



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

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First Lutheran Church

2023 Council and Board Members

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Cell</u>	<u>Email</u>
<u>President</u>			
Rick Huntimer (2022)		941-2610	rhuntimer@sio.midco.net
<u>Vice President</u>			
Jamie Peterson (2022)		201-2356	gball_03@hotmail.com
<u>Treasurer</u>			
Wendy Simmermon (2019)		366-8194	wjsimmermon@gmail.com flctreasurerwendy@gmail.com
<u>Secretary</u>			
Melissa Overgard (2022)		838-7016	missy.overgard@yahoo.com
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>			
Tammy Huntimer (2020)		941-2611	huntimt1@gmail.com
Board and Council			
<u>Deacons</u>			
Cindy Oyen (2020)		759-1696	
Jenny Tiehen (2020)		376-8795	gjtirt92@gmail.com
Jamie Willard (2023)	446-3687	366-5014	jeveleth_2000@yahoo.com
Deb Bunde (2023)		366-9375	tlbunde@alliancecom.net
<u>Education</u>			
Bridget Amundson (2017)		251-7587	bridget_amundson@live.com
Renae Jensen (2018)		251-5021	renae.jensen11@gmail.com
Kaylee Amundson (2019)		212-3760	kayjean85@gmail.com
Mike Willard (2023)	446-3687	359-9279	mikemwillard@yahoo.com
<u>Trustees</u>			
Matt Jones (2018)		201-7991	mcjones5543@yahoo.com
David Keith (2020)		222-5919	dakeith4@yahoo.com
Scott Amundson (2022)		759-6772	scott_amundson@yahoo.com
Rick Oyen (2023)	446-3573	759-1695	
<u>Finance</u>			
Jim Willard (2017)	446-3833		jjwillard@goldenwest.net
Mark Johnson (2020)	543-5248	270-7788	mjohn2222@alliancecom.net
Riley Amundson (2022)		261-8679	riley.amundson@outlook.com

Endowment Fund Committee:

Rick Lehman (2018) (<i>Pres/Treas</i>)	413-8704	rilehman@sio.midco.net
Laura Jensen (2018) (<i>Sec</i>)	359-5670	laura.jensen@k12.sd.us
Mark Hotchkin (2019)	489-2255 270-1475	photch@itctel.com
Jamie Willard (2019)	446-3687 366-5014	jeveleth_2000@yahoo.com
Tyler Hansen (2020)	595-4256	tyler7hansen@gmail.com

SD Synod Assembly (SF): (June 3 and 4, 2022): Mark and Leslie Johnson

Bethel Home Board of Directors: Phil Hoffman

Bethel Home Annual Meeting: Jake Cypher and Mark Johnson

First Lutheran Church 2023 Annual Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Opening Prayer
- IV. January 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
- V. Financial Secretary Report
- VI. Treasurer Report
- VII. President Report
- VIII. Pastor Report
- IX. Boards
 - a. Board of Deacons
 - b. Board of Education
 - c. Board of Finance
 - d. Board of Trustees
- X. Committees
 - a. Endowment Committee
 - b. Cemetery Committee
 - c. Technology Committee
- XI. Organizations
 - a. Women's Financial Report
- XII. Old Business
 - a.
- XIII. New Business
 - a. Presentation of Proposed 2024 Budget
 - b. Election of New Officers and Board Members
- XIV. Annual Report from Supporting Ministries
- XV. Motion to Adjourn
- XVI. Closing

First Lutheran Church

2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

The First Lutheran Church 2022 Annual Meeting was held after church service on Sunday, January 29, 2023. The meeting was called to order by President Rick Huntimer. President Huntimer asked members to look over the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Terry Bunde, second by Mark Johnson. Motion approved.

Opening prayer was led by Paster Herb Wounded Head III

January 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes presented as printed in the 2022 Annual Report. Motion to approve last year's meeting minutes as printed made by Jamie Peterson, seconded by Rick Oyen. Motion approved.

Financial Secretary's Report was presented by Tammy Huntimer. As published in the annual report.

The year-end offering included the contributions from the offering plate, the electronic giving, and other sources such as St. Jacob's reimbursements, special donations, for a total of \$133,722.86. The overall giving was down in 2022 from 2021. The Noisy Offering was \$1,579.53 which will go to SD Adopt US Kids program. The sale of the parsonage and the funds from member's life insurance policy provided the church \$276,830 of capital contributions. The Board of Finance will coordinate with the Trustees to review member recommendations and create a strategic long-term plan for these funds.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Wendy Simmermon as published in the annual report.

The 2022 beginning US Bank accounts were \$100,580 and ended with \$398,730 with much of the increase coming from the sale of the parsonage in 2022 for \$238,264. Then main checking account, or operating account, began with \$18,569 and ended with \$10,957. This year we did not have to dip into the reserve account to pay the regular bills. There were some errors in the financial figures in the annual report that will be updated for the permanent record. Some of the 2021 report figures were inadvertently carried into the 2022 charts. The Edward Jones portfolio had a decline of 12% in 2022; however, it is still up from the previous four years. FLC's US Bank accounts of \$398,730 and the Edward Jones investment accounts of \$1,073,812.45 equals the total assets of \$1,472,542.45.

Presidents Report was presented by President Rick Huntimer as published in the annual report.

President Huntimer would like to give thanks to everyone who contributes to the music we have at FLC.

Pastors Report was presented by Pastor Herb Wounded Head III as published in the annual report.

Pastor Herb gives thanks to FLC for the hospitable welcome he has received this year. He would like everyone to know his health is improving and he is thankful for all the prayers and well-wishes he has received. In 2023 he would like to help the church to see what God is calling us to do.

Board of Education Report as printed in the annual report.

Board of Trustees There were several projects completed this year, including the sale of the parsonage in November and the installation of the new cross on the steeple. 2023's focus will be on improvements to the church.

Board of Deacons Report as printed in the annual report. We would like to thank Jeanelle Stene for her contributions over the years, her term on the board of deacons has come to an end. The deacons want to focus on some more outreach work in 2023.

Endowment committee presented by Rick L. 2022 ending balance was at \$294,050. Due to lack of growth, we were unable to distribute any funds from the Egan Endowment Memorial Funds in 2022. We are looking for committee members for next year.

Finance Committee Report as printed in the annual report.

The women's group financial report as printed in the annual report.

The 2023 FLC proposed budget was discussed by Wendy S. Due to inadequate numbers for a vote, this will be voted on later.

First Lutheran Quilt report as printed in the annual report.

Technology committee report as printed in the annual report.

A tutorial for the Breeze App was presented. Any member of First Lutheran Church can download the Breeze App and request access. This system will allow members to be able to reach one another and stay connected. Personal information can be restricted.

Motion to adjourn the annual meeting by Terry Bunde, second by Rick Lehman. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes submitted by Missy O., Secretary

First Lutheran Church 2023 Financial Secretary Report

2023 YTD													
Weekly Offering	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TTL
Donors	35	41	40	51	36	40	37	34	33	36	36	49	78
Checks	\$587.82	\$187.00	\$370.00	\$1,203.33	\$243.00	\$28.00	\$170.00	\$261.00	\$511.00	\$698.00	\$270.00	\$928.00	#####
Cash	\$7,201.65	\$4,095.00	\$2,700.00	\$7,205.00	\$3,420.00	\$4,190.00	\$9,155.00	\$3,200.00	\$2,975.00	\$4,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$17,708.39	#####
ttd dep	\$7,789.47	\$4,282.00	\$3,070.00	\$8,408.33	\$3,663.00	\$4,218.00	\$9,325.00	\$3,461.00	\$3,486.00	\$5,198.00	\$7,770.00	\$18,636.39	#####
Direct Deposit	\$3,736.00	\$3,778.05	\$4,010.10	\$4,165.80	\$3,736.00	\$3,912.60	\$3,686.00	\$3,612.60	\$3,606.00	\$4,136.00	\$5,061.05	\$7,023.52	#####
St Jacob's	\$1,575.71	\$0.00	\$1,763.52	\$970.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,154.87	\$0.00	\$1,278.33	\$522.11	\$0.00	\$1,264.17	#####
Berge Music Reimbursement			\$5,671.00										#####
Operating TTL	\$13,101.18	#####	\$14,514.62	\$13,544.89	\$7,399.00	\$8,130.60	\$15,165.87	\$7,073.60	\$8,370.33	\$9,856.11	\$12,831.05	#####	#####
budget +/-	-\$859.24	-\$5,900.37	\$554.20	-\$415.53	-\$6,561.42	-\$5,829.82	\$1,205.45	-\$6,886.82	-\$5,590.09	-\$4,104.31	-\$1,129.37	\$12,963.66	#####
Other Income													
Indesignated income:													
Amazon Smiles		\$10.61			\$16.16								\$26.77
Thrivent			\$250.00	\$503.00									\$753.00
Endowment		\$13,000.00											#####
US Treasury		\$785.57											\$785.57
Acct Verif trans			\$0.38										\$0.38
MidAmerica Refund-Parsonage						\$125.90							\$125.90
rt Group using basement							\$150.00						\$150.00
Reimbursement low funds							\$15.00						\$15.00
Overpayment (Zion)												\$1,802.00	#####
Mission income:													
Noisy Offering	\$62.19	\$105.79	\$76.03	\$175.43	\$75.48	\$39.61	\$38.09	\$84.62	\$113.92	\$133.04	\$133.47	\$205.62	#####
Banquet-Deacon	\$50.00												\$50.00
Special Lent Offering - Children's Inn			\$181.00	\$42.00									\$223.00
Ministerial Fund-Thanksgiving Offering												\$222.00	\$222.00
Other income TTL	\$112.19	#####	\$507.41	\$720.43	\$91.64	\$165.51	\$203.09	\$84.62	\$113.92	\$133.04	\$133.47	#####	#####
Memorial Income													
Brakke Scholarship	\$516.51			\$515.61			\$516.15			\$516.60			#####
Undesignated				\$95.00	\$100.00	\$90.00				\$0.00			\$285.00
Building Fund-gutters				\$2,316.06									#####
LYO-Easter Breakfast- youth room renevation				\$378.75									\$378.75
LYO-candy bar											\$1,873.00	\$50.00	#####
Quilters (IMD Janelle Stene)					\$50.00								\$50.00
Cemetery													
Bethania					\$50.00								\$50.00
Minnehaha		\$350.00				\$550.00		\$350.00	\$350.00				#####
St Ansgar				\$500.00									\$500.00
Zion						\$1,000.00		\$960.00		\$1,000.00			#####
Memorial TTL	\$516.51	\$350.00	0	\$3,805.42	\$200.00	\$1,640.00	\$516.15	\$0.00	\$1,310.00	\$866.60	\$2,873.00	\$50.00	#####

First Lutheran Church 2023 Financial Secretary Report

Memorial		Totals
Cemetery	Bethania	\$50.00
Cemetery	Minnehaha	\$1,600.00
Cemetery	St Ansgar	\$500.00
Cemetery	Zion	\$2,960.00
Brakke	Scholarship	\$2,064.87
Building Fund	roof-parsonage	\$2,316.06
Building Fund	MidAmerica-parsonage	\$125.90
Building Fund	Endowment	\$3,250.00
Deacon	Banquet	\$50.00
Deacon	Endowment- Assisted Living	\$500.00
FLC Campers	Endowment	\$1,625.00
LYO	candy bar fundraiser	\$1,923.00
LYO-Easter Breakfast- youth room renovation		\$378.75
LYO Youth Mission Trip	Endowment	\$1,625.00
Quilters		\$50.00
Thrivent		\$753.00
Undesignated	IMO	\$285.00
	Total Memorial	\$20,056.58
Additional Income		
Acct Verif trans	money in and money out	\$0.38
Amazon Smiles		\$15.31
Art Club Rent		\$150.00
Berge Fund		\$5,671.00
Reimbursement Low Funds	money in and money out	\$15.00
Overpayment Refund		\$1,802.00
US Treasury		\$785.57
	Total Additional Income	\$7,653.69

FLC 2023 Financial Secretary Report (continued)			
Ministry			
Noisy Offering		\$1,235.27	
Children's Home Lenten Offering		\$42.00	
Ministerial Fund	Thanksgiving service	\$222.00	
Special Lent Offering		\$181.00	
	Total Ministry	\$1,680.27	
Endowment			
Banquet		\$500.00	
Bethel Foundation		\$500.00	
Chester Fire Department		\$250.00	
Church on the Street		\$500.00	
Colton Fire Department		\$250.00	
Feeding SD		\$500.00	
Lutheran Outdoors		\$500.00	
Lutheran Social Services		\$500.00	
Lyons Fire Department		\$250.00	
Methodist Church Food bank	fresh meat purchased	\$250.00	
Memorial Account	Deacons-Colton Assisted Living	\$500.00	
Memorial Account	FLC Building Fund	\$3,250.00	
Memorial Account	LYO Youth Mission Trip	\$1,625.00	
Memorial Account	FLC Bible Campers	\$1,625.00	\$7,000.00
Ministerial Fund		\$250.00	
Pueblo de Dios		\$500.00	
SD Kids Belong		\$250.00	
St. Dismas Prison Ministries		\$500.00	
St. Jude		\$500.00	
	Total Given	\$13,000.00	

**Memorial Account - Savings
January - December 2023**

	Altar Guild	Bible Camp	Brakke*	Bldg Fund	Cemetery*	Intern	LYO*	Nativity/ Steeple	Office	Parsonage	Quilters*	Seat Cushion	Tech.	Reserve	TOTAL
Beginning Balance	\$ 2,355	\$ 4,335	\$ 2,377	\$ 9,373	\$ 39,830	\$ 1,000	\$ 6,258	\$ 2,176	\$ 1,505	\$ 237,826		\$ 2,705	\$ 9,590	\$ 63,237	\$ 382,567
Deposits															
FLC Endowment		\$ 1,500		\$ 3,250			\$ 1,625								\$ 6,375
LYO							\$ 2,252								\$ 2,252
Steeple to Bldg				\$ 2,176											\$ 2,176
Reim. (Elec. & Ins.)										\$ 2,442					\$ 2,442
Member Donation		\$ 125			\$ 5,110						\$ 50			\$ 748	\$ 6,033
Brakke Deposits			\$ 2,065												\$ 2,065
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$ -	\$ 1,625	\$ 2,065	\$ 5,426	\$ 5,110	\$ -	\$ 3,877	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,442	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 748	\$ 21,342
Withdrawals															
Outdoor signage				\$ (776)											\$ (776)
Steeple to Bldg								\$ (2,176)							\$ (2,176)
Parsonage CD										\$ (200,000)					\$ (200,000)
Reserve CD														\$ (30,000)	\$ (30,000)
Transfer to EdJ					\$ (23,000)										\$ (23,000)
Expenses					\$ (4,670)										\$ (4,670)
Carillon down pymt														\$ (8,583)	\$ (8,583)
Office chair									\$ (273)						\$ (273)
Office Computer													\$ (1,711)		\$ (1,711)
Scholarships			\$ (1,500)												\$ (1,500)
TOTAL OUTFLOW	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,500)	\$ (776)	\$ (27,670)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,176)	\$ (273)	\$ (200,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,711)	\$ (38,583)	\$ (272,689)
Ending Balance	\$ 2,355	\$ 5,960	\$ 2,942	\$ 14,023	\$ 17,270	\$ 1,000	\$ 10,135	\$ -	\$ 1,232	\$ 40,268	\$ 50	\$ 2,705	\$ 7,879	\$ 25,402	\$ 131,220

*Indicates a new item in the Memorial Savings Account from consolidating accounts.

Cemetery Balances
January - December 2023

	Bethania	Minnehaha	St. Ansgar	Zion	<i>Beginning Balances</i>
Savings Beginning	\$ 5,152	\$ 23,301	\$ 1,203	\$ 10,174	\$ 39,830
Edward Jones #1 Beginning	\$ 2,446	\$ 170,845	\$ 11,663	\$ 15,322	\$ 200,276
Edward Jones #2 Beginning			\$ 39,622		\$ 39,622
US Bank Checking #1 Beginning*			\$ 8,072		\$ 8,072
US Bank Checking #2 Beginning			\$ 5,206		\$ 5,206
Beginning Balances	\$ 7,598	\$ 194,146	\$ 65,766	\$ 25,496	\$ 293,006
<u><i>Deposits</i></u>	\$ 50	\$ 1,600	\$ 500	\$ 2,960	
<u><i>Withdrawals</i></u>					
Mowing	\$ (950)	\$ (2,500)	\$ (720)	\$ (500)	
Perpetual Care					
<u><i>Other Activity</i></u>					
Transfer to Edward Jones		\$ (15,000)		\$ (8,000)	
St. Ansgar water bill			\$ (600)		
Account fee			\$ (30)		
Savings End	\$ 4,252	\$ 7,401	\$ 983	\$ 4,634	\$ 17,270
Edward Jones #1 Ending	\$ 2,642	\$ 200,851	\$ 12,576	\$ 24,534	\$ 240,602
Edward Jones #2 Ending			\$ 42,482		\$ 42,482
US Bank Checking #1 Ending			\$ 8,073		\$ 8,073
US Bank Checking #2 Ending			\$ 4,576		\$ 4,576
Ending Balances	\$ 6,894	\$ 208,252	\$ 68,689	\$ 29,168	\$ 313,002

St. Ansgar Account
January - December 2023

<i>Beginning Balance ...8924</i>	\$	5,206
<i>Beginning Balance ...1254*</i>	\$	8,073
<u><i>Deposits</i></u>		
Interest earned	\$	0.36
<u><i>Expenses</i></u>		
Water Bills	\$	(600)
Service Charge	\$	(30)
 <i>2021 Ending Balance</i>	 <u>\$</u>	 <u>12,649</u>

Main Account - US Bank Checking
January - December 2023 Operating Account

Beginning Balance	\$	10,957
<u>Deposits</u>		
Direct Deposits	\$	50,469
General Worship	\$	80,808
St. Jacob's Split	\$	8,251
*Other Deposits	\$	8,690
Total Deposits	\$	148,218
 <u>Expenses</u>		
Board of Deacons	\$	(5,284)
Board of Education	\$	(2,836)
Board of Finance	\$	(103,696)
Board of Trustees	\$	(40,924)
Total Expenses*	\$	(152,740)
Ending Balance	\$	<u>6,435</u>

**Note: some expenses were shared by Endowment, Berge, SJ, etc.*

To be reimbursed for 2024 in 2023

Berge Music Fund reimbursement - music & Organists	\$	6,205
Berge Music Fund reimbursement - Carillon System 50	\$	8,583
TOTAL	\$	14,788

**For the organists, related music costs, and streaming video/recordings.*

**These funds will go into the general/operating account once received.*

FLC Bank 2023 Summary

<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Ending</u>
RB Main Checking Acct #...0529	\$ 10,957	\$ 6,435
Memorial Savings #...0202	\$ 334,103	\$ 132,220
Cemetery Savings #...6239	\$ 39,830	Merged into Savings
St. Ansgar Checking #...8924	\$ 5,206	\$ 4,576
St. Ansgar Checking #...1254*		\$ 8,073
Brakke Savings #...8930	\$ 2,377	Merged into Savings
	<u>\$ 392,473</u>	<u>\$ 151,304</u>

FLC Edward Jones 2023 Summary

<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Ending</u>
General Endowment #...7408	\$ 302,666	\$ 328,436
Tokheim Endowment #...8165	\$ 289,041	\$ 321,801 <i>Note 1</i>
Berge Music Endowment #...8972	\$ 174,067	\$ 187,583 <i>Note 2</i>
Egan Family Endowment #...9643	\$ 57,026	\$ 58,508 <i>Note 3</i>
Bethania Cemetery #...9097	\$ 2,483	\$ 2,642
Minnehaha Cemetery #...8163	\$ 174,464	\$ 200,851
St. Ansgar Cemetery #1 #...9099	\$ 11,836	\$ 12,576
St. Ansgar Cemetery #2 #...0777	\$ 40,085	\$ 42,482
Zion Cemetery #...9098	\$ 15,548	\$ 24,534
Brakke Scholarship #...3120	\$ 6,596	\$ 7,020
Memorial CDs		\$ 230,000 <i>Note 4</i>
	<u>\$ 1,073,812</u>	<u>\$ 1,416,433</u>

Note 1: This endowment fund provides matching building funds

Note 2: This endowment fund provides funds for music expenses

Note 3: This endowment fund provides funds for FLC, with stipulations

Note 4: Two CDs: \$30,000 4.75% Matures 1/15/24; \$200,000 5.35% matures 3/20/24

First Lutheran Church 2023 President Report

Several times this year I had people say to me that they felt things were moving in the right direction for our church. I feel the same way, but I wanted to see how I could show that. I'm a numbers person, and I feel that numbers can tell a story. Here is a story that I found.

Our weekly offering in 2023 increased by a little over \$13,000.00. That was an increase of more than 10%.

I looked at the weekly attendance numbers where we mark how many people attended the service that day. For the months of May through December we saw an increase in attendance of about 15%. It's hard to get an average because the church seasons change, but I would say that on several weeks we had between 8-15 more people sitting in the pews. For a church our size, that is huge!

Sometimes I try to look at our church the same way I would if I was running a business. As a business, if I was bringing in more revenue and having more people walk through my door, I would say I had a successful year. These numbers are just one story of our church, but I feel it tells a story of how strong a foundation we have that we can continue to build upon.

At this year's SD Synod Assembly, Pastor Renee Splichal Larson talked about the 2023 Surgeon General Report. That report listed a lack of social connection as the number one health risk for our country. Number one. It was listed above any of the other risks you would normally think of. I want to talk about a couple examples of where I feel we are reversing that trend.

One Sunday I was taking care of some tech stuff up in the balcony. It was about 15 minutes before church, and I decided to just sit down for a moment. What struck me was hearing this buzz of people below me. I couldn't see most of them, but I could hear the commotion of people chatting and making that connection. There was an energy in our church that you couldn't ignore.

Another one of my favorites is what happens after church. Groups of people standing around and talking with each other. People making that social connection that we need in our day-to-day life. We have come a long way from two years ago when we weren't shaking hands during church, and we hadn't moved to taking communion at the altar yet. We are providing a need that people are looking for.

Recently in a sermon Pastor Herb talked about with isolation we risk that our church becomes a place that we visit rather than the place where our soul lives. I'm grateful for all of you that make our church be not just a building, but place to call home.

Rick Huntimer

Colton Lutheran Parish 2023 Pastor's Report

Our annual meetings are about several things. We get involved in setting the plan for the future. We lay the foundation for the things we feel are important for the coming year and we call upon leaders of the congregation to help us make those dreams a reality.

We also discuss and report the things that have happened in the last year. This is where we find our own history, where we take some time to reflect on what has gone on in our church community. Our own history-making reminds us of who we are as God's people in Christ and sets the foundation for who we will be in the years to come.

We also accomplish many things, you support the many ministries of the synod with your benevolence, you support other vital ministries as well as is outlined in the budget and annual report.

When I look back at all the things you do, which take a lot of time and organization, and sometimes hard conversations, I see one thing, hope. Hope, in seeing that there is value in what you do and in reaching out to the community around you. Hope, that you plan on sticking around for a while, even after 130 years of ministry. Hope in believing that the word of resurrection is something that you hold dear and with all that happens here, that word of redemption and new life in Jesus Christ is here.

In the coming year, it is my intention to further equip you for witness and service of this new life and hope in Christ. This is one of the charges in the letter of call that has been issued to me from you. By meeting in small groups to discuss and reflect on things that we experience and see in the world and how we interpret them through a Lutheran lens, it will provide us with a couple of things. To see the goodness of God in all creation, to know of the redemption and new life Jesus gives to us each day, and to experience authentic relationships in a community formed by the Spirit.

It is my hope that you see that God is present with you in all you do and that you continue to grow and nurture the faith and freedom that Christ has given to you. And in the coming year, you will see that maybe, there is something else that we can do together to experience God's word of hope in a new way.

Sing to the Lord a new song,

Pastor Herb

Colton Lutheran Parish 2023 Pastoral Acts

BAPTISMS (6)

Thomas Henry Jones – 3/26/23
Leon David Pemberton – 4/16/23
Jack Leroy Amundson – 7/30/23
Blakely Marie Burgeson – 4/23/23
Cillian Thorwald Brown – 9/24/23
Bregan Rae Steineke – 11/5/23

FIRST COMMUNION (3) 4/16/23

Aaliyah Vande Vooren
Elise Van Hal
Kevin Husman

TRANSFERRED IN (0)

THIRD GRADE BIBLES (4) (10/1/23)

Miles Amundson
Javier Medina
McKenzie Overgard
Arianna Vande Vooren

CONFIRMATION (10) (10/29/23)

Sawyer Foster
Oakley McMillen
Kobe Krome
Madison Pitts
Lucas Ellison
Tobin Lamer
Zoey Lamer
Gavin Crosby
Ryan Lehman
Erika Caspers

FUNERALS (4)

John Henry Crittenden – 1/3/23
Pauline Kay Larson – 4/11/23
William “Bill” Wood – 4/24/23
Jeanelle Nelson Stene – 5/9/23

First Lutheran Church

2023 Board of Education Report

Sunday School Teachers: Bridget Amundson, Kaylee Amundson, Angela Carsrud, Kari Caspers, Missy Overgard, Jamie Peterson

First Lutheran Board of Education Mission: Bring Christ into the lives of our children. We strive to create a community where the children in our church can learn and grow in their faith.

First Lutheran Board of Education meets monthly to discuss upcoming events and continual planning for Sunday School. We are continuing with our same process of meeting each Sunday at 9:15am for Sunday School. Once a month we are working in a group to do an activity for our shut-ins or a community project.

Our 2023-2024 Sunday School year started off very well. Kaylee Amundson has taken the 5th & 6th grade group as Mike Willard has created an adult Sunday School that he hosts during the same time as children's Sunday School. Missy Overgard and Kari Caspers continue to wrangle the large 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade group. *The Action Bible* curriculum continues to be used for these grades.

As mentioned above Mike Willard is hosting adult Sunday School every Sunday from 930-1030am. His motto is – honoring our neighbors' faith. The Board of Education would like to invite anyone 7th-12th grade and adults to join Mike Sunday mornings. A few different religions he has lined up are Episcopalian, Free Lutheran, and Catholic. He is planning a spring time field trips to different churches.

Bridget Amundson, Jamie Peterson, and Angela Carsrud have been using the "*Fruits of the Spirit*" curriculum for our PreK to 1st graders.

Our music program for the kids has been lacking and we welcome anyone who has musical talents to share their gift with our youth.

Big thanks to Maddy and Renae Jensen for taking on our Christmas program. It is always a big task but was a wonderful program. Special thanks to Missy Overgard and Kari Caspers, as they came through again with their creativity designs on costumes.

We were able to visit the Colton Assisted Living a few weeks prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday and played Thanksgiving bingo with the residents, it brought joy to our hearts to see the residents so excited to play bingo with our kiddos. They especially loved the treats and prizes!! We hope to be able to visit them again after the cold/flu season.

We were able to recognize the 2023 seniors with quilts and scholarships on May 7th, 2023. We'd like to thank the Deacons for reviewing and awarding the scholarship. We look forward to honoring and sending off our 2024 senior class.

Our community and fellow churches were once again able to come together this past summer and host a wonderful indoor/outdoor Vacation Bible School (VBS), held July 16th-20th, 2023, the theme was "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light". We are so thankful to be able to assist hosting this event and we had a great turn out of our local youth.

Special dates coming up for our youth during church service are as follows:

January 21st, 2024 – First grade milestones

March 24th, 2024 – Palm Sunday – children sing in church

Two of our long time Board Members are officially done with their terms, Bridget Amundson and Kaylee Amundson. We are so thankful to them and for all the work they have done over the last 6+ years and we will miss them greatly. The board is seeking out new board members.

We welcome all members of the congregation to become involved with Sunday School. We are always happy to hear thoughts and are especially grateful to anyone willing to assist in the process. If you would like to volunteer or offer anything to the continued faith education of our youth please reach out to any of the Board Members. We look forward to continuing our service for our youth in 2024!

2023 Board of Education: Bridget Amundson, Kaylee Amundson, Renae Jensen, and Mike Willard

2024 Board of Education: Renae Jensen, Mike Willard, and TBD

First Lutheran Church 2023 Board of Trustees Report

In 2023 the trustees installed a phase converter for the organ, painted church doors, painted the Minnehaha cemetery building, and performed other tasks around the church property.

Please reach out to the trustees with any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to a busy 2024.

Submitted by the Board of Trustees,

Matt Jones, Dave Keith, Scott Amundson, and Rick Oyen

First Lutheran Church 2023 Board of Deacons Report

Events in 2023 included:

- Purchased and delivered Valentine's Day mini bundt cakes to 19 FLC members at their homes or assisted living centers in the area.
- Organized and served at The Banquet on the West side of Sioux Falls on 2/15/23.
- Created & organized watch parties with baked goods and coffee during Lent of the 1st season of the series THE CHOSEN beginning 2/26/23.
- Reintroduced the idea of welcome/prayer request cards for service attendees to fill out in the pews.
- Celebrated Mother's Day with gifts of flower seed packets given out after our church service.
- Celebrated Father's Day with gifts of chip bags with message "You're all that and a bag of chips".
- Organized a tour and church service attendance with St. Dismas Prison Ministry at the South Dakota Men's State Penitentiary on 6/29/23.
- Organized and served at The Banquet at the Downtown location in Sioux Falls on 9/27/23.
- Christmas cards were sent to high school graduates to let them know we care.
- Mini bundt cakes were purchased and delivered to 17 FLC members at their homes or non-Colton assisted living centers in the area.
- Planned and organized the Christmas gift-giving by FLC members to the 16 residents of the Colton Assisted Living Center.
- Planned and hosted the Christmas party for the residents of the Colton Assisted Living Center on 12/20/23. Seed money from Thrivent of \$250 was utilized for socks and gift bags for all residents, plus eggnog, hot apple cider, and Eileen's cookies. Christmas carols were sung by all accompanied by Deb on the piano.

Additional Deacon Responsibilities:

- Monthly – Assisted Pastor with communion during the 1st and 4th church services per month.
- Assisted Pastor with extra communion services for special holidays like Ash Wednesday, Easter, and Christmas Eve.
- Monthly – Coordinated the donations of snacks for Pastor Herb's monthly services to the Colton Assisted Living Center each month (last Thursday of the month).
- Monthly – 1-2 members of the Board attended the monthly Council meetings to give reports and provide feedback to the other Board members.

Board of Deacons: Cindy Oyen, Deb Bunde, Jamie Willard, Jenny Tiehen, and Jessica Oyen.

First Lutheran Church 2023 Finance Committee Report

Thanks to the generous gifts of money, time, and knowledge you have given this year and the fiscally sound management of the council. We understand it was a tough year for families, yet your generosity continued to be a blessing.

We ended 2023 over budget. Our church attendance grew this past year and so did the number of parishioners giving. Hopefully we can keep this momentum going into the new year.

2023 was the second year the budget was categorized into four areas: Board of Deacons, Board of Education, Board of Finance, and Board of Trustees. This has been working well for our finances, and we will continue to operate under these guidelines.

During the past year, the Finance Committee had a few tasks they completed or started on and will complete in 2024

- Accounts were moved to Reliabank here in Colton
- They discussed the paid positions in the church and the decision was made to start a task force that will develop expectations and evaluations procedures for each of the paid positions in our church. The task force completed their findings and will propose changes at the annual meeting.
- We began the process of the Carillon system.
- The committee gathered ideas from parishioners in regard to the money we acquired from selling the parsonage. They started working with the Board of Trustees to determine the best options for the parsonage money.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of a small rural church, we look forward to the future with optimism. However, we cannot do this without you! This building in nothing without the love, trust, and commitment of the members doing God's work. Now that we have Pastor Herb here as our full-time minister, our financial needs will increase. We invite you to contribute to FLC as we do God's work in our communities. Here are three ways you might consider making a difference:

1. Consider increasing your 2024 contribution. Even a small increase of an extra \$20-\$50 a month (or \$240-\$600 a year) is enough to send an extra child to summer bible camp. Making these donations automatic would also help to create a stable year-round foundation.
2. Remember to add FLC in your final wishes and bequests. The legacy of past members has provided financial strength to buildings, the organ, music, and many other areas.
3. Avoid taxes on required mandatory retirement distributions by sending them directly to the church. This is a seamless way to avoid taxation on those dollars.

The 2023 members of the Finance Committee are Jim Willard, Mark Johnson, Wendy Simmermon, Tammy Huntimer, Jamie Peterson, and Riley Amundson.

First Lutheran Church

2023 Endowment Committee Report

The purpose of the Endowment Committee is to enhance the mission outreach of First Lutheran Church apart from the general funds and regular operations of the congregation. Since the fund’s inception in 1994 and with a restricted fund of \$156,015.00, the Endowment Committee has distributed \$225,660.00 through 2023 to various church missions and ministries.

The Endowment Committee met on Thursday January 18, 2024, to decide how to distribute the 2023 funds. With the recommendation of our investor at Edward Jones we chose to give out 4.4% which gave us \$14,500.00 from our Endowment Fund balance of \$327,185.00.

This year we were unable to distribute any funds from the Egan Endowment Memorial Fund.

Distributions are made to categories designed by the Endowment Fund’s Bylaws.

December 31, 2023 Value: \$328,396.00

Restricted Fund: \$156,015.00

2023 Fund Distributions:

Community Outreach

Colton Fire Dept.	\$250.00
Colton Assisted Living	\$500.00
Lyons Fire Dept.	\$250.00
Chester Fire Dept.	\$250.00
Feeding South Dakota	\$500.00
Banquet	\$500.00
Bethel Foundation	\$500.00
Ministerial Fund	\$75.00
Tri-Valley overdue lunch program	\$150.00
Chester overdue lunch program	\$150.00
<u>Methodist Church Food Bank</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>

Total **\$3,625.00**

Scholarships and Camps

Colton Lutheran Youth Mission Trip	\$2,000.00
Bible Campers	\$500.00
Post-Secondary (non-freshman)	
<u>Scholarships – Blend with Brakke*</u>	<u>\$1,125.00</u>

Total **\$3,625.00**

Mission Outreach

Lutheran Social Services	\$250.00
Church on the Street	\$500.00
St. Dymas Prison Ministries	\$500.00
Lutheran Outdoors	\$250.00
St. Jude	\$500.00
SD Kids Belong	\$250.00
Children’s Home Shelter for Family Safety	\$500.00
<u>Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center</u>	<u>\$875.00</u>

Total **\$3,625.00**

Capital Improvements

First Lutheran Building Fund \$3,625.00

Total **\$3,625.00**

*Will ask the Board of Ed to expand on the Brakke Scholarship to add non-freshman post secondary; the Endowment Committee will receive scholarship applications in December for a January deadline.

Endowment Committee:

Rick Lehman (President/Treasurer), Laura Jensen (Secretary), Tyler Hansen, Jamie Willard and Mark Hotchkin

First Lutheran Women 2023

The following is a recap of the year's main activities.

JANUARY - Assisted with quilt project for our graduating seniors. Many thanks to Tammy Huntimer for leading this project and heartfelt thanks to Dorothy Jorgenson for donating many quilt tops.

FEBRUARY - Book discussion on the book, "Turning, the Magic and Mystery of More Days" by Becky Blue.

MARCH - Two suppers prepared and served before Lenten services.

APRIL — Quilt weekend, helping finish the senior quilts. Volunteers assisted with Easter decorating.

MAY - Potluck brunch. A business meeting was held to discuss dining room tabletop improvements. After discussion, unanimous decision to purchase wooden cross centerpieces and vinyl table coverings for the parish hall and dining room.

JUNE — Four-week Bible study on the book of Ruth. Thanks so much to Pastor Herb, for leading this study.

SEPTEMBER - Bandage rolling, with bandages to be sent to Global Health Ministries, a Lutheran ministry extending help across the globe; 16 lbs. of bandages were sent this year; 8 lbs. in 2022. Members were surveyed, asking for preferences for meeting times, future activities, etc.

NOVEMBER - In support of our church's visitation and joys/concerns prayer ministry, photo-insert Christmas cards were prepared. They were mailed in December, with our heartfelt wishes.

Thanks for sharing your time, talent, and treasures to support the ministries and missions of our church.

Submitted by Carol Krogstad and Donna Jones

First Lutheran Church 2023 Women's Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$6,514.04
Deposits:	
February; US Bank CD (11month) Deposit	\$5,000.00
Ending Balance	\$1,514.04
Deposits:	
March; Serving Lenten Suppers	\$568.00
April; Serving Funeral (Pauline Larson)	\$100.00
May 17; Serving Funeral (Jeanelle Stene)	\$100.00
Total Income	\$ 768.00
Expenses:	
May 8; Secretary Gifts	\$100.00
July 23; Decorations/Table (12 Laser Cut Crosses)	\$240.00
Dec. 14: Postage, Cards, Photos (Christmas greeting)	\$48.39
Total Expenses	\$ 388.39
Ending Balance	\$ 1,893.65

Submitted by Bonnie Gelderman

First Lutheran Church 2023 Quilt Report

In 2023, the Quilters who met on Wednesday mornings stopped assembling quilts. I wanted to continue the legacy of the Quilter's Group giving quilts to the Seniors. I reached out to all that participated in assembling quilts to learn the process, and invited them to continue on our Friday and Saturday work sessions. Jeanelle Stene was instrumental in guiding what was done in the past and our modifications to our assembling the quilts today. She is greatly missed in our work sessions, but so happy we were able to learn from her experiences. Another great resource we have in our church is Dorothy Jorgenson who donated 94 quilt tops. This will sustain our work for many years.

Thank you to the at least 22 people who helped learn how to tie, sew seams, cut out backing and batting, and those who helped wash quilts. Because of a Thrivent donation, we were able to purchase batting, thread, string, and sheets for backing. We were able to donate 10 senior quilts to both St. Jacobs and First Lutheran Church, 2 quilts for others in need, and 18 quilts to the Children's Home for Christmas.

Thank you for all that have helped assemble quilts including men, women and confirmation kids. You are all welcome to come for however long you can. Watch the newsletter and bulletins for Quilting Work weekends, typically Friday evening after work and/or Saturday morning. If you are looking to help in other ways, please let me know 605-941-2611 or thuntimer@sio.midco.net.

Submitted by Tammy Huntimer

First Lutheran Church 2023 Technology Committee

In 2023:

- Rick Huntimer and the Confirmation students continue to run the Power Point during our Sunday worship service.
- We created an email address for our tech committee to be used for the weekly PowerPoints and any other tech needs. coltonlutheranparishtech@gmail.com
- We purchased a new laptop, docking station, 2 monitors, wireless mouse and keyboard for our church secretary, Kim Kagarise.
- We purchased 2 Ring stick up cameras to be installed outside of the church's south and kitchen entrances. A decision on recording services thru Ring are still pending.
- If you would like to become more involved in the tech side of worship, we have openings on our tech committee.
- We would love to have more insight and vision on how we can utilize tech to better our church and community.

Prayers and Blessings,

First Lutheran Church Technology Committee

Brittany Burgeson, Tyler Hansen and Jamie Christiansen-Lehman

**First Lutheran Church
Council, Board, and Committee Members
2024 Nominating Ballot
(Vote for those who are in bold)**

<u>President:</u>	Jamie Peterson	(2024)
<u>Vice President:</u>	Kaylee Amundson	(2024)
<u>Secretary:</u>	_____	(2024)
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Wendy Simmermon	(2019)
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>	Tammy Huntimer	(2020)
<u>Deacons:</u>	Jenny Tiehen	(2020)
	Cindy Oyen	(2020)
	Deb Bunde	(2023)
	Jamie Willard	(2023)
	Jessica Oyen	(2024)

<u>Education:</u>	Renae Jensen	(2018)
	Mike Willard	(2022)
	Heather Bunde	(2023)
	Angela Carsrud	(2023)

<u>Trustees:</u>	Matt Jones	(2018)
	David Keith	(2020)
	Scott Amundson	(2021)
	Rick Oyen	(2023)

<u>Finance:</u>	Mark Johnson	(2020)
	Riley Amundson	(2022)

<u>Endowment Committee:</u>	Tyler Hansen	(2020)
	Jamie Willard	(2021)
	Mark Hotchkin	(2019)
	Rick Lehman	(2018)

SD Synod Assembly _____

Bethel Lutheran Home Board of Directors *(Last Monday of the month):* _____

Bethel Home Board Annual Meeting *(2 delegates):* _____

2024 FLC Proposed Budget	2023 Proposed	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	SHARED	Category
Board of Deacons	2023 Proposed	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	Shared	Category
Outreach - Bethel Foundation	500	500	500	500	500 ENDOWMENT
Outreach - Missions: Banquet	500	1000	500	500	500 SP OFFERINGS
Outreach - Local Missions	750	846	1000	500	500 SP OFFERINGS
Outreach - Other Mission	3250	3250	3625	3625	ENDOWMENT 2nd Banquet mission
Outreach - Shetek Lutheran Outdoors	500	500			
Worship - Supplies - FLC	500	995	1300		Sign in 2024
Worship - Supplies - FLC/SJ	1500	1943	2500	625	FLC/SJ
Board of Deacons Total	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,034.00	\$ 9,425.00	\$ 5,750.00	
	2023 Proposed	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	Shared	Category
Board of Education					
Bible Camp	500	200	500	500	500 ENDOWMENT
Brakke Scholarship	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500 BRAKKE
Confirmation FLC/SJ	300	211.34	300	75	75 FLC/SJ
LYO		355.75	2000	2000	2000 ENDOWMENT
Recognition Events		250	250		
Sunday School	1000	675	1000		
Board of Education Total	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,192.09	\$ 5,550.00	\$ 4,075.00	
	2023 Proposed	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed	Shared	Category
Board of Finance					
Admin - Business Costs: QBO, Vanco, etc.	1300	607	2700	1400	TECHNOLOGY
Admin - FLC Board mtg	300		300		
Admin - Choir/Music/Organ/Piano	1500	1855	3000	3000	BERGE Organ repairs
Admin - Office Supplies/Postage - FLC		27			
Admin - Office Supplies/Postage - FLC/SJ	3500	3156	3500	875	875 FLC/SJ
Admin - SD Synod / ELCA Pledge	4500	2500	4500	2375	2375 ENDOWMENT SD Synod missions
Admin - SD Synod Mtg - FLC portion	150		150		
Admin-Technology	3000	1711	2000	2000	2000 TECHNOLOGY
Ministerial - Mileage FLC/SJ	600	0	600	150	150 FLC/SJ
Ministerial - Pastor Benefits FLC/SJ	10200	10138	10500	2625	2625 FLC/SJ
Ministerial - Pastor Healthcare Reimbursement FLC/SJ		8163	9000	2250	2250 FLC/SJ
Ministerial - Pastor Meeting Expenses - FLC/SJ	400	801	500	125	125 FLC/SJ
Ministerial - Pastor Base Pay	58000	52928	54900		FLC (only)
Ministerial - Pastor Continuing Education -FLC/SJ	600		600	150	150 FLC/SJ

Ministerial - Pastor Professional Expenses	200		200	50 FLC/SJ
Ministerial - Pulpit Supply FLC/SJ	1000	631	1000	250 FLC/SJ
Payroll - Financial Secretary Wages	1200	1200	1800	
Payroll - Office Secretary Wages FLC/SJ	12500	11184	12000	3000 FLC/SJ
Payroll - Organists Pay	4200	4350	4500	4500 BERGE
Payroll - SSI Taxes - FLC	2300	1095	1100	
Payroll - SSI Taxes- FLC/SJ	700	1427	1400	350 FLC/SJ
Payroll - Treasurer Wages	3400	3400	8000	
Payroll - Workman Compensation	1300	1187	1300	325 FLC/SJ
Board of Finance Total	\$ 110,850.00	\$ 106,360.00	\$ 123,550.00	\$ 23,425.00

	<i>2023 Proposed</i>	<i>2023 Actual</i>	<i>2024 Proposed</i>	<i>Shared</i>	<i>Category</i>
Board of Trustees					
Cemetery Mowing	8775	5700	6485	3891	CEMETERIES 40%/60% FLC/Cemeteries
Carillon System		8582.5	8582.5	8582.5	BERGE
FLC Custodian Wages	7800	7750	7800		
FLC Internet & Phone	1800	1918	1800	450	FLC/SJ
FLC Church Grounds	6550	5490	5500		
FLC Janitor Supplies	150	398	200		
FLC Office Equipment FLC/SJ	3000	3835	3600	900	FLC/SJ
FLC Office Equipment FLC	250	273	300	300	MEMORIAL
FLC Property Insurance	7300	7334	7500		
FLC Repair & Upkeep	1500	974	2000	1500	MEMORIAL
FLC Utilities - Water/Garbage	1300	1414	1500		
FLC Utilities - Electricity	3200	3429	3500		
FLC Utilities - Gas	7500	6397	6500		
Board of Trustees Total	\$ 49,125.00	\$ 53,494.50	\$ 55,267.50	\$ 15,623.50	

TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 170,775.00	\$ 172,080.59	\$ 193,792.50	\$ 48,873.50
LESS SHARED PORTIONS	\$ (41,644.50)	\$ (41,644.50)	\$ (48,873.50)	
NET BUDGET	\$ 129,130.50	\$ 130,436.09	\$ 144,919.00	



Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Triune God!

On behalf of your close to 200 partners across the South Dakota Synod I come to you to say *thank you*. *Thank you* for your generosity! Your benevolence to the ministry of the South Dakota Synod doesn't just keep the lights on and pays salaries, but mainly supports ministry on the ground. Please take a look at the "2023 South Dakota Synod Ministry Celebrations" insert included in this annual report. You will notice that YOU showed up in many and various spaces. Sometimes your presence was felt close to home through a grant you may have received or a synod staff that came to visit. At other times your presence impacted ministry in other parts of the world, such as our companion partners in the Lutheran churches in Nicaragua and Cameroon. *Thank you* also for your generosity above and beyond your benevolence. Our partners in Cameroon appreciated the synod's \$52,000 gift to support putting roofs on churches. The generosity of the congregations in the synod never ceases to amaze me, and I give thanks for your continued generosity as we journey together in Christ!



While many places celebrated an abundant year of ministry, I also want to acknowledge that for other ministry sites 2023 has not been as hoped for. Our mission statement commits us to "Journeying Together in Christ" and is based on Luke 24:13-34. Two disciples are on the road post resurrection and ponder in disbelief all the things that have happened before their eyes. They were overwhelmed and didn't know what to make of it all. I have heard from many ministry sites a similar account about 2023. "Bishop, things in 2023 were not as we had expected and hoped for. What do we do now?" In Luke's story Jesus, unrecognized by them, joins them and walks alongside to listen and remind them of the promises in scripture. But it isn't until they sit down at the table, and Jesus breaks bread that their eyes are opened. They recognize who he is and that the 'holy heartburn' they had experienced along the way was a sign that their love for Jesus and the way he calls them to live has changed them forever.

How about your community of faith? Where do you hear the promises of scripture assure you that God's got a plan for you and your ministry? Where are you called to follow the 'holy heartburn' God's Spirit ignites in you as you are fed at the table of love? I pray that your annual meeting will be an experience where you can voice what you had wished for as well as lament the unmaterialized hopes. And at the same time, you can hear where God promises new life and renewed faith in your very own midst.

Your South Dakota Synod staff and partners across the church are committed to accompany you in your ministry ventures, whether it means to take small courageous steps or giant leaps of faith. We are here to journey with you in Christ. Therefore, it is with great joy and delight that I am announcing to you that we, the South Dakota Synod, are a recipient of a \$1,137,384 grant Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative. Details about the grant can be accessed through the synod's website www.sdsynod.org as well as through the synod office. The STAR (Small Town and Rural) Table also offers two types of grants, which are only possible

through the generosity of the people and congregations of the SD Synod when we gather for rural ministry fundraisers. Again, details about the grant opportunities, and how you can apply for a grant are found on the synod's website www.sdsynod.org.

Last but not least, I would like to invite you to the 2024 Synod Assembly on May 31st and June 1st at Our Savior's in Sioux Falls, SD. We will gather under the theme of "(Re)Connect." It will be a celebration of the partnerships we share across the synod and the wider ELCA. Stay tuned for more information about the business coming before the assembly and the fun opportunities. I hope to be able to welcome you to the assembly in person, be in conversation with you and hear about ministry in your world and how you might best be accompanied as well as accompany your fellow members of the SD Synod and the ELCA.

Journeying with you in Christ,



Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Proposed Mission Plan
02/01/2024 - 01/31/2025**

	Adopted 2023	Revised 2023	Proposed 2024
Revenue			
Mission Support			
Undesignated Mission Support	1,870,465	1,750,576	1,803,094
SD Synod Mission Support	25,000	28,675	28,675
Total Mission Support-Congregations	1,895,465	1,779,251	1,831,769
Program Ministry Income			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Income	45,000	45,000	45,000
Total Program Ministry Income			
Other Income			
DEM Support Staff Income	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	10,000	10,000	10,000
SDS Travel LLC Income	5,000	5,000	5,000
Misc Income	1,000	50,000	1,000
Total Other Income	26,000	75,000	26,000
Total Revenue	1,966,465	1,899,251	1,902,769
Expenses			
Churchwide Ministries	43%	43%	41%
Churchwide Support	804,300	752,748	739,269
Region III			
Region III Support	7,260	8,004	8,004
South Dakota Ministries			
South Dakota Partnership Ministries			
SD Ministries Support	10,750	12,330	11,757
Luther Seminary	74,492	69,925	71,989
Church Colleges (ELCA Pool)	6,445	6,049	6,228
Lutheran Social Services	74,492	69,925	71,989
Campus Ministry	131,356	123,302	126,942
Lutheran Outdoors	37,151	34,873	35,903
South Dakota Supported Ministries			
Heartland Ephphatha	6,445	6,049	6,228
Youth Ministry	3,600	9,600	7,200
Campus Ministry Capital	1,030	1,030	0
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Woyatan Lutheran/Wambli Ska	19,000	19,000	19,000
Lutheran Planned Generosity	58,300	58,300	58,300
Total Shared Ministries	423,063	410,385	415,538

**South Dakota Synod, ELCA
Proposed Mission Plan
02/01/2024 - 01/31/2025**

	Adopted 2023	Revised 2023	Proposed 2024
Executive Leadership			
Bishop	96,675	99,034	102,005
Assoc/Director of Ev Mission	6,375	10,533	10,849
Assoc-Mobility/Candidacy	79,909	82,132	84,596
Executive Staff Benefits	106,192	86,940	89,546
Exec Travel/Continuing Ed	34,800	36,800	36,800
Program Ministries			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center-Director	98,872	96,302	99,257
Youth Gathering Synod Coordinator	6,959	0	0
Companion Synod Coordinator	15,839	18,008	18,521
Support Staff and Office			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefit	167,359	171,874	176,980
Synod Office Expenses	69,264	70,681	66,791
Augustana University Occupancy Fee	27,876	30,108	30,108
Synod Committees			
Synod Council	3,000	6,000	5,000
Support to Ministries Committee	2,100	3,100	3,100
Candidacy Committee	2,250	7,000	6,000
Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee	1,550	1,000	1,000
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	200	200	200
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,500
Mission & Outreach			
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	4,000
Mission Strategy Table	2,000	2,000	2,000
Contingency	5,122	902	1,705
Total South Dakota Ministries	731,842	728,114	739,958
Total Expenses	1,966,465	1,899,251	1,902,769
Net Total	0	0	0

"How Much Is Enough?"

That's a bold question to open an annual report to all of those congregations whose generous mission support is an essential reason that planned giving ministry recognized its **40th anniversary** in the South Dakota Synod this year. We celebrated all of those who have been a part of Lutheran Planned Generosity and its predecessor organizations at the 2023 Synod Assembly, and issued a challenge to identify **40 gift plans to honor 40 years of generosity**. It's not too late for you to be a part of the celebration--just contact us and let us know that you have made a gift in your will or through a beneficiary designation, or would like to do so. For all of those who are a part of this history and continue to generously support ministry in the Synod and around the world, **thank you!** You are making a difference!



Back to that opening question. Relax and breathe a sigh of relief. We're not going to give you rules or scripture verses to calculate the expected size of your gifts. Rather, it's an invitation to each of us to better understand **"How much is enough FOR ME?"** In a world that tells us we should constantly strive for a bigger bank account, a larger home, a newer car, a longer vacation and the next promotion, it's easy to get lost and overwhelmed in the striving and never know when we've reached the point that we have enough. Because God entrusts us as stewards and caretakers, not owners, of all that we have, maybe an understanding of what that number is would be helpful for each of us. **What if** God continues to place more resources under our management to allow us to **simplify our lives by supporting ministry and serving our neighbors** instead of adding another zero to the balance sheet?

If you've never thought about your "enough" and how God might be calling you to make a difference through generosity, **we're inviting you to the conversation**. LPGSD is here to help you think about how your life can make a difference for your loved ones, your church, your community and all of those in need around the world.

It might be a gift in your will, or as a beneficiary designation from your IRA or investment account or life insurance policy. Or maybe using a tool that creates tax savings and income for you today AND a gift to ministry later.

In addition to this work with individuals and families, LPGSD also walks alongside congregations hoping to create or revitalize their own legacy through an **endowment fund**, offering members the opportunity to share in the ministry and outreach of their Christian family. Did you know that **more than \$650,000** was distributed to ministry from South Dakota endowment funds held at the ELCA Foundation in 2023? Your personal legacy plan might even include a family endowment or a gift to establish an endowment at your own congregation.

How much is your ENOUGH? If you discover that God is calling you to generosity beyond that number, LPGSD would be honored to explore the options and help you design a plan that takes advantage of the right tools to benefit your family and support God's work.

Contact Kathy McHenry at **605.274.5030** or **kmchenry@sdsynod.org**.
Visit our website at **www.lpgsd.org** or find us on Facebook.

your life can make a difference

In the fall of 2019, the South Dakota Synod engaged in an intentional listening and learning process.

Here is a brief summary of the results:

What gives you joy?

- Music
- Multi-generational ministry opportunities
- Purposeful gatherings
- Purposeful volunteering
- The Gospel

What keeps you up at night?

- Economic hardships
- Polarization in our society
- Mental Health
- Fear for the future of "the Church"

How do you envision your relationship with the synod staff?

- Resources
- Relationships
- Programs
- Communication
- Faith formation

"Fitting who we are into pews made for who we were."

- Participant from 2019 Listen, Learn, Care Event



These results shape our strategic vision and mission.

Why even be "synod?"

We are synod because we are called to journey together in Christ. - Luke 24:13-35

How will we journey together in Christ?

- **Relating** with intentionality
- **Networking** across the church
- **Equipping** leaders for ministry
- **Sharing** leadership

With confidence in Christ's Love for All.

Let's imagine every moment as a classroom, an opportunity to learn, grow, adapt, and lean into the vision God has for the church of today and tomorrow. - Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

What we do together:

- **Intentional Accompaniment**
 - In transitional times for ministry sites and leaders
 - through the Rural Liaison
 - through disaster response
 - through a West River Liaison
 - digital sermon resources
 - Digital Ministry Task Force
- **Networking Across the Church**
 - First peer mentor groups
 - regular Zoom gatherings for lay and rostered leaders
 - connecting with our ministry partners
 - J-Term practica with Augustana University and Wartburg Seminary
 - Rural strategy conversations
- **Equipping Leaders for Ministry**
 - "A Life of Faith" video series
 - E-learning and resource hub
 - Story Junction Pilot Project with LEAD
 - Mental Health First Aid
 - Psychological First Aid
 - Sprinkles of Grace grants for early childhood ministry
- **Sharing Leadership**
 - opportunities to serve on synod committees and task forces
 - permission-giving leadership





An Introduction to the Journeying Together in Christ Grant from Lilly Endowment

As we announced earlier this month, the South Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has been awarded a grant of over \$1.1 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative.

The grant will be used by the Synod to live fully its vision of “Journeying Together in Christ,” by relating to congregations with intentionality, equipping leaders for ministry, networking across the church, and advocating for shared leadership, especially among our rural congregations.

The Synod developed the work of this initiative in response to three critical questions posed by Bishop Constanze Hagmaier and her staff in 2019 at statewide “Listen, Learn and Care” events: “What gives you joy?” and “What keeps you up at night?” and “How will we journey together?” One person’s poignant response resonated deeply: South Dakota ELCA churches are struggling with “fitting who we are into pews made for who we were.”

This grant will be used in two focus areas. First, it will be used to engage both lay and rostered congregational leaders by leveraging digital technologies to create *Connect*, a Synod-wide community hub for learning, resources and conversation. Next, it will be used to engage congregations with innovative Rural Immersion Ministries which will create congregational learning experiences designed to recognize and bridge the rural/urban cultural divide.

These projects are being funded through Lilly Endowment’s Thriving Congregations Initiative. The aim of the initiative is to encourage the flourishing of congregations by helping them deepen their relationships with God, enhance their connections with each other, and contribute to the vitality of their communities and the world.

The work of this grant award will be closely aligned with the Synod’s existing and emerging resources, expertise, and experience. However, it is important to note that this grant is funding **work outside of the 2024 Mission Plan approved by the 2023 Synod Assembly. Therefore, it is critical that congregations and organizations continue their mission support to the South Dakota Synod to ensure that the regular and essential work of the Synod continues.**

If you would like to find out more about the work that the grant award will enable, there will be two virtual informational meetings on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024** that will be open to all members of the South Dakota Synod to attend - one at **12:30pm CT** and one at **7:30pm CT**. Both sessions will include time for attendees to ask questions about the grant. More information on how to attend these meetings will be provided in the Synod’s weekly e-newsletter and the Synod website (www.sdsynod.org).

2023 MINISTRY CELEBRATION



Our Synod's vision of Journeying Together in Christ has continued to focus our work. We invite you to take a few moments to review the list below which celebrates some of the ministry we shared together in 2023. **Journeying together in Christ as the South Dakota Synod, in 2023 we:**

- Applied for and received a grant of **\$1,137,384** from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Thriving Congregations Initiative for new initiatives that are not included the Synod's Mission Plan. Please reach out to Synod Staff for **more information!**
- Completed explorations for two new potential church plants, with plans to start a worshipping community in **Box Elder** and **Shepherd's Table in Sioux Falls**.
- Walked with the **40** people in various stages of **Candidacy** and have **4** new entrance interviews scheduled in 2024!
- Received **3 new first call candidates**.
- Completed **23 Ministry Site Studies** and extended **28 calls!**
- Ensured that nearly every congregation has a called pastor, interim pastor, Synod Authorized Minister, or lay leader to care for God's people (thank you to all of you who are helping out with area congregations and filling in!).
- Distributed **\$77,137** to date through the Seminary Debt Reduction Program.
- Granted **\$123,000** in scholarship funds to seminary students, **\$11,400** in internship site assistance, and **\$82,990** to Luther and Wartburg Seminaries, for a total of **\$217,390** in support of seminary education.
- Created a **pilot rural J-term** program with Wartburg Theological Seminary, which will begin in January 2024.
- Received **\$113,635** in grants from ELCA Christian Community & Leadership.
- Held a **Synod Assembly**, where we gathered again as a community to conduct the business of the synod.
- Hosted **Spring and Fall Theological Conferences**, where we continued to support the continuing education of our Rostered Ministers either online or in-person.
- Supported the congregations and ministries of the synod through **visits** by synod staff, both **digital** and in-person.
- Hosted a "**Lay Leader Night**" to support congregational lay leaders and supported rostered leaders with regular **in-person and virtual meetings**, such as monthly rostered minister virtual check-ins, Synodically Authorized Minister, Senior Pastor, and Interim Pastor check-ins, and a First Call and Senior Pastor Retreat.
- Pr. Alan Blankenfeld, Synod **Rural Ministry Liaison** continued to journey with our rural ministry sites. In the past year, Pr. Alan has worked directly with **34 communities and congregations in transition**.
- Continued the work of the Rural Ministry Table, which is currently working on **Small Town and Rural (STAR) grants**, grants funded by the generous donations to rural ministry in the Synod.
- Partnered with **Bergen Lutheran** to hold a **Threshing Bee** which resulted in gifts of **\$51,324** to support rural ministry in South Dakota.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported the ministry of the South Dakota Synod this past year! God has called us to be the body of Christ together, and this is an active and healthy body. We look forward to continuing our journey with you in 2024 and beyond!

Bethel Lutheran Home, Inc. - 2023 Congregation Report

Since Bethel Lutheran Home opened its doors on March 25, 1962, we have had the amazing opportunity to serve thousands of residents as an extension of your Church. You continue to bless us with good people, both by electing excellent delegates and by referring friends and family who need our services. We are so grateful for all that you do for Bethel Community!

Our 62nd annual corporation meeting is scheduled to be held on January 22, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church, to review the fiscal year end 2023 audited financial statement for Bethel Lutheran Home, Inc. January will now become our new Annual Meeting date due to the complexity of our audit as well as the time it takes Casey Peterson to complete the required documentation.

I want to take a few moments to thank everyone for their renewed service to Bethel and our mission in Lake County. Your generous gifts, both monetary and valuable time, have made a dramatic improvement in the lives of the Residents, staff, and our "Community." Every one of you has profoundly impacted our lives and I truly want to say "Thank You" from the Bethel Community.

Staffing Impact at Bethel

Staffing remains the one of our largest challenges ending 2023 and entering 2024. Locating, hiring, and maintaining normal staffing has remained a challenge. However, by the end of 2023 we have seen a dramatic increase in applications as well as new hires which has led to a reduction in Agency staffing needs. We have had 5-6 open CNA positions since March 2021 which we have filled 50% of these openings the end of 2023 alone. CMS requires nursing facilities to maintain specific staffing levels. If the facility misses this benchmark, CMS can impose monetary penalties. To combat this, we utilize Agency staffing to fill open positions to maintain a census and provide quality care. The problem this presents is we must pay temporary staffing companies approximately 50% more than we are able to pay our full-time and part-time staff.

Decreased staffing numbers also affect the number of residents that we can effectively provide care for. Currently our census is on average 54 residents or 91% occupancy. It is important that the quality of care should not be compromised to keep Bethel full. We will increase census as staffing allows. Bethel is among the top 10% of Long -Term Care facilities in South Dakota based on census, most facilities at this time average a 75%-85% occupancy.

Operational Updates

Bethel's revenue had a small decrease in revenue \$6,232,669.59 compared to \$6,632,460 in 2022. Our Profitability, Activity and Efficiency (Return on Capital Employed) ratios have all decreased due to our Agency staffing as well as current inflation rates. Of note, thanks to our South Dakota Legislature our profitability has increased in July 2023 due to the passing of the Medicaid Increase to 100% methodology. Working capital or the time to collect payments was 13.63 days in 2022 currently we are at 13.00 days in 2023.

Capital Improvements

The roof over the Bethel Home needs to be replaced as was stated in the 2021 report with a cost of approximately \$300K. Bethel applied for a grant to replace the existing HVAC system with an upgraded filtration system that will be compliant with new air quality standards and was awarded \$251,912. The contract was awarded to Barger Electric with the project beginning September 2022 and this project ended in September 2023. Bethel now has a new HVAC system as well as each room

now has its own “fresh air” return. We have added (4) reverse flow isolation rooms for respiratory illnesses if needed.

Technology Improvements

- In 2023 we did not improve any technology assets as Bethel was in a good position. In 2023 we dramatically improve our Cyber Security posture through a grant received by DSU to assess and mitigate Cybersecurity concerns. Thanks to a grant through DSU we implemented a new VPN, Multi-Factor Authentication software among many other safeguards to ensure our resident information is secure. This grant will allow for our system to be actively scanned and defended by local vendors in Madison as well as the State of South Dakota. These services will be paid for in the year 2023 and potentially going forward depending on continued Federal Grant Funding.
- We installed a new PA system to allow for facility wide communication as our old system is no longer functioning and not able to be repaired.
- We upgraded our Camera Security system by purchasing a new server as well as a new camera by the employee entrance. This system was over 10 years old and not able to be upgraded due to age.

Additional Updates for FY 2023:

- Thanks to a very strong push in this legislative session a 24% increase and rebase for Nursing Home Medicaid reimbursement passed which equates to a 100% reimbursement based on the current model. The new reimbursement will help alleviate some of the financial burden while potentially helping with recruitment and infrastructure needs.

Census

- Total Admissions in the past 12 months = 14
- Total Discharges in the past 12 months = 26
- Occupancy rate for the past 12 months = 90%
- BLH 42% Private Pay, 49% Medicaid, 8% Medicare A
- BLH had a 20% increase in the number of Medicaid patient days.
- BLH had a 4% increase in the number of Medicare patient days.
- BLH had a 21% decrease in the number of Private Pay patient days.
- Bethel Suites occupancy rate for the past 12 months = 100.00%
- Bethel Suites 66.7% Private Pay, 33.3% Medicaid

Rate Changes

- BLH Private Pay Rate: \$278/day
- BLH Medicaid Rate: \$230.04/day.
- Bethel Suites Private Pay Rate: \$3750/month
- Bethel Suites Medicaid Rate = \$2,777/month
- Apartment rent: \$1272/12 apts. and \$1380/4 apts
- Twin Home Maintenance Fee: \$550/month
- Patio Home Rent: \$1710/4 and \$1735/2 (Bethel pays the FDN \$4,905/month to pay on the collateral real estate mortgage promissory note)

Star Rating

- Bethel Lutheran Home currently has a 3-star facility rating. Five stars is the highest rating a facility can achieve. This rating is a snapshot in time of a nursing home's quality measures, which include infection rates, our ability to take care of our residents' pain levels, and quarterly staffing levels and annual survey results. In April 2019, CMS changed the criteria of its rating criteria which resulted in over 70% of nursing homes in the U.S. dropping a star rating.

Overview of challenges facing Bethel

- CNA turnover rates and competition with staff agencies. Currently we pay a single Agency CNA at a significantly higher rate than our "organic" staff. This is a non-sustainable model; we are in drastic need for CNAs in Long-Term Care.
- Capital improvements – Bethel is getting older, and several updates are needed.

Current Board Members

- Jackie Voelker – Colman Lutheran – **President**
- Pastor Karl Breddin – Pastor St. John's Lutheran – **Vice - President**
- Maria Feldhaus - Bethany – **Secretary**
- Mark Schultz – At-large member – **Treasurer**
- Nancy Bloker – Grace Lutheran
- Pastor Herb Wounded Head III – St Jacob's Lutheran
- Phil Hoffman – First Lutheran Colton
- BeBe Abraham – St John Lutheran, Ramona
- Natalie Olson – Lake Madison
- Kim Callies – At-large member
- Pastor Steve Lindley – Trinity Lutheran
- Dawn Barber – St. Jacob's – Colton
- Pastor Ramona Hayes – Our Savior's Lutheran – Flandreau

Governing Board Vacancies in 2024

- At-large – Vacant
- At-Large - Vacant
- Midway Lutheran – Vacant
- St. John's Lutheran - Madison - Vacant

I want to thank the outgoing Board members for their dedicated service to Bethel Lutheran Home.

***Jeremiah Schneider, Administrator
Bethel Lutheran Home***



all healthy
all safe
all accepted



all with

2023 Annual Report to Congregations

All With Your Partnership in Healing Outreach

Runaway & Homeless Youth have brighter futures. **93%** returned to their family or transitioned to a safe living environment and **100%** enrolled in school or a GED program at discharge.

Children & teens are healing from trauma. **89%** of youth in Foster Care and **91%** of youth in Residential Treatment showed reduced trauma symptoms over the course of their time with LSS.

Mentors are making a difference. **97%** of high school mentees are on track to graduate with their class in May and **92%** indicate they have improved self-esteem.

Families are safer. **65%** of individuals in family violence intervention demonstrate a reduction in criminal thinking. This is a staggering **increase of 29%** from when the program was transitioned to LSS.

LSS Strategic Plan In Action

This year marked the first year of our new strategic plan in action. Our board of directors, executive team and leadership developed a four-year strategic plan and line of sight that guides our work toward making the greatest contribution to accomplishing our vision that all people in South Dakota will be healthy, safe and accepted.



Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen
President/CEO

We continue to identify areas for positive impact through listening to unmet community needs, collaboration and strategic priorities that are family-centered and ensure equitable access for those we serve.

Our operational strategies prioritize workforce & inclusivity within our organization and communities, financial viability of the agency and our services, and sharing the positive impact our work makes in the community through storytelling.

This Year At A Glance

Expanded Mentoring Services to serve youth in more communities throughout the state

Strengthened efforts to prioritize family role in an individual's success by elevating youth & family voice

Implemented Strengthening Families, a curriculum that helps build strong communication between parents and their children and helps families navigate conflict

Resettled 197 refugees through traditional resettlement and 290 Ukrainian refugees through Uniting for Ukraine pathways. We are expecting an additional 400 traditional and 50 U4U.



Church on the Street

Annual Report 2023

ChurchontheStreetsf.org

Church on the Street continues to show up with the good news of Jesus, especially where folks are experiencing homelessness and poverty. You'll find us on the streets, visiting folks in shelters, cars, hospitals, laundry mats, and jails. This year, our offices moved to 515 N. Main. Ave inside the Multi-Cultural Center and are accessible through the Minnehaha County building, so more people are stopping by since they're already in the building for other things. Skylar Allen, Director of Organization, oversees record growth in food requests, with 242 families accessing the pantry during the year's first quarter and 885 families in the fourth quarter.

Also, this year, we and several of our partners worked with Sioux Falls Thrive to get the Eat Well Sioux Falls Mobile Market into food deserts in our town. Luke Senst is the Market Manager in addition to being our Director of Media Ministries. The mobile market is one example of how partnerships and collaborations are how we help share God's love in tangible ways.

Finally, it is a blessing to be Church together, sharing the best and worst of life and leaning on the promises of our Savior. Harriet Monson, Director of Laundry with Love, said it best: "One of the best moments for me this year was when the young single mom who moved into a place with a washer and dryer (so she doesn't need our services anymore) but she came back to visit."

Thank you for all the ways you are part of Church on the Street through your prayers, financial donations, in-kind donations, visits, and sharing our story. You are a blessing!

It's great to be Church together!

Rev. Chris Matson, Pastor & Mission Developer

515 N Main Ave

Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Chris@churchonthestreetsf.org

605-215-1143

LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SOUTH DAKOTA



2023

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you, to all of the individuals and congregations that supported the ministry of Lutherans Outdoors(LO) with financial gifts. Also, thank you to all of the individuals who attended summer camps, retreats, and travel experiences. LO cannot be the ministry that welcomes all to explore and experience Christ's love in community and creation without you!

REIMAGINING LUTHERANS OUTDOORS

The Board of Lutherans Outdoors emphasis in 2023 was the **REIMAGINING** of Lutherans Outdoors. Eight Task Forces have met, and continue to meet, diving into eight audits of the ministry. These eight areas are Philosophy, Finance, Financial Development, Marketing, Governance, Facility, Program, and Staffing. Results so far include the development of new Core Values where we promise to **EXPLORE FAITH, WELCOME ALL, BUILD LEADERS, and CARE FOR ALL CREATION.**

There are nearly 100 recommendations that have resulted from these eight audits. The recommendations will provide guidance for the Strategic process LO will develop for the next several years. The final results of the **REIMAGINING** will be presented to the Board of Directors at their January meeting, with a presentation to the voting members at the LO 2023 Annual Meeting in June 2024.

STAFF UPDATES

During 2023, Lutherans Outdoors said goodbye to Teri Gayer, who served many roles with LO during the past 30-plus years, most recently as the Director of Klein Ranch. During the celebration of 50 years of ministry at Klein Ranch last July, Teri was recognized for her ministry.

In May, LO said hello to Skylar Schwab, who assumed the Program Director position at Outlaw Ranch. Klaire Hudson resigned earlier in the spring from this position after serving in this role. Skylar jumped right into a busy summer and we are very excited she has joined the LO family!

SUMMER 2023 | SUMMER 2024

Our summer camper attendance increased by 15% as a whole in 2023. Outlaw Ranch saw a 22% increase boosted by nearly 100 more Family Campers. Klein Ranch saw a 19% increase. NeSoDak saw a 4% decrease in campers. The total camper number was nearly 1,350.

Our Adult Travel Experiences had over 60 participants to our two destinations: Holden Village and Branson. In 2024, Experiences will be to Minneapolis for a theatre event in April, to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in September, to the Smokie Mountains and Dollywood in October, and a return to Branson in November.

The new Horse Corral at Outlaw Ranch was completed in 2023. This great addition provides a wonderful place to care for the horses and a safe place for campers to begin their horse care education and rides each week.

**Join Lutherans Outdoors for Summer 2024 "Created To Be!" Register at losd.org.
"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well" Psalm 139:14**

In the Hills. On the Prairie. At the Water.



Shetek Lutheran Ministries

14 Keeley Island Dr.

Slayton, MN 56172

(507)-763-3567

camp@shetek.org

www.shetek.org

Executive Director – Marv Nysetvold

Program Director – Lexie Blaschko

Greetings from your camp – Shetek Lutheran Ministries!

This summer we served 770 total campers, which includes our youth campers, cross-generational campers and our SOS campers. We are close to serving as many campers as before the pandemic. 2023 was a 24% increase in camper numbers over 2022 and about 94% of the campers we had in 2019. One of our greatest challenges continues to be finding young adults who are willing to serve for the summer. Our summer ministry team of 20 young adults served faithfully this summer and grew in their faith and in their leadership skills. We were blessed with 7 international counselors this past summer from the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Zambia, Mexico, Zimbabwe and two from South Africa. Shetek will be inviting several international counselors in 2024 also.

Our "Building on the Foundation" capital campaign continues with primarily the congregational phase. Several congregations have run successful campaigns in their congregations so far. We will be contacting all our 100 member congregations to give them the opportunity to participate. We continue to visit with prospective major donors, those who give or pledge \$5,000 or more for the campaign. We have met our phase 1 goal of \$1,500,000 and our total so far in cash and pledges is about \$1,613,000 as we work towards our challenge goal of \$2,000,000. The new lodge is done and is being used by a variety of different groups from scrapbooking groups, Scout groups, family gatherings and college students. The Property Committee and Board are working on plans for the first new cabin and we hope to begin construction in the spring.

Some improvements in 2023 – we upgraded the sound system in the chapel, replaced the reverse osmosis system in the Dining Hall, had to replace the motor on the pontoon, repaired the east wall of the chapel and painted it, painted 3 cabins along with the office, and removed several trees.

I am thankful for our year round staff who continue to work as a team to serve our guests and campers and provide great hospitality. Shetek welcomed Gaelyn Gernentz in March to our Housekeeping team, Deb Ness in June to our Summer Food Service, Joe Koenigs in June to our Maintenance team, and Alexandra Cowell began in September on our Housekeeping team.

We are so grateful for the many campers and guests that came this year. Shetek has impacted so many lives over the years. One of our Counselors in Training (CIT) had this to say about last summer.

"I feel closest to God when I am at camp. I consider camp to be my second home during the summer. This summer, I felt called and was able to have the opportunity to spend about 6 weeks volunteering at camp and I learned a lot. I learned how to respond to stressful situations better, I was able to make, renew, and grow friendships, and I strengthened my leadership skills by helping lead activities like games, worship, reading scripture, and more. I feel that I grow in my faith on a deeper level and grow closer to God everyday there."

Shetek continues to receive estate gifts periodically, which we are very thankful for. Over the years, these thoughtful gifts have really benefitted the ministry at Shetek. If you're interested in finding out more about how to support Shetek in this way, please let us know. We have access to a gift planner at no cost to our donors.

Thank you for your support and prayers!

Marv Nysetvold, Executive Director

Shetek's Board of Directors in 2023 – Ashley Benson, Lindsey Cartwright, Tyler Egge, Pastor Bailey Landa, Logan Gooch, Sarah Kirchner, Pastor Jeanette McCormick, Leon Mortland, Pastor Elizabeth Pagnotta, Pastor Juanita Parker, Pastor Michael Stangeland.

Shetek's staff in Dec. 2023 – Lexie Blaschko, Sandy Carlson, Tom Carlson, Katie Chapman, Alexandra Cowell, Nora Dahlhoff, Michelle Flanagan, Gaelyn Gernentz, Sharon Haugen, Mike Kastner, Joe Koenigs, Jean Larson, Deb Ness, Marv Nysetvold, Jessica Van Dam, Jane Wahl.

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DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____	FREQUENCY OF DONATION: <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th	FUNDS: <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ —
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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

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

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

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

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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

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

arr. Julius Röntgen

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America