



OUR SAVIOR'S

Lutheran Church

NEW ULM, MN

2023 Annual Report



Annual Meeting of the Congregation
February 4, 2024

Our Savior's Lutheran Church – 2023 Annual Report

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AGENDA

Annual Meeting of the Congregation
February 4, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church Sanctuary

MISSION STATEMENT: Our Savior's Lutheran Church is a Welcoming Community Experiencing God, Reaching Out and Raising Up followers of Jesus Christ.

1. Call to Order – President Becky O'Neill
2. Appointment of Parliamentarian
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Opening Devotions – Pastor Kathy Ulland-Klinkner
5. Appointment of Voting Judges
6. Adoption of Agenda
7. Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
8. Reports of Officers/Staff (*in 2023 Annual Report*)
 - a. Senior Pastor Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner
 - b. Associate Pastor David Nissen
 - c. Director of Music Ministry Thomas Maidl
 - d. Education Ministry Coordinator Lindsay Medina
 - e. Council President Becky O'Neill
9. Reports of Ministry Teams/Committee (*in 2023 Annual Report*)

a. Adult Ministry Team	h. Stewardship Team
b. Children's Ministry Team	i. Youth Ministry Team
c. Deacons Ministry Team	j. WELCA
d. Facilities & Grounds Team	k. Endowment Committee
e. Fellowship Ministry Team	l. Finance Committee
f. Mission Ministry Team	m. Personnel Committee
10. New Business
 - a. Election of 2024 OSLC Leaders
 - i. Nominating Committee
 - ii. Nominations from the floor (consent of nominee required)

*****Vote on Election of 2024 Leaders*****
11. Budget – OSLC Treasurer Jessica Olson
 - a. Review of 2023
 - b. 2024 Budget

*****Vote on Budget*****
12. Recognition of Officers/Ministry Team Members/Committee Members who have completed their terms.

13. Other new business approved to be added to the agenda.

14. Announcements

15. Closing Prayer – Pastor Dave Nissen

16. Adjournment

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

January 29, 2023, 11:30 a.m.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church Sanctuary

MISSION STATEMENT: Our Savior's Lutheran Church is a Welcoming Community Experiencing God, Reaching Out and Raising Up followers of Jesus Christ.

1. **Call to Order** – President Nancy Wichmann
2. **Appointment of Parliamentarian** – Jim Schmidt
3. **Determination of Quorum** – Jim Schmidt. Yes, Official Quorum to conduct business.
4. **Opening Devotions** – Pastor Kathy Ulland-Klinkner. Attendees joined in the Opening Liturgy from the ELCA and song.
5. **Appointment of Voting Judges**
 - a. Dan Carroll, Brenda Ruch, and John Ingebritson appointed.
6. **Appointment of Secretary for Annual Meeting** – Council Secretary Resigned in 2022.
 - a. Heidi Wilker appointed for Annual Meeting to take minutes.
7. **Adoption of Agenda**
 - a. Motion to by Dennis Johnson to add to agenda that we consider moving to one service on Sunday mornings. Second by John Ingebritson, Motion Passed and added to Agenda.
 - b. Motion to approve Amended Agenda by Linda Postel, Second by Kevin Wieland. Motion Passed.
8. **Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes** – No Corrections/Changes. Motion to approve minutes by Joey Warta, Second by Susan Krogstrand. Motion Passed.
9. **Reports of Officers/Staff** (*in 2022 Annual Report*) – Motion to accept reports by Marlys Zetah, Second by Roger Lund. Motion Passed.

a. Council President Nancy Wichmann	d. Director of Music Ministry Shannon Stuckey
b. Senior Pastor Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner	e. Education Ministry Coordinator
c. Associate Pastor David Nissen	Lindsay Medina
10. **Reports of Ministry Teams/Committees** (*in 2022 Annual Report*) – Motion to accept reports by Brenda Ruch, Second by Deb Egeland. Motion Passed.

a. Deacon Ministry Team	g. Personnel Committee
b. Facilities & Grounds	h. WELCA
c. Missions Ministry Team	i. Youth Ministry Team
d. Children's Ministry Team	j. Adult Ministry Team
e. Finance Committee	k. Endowment Committee
f. Fellowship Ministry Team	

11. New Business

a. Election of 2023 OSLC Leaders

- i. Nominating Committee – Deb Bastian & Jayne Hulke
 1. There are two positions left unfilled – an at-large council position and a youth team position.
 2. Thank you to those who are leaving teams, and thank you to those who said yes to joining a team.
- ii. Nominations from the floor (consent of nominee required)
 1. Nomination of Jenni Seavey for Youth Team position. She is present and consents. Motion by Ashley Hendricksen-Rasche, Second by Aleda Warta. Motion Passed.
 2. No further nominations.

Vote on Election of 2023 Leaders

- iii. Motion by Jim Schmidt for unanimous consent for 2023 ballot, second by Jeff Anderson. Motion Passed.

b. Zion Lutheran Church, Hanska

- i. Discussion was held on possibly working with Zion Lutheran, Hanska. Zion Lutheran approached us about the possibility of providing pastoral coverage of their congregation. Several conversations have been held and those working on it seeing the strengths outweighing the concerns. Bob Gruenhagen reviewed Zion's last five years of financials and they are in good shape. Discussion on cost, the need for help on Wednesdays, and other details that would need to be worked out was held.
- ii. Motion was made by Jim Schmidt for the council to appoint a committee to work with Zion and formally present a report in June. Seconded by Bob Gruenhagen. Motion passed.

12. Budget – OSLC Treasurer Jessica Olson

a. Review of 2022

- i. We met our revenue and building fund budgets, and have a surplus in the building fund of \$16,000. There is a loss in the income budget of \$15,000. We had some unexpected costs such as the 75th anniversary, repairs, and closing Kikaititi as it moved to its own non-profit.

b. 2023 Budget

- i. The 2023 budget is a \$50,000 increase over 2022. There is nothing else extra in the budget. It includes a 5% increase for staff, and \$3,000 to refurbish our handbells.

Vote on Budget

- ii. Motion to approve the 2023 budget by Susan Krogstrand, Second by Linda Postel. Motion passed.

13. Recognition of Officers/Ministry Team Members/Committee Members who have completed their terms.

14. Other new business approved to be added to the agenda – Move to one service on Sunday Mornings.

- a. Dennis Johnson spoke – He suggests we consider going back to one service on Sunday mornings.
 - i. Pastor Kathy stated when we reduce services, we have less people coming overall. Jen Geiger said the attendance numbers show this to be true.
 - ii. Brenda Paulson said if the pastors are okay with doing two services on Sunday, we should keep them.
 - iii. John Ingebritson said more people are together at one time with only one service.
 - iv. Annette Haynes likes the opportunity to attend at different times. She has also learned in her work that if you drop something, it is hard to get it back, and we could lose money.
 - v. Deb Egeland noted with the current attendance size, people noticed them as visitors and she appreciated being welcomed.
 - vi. Discussion will be brought to Church Council.

15. Announcements – Jim Schmidt talked about shortage of ushers and volunteers.

- a. A discussion was held on ideas for strengthening our volunteer core. Marlene Ingebritson suggested offering training. Brenda Ruch and Jayne Hulke felt people need to be personally asked. Jenny Krosch said Deacons have discussed this, and agreed that people don't know how to do the jobs. She suggested we make videos to have online for people to see how to do serving, ushering, etc.

16. Closing Prayer – Pastor Dave Nissen

17. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Jeff Anderson, Second by Joey Warta. Motion passed.

STATISTICS FOR 2023

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Services: 99

Wednesday Evening Services: 23

Special Services: 9

1 Confirmation, 1 Service of Healing, 3 Christmas Eve, and 3 Wednesday LinC† Family. Ash Wednesday Services were canceled due to a Blizzard.

Midweek Lenten and Holy Week Services: 10

5 Wednesday Evening Lent, 2 Maundy Thursday, and 3 Easter.

WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Sunday Avg. 2 services	Wednesday Avg.	Facebook Avg.
Winter/Spring	217	66	48
Summer	152	-	37
Fall	268	95	43
Mid-Week Lent	-	120	-
Easter (total)	572	-	62
Christmas (total)	672	-	31

HISTORICAL ATTENDANCE

2022

	Sunday Avg.	Wednesday Avg.	Facebook Avg.
Winter/Spring	184	45	96
Summer	138	-	45
Fall	250	77	51
Mid-Week Lent	-	91	-
Easter (total)	578	-	56
Christmas (total)	589	-	44

2021

	Sunday Avg.	Wednesday Avg.	Facebook Avg.
Winter/Spring	83	-	138
Summer (1 service)	89	-	93
Summer Sat. Night	-	32	-
Fall	168	68	89
Mid-Week Lent	-	11	79
Easter (total)	338	-	142
Christmas (total)	587	-	51

TOTAL WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January – March	3,035	2,522	635	2,367	3,046
<i>Facebook Views</i>	-	626	1,545	1,392	587
Ash Wednesday – Good Friday Wednesday Lent Services	599	369	315	755	845
Easter	647	192	338	578	572
<i>Facebook Views</i>	-	425	142	56	62
April – June	2,400	482	1,379	2,600	2,783
<i>Facebook Views</i>	-	2,573	1,319	604	552
July – September	2,942	1,076	2,009	2,363	2,517
<i>Facebook Views</i>	-	1,654	1,163	530	502
October – December	2,978	1,033	2,755	3,724	4,297
<i>Facebook Views</i>	-	1,969	1,380	653	607
Christmas	865	229	587	589	672
<i>Facebook Views</i>	-	113	51	44	31

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms*	20	Funerals**	18
Confirmations	14	Marriages***	4

*Includes non-member children baptized at an OSLC worship service.

**Includes non-member funerals/memorial services presided over by an OSLC pastor.

***Includes non-member weddings officiated by an OSLC pastor.

MEMBERSHIP DATA

Active Members

	Baptized	Confirmed
Members reported as of December 31, 2022	1,726	1,256
Gains in 2023		
Baptized	20	
Confirmed		14
Received	60	37
Re-activated	5	3
Other	0	0
Losses in 2023		
Deaths	13	13
Transfers	7	4
Other	1	1
Removed by Request	11	7
2023 Net Gain (Loss)	53	29
Members reported as of December 31, 2023	1,779	1,285

2023 BAPTISMS

Cameron Brethorst

Maverick Furth

Nolan Gehring

Holten Hale

Maddox Osborne

Eyan Schiltz

Mary Vangness

Blake Eckstein

Bryinna Gehring

Elle Goette

Elleigh Kraus

Graham Pfarr

Chloe Shugel

Kallan Friesner

Lynden Gehring

Harlen Gudmonson

Owen Mertz

Evan Schiltz

Elisabeth Uhl

Knoxwel Winter

2023 CONFIRMANDS

Cole Frederick	Calleigh Frederickson	Brynn Gramentz
Dirk Haynes	Braxton Kiecker	Isabel Krenz
Lauren Kveno	Kelsey Landsteiner	Sophia Lund
Sophia Netzke	Henry Oscarson	Aubree Schmidt
Brayden Wendinger		Jevin Zamzow

2023 MARRIAGES

Caleb & Kristi (Larson) Davis	Jake & Felicia (Pineda) Korteum
Wyatt & Margaret (Treiber) Oelberg	Anthony & Kayla (Brandes) Verdoljak

MEMBERS LOST DUE TO DEATH IN 2023

Robert Beussman	Ryan Busch	Delphine Domeier
Carol Forsberg	Michael Hylan	Joyce Jobe
Ann Julien	Susan Lorentz	Alberta Marth-Wohlfeil
Allen Meyer	Helen Runck	Theodore Sauers
	Tanya Wiesner	

2023 MEMBERS TRANSFERRED

Nick Bredeson	Noah Bredeson	Tiffany Bredeson
Ethan Lang	Evan Lang	Jeremy Lang
	Rebecca Lang	

2023 MEMBERS RECEIVED

Andrea Budahn	Andrew Budahn	Mylah Budahn
Knox Fausch	Tara Fausch	Marjorie Feil
Heather Fletcher	Mason Furth	Matthew Furth
Megan Furth	Mily Furth	Jon Houlihan
Kaitlin Houlihan	Otto Houlihan	Walter Houlihan
Jasmin Huerta	Joslin Huerta	Hannah Hutchens
Henry Hutchens	Lee Hutchens	Rebecca Hutchens

Amalia Johnson	Colton Johnson	Grayson Johnson
Jonathon Johnson	Michelle Johnson	Nancy Knakmuhs
Marilyn Lindsay	Russell Lindsay	Donna Marlowe
Brady Mertz	Chad Nachreiner	Dorothy Oeltjenbruns
Jenna Rubey	Faye Scheutzle	Jackie Scheutzle
Therese Schimek	Lois Schorn	Dale Schottle
Robin Schottle	Anna Vangsness	Troy Vangsness
Amanda Wendinger	Asher Wendinger	Brayden Wendinger
Brecken Wendinger	Gregory Wendinger	Nash Wendinger
Reid Wendinger	Rylee Wendinger	Austin Windschitl
Jace Windschitl	Lee Windschitl	Traci Windschitl
Myles Wurtzberger	Payten Wurtzberger	Sheila Wurtzberger
Taven Wurtzberger	Barbara Zins	Zoey Zins

2023 MEMORIALS

Our Savior's received memorials for the following named individuals during 2023:

Ann Anderson's Mother	Bob Beussman	Ryan Busch
Delphine Domeier	Steve Farasyn	Carol Forsberg
Paul Hillesheim	Mike Hylen	Wally Jurgens
Leah Nielsen Koehne	Sue Lorentz	Bert Marth
Allen Meyer	Eunice Olson's Brother in Law	Patricia Rodenberg
Helen Runck	Ted Sauers	Jim Senske's Mother
Nathan Stolt	Tanya Wiesner	Jim Zetah

2023 Congregational Council & Committee Members

Congregational Council Officers:

Becky O'Neill, Chip Rasche,
Nancy Wichmann, Jessica Olson

Congregational Council Members:

Kathy Lund, Bob Gruenhagen, Ken Varland,
Shaun Luker

Audit Committee:

Sharon Nordby, Sarah Steffl, Brenda Nielsen

Endowment Committee:

Steve Hawkins, Tom Oelberg, Bob Apitz, Judy McLean, Dave Schmidt

Finance Committee:

Harold Remme, Jim Schmidt, Jim Hanson,
Jessica Olson, Kathy Lund

Nominating Committee:

Shawn Hildebrandt, Jayne Hulke, Ann Iverson,
Brenda Ruch, Danielle Borchert

Personnel Committee:

Jeff Nielsen, Julie Carroll, Chip Rasche,
Becky O'Neill

2023 Ministry Team Members

Adult Ministry Team:

Kitty Hietala, Diane Lambrecht, Kathy Hopf,
Ashley Polich, Kristina Severson

Children's Ministry Team:

Laura Leighty, Daniele Sharits, Jackie Rieke,
Charlene Hauser, Bobbi Teske

Deacon Ministry Team:

Alyssa Nissen, Linda Postel, Coryn Enck,
Karissa Fenske, Jenny Krosch, Darlene Meier

Fellowship Ministry Team:

Cheryl & Brian Kraus, Sara & Doug Hoffmann, Garry & Brenda Paulson, Annette Haynes,
Candy Roiger, Bonnie Mangen, Jason & Amber Melby, Marty & Michele Bogatzke,
Stacey & Jeremy Hillesheim, Alan & Kitty Rader

Youth Ministry Team:

Students: Natalia Frederickson, Allie Schneider, Natalie Severson

Adults: Ashley Hendricksen-Rasche, Jenni Seavey, Ashley Schneider, Becca Warta

WELCA Elected Officers:

Susie Hoban, Marlys Zetah, JoAnn Saffert, Betty Sauers, Marge Schmidt, Char Webster,
Dawn Portner

Facilities & Grounds Ministry Team:

Chris Cooke, Ryan Neidecker, Denny Johnson,
Ron Mehlhop, Larry Hildebrandt, Jim Hulke

Mission Ministry Team:

Kriz Zetah, Ann Anderson,
Marlene Ingebritson, Deb Egeland, Karole Lieb

Stewardship Team:

MarySue Apitz, Bill McLean,
Amanda Neidecker, Deb Bastian, Lisa Larson

OUR SAVIOR'S STAFF

Senior Pastor	Pastor Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner
Associate Pastor/Director of Youth & Family Ministries	Pastor David Nissen
Director of Music Ministries	Thomas Maidl
Education Ministry Coordinator	Lindsay Medina
Adult & Children's Choir Director	Madeline Cacciatore-Warta
Handbell Director	Sarah Berger
Organists/Pianists	Shannon Stuckey, Tom Maidl, Kathy Hopf, Jodi Braulick, Ryan Johnson, JoAnn Huss
Facilities Manager	Scott Kathman
Office Administrator	Jen Geiger
Business Administrator	Lois Aufderheide

SENIOR PASTOR Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner

Acts 2:46-47 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the good-will of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The theme for our Fall stewardship campaign was, "Because of You, Our Church Changes Lives." You, a beloved child of God, are sharing your gifts in this congregation, and lives are being changed with the Good News of Jesus Christ. You may doubt you have much impact, or you may wonder if we should be humbler, or you may wonder if lives are being changed. These verses from Acts about the early church reassure us that in the day-by-day things we do in the ministries of this church, God is at work. God uses us to change lives.

As I look back on 2023, it is the things that are at the heart of who we are as the people of God that stand out. Weekly worship around Word and Sacrament continues to nourish us to serve God and God's people in the world. Not only do pastors lead this, but choirs, worship volunteers, and deacons all add to this important time as we join together in worship and praise. I am grateful for those who volunteer to make sure our worship is also online for those who cannot be here.

While faith formation is different today with Wednesday and Sunday LinC†, it is an important way we keep promises we make to parents and children at baptism. At LinC† is where I have heard from our kids: A fifth grader: "I love church!" A sixth grader: "Wednesday is my favorite day of the week." A kindergartener: "This God's church!" A sixth grader: "Having faith means I have purpose, a reason to be here." Confirmation looks more traditional, but we make changes to fit today's world. If you were here on Confirmation Sunday you hear this from the faith stories of our 10th grade students. In describing a favorite story being David and Goliath a student said: "The odds were against David and he shocks the world. No matter how little or how belittled you are, you can overcome." You see, as we continue our day-to-day ministries, God is changing lives through this church.

Senior Pastor's Report, continued

While the people on ministry teams rotate, the mission and ministry continue. As an example, the mission team, with your gifts, has been able to designate gifts for many local ministries like NUMAS Haus and Ivy House, along with ELCA hunger and relief ministries. They have been able help parents in our community and needy students at school. Each ministry team has a role and continues to live that out so that our church can continue its ministries. You can read their reports to see what each team has done in 2023. Thanks to all the team and committee members, church council, and church officers for their time and work.

There is much that goes on behind the scenes at church. A few things our volunteers do: count offering, make and serve Wednesday meals, quilt, knit, help at worship, teach, pray, sing, help with funeral meals, clean, decorate, help with mailings, trim trees...I know I'm missing things as there are too many things to list! These day-to-day and week-to-week things are what make the church work, and this is how God uses us to change lives. Thank you!

We gave thanks for the ministry of Shannon Stuckey in 2023, and are grateful for how we have been able to re-shape that position. We welcome Tom Maidl and Sarah Berger to our music staff, and are grateful for how Madeline Cacciatore-Warta has added the Children's Choir to her position. We also thanked Caryn Nelsen for her ministry here and welcome Lois Aufderheide as the new Business Administrator. Thank you to Pastor Dave Nissen, Scott Kathman, Lindsay Medina, and Jen Geiger for their ongoing leadership as the staff of Our Savior's. Day-to-day they live out their callings here and God is using them to help lead our ministries so that we better live out mission.

This was a good year for Our Savior's. We had many baptisms, new members, and worship attendance has grown. At the same time, we held funerals for, or remember, 13 of our members who died. We find comfort in knowing they are with God, yet they were loved and are missed.

Financially, we ended the year strong. While we make inroads on our building debt, getting this paid off is important as there are other needs for our building and parking lot. Thank you for your financial gifts for our general fund and building fund!

I am so grateful to be called to be one of your pastors. It is a blessing to serve here at Our Savior's. Day-to-day, while there are always challenges, it is a joy to be part of a congregation who is eager to grow in their mission and ministry. Let us stay faithful to our calling as the people of Our Savior's and trust that as we day-by-day live out those callings, God will use us to change lives with the love of Jesus.

Together in Ministry,
Pastor Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Pastor David Nissen

God's blessings and peace be with you in this time of reflection,

Associate Pastor's Report, continued

This has been another wonderful year of service to God and to the people here at Our Savior's. We have seen so many baptisms, new members, program growth, life-giving studies, and expressions of God's gift of joy. There have also been difficulties that we have faced; grief and funerals, challenging conversations, questions about the future of the wider church. However, we can all find hope in the fact that no matter what we are going through, we walk it together as a church, always being led by the Holy Spirit.

One thing I would like to lift out from this last year that has brought me hope in my work has been the blessings of Confirmation. Each week we've been gathering with the largest number of students that have gathered here in years. Our program continues to grow as we see families seeking out ways to grow in their faith and in their community. I have been so blessed by the youth in our congregation and the wisdom and joy they give.

I've also seen opportunities for growth in faith of our adults. Our time spent at Theology on Tap has shown that there is renewed excitement to learn about faith and to grow as a community of Christ. Through the studies on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, Monday afternoons, and everywhere else, I have seen God at work in inspiring questions as we learn more about how we can serve God's people. This past year, I was especially excited by our Bible 101 study. During that time, we learned more about our scriptures and how we can ask questions of our faith. This led to wonderful conversation around what it means to be a Christian and how that looks on a daily basis.

Worship at Our Savior's continues to be a haven of hope. Through celebrations of weekly worship and special occasions, we sing praises to God and are filled with the joys of the spirit. I'm excited by opportunities to explore new modes of worship, and finding renewed strength in the work of ministry. God has blessed us with gifts in music (Our new Music Director, our new Handbell Choir Director, and our new Children's Choir Director), preaching, praise, and creativity. May we all learn to use those gifts for the sake of God's work among us.

My prayer for this coming year is that we would continue to be surprised by what God is doing. The church is alive and active and God has blessed us; to serve with all our body, heart, mind, and soul. May we see that as the blessing of purpose for the needs of God's beloved creation; the church, the world, and all peoples.

May these words from the Apostle Paul guide our years to come:

"¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:1-5)

May God bless us with compassion, courage, and joy to do the work ahead!

Pr. Dave Nissen

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Thomas Maidl

The Music Ministries at Our Savior's is an integral part of our Lutheran Worship. We recognize music as a gift from God so that people of all ages can participate more fully in their Faith Journey. We share this gift of Music with our congregation, as a contribution to the whole of Worship, in order to heighten the meaning of Scripture and the spoken Word.

This is the Mission Statement for the Music Ministries at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. It was written in 2013 and I am fortunate enough to be able to now experience it firsthand. I am thankful Shannon Stuckey left it pinned to my bulletin board upon her retirement. This mission statement speaks volumes. Music at Our Savior's is an integral part of our worship services.

Our Adult Choir, led by Madeline Cacciatore-Warta, is such a joy to work with. Their commitment to being worship leaders and sharing their faith through the anthems they sing is notable. Not many churches have choirs anymore, so we are very blessed to have our Adult Choir be a constant in our worship services. The Christmas Cantata "Sing Joy to All the World" by Lloyd Larson was a highlight this year.

We have nearly 120 children involved in the Wednesday LinC† Children's Choir, also led by Madeline Cacciatore-Warta. They sing once a month during service. I know how much our Congregation enjoys seeing all the energy that the children bring to worship.

We are also fortunate enough to have two Handbell Choirs, Adult and Youth, that perform once a month. Sarah Berger has done a wonderful as their new director since Shannon's retirement. Playing Handbells is not easy, but the members of our choirs make it look that way! The sound of the bells brings another dimension to our worship space and I have enjoyed hearing them share their gift of music with our congregation.

We have so many talented musicians of all ages that are very gracious in sharing their gifts with us throughout the year. I hope you all know how much you are appreciated by me and the congregation. Music is a gift from God and when we all participate, by being in a choir, playing handbells, or singing the hymns during worship, we are giving back to our community.

I would like to thank Madeline Cacciatore-Warta for all her work with the Adult Choir and LinC†, as well as Sarah Berger for all her work with the Handbell Choirs. I am grateful to Ryan Johnson, Kathy Hopf, Jodi Braulick, and JoAnn Huss for their willingness to lead worship services when I cannot be there.

Thomas Maidl

EDUCATION MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Lindsay Medina

2023 has flown by! Once again Our Savior's has had an amazing year for Education Ministries programming! Our attendance in programming continues to grow and our schedules continue to

Education Ministries Coordinator's Report, continued

be busy. The Wednesday program continues to be very strong, with minimal absent kids each week. Our consistent attendance with Wednesdays reiterates the importance of offering different options for our faith formation.

My Wednesdays are busy with kids from Wednesday LinC† to 5th and 6th grade youth group to evening worship. Between 3:30 PM – 8:00 PM, the halls of the church are loud and full of excitement! From faith formation, choir, and socializing, the energy is contagious. The 5th and 6th grade youth group is a hit with the kids and averages 20+ kids each week. This group focuses on building relationships and friendships in faith. And this is the best way to end a busy day: highs and lows, prayers, and good conversation. I leave each week feeling more blessed than the week before.

June is always busy with VBS. 83 children attended VBS at OSLC during summer 2023! We also had over 32 adult and youth volunteers that helped make this event successful! We went back to one session this year; this may have affected our registration numbers slightly, but it was easier on our volunteers. We will continue to talk about pros and cons for the future. We are already planning and getting excited for VBS 2024. The theme is SCUBA...diving into friendship with God.

In June, I attended bible camp at Green Lake/Shores of St. Andrew with our youth. 50 kids attended camp in summer 2023. GLLM did an amazing job offering their awesome program to kids once again. Camp offers an amazing way for kids to grow in their faith with their peers. Our OSLC kids are lucky to have this opportunity. We are blessed to have congregation support to help send so many kids to camp.

Our Milestones have continued in 2023. We have gotten back into a routine of offering a Milestone class for families on the day Milestones are presented. This is a great way for parents to fulfill their baptismal promises. It is wonderful to continue this program with the families of OSLC.

We ended 2023 with a Christmas program that filled the church. The kids sung and acted out the nativity story. It is always so heart warming to see and hear the kids share the story of Christ's birth. I feel it's the perfect way to enter the holiday season, and many feel the same way.

Thank you again to the Congregation of Our Savior's. Thank you for the prayers, donations (whether food or money) to our programs, thank you for your help on various events, and thank you for being a safe place for these kids to come and learn about God; The support for our children and families does not go unnoticed. We are so blessed to have a congregation that backs our programs and youth.

God Bless,
Lindsay Medina
Education Ministries Coordinator

OSLC COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Becky O'Neill

2023 brought some notable changes to Our Savior's. A new Capital Campaign Team was formed with the goal of working to pay off our building debt and growing available funds for future church improvement needs. While this committee is still in its beginning stages, we have great hopes for their success. Finances continue to be a constant challenge, but our faithful congregation met the demand and we ended the year on budget.

We also experienced staffing changes. Shannon Stuckey retired after 21 years of serving the church as Director of Music Ministries. We are so grateful for her years of leadership and service for our children and music ministry. Shannon wore many hats in her role, and after several months of advertising the position for one person, we revamped the position to be divided and were able to successfully fill the positions. Madeline Cacciatore-Warta added Children's Choir Director to her current role of Adult Choir Director, and Sarah Berger accepted the Handbell Director position in June. In August, the Director of Music Ministries position was accepted by Tom Maidl. Caryn Nelson resigned as Church Business Administrator in October, and we welcomed Lois Aufderheide as the new Business Administrator in December 2023.

In 2023, our congregation grew by 74 new members including 14 through confirmation. We also had an astounding 20 baptisms. How blessed we are to have such growth in our congregation!

Wednesday after school LinC† attendance continues to prosper. We still need two buses to get all the children here from school, and with nearly one hundred twenty children weekly, we are grateful for all the staff and volunteers that help make Wednesdays a success every single week. Confirmation also is quite busy with 67 kids in grades 7-9 learning the word of God and taking the next steps in affirming their faith.

I want to thank each person on the Council for their dedication this past year: Nancy Wichmann (Past President), Chip Rasche (Vice President), Jessica Olson (Treasurer), Bailey Hale (Secretary), and Bob Gruenhagen, Shaun Luker, Kathy Lund, and Ken Varland (Members at Large).

Thank you to our pastors, staff, and committee members for their service and dedication. Our congregation is fortunate to have such caring and accommodating staff. Continued prayers for our pastors, staff, and congregation for 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky O'Neill
OSLC Council President

Annual Report of Bishop Dee Pederson, SWMN Synod



For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.....

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. – 1 Cor. 12.

One of the great joys of my call is to visit the congregations across this synod. Our territory includes vast plains, rich agricultural land, hilly vistas, quiet lakes, and powerful rivers. God planted our congregations in cities, open farmland, and towns. We are very different from each other; yet in Jesus Christ, we all are one.

As we've journeyed together this year, we have been united by focusing on the WORD: Jesus - the Word-made-flesh, and the word of Scripture – as the source and center of our lives.

- **Embody the Word.** Synod Assembly 2023 brought over 365 voting members together in-person for the first time in 4 years! We rejoiced to sing again in Christ Chapel, passed the 2025 budget, and elected new leaders. And plenary speaker Matt Bloom helped us consider wholistic wellness in daily life.
- **Serving the Word Today.** Rostered ministers gathered for the Fall Theological Conference and considered how the Word is served (our calling to serve Christ) and how we deliver or serve-up the Word to people in our presiding and preaching. Presenter Jason Moore provided insights that can transfer in some way to all of our congregations, as we serve the Word both in-person and online in our both/and world today.
- **Living the Word Today.** Equipping Congregations Day 2023 gathered participants at Vinje Lutheran in Willmar to discover ministry resources – from stewardship to hospitality – to take back home. Luther Seminary Professor Rolf Jacobson led participants to look for the gifts of the Holy Spirit who is at loose in our world today.

Those actions – *Embody, Serving, and Living the Word Today* - provide the framework for reviewing this year and leaning into the next.

Embody the Word

Thank you for the way you, as beloved children of God, embody the word in your congregations and daily callings. You are engaging in ministry that is vital to the lives of your participants and the larger community. Although many of us are still exhausted from pandemic adaptations,

Bishop Pederson's Report, continued

congregations are emerging from these difficult years with a clearer sense of who we are and what God is calling us to be and do today. The dedication of our church leaders to ministries of word and sacrament and serving, to compassion, mercy, and justice - has never been greater.

As we review the past year, one place to turn is the numbers. No, it's not all about the numbers, but trends do tell a story, whether in our households, businesses, or congregations. A synod's responsibility is to note the trends occurring among our congregations because these numbers represent real people, hearing the story of God's love in Jesus Christ.

The most recent statistical summary for congregations comes from the annual reports you completed for 2022. Of the 229 congregations in the SW MN Synod in 2022, 166 filed an annual report; 63 filed no report. When the annual report information comes to you in January, please direct the info to others in your congregation who can assist. Talk with your Church Council about the trends you are seeing. Return the form. And then know you have helped us reach a target of 100% responses this year! Thank you!

For numbers-lovers

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Baptized members:	100,421	97,689
Ave. baptized/cong.	439	428
Baptisms age 16+	13	24
Affirmation of Faith	290	353
Transfer in	862	1093
Baptized Received	2,207	2,594
Active Participants	48,944	48,875
Ave. wkly worship on-site	10,662	12,918
Ave. wkly. worship online	14,326	9,554
Ave. att. per cong. on-site	55	64
Ave. att. per cong. online	103	70

What stories do those figures tell? There is the cultural trend of fewer people connecting with a faith community. But these numbers also represent stories of outreach as adults are welcomed through Holy Baptism as hospitality is extended and new members are received, and as people are drawn to worshipping together both in the room and online.

Generosity

We know there is great generosity in our congregations! Although earned income for congregations was challenged last year everywhere, regular giving and other receipts increased. Over the pandemic years, many congregations held special appeals to upgrade technology – what a gift!

You have an impact on human lives every day. Each week in the announcements, try telling a brief story about one of your ministries. Share a photo on a screen. Thank people for their generosity and the difference they are making. If you are looking for resources to help affirm

Bishop Pederson's Report, continued

your people's generosity, check out the synod website under the "Generosity" tab!
(<https://swmnelca.org/congregations/generosity-stewardship/>)

Thank you for the generous Mission Support you shared in 2022. Although current 2023 figures won't be known until after the fiscal year ends January 31, we have seen a significant decrease in Mission Support this year. Why? We know that the cushion of PPP money is used up. Everything costs more. Some of our congregations' most generous givers are passing away or face high costs for elder care. And there is the tendency that when faced with financial challenges, congregations choose to direct funds close to home. Whatever the reason, we will continue to wisely steward the resources we receive and are committed to prioritizing providing pastoral care of congregations and rostered ministers. Like you, we know that challenges can also lead to doing things in new ways, and we trust in God's creative Spirit as we plan for the future. Thank you for your generosity.

If you have not yet sent in a Mission Support contribution for this year, will you please consider a gift yet in January? And if you have not yet returned a Mission Support Intent form for 2024, please do so. We are deep in planning the 2026 budget that will be presented at the 2024 Synod Assembly, and your planning will help us do our best planning, as well. Thank you!

Serving the Word Today

Thanks be to God for all the Lay and Rostered Ministers leading our congregations today. They are serving Jesus and serving the Visible and Spoken Word to people in worship in this synod and far beyond. Our synod includes 300 rostered ministers, half of whom hold active calls in congregations, specialized calls, and synod calls.



This year, we celebrated the ordination of 5 new pastors: Rev. Chad Duffy, Rev. Mort Meyenberg, Rev. Stefan Swanson, Rev. Bob Ossefoort, and Rev. Sarah Zender. We consistently

welcome more rostered ministers to this great synod than we see move away.

One of the greatest challenges for congregations and synods today is securing rostered minister leaders who can “serve the Word” in their context. Today, seminaries are seeing approximately half the number of enrollments they did 15 years ago. The good news is that congregations are embracing the gifts of their people and becoming less pastor-dependent than we were. The other piece of good news is that more lay leaders are sensing the Holy Spirit nudging them to consider part- or full-time ministry – often as a second career; and they are bringing incredible skills and life experiences into these new callings today.

TODAY, I pray that God will “send laborers” into this new and changing vineyard of ministry. My mentor, Rev. Dick Vangerud, often spoke of an initiative of our predecessor church body (The American Lutheran Church) called, “Men for the Ministry.” Yes, back in the 1960s, the initiative was only about “men” for the ministry! But back then, congregations prayed that God would raise up new leaders. Pastors encouraged those they knew to consider ministry as a life calling. Since we can’t grow pastors on trees, this is what I ask you to do:

- Pray in weekly worship and in your own devotions that the Holy Spirit would move hearts for people to consider part- or full-time ministry.
- Notice the people of any age in your church who might have the faith, temperament, and gifts for ministry. Affirm their strengths. Ask them if they might pray about and consider ministry in their future.

We are grateful for the ministry of Gifts of Grace that helps rostered ministers reduce the debt from their seminary training, and for the scholarships that are available from so many sources – including this synod, our seminaries, and the ELCA churchwide. Thank you!

For congregations who have rostered ministers leading you, please take care of them by providing appropriate compensation (see our synod compensation guidelines) and benefits. Encourage them to take sabbath time away from work and make use of continuing education growth. Got a concern? Talk to them, not about them. Give them a word of thanks for their ministry, which they serve 24/7.

Whether there are lay or rostered leaders serving the word with you today, strive to live together as the body of Christ. Nothing is more draining of leadership or destructive of Christian community than behaviors which tear apart the body of Christ. At the end of chapter 12, St. Paul tells the Corinthians, “And I will show you a still more excellent way.” And that is the way of love - the way of Jesus.

Living the Word Today

These are interesting times to be called and sent by the Triune God to live the Word today! The territory of our synod is described by the state demographer as including areas that are entirely Rural, Town/Rural Mix, Urban/Town/Rural Mix, and Entirely Urban. “Cities, farms, and towns together.” As demographic trends continue, the report asks, and we as the church can ask:

Bishop Pederson's Report, continued

- How will we support the many older adults who are part of our communities who may live farther from services and family support?
- How will we respond to labor force shortages as more Boomers move into retirement?
- How can our churches help our distinct communities to be more attractive to new residents?
- How can churches make a difference in communities with growing racial and cultural diversity, and create connections and belonging?

Those gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12) will lead the way as God continues to reform us to live the Word today.

This fall we celebrated the reactivation of our relationships with our friends in the South Eastern Diocese of Southern Africa. Four guests came to be with us here in Sept. -Oct., and then five leaders from SW MN made the journey to South Africa and were blessed by warm hospitality, joy in our friendships, and new opportunities to accompany one another in Christ. Another gift!



I am grateful for the leadership of our Synod Council, taking seriously its responsibility to be faithful stewards of our resources of staffing, facility, and funding. I am excited to work together with them on the Council's commitment to "*empower Christian communities to join in God's mission of reconciliation: listening intentionally, loving unconditionally, serving others authentically, and faithfully healing creation.*" They have been focusing on the strengths, opportunities, aspirations, and results they see in this commitment, and are eager to live out this vision with you in the coming year.



I conclude this report by expressing my sincere **thanks and gratitude** to the synod staff who embody, serve, and live the Word each day: Rev. Heather Culuris – Synod Minister, Tammy Schacher – Executive Assistant, Kristin Bakeberg – Communications Coordinator, Maggie Berggren – Administrative Assistant, and Rev. Dr. Troy Pflibsen – Director for Evangelical Mission. They walk beside you in ministry with wisdom and joy. We are grateful for the ministry of Youth Ministry Coordinator Rev. Nikoli Falensheck, who served with us for the past year. And we continue to grieve the passing of our colleague and friend, Pr. Naomi Mahler, who brought energy, courage, and faith to her many ministries and lived out + *SOLI DEO GLORIA!* each day.

Thank you for the privilege of embodying, serving, and living the Word together with you as the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA.

Bishop Pederson's Report, continued

Holy God, we praise you for calling diverse people into your church and its ministries. Uphold all leaders with your strong and loving arms. Empower ministers to serve your people with the word of scripture, the water of life, the meal of grace, and deeds of love and mercy and justice.

Equip them with both beloved traditions and fresh ideas; grant them joy in their tasks; and renew them daily by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Word among us, now and forever. Amen.

(adapted from ACS, p. 46).

+ with grace, peace, and love,



Rev. Dee Pederson, D. Min

Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Dear Congregational Partners,

What was true over 85 years ago when Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (GLLM) was founded, still holds true today — God shows up in life-changing ways within our ministries!

The facts of 2023:

- Summer program numbers increased by 314 participants!
- Retreat and conference numbers increased drastically!
- Event participation exploded in 2023 making things like our Dinner Theater, Quilt Auction, and community worships a sizable and significant joy in our program year!
- The total number of donors, number of individual gifts, and total dollar amount received all hit all time highs!

And along with all this excitement, we have even more to look forward to! Work has begun on The Village at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp. This over \$1 million dollar project as part of the Water's Edge Campaign will create a wildly vibrant space for the life-changing love of Jesus to be shared. We can't wait to reintroduce this already cherished space to the GLLM network.

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries' Report, continued

Overall income is projected to increase by \$300,000 over 2022 but expenses have also increased as well. We underestimated the expense of the wild growth we experienced this year and going into the last weeks of the year, have a significant deficit to overcome. Thank you to our many partners who are supporting our efforts to finish the year strong.

Together, we have accomplished so much! Thank you for supporting GLLM through your participation, your volunteerism, your gifts, and your mission support. I relish the relationship we have created that goes far past a simple “transaction” and truly deserves the designation of “partnership.”

The format of this report doesn't allow near the space needed to process the entire year nor thank all that contributed to its success. Please be on the lookout for our annual report which will be made available in the later half of January 2024.

Blessings,



Travis Aufderheide, Executive Director



Dear Living Meadows Church Family,

We have turned the clock to 2024 feeling blessed for a terrific care team and happy residents at Living Meadows. We began 2023 with gratitude for our health, an increase in census and a return to a new normal in long term care. We saw fewer Covid infections among both residents and staff. Masking is mostly gone within our building, except during times of outbreak. Smiles among staff and residents have become our new normal.

Leadership stayed consistent in 2023 as we had no turnover among our leadership team. In March we welcomed Tacy Uhde as an Assessment Nurse to our leadership team. We also welcomed 31 new staff in all areas of nursing, dietary and housekeeping. We reduced our usage of staffing agencies greatly in 2023. All staff received raises to stay competitive with other health care organizations. We consistently worked on staff appreciation and to build a positive employee culture through staff celebrations, bonuses, and training. We feel very blessed to have a wonderful and dedicated team.

Living Meadows' Report, continued

We made several plant improvements in 2023 including replacing some HVAC systems and adding a dedicated boardroom. We increased our curb appeal by resurfacing our parking lot and redesigning our landscaping in the front of our building. In the spring of 2024 we hope to also replace the lighting in our parking lot.

For the first time Living Meadows participated in “Give to the Max MN” and raised money for new benches and also sent a year end appeal. In total we raised \$11,000 between the 2 campaigns led by our Founders Fund committee.

We need your partnership as we move forward. You can help us in 5 ways –

1. Share our short update with your church family and at your church’s annual meeting.
2. Send delegates to our Annual Meeting on February 27, 2024. It is important for your congregation to select delegates each year that will attend our Annual Meeting along with your pastor.
3. Identify candidates in your congregation who could join our Living Meadows Corporate Board or Founders Board. Simply pass their names on to me or our Administrator, Tom Goeritz.
4. Encourage your congregational families to consider Living Meadows at Luther – Madelia for their family’s care needs with necessary.
5. Remember our Living Meadows residents and care team in your prayers.

Thank you for your continued support of Living Meadows!

Dennis D Swenson, Board President
Tom Goeritz, Administator

Ministry Team Reports

ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

Members: Pastor Dave, Kathy Hopf, Kitty Hietala, Ashley Polich, Kristina Severson, and Diane Lambrecht.

In 2023, the Adult Ministry Team continued working on ways to provide spiritual growth and fellowship for the members of Our Saviors.

Theology on Tap was held monthly at Schells Brewery and has continued to be popular. This is held the first Thursday of every month.

In early 2023, Adult Ministry hosted a Trauma and Resiliency speaker from Brown County with about 12 people in attendance. There was great conversation within the group and it was considered beneficial by those in attendance.

A Lenten study last spring by Adam Hamilton (*Jesus and the Outsiders*) saw about 6-10 people attending regularly. Also in the spring, a bread-making class was held with five people in attendance.

In June 2023, Adult Ministry hosted a trip to the Minnesota Twins game which was very popular. We were grateful to receive help setting up the visit from Luke Phifer, a son of the congregation, who is now working with the Twins.

In the fall, the team hosted a curling outing in Mankato which was attended by 12 people and well-received by participants. A fall bible study was split into Sundays and Mondays in an attempt to make it more accessible for those who couldn't make it one day or the other. There were about 5-6 people attending each day on a regular basis.

The team attempted to schedule a blood drive at the church twice in the last year, however, the Red Cross will only set up a blood drive if a minimum of 40 sign ups is reached and we were unable to reach that number. We will consider trying to schedule a blood drive again in 2024.

Our Savior's members are encouraged to contact Adult Ministry Team with ideas for future Adult Ministry activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Kitty Hietala
on behalf of the Adult Ministry Team

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

The Children's Ministry team consists of 5 members: Charlene Hauser, Laura Leighty, Jackie Rieke, and Daniele Sharits and Bobbi Teske, in addition to staff member Lindsay Medina, Education Ministry Coordinator.

The Children's Ministry was busy planning activities in 2023. This team works hard to plan events and activities that help build the relationships and friendships of the children of OSLC, in addition to planning curriculum and Milestone Ministries.

In January, we made a trip to Mount Kato! This event was offered to kids grades 4 and up, and we had a bus full. There were almost 70 snow tubers and a handful of adults on the sidelines. We enjoyed a rainy, wet, January day slipping and sliding down the hill! We look forward to doing this every year as an annual event.

In February, we held a Family Fun Day at the New Ulm Rec Center. 90 people from OSLC attended. They enjoyed time playing on the ball courts, swimming, and using the indoor playground. This event was a great way for our families to enjoy time together and building friendships with other OSLC families.

Our March event for kids was a Mystery Dinner for grades 4-6. Kids were able to order their lunch from a fun cryptic menu. While our kitchen volunteers prepared their meals, the kids enjoyed group games in the church. Many laughs were had during this event! We look forward to more of these in 2024.

We also held our annual Camp Sunday fundraising breakfast in March. We served over 300 people. We had an envelope fundraiser during this time as well. This event is a great opportunity for our congregation to get excited about sending kids to camp and raise money that helps pay for bible camp. We would not be able to support so many kids without the help of our church family.

The Children's Team continued with an Easter Egg hunt in April! We had about 60 kids attend. Unfortunately, the weather forced us to hunt indoors and we are hoping to return outdoors in 2024!

VBS 2023 was in the beginning of June. There were 83 kids registered and 32 helpers! We spent the week discovering Jesus' STELLAR love! With plenty of space décor, great music, games, and bible stories, the kids had a blast! This year we moved VBS back to one session (versus two sessions that we did for Covid). It went well and we hope to continue one session in the future.

In June we also spent a week at Shores of St. Andrew for Bible Camp. Over 50 kids attended camp for the week, along with 2 adults. Green Lake Lutheran Ministries does a wonderful job of hosting us. From their staff, facilities, amazing worships, and activities...the week never disappoints!

In July the Children's Ministry Team planned a water park trip to Sleepy Eye. We had 47 kids

Children's Ministry Team Report, continued

attend this event. Waterpark fun on a hot day is always a hit. Our OSLC kids enjoy swimming, splashing, and jumping off the diving boards. They also really enjoy the concession stand for a sweet treat before returning home.

In August and September, we focused on preparing for our LinC† program year to begin: prepping classrooms, schedules, and finding teachers. There was lots of work to be done for the year ahead. Our Wednesday LinC† programing has 120 kids each week and we have smaller Sunday LinC† classes each week as well.

In October, we hosted our fourth Trunk or Treat here at OSLC. This event has quickly become a favorite for our families and our community! We served over 100 kids. This event was very successful. We are always thankful for the many donations our OSLC members send our way. Many members donated money and candy to this event.

A Game Night was held in the beginning of November. Kids played lots of group games and enjoyed pizza and snacks. Over 50 kids enjoyed this evening of fun. The teen helpers enjoyed leading games and supervising the hallways. Kids always beg for more game nights at OSLC!

Our annual Advent Festival was in November. We are so blessed to continue this event for our OSLC families. We are so thankful to have such a wonderful volunteer, Bridget Phifer, who works endlessly to provide adorable and fun crafts for our kids. This event continues to be a favorite!

Our 2023 Christmas program ended our year on December 10th. The church was full of families and visitors that came to see the program. Our team also held a bake sale during this time to start our Bible Camp Fundraising for 2024. We had an amazing turnout and we hope to do this in future years during the program.

We look forward to 2024 and the opportunities ahead! If you have any ideas you would like to share or would like to help with, please feel free to reach out to our team.

Sincerely,
Jackie Rieke,
on behalf of Children's Ministry

DEACONS MINISTRY TEAM

2023 Deacons: Alyssa Nissen, Linda Postel, Coryn Enck, Karissa Fenske, Jenny Krosch, Darlene Meier

The main purpose of the team is to assist the Pastors in worship services and help give out the sacraments so that the congregation can experience God in worship. There are six elected members, as well as the Senior Pastor.

Deacons Ministry Team Report, continued

This year we bid farewell to Shannon Stuckey, who had led the Deacon team for many years. We would like to acknowledge all Shannon's contributions to the Deacon team and our church community and thank her for her faithful service. Shannon continues to help with decorating the sanctuary as a volunteer, and Alyssa Nissen took over as Chair.

We have implemented a new online scheduling system using Google Docs. This allows team members to sign up for slots to prep and serve communion even if they are unable to attend the monthly meeting. It also streamlines the process for Jen in the office and allows team members to access the schedule at any time.

We have put some work into considering how to make worship accessible and welcoming to young families and children. As Deacons, we are so blessed to be a part of many baptisms each year and would love to see more of these young families and children become regular attendees. After conversations with families, we have brought back the "busy bags" that had been stored away for a few years since Covid. They are re-stocked with Bible and faith books, as well as coloring supplies. We are also looking forward to implementing a new initiative of sending cards to babies for their first anniversary of baptism.

We have two new member classes, one in the spring and one in the fall. The Deacons have helped with putting together gift baskets, and serving a small dessert and coffee for the New Member Orientation. The fall session featured members from many of the teams giving a short explanation of their roles in the church and welcoming the new members.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Nissen
on behalf of the Deacons Ministry Team

FACILITIES & GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM

Listed below are repairs and improvements made throughout the year, as well as items in need of attention.

1. We are continuing to deal with roof leaks. Three large sections of the roof were fixed in 2019, but the new leaks were in different locations. We have a roofing maintenance agreement with Midwest Roofing, LLC.
2. We are in the process of converting our existing light fixtures from fluorescent to LED bulbs as old bulbs and ballasts burn out.
3. The floors in the bathrooms by the Kitchen, and the Preschool/Kindergarten Classroom downstairs have been stripped and resealed.
4. Exterior landscaping was trimmed this summer, including trimming of healthy shrubs. We had diseased Ash Trees treated for Emerald Ash Borer, and there are six additional trees that need to be taken down. Some old bushes on the back side of the church were removed.

Facilities & Grounds Team Report, continued

5. A new carpet shampooer was purchased in April 2023. The carpets throughout the whole building were shampooed in the summer.
6. Repairs needed to be done to two rooftop HVAC units.
7. The Nursery was cleaned up and repainted.
8. We continue to discuss the need for a part time custodian position to cover for me when on vacation or otherwise needing time off.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Kathman, Facilities Manager

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

2023 members: Annette Haynes; Brenda and Garry Paulson; Cheryl and Brian Kraus; Sara and Doug Hoffmann; Amber and Jason Melby; Kitty and Alan Rader; Stacey and Jeremy Hillesheim; Bonnie Mangan; Candy Roiger; Marty and Michelle Bogatzke.

One of the main responsibilities of the Fellowship team is serving coffee between Sunday morning worship services. This provides an atmosphere of friendship in faith. This year, 2023, serving coffee returned to normal as was done pre-Covid years. This return to normal was also noted in the increasing amount of donuts that were ordered for Sunday morning coffee over time. We are now back up to ordering the amount we did in the past or “Pre-Covid” years.

Another responsibility that the Fellowship team is hosting special events that involve preparation of a meal. We have continued to participate in helping with special events, and this past summer, we help organize the food portion of the retirement celebration for Shannon Stuckey.

We continue to communicate within the team by text message updates, and have met in person this past fall. Our goal is to meet in person for every other month going forward.

We no longer plan special activities, as this duty was taken over by the Adult Ministry team; however, the Fellowship team is always open to helping out.

The Fellowship Team would like to thank anyone who helped though out the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Haynes, Co-chair

MISSION MINISTRY TEAM

2023 Members of the Mission Ministry Team were: Pastor Kathy Ulland-Klinkner, Marlene Ingebritson, Karole Lieb, Kris Zetah, Ann Anderson, Deb Egeland, and Denise Kamm. We met the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM.

Mission Ministry Team Report, continued

The Mission Ministry Team is responsible for directing Mission Funds donated by the congregation. In 2023, we distributed \$2,700.00 to these deserving organizations:

South African Synod:	\$500.00
Lutheran Disaster Response:	\$500.00
Lutheran World Relief:	\$500.00
Heart to Home:	\$500.00
Minnesota Valley Action Council (for pillows):	\$200.00
Operation Concern:	\$300.00
River Bend Area Learning Center:	\$200.00

In addition to directing Mission Funds, we collected and distributed \$6,129.30 from Noisy Offerings. The donations went to the following organizations:

NUMAS Haus:	\$372.98
Laundry Love:	\$493.61
Lutheran Disaster Response:	\$620.69
Ivy House	\$416.80
CADA (Committee Against Domestic Abuse:	\$294.75
United Way Backpack Program:	\$306.31
Young Adults in Global Mission:	\$1,936.12
Hygiene Supplies for the Public Schools:	\$359.06
Coats for Kids:	\$338.40
Brown County Benevolence Fund:	\$308.44
Salvation Army:	\$408.59
ELCA Good Gifts:	\$273.55

The Mission Team also oversees the operation of the Food Library. In 2023, we called on volunteers from our congregation to donate food and keep the Library stocked. This is an important ministry in which the whole church participates. Donated items can be dropped off outside the church office, and volunteers can sign up on the board to keep the Food Library stocked for a week at a time.

In 2023, we continued to write and publish a prayer corner prayer in Sidelites every month. In this way, we tried to answer God's call to remember our neighbors in need, both locally and globally, even when we do not see them in person.

In April, we coordinated volunteers to plant a vegetable garden at Ivy House. This was a fun local mission project! The children who spend time at Ivy House were able to observe the miracle of cultivation and participate in the harvest.

In July, Lucy Sletta spoke to the congregation about her then upcoming work with Young Adults in Global Mission in Great Britain. Through Noisy Offering and other donations from the congregation, we were able to support her mission with \$1,936.12 (noted above in the Noisy Offering distribution) and we hosted her send off by collecting prayers from the congregation

Mission Ministry Team Report, continued

and serving British snacks of scones and shortbread during the coffee hour. Her mission continues into 2024.

In the fall of 2023, the Mission Team was asked to help with ‘activity baskets’ for parents participating in a Love & Logic parenting class through Brown County. We coordinated donations from the congregation to fill eight bags with summer activity items, and eight bags with hygiene supplies for the parents taking these classes. We also donated timers for use with the program.

We donated ten calculators to New Ulm Public High School for student use.

2023 was a busy year for the Mission Team. Thank you to our congregation for your prayers and generous support of Missions at OSLC.

Submitted by,
Ann Anderson
on behalf of the Missions Ministry Team

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Team members: Pastor Kathy Ulland-Klinkner, MarySue Apitz, Amanda Neidecker - Secretary, Deb Bastian, Bill McLean, Lisa Larson - Chair.

Our team looked at the prior Vision statement:

*“Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Board of Stewardship encourages growth in faith which will enable us all to see God’s abundant blessings in our lives. The Board of Stewardship is committed to providing opportunities which will enable everyone as the **BODY OF CHRIST**, to accept and share God’s abundant gifts for the purpose of serving God, our neighbors, and ourselves.”*

Our Theme for Stewardship was: **BECAUSE OF YOU, OUR CHURCH CHANGES LIVES!**

We started by noticing our blessings during church. Each week, the Pastors chose a topic and congregation would shout out blessings and a little song was sung.

Next we decided to have Impact Speakers each Sunday of Stewardship. Pastor Kathy organized those speakers as follows: Brad Haynes 10/08, Annette Haynes 10/15, Cory Gudmonson 10/22, Cullen Slette 11/05, and Katie Wilker 11/12.

On November 12th, we had each team at a table during coffee hour for members to visit and learn about how they could be a part of any of the areas of our church. Time and Talent sheets were mailed out and collected in a basket that day and going forward. We would like to figure out a way that our board can follow up with those talent sheets.

Stewardship Team Report, continued

2024 goals are to find a way to continue keeping our mission in front of the congregation, and to play off the same theme and add to it.

Lisa Larson, Chair
on behalf of the Stewardship Team

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

In 2023, a main focus of the Youth Ministry Team was creating fellowship events to build community and connection within the youth group.

We provided large and small group opportunities to meet the kids where they feel comfortable. We had game nights and bonfires at church. We had food and conversations at Applebee's, MN EIS, and Caribou Coffee. We went bowling and played volleyball at Concordia Lanes-Kegel Klub, had a mystery event at the Mankato Curling Club, went to Valleyfair, and went snow tubing at Mount Kato. These events have grown the connection and sense of community within our youth group.

We had a successful summer trip in 2022 to GLLM's Camp House where the youth grew in faith in God's creation. It was such a great experience that we believed going to Camp House again in 2023 would be a great opportunity for your youth to grow in faith. This trip was successful in creating an environment to build faith and an appreciation for creation. Thank you to Pastor Dave and the chaperones who led this trip, and to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries for their assistance.

The Youth Ministry Team has also been preparing for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Due to the pandemic, the 2021 Gathering was postponed, and then canceled. We continue to fundraise for the 25 youth, 2 young adults, and chaperones who will attend this faith forming and faith growing event.

Confirmation continues to be an important part of faith formation for our youth. Confirmation includes a large group presentation, small group discussion, and worship. This year, 14 affirmed their faith on Reformation Sunday.

The Youth Team greatly appreciates the support of the congregation through its general fund, direct gifts, and fundraisers. Fundraisers have included: Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper, Flamingo Fundraiser, Green Mill suppers, Caramel & Cinnamon Rolls between services, National Night Out, and Taco Johns gift cards. These fundraisers were successful because of the support of the congregation, the volunteers that gave their time, and the church staff that guided us to achieve success. We appreciate each and every one of you!

The Youth Ministry Team is an extension of this congregation's promise that we make to our children at baptism. The continued support of the congregation and its leaders is essential to live

Youth Ministry Team Report, continued

out this promise. The Youth Ministry Team appreciates the past support, and looks forward to continuing to provide opportunities that will help our youth group in faith.

Ashley Hendricksen-Rasche
Youth Team Chairperson

WOMEN OF THE ELCA OF OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Board members: Susie Hoban, Dawn Portner, Linda Postel, JoAnn Saffert, Betty Sauers, Marge Schmidt, Mary Jo Solberg, Char Webster, and Marlys Zetah.

Everything is fully back to normal with our organization. The two events canceled in 2022 {World Day of Prayer and the Autumn Bazaar/Bake sale} were held this year. That was good news. We hosted World Day of Prayer on March 3rd. 33 people attended from our local churches. We had enough helpers for the apple pie and lefsa workshops to make the bake sale on October 7th a success. Money from the bake sale was given to the following community and worldwide needs: NUMAS Haus, Green Lake Bible Camp camperships, Brown County Family Services, Brown County Bridge on Center {mental health}, Living Meadows Nursing Home in Madelia, and Operation Concern.

Women who enjoy sewing meet once a month from September through May to sew mission quilts which are sent to Lutheran World Relief. We assemble baby care kits with items donated by our women. 49 quilts and 47 baby care kits were taken to the LWR warehouse in St. Paul on March 13th. We have 32 quilts and 47 baby care kits boxed and bagged ready for delivery. 17 quilts were made and given to our graduating seniors. We donated 1 quilt to Green Lake Bible Camp for their annual quilt auction in July.

We served a Lenten soup supper along with the Deacons during Lent. Several of our women attended the April 21st – 23rd Women's Retreat at The Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp.

We have 2 bible study/circle groups that meet monthly September through May, and 1 circle of working women who meet when able. These groups support the Christmas Family Drive (buying gifts for a family) at Brown County Family Services, and this year donated the offering at our Christmas brunch, held on December 5th at the New Ulm Country Club, to our youth's New Orleans trip in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Susie Hoban and Marlys Zetah

WELCA FINANCIAL REPORT - 2023		
Starting Balance		<u>\$ 413.69</u>
Income		
Funerals	\$ 1,800.00	
Blue Envelopes	25.00	
Bazaar	2,108.60	
WELCA Gatherings	476.00	
Circle Offerings	662.81	
Miscellaneous	403.15	
Total Income		<u>\$ 5,475.56</u>
Expenses		
Living Meadows	\$ 200.00	
Transfer to Savings	300.00	
Miscellaneous	44.00	
Materials/Fabric	40.87	
Love Offerings	100.00	
Funerals	850.00	
Blue Envelopes	525.00	
WELCA Gatherings	453.93	
Donations (Benevolence)	2,093.00	
3 Month Offering	364.54	
Pie Expense	331.83	
Total Expense		<u>\$ 5,303.17</u>
Bank Balance at 12/31/2023		<u><u>\$ 586.08</u></u>

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Committee members: Steve Hawkins, Tom Oelberg, Bob Apitz, Judy McLean, Dave Schmidt

The Endowment Committee had no requests for funds during the year.

As of 9/30/23, the investment income was \$3,915.50, with an Ending Balance of \$130,118.48.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We express our sincere gratitude for your faithful support of the ministries at Our Savior's. Your generosity and commitment to Our Savior's allow us to carry out our mission and serve God's people.

With year-end contributions, we met our total revenue goals for 2023 and were able to cover all our day-to-day expenses. In addition to your contributions, we also received rental income this summer as we welcomed the Kids Xcel summer program into our building. And the building fund saw an increase in giving again in 2023.

In December we welcomed Lois Aufderheide as our new business administrator after Caryn Nelson departed. We thank Caryn for the work she did in 2023 tracking the day-to-day accounting.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we are excited about the opportunities before us and the ways in which we can continue to grow and serve our community. We are committed to being good stewards of your gifts and ensuring that they are used effectively and efficiently to further our mission.

Thank you again for your support and for being a valued member of our church family. Your generosity and commitment to our community are genuinely appreciated.

Jessica Olson
Treasurer & Finance Team

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members: Jeff Nielsen, Chip Rasche, Becky O'Neill, Julie Carroll, Pastor Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner

The Personnel Committee oversees human resource policies and practices for the congregation. As stated in the Personnel Manual, the purpose of the Personnel Committee is to convey to the rostered and non-rostered staff that Our Savior's Lutheran Church, through the Church Council, Personnel Committee, and Senior Pastor will manage human resources in a manner that results in trust between the congregation and staff.

Personnel Committee Report, continued

Personnel Committee in 2023:

- Resignation/retirement of Director of Music Ministries June 2023.
- Job description of Director of Music Ministries was reviewed and revised and advertised. No applicants for position at 30 hours/week. Position needed to be reviewed and revised again. Children's choir director was filled by current adult choir director. Bell choir director position was advertised and filled. Director of Music Ministries position job description was revised and filled September 2023.
- Reviewed information provided by the Synod and made recommendation to Finance Committee regarding salary and budgeting for 2024.
- Resignation of Church Business administrator October 2023. New Business administrator hired December 2023.

Please contact any of the committee members if you have questions about personnel at Our Savior's. Due to the nature of the discussions, notes of the meetings are considered confidential.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Carroll

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Building Fund
Statement of Activities
For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2023

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Contributions		
Contributions & Memorials	\$ 70,119.08	\$ 73,571.99
Debt Reduction Contributions	-	-
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	<u>70,119.08</u>	<u>73,571.99</u>
Payments		
Debt Reduction Payment	-	-
Interest Expense	14,064.62	12,137.99
Principal	<u>39,706.06</u>	<u>41,632.69</u>
TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>53,770.68</u>	<u>53,770.68</u>
NET REVENUES (EXPENSES)	<u>\$ 16,348.40</u>	<u>\$ 19,801.31</u>

BUILDING FUND DETAIL

BUILDING SAVINGS:Dec. 31, 2023

Frandsen Bank \$ 82,583.10

Mission Investment Fund 17,354.00TOTAL \$ 99,937.10**BUILDING LOAN:**

Monthly Payment \$ 4,480.89

Interest Rate (APR) 4.750%

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Mortgage Balance 12/31	\$ 274,419.92	\$ 232,787.23

Our Saviors Lutheran Church Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2023		
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
1060-1 Checking - General		170,086.06
1060-2 Checking- Restricted Funds ***		140,759.40
1060-3 Checking- Building Fund Accounts		
Mission Investment Fund Checking	17,354.00	
Frandsen Loan Fund	82,583.10	
		99,937.10
Total Cash Balance		410,782.56
1085 Malm Scholarship Fund		458.85
1077 ELCA Endowment Fund		130,118.48
1090 Stifel Nicolaus		237.49
Total Bank Accounts		\$ 541,597.38
Fixed Assets		
1510 Land		46,696.05
1520 Church Building		2,608,614.63
1580 Church Equipment		167,961.91
1590 Office Equipment		53,091.65
Total Fixed Assets		\$ 2,876,364.24
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 3,417,961.62
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
2100 Credit Card		789.71
2320 Fica & Federal W/H		1,389.69
2330 State Withholding		305.03
2353 Insurance Withholding		(113.25)
2354-6 Pretax Withholding		(507.25)
2355-FSA Dependent Care		(29.29)
2356-FSA Healthcare		90.31
2357-Vision		(16.56)
4060 Special Funds - Restricted for Specific Use	See detail ***	142,399.76
4060-54 Malm Scholarship		458.85
Total Current Liabilities		\$ 144,767.00
Long Term Liabilities		
7600 Mortgage - Building		232,867.53
Total Long Term Liabilities		\$ 232,867.53
Total Liabilities		\$ 377,634.53

EQUITY		
3610 Fund Balance		2,969,010.60
Net Income		71,316.49
Total Equity		\$ 3,040,327.09
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		\$ 3,417,961.62

Our Saviors Lutheran Church
Detail of Restricted Funds
As of December 31, 2023

4060 Restricted Funds

*** These funds are held as Restricted

4060-01 World Hunger	922.75
4060-05 Sound/Video System	-
4060-06 Youth Ministry	38,456.93
4060-07 Music Ministry	382.52
4060-08 Operation Concern	204.71
4060-09 OSLC Ministries	11,856.97
4060-18 Flowers/Décor	1,482.23
4060-19 Missions Ministry	2,923.03
4060-20 WELCA Funeral Funds	5,518.53
4060-26 Children's Ministry	19,305.13
4060-27 Holy Grounds	984.56
4060-30 Endowment Grant Funding	4,738.47
4060-35 Facility Repairs	
4060-36 Debt Reduction	
4060-37 Canopy Over Front Drive	54,000.00
4060-40 Adult Ministry	1,193.93
4060-50 Mis Specified	35.00
4060-56 Save Our Ash Trees	395.00
Total 4060 Restricted Funds	\$142,399.76

Restricted Funds must be used solely for the purpose as designated by the giver. Our Savior's encourages that any new gifts be added to those funds already in use.

2024 OSLC Proposed Budget

	Actual Jan - Dec 23	2023 Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4020 • Offering Revenue	526,952.42	521,511.00	521,511.00
4039 • Memorials	4,518.25	1,000.00	1,000.00
4050 • Interest Income			
4050-1 • General Interest	565.09	350.00	350.00
4050-2 • Bldg Fund Interest	182.50	300.00	300.00
4050-5 • Endowment Fund Interest	5,200.18	3,662.00	3,662.00
Total 4050 • Interest Income	5,947.77	4,312.00	4,312.00
4070 • Rent Income	6,300.00	1,500.00	6,200.00
4073 • Funeral/Wedding Services	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	543,718.44	528,323.00	533,023.00
Gross Profit	543,718.44	528,323.00	533,023.00
Expense			
6000 • Benevolences			
6000-01 • SW MN Synod ELCA	15,259.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
6000-04 • Green Lake Bible Camp	3,200.00	3,200.00	3,200.00
6000-06 • Lutheran Social Service	500.00	500.00	500.00
Total 6000 • Benevolences	18,959.00	18,700.00	18,700.00
6200 • Church Staff			
6210 • Sr. Pastor			
6210a • Salary - Sr Pastor	54,004.87	54,137.00	56,288.00
6210b • Housing Allowance - Sr Pastor	16,201.41	16,241.00	16,886.00
6210c • Pension & Health - Sr. Pastor	28,292.16	28,292.00	28,880.00
6210e • SS Allowance - Sr Pastor	5,370.76	5,384.00	5,598.00
Total 6210 • Sr. Pastor	103,869.20	104,054.00	107,652.00
6220 • Associate Pastor			
6220a • Salary - Assoc Pastor	44,798.87	44,961.00	48,517.00
6220b • Housing Allowance-Assoc Pastor	16,270.08	16,270.00	16,270.00
6220c • Pension & Health-Assoc. Pastor	31,968.72	31,969.00	33,264.00
6220e • SS Allowance-Assoc Pastor	4,671.66	4,684.00	4,956.00
Total 6220 • Associate Pastor	97,709.33	97,884.00	103,007.00
6230 • Director of Music Ministry	32,025.99	46,664.00	19,673.00
6240 • Education Ministry Coord	20,814.79	22,332.00	23,002.00
6250 • Custodian	47,458.46	57,741.00	59,473.00
6260 • Office Manager	25,825.42	28,813.00	29,677.00
6270 • Church Business Administrator	16,090.35	20,818.00	19,282.00
6290 • Musicians			
620104b • Bell Choir Director	675.00		2,025.00

6290a • Adult Choir Director	2,946.53	6,381.00	6,381.00
6290c • Sunday Musicians	2,775.00	1,000.00	3,250.00
Total 6290 • Musicians	6,396.53	7,381.00	11,656.00
Total 6200 • Church Staff	350,190.07	385,687.00	373,422.00
6201 • Other Church Staff Exp			
6210f • Continuing Ed - Sr Pastor	816.29	750.00	750.00
6220f • Continuing Ed-Assoc Pastor	290.58	750.00	750.00
6417 • Employer FICA	11,125.90	12,436.00	12,430.00
6418 • Employer Share Health Ins	7,822.52	7,737.00	8,251.00
6485 • Conventions & Conferences	654.97	2,000.00	2,000.00
6487 • Staff Development	186.30	500.00	500.00
6492 • Workers Comp	2,627.00	1,874.00	1,874.00
6750-01 • Mileage - Senior Pastor	940.55	1,000.00	1,000.00
6750-02 • Mileage - Assoc. Pastor	0.00	500.00	500.00
6925 • Accounting Services	1,458.50	2,000.00	1,800.00
Total 6201 • Other Church Staff Exp	25,922.61	29,547.00	29,855.00
6500 • Facilities Expense			
6500-01 • Church Repairs & Improvements	5,942.94	5,000.00	6,000.00
6500-03 • Custodial & Building Supplies	10,912.34	5,500.00	6,700.00
6500-04 • Insurance - Bldg Policy	8,219.02	7,625.00	8,980.20
6500-05 • Contracted Maintenance Expense	9,372.37	8,500.00	8,500.00
6500-08 • Utilities	27,027.76	24,000.00	30,000.00
Total 6500 • Facilities Expense	61,474.43	50,625.00	60,180.20
6550 • Office Expenses			
6500-06 • Telephone and Internet	5,576.06	5,000.00	5,300.00
6550-01 • Copier Lease & Copying Costs	4,616.18	4,420.00	4,420.00
6550-02 • Office Equipment & Maintenance	0.00	1,000.00	500.00
6550-03 • Office Supplies	4,668.09	4,000.00	4,500.00
6550-04 • Postage	2,460.65	2,750.00	2,950.00
6550-05 • Bank Fees	154.57	600.00	300.00
6550-06 • Background Checks	95.63	100.00	100.00
6600-02 • Vanco Services Fees	1,329.56	1,500.00	1,300.00
6600-07 • Public Outreach	753.00	500.00	500.00
Total 6550 • Office Expenses	19,653.74	19,870.00	19,870.00
6600 • Worship Expense			
6201-08 • Ministry and Outreach	183.04	400.00	400.00
6600-01 • Offering Envelopes	1,868.65	1,100.00	1,100.00
6600-04 • Literature & Resources	1,730.67	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total 6600 • Worship Expense	3,782.36	2,500.00	2,500.00
6700 • Ministry Expenses			
6700-01 • Youth Ministry			
670001d • Youth General Expenses	3,193.99	4,500.00	10,030.00

Total 6700-01 · Youth Ministry	3,193.99	4,500.00	10,030.00
6700-02 · Children's Ministry			
670002a · Childrens Ministry/LinCt	9,247.22	6,000.00	6,000.00
Total 6700-02 · Children's Ministry	9,247.22	6,000.00	6,000.00
6700-03 · Music Ministry expense			
670003a · Repairs, Supplies & Equipment	3,692.61	4,600.00	1,500.00
670003b · Choral Music	451.86	1,400.00	600.00
670003f · Subscriptions, Copyrights	1,184.00	1,115.00	1,100.00
Total 6700-03 · Music Ministry expense	5,328.47	7,115.00	3,200.00
6700-06 · Deacons Ministry			
6600-03 · Communion Supplies	673.87	600.00	600.00
6600-06 · Candles / Decorations / Flowers	411.57	300.00	300.00
6600-09 · New Member Expense	88.57	300.00	300.00
Total 6700-06 · Deacons Ministry	1,174.01	1,200.00	1,200.00
6700-14 · Adult Ministry	1,740.77	2,100.00	2,000.00
Total 6700 · Ministry Expenses	20,684.46	20,915.00	22,430.00
6930 · Miscellaneous Expense	159.97		5,787.60
Total Expense	500,826.64	527,844.00	532,744.80
Net Ordinary Income	42,891.80	479.00	278.20
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
4080 · Building Fund Contributions			
4080-01 · Building Fund Memorial	1,330.00		
4080 · Building Fund Contributions - Other	72,241.99	55,000.00	55,000.00
Total 4080 · Building Fund Contributions	73,571.99	55,000.00	55,000.00
7000 · Mkt Value Adj - Endowment Fund	9,351.04	0.00	0.00
Total Other Income	82,923.03	55,000.00	55,000.00
Other Expense			
6080 · Building Principal Expense	41,632.69	36,800.00	36,800.00
6081 · Interest Expense-Bldg	12,137.99	17,400.00	17,400.00
6082 · Special Assessment Expense	727.66	800.00	800.00
Total Other Expense	54,498.34	55,000.00	55,000.00
Net Other Income	28,424.69	0.00	0.00
Net Income	71,316.49	479.00	278.20

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this

faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

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



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

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

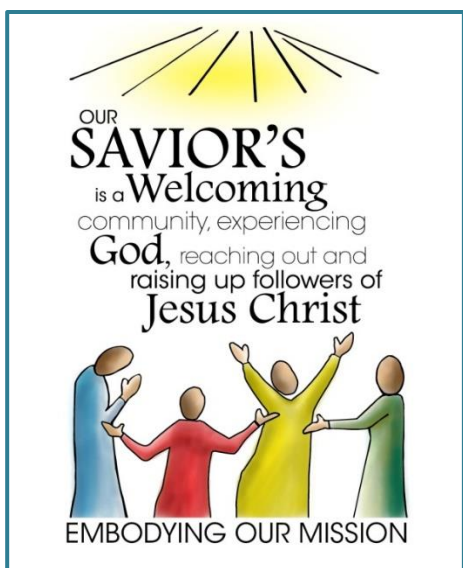
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

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

arr. Julius Röntgen

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



Welcoming: Fellowship Team – events and coffee; Facilities use of space and its maintenance for events including meals, VBS, and hospitality; Space for community groups; Communications (website, newsletter, e-mails, etc.); and grounds up-keep.

Experiencing God: Deacons Team; Pastoral time; Music Ministry; Choirs; Bell Choirs; Worship Planning; Worship Space and its maintenance; Musical Instruments; Sanctuary sound, lights, décor; Communion supplies.

Reaching Out: Benevolence to ELCA, Southwest MN Synod; Global Missions; Green Lake Bible Camp; Lutheran Social Services, Living Meadows of Madelia, Community causes; Mission Team events; Mission Trips.

Raising Up: Children's Ministry Team; Youth Ministry Team; Adult Ministry Team; Pastoral Care; Curriculum and supplies for LinC†, Confirmation, Adult Education, VBS; Facility maintenance use of space; Pastoral administration/planning.



Annual Report to the Congregation – 2023
Congregation of Our Savior's Lutheran Church
New Ulm, MN