



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**“Do not neglect to do good and
to share what you have, for such
sacrifices are pleasing to God”**

(Hebrews 13:16).

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.

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies;
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its pails - es move;
 sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay;
 all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tam, no op - ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling
 the hap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love - you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find! flame.
 my heart an al - tir, and your love the

Text: George Craly, 1780-1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

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Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Sunday January 29, 2023
11:00 a.m.

Agenda

Call to Order	Tim Gjenvick, Council President
Opening Prayer	Pastor Froehlke
Approval of Minutes January 30, 2022 Annual Meeting	Tim Gjenvick
Election of new Council Members and Nominating Team for 2023	David New
Pastor's Remarks	Pastor Froehlke
Director of the House Next Door Remarks	Pastor Selover
Minister of Music Remarks	Dr. Doug Helvering
Reports of the Ministry Teams	Tim Gjenvick
Approval of 2022 Program of Ministry (Spending Plan)	Eric Jorgensen
Thank Yous	Tim Gjenvick
Lord's Prayer and Dismissal	Pastor Froehlke

Pastor's 2022 Annual Report

For God So Loved the World

As Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. Mark 6:34

Some of you know that my sister-in-law, Dawn Selover, is a funeral director at Saul Funeral Home in Hamilton Square. Occasionally Dawn calls if she needs a pastor to lead a funeral. The story is familiar. The deceased is Lutheran, maybe even was active in a Lutheran church, but through the years, and for whatever reason, he or she is no longer connected to a congregation. Still, the family would like a Lutheran pastor to bury mom or dad. I rarely say no. God's word speaks clearest at funerals; and I am more than willing to help out Dawn. But the other day I had to say no; my week was just too full.

Dawn understood, but called Dale back. "I have called nine pastors to lead this funeral, all of whom said no. Could you possibly help?" Now, if you don't think I am capable of smart-alecky comments skip to the next paragraph. When Dale shared Dawn's call, I responded in a very unpastoral voice, "Well, if the family would have stayed at church, they wouldn't have this problem now." "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned."

First of all, I knew absolutely nothing of this family's circumstance. Second, as I said, funerals are opportunities to proclaim the gospel. Finally, since when did Jesus limit his ministry to churchgoers? Read the gospels and you will understand that Jesus spent less time inside religious places, and more time preaching and teaching wherever people actually gathered. In the Feeding of the 5000 Jesus had compassion for the crowd gathered along the lake shore. More and more people go to church less and less. Prince of Peace, and just about every other church, knows this. But this should not narrow our understanding of ministry. Church has never been just about us; it has always been about having compassion for the world. We will do better judging less and caring more, regardless of church pedigree. Our sights need to be on the sheep without a shepherd.

The Intersection of Church and Community

The future of the church belongs to the Lutherans, the only problem is that Lutherans don't know how to share their story. Rev Billy Graham

Billy Graham's compliment is theological. Lutherans know grace. Grace is the foundation of our confessions. We are saved by who we are, not by what we do. Grace will save the church, but not if we cannot figure out how to share it. Billy Graham knew Lutherans better than we know ourselves.

So did Carole Conners. Carole belonged to my first church, a latecomer to Lutheranism. I remember Carole being quite expressive when she said, "Pastor, we have what the world wants." She, too, meant grace. I can't remember Carole's background, or how she landed at Redeemer, but she was on fire for the gospel. "We just have to figure out how to share it," she said encouragingly. My spiritual director, Louise Litke, speaks about the intersection of the cross. The vertical beam is our relationship with God, while the horizontal beam is our

outreach to the world. We've got the vertical part down; it is the horizontal part that needs attention.

Francisco Herrera is a PhD student at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Francisco identified St. Bartholomew's Lutheran Church in Trenton as an intersectional community, a community where the gospel, the Lutheran Confessions, and the neighborhood intersect. Francisco spent the fall studying St. Bart's. Francisco told me that Lutheran churches proclaim the gospel. He added that Lutheran churches faithfully adhere to the Lutheran Confessions. But not enough Lutheran Churches intersect the gospel and the confessions with the neighborhood; St. Bart's being the exception.

Francisco wants to change this. He calls himself a Christian agitator and educator, a missiologist at heart, or, in the spirit of Billy Graham, an evangelist. Francisco's calling is to shape Lutheran churches into intersectional communities. To help shape us, I have invited Francisco to Prince of Peace in February. He is returning to New Jersey to complete his research and will spend the weekend of February 18-19 with us. Francisco will lead our church council retreat on Saturday, and preach and lead our Adult Class on Sunday.

Carole Connors is right. The world wants what we have. Our neighbors might not know it, but ultimately, I believe the neighborhood is desperate for our story of grace. It is why Francisco is an agitator. Lutherans have to risk our comfort for the sake of sharing our story. We no longer can bypass the neighborhood. Billy Graham was right; this is the only future for the church.

Partnerships

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. Philippians 1:3-4

Partnership is where the church intersects with the neighborhood. They keep us from becoming lone rangers. Paul understood the need for partners among the Philippians. By nature, Lutherans partner with our synod and national church body. We partner with church wide ministries like ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Social Ministries, Lutheran Disaster Response, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Thanks be to God. Having said this, though, we still like our independence. Churches claim their own pastor and their own building. Most churches claim their own Sunday School, their own Confirmation class, their own choir, and their own staff. Through the years, churches did not need or even want to partner with another congregation. Recently, however, we are discovering that this model is not sustainable. There are neither the people nor the finances for every church to do their own thing.

But this new day of church calls congregations, or maybe I should say, forces congregations into partnerships that are unfamiliar. Take for example confirmation. For thirty-seven years I have gone solo on confirmation. But this year we have only three students, and next year we will have only one. So, for a better confirmation experience, Prince of Peace has partnered with St. Bart's and Abiding Presence. We can mourn the absence of large confirmation classes, or we can celebrate the confirmation partnership with other congregations. The word from our class is that this year is better than last. That is reason to celebrate.

The same is true for youth group. I grieve the absence of a youth group. This has defined my ministry through the years, but Prince of Peace just doesn't have the youth. So, one of our youths is attending youth group at Faith Lutheran Church in Hillsborough. And why not? Joyful Noise is a partnership. Every church cannot offer this service for children with special needs and their families, so many participants come from other congregations.

The House Next Door is a partnership. Most who come to the house belong to other churches, or no church at all. Talk about intersecting with the neighborhood.

St. Bart's food ministry is a partnership. Prince of Peace cannot provide the resources for our own food pantry, but together with other churches, we can support St. Bart's to serve hundreds of families on a monthly basis.

St. Paul understood that ministry is stronger when God's people partner.

Prince of Peace continues to manage, maybe even thrive under the old model of one church, one pastor, one building with our own staff. But I encourage us to be open to the many ways we can partner. It is the future of the church. Partnerships will prevent the church from dying and fading away. In fact, partnerships will equip the church to be even more vital, with stronger evangelists, compassionate caregivers, and believers who know how to share the Lutheran story.

New Life

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! 2 Corinthians 5:17

New life is called practicing resurrection with gratitude and grace. There's that grace word again.

Hanging on to old models of ministry that no longer work is not life-giving, but life-draining. Churches notoriously do not have the good sense to have funerals for the old ways that have died or that are on their way. But new life cannot sprout until the old is buried. Practicing Resurrection only can happen after a death. Let us acknowledge what is not sustainable, accept what has changed, grieve the dead, and then embrace the new life that arises.

Remember, our story hasn't changed. We still hold the future of the church. But we need to embrace the new life God is working in the church. Then we will bring Billy Graham's words to fruition. We will share the Lutheran story and help the neighborhood find what it is looking for.

Pastor Froehlke
January 17, 2023

The House Next Door 2022 Annual Report

I am overjoyed to share with you that the theme of the annual report of the House Next Door is growth: Growth in participation, growth in programming, and growth in partnerships.

“Who would like to be a part of a conversation to brainstorm what we might do with the house next door?”

Nine years ago, former Council President Bob Durie invited the congregation to be a part of a conversation to discern how we might use the house next door to the church. Ever since that initial invitation, we have been listening, talking, dreaming, discerning, and envisioning.

“If you build it, they will come.”

I am not one to lift up or get excited about numbers. I never was. But these are numbers to get excited about. These are numbers you need to hear. In 2022...

374 individuals participated in the ministries of the House Next Door

3054 people walked through the door of the House Next Door

“I love this house!”

One day, one of my directees walked in the front door, took a deep breath, flopped on the couch, and said, “I love this house!” Almost every person who has stepped foot in the House Next Door, at one time or another, has declared their love for the house. When asked to describe what exactly it is that they love, the answer is always the same: I feel safe here. I experience God’s grace here. I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in this place. Every time someone comments on their experience, we know that we are living out our Mission Statement:

***The House Next Door is a safe space and a place of grace
for all to dwell in the heart of God.***

“I so believe in this ministry, I want to volunteer my time and give you the gift of a website.”

And with that generous offer, the House Next Door website was launched. My heartfelt thanks to Ian Hill, who formerly served as a pastor in the New Jersey Synod and currently uses his gifts as a web developer. Needless to say, having a website is a game-changer for this ministry. Please visit us at www.housenextdoornj.org.

“I could not believe it when I heard the church would allow people of any faith tradition to use their space.”

The House Next Door was blessed to offer our space to the following groups:

Joshua Prayer Retreat

Beth Chaim Leadership Retreat

Hindu Prayer Retreat

Spring and fall Friends’ Retreat

Windsor Hightstown Area Ministerium Gathering

“That retreat was life-changing for me.”

This past year the following programs were offered:

Individual Spiritual Direction - monthly

Group Spiritual Direction - monthly

Clergywomen Support Group - monthly

Prayer Circles: Prince of Peace (zoom) - led weekly by Charlie Frantz

Presbyterian Pastors (zoom) - weekly

Retreats: Epiphany Retreat (zoom) and Labyrinth Walk

God’s Love Lutheran Church, Newtown, Women’s Retreat

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Red Bank, Women’s Retreat

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, Ewing, Council Retreat

Swarthmore Presbyterian Women’s Retreat

Restore and Renew: A retreat for the pastors of the Southeast PA Synod

Clergy Day of Renewal - led by Pastors Christine Ruth and Dale Selover

Art.full Prayer Advent Retreat - led by Pat Pickard

Advent Stillness Retreat - led by Laurie Matarazzo

Prince of Peace Council Retreat - led by Pastors Peter Froehlke and Dale Selover

Worship: Service of Lament and Hope for Infant and Perinatal Loss - Tree of Life Chapel

Service of Hope and Healing (Blue Christmas)

Dinner Church - Spring, Fall, Thanksgiving, Advent

Book Club: led by Pastors Christine Ruth and Dale Selover:

No Cure for Being Human by Kate Bowler

Atlas of the Heart by Brene Brown

Sunday Sabbath Series (zoom) - weekly in Lent

Respite for Pastors - day and overnight

“Why do I feel so calm when I walk on the Labyrinth?”

One of the greatest blessings of the House Next Door is that we have so many ministry partners. From the moment we started to envision what the ministry of the House Next Door would look like, we talked about the importance of ministering to children and youth. Thanks to our partnership with **New Jersey Angels**, we are ministering to young people in ways that we never could have imagined. The House Next Door houses New Jersey Angels, a non-profit whose mission is to care for foster children and the families who care for them. New Jersey Angels store all of their belongings in the basement: Marketing supplies, welcome boxes, backpacks, clothing, and fall festival supplies. The Board of Directors meets at the house for their monthly board meetings. Most importantly, the House Next Door provides a safe space for foster children to meet with their mentors to do homework and to visit with their families. The quote at the beginning of this section is from a fourteen-year-old foster child whose life is anything but calm. As she returned to the house for dinner, this was the question she posed to her mentor. We also get to touch the lives of young adults thanks to our partnership with **Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center**. This year we were part of Cross Roads Gap Year ministry, offering monthly spiritual direction to young adults discerning next steps after high school. Our partnership with Cross Roads also expands our retreat ministry as together we offer monthly day retreats (Wednesdays Away) and the annual Fall Women’s Retreat.

This year the House Next Door began a new partnership with **Lutheran Social Ministries** of New Jersey. Having received a grant from the Evangelical Church in America to provide pastoral care for rostered leaders impacted by Hurricane Ida and the pandemic, LSM invited me to oversee, create and provide programming. While this ministry has been a blessing to rostered leaders, it has also been a blessing to the ministry of the House Next Door. It has expanded our programming, our network of participants, and our partnership with other retreat leaders and spiritual directors.

“I do more evangelism now in my work as a therapist than I ever did as a parish pastor.”

Out of the 3054 individuals who came through the door of the House Next Door this year, half of them came for spiritual direction, retreats and respite. The other half came because of Pastor Christine Ruth and **Princeton Counseling Center**, which is housed at the House Next Door. From the very beginning, it has been our desire that the House Next Door be about the ministry of evangelism and outreach. Our mission has always been to reach out to the community and to connect people to God and to a faith community. Thanks to Christine and her ministry with clients, this mission is coming to fruition. Clients are beginning to attend other events at the House Next Door. Our ministry has grown in many ways this year, but it is most clearly seen in the fruits of this partnership. I invite you, in this coming year, to please join me in prayer as we continue to talk about, envision and discern how this partnership might continue to grow.

“When it comes to the ministry of the House Next Door, we are now in the season of growing pains – emphasis on pain.”

It is pure joy for me to serve as the Director of the House Next Door. To watch all that God is doing, to witness the many ways in which this ministry continues to unfold, to behold firsthand people’s lives changing and relationships with God deepening, is one of the greatest joys of my life. As I mentioned in the beginning of my report, participation, programming, and partnerships are growing. But with growth comes growing pains. As director, spiritual director and retreat leader, my calendar is full. The administrative needs that this ministry requires have grown beyond what I am able to provide. It is time to grow our staff, especially in the area of administration. This means we also need to grow our funding. Please pray for the Spiritual Formation Team and Vision Team as we seek to create and execute a plan to bring this vision to fruition.

“Being a part of the ministry of the House Next Door is the most meaningful thing I do at church.”

It is often at this phase in the life of a non-profit or ministry that there is a need for another level of leadership, an advisory board. This past year we created the House Next Door’s **Vision Team**. This team is comprised of individuals who have been connected to the ministry of the house, believe in its mission, and have a larger vision for what it means to be church in this new day. This group of leaders met three times this past year and will continue to do so moving forward. Our Vision Team members are: Pastor Peter Froehlke, Pastor Brandi Hebert, Kayla Hopgood, Beth Mitchell, Pastor Christine Ruth, and Elizabeth Wagner.

The members of the **Spiritual Formation Team** have faithfully gathered every month for the past nine years. They are the connection between Prince of Peace and the House Next Door. They serve as a wonderful sounding board and as hands-on-helpers whenever needed. The members of the Spiritual Formation Team are: Kate Chen, Jen DiGioia, Nancy Herrington, Ellen McBrearity, Audrey Oehm, Nancy Reyes, and Gerda Somers.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the members of my **Mutual Ministry Team**: Jen DiGioia, Charlie Frantz, and Ellen McBrearity. It is a gift of the church to provide this supportive ministry to its pastors.

I am so grateful to have the opportunity to publicly give thanks to God for all of these faithful partners in ministry. Thank you for the commitment, support, passion, and enthusiasm you bring to the ministry of the House Next Door. Each of you embodies the mission of this ministry, to be a safe space and a place of grace, and for that I am most grateful.

Submitted with Joy and Thanksgiving,

Pastor Dale C. Selover
Pastor of Spiritual Formation and Director of the House Next Door

Council President's 2022 Annual Report

Last year was a year of challenge and transition, yet full of God's blessings.

Despite the changes we made to reduce the spread of Covid, over the past year, our ministries have expanded as we respond to what God is calling us to do. We have returned to in-person worship. While attendance is less than in 2019 prior to the pandemic, we have maintained two services. We continue to broadcast our 9:30 service on Facebook and update our website popnj.org as part of our evangelism. This allows people who are unable to attend in person to still participate in worship. Some new disciples have found us through this ministry. We have begun monthly Joyful Noise services for families with children who have special needs. Our social ministry team, our partnership with St. Bartholomew's Church, and our Racial Justice team remain active in doing God's work. We are beginning the process of discerning how to welcome LGBTQIA+ people to our community through the Reconciling in Christ process. The ministries of the House Next Door continue to expand under the leadership of Pastor Dale. Our property team is being reinvigorated, as we need to be sure to maintain our building for all who use it. In sum, God's work is being done; there is much to be thankful for as we begin 2023.

One issue we face this year is more maintenance needs due to increased building use and aging facilities. The original church building, now the community hall and classrooms, is almost 50 years old, and our current sanctuary and administrative offices are over 30 years old. During the Covid pandemic, our building remained closed, but since we reopened, the increased use by other community groups has increased our utility and maintenance costs. The council sees this use as one way to support local groups, and the building use fees we receive have become an increased source of support for our congregation, especially to maintain the property. This past year, we needed to replace an air conditioning unit, and soon a furnace will be replaced. The biggest expense will be repaving the parking lot which is long overdue. Later this year, we will be asking for your help to pay for these repairs as they are not part of the annual budget.

Every one of us contributes in some way to God's work. I especially want to thank Eric Jorgensen who is retiring as our Treasurer. He has led the Finance Team for over 20 years and has helped our church thrive despite many financial challenges. In addition, I want to thank the two council members who are retiring this year at the end of their terms, Elizabeth Wagner and Charlie Frantz. Elizabeth was the council President for the two years during the challenges of the pandemic, helping us to remain faithful to the Gospel. She remains involved in the ministry of the greater church through her leadership of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugees Service Board. Charlie has been a voice of support for our ministries and continues to lead the weekly Zoom prayer group on Fridays. In addition, his jokes to end each council meeting will be missed.

Over and over in the Bible God says to his disciples "Do not be afraid." Mary is told this at the Annunciation when she learns she will bear a son who will be called Jesus. When the angels appeared to the shepherds after Jesus's birth, they were terrified, but were told not to be afraid as they were being brought good news of His birth. While Paul was in Corinth preaching the Good News, God spoke to him in a dream to continue to preach, and not to be afraid. While we face challenges, we need not be afraid, for God is with us and will provide. Thanks be to God!

Tim Gjenvick
Church Council President

Reopening Task Force 2022 Annual Report

2022 saw Prince of Peace continue to reopen after the pandemic. While Covid continues to be transmissible, even among those vaccinated, current variants are less virulent. A large percentage of the population has had the ability to be vaccinated and boosted. The reopening team consulted through the year. Some highlights were:

- In March, we continued to recommend masking in the building, but only make masking mandatory at the 9:30 a.m. service, hoping to encourage in-person worship while recognizing that personal health concerns continue.
 - Hospitality and coffee hour returned.
 - We determined that masking could be optional at the 9:30 service beginning after Labor Day.
 - Maskless choir singing returned!
 - We opened the building more to outside groups.

At this writing, highly transmissible variants are spreading through the US, and some school districts and cities are reinstituting mask mandates. We will continue to monitor recommendations from the CDC and NJ Health.

Committee Members include: Pastor Peter Froehlke, Minister of Music Doug Helvering, Geeta Telang, Tim Gjenvick, Nancy Durie, and Gerda Somers.

We would like to extend deep thanks to the Prince of Peace community, which held together through a difficult time, even with a diversity of opinions. Your support, creativity and forbearance have helped PoP to thrive at a time when tensions ran high in society.

Nancy Durie

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 30, 2022

President Elizabeth Wagner called the annual congregational meeting to order at 11AM; a quorum was confirmed. Elizabeth expressed her appreciation for all those participating, and reviewed the rules/procedures for the meeting. Pastor opened with a prayer.

The congregation reviewed the minutes of the January 31, 2021 Annual Meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes (Josh Grim/Berta Schott); the motion passed.

Election of Council Members and the 2022 Nominating Team: Dave New, Council Secretary, expressed his appreciation to the 2021 Nominating Team (Nags Chevula, David Herrington, Greg Nowak, and Martha Winder), and presented the nominees for Congregation Council (Joan New, Christian Oehm, Dorothy Safranek, and Con Sweeny); there were no additional nominations from the floor. The four nominees were elected. Dave then presented the nominees for the 2022 Nominating Team (Kate Chen, Kimberly Contini, Lisa Schott, and Jim Winder); there were no additional nominations from the floor. The four nominees were elected.

Pastor's Remarks: Pastor Peter Froehlke

- Pastor expressed his appreciation for all participating in the meeting; it's nice to see the faces, if only on Zoom, as it's not always clear who is out there.
- While the church is "not the building," Pastor acknowledged that we want a warm church that doesn't leak, a house that doesn't flood, plowed driveways, and mowed lawns. Joe Gallagher, who did such a wonderful job taking care of property issues for many years, no longer attends POP. While most of the property responsibilities fell on Joe, it is too much for one person, and so we don't expect to find a single individual to take Joe's place. Pastor is calling for a property team that will address the property needs of the church. There are 3-4 people already interested in joining; we would welcome any and all who are interested in helping. Pastor will reach out within the next month to launch the property team, so that we are prepared when the next need arises.
- There is also an issue of money; all home owners know how this works. We are starting a property fund outside the annual budget. Recently we've had new lighting, roof repairs, a new \$3K fire door after an inspector flagged the existing door as not being up to code. These types of unexpected expense are hard on the nerves. The good news: we already have \$5K in that fund. One item facing us: the AC unit that cools the Community Room is no longer working and needs to be replaced

Vicar's Remarks: Vicar Kayla Hopgood

- In thinking about what she wanted to say, Vicar Kayla was drawn to the word "unexpected." POP did not start out thinking in terms of a two-year part-time call for a Vicar. The pandemic was most unexpected. Now that she is starting her final few

months at POP, she is reflecting on what a special place this congregation is for young people preparing for ministry. She is deeply grateful for the guidance and inspiration the leaders of POP have provided.

- Her experience in the development of The Tree of Life Chapel has been powerful; she was invited to speak at a Synod meeting to talk about it. It has been a joint effort involving people beyond Prince of Peace, and she hopes the congregation continues speaking to the greater community.
- She closed by affirming that Prince of Peace is “creating resurrection with grace and gratitude.”

Director of the House Next Door Remarks: Pastor Dale Selover

- Pastor Dale began by noting that it is good to be together even vi Zoom; seeing all the faces, knowing that some have not seen face-to-face in two years, left her feeling a bit choked up. She is thankful that, even if we are not physically together, we are still connected by Holy Spirit.
- A colleague from another synod recently told Pastor Dale that they are so touched by the fact that the HND is where the church needs to be during this time. The community focus plus listening and openness to God working in new ways is practicing resurrection.
- Partnerships have become key in the ministry. The HND would not function without partners like NJ Angels, WHAM, and Crossroads. We cannot be the church alone.
- One new partnership: The Gap Year Program at Cross Roads is a ministry for young adults just graduating from High School when they are not quite sure where God is leading them. The Cross Roads director noted that the Gap Year Program was missing a spirituality component, so the HND is partnering with the program to provide that. Pastor Dale meets with participants and teaches spiritual practices. It is a joy to share in this ministry.
- Another new partnership: Lutheran Pastor Christine Ruth has felt called to the ministry of counseling, and her mission is in line with that of the HND. She will be using space in the HND to provide marriage and grief counseling. Other joint offerings with Pastor Ruth and the HND are also planned.
- This has been a difficult year for pastors. In response, the HND offered a day of respite for clergy ... a day of rest and time to be fed.
- The ministry has expanded significantly with the addition of more congregational retreats and new directees. Pastor Dale is now devoting all her time to the HND; she will no longer be pastoring for Presbyterians congregations.
- Pastor Dale concluded by thanking Prince of Peace; not every congregation would provide the needed support for this novel ministry.

Minister of Music Remarks: Dr. Doug Helvering

- Doug expressed thanks to all, and noted that it was nice to see all the faces.
- It has been a challenging time for musicians. Moving out of the pandemic in fits and starts is itself a special challenge. But music is an important part of our spiritual practice.

Doug is eternally optimistic, and looks forward to continuing to try new things. Creating new paths is practicing resurrection.

- Rehearsals will start back up this week (both bells and choir). This is a great time to start with the choirs; we are not doing a lot of difficult music yet.
- Doug expressed his gratitude to Victoria Chow, as she continues to share her talents and presence with POP.

Reports of the Ministry Teams: The Annual Report contains the various team reports. There were additional comments from Nancy Reyes for the Racial Justice Team:

- We are trying to lead POP from talking about racial justice to doing.
- We didn't spend budgeted money because we were able to take advantage of two Thrivent grants.
- The team is working with the Social Ministry Team. Backpacks for the recently de-incarcerated was one recent effort. We are currently focusing on the NJ Synod Bishop's Challenge to raise \$375 per congregation for support of people of color entering Lutheran ministry. The Racial Justice Team is hoping POP can raise ten times that amount (\$3750).
- The team is also hoping for participation in book studies, a trip to Philadelphia, and virtual seminars; check the Tidings for details.
- For Lent, we will be moving the focus to Native Americans.
- The next team meeting is March 1; we welcome other members of POP to join in.

Approval of 2022 Spending Program of Ministry:

Eric Jorgensen reviewed the financial results for 2021, documented in the Annual Report.

- Eric first of all expressed appreciation to Dorothy Safranek and Greg Nowak.
- Jumping to the end of the story – we ended the year with a net deficit of \$7800, in line with the spending plan. Group donations was \$11K higher than expected (mostly thanks to the Youth Orchestra of Central Jersey). There were also unexpected expenses (new computers, tree service, etc.). In the end, we came out about where we expected.
- Our combined income was within about \$400 of plan, which is pretty remarkable.

Eric then presented the 2022 Spending Plan.

- Many of the same assumptions from last year were made. A decrease in member pledges/giving is assumed, reflecting the fact that some families moved on during the pandemic. An increase in group donations (orchestra, plus anticipated new users after end of COVID) is also anticipated.
- A 2.5% increase for staff (not keeping up with inflation but the best we can do) and increased insurance expenses are also figured in.
- The net result is a forecast \$17K deficit ... significant but not out of line with occasions in the past. Council approved it. It is anticipated that this deficit represents a one-year hit as we move out of the pandemic, with a better financial situation in 2023.

- Question: The cell towers have been gone for some time, but are we still getting income from them? Answer: we are still getting some Sprint payments, probably for a couple more months for a total of about \$2K in 2022.
- Question: who is currently using our space? The Central Jersey Youth Orchestra is the main one. Dance, cultural, and educational groups also meet here. There is still space available afternoons and evenings; if anyone knows of other parties that might be interested, let Elizabeth know. More inquiries keep coming in.
- Question: What is the status of the PSEG right-of-way for parking? The situation is not clear. They have indicated they don't want us to use it, but haven't actually prevented us. We may have to look to facilitating use of the community park for overflow parking.

A motion was made to accept the 2022 Spending Plan as amended (Joan New/Berta Schott); the motion passed.

President Elizabeth Wagner concluded with thanks to the Communications Team, and especially to Dave Herrington, for all their work enabling remote meetings and services. She also expressed gratitude to the Ministry Teams who keep the work of the congregation going, to Eric Jorgensen, Greg Nowak, and Dorothy Safranek for keeping our finances in order, to Kathy Nowak and Geeta Telang for keeping POP connected and running, to Kayla Hopgood for her wonderful contributions as Vicar, and to Doug Helvering and Victoria Chow for their music ministry. Elizabeth also thanked Pastor Dale and the HND for offering grace and respite to all, Pastor Peter, the rock of this congregation throughout the pandemic, and to Martin Rexroad, Kimberly Contini, and Nancy Durie for their dedicated service on Council. Finally, thanks to each member of Prince of Peace; POP thrives because this congregation lives out the call to be an abundantly loving community.

Pastor closed the meeting by leading the congregation in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David New

Council Secretary

2023 Council Nominees

Jessica Clarke

I grew up in Bergen County, NJ, converted to Lutheranism in 2005 and moved to Mercer County after marrying my husband Arundel; together we have two children. I have a Master in Special Education that I utilized being a Special Needs Middle School Teacher as my primary occupation. My background includes being a camper, counselor, and Asst. Director of Special Needs at Crossroads (formerly Beisler). I'm a former summer camp Health Director of another Special Needs camp where I also had the opportunity to work with globally diverse groups for about 10 years. With my passion being with the special needs community, I've helped to establish a special needs summer program known as "It's my turn," helped raise awareness to different ways of worship, such as the "Joyful Noise" service, and hold the role of coach for the "Sharknados", a Special Olympic team open to my classroom and surrounding communities. Throughout the greater church I continue to collaborate and serve in various youth ministries.

David Jeedi

I was born in Andhra Pradesh State, India, and was raised in a loving, devout Christian household. I have been coming to Prince of Peace for the past 9 years. I participated in Communications Team meetings and served as lector, usher, and communion assistant. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering, and currently work in Information Technology. I got married on December 2020. I feel very blessed to be part of this Blessed Congregation.

Claudia Thompson

I came to Prince of Peace over one year ago and immediately felt the peace of God's presence in the warm welcome of this beautiful congregation. I was baptized, confirmed, and grew up in the Lutheran faith. I have previously served in the areas of fellowship and council at an ELCA congregation in Philadelphia. Before coming to Prince of Peace, I served in ministry at a non-denominational church in various areas of discipleship, pastoral care, and church council. I discerned a call to return to the ELCA, and I am immensely grateful and blessed to have found my way home to Prince of Peace. I have recently completed a Master of Divinity degree at Northeastern Seminary, with a concentrated study in chaplaincy and social justice. I am presently a chaplain resident at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick. I live in Monroe Township with my Dad, affectionately called "Johnny Tomatoes" in the summer months, who is known for delivering sweet cherry tomatoes to neighbors and friends. Since coming to PoP and entering into membership this past summer, I have served in greeting, ushering, and lector reading on Sunday mornings. It is my joy to serve and attend the educational programs, and I am excited to deepen my journey and service here at Prince of Peace as we worship, learn and grow together. I have experienced your kindness and care as a people of God's grace, and I hope to serve alongside you all in the care of our church family, our wider community, and the world.

2023 Nominating Team Nominees

Ellen McBrearity

Ellen and her husband moved to the Princeton area almost five years ago from New Canaan, CT, which had been home for the previous 36 years. Ellen was raised Lutheran and has served in almost every capacity in her home churches, except treasurer and choir member. Neither of those positions play to her skills, shall we say. Ellen has been a member of POP since arriving here, and is currently a member of the Spiritual Formation team, and the Mutual Ministry Committee. She also served one year on the Communications Committee during the website redo. Ellen is an avid reader, dog/nature lover, and a walker. She's a pretty good "Grammie" as well. All of her immediate family, including two children, and three grandchildren, are in the Princeton area – a true blessing.

Greg Nowak

I have been a member of POP for approximately 36 years. I am currently a member of the Finance Team as the Quickbooks number cruncher. I have previously served on Council, Nominating Committee and the Property team. In the past I have been active with the youth as high school youth forum leader, confirmation guide, and as youth leader chaperoned 2 youth gatherings, a mission trip to Mississippi after Katrina and many lock-ins and fast food progressive dinners.

Elizabeth Wagner

I first came to Prince of Peace in the summer of 2005. Anthony and I are accidental Lutherans (although, thanks to a long line of Lutheran ancestors, I was baptized as an infant in a Lutheran church to appease my grandmother), having been raised Catholic and nondenominational, respectively; Prince of Peace first became our church as a compromise! I was part of the call committee that brought Pastor Peter here. My career has been in helping nonprofits build sustainable futures, and I currently lead institutional wealth management at Bryn Mawr Trust.

**Racial Justice Team
2022 Annual Report**

To lead POP from talking about racism to taking action to change it, 2022 included:

Surveyed the congregation regarding choice of beneficiaries for reparations donations

Clear majority choice was similar to Bishop's Challenge so combined efforts

Actively advertised/participated in most of **NJ Synod's Bishop's Challenge** activities including

- Bishop's Book Study on *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson
- Bus Trip to Philadelphia including African American Museum, Quaker Meeting and speaker from Lest We Forget Slavery Museum
- Quilt Square (thanks to Shari Rexroad) with chalice and hands of many skin colors submitted to represent POP welcoming and encouraging diversity
- Series of forums using "Troubling the Waters" curriculum available through Synod
- Sponsored POP movie night viewing "Just Mercy" re saving victims of America's systemic racism through the Bryan Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative
- Members attended weekly advocacy updates with Rev. Sara Lilja
- Members took Transforming White Privilege (TWP) course offered by Synod
- **Raised \$5,155 for reparations**, far above Bishop's and POP's goals of \$3,750
- Forums, sermons, talks, handouts re Jehu Jones (1st Black Lutheran Pastor in America)

Related supplements planned independently by POP team and Pastor Peter Froehlke

- Forums re Ethiopian Christianity/ Civil Rights hymns (thanks to Dr. Paul Rohrem)
- Book Study on Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited* (thanks to Vicar Kayla Hopgood)
- Juneteenth Celebration at Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum
- Liturgy, prayer, books from African American ELCA resources included in POP worship
- CoSponsored community-wide viewing and discussion of "Long Shadow" re the producer's discovery of a family legacy of white privilege
- Ongoing Communication through monthly newsletter articles, holiday/celebrations chart (thanks to Con Sweeney), emails, Facebook & Racial Justice Calendar in narthex

Indigenous Emphasis included:

- Added Land Acknowledgement to POP bulletins and website
- Orange Banner purchased/hung for over 225 days honoring children killed in residential schools
- Forums on residential schools for Indigenous children
- Forum by indigenous guest speaker Clair Garland
- Trip to Nanticoke-Lenape Annual PowWow

The RJT invites you to borrow from the **Anti-Racism Lending Library in the narthex lounge**.

Please consider joining the team and participating in events and opportunities in the coming year as POP works to make our congregation and the ELCA more equitable, just and diverse.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Reyes, chair (nancyauerreyes@gmail.com or 609-273-1239)

Stewardship 2022 Annual Report

The stewardship team's primary responsibility is to arrange and lead the fall stewardship emphasis. The culmination of the emphasis is the in-gathering of financial pledges for the next calendar year. These are utilized by the finance team to build the spending plan. Thank you to everyone who was able to submit a pledge.

2022's emphasis was **God's Grace. Now What?**

We heard Pastor Peter's story about the ridiculous amount of extra candy at St. Bart's Trunk or Treat. We heard Claudia Thompson's story of finding a welcoming grace as a new member of Prince of Peace. We were all asked to consider our financial response to God's abundance. Thank you to all who submitted pledges and all who faithfully give - time, talents, and wealth!

God is Good! All the time!

Joan New and Pastor Froehlke

Social Ministry Outreach Team 2022 Annual Report

Our Mission: To encourage, stimulate and lead our disciples at Prince of Peace to reach out to community, state, synod and the world. To identify, understand, and minister with Christian faith, love and compassion to the needs of others.

2022 has continued to necessitate the development of creative and safe ways to see our outreach ministries carried out. Despite the restrictions imposed by Covid-19, and working together with other Teams, the House Next Door, the Council, and the pastors, Prince of Peace, as a church family, has offered our time, gifts and compassion in many ways to address social, emotional, educational and physical needs and justice issues of those in our community and beyond. Here are some of the ways the Social Outreach Team has supported and facilitated these efforts:

- * On-going support of our sister congregation, St. Bartholomew's (St. Bart's), by supplying groceries for their continuing provision of food to the community, and money for their ministries within and beyond their congregation. Also, when conditions again allowed it, donations of clothing for their Clothes Closet and household items for them to distribute as needed. During the growing season, produce from the Peace Garden was taken to St. Bart's weekly. We additionally provided approximately 25 Thanksgiving Baskets/Boxes with specified items included. Several of our members and Peace Garden workers do volunteer work at St. Bart's, also.
- * Continued support for part of the year in several ways for the Win family, father, mother, and 3 children, who are refugees from Myanmar living in Hamilton and are seeking asylum. They now have other appropriate sources of support.
- * Offerings to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal through envelopes provided with your regular offering envelopes and from the Advent and Lenten offerings at the mid-week worship services.
- * Gift cards to food stores, Walmart, and Target gathered to provide Easter dinner food for families and seniors served by Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ (LSM/NJ), and Easter greeting cards to provide with the food gift cards.
- * Working in the Peace Garden to provide fresh produce to local food banks, mostly to St. Bart's, but also to several others, a total of approximately 1700 lbs. of produce for the season.
- * Collecting 30 filled backpacks to be distributed by St. Bart's to neighborhood children at their Back to School Community Barbecue on September 3.
- * Providing the means for specific Christmas gift requests for 25 children served by LSM/NJ, as well as an additional \$1,000.00 donated for LSM/NJ to use to fulfill the wishes of other children not yet provided for.
- * Cooperating with projects sponsored by the Racial Justice Team and the House Next Door.

* Responding to specific requests as they arose.

Thank you so much for your ministry in these ways. The love of Christ shines through you and your generosity as we build relationships with each other and those in need. We are available and always open to new ideas as we continue our mission in 2023. New members to the Social Outreach Ministry Team are always welcome. If interested, please contact Berta Schott, in person, or by email at rschott21@aol.com.

Your Social Ministry Outreach Team,
Berta Schott, Dave New, Nancy Herrington, Nancy Reyes, and Susan Crossen

Music Ministry 2022 Annual Report

The Music Ministry at Prince of Peace is one of our most visible and active ministries. On average, we involve approximately 30 disciples in active participation. During our worship services, the offering of music plays a central role in our worship experience, as our ministry increases to include all of *our joyful disciples, living the faith*.

In 2022, the work of our Music Ministry started to re-emerge from the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions, but we still exercised restraint and cautiousness as we went about our work. Thankfully, we have been able to offer vocal/choral, instrumental, and handbell music for all 2022 worship services.

Throughout the year, Minister of Music Dr. R. Douglas Helvering and Church Musician Victoria Chow shared responsibilities from the piano/keyboard for our livestream, in-person, and outdoor worship services. Dr. Helvering remains on staff in 2023, and Ms. Chow remains our preferred guest musician whenever her services are needed.

I would like to thank all our participants in the ensembles for their participation and dedication to this ministry. Navigating the act of music making and singing during the pandemic has been quite a challenge, and I am thankful for our musicians' understanding and eagerness to participate as we safely are able. The Music Ministry will continue our rehearsals and worship activities in 2023 as we keep an eye on the lingering impact of the pandemic. If you have any questions for me, please email rdh@rdouglashelvering.com.

– Doug Helvering (Music Minister)

Parish Care Team 2022 Annual Report

Parish Care is caring for each other in our Church Family and Community. We offer care/support in times of joy, sorrow, when there are concerns or worries, there is a need for someone to listen or just because. Through our caring actions we hope to make all feel welcomed by our church family - no matter what is happening in their lives. Through our care we renew our relationship with God and Jesus and we can then go out into the community and share the good news with others as Joyful Disciples Living the Faith.

We show our care in many different ways.

- Assist with daily needs: provide rides, meals, send notes, make phone calls, visit those that cannot get here.
- Communicate with our community: mail materials on spiritual and development growth for newborns and dealing with grief, provide Care Notes, mail advent calendars and Valentine Day Care Boxes to young adults away at school and Valentine Bags too our Senior citizens not able to get out, mail Sunday bulletin to homebound members, make periodic visits to those that cannot get to church on Sundays. Provide greeting cards and calendars to local senior residences.
- Provide for Special Events: Memorial/funeral services and receptions, graduations, weddings, and installations. For funeral receptions we provide a space where folks can gather with family and friends to remember and for some nourishment for the body along with support for all those grieving.
- Provide prayer cards and knitted prayer pocket squares.
- Taking the time to greet, welcome and get to know the folks in our church family.
- 2023 Calendars and greeting cards were gathered and distributed to 7 local senior living facilities

All of these things tell all, that they are important members of our family and loved by GOD.

There are many folks to thank for their service to this ministry. I would like to mention just a few:

Ginger Reiersen and Chris Wethe for their continued care for our Care Notes display in the breezeway, Geeta Telang for mailing our Sunday bulletins to those who cannot be with us on Sunday. Transportation providers: Dorothy and Peter Safranek, and Jim Winder.

Many thank for the many others that contribute their time and talents, funds, items, home baked goodies for Valentine Day Care Package project and those provided meals and soup as needed. The Joyful knitters for keeping our prayer squares well stocked.

Without your generous support we would not be able to reach so many.

We would like to invite all to join our ministry. We have a few specific and many open-ended projects, and a need for an "on-call" team of providers.

Respectively submitted,
Martha Winder

The Peace Garden 2022 Annual Report

The Peace Garden donated about 900 pounds of fresh, organic vegetables to St. Bart's in 2022. More came from volunteers who contributed vegetables from their own home gardens. Volunteers delivered the produce to St. Bart's on its food bank days. The food went quickly and was much appreciated.

The Peace Gardeners, in cooperation with Isles (Trenton) and Prince of Peace's God's Work/Our Hands volunteers, installed a raised bed garden at St. Bart's. It is being used by the students and teachers at the Head Start School there. Laura Poethke, who has been overseeing the Cherry Tree Garden, is volunteering at the school, teaching the pre-schoolers about how vegetables grow, what they taste like, and how to use them.

For the second December in a row, garden volunteers made about twenty-five Christmas wreaths from locally gathered natural materials. Thrivent Financial contributed \$250 for this project. We are grateful to them and to all who contributed materials and supported this project by buying wreaths. Proceeds in the amount of about \$620 to St. Bart's and the Head Start pre-school there.

We are grateful to Central Jersey Irrigation, who donated the materials and labor for a new water line to the Cherry Tree Garden. We now have a timer on the hose set-up and don't have to make as many trips to keep the plants watered. This, plus the good exposure to the sun in that garden, produced a lot of excellent vegetables this year.

We are also grateful to Prince of Peace for covering the not-insignificant cost of water, as the church has done since the garden was begun in 2014. And we are grateful to the Philadelphia Horticultural Society's Community Gardens program for their donations of seeds, seedlings, mulching materials, and much more.

Please contact Nancy Reyes (nancyauerreyes@gmail.com) if you'd like more information about the Peace Garden. We will resume in March and welcome volunteers—no experience necessary.

The Gardening Team

Lois Case
Jen DiGioia
Maggie Furniss (friend of Nancy Nicosia)
Nancy Nicosia (Master Gardener)
Bente Ott
Fran Lalka (friend of Nancy Reyes)
Joe Lalka (friend of Nancy Reyes)
Laura Poethke (Holy Trinity, Burlington)
Nancy Reyes
Shari Rexroad
Berta Schott

Communications Team 2022 Annual Report

This year the Communications Team has done the following work on behalf of Prince of Peace:

- Kept website up-to-date by posting news about POP's ongoing activities.
- Performed ongoing security patching, maintenance, and tuning of POP's WordPress website.
- Monitored the ongoing operation of POP's Wi-Fi network and performed needed firmware updates on the network controller and access points.
- Live-streamed our weekly worship services on Facebook and created copies of them on YouTube; performed troubleshooting as needed to address livestream problems.
- Break down the livestream setup and set it up again as needed depending on other usage of the sanctuary.
- As part of our Livestreaming Improvement Taskforce project we:
 - Purchased and successfully deployed the iRig Pro I/O audio interface that allows us to run the output of our P/A system directly via cable into the streaming capture device.
 - Trained several volunteers as "audio technicians" who switch between different audio sources during livestream services.
 - Acquired an iPod Touch which we are using as our video capture device.
- Created online forms for Lutheran Social Ministries Christmas Giving and Poinsettia orders.
- Produced the monthly *Tidings of Peace* newsletter

The Communications Team welcomes new members with expertise or an interest in gaining hands-on experience in any of the following areas: WordPress, web publishing, cybersecurity, graphic design, video, sound reinforcement/capture, or Microsoft Windows support. Please consider joining us in 2023. Contact Dave Herrington at 908-447-7156 or dlherrin@gmail.com for more information.

Peace,
Dave Herrington

The PoP Communications Team

Lois Case
Tim Gjenvick (Council representative)
Dave Herrington
David Jeedi
Doug Helvering (Worship & Music representative)
Con Patrick Sweeney
Dan Ungar
Newman Wilson

Property Team 2022 Annual Report

Due to the pandemic, attention to the Prince of Peace property was virtually ignored for a period of nearly two years. But in 2022, the need to address issues related to the Prince of Peace property became apparent, primarily due to four factors: (1) the longtime chairperson for the Property Team departed from the church; (2) use of the church building started to increase with the loosening of Covid restrictions; (3) the church building continued to need diligent attention given its aging and increased usage; and (4) the House Next Door was becoming a more integral and active location for Prince of Peace ministry, and as such, required more attention to property matters.

On Saturday, October 1, 2022, member Con Sweeney facilitated a session which was meant to address property matters including: property management; property maintenance and repairs; and building use. Participants in the facilitated session included members from POP staff and members involved in matters of property and finance. The major conclusion of the group was that the church needs to establish two distinct groups: (1) a Property Management & Maintenance Team; and (2) a Building Use Team. Various members agreed to participate in one or the other teams. It was also deemed important to define the specific role of the Church Office Manager in the area of property and building use matters.

Property Management & Maintenance (PMM) Team: This team will be responsible for the overall management of the church and House Next Door properties. It will: (1) oversee service contracts (e.g.: the cleaning service; grounds maintenance and snow removal; HVAC maintenance, etc.); (2) oversee property maintenance and repair issues (both short and long term needs); (3) liaise with the Finance team regarding relevant insurance policies and the development of an annual property budget and spending plan; and (4) liaise with the Building Use Team to ensure that building users are abiding by all stipulated policies and procedures.

Building Use (BU) Team: This team will be separate and distinct from the PMM Team. It will review policies and procedures related to building use, and develop and/or revise such policies and procedures as appropriate. Specifically, the team must ensure that sufficient policies and procedures address: (1) policies related to those groups and organizations which the building use will support; (2) procedures for handling building use inquiries; (3) the development and administration of building user agreements, fees and security deposits; (4) policies and procedures for building users; and (5) the monitoring of building users. The Building Use Team will also be responsible for serving as a liaison with the PMM Team to communicate needed maintenance repairs and as a liaison with the Finance team regarding building use revenues.

Both Teams have started to address their respective work and tasks. For example, a group of interested members surveyed the church's interior and exterior spaces and identified important maintenance and repair issues which must be addressed. The team would like to distinguish between items which require skilled professionals and those which may be addressed by unskilled but hard-working members interested in donating their time and talents, as a cost-saving measure.

At this juncture, the one important item that needs to be communicated to the congregation is the need to address the parking lot. Late in 2022, the POP insurance company conveyed that they would terminate our property and casualty insurance due to the poor condition of the parking lot and the liability which may be incurred. We were able to negotiate an agreement with the insurance company whereby they would continue to insure us if we completed some short-term repairs and committed to repaving the parking lot and circle in the Spring of 2023. This will cost a substantial amount of money, and to date, estimates have ranged between \$40,000 to \$70,000. The church council is determining how best to finance such an expensive repair.

If you are interested in sharing your talents with either Property team, please contact Wendy Schutzer or Sean Cuddahy (PPM Team) or Dorothy Safranek (BU Team). Thanks, as always, to the many members and friends that assist in the care and maintenance of our church building and The House Next Door.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Schutzer
POP Council Member

The Property Team

Michelle & Mike Conk
Sean Cuddahy
Nancy & Bob Durie
Pastor Froehlke
Tim Gjenvick
Nancy & Dave Herrington
Audrey & Dennis Oehm
Joan Prins & Peter Perkuhn
Dorothy Safranek
Wendy Schutzer
Con Sweeney
Geeta Telang

Christian Education 2022 Annual Report

The Christian Education ministry continues to thrive at Prince of Peace.

Sunday Morning Adult Class

The Adult Class has re-entered to in-person classes. This past year, we have covered a variety of topics with different teachers. We continually are thankful for Dr. Paul Rorem. Dr. Rorem led a popular Lutheranism 201 class on Luther's writings on the Creed in the Large Catechism. Dr. Rorem also taught session on the hymn *Oh, Love, How Deep* from the ELW. Vicar Kayla taught a four-week session last spring on the Book of Philippians. In October, we invited Clair Garland, a member of the Lenape and Cherokee tribes to share the story of the Leni Lenape people upon whose land Prince of Peace stands. Pastor Peter taught two classes on the Racial Justice team's indigenous people's emphasis in September. One was on the meaning of the Orange Banner that stood in our chancel this past year. The other was on the controversy stemming from Indian mascot names for high school sports teams. In the spring, Pastor Peter also taught classes on the parable of the Prodigal Son and on the Passion. The year ended with Pastor Peter's classes on our Advent theme of *Out of the Blue*.

Pastor Class

Pastor Peter has held Pastor Classes on Wednesday evenings through the year. Last spring, Pastor led an important discussion on the origins of racism from the book *The Christian Imagination* by Willie Jennings. Our Field Ed student, Daniel Marrone, taught a well-received class on the humor of Martin Luther. Pastor also led a class in the fall on recent scholarship on Mary Magdalene.

Confirmation

Confirmation class has partnered with Saint Bartholomew's and Abiding Presence this year. We meet once a month on a Saturday. We emphasize service projects. In the fall, we served at the St. Bart's food pantry and we traveled to Rawtools Philly to learn about forging guns into garden tools. In December, we helped served at the POAC (Parents of Autistic Children) Christmas breakfast that was held at Prince of Peace. In addition to the service projects, Pastor Miles, Pastor Erich, and Pastor Peter teach Confirmation lessons.

Internship

Vicar Kayla Hopgood completed her internship at Prince of Peace in June. Vicar Kayla has been approved for ordination in the ELCA and is hoping to receive a first call in the coming year.

Field Education

Prince of Peace welcomed Daniel Marrone as our Field Ed student from Princeton Seminary in September. Daniel has led worship, preached, taught, and accompanied pastor on pastoral care calls. Daniel will continue at Prince of Peace through April.

Extras

Prince of Peace had two special educational opportunities. In April we recognized *The Affair of the Sausages*, commemorating the 500th Anniversary where Huldrych Zwingli advocated eating meat during the Lenten fast. In June, the Turkish School who uses our building invited Prince of Peace to an Iftar, the Muslim breaking of the fast. Besides enjoying a delicious meal, participants learned about Ramadan and the work of the Turkish School here at POP.

Pastor Peter

2022 Statistical Summary

Disciples Received in 2022

Carol Baldessari
Leena Angel Jeedi
Claudia Thompson

Disciples Removed in 2022

2

Baptized in 2022

Cameron Matthew Wehrhahn
Avery Mae Stutz
Madelyn Grace Bell

Confirmed in 2022

John Durie
Lucy Giasi
Jake Grimm

Funerals in 2022

Jean Gunkel

Marriages in 2022

None

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Disciples	274	276

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America