

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

St. Peter United Church of Christ

Welcome!

If I had to pick one word to describe 2018-2019 at St. Peter it would be "**growing**." In particular, God spent a lot of time over the last year growing us through the visioning process. We spent hours listening to the Holy Spirit at work amongst us all, showing us which way she is calling us to go as a church. Then God began to grow us through the transition process, guiding us to a more concrete understanding of how we are being called to **live out the new vision day-to-day**. Certainly, St. Peter has been experiencing Isaiah 43:19 very profoundly in the last year: "*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*"

Unfortunately, **growing isn't always fun**. Just as children experience growing pains in their limbs as they stretch to new lengths, so do churches experience pains of various sorts as they live into the vision God has for them. Growing also involves change, something most of us dread. People are especially resistant to change in their churches because they want church to feel safe and change often feels scary. But **change is a necessary ingredient in life**, even in church life. Without it, we lose our energy, we close in on ourselves, we simply drift wherever the wind takes us.

Blessedly, while growing is hard and change can be painful, when we follow God through it, the **difficulty produces powerful results**. As James wrote, "*Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way*" (1:2-4).

While I, like many of you, hope some of our church's rate of growing slows down soon, my prayer for us in 2019-2020 is that we would not try to get out of anything prematurely, but let the growing God has in store for us do its work **so that we can become mature and well-developed**, not deficient in any way.

Thank you for continuing to grant me the privilege of being your pastor. It is truly an honor to prayerfully shepherd you in "*the paths of righteousness for his name's sake*" (Psalm 23:3).

May God bless St. Peter and may God bless the ones who make St. Peter a family,
Pastor Ruth

Our Vision

In 2018, we discerned a **new vision** for St. Peter.

Listening to the Holy Spirit, the new call of St. Peter United Church of Christ – as individuals and as a community – is to consistently and continually follow God's direction as we understand it through the Bible and prayer; grow our lives and our congregation around the example of Jesus; and offer diverse opportunities for all to explore, deepen, and live out their Christian faith.

We do this by fostering a community that will **Belong, Engage, and Act.**

Belong

Everyone works to create a culture of oneness, **unity**, and togetherness.

Engage

Everyone uses their gifts consistently to make **our church** thrive.

Act

Everyone gives of themselves in service to our neighborhood and **our world**, inspired and energized to act by the love of God.

Belong

[in unity]

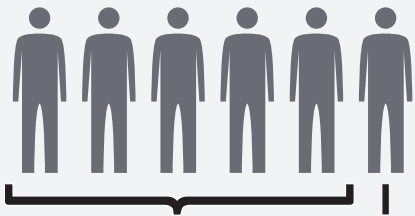
4,737 total attendance

84 average Sunday attendance



Easter: **195** Christmas Eve: **184**

190 members



5 adults 1 confirmand

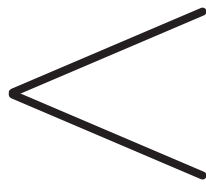
6 new members

8 deaths

4 funerals performed at St. Peter

Engage

[within our church]



24

students in youth ed

42

participants in adult ed

Our Activities

- Women's Fellowship
- Piecemakers
- Heifer
- Adult SS
- SteppingStones
- Bowling
- Faith Connections
- M&Ms
- Muse Over Mimosas
- ACTS of Prayer
- Handbells
- Choir
- Men's Breakfast
- Sisters in Christ
- Joyful Journey
- Pastor Parish Connections
- Bunco
- Alive Youth
- PADS
- Women's Retreat (x2)
- Egg Hunt
- Confirmation Classes
- Kids' Sunday School
- Drop & Shop
- Mosque Visit
- Golf Outing
- Ravinia Outing
- VBS
- Mess Fest
- Community Dinner
- Men's Retreat
- Feed My Starving Children Outings
- Meals on Wheels
- Thanksgiving Community Service
- Boy Scouts
- Culver's Thanksgiving Dinner
- Hanging of the Greens
- Caroling to Shut Ins
- Christmas Extravaganza

Engage

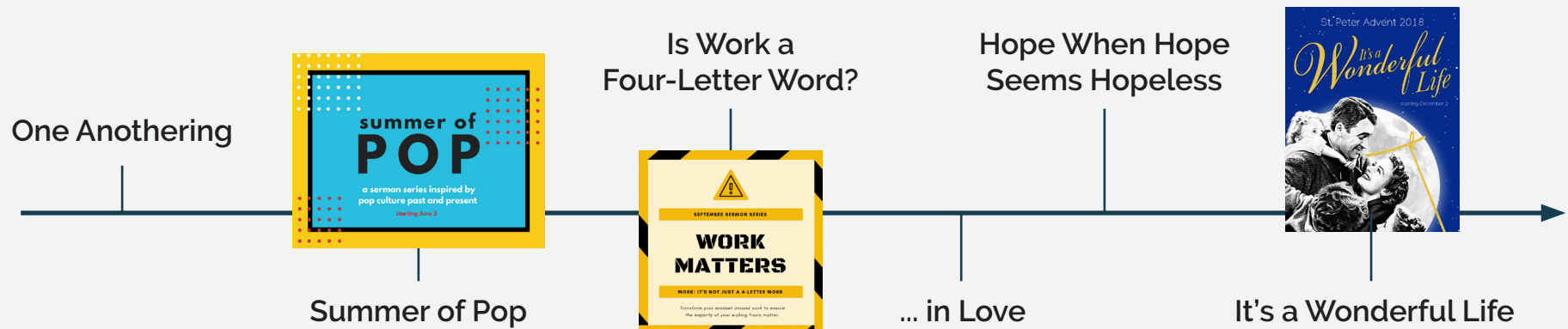
[within our church]

111  of 190 members
volunteered in 2018



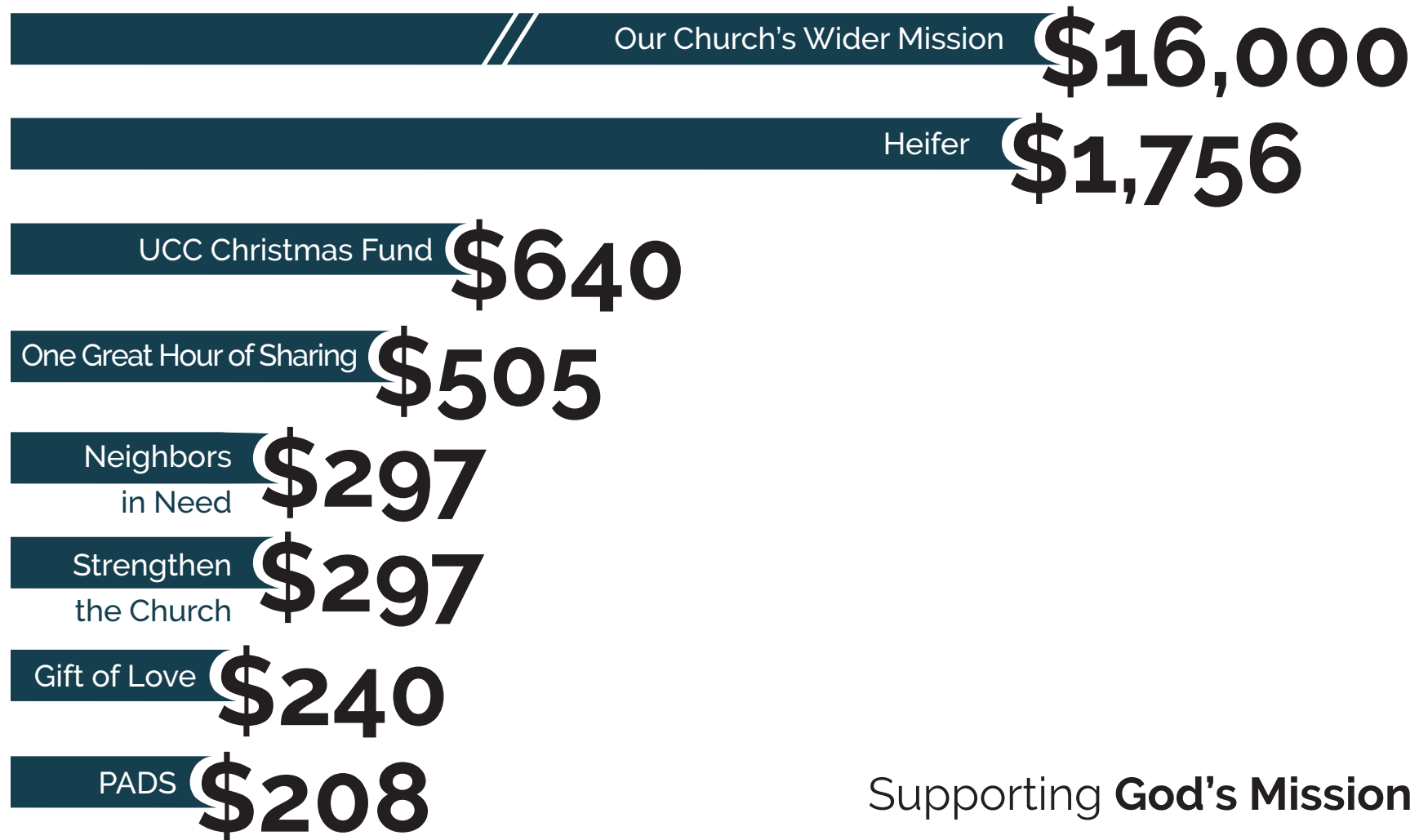
64 visits to 5 available shut-ins

Sermon Series



Act

[within our world]

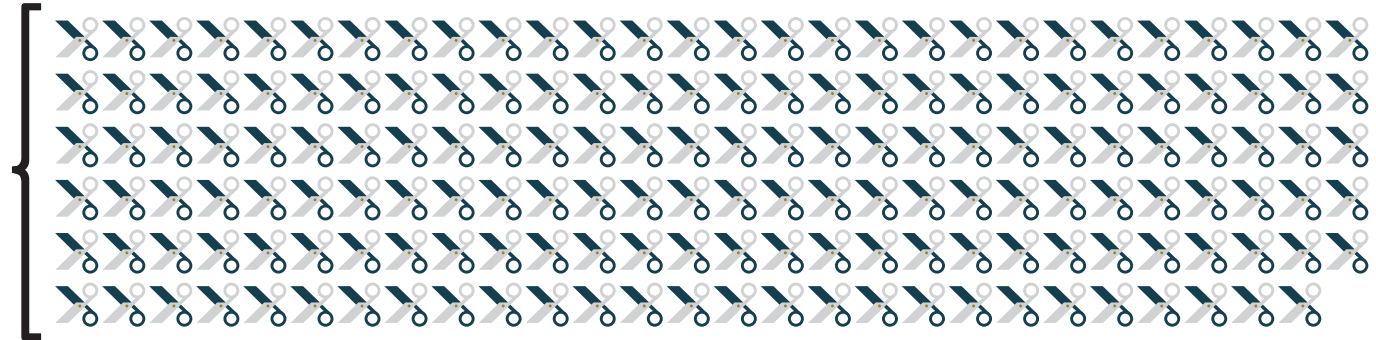


Supporting **God's Mission**

Act

[within our world]

167
quilts



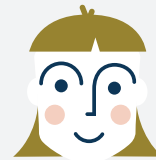
91
fleece
blankets



made & donated to **A Safe Place**



71
kids



40
youth



23
adults

took part in **VBS**

Act

[within our world]

Community Activities

hosted at St. Peter

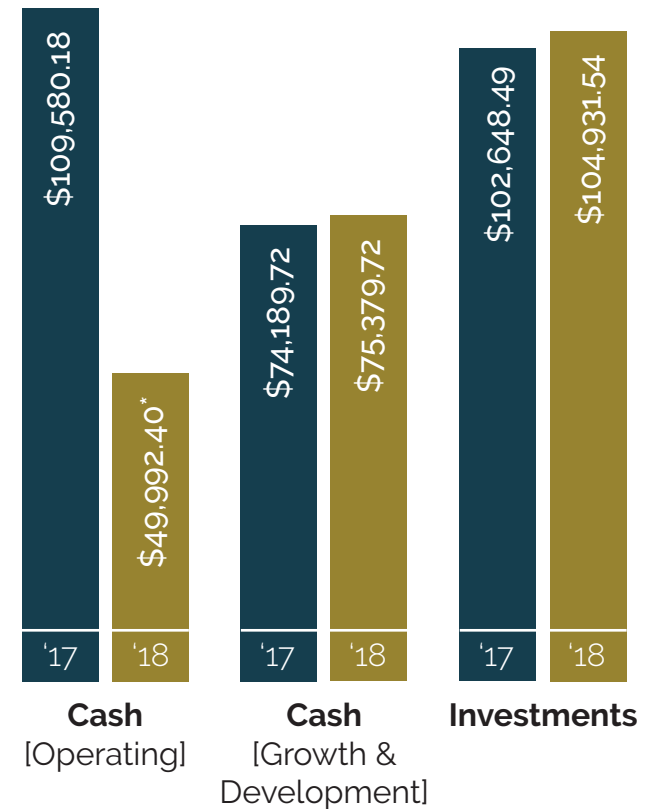
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Cub Scouts
- Village Singers
- Cricket Theater Group
- Mirabelli Theater Group
- Knight Music
- Lake Zurich Park District
- Toastmasters
- Lake Zurich Productions
- Fit4Mom
- Homeschool Art Class



Financial Report

	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 Actual	Difference
Income	\$337,578.58	\$324,075.43	(\$13,503.14)
Expenses	\$336,399.98	\$321,016.18	\$15,383.80
Leadership	\$192,591.00	\$179,109.63	\$13,481.37
Property	\$57,438.00	\$62,033.04	(\$4,595.04)
Utilities	\$17,175.00	\$16,316.25	\$858.75
Christian Ed	\$4,350.00	\$2,827.50	\$1,522.50
Congregational Life	\$4,050.00	\$3,037.50	\$1,012.50
Outreach	\$19,200.00	\$19,008.00	\$192.00
Admin & Finance	\$41,595.98	\$38,684.26	\$2,911.72
Net Operations	\$1,178.60	\$3,059.25	\$1,880.66
Ed Wing Windows	-	\$47,400.00	(\$47,400.00)
Net Overall	\$1,178.60	\$44,340.75	(\$45,519.34)

Income & Expense Summary



Church Assets - Cash & Investments

*Reduction due to new Ed Wing windows

Full Reports

Moderator

2018

- Conclusion of two-year Visioning process and new organizational structure to support our vision as we continue to discern God's work for us.
- As Americans leave church and young folks struggle to find a church home and participate, St. Peter's membership is stable for another year,
- Being part of one of the highest engagement per capita congregations. St. Peter continues to provide meaningful activities and opportunities to live your faith. And you all are taking advantage of the opportunity to engage and make a difference for yourself and our community.
- Modernizing Education Wing for greater St. Peter and community use, ready to upgrade electric, and provide air-conditioning in 2019.
- Financially stable, again.

Future Looking

- Looking forward to our new organizational structure that very directly supports the vision we, as a congregation, provided to our Visioning Guides over the last year.
- The air-conditioning of the Education Wing!
- Continuing to create creative, flexible ways to meet the needs and goals of our diverse church congregation.
- Being "just a congregant" after 7 years of different council positions, culminating with the privilege of being your last Moderator and chief administrative elected volunteer.

[Troy Smith]

Outreach

2018 Accomplishments

- Thoughtfully reviewed current and long standing Outreach activities and missions and organized an Outreach calendar that utilized and didn't overextend our physical or human resources.
- Mindfully chose Outreach opportunities that varied in terms of the people serving (people with varying physical abilities, schedules).
- Mindfully chose Outreach opportunities that varied in terms of the people served (local, national, and international causes).
- Purposefully chose Outreach opportunities that honored our congregation's varying political views and encouraged unity in spirit and finding common ground despite a more divisive political landscape outside our church.

2019 Goals

- Connect individually with church members and find out what projects they are most passionate about.
- Review current Outreach activities and adjust to meet the passions of our church members.

[Laura Rogers]

Congregational Life

2018 Accomplishments

These accomplishments represent the collective efforts of congregants, Pastor, and staff.

- **January 7:** Unhanging of the Greens and a new 10-foot tree purchased to replace a worn out tree.
- Sanctuary Sound System User's Guide completed.
- **February 2:** PJs, Pizza, and Popcorn was co-sponsored with CE.
- **February 14:** Combined Ash Wednesday service with Peace Lutheran.
- **March 18:** Visitation Ministry members dedicated.
- **April 20:** Celebrated St. Peter's 118th birthday.
- **May 20:** Global Missionary visit and International Potluck.
- **August 4:** Ravinia Outing to Beethoven's 5th Symphony.
- **September 9:** Rally Day, Outdoor Worship, Church picnic, and Intergenerational game.
- **September 28-30:** Men's Retreat in Sawyer, Michigan.
- **October 26-28:** Women's Retreat at Lutherdale in Elkhorn, Wisconsin.
- **December 1:** Hanging of the Greens. New 12-foot tree donated by Ed & Marcia Moore. New bows for sanctuary and narthex made by Laura Rogers.
- **December 2:** Christmas Caroling for Bonnie Warren and other residents of the Cottages in Fox Lake with a light lunch before leaving the church.
- **Late December:** Pictorial Directory completed and distributed.

[Donna Keenan]

Leadership

The Leadership Committee had a busy year. Our biggest achievement was the completion of a **new Employee Handbook** which was the culmination of a multi-year review. We also oversaw staffing changes which took place during the year. As they arose, we took the opportunity to look at our current and future needs and hire appropriately. This prompted us, in some instances, to hire freelancers who have specialized skills which can enable us to more effectively use our resources. As the year draws to a close, we are searching for a quarter-time Assistant Pastor.

[Gail Paul]

Christian Education

2018 Events

PJs, Pizza, & Popcorn - Friday, February 2, 6-9pm

- Lion King shown

Heifer - March 4, 11, 18

- Led by Fourth Graders
- Raised \$1,786.51

Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, March 31, 9:30am

- 12 Helpers, including Pastor Ruth and Pastor Tracy
- 18 "hunters"
- Inside due to rain

First Communion for 4th Graders - Sunday, April 1, 10am

- 5 4th graders completed 2 1-hour classes before receiving their First Communion

Children's Sabbath - Sunday, April 8, 10am

- Children K-5th grades helped Pastor Ruth lead worship
- Practiced in Sunday School and Saturday before

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast - Sunday, April 15, Noon

- At Lindy's Landing in Wauconda

Confirmation

- Hugh Frampton confirmed on May 6
- Read Faith Statement on April 29

Summer Prayground

- Random Sundays for Children 3rd grade and under
- Started new rugs and boxes for kids
- Had a teachers' meeting at the beginning of summer

Church Picnic/Rally Day - Sunday, September 9

- Blessed Backpacks
- Potluck

Sunday School - Started Sunday, September 16

- New Preschool, K-4th Grade, & 5th Grade Classes
- Some weeks 3 separate classes, some 2 classes, and some 1 class

Prayground during School year

- Continued on 1st Sunday of the month

Drop & Shop - Friday, December 7, 5-9pm

[Angie Marek]

Building & Grounds

2018 Major Items Completed

- Church hip roofs replaced at a net cost of about \$4,000. Insurance paid the bulk of the cost.
- Ed Wing lower south classroom redone, becoming the blue classroom. About \$1,000 in materials. Labor was donated by church members.
- Kitchen ceiling replaced. About \$1,500 in materials. Labor was donated by church members.
- Parking lot 4500 sq. ft. resurfaced. About \$10,000.

2019 Major Items Proposed

- Electrical installation for A/C in Ed Wing. About \$5,000-\$8,000.
- Parking lot resurfaced and repainted. About \$10,000.
- Lamp repair in fireside room and bulbs replaced in sanctuary About \$2,500.
- Redo another Ed Wing classroom \$300 (No sink).
- Lift for Ed Wing \$35,000.

[Jim Lamb]

Visioning Process

In the fall of 2017, St. Peter United Church of Christ embarked upon a visioning process to discern how we can best fulfill God's mission for our church – not only in Lake Zurich, but also in the greater community. The following provides an outline of the steps that have been taken thus far, as well as what we anticipate happening in the upcoming year(s).

- **Fall 2017 through late summer 2018:** The Visioning Guides (Pernetta Deemer, Pastor Ruth Farrell, Mary Lighthall, Laura Mills Danner, Ed Moore, Jeff Pathmann, and Debbie Wheelock) gathered feedback and input from the congregation, which was used to discern A New Vision for St. Peter United Church of Christ.
- **September 2018 through December 2018:** The Visioning Transition Team (Ben Bercher, Pastor Ruth Farrell, Angie Marek, Laura Mills Danner, and Dean Olerich) developed the proposal for a revised organizational structure and two-year, seven-month pilot phase that will allow St. Peter United Church of Christ to live into its Vision.
- **December 2018 through late January 2019:** The Visioning Transition Team shares its proposal with the congregation.
- **Late February 2019:** The transition proposal (including proposed revisions to the Church Bylaws) will be considered for approval by the congregation at the church's annual meeting.

The following items are dependent upon the congregation's approval of the proposed organizational structure and two-year, seven-month pilot phase.

- **March 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019:** Pilot phase of the new organizational structure begins with a seven-month "short year" to bridge the gap between the church's current fiscal year (March 1 through end of February) and the proposed new fiscal year (October 1 through September 30).
- **October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2021:** Pilot phase continues for two additional years. During this time, the new organizational structure is evaluated to determine if – perhaps with some minor adjustments – it should be permanently adopted.
- **Late September 2021:** At annual meeting, the congregation approves either making the new organizational structure permanent, or embarking upon the process to determine what next steps should be.

We are excited to see where our Vision will lead us during the 2019-20 year, and beyond!

[St. Peter's Visioning Transition Team]

Youth Ministry

What a year 2018 has been! It has been amazing to watch our Confirmation students and teens grow as faithful servants of the Lord, as well as into wonderful young adults. Our endeavors – whether they be faith, social, or service related – are usually filled with great conversation and an abundance of laughter. It is a true joy to be able to get to know each of the St. Peter youth and I can't say "thank you" enough to the congregation. Without your continued love and support, the youth ministry program would not be possible.

Confirmation

In September 2017, a new approach to our Confirmation ministry was started when we decided to combine classes with Peace Lutheran Church. The thought process in doing so was that the youth from St. Peter would have a more meaningful experience if they were able to discuss their faith in a larger setting. This pairing turned out to be an incredible success that continues to this day. In the spring of 2018, the Confirmands had a chance to explore Jesus' ministry, as well as other Christian denominations and world religions. They also hosted a marvelous Lenten supper at St. Peter and came together in March to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg. Our class celebrated together in May 2018 as Hugh Frampton was confirmed! Throughout the fall, our class had lively discussions - and some debates - about Old Testament stories regarding King David, Solomon, Esther, and Daniel. During the weekend of November 2-4, the Confirmation class spent a weekend at Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer, MI – and we had a BLAST! The Confirmands spent the weekend learning about the Apostles' Creed, connecting to God in nature, serving Tower Hill by splitting logs and raking leaves, and strengthening our bond as a class together. After our retreat, the Confirmation students hosted a fantastic Thanksgiving pie fellowship after the Ecumenical service on November 18. They also had an opportunity to serve the Peace congregation by hosting the Advent Soup Supper on Wednesday, December 5. Looking ahead, our Confirmation class will begin learning about the apostle Paul, the New Testament, and stewardship. The Confirmands will also have the chance to serve the St. Peter congregation in the spring and I am looking into the possibility of a spring retreat to Tower Hill!

Alive

Our Alive youth group experienced a lot of changes in 2017 and struggled to "find its footing" in the beginning months of 2018. The St. Peter Confirmation students were welcomed into the Alive youth group and our spring gatherings proved to be filled with a lot of fun, conversation, and laughter. On February 24, the St. Peter teens joined the teens from Peace Lutheran and Christ Lutheran in Palatine to host the Holy Spaghetti Dinner & Auction. All funds that were raised that evening went to the July 2018 high school mission trip to Madison, WI. The teens raised nearly \$4,000 that evening and another \$1,000 during the Flapjack Frenzy Pancake Breakfast that was held in May! The two fundraisers were great opportunities for fellowship both within and beyond St. Peter's walls! For Mess Fest in September, the St. Peter youth once again challenged the youth from Peace Lutheran and Christ Lutheran – and the day became a crazy, fun, all-out messy war! The amount of laughter that was heard on our front lawn was amazing! I am excited to announce that planning and preparations are under way for our summer mission trip to Clendenin, WV. Two teens

from St. Peter will be joining the youth from Peace and Christ for a week of rebuilding homes, community centers, and schools. Clendenin was devastated by a flood in the summer of 2017 and their community continues to need help. I believe that this will be an amazing journey for our teens and chaperones since we will not only be able to help and serve, but also to connect with a new community!

Vacation Bible School

In July, I had the pleasure of not only teaching the "Crafts" portion of Vacation Bible School, but also leading the teen volunteers. 40 marvelous teens from within St. Peter and outside of our walls helped in so many ways to make the week an overwhelming success. The best part of the whole week is that the teens all had a fantastic time working together and getting to know each other. Their energy was infectious and this really carried over into all aspects of Vacation Bible School!

Serving with the St. Peter congregation has been a wonderful adventure for me and I continue to be so thankful for all of the love and support that I feel whenever I walk through the doors. I have great hope for 2019 and I feel that the possibilities are endless for our youth ministry!

[Tracy Katschke]

Treasurer

	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 Actual	Difference	Proposed 2018-19 12-Month Budget	Proposed Mar.-Sept. 2019 Budget
Income	\$337,578.58	\$324,075.43	(\$13,503.14)	\$326,417.00	\$186,930.23
Expenses	\$336,399.98	\$321,016.18	\$15,383.80	\$320,817.52	\$184,439.45
Leadership	\$192,591.00	\$179,109.63	\$13,481.37	\$176,283.64	\$104,846.30
Property	\$57,438.00	\$62,033.04	(\$4,595.04)	\$58,513.00	\$29,771.78
Utilities	\$17,175.00	\$16,316.25	\$858.75	\$18,092.50	\$9,049.40
Christian Ed	\$4,350.00	\$2,827.50	\$1,522.50	\$4,550.00	\$2,984.70
Congregational Life	\$4,050.00	\$3,037.50	\$1,012.50	\$4,050.00	\$2,380.00
Outreach	\$19,200.00	\$19,008.00	\$192.00	\$19,200.00	\$11,336.00
Admin & Finance	\$41,595.98	\$38,684.26	\$2,911.72	\$40,128.38	\$24,071.26
Net Operations	\$1,178.60	\$3,059.25	\$1,880.66	\$5,599.48	\$2,490.78
Ed Wing Windows	-	\$47,400.00	(\$47,400.00)	-	-
Net Overall	\$1,178.60	\$44,340.75	(\$45,519.34)	\$5,599.48	\$2,490.78

Notes

The Chart above provides a summary of accounts for the current year and a proposed 12-month budget along with a budget for March to December to support alternate fiscal year discussions.

Income – Income was lower than budget for the 2018-2019 year primarily due to a decrease in giving, along with continued slow payments for use of the parsonage. The proposed budget expects offering income to remain relatively stable with small increases in year on year facility usage fees.

Leadership – Salary expenses were lower than budgeted in the 2018-19 year primarily due to a redistribution of staff from employees to freelancers and contractors. The proposed budget is lower than the current year's actual primarily due to the full year impact of the current year's redistribution of staff. The budget also includes funds for a part-time assistant pastor.

Property – Property expenses exceeded budget for the current year primarily due to unbudgeted parking lot repairs. The proposed budget for next year is back at the current year's budget levels for on-going property expenses.

Utilities – These continue to be running at consistent levels with small increases expected.

Christian Education – Education accounts were under budget for the current year. Expenses for next year are anticipated back to budget levels and include expanded programs and improvements to the Playground.

Congregational Life – Expenses are relatively flat year on year.

Outreach – Expenses continues at consistent budget and spending levels.

Admin & Finance – These expenses are at consistent levels.

Church Assets - Cash & Investments

	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2017
Cash - Operating	\$49,992.40	\$109,580.18
Cash - Growth & Development	\$75,379.72	\$74,189.72
Investments	\$104,931.54	\$102,648.49
Total	\$230,303.66	\$286,418.39