

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C., Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

Text and music are in the public domain. May be reproduced without restriction.

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

**Agenda for the Annual Meeting at Christ Lutheran Church
February 4th, 2024, - Arcadia, Wisconsin**

Report of the Pastor.....	Page I, II
Report of the President.....	Page III, IV
Minutes from Annual Meeting January 30th, 2023,.....	Pages V, VI
Membership Statistics for 2023.....	Page VII

Committee Report

Property and Management Committee.....	Page 1
IT Committee.....	Page 2
Worship & Music Committee.....	Pages 3, 4
Stewardship Committee.....	Page 5
Youth & Family Committee.....	Page 6
Women of the ELCA.....	Page 7
Membership Committee.....	Page 8

Financial Reports

Glencoe Report.....	Page 9
Youth & Family Checking.....	Page 10
Youth & Family Savings.....	Page 11
Treasurer Report.....	Page 12
Trust Fund Report.....	Page 13
Women of the ELCA & Quilters.....	Page 14
Auditors Report.....	Page 15

Budget for Ministry 2024.....	Page 16
--------------------------------------	----------------

Nominating Committee Report.....	Pages 17, 18
---	---------------------

New Business

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer

Pastor's Annual Report 2023

"37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" 39 And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Be silent! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm." Mark 4:37-39

During the storm, Jesus Christ saved His disciples in the storm. As long as we are alive, sometimes, the storms of life might find us in different ways. But, because of the presence of Christ and God's love in our lives, those storms will not overcome us. The COVID-19 pandemic is a storm that has hit us and the entire world, but Christ is with us in this storm. We celebrate ministry together and congratulate each other on making it through 2023 by God's grace.

What a year it has been! 2023 came with a lot of challenges for so many people. We learned to depend on God's grace, love, and direction. It was a transitional year for Christ Lutheran Church. In these times of transition, we continue to find ways to worship God virtually and in person. It has been a time of despair, loss, grief, love and fellowship but also a time to connect, reconnect, rebuild, and reimagine.

Thank you for extending a call to me and being so welcoming and supportive of me and my family as I continue serving you in ministry. This has been a time of settling in here at Christ Lutheran Church and in the Arcadia Community, a time of learning, a time of growing, and a time to build relationships.

Christ Lutheran Church is blessed with many members who faithfully contribute their time, talents, and financial support. Ministry has been possible because we all have worked well together. We can continue to explore new ways to be together as we worship, learn, and do God's work. It has been a joy to continue to open our doors to the faith community.

First, I am so grateful for the Christ Lutheran Church family and the La Crosse Synod, including Bishop Felix Malpica and Dione Stepanek. I thank Pastor Dave Johnson, who served as your Interim. I am thankful to the Call Committee led by Tony Myers, the Executive Committee, the Church Council Members (Pat Rohn, John Wiemer, Renee Schank, Bill Lockington, Duane Miller, Mary Rodvold, Judy Borchert, Karen Mullikin, Tami Taysom) led by Council President Pat Rohl, the staff (Tiffany Lambright, Danielle Schock, Kay Wiemer, Becky Weisenberger), and various committees: Worship and Music Committee, Youth and Family Committee, Stewardship Committee, Property & Management Committee, Membership Committee, Musicians, Ushers, Readers, Communion Assistants, Altar Care, Acolyte, the Projection team, Money Counters, WELCA, Trust Fund, the Quilters, Nominating Committee, the people that decorated the church, the volunteers that assembled the monthly newsletters, the people who provided food and make weekly coffee especially Robert & Connie Scharlau, the Easy Worship preparers, the prayer chain group, the Hospitality team, and the many volunteers. I also want to thank our IT

Committee people, Marv Rodvold and Dan Sampson, for their weekly dedication, especially with the audio and live streaming of the worship services.

Since August, I have enjoyed working with the staff and the tremendous people I have encountered here at Christ Lutheran Church. This coming year, I am enthusiastic about the future of Christ Lutheran Church. As the Holy Spirit guide, we are leading in life-giving ways. We place our trust and our faith in God. Our church is a light and beacon of hope in the community.

I have been able to contact congregational members, homebound members, and hospitalized and bereaved people through visits, phone calls, texts, emails, and cards. I also presided over funeral services. I am grateful to the following people (Renee Schank, Mark & Linda Backer) for taking communion to shut-ins. The purpose was to connect with shut-ins through visitations and offered prayers.

We held weekly Sunday Worship Services, Installation service, Affirmation of Baptism, Music Sunday, Confirmation Classes, pastoral text study, monthly Youth and Family Night, Youth Bowling Night, Christmas Eve Candlelight services, Adult Forum, Fellowship after service, Buddy bag packing, and monthly committee & Council meetings.

As we move forward, I ask that we continue Worshipping God, Building Community, Serving others, Growing in Faith, and being Invitational. We still have work to do as we continue to ask and reflect on what God is calling all of us to do? It has been a joy and a blessing for me to walk and partner with you in this short time. I pray that we will continue to walk together and remember that God is with us always.

I wanted to let you know how my family (Lucinda-spouse, Rufina-daughter) and I are humbled and honored to be with you and to serve as your pastor. Thank you all for your prayers, love, support, and all you do at Christ Lutheran Church and for the body of Christ. May God richly bless you all in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Peace,

Pastor Rufus

President Report-2023

I want to begin this year's President's Report by thanking all our congregational members that have volunteered or contributed in any way, to the success that our church is experiencing in our pursuit of serving God and our community. It takes the work of so many people, putting in countless hours, to make the things that define a healthy and dedicated congregation become reality. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Tiffany for her dedication to CLC. She is such an important resource for our congregation. I'd also like to thank Becky for helping to continue making our church a friendly and welcoming environment.

2023 was a year of transition for Christ Lutheran. The beginning of the year saw our Call Committee dedicated to identifying and recruiting a new Pastor to our church and to lead our congregation into the future. In the meantime, Pastor Dave did a fantastic job of leading us in his role as interim Pastor. He spent a great deal of time working with Council to prepare for the new Pastor as well as preparing our leadership to be ready to face the challenges and changes that the future will present. Without Pastor Dave's outstanding dedication to our congregation, we would not be in the strong state that we are in.

Which brings us to most important development of 2023, the calling of Pastor Rufus to join Christ Lutheran. Pastor joined us in August, coming to us from a parish in Green Bay. Pastor has provided us with a great deal of energy and a new perspective. We welcome Pastor Rufus, his wife Lucinda, and daughter Rufina, to our congregation. We hope that this is a long and satisfying relationship for Pastor and our congregation.

One of the big questions that we began the year with was whether the congregation was interested in embarking upon a renovation project. Several projects were identified and with a great deal of research and input from the congregation, it was decided that our elevator was the highest priority, and modernization was in order. Bill Lockington put a great deal of work into identifying contractors, getting quotes, and setting the construction schedule. By the time of our Annual Meeting, the project should be completed. Once done, and depending on funding available, we will likely look at moving onto more projects in 2024.

Another project that moved forward was the improvement and modernization of our Information Technology or IT, which is used in the production of the Facebook Live coverage of our church services. Marv Rodvold put in a substantial amount of time to research, order, install, and operate the new cameras and switching equipment. Dan Sampson has been working very closely with Marv and continues to do production work on our online broadcasting.

This brings us to the matter of financials and budget. 2023 was a very successful year financially, as weekly giving, special donations, and elevator project fund raising allowed CLC to end up financially very strong. At this time, I am not certain as to the final numbers, but I can confidently say that all debts have been paid and we can move into 2024 financially very strong.

Finally, I want to thank John Wiemer and Marv Rodvold for the work that they've done as Church Council members and the work they've done in support of Christ Lutheran Church. John, for his work on the membership committee and his willingness to be a leader as council Vice President. And Marv, for all his work and expertise on implementing and updating our Information Technology. No one realizes the amount of time that he put into that system. And I'd like to thank the rest of the council, Judy Borchert, Bill Lockington, Duane Miller, Renee Schank, and Tami Taysom, for their dedication to CLC by serving on Council, and all the work that they've put into making our church a very successful one.

So, as we move forward into 2024, and the future for that matter, I feel very confident that our church is very strong and able to continue to do God's work. We have a very caring membership that is dedicated to our church and to serving God and our community.

Peace and God's love to you all!

Pat

Christ Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes Sunday, February 12th, 2023

This meeting was called to order by President Pat Rohn at 10:15am.

President Pat Rohn led us in a prayer.

Announcements:

- We are looking for help with Easy Worship if there is anyone willing
- Dan Reit and Greg Konkel leaving the council. Thank you for all your hard work.
- March Cause of the Month will be the Turkey / Syria earthquake
- There is still one spot open for the Church Council, and three open for Synod Assembly
- Wednesday, February 15th Youth & Family Night. Pastor Dione will be here.

Pastor's Message found on Page I

Presidents Report found on Page II.

- The Stewardship Committee (Buddy Bag program) put together over 3000 bags
- Upcoming Projects for the church. The big question is do we want to stay here or build before we stick a lot of money into this building?
- We had a presentation from Olson Solar Energy at the Council meeting.

2022 Annual Meeting Minutes – Bob Forsyth moved/ Dan Reit seconded to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Committee Reports are found on pages 1 to 8 of the annual report.

Jeff Hulberg moved/ Tony Myers seconded to approve the Committee Reports. Motion passed.

Financial Reports are found on pages 9 to 15 of the annual report.

Bill Lockington moved/ Renee Schank seconded to file the financial reports as a faithful accounting. Motion passed.

2023 Budget: found on page 16. After a discussion on the budget.

Judy Borchert moved/ Joan Fetting seconded to approve the 2022 Budget. Motion Passed

Nominating Committee Report: pages 17-18 of the Annual Report (Updated report handed out at meeting)

Council Members:

The three nominees for church council are: Pat Rohn (2ND Term) and Duane Miller. Lacking a third nominee, the Council will continue to search for one more Council Member.

Outgoing Members: Dan Reit, Greg Konkel, Pat Rohn

Youth: Confirmation Students in rotation

Trust Fund:

Outgoing Members: Randy Rugotzke, Todd Fetsch

Nominees: Todd Fetsch (2nd Term), Dan Reit, Kerry Tamke.

Jeff Hulberg nominated Pamela Weltzien

Kerry withdrew from the nominees.

After a discussion it was brought to our attention that only two spots for the Trust Fund need to be filled. Pamela Weltzien withdrew their nomination.

Amended Motion: Bill Lockington moved / Dan Weltzien seconded to accept the two nominees for the Trust Fund

Nominating Committee:

The following are proposed to serve on the Nominating committee for 2023: Nancy Rohn, Greg Konkel, Jennifer Rotering

The nominating committee also includes the three council members who would be going off council at the end of 2023: John Wiemer, Marv Rodvold, Karen Mullikin

Voting Members to the Synod Assembly: No Nominee have been chosen at this time.

Bob Forsyth moved/ Kerry Tamke seconded to close nominations.

Jeff Hulberg moved / Diane Konkel seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the above persons nominated for the Church Council, Trust Fund, Nominating Committee and Voting Members of the Synod Assembly. Motion passed

New Business:

Tony Myers asked about changing the worship time from 9:00am to 9:30 and President Pat stated this topic was brought up at the Council meeting and after much discussion it was decided to stay at the 9:00am time.

John Wiemer made a motion made and Jeff Hulberg seconded to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Lambright, Christ Lutheran Church Office Administrator

Christ Lutheran Membership Statistics for 2023

Members: + Baptism + Transferred In+ Reinstated+ New Members by Affirmation of Faith – Transferred Out – Death – Released = **640 Members as of 12/31/2023**

BAPTISMS: Talon Sobczak – 7/26/23 Parents: Jason Sobczak (M) & Jennifer Roskos (NM)

TRANSFER IN:

REINSTATED:

NEW MEMBERS BY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: 12/31/23 - LeAnn Hagen

CONFIRMED: 10/29/23 - Tessah Ely, Nolan Bremer, and Kalyce Sobotta

MARRIAGES:

TRANSFER OUTS / REQUESTED REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP:

2/2/23- Joe & Darlene Feltes – Halfway Creek Lutheran Church, Holmen, WI

FUNERALS:

Janice Fink: (Member) Funeral – 3/10/23 – Cremated & Burial at Glencoe Lutheran Cemetery

Eldon Berg: (Member) Funeral -3/20/23 – Burial - Fagernes Lutheran Church

Julie (Urbick) Reynolds-Kooiman: (Non–Member) Funeral – 4/20/23 Burial – Glencoe Lutheran Cemetery

Beverly Pronschinske (Non – Member) Funeral – 4/29/23 Burial - columbarium at Emmanuel Lutheran Venice, Florida.

Paul Halvorsen: (Member) Funeral - 5/25/23

Alvin Zastrow: (Member) DOD – 1/30/23 – 4/1/23- A Committal Service at the Glencoe Lutheran Cemetery

Paul Dettloff: (Member) – Funeral 7/20/03

Mary Jane Platteter: (Member) - Funeral - 7/27/23 Burial: Glencoe Lutheran Cemetery, Arcadia

Martin Ehrat: (Member) Funeral – 10/14/23 Burial: Anchorage Cemetery, rural Waumandee.

Dale Howard: (Member) – Funeral - 11/13/23 Burial: Forest Hill Cemetery, Durand, WI

Ramona English: (Member) Funeral - 12/18/23 Burial: Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Arcadia

RELEASED:

Property & Management Committee Report January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

This was the year of the parsonage.

An incomplete list of the improvements done on the parsonage include: Painting, cleaning, garage and drain repairs, new vinyl floors in the basement, doorhandles replaced. Christ Lutheran Church, give yourself a pat on the back. It looks great. It was a lot to do, and we had fun doing it. In partnership with Western Dairyland, the parsonage was insulated as we needed it for minimal cost.

The church basement was stripped and resealed. The Church carpets were professionally cleaned. Burned out fluorescent lights or replaced with LED lights. A new elevator was proposed and is scheduled to be installed soon. Dan had some items prioritized and we accomplished some and you will be updated on other items as we get back to them.

A big shout out to those in the mowing rotation. Thank you for your commitment to CLC.

Thank you to Tiffany for your communication on what needs attention.

Becky keeps us looking good and thank you Becky for your flexibility in preparing for special occasions.

Pastor Rufus is remarkable and his willingness to lend a hand for snow shoveling, hauling, or cleaning.

Respectfully,
William Lockington
Property & Management Committee Chair

IT Committee 2023 Annual Report

The IT committee provides maintenance and software updates as necessary for desktop and Laptop computers and adjunct devices presently in use by Pastoral, Office Staff, and Worship support groups. The IT committee provides planning for IT equipment requirements, installation, and maintenance of the church computers, and accessory equipment. This also includes updates and application installation, configuration, and maintenance as required. The IT group provides support information and technical expertise for future planning. The group also determines the vendors and costs associated required for IT equipment acquisition as requested by the Church Council.

This past year (2023) we have experienced fewer equipment issues compared to former years. The recent upgrades and maintenance procedures have improved reliability and lowered the calls for maintenance. Scheduled updates have also helped to improve the operational readiness of our IT systems.

The existing security cameras have continued to function well with a minimum amount of maintenance. There was only one computer failure during 2023. The IT committee participated in the cleanup and disposal of unused equipment as part of the spring church cleanup activities.

The major IT project of 2023 was the engineering, acquisition, and installation of a professional video live streaming system. The configuration and installation was a three month project in spring of 2023. We now have a professional streaming service for our church services. The first "Go Live" video streaming of our Sunday service was May 7th of this year (2023). The live streaming has been online live every Sunday since that date. Marv and Dan are presently in charge of the weekly online live streaming production each Sunday.

We have recently compiled the analytics (streaming statistics) for the 2023 broadcasts and have some very surprising numbers associated with our live streaming. Christ Lutheran Church had 3,509 people attending our services in-person (in-house) during 2023. Surprisingly, we had 9,165 computers connected to our steaming of the services. We have no way of knowing how many people were watching the computer, smartphone, or tablet that was connected to our Face Book or YouTube website. I would propose it would be a number even higher than the 9,165 devices that were logged on. There is a lot more information available from these statistics with some further analysis. I would be happy to provide that information to anyone that might be interested. I would propose that we form a group/committee to further analyze these statistics and most importantly, develop a plan to reach out to these viewers and make them welcome to our church family.

Our final plan to be completed for the streaming service is the assembly of a permanent projection area on the balcony of the church. The ongoing computer and device maintenance will continue to be provided by the IT group.

Sincerely Submitted,

Marv Rodvold - IT Committee Chair

Music and Worship Committee Report 2023

"Music is a fair and lovely gift for God. Next to theology I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor, "

Martin Luther

The Worship and Music Committee meets monthly to discuss and plan for anything that pertains to worship including music, projection, sound and special events. Members include Linda Backer, Danielle Schock, Dan Sampson, Mary Jo Fetsch, Joan Fetting, Judy Borchert, Pastor David Johnson, and Pastor Rufus Kudee.

The 2023 Christ Lutheran worship schedule was Sunday morning at 9:00 am. The worship services were video streamed live on Facebook and then uploaded to YouTube. The worship services were also available on cable channel WTCO Thursday at 5:00 pm and the following Sunday at 11:00 am.

A partial listing of special worship services and fellowship projects includes:

- *Midweek Lenten Services — Holden Evening Prayer
- *Maundy Thursday — Living Last Supper (alternate years) held in 2022
- *Good Friday
- *Special Music Sunday
- *Confirmation Service
- *Graduate Recognition
- *Bible Sunday — Distribution of SPARK Bibles
- *All Saints Sunday
- *Rogation Sunday
- *Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- *Ecumenical Baccalaureate Service

There were 53 in-person worship services and 53 streamed worship services on Sunday.

There were four in-person worship services on Wednesday during Lent, plus Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. None of these worship services was video streamed. There was no Ash Wednesday worship due to a snowstorm.

On Christmas Eve there was a regular morning worship service. There were two Christmas Eve candlelight services, for which one was video streamed.

Average Sunday attendance for in-person worship was 66; non-Sunday in-person attendance was 43.

Average Sunday attendance for streaming worship was 173; Christmas Eve streaming viewership was 522.

Danielle Schock directed our Christ Lutheran vocal choir in the Spring, and bell choir in the Spring and Fall, when they performed during worship at church.

Worship accompanists for the year have included Danielle Schock, Linda Backer, Kaylynn Weltzien, and Nancy Martinovici.

Special music during the year was provided by Tessah Ely, Danielle Schock, Bridget Tamke, Mary Jo Fetsch, Todd Fetsch, Kaylynn Weltzien, Linda Backer, Pamela Weltzien, and Dan Sampson.

Dan Sampson, Linda Backer, Carol Janka and Marv Rodvold prepared Easy Worship projection for the congregation.

Marv Rodvold and Dan Sampson provided the video streaming of our worship services on Facebook and YouTube.

The Worship and Music Committee acknowledges that everyone worships in diverse ways, especially in 2023. Our goal is to provide a variety of music and worship styles to help each person build a closer relationship with God.

Submitted by Dan Sampson

Christ Lutheran Stewardship Committee – 2023

The Stewardship Committee consists of Duane Miller, Greg Konkel, Heidi Hughes, Jen Luethi, Emily Instenes, Anne Martin, Shannon Ely, Nick Schock and Pastor Rufus Kudee. The committee has met monthly with the following goals for 2023:

- Roadside clean-up (COMPLETE)
- Secure Buddy Bag Donations (Ashley, Kwik Trip, Pilgrims & Dairyland Labs) (COMPLETE)
- Increase church member involvement in Buddy Bag program (COMPLETE)
- Shop With a Cop, Arcadia Police Department donations (COMPLETE)
- Chili Feed after Annual Meeting (IN PROGRESS)
- Committee led for one of the Soup and Sandwich during Lent.
- Increase social media presence on church initiatives (COMPLETE & CONTINUAL)
- Research and promote new stewardship activities/ideas (local & global) for consideration of church involvement (IN PROGRESS)

The Stewardship Committee continued to plan and execute the Buddy Bags program to support our local public school. We were fortunate to receive community funding for the Buddy Bag program from Kwik Trip, Ashley Furniture, Pilgrims & Dairyland Labs to cover the cost of the food. The Christ Lutheran Congregation has embraced this program by volunteering their time to unload the Feed My People delivery truck and filling bags at our monthly packing events. Thank you to each and every one of you who took the time to do this – we could not do it without all of your support.

We have worked to create more activities & involvement locally for our congregation.

Lastly, we have made a concerted effort to communicate more clearly and effectively and look to continue that moving forward. As a committee, we are truly humbled and thankful for the support this congregation has provided to our continued mission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Duane Miller (Stewardship Committee Chair)

Youth & Family Committee Report – 2023

The Youth and Family Committee consists of Renee Schank, Bill Lockington, Bill Bremer, Tony Myers, Greg Konkell, Julie Weaver, Doniel Fannello, and Tami Taysom. The Committee has been active for almost two years now and has dedicated their time and talents to bringing back youth involvement to CLC Family. With the limited number of youths actively involved in our congregation we have been focusing on events that not only are engaging to the youth but also the entire CLC family. The Committee felt getting the entire CLC family involved in these monthly events would show our youth the importance of being active members of CLC.

The monthly events consist of a meal for all of us to take part in along with a special message and an activity that ties into a monthly theme. The Youth and Family events are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month. The committee planned nine events during 2023 with more planned for 2024.

January- “Slide into the New Year”- Outdoor activities at the Church

February – “Sharing Love Around the World” with Dione Stepanik

April – “Helping Hands Helping Others”-Renee Schank’s Humanitarian Trip/Kenya

May – Mother’s Day Brunch

August – Ice Cream Social

September – Rally Wednesday- Campfire and Camp songs with Todd Fetch

October – “Pizza, Pastor, Pumpkins”- Pastor Rufus/Holy Land

November - “Give Thanks” -Food Pantry/Sandy Witte

December – “Happy Birthday Jesus”- Christmas Story/Connie Scharlau

Thanks to all who have helped to make the events successful! The Committee looks forward to another year of successful events.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee Schank (Youth & Family Committee Chair)

Christ Lutheran Women Annual Report for 2023

We are no longer a true W-ELCA group.

Monthly Bible study: We have one group that meets monthly for Bible Study. The Mary Circle meets at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the church lounge. In 2023 we had between 3 and 6 participants each month for an average of 5. We should be able to do better, and we encourage more women to join us. There is no requirement to be present every month, so please join us whenever you can. We always have an interesting Bible study, often with new perspectives that you may not have considered before.

Funeral Lunches—Many women and several men of our congregation are involved in serving meals for funerals and other occasions. We are excited to welcome **Linda George and June Sendelbach** as new meal serving organizers. Our other meal organizers are **Linda Backer, Judeen Berg, and Carmen Buss**. **Nancy Schultz** is the meal coordinator. In 2023 we prepared and served 6 funeral lunches and a North Conference Pastors' Meeting. Serving funeral luncheons is an important ministry that we are able to provide to grieving families of our congregation. Please consider helping, if you can, by contacting Nancy Schultz or one of the meal organizers.

Lutheran World Relief Kits and Quilts—This is the area of our ministry that we do best. We have many **women and men** of the congregation involved, as well as **many friends** of the congregation. In October 2023 we sent the following to LWR:

- 532 Baby Kits
- 145 Quilts
- 120 School Kits
- 100 Personal Care Kits
- 7 Fabric Kits

In addition, 7 Quilts were made for CLC high school graduates, 3 Quilts were given to Luther Park for their annual quilt auction, 1 quilt was donated to RSVP for an appreciation event prize, and 1 quilt was sold with the money going to the LWR shipping fund. We gave 3 fleece blankets to the RSVP agency to distribute to the homeless in Eau Claire.

We invite and welcome all women and men of Christ Lutheran to become involved in these activities of our congregation, to whatever extent you are able. Together we can accomplish many things. **To God Be the Glory**

Membership Committee Report – 2023

The Membership committee consists of John Wiemer, Kay Sobotta, and Linda George. Advisors on the committee were Pastor Dave Johnson and Tiffany Lambright.

Our focus for 2023 was just reviewing the membership listing. The criteria to release a member was that over the past 3 years they did not attend worship, receive communion, make a financial contribution, or otherwise volunteer in support of the congregation. If they wish to be reinstated as members at a later point, they can make that request. No official members were released by the Membership Committee in 2023.

Constitution and Bylaws:

C8.05 Membership in the congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. Death;
- b. Resignation;
- c. Transfer or release;
- d. Disciplinary action by the Congregation Council; or
- e. Removal from the roll due to inactivity as defined in the bylaws. Such persons who have been removed from the roll of members shall remain persons for whom the church has a continuing **pastoral concern**.

C8.04 It shall be the privilege and duty of members of this congregation to:

- a. Make regular use of the means of grace, both Word and sacraments;
- b. Live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the teachings of the Lutheran church; and
- c. Support the work of this congregation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through contributions of their time, abilities, and financial support
- d. as biblical stewards.

Respectfully, John Wiemer (Membership Committee Chair)

2023 Glencoe Lutheran Cemetery Annual Report

GENERAL FUND			
INCOME:			
	Bond Class A Security Income		\$1,951.48
	Miscellaneous Income		\$1,650.00
	Memorial Income		\$270.00
	Donation Income		\$2,400.00
	GF Sale of Grave lots		\$600.00
	Checkbook Interest		\$0.35
			\$6,871.83
	January 1, 2023 Checking Account Balance		\$6,641.62
			\$13,513.45
GENERAL FUND			
EXPENSES:			
	GF Labor Expense		\$6,000.00
	Transfer To Vanguard Money Market		\$7,400.00
	Transfer To ACU Savings Account		\$5.00
			\$13,405.00
	December 31, 2023 Checking Account Balance		\$108.45
	GF Securities-\$79,000	Mutual Fund-\$25,000.00	
	LF Growth Mutual Fund		\$9,385.26
LOT COST SCHEDULE:			
Single Grave & Perpetual Care	\$300.00	President: Kerry Tamke	
2 Grave Lot & Perpetual care	\$500.00	Secretary: Tony Myers	
3 Grave Lot & Perpetual Care	\$700.00	Treasurer: Keith Weltzien	
4 Grave Lot & Perpetual Care	\$800.00		

It can vary from year to year but on average 75 % of burials in our cemetery are now cremations. It has become quite common that ashes will be buried years after death and in some cases no ashes are buried at all in a deceased persons Lot. We even have people call up and want to buy a Lot years after death so the family can place a monument even though the ashes were spread somewhere else. The idea that a cemetery is a place to bury the dead has been definitely changing. We as well as other cemeteries in the area only allow 2 burials per Lot even with cremations. Multiple burials on one Lot can create problems placing monuments if not properly planned for.

The former Junior and Senior League accounts were consolidated on September 5, 2023, to form the CLC Youth and Family Savings and Checking accounts.

CLC Youth and Family Savings

Income and Expense Statement – 1-01-2023 – 12-31-2023

Beginning Savings Balance:		\$0
Deposits:		
Transfer from Junior Luther League Account	\$ 3522.60	
Transfer from Y& F checking account	\$20,000.00	
Bank interest income	<u>\$ 15.98</u>	
	Total Deposits	\$23,538.50
Expenses:		
Transferred to Y&F Checking account	\$ 1018.00	
Ending Savings Balance:		\$22,520.58

The former Junior and Senior League accounts were consolidated on September 5, 2023, to form the CLC Youth and Family Savings and Checking accounts.

CLC Youth and Family Checking account

Income and Expense Statement – 1-01-2023 – 12-31-2023

Beginning Checkbook Balance: \$0

Deposits:	Transfer from Y&F Saving account	\$ 518.00
	Transfer from Y& F Saving account	\$ 500.00
	Transfer from Senior Luther League account	\$23,580.90
	Bank interest income	<u>\$ 6.02</u>
	Total Deposits	\$24,604.92

Expenses:	Transferred to Y&F Savings account	\$20,000.00
	Pumpkin night Expenses	\$ 420.52
	Ice Cream Social Expenses	\$ 53.33
	Rally Wednesday expenses	\$ 14.13
	Bowling Expenses	\$ 123.50
	Birthday Expenses	\$ 146.42
	Misc. Supplies for meals	<u>\$ 87.44</u>
	Total Expenses	\$20,845.34

Ending Checking Balance: \$3759.58

2023 Treasurer's Summary Report

Special Funds Checking

Interest - 2023	889.73
Interest - accumulated	838.14
Contingency Fund	150000.00
COVID Relief - PPP Funds	37331.88
Baby Care Kits Fund	1357.25
Education Fund	228.10
Flower Fund	474.45
Maint/Property Fund	628.22
Music Fund	505.20
Parking Lot Pantry	2734.44
Sabbatical Fund	2033.84
Seminarian Fund	955.00
Stewardship Fund	7875.00
Elevator Funds	3250.00

Memorials

Clara Berg Memorial	905.17
Clara Walters Memorial	6228.86
Doris Service - Banners	311.11
Don Scharlau Memorial	1632.86
Gerald Myers Memorial	15000.00
Jim & Jean Schultz Memorial	25000.00
Undesignated Memorial	6365.76
Wanek Fund	22085.61
General Fund Loan	0.00

ACU Savings moved to Spec Funds	26669.88
FNBT CD moved to Spec Funds	34057.70
Balance 12/31/23	<u>347358.20</u>

Elevator Project

Congregational Giving	34125.00
All Star Elevator Payments	-30875.00
Balance In Elevator Fund	3250.00

Special Purpose Savings ACU

Sagen Estate Bldg Fund	22665.23
Interest-accumulated	4004.65
Moved to ACU Special Funds	-26669.88
Total 12/31/23	<u>0.00</u>

Certificates of Deposit - State Bank of Arcadia

Martin Luther Statue	31715.66
Interest - accumulated	2342.04
Moved to ACU Special Funds	-34057.70
Total 12/31/23	<u>0.00</u>

Mission Investment Fund due 1/4/2024

Feltes Memorial	15710.05
Interest-accumulated	484.29
Interest- 2023	183.79
Total 12/31/23	<u>16378.13</u>

Cause of the Month

January - Buddy Bags	1110.00
February - Baby Care Kits	1615.00
March - Syria/Turkey	2515.00
April - Arcadia/Glenco Fire Dept	1395.00
May - Luther Park	865.00
June - New Horizons	1135.00
July - Water to Thrive	2924.00
August - Buddy Bags	1135.00
September - Water to Thrive	520.00
October - Breast Cancer	858.00
November - Shop with a	1310.00
December - Horse Sense	1033.00
Total	<u>16415.00</u>

Other Special Funds Raised

Baby Care Kits	857.25
Ukraine	100.00
Lutheran World Relief	2575.00
Soup and Sandwich	913.00
Quilters	70.00
Trust Fund	235.00
WELCA	45.00
Total	<u>4795.25</u>

Income 2023

General Fund	215569.42
Spanish Worship	3300.00
Rent - Parsonage/Office	6068.00
Interest - Checking	98.00
Total Income	<u>225035.48</u>

Checkbook Balance 12/31/22 15757.44

Additions -

Total Income	225035.48
Petty Cash Beginning Balance	139.89
Security Deposit	850.00
Total Revenue	<u>226025.37</u>

Deductions -

Total Expenses	187265.02
Petty Cash Ending Balance	230.18
Security Deposit returned	850.00
Total Expenses	188345.20
Checkbook Balance 12/31/23	<u>53437.61</u>

Christ Lutheran Trust Fund Report for 2023

Christ Lutheran Trust Fund was established in 1991. The Trust Fund receives and administers bequests, estates, insurance, memorials and other assets to further the growth of our church, church ministries, and stewardship opportunities. This is a perpetual fund in which the principal is retained and only the income is disbursed.

The Trust Fund Committee members for 2023 and their dates of term expiration are:

Julie Lisowski (Sec)	1/2025	Dan Reit	1/2026
Tony Myers	1/2025	Brad Duellman	1/2024
Bill Bremer	1/2025	Dan Weltzien (Treasurer)	1/2024
Todd Fetsch (Pres)	1/2026		

The Trust Fund's Assets as of 1/1/2023 were: 247,020.58

Interest received on Investments: \$3877.50

Gain in mutual funds investments: \$19,078.85

Total Interest/Growth for 2023: \$22,956.35

Disbursements during 2023:

- \$990.00 Luther Park Confirmation Camp Cost Assistance
- \$1,500.00 Kaylynn Weltzien (attending Gustavus Adolphus)
- \$500.00 Kaylynn Weltzien (attending Gustavus Adolphus)
- \$500.00 Hawkin Roskos (attending Hope Lutheran High School)
- \$900.00 Installation Sunday Meal

Donations received during 2023:

- \$100.00 In memory of Brayden Marsolek from Jim Thewis
- \$50.00 In memory of Harold & Elaine Wrobel and Marion & Kathryn Lockington from Bill & Kathy Lockington
- \$20.00 In memory of Paul Halvorsen from Bob & JoDeen Forsyth
- \$20.00 In memory of Ramona English from Bob & JoDeen Forsyth
- \$20.00 In memory of Ramona English
- \$15.00 In memory of Ramona English
- \$10.00 Unknown

The Trust Fund Assets as of 12/31/2023 totaled: \$265821.93

The fund's principal "core" (accumulated donations over the years) as of 12/31/2023 totaled \$171,085.96

Total funds disbursed since establishment of the Trust Fund now total \$93,180.23

The Trust Fund Committee would like to remind congregation members of the scholarship available for attending a college of the ELCA and the Harlan Newcomb Funds scholarship program available to youth and young adults seeking positive development opportunities or programs. The Trust Fund will also support family camps at Luther Park and Sugar Creek at 70% of the cost, with a total cost cap of \$5000/year.

Todd Fetsch, President

Daniel Weltzien, Treasurer

**Christ Lutheran Church
WELCA
Financial Report 2023**

BALANCE 12/31/2022		\$8,458.44
INCOME		EXPENSES: \$310.97
Interest	\$10.44	
Funerals	\$1530.97	
To close Account	\$.19	
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,541.60	TOTAL EXPENSES \$310.97
BALANCE 12/31/23		\$9,689.07

**Christ Lutheran Church
WELCA QUILTERS
Financial Report 2023**

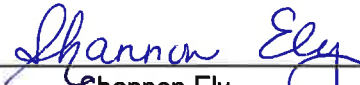
OPENING BALANCE		\$7,737.37	
INCOME		EXPENSES	
Quilts Sold	\$80.00	Luther World Relief – Shipping	\$500.0
Donation	\$50.00	Quilting & Knitters Supplies	\$2387.88
IMO Janice Fink	\$30.00		
Supplies	\$20.00		
Interest	\$7.84		
TOTAL INCOME	\$187.84	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,887.88
BALANCE 12/31/2023	\$5,037.33		

Audit Report for the year 2023

We have examined the books for the following: General Fund Checking, Special Fund Checking, Petty Cash, Mission Investment Fund, Arcadia Credit Union Savings, Good Samaritan/Helping Hands Checking, W-ELCA, Youth & Family Checking, Glencoe Cemetery Fund, and the Trust Fund.



Karen Gallagher 1/15/2024



Shannon Ely 1/15/2024



Kay Sobotta 1-15-2024

	2021 Budget	Actuals for 2021	2022 Budget	Actuals for 2022	2023 Budget	YTD December 2023	2024 Proposed Budget
World Mission							
Synod ELCA & Mission	12,000	17,000.00	12,000	12,000.00	12,000	12,000.00	12,000
Luther Park	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	2,000.00	2,000
Total	14,000	19,000.00	14,000	14,000.00	14,000	14,000.00	14,000
Pastoral Ministry							
Salary Base	50,873	27,378.20	-	-	40,000	22,471.30	49,519
Supplemental SS	4,351	2,316.15	-	-	3,060	-	4,412
Pension and Medical	15,446	7,585.80	-	-	12,940	15,573.96	44,909
Supplemental Ins.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
Housing Allowance; Synod guideline is 30%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	70,670	37,280.15	-	-	56,000	38,045.26	100,340
Call Pastoral Ministry							
Interim Pastor Salary	-	20,000.00	36,000	28,500.00	18,000	21,000.00	-
Interim Mileage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Call Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	2,961.59	-
Negotiable Pastoral Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	20,000.00	36,000	28,500.00	18,000	23,961.59	-
Support Personnel							
Music Director/Accompanist	8,000	5,000.00	8,500	5,560.00	8,500	5,380.00	7,000
Praise Band Director	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bell Choir Director	750	440.00	800	-	800	140.00	800
Intern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Custodial Services	6,000	2,568.75	6,000	1,600.80	4,000	1,593.00	3,000
Secretary Salary	28,076	29,034.00	37,440	36,949.50	37,440	34,245.00	37,440
Secretary Bonus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Church Treasurer	2,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000
Supply Pastor	800	647.76	1,500	996.66	1,500	1,463.34	1,500
Confirmation Director	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social Security Tax	3,156	2,835.37	4,341	3,197.65	4,341	3,026.13	4,125
Total	48,782	40,525.88	62,581	48,304.61	60,581	45,847.47	57,865
Committee Expenses							
Administrative Office	6,500	8,600.73	7,500	6,887.60	7,500	8,454.26	7,500
Cell Phone Use Reimburse Pastor	600	250.00	-	-	600	250.00	600
Cell Phone Use Reimburse Secretary	600	600.00	600	600.00	600	600.00	600
Continuing Education (Pastoral)	1,000	35.00	1,000	-	1,000	450.00	1,000
Continuing Education (Support)	50	-	50	-	50	-	50
Lutheran & CIOH	700	444.45	700	572.95	700	444.07	700
Mileage & reimbursement (\$.655/mile)	3,500	484.96	-	-	1,000	1,025.08	2,000
Milestone Ministry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pastor Sabbatical Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,150
Music	1,790	2,524.50	1,750	1,202.45	1,750	1,913.00	1,750
Parish Education	2,000	99.84	1,000	1,509.31	1,000	763.79	1,000
Professional Resources (pastoral)	200	6.87	200	-	200	-	300
Stewardship & Envelope Mailing	500	955.00	500	321.15	500	-	500
Stewardship Projects	-	6,715.57	8,000	9,809.85	8,000	11,266.53	11,000
Synod Conferences	1,000	760.00	1,000	620.00	1,000	600.00	1,000
Maintenance Reserve/Contingency Fund	5,000	5,000.00	5,000	5,000.00	5,000	5,000.00	5,000
Welcome Committee	-	-	-	175.74	-	-	-
Worship	3,395	1,190.17	3,620	1,396.17	3,620	1,039.02	3,620
Youth Program	100	-	100	26.46	100	-	-
Total	26,935	27,667.09	31,020	28,121.68	32,620	31,805.75	37,770
Church Property							
Maintenance & Contracted Services	15,000	6,887.18	15,000	5,232.07	7,500	14,207.98	7,500
Utilities	14,000	12,154.16	14,000	11,656.35	14,000	10,448.89	14,000
Insurance	8,000	6,574.41	7,000	7,415.29	7,000	8,948.08	9,000
Technology - Computer, etc	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
Total	37,000	25,615.75	36,000	24,303.71	28,500	33,604.95	33,500
Total Expenses	197,386.90	170,088.87	179,601.00	143,230.00	209,701.00	187,265.02	243,475.00
Income Summary							
General Giving/Consecration Commitment	190,000	202,244.15	190,000	183,677.95	190,000	205,820.88	190,000
Stewardship Giving	-	4,740.00	8,000	9,200.00	8,000	9,748.54	11,000
Intern Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secretary Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spanish Ministry/Office Rent	3,600	3,750.00	3,600	4,520.00	3,600	3,825.00	3,600
WIC Rent	-	-	-	-	-	360.00	-
Rental Parsonage	-	4,550.00	5,100	10,200.00	5,100	5,183.00	-
Debt Repayment Giving	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest Earned	-	49.26	-	51.13	-	98.06	-
Total Income	193,600	215,333.41	206,700	207,649.08	206,700	225,035.48	204,600
Income:Expense Variance	(3,787)	45,244.54	27,099	64,419.08	(3,001)	37,770.46	(38,875)

Nominating Committee 2023-2024

The following people have agreed to serve if elected as listed below:

Church Council: (3-year terms)

Current members: Bill Lockington, Renee Schank, Judy Borchert, Pat Rohn, John Wiemer, Marv Rodvold, Karen Mullikin, and Duane Miller

Outgoing members: John Wiemer, Marvin Rodvold, Karen Mullikin

Nominees:

1. Karen Mullikin (2nd Term)
2. Linda George
- 3.

Youth: Confirmation rotation

Trust Fund: (3-year terms, up to 3 consecutive)

Current members: Bill Bremer, Todd Fetsch, Dan Reit, Brad Duellman, Dan Weltzien, Tony Myers, and Julie Lisowski

Outgoing members: Brad Duellman, Dan Weltzien

Nominees:

1. Jen Rotering
2. Dan Weltzien (2nd Term)

Nominating Committee: For next year (3 People needed)

Nominees:

1. Henry Schultz
2. Julie Lisowski
- 3.

2024 Coming off Council (Nominating Committee is led by the Council members)

Council Members coming off: Judy Borchert, Renee Schank, Bill Lockington

Voting member to the Synod Assembly: 3 adult lay members and one youth voting member
(Age 18-25)

Nominees:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Youth: