverside Park in La Crosse, WI
 - Picnic following at 11:15 AM

Sugar Creek Bible Camp

Represent POP at the annual meeting of Sugar Creek Bible Camp (Ferryville, WI) at 2pm on February 22, 2026.

Eagle Crest Communities (formally known as Bethany Homes)

Represent POP at the Eagle Crest Communities Annual Meeting on April 27th at 5:30pm via Zoom.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

General Fund Budget for 2026

Revenues

Donations are projected using the assumption that 100% of the intentions will be fulfilled, and that we will receive additional donations of 21% of intentions. The result is an increase of 3.7% (compared to 2025 total excluding Pr. Holy gift.)

The Synod/Lilly grant arrangements that started in 2025 will continue, helping to support the faith formation and education ministry

Expenses

Pay rate changes ranged from a low of 2% for the lead pastor to a high of 9.6%. Most commonly, a 2.7% increase was awarded. Higher increases were considered necessary in certain areas to adjust to the job market.

The part-time visitation pastor position has been moved to the General Fund, as it has become an integral part of ministry. It will be financed this year entirely by a transfer from the Visitation Fund, which has some money left to spend from previous donor-restricted gifts.

3%-5% increase in most routine contracted services. One exception is snow plowing. Bruce Bauer has performed this service to us at a large discount for the last several years, but has retired from this part of his business activities at the end of 2025.

Supplies and other have some additional line items for hospitality, stewardship and visitation. Expenses for children and youth increased by about 12%.

Tithes and contributions are mostly comprised of the tithe to the Synod, which depends upon donations received. The category also includes a \$1,500 donation to Sugar Creek Bible Camp.

2%-3% increases in utilities.

5% increase in property & liability insurance. Last year the increase was quite low compared to the jump from 2023 to 2024.

Other Sources/Uses of Funds

Peli support remains unchanged, as it was bumped up in 2025.

\$7,000 will be drawn from the donor-restricted Visitation Fund to support this ministry. There is currently about \$8,100 in this fund. The intent is to transition this over the next 2 years to be fully funded by General Fund offerings.

Employee Retention Credit proceeds of an estimated \$35,000 will be used to make up the difference between projected contributions and expenses.

Cash Position

The result is a net gain of just over \$6,300. The cash balances improve to about 21 days worth of expenses. The ELCA recommends carrying a balance of at least 30 days of expenses in cash.

Prince of Peace La Crescent

General Fund Budget

Account	Calendar 2025		Calendar 2026	Change	2024	2023
	Budget	Actual	Budget	25-26		
Operating Revenues	\$ 496,209	\$ 482,120	\$ 460,310	-4.5%	\$ 421,781	\$ 429,661
Operating Expenses						
Compensation - Salaries and Wages	\$ 281,197	\$ 269,848	\$ 290,157		\$ 230,805	\$ 246,617
Compensation - Taxes & Benefits	\$ 93,127	\$ 83,074	\$ 78,731		\$ 83,366	\$ 100,185
Total Personnel Expense	\$ 374,324	\$ 352,922	\$ 368,887	4.5%		
Contracted Services - Church Staff	\$ 500	\$ 5,910	\$ 2,400		\$ 5,984	\$ 200
Contracted Services - Other	\$ 31,152	\$ 28,423	\$ 31,984		\$ 32,278	\$ 26,826
Supplies and Other	\$ 24,009	\$ 23,225	\$ 32,541		\$ 22,809	\$ 24,702
Tithes and Contributions	\$ 49,276	\$ 49,350	\$ 45,500		\$ 42,152	\$ 44,396
Utilities and Insurance	\$ 46,907	\$ 51,304	\$ 52,708		\$ 48,227	\$ 43,407
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 526,168	\$ 511,134	\$ 534,020	4.5%		
Total Other Revenues	\$ 1,900	\$ 2,140	\$ 1,900			
Total Other Expenses	\$ 1,360	\$ 1,592	\$ 1,500			
Other Financial Sources-Uses						
Transfer from Peli Family Center	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000			
Transfer from ERC Proceeds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000			
Transfer from Visitation Fund	\$ -		\$ 7,000			
Transfer from Scrip Fundraiser	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,106	\$ 4,000			
Transfer from (to) Other Funds - Net	\$ -	\$ 460	\$ -			
Transfer to Instrument Maintenance Fund	\$ (400)	\$ (400)	\$ (400)			
Transfer to Sabbatical Fund - Assoc Pastor	\$ (771)	\$ (771)	\$ (771)			
Transfer to Sabbatical Fund - Lead Pastor	\$ (1,200)	\$ (1,200)	\$ (1,200)			
Total Other Financial Sources-Uses	\$ 38,629	\$ 37,195	\$ 79,629	114.1%	\$ 33,105	\$ 33,967
SUMMARY						
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 496,209	\$ 482,120	\$ 460,310		\$ 422,121	\$ 429,661
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 526,168	\$ 511,134	\$ 534,020		\$ 465,621	\$ 486,332
Total Other Revenues	\$ 1,900	\$ 2,140	\$ 1,900		\$ 2,716	\$ 2,098
Total Other Expenses	\$ 1,360	\$ 1,592	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,236	\$ 1,267
Total Other Financial Sources-Uses	\$ 38,629	\$ 37,195	\$ 79,629		\$ 33,105	\$ 33,967
Net Revenues (Expenses)	\$ 9,210	\$ 8,729	\$ 6,318		\$ (8,915)	\$ (21,873)
Cash Net of PR WH at Start of Period	\$ 13,419	\$ 13,419	\$ 22,148			
Line of Credit Proceeds (Payments)		\$ -	\$ -			
Cash at End of Period	\$ 22,629	\$ 22,148	\$ 28,466		\$ 13,420	\$ 22,335
Average Days Expenses (not including Synod tithe)	30.1	17.4	21.2		11.6	18.4
Line of Credit Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -