

## Narrative Budget: The Story of Where Our Money Goes

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” - Matthew 11:28-30

### A message from Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis, Minister



We worship a God of abundance - and that also means abundance in the loads we carry and the balance we find in rest! I grew up idolizing self-sufficiency. I worked as much and as hard as I could to ensure I'd never need to rely on anyone else. An apartment fire in seminary changed that for me. When an electrical fire claimed the clothes, shoes, and books I'd been keeping in my bedroom, forcing my roommates and me out of our apartment for an indefinite period of time, I had no choice but to rely on the generosity of others to make it through. A scarf loaned to me that first morning after the fire department arrived was the warmest thing I'd ever felt. The local church that funded the professional cleaning and replacement of much of what I'd lost alleviated stress and made it possible for me to finish my final exams and look for new housing. My parents surrounded me with love and support, and they ended up taking my cat, who wasn't allowed to move with me. We can't do life alone, and we don't have to!

**Imagine** a world where everyone has such a community of support when they are in crisis. **Imagine** a world where God shares our burdens and we share them with one another, making all our burdens lighter. When we share our gifts, we participate in that bigger picture of abundance and generosity. We lighten the burden for one another when we pray, feed, and encourage each other. We share the yoke when we come together to support folks experiencing homelessness, immigrants, and others who are marginalized in our community. We share in God's imagination of an abundant future when we share our gifts. I invite you to be part of that imagining!

### Imagine Together...

#### What does your financial support of Peace Church do?

Your contribution supports the mission of Peace Church to its members, friends and the wider community. Together we have been **Building the Beloved Community, Serving God and Serving Others:**

- ◇ **Building the Beloved Community** within Peace Church through meaningful and vibrant worship services with outstanding and eclectic music and by providing hospitality for funerals and member needs.
- ◇ **Serving God** through our educational opportunities - Children's Church, Compassion Camp, Confirmation, Adult Education and Bible Study.
- ◇ **Serving Others** through community outreach by volunteering and providing financial support to Damiano Community Kitchen, CHUM meals, and Loaves & Fishes meals.



- ◇ **Building the Beloved Community** by providing welcome and support to refugees, supporting Stepping on Up and being a visible Open & Affirming church through our support of Duluth-Superior Pride.
- ◇ **Serving Others** by growing over 200 pounds of vegetables for CHUM in our Peace Garden.
- ◇ **Serving God** through our Justice Ministry Teams—Dismantling Racism, Climate Justice Initiative, Beyond Violence Initiative and Jubilee Fund.



### Imagine Together...



We could not **Build the Beloved Community, Serve God** and **Serve Others** without the support of our Peace Staff! Our largest budget item is for our staff and we are proud to be able to provide competitive market wages and benefits.

Corinne Freedman Ellis, Pastor  
 Rachel Obed, Business Manager  
 Bri Dornbush, Office Coordinator  
 Alex Nelson, Worship Technician  
 Carrie Kelsey, Kitchen Manager

Jim Pospisil, Music Director  
 Mali Lorenz, Bookkeeper  
 Dan Shepard, Custodian  
 Amanda McElray Hunter  
 Children, Youth & Small Group Coord.

Our spiritual home, the Peace Church building allows us to **Build the Beloved Community, Serve God and Serve Others**. Not only do we worship, learn and play here, we also welcome many wider community organizations for meetings and special events. In order to keep our building vital for our use and others, we have to maintain it.

2024 expenses include fixing the parking lot entrances, repairing the playground and ongoing building maintenance projects.



### Imagine Together...

**95% of our income is provided by us, the members and friends of Peace Church, through our annual financial commitments.** To accomplish our important work, the 2024 budget was over \$650,000. Our budget is fulfilled through the financial commitments and special gifts of our members and friends. In 2024, we received financial commitments totaling \$450,000 and also received a \$50,000 matching grant, something we can't count on this year.

Our annual Stewardship Campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of Peace. Without your gifts, we would not be able to engage in the programs, projects, ministry and worship experiences that define our community life. **Imagine how your generosity can be used to continue the mission of Peace Church to Build the Beloved Community, Serve God and Serve Others!**