

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worthington, Minnesota

Lead Pastor Anne Hokenstad

Associate Pastor Jeremy Hallquist

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

The ELCA

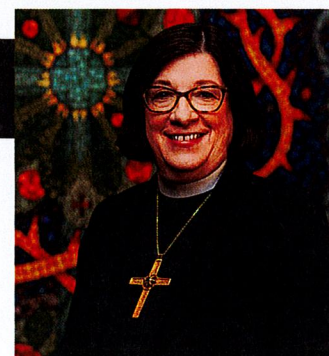
Chicago, Illinois

Dee Peterson Bishop

SW Minnesota Synod, ELCA

Redwood Falls, Minnesota

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

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

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).

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.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

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.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The score includes a variety of musical notations, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, as well as rests and dynamic markings.

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies;
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

Text and music are in the public domain. Reproduced from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, hymn #800. May be reproduced without restriction.

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Annual Meeting Agenda

February 19th, 2023

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order | Craig Pfeifer |
| 2. Opening Prayer | Pastor Anne Hokenstad |
| 3. State of Our Church | Pastors and Council President |
| -Secretary's Report | |
| -Action Item: Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes | |
| 4. 2022 Financial Report | Marv Isder/ Greg Raymo |
| 5. Election of Committees | |
| -Church Council | |
| -Endowment Committee | |
| -Synod Assembly Delegates | |
| 6. New Business | |
| -Adoption of the 2023 Budget | Marv Isder/ Greg Raymo |
| -Building Campaign/ Mortgage | Greg Raymo |
| 7. Adjournment | Craig Pfeifer |
| 8. Benediction | Pastor Anne Hokenstad |

American Lutheran Church

Beginning a Meeting

CALL TO PRAYER

(The meeting leader, or the person responsible for devotions, begins the meeting by having someone light a candle and then reading the following prayerfully.)

Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Lord Jesus, you also promise that where two or three come together in your name, you are there with them. The light of this candle symbolizes your presence among us now.

And, Lord Jesus, where you are, there too are the Father and the Holy Spirit. So we, your disciples, begin our meeting in the presence and in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(The devotion leader continues with devotions, including prayer. The candle remains lit throughout the meeting to indicate the presence of our Light, Jesus.)

Ending a Meeting

CALL TO MISSION

(A brief closing prayer is in order, followed by the leader reading the following.)

We disciples conclude our meeting by listening to Jesus say to us what he said to his first disciples in his Sermon on the Mount:

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

(The candle is extinguished; then the leader continues.)

The light of this candle is now extinguished. But the light of Christ in each of us must continue to shine in our lives. Toward this end we pray together the Lord's Prayer:

"Our Father ..."

**American Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 6, 2022
11:15 am**

Call to Order: 11:23 am by Council President Craig Pfeifer

Determination of Quorum - over 70 people in attendance in person and on zoom.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Anne Hokenstad

State of Our Church: Council President Craig Pfeifer and Pastor Anne Hokenstad

Thinking about Community and how we are serving at ALC, how are we, as a church, called to serve? We are all on a journey. Who do we think we should be in partnership with to support our mission(s) at ALC? Thank you to the church council, staff, volunteers and all who serve Jesus through ALC. -Pastor Anne Hokenstad

ALC is resilient. We have returned to most of our congregational activities after a complete shutdown. We are all to thank for our hard work and prayers that have gotten us to this point. We have the gifts to continue to grow and make a difference. If we can accomplish this much during a time of uncertainty, imagine what we can do in 2022. - Council President Craig Pfeifer

Motion to Approve the Agenda - Motion by Greg Raymo, 2nd by Dave Nerem, unanimously approved, motion carries.

Secretaries Report - Motion to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes - Motion by Gary Brandt, 2nd by Jeanne Goettsch, unanimously approved, motion carries.

Treasurer's Report - Greg Raymo - Thank you to the congregation for financially supporting the mission and vision of ALC. - Thank you to Marv Isder and Sandy Demuth for their work managing the movement of funds at ALC.

2021 Financial Report - presented by Marv Isder

Box 1

Total Revenues \$433,129 Expenses \$353,836 Net Profit for 2021 \$79,293

Box 2

Debt Balance 1/1/2021 \$1,414,506 Interest Paid in 2021 \$43,279 Direct Payments to loan \$401,000 Debt Balance 12/31/2021 \$1,013,506

Box 3

Income \$11,819 Contributions Paid \$11,819 Ending Balance \$0

Funds sent in support of: Love INC, Manna Food Pantry, Helping Hand Pregnancy Center, Shetek Lutheran Camp, Project Morning Star, Sharing Seeds & World Hunger.

Motion to Approve 2021 Financial Report by Harlan Handevitd, 2nd by Samantha Obermoller, unanimously approved, motion carries.

Election of Committee Memebers:

Church Council Members: Dave Nerem, Sarah Anderson, Jill Cuperus & Kieth Olson

Endowment Committee Members: Bob Demuth & Tammy Koller

Synod Assembly Delegates: Brenda Baerenwald, Donna Cargin, Arvid Nielsen, Craig Pfeifer & Karen Pfeifer with alternates Gary Brandt

Motion to Approve Committee Nominations by Greg Raymo, 2nd by Bruce Juber, unanimously approved, motion carries.

New Business:

2022 Budget: Presented by Marve Isder. Since we don't have an associate pastor yet, that line item can be adjusted. Loan Balance is \$887,034 currently. Another \$11,000 will be paid this coming week.

Loan balance is constantly changing as we are paying rapidly as donations come in. Grocery gift card program has been successful in helping pay down our debt.

Committees will be asked what they will be needing for funds sometime this summer.

Discussion on comparing the Congregational Report and the Budget, one showing a deficit, the other showing a surplus. The Congregational Report and the Budget are different figures, based on our debt, income and expenses. Suggestion to move the annual meeting back a couple of weeks to get more accurate numbers.

Motion to approve 2022 Budget by Jerry Sandstrom, 2nd by Nancy Marco, unanimously approved, motion carries.

Recognitions & Gratitude:

Thank you to Derek Schmitz, Bob Demuth and Tara Thompson for serving on Council. Hy-Vee gift card presented to Tara.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 12:09 pm Greg Raymo, 2nd by Samantha Obermoller, unanimously approved, motion carries.

Special thank you from Pastor Anne to the staff for sharing their blessing with our church.

Benediction**VISION STATEMENT OF AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

American Lutheran Church is a faith based Community doing God's work in God's world.

MISSION STATEMENT OF AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

American Lutheran Church's mission is centered on our common ministry in which we grow our community of faith through worship, study, fellowship, and serving beyond ourselves as God has directed us.

CHURCH PERSONNEL - 2022

Anne Hokenstad Lead Pastor
Jeremy Hallquist Associate Pastor
Sylvia Andersen Worship & Music Coordinator
Kristin Appel..Children & Family Ministry Coordinator
..... Youth Director
Kelly Henkels/Pat Henkels.....Office Manager
Crown Solutions LLC providing Custodial Services
Nobles County DAC.....Custodians
Craig Pfeifer..... Maintenance
Karen Pfeifer Volunteer Ministries Coordinator
Sylvia Andersen Pianist/Organist
Cindy Anderson Pianist
Sherri Isder Pianist
Rich Besel Choir Director
Louise Clausen.....Bell Choir Director

TV & Sound

Craig Pfeifer, Jeff Carroll, Sandy Demuth,
Jonathan Horn

ALTAR

Diana Kvilhaug.....	Chairperson
Diane Levine	Deb Stoll
Karen Pfeifer	Sue Rose
Marj Olson	Shirly Wieme
Judi Hoevet	Kathy Sackett
Connie Voss	

BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Marv Isder (2023)..... Treasurer
Craig Pfeifer (2023).....President
Greg Raymo (2023)..... Council Rep
Tara Thompson (2023)..... Past Pres
Scott Langerud (2023)
Pastor (ex officio)

CHURCH COUNCIL

Anne Hokenstad.....Lead Pastor
Jeremy Hallquist.....Associate Pastor
Craig Pfeifer (2024)..... President
Dave Nerem (2025).....Vice President
Laurie Maras (2023)Secretary
Greg Raymo (2024).....Treasurer
Kieth Olson (2023)
Jill Cuperus (2025)
Sarah Anderson (2025)
Monica Horn (2024)
Jay Jensen (2023)
Mark Prunty (2023)
Connie Voss (2023)
Mike Peterson (2024)

ENDOWMENT

Randy Thompson (2024)..Chairperson/Treasurer
Craig Pfeifer (2023) Council Rep
Verne Correll (2023)
Grant Sorensen (2023)
Bruce Juber (2024)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pastors
Craig Pfeifer.....Council President
Dave Nerem.....Council Vice President
Laurie Maras.....Council Secretary
Greg Raymo.....Council Treasurer

LIBRARY BOARD

Shirly Wieme (2024).....Chairperson
Connie Voss (2022) Council Rep
Shirley Rempel (2023)
Kris Besel (2023)
Martha Naab (2023)
Pat Remme (2023)

MAINTENANCE

Craig Pfeifer (2023)Co-Chair
Jay Jensen (2023).....Co-Chair
Dave Nerem (2025)..... Council Rep
Dave Baerenwald (2023)
Les Johnson (2023)
Bruce Juber (2023)
Lyle Voss (2023)
Harlan Handevdlt (2023)

MISSION & MINISTRY TEAM

Pam Handevdlt (2023).....Co-Chair
Steve Dudley (2023).....Co-Chair
Monica Horn (2023)..... Council Rep
Terri Taylor (2022)
Karen Gada (2022)
Paul Langseth (2023)
Kieth Olson (2023)
Janelle Saufley (2024)
Lisa Peterson (2024)
Kathy Harbert (2025)
Dennis Weber (2025)
Deb Anderson (2025)

NOMINATING

Tara Thompson (2023).....Past President
Jay Jensen (2022)Council Rep
Joann Carlson (2022)
Nancy Marco (2022)

PERSONNEL

Craig Pfeifer (2023) Council President
Tara Thompson (2023) Past President
Bob Demuth (2023)Chair/Council Rep
Lori Dudley (2023)
Pastors (ex officio)
Treasurer– Available for financial Advice

SCHOLARSHIP - American Lutheran

Kris Besel (2023) Chair
Jesse Flynn (2022).....Treasurer
Clasine Lester (2022) Secretary
(ex officio)

SCHOLARSHIP - Etta Janssen Memorial

Linden Olson (2023) Chair / Treasurer
Dave Nerem(2022)Council Rep
Nancy Marco (2022)
Kieth Olson (2022)
Karen Juber (2024)

SPLASH

Shirly Wieme
Kristin Appel (staff liaison)

STEWARDSHIP

Connie Wienrank (2025).....Chair/Secretary
Connie Voss (2022) Council Rep
Karen PfeiferL.W./V.C.
Judi Hoevet (2022)
Lori Glawe (2025)
Kathy Sackett (2024)
Karla Kirkeby (2025)
Pastors

IT Team

Sylvia Andersen	Jeff Carroll
Jonathan Horn	Craig Pfeifer

Volunteer Coordinator

Karen Pfeifer

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Diana Kvilhaug (2023)Chair/Treasurer
Shauna Carroll (2022) ..Choir Rep/ President
Dan Horn (2023)..... Bell Choir Rep
Laurie Maras (2022) Council Rep
Aubrey Anderson (2023)
Shirly Wieme (2023)
Mary Turner (2024)
Organists / Pianists (ex officio) Sylvia Andersen,
Cindy Anderson, Sherri Isder
Choir Directors (ex officio) Rich Besel, Louise Clausen

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM

Kristin Appel Advisor
Michelle Honius (2022).....Treasurer
Kile Behrends (2022)
Carrie Ling (2022)
Tasha Raymo (2022)
Terri Taylor
Karen Langseth
Heather Flynn (2022)
Gina Graff (2022)
Shawn Noerenberg (2022)
Mark Prunty (2022) Council Rep

Report of ALC Council President Craig Pfeifer

I would like to start off by expressing a special thanks of gratitude to our ALC outgoing Council members Connie Voss, Laurie Maras, Kieth Olson and Jay Jensen. They have served their terms on Council faithfully, with conviction, a caring attitude and forward thinking for our Church's future, the congregation, the youth of our church and our entire ALC staff. I would also like to extend a special thanks to Mark Prunty who volunteered to serve another term on Council.

As I look in the rear-view mirror at ALC's journey through 2022 it is a view filled with many accomplishments despite the struggle to find a new norm for our Church in this post-pandemic era. Churches of all dominations in the United States and the world are wrestling with these changes and the challenges of moving forward with the work of the Church and serving the needs of their congregations. I think ALC has done an amazing job as a Church in 2022 of meeting and embracing these challenges.

The first thing I see that has helped secure our pathway forward is the congregational decision to call an Associate Pastor. The calling and addition of Pastor Jeremy Hallquist showed the tremendous insight and compassion our congregation has for our pastoral leaders and staff to do the work of the church and attend to our needs as a congregation. It takes a great deal of trust by a congregation and its leadership to make such a bold move in these times, but we did it with conviction, and the outcome is we are a Church that is more prepared, equipped and stronger to move into our future and deal with what God has in store for us.

The success of ALC hinges on many things, but my thoughts are it is primarily because of our staff and our volunteers. In essence, we have returned to pre-pandemic activities as it pertains to Sunday and Wednesday services, Wednesday meals and gatherings, Communion, Sunday School, Confirmation, Bible studies and youth programs. Our pastoral leadership and staff have strived to reimplement all of these activities plus rebuild and grow new and old programs under new norms such as our youth programs, worship music and choir. They all take time, but we are moving forward with a passion, commitment and with progress.

Our new Gathering Room space has played a vital role in this progress, hosting many activities such as family gatherings, adult and youth groups, Bible studies, project groups, adult forums as well as funerals and celebrations of life just to mention a few. It's allowed us to have a second warm and welcoming hub in our church beyond Fellowship Hall.

The look back also reveals the commitment and enthusiasm we have shown toward debt retirement through continued strong and generous support in contributions from members, the volunteer-driven program selling HyVee and

Fareway gift cards, and a volunteer-driven successful Art Fair fundraiser to reduce debt.

Volunteers keep popping up in my overview of 2022. Think about all the volunteers that make things happen inside and outside our church that encompass everything from holiday decorating, salad buffets, Meals on Wheels, Every Meal school feeding program, the work of the quilters, Sunday School, ushers, communion servers, banner makers and confirmation helpers. And that's just to name a few. The point being is that all the volunteers keep ALC a vibrant and active Church. Volunteers and congregational support are what make youth fundraisers and last summer's youth trip (in place of the canceled National Youth Gathering) actually happen. The Pie Fundraiser and other youth fundraisers and support are perfect examples of a congregation getting behind its youth, who will also be the future of our church. The future already holds another youth mission trip made possible by church leaders, volunteers and congregational support.

I also see our congregation and its leaders supporting great things outside the walls of our church through Benevolence Funds to organizations like World Hunger, Project Morning Star, Love INC, Shetek Lutheran Ministries and Helping Hands Pregnancy Center. In addition to these organizations there has been great support for Manna Food Pantry by ALC.

All in all, the view of ALC in 2022 is a good view with a great prospect for 2023. Going where God leads is only possible when we as a congregation have empowered and trusted our pastors, staff and Council leadership to do the work of the Church.

Lastly, I would like to thank the congregation, pastors and Council members for allowing me to be a part of the Council work here at American Lutheran Church. I have enjoyed being the President for the last two years and will continue in 2023 in my final year as a Council member. I have learned a great deal in the past two years and am very glad that I served on Church Council. I would encourage and recommend it to anyone and everyone as a growing and learning process on how our Church works, how it can grow in the future and how ALC can do God's work.

With appreciation,

Craig Pfeifer

Pastoral Report from the Lead Pastor

To all of God's beloved Church, American Lutheran Church in Worthington, MN, who are called to be saints, *grace, and peace to you from God, who is our Creator, Christ, and Spirit.*

How good it is to be here in this place at this moment. To be God's church in the midst of a changing world is a gift, even when it seems as if it is a gift we do not want nor one we seek to accept. Nonetheless, here we are. God's Church is always planted in a place where broken and good people walk in the faith of Jesus in all the ways that they know. It's been that way since Jesus first walked the shores of the Galilean Sea.

The congregational star word for 2022 was "thoughtfulness." I want to frame my report as Lead pastor with our star word. Let's consider the etymology of "thoughtfulness."

Thought (n.) This is an Old English word connected to the word "think." It means to "conceive of in the mind, consider, deliberation."

-ful. This is a suffix that is added to the end of word meaning "full of or characterized by."

Putting these two words together creates *thoughtful*, which has been used by English speaking folks since 1200 CE. It means *contemplative, occupied with thought.*"

In 2022 at ALC, we used the word as others have for generations. Yet, there have been times when I have witnessed us "being thoughtful" as an action engaged in mission as people who are leaning to walk in the faith of Jesus as we walk with others. I read through the 2022 *Messengers* and here is what filled our thoughts and directed our caring for others:

- * **Adapting to a post-covid life.** Throughout 2022, we continued to be resilient in the wake of the global pandemic. In the February *Messenger*, there was an article titled "Then, Now, Next." This named how we adapted ministry, especially worship so that the gospel of Jesus was shared.
- * **Mindful of grace.** Throughout 2022, we were mindful that grace comes from God in Christ and is a pure gift. Our Lenten theme - "Full to the Brim" - directed our thoughts to consider God's lavish love in our lives and how this love moves us to action.
- * **Discernment.** On the last Sunday in March, we gathered as a congregation as we received the Call Committee nominee for the associate pastor call. We prayed, listened, and voted to extend Jeremy Hallquist the call to join us in ministry as a pastoral leader.
- * **Discovery:** April was a month of curious wonder, and discovering who this man was who would soon walk with us as a pastor. We discovered that Pr. Jeremy is full of joy, is gracious, and curious about life. We learned the names of his wife and sons, and prayed that they would find a home in Worthington in the midst of a challenging housing market. We took a bus to his ordination in Elk River Lutheran, MN. It was a day of joy!
- * **Walking with others.** Throughout the year, we were involved in walking with people who have various needs. Funeral lunches were prepared, baptismal quilts were tied, phone calls were made, meals were delivered.
- * **Mindfulness about people's food needs.** We joined the partnership with other congregations in a program called "Sharing Seeds" and helped to prepare and distribute food for young people without adequate access to food. This partnership changed to a different program - "Every Meal" - in September creating an opportunity for more children to access food on the weekends.

- * **Duty and delight | Part 1.** One of our strengths as a congregation is attention to the details of church administration so that mission and ministry can happen unencumbered. Staff, leaders, and volunteers network daily to keep this congregation in good order. The decision to use a different data management system not only reduces costs but also allows leaders and staff more ways to communicate with those of our congregation.
- * **Duty and delight | Part 2.** Individual members of ALC continue to be thoughtful in the area of financial stewardship and responsibility. Together we give to the general fund which allows bills to be paid and staff compensated. We continue to tithe to the Southwest MN Synod as a way of faithfully living out our lives as stewards of God's resources. This mission support is crucial to the ongoing work of our synod's ministries. We are working together, dollar by dollar, to reduce the building debt. I am full to the brim with gratitude for your generosity.

Moving from *thoughtfulness* to *gratitude*.

The 2023 Star Word for the congregation is *gratitude*. This word barely beat out *friendship* as people discerned the star word in worship on a January Wednesday evening. I am "thoughtful" about how these two words will shape us in the year ahead.

As we move into 2023, I am curious how we see ourselves as a congregation in this moment. Why are we grateful? How do we express our gratitude? Why do we nurture friendship and relationship in this place? How might we learn to expand our circles of friendship? These are my beginning question as we live into the year ahead.

One of the ways we will be learning about ourselves will be through a tool called the "ELCA Vitality Survey." For two weeks, congregational members and leaders will be invited to take a survey of 30-40 questions about ALC as a congregation and its work. This will help us to "name our why" we exist at 915 Winifred St in 2023. It will give us insight into how we can speak stories of gratitude and grow relationship of grace with each other and those whose names we have not yet learned.

The definition of thoughtfulness is expanding. It is moving from an action "within a person" to a word that expressed "showing consideration for others." For all of the ways you have been thoughtful in the name of Jesus I give God thanks. Our capacity to thoughtfully and intentionally care for others - modeled after Jesus' faith - is the story I love tell about us.

Thank you for holding up hope for me and my family. Thank you for your willingness to explore the faith of Jesus as we walk with others.

I know and trust God is near!

Pastor Anne M. Hokenstad, D.Min.

Associate Pastor Annual Report

Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart. I am so pleased that you have continued in this with us, believing and proclaiming God's Message, from the day you heard it right up to the present.

Philippians 1:3-5

Thank you for your willingness to give the new pastor a shot! It's hard to believe that my family and I have served with you for the past eight months at American Lutheran Church. I am grateful for your wisdom, your teaching, and the ways in which you have been living out a faithful ministry already. Thank you for helping us settle in and find our way.

So, what have we accomplished in the first eight months?

- Well, for one, we have learned to work and thrive together as a ministry and as a staff.
- We have managed to set up and work on a long-range plan for ministry through Plan-It.
- We started a Club345 program for our 3rd through 5th grade students.
- We created space for our young people to experiment and live into serving and leading worship on Wednesday nights which has slowly translated to their involvement on Sunday mornings.
- The Busker Band- Our Young people have been offering their gifts of music at worship almost weekly.
- Advent themed dinners.
- We have transitioned our congregational database from Realm to Breeze, which has helped us streamline communications. We realize that there is still work to be done to clean up records and would love your help in this process.
- First Communion Class: 9 students received their First Communion instruction in November/December.
- New Member Class. We welcomed a new group of members to ALC this summer and are looking forward to another class this year.
- The Confirmation program has been running wonderfully well, and has welcomed some excellent volunteers to the mix! We are grateful for the support for this program.
- Did I mention we sold 322 Pies supporting our Youth Ministry program? Thank you for the generous support of our kids and for the ways you help them live into their faith!
- Baptisms
- Funerals
- Walking in the Faith of Jesus through worship and service.

The future at American Lutheran looks bright. We are gearing up for Youth Mission trips, community outreach, and ways to bring the light of Jesus into the world. Thank you for the ways you have helped make the mission and ministry possible. I am grateful for your partnership. May God continue to bless and guide the ministries of American Lutheran Church.

Pastor Jeremy Hallquist

Report of Altar Committee

The Altar Committee consists of volunteers who prepare the altar for all worship services, weddings and funerals. Responsibilities are as follows:

Fill oil burning candles, replace wicks in candle lighters as needed.

Prepare baptismal area as needed.

Do light cleaning of altar area as needed.

Supplies such as candle oil and baptismal items are purchased as needed. Communion supplies including wine, wafers, cups and kits also are part of the Altar Committee budget.

Volunteer members on the committee are divided into three teams. Each team is responsible for four months of service on a rotating basis throughout the year. Also, the committee members help out with any special services as needed.

Members of the committee in 2022 were Marj Olson, Karen Pfeifer, Shirley Wieme, Judi Hoevet, Sue Rose, Diane Levine, Deb Stoll, Connie Voss, Kathy Sackett and Diana Kvilhaug.

Financial Report:

Beginning Balance	\$1600.00
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Altar expense

Baptismal supplies	\$112.85
Misc.	74.88

Communion expense

Wine & wafer kits	\$821.85
Wine	224.26
Wafers & cups	359.64

Total expenses as of December 31, 2022	\$1593.48
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Ending balance as of December 31, 2022	\$6.52
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Submitted by Diana Kvilhaug. Chairperson

Report of ALC Endowment Committee

2022

Committee members in 2022:

Bob Demuth	Craig Pfeifer
Verne Correll	Grant Sorensen
Bruce Juber	Randy Thompson

The Committee held a meeting on December 6, 2022. As a part of the meeting the committee did review and assign updated account signers for the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust account.

The committee did review a request for funding in December of 2021 and January of 2022. The funding request was for assistance in paying for the camera system in the sanctuary. This included two cameras and video/camera system updates in the sanctuary. The improvement project was brought forward by the tech committee in December of 2021 as the camera/video system and two cameras in the sanctuary were in need of replacement.

In 2021 two of the cameras were replaced and in early 2022 the overall camera/video system was replaced. The overall cost of the improvements was \$15,288.00. The committee reviewed the request. After review the committee did approve a portion of the total project in the amount of \$4,821.52 to be funded in February of 2022. The \$4,821.52 was funded in February of 2022 to purchase the camera system in conjunction with the tech committee.

The primary holdings of the endowment fund are held with the ELCA Endowment Pooled Funds managed and invested with the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust. The annual performance and transactions of the account during the period of 1/1/2022 through 11/30/2022 are listed below:

ELCA Endowment Fund Pool Trust

Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2022	\$ 106,879.37
Additions	\$ 2,828.37
Withdrawals	\$ 0.00
Change in Market Value	\$ (15,692.11)
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 94,015.63</u>

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Thompson
Committee Chairman

ALC LIBRARY COMMITTEE
2022

The ALC Library Board continues to support the ministry of our church and its various ministries. These ministries include ¹the enrichment of educational programs, enhancing and assisting Bible study and BibleLand, ²helping members grow in their faith and the understanding of other faiths ³providing information on social issues from a Christian perspective, and ⁴providing spiritual support and assistance to people in times of personal need.

The Library Board members wish to thank the individuals who generously donated books to the library throughout the year. It is most appreciated! .

Our goals for 2023 include, expanding our collection of large print and audio books ,improving and expanding our library to make more readily assessable to our members, and help supporting our youth with DVD's for their fundraisers for mission trips.

The members of the library board meet as needed during the year—to improve our library.

Our expenses for 2022 are \$45.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirly Wieme,
Co-chair Library Board

Report of Lutheran Women

Thank you to the women who served as officers of the Lutheran Women this past year: Diana Kvilhaug (Secretary), Lori Dudley (Treasurer), Open position -(Mission Action), Diana Kvilhaug and Clasine Lester (Mission Community), Karen Pfeifer (Mission Growth), and Shirly Wieme (Recognition). These officers along with chairpersons from each of the circles made up our Executive Committee which met the six regular scheduled times throughout the year in January, March, May, July, September, and November in person. Lutheran Women's Circles met monthly for Bible study and fellowship.

Our Congregation: 2022 brought back most of the normal committee responsibilities. Our many committees served American Lutheran by preparing the altar for worship, making banners, filling busy bags, coordinating the altar flower program, preparing and serving funerals, and maintaining the kitchen. We celebrated confirmands with a gift, the high school graduates with flowers, and continued financial support of the youth programs. We helped with ALC Youth Mission Trip, Bible School, and reduction of the building debt. Our monthly women's newsletter and annual yearbook helped keep women informed and involved. In addition members of the organization celebrated and highlighted the work of many in the church during the Thank Offering service.

Our Community: We had a Summer Salad Buffet in June, and the Christmas Salad Buffet in December. We continued with the "Sensible Scandinavian Smorgasbord" in the Fall. Since this is the main source of income for the Lutheran Women and the outreach that they fund, the support of the members of the Church was awesome! Once again we saw the God does work in wonderful ways and through the members of ALC and their generosity the funding for the organization and the outreach will continue to be strong. Because of this contributions were made to the Hospice Cottage Endowment, Helping Hands Pregnancy center, Love Inc., and the SW Crisis Center.

Our Region: We supported Shetek Lutheran Ministries annual fundraising activities. Financial contributions were also made to Project Morning Star, Shalom Hills Farm, Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran Campus Ministry of MN, and Inner City Cru.

Our World: Our quilters continued to work on beautiful quilts. The group donated to Lutheran World Relief and ELCA World Hunger. We are still in need of a chairperson for the Mission Action Committee that works with these projects. Please consider joining our group and providing leadership and ideas for the world outreach and projects.

The Lutheran Women's Organization appreciates the support from all of the members of American Lutheran and we invite all women to take a look at all the options for service, fellowship, and fun that brings all the programs and services to the congregation or join us for an event in 2023!

Kris Besel Lutheran Women Chairperson

Lutheran Women Financial

Budget Lutheran Women American Lutheran Church Expense Accounts	
	2022 Actual year to date
Convention Expenses	
Conference Spring/Fall Offering	75.00
Con. Spring/Fall Love Offering	0.00
SW MN Synod Conv. Offering	200.00
Synod Convention Love Offering	0.00
SW MN Synod delegate registration	0.00
Officers Orientation / Travel	0.00
Nat'l Triennial gath 2023 Sept 18	0.00
Total Convention Expenses	275.00
Giving	
Missionary	600.00
Gather for Library (paid 3 yrs)	19.95
Confirmation gifts	300.00
Bibles for youth	368.94
Camperships to Shetek Camp	500.00
Outreach	4,465.95
Shetek Quilt basket (auction)	300.00
Youth Council (Smorg. servers)	0.00
General Meeting offering to Synod	400.00
Thankoffering	1,100.00
Total Giving	8,054.84
L. W. Events/Other Expenses	
Special Events/Speakers	372.86
Other Event	0.00
Senior Graduation Recognition	0.00
Friendship Club 2023	0.00
Smorgasbord Expenses	0.00
Thankoffering speaker/mileage	0.00
Table decorations fellowship hall	0.00
Christmas Salad Buffet	85.72
Flowers: Graduation, Confirmation	250.00
Flowers: outside pots, plants	0.00
Quilter supplies/Sewing machine	498.78
Kitchen supplies / cleaning	38.77
Kitchen durable goods(funeral fund)	0.00
Nursery supplies	0.00
Yearbook cover	50.00
Busy bags	0.00
Banner expense	0.00
Funeral Expense	30.17
Postage, miscellaneous	33.00
Total Events/Other	1,359.30
TOTAL Expenses	9,689.14

Budget Lutheran Women American Lutheran Church Income Accounts	
#	2022 Actual year to date
Circle Offering	
Special Event offering (\$300. to synod)	255.50
Esther	108.50
Martha	167.00
Mary	83.00
TOTAL	614.00
Wills, Gifts, Memorials, Thrivent Choice	0.00
Lenten freewill	64.75
Smorgasbord Fundraiser	7,445.00
Thrivent Action + Thrivent Choice	0.00
Member donations	1,838.84
Funeral donations (kitchen fund)	325.00
Misc. donations	0.00
June Salad offering to Love Inc	456.00
Other	0.00
Bank interest less service charge	0.00
Thankoffering	2,225.00
TOTAL	12,354.59
TOTAL Income	12,968.59

Lutheran Women Cash RECONCILIATION	
	2022 Actual year to date
Beginning Balance	20,405.63
+ Total Receipts	12,968.59
Subtotal	33,374.22
- Total Disbursements	9,689.14
Ending BALANCE	23,685.08
Escrow:	
Kitchen Fund (Funeral Donations)	6,670.44
Friendship Club 2023	250.00
Quilters	400.00
Triennial Conv 2023	2,000.00
Wills, Gifts, Memorials (Shetek)	1,488.84
Thankoffering to expend	1,125.00
Outreach: Other	0.00
Ending Balance	11,750.80
	\$ -
Lori Dudley,	\$ -
Lutheran Women Treasurer	\$ 11,750.80

Mission and Ministry

Mission and Ministry met monthly, with a few exceptions, to plan service projects and fellowship opportunities for our congregation.

- 1) We hosted 4 congregational potlucks, in February, June, September and December, serving between 40-80 people at each.
- 2) 775 gallons of laundry detergent were prepared and delivered to the food shelves in 2022
- 3) We hosted a Sharing Seeds packaging project in late January, using over 80 volunteers to bag and transport over 1300 meals to First Lutheran Church.

From there, 740 meals were distributed to the schools in February, and 600 were saved for March distribution. Over \$5000 was raised in donations for the project..

- 4) We served 100 people at our Lenten Supper in March. We served a baked potato bar with chili, and many toppings. A total of \$408.91 was earned for our service projects.

- 5) We participated in the Ministry Fair in August, providing information regarding the Mission and Ministry Committee, and our Every Meal project

- 6) We hosted two workshops for Gods Work Our Hands Sunday in September, presenting information regarding the Every Meal project

- 7) For the Every Meal project, we have been successfully using many volunteers since September 29th, distributing almost 200 meals per week to the Intermediate School. We originally needed to work out of a spare room at church, but now have a room at the school to house the cartons of meals. We use 9-10 volunteers each week to distribute to registered student's lockers immediately after school on Thursdays, for them to take home on Fridays for weekend meals. It takes less than 1 hour per week for the volunteers to distribute and reload their carts for the next week.

- 8) As a committee, we have helped make laundry detergent following our meetings in October and November, 50 gallons each month.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Handevitd and Steve Dudley, co-chairs.

Report of ALC Scholarship Committee

American Lutheran Church

Scholarship Committee

Year 2022

ELCA Endowment Fund

Beginning Balance as of 11/30/2021 \$355,411.26

Ending Balance as of 11/30/2022 \$308,112.89

Credits

Transfer from ELCA Endowment \$ 15,000.00

Gifts, Donations \$ _____

Total Credits \$ _____

Expenditures

Scholarships Awarded:

Kalea Appel \$ 3,022.00

Jonathan Horn \$ 3,022.00

Max Langerud \$ 3,022.00

Payton Sauerbrei \$ 3,022.00

Dalen Schultz \$ 3,022.00

Total Expenditures \$ 15,110.00

Minimum deposit to the ELCA Endowment Fund is \$2,000. Whenever the scholarship line item balance exceeds \$2,000, a deposit of \$2,000 is made.

If year-end balance of the ELCA Endowment Fund has increased from the previous year-end balance – dispense 4.5% or more.

If year-end balance of the ELCA Endowment Fund has decreased from the previous year-end balance – dispense 4.0% or less.

REPORT of the ETTA JANSSEN MEMORIAL LUTHERAN COLLEGE and SEMINARY ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE for 2022

The estate of Etta Janssen (1895-1973) established this scholarship in 1975. The expressed desire of Etta was that the fund be perpetual and be used for no other purpose than scholarships for seminary and Lutheran college students. The amount to be used for scholarships each year cannot exceed the interest and investment earnings generated. Funds received during the year specifically designated for current distribution are combined with other monies in the fund but are accounted for separately from the fund principle. Funds received during the year that are not designated for current distribution are added to the fund principle.

Scholarship applicants must be a current member in good standing of ALC, have completed one year of college and be enrolled full time in a college or seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Each applicant may receive scholarships for up to three years with an additional three years if preparing for full time church work.

Members of this committee for 2022 were: Karen Juber, Keith Olson, Nancy Marco, Linden Olson and Dave Nerem (Council Representative).

Financial Statement

First State Bank SW	Balance 01-01-2022	\$ 27,685.46
	Contributions in 2022	\$ 1,890.00
	Net Earnings 2022	\$
	TOTAL CREDITS	\$ 29,575.46
	Debits	
	Scholarships Paid during 2022 (for scholarships awarded in 2021)	\$ <u>4,500.00</u>
	TOTAL DEBITS	\$ 4,500.00
	Bank Balance 12-31-2022	\$ 25,075.46
ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust	Balance 12-31-2021	\$ 65,447.60
	Market value change 1-01-2022 to 11-30-2022	\$ -9,608.02
	Earnings 1-01-2022 to 11-30-2022	\$ <u>1,730.90</u>
	TOTAL VALUE 11-30-2022	\$ 57,571.58

TOTAL VALUE ALL FUNDS (On 12-31-2021 the ending balance was \$88,133.06) \$ 82,647.04

NOTES:

There have been approximately \$112,000 in scholarships paid since the inception of this fund.

Scholarships granted are not all paid out for the school year granted. Matching grants from the colleges may be awarded if paid in the next year. Ex. Part of a scholarship granted for a student in 2022 for the school year 2022-2023 may not be paid until the 2nd semester that begins in 2023.

Since the account for this fund was moved to the general fund account in 2022 no interest earned has been credited to this account.

Some money given to the fund during 2022 may not be credited until 2023 because of the timing of money transfers from account to account. Example: a donation given in December may not be transferred until January.

The November 30th value was used for the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust because a later value was not available at the time this report was due.

Submitted by the Etta Jansen Scholarship Committee

Report of SPLASH (Child in our Hands) Committee

When a child is baptized (as a member of American Lutheran Church) he/she is automatically enrolled in our *Splash!* program. The program is designed to bridge the gap between birth and pre-school Sunday school and aims to support parents in the faith formation of their children.

At baptism, each child receives a special book as a gift, and thereafter receives additional age-appropriate books biannually (every June and December), until age 3, as a practical and fun way for parents and children to learn about Jesus, while bonding through reading.

Finally, children are presented with their first storybook Bible when they begin preschool Sunday school, as a transition into formal Christian education.

Committee Members: Shirly Wieme

Staff Liaison: Kristin Appel

5 new children entered the *Splash!* Program in 2022.

Report of STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee members for 2022 were: Pastor Anne Hokenstad, Pastor Jeremy Hallquist, Karla Kirkeby, Karen Pfeifer, Connie Voss(council rep), Kathy Sackett, Lori Glawe, Judi Hoevet, Lori Beeck, Vicar Mary Anne, Connie Wienrank

“Because of You” articles were written for the monthly newsletter to help members be aware of the many activities that were accomplished because of their involvement and dedication.

“12 Months of Stewardship” articles were included in the bulletin and monthly newsletter encouraging members to live as faithful stewards every month of the year.

“Manna Food Pantry” drive during March received \$7,413.00 through special envelopes and Lenten offerings. Thanks to all who contributed!

EASTER plant delivery: About 35 Kalanchoe plants and handmade cards were delivered to members of the congregation who were homebound, experiencing long-term health issues or grieving the loss of a loved one. Cards were signed by Pastor Anne and Vicar Mary Anne Parker. The plants were delivered on Saturday, April 9th. Thanks to all who participated!

Stewardship Theme: “Lean in Toward the Light” was repeated again in 2022. Theme was emphasized with a video theme song, music, sermons, banner, bulletins, newsletter articles, etc. “Lean in Toward the Light that is CHRIST!”

Stewardship Sunday was held on Sunday, November 20th. Between services the Stewardship Committee hosted a yogurt parfait bar, with fruit toppings and granola, etc. The Klassen family singing group provided special music for both services.

Christmas Plant Program and Sharing Trees: continues to be a popular Christmas program enabling poinsettias, and handmade cards(signed by both Pastors) to be delivered to 45 members(plus 12 card only) experiencing long-term health issues, financial struggle and loss of loved ones.

Stars on the small sharing tree generated baby items which will be donated to Helping Hands Pregnancy Center. The large sharing tree Stars are for the plants. The poinsettias were delivered on Saturday, December 17th. Thanks to all who participated!

Thank You to members of ALC for reading articles prepared by the Stewardship Committee, for participating in the projects coordinated by the committee, for completing Time and Talent sheets, and pledge sheets and for being faithful stewards every day of the year.

***From the Stewardship Committee.

Report of Worship and Music Committee

Committee members for 2022 were Rich Besel, Shauna Carroll, Shirly Wieme, Aubrey Anderson, Mary Turner, Sherri Isder, Diana Kvilhaug, Council Rep Mike Peterson and Sylvia Andersen along with Pastors Anne Hokenstad and Jeremy Hallquist. The committee met a total of ten times using a combination of in person and hybrid formats for meeting.

In addition to providing regular worship materials with a managing budget and aiding the review of the worship experience, it has been the intent of the committee to provide support and encouragement to all staff involved in organizing and enhancing worship.

Our standard worship format includes the options of all worship services offered as in person, livestream and FM 88.3 radio broadcasts. Each week, three worship times and styles are available: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. – Koinonia worship; Sunday at 8:00 a.m. – First Word worship; Sunday at 10:15 a.m. – Journey worship. Each of these services use the same scripture with a different approach to give congregational members a choice of worship. Because both Christmas Day and New Years Day fell on Sundays this year, it was decided to have one 9:00 a.m. worship service on those days. Also, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the 10:15 a.m. worship service time changes to 10:00 a.m.

On July 17th, our annual Worship in the Park service was held at the Centennial Park Shelter House at 10:00 a.m. followed by a meal and fellowship hosted by our committee.

In August, the committee assisted with small training sessions for Confirmation students to familiarize them with different aspects of the worship experience.

The committee set the following goals for 2023:

- *To provide quality TV/Radio Ministry for those unable to attend worship in person.
- *To increase participation in worship services, focusing on youth.
- *To encourage the use of children's sermons at least once a month during worship.
- *To encourage the use of name tags to get to know each other better and put names to faces.
- *To increase participation in choirs and groups that enhance the praise of our worship.

The committee will continue to pursue new worship avenues and promote being a warm and caring congregation, welcoming all and sharing Gods love as commanded. We look forward with faith and hope, trusting in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to continue to guide our path into the year ahead!

Worship & Music Expense Summary

Beginning balance	\$3200.00
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Expenses:

Piano tuning and upkeep	\$570.00	
Worship resources & supplies	715.88	
Outdoor worship expense	340.87	
Decorating (Easter & Christmas)	213.65	
Name tags	147.96	
Licensures (One License, Sundays & Seasons, CCLI)	1693.50	
Misc. expenses	528.19	

Total expenses	\$4210.05
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Deposits:

Lenten Supper	\$225.50	
Donation	50.00	

Total deposits	\$275.50
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Total expenses minus deposits	\$3934.55
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Ending balance	-\$734.55
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Annual Report for the 2022 Calendar Year
Worship/Music Ministries and Technology Ministry

Thankfully, the 2022 year has brought growth and positive changes!

In the **worship/music** areas, we have seen the introduction of the “Busker Band”. A “busker” is a musician who offers their gifts and talents – usually as a street musician with a hat or instrument case open to receive cash donations. We felt that the term “busker” would be appropriate for the new band to lead worship – minus the hat/case! – at the Journey Worship Services at 10:15 on Sundays.

Our 6:30 Wednesday Worship, “Koinonia”, continues to grow and develop its own personality. We experimented with continuing this worship service throughout the summer months. We were only able to offer it in June and July and then discontinued it in August due to lack of participation. From September through May, the Koinonia experience is flourishing and begins with a meal, worship and then faith formation opportunities for all ages. Our younger families are embracing this mid-week worship service. It is a joy to be a part of the energy that this informal worship brings!

We continued our tradition of holding an outdoor worship service in the park during the summer. We discovered that the picnic shelter set up at Centennial Park suits our needs better than Chautauqua Park. Another beloved tradition that continues is the Wednesday Lenten services with Faith Stories shared by lay folk. The twist this year is that the speakers came from outside of our church family. Their varied stories emphasized that our faith is a shared experience even if it looks and sounds different.

As we continue to move through the effects of COVID, we are happy that most of our music groups have been able to regroup and begin sharing their music in our worship services. The ‘small but mighty’ Chancel Choir under Rich Besel’s leadership and the Bell Choir directed by Louise Claussen rehearse on a regular basis and when possible, share in worship once a month. Our technology is assisting the bell choir by recording them and then sharing that video during worship when they cannot be there in person. We were able to reassemble a Brass Group for Christmas Eve in 2022.

We have also added Pastor Karla Kirkeby to our group of Worship Leaders. Welcome! She joins Aubrey Anderson, Kris Besel, Rich Besel, Dan Horn, and Jocelyn Horn. The leaders from the piano and/or organ are Cindy Anderson, Sherri Isder, and Sylvia Andersen. The Busker Band is growing into a solid group comprised of several High School instrumentalists with Pastor Jeremy and Ellie Hallquist providing leadership. In November, we had the honor of welcoming the Klassen Family as guest musicians in our worship on the 20th.

Other events to note:

A few members of the Worship/Music Ministry Team led worship workshops at the Ministry Fair event on Wednesday, August 24th.

Before Carol Fleming passed away, she started the project of refurbishing the brass Communion Chalice. It was commissioned into use at the All-Saints worship service.

Did you know that the Worthington Brass Quintet uses our facilities for their rehearsals? We look forward to a time in the future when they can once again share their music in worship.

The **technology team** has been busy upgrading the church Wi-Fi network. We now have a guest network available. They finished installing security cameras. And the staff computers are being backup with that information stored off-site for security and easy retrieval, if necessary. A current project is replacing some of the original audio equipment. It seems like the Audio-Visual retooling happened just yesterday, but in tech terms, it is nearing ancient history with some of those original components reaching the end of their productivity.

Finally, on a **personal** update: I had the privilege to attend several webinars provided by various organizations. They included: “Hybrid Ministry” with Ryan Panzer, “Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice” with Dr. Anton Armstrong and “Tried and True with a Twist” with G. Phillip Shultz III. In person summer workshops have resumed but conflicts in scheduling prevented me from attending this past summer.

Worship services rest on the shoulders of MANY volunteers from Greeters/Ushers to Readers to Musicians with many other roles. If at any point, you feel the nudge to participate in this area of ministry, please contact either of the Pastors or myself. You would be welcomed with open arms and gratitude!

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Andersen, ALC Staff

Report of Youth & Family Ministry

Children & Family Annual Report 2022

Mission:

To provide meaningful opportunities for children and their families to grow in their faith together.

2022 Year-In-Review

After transitioning through Covid, our Faith Formation Program is bouncing back. We have **41** registered preschool – fifth-grade students. We have **3** additional visitors who attend regularly.

Sunday morning classes are divided into **2** multi-age classrooms, with additional classrooms available for special programming. Sunday morning offers a traditional Sunday school setting for pre-school-fifth grade, with an average attendance of **22** students. Wednesday night “Ignite” class is more casual, averaging 12 students each week (a **42%** growth in attendance). **82%** of our registered students participate on a regular basis.

Through the generosity of Lutheran Women, we presented Bibles to **3** preschoolers, **5** first graders, and **9** third-fourth graders. In the fall, **9** students attended a Bible orientation class. A series of First Communion classes was attended by **9** fifth-grade students, who later celebrated First Communion during worship.

Children & Family Ministry strives to engage kids in meaningful ways through hands-on curriculum. In the span of a year, we offer **26** Sunday school lessons, **26** (Wednesday night) “Ignite” lessons, **3** Faith & Family (Intergenerational) events, and a VBS option. This year, in lieu of traditional VBS, we hosted **2** Summer CRAFTernoons, where we built **36** birdhouses, made **24** nature-print paintings, and went on an outdoor scavenger hunt.

The most popular Faith & Family Days were those that we hosted *this* year. Our *Hot Cocoa & Candy Canes* event included a hot chocolate and snack bar, and time for a make-and-take project (“hot cocoa” cookies-in-a-jar). **44** jars were filled, to be baked and shared during fellowship with family and friends.

The Giving Manger was the most well-attended intergenerational event to date. This Advent project focused on serving others. **30** families prepared Giving Mangers. **6** additional mangers were gifted to other families. And **48** nativity ornaments were hand made.

To wrap-up the holiday season, 1st-4th graders made **4 dozen** Christmas cards to deliver to those who selflessly serve others all year long. And to stay connected with kids and families, I’ve mailed **2 dozen** (beginning in November) handwritten notes of well wishes, greetings, praise, and thanks.

Thank you to all who support ALC’s Children & Family Ministry. With your help and God’s wisdom, we can discern new paths to nurture faith, fellowship, and service.

Report of Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries

I'm very fond of "ALC by the Numbers" as launched by our pastors in 2022! It's a simple, concrete way of charting growth in many aspects of our church life. Sometimes it's necessary to measure serious matters, sometimes it's fun to assess more light-hearted facts.

To explain my fondness, I'm reminded of a favorite pastime of mine as a 10-year-old when I'd watch the traffic out my bedroom window and keep track on paper of all the different models of cars going by. (Or the colors, or how many people were in each car, or which direction they were going... Oh, my! That was a long time ago!)

But in more relevant church matters these days, keeping track of the numbers helps the observer determine what's important to people, what's showing growth, what's in need of extra attention, what's worth continuing. Important information.

In my role as Coordinator of Volunteers, I get to keep track of many things! People, schedules, food, money to name a few. One of my favorite responsibilities at ALC that allows me to do all those things is the weekly coordination of Wednesday night meals. Wednesday meals have grown into what I affectionately call our "Feeding Ministry" where members who span four generations gather regularly to enjoy a meal together (one they didn't have to prepare themselves) and to share in community-building Christian fellowship. What could be better?

So, what kind of things do I keep track of concerning Wednesday night meals? Here are a few:

267	Total number of meals served since we began in September 2011
56	Average attendance at each meal since 2011
58	Average attendance at each meal this year 2022-23
\$2.90	Average cost per meal since 2011
\$3.10	Average cost per meal this year 2022-23
\$2.76	Average donation per meal since 2011
\$3.20	Average donation per meal this year 2022-23
16	Different menus served
Tacos	Best attended meal
Lasagna	Worst attended meal
Pancakes	Most economical meal
Pizza	Most expensive meal
10	Numbers of volunteers for each meal (prepare, make bars, cleanup)
220	Number of different volunteers since 2011
48	Number of different volunteers this year 2022-23

Whew! So where do YOU fit into these numbers? Have you ever attended a meal? Are you among those who look forward to not cooking at home on Wednesday night? Have you ever helped with a meal? Do you enjoy helping in the kitchen because we have fun?! Are you willing to help with this feeding ministry that, in my opinion, is worth continuing?

My wish for you in 2023 is that you attend more of our family-friendly Wednesday meals (5:30) and that you offer to help occasionally! Look for the signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall near the kitchen. Please sign up whenever it works. You don't need to worry about being a novice. I guarantee you'll be surrounded by helpful people. AND you don't need to keep track of anything...just leave that to me!

Karen Pfeifer, Coordinator of Volunteers, 360-1361



CONGREGATION REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 FORM A

This report should be filed online. Connect to the website (ELCA.org/congregationreport) and enter your congregation's ID and password (printed below). If you are unable to file electronically, complete this paper form and return it to your synod office by March 1, 2023.

Latest report on file:

1. Baptized membership at end of 2021	1571
2. Baptized members received during 2022	
a. By baptism: children (15 yrs. and younger)	8
b. By baptism: adults (16 yrs. and older)	0
c. By affirmation of faith	9
d. By transfer	0
e. From other sources and statistical adjustment	0
f. Total members received this year	16 + 33
3. Baptized members removed during 2022	
a. By death	8
b. By transfer	22
c. For other reasons and statistical adjustment	0
d. Total members removed this year	- 30
4. Baptized membership, end of 2022	1574
5. Total confirmed membership, end of 2022	1416
6. Number of baptized youth who were confirmed in 2022	9
7. In 2022, the number of weeks this congregation worshipped:	
a. On-site (in person)	51
b. Online (via streaming)	52
8. Average weekly worship attendance in 2022:	
a. On-site (in person)	150
b. Online (via streaming)	202
9. Total number of people (including children) actively participating in the life of the congregation in 2022	300
10. Race/ethnic origin of ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS. Must equal active participants on line 9:	

African American/Black	African National/African Caribbean	American Indian/Alaska Native	Arab/Middle Eastern	Asian/Pacific Islander	Latino/Hispanic	Multi-racial	White	TOTAL
0	0	0	0	0	0	13	287	300

Verify the following congregation information; correct as necessary. Corrections can be made online at ELCA.org/tools/updatecongregation.

11. Phone: 507-376-5264 12. Fax:
13. Email: office@worthingtonalc.org 14. Website: www.worthingtonALC.org

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CONGREGATION'S FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (Please round all figures to nearest dollar. Omit cents.)

18. Receipts during 2022	
a. Regular giving	\$ 476,909
b. Designated giving	\$ 8,925
c. Earned income (any source)	\$ 0
d. Grants (any source)	\$ 0
e. All other receipts	\$ 0
f. TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 485,834
19. Assets as of December 31, 2022	
a. Church real estate	\$ 8,040,700
b. Endowment and memorial funds	\$ 86,600
c. Cash, savings, bonds, etc.	\$ 200,000
d. All other assets	\$ 0
e. TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 8,327,300
20. Total indebtedness as of Dec. 31, 2022	\$ 790,148
21. Budgeted/projected 2023 Mission Support	\$ 49,300
22. Gifts from the estates of deceased individuals received during 2022	
a. Number of gifts received	3
b. TOTAL VALUE of gifts received	\$ 2,570

Congregation ID#: 12246 Online Password (2022 only): 36417417

Synod: Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

Conference: SF09-Shetek

15. Location address describes where the church or place of worship is physically located. This may differ from the mailing address, but must identify a street name. Corrections should be made below:

915 Winfred St.
Worthington, MN 56187

16. Please tell us how each phrase describes this congregation:

	Hardly at all	Some-what	Very well
a. There is excitement about the future here.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
b. This congregation is a positive force in the community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
c. This congregation is always ready to try something new.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

17. Please tell us how this congregation is at the following:

	Poor	Mod-erately good	Great
a. Seeking out and using the gifts of members of all ages.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
b. Helping members live out their faith in their daily lives.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

23. Disbursements during 2022	
a. Current operating expenses	\$ 432,891
b. Capital improvements	\$ 223,357
c. Payments on debts	\$ 45,647
d. Mission Support (regular synod benevolence)	\$ 0
e. Other benevolence sent directly to the synod (for any synod OR churchwide appeal including ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, Missionary Sponsorship, etc.)	\$ 0
f. Other benevolence sent directly to the churchwide office (for any churchwide appeal including ELCA World Hunger, Disaster Response, Missionary Sponsorship, etc.)	\$ 0
g. Benevolence sent directly to any of the following:	
1. An activity in another country including a missionary, a congregation, a companion synod, a hunger program, disaster response, etc.	\$ 0
2. Camps	\$ 3,272
3. Campus ministry	\$ 0
4. Colleges	\$ 0
5. Seminaries	\$ 0
6. Social service group, agency or institution	\$ 0
h. All other benevolence sent directly to the recipient	\$ 0
i. Other expenses and realized losses	\$ 156,576
j. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 890,185



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CONGREGATION'S PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2022

Congregation ID Number: 12246

Online Password: 36417417

Synod: Southwestern Minnesota Synod,
ELCA

FORM C

30. Did this congregation have Christian education
(Sunday school, Bible studies, confirmation) in 2022 on-site? ☒ Yes ☐ No Online? ☐ Yes ☐ No How many total participants? 140
Did this congregation have vacation Bible school in 2022 on-site? ☒ Yes ☐ No Online? ☐ Yes ☐ No How many total participants? 22

31. Languages in which this congregation regularly conducts liturgies (make 1 the most-used language, 2 the next most-used language, etc.).
Do not include languages used for special services or by others using the building.

1) English 3) _____
2) _____ 4) _____

32. What assistance does this congregation provide to people with disabilities? (*check all that apply*)

- ☒ Wheelchair access throughout the building(s) ☒ Sign language interpreters
☐ Braille worship materials and signage ☐ Mental health ministries
☒ Large print worship materials ☒ Ministry with people with developmental/intellectual disabilities
☒ Assistive devices for the hard of hearing ☒ Specialized faith formation for children or adults (ADHD, autism, dyslexia, etc.)

	Definitely untrue	Hardly true	Somewhat true	Mostly true	Definitely true	Unsure
33. As part of the worship service, this congregation provides written or verbal instructions to help visitors fully participate.			X			
34. Someone in this congregation follows up with first-time visitors within one week.				X		
35. Visitors who worship in this congregation typically attend more than once.				X		
36. In the past year, this congregation has discussed how to remain active in the local community.					X	
37. In the past year, this congregation has implemented strategies for engaging new people.			X			
38. This congregation displays a public statement of inclusion (in the bulletin, banner and/or website).		X				

39. This congregation's website contains current information (for example, staff and worship times).	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	This congregation does not have a website
40. This congregation's social media profile contains current information (for example, staff and worship times).	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	This congregation does not have a social media profile

41.	Never	Less than once a month	Once a month	Several times a month	Every week
How often did this congregation offer online worship (live/posted) in 2022?					X
How often does this congregation intend to offer online worship in 2023?					X

42. In the past year, online worship has been an effective way to engage new people in the life of this congregation.	Definitely untrue	Hardly true	Somewhat true	Mostly true	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Definitely true	Unsure
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43. The ELCA is engaged in an intentional effort to "activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love." How familiar are most members of this congregation with this effort?	Not at all	Slightly	Moderately	Extremely
			X	

Congregation's mailing address
(corrections can be made below or emailed to conginfo@elca.org)

If you do not file electronically, return Forms A and C
to the synod office at:



**Shetek Lutheran
ministries**
14 Keeley Island
Dr.
Slayton, MN 56172
(507)-763-3567
camp@shetek.org
www.shetek.org

Executive Director – Marv Nysetvold
Program Director – Lexie Blaschko

Greetings from your camp – Shetek Lutheran Ministries!

Over the past three summers, Shetek has adapted and sought out new ways to carry out our mission. In 2020 we offered a shortened season with many restrictions and served 265 campers. Last year, 2021, we offered a full season of summer programming but limited our numbers and served 618 campers. This year we offered our full season with somewhat limited numbers and served 621 campers. This year, our limited camper numbers had more to do with the difficulty finding summer staff than the pandemic. One of our greatest challenges is finding young adults who are willing to serve for the summer. We were blessed with 4 international counselors this past summer and Shetek will be doing more with international counselors in 2023. Our summer ministry team of 20 young adults served faithfully this summer. Elementary, middle school, senior high, family camp, grandparent/grandchild camp and SOS camp (for folks with disabilities) all came this summer! For reference, 621 campers is about 75% of the campers we served in 2019. Safety was again a top priority and again, as in 2020 and 2021, we had no known cases of COVID. Campers were again thankful for camp. Our “Building on the Foundation” capital campaign was on hold for most of 2020 and 2021. This year we restarted the congregational phase of the campaign. Several congregations have run successful campaigns in their congregations so far this year. We will be contacted all our 101 member congregations to give them the opportunity to participate. We continue to visit with prospective major donors, those who give or pledge \$5,000 or more for the campaign. Our total so far in cash and pledges is about \$1,475,000 towards our goal of \$1,500,000 with a challenge goal of \$2,000,000. With our member congregations and new donors, we hope to reach our challenge goal of \$2,000,000 in 2023. The new lodge is close to being open for guests. Our beach/waterfront was updated and landscaped before our summer program started this year and is a beautiful improvement. Our new water treatment system was up and running for the summer also. Shetek continues to receive estate gifts periodically, which we are very thankful for. Over the years, these thoughtful gifts have really benefitted the ministry at Shetek. If you’re interested in finding out more about how to support Shetek in this way, please let us know. We have access to a gift planner at no cost to our donors.

Continued to page 32

Shetek Continued

Some improvements in 2022 – the new landscaped beach area along with a new dock for the swimming area and the new water treatment center. We did some grading and tiling on the south end of the property to improve drainage. Several smaller propane tanks around camp were removed and consolidated to larger ones. A new water line was installed from the new lodge to the activity center and the old pump house is no longer in service. Plans for future expansion were included with the new water line. I am thankful for our year round staff and their hospitality to our guests and campers. Shetek welcomed Val Kastner in Feb. to our Housekeeping team, Lexie Blaschko joined us in May as our Program Director and Jana Sturges began in June in our Food Service. 2022 looks better than 2021, but compared to the average from 2015-2019, we will still be about \$30,000 lower in program income and about \$12,000 lower in retreat/rental income. However, in the face of all the uncertainty over the last couple of year, our donors and congregations have continued to respond with incredible generosity. I am amazed and grateful and can't say "THANK YOU" enough for your support and prayers!!

-Marv Nysetvold

Executive Director Shetek's Board of Directors in 2022 – Ashley Benson, Lindsey Cartwright, Logan Gooch, Lora Hopp-Hansen, Sarah Kirchner, Pastor Jeanette McCormick, Leon Mortland, Pastor Eric Ohrtman, Pastor Elizabeth Pagnotta, Pastor Juanita Parker, Pastor Laura Phillips, Pastor Michael Stangeland. **Shetek's staff in Dec. 2022** – Lexie Blaschko, Sandy Carlson, Tom Carlson, Katie Chapman, Nora Dahlhoff, Michelle Flanigan, Sharon Haugen, Val Kastner, Jean Larson, Marv Nysetvold, Joe Stefanick, Jana Sturges, Jessica Van Dam, Jane Wahl

In 2022, We Celebrated the Baptisms of : McKenna Kramer, Nash LeBrun, Russell Dudley-Dickey, Maci Thier, Callie Huls, Levi Pfeifer, Ollie Pfeifer, Carson Manigold

In 2022, We Celebrated the Confirmations of : Lauryn Alhers, Mackenzie DeGroot, Carson Henning, Kaitlyn Jueneman, Alex Klosterman, Annalee Luinenburg, Bailey Ponto, Callie Rosenberg, Anthony Quintanilla

We Welcomed New Members: Nathan Getting, Alli Getting, Clay Getting, Alissa Schilling, Levi Schilling, Kolten Shilling, Toni Brouillet, Dan Brouillet, Owen Brouillet, Natalie Brouillet, Jeremy Hallquist, Ellie Hallquist, Clayton Hallquist, Weston Hallquist, Anne Hokenstad, Arvid Nielsen

We Celebrated New Marriages of:

We Mourned the Loss of These Loved Ones: Ella Mae Namanny, Judy Benson, Roger Ling, Karen Hamman, Vern Bastian, Donna Kramer, David Yates, ***Elwood Wilcox, ***Andy Wilcox

On December 31, 2022, our total baptized membership was 1574. Our total confirmed membership at year end was 1416.

*Marriage of non-members held at American Lutheran Church.

**Marriage of members held elsewhere with an American Lutheran Church pastor officiating.

***Memorial services were held elsewhere.



"For we are co-workers
in God's service;
you are God's field,
God's building."

— 1 Corinthians 3:9 (NIV)

One of the beautiful parts of synod ministry involves driving across this large territory and seeing the changing colors from one season to the next: bright yellow-greens of springtime, rich deep greens of summer, the golden crops in late summer, the brilliant colors of leaves in the fall, and then the rich dark soil of early winter.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul describes the church in beautiful images: as coworkers in God's service, a field, and a building! As we look ahead to 2023, I consider the image of the church as a field.

You are God's Field

The first thing I want to say is, "**Thank you!**" Thank you for planting God's Word in the world and loving your neighbors as we move through the global pandemic. Thank you for the generosity you share to further partner and synod ministries during times of transition, challenge, and celebration. Whether lay or rostered leaders, we are coworkers for God's mission. We lead and serve in our various congregational ministries with the patience of gardeners and farmers, believing and trusting that it is God who gives the growth. I give thanks to God for you!

Planted Together

Our synod identity statement says God has planted our congregations in cities, farms, and towns together under one prairie sky, and that by God's grace, together we have what we need. As I visit our congregations and listen to rostered and lay leaders, several things are clear:

- Like the earliest Christian communities, congregations today – from those in open country to larger cities and small towns - are very different from each other! Paul's letters to those early churches reflect the unique circumstance of each. Our congregations today are emerging the pandemic each facing their own unique challenges and opportunities. And so this is a time to listen to one another's hopes and concerns, seek to understand, and continue to remind each other that we are still in this together. *What does it mean to know that we as churches are connected to each other today?*
- God has given unique gifts to each congregation: the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and the gifts given to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:12). Lay and rostered ministry is not a solo endeavor; we are all partners because we are the body of Christ. *Whose gifts might you discover and lift up as you look to the new year?*
- Congregation identities have been shaped by the context in which God has planted us. That includes geography, and cultural and denominational histories. It also includes the mile-markers along the way: congregation and community crises, anniversaries, transitions, and the new things we have discovered over time. Post-pandemic, we acknowledge that we cannot retreat to some of the nostalgia or habits of the past. *What is God calling you and your church to be and do in this new year?*
- Our context also provides important signposts as we consider how God is calling us into the future. Our communities have changed drastically in the past few years. The needs of our neighbors are significant. Many congregations are partnering for new ministries of serving, faith formation, staffing, and worship. *How is the Spirit leading you to be the hands and feet and smile and love of Jesus with others in your area today?*

"God's demonstration plot"

When a seed is planted and tender shoots start to emerge from the soil, it's hard to imagine the plant that will grow there. Corn or beans, daffodils or iris bulbs, tomatoes or pumpkins.... from small beginnings grow plants that can be beautiful and sustain life. As we emerge from this global pandemic, we can see how the rate of change sped up innovation and creativity across our congregations. We see new fruit.

One of my professors, Prof. Craig Van Gelder, wrote that growing up on a farm in rural Iowa provided a lesson for understanding the church being missionary by nature. Extension agents then would introduce new farming technologies, seeds, and fertilizers in strips of land along major highways that served as *demonstration plots* for these new innovations. Van Gelder writes, "The church is God's demonstration plot in the world. Its very existence demonstrates that his redemptive reign has already begun. Its very presence invites the world to watch, listen, examine, and consider accepting God's reign as a superior way of living."¹



As we move into new levels of activity in our congregations, it's easy to turn inward, wonder where the people have gone, and focus on scarcity and survival. But dear friends, many in our world are watching to see what kind of church we will be in the future. People in our communities long for healing and hope. I believe God is calling and sending this church to live out the way of Jesus for this time, in the context where we're planted. God's reign is breaking into our world, and in Jesus Christ God is reconciling the whole world to God's very self.

"You happen to be God's field in which we are working." (The Message).

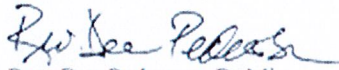
I give thanks for these partners in ministry who make us all better together:

- Pastoral staff: now-retired Synod Minister Pr. Stephen Cook, and current Synod Ministers Pr. Heather Culuris and Pr. Naomi Mahler, focusing on candidacy, transitions, call process, and equipping; Director for Evangelical Mission (D.E.M.) Pr. Troy Pflibsen; Synod Administrative staff Tammy Schacher, Kristin Bakeberg, and Maggie Berggren; new Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator Pr. Nikoli Falenschek; Gifts of Grace team Pr. Andrew Hermodson-Olsen and Pr. Kelly France; and ELCA Regional Gift Planner Pr. Keith Pearson. We are also pleased that GSB Consultants Pr. Pete Reuss and Paul Marsh are working with us in generosity and stewardship ministries.
- I give thanks that we have celebrated ordinations and welcomed 13 new rostered ministers in 2022: Pr. Janet Adams, Deacon Jill Davis, Pr. Susan Christianson, Pr. Jeremy Hallquist, Pr. Jon Wendt, Pr. Chuck Shingledecker, Pr. Sherri Larson, Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson, Pr. Paul Bravinder, Pr. Sarah Jones, Pr. Allison Peterson, Pr. Austin Krohnke, Pr. David Nelson. Please cheer them on in their ministry. And as you see people in your congregation or community who you think have the gifts for rostered ministry, consider asking them if they have considered full-time ministry. You could be the one to plant the seeds of a call in their hearts.
- Synod governance: Synod Council, boards, and committees, including the rejuvenated Partnership Committee with the Southeastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and networks like the Racial Justice Network and Faithful Innovation and Coaching.
- Conference Deans and Chairpersons who keep us connected close to home.

The generosity of your Mission Support sustains all we do together in the synod and with our partners in outdoor ministries, campus ministries, colleges & universities, seminaries, across the ELCA, and around the world. Our Mission Support comes back to us by providing us with a whole, full-time staff member - D.E.M. Pr. Troy - who is working with many congregations as they plan for their future. We give thanks for the relationships we share with Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and Lutheran immigration and Refugee Services. Through them, you are there, standing with people experiencing war, unrest, hunger, disasters, and so much more. Thank you!

Thank you for your witness as the church today. Thank you for your generosity and partnership. I give thanks for the signs of God's presence all around us and in our life together. *"You are God's field."*

Thanks be to God!


+ Rev. Dee Pederson, D. Min

Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA



Southwestern Minnesota Synod

¹ Craig Van Gelder, *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2000), 99.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2022

Box 1: Box 1 is used for the general operation of American Lutheran Church. It includes such things as: Salaries for staff; utilities; technology; worship and music; altar; maintenance; office expenses, etc.

Total box 1 income for 2022 was:	\$ 467,882.16
Total box 1 expenses for 2022 were:	\$ 461,740.25
Net profit for 2022:	\$ 6,426.91

Box 2: Box 2 is used for the remodeling project American Lutheran church completed. This includes pledges individuals made as well as other contributions congregation members donate and fundraisers that were held for the purpose of reducing the debt.

Debt balance on Jan 1, 2022 was:	\$ 1,013,506.00
Interest paid in 2022 totaled:	\$ 28,698.23
Direct payments on the loan totaled:	\$ 232,856.44
Loan balance as of December 31, 2022 was:	\$ 790,148.37

We are grateful to First State Bank Sw for their assistance with the loan and we are blessed by you – American Lutheran members for your generosity towards this project. The loan interest rate changed on September 15th. The rate changed to 4.5% for three years and will be due in 2025.

*** The building loan balance changes monthly as we make payments towards it as they come in.
We continue to pay off the principal through these contributions .

Box 3: Box 3 is used for Benevolence. This fund supports local projects in our community. This year financial contributions were made towards the following projects: Love Inc.; Helping Hands Pregnancy Center; Shetek Lutheran Camp; Project Morningstar; and ELCA World Hunger. Your contributions to box 3 allowed us to support this ministry need in our local community.

Box 3 designated income:	\$ 18,157.84
Box 3 contributions designated donations paid:	\$ 16,454.83
Ending Balance in account:	\$ 1,703.01

** note payments were made mid November to the organizations and contributions made in November and December are the ending balance of the account.

ALC STATEMENT OF OPERATING (BOX 1) REVENUE AND EXPENSES AND 2023 BUDGET

	1/12/2023	ACTUAL 2020	ACTUAL 2021	ACTUAL 2022	BUDGET 2023
REVENUE					
1	DONATIONS TO BOX 1 + TRANSFERS	\$ 403,455	\$ 421,389	\$ 458,957	\$ 493,000
2	OPERATING REVENUE NON-SYNOD	\$ 17,100	\$ 6,434	\$ 8,925	\$ 9,371
3	MISC./LOAN PROCEEDS PPP NOW FORGIVEN	\$ 54,540	\$ 150	\$ -	
4	CHURCH USE REVENUE OTHER	\$ 1,016	\$ 5,156	\$ 17,952	
5	TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 476,111	\$ 433,129	\$ 485,834	\$ 502,371
EXPENSES					
BENEVOLENCE					
6	TOTAL MISSION SYNOD SUPPORT	\$ 40,346	\$ 40,346	\$ 45,647	\$ 49,300
PERSONNEL					
7	TOTAL SALARY AND HOUSING	\$ 301,126	\$ 215,676	\$ 294,425	\$ 338,813
COMMITTIES AND COUNCIL					
8	ALTER COMMITTEE	\$ 1,254	\$ 993	\$ 1,593	\$ 1,600
9	LIBRARY BOARD			\$ 177	\$ 200
10	PARISH ED (BIRTH-5)	\$ 4,129	\$ 695	\$ 6,932	\$ 3,500
11	YOUTH MINISTRY (6-12)	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,138	\$ 5,714	\$ 3,500
12	ADULT MINISTRY			\$ 346	\$ 500
13	STEWARDSHIP	\$ 1,755	\$ 1,437	\$ 2,491	\$ 2,300
14	WORSHIP AND MUSIC	\$ 2,260	\$ 2,258	\$ 4,447	\$ 3,600
15	MISSION AND MINISTRY			\$ 1,265	\$ 1,000
16	COUNCIL EXPENSE	\$ 199	\$ 457	\$ 2,572	\$ 300
17	TECHNOLOGY	\$ 9,269	\$ 7,457	\$ 5,905	\$ 5,000
18	CARES MINISTRY TEAM	\$ 70		\$ 359	\$ 100
19	TOTAL COMMITTEE/COUNCIL	\$ 23,936	\$ 20,435	\$ 31,801	\$ 21,600
CHURCH FACILITIES					
20	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	\$ 927	\$ 593	\$ 407	\$ 570
21	INSURANCE	\$ 13,748	\$ 13,844	\$ 13,290	\$ 14,600
22	MAINTENANCE INTERIOR	\$ 7,087	\$ 9,660	\$ 24,634	\$ 16,500
23	MAINTENANCE EXTERIOR	\$ 3,367	\$ 2,763	\$ 3,669	\$ 1,450
24	SNOW REMOVAL AND LAWN CARE	\$ 3,911	\$ 8,037	\$ 9,116	\$ 8,450
25	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 2,240	\$ 4,186	\$ 6,915	\$ 7,400
26	OFFICE EQUIPMENT/copier, computers	\$ 11,341	\$ 10,704	\$ 11,455	\$ 11,800
27	PASTORAL CARE MATERIALS	\$ 773	\$ 1,494	\$ 152	\$ 220
28	POSTAGE	\$ 1,687	\$ 1,576	\$ 2,104	\$ 2,100
29	TELEPHONE	\$ 2,489	\$ 2,742	\$ 3,318	\$ 3,400
30	NATURAL GAS	\$ 5,339	\$ 4,705	\$ 13,403	\$ 15,000
31	CITY UTILITIES	\$ 14,267	\$ 16,370	\$ 16,973	\$ 17,400
32	MISC. /Real Estate tax/bank charge/other	\$ 1,219	\$ 704	\$ 1,229	\$ 300
33	TOTAL CHURCH FACILITIES	\$ 68,395	\$ 77,378	\$ 106,665	\$ 99,190
34	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 433,803	\$ 353,835	\$ 478,538	\$ 508,903
35	NET REVENUE	\$ 42,308	\$ 79,294	\$ 7,297	\$ (6,532)

2023 BUDGET DISCUSSION (1-10-2023)

This budget is a practical prediction of expected expense and revenue for the year 2023 along with the last three years actual columns for comparisons. This commentary is prepared for the church council and may be revised before the congregational annual report, pending council approval and feedback.

REVENUE

Line 1 For the year 2023 we add 5 percent to the general giving.

EXPENSES

Line 7. All-inclusive as in the past. Total package for 1 Youth director, 2 Pastors, 1 Children and Family director, 1 Office staff person, all music staff and other personnel expense. The Synod compensation guidelines recommends a 5% increase on Pastors salary. That is recognized here.

If you try to compare this year's budget spreadsheet to last year's budget, you will notice that the Parish Ed and Youth Ministries revenue lines have been removed. It was determined that they deserve their own page/report in the annual congregational report. They both have significant direct donations and have multiple fundraisers that should not be considered as Box 1 revenue.

Line 10. Parish Ed (Birth-5th grade). We are recognizing only the 2022 expenses not related to fund raising cash flow needs. Such as curriculum, VBS, Supplies and expenses directly related to the child and family. The budget line item is from the proposal of the parish ed committee.

Line 11. Same commentary as line 10.

Line 12. Adult Ministry is a new heading recommended by the Parish Ed committee. This replaces Child in our Hands/ SPLASH which is now incorporated into the Parish Ed Budget line.

Line 21. Insurance is projected to increase by double digits. 10 to 14% on Property alone. I may be conservative with the noted 10% increase.

Line 22. Interior maintenance is high and going higher. We have the printout from QB to show the detailed listing. We have replaced boiler parts, motors etc. so for 2023 we did not add an additional 5%.

Line 30. Natural Gas has increased by 10-15%. The gas company commentary is that it is not possible for them to make any predictions other than These prices may remain for a while.

Respectfully Submitted by the Finance and Budget Committee. Marvin Isder treasurer, Sandy Demuth Financial Accountant, Craig Pfeifer, Scott Langerud, Pr. Anne, Pr. Jeremy, Greg Raymo.