



Commonly Asked Questions & Answers

What is the purpose of our *Peacing Together* campaign?

The purpose of the campaign is to secure gifts and 3-year pledges to maintain our building and property, reduce our mortgage and support several of our mission partners with a tithe of all that is given.

What maintenance projects are included in the campaign?

The Church Council has prioritized the following projects at a total estimate of \$400,000-\$425,000:

- repairing and painting the steeple
- remodeling the kitchen and replacing the dishwasher
- resurfacing parking lots and replacing lights with LED
- repairing brick and stucco
- replacing several air conditioning units
- renovating several classrooms for our new preschool
- purchasing an electronic welcome sign

Is this list of projects prioritized in any specific way?

The Church Council has the responsibility for prioritizing the completion of each project based on campaign gift cash flow and the most urgent need.

Why aren't the needed roof repairs included in this list?

Gratefully, the costs of our much needed roof repairs following last summer's storms are being covered by insurance.

Will Peace be developing a commercial kitchen?

Because of a 'grandfather clause' in local laws, Peace is not required to have a commercial kitchen for its various uses. We are free to develop a high-functioning kitchen at a much lower cost than a regulation commercial kitchen requires.

What are the plans for resurfacing the parking lots?

As funding is available, our parking lots can be resurfaced in various stages. If enough funding is available, one of our lots is also in need of major regrading in order to direct water away from our buildings.

Tell me more about our new preschool ministry?

Peace Lutheran Church has contracted with Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar to provide a Loving Arms PreSchool in our building. Loving Arms is an affordable faith-based program for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. Having this ministry in our building is a beautiful expression of this congregation's mission to Love, Encourage and Serve, and also addresses a growing need in the community.

Presently, three of our classrooms in the northwest corner of the building require renovations to serve this age group. Peace is also pursuing available grant funding through the county for these improvements. Loving Arms will take up residence upon completion of this project.

What's the status of our mortgage for the new sanctuary?

As of September 30, 2022, the congregation's mortgage balance totals \$489,480. The mortgage was refinanced in recent years to an adjustable rate mortgage. Our current rate of 5.75% is fixed through January 2028.

Though the congregational operating budget can adequately handle current monthly payments of \$3500, the Church Council and many members would like to see this debt eliminated so it's not a burden on future generations.

If the congregation can reach or exceed its stretch goal of \$950,000, much of the remaining debt can be significantly paid down over the next three years.

Why is maintaining my regular giving so important?

This congregation depends on your regular year-round gifts for 96% of its revenues. Fees for building use and activities account for the other 4%. Without these gifts, the day-to-day ministry of Peace isn't possible.

This church needs your continued and increased ongoing support if we are going to continue to make an impact in this community. Please be generous in your commitment to the capital appeal, but do make a commitment that is *over and above* your regular giving to Peace.

What is the fundraising goal for *Peacing Together*?

Following an analysis of the congregation's giving history and estimated capacity, the congregation unanimously adopted a minimum goal of \$750,000 and a stretch goal of \$950,000.

How do I decide how much to give?

Our Biblical understanding of stewardship compels us to think about giving our tithes and offerings as a proportion of all that God has given to us. Every member of this church is invited to prayerfully consider a commitment of their income and/or assets that represents their best over-and-above gift for this time.

The following table illustrates the number and size of gifts needed to achieve the \$950,000 stretch goal.

Monthly Amount	3-Year Total	# Needed	Total Needed
\$2,778	\$100,000	1	\$100,000
\$1,389	\$ 50,000	2	\$100,000
\$ 694	\$ 25,000	6	\$150,000
\$ 540	\$ 15,000	12	\$180,000
\$ 278	\$ 10,000	15	\$150,000
\$ 139	\$ 5,000	25	\$125,000
\$ 69	\$ 2,500	25	\$ 62,500
\$ 42	\$ 1,500	25	\$ 37,500
\$ 28	\$ 1,000	25	\$ 25,000
\$ 14	\$ 500	25	\$ 12,500
\$ 8	\$ 300	25	\$ 7,500
TOTAL		186	\$950,000

How long is the pledge payment period?

The congregation is inviting gifts and commitments over a three-year pledge payment period, beginning January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025.

How can I make my gift commitment?

Members will receive a campaign packet of material either at the church or by mail by November 1st. Volunteers will be reaching out by phone to answer any of your questions. On Commitment Sunday, November 20th, you are invited to bring your commitment card to worship. If you are not going to be at worship that week, we ask that you mail or bring your commitment card to the church prior to November 20th.

May I make an upfront gift yet this calendar year?

Yes! Gifts are needed now and in the next 2 months to fund some of the most pressing priorities. Your gift before the end of the year may also provide significant tax advantages.

May I contribute assets other than cash?

The church can accept your gifts of appreciated stock, securities, mutual funds, Qualified Charitable Distributions from your IRA, certificates of deposit, gifts of crops, and other assets that are easily converted to cash. Many of these assets can be given with additional tax benefits to the donor. You may contact Gail at the church office for more information at (320) 354-2774.

How do I set up automated payments on my pledge?

There are 3 different options for setting up an automated payment on your pledge:

Option 1: The church office can set it up for you. Just fill out a form, provide a voided check, and Gail will do the rest.

Option 2: Your bank can set it up. Just contact your bank and ask for instructions on setting up an electronic funds transfer.

Option 3: You can set it up yourself at the church's online donation page at www.peacenewlondon.org/give.

May I leave a legacy gift for Peace Lutheran Church?

A growing number of people are including Peace in their will because they care deeply about this ministry that has been so important to them and their family. Though legacy gifts cannot be counted as gifts toward this campaign, we are beginning legacy gift conversations as a part of this campaign with hopes that people will consider including the Peace Lutheran Church Endowment as a beneficiary of their plans.

As the Peace Lutheran Church Endowment grows, the distributions from that fund provide a consistent, reliable, permanent revenue stream for the church and its mission. For more information about the endowment fund and including the church in your estate plans, contact the church office.

What if we don't reach our goal before the end of the year?

This campaign will be a congregational priority for the next three years. The Stewardship Committee at Peace will continue to encourage and invite support for the campaign over the next three years so that the goals can be achieved, pledges can be fulfilled, and projects can be completed. New members will be invited to participate. Some members who may not be able to participate now will have a future opportunity to do so. Others who give or pledge now may be willing and able to contribute more in the future.