



# 2023 Annual Report

Light of Christ Lutheran Church  
3976 County Line Road SE  
Delano, MN 55328  
(763) 972-2400  
[www.lightofchristlutheran.com](http://www.lightofchristlutheran.com)



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Annual Meeting

January 28, 2024

Light of Christ Lutheran Church  
3976 County Line Road SE, Delano MN 55328

#### **Page**

3	Roster of 2023 Council and Committees
4	Agenda
5-6	Minutes of January 29, 2023 Annual Meeting
7	Pastor Bruce Kuenzel
8-10	Children & Family Ministries (PreK-6 <sup>th</sup> Gr) – LaDonna Ekern
11-12	Youth & Family Ministries—Kirsten Kelly

#### **COMMITTEE AND GROUP REPORTS**

13	Columbarium Committee
14	Community Life Committee
14	Endowment Committee
14	Finance Committee
15	Healing & Wholeness Committee
16	Library Committee
17-18	Mission/Evangelism Committee
18	Mutual Ministry
18	Personnel Committee
19	Property Committee
20	Stewardship Committee
21	Technology Committee
21	Worship and Music Committee
22	Altar Guild
22	Birthday Ministry
23	Women of Light of Christ
24-26	Youth Fund Financial Report
27--30	Treasurer's Report
31	Membership Statistics
32	Bishop's Annual Report

# CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEE ROSTER

January 29, 2023 to January 2024

## CHURCH COUNCIL

*(3-year terms)*

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*

Steven Dickey (Pres.)  
Derek Horeis (V. Pres.)  
Lisa Spencer (Sec'y.)

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Mike Boyack  
Tim Current (Treas.)  
Natasha Werner

*Term expires Jan. 2026:*

Laurie Brown  
Billie Chock  
Dan Paulson

## **TREASURER:**

Tim Current

## **FINANCE ADMIN.:**

Debbie Johnson

## **COMMITTEES:**

*(Committees are 2-year terms, with exceptions noted.)*

## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM

**Preschool - Grade 6**

**1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7:00 pm**

Council Rep: Mike Boyack  
**LaDonna Ekern (staff)**

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*

Ashley Jeseritz  
Cynthia Kuenzel (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Kim Wortz

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Jennifer Clark  
Susie Larison (3<sup>rd</sup> term)  
Gracia Macks  
Lori Prickett (3<sup>rd</sup> term)

## CALL COMMITTEE

Cheri Ashfeld  
Mike Boyack  
Billie Chock  
Rhonda Current  
Pat Czock (alternate)  
Sophia Grant  
Paul Ludwig  
Erin Olson  
Natasha Werner (alternate)

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM

**Grades 7-12**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7:30 pm**

Council Rep: Derek Horeis  
**Kirsten Kelly (staff)**

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*

Lisa Schmit (3<sup>rd</sup> term)  
Anna Tool (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Ryan Tool (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Lesley Berscheid (3<sup>rd</sup> term)  
Ken Chock  
Adam Kopperud  
Rachel Kopperud  
Vicki Noetzelman  
Jennifer Slipka

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 6:30pm**

Council Rep: Lisa Spencer

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*

Heidi Goldbeck (5<sup>th</sup> term)  
Jennifer Grant (6<sup>th</sup> term)  
Kelly Harstad (4<sup>th</sup> term)  
Kim Marx  
Melanie Paulson (4<sup>th</sup> term)  
Abby Trettin

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Mary Allen (4<sup>th</sup> term)  
Becca Finkelson  
Rachel Halbersma  
Carrie Klinkner (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Amy Murphy  
Heidi Wuerger

## ENDOWMENT

Terms vary—1, 2, 3 year

Cheri Ashfeld  
Brian Harstad  
Jonathan Ness

## FINANCE

Council Rep: Tim Current

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*

Luke Jeseritz

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Rob Geistfeld (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Brad Spencer  
Adam Wortz (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

## HEALING & WHOLENESS

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 5:00 pm**

Council Rep: Lisa Spencer

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*

Lisa Hemmer

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Rachel Boyack  
Sue Fink (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Lona Jose (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Elizabeth Kohlhof

## INVITATION & HOSPITALITY TEAM

Council Rep: Laurie Brown

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Tim Johnson

## LIBRARY

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Cheri Ashfeld

## MISSION

**1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 6:00pm**

Council Rep: Natasha Werner

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*

Lona Jose (6<sup>th</sup> term)  
Angie Malo (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
JoMarie Williamson (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Jewel Ekern (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Carrie Quamen

## MUTUAL MINISTRY

*(appointed by Pastor & President)*

Kevin Jaunich  
Paul Ludwig  
Stacy VanCura  
Jinnelle Weis

## NOMINATING

(5 needed)

*(1 yr. term, expires 1/24)*

Carmen Hanson  
Jennifer Hinker  
Jon Holzer

## PERSONNEL

**Meets as needed (2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs.)**

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*

Rhonda Current (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Vicki Noetzelman (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

JoMarie Williamson (3<sup>rd</sup> term)

## PROPERTY

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 6:30pm**

Council Rep: Dan Paulson

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*

Maxine Johnson  
Charlie Jose (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Bob Slipka (4<sup>th</sup> term)

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Myron Klinkner  
Greg Krause

## STEWARDSHIP

**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 6:30pm**

Council Rep: Steven Dickey

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Pat Czock  
Tim Johnson (3<sup>rd</sup> term)

## TECHNOLOGY

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*

Billie Chock (Council Rep)  
Ken Chock

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Ryan Green  
Dave Kelly  
Jeremiah Werner

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

**Meets Quarterly**

Council Rep: Laurie Brown  
**Katie Kohler (staff)**

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*

Jean Detwiler  
Janine Holter  
Maxine Johnson  
Lindsay Lindall  
Barb Russell

## TRANSITION TEAM

Rhonda Current  
Derek Horeis  
Tim Johnson  
Pastor Bruce Kuenzel  
Lisa Spencer  
Dave Wuerger

## FACILITIES TASK FORCE

Scott Dallmann  
Brandt Dinger  
Tim Johnson  
Pastor Bruce Kuenzel  
Dan Paulson  
Gary Prinsen

# ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

## January 28, 2024

### **Welcome and Coming Together**

- Call to Order, Introductions, Opening Prayer
- Adopt Meeting Agenda

### **2023 Review**

- Adopt Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting
- Adopt Staff Reports
- Adopt Committee Reports
- Narrative 2023 Financial Statement
- Adopt 2023 Year End Financial Statement
- Celebrating Our Accomplishments

### **2024 and Beyond**

- Adopt 2024 General Fund Budget
- *Let Us Build a House* Strategic Plan—Adopt/Defer Capital Campaign
- Nominations and Elections for 2024 Council and Committees
- Other Business

### **Closing**

- Prayer and Meeting Adjournment

### **Welcome and Coming Together**

- Call to order, Introductions and Devotions (official meeting start at 10:33am)
- Adopt 2023 Annual meeting Agenda
  - ◊ Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Ludwig; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisa Spencer

### **2022 Review**

- Adopt Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting
  - ◊ Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Oda Carlson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Ludwig
- Adopt Staff Reports
  - ◊ Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Roland Carlson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisa Hemmer
- Adopt Committee Reports
  - ◊ Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Sue Fink; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vicki Noetzelman
- Narrative 2022 Financial Statement
  - ◊ Faith sharing \$517k, which was 103.4% to our annual goal, and higher than the next highest year of faith sharing (2019). This is very good.
  - ◊ Committees and staff expenses continue to grow, netting at 14,400 higher than budget. The overage is covered through savings.
- Adopt 2022 Year End Financial Statement
  - ◊ Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Tim Current; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jamie Holzer
- Celebrating our Accomplishments – Thank you!
  - ◊ Retired the mortgage on the education unit, saving \$100,000 in interest on the loan. With the savings, we reallocated the money toward projectors and screens, the steeple repair, upgraded water filtration system, narthex make-over, constructed the Living Room.
  - ◊ Gave away 10% of the monies from the capital campaign: launched Kids Hope Ministry, supported Healing and Wholeness ministry, Food Distribution, Delano School district for kids in need, Lutheran Disaster Response, families in need.
  - ◊ Faith Sharing contributions have returned to our pre-pandemic giving level. We are very pleased and very proud at this accomplishment.
  - ◊ Columbarium project completed and dedicated, funded entirely by donations and purchase of niches. We have a \$63,000 loan for 20 years that will be fully funded by the purchase of niches. Very good financial position.
  - ◊ 51 new members joined our congregation in 2022.
  - ◊ Children, Youth, Family: Bible school, Spark (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders), Voyagers (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders), Club 5-6 (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>), Confirmation (7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>), High School fellowship, North Shore Mission Trip.

### **2023 Business**

- Introduction of *Let us Build a House* Strategic Plan
  - ◊ Table Talks, Focus Groups, Community Leader Gatherings have revealed that connecting is the number one desire. Welcoming and inviting is the second top theme of these discussions. And third, having a place to support healing.
  - ◊ How we do this will require all of us. There is no script, we need to create as we go along.
  - ◊ Building Projects that are on the top of the list include the parking lot, an expanded entry (security) and narthex, technology and infrastructure (so we can be a hybrid church), kitchen and rest room upgrades.
  - ◊ Staffing to grow our Youth and Family Ministry. Move Kirsten Kelly from 20 to 30 hours a week in 2023, and to 40 hours a week in 2024. We need to have some bandwidth where the ministry can grow. Kirsten has 20 years of experience, this is her calling in life, and having her stay long-term will be a great blessing and have a positive impact on continuity.
  - ◊ Pastor Bruce intends to retire in the Summer of 2024. In the Summer of 2023, we want to elect a call committee for a new pastor, do a ministry site profile, and a candidate profile. In Jan-Feb-March of 2024, we intend to be interviewing candidates. The intention is to avoid needing an interim pastor between when Pastor Bruce retires and when the new pastor would join.
  - ◊ Financial Growth. In 2023-2025, we want to increase giving to annual fund by 10-15% so we are investing in gifted staff for long-term leadership.
  - ◊ Looking at a capital campaign a year from now. January 2024 we intent to bring to the annual meeting a vote for moving forward with a capital campaign to launch March-April-May of 2024. Summer of 2024 we would start work on our building projects.

*(continued from previous page)*

- Adopt 2023 General Fund Budget
  - ◇ Income distribution goes to Youth and Family, Music, Property, Administration, Benevolence, Community Life, and other.
  - ◇ Budgeted income for 2023 is a 12% increase to \$600k. In 2022, we grew income by 11%.
  - ◇ Expenses for 2023 are projected to increase by 9% to \$600k.
  - ◇ We are in a strong financial position.
  - ◇ 2023 Budget Headlines from our Treasurer
    - ◆ Continued focus on staffing for growth
    - ◆ Increase in faith sharing equal to increase observed in 2022
    - ◆ ERC (Employee Retention Credit) Payments replenish emergency fund future staffing growth
    - ◆ Positive net income budget
  - ◇ Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Lisa Spencer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jamie Holzer
- Nominations and Elections for 2023 Council and Committees
  - ◇ Reach out to Tim Johnson or the committee chairs if you need any additional information on the committee descriptions and time commitment. Committees are open if you want to join to learn more before fully committing.
  - ◇ Prayerfully consider getting involved and sharing your time and talents.
  - ◇ Adjustment to the list of nominations: Billie Chock nominated for Church Council.
  - ◇ Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Jamie Holzer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cynthia Kuenzel
- Other Business
  - ◇ Suggestion to have a sign-up for people to take turns bringing treats Sunday mornings. Ask for the council to recommend this to one of our committees.

### **Closing**

- Prayer and Meeting Adjournment
- Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Steven Dickey; 2<sup>nd</sup> Derek Horeis

**REPORT OF THE PASTOR**  
**Bruce Kuenzel, Pastor**



I am so grateful for many accomplishments here at Light of Christ over the past year as we continue to live into the new reality that continues to emerge following the pandemic.

Our **worship** participation continues to grow, both in-person and on-line.

Our **music ministry** continues to grow. One of the highlights of the year was the Lessons and Carols service in December.

We welcomed **49 new members** into our community of faith this year, with new visitors worshiping with us on most Sundays.

We launched our call process by electing a **Transition Team** in the spring. They completed our **Ministry Site Profile** over the summer. My thanks to the members of the Transition Team -- Lisa Spencer, Derek Horeis, Rhonda Current, and Tim Johnson -- for doing such a good job on the Ministry Site Profile.

**We had 35 high school students and 20 adults participate in our mission trip to Belize.** It was a wonderful, transformative trip and should serve as a real catalyst for growth for our youth and family ministry.

We elected a **Call Committee** in October. The members of the Call Committee are Cheri Ashfeld, Mike Boyack, Billie Chock, Rhonda Current, Sophia Grant, Paul Ludwig, Erin Olson, and Pat Czock, Natasha Werner as alternates. They've completed much of their preliminary work and hope to begin interviewing this January.

**Our children, youth, and family ministry is growing.** On Wednesdays, we have around 35 first, second, and third graders in our Voyagers programs; around 35 fourth, fifth and sixth graders participating in our Pathfinders program; and over 60 seventh, eighth and ninth graders participating in our confirmation ministry.

In addition to all this, there are so many things that are "under the radar" but so crucial to our life together: praying with one another; kind words of encouragement; wrestling with hard questions; showing up for one another in moments of crisis; welcoming new people into the circle of love; serving those who are most in need; and much more.

"Thank you" for all you do, and even more, for who you are. You are a gift to me and to many others.

Peace and joy always,

*Bruce Kuenzel, Pastor*



## CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY: BLESSED



**Blessed to be a church that supports, prays for and blesses children!**

### Blessings of First Communion

Eighteen of our young people had the blessing of receiving their first communion.

Joey and Rose Bitterman, Vayda Streich, Paige Froehle, Nolan Beyer, Addy Wissink, Rilynn Peterson, Siena Dinger, Reagan Krysan, Ben DeMars, Ethan Clark, Miles Eichten, Madison Motzko, Penelope Jaunich, Elena Clark, Charlotte Olson. Not pictured are Beckett and Landon Hiltner.



### Bible Blessing

Seven of our younger people had the blessing of receiving their story bible used in Explorers: Sam and Nora Lindall, Logan Dickey, Emilia Olson, Cameron Prickett, Lola Haugen, Addy Wissink.

*(continued on next page)*



## Camp Blessing

*(continued from previous page)*

Fourteen of our young people had the blessings that come from spending time at WAPO Bible Camp. Because of you, these young people received financial assistance from LOC.

VBS was a STELLAR blessing!



## Blessed to be a Blessing

This year our children raised \$1524.52 for Global Barnyard (2022 = \$965). They also collected food for the March MN Food Share drive.

*(continued on next page)*

*(continued from previous page)*

Our biggest transition also resulted in a *huge blessing* this year. We made the transition from “Sunday school” to Wednesday afterschool/evening. This has exceeded expectations as we currently have an average of 87 students in our 3 years-6<sup>th</sup> grade involved on a weekly basis. We are using the Bible Song curriculum. Children hear the Bible story in song, readers theater, small group and other activities. We seek to strengthen families spiritually through the connection with *Faith5 Home* huddles.

### **Blessings of Teamwork**

As a part-time Director of Children and Family Ministry there is no way I could do this all myself. It takes a village to raise a child. I am extremely thankful and blessed for the following people.

**EXPLORER LEADERS:** Lisa Krause, Grace Nohner, Jennie Clark and Lori Prickett

**VOYAGER LEADERS:** Pastor Bruce, JoMarie Williamson, Vicki Noetzelman, Katie Kohler

**READERS THEATER:** Cheri Ashfeld, Maxine Johnson, MaryAnn McKay, Stan Droneck, Jinnelle Weis

**PATHFINDER LEADERS:** Pastor Bruce, Cynthia Kuenzel, Gina Marie Nee

**BEHIND THE SCENES ASSISTANTS:** Betty Pavik, Maxine Johnson, Kristy Klaphake. The many people who have provided snacks and supplies throughout the year, and definitely the moms and dads!

**THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM:** Susie Larison, Ashley Jeseritz, Jennie Clark, Lori Prickett, Gracia Macks, Mike Boyack, Kim Wortz, Cynthia Kuenzel

**LAST BUT DEFINITELY NOT LEAST:** Our young people are blessed to have such an amazing congregation who loves the children, prays for and encourages them. Thanking God for each and every child. Thanking God for you!

*Submitted by LaDonna Ekern, Director of Children and Family*

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES (Grades 7-12 & college-age) ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by Kirsten Kelly, Dir. of Youth & Family Ministry (*in consultation with the Youth & Family Ministry Team*)

**Youth & Family Ministry Team Members:** Lesley Berscheid, Ken Chock, Derek Horeis (Council rep), Kirsten Kelly (staff), Adam & Rachel Kopperud, Vicki Noetzelman, Lisa Schmit, Jennifer Slipka, Anna & Ryan Tool.



**Belize Mission Trip 2023**

2023 sort of felt like a blur! It was filled with lots of activity and wonderful memories and yet the one that stands out the most is the trip that 55 of us (35 youth and 20 adults) took to Belize from July 29 – August 5. It was an incredibly life-changing trip and created so many more new relationships among our youth and adults at Light of Christ. And yet there were so many other awesome ministries that happened in 2023 also... here is a snapshot (in no particular order) of what took place among the youth and family ministry at Light of Christ in 2023:

- **NEW:** HS Friday Night Lights transitioned to gathering the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month at church during the school year. The purpose of these nights is to have fun at church! And we often throw in a service event, but the kids really enjoy serving together, so it's a great fit (photo right)!
- **NEW:** Parent Discussion Groups – After some staff conversation about how we need to gather more with parents of youth and grow in faith with them (just like we do kids), 3 new monthly adult groups were started this fall: 1) Dad's Night Out (with Pastor Bruce), 2) Mom's Night Out (with Kirsten) and 3) a discussion group for all parents which meets during Confirmation (led by Rachel Boyack).
- **NEW:** Online Google Calendar started and shared with parents for easier scheduling.
- **NEW:** 21 girls attended our first Ladies of Light event on 2/3/23... a night of fellowship, prayer stations, fun games, dancing/karaoke, crafts and food (organized in part by 3 HS girls from LOC)!
- **NEW:** 3 HS youth helped organize a Sleep Out for Homelessness on October 7-8. We had 7 youth and 2 adults sleep out in tents and boxes to raise awareness (and funds) for homelessness.
- **NEW:** The auction portion of our big youth fundraiser went online! We raised \$19,669.09 on 3/5/23, which included over \$15,000 from the auction and over \$4,000 from the dinner.
- Several "special" Sundays including Camp Sunday, Grad Sunday and Belize Mission Trip Return Worship.
- 15 Confirmation youth and 4 adults had a blast tubing at Elm Creek on 1/22/23!



- 59 Confirmation youth (grades 7-9) during the 2023-2024 school year (welcomed 2 new families this fall).
- Weekly activities for youth include SLICE (pizza supper), games, worship & prayers, large group teaching time, small groups and special events.
- 27 youth affirmed their baptism on 4/16/23 (photo left).
- 11 incredible HS youth helping regularly on Wednesday nights as Confirmation Jr. Guides! 16 adult Guides that give so much of their time for this ministry to happen.

*(report continues on next page)*



## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES (Grades 7-12) ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by Kirsten Kelly, Dir. of Youth & Family Ministry *(in consultation with the Youth & Family Ministry Team)*

*(continued from previous page)*

- Several Confirmation service events each year including Feed My Starving Children; serving at the Delano Food Shelf and Love, INC; making Christmas crafts for nursing home residents, etc.
- 2 great Family Matters events for Confirmation and all of LOC – Rachel Kurtz on 5/17 (partnered with the Healing and Wholeness team for this event) and Rick Rassier on 10/25 (helped us to think how to “take it to the next level”).
- Confirmation retreat at Camp Wapo with 20 youth and 4 adults (photo left) on May 12-13.
- 3 fun Summer Youth Activity Nights for grades 7-12.



- 14 youth enjoyed a day at Valleyfair together on 6/5/23.
- Many Belize fundraisers (Dec. cookie sales, Chili Cook-Off at Lupine, Parent’s Night Off, 6 Lent dinners, personal sponsorship letters), meetings, logistics and forms. Also coordinated/hosted Kebin and Frank when they visited from Belize in October.
- 12 Tie Quilts gifted to the 2023 Grads (photo below right) at Grad Sunday; organized by 2 HS youth.
- 13 Grad Care Packages assembled by the youth at Friday Night Lights and mailed to the 2023 Grads.
- 17 youth attended Lake

Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in Amery, WI over various weeks in summer 2023.

- Summer 2024: 20 HS youth (grades 9-12) and 4 adults registered for our Chicago Mission Trip; and 6 HS youth (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade) and 3 adults preparing to go to the BWCA!
- Did the skits for VBS opening with Pastor Bruce each day.
- Many administrative tasks (newsletter/photos, youth messages, parent emails, staff meetings, budget, youth account, recommendation letters, etc.).
- Monthly YFM Team meetings. We are so grateful for these volunteers that give so much of their time to vision, plan and ensure the ministries get carried out and go smoothly!
- Blessed by so many relational connections... emails, phone calls, coffee visits, grad parties, attending sporting events, etc.



### Youth and Family Ministry Goals for 2024:

1. Strengthen our ministry to our post-HS youth. Ideas include: weekly prayer/text ministry (to parents and youth), quarterly notes of encouragement mailed out, “reunion” event and continuing to send care packages.
2. Enhance our Youth & Family Ministry Team by working with each team member on a specific task/ area and then developing a folder for each ministry area with instructions, info, contact info (if appropriate), email, text, photos, etc.
3. Work with the staff and the Call Committee on a successful search for a new pastor and then partner with the new pastor in helping with a smooth transition to Light of Christ.

Thanks for your partnership in ministry as we walk with youth and families on their faith journey!

*-Kirsten Kelly, Youth & Family Ministry Director*

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE

23 niches have been sold to date. Members who are interested in learning more about purchasing a niche can contact the church office.



### 2023 Summary of Columbarium

	INCOME	TOTAL EXPENSES	BALANCE
Beginning Balance 1/1/2023			21,006.74
Niche and Urn Sales	4,175.00		
Donations and Memorial	1,616.62		
Total Income	5,791.62		
Total Operating Income			26,798.36
EXPENSES			
Loan Payment Principal		2,524.34	
Interest Expense		2,047.66	
Professional Fees		3,722.55	
Other Expenses		2,030.52	
TOTAL EXPENSES		10,325.07	
Net Operating Balance Dec 2023			16,473.29
TERMS OF THE LOAN			
MONTHLY LOAN PAYMENT	381.00		
20 YEARS @3.875%, Adjusted every five years to current rate.			



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### COMMUNITY LIFE COMMITTEE

Members: Mary Allen, Becca Finkelson, Heidi Goldbeck (Chair), Jennifer Grant, Rachel Halbersma, Kelly Harstad, Carrie Klinkner, Kim Marx, Amy Murphy, Mel Paulson, Lisa Spencer (Council Rep), Abby Trettin, Heidi Wuerger

The Community Life Committee is responsible for initiating and stimulating the fellowship life of the congregation. The committee helps with the new member breakfasts in the fall and spring, coordinates quarterly birthday treats to be served after church, and planned the Carols & Sips night that was held in December. Community Life also helps with the spaghetti feed that is typically held in March and plans the Sisters of LOC events that are held throughout the year. And more!! Meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Spencer*

### ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Committee members: Brian Harstad, Jonathan Ness, Cheri Ashfeld, Pastor Kuenzel

The Light of Christ Endowment Committee remained in place for 2023 to oversee the Light of Christ Endowment Fund that was created in 2019. The committee has three members including Brian Harstad as chair, Cheri Ashfeld as secretary and Jonathan Ness as treasurer, serving staggered terms. The Endowment Fund is an account separate from the church's operating and building capital funds, which is designed to accept and hold both current and future contributions and estate gifts for the purpose of making distributions for ministry.

The committee this year did not make any ministry grants. Based on the lower fund balances due to the investment market performance earlier in the year, the committee determined that we should maintain the fund balances and not withdraw any funds for grants until the balances recovered. We will again evaluate ministry grant options in early 2024. We have started work this fall on developing a fund vision plan to align with the overall church's strategic plan to help with fund education and growth planning.

The committee monitors the Endowment Fund performance managed through the ELCA. The fund started the year with a balance of \$24,968, and through October, the fund balance has recovered partially to a current balance of \$26,607.

*Respectfully submitted by Brian Harstad*

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Luke Jeseritz, Brad Spencer, Rob Geistfeld, Adam Wortz, Debra Johnson, Tim Current (Council Rep), and Pastor Bruce Kuenzel

The finance committee's focus for the past two years has been to ensure that we have the proper controls and safeguards for our financial processes. We have completed key policies and procedures governing the financial transactions of the church. These were approved by the church council and are now in effect. These documents will be reviewed annually. A copy is available for congregational review in the church office, upon request. With the policies and procedures complete, we are ready to elect an audit committee to complete an internal audit of the finances.

The church's property, casualty and liability insurance coverage carrier exited the business and we had to find a new insurer. With the challenges the insurance industry is experiencing, finding a new insurer was a formidable task. An insurer was found that provided the best balance of cost to benefit, though with higher deductible.

*Respectfully submitted by Tim Current*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### HEALING AND WHOLENESS COMMITTEE

This ministry remains committed to continue to bring awareness and education to reduce stigma and encourage treatment and support of people struggling with mental illness, loneliness, grief and brokenness with a new focus on youth mental health and wellness. Our mission is to reflect Christ's love and compassion in our church family and surrounding community.

Members: Sue Fink (Chair), Lisa Spencer (Council Rep), Lona Jose, Lisa Hemmer, Rachel Boyack and Elizabeth Kohlhof.

Our ministry accomplishments for this past year include:

- Monthly Caring Corner articles were written by each of our members and professionals in our church. They covered topics such as alcohol awareness, faith and mental illness, counseling awareness (temple talk by Stacy VanCura), mental wellness in nature, suicide prevention, healthy transitioning back to school for youth, antibullying and mental health awareness in youth, focusing on mental health through the holidays for adults and youth.
- Continued to share the Caring Corner articles monthly in the Delano Herald Journal to draw our community to awareness, education, and compassion.
- Updated the Support and Mental Illness page on the church website, specifically the resources.
- Collaborated with other committees on ideas and events that bring us closer together and make each member feel they are a special part of our Light of Christ family.
- Provided financial and planning support to sponsor the Rachel Kurtz concert in May. This program/concert focused on mental health and being okay to talk about it. It was open to youth and the general community and 85 people attended. Very well received.
- Coordinated the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Walk-a-Mile in my Shoes event on May 21<sup>st</sup> and included a family scavenger hunt on our walk into Lake Rebecca Park. 24 attended. Donations were directed to NAMI.
- Created a Reconnecting Card to reach out to inactive members in August. This was approved by Church Council and 50 cards were sent out. Ten replied with updates to their member status and/or intent to reconnect. Hopefully all appreciated that we miss them.
- O.W.L.S (Older Wiser Lutherans) group initiated in October with wonderful attendance (35 signed up) at first two gatherings. Definitely a need identified for this age group.
- Our discussions about drawing us all closer together spilled out into other committees. A new Confirmation Parent Group now meets monthly. Kirsten leads a monthly Women's Night out group. Pastor Bruce leads a Dad's Night Out monthly, as well. A quarterly birthday celebration was started again after several years hiatus and headed by the Community Life Committee.
- Continuing to send out Caring Cards. Cheri Ashfeld and Elizabeth Kohlhof carry this special ministry. Working with church staff to make us aware of who is in need of a card. Our plan for 2024 is to create a new and improved Caring Card Request form available in the pews and online.
- We are in the process of creating a new Prayer Request Card for worship and online.
- Our plan for 2024 is to continue to educate and provide resources and support for those in our church and Delano communities:
  1. How can we provide resources to people we serve in the Nourishing Hope Program?
  2. We continue to have many ideas toward connecting more closely with one another.
  3. Perhaps change the Mental Health Walk to Mental Health Awareness Week in October, having a fundraiser for NAMI and coordinated with Confirmation youth and project. Pledges and encourage community involvement.
  4. Getting OWLS group rolling and start small activity and like-interest groups.
  5. Explore Mental Health First Aid training for our congregation and Delano community.
  6. Expand Healing and Wholeness Committee to meet our growing programs.



Respectfully submitted,

*Sue Fink*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Generous "pandemic readers" donated many quality books to the Light of Christ library. These all became available for checkout during 2023, with many featured in Beacon articles. Stop at the shelves and peruse these categories:

- *Adult Fiction*
- *Bibles & References*
- *Bible Studies*
- *Caregiving*
- *Children*
- *Christian Living*
- *Coping*
- *Devotions*
- *Diversity*
- *Grief & Loss*
- *Guides for Faith*
- *Men*
- *Mental Health*
- *Nostalgia*
- *Parenting & Family*
- *People of the Bible*
- *Personal Faith Stories*
- *Recovery & Addiction*
- *Relationships*
- *Seasonal*
- *Teens & Young Adults*
- *Women*
- *World Religions*
- *Youth Ministry*

~Cheri Ashfeld, Library Committee

### Easter stories available in the library



*Parents and Grandparents,*

Bring the Easter story home to your little ones.

Check out the shelves marked **SEASONAL**  
and **CHILDREN'S** (*located in corner by window*).



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### MISSION AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Lona Jose (Chair), Angie Malo, Carrie Quamen, JoMarie Williamson, Jewel Ekern and Natasha Werner (Council Rep)

Our Mission outreach calls us as Christ's disciples to extend compassion and serve those in need in our local and global community. Our Evangelism outreach is to current and potential members to help make Light of Christ a welcoming church home.

#### **Evangelism Activities:**

**Discover LOC New Member Sundays:** 42 new LOC members were received this year! This committee became more involved again as we have in the past welcoming our new LOC partners.

#### **Mission Outreach:**

**Fifth Sunday Offerings:** Thanks to our generous LOC members for their monetary contributions of **\$5,449 total this year!**

- **January:** Agate Housing in Minneapolis, helping homeless people **\$1806 total**
- **April:** Delano Senior Center van **\$1070 total** (see picture to right)
- **July:** Karen Anderson in Chile (Our ELCA missionary) **\$650 total**
- **October:** Cancer Care T-shirts **\$1923 Total**

#### **Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf Support:**

- **March Food Share Month:** We again did Pack-the-Pews and collected many items for the Delano food shelf (**1271 lbs.**) as well as throughout the year. Many LOC members also donated individually.
- **LOC Member Volunteers:** Many LOC members volunteer at the food shelf during our months of March, June, and December for families in need. Several LOC members including our LOC kids also volunteer their time throughout the year to help at the food shelf in other ways. JoMarie Williamson, an LOC member, is one of the Directors of the food shelf.
- **Food Rescue:** LOC members pick up donated food from Coborn's and Kwik Trip weekly and deliver to the food shelf, Delano Senior Center and other senior apartments in Delano.

#### **Nourishing HOPE/Second Harvest Heartland Food Distribution:**

LOC volunteers have helped each month to box food in Rockford and distribute them at LOC in Delano. The number of boxes of this free food has consistently been 90 each month.



Lona Jose presenting our Fifth Sunday donation to Nick Neaton of the Delano Senior Center





## COMMITTEE REPORTS

(continued from previous page)

### **Kids Hope USA:**

LOC has 10 mentors and 9 prayer partners who are volunteering their services to selected Delano Elementary children. All is working very well with our school district and the children are benefitting from mentors' compassion.

### **Gratitude Project:**

This committee assisted Tim Johnson with a Gratitude Project for Delano Elementary staff for their teaming on Kids Hope, and also did one for the military veterans and those currently serving in the military.

### **Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ) Support:**

- Birthday ministries and Christmas Adopt-a-Family continue to be two ongoing efforts that LOC members support. Several LOC members volunteer in the Delano store as well. LOC also contributes funding annually to the organization.

*Respectfully submitted by Lona Jose*



Veteran recognition in narthex on November 12

## **MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

Committee members: Kevin Jaunich, Paul Ludwig, Stacy VanCura, Jinnelle Weis

This committee meets with the called staff (pastor) approximately once per quarter, or as needed, with the task of confidentially listening, encouraging and supporting.

*Respectfully submitted by Paul Ludwig*

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The committee members include: Rhonda Current, JoMarie Williamson, and Vicki Noetzelman. The committee met twice this year to discuss finalization of the Employee Handbook for 2023, and an open position for the Social Ministry Director that has since been put on hold.

We conducted audits of current personnel files this summer to ensure all necessary paperwork was in place. The audits were completed and an updated Employee Handbook was distributed in June of 2023.

*Submitted by Rhonda Current*



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Members: Bob Slipka (Chair), Maxine Johnson, Myron Klinkner, Charlie Jose, Greg Krause, Dan Paulson (Council Rep)

2023 had a rough start with one of the largest annual snowfalls in recent history making for creative ways to clear and stockpile snow for the parking lot and walks. In addition to site challenges from the snow, we experienced another ice dam at the south end of the building. The ice dam was removed and interior water damage repairs were done. Summer focused on smaller projects to keep things in working order and replacement of several items around the property. Fall was a great time to get things ready for the holiday season including a fall cleanup to freshen up woodwork, windows, etc. Special thanks to all who attended. A hail claim was filed at the end of the season and a new roof will be installed in spring for the eastern/southern classroom sections of the building.

#### Key Items:

- Winter 2023 snow contract for snow removal at parking lot and walks
- Ice dam removal and internal repairs
- Septic system servicing
- Toilet and soap dispenser repairs/replacements
- Replaced push bar at south exit door
- New platforms for outdoor services
- Summer 2023 mowing contract for mowing property
- Replacement of several bad outlets and lights on outside of building
- Patching potholes in parking lot
- New contract for entry area rugs
- Conduit installed to garage for future power extension
- Fall cleanup
- Claim started for south classroom roof hail damage, work to be done in spring 2024
- Exploratory efforts for sanctuary steeple water damages

Thank you.

*Respectfully submitted by Bob Slipka, chair*



Water damage in a classroom from an ice dam



Helpers of all ages came for the fall cleanup day



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Stewardship Committee is to encourage Ministry Partners (church members) in the spiritual practice of generosity. Having been created in the image of THE great giver, God, we're called to grow in our giving throughout life. That giving is time/priorities, talents/gifts, and treasures/finances. And that giving happens in countless ways in life, and yes most certainly to and for the church.

Thank you! You can't be around Light of Christ and not know that generosity is a centerpiece of our life together. Just like we're not apprehensive to talk about prayer, for example, we're not afraid of talking about money, and giving, about engagement. All of these are good things in which we seek to grow!

Over the past year, our Stewardship has been led principally by Pastor Bruce. He has never shied from talking about this aspect of our or his and Cynthia's life. While some see giving as a chore, he has helped us to see that giving is a discipline and an intentional habit that not only benefits whoever might be a recipient of our generosity but also how it affects our own well-being. Even secular research shows that there is a relationship between being generous and the quality of one's life. After all, have you ever known anyone who's stingy and yet simultaneously happy? Yet the opposite is true. The most generous among us are the happiest and blessed, it would seem.

A couple of notable highlights. One has been our recent pledge drive where all households are invited to make a financial commitment to supporting the ministry for 2024. Simply put, there is a direct relationship between our giving and the breadth and depth of our ministry, in other words, how much we can do together. While it might sometimes seem like it's about a budget or about "paying the bills," it's really about the ministry we do. In the fall we lifted up four of our ministries' pillars: Children, Youth & Family, Pastoral Presence...and The Lord's House. So many of you wrote out various experiences and remembrances of each of these as we then posted these paper "stones" onto these foundations that help make up our ministry.

Another highlight is the "extra" giving that happens here at Light of Christ. One example are the significant additional resources required to send our youth and adults on mission trips, notably this past summer's trip to Belize. Everything from additional fund-raising to participants covering costs, it is a significant gifting that enables these trips to happen. Top of that list, though, is your regular ministry giving/offering which helps to fund our overall ministry, including the costs to have top notch ministry staff. Without this foundational giving and support, these many ministries, such as mission trips, simply could not happen. So, we celebrate extra giving while we also encourage a growing generosity toward our overall ministry giving and budget. These are hand in hand.

Looking ahead we anticipate our Growing Deeply capital appeal to be voted upon at our Annual Meeting. Watch for a special Look Book, and for forums early in January. We have some exciting things we're determining to accomplish as a congregation. Your generosity and love and prayers will lead the way with that.

Special thanks to Pat Czock and Pastor Bruce for their inspiration and hard work. We'd love to have a couple more folks join our team. Please reach out at any time!

May the Holy Spirit continue to grow us in generosity into these important months and years ahead. Thank you for being such a blessing!

*Tim Johnson, chairperson*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Ryan Green, Dave Kelly, Ken Chock, Jeremiah Werner, Billie Chock

The Technology Committee continued to support the technology needs of Light of Christ throughout 2023. The focus areas for the past year included:

- Installation of dedicated internet access wiring into the sanctuary to significantly improve the stability and capacity needs to improve our live streaming capabilities.
- Phone wiring improvements in the wiring closet to remove old phone system hardware and simplify support of the current system.
- Ongoing review of current PC equipment and preliminary plans to define a replacement schedule.
- Creation of a Microsoft Team for use by the LOC board members.
- Ongoing documentation on discussions about future technology needs including technology support for future facility improvements.

We will continue to support Light of Christ's technology needs and will look for additional ways to provide that support in 2024. Specifically, we will continue to work to build a technology plan that allows improved visibility and planning for technology-related needs.

If you have a technology background or an interest in technology or related efforts, we are always looking for additional members to join the Technology Committee. Reach out to any committee member for more information.

*Respectfully submitted by Jeremiah Werner*

### WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

*Members: Katie Anne Kohler (Chair), Laurie Brown (Council Rep), Jean Detwiler, Janine Holter, Maxine Johnson, Lindsay Lindall*

2023 was the most stable year since COVID. We were finally able to have consistent programming and worship freely without any restrictions! Some highlights of 2023 include:

- Livestreaming worship.
  - We continue to upgrade the livestreaming worship experience. In 2023, we added a YouTube live option to go along with Facebook live. Streaming to two platforms has been easy with the addition of Resi. Resi has also helped with any unstable internet connection and makes set-up easier for volunteers/Katie. Being able to schedule the livestream ahead of time with an automatic start on the camera has been really helpful!!! We will continue using Resi and will try to utilize it more fully in 2024.
- Worship updates.
  - The committee decided that we will have a bluegrass Sunday to kick off the summer but will not hold monthly outdoor worship in the summer. Now that we are streaming with Resi and are trying to create a higher quality streaming experience, outdoor worship interferes with that.
  - Starting in January 2024, we are going to switch the start time to 9:30. The committee wanted to experiment and see if this helps boost in-person attendance.
  - We decided to add sung liturgy and more "traditional" worship elements a few Sundays a year. The response so far has been great!
- Worship and Music Format.
  - This was the first year we met on a quarterly and as-needed basis. Our meetings felt productive, and this format will continue!

I am excited to see what 2024 brings! I hope to continue approaching worship and music with added energy and fresh ideas. I want to thank everyone on the 2023 Worship and Music committee for all your help and commitment!

Peace,  
*Katie Anne Kohler*

## MINISTRY REPORTS

### ALTAR GUILD

Active altar guild members include Beata Zerull, Cynthia Kuenzel, Janine Holter, Kylee Amdor, Lisa Hemmer, Mary Ann McKay, and Linda Rosaaen. In 2023, Altar Guild committee members supported worship service through communion preparation, set up, and post service clean up activities. They also filled eternity, altar and baptismal candles. Mary Ann McKay regularly purchases bread and juice and ensures members are aware of key events and supply needs. Kylee Amdor chairs the committee.

*Respectfully submitted by Kylee Amdor*

### BIRTHDAY MINISTRY

Members: Ann Bassett, Beth Coulombe, Ginny Iverson, MaryAnn McKay, Vicki Noetzelman, Carrie Quamen, Terri Reuter, Anne Rothstein, Crystal Stahlke, Jinnelle Weis

The Light of Christ Birthday Ministry works in collaboration with Love INC-Heartland and provides birthday party supplies and presents for children of neighbors in need who are referred to LOC from Love INC.

LOC is responsible for securing donations for birthday supplies including –

- Birthday gifts appropriate for boys and girls ages 10 and under
  - ⇒ Suggested maximum cost per gift of \$20.00-30.00
- Gift bags, wrapping paper, bows, etc.
- Party supplies such as paper plates, napkins, cake mixes, frostings, balloons, candles, favors, etc.

In 2023, Vicki Noetzelman and Carrie Quamen joined our group. The Birthday Ministry provided birthday party supplies and presents for a total of 43 children. A birthday wish list form is completed by a Love INC representative, with assistance from the child's parent(s). Based on the form responses, Birthday Ministry volunteers shop for needed items and assemble "birthday bags" filled with supplies and gifts for children from the birthday inventory. Assembled bags are then picked up by a Love INC representative and delivered to the child's home.

*Respectfully submitted by Terri Reuter*





## MINISTRY REPORTS

### WOMEN OF LIGHT OF CHRIST—2023

Quilts donated to: *WeCan* in Mound, MN; *Village Harvest*, and *Friends 4 A Cause* (Christmas gifts)

Quilters:

Amber Dawn Andrews  
 Ann Bassett  
 Oda Carlson  
 Cheryl Collins  
 Laurie Grimm  
 Ginny Iverson  
 Maxine Johnson  
 Lynda Pavlovich  
 Joan Zimmerman



**Served 5 funerals in 2023.** Thank you to Mary Ann McKay for coordinating the funeral lunches. Thank you to all who helped serve.

<b>Financial Report:</b>	<b>Check</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Debits</b>	<b>Credits</b>
	1/01/2023	beginning balance		<b>\$962.23</b>
	1/23/2023	Huetteman funeral gift		100.00
	1/06/2023	2304 Jennifer Grant/water glasses	85.00	
	3/21/2023	2305 Maxine Johnson/quilt batting	175.00	
	6/21/2023	Torfin & Flaten funeral gifts		300.00
	8/30/2023	2306 LOC Coborn's account	30.59	
	8/31/2023	Anderson family funeral gift		150.00
	9/27/2023	2307 Zimmerman memorial	50.00	
	11/3/2023	Johanna Johnson funeral gift		150.00
	Totals		340.59	1662.23
	<b>Checking account balance</b>			<b>\$1321.64</b>

*Submitted by Ginny Iverson*



**YOUTH FUND**  
**January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023**

***LIGHT OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH***

Youth Fund - Annual Report  
 January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
<b><u>YOUTH ACTIVITIES</u></b>	786.35			
Service Charge - bank			3.70	
DHS Grad Party			100.00	
Friday Night Lights		75.00	73.00	
<b>Totals-Youth Activities</b>		75.00	176.70	<b>684.65</b>
<b><u>SLICE</u></b>	951.30			
Deposits		2,000.00		
Coborn's			197.15	
Online Payments		700.00		
Miscellaneous Expenses (Grocery/Pizza)			1,573.41	
Dave's Town Club			804.50	
SLICE Prepayments		400.00		
<b>Totals-SLICE</b>		3,100.00	2,575.06	<b>1,476.24</b>
<b><u>CAMP SCHOLARSHIP</u></b>	5,554.29			
Memorial Donation		25.00		
Sponsorship Donation		500.00		
Donation (MT23)		606.00		
Camp Wapogasset/Refund		145.00	925.00	
Camp Wapo Scholarship-Dinger			50.00	
MT23 Scholarships (53)			5,300.00	
Quarterly Donation		325.00		
Credit Card Points from airline tickets		300.00		
<b>Totals-Camp Scholarship</b>		1,901.00	6,275.00	<b>1,180.29</b>
<b><u>MISSION TRIP</u></b>	2,067.83			
Equal Exchange		1,231.33	1,398.32	
MT23 Donation		2,400.00		
Auction Software			150.00	
Spaghetti Dinner Tickets/Auction		1,477.00		
Just 1 Global-vision trip pymt/ deposit			9,050.00	
American Airlines - deposit			5,300.00	
Auction Items		100.00		
Transfer from Indiv - airfare de- posits		5,300.00		
Transfer from Indiv - Just 1 de- posits		8,100.00		
Belize T-Shirts		1,209.99	1,255.88	
Parents Night Out 2/25		990.00	102.79	

*(continued on next page)*

**YOUTH FUND**  
**January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023**

*(continued from previous page)*

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Reimbursement for auction - gift cards			100.00	
PNO distribution to workers			837.21	
Lent Supper 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29		588.58	441.44	
Spaghetti Dinner Auction		17,544.25	40.00	
Spaghetti Dinner Tkts, Raffle		1,655.00	927.16	
Cub Bagging		112.95		
MT23 Vision Trip Expense			152.37	
Dec 5 Fundraiser Distribution			945.12	
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Distribution			18,271.46	
Individual Balance Adj-Kelly/Kuenzel			320.93	
Just 1 Global Payment-Kuenzel			795.00	
Chili Cook-off Fundraiser		168.58		
Summer Picnic		8.00		
MT23 Airfare - Kelly, Kuenzel			1,479.50	
Belize T-shirt Design Fee			30.00	
Online Service Fee (Chock)		25.64	25.64	
Cash for Belize			200.00	
Snorkeling Adventure (Just 1 Global)-Kelly, Kuenzel			90.00	
Baggage Fees - Kelly			60.00	
Miscellaneous MT23 Expenses			225.68	
Baggage Fees for Just 1 Global		79.98		
Just 1 Global Baggage Fee-Kuenzel			79.98	
MT24 Deposit - SLC			750.00	
Belize Dinner - Reimburse Kuenzel			793.80	
Close out Graduate Accounts		653.82		
<b>Totals-Mission Trip</b>		41,645.12	43,822.28	<b>(109.33)</b>

*(continued on next page)*

**YOUTH FUND**  
**January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023**

(continued from previous page)

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>				
<b><u>YOUTH FUND ACCOUNTS</u></b>	19,774.65			
MT23 Sponsorships		10,270.00		
MT23 Deposits/Payments		37,146.11		
Equal Exchange Sales		644.92		
Airfare deposit from Individual - (53)			43,027.25	
Just 1 Global Deposit/Payment - (53)			50,235.00	
PNO Distribution		837.21		
Lent Suppers 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29		1,520.42		
Individual Auction Deposit		20.00		
Individual Cub Bagging		1,727.41		
Dec 5 Fundraiser Indiv Distribution		945.12		
Camp Wapo Scholarship-transfer to Dinger B		50.00		
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Distribution		18,271.46		
Individual Balance Adj-Kelly/Kuenzel		320.93		
MT23 Scholarships		5,300.00		
Chili Cook-off Fundraiser		702.42		
MT23 T-Shirts (53)			1,209.99	
Individual Accounts		40.00		
Summer Picnic		200.00		
MT23 Independent Fundraising-Culvers		612.42		
Snorkeling Adventure (Just 1 Global) (53)			2,385.00	
MT23 Independent Fundraising-Sneakers		82.25		
MT23 Payments Online		300.00		
MT23 Independent Fundraising-4th of July		2,500.00		
Just 1 Global Baggage Fee		150.00	30.00	
MT23 Adult Overpayment Refunds			1,991.68	
Volunteer Work-Apple Tree Orchard		215.00		
MT24 Deposit		400.00		
Close out Graduate Accounts			653.82	
<b>Totals-Ind. Youth Funds</b>		<b>82,255.67</b>	<b>99,532.74</b>	<b>2,497.58</b>

TOTALS		\$ 128,976.79	\$ 152,381.78	\$ 5,729.43
--------	--	---------------	---------------	-------------

Cash Balance as of 12/31/23

Checking Account				\$ 5,729.43
------------------	--	--	--	-------------

Submitted by Vicki Noetzelman

# YTD Income Statement

	Actual Jan - Dec 23	2023 YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Income</b>			
40010 · Faith Sharing	500,509.89	586,000.00	-85,490.11
41000 · Interest Income	761.12	568.00	193.12
41010 · Endowment Interest	0.00	1,134.00	-1,134.00
41100 · Rent-Head Start	7,900.00	3,400.00	4,500.00
<b>41200 · Building Use Fees</b>			
41250 · Columbarium Management Fee	2,722.55	0.00	0.00
41200 · Building Use Fees - Other	2,700.00	2,000.00	700.00
<b>Total 41200 · Building Use Fees</b>	<b>5,422.55</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>3,422.55</b>
41300 · Sunday School	0.00	45.00	-45.00
41400 · Confirmation Registration	1,580.00	1,300.00	280.00
41450 · Sunday School Registration	0.00	855.00	-855.00
41600 · VBS Registration	675.00	860.00	-185.00
<b>45000 · Misc. Income</b>			
45005 · Offset-Vanco	1,084.17	727.00	357.17
45007 · Education 3Yrs-Grade6 Offset	978.00	0.00	978.00
45009 · Education Grades 7-12 Offset	2,766.00	0.00	2,766.00
45000 · Misc. Income - Other	9,957.26	3,400.00	6,557.26
<b>Total 45000 · Misc. Income</b>	<b>14,785.43</b>	<b>4,127.00</b>	<b>10,658.43</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>531,633.99</b>	<b>600,289.00</b>	<b>-68,655.01</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>60000 · Staff</b>			
<b>60010 ·</b>			
60010 Mileage Reimbursement	691.88	1,000.00	-308.12
60050 · Staff Min. Pension Med.	24,867.48	23,855.00	1,012.48
60100 · Staff Min. Prof. Education	773.52	895.00	-121.48
60150 · Staff Education	647.78	30.00	617.78
60250 · Work Comp	2,583.60	2,269.00	314.60
60300 · Christmas Bonus	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00
60350 · Staff Synod Assembly	343.60	300.00	43.60
<b>60400 ·</b>			
60400 Salary and Wages	358,125.62	370,629.00	-12,503.38
<b>60450 ·</b>			
60450 Staff Benefits	17,167.68	17,664.00	-496.32
60500 · Staff-Other	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00
<b>60600 ·</b>			
60600 Payroll Taxes	18,603.61	19,137.00	-533.39
<b>Total 60000 · Staff</b>	<b>423,804.77</b>	<b>440,279.00</b>	<b>-16,474.23</b>
<b>61000 · Building Operation</b>			
61010 · Custodial Supplies	2,029.22	1,844.00	185.22
61050 · Electric	7,302.90	6,117.00	1,185.90
61100 · Garbage	1,930.56	1,792.00	138.56
61150 · Heat	6,238.38	7,490.00	-1,251.62
61200 · Insurance	10,348.51	9,908.00	440.51
61250 · Lawn Care	3,260.00	3,000.00	260.00
61350 · Repair and Maintenance	15,019.96	14,383.00	636.96
61400 · Snow Plowing	4,865.00	3,400.00	1,465.00
<b>Total 61000 · Building Operation</b>	<b>50,994.53</b>	<b>47,934.00</b>	<b>3,060.53</b>

# YTD Income Statement

(continued)

<b>62000 · Mission</b>				
62100 · ELCA Mpls. Synod	51,714.27	57,785.00	-6,070.73	
62200 · Love Inc.	5,171.42	5,778.00	-606.58	
<b>Total 62000 · Mission</b>	<b>56,885.69</b>	<b>63,563.00</b>	<b>-6,677.31</b>	
<b>63000 · Office Expense</b>				
63010 · Processing Fees-Vanco	3,869.17	3,632.00	237.17	
63050 · Computers & Furnishings	3,121.00	5,600.00	-2,479.00	
63100 · Equipment Maintenance	4,325.51	4,317.00	8.51	
63150 · Kitchen Supplies	1,016.39	748.00	268.39	
63200 · Office Supplies	2,332.36	2,223.00	109.36	
63250 · Postage	1,163.82	738.00	425.82	
63300 · Subscriptions				
63302 · Payroll Pro- cessing Fee	1,025.00	964.00	61.00	
63300 · Subscrip- tions - Other	3,396.62	2,428.00	968.62	
<b>Total 63300 · Subscriptions</b>	<b>4,421.62</b>	<b>3,392.00</b>	<b>1,029.62</b>	
63350 · Telephone/Internet	1,773.52	1,834.00	-60.48	
63400 · Web Site	900.00	900.00	0.00	
<b>Total 63000 · Office Expense</b>	<b>22,923.39</b>	<b>23,384.00</b>	<b>-460.61</b>	
<b>64000 · Worship</b>				
64010 · Altar Supplies	1,803.31	1,946.00	-142.69	
64020 · Technology	2,297.79	2,000.00	297.79	
64100 · Flowers/Decorating/ Banners	637.33	579.00	58.33	
64150 · Guest Speaker	150.00	100.00	50.00	
64200 · Offering Envelopes	219.33	243.00	-23.67	
64250 · Organist/Pianist	750.00	700.00	50.00	
64300 · Publications	1,019.09	800.00	219.09	
64350 · Worship Resources	201.72	172.00	29.72	
<b>Total 64000 · Worship</b>	<b>7,078.57</b>	<b>6,540.00</b>	<b>538.57</b>	
<b>65000 · Music</b>				
65010 · Copyright License	1,158.00	1,700.00	-542.00	
65100 · Instrument maintenance	0.00	375.00	-375.00	
65200 · New Equipment and Sound	1,196.46	1,300.00	-103.54	
65300 · Vocal Music	331.28	250.00	81.28	
65510 · Musicians	600.00	800.00	-200.00	
<b>Total 65000 · Music</b>	<b>3,285.74</b>	<b>4,425.00</b>	<b>-1,139.26</b>	
<b>66500 · Education 3Yrs-Grade 6</b>				
66501 · Bibles	78.99	1,120.00	-1,041.01	
66505 · Christmas Program	372.18	314.00	58.18	
66510 · Day Camp/VBS/OFS	1,630.85	1,401.00	229.85	
66515 · Special Events/OFS	1,483.17	977.00	506.17	
66520 · SS/Ignite Class Curriculum	1,134.28	1,019.00	115.28	
66525 · SS/Ignite Class Supplies	616.06	859.00	-242.94	
66530 · SS/Ignite Mission Projects/ OFS	9.55	150.00	-140.45	
66535 · Safe Sanctuary	172.90	814.00	-641.10	
66540 · Spark Supplies	261.07	235.00	26.07	
66550 · Birth-Age 3 Ministry/Frolic	232.71	275.00	-42.29	
<b>Total 66500 · Education 3Yrs-Grade 6</b>	<b>5,991.76</b>	<b>7,164.00</b>	<b>-1,172.24</b>	



# YTD Income Statement

(continued)

<b>67000 · Education Grades 7-12</b>			
67010 · Service Learning	0.00	0.00	0.00
67050 · Chaperone Fees	0.00	400.00	-400.00
67100 · Affirmation of Baptism/ OFS	448.27	233.00	215.27
67150 · High School Ministry	638.71	552.00	86.71
67200 · Supplies and Materials	640.62	2,022.00	-1,381.38
67250 · Individual Ministry	230.01	211.00	19.01
67300 · Large Events/OFS	3,520.64	724.00	2,796.64
67350 · Safe Sanctuary	734.30	200.00	534.30
67400 · Miscellaneous	38.64	29.00	9.64
<b>Total 67000 · Education Grades 7-12</b>	<b>6,251.19</b>	<b>4,371.00</b>	<b>1,880.19</b>
<b>68000 · Mission/Hospitality/Invitational</b>			
68100 · Invitational/Hospitality	794.51	450.00	344.51
68300 · Mission Team	89.91	0.00	89.91
<b>Total 68000 · Mission/Hospitality/Invitational</b>	<b>884.42</b>	<b>450.00</b>	<b>434.42</b>
<b>69000 · Small Group Ministries</b>			
69100 · Adult Education	76.42	60.00	16.42
<b>Total 69000 · Small Group Ministries</b>	<b>76.42</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>16.42</b>
<b>70000 · Stewardship</b>			
70010 · Fall Stewardship Program	320.00	450.00	-130.00
70000 · Stewardship - Other	128.86	0.00	128.86
<b>Total 70000 · Stewardship</b>	<b>448.86</b>	<b>450.00</b>	<b>-1.14</b>
<b>71000 · Community Life</b>			
71050 · Community Life-Other	1,878.96	1,050.00	828.96
<b>Total 71000 · Community Life</b>	<b>1,878.96</b>	<b>1,050.00</b>	<b>828.96</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>580,504.30</b>	<b>599,670.00</b>	<b>-19,165.70</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-48,870.31</b>	<b>619.00</b>	<b>-49,489.31</b>
	<b>-48,870.31</b>	<b>619.00</b>	<b>-49,489.31</b>

## 2023 Special Funds & Capital Campaign

<b>Special Funds December 2023</b>				
	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
Banners	147.91	-	-	147.91
Bldg. Maint. Fund	1,274.22	440.00		1,714.22
Camp Scholarship Fund	325.00	100.00		425.00
Delano PS Social Worker Designate 2023	1,000.00			1,000.00
Disaster Relief/Outreach	1,150.00	50.00		1,200.00
Endowment Fund Donation	-			-
ERC Designate	45,075.57			45,075.57
Friends for a Cause		1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Gifts/Memorials	45.57			45.57
Healing and Wholeness	4,716.34			4,716.34
Kids Hope USA Designate 2023	645.05			645.05
Library Fund	629.48			629.48
Love INC Birthday Ministry	1,154.65		88.06	1,066.59
Nourishing Hope Designate 2023	1,866.07		81.75	1,784.32
Piano Fund	936.34			936.34
Steeple and Roof Repair	588.28			588.28
Thrivent Choice Funds	180.02			180.02
<b>TOTAL Special Funds</b>	<b>59,734.50</b>	<b>1,590.00</b>	<b>1,169.81</b>	<b>60,154.69</b>

<b>Capital Campaign</b>	<b>2023 YTD</b>
<b>2023 Income</b>	2,875.00
<b>2023 Loan from Mission</b>	5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,875.00</b>
<b>2023 Expenses</b>	
Tithe	287.50
Kairos	4,218.75
Misc. Expenses	3,279.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,785.25</b>
Net Balance 2023	138.67
Net Balance 2022	(6,032.73)
Net Balance 2021	10,243.15
Net Balance 2020	(15,485.00)
Net Balance 2019	25,984.00
Four Year Gain	14,848.09
Beg, Bal. Tithe Pay.	138.67
2023 Tithe Payable	287.50
Balance Tithe Payable	426.17

## MEMBER STATISTICS

### 2023 Baptisms:

Liam Dornfeld	03/19/23
Aksel Caslavka	04/23/23
Cooper Trettin	06/11/23
Ronan Mullen	06/25/23
Blake Miller	07/16/23
Kane Reinholz	07/23/23
Ray Emmer	08/13/23
Arlo Hiltner	12/10/23

### 2023 Deaths:

David Parpart	d. 01/29/22
Sara Zabel	d. 06/24/22
John Anderson	d. 07/17/22
Johanna Johnson	d. 10/10/23

2023 New Members:	49
Adult Members:	676
Baptized Children:	260
Total Membership:	936



Terry & Roxie Albers



Alice, Camden, Emilia, & Davin Bidle



Barry, Amy, Ben & Chet Graunke



Michael, Brittany, William & Alexander Hartnett



Kristi Hoffmann



Corey McLagan



Nick, Blake, & Ronan Mullen



Mike, Alicia, Kaitlyn, & Sydney Pink



Kirby, Carrie, Annika, & Zach Quamen



John, Lanaya, & Jack Schnettler



Mary Schultz



Tom Screeden & Amy Murphy



Josh, Anna, Andelyn, & Vayda Streich



Jon, Lydia, & Addy Wissink



Rick & Sara Zabel



Minneapolis Area Synod  
of the ELCA

Grace, peace, and hope through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

---

*Day by day ... they ate their food  
**with glad and generous hearts,**  
praising God and having the good  
will of all the people. – Acts 2:46-47*

---

In May, we meet for our 2024 Synod Assembly under the theme “With Glad and Generous Hearts.” The phrase describes the early church as they gathered on Pentecost. It is also an appropriate description of the past year of our life and ministry together.

In 2023, our hearts were gladdened by:

- Your congregation, along with the other 136 congregations in our synod, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, nurturing community, and loving neighbors and neighborhoods.
- The privilege of accompanying congregations in 72 Call Processes; presiding at 14 Ordinations and 30 Installations; and walking with 34 people preparing to become pastors or deacons.
- 142 lay leaders and 28 clergy from 31 congregations learning to be church in the 21st century through our Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices intensive learning communities.
- 6,500 people receiving our weekly enews. (Sign up at [mpls-synod.org/sign-up](https://mpls-synod.org/sign-up) to feel more connected.)
- 100s of rostered and lay leaders involved in synod sponsored peer groups, conferences, and retreats.
- 100s of leaders from synod congregations helping pass the state’s “100% Clean Energy By 2040” and “Restore The Vote” legislation that advance both climate justice and racial justice.
- 100s of leaders faithfully serving as Deans, on Synod Council, and Candidacy, Audit, Program Committees.
- 15 gifted and devoted synod staff members: 10 funded by Mission Support from you and other congregations, and 5 funded by Lilly Endowment and other external grants.

We praise God for the congregational generosity that makes all this happen. At the same time, we recognize that mission support from congregations has declined 16% over the past 10 years, resulting in a reduction in synod staff hours. Especially as we prepare to elect a new bishop this spring, we invite you to consider strengthening your support for the future of the synod’s work.

Conference Assemblies are just around the corner: Saturday, February 10, 9:30 a.m. – Noon. Of particular importance will be conference nominations for bishop as well as for voting members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, July 28 - August 2, 2025. We encourage congregations to send the same voting members to both the Conference and Synod Assemblies.

As we look at declining mission support or grieve the closing of a congregation, we can become discouraged. In such moments, I encourage you to listen to a remarkable conversation from our 2023 Synod Assembly. Our keynote speaker, the Rev. Otis Moss III, was asked: “what do you say to those who think the church is dying?” Filled with courage and hope, Moss responded, “the church is not dying, it is being born, refashioned, and remade. The early church was an alternative community. Today we use the metrics of the market to evaluate the church – buildings, budgets, numbers. But, the early church looked at **impact**: were people hearing the good news of Jesus who lived and died for our salvation? Was suffering being relieved? Were people being welcomed and healed?” ([mpls-synod.org/our-synod/synod-assembly-2/2023-synod-assembly-archives](https://mpls-synod.org/our-synod/synod-assembly-2/2023-synod-assembly-archives) 4:57:27 of the second day)

Rev. Moss reminds us that we are called to be alternative communities. What might it take to measure our churches by **impact**? The work of synod leadership is to support the 137 communities and the thousands of leaders who are making an **impactful** difference in the 21st century: sharing the good news of Jesus, extending radical welcome into beloved community, engaging their neighborhoods in love with justice.

I am filled with both gratitude and sadness as I write this, my final annual report to congregations. I have loved serving as your bishop and am profoundly grateful for this calling. We pray for the year ahead, trusting in the goodness and faithfulness of our God, made known in Jesus Christ.

*Bishop Ann Svennungsen*