

Throughout 2025, our Peace Stewardship Team kept a close watch on all activities and goals that our congregation was able to accomplish with our combined financial funds. We made certain that we cared for our facilities and ministry needs inside and out, but we also partnered locally and globally to create safe spaces, shelters, and food and clothing supplies for those neighbors in need.

During our 4-week stewardship series in September 2025, entitled "Intentional Living", we explored the reading Matthew 6:21 and touched on the elements steward, live, give, and grow, with emphasis on the text "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." We looked closely at how living for God means embracing contentment, being intentional in our actions, and cultivating gratitude.

At the end of the series, Sunday, September 28, we asked the congregation households for prayerful consideration for returning their Commitment Cards to assist our financial team with estimates of giving to create a meaningful 2026 budget. Our initial goal in the stewardship campaign was to receive a 30% return by October 12, 210 households. We were thrilled to receive 238 commitments from our members, with a total estimated giving of \$935,531.48 for the year. If you have yet to submit a commitment card for 2026 and would like to do so, please contact the church office or download the form from our website.

We look forward to the ways that Peace can continue to be generous in 2026, as we love God, neighbor, and self.

Our 2026 Capital Campaign, Building for the Future, is gaining momentum!



With the Vision Board's approval, we've partnered with M+A Design to reimagine our building for today's ministries and tomorrow's generations. Early plans include an elevator, upgraded restrooms, and smarter, more flexible use of our existing spaces to better serve both Peace and the wider community.

Guided by campaign consultant Jeff Hensley of Capital Campaign Pro, we continue to discern how to faithfully steward the resources entrusted to us. As we move forward, we honor the vision of Peace leaders who provided a building and grounds that has served us well for more than 60 years.

M+A's designs will be shared in the coming months. Exciting things are in store for us in 2026, and we ask for your continued prayers for guidance to be good stewards of the gifts we have been given while boldly stepping out where God leads – so that Peace continues to be salt and light in our community.

**DID YOU KNOW?
Our facilities are what make this possible!**

- We support Gahanna schools by providing weekend meals for 60+ students in need
- Every other Sunday, Peace volunteers deliver about 80 lunches to residents of Stygler Village. Each week, we host a community lunch serving 30–40 to go meals
- Our building is home to Bible studies, AA and GriefShare groups, quilters, fellowship groups, and a community sports group
- More than 70 children learn and grow in faith here each week through Sunday School
- Our ConneXions Center and fellowship hall host community assemblies and award ceremonies
- Classrooms are used by Creekside Cottage School
- Throughout the year, we collect and stage donations—food, clothing, shoes, furniture—to support our outreach partners and ministries



A Year of Grace, Growth, and Ministry Together

2025 was another extraordinary year of doing ministry together at Peace Lutheran Church — and there is so much to celebrate. Our "Building for the Future" capital campaign continued to gain momentum, as our dedicated campaign teams worked alongside M+A Design to finalize plans that will update and enhance our current facilities for generations to come. This is an exciting season of prayerful investment in the spaces where we worship, serve, and grow together. Beyond the bricks and beams, the real story of 2025 was written in the lives of people — in every act of service, every moment of worship, and every connection made in the name of Christ.

What does a year of ministry look like at Peace? It looks like Camp Friendship (outreach program for adults with disabilities) discovering that "Following Jesus Changes the Game," reminding all of us that every person is beloved and included in God's story. It looks like nearly 200 kids diving into "Candy Creation" at Vacation Bible School, and our community gathering for another memorable Pig Out (pig roast cookout). It looks like Peace Serves, sending over two hundred volunteers into our neighborhoods to work as a community in tackling service projects, and through the Hoops for Haiti collection, raising enough funds to build a second story on a school in Jacmel, Haiti. But ministry at Peace is also found in the quieter, everyday moments — young families coming to worship and bringing their children to Praise-N-Learn (Sunday learning), volunteers serving through Bed Brigade (ministry that builds and delivers beds to children), stuffing backpacks for elementary school kids, picking up furniture for neighbors in need, gathering for one of our many Bible studies, sharing laughter over a game of euchre, or pausing in the Memorial Garden to remember someone dear. **This is who we are. This is Peace Lutheran Church.**

--Pastor Doug Warburton



A YEAR IN REVIEW | 2025

CARE TEAM

Our Care Team volunteers continue to support Peace friends through visits, cards, phone calls, flower deliveries and help with transportation during difficult times. We offer GriefShare support meetings for anyone looking for support and comfort during the grief journey. Our prayer line is sent out weekly by email. The sympathy card team sends out notes of support and encouragement following the death of a loved one. Our meal ministry team has offered comforting meals to folks welcoming new babies, recovering from illnesses or going through other life changes. The pastors are available for care and support through spiritual counseling and prayer.

FACILITIES

Facility upkeep and maintenance remain ongoing priorities at Peace, as we are blessed with both our 63-year-old main building and the ConneXions Center, which opened 22 years ago. Dedicated volunteers, alongside professional maintenance teams, work faithfully to ensure our facilities are welcoming and well cared for as we gather onsite for worship and programs. Volunteer teams also help keep the Peace grounds looking their best by mowing the expansive lawns and tending the garden beds throughout the parking areas. Our Memorial Garden—featuring a memorial wall and columbarium—is thoughtfully and beautifully maintained by a committed team of caregivers.

CHANGES AND TRANSITIONS

As we review the statistics of the church year, we see growth in worship attendance and membership. We received 44 new members in 2025, from newborns to newly retired. Online viewership has increased significantly this year with an average 360 people watching worship services each week. We celebrated four weddings, 13 Baptisms and the Confirmation of 3 students. On All Saints Sunday, we reflected on the lives of 15 people who departed our community leaving their distinct imprint with us. In November, Music Ministry offered the Schubert Mass No.2 in G Major with 1069 in attendance over two worship services. Our community celebrated Easter and Christmas with over 3,600 people attending in person and online.

OUTREACH

Outreach ministry is the practice of looking beyond yourself to the people around you and sharing the love of Christ as you serve and connect with your community. Peace is blessed with many opportunities to love and serve others. Last year Peace partnered with numerous local and international organizations to provide volunteer time and money. In addition we donated resources to those in need including food, furniture, blankets, prayer shawls, coats, shoes, Christmas gifts, Thanksgiving dinners, health kits, backpacks, beds and bedding. Within our congregation, we volunteered to serve alongside adults with disabilities, cared for the church grounds and advocated for social justice. Outreach is faith in action and an opportunity to grow closer to God and to one another.

SMALL GROUPS

Small groups create meaningful connections, offering a welcoming space to share life and grow in faith together. Our Study, Service, and Social groups offer diverse opportunities to deepen your spiritual journey and sense of community. Whether you're seeking encouragement through monthly gatherings with Parenting with Grace, hoping to find understanding and fellowship among other parents of LGBTQIA+ children in Pride & Joy, or eager to explore Scripture more deeply in one of our many Bible studies, there is a group ready to meet you right where you are.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Here at Peace we focus on whole family ministry. Ministry to bring households together as well as bring together ALL walks of life.

CHILDREN MINISTRY

Our Sunday School program called "Praise-N-Learn" continued to have a great year, along with well attended events like the Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk-or-Treat, Live Nativity and more! Children and families continued to learn through classes including First Communion, Bible Reading Class, Children's Choir, plus Advent & Lent activities. Three overnight retreats were offered for both children and families, while service projects like the GRIN Bag drop-offs and partnering with Seeds of Caring were ways that families can serve together. Vacation Bible School saw over 110 volunteers and over 220 children singing, playing, growing and learning together from a curriculum, "Candy Creation" that we wrote ourselves! Our Nursery continued to be a welcoming place for our youngest members of Peace and we appreciate all of the volunteers that make Children's Ministry possible.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is an opportunity for parents and our Peace congregation to fulfill our Baptismal promises in passing along the faith we share. Students are learning what it means to be on a lifelong journey following Jesus alongside parents/trusted adults. Students practice navigating through the Bible and gain new understanding in their Lutheran faith through the 10 Commandments, Apostles Creed, Lord's Prayer, Sacraments, Bible Stories, experiences, and service. We currently have 15 students registered in Confirmation at Peace.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Students gather for Youth Group, events, retreats, Mission Trips (near and far), as well as plug into the broader life and church family through all church events & service opportunities. We are a place to connect with friends (old and new!) and refocus on what matters most (loving God, neighbor, and self) in a fun, safe, and loving space; all while being surrounded by adults who care!

WORSHIP AND ARTS

In 2025 Worship and Arts continued to grow both in numbers and quality. Striving to be supportive and inclusive, we believe everyone is capable of making a joyful noise. We use our gifts to create meaningful worship experiences for all who attend Peace, either in person or online. Made up of Traditional Choir, Bells of Peace, Contemporary ConneXions, Sermon Series Design Team, and Holiday Decorating Team; Worship and Arts is serving our community year-round. We had over 100 guest artists this past year, including a full performance of the Schubert Mass in G, and the regional premiere of Florence Price's "Song of Hope." For more information, or to get involved, reach out to Que Jones at qjones@peacegahanna.org.

WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY TEAM

Technology is a fast moving world, and this team is constantly learning, growing, and innovating, to ensure Peace is a beacon of faith in the vast online world. In the past year we have collaborated with worship and arts to create a new chancel for the ConneXions Center, which dramatically increases the quality of our worship in that multi-use space. Our dedicated tech team of 7 works tirelessly every Sunday and throughout the week to produce worship. One of our main 2025 goals was to increase the beauty of the online worship experience, and the reliability of our streamed worship for those unable to join Peace in person. We greatly succeeded, and are excited what 2026 will bring in improvements to lights, sound, videos, words, and so much more. Without the tech teams dedicated efforts, worship would be a dark and quiet experience.

FINANCIAL REPORT | 2025

Financial Report Unaudited Income Statement for the Period January 1 - December 31, 2025

	2025 Actuals	2025 Budget	Actual vs Budget Favorable/(Unfavorable)
Revenue			
Reg Donations	1,414,412	1,336,620	77,792
All Other Gifts	256,518	194,910	61,608
Investment Activity	55,828	12,300	43,528
Endowment	144,579	89,903	54,676
Total Revenue	1,871,337	1,633,733	237,604
Expenses			
Administration/Office	328,971	410,730	81,759
Worship	501,331	508,758	7,427
Members	216,496	228,175	11,679
Community	203,759	189,712	(14,047)
Building	385,636	352,682	(32,954)
Endowment	41,738	58,000	16,262
Finance	319,142	117,300	(201,842)
Total Expenses	1,997,073	1,865,357	(131,716)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(125,736)	(231,624)	105,888

	As of Dec 31, 2025	As of Dec 31, 2024	Change Increase/(Decrease)
Cash Position			
Unrestricted	558,729	731,377	(172,648)
Restricted	142,027	205,356	(63,329)
Endowment	1,107,594	1,004,753	102,841
Total Cash	1,808,350	1,941,486	(133,136)

2025 RESULTS

2025 Results for the year ending December 31, 2024, Peace reported total revenue of \$1.871M vs a budget of \$1.634M, favorable by \$237K. Through the support and generosity of the congregation we received \$1.414M of donations vs a budget of \$1.336M, exceeding the budget by \$77K. Peace's Investment account and Endowment experienced growth in value driven by investment income and favorable changes in market value of investments.

Total expenses for the period were \$1.997M vs budget of \$1.865M, unfavorable by \$131K driven mainly by planned heating and air conditioning repairs/upgrades due to aged equipment. Overall, Peace reported a net deficit of \$125K vs a planned budget deficit of \$231K, favorable by \$105K. Peace's overall cash position as of December 31, 2026 was \$1.808M vs prior year end of \$1.941M, a decrease of \$133K driven by planned building improvements, columbarium expansion and favorable performance in our investment and endowment. Through your continued financial support Peace remains in a very strong cash position with a healthy endowment.

As we look forward to 2026, we are in a strong financial position to continue the core mission of Peace, to love God, neighbor and self. Additionally in 2026, we will undertake a capital campaign to fund building improvements intended to enhance our ability to execute that core mission. We are truly grateful and blessed by your generosity.

PEACE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund operates to support the mission and vision of Peace Lutheran Church. It has been in existence since 1988 and is funded by gifts from members and friends of the congregation who are interested in the long-term future by having the ability to make a lasting impact. Funds given become part of the Endowment principal, and the fund is operated so that the inflation adjusted principal is maintained in perpetuity. The principal is invested, and its earnings are distributed annually to support the congregation's mission and vision. Over the past decade, more than \$260,000 in grants have been made from the Endowment Fund. In recent years this has been primarily in areas of outreach, which have included Sojourners Care Network / Southeast Testament, Haitian Timoun Foundation, First English Lutheran Church, other areas of need in the Central Ohio area, as well as specific disaster and hunger relief efforts administered by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The fund has also provided support for missionary work affiliated with the Peace community and financial aid for students attending seminary or studying for careers in areas that are in line with the congregational mission. The amount of grants issued from the Endowment varies year to year and is based on past performance of the Endowment fund and the grants requested.

Endowment Summary 2025

\$	1,004,753	Balance at 12/31/24
\$	32,949	Investment Income/Capital Gains
\$	93,432	Change in Market Value
\$	3,152	Fees
\$	26,000	Grants Paid
\$	5,612	Donation Contribution Rec'd
\$	1,107,594	Balance at 12/31/25

