

News & Events

at Petersburg Lutheran Church

“To Know Christ, to Grow in Christ, and to Show the Love of Christ”



December 2022



Council Highlights

The Church Council met on November 9th and discussed the following:

- We extended a big Thank You to Southeast Window Craft for donating the replacement glass and labor to repair the window in the church door.
- Thanks also go to all those who have helped in the kitchen, with live-streaming services, and with all of the extra services recently.
- More thanks go to the Reid family for the donation of a new TV in the Holy Cross Hall.
- Now that Kinder Skog has left the umbrella of Petersburg Lutheran Church (and is now part of the Medical Center), we will be keeping the Kinder Skog account open for another 9-12 months to account for any additional expenses, before we close out their account.
- Council is working on drafting updates to the PLC Constitution to align with the model language from the recent ELCA Constitution updates.
- Pastor Zach thanked everyone who helped out during his Transitional Ministry, and noted his accomplishments of revitalizing worship, cleaning out the membership roll, removing an outdated By-law, and helping to get a Call Committee established and moving forward. He also noted that Good Beginnings students are now coming over to the Sanctuary every week on Tuesdays at 10am.
- The 2023 budget draft is under review by Council members, and will be finalized and approved at the December Council meeting.
- The 3% Benevolence List was discussed and the Council decided to replace the Monduli School with [Accessible Hope International](#) for January's benevolence, since Monduli is already the recipient of our Christmas Offering. The rest of the 3% list remains the same for 2023.
- The Council briefly discussed the possibility of getting smaller name tags with optional magnet backs or spring clips. No action taken.
- The Council decided not to hold a Holiday Cookie Walk this year.
- The Council contracted with Gibb Enterprises for snow removal for the upcoming winter season.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President – [Bev Siercks](#)
(907-772-4330)

Vice President – [Bill Moulton](#) (907-518-1485)

Treasurer - [Robin Roberts](#)
(907-518-0052)

Secretary – [Ginger Evens](#) (907-772-4392)

[Nancy Berg](#) (907-518-1098)

[Desi Burrell](#) (907-772-3665)

[John Small](#) (907-772-2718)

[Chris van Ettinger](#)

[Bridgett Wittstock](#)
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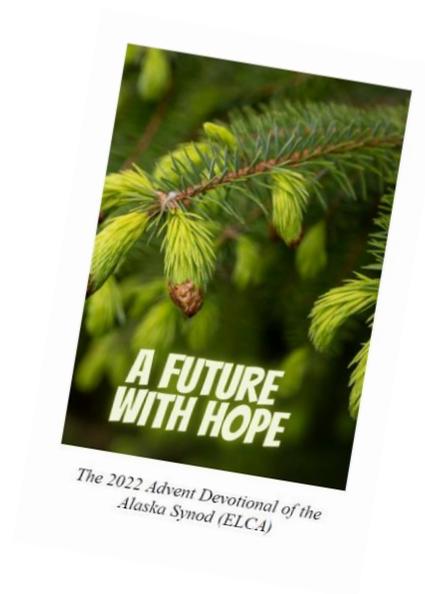
Newsletter Editor:
[Robin Roberts](#)

Next Church Council Meeting: Wednesday, December 14th at 6:30pm.

Meetings are open to all Congregation members.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

The Alaska Synod has produced a booklet of Devotionals for this year's Advent season. A few paper copies are available on the table in the back of the church, or you can download a copy [HERE](#) for your phone, tablet, or to print yourself.



Let all that you do be done in Love.

- 1 Corinthians 16:14

Christmas Offering



Every year, our Special Christmas Offering goes to the Moringe School, Monduli, Tanzania. We are reminded again of our continuing commitment to the Moringe Sokoine Secondary School. We have been faithful to Eden's memory and his wish that we do not forget them. This connection has changed and blessed us, too - it compels us to look outward, rather than inward. Our dollars go so much further in Africa than in more developed places on Earth. We can do God's work, using the blessings that God has given us, by showing our generosity again this Christmas.

Moringe Sokoine is a private school. In Tanzania, you must pass a test in order to go to the free public school. Many students cannot pass, but still want to go on to their equivalent of high school, so private schools have come to be. Parents have to pay a small fee each month, but that is hard in their economy. On the Trask's visit a few years ago, they were reminded daily how important education is to a society. They met some of the graduates of the school who had gone on to further training and were now health workers, teachers, and business people who were giving back to their communities. One of the drivers for their tour group had attended Moringe Sokoine and was able to get a good job because he was fluent in English.



This year's need is for food for the students. According to Mr. Ndooki, the cost of food has skyrocketed, and we could further help the school by giving early and often. If we can collect enough to send some funds closer to the middle of December we will do so, and then send the rest of the collection in January, once everything has come in. *Please give prayerful thought* about those with so much less than we have, and for whom education and a decent meal can make such a profound difference.

Good Beginnings Pre-School *by Hayley Short*



We want to recognize our hard-working Good Beginnings Board Members: Lauren Thain, Amanda Birchell, Keely Hankins, Jodi Severson, Angela Bertagnoli, Dustin Crump, Jessica Peterson, and Bridget Wittstock.

Things are moving right along at the preschool! The kids have loved Pastor Time on Tuesday mornings, and Pastor Zach will be missed. If you have any time or talents to share with us, please reach out to me. The students really enjoy having special visitors at school and have been lucky to have a couple of visits from Grandma Sally (Riemer). We've had a fun time learning about Thanksgiving and exploring themes of



gratitude this month. The kids have been singing all kinds of turkey songs! Next up we will dive into Advent and Christmas. It's an exciting time at the preschool!

I can be reached at goodbeginningsspsg@gmail.com; please let me know if you would like to share any of your special talents with the students. We look forward to a great year and increasing the bond between our school and church. Yours in Christ,
Hayley Short, Good Beginnings Director.



Good Beginnings 25th Anniversary

We celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Good Beginnings Pre-school on Sunday, November 13th with a fantastic party in the Holy Cross Hall. We wish Good Beginnings all the very best for the next 25 years and

beyond!





From the Pastor



It is hard to think of what to say in this final Newsletter article. It is the cold, snow-covered beginning of December. And while I see Christmas just moments away, I realize that I've written a Christmas message already in a letter to be sent later this month. And while I think of making some notation of how the Intentional Interim is tasked with preparing the way for another pastor yet to come, I realize that I have one more sermon to preach this coming Sunday with none other than John the Baptist as a subject. And even with Thanksgiving just having passed, that sermon on Sunday also has taken dibs on that lofty thought as well.

So perhaps my message here will have to steal a bit from all those, but also once again turn to the subject with I came, and now with which I leave: the transition from what was, to what will be.

Christmas is a lovely illustration of transition on a massive scale. It is the time we remember when the planet went from a world that did not know God's immediate love and presence to a world into which God poured himself in the form of Jesus—the very incarnation of Love as baby and our Savior. Christmas is the transition time that moves us from self to others. It is the time that the Scrooges throw off the old, to embrace the freedom and lightness of the new. And it is the ultimate transition from those who only knew darkness to now see the light!

And then there are all those preparations. Preparations imply that something different is going to take place. We prepare for new events, opportunities, and celebrations. And indeed, we prepare for someone new to come to visit, to dine, and perhaps to stay for a while. So, we transition and transform what was before into what we need for now!

The people of Peterburg Lutheran Church are on the cusp of transitioning to a new Pastor who is going to come and stay. I am transitioning to get ready to serve a new congregation in North Dakota. And the one part of transitions is that they are very exciting and filled with anticipation, and maybe even a little apprehension at what is to come.

But the other side of transitions is that we not only look forward, but we look back. And that backward glance has a bit of sadness in saying "Good-bye" and a bit of "God speed" and well-wishing as we part.

I do indeed cherish the time we have had together. Oh, I'm proud of our accomplishments and all that we were able to share. But the treasured part of our time together is indeed our time *spent* together. I so much cherish the friendships, conversations, and—dare I say—Adventures we have shared. So many thanks for all your hospitality to me and Karen and Huck this past year. You will be missed but not forgotten!

And so, as I move on to make way for a new ministry to take hold here, and as you move on to the destiny that God has in store for you, I can't help but feel that one Christmas sentiment fits the occasion perfectly after all. For each us, moving to the newness that God has called us, as one my favorite authors put it so nicely at the end of his Christmas message: God bless us Everyone!

Merry Christmas and God's Blessings!
Pastor Zach



December 3%

The recipient of our 3% giving for December is [Lutheran World Relief](#), which does its good works in so many different ways: helping farmers improve crop yield, protect agriculture in the face of climate-related hazards, provide humanitarian relief during disasters and in the months beyond, and investing in high-impact market development to improve economic returns on agriculture.

Prayer Partner



December's Prayer Partner is [Joy Lutheran Church](#), Eagle River, AK, led by Pastor Sean Avery.

JOY
LOVE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS

More Christmas Giving Opportunities!

Be sure to check out [ELCA GOOD GIFTS](#) when you're looking for the perfect gift to give to someone you care about. You can give a gift of a piglet, chickens or a goat, school supplies for a needy child, honeybees, a water filter, a fruit tree, or any number of other "gifts that keep on giving" to those truly in need.

Financial Report

PLC continues this year “in the red,” – spending more than we receive in donations. Our expenses continue every month for salaries, utilities, and building maintenance, but giving to support the church has not been keeping up.

Giving minus Expenses for the month of October were: -\$2,964

Giving minus Expenses for the year so far: -\$46,533

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church or mailing it in. Electronic donations can be made using the [Online Giving button on the PLC web site](#), or on your mobile device by installing the [Vanco Mobile app](#) – just choose “Petersburg Lutheran Church” and make your donation.

Sky-High Thanks!

We want to thank Dave Berg and the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department for the loan of an extra-tall ladder so Jim Roberts could climb up and replace the light fixture that shines on our altar.



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