



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

SUNDAY MAY 19, 2024

The Ministry of Valley of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Living in God's love and compassion, we are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ,
as the Holy Spirit works through us for healing, justice, and peace.*

Annual Report to the Congregation

May 19, 2024

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Secretary's Minutes of the May 21, 2023 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

This meeting was held in a hybrid format, with members of the congregation attending both in-person and virtually, via the Zoom platform.

Attendance:

In Person: 52

Online: 1

Noting that there was a quorum present, President Tara Kuckkan called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. The meeting was opened with Pastor Wes Syverson leading us in prayer.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Lauren Pockl read a summary of the minutes from the May 15, 2022, Annual Meeting and the January 29, 2023, Semi-Annual Meeting. The report was moved for approval by Pat Hepner; seconded by Diane Hinderlie. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Tara Kuckkan provided a report of the Treasurer on behalf of Joe Thom. Through April, our expenses were slightly over budget, with revenues under budget. With not keeping pace with budget, we could face a significant shortfall this year. We need to continue to be faithful in our giving.

President's Report

Tara Kuckkan provided the President's report. She explained that the focus of the strategic planning meeting at the beginning of the year was on propelling Valley of Peace forward, into the future - planting the seeds and tending them to reap later. The theme at each Church Council meeting this year was *invite to gather, focusing on inviting others to gather together again post-pandemic whether online or in person. Every council meeting began with special ways our council and congregation have invited others to gather. Valley of Peace leadership continues to plan for the future of our church and congregation.*

New Business:

Transfer of Funds from Sanford Account to Lower Level Improvement Dedicated Fund & Engagement of Architecture Firm for Design Development Phase of Lower Level

Tara Kuckkan presented the new business. Both items - (1) the transfer of \$50,000 from the Dorothy Sanford fund to a dedicated fund related to the lower-level improvement; and (2) engagement of the Miller Dunwiddie Architecture Firm to complete the Design Development phase of lower-level improvements - were recommended by the church council.

With respect to the first item, the Lower Level Improvement Team recommends that to move forward to the next stage of the lower level project we need to engage Miller Dunwiddie Architecture Firm to complete the Design Development phase of lower-level improvements.

Minutes from May 21, 2023 Continued

This phase includes the engagement of a general contractor for validation and cost estimating; engagement of food service design and supply company for kitchen equipment; layout and budgeting; and revision of previous concept plans to reflect the feedback received by the congregation.

The second recommendation addressed the Finance team's proposal to move \$50,000 from the Dorothy Sanford fund to a dedicated fund related to the lower-level improvement. This transfer would be used to fund a feasibility study for a Capital Campaign and the Design Development phase of lower-level improvements.

There was an inquiry from the congregation regarding what the feasibility study includes. It was confirmed that this study includes a determination as to whether the lower-level project would be feasible for the church. Dave Gilyard explained that the architecture firm will demonstrate how we would put together the plan for the lower level; explain whether it is feasible or not; obtain current estimates to provide to the capital campaign; and provide an estimate for what it will cost the church to move forward with the lower level improvements. The goal is to gather more specific and accurate estimates than we had in 2021 and to narrow where we want to focus improvements for the kitchen, bathroom, and fellowship hall and we will feasibly be able to accomplish.

A question was also asked regarding whether the feasibility study would include other big improvements like the HVAC system and parking lot. The response received was that the capital campaign includes both the lower-level improvements and the improvements to the HVAC systems.

Jim Jasper moved that we take both recommendations and vote yes; Jim Crofoot seconded. No discussion on the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed.

Sponsorship of Venezuelan Family

Ann Dybvig shared details on Valley of Peace sponsoring a Venezuelan family. The request is being made on behalf of three Valley of Peace families - the Dybvigs; Ruth and Jon Larson; and Laurie Eaton and Jim Jasper. Tapestry is looking for other churches to partner in assisting Venezuelan families seeking humanitarian parole. Venezuela is ranked as one of the top 5 refugee crises in the world.

Valley of Peace is committed to sponsoring four individuals - a young woman in her 20s who is a sister of someone at Tapestry church and a wife and two children of someone at Tapestry church.. Tapestry can handle settlement assistance (enrolling in school; settling in the U.S.). Tapestry is having difficulty with the fees associated with parole and sponsorship. Valley of Peace has agreed to assist.

Ann is working with Mariana Duffney to get a dedicated account sent up to assist with this and is working on paperwork to be a legal sponsor.

Election of New Officers and Council Members

Pat McGraw read the ballot. Tara Kuckkan stated that there is an open Parish Life position and asked that if anyone would like to serve in this role that they contact Pat McGraw. Because only one person was nominated for each position, a vote of acclimation for the entire slate was requested.

Minutes from May 21, 2023 Continued

Ballot

Valley of Peace Council and Committee Elections

May 21, 2023

President Elect	
Skip Humphrey	1 Year Term (Becomes President Year 2)
Secretary	
Chrys Johnson	2 Year Term (1 st Term)
Young Adult on Council	
Jake Kendall	1 Year Term (1 st Term)
Hospitality	2 Year Term (1 st Term)
Sally Daniels Herron and Abby Stetler will co-chair (one vote on council)	
Parish Life	
Open	2 Year Term
Stewardship	
Christine Weatherman	2 Year Term (1 st Term)
World Missions	
Dan Johnson	2 Year Term (1 st Term)
Personnel	
Melissa Dellwo	2 Year Term (1 st Term)
Pastoral Review	
Jim Crofoot	2 Year Term (1 st Term)
Children, Youth and Family	
Dustin Froyum	2 Year Term (1 st Term)
Trust	
Zachary Pierson	2 Year Term (1 st Term)

Election of the new officers and council members was moved by Jim Jasper; seconded by Dave Gilyard. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed.

Minutes from May 21, 2023 Continued

Acknowledgement of Outgoing Council Members

Tara Kuckkan thanked outgoing council and team members for their contributions and leadership. Outgoing council and team members included:

- Jim Crofoot: President Elect, President, and Past President
- Lauren Pockl: Secretary
- Julia Madison: Hospitality

Celebration of Outgoing and Installation of New Council Members

Pastor Wes led a celebration of outgoing and installation of new council members.

Adjournment

Motion for adjournment by Kelsey Pierson; seconded by Steve Collin. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed.

*Meeting minutes compiled by Council Secretary Lauren Pockl

Minutes of the October 29, 2023

Capital Campaign Meeting

Call to Order and Prayer

Council President Pat McGraw declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:38 a.m. Pastor Ashley led opening prayer that she explained was a Pentecost prayer “to make things new that never were.”

Capital Campaign Explanation

- Limited focus of meeting and vote: Pat McGraw explained that the Congregation would vote on whether or not to hire Walsh & Associates to lead VoP through a capital campaign. Decisions regarding which repairs or improvements will be made will be properly vetted later through our committees, Teams, Council, consultant (Walsh) and Congregation as appropriate.
- Background: In order to establish a generally common understanding of the VoP Facility, building history and current condition Pat McGraw discussed the following points:
 - The church is more than 27,000 square feet and was originally constructed in 1960 with an addition in 1966.
 - Original Dedication - “Built to be a Blessing”
 - Pat asked the Congregation to consider the many ways the building has indeed been a blessing to so many lives - bible school, Bible study, Faith formation, confirmation classes, baptisms, weddings, funerals, Lenten soup suppers, movie nights, chili cookoffs, AGCLC, Scout troops, AA, a place of spiritual refuge for more folks than we’ll ever really know, and of course a spirit filled sanctuary where we joyously give thanks and raise up our prayers every Sunday.
 - To put our current challenges in perspective Pat also asked the Congregation to consider how the decision process undertaken by the founders must have looked and felt like.
- Current Situation: Pat framed our current situation with the following:
 - Our building is getting old: Many have seen and experienced our aging building and the parts of the building that we can no longer ignore or prop up with volunteer efforts alone. After a decade or more of monumental volunteer efforts to limp a 63-year-old system along, we’ve known for some time that we’re on borrowed time and need to do something, but we struggled to quantify and prioritize the needs so we could answer to those needs.
 - Environmental consciousness: We also want to be more environmentally friendly. This has further complicated our ability to determine a responsible path forward using limited financial and volunteer resources.
 - The good news – We’ve taken critical first steps: Over recent years we have worked with contractors, engineers and architects to get more finite evaluations of the needs, and conceptual plans and clearer expectations of costs for improvements - which will hopefully include things such as a replacement for the boiler, kitchen repairs and improvements, a lower-level restroom, HVAC needs throughout the building, parking lot repairs, and minor renovations to the Fellowship Hall. Pat reiterated that the precise list, nature, and prioritization of improvements has not been determined and choosing to proceed with the capital campaign does not equate to a decision regarding specific improvements.
 - This is very good news. After years of struggling to come to terms with the myriad of needs a path forward is finally taking shape. We have a lot of work to do as a Congregation, but it is thrilling to be moving into a solutions mode.

Minutes from October 29, 2023 continued

- VoP simply does not have the resources to determine what our fundraising capacity should be or to execute the well-orchestrated campaign necessary to reach our fundraising potential.
- Earlier this year this Congregation hired Walsh & Associates to conduct a Fundraising Feasibility Study to answer the first big question – What is VoP’s fundraising capacity?
- Key components of the Feasibility Study included a deep dive into VoP’s financial records, a deep dive into our congregations historic giving patters, as well as comprehensive interviews with 48 VoP members.
- The Feasibility Study concluded that VoP should be able to raise between \$600,000 and \$1,000,000.
- Walsh backs the minimum goal of \$600,000 with a guarantee. If we follow the prescribed campaign and fall XX% short of the minimum goal, Walsh will reduce their fee by XX%.
- Capital Campaign Proposal: Pat framed the VoP Council’s disposition regarding the current situation and the hiring of Walsh & Associates to conduct a capital campaign.
 - We cannot continue making “band aid” solutions. The boiler and HVAC system were highlighted. The consultant (Steen) we hired to evaluate our system identified the boiler, air handling unit for the fellowship hall and the rooftop unit as immediate needs. Not only are some of these items not meeting current building codes but they put our ability to reasonably trust we will be able to keep All God’s Children Learning Center and the VoP sanctuary open.
 - The Council proposed that we once again boldly answer to our call to be a blessing for all and address the needs we’ve been discussing.
 - As a next, critical step we propose to continue working with Walsh & Associates, using their proven approach to develop the necessary capital to do so. The consultant fee for the campaign would be \$64,500.
 - Walsh has exceeded expectations throughout the Feasibility Study
 - The Council has received and reviewed several, largely flattering, testimonials from other churches and asked follow-up questions as needed.
 - Congregants are encouraged to review testimonials provided at walshfundraising.com.
 - The Walsh Campaign Director and Campaign Secretary will be onsite weekly (total of 30-days) leading us and working shoulder to shoulder with us throughout the most intensive period, between now and next April.
 - Walsh will continue to handle campaign administration throughout the three-year pledge process.
- It was noted that the undertaking of this campaign as a Congregation may be a blessing itself. Pat asked the Congregation to consider what this congregation boldly stepping beyond the isolating effects of the Covid pandemic, and the monumental building worries we have, and moving back to fellowship and our true calling together may mean for the vitality of our congregational life.

Minutes from October 29, 2023 continued

Council & Attendee Questions/Comments”

- The Finance Committee recommended using the Dorothy Sanford Fund to pay the fee for Walsh & Associates.
- Going forward with the capital campaign allows us to continue our mission at VoP, which includes All God’s Children Learning Center.
- With the current state of our building, we are not serving AGCLC, the Scouts, AA, and other organizations very well.
- If we don’t reach the minimum amount we set for the capital campaign, the fee will be reduced by Walsh.
- Work will begin on developing and taking action on a plan to address the boiler now rather than waiting for the results of the campaign. The work needs to start as soon as possible due to the risks to VoP and AGCLC as discussed above.
- The Walsh & Associates fee will be paid in installments.

Motion: Joe Thom made a motion to contract with Walsh & Associates at a fee of \$64,500 to proceed with the campaign. Jim Jasper seconded the motion. Paper ballots were used to collect the responses to the motion. Christine Weatherman, Stewardship Chair, and Diane Hinderlie counted the ballots – 50 yes votes, 3 no votes. 5 votes were cast online. **The motion passed.**

Pastor Ashley mentioned that Walsh & Associates has been impressed by the willingness of VoP members to help with the campaign. She asked everyone to prayerfully consider helping throughout the campaign.

The capital campaign will be launched in early January, and it is hoped that we can have a celebration on April 14. The capital campaign will be a three-year commitment with the most intensive efforts between now and next April.

Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Shannon Jay made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Joe Thom seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

Respectfully,

Pat McGraw

Secretary's Minutes of the January 28, 2024 Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Call to Order and Prayer

President Pat McGraw declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. Pastor Ashley opened the meeting with prayer. It was declared that the purpose of the meeting was to pass the 2024 operating budget.

Stewardship Committee Report

Christine Weatherman, Stewardship Committee Chair, distributed paper horns to all members before giving her report. She reported that a deficit of \$48,000 was made up for the month of December 2023 and she asked all present to celebrate the balanced budget by "tooting their own horns."

Treasurer's Report & Approval of the 2024 Budget

Copies of the proposed budget for 2024 were distributed and Joe Thom, Treasurer, explained the process of putting together the budget. He said work had begun in November and he sat down with Mariana, VoP Accountant, first and then met with the Financial Committee. The Council then received a copy of the proposed budget as a recommendation and lastly the congregation will be presented with the budget for approval.

Joe asked all to begin by looking at the staff salaries. Last year we only had CYF Director for 6 months so that saved some money. The building and salaries account for 75% of the budget. It is foreseen that the capital campaign will rejuvenate our giving. Members of VoP can celebrate the fact that the congregation steps up when there is a shortfall.

A question was raised as to why Global Missions was not included in the Budget. Global Missions is included in the dedicated accounts.

Another question concerned All God's Children and whether the \$30,000 received from them included utilities. It does not. The direct payment from AGC is used as part of the operating budget. Other Income varies from year to year and Joe and Mariana estimate the amount.

Two groups from AA pay rent and there was also an Employee Retention Credit this past year to include in income. It is hoped that the building costs will moderate as repairs are completed. Joe said that he is always happy to answer any questions.

President McGraw called for a motion to approve the budget for 2024. Steve Hoge made the motion and Jim Jasper seconded the motion. A show of hands to approve the budget was counted and there were 52 in attendance and 3 on Zoom in favor of the motion. None opposed.

Catherine Martignacco made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dee Kendall seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The foregoing is considered to be a true and accurate record of all items discussed. If any discrepancies or inconsistencies are noted, please contact the writer immediately.

Respectfully,
Chrys Johnson

President's Report

This is called the Council President's Annual Report. However, I fear that title implies that what I am about to share is of my or the Council's doing. Sure, we played our roles. However, as I reflect on the past year, it is abundantly clear that I and the Council simply had a front row seat to something indescribably beautiful. This year's accomplishments came by the Grace of God and the efforts of our focused Teams. And every single one of you. Every single last one! There is not one single exception. Not one!

So, what did we all accomplish or in some cases simply endure over the past twelve months?

Note: This is just Council or Congregational level items. I'll let Team Reports speak to the tremendous activities undertaken by each individual team.

VoP Council reflection on significant activities over the past year:

- VoP provided support for four people from Venezuela on humanitarian parole.
- Special thank you to Laurie Eaton/Jim Jasper; Ruth and Jon Larson; and the Dybvigs for their leadership in these efforts and to all who provided additional monetary, material, or spiritual support.
- At the Annual Congregational meeting one year ago, we approved the engagement of Architectural Firm Miller Dunwiddie to prepare conceptual plans and cost estimates for lower-level improvements.
- At the Annual meeting we also approved proceeding with a capital campaign feasibility study to determine what VoP may be capable of financially.
- Despite running at a deficit much of the year and all the special studies, aging building issues and other efforts going on, we closed the year in relatively good financial health. Many had to dig deeper to make this happen. Thank you to Stewardship Chair, Christine Weatherman.
- We supported Pastor Ashley's sabbatical.
 - Special thanks to Pastors Wes and Laurie, the Worship and Music Team, Faith Formation Team and so many others. The Council made a donation to Prism in honor of Pastor Wes and Pastor Laurie's efforts.
- A Council strategic planning retreat was held in August. Thank you to Tara Kuckkan for hosting.
- We responded to CYF Director Emilie Moravec's departure. Emilie is now in a role benefiting the entire ELCA and beyond; we still have the Moravec's in our church family and we've gained Pace Warfeld, new CYF Director as a new church family member.
- We've initiated and are benefiting from a deeper relationship with our neighbor congregation, Elim Lutheran. Our Executive Teams have met, our pastors are in frequent communication, and we now share our CYF Director (Pace). Our Executive Team and Personnel Committee worked with Elim's leadership to create a new shared CYF Director Position Description.
- Treasurer Joe Thom and Accountant Mariana Duffney worked to receive a one-time payroll tax refund for VoP of \$51,000.
- We held a wonderful Rally Sunday event with food trucks, bouncy house and other activities.
 - Postcards were sent to our Golden Valley neighbors and event info posted to social media to welcome all. Thank you to our Hospitality, and Music and Worship Teams for all they did to make the event such a success.
- Additional eGiving cards were added to the back of the pews so online offerings may be celebrated when the offering plates are passed.
- We've increased our efforts to connect with the local community.
 - Hundreds of Rally Sunday invitation postcards sent.
 - Community connections is a continuing focus for many of our teams and the Council.
 - Community connections is one of the primary motivators for taking on the lower-level improvements.

President's Report Continued

- We began work to strengthen the relationship between the VoP and AGCLC leadership teams
- We participated in the AGCLC Trunk or Treat Celebration.
- Treasurer, Joe Thom worked with Team Chairs to develop a proposed operating budget for 2024
- We held a special Congregational meeting in October to discuss the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study results and approved proceeding with the Rejoice and Renew Capital Campaign lead by Walsh and Associates. This may well be seen as a watershed moment in VoP's history.
- We executed the Rejoice and Renew Campaign (current total pledges of \$1,168,613.82!).
- Several members visited Mt. Olivet Lutheran to tour their recent HVAC system upgrades.
- The Council Members and their significant others attended a Council Christmas gathering. Thank you to Joe Thom and Tom Ewald for hosting.
- Property Team Chair, Jim Jasper worked to execute an insurance claim to pay for repair of storm damaged roofs and skylights.
- Several ad hoc committees investigated opportunities to move VoP away from dependence on fossil fuels. Special thank you to Joe Cherra and Dustin Froyum for holding our feet to the fire (or the solar powered, zero emissions, heating element ☐).
- The Executive Team held a special 2024 budgeting meeting in November.
- The Council approved the annual operating budget for Congregational vote at a January congregational meeting.
- We hired Minify to evaluate our HVAC options.
- We held a semi-annual congregational meeting in January where we approved the 2024 operating budget and celebrated closing of the 2023 budget gap (tooted our own horns)
- Ann Dybvig and Sara Blood attended a Summit with the Wildfire Churches.
- Trust Members attended a VoP Council Meeting to continue to communicate and partner in our work to support ministries outside of the VOP operating budget.
- The Rejoice and Renew Capital Campaign Cabinet recently held a celebratory dinner at the home of Joe Thom and Tom Ewald.
- The Nominating Committee worked to identify willing candidates for each open position for the coming year. Big thank you to Jon Larson and Diane Hinderlie.
- Christine Weatherman and Pat McGraw represented VoP as voting members of the Mpls Synod Assembly May 2-4th. The main focus was the election of a new bishop.
- The Council approved Minify further evaluating HVAC options.
- Finally, at the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 19th we will (hopefully) approve the new slate of leadership position candidates.

As we hand over the reigns to the new Council, I must say that the rest of the Council and I know so many others, are so deeply grateful for the past year, and so very excited about the future. Our Rejoice and Renew Campaign has been awesomely successful. We now know what we are financially capable of. Very soon we will be able to make final determinations regarding our HVAC and lower-level plans, and seek bids from contractors to make these dreams realty. We are clearly in a period of Renewal and have an abundance of reasons to Rejoice. Thank you all, each and every one of you!

Respectfully submitted,
Pat McGraw, Council President

Pastor's Report

Rejoice in the Lord always, again, I say, Rejoice!
Philippians 4:4

How many times have you heard the words, 'Rejoice & Renew' this year at Valley of Peace? Rejoice & Renew is the title of our Capital Campaign so you have seen it in logos, communications, and temple talks. As I have used the words, 'Rejoice & Renew' several times myself, I have been reflecting on how these words describe not just our hopes for a Capital Campaign, but describe this entire season at Valley of Peace.

Rejoice & Renew in Sabbatical Practices.

Last year at this time I was at the beginning of my 3-month sabbatical leave. I continue to be grateful to you all for the gift of this leave. I see this time of sabbatical as a time of rejoicing and renewal, not just for me, but for our whole church. I believe that my sabbatical leave was not only a season of rejoicing in the space to care for myself and seek renewal in my own pastoral role and call but also a season of rejoicing and renewing for our whole church. My sabbatical leave gave space for our many church leaders to continue to rejoice in their own gifts and the gifts of others and discern the renewal that is happening at Valley of Peace at this time. Thank you to Pastor Wes Syverson and Pastor Laurie Eaton for their leadership during this sabbatical leave. I pray that we can continue to be a church that rejoices at the gift of rest and recognizes the renewal that comes with sabbath practices.

Rejoice & Renew in Staff Transitions.

This was also a year for some significant staff transitions. And, as with any season of change, I give thanks to God for the staff who have faithfully served and added their gifts and ideas to our ministry. In particular this year, I am grateful for the years of service from Emilie Moravec as she served as our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries for 8 years. Emilie resigned in June 2023. In the fall of 2023, Valley of Peace entered into a time of discernment with Elim Lutheran Church to prayerfully consider a shared ministry position. Again, I see the themes of rejoice and renew all throughout this process. Sharing a staff position is not new for Valley of Peace, in fact, several years ago there was a shared youth person with Valley of Peace and Faith Lilac Way. But this did feel like a season of renewal as we faithfully discerned and imagined new ways of being church together. I will be one of the first to admit that I was not sure that a shared ministry position could work, and I was delighted to have been surprised by the joy that I witnessed in this discernment process. The Holy Spirit was very much at work. I find myself rejoicing at the ways our two churches created a bond during the discernment, interview, and hiring process. I give thanks to God for Pace Warfield and their call to serve these congregations in this season. I continue to give thanks to God and rejoice in all of our staff called to serve Valley of Peace at this time: Beth Brandt, our Organist/Pianist/Accompanist, Kelsey Pierson, our Ministry Support Coordinator, Pace Warfield, our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, and Hsu-hui Wang, our Director of Music. I am also grateful for Mariana Duffney, our Financial Consultant, Anna Pearson, our Director of All God's Children Learning Center, and Tara Kuckkan who served as the Campaign Assistant.

Pastor's Report Continued

Rejoice & Renew in our Volunteers.

This was a busy season for the church, not just with the Rejoice & Renew Campaign and the hiring process, but many other things that required the attention of staff and volunteers in the last year. These include: the Earned Sick and Safe Time Law for Minnesota, Job Descriptions and Employee Handbook Updates, Rally Sunday Planning and Intentional Invitation to Neighbors, Worship conversations and survey, the beginning of shared Racial Justice work with House of Hope, continued work with architects and engineers for building and HVAC recommendations, and many other conversations, care, and service offered to the community that you will see in the reports included in this document. In all of these things, I give thanks to God for the joy and wisdom that our volunteers and leaders offer. Thank you for your insights and the ways you all shape this community of faith. Your presence offers us many reasons to rejoice and your ideas continue to renew the church as we discern what it means to be Valley of Peace in this season. Thank you!

Rejoice & Renew Campaign.

And finally, I cannot say thank you enough to all of the people who gave of their treasurers, time, and talents to help our congregation complete a successful Rejoice & Renew Capital Campaign for property improvements. I could go on and on about the renewal of relationships that we saw, the rejoicing that we experienced, the hope and energy that we now feel. This is all a gift from God and I am grateful to have been a part of this story and season at Valley of Peace. Thank you!

I pray that you have also experienced **Rejoicing & Renewal** at Valley of Peace. I think about the charter members of our church who in 1965 dreamed of a church in this particular neighborhood serving this community. I think of their hopes, their commitment, their work, and their faithfulness. Friends, this season we too have been among the saints of the church who have taken a risk to say yes to what God is doing here in this place. We join our hopes commitment, work, and faithfulness with church members throughout the ages to continue to proclaim that we believe in a God who is always renewing lives, churches, and communities so that all may know the love and justice of our God. And for this, we **Rejoice** at God's persistent faithfulness that continues to **Renew** our lives daily.

Friends at Valley of Peace, your work has invested in a church where all will continue to experience **Rejoicing & Renewal** at what God is doing in our world. Thanks be to God for you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Ashley Osborn

Treasurer's Report

The 2023 expenses approved the congregation was \$377,104.
We ended the year with balanced budget with a small surplus of \$915.

Income for year totaled \$362,714 with member giving exceeding the budget.
Year end giving was very strong that enabled us to meet budget.

Expenses for year totaled \$361,799.
Total expenses came in below budget largely due to open staff position for half the year.

Also at the end of 2023, Valley of Peace had over \$875k invested with Thrivent from the Dorothy Sanford estate.

Many thanks to the finance team,
which includes Dave Gilyard, Paul Mikelson, Pam Syverson, Judy Greeninger, and Pastor Ashley.

Joe Thom, Valley of Peace Treasurer

Audit's Report

With this report, the Audit Team presents its audit of the financial books and records of the congregation.

Church: Valley of Peace Lutheran Church

Synod: Minneapolis Synod

For the period beginning and ending: January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

The audit objectives related to the internal audit of financial books, records and operations include determination that:

Purpose of the Audit

- All assets and liabilities recorded in the congregation's books and records are supported by appropriate independent documentation (i.e., bank statements and vendor invoices).
- All general ledger balances are appropriately reconciled to their underlying assets (i.e., bank statements) and liabilities (i.e., accounts payable).
- Expenses are appropriately approved and supported by the appropriate documentation.
- Proper segregation of duties is in place for all key financial transactions and are not being circumvented.

Valley of Peace Financial Controls and Guidelines

- Financial statements for VOP will be prepared within 5 days of the EOM (End of Month).
- Financial statements will include transaction details for the month to reconcile with the book and bank balances.
- The Treasurer will review all financial statements, invoices and documentation in the monthly folder and sign off.
 - Invoices/documentation will be provided and approved for all disbursements.
 - Routine operational invoices are assumed to be approved via the congregation's approval of the annual budget.
- Checks/cash will be properly safeguarded in a locked safe. Counters will deposit items twice a month.
- The Treasurer will match the Bank Deposit receipt with the deposit slip and follow up on any discrepancies.

The 2023 books were audited, and we feel confident that the books and records of the congregation continue to be materially accurate in all respects.

This report was respectfully submitted by the following audit team members:

Dee Kendall, Becca Anderson, Pat Hepner

Children, Youth & Family Ministries Report

This past year was a year of transition for the children, youth, and family ministries of Valley of Peace. Our former CYF Director, Emily Moravec, transitioned to a position at the ELCA Churchwide. Valley of Peace worked with Elim Lutheran Church in Robbinsdale to create a joint CYF Position shared between the two churches, both members of Wildfire. The fall was filled with planning and discerning how to move forward with this joint partnership between the two congregations, with Pastor Ashley Osborn, the CYF Team, and a group of volunteers planning and implementing fall programming for Valley of Peace. Our new CYF Director, Pace Warfield, was hired and began their ministry in early January. In the past four months, Pace worked with Pastor Ashley, the CYF Team, and volunteers to continue the implementation of programming through the spring and began planning events and fundraisers for the summer and fall. In spite of the transition, the CYF program has continued to be a meaningful and impactful ministry for the families of Valley of Peace. Trusting in the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we look forward to the future!

CYF Team

The CYF Team includes Dustin Froyum as the Chair, with Kari Roll, John Hovde, Chad Schneider, Joan Maland, and Jon Ewald as the remaining team members. We are grateful for the diverse skills and experiences that this team brings and are grateful for their work throughout this time of transition.

Children's Faith Formation

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade meet in person at Valley of Peace Sunday mornings prior to worship. This year we have had an amazing roster of leaders rotating to help teach and assist in Children's Faith Formation. We have learned throughout the year about Bible stories that tie in to the readings we do in church on Sunday and have had the opportunity to explore our faith through crafts, games, discussion, and fun! There was an amazing, fun Christmas Party in the fall and we are looking forward to our end of the year party in May!

Youth Group and the National Youth Gathering

Youth Group has met sporadically during the time of transition; however, Valley of Peace is overjoyed to send three of our youth, Naomi Dybvig, Gabe Blood, and Lucia Mikelson, to the National Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans. The planning of this momentous trip was shared between several Wildfire churches, Holy Nativity and House of Hope.

Children, Youth & Family Ministries Report Continued

Future

The future for Valley of Peace's children, youth, and family ministries is brighter than ever. With the success of the Rejoice and Renew capital campaign which will bring updates to our building, CYF ministries will be able to continue to do awesome and amazing things that were harder to do without the functioning kitchen, such as the return of popular fundraising events like a youth-served meal to the community.

In the near future, two fundraisers are planned: an envelope fundraiser and the return of the annual chili cook-off! Both of these fundraisers will be happening in May. Later this summer, Elim and Valley of Peace are joining together for Vacation Bible School, an exciting new partnership between the two congregations made possible because of the shared CYF Director role. Children's Faith Formation will move to an hour long beginning in fall 2024 and will be utilizing a brand new curriculum called Cloud of Witnesses.

There are already several exciting things for youth planned for the summer beyond the National Youth Gathering, such as an Open Mic Night and a trip to ValleyFair amusement park. This is just a small sampling of all the amazing things going on at Valley of Peace for our CYF ministries. We look forward with anticipation and joy to the future!

Peace and all good,

Pace Warfield

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Dustin Froyum

Chair of the Children, Youth, and Family Committee

Faith Formation Report

Adult Forum

Our 2023-24 themes for Adult Faith Formation were Bible Study, Current Events and Our Christian Response, Justice, and “potluck”- a variety of topics. We used a hybrid model as we gathered in person and via Zoom.

Highlights from each of these themes included the following:

Bible Study Topics

- Romans - Bob Hoyt, Wes Syverson, Jon and Ruth Larson led us in a 4-part study of Romans.
- Favorite Parables - Paul Mikelson
- Favorite Bible Verses - Shennon Jay
- Prayer Vigil for the Campaign - Laurie Eaton
- Manna and Mercy - Laurie Eaton and Ruth Larson will lead the first two sessions. To be continued next fall.

Current Events and Our Christian Response Topics

- Climate Change – Jon and Ruth Larson
- The Israeli-Hamas Conflict – Paul Mikelson
- Hunger – Shennon Jay
- Artificial Intelligence – Ann and Andy Dybvig
- Anti-Semitism – Guest Speaker Steve Hunegs
- Housing and Homelessness – Wes Syverson

Justice

- Civil Rights Trip Review. Ann and Naomi Dybvig, Pastor Ashley, and Sarah Blood
- Antisemitism and Civil Rights - with Guest Speaker and Author of “Into the Bright Sunshine”, Samuel G. Freedman
- Rebuild Ukraine - Guest Speaker and President of Rebuild Ukraine, Professor Paul Gavrilyuk
- The Court System and Bail Process –Guest Speaker and racial justice organizer, Manny Lewis and Ash Wirth, Advocacy Manager of Minnesota Freedom Fund
- Bread for the World – Mary Fergus
- Global Jesus Art – Barb Mikelson

Potluck

- Images of God – Laurie Eaton
- What I Learned from Dragonflies and Nature - Guest Speaker John Arthur
- Learnings from my Sabbatical – Pastor Ashley Osborn
- Gun Violence Protection – Guest Speaker Maggy Emery – Protect Minnesota
- Global Mission – Guest Speaker Pastor Melissa Gonzales
- Be the Change Minnesota - Guest Speaker and founder of Be The Change MN, John Baker
- Interfaith Dialog – Guest Speaker and Augsburg professor, Matt Maruggi
- Bible Game Day - Jon Larson
- Missions - Guest Speaker, retired professor from Augsburg, and former missionary, Brad Holt
- Wills and Trusts - Guest speaker and our former “Vicor” Wade Wacholz (now Pastor Wade),
- Global Jesus Art – Barb Mikelson

Faith Formation Report Continued

VoP Book Club

(Summary submitted by Nancy Rogness)

Book Club Review for the 2024 Annual Report

Summer Reading 2023:

- Solito, by Javier Zamora
- Parable of the Sower and Parable of the Talents, both by Octavia Butler (Fiction)
- The Underground Church, by Robin Meyer

Fall and Spring Books 2023-2024:

- Into the Bright Sunshine, Young Hubert Humphrey and the fight for Civil Rights” by Samuel G. Freedman.
- Democracy Awakening, Notes on the State of America, by Heather Cox Richardson
- The Librarian of Burned Books, by Brianna Labuskes
- Pound Foolish, by Helaine Olen
- Leading Faithful Innovation, by Zscheile, Binder, and Pinkstaff
- Do I Stay Christian? Brian D McLaren

We continued to meet via Zoom, which turns out to be a nice option for most folks. Our books are selected by the group each year from submissions by the members. This helps with the variety of topics, so we continue to be surprised, learn, and grow.

Small Group Bible Study

In addition to Sunday Adult Forum, there are two small-group Bible study options this year. Coordinated by Elaine Lofquist, Rebecca’s Circle is a monthly meeting offering an opportunity for women to socially reconnect and followed the Bible study offered in Gather magazine. On Thursday mornings, a study of the week’s upcoming scriptures is led by Pastor Ashley, Laurie Eaton, Pace Warfield, or Wes Syverson.

It is a joy to work with the dedicated members of the Adult Faith Formation committee who bring enthusiasm and ideas, lead sessions, invite speakers, promote, and show up to learn about our journey with God and his world.

Submitted by Jon Larson

Adult Faith Formation Committee Chair

Hospitality Report

This was our second year having the coffee cart out in the Narthex so that folks can easily get coffee and a treat after worship and not need to go into the Fireside Room. We continue to think this is a good idea, especially for visitors.

We continue to send cards to our shut ins on a monthly basis so that they feel included in small ways with the church. We can use cards with a beautiful picture of our windows in the church with the sun shining through. If you know of anyone who should be receiving a card, please let us know!

Our team stands ready to welcome new members to our congregation (one reception during this last year) Our hope is to have a “Blessing Box” built (similar to the Little Library boxes) and installed in our yard on Bassett Creek. We would keep non-perishable food items in there, as well as things like Band-aids, tissues, feminine hygiene products and during the winter months, we would add mittens, hats and scarfs.

We want to thank our committee members, Julia Madison, Chrys Johnson, Margaret Wallace, Matt Stetler, Diane Hinderlie, Sara Hoge, Christine Weatherman, Nancy Rogness and Anna Halvorson for the wonderful help they give in volunteering by writing the cards, being at the Welcome Center and the coffee cart. It is very much appreciated!

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Daniels Herron and Abby Stetler

Property Report

Listed below are actions that have taken place over the last 12 months.

1. Several repairs required to get boiler operating as will be an annual expense until we replace it.
2. Main sewer plugged up and flooded the boiler room area which required replacing the hot water heater since that was under water as well. Many folks stepped up as I was gone on vacation so thank you all!
3. Insurance investigator checked the roof after a hail storm and we received a large settlement to replace ten skylights and can complete work on the roof areas as weather permits.
4. Commercial dishwasher in the kitchen needed to be replaced to keep AGC in code compliance so that was completed in first week in March. Original cost was \$14,000 but the company gave us a \$2000 discount. If/when new kitchen is remodeled the dishwasher can be moved with minor plumbing adjustments.
5. Library was updated with a cleaning, new carpet squares and new furniture.
6. A generous member donated the monies to update the accessible bathroom outside of the narthex that included one accent wall with wallpaper, fresh paint, moving the changing table to provide more room at the sink, and changing the toilet paper dispenser to make it more accessible.
7. Masonry work was completed on the Fireside Room fireplace outside brick wall that should resolve the leakage issues we have had over the past few years. Another generous member paid for and scheduled a professional to fix the inside wall.
5. All necessary inspection to operate VoP and AGC were successfully passed in 2023-24.
6. We continue to have sporadic leaks and had the flat roof on the playground side attended to with success this spring. We continue to have drips in the choir loft which we think are coming through the louvers and will get attended to through the HVAC renovation process.
10. Security doors were installed in the lower entrance that can be locked and opened remotely in response to safety concerns for the building. Cameras and doorbell system were added as well as a key fob system for easier access for AGC and church staff.
11. Our Eagle Scout candidate has begun the overhaul of the old 4H garden plots and by mid-May we should have them available for families to use. We are also expecting to extend the invitation to Noble School families as well.
12. Property has been involved in the initial conversations about equipment replacement (boiler, A/C etc.), but will leave those updates to the lower level team.

I again cannot say enough about the guys on the Fix-it Crew. They give a lot of time and Valley of Peace is very blessed to have such a great group. We are always looking for additional members and **EVERYONE** is welcome as sweat equity is more important than any particular skill sets. Please take the time to thank the Fix It Crew: **Steve Collin, Pat McGraw, Dan Weatherman Craig Franz, Dave Gilyard, Paul Mikelson, Wes Severson, Joe Cherra, and Sten Pearson.**

Jim Jasper, Property Chair

Racial Justice Report

Racial Justice Team Members: Ann Dybvig, Laurie Eaton, Shennon Jay, Joan Maland, Barb Mikelson, Nancy Rogness, Marty Fergus, and Sara Blood. We grieve the loss of our colleague and friend, Bob Hoyt. Staff liaison: Pastor Ashley Osborn.

The Racial Justice Team continued our meeting schedule of alternating months. During the time of Pastor Ashley's sabbatical our work included:

- Creating a "Sticky wall" exercise, to gather information from congregation members about their learnings and recommendations from racial justice experiences outside of Valley of Peace. The opportunity stayed up throughout the summer, and our team used the information gathered to help shape our ongoing work.
- We continue to encourage reflection on our Racial Justice Statement at all levels of our congregation and committees – how is it shaping our life together? In what ways is our ministry seeking to be anti-racist?
- We put a pause on racial justice outings until fall, since participation had been dropping.
- We began the process to sponsor Venezuelan immigrants through Tapestry Church, a culturally specific ministry of the Minneapolis Area Synod.
- This initiative led to inviting Pastor Melissa Gonzalez and Deacon Josue Gonzalez to present at our Adult Forum on March 17, and also to preach in worship.
- There is potential to develop connections with Tapestry and form cross cultural relationships
- As a committee, we were invited to consider an opportunity from the Synod to participate in their second Faith and Neighboring Practices cohort. While we support this as a good opportunity for Valley of Peace, we determined that this is not a decision for one committee, and would require Pastor Ashley's interest and buy-in. We recommend considering a future cohort.

Joint Ministry with House of Hope Lutheran Church

In the summer, a combined group of members from VoP and House of Hope Lutheran Church went on a Racial Justice Tour in Alabama. It was a very powerful experience for those who went and has led to partnering with the racial justice team from House of Hope around shared work, such as outings, events, and learning experiences. Those who went on the Racial Justice Tour brought back the reminder that we are losing many of the first-hand witnesses to the Civil Rights movement of that period.

Since that trip, and the connections that were formed, we have been alternating between joint meetings with the HoH Racial Justice team, and individual meetings for each congregation. Some outcomes of our joint meetings include:

- Sharing progress and actions to date from each congregation
- Identifying the challenges we have in common in this work:
- Getting engagement from the full congregation
- Finding ways to create authentic relationships across race
- Identifying shared goals for working together, such as
- Field trips together.
- Looking for ways to share the story and work of racial justice and anti-racism with the greater congregations.
- Find ways to facilitate and support ongoing conversations
- We have committed to ongoing conversation/shared meetings.

Racial Justice Report Continued

At our most recent joint meeting (April 4) we viewed the documentary "A Time for Burning," the story of a 1960's Lutheran Pastor and his congregation in Omaha struggling with how to deal with race relations in the wake of racial violence in the south. Our conversation reflected on "then and now" and where we need to continue to grow.

Racial Justice Work at the Synod Level

At our December meeting, we met with Manny Lewis, the Racial Justice Organizer from the Minneapolis Area Synod. Some of what we heard from him will guide our work going forward, such as

- Where is God in any of this?
- How and when do we act (instead of just talk)?
- We need to step out of the focus on color and refocus on building relationships.
- We need to be willing to fail. Are we only willing to try something if we know it will be "successful" or are we willing to try new things and possibly fail?
- In white culture we amplify mistakes and minimize achievements.
- In Manny's role, he is looking for possible relationships and ways to connect congregations in shared work and shared values

Two initiatives grew in response to his observations. One is the beginnings of relationship and possibilities with Tapestry Church as mentioned above. Another is a possible connection with Christ River of Life Lutheran church around programming for youth. This would be a concrete way to live out our Racial Justice statement in community, and it is an emphasis from the Barbershop and Black Church Coalition (BBCC) and the Muslim Coalition of ISAIAH.

Land Acknowledgement

Work on a VoP Land Acknowledgement is on pause for now as we look for ways to connect the words with some kind of action. Some possibilities include using a Land Acknowledgement as we create some kind of outside sacred space along Bassett Creek, maybe in cooperation with the reworking of our parking lot. This will be dependent upon the watershed renewal work Hennepin County is doing. We are also considering planting a "three sisters" garden as part of the renewal of our community garden space.

As always, an ongoing part of our racial justice work is individual/personal growth in anti-racism attitudes and actions. This includes reading books, attending programs, reflecting on our experiences and the ways we show up in community. We share our learnings and resources with one another and seek to encourage this work throughout our congregation.

Sponsored outings this year

- Joint trip to the MN African American History museum
- Hočokata Ți [ho-cho-kah-tah-tee] Field trip.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Eaton, on behalf of the Racial Justice Team

Social Ministry Report

Social Ministry is a vibrant, multi-faceted part of life at Valley of Peace, demonstrating the generosity and community involvement of so many of our members. Each month throughout the year we invite congregation support and participation with a designated ministry.

It is important to note, that every one of our Mission of the Month initiatives supports, nourishes, assists and enhances the lives of individuals of color and of many cultures in our community. This is our commitment to Racial Justice at work!

The organizations we support include –

- **Exodus Lending** is a nonprofit helping Minneapolis families break their cycle of payday loan debt. During the past year hundreds of families were assisted by this program, which not only helps them financially, but offers financial counselling so they can break the cycle of debt and extremely high interest.
- Valley of Peace has had a long-standing relationship with our neighboring school, **Noble Elementary**. In addition to having volunteers go in weekly to work with students on reading skills and other subjects, VOP members contribute to the **School Supply Drive, the Book Drive and the Winter clothing Drive**, for the students at Noble.
- **Every Meal** is a ministry that serves the children of Noble School by providing bags of food for their weekends. We partner with Valley Presbyterian and Unity Minneapolis in our support of Noble with this program.
- VOP participates in an annual build week with **Habitat for Humanity**. Our volunteers and our contributions support the Habitat organization and their work in affordable housing.
- Through **Loaves and Fishes**, a weekly free community meal is served at Brunswick United Methodist Church, and Valley of Peace is committed to prepping and assisting once per month.
- **PRISM**, our local food shelf and housing support organization, is supported throughout the year with food and monetary contributions, and with gifts for the **Holiday Gift Drive**.
- As a founding church for **Cherish All Children**, VOP remains supportive and involved in keeping children safe from exploitation.
- We remain grateful for and committed to our status as a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation, offering a true welcome for all.
- With a focus on **Global Missions** in February, VOP continues to support ministries in the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, as well as other mission projects.

In 2024-2025, we will be adding in **All God's Children Learning Center**, our congregation's preschool, as a mission of the month, so that we can more intentionally support the children and their learning.

Social Ministry Report Continued

Here is a sampling of what has been accomplished in the past year.

- A successful **lelse and cookie sale**, as well as a **benefit concert** by Caritas for Cherish All Children
- Almost **monthly speakers** in Adult Faith Formation, keeping us informed about our various missions of the month
- **Twenty two volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, as well as many volunteers for Loaves and Fishes, Every Meal, Global Missions, PRISM, Noble School, Cherish All Children and the Synod's "God's Work Our Hands" service day**
- A dozen or so VOP members participated in **PRISM's Taste of the Burbs** fundraiser
- Participation by our church Office Ministry Coordinator (Kelsey) in a **Reconciling in Christ workshop**
- One hundred **newborn baby kits** packed by 25 volunteers
- Twelve individuals served in key planning or action roles for our mission organizations
- And finally, we received **\$13,437.00 in contributions!** These funds were distributed to our monthly mission organizations.

What a tale of generosity and commitment to social justice and equity at Valley of Peace! In addition to the monetary donations and other activities, VOP members contributed piles of **winter clothing, school supplies, gifts, books and groceries** to our Mission of the Month organizations, as well as giving of time in volunteering for these organizations and others throughout the year.

Please consider how you can be involved in and supportive of these organization that VOP has chosen to assist! I will be happy to connect you with congregation members involved with these community organizations!

Respectfully submitted by,

Barb Mikelson
Council Member

World Missions Report

The World Missions Team sponsored a service project on March 9th, 2024, constructing 100 newborn kits for distribution through Global Health Ministries. Kim Dickey, Director of Communications with Global Health Ministries, made a presentation on how the newborn kits will be distributed.

We had 25 volunteers, including a mix of participation from Valley of Peace members along with All God's Children Learning Center families. The Rebecca Circle also participated and shared treats.

Additionally, we encouraged a greater understanding of interfaith dialogue by inviting Matt Maruggi, a professor from Augsburg University to lead an adult forum. We also explored how the concept of missions has changed over the decades within the Lutheran Church through a presentation from a retired Augsburg University professor, Brad Holt.

We are appreciative of various musical selections from around the world during our worship services, thanks to our director of music, Hsu-Hui.

As we look forward to the coming year our team looks forward to hosting another newborn kit project. We are also exploring possible field trips to learn about various faith traditions already housed here in the Twin Cities, such as an Islamic mosque, Hindu temple, etc.

Respectfully submitted,
World Mission Team: Melissa Dellwo, Ann Dybvig, Patty Holmstrom,
Darlene Lamker, Catherine Martinacco and Dan Johnson

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Johnson

Worship & Music Report

The Worship and Music Team serves to bring together the Valley of Peace congregation and wider community for renewal in faith, strength, mission and purpose, by hearing the Word of the Lord, receiving the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and rejoicing in the gifts given by our Triune God.

Together with the pastoral and music staff, the team assumes responsibility for worship planning, preparation and participation, altar care, worship arts, and a wide variety of music opportunities. We are incredibly blessed to have such a wonderful staff and gifted volunteers.

Changes that you may or may not have noticed in worship:

- Moved our RIC celebration to June to coincide with Pride Month (2023)
- Included the printed Kyrie and Hymn of Praise in the bulletin
- Moved the prelude to after opening worship (September 2023)
- Began using the Revised Standard Lectionary which includes four readings: one from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a New Testament Reading, and a Gospel Reading. (September 2023-present)
- Offered Outdoor Worship September 3, 2023, Labor Day Weekend & September 10, 2023, Rally Day
- Moved Outdoor Worship to the parking area on the north west side of the building to make it more accessible for everyone.
- Began offering Holy Communion by Intinction with prefilled communion cups as an option (Fall 2023)
- Began offering weekly Holy Communion (Fall 2023)
- Began serving Holy Communion around the altar once a month (Fall 2023)
- The Folk Group from St. Luke Presbyterian Church led worship on October 8, 2023.
- Christmas Eve fell on the fourth Sunday of Advent in 2023. We celebrated the fourth Sunday of Advent by using the Holden Prayer liturgy. We did not celebrate Holy Communion at this service but offered it at the Christmas Eve Service.
- Cantors were introduced to help lead us during the sung liturgy & unfamiliar hymns (January 2024)
- Good Friday 2024 incorporated “The Wrapping of the Cross” service
- Youth Bell Choir shared special music on a more frequent basis

Prayers around the Cross:

This was our Lenten Theme for 2024. The sanctuary was set up in a circle similar to that used in 2019. Volunteers were asked to help move the sanctuary chairs into a circle after the First Sunday of Lent. Midweek Lenten services were held on Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm. Prayer Stations were set up in the middle of the sanctuary offering worshippers an opportunity to kneel or sit, light a candle and pray. The week after Palm Sunday volunteers moved the sanctuary chairs back to facing the altar.

New Opportunities:

- Hsu-hui sought out the many gifted musicians within our church community and their musical friends and was able to offer a summer filled with special music. This took place while the Chancel & Carillon (Bell) choirs took a rest over the summer.
- Pastor Laurie Eaton began a Text Study group which met once a week to discuss the Sunday biblical readings. (Summer 2023-present)
- Rally Day activities continued after our outdoor worship service. Pastor Ashley offered the Blessing of the Backpacks. Fellowship time included a Bouncy House, Big Red Wagon food truck, edible Cookie Dough Truck & bubbles. We were blessed with many visitors including those from the neighborhood. A suggestion for next year’s Rally Day is to provide “welcome vouchers” to visitors for Food Trucks.

Worship & Music Report Continued

Staff Change:

While Pastor Ashley was still on sabbatical an opportunity arose for our Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Minister Emilie Moravec to serve the ELCA church at large. Emilie's resignation was given on May 23, 2023 and her last day was June 18, 2023. It has been a "both and" experience for all. We lost a valued member of staff and this team, but we rejoice that she is able to serve the church in a new way and that it will benefit from the variety of gifts that Emilie has to offer.

Pace Warfield was hired in January 2024 as our CYF Minister. This is a shared position with Elim Lutheran Church in Robbinsdale. Pace is a doctoral candidate at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, where their research interests include queer theology, Luther and Reformation history, and theological anthropology. In 2012, Pace received a Master of Arts from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, now United Lutheran Seminary. They write and edit curricula for Spirit and Truth Publishing, an educational company that specializes in Narrative Lectionary resources. We look forward to experiencing the gifts that Pace offers our Valley of Peace community.

Worship Survey:

An online survey regarding worship input was available to the Valley of Peace community in the Fall of 2023. Pastor Ashley and our music staff sought feedback as we continued to shape worship services. They recognized that there had been some shifts in worship after the COVID-19 pandemic. As we settled into what worship could look like in this season, they were interested to know how our worship connects or does not connect with our faith life. Input was also sought on what we hoped worship would be for anyone who worships at Valley of Peace.

Fifty-four people responded to the Worship Survey. Two areas that were in major agreement were the continued goal to be welcoming to all and praise of the wonderful staff at Valley of Peace. The other responses varied. There were no negative comments. The responses were addressed during the season of Epiphany in Pastor Ashley's sermons and throughout the liturgy. We are reminded that worship shapes us for how we live in the world.

In Thankfulness:

We continue to navigate how to live out our mission while living in the midst of an ever-changing world. We are grateful for our gifted staff, amazing volunteers and our Valley of Peace community. Each decision we make we do so with the reminder that we are an inclusive and welcoming community.

It has been a great joy to serve as the Chair of the Worship & Music Team for the past four years. I have been blessed to work alongside amazing people and would like to thank this team for graciously sharing their gifts with this community.

Worship & Music Team: Beth Brandt, Laurie Eaton, Linda Franz, Pat Hoyt, Barb Mikelson, Pastor Ashley Osborn, Darcie Rodman & Hsu-hui Wang.

Respectfully submitted by Darcie Rodman

Worship Arts Report

The Valley of Peace Worship Arts committee has completed its eighth year of creative work for our church. Our goal is to explore all the possibilities of worship, art, visuals and creativity for our church spaces and for our congregation members.

- Throughout this past year, we have focused on simple enhancements to our sanctuary, utilizing the banners and cloth drapes that we have in our inventory, that call forth the liturgical colors of each church season.
- We have worked with both the Worship and Music Committee, and the Altar Care team in our efforts this year, and appreciate their collaboration, as well as the support from Pastor Ashley. **Thank you to all on our team!!**
- We are also grateful to the many congregation members who help in decorating the church for the Advent and Christmas seasons.
- Watch for a new art exhibit in the fall in the Fireside Room, and for a creative workshop!

Our group consists of Anna Campbell, Dan Weatherman, Melissa Dellwo, Matt Dellwo, Barb Mikelson, Emilie Moravec, Kristy Collin and Ben Brandt.

We would love to have more people to join our team!

Please consider this ministry for our church, whether you need an outlet for your creative energies, or just like to help others make things look beautiful! Just talk with any of us for more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Mikelson

Rejoice & Renew Campaign Report

Sixty-seven years ago Valley of Peace Charter Members formed our congregation around the theme, “Built to be a blessing.” The legacy that these charter members formed has been a blessing to all of us who now carry on this ministry and blessing. We have seen how the community, the building space, and our property have been ways for all of us to gather in relationship with God, in relationship with one another, and in relationship with all of creation.

We have recognized for several years that there are significant building needs to be addressed. And so this became the year when we entered into conversations and discernment to see what facility needs our congregation would be able to address.

We want to thank all of the people who have helped get us to this point. Thank you to the Lower Level Task Force, the people who interviewed Campaign Consultants, and the many generous people who have contributed to a Kitchen Fund throughout the years as we became more and more aware of the need for facility improvement.

Based on the recommendation of a team of leaders who interviewed Campaign Consultants, the Valley of Peace Church Council voted to use Walsh & Associates as Consultants to run a feasibility study in August 2023. Based on the results of this feasibility study, the consultants sensed three things: The first is a deep commitment to Valley of Peace, the second is support of the proposed project, and the third thing they stated is that we could anticipate raising funds between \$600,000 - \$1,000,000.

The Church Council entered into a time of discernment and recommended to the Valley of Peace Congregation that we contract with Walsh & Associates for a Capital Campaign. The congregation voted on this on Sunday, October 29 and work began with Walsh & Associates for a Capital Campaign, soon to be titled the Rejoice & Renew Campaign.

The minimum goal of the campaign was to raise \$700,000 to begin the work of renewing the kitchen and HVAC systems. If we raised \$700,000, \$200,000 from the Dorothy Sanford fund would be given to the campaign. The challenge Goal was to raise \$1,100,000 which would add a lower-level restroom and complete minor fellowship hall improvements. The ultimate goal was to raise \$1,300,000 which would complete all of the renewal plans including exterior improvements.

Rejoice & Renew Campaign Report Continued

The Rejoice & Renew Campaign officially kicked off on Sunday, January 21, 2024. The campaign consisted of Cabinet Leaders, a Gift Gathering Team, and many other volunteers for one-on-one conversations, creative giving seminars, communications, engagement with children and youth, and prayer. Commitment Sunday was on Sunday, March 3 and Celebration Sunday was on Sunday, April 14.

We are excited to share the following statistics:

- Based on the feasibility study, Walsh & Associates proposed that we would receive financial gifts from 46 households. To date, we have received financial gifts from 74 households!
- Based on the feasibility study, Walsh & Associates proposed that we could raise at least \$600,000 in pledges. To date, we have received \$1,168,613.82 in pledges, this includes \$200,000 from the Dorothy Sanford Fund.
- We also had over 47 people volunteer their time and energy for the campaign and many, many others continue to offer their support and prayer.

We have lots to Rejoice at Valley of Peace and this truly is a time of Renewal.

This has been a busy and active season of the Rejoice & Renew Campaign and thank you all for your prayers, your work, and your support.

This is a 3-year campaign, so you will continue to see information shared about the campaign and about the work to come. There is a small group of church members who will serve on a Campaign Continuation Team to track pledges and continue to share campaign and project updates. New gifts will be gratefully accepted anytime throughout the campaign. And, if you did make a financial commitment, this is the time when payments are beginning for those pledges.

So, all to say that this season of Rejoice & Renewal continues for our church and we look forward to all that is to come!

Respectfully Submitted by,

Paul Mikelson, Barb Mikelson, and Joe Thom, Campaign Co-Chairs & Pastor Ashley Osborn

Lower Level Task Force Report

In May 2018, a Council Directive was given “to form a Lower Level Improvement Building Team to develop a master plan of items outlined in the Summary Report of the Lower Level Facilities Survey. Those improvements would include Kitchen renovation, an ADA Unisex Restroom, and Fellowship Hall renovation.

Since then, this has been a rather drawn-out process due to a variety of issues, not the least of which was a lengthy close down due to the Pandemic.

This past year we brought to the Congregation, at the May 21, 2023 Annual Meeting, a recommendation to continue our relationship with Miller Dunwiddie Architecture Firm for the Design Development phase, at a fee not to exceed \$25,000. This recommendation was approved by the Congregation.

The deliverables would be as follows:

- Updated floor plans and interior elevations
- Preliminary materials selections for the areas to be renovated
- Kitchen plan layout and preliminary equipment selections
- Construction budget estimate

Continuing with the process, we held a number of meetings with Miller Dunwiddie, as well as

- Watson Forsberg, General Contractors (GC) and Rapids Kitchen Design for a walk-through of the site
- Meeting with VoP members who are most involved using the Kitchen for various functions
- Anna Pearson, The Director of All God’s Children Learning Center (AGCLC)
- Boy Scouts

All provided important input regarding the kitchen layout and equipment. Moving along in the process, it is quite apparent that we need to move in the direction of a Commercial Kitchen. In doing so, this will meet AGCLC’s license requirements set by the MN Department of Health, as well as allowing the VoP Congregation to move in various directions regarding food preparation and serving the greater community.

With refinement of the improvement plans, Watson Forsberg, GC brought in MEP (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) sub-contractors for a site review and walk through.

With input from the MEP sub-contractors ... Watson Forsberg recently provided budgeting estimate based on current design drawings.

Sunday, April 14 ... we posted in the Bridgeway and the Lower Level entrance, a new set of Renderings of the proposed improvements and kitchen layout. Take a look when you have a chance and give us your thoughts. At the Annual Meeting coming in May, we intend to bring a proposed agreement with Miller Dunwiddie for the final design, bidding and construction plan phase. This would provide us with a level of detail for selected general contractors to bid on for our project and budgeting purposes.

Thank you for your outstanding response to the Rejoice & Renew Campaign. With our members commitment to this Campaign, we feel confident in our ability to continue with improvements to the VoP facility.

MANY THANKS to the Lower Level Improvement Team for their on-going commitment to this process ... Sally Daniels Herron, Pete Mikelson, Pastor Ashley Osborn, Sten Pearson and Dan Weatherman.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Gilyard, Chair

Solar/Mechanical Systems Task Force Report

The Valley of Peace Solar/Mechanical Systems Task Force was formed in March of 2022 with the initial purpose of studying the feasibility of installing a solar system to reduce fossil fuel use and energy costs and soon broadened the scope to include other alternative energy sources.

After an initial report performed by Steen Engineering last year, the task force concluded that further study to focus more on energy conservation and alternative geothermal methods would be helpful. Early this year, Minify, a consulting group that specializes in energy-conscious mechanical and electrical systems, was hired to do just that.

After reviewing the church's mechanical systems, their report of April 6, 2024 confirmed that most are indeed in need of immediate or near-future replacement due to condition and age. Focusing on energy-conscious design, the report presented two alternatives. One is replacement of systems with equipment that is similar to what is currently in the church, but much higher efficiency. The other is a deep well geothermal system, along with new equipment, that would be even more energy efficient, essentially reducing gas consumption to very small amounts needed to run ovens and other minor equipment. (This deep well technology is relatively new. The most commonly used geothermal type uses extensive underground piping that would necessitate removal and replacement of the parking lot in the case of VOP.) The cost for the geothermal system is substantially more than the traditional type, however. While cost estimates for both systems are well beyond the earlier ones, Minify will be looking at alternatives to bring costs more in alignment with the funds available in the next month or so.

An updated report on the suitability of solar for electricity will be done by Minify as well, based upon more recent technologies and available rebates and incentives.

The Minify report is archived on the church server.

Respectfully submitted, Solar/Mechanical Systems Task Force members:
Dan Weatherman, Dave Gilyard, Pat McGraw, and Jim Jasper

Altar Care Report

The Altar Care Team prepares the altar for worship and communion. In September, we began communion by intinction with homemade bread, gluten-free wafers and pre-filled communion kits. We are serving communion every Sunday.

We continue to use Best Wishes Florists in Golden Valley for our Sunday flowers sponsored by congregation members.

Our team members are Kathy Boesen, Claudia Arohson, Pat Hepner, Steve Collin and Melissa Dellwo. Our bread bakers are Barb Mikelson, Pam Syverson, Jon Osborn, Laurie Eaton, Christine Weatherman as well as Kathy Boesen and Pat Hepner. We will always welcome new members.

Linda Franz, Chair

Every Meal Report

Every Meal is a weekend food program that serves Noble School. Valley of Peace, along with two partner churches in the area ,supports Every Meal with volunteers and financial commitments.

Every meal offers five culturally diverse food bags for the families to choose from through Noble School. These bags are distributed by volunteers to the children on Fridays during the school year.

Noble School and Every Meal continue to be an important ministry at Valley of Peace.

Linda Franz, Coordinator

Personnel Committee Report

The VoP Personnel Committee works to assure consistent, professional, and fair employment practices for our church staff members. The committee includes elected members Melissa Dellwo & Sara Hoge, Pastor Ashley, and Council Past-President Tara Kuckkan. Membership is defined by VoP Bylaws. This committee does not meet on a regular schedule, but meetings and discussions take place as relevant topics arise.

This year, Pace Warfield was hired as the Director of Children, Youth & Family in a shared position with Elim Lutheran Church upon the resignation of Emilie Moravec who took a position with the Minneapolis Synod. The Personnel Committee met to review and revise the job description and assist in the interview and hiring process.

The Personnel Committee also worked with Pastor Ashley and Mariana Duffney, the church's accountant, to revise the VoP Employee Handbook and clarify paid time off policies and adopt new procedures to comply with a new Minnesota leave statute.

Additionally, members of the Personal Committee participated in Pastor Ashley's annual review and provided support to Pastor Ashley as she provided annual reviews to the staff.

We wish to express our appreciation to the staff of Valley of Peace for their continuing leadership.

Respectfully submitted, Sara Hoge

AGCLC Report

Board of Directors

Jon Tester - Chair (Parent)

Kelsey Maynard (Parent)

Gustavo Castro (Parent)

Ellory Roske (Parent)

Judy Greeninger

Skip Humphrey

Jim Jasper

Mary Hovden

All God's Children Learning Center currently has 57 children enrolled out of a total 70 available spots. We are currently expecting to have 63 children enrolled by mid-Summer 2024. We are excited that our enrollment has slowly been trending upwards over the past year!

Over the past year, our focus at All God's Children Learning Center has been on strengthening connections and relationships. We have experienced some turnover and staffing changings so we have focused on building strong relationships with our staff as our staff have learned to really rely on the rest of the team. AGCLC currently has a really strong team of staff who are dedicated to the children in our care and have been working hard on strengthening the relationships we have with the families we serve. Our Board of Directors has begun work on creating a team of Parent and VOP Volunteers, and we are excited to see the relationships that come from this team.

All God's Children Learning Center has remained Parent Aware 2-star rated and is on track to become 4-star rated in the upcoming year. Our staff has been completing a lot of continuing education with most of our Teacher-qualified staff completing an average of 75 hours of training over the last year. We have seen huge growth in our program's curriculum and the children's routines as our staff have implemented their new training into the classrooms.

Anna Pearson, Director

Memorial & Endowment Trust Report

The purpose of the trust is to provide resources for new opportunities for mission that are not planned for in the budget of the congregation. Christian stewardship helps us to bless others beyond our own lifetimes. The trust does that.

Income from gifts to the trust provides the congregation with funds for new and unbudgeted programs or items. The principle stays in the trust and continues to grow. Contributions can be earmarked to fund mission support, music, youth programming, etc. The trust currently has two endowments: for music and for youth programs.

A gift may occur while the donor is living or through the donor's will. An honoring gift in thankfulness for a living friend or family member is an excellent way to ensure that person's gifts of ministry are carried on in perpetuity. Donations of any size are welcomed.

Goals for the trust in 2024:

- Improve our communication and promotion of the trust
- Compile criteria for grants
- Convert the original document to a PDF
- Establish a user-friendly location on the VoP Website

Members of the Trust Board:

Annette Balkenende, Christy Flikke, Bob Gullick, Mary Hovden, Jon Larson & Zachary Pierson

New Members to join the Trust Board in May 2024:

Steve Hoge, Matt Stetler

VOP Trust Investment Overview 2023

The majority of the investments are managed through UBS Financial Services.

Our investment allocation is a moderate risk profile. The allocation of investments at 12-31-2023 was:

Cash/Cash Alternatives	\$40,207.38	12.32%
Equities	\$133,573.55	40.92%
Fixed Income	\$152,628.66	46.76%

Total in USB account as of 12-31-2023: \$326,409.58.

Percentage change from 2022 was 13.5%.

Memorial & Endowment Trust Report Continued

Valley of Peace Endowment and Memorial Trust

December 31, 2023

INCOME AND EXPENSE

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Income		
Contributions	\$ 625	\$ -
Interest/Dividends	\$ 11,093	\$ 11,991
Market Value changes	\$ 27,986	\$ (70,105)
Total Income	<u>\$ 39,705</u>	<u>\$ (58,114)</u>
Expenses		
Grants approved from Trust	\$ 2,950	\$ 4,385
Investment Management Fees	\$ 175	\$ 175
Other Trust expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 3,125</u>	<u>\$ 4,560</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) to Trust	<u>\$ 36,580</u>	<u>\$ (62,674)</u>
TRUST BALANCE	<u>\$ 351,861</u>	<u>\$ 315,282</u>

2023 Contributions

In Memory of Darlene Peterson	<u>\$ 625</u>
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2023 Grants Approved from Trust:

Rally Sunday - bounce house & mailings	\$500
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000
VOP Music from their designated funds	\$1,100
VOP Youth from their designated funds	\$350
	<u>\$ 2,950</u>

Bishop Ann Svennungsen Report



Minneapolis Area Synod
of the ELCA

Grace, peace, and hope through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Day by day ... they ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the good will of all the people. – Acts 2:46-47

In May, we meet for our 2024 Synod Assembly under the theme “With Glad and Generous Hearts.” The phrase describes the early church as they gathered on Pentecost. It is also an appropriate description of the past year of our life and ministry together.

In 2023, our hearts were gladdened by:

- Your congregation, along with the other 136 congregations in our synod, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, nurturing community, and loving neighbors and neighborhoods.
- The privilege of accompanying congregations in 72 Call Processes; presiding at 14 Ordinations and 30 Installations; and walking with 34 people preparing to become pastors or deacons.
- 142 lay leaders and 28 clergy from 31 congregations learning to be church in the 21st century through our Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices intensive learning communities.
- 6,500 people receiving our weekly enews. (Sign up at mpls-synod.org/sign-up to feel more connected.)
- 100s of rostered and lay leaders involved in synod sponsored peer groups, conferences, and retreats.
- 100s of leaders from synod congregations helping pass the state’s “100% Clean Energy By 2040” and “Restore The Vote” legislation that advance both climate justice and racial justice.
- 100s of leaders faithfully serving as Deans, on Synod Council, and Candidacy, Audit, Program Committees.
- 15 gifted and devoted synod staff members: 10 funded by Mission Support from you and other congregations, and 5 funded by Lilly Endowment and other external grants.

We praise God for the congregational generosity that makes all this happen. At the same time, we recognize that mission support from congregations has declined 16% over the past 10 years, resulting in a reduction in synod staff hours. Especially as we prepare to elect a new bishop this spring, we invite you to consider strengthening your support for the future of the synod’s work.

Conference Assemblies are just around the corner: Saturday, February 10, 9:30 a.m. – Noon. Of particular importance will be conference nominations for bishop as well as for voting members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, July 28 - August 2, 2025. We encourage congregations to send the same voting members to both the Conference and Synod Assemblies.

As we look at declining mission support or grieve the closing of a congregation, we can become discouraged. In such moments, I encourage you to listen to a remarkable conversation from our 2023 Synod Assembly. Our keynote speaker, the Rev. Otis Moss III, was asked: “what do you say to those who think the church is dying?” Filled with courage and hope, Moss responded, “the church is not dying, it is being born, refashioned, and remade. The early church was an alternative community. Today we use the metrics of the market to evaluate the church – buildings, budgets, numbers. But, the early church looked at **impact**: were people hearing the good news of Jesus who lived and died for our salvation? Was suffering being relieved? Were people being welcomed and healed?” (mpls-synod.org/our-synod/synod-assembly-2/2023-synod-assembly-archives 4:57:27 of the second day)

Rev. Moss reminds us that we are called to be alternative communities. What might it take to measure our churches by **impact**? The work of synod leadership is to support the 137 communities and the thousands of leaders who are making an **impactful** difference in the 21st century: sharing the good news of Jesus, extending radical welcome into beloved community, engaging their neighborhoods in love with justice.

I am filled with both gratitude and sadness as I write this, my final annual report to congregations. I have loved serving as your bishop and am profoundly grateful for this calling. We pray for the year ahead, trusting in the goodness and faithfulness of our God, made known in Jesus Christ.

Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Report

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.



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

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

Member Statistics Report

Baptized Members, as of May 2023: 284

Confirmed Members, as of May 2023: 251

Average Sunday Worship Attendance (In Person): 70

Average Sunday Worship Attendance (on Facebook Live): 11

5 Baptized from May 2023-May 2024

Violet Josephine O'Connor

Daisy Naomi Braem

Elsie Carolyn Braem

Ajax Gregory Ruffin

Brooks Henry Handel

2 Confirmed Members from October 2023-May 2024

Gabe Blood

Tyler Flikke

5 Deaths from May 2023-May 2024

Ronald Victor Anderson

George H. Cruys, Jr.

Robert "Bob" S. Hoyt

John "Jack" Peter Lysfjord

Member Statistics Report Continued

19 New Members from October 2023-May 2024

Justin Borrell

Mary King-Broin

Daniel Broin

Jason Broin

Joe Broin

Connie Dow

Dottie Fergus

Marty Fergus

Danaya Franke

David Franke

Dayton Franke

Dawson Franke

Peter Johnson

Jan Olfe

Josh Ruffin

Gina Privratsky

Cheryl Stetler

Loren Stetler

Lisa Thanghe

6 Baptized Members Removed by Transfer in 2023



NEW BUSINESS AGENDA FOR MAY 19, 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Secretary's Report

Finance & Stewardship Update

Approval of Funds for Phase 3 of Detailed Construction Design Documents

President's Report

Election of New Officers & Council Members

Celebration & Installation

Adjournment

Please check the calendar at www.valleyofpeace.org for the latest information on events and activities at Valley of Peace.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Living in God's love and compassion, we are called and sent by God to be disciples of Jesus Christ, as the Holy Spirit works through us for healing, justice, and peace.

Valley of Peace Staff

Pastor

Ashley Osborn
(she/her/hers)
aosborn@valleyofpeace.org

Organist / Pianist / Accompanist

Beth Brandt
(she/her/hers)
beth_erin@yahoo.com

Director of Music

Hsu-hui Wang
(she/her/hers)
music@valleyofpeace.org

*Ministry Support
Coordinator*

Kelsey Pierson
(she/her/hers)
office@valleyofpeace.org

*Director of Children, Youth and
Family*

Pace Warfield
(they/them/theirs)
cyf@valleyofpeace.org

Reconciling In Christ Statement

We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God and, by grace, is called a child of God, without exception and regardless of gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, age, station in life, or political affiliation.

