



# 2022 Annual Report

Light of Christ Lutheran Church  
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[www.lightofchristlutheran.com](http://www.lightofchristlutheran.com)



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January 29, 2023

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3976 County Line Road SE, Delano MN 55328

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# CHURCH COUNCIL & COMMITTEE ROSTER

January 30, 2022 to January 2023

## CHURCH COUNCIL (3-year terms)

*Term expires Jan. 2023:*  
Carmen Hanson (Secy.)  
Jennifer Hinker (Pres.)  
Jon Holzer (V. Pres.)

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*  
Steven Dickey (Treas.)  
Derek Horeis  
Lisa Spencer

*Term expires Jan. 2025:*  
Mike Boyack  
Tim Current  
Natasha Werner

## **TREASURER:**

Steven Dickey

## **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. 2023:*  
Susie Larison (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Lori Prickett (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*  
Laura Jaunich (4<sup>th</sup> term)  
Ashley Jeseritz  
Kim Knisley (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Cynthia Kuenzel (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Tara Olson (6<sup>th</sup> term)  
Kim Wortz

## 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. 2023:*  
Lesley Berscheid (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Holly Caple (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Andrea Quandt (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Lisa Schmit (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Jennifer Slipka

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*  
Anna Tool (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Ryan Tool (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

## COMMUNITY LIFE

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

Council Rep: Lisa Spencer

*Term expires Jan. 2023:*  
Mary Allen (3<sup>rd</sup> term)  
Carrie Klinkner  
Candace Mielke (3<sup>rd</sup> term)

*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

## ENDOWMENT

Terms vary—1, 2, 3 year  
Council Rep:

Amy Bigot  
Brian Harstad  
Jonathan Ness

## MISSION/EVANGELISM

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

Council Rep: Natasha Werner

*Term expires Jan. 2023:*  
Jewel Ekern

*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)  
Bea Zerull (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

## FINANCE

Council Rep: Tim Current

*Term expires Jan. 2023:*  
Rob Geistfeld  
Adam Wortz

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*  
Luke Jeseritz

## HEALING & WHOLENESS

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

Council Rep: Lisa Spencer

*Term expires Jan. 2023:*  
Sue Fink  
Lona Jose  
Julie Wischmann

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*  
Lisa Hemmer

## LIBRARY

*Term expires Jan. 2023:*  
Diane Beilke

## MUTUAL MINISTRY

(appointed by Pastor & President)

Amy Bigot  
Kevin Jaunich  
Paul Ludwig  
Stacy VanCura  
Jinnelle Weis

## NOMINATING

(5 needed)

(1 yr. term, expires 1/23)

Elizabeth Kohlhof  
Tom Sebelien  
Stacy VanCura

## PERSONNEL

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

Council Rep:

*Term expires Jan. 2023:*  
Rhonda Almquist (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Melissa Hillmyer (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
JoMarie Williamson (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*  
Rhonda Current (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Vicki Noetzelman (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

## PROPERTY

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

Council Rep: Jon Holzer

*Term expires Jan. 2023:*  
Aaron Amdor (4<sup>th</sup> term)  
Kevin Rothstein (3<sup>rd</sup> term)  
Bob Slipka (3<sup>rd</sup> term)

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*  
Ben Altenhofen (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Scott Dallmann (3<sup>rd</sup> term)  
Maxine Johnson  
Charlie Jose (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

## STEWARDSHIP

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

Council Rep: Steven Dickey

*Term expires Jan. 2023:*  
Cheri Ashfeld (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Natalie Dinger  
Tim Johnson (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

## TECHNOLOGY

*Term expires Jan. 2024:*

Ken & Billie Chock  
Ryan Green  
Dave Kelly  
Jeremiah Werner

## VISION TEAM

Kylee Amdor  
Derek Horeis  
Tim Johnson  
Pastor Bruce Kuenzel  
Lisa Spencer  
Dave Wuerger

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 5:30 pm

Council Rep: Carmen Hanson  
Katie Kohler (staff)

*Term expires Jan. 2023:*  
Brad Goldbeck (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Maxine Johnson  
Mary Ann McKay

# ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

## January 29, 2023

### **Welcome and Coming Together**

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

### **2022 Review**

- Adopt Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting
- Adopt Staff Reports
- Adopt Committee Reports
- Narrative 2022 Financial Statement
- Adopt 2022 Year End Financial Statement
- Celebrating Our Accomplishments

### **2023 and Beyond**

- Introduction of *Let Us Build a House* Strategic Plan
- Adopt 2023 General Fund Budget
- Nominations and Elections for 2023 Council and Committees
- Other Business

### **Closing**

- Prayer and Meeting Adjournment

## Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes – January 30, 2022

### Welcome and Coming Together

- Call to order, Introductions and Devotions (official meeting start at 10:17am)
- Adopt 222 Annual meeting Agenda
  - \* Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Lisa Spencer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim Current

### 2021 Review

- Adopt Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting
  - \* Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Marcus Hanson; 2<sup>nd</sup> John Zerull
- Adopt Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting
  - \* Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Oda Carlson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Steven Dickey
- Adopt Staff Reports
  - \* Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Roland Carlson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Don Collins
- Adopt Committee Reports
  - \* Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Jon Holzer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisa Spencer
- Time and Talent – Pastor Bruce Kuenzel
  - \* We are thankful and grateful for the work, support, time, and talent of MANY whom have helped to keep our ministries vibrant despite the challenges of 2021 and COVID-19! Estimating 7,000+ hours of volunteer service from our members.
  - \* We are also thankful and grateful for our wonderful staff whom have experimented, honed new skills and introduced us to all new ways of ministry!
- Celebrating our New Day Capital Campaign Accomplishments
  - \* Expanded our Worship and Music Ministry
  - \* Deepened our Healing and Wholeness Ministry
  - \* Strengthened our Children, Youth and Family Ministry
  - \* Strengthened our Outreach to Those in Need
  - \* Retired the mortgage on our Education Wing and area almost debt-free. Raised over \$586,000 and saved almost \$99,000 in interest payments.
- 2021 Technology and Capital Improvement Funding Report
  - \* Window and steeple maintenance: will be completed in 2022. Over \$14,000 set aside for this.
  - \* Screen and technology upgrades in sanctuary: new screens, projectors, and livestream camera. Will be completed in early 2022.
  - \* Youth room remodeling completed. Dedicated the “Living Room.” Finished \$5,000 under budget.

### Treasurer’s Report: Tom Sebelien

- Income fell short of expenses by \$12k
- Committees and staff did an excellent job controlling expenses
- LOC was not eligible for 2<sup>nd</sup> round of SBA-PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) funds
- Adopt 2021 Financial Statements
  - \* Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Tim Current; 2<sup>nd</sup> Marcus Hanson
- 2021 Update on Capital Campaign

### 2022 Business

- Adopt 2022 Budget
  - \* Opportunity for LOC will be to balance income with expenses
  - \* Protect LOC’s ability to minister to its faith community by protecting and investing in its human assets by implementing:
    - ◆ An ELCA-sponsored retirement plan for full-time staff, and
    - ◆ A 3% wage increase for all
  - \* LOC has a strong balance sheet and can tolerate a \$34k deficit in 2022
  - \* 2022 Proposed Budget Rationale
    - ◆ Investing in people: “staffing for growth”
    - ◆ \$25,000 increase in pledging for 2022
    - ◆ Does not include any increase in giving from members in 2022, or giving from new members
    - ◆ We have \$35,000 in Paycheck Protection Program funds in reserve to cover a shortfall
    - ◆ Planning a \$75,000 Lenten Stewardship Drive
    - ◆ We have the capacity and history to meet this challenge
  - \* Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Steven Dickey; 2<sup>nd</sup> John Zerull

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- Visioning, Planning and Capital Appeal
  - \* It's time to launch our next strategic thinking, planning, and visioning effort and raise the contributions necessary to fund that vision through a new capital appeal.
  - \* Why now:
    - ◆ Life, as well as ministry is changing. As we emerge from the pandemic, we need to learn how to be a hybrid church: as faithful and as effective as we can be both in-person and online.
    - ◆ Just as businesses and most organizations are reimagining how to lean-in to a new reality, we will do that as a faith community, too. This invites us into a deliberate and intentional process.
  - \* Listening to our congregation
    - ◆ In March and April of 2022, we will start small group conversations, 4-6 people per group
    - ◆ What have these last two years been like for you personally, and as a part of LOC?
    - ◆ What do you believe it will be important for us to be and do as we emerge from this pandemic?
  - \* Kairos/Tim Johnson to lead the process of strategic visioning, planning and thinking in 2022:
    - ◆ Mission Assessment Profile (MAP) and IMAP (congregational surveys)
    - ◆ Hospitality Workshop
    - ◆ Community Leader Conversation
    - ◆ Personal/Small Group Conversations with LOC Community
  - \* Strategic Thinking Tasks
    - ◆ Revisit, renew, revise our four strategic initiatives from our New Day Capital Campaign
    - ◆ Identify new initiatives such as being an effective hybrid church
    - ◆ Welcome, Invitation, and Hospitality: over 500 new homes are being built in the Delano area in the next few years. We want to extend a welcome and an invitation to join us.
    - ◆ Develop a long-term, post-pandemic building and site plan. What is the best use of our building and our site in the next ten years? How may we invite community partners or friends to make use of our great facilities?
    - ◆ Pastoral Transition: Develop a pastoral transition plan so that we can “fuel in mid-air” sometime within the next four years.
    - ◆ Identify and estimate cost of capital improvements. Ideas include parking lot, rest rooms, kitchen, fellowship hall, sacristy, conference room, roof insulation.
  - \* All Things New Capital Campaign
    - ◆ Seek congregational approval at 2023 Annual Meeting
    - ◆ Launch fundraising appeal beginning in winter 2023
    - ◆ Capital improvement projects begin in the spring/summer of 2023
  - \* Pastor motioned that we hire Kairos and Associates, with Tim Johnson as our consultant, for \$22,500 to be paid over sixteen months beginning February 2022, using the fund balance of around \$10,000 in the New Day Capital Campaign to make the initial payments.
  - \* Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Jennifer Hinker; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisa Spencer
- Nominations and Elections for 2022 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.
  - \* Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Vicki Noetzelman; 2<sup>nd</sup> Marcus Hanson
- Columbarium Update:
  - \* Sold 21 niches by 12/31/21 for more than \$85,000; in addition, a \$10,000 donation.
  - \* Financing the construction costs through Mission Investment Fund for around \$110,000 - \$120,000.
  - \* Construction scheduled to be completed by Fall, 2022.
- Endowment Grant Award
  - \* Fund update: We know there are needs in the community and church and we are seeking your help.
  - \* We would like congregational, committee and council feedback on grant opportunities.
  - \* We will evaluate grant requests during February.

### Closing

Prayer and Meeting Adjournment

Motion Approved: 1<sup>st</sup> Lisa Spencer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Fink

**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 emerge from the pandemic.

- Our **worship** participation is growing, both in-person and on-line.
- Our **music ministry** is back in full swing.
- We welcomed **45 new members** into our community of faith this year, with new visitors worshiping with us on most Sundays.
- Our **visioning process** has brought the next chapter of our life together into sharper focus. We've discerned that fostering **deeper connections** with Christ and one another will be at the heart of our mission and ministry in the next few years.
- We built and dedicated our new **columbarium**.
- We made many **improvements to our building** – we dedicated our new Living Room; did a “makeover” of the narthex and Fellowship Hall; repaired the steeple; and upgraded our water filtration system.
- **Our children, youth, and family ministry is growing.** On Wednesdays, we have between 20-30 lower elementary children participating in our Spark and Voyagers programs. We have 25-30 fifth and sixth graders participating in Club 5/6 and over 50 seventh, eighth and ninth graders participating in our confirmation ministry. In addition, 15 high school youth went on a mission trip to the North Shore this past summer, and we are delighted to report that 35 of our high schoolers are signed up to go on our mission trip to Belize this coming summer.
- We launched our **Kids Hope** mentoring program at the elementary school and we continued to distribute food to needy families through our **Nourishing Hope** 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.

Finally, I think it is imperative to acknowledge that we are in a new, “post-pandemic” environment. Therefore, **we need to adapt to this new environment** because the Church is a living organism. We are the living, breathing Body of Christ in the world. The organisms that thrive are always those that make the best adaptations to their new environment. So, please pray that we will be given the wisdom and courage we need to adapt in whatever ways we need to so that we can be as vibrant a community of faith as possible.

“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 & FAMILY MINISTRIES (Preschool – Grade 6) ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by LaDonna Ekern, Dir. of Children & Family Ministry

***What is Light of Christ Children and Family Ministry?  
It is a big cup of WONDERFUL covered in AWESOME SAUCE  
with a splash of SASSY, and a dash of CRAZY!***



## A BIG CUP OF WONDERFUL

On a weekly basis, we currently have an average of 81 wonderful young people – three years old through sixth grade -- learning about Jesus. We had eighteen students receive Bibles this year, and twenty-seven who celebrated their First Communion. During the summer, we had fifty students, from three years old through fourth grade, participate in our Mega Sports Camp Vacation Bible School. We also had fifteen students attend Bible camp. ***Our young people are a BIG CUP OF WONDERFUL.***

## COVERED IN AWESOME SAUCE

The children of Light of Christ shared God's love by bringing money/gifts for the Love INC Birthday Ministry. They also assembled 120 hygiene kits for local homeless shelters; raised \$965 for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Global Barnyard; helped tie fleece blankets for our high school graduates; and in December, our Children and Family Ministry team organized *Friends-4-a-Cause*, which provided Christmas gifts for families in our community. ***Being involved in Mission is CFM's Awesome Sauce!***

## A SPLASH OF SASSY

While “sassy” originally carried a negative connotation, the dictionary now recognizes that “sassy” can also be quite positive, as in “spirited, confident and lively.” ***Definitely a definition that fits our students!***



## AND A DASH OF CRAZY

“Crazy” would be how our after-school schedule continues to evolve. Last year we had Sunday School for three-year-olds through fourth graders, with an average of 39 students participating each Sunday. This fall we had an average of 31 children in Sunday school (three years old through second grade). We also expanded our after-school program by moving our third and fourth graders (which we now call Voyagers) to Wednesday after school. Altogether, our third through sixth grade Wednesday after-school program now averages 50 students per week.



**CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES (Preschool – Grade 6) ANNUAL REPORT**  
Submitted by LaDonna Ekern, Dir. of Children & Family Ministry

**AND THERE IS MORE!**

Not included above is SPLASH, our birth to age 3 ministry. We have added new worship activity bags, received a special gift of toy drawers under the first pew for our Pray Ground area in worship, and refreshed the nursery. Our SPLASH ministry also includes special mailings throughout the year. **Our birth to 3-year-old children enhances our worship with the promise of life abundant just by their presence!**

**OTHER SPECIAL CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY EVENTS**

Throughout the 2022 year we also led Rally Day, Backpack Blessings, Moms and Muffins, Sundae Sunday, and three different Christmas programs.

**Our CFM committee is also a big cup of WONDERFUL covered in AWESOME SAUCE with a splash of SASSY, and a dash of CRAZY!** They are the people who dream, coordinate, organize, implement, and are completely dedicated to the young people of this congregation. The CFM team this past year included Mike Boyack (Council Rep), Jen Burbach, Laura Jaunich, Ashley Jeseritz, Kim Knisley, Cynthia Kuenzel, Susie Larison, Tara Olson, Lori Prickett, and Kim Wortz.

**SPECIAL THANKS**

We are especially thankful to God for all the parents, teachers, helpers, painters, sewers, suppliers, organizers, behind-the-scenes workers, staff and last, but not least, the amazing Light of Christ congregation for your ongoing commitment, financial and prayer support of our Children and Family Ministry here at Light of Christ. You're the topping on the awesome sauce!

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



## 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, Holly Caple, Derek Horeis (Council rep), Kirsten Kelly (staff), Andrea Quandt, Lisa Schmit, Jennifer Slipka, Anna & Ryan Tool.

It has been a blessing to return to some normalcy this past year and begin to gather again in person... to share meals together and have retreats and large youth events again at church! We continue to see things grow and the excitement build as we emerge from the difficult years of having to keep one another safe through various measures that kept us distant. I believe Light of Christ is in an incredible position "post-pandemic" (even though we continue to navigate with covid). Many churches are struggling (financially and with inactivity) and so we are so grateful for where we are at! As we reflect on 2022, here are some highlights from the past year (in no particular order). The numbers don't define us but give an idea of what is happening in the life of our Youth and Family Ministries at Light of Christ:

- **NEW:** HS Friday Night Lights! Fun, fellowship events for HS youth on Friday evenings. We went to River City Extreme in Monticello for our first event (photo right).
- **NEW:** Summer Youth Activity Nights – four events throughout the summer for grades 7-12 to hang out and have fun!
- **NEW:** Advent Charcuterie Fundraiser on 12/4/22. We had 2 successful Charcuterie fundraisers over the pandemic (March 2021 and 2022) but held it online with food delivered to people's homes.



This past December we were able to hold an in-person event with 55 people. We enjoyed incredible food, music, fellowship, hymn sing and wine/beer tasting led by Marcus Hanson. We plan to host this event annually each December and think it'll continue to grow!

- **NEW:** Held a great first "Parent's Night Off" event in April (photo left)! Our next one will take place in February 2023.
- **NEW:** Split Confirmation Teaching Time – After having large group together each week, Pastor Bruce teaches 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Kirsten teaches 9<sup>th</sup>. This has enhanced our ministry by

allowing us to tailor our curriculum/teaching to the different age groups and keep them more engaged.

- **NEW:** Pastor Bruce met with parents to plan fun events for Confirmation youth. The first event is Tubing at Elm Creek on 1/22/23.



- **NEW:** Awesome 10<sup>th</sup> grade Fall Confirmation Retreat (for those soon to be Confirmed) at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp (photo right)!
- **NEW:** 8 incredible HS youth helping regularly on Wednesday nights as Jr. Guides for Confirmation (photo left).
- 53 youth (grades 7-9) registered for Confirmation during the 2022-2023 school year (welcoming 4 new families). Weekly activities for youth include SLICE (pizza supper), worship, large/small group and games (photo left – playing kickball).
- Weekly HS Fellowship for grades 9-12 with various service and fun events.



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## 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)*

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- 15 youth and 5 adults attended the Service-Learning trip to the North Shore of MN in Summer 2022 (photo left). It was an incredible trip and truly changed lives (of those who attended and those we served and got to know). And we have 55 registered to go to Belize in Summer 2023 (35 youth and 20 adults)!
- 14 Tie Quilts gifted to the 2022 Grads (photo right). This was organized by an LOC National Honor Society youth with help from other members.

- Graduates Care Packages assembled by the HS youth at Wednesday HS Fellowship:
  - ⇒ 20 mailed in May to the 2021 Grads
  - ⇒ 22 mailed in December to the 2022 Grads (organized by an LOC National Honor Society youth)
- 15 youth affirmed their baptism on 4/24/22.
- Several "special" Sundays including HS Service Trip Return Worship Celebration and Camp Sunday.



- 15 youth attended Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in Amery, WI over various weeks in summer 2022.
- Very successful Online Charcuterie Youth Fundraiser on March 13, 2022 (with the addition of an online auction) raising almost \$3,400!
- Organized several Confirmation service events such as Feed My Starving Children (photo left); serving at the Delano Food Shelf, Love INC and local nursing homes; assembling Care Kits (for those experiencing homelessness) and sandwiches, etc.
- 9 youth and 5 adults went to Valleyfair for a fun day in July.
- Sunday morning HS Donuts and Discussion events early in 2022.
- Many administrative tasks (newsletter, youth messages, parent

emails, staff meetings, budget, youth account, 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!

### **Youth and Family Ministry Goals for 2023:**

1. Provide fellowship events more regularly for HS and Confirmation age youth to connect and grow together (HS Friday Night Lights and Confirmation Fun Events)!
2. Organize and carry out enough fundraisers (including the big Silent Auction and Spaghetti Dinner on 3/5/23) to raise approximately one-third of the cost of the Belize trip for each youth participant and adult leader.
3. Plan and lead a successful international service-learning trip to Belize in Summer 2023.

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

*-Kirsten Kelly, Youth & Family Ministry Director*

**SHARED MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT**  
**Tim Johnson, Shared Ministry Director**

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Shared Ministry – it’s what we do. There are a lot of ways of saying this. “We’re all in this together.” “Each one of us has a contribution to make.” “We’re better together.” “When we’re together, everything falls into place.” “We may not have it all together; but together we have it all.” And then how about this from Scripture: “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.” (Acts 4:32) At our best, Christ’s church is an extraordinary display of God’s love, compassion and hope put into action!

Thank you for the innumerable ways you have offered your own love, compassion and hope for the sake of God’s mission. Indeed, it’s one of the greatest privileges we ever have in life, to be a part of what the Holy Spirit is up to in this world God so loves. No matter where we find ourselves in our faith journey, we each have something to give. My prayer is that every single Light of Christ member finds a meaningful way to serve and be involved.

This past year has been another year of growth. Like all churches, moving on from the hardest part of the Pandemic has been a challenge. In fact, there is no other single factor in the past sixty years that has so dramatically impacted people’s faith practices. Patterns and habits and lifestyles were turned upside down. We were unable to be together; many were sick; we lost loved ones; work patterns shifted; and for many faith was upended. Thus, reconnecting and finding a new path forward has been central to our journey. That’s been especially true for us at Light of Christ. An exciting part of that is that there is a new energy, a renewed spirit that can be experienced most any Sunday we’re together. You might say, the Holy Spirit seems to be up to something new with us.

This new year marks a time to connect more deeply with God, one another and with the broader community. As we have learned much over this past year of visioning, relationships and deeper connections have emerged as the top priority. You could say, it’s a personal thing. Each person, each household and family, everyone is precious and beloved. And we want to unearth better and more intentional ways of being God’s love to all in tangible ways that bless and encourage each person on their journey of following and emulating Christ’s goodness and grace. There is a place for YOU to explore and live out your God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure.

We have a new Time and Talent form on our website. We have innumerable ways to participate through Sign-up Genius. We continually update needs and opportunities through our newsletter and weekly bulletin. We have teams and committees who faithfully gather, plan and carry out various expressions of God’s mission. We have staff who are here for you, who pray for you and will help you find your place of service.

Thank you! Thank you for your persistent and growing ways of making Light of Christ such a special place of faith, hope and love. Together, let us connect more deeply, to God, to one another, and to the community God has entrusted to us. Please reach out at any time. I would love to help you explore how your faith might best be expressed as a beloved child of God!

*Shared Ministry*  
*Tim Johnson*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Ann Bassett, Amy Bigot, Jon Holzer, Pr. Bruce Kuenzel, Sharon McKisson, Tom and Sharon Sebelien, Bob Slipka, Bill Weis

The Columbarium Committee is pleased to share that the Columbarium and Memorial Garden project is complete. In 2022 construction of the columbarium unit itself was completed, the gardens were installed, including a bubbling rock and benches. Memorials have been purchased by congregation members and signage has been delivered.

The memorial signs will be placed in the spring when the ground has thawed. Committee members included: Ann Bassett, Amy Bigot, Jon Holzer, Sharon McKisson, Tom and Sharon Sebelien, Bob Slipka, Bill Weis and Pr. Bruce. Members who are interested in learning more about purchasing a niche can contact the church office. The Columbarium Committee is grateful for the support so warmly received by the members of Light of Christ.



Respectfully submitted,  
*Amy Bigot*  
 Columbarium Committee Chair

	INCOME	TOTAL EXPENSES	BALANCE
Niche and Urn Sales	83,635.00		
Donations	17,645.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>101,280.00</b>		
 2021 Columbarium Special Fund Bal	 5,067.08		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>106,347.08</b>		
 Construction Loan	 63,616.00		
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>169,963.08</b>		
 <b>EXPENSES</b>			
Total Construction Costs		146,366.00	
Interest Expense		927.23	
Other Expenses		1,663.11	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>148,956.34</b>	
 Net Operating Balance Dec 2022			<b>21,006.74</b>

**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: Heidi Goldbeck (Chair), Carrie Klinkner, Jennifer Grant, Candace Mielke, Kelly Harstad, Mary Allen, Abby Trettin, Mel Paulson, Lisa Spencer (Council Rep)

2022 Events were still restricted by Covid. We hope to do more in 2023.

#### Some of 2022 Events:

- Served donuts / coffee for the new member Sunday
- All Church Picnic at Light of Christ
- Rally Sunday (served food)
- Charcuterie Boards -Youth Advent Fundraiser for Mission Trip



Charcuterie Boards for the Youth Advent Fundraiser in December 2022

*Respectfully submitted by Heidi Goldbeck*

### ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Committee members: Brian Harstad, Jonathan Ness, Amy Bigot, Pastor Kuenzel

The existing Light of Christ Endowment Committee remained in place for 2022 to oversee the Light of Christ Endowment Fund that was created in 2019. The committee has three members including Brian Harstad as Chair, Amy Bigot 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 made our second annual ministry grants funded from the prior year earnings, completing four grants for a total of \$2,000. The grants were based on identified ministry needs brought forward to the committee and included support for the Light of Christ summer youth trips and senior quilts, a grant to the Nourishing Hope organization to supply devotional materials, a grant to the new Kids Hope program in the Delano Schools, and a donation to the ELCA Ukraine Relief fund. We attempted to hold a Legacy Giving education event in the spring, but that was postponed due to low attendance. We will work to further that in 2023.

The committee monitors the Endowment Fund performance managed through the ELCA. The fund started the year with a balance of \$31,114, from which we distributed the \$2,000 in grants. Through October, the fund balance has been negatively impacted by the investment market, with a current balance now of \$24,233. Fund performance will be monitored to determine options for grants in 2023.

*Respectfully submitted by Brian Harstad*

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Luke Jeseritz, Rob Geistfeld, Adam Wortz, Debra Johnson, Tim Current (council rep), and Pastor Bruce Kuenzel

The primary focus of the finance committee this past year has been to ensure that we have the proper controls and safeguards for our financial processes. We have made significant progress in reviewing and updating key policies and procedures. We will continue to review and update the remaining policies and procedures into next year. Once that is done, we plan on conducting an audit.

Other key items accomplished were the closure of a dormant checking account and making updates to our expense reimbursement and check request forms in order to better explain the process for those needing to utilize them.

*Respectfully submitted by Luke Jeseritz*

### HEALING AND WHOLENESS COMMITTEE

Current members: Lona Jose, Julie Wischmann, Lisa Hemmer, Sue Fink, Lisa Spencer (Council Rep). Pastor Bruce and Tim Johnson help with collaboration and planning. Thanks to Cat Borman for her service on our team.

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. We hope to reflect Christ's compassion and love in our church family and surrounding community.

Our ministry accomplishments for this past year include:

- Bimonthly Caring Corner articles posted in the Beacon, on Facebook and on the LOC website, *Mental Health* page. This year's topics included What Is Healing and Wholeness, OCD, grief, peripartum mental health, mental health awareness and general treatment, gratitude, coping through the holidays, screening for mental illness, and depression in youth.
- Starting in November 2022 we are sharing a monthly Caring Corner article with the Delano community by posting it in the Delano Herald Journal.
- Maintaining and adding to our Support/Mental Health webpage to add resources for support and education.
- Working with other committees to collaborate 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.
- Tithing through donations to Delano Elementary School toward mental health curriculum, *My Quiet Cave* and *Interfaith Network on Mental Illness*, both of which provide us with many resources.
- Second Annual Walk-a-Mile in My Shoes event on May 22 during Mental Health Awareness month. Over 40 people joined our walk, gathered resources, and donated to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).
- Now that we're back in person following the pandemic distancing, we hope to once again move toward developing support groups as we are made aware of needs in our congregation.
- Our plan for 2023 includes more classes or speaker events through NAMI and Mental Health First Aid training with outreach to the community.



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Submitted by Sue Fink

### MISSION AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Lona Jose (Chairperson), Beata Zerull (Recorder), Angie Malo, 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:** 40 new LOC members were received this year! This committee became more involved again, as we have in the past, welcoming them with smiles and gifts.

#### Mission Outreach:

- **Fifth Sunday Offerings:** Thanks to our generous LOC members for their monetary contributions. **\$3526 total!**
  - ⇒ **January:** People Serving People Shelter for Homeless in MPLS: **\$965**
  - ⇒ **May:** Lutheran Disaster Response for Eastern Europe/Ukraine: **\$1000**
  - ⇒ **July:** Karen Anderson in Chile: (Our ELCA missionary in Chile whose efforts we support annually) **\$520**
  - ⇒ **October:** Our Birthday Ministry for Love INC families (buying children's birthday gifts and party supplies): **\$1041**
- **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. Members also continue to contribute items (120 lbs total) and money throughout the year.
  - ⇒ **LOC Member Volunteers:** Many LOC members volunteer at the food shelf during our months of March, June, and December for families in need who shop there. Several LOC younger members also volunteer their time throughout the year to help at the food shelf.
  - ⇒ **Food Rescue:** Several LOC members pick up donated food from Coborns 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 the boxes at LOC in Delano. The number of families receiving this free food has been consistently 60-75 each month.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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- **Kids Hope USA:**

⇒ LOC now has 10 mentors and 9 prayer partners who are volunteering their services to selected Delano Elementary children. The mentors and prayer partners were introduced before the congregation and an update was provided. Ongoing updates and thank you efforts will continue throughout the school year. All is working very well with our school district.

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

⇒ Jim Holmlund, the director, presented to our congregation in November Love INC's new focus and efforts for those families and individuals who need their support. Birthday ministries and Christmas Adopt-a-Family continue to be two ongoing efforts that LOC members support, as well as several LOC members volunteering in the Delano store. LOC also contributes funding annually to the organization.



L-R: MaryAnn McKay, Paulette Podratz, Charlie Jose, Lona Jose, Heather Dickey, packaging food at Our Father's in Rockford



L-R: Charlie Jose, Heather Dickey, Dan Torfin, Jewel Ekern, Sally Torfin, Marcie Ludwig, Jo Williamson, helping to distribute food boxes in church parking lot



L-R: Dave Anderson, Lona Jose, Jewel Ekern, Jo Williamson, Cheri Ashfeld, at the Delano Helping Hands Food Shelf

*Respectfully submitted by Lona Jose*

### MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Committee members: Amy Bigot, 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*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Committee members: JoMarie Williamson, Rhonda Current, Vicki Noetzelman, Rhonda Almquist, Melissa Hillmyer

The Personnel Committee meets on an as needed basis. During 2022, we met twice at the end of the year. This year our meetings centered on updates (primarily clarifications) to the Employee Handbook. This work is ongoing and will be completed in early 2023. Thankfully, there were no open positions to address in 2022.

*Submitted by Rhonda Current and JoMarie Williamson*

### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Committee members: Aaron Amdor (chair), Ben Altenhofen, Scott Dallmann, Maxine Johnson, Charlie Jose, Kevin Rothstein, Bob Slipka, Dan Torfin, Jon Holzer (council rep)

Building usage increased in 2022 with a full return to in-person activities. With additional usage, comes additional items requiring attention.

We believe we will continue to see the need for improvements and maintenance of the site through the coming years as the building ages and fixtures reach their useful life. The main items we will continue to monitor and improve are cosmetic updates to outdated areas and infrastructure improvements including continued roof work, plumbing, doors and windows.

It's been our pleasure to work to make LOC a welcoming and modern place of worship and fellowship. We welcome any whom have a calling to do this work.

- Steeple repair and lighting was a major project and was completed this past summer.
- Other major projects were still on hold for the most part, including east sections of the roof, parking lot, bathroom and kitchen remodels and continued window pane replacement.
- New water softener and pressure tank were installed.
- The columbarium project was constructed; but was driven and managed by that team with our assistance as needed.
- Every month routine maintenance to-do's were completed:
  - ⇒ Door work
  - ⇒ Restroom fan
  - ⇒ Exit sign and fire detection work
  - ⇒ Management of lawn services and snow removal
  - ⇒ Other miscellaneous Items

*Submitted by Bob Slipka*



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee members: Cheri Ashfeld, Steven Dickey (Council Rep), Natalie Dinger, Tim Johnson

Two statements about stewardship seem true:

“One of the greatest things we ever get to do in life is to give. Having been made in the image of God, the Great Giver, our lives are best when we’re reflecting our truest nature.”

“The last part of a [person] to be converted is their wallet.” John Wesley, though Martin Luther said a similar thing.

So, is giving good and wonderful? Or is it rough? Do we give only begrudgingly? Well, I suppose it depends. What does seem connected to giving is whether we’re seeing life through the lens of gratitude or through scarcity. The more grateful we are, the more we seem to be released for the task of joyful giving. Even, yes, generosity.

*The Great Thing about Giving* was a regularly occurring Beacon article that our team members wrote. It was meaningful for us to reflect on our personal lives on this theme, and it was also rewarding to see how many ways giving made for even greater ministry at and through Light of Christ.

If you’ve been around Light of Christ much at all this fall, you know that we focused upon gratitude. What fun, how rewarding all of that was! Members filled out countless gratitude strips of paper and we created a seemingly endless gratitude chain. All ages participated. And these were translated into prayers of gratitude during church services. We encouraged that everyone key into people and ministries at Light of Christ, in our personal and family lives, and then out into the community and world. In fact, we began a new ministry expression: The Gratitude Project. Showing up around town with coffee and treats and a huge thank you card to express our thanks. Love INC, our Delano Schools, are among the first. More to come.

As of this printing, we grew how many of our LOC households made a financial pledge in support of 2023 ministry to 83 pledges, totaling \$330,120. Thank you! And to so many of you who give regularly and generously – thank you! The reality is that our giving will impact how much ministry we can do. As well, it’s a central part of a person’s faith walk. Thank you for prioritizing your giving. It is a gift!

Our Stewardship Committee met almost every month. My deep thanks and appreciation to Cheri Ashfeld, Natalie Dinger, Terri Reuter and Pastor Bruce for their friendship and partnership in the journey, and most especially to you, LOC members, for your persistent generosity and faith in our shared ministry. Thanks be to God!

*Respectfully submitted by Tim Johnson*

### TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

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

The Technology Committee had its first formal year as a committee in 2022. We began by establishing a monthly meeting schedule to talk about technology focused efforts for Light of Christ. Priorities for 2022 included:

- Establishing a technical support contact for PC management and support
- Development of a short term and long-term plan for WIFI and internet stability
- Documenting the technology needs and priorities for Light of Christ
- Inventory of the technology assets in use and in need for future projects

Throughout 2022 we made progress on these items and will continue to move them forward as we move into 2023. We will continue to look at improvements to the WIFI infrastructure to ensure we are able to support the expanding needs of the church. We will also continue work to build out a technology plan to provide improved visibility to the technology focused needs at Light of Christ.

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*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

*Members: Katie Anne Kohler (Chair), Maxine Johnson, Brad Goldbeck, Mary Ann McKay, Carmen Hanson (Council rep)*

2022 has been a great year! We were finally able to worship in person consistently all year and were able to do so without restrictions! We focused on ways to rebuild worship energy post-COVID and will continue to work on this. Some highlights of 2022 are:

- **Summer worship**
  - ⇒ We held outdoor worship once a month June-September. Some of those services had musical themes: bluegrass worship, camp songs, and “favorite hymns.” All the services had great energy and we plan on doing more of this next year! We did not hold any extra summer services on Mondays or Wednesdays. With the addition of livestream, it was not needed.
- **Livestreaming worship**
  - ⇒ Livestreaming has been a great addition to worship. We are continuing to find ways to make this experience more enjoyable and sophisticated. The most recent update was the ability to control the livestream sound independently from the in-person sound. We will continue to make improvements and hope to add more cameras with a more sophisticated set-up that will allow better camera angles. We are also working on making the experience more interactive. Our livestream attendance has been hovering around 90-100 each week. It is difficult to measure livestream 100% accurately, but this number is based on the amount of 1+ minute views X 2. This seems to be the most popular way churches are tracking online attendance. Either way, it has been a welcome addition and we are excited to continue working on it!
- **Choir/Praise Team**
  - ⇒ The adult choir has been back at it with no restrictions! We are back to singing once a month in worship and practicing weekly. Praise team is also leading worship more consistently. The lack of COVID restrictions has really helped the music program flourish this year!
- **Various types of worship**
  - ⇒ We had some great worship services throughout the year. Our “Service of the Nails” Good Friday service was impactful for many people. This was the first time in two years we were able to have in-person Holy Week services! We also had a youth-led service, along with two different children’s Christmas programs. We will continue to try and involve the children/youth in upcoming worship.
- **Worship and Music Format**
  - ⇒ This past year we spent some time working through how to best utilize the Worship and Music committee now that there is a full-time Worship and Music director. One change that will occur in 2023 is our meeting format. The committee will now meet about four times a year for planning, and on an “as-needed” basis for special projects. We will no longer hold monthly meetings.

I am excited to see what 2023 brings! I hope to continue approaching worship and music with added energy and fresh ideas. I want to thank everyone on the 2022 Worship and Music committee for all your help and commitment!

Peace,  
*Katie Anne Kohler*



## MINISTRY REPORTS

### ALTAR GUILD

Altar guild committee members support worship service through communion preparation, set up, and post service clean up activities. They also fill eternity, altar and baptismal candles. Supplies of bread, wine, juice, cups and oil are regularly purchased through local grocery stores, Amazon, and Concordia. There are 7 team members supporting altar guild and we welcome anyone looking to join our team. Mary Ann McKay purchases bread and juice on a regular basis and Kylee Amdor chairs this committee.

*Respectfully submitted by Kylee Amdor*

### BIRTHDAY MINISTRY

Members: Ann Bassett, Beth Coulombe, Brenda Dallmann, Ginny Iverson, MaryAnn McKay, 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 \$15.00-20.00
- Gift bags, wrapping paper, bows, etc.
- Party supplies such as paper plates, napkins, cake mixes, frostings, balloons, candles, favors, etc.

In 2022, Beth Coulombe joined our group. The Birthday Ministry provided birthday party supplies and presents for a total of 40 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. The October Fifth Sunday special offering was designated for the Birthday Ministry. A total of \$1041 was collected for the Birthday Ministry.

*Respectfully submitted by Terri Reuter*

### SISTERS OF LOC

Committee Members: Heidi Goldbeck, Jennifer Grant, Kelly Harstad, Candace Mielke, Melanie Paulson

Sisters of LOC did not meet this year due to COVID.

## MINISTRY REPORTS

### WOMEN OF LIGHT OF CHRIST—2022

Our purpose as Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Light of Christ:

**As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world.**

#### **Services and Events 2022:**

“Quilting Angels in our midst.” The Angels are busy as ever as the quilters have resumed quilting at church. Several quilts have been donated to a variety of organizations such as Delano Legacy, Delano Care Center, and foster care homes. Quilts were also donated to Village Ranch (contact person: Lona Jose).

Quilters:

Amber Dawn Andrews  
Ann Bassett  
Oda Carlson  
Cheryl Collins  
Val Donahue  
Carolyn Endsley  
Laurie Grimm  
Ginny Iverson  
Maxine Johnson  
Betty Pavik  
Lynda Pavlovich  
Joan Zimmerman

Dear Quilters Group,

A huge thank you for your generous donation of quilts. They are received with great joy by the children in our program. Your work is beautiful and your generosity to our program is greatly appreciated! Thank you for providing warm snuggles, in quilt form, for our kids.

God's Blessings to you all,

*Tracey Swanson*

*Foster Care Program Director—Village Ranch*

#### **Funerals served 2022:**

Steven Williams  
Henry Huettman

Thank You & God's Blessings to all who answer the call to serve.

#### **Financial Report:**

2022 beginning balance	<b>\$876.05</b>
1/24/22 check #2302 quilt batting	\$88.82
9/13/22 deposit Lemmerman funeral	\$200.00
9/13/22 deposit Williams funeral	\$75.00
9/15/22 check #2303 Lemmerman funeral food	\$100.00
<b>2022 year end balance</b>	<b>\$962.23</b>

*Submitted by Ginny Iverson*

**YOUTH FUND**  
**January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022**

**LIGHT OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Youth Fund - Annual Report  
 January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
<b><u>YOUTH ACTIVITIES</u></b>	1,251.32			
Collage Subscription			35.99	
Checking Account Supplies			78.29	
Endowment Fund		500.00		
Blanket Expenses			594.98	
Valley Fair Tickets		274.29	420.00	
Camp Wapo Retreat		2,835.00	2,835.00	
Retreat - Bus		899.50	809.50	
DHS Grad Party Donation			200.00	
<b>Totals-Youth Activities</b>		<b>4,508.79</b>	<b>4,973.76</b>	<b>786.35</b>
<b><u>SLICE</u></b>	216.65			
Deposits		2,244.00		
Unhinged Pizza/Dave's Town Club			1,624.76	
Miscellaneous Expenses			349.59	
Confirmation Retreat		75.00		
Online payments		390.00		
<b>Totals-SLICE</b>		<b>2,709.00</b>	<b>1,974.35</b>	<b>951.30</b>
<b><u>CAMP SCHOLARSHIP</u></b>	6,154.40			
Camp Scholarships			200.00	
Camp Wapogasset		200.00	1,200.00	
Endowment Fund		500.00		
Donations		1,599.89		
MT23 Scholarships			1,500.00	
<b>Totals-Camp Scholarship</b>		<b>2,299.89</b>	<b>2,900.00</b>	<b>5,554.29</b>
<b><u>MISSION TRIP</u></b>	988.72			
Equal Exchange Sales/Expenses		1,175.04	893.96	
Service Learning Deposit - MT22			2,625.00	
Fundraiser Gift Cards			150.00	
Fundraiser Supplies			70.00	
Fundraiser Income		4,180.00	624.72	
Donut Sales		112.84	38.46	
Parents Night Out		85.00	82.09	
March Fundraising Distribution			2,075.00	
MT22 Shirts			695.98	
Cash for Trip		180.00	700.00	
Bethlehem Lutheran			100.00	
Chaperone Expenses			1,104.06	

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**YOUTH FUND**  
**January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022**

*(continued from previous page)*

Miscellaneous MT23 Expenses		3,131.49	
Memorial given	25.00		
Transfer from Indiv Accounts	6,000.00		
Close out Post-Grad accounts	1,388.14		
MT23 Pre-trip Airfare/Slipka		1,114.07	
December Fundraiser	1,514.91	516.99	
MT23 Pre-trip Payment - Just 1 Global		1,000.00	
Endowment Fund	1,000.00		
MT23 Donation	152.00		
MT23 Donation (12/7 Slice)	173.00		
Cookie Fundraiser	15.00		
<b>Totals-Mission Trip</b>	<b>16,000.93</b>	<b>14,921.82</b>	<b>2,067.83</b>

**INDIVIDUAL**

<b><u>YOUTH FUND ACCOUNTS</u></b>	5,874.67		
MT22 Deposits	1,800.00		
Donut Sales	163.16		
Retreat Deposits	332.00		
Parents Night Out Fundraiser	150.00		
March Fundraising Distribution to students	2,075.00		
Community Life Picnic	287.00		
MT22 Payments	1,243.00		
Food Distribution-Service	150.00		
MT22 Scholarships	1,500.00		
Transfer to MT23 Fund		6,000.00	
Close out Post-Grad Accounts		1,388.14	
Transfer for Confirmation Retreat-Pymt/bus		301.00	
MT23 Deposits	11,500.00		
Equal Exchange Sales	120.00		
Individual Fundraising	1,868.96		
Individual Sponsor Support	400.00		
<b>Totals-Ind. Youth Funds</b>	<b>21,589.12</b>	<b>7,689.14</b>	<b>19,774.65</b>

TOTALS	\$47,107.73	\$32,459.07	\$29,134.42
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Cash Balance as of 12/31/22

Checking Account	<b>\$29,134.42</b>
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# YTD Income Statement

	Actual Jan - Dec 22	2022 YTD Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Income</b>			
40010 · Faith Sharing	517,390.33	490,426.00	26,964.33
40015 · Deferred Sharing	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00
41000 · Interest Income	568.29	420.00	148.29
41010 · Endowment Interest	1,291.89	400.00	891.89
41100 · Rent-Head Start	7,650.00	7,650.00	0.00
41200 · Building Use Fees	3,343.43	1,400.00	1,943.43
41300 · Sunday School	4.73	180.00	-175.27
41400 · Confirmation Registration	1,236.00	1,200.00	36.00
41450 · Sunday School Registration	790.00	1,500.00	-710.00
41600 · VBS Registration	860.00	1,135.00	-275.00
45000 · Misc. Income			
45005 · Offset	727.23	600.00	127.23
45000 · Misc. Income - Other	3,242.18	1,750.00	1,492.18
<b>Total 45000 · Misc. Income</b>	<b>3,969.41</b>	<b>2,350.00</b>	<b>1,619.41</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>537,104.08</b>	<b>516,661.00</b>	<b>20,443.08</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
60000 · Staff			
60010 · Mileage Reimbursement	425.00	2,500.00	-2,075.00
60050 · Staff Min. Pension Med.	25,161.24	24,828.00	333.24
60100 · Staff Min. Prof. Education	1,337.07	1,000.00	337.07
60150 · Staff Education	30.00	1,000.00	-970.00
60250 · Work Comp	2,431.66	2,247.00	184.66
60300 · Christmas Bonus	0.00	0.00	0.00
60350 · Staff Synod Assembly	300.00	500.00	-200.00
60400 · Salary and Wages	338,474.56	340,047.00	-1,572.44
60450 · Staff Benefits	17,464.80	17,465.00	-0.20
60500 · Staff-Other	1,898.66	0.00	1,898.66
60600 · Payroll Taxes	16,633.45	16,740.00	-106.55
<b>Total 60000 · Staff</b>	<b>404,156.44</b>	<b>406,327.00</b>	<b>-2,170.56</b>
61000 · Building Operation			
61010 · Custodial Supplies	1,844.25	2,000.00	-155.75
61050 · Electric	6,117.31	6,500.00	-382.69
61100 · Garbage	1,792.15	1,800.00	-7.85
61150 · Heat	7,191.76	6,500.00	691.76
61200 · Insurance	9,256.54	8,964.00	292.54
61250 · Lawn Care	3,255.00	3,750.00	-495.00
61350 · Repair and Maintenance	14,383.16	8,000.00	6,383.16
61400 · Snow Plowing	3,390.00	3,000.00	390.00
61450 · 3rd Party Contractors	1,400.00	3,000.00	-1,600.00
<b>Total 61000 · Building Operation</b>	<b>48,630.17</b>	<b>43,514.00</b>	<b>5,116.17</b>

# YTD Income Statement

(continued)

<b>62000 · Mission</b>			
62100 · ELCA Mpls. Synod	48,752.35	51,295.00	-2,542.65
62200 · Love INC	4,875.25	5,129.00	-253.75
<b>Total 62000 · Mission</b>	<b>53,627.60</b>	<b>56,424.00</b>	<b>-2,796.40</b>
<b>63000 · Office Expense</b>			
63010 · Processing Fees-Vanco	3,631.89	3,240.00	391.89
63050 · Computers & Furnishings	2,771.33	2,500.00	271.33
63100 · Equipment Maintenance	4,317.30	4,500.00	-182.70
63150 · Kitchen Supplies	747.65	690.00	57.65
63200 · Office Supplies	2,223.27	2,000.00	223.27
63250 · Postage	737.84	900.00	-162.16
63300 · Subscriptions			
63302 · Payroll Processing Fee	964.00	1,050.00	-86.00
63300 · Subscriptions - Other	2,428.30	1,600.00	828.30
<b>Total 63300 · Subscriptions</b>	<b>3,392.30</b>	<b>2,650.00</b>	<b>742.30</b>
63350 · Telephone/Internet	1,833.91	2,800.00	-966.09
63400 · Website	900.00	900.00	0.00
<b>Total 63000 · Office Expense</b>	<b>20,555.49</b>	<b>20,180.00</b>	<b>375.49</b>
<b>64000 · Worship</b>			
64010 · Altar Supplies	1,946.36	1,600.00	346.36
64020 · Technology	1,426.78	2,000.00	-573.22
64050 · Bulletins	0.00	0.00	0.00
64100 · Flowers/Decorating/Banners	579.43	1,000.00	-420.57
64150 · Guest Speaker	100.00	780.00	-680.00
64200 · Offering Envelopes	243.26	200.00	43.26
64250 · Organist/Pianist	700.00	675.00	25.00
64300 · Publications	1,306.32	1,200.00	106.32
64350 · Worship Resources	172.39	300.00	-127.61
<b>Total 64000 · Worship</b>	<b>6,474.54</b>	<b>7,755.00</b>	<b>-1,280.46</b>
<b>65000 · Music</b>			
65000 · Music			
65010 · Copyright License	1,081.50	950.00	131.50
65050 · Hymnals	0.00	0.00	0.00
65100 · Instrument maintenance	0.00	375.00	-375.00
65200 · New Equipment and Sound	489.36	1,300.00	-810.64
65300 · Vocal Music	282.40	200.00	82.40
65510 · Musicians	750.00	600.00	150.00
<b>Total 65000 · Music</b>	<b>2,603.26</b>	<b>3,425.00</b>	<b>-821.74</b>
<b>66500 · Education 3Yrs-Grade 6</b>			
66501 · Bibles	1,119.65	750.00	369.65
66505 · Christmas Program	0.00	314.00	-314.00
66510 · Day Camp/VBS	2,400.17	1,700.00	700.17
66515 · Special Events	1,658.02	950.00	708.02
66520 · SS/Ignite Class Curriculum	916.09	1,500.00	-583.91
66525 · SS/Ignite Class Supplies	1,811.49	1,216.00	595.49
66530 · SS/Ignite Mission Projects	150.42	95.00	55.42

# YTD Income Statement

(continued)

66535 · Safe Sanctuary	884.95	150.00	734.95
66540 · Spark Supplies	264.22	386.00	-121.78
66550 · Birth-Age 3 Ministry	250.08	100.00	150.08
<b>Total 66500 · Education 3Yrs-Grade 6</b>	<b>9,455.09</b>	<b>7,161.00</b>	<b>2,294.09</b>
<b>67000 · Education Grades 7-12</b>			
67010 · Service Learning	0.00	200.00	-200.00
67050 · Chaperone Fees	400.00	200.00	200.00
67100 · Affirmation of Baptism	232.97	500.00	-267.03
67150 · High School Ministry	497.43	330.00	167.43
67200 · Supplies and Materials	1,502.43	2,000.00	-497.57
67250 · Individual Ministry	160.81	200.00	-39.19
67300 · Large Events	959.07	340.00	619.07
67350 · Safe Sanctuary	150.00	500.00	-350.00
67400 · Miscellaneous	9.10	100.00	-90.90
<b>Total 67000 · Education Grades 7-12</b>	<b>3,911.81</b>	<b>4,370.00</b>	<b>-458.19</b>
<b>68000 · Evangelism</b>			
68100 · Advertising	513.23	300.00	213.23
68200 · Chamber of Commerce	0.00	170.00	-170.00
68300 · New Members	228.57	99.00	129.57
<b>Total 68000 · Evangelism</b>	<b>741.80</b>	<b>569.00</b>	<b>172.80</b>
<b>69000 · Small Group Ministries</b>			
69100 · Adult Education	0.00	0.00	0.00
69200 · Sisters of LOC	0.00	59.00	-59.00
<b>Total 69000 · Small Group Ministries</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>59.00</b>	<b>-59.00</b>
<b>70000 · Stewardship</b>			
70010 · Fall Stewardship Program	164.00	450.00	-286.00
70000 · Stewardship—Other	65.00		
<b>Total 70000 · Stewardship</b>	<b>229.00</b>	<b>450.00</b>	<b>-221.00</b>
<b>71000 · Community Life</b>			
71050 · Community Life—Other	1,113.25	823.00	290.25
<b>Total 71000 · Community Life</b>	<b>1,113.25</b>	<b>823.00</b>	<b>290.25</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>551,498.45</b>	<b>551,057.00</b>	<b>441.45</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-14,394.37</b>	<b>-34,396.00</b>	<b>20,001.63</b>

## 2022 Special Funds & Capital Campaign

2022 Special Funds	Beg. Balance	Income	Expense	Balance	Capital Campaign	2022 YTD
Banners	148			148	<b>2022 Income</b>	7,835.00
Bldg. Maint. Fund	12,289	7,520	14,142	5,667	<b>2022 Expenses</b>	
Columbarium Fund	5,047		5,047	-	Tithe	783.50
Delano PS Social Service Designate 2023		1,000		1,000	Kairos	12,656.25
Disaster Relief/Outreach	685	600	685	600	Misc. Expenses	427.98
Endowment Fund Designate	1,570	2,000	3,570	-	<b>Total Expenses</b>	13,867.73
Endowment Fund Donate		670		670	Net Balance 2022	(6,032.73)
Emergency Fund LOC	-	1,200	1,200	-	Net Balance 2021	10,243.15
Gifts/Memorials	1,178	150	1,199	129	Net Balance 2020	(15,485.00)
Healing and Wholeness	6,316		900	5,416	Net Balance 2019	25,984.00
Kids Hope USA Designate 2023		1,250	27	1,223	Four Year Gain	14,709.42
Library Fund	735	10	58	687	Beg. Bal. Tithe Pay.	12,083.31
Love INC Birthday Ministry	704	1,041	385	1,360	2021 Tithe Payable	783.50
Lutheran University Nigeria	12,125		12,125	-	Less Tithe Expenses	12,728.14
Ministerial Scholarship	2,709		2,709	-	Balance Tithe Payable	138.67
Nourishing Hope Designate		1,400	422	978		
Piano Fund	1,476			1,476		
Projector Project	250		250	-		
Steeple and Roof Repair	16,712		16,124	588		
Technology	10,976		10,976	-		
Thrivent Choice Funds	705		705	-		
Worship Special Music Fund	2,040		2,040	-		
Music & Worship Designated		1,290		1,290		
Youth Account Remodel Funds	6,328	258	6,586	0.00		
<b>TOTAL Special Funds</b>	<b>81,992</b>	<b>18,389</b>	<b>79,148</b>	<b>21,233</b>		

# 2022 Balance Sheet

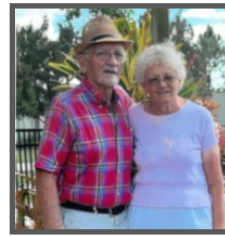
ASSETS		LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Current Assets		Liabilities	
Checking/Savings		Current Liabilities	
10100 · 10100		Accounts Payable	
10101 · Restricted-Steeple and Roof Rpr	588.28	20000 · Accounts Payable	3,674.67
10100 · 10100 - Other	116,233.56	Total Accounts Payable	3,674.67
Total 10100 · 10100	116,821.84	Credit Cards	
10200 · Mission Investment Fund-ELCA	91,504.46	20165 · CorTrust Credit Card	1,294.70
10300 · Columbarium-6159	21,006.74	Total Credit Cards	1,294.70
10400 · CorTrust 1965 WELCA	776.05	Other Current Liabilities	
10600 · Youth Checking-CorTrust	0.99	20200 · LOC Youth Payables	0.99
10650 · Youth Saving Acct-CorTrust	0.99	21050 · Columbaria Construction Loan	63,616.00
Total Checking/Savings	230,111.07	21200 · Capital Campaign Tithe Payable	138.67
Total Current Assets	230,111.07	24000 · Federal Payroll Taxes Payable	3,834.60
Fixed Assets		24100 · State Payroll Taxes Payable	640.13
16000 · Land and Buildings		24400 · EE Pretax Retirement	-577.67
10610 · Land	133,000.00	24500 · EE FSA Health	-54.16
10620 · Building	4,944,000.00	24600 · EE Life Insurance	-11.75
Total 16000 · Land and Buildings	5,077,000.00	24700 · EE Vision	-13.38
Total Fixed Assets	5,077,000.00	Total Other Current Liabilities	67,573.43
Other Assets		Total Current Liabilities	72,542.80
14125 · Endowment Fund	23,503.81	Total Liabilities	72,542.80
Total Other Assets	23,503.81	Equity	5,258,072.08
TOTAL ASSETS	5,330,614.88	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	5,330,614.88

## MEMBER STATISTICS

### 2022 Baptisms:

Cameron Behnke	01/23/22
Halle Lansing	03/20/22
Rowan Anderson	03/27/22
Dalton Schultz	05/29/22
Mara Myhre	06/12/22
Jack Janike	07/17/22
Laci Custer	07/31/22
Emilia Olson	08/28/22
Waverly Sjulstad	10/23/22

Members pictured here officially transferred into membership in 2021 but were formally welcomed in 2022.



Leslie & Betty Anderson



Paul & Lydia Nelson

<b>2022 New Members:</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Adult Members:</b>	<b>779</b>
<b>Baptized Children:</b>	<b>267</b>
<b>Total Membership:</b>	<b>1046</b>

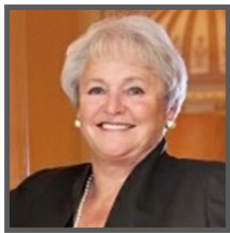
Al & Leanne Stoeckman



### 2022 Deaths:

Joanne Flaten	d. 01/29/22
Dan Torfin	d. 06/24/22
Steven Williams	d. 07/17/22
Dean Stewart*	d. 08/02/22
Henry Huetteman	d. 12/13/22

\* non-member funeral service



Lois Abel-Priester



Brad, Kimberly, Bryce, Bryn, & Nolan Beyer



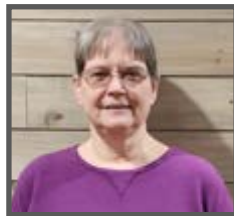
Elisa Carson



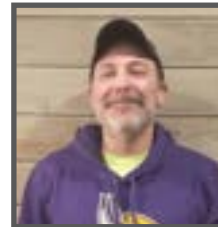
Jean Detwiler



David & Karen Gast



Pam Hoshal



Mike Ingebrigtsen



Brandon, Andrea, & Jack Janike



Jill Johnson & Kim Minkel



Craig, Belinda, Lauren, & Reagan Krysan



Steven, Gracia, Ava, Charlotte, & Emilia Macks



Zachary, Rachel, & Jackson Miller



Dan, Jackie, & Levi Peterson



Nathan, Jessica, & Dalton Schultz



Tony & Abby Trettin



Greg, Melissa, Henry, & Grace Ulberg

# 2023 Annual Report of the Bishop



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God's grace, peace, and hope be with you through our Savior, Jesus Christ .

Like rain after an endless drought, the gift of gathering in person this year has quenched a deep thirst. The pandemic revealed anew the depth of our thirst for community; Scripture also articulates this profound human need. Advances in technologies like livestreaming are indeed gifts to our church and world. Still, our hearts sing when we can rub shoulders around the communion table, embrace those who grieve, and raise our voices together in resounding song.

The mission of the synod is to support communities who share the thirst-quenching love of God – forming disciples, building beloved community, and working for just and healthy neighborhoods. I am deeply grateful for the many ways that we walk together in our journey of faith.

The synod staff walks closely in partnership with congregations, especially in times of transition, planning, or conflict. Last year, we accompanied congregations in 58 call processes. We offer skills trainings for lay members through the annual Tool Kit, and for church staff through peer groups and communicators gatherings. And, our Faith Practices & Neighborhood Practices program strengthens congregations in faith formation and engaging their neighborhoods.

Synod staff also work closely with our deacons and pastors. We experience great joy when we gather with congregations for ordinations, installations, and Ministry Site Profile reviews, as well as in preaching, presiding, and offering adult forums. We support our interim pastors who provide wise leadership in times of transition and our chaplains who provide critical care in a variety of settings. And, currently, we support 50 seminary students preparing to become pastors and deacons.

Our congregations worship in Spanish, Swahili, ASL, Oromo, Hmong, Lao, Norwegian, and Amharic. As we celebrate our diversity, we also recognize inequities affecting our congregations. Using a “racial equity lens,” the synod council launched an in-depth process to evaluate and strengthen partnerships with our “strategic ministries,” addressing historical realities of disconnection and resource inequities.

As a synod together, we will gather again April 28-29 for Synod Assembly. All are welcome at the opening worship Friday night; voting members will carry out the business of the synod on Saturday. We are blessed with the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III as our keynote speaker.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Lutherans in our synod and in the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, the ground-breaking for the first ever Lutheran University in Nigeria occurred this December. We celebrate God's provision and look forward to the blessings this university will bring.

During my sabbatical, I have been studying “the church in the U.S. – hopes and challenges.” I would like to present some of my learnings as well as facilitate conversations in as many congregations as possible during the coming months. For more information about these visits or news about what's happening around the synod, please visit the synod website and sign up for our weekly enews.

In Christ,  
*Bishop Ann Svennungsen*