

Peace Lutheran

A house of prayer for People of all faiths



2017 Annual Report

Presented to the Congregation
at the
Annual Meeting

February 11, 2018

Calendar of Events

Pastor's Report	Rev. Steve Harms
President's Report	Pat Leong
Worship Deacon's Report	Margaret Beeler
Deacon of Education Report	Linda Benatar
Deacon of Stewardship Report....	Barbara Ghinazzi
Connections Deacon Report	Diana Howard
Property Deacon Report.....	Ken Budesa
Treasurer's Report & Budget.....	Diane Kurtz

2017 Peace Calendar of Events

- Jan. 1 Guest musician, Lynda McManus
- Jan. 5 Thursday Evening Meditation resumes and New Tai Chi series begins
- Jan. 8 Epiphany--Guest Musician, Pr. Lucy Kolin; The Prologue of John's Gospel was incorporated through the Epiphany Season.
Forum: *Volunteer Career Services/Prison Ministry at FCI, Dublin with Ron Elsdon*
Jazz Church West: *Lorca Hart Trio*
- Jan. 13 Second Friday Films: *The Giver*
- Jan. 14 John and Karin Shepanek donate office desk and filing cabinets to Peace
- Jan. 15 American Baroque Orchestra Singers concert at Peace, augmented by local singers
- Jan. 16 MLK celebrations in Walnut Creek and Alamo; I-SRV sponsors Candlelight Peace Walk in downtown Danville at 4:45
- Jan. 21 Peace members attend Women's Marches in Walnut Creek, Oakland, San Francisco and San Jose
- Jan. 22 Family Service; Elise Ching teaches Qi Gong Lord's Prayer with the Confirmands
Peace Council retreat in the afternoon
- Jan. 29 Elizabeth Hunter Ashley sings during worship
- Jan. 31 Memorial Prayer Service for Lisa Gorman
Education Committee meets
- Feb. 3 First Friday Films: *A Man Called Ove*
- Feb. 5 Annual Congregational meeting followed by Solar Committee presentation;
Nancy Carlston donates to help complete Fundraising; congregation recommends to Council that Solar Project move forward;
Elizabeth Hunter Ashley solos with the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra
- Feb. 7 Healing Prayer Team meets to plan service for March 26
- Feb. 8 Contract signed with SunPower for installation of solar panels on Peace roof
- Feb. 11 Valentine's Day Tea @ Tyme for Tea (Fremont), organized by Pat Leong and Diane Kurtz
- Feb. 12 Guest Musicians: John and MaryEllen Nowel;
Forum: Karl Smith with Rwanda School Project and Fr. Innocent Rugaragu and Ron Snyder with PICO International;
Jazz Church West: *Leon Joyce Jr. Quartet*
- Feb. 14 Peace Council meets

- Feb. 18 Justice Advocacy Group meets at the Elsdon's home
- Feb. 21 Peace Council meets
- Feb. 25 Memorial Service for Astrid Malvre
- Feb. 26 Family Service celebrating the Transfiguration created by Charlene McPherson and Pat Leong; Youth Group as Transfiguration actors
Baptism of Lillian Meynier (Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve);
Confirmation Class meets in the evening
- Feb. 28 Pr. Steve and Rabbi Dan receive the Courage Award from the SRV Middle and High School Student Gay-Straight Alliance

- Mar. 1 Ash Wednesday service
- Mar. 2 Tent of Revealings installed for Lenten period
- Mar. 3 First Friday Films: *Finding Dory*
- Mar. 5 Jazz Church West: *Mad Duran and the Saxophonistas*
- Mar. 8 Peace members attend Lenten services at San Damiano for the Wednesdays of Lent; Gary, Drew, Jeanie, and Elizabeth and John Ashley provide music
- Mar. 9 Peace hosts the Bishop's Chrism Mass
- Mar. 12 Pr. Steve initiates SAP (Serenity at Peace) Rising Lenten season at Peace.
- Mar. 21 Peace Council meets
- Mar. 26 Healing Prayer Service; Pr. Elizabeth Felts preaches her last Sunday at Peace -Abigail Vass (her daughter) sings *Bitter*;
SF Gay and Lesbian Band performs *Earth Songs* in the afternoon

- Apr. 1 Installation of Art Exhibit of works of Timothy Brooks, who is currently incarcerated
- Apr. 2 Family Service with Bruce Silverman and friends drumming
Barb Kline makes Thrivent presentation
Jazz Church West: Erik Jekabson and the Berkeley Jazz School All-Stars (Faculty)
- Apr. 7 First Friday Films: *The Brand New Testament* (reshown in May)
- Apr. 9 Palm Sunday
Forum: *Peace as a Sanctuary Church*, facilitated by Pr. Steve and Ron Elsdon
- Apr. 13 Passover Seder, meal coordinated by Diana Howard
- Apr. 14 Good Friday contemplative prayer service
- Apr. 16 Easter, with Brunch before and Easter Egg Hunt after; singers: Elizabeth Hunter Ashley, Ginnie Padgett and Teresa Stroin

- Apr. 18 Peace Council meets
- Apr. 23 Earth Day Sunday
Confirmation class at 5 pm
Sycamore Strings concert, directed by Goran Berg, at 7 pm
- Apr. 26 Mock Job Fair for inmates at the Federal Correctional Institution at Dublin; Peace volunteers coordinated by Ron Elsdon
- Apr. 30 Forum: *Peace as a Sanctuary Church (2)*: Attuning Listening Skills
Chromatica concert at 7 pm
- May 5 First Friday Films: *The Brand New Testament*
- May 7 Good Shepherd Sunday
Jazz Church West: *Clairdee & The Ken French Trio*
Forum: *Peace as a Sanctuary Church (3)*—guest Laura Magnani from American Friends Service Committee
- May 10 *Defusing Hatred* Workshop at Peace with Pr. Steve and Rev. Will McGarvey
- May 12 Memorial Service for Peter Evald Thomsen
- May 13 *Embodied Prayer and the Divine Feminine*—San Damiano Retreat with Pr. Steve & Kaleo and Elise Ching
Mother's Day Tea at Tyme for Tea
- May 14 Family Service
- May 16 Peace Council meets
- May 20 Healthcare Community meeting at Peace—organized by Ron and Linda Elsdon; speaker Gerri Fields
Pacific Choir and Coelis perform at Leshar Center
- May 21 Forum: *Peace as a Sanctuary Church* with Jeanie Locklear and immigrant guests
- May 27 Memorial Service for Fred Garrity
- May 28 Solar Installation Celebration Dinner
- June 4 Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation: *Julia Lurlund, Mark Lurlund, Reese Schoening, Nik Schoening, Alex Sherry, Kyle Hejilik, Luke Miletich, Gracie Mitchell & Jack Mitchell.*
Jazz Church West: Gerry Grosz and the Jazz Kitchen—12th Season Finale
- June 9 Second Friday Film: *Hidden Figures*
- June 11 Trinity Sunday
Forum: *Peace as a Sanctuary Church*

- June 18 Father's Day; Family Service, designed by Charlene McPherson and Pat Leong, featuring beach balls
- June 20 Peace Council meets
- June 25 Guest musicians, John and Mary Ellen Nowell; *Julia Dahl* is confirmed
Forum: *Teen Challenge* program presentation by Barbara Ghinazzi's niece
- June 24 Kersti Malvre's article, "Looking After Elderly Parents", appears in the NYTimes in a series about possible impacts of repeal of the Affordable Care Act
- June 24-25 Play *Honky* performed at Peace
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- July 7 First Friday Film: *Arrival*
- July 13 Pr. Steve's vacation begins
- July 16 John Brett, preaching and presiding; guest musicians John and MaryEllen Nowell
- July 23 Rev. Paul Schmidt, preaching and presiding; guest musicians John and MaryEllen Nowell
- July 30 Rev. Lyle Beckman, SF Night Minister, preaching and presiding
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- Aug. 6 Pr. Steve presides and preaches; guest musician Alice O'Sullivan.
- Aug. 12-13 Pr. Steve co-facilitates the Compassionate Conversations Retreat at the Vajrapani Institute in Boulder Creek
- Aug. 13 John Brett presides and preaches; Paul Schmidt, music
- Aug 15 Bright Stars of Bethlehem present program at Peace in conjunction with the Palestine Unlimited Exhibit currently in the Sanctuary
- Aug. 29 Memorial service for Edward Enrique "Rick" Mino
- Aug. 27 Special Collection for Hurricane Harvey Relief; Youth Group meets
- Aug. 29 "Stand Together Against Hate" at Temple Isaiah, Lafayette
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- Sept. 2 Mary LaCasse Art Exhibit "*Emergence*" installed in the Sanctuary by Bill Carmel
- Sept. 3 Collection for Hurricane Harvey sent to Lutheran Disaster Response
- Sept. 7 Meditation resumes and new 12wk Tai Chi session begins
- Sept. 8 Second Friday Film: *Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them*
- Sept. 10 Homecoming Sunday; Peace Council retreat
- Sept. 15 Memorial service for Emma Sonja Lurlund
- Sept. 17 Guest musician, Paul Schmidt
Forum: "*If I can't sing it, it's not my Reformation!*"—Creating new songs/hymns for our times—project introduced by Pr. Lucy Kolin and Boris Erlank

- Sept. 22 Memorial Service for Bill Sewall
- Sept. 23-24 Pr. Steve attends Interfaith Workshop at the Mt. Shasta Buddhist Center
- Sept. 24 Pr. Elizabeth Felts presides and preaches
- Sept. 30 *Embodied Earth Prayer / Aloha Qi Qong* retreat at San Damiano with Kaleo & Elise Ching and Pr. Steve
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- Oct. 1 St. Francis Animal Blessing during worship; solo by Elizabeth Hunter Ashley;
flute by Jeanie Locklear
Jazz Church West: Sylvia Cuenca Trio [Sylvia is a drummer from New York]
- Oct. 6 First Friday Films: *Beetlejuice*
- Oct. 8 Family Service
Youth Group meets at 12:30; joins Interfaith Youth Gathering at Beth Chaim
- Oct. 15 Forum: *Draft Sanctuary proposal*
- Oct. 17 Peace Council meets
- Oct. 22 Guest musicians: Alice O'Sullivan and Amy McKenzie
Forum: *"Reflections on the Religious Heart of Bach's Music"* with Bach selections played by Alice O'Sullivan
- Oct. 26 Wedding of Maja Miletich and Jeremiah Watkins at Peace
- Oct. 29 Reformation Sunday; Reformation lunch with Brats and Beer after Worship;
Financial statements distributed;
Halloween Tea @ Tyme for Tea (Fremont) organized by Pat Leong and Diane Kurtz
Peace Vanpool to Grace Cathedral for 500th Anniversary of the Reformation
Pacific Choir sings Bach's Cantata #80 [*Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott*] before liturgy
Bishop Victoria Gomez from Nicaragua preaches (Peace Delegation met her in Managua in August 2013)
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- Nov. 1 Education Committee meets
- Nov. 3 First Friday Film: *North by Northwest*
- Nov. 5 All Saints Sunday
Forum: *Weaving our Stories* conversations project introduced by Crystal Larsen
Jazz Church West: *Jeff Denison Electro-Acoustic Quartet*; artist reception with Mary LaCasse
- Nov. 12 Forum: *Peace as Sanctuary*—2nd draft
Sycamore Strings Academy Fall Concert at 6 pm
- Nov 14 Peace Council meets

- Nov. 19 Stewarding Sunday
- Nov. 22 Annual *Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service* hosted at Peace at 7:30 pm
- Nov. 26 Christ the Vulnerable Sunday
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- Dec. 3 Advent begins; Giving Tree Shelter families are chosen
 Forum: Justice Advocacy Committee meets
 Jazz Church West: *Anton Schwartz & Josh Nelson*
 Veil Tapestry goes on exhibit at the Islamic Center in Oakland
- Dec. 5 Peace members attend Taize services at San Damiano on Wednesday nights in Advent
- Dec. 8 Second Friday Film: *Christmas Story* inspired by a Finnish legend
- Dec. 9 *Pure Delight* Christmas Concert
- Dec. 10 Pr. Lucy sells Rwandan Christmas gifts in Gathering Hall
 Forum: *Peace as Sanctuary—Advent Draft=Draft 3*
- Dec. 16 Christmas Tea @ Tyme for Tea (Fremont) organized by Pat Leong and Diane Kurtz
 Chanukah Celebration with Beth Chaim at Blackhawk Plaza
- Dec. 17 Giving Tree gifts brought to church; delivered on Dec. 19 to shelter in Concord
 Weaving Our Stories conversations during Forum
- Dec. 18 Pr. Steve celebrates 40th anniversary of his Ordination
- Dec. 24 Mary Sunday; with Baptism of Asher Pierovich [parents Lauren and Alex]
- Dec. 24 5:00pm – Children’s Service: *The Little Drummer Boy*, Noah Ashley; *Mother Mary*, Alex Sherry;
Joseph, Luke Miletich; *Shepherds*, Evan & Sydney Wettstein; *Angels*, Sydney and Ridley; *Archangel Gabriel*, Julia Dahl, *Wise Ones*, Patrick and Madison Kiley;
 soloists: Jamie Madsen, Elizabeth Hunter Ashley.
- Dec. 24 10:00pm – Candlelight Service: guest musicians, John and Mary Ellen Nowell; Drew Cremisio performs his composition ‘Prayer’; Peace Quartet sings “Today Is Born a Savior”
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day carols and Eucharist;
 Choi Family sings *Jesu Bambino* by Pietro Yon during worship.
 Peace Quartet sings “Today Is Born a Savior”
- Dec. 26 Baptism of Tanner Moran (McCann) [parents Erin and Jeff]
- Dec. 30 Baptism of Eaden Fallahi [parents Alexis and Amir]
- Dec. 31 Pr. Lucy Kolin preaches; guest soloist, Dr. Ellen Foster Randle

Peace Lutheran Church
2017 Pastor's Report

Pastor's Report for 2017

By God's grace the Word was preached and the Sacraments were administered throughout 2017. Pastoral Care was provided in myriad circumstances. Classes were taught, instruction in faith given to Confirmands. Council and ministry leaders received guidance as needed. I provided leadership to community and interfaith programs. Seminarians received supervision. The sick and dying were visited. I presided at baptisms, weddings and memorial services. Ministries were organized. Recommendations for professional positions were made. Contemplation was encouraged. Administrative responsibilities were taken care of. Creative worship was designed. Envisioning new directions for current and future needs was regularly practiced.

We faced a hard year for many people. We keep exploring new ways to become the Church (*"the listening ones"*) in these times. We keep examining Peace through various lenses/questions: *How does Peace help reclaim the heart of humanity? How is Peace an Affection Center bringing warmth and truth? What are those ministries/activities which make us a vital Hub in our community? As a vibrant Energy Field - how do we make healing and transformation real in people's lives within and beyond Peace?*

"*Tov*": We learned this year from the Genesis Story that when God made the Creation it wasn't merely pronounced as 'good' it was Life-Generating! That is the criteria for our ministries. In all that we do we attempt to nurture connections, affirm the blessing of this life and contribute to the life-generating work of God's Spirit.

Look at the variety of these Concerts as one form of creative outreach and encouragement: We had Baroque, Russian, Serbian choruses; the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Band; the Sycamore Strings Academy; the Pacific Choir, Coelis Vocal Ensemble, and Chromatica Choir; not to mention the Jazz Church West and Recitals too numerous to count - probably 10/month.

Peace also Hosted: The Bishop's Chrism Mass for our Conference; the play "*Honky*" performed by the Danville Players (too hot to touch at the local theatre). Then there were Community Meetings: HealthCare, Defusing Hatred, the Bright Stars of Bethlehem urging Palestinian awareness and support; and the Hospice Community's annual Service of Remembrance. Of course, the Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service was well received.

Gary Sponholtz - say a prayer of thanks to God - took our singers and musicians up to San Damiano to present Taize Services for the Season of Lent (5 Wednesdays.) He gives so much love, beauty and prayerfulness to Peace. Aren't we blessed.

The gift of Solar Energy to Peace was a surprise and godsend from Arlene and Ralph Reed, from people of Peace and from friends beyond Peace who all contributed generously. Memorial gifts,

gratitude gifts, Nancy C., Tai Chi friends, the Pacific Choir, interfaith friends – all gave and it was amazing. As anticipated our Solar Panels have begun to decrease our energy bills in a major fashion. Thanks to Chair Boris Erlank and Committee members Ken, Libby, Kari and Arlene!

I hope our worship remains a profound and transformative experience for all of us. A special joy comes from our Family Services that have continued with the leadership of Charlene McPherson and Pat Leong. Who can forget the Legos Liturgy or Sweeping Up the Sanctuary! Additionally, innovative liturgies, special guests, Elizabeth Hunter Ashley's singing and initiative to create the Peace Singers continue to enrich all of us. Many thanks to Margaret Beeler and all on the Worship Team.

The Confirmation Class was a true discovery in faith. We nearly lost one of our Confirmands this year and that attuned everyone one of us to the real meaning and depths of our faith. The celebration on Pentecost was joyfully overwhelming and who can ever forget the "*I Believe*" statements from our Confirmands!

Education matters deeply to Peace People. Linda Benatar gracefully coordinates a variety of educational opportunities. I mention only 2 here from our Forum Series: *Reflections on the Religious Heart of Bach's Music* by Alice O'Sullivan touched us in ways that can't be comprehended; the *Weaving our Stories* process by Crystal Larsen has given us a means for nurturing friendships and spiritual connections among the people of Peace which will continue to be utilized throughout 2018.

Contemplative Practices are encouraged at Peace. Meditation is offered on Thursdays nearly year-round; Healing Prayer is a powerful gift our congregation receives every Sunday; I have taught classes with Elise and Kaleo at San Damiano on *Embodied Prayer with the Divine Feminine* and our *Abba/Imma Qigong Lord's Prayer* which has been introduced to university students around the country, a gathering of 100 rabbis, and in numerous interfaith circles. I was also a presenter for a retreat on Compassionate Conversations held at the Tibetan Vajrapani Institute in the Santa Cruz mountains.

Justice advocacy at Peace is a crucial part of our identity. Nearly 2/3 of the congregation participate in the Women's March of January 2017. We began an exploration back in April of whether Peace should become a Sanctuary Church. Many Sunday Forums were held throughout the year examining these aspects: Historical roots, conversations with immigrants, Quaker practices and communication skills. This conversation continues. Late in the year we received word that Spoon Jackson our poet/prisoner friend who authored '*Words of Realness*' (which was performed with a Stefan Safsten and a Swedish Choir) and who is serving a life sentence – could be released. I am trying to assist in that complicated process. I received the Courage Award along with Rabbi Dan Goldblatt from the SRV Middle and High School Student Gay-Straight Alliance for the supportive work we have done with the School District advocating justice for LGBTQ for more than a decade. I was asked to speak at the *Standing Together against Hate*

gathering at Temple Isaiah in Lafayette (after Charlottesville) decrying the outrageous slurs and actions of hate occurring in our country and being sanctioned by the White House.

I served as Chair for the Interfaith of the San Ramon Valley.

Unfortunately, our Korean Church/KCOV had to close after 12 years of ministry at Peace. We wish their members well in their search for a new church home. Our financial reality has been impacted by their closing. But our solar savings and the increase in our rental income have helped balance this loss.

Art continues to thrive at Peace. Art liberates the soul in such crucial and delightful ways. Art communicates the creativity of the gospel and the open-heartedness of the Peace community. Our thanks to Bill Carmel for serving as our Curator and to the variety of artists who have contributed their imaginative, mind-stretching works including Sher and Sterling Love and Mary LaCasse. Also, First Friday Films (now Last Friday) is finding its voice/niche in the larger community. Of course, after 13 Seasons the Jazz Church West has attained a life of its own.

It was the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Peace sponsored Bach's Cantata '*Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott*' performed by the Pacific Choir for our Sierra Pacific Synod's commemoration at Grace Cathedral. With the support of friends from Peace and around the Bay Area I helped to raise the \$10,000 to secure this performance as a gift to our Synod.

Endless thanks to our Peace Council: Pat Leong for her dedicated leadership, Jim, Karin, Pam, Diana, Monica, Barbara and Ken for our lovely and peaceful grounds. Special thanks to Diane for her thoroughness and clarity as our Treasurer. And gratitude to Kari Doolittle for her skills, dedication, creativity and all of her IT office upgrades. Thanks to Libby for our 2017 Calendar of Events – We are a busy community! And the Peace Counseling Center continues to thrive.

The wedding of Maja Miletich and Jeremiah Watkins (a stand-up comic) was a very special celebration! 15 stand-up comics, including Jeff Ross, from Hollywood were in the House!

Yes, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost were celebrated with abundant joy!

I celebrated the 40th Anniversary of my Ordination on December 18. I am grateful for the unfolding years of grace throughout which began at Holy Comforter in St. Louis and have continued here in San Francisco and Danville. Our grandson Joshua's baptism in Seeley Lake in Montana was an unforgettable highlight of the year! I am glad to teach Tai Chi. I am grateful for the wisdom and compassion of the gospel that has no end.

Blessings, Pr. Steve

Peace Lutheran Church
2017 President's Report

Hello Friends,

As I look back at 2017, I am amazed at the variety of things happening at Peace. We are so fortunate that so many of you are willing to share your interests and efforts with us.

For example, with a giant boost from Arlene and Ralph, and many hours of effort by our Solar Committee, we found a way to make solar a reality for Peace. What a significant accomplishment! It is saving a significant amount of money, protects our environment, and sets an example for others in our community.

We have been learning about and refining our thoughts as a congregation regarding our place in the sanctuary movement. With the increase in attention to the issue of immigration and deportations, this is huge issue that is not going to go away.

We have continued our new tradition of monthly Family Sundays. It has been so fun to watch our young people get to know one another, participate in the service, and many of our grown-up kids have found them to be fun, as well as deep in ways we could not have anticipated.

We celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, begun when Martin Luther nailed his Theses to the door of the local church. We are returned to our history of celebrating Seder together, thanks to our Connections Deacon, Diane Howard.

As we look forward to another wonderful year, we will be experiencing more ways to live out our beliefs and community. We are in the planning stages of updates to our kitchen. If you have events or ideas you'd like to initiate or share, please talk to our Council. We have a lot of energy and want to keep up the wonderful momentum we've been building.

In Christ's love,
Pat

Peace Lutheran Church
2017 Worship Deacon's Report

Worship at Peace continues to be meaningful, innovative and vital. I am thankful for all the volunteers who make the services flow so smoothly. It takes a minimum of 13 people plus Pr. Steve and Gary to accomplish this each Sunday. Their dedication and active participation helps make worship diverse and thought provoking. I am so grateful to each of these people who serve as lectors, communion assistants, bread bakers, altar guild, sound board operators, ushers and healing prayer providers. We are happy to welcome Jim Gunshinan, Pr. Lucy Kolin, Lois Moehlman, and Crystal Larsen as they join Arlene, Martha and Ken as worship assistants. All are so generous with their time and talents and are very much appreciated.

Family services continued throughout the year. Pat Leong, Charlene McPherson and Arlene Reed continue to lead children's time and Sunday school. It is a joy to watch them work with the little ones.

Gary Sponholtz leads our spirited and lively music ministry incorporating the piano, the electric and pipe organs, percussion and guest musicians. He and Elizabeth Hunter Ashley are developing the Peace singers who wonderfully enhance our worship.

Bill Carmel curates ongoing art exhibits in the sanctuary stimulating beautiful, stirring, visual experiences.

Pr. Steve and several guest pastors integrate the readings, the music, the prayers, the visual and performing arts (including the bulletin covers), and the homily to help us learn to celebrate spiritual life with messages of love, hope, peace and understanding for all people.

I sincerely thank all who support Peace ministries and worship.

Feel free to contact me with any concerns or comments you may have.

Margaret Beeler
Worship Deacon

Peace Lutheran Church
2017 Deacon of Education Report

Forums -

This past year Peace has presented the congregation with many wonderful forum opportunities, starting with a chance to learn about Global Partnerships last February. Fr. Innocent Rugaragu, S. J., Ron Synder of PICO International and Dr. Karl Smith of the Rwanda Project shared stories and pictures of faith communities doing amazing things to better the lives of their people - hospitals, clean water, schools and economic development.

Several forums were also held throughout the year concerning Peace as a Sanctuary Church. Laura Magnani of AFSC spoke of the Quaker core values that have shaped our historical commitment to justice, and on another Sunday Jeanne Locklear lead a forum during which immigrant friends spoke of their stories. Drafts of our stand on being a sanctuary church have been drawn up from these discussions, but this continues to be an ongoing exploration.

We have also been blessed with forums by Crystal Larsen who lead us through sessions entitled *Weaving our Stories*. Crystal explained the process of story weaving which deepens our appreciation for and friendship with each other. Look for the cloth weaving done as an expression of the project!

Children's Education -

The Sunday school Program and Children's Time have been running smoothly. Our team of ladies are always ready to challenge the imaginations of whatever little ones appear on Sunday. The monthly family services are very appreciated and have improved in attendance. Child care has been available and the services have presented us with fun challenges, even building with Legos! There was also an opportunity to do drumming for the family service, led by Bruce Silverman. A special thanks to the ladies who keep our Sunday school Program rolling along!

Pastor Steve's Special Projects -

Throughout the year many other interfaith growth and learning opportunities have been made available to us. Pastor Steve has emphasized the work and faith of Martin Luther as a way to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation culminating in the beautiful celebration in October at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Art in the sanctuary, book recommendations and music, especially Jazz at Peace, also have provided great learning opportunities and a chance to deepen our faith through our culture.

Thank you, Pastor Steve, for all you do to educate us!

Please feel free to share your ideas for upcoming forums with Linda Benatar, Deacon of Education.

Linda Benatar
Deacon of Education

Peace Lutheran Church
2017 Deacon of Stewardship Report

According to Webster, Stewardship is *"The aspect of religious life and church administration dealing with the individual's responsibility for sharing systematically and proportionately the time, talent and material possessions in the service of God and for the benefit of all mankind."*

Earlier in the year we held a Forum on Thrivent's Action Team offer of \$250 - (twice a year) for any Peace Member to use as seed money for any charitable cause (Educational, Justice or Fundraising) that you are passionate about -- here at Peace or in the larger community. *(I used my \$250 for a Sunday Forum to raise awareness and funds for the Teen Challenge Adolescent Girls Center who helps young girls/women in recovery.)* I assume, since I have not heard from many of you, that you are figuring it out and are simply deciding when to apply and how best to use your free money in 2018! I know it sounds too good to be true, but it really *is* true. And I have already educated our Peace Council about this catalytic opportunity for ministry.

Pledge Cards were sent out in November and a total of \$50,000 was pledged. This is less than previous years, but not everybody pledges. Hopefully unpledged offerings will bring us up (and even over) the \$88,000 budgeted.

But the definition says "Time, Talent and Material Possessions". I know many of you are involved in many church and community activities. If not, find something you enjoy - driving people to doctor visits, treatment visits, reading to children in the library or classroom, teaching immigrants to read and write English, working with pets, singing to people in Retirement Homes, collecting socks, coats, books sports equipment, etc. for those in need. The list is endless, and you have an entire congregation help you.

Barbara Ghinazzi
Stewardship Deacon

Peace Lutheran Church
2017 Connections Deacon Report

We are so blessed with the many connections we have both within and without our Peace family. We are connected not only through worship on Sundays but also through weekly Tuesday meetings of the women of Peace and others who come together to share their stories and to discuss books and other events.

There are end of the month Friday night movies that are provocative in their themes and are accompanied by great meals. Then there are the first Sunday Jazz at Peace events that people throughout the Bay area are invited to attend. In addition to music, we are connected through art, through the artistic beauty of our sanctuary and through ongoing art exhibitions.

We are connected through our congregational gatherings: our Seder Meal; our celebration of our confirmands; our barbecues in the summer; and our celebration of Reformation Sunday with Bratwurst and Beer.

We are connected with the larger community in our collaborations with Beth Chaim and also with our Moslem brothers and sisters, as well as with those abroad in Nicaragua and South Africa.

This last year we also connected with our past as Lutherans as we celebrated our 500 year commemoration of the Reformation and are making plans to celebrate our own 60 years as a Lutheran congregation in Danville.

We look forward to this new year of connecting with others in positive, supportive and fun filled activities.

Diana Howard
Connections Deacon

Peace Lutheran Church
2017 Property Deacon Report

Dear Congregation,

Last year's property budget was over budget by \$4,600. We did get new Lighting in our Gathering Hall and Courtyard!

I still have wants for the facilities at our church which can't all be included in our proposed budget. Most importantly, I would like to have some cement work done for the sidewalk near the children's garden. I can see it becoming a real safety issue.

I also want our parking lot to get a new slurry seal. Thanks to Elana, Chuck Fisher has some company leads for me to investigate.

I'm amazed at the amount of food being prepared in our kitchen for various events. If just the congregation was using our church kitchen, I wouldn't even think of investigating an updating of our kitchen. However, the time has come and a Kitchen Committee is looking into our kitchen remodeling. It will take time.

Our Church Property is being rented out more often than in the past. Our acoustics in our sanctuary are attractive for recitals and are well known in the Diablo Valley. Our future income will depend more on proceeds from rent. Thanks to Kari our Office Manager for redesigning our rental income structure. When we built Peace, we hoped to become a community center. We are accomplishing that.

Since I take care of our landscape, I spend significant time at Peace which I enjoy. All three projects I mentioned: the cement, the parking lot and the kitchen, cannot be covered by our 2018 Property budget. I will need to come to our congregation and ask for additional funding when the timing is right.

The weeds are growing green and Winter leaves still need to be gathered, but I wouldn't want to be any other place than Peace Lutheran Church. We are all so blessed.

Sincerely, Ken Budesa
Property Deacon

Peace Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
2/11/18 Congregational Meeting

2016 and 2017 were amazing years that showed the generosity of our members and our friends for our Solar Project and Partnerships at Peace Lutheran Church.

Solar

The cost of our new Solar System was \$85,274. \$82,279 was paid from donations for the solar panels, sale of pictures donated by Linda Elsdon, "Steve's Hat" and the fund raising dinner. Of course we want to acknowledge the generous contribution from the Reed family. The balance of approx. \$3,000 was paid from church funds and memorials. The cost of the solar is not on the Income and Expense Statement because it is an Asset, not an Expense.

Partnerships etc. Outside the Budget

Each year we budget \$1,500 for Nicaragua and \$1,500 for South Africa. We also donated \$250 to Interfaith Council.

There were additional contributions that we received and were paid:

Nicaragua/Laurel Galan	\$2,250	(includes \$500 from a 2016 donation)
South Africa	\$1,595	(Includes \$500 from a 2016 donation)
Winter Nights	\$408	
Shelter Inc.	\$408	
PICO-So. Africa	\$235	

Offerings & Rents

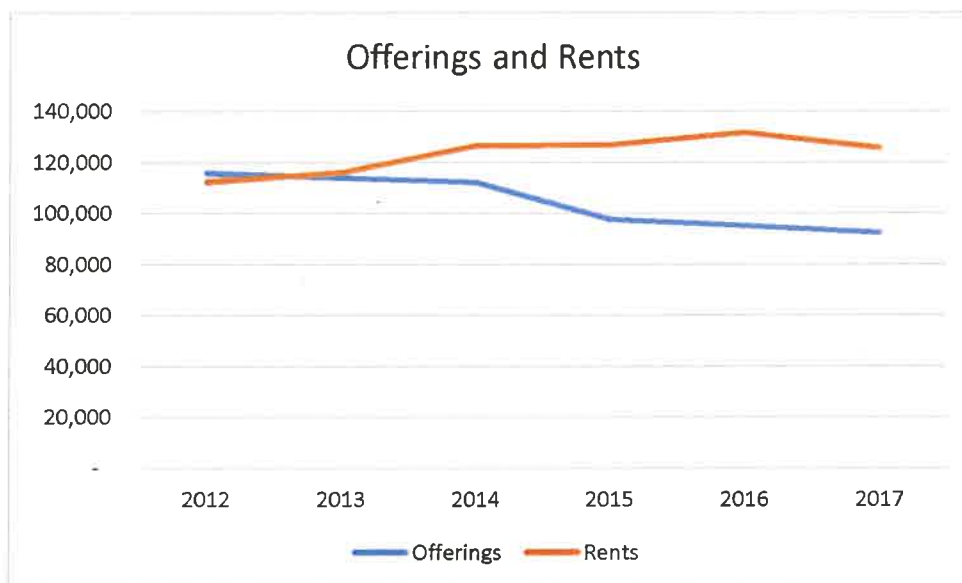
Each year we are concerned about the continual decrease in our offerings. In December, 2017 some people paid their once-a-year offering, and some paid not know how the new tax laws will effect their contribution write-off. Consequently, our December offerings were higher than usual. We still ended up with a small deficit at the end of the year.

Ongoing rents went down because we lost the Korean Valley Church as a tenant for their church services. They were paying a reduced rent from January through March of \$1,400/mo. That was a loss to us of \$12,600. They did have a security deposit.

Occasional rents increased last year. Our Church is being rented for many different occasions, i.e. weddings, funerals, concerts, meetings, elections. Kari has done a good job in renting our Church, and it has made up for the loss in our on-going rents.

I prepared a chart that shows the combined rental income along with the offering income. You can see where things are going.

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Offerings	115,785	113,992	112,234	97,528	95,106	92,203
Rents	112,264	116,038	126,600	126,663	131,478	125,544



Cash in the Bank as of 12/31/17

General Account	8,094.74	Operating Account
Concert Account	1,371.10	Jazz
Liabilities & Net Assets	27,484.50	Includes memorials, security deposits, prepaid taxes
Reserve Account	72,468.54	No withdrawals since 2013
Former Solar Account	500.00	No solar money. Trans. \$500 from GA to keep acct open
Petty Cash	<u>40.00</u>	
Total	\$109,958.88	

Budget

Our budget is very conservative. There are projects that we want to do that are not budgeted now. The Council reviews our financial statements each month. There are always unforeseen expenses. Our goal for 2018 is to stay within our Budget.

Diane Kurtz
Treasurer for Peace Lutheran Church
2/1/2018

**Peace Lutheran Church
2017 Income and Expenses
2018 Budget**

	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	Variance		2018 Budget
Income					
Ordinary Income					
Offerings:					
Regular Offerings	85,000				
Loose Offerings	5,000				
Total Offerings	90,000	92,202.56	2,202.56		89,500
Other Receipts					
Fundraising Activities & Festivals	1,500	181	(1,319)		200
Amazon Smile (new)	15	33	18		35
Art Ministry	0	(130)	(130)		-
Facility Rent- Occasional	20,000	26,857	6,857		29,132
Facility Rent-ongoing	106,984	98,687	(8,297)		93,005
Mosaic Tee Shirt Sales	100	0	(100)		-
Scrip Rebate	35	12	(23)		12
Honey	0	327	327		-
Pastors Discretionary	0	10	10		-
Thrivent Choice Dollars	600	672	72		600
Misc. Receipts (Other)	1,000	94	(906)		500
Interest Income/Dividends	30	27	(3)		30
Total Other Receipts	130,264	126,771	(3,493)		123,514
Total Income	220,264	218,973	(1,291)		213,014
Expenses					
Administration	23,990	26,582	2,592		20,550
Building and Property	50,189	44,631	(5,558)		45,400
Education	1,900	379	(1,521)		2,250
Justice Advocacy	4,000	3,250	(750)		3,500
Sierra Pacific Synod-ELCA	1,875	2,000	125		2,000
Pastor + Benefits	85,032	94,490	9,458		90,934
Salaries+Benefits	37,538	33,024	(4,514)		33,650
Connections & Membership Dev.	300	76	(224)		300
Stewardship & Evangelism	200	338	138		400
Worship	14,990	14,756	(234)		14,030
Youth & Family	250	53	(197)		-
Total Expenses	220,264	219,578	(686)		213,014
Income less Expenses	0.00	(605)	(605)		0.00