

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SHARON

JANUARY 22, 2023

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022
JANUARY 22, 2023



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Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Devotions - Pastor Kalen
3. Prayer - Pastor Kalen
4. Quorum Call
5. Congregational Mission
 - a. *On our way rejoicing, proclaiming, teaching, and sharing God's love.*
6. Minutes from the January xx, 2022 Annual Meeting
7. Minutes from the September 11, 2022 Special Congregational Meeting
8. Financial Secretary's Report
9. Treasurer's Report
10. Committee Reports
 - a. Audit
 - b. Endowment
 - c. Christian Education
 - d. Property
 - e. Stewardship
 - f. Evangelism
 - g. Worship & Music
 - h. Youth
 - i. WELCA
 - j. President
 - k. Pastor
11. Old Business
12. New Business
 - a. Synod Assembly Delegates
 - b. Nomination and Election of Audit Committee
 - c. Nomination and Election of Endowment Committee
 - d. Nomination and Election of Council Members
 - e. Budget
 - f. Other
13. Adjournment

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

In Christ,

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

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

(Hebrews 13:16).

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano line. The lyrics are as follows:

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

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

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

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

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

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

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



**South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Bread for the Day, a daily bible reading and prayer resource published by Augsburg Fortress, ended 2021 with this prayer December 31st:

God we turn to you at year's end with these prayers: for children to be safe, for peace to reign, and for hunger to be satisfied. We trust your wisdom and your word, for you are endless love.

This is a beautiful prayer as we begin 2022 as well. Our trust is in God's wisdom and word. God is endless love. We so desire our children to be safe, for the hungry to be fed and for peace to reign.

I know that you are bringing this prayer to truth. Thank you, people of the South-Central synod, of Wisconsin for showing and sharing God's endless love throughout your communities, our state, country, and across the globe. It is because of you children are being made safe. The hungry are receiving food. Quilts are being made and sent for warmth. You proclaim and practice ways of peace and justice. You see the neighbor and include the unseen in your prayers and in your actions of care. Thank you. Each of the 138 congregations and ministries of our synod makes a difference in the lives of real people. You share the endless love of God in big and small ways each day. Thank you.

Thank you also for ways we are church together. As the pandemic drags on, we continue to yearn for its end. We continue to wonder what things will return and what things are changed forever. Thank you for the ways that congregations, leaders, conferences, laity and clergy continue to bravely pray and discern together in this uncertain time. It is a privilege to walk alongside of you in these conversations. God is present in these days. God is active in these days. We are not alone. Your congregation is not alone.

Please know that your synod, the South-Central synod of Wisconsin, is committed to being your partner in ministry. Together we are finding new ways to share God's grace, build community and to be Christ's endless love in the world.

God's blessings to you and upon your Annual meeting,

Bishop Joy

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe

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Annual Meeting Minutes - January 30, 2022

President Dan Way called the meeting to order at 11:12 am.

Pastor Kalen led us in devotions and prayer.

President Dan Way asked if there was enough to make a quorum, it was determined that there was enough for quorum. There were 23 members in person and 5 members on Zoom.

The congregational mission was read.

Minutes from 202 Annual Meeting: President Dan Way asked for a motion and second to approve the minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting. A Denise Gibbons/Robin Ruosch motion and second to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2021 annual meeting, carried unanimously.

Minutes from the August 8th Congregational Meeting: President Dan Way asked for a motion and second to approve the minutes from the 8/8/2021 Congregational meeting. A Jerry Gibbons/Kathy Frederick motion and second to approve the minutes from the 8/8/2021 Congregational meeting, carried unanimously.

Financial Secretary's Report: Mary DeYoung gave a brief explanation of the report and the state of our financial affairs. Between the PPP Loan and our congregation, we were able to keep a positive balance in the checking account all year. No further discussion. President Dan Way asked for a motion and second to approve the Financial Secretary's Report. A Dennis Frederick/Deb Way motion and second to approve the 2021 Financial Secretary's Report, carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Mary DeYoung gave a brief explanation of the report and added a report for the major expenditures of the church for the past year. No discussion. President Dan Way asked for a motion and second to approve the Treasurer's report. A Jerry Gibbons/Kathy Frederick motion and second to approve the 2021 Treasurer's Report carried unanimously. Thank you Mary DeYoung for your work!

Committee Reports:

Audit	Endowment	Christian Education	Property
Stewardship	Evangelism	Worship & Music	Youth
WELCA	President's Report		

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President Dan Way asked for a motion and second to approve all the committee reports. A Denise Gibbons/Robin Ruosch motion and second to approve all the above committee reports, carried unanimously.

President's Report: Dan really didn't have much of a final report. Wanted to thank Beth Frederick and Stephanie Smith for their commitment for the past 6 years for the church. Mary DeYoung wanted to thank Dan for his leadership this last year and as a council member for the last 6 years as well.

Pastor's Report: Pastor wanted to thank the council as a whole for all the leadership of the church and wanted to thank Dan for his help when she first arrived here 5 years ago, Dan was the President at that time as well. Wanted to mention that when she was coming here, admitted that she hadn't even heard of Sharon, WI before, wanted to serve a small church and is feeling blessed to have been assigned here with us. She mentioned a couple of more memorable moments from this past year. Asked for all of us to think about this upcoming year, wanted to have all of us to be more present in our neighborhoods and listen to God is telling us. Excited about some ideas she has for this upcoming year. President Dan Way asked for a motion and second for approval of the Pastor's Report. A Kathy Frederick/Jacqueline Webster motion/second to approve the Pastor's report, carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- Bell Tower repair update: Will be happening in the spring, we are on the books with the company we have contacted for the work. The fundraising has come a long way since the start of the project talk started but we still have a little more left to go for the fundraising. We are currently at \$42,947 as of today.
- Parking lot seal coating: We are on the schedule for the company we contacted to have the parking lot seal coated in the spring.

New Business:

- Synod Assembly Delegates: May 7-8 (or May 6-7) at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. President Dan Way asked for any nominations, Stephanie Smith made a motion to nominate Dan and Deb Way as our Delegates, Robin Ruosch second the nomination. No other nominations were made, carried unanimously.
- Nomination and Election of Audit Committee - 3 year term: Darrell Frederick's term is up and has agreed to serve again on the Audit Committee. President Dan Way asked for a motion and second to elect Darrell Frederick to the Audit Committee for a 3 year term. A Kathy Frederick/Dani Lawler motion and second to elect Darrell Frederick, carried unanimously.

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- Nomination and Election of Endowment Committee - 3 year term: Ralph Bollinger's term is up and has agreed to serve again on the Endowment Committee. President Dan Way asked for a motion and second to elect Ralph Bollinger to the Endowment Committee. A Denise Gibbons/Dennis Frederick motion and second to elect Ralph Bollinger, carried unanimously.
- Nomination and Election of Council Members: Dan Way, Beth Frederick, and Stephanie Smith have all completed their 6 years on council and are not eligible to serve again, per our church's bylaws. There are three 3 year terms and one 2 year term seats open. President Dan Way asked for nominations for council members. **2 year term** - Stacie Sheppard nominated Dani Lawler, Michael Dowden seconded the nomination, who accepted. A Stephanie Smith/Dennis Frederick motion and second to close the 2 year term election. **3 year term** - Collin Frederick nominated Kim Mizelle, Dennis Frederick seconded the nomination. Beth Frederick nominated Denise Gibbons, Dennis Frederick seconded the nomination. Kathy Frederick nominated Marjorie Krause, Caitlin Dowden seconded the nomination. None were present but previously agreed. President Dan Way asked for a motion to close elections of new council members. A Jerry Gibbons/Mary DeYoung motion and second to nominate Dani Lawler, Kim Mizelle, Denise Gibbons, and Marjorie Krause to serve as council members, carried unanimously.
- Budget: Mary DeYoung presented the proposed budget from the Finance Committee. Wanted to thank the Finance Committee for their hard work and ability to meet at short notice to approve anything over \$1,000 that the Council can't approve. There was no further discussion/questions. President Dan Way asked for a motion and second to accept the 2022 budget. A Dennis Frederick/Deb Way motion and second to accept the 2022 budget as presented, carried unanimously.
- Other: Dennis Frederick thought that maybe what he and Dan talked about this morning before service should be mentioned. Dan thought that maybe once a year the envelope idea (brain child of Beth Frederick) be put up with about 100 envelopes so that money be raised randomly so that if anything major were to come up it wouldn't be difficult and stressful to raise the money needed.

Motion to adjourn: President Dan Way asked for a motion and second to adjourn. A Kathy Frederick/Robin Ruosch motion and second to adjourn at 11:47am, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith
For Beth Frederick, Council Secretary

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Special Congregational Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2022

Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 11:12 a.m.

Attendance: Stacie Sheppard determined that a quorum of Congregation members were present

Parsonage: Council President Michael Dowden presented the council's recommendation to rent out the parsonage, using a property management company to handle the details of the rental agreement and contract. A Stacie Sheppard/Dennis Frederick motion and second to rent out the parsonage through a property management company was made. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn: A Denise Gibbons/Dennis Frederick motion/second to adjourn at 11:15 am was made. Motion carried Unanimously.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Stacie Sheppard
Council Secretary

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EXPENDITURES FOR 01/01/2022 THROUGH 12/31/2022

ACCOUNT	2022 Budget	2022 Actual
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Administration

Copier Lease/Service Contract	800.00	435.60
Council Retreat	200.00	0.00
FICA - Employer Share	1,051.00	1,048.20
Internet Service	750.00	784.32
Offering Envelopes	200.00	203.86
Office Supplies	200.00	285.52
Postage	200.00	87.22
Postal Box & Safety Deposit Box	80.00	84.00
Software	400.00	458.84
Synod Assembly	1,000.00	809.50
Vanco - EFT Charges	275.00	267.76
SubTotal Administration	5,156.00	4,464.82

Benevolent Giving

Synod Benevolence Expense	9,013.00	9,012.96
SubTotal Benevolent Giving	9,013.00	9,012.96

Christian Education

Confirmation	200.00	0.00
Stewardship/Adult Education	300.00	30.84
Sunday School	600.00	216.31
Vacation Bible School	750.00	750.00
SubTotal Christian Education	1,850.00	997.15

Operations and Upkeep

Church Maintenance	2,000.00	60.00
Organ & Piano Expense	150.00	0.00
Parsonage Maintenance	500.00	0.00
Property & Workers Comp Insurance	6,200.00	6,616.25
Repair & Cleaning Supplies	150.00	673.66
Sexton - Salary	6,100.00	6,063.96
Snow Removal & Lawn Care	2,000.00	2,143.55
SubTotal Operations and Upkeep	17,100.00	15,557.42

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EXPENDITURES FOR 01/01/2022 THROUGH 12/31/2022

ACCOUNT	2022 Budget	2022 Actual
Pastoral Ministry		
Book Allowance	250.00	0.00
Continuing Education	800.00	600.00
Housing Allowance	9,500.00	9,499.93
Mileage	1,500.00	806.95
Official Meetings	450.00	335.83
Pastor Salary	35,719.00	35,719.45
Pension & Health	17,961.00	18,036.48
Renewal Ministry	335.00	250.00
Social Security	3,460.00	3,459.35
Supply Pastor	750.00	700.00
SubTotal Pastoral Ministry	70,725.00	69,407.99
Utilities - Church		
Electric	3,600.00	3,123.86
Gas	1,700.00	2,652.09
Telephone	700.00	643.41
Water & Sewer	1,200.00	1,231.42
SubTotal Utilities - Church	7,200.00	7,650.78
Utilities - Parsonage		
Electric	600.00	337.73
Gas	700.00	813.66
Water & Sewer	500.00	552.29
SubTotal Utilities - Parsonage	1,800.00	1,703.68
Worship & Music		
Choir Music	200.00	0.00
Organist - Salary	7,638.00	7,638.00
Supply Organist/Musicians	300.00	0.00
Worship Supplies	700.00	1,265.31
SubTotal Worship & Music	8,838.00	8,903.31
Total Expenditures	121,682.00	117,698.11

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EXPENDITURES FOR 01/01/2022 THROUGH 12/31/2022

Benevolent Giving/Second Sunday	2,893.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief	40.00
Lutheran World Relief	100.00
World Hunger Expense	300.00
NOTE: Benevolent Giving/Second Sunday, Lutheran Disaster Relief, Lutheran World Relief, and World Hunger are non-budgeted items. Donations cover the costs of these items.	

Other Expenses	
Building Fund - Safe, Line of Credit Costs, Bell Tower, Asbestos & Mold Abatement (Parsonage)	35,180.38
Book Giveaway - Outreach Activity - Books & Lunch	1,973.76
Community Fund - Alliant Energy Assistance	209.36
Endowment Fund - Endowment Funds for Book Giveaway	1,875.00
Youth Fund - Mission Trip and Lutherdale Bible Camp	2,590.70

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2022 FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT
CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL OFFERING	2022	2021
Benevolence Synod	\$194.00	\$373.00
Candle	\$165.00	\$15.00
Current Offering	\$115,935.72	\$112,289.86
Funds for Friends	\$448.02	\$514.73
Initial Offering	\$73.00	\$58.00
Lent - Simple Suppers	\$106.00	\$0.00
Loose Offering	\$751.03	\$1,234.00
Sunday School	\$165.00	\$55.00
VBS	\$200.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$118,037.77	\$114,539.59
Second Sunday	\$3,022.00	\$2,884.00
Building Fund	\$15,966.00	\$41,330.61
Community Fund	\$287.00	\$250.00
Endowment Fund	\$2,050.00	\$2,000.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$40.00	\$425.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$100.00	\$0.00
Memorial Fund	\$4,390.00	\$150.00
Outreach - Book Drive Project	\$1,975.00	\$0.00
World Hunger	\$300.00	\$410.00
Youth Fund Offering	\$1,892.00	\$2,306.40
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$148,059.77	\$164,295.60
Building/Property Fund - Thrivent	\$27.00	\$460.00
Youth Fund - Sub Sandwich Sale	\$1,953.00	\$0.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$150,039.77	\$164,755.60

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ACCOUNT BALANCES					
Change in Net Assets for Period: 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2022					
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance	
Building/Property Fund	50,459.57	15,993.00	35,180.38	31,272.19	
	Beginning Balance	Receipts (Offerings & Second Sunday)	Disbursements	Ending Balance	
Community Fund	1,868.06	287.00	209.36	1,945.70	
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers From (+) or To Other Funds (-)	Ending Balance
General Fund	12,977.42	148,059.77	117,698.11	-30,446.80	12,892.28
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance	
Memorial Fund	27,600.54	4,390.00	0.00	31,990.54	
	Beginning Balance	Receipts (Deposits, Refunds & Transfers)	Interest	Disbursements	Ending Balance
Youth Fund	5,121.98	3,845.00	4.92	2,590.70	6,381.20
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Change in Value	Ending Balance
Endowment Fund	65,379.05	2,050.00	1,875.00	-6,049.78	59,504.27

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2022 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Sunday, January 8, 2023

The Audit Committee has examined the financial records of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church for the year 2022. These include revenue and expense accounts for the General Fund, the Building/Maintenance Fund, the Community Fund, and Undesignated Memorials. In addition we reviewed financial records pertaining to the Endowment Fund and the Youth Fund. We have found no discrepancies in any funds. All accounts appear in good financial order.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randall Wuttke". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Randall Wuttke, Audit Committee Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell Frederick". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Darrell Frederick, Audit Committee Member

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stephanie Smith, Audit Committee Member

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Endowment Report

2022 was not a strong year for investments, so while the funds available to support missions and activities within our church were not as large as previous years, there still was \$1899.57 available. No applications for funds were received, and no funds will be distributed this year. All available monies will be kept in the endowment fund for future growth.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Wuttke, Ralph Bollinger, Beth Frederick, Mary DeYoung

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Christian Education Committee Report

The Christian Education Committee guides the educational ministry of the church by working with Pastor and the council to support the children's Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, confirmation, first Communion, bible studies, and other educational opportunities as they are presented. The committee provides oversight and leadership around educational opportunities that encourage and nurture the life-long process of faith formation.

Whether it was Sunday School, Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, or First Communion, Christ Lutheran Church carried out its commitment to teaching God's love throughout 2022.

Sunday School: This year, we started as a one room Sunday School program; however, as we end 2022 we are blessed to have enough Sunday School children to have three separate Sunday School classrooms, welcoming over 20 different children into our program. Thank you to everyone who has helped teach Sunday School this year: Kenny Sheppard, Mike Dowden, Marie Rithamel, Kim Mizelle, and Denise Gibbons. A special thank you to Kim and Denise who have committed to teaching every week, which allowed us to split up our students into smaller groups.

After a break for covid, we started 2022 with the Sunday School children sharing their musical talents with the congregation once a month and ended the year with the students putting on an adorable Christmas program. A special thank you to Chris Lynch for organizing the monthly songs and writing and directing the Christmas program.

Bible Study: Pastor led adult Bible Studies in the winter, summer, and fall. The group is open to everyone. They work on their Bible knowledge and interpretation and contemplation skills.

Vacation Bible School: It was a MONUMENTAL year for VBS. We had 44 students and 21 volunteers! Over the first week in August, students and leaders went off-roading for an adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest where they explored God's awesomeness. Thanks to WELCA the children were able to take home a

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lunch every day. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make VBS possible.

Confirmation: We have one student this year and we have partnered with Faith Lutheran Church in Walworth.

First Communion: On November 20th, six children in our Congregation celebrated First Communion with their families. Congratulations to Brooks, Leah, Nathan, Zoe, Jannessa, and AJ! We are grateful to have them join us at the Lord's table.

Thank you to everyone who shares their children with us. We have been blessed with pews full of children and we will continue to encourage and nurture their life-long process of faith formation.

Blessings,
Stacie Sheppard
Christian Education Chairperson



Property Committee Report

As our church going experience has more or less returned to “normal” as we knew it pre-pandemic, 2022 served as an excellent reminder of how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful building to call home. Another year of gathering, worship, children’s choir songs and coffee hours would not have been possible without the generosity and support of our congregation, and for that, we thank you. Thank you especially to Jacqueline Webster for the wonderful job that she does cleaning our facilities, as well as to Dan Way for the countless hours spent mowing, changing light bulbs, meeting with contractors and doing anything necessary to help out.

The bell tower repair project is the largest project that we undertook this year, and while some initial repairs to the most pressing areas were made, there is still much work to do as we move forward and look to 2023. The same contractor that completed the initial work on the tower also fixed the drainage issue on the flat roof above the office which should help prevent roof leaks moving forward. While on the topic of roof leaks, there is a leak above the kitchen near the vents above the stove, and we are actively pursuing more information and pricing on the repair of this issue. The final major project that we completed in 2022 was that the parking lot was sealcoated and re-stripped, as it was certainly due for.

Looking forward to this year, we will be having the carpets professionally cleaned and the tile stripped and waxed in the spring, once we’re free of snow and salt. Additionally, as we move forward with the rental of the parsonage, the house is going to need gutter repair or replacement and we’re looking into privacy fencing for the yard.

Respectfully Submitted,
Collin Frederick



Stewardship Committee Report

Stewardship is how we use what is God's for the purposes of God's glory. Stewardship includes all the gifts and resources God has given us—our time, talents, skills, buildings, money, material things, and community connections. Stewardship is how we thoughtfully, generously, trustingly, and joyfully use all those gifts toward the mission of God in the world.

Every year the people in our congregation share their time and skills by serving on council and committees, volunteering to help with worship, mowing the lawn, providing food for special events, helping with the turkey dinner, teaching Sunday school, helping with VBS, assisting with technology, formatting and printing bulletins, designing and sending the newsletter, completing projects around the church building—the list goes on and on. Our volunteers are amazing!

People also continue to be faithful in their giving. God has blessed us throughout the difficult time of the pandemic through the generous giving of our congregation. We are a small congregation, but we are not struggling financially because people continue to support the church with their offerings. Many households have opted to give through VANCO, our online giving system. People wanted to ensure that even if they were going through a busy season and unable to attend worship, they would stay consistent with their offerings. In addition to regular giving, members gave generously toward the bell tower project. When people became aware of a need, the congregation raised \$58,000 within months. This congregation has a history of faithful giving and generosity, and people continue to live out their faith through stewardship values.

In November, we celebrated stewardship with Stewardship Sunday. We lifted up themes of stewardship in worship. After worship, we enjoyed a potluck, and the children presented a talent show as a way of demonstrating the joy that happens when we bring our best gifts to God. Thank you to the children for sharing their gifts with all of us and reminding us how energizing and exciting it is when God's people come together and share what they have to God's glory.

Thank you to all who give of their resources, time, or talents that God's work might be done through our congregation, but also to those who live out their faith by volunteering their time and financially supporting other efforts in our community that care for and nurture the community, for this is God's work as well. Our whole lives, our stewardship, and all that we have comes from God.

Faithfully submitted,
Pastor Kalen



Evangelism Committee Report

Evangelism comes from the Greek word for Gospel. Literally translated, the Greek word means Good News. Whenever our message and actions as a church communicate God's love and presence to others, we are doing evangelism.

This year, although we did not have an evangelism committee that met formally, new things are happening that are helping our congregation reach more people. Our technology is continuing to improve in ways that are making our church more welcoming and accessible. The website is inviting and user friendly. It is updated frequently with information and current photos.

Since the pandemic, we have been livestreaming our worship service on Facebook and providing a Youtube link to the service to our congregational email list. Members who are not able to worship with us in person due to weather, health, or mobility limitations often participate online. We also have a number of nonmembers who watch the services. We recently received a note of thanks from a nonmember of the congregation who travels frequently for work and tunes into our service when she is away from home.

Our streaming technology has been updated with a new camera system. Thank you to Travis and Kaylee Frederick for donating the new equipment and to Travis for setting it up. Thank you also to Kenny Sheppard for his assistance in improving the Wi-Fi in the sanctuary.

Many other ministries of the congregation are also doing the work of evangelism. I can't help but think of the surprise on kids' faces when they picked out a new book during the book drive and said, "I can keep this?" Our church was sharing the Good News to the children of our community that they are loved and worthy children of God.

Although we did not have lots of people come to the diaper bank, the eagerness to provide that need was a sign that our people are longing to reach out and help others.

VBS is evangelism. Kids from the neighborhood come in our building, and we tell them God loves them and God is with them.

WELCA's Christmas deliveries to members was also Good News, "We are thankful for you. You are remembered and prayed for!" As the sunshine lady, Irene Hammett faithfully sends cards to our

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members in the hospital and those who are homebound, or in residential care. They share the Good News that we are all one in the Body of Christ.

As we look to the new year, we have room to grow especially as we listen to how God is calling us to meet new people and reach out to those in our neighborhood who could use some Good News. Increasing our Facebook presence and finding new ways of being connected in Sharon are ways that we can grow in our commitment to evangelism this year.

Faithfully submitted,
Pastor Kalen



Worship & Music Committee Report

Our committee has been pretty busy this past year deciding how to bring back a bit of “normalcy” to our worship services while keeping all members safe and comfortable while worshipping. None of these decisions were taken lightly, and couldn’t have been made without the hardwork and dedication of our Worship & Music Committee. So, a huge thank you to Pastor Kalen, Chris Lynch, Cindy Wuttke, and Deb Way for making it possible. Their thoughtful consideration is definitely appreciated.

We were excited to see 2022 bring back a more “normal” worship style. We are back to sharing the peace, passing the plate, and taking communion. The choir is back in full swing (and always looking for new members). They practice and sing most Sundays.

We held three baptisms this year. A huge thank you to Pastor Kalen for coordinating these special ceremonies and to Kathy Frederick for providing quilts for each newly baptized child. We appreciate the thoughtfulness and hard work that goes into the creation of each one of those quilts. In addition, six members of our youth took their first communion this fall. Congratulations to Leah Noe, Nathan Luerssen, Brooks Rithamel, AJ LaFrance, Zoe LaFrance, and Jannessa LaFrance.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Simple Suppers and Worship were held in March and April where our congregation gathered for a meal at 6:00, followed by worship at 6:30. This year, we performed a series of goofy plays called Bible Bunglers to remind us of God's grace. Every Wednesday our congregation listened in as Bible characters who have messed up (like we all have) worked out their issues in therapy. Our normal Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services were held in April followed by two Easter Sunday services, complete with our infamous helium balloons, an Easter Egg Hunt, and breakfast.

December, while a busy time, also brought a lot of Christmas cheer. Our youth performed their annual Christmas Program during worship on Sunday, December 18th. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were also held.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dani Lawler
Worship & Music Chairperson

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Youth Committee Report

This committee attempts to stimulate youth participation of all ages to become involved in social events and service projects sponsored by Christ Lutheran.

In the year 2022, the youth committee has worked hard to grow the youth group within the church. It was the goal to involve youth in our church and surrounding communities by providing them opportunities to engage in events and activities that foster faith, teach servant leadership, and how to make a positive impact within the community. In the beginning of the year, the youth group was relatively inactive. At this time, the youth group has held 3 activities. In September, they had a "Back to School Campfire with Christ" in the church yard/parking lot; eleven children attended. In November, the youth walked in the Crop Walk at Kishwauketoe Park. In December, the youth rang the Salvation Army bells at Daniels grocery store, followed by a pajama and Christmas movie party at church; seven children attended.

Moving forward, the youth group has a goal of doing one activity per quarter, including a community service project followed by a "fun" activity. While the youth group is for children of all ages, it is also a goal to interest the older children in our congregation to participate. For those who have ideas and interest to help, watch for the sign up form on the website and calendar.

Faithfully submitted,

Kim Mizelle
Youth Chairperson

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Christ Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA Report

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
Romans 12:13

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
Hebrews 13:16

WELCA is an organization that share's God's love by helping others. Reaching out to help others is part of our faith in God and our Christian life.

WELCA was able to meet again in August 2021, we were able to resume some of our activities, and we had a very productive 2022.

Christ Lutheran Women of the ELCA supported our congregation:

- Provided food and served at funeral luncheons (for members and non-members)
- Arranged for palms, Easter lilies, and poinsettias to decorate the Church
- Sent cards to those who were sick and in honor of special events
- Planned and worked at the Turkey Dinner (with lots of help from the congregation)
- Decorated the Church for Advent and Christmas
- Delivered Poinsettias, fresh fruit, and snack items to our older church and community members at Christmas time.
- Provided communion wine and juice

Christ Lutheran Women of the ELCA supported community activities:

- Donated money to help purchase school supplies
- Provided mittens, hats, and scarves for the mitten tree
- Purchased Christmas gifts for school children
- Staffed the Diaper Bank

Christ Lutheran Church members are examples of people who "act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ." Any action to help others will make a difference in that person's life but will also make a difference in your own life. One small act of kindness can bring someone closer to God. It is an honor to be part of the faithful life we share at Christ Lutheran.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary DeYoung, Secretary

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President's Report

As I put together this annual report, I am not only reminded of all the great things that are happening at Christ Lutheran, but I am also thankful for the members of our church. It has been a wonderful experience to see the various gifts of our members and for each of your willingness to give your time and talent.

I am thankful for the members of Council. I have been honored to serve as President for the past twelve months. There have been decisions that have been needed to be made and I appreciate their thoughtfulness, honesty, and commitment to our church.

I am thankful for the staff and volunteers who help keep our doors open. It is a running theme that "we will find a way" to do what is needed. Thank you to everyone who has helped keep us organized, who has taken care of the property, who has helped teach and guide our youth, or who has given talents in another way. In addition, thank you to everyone who continues to work to make our church inviting for all; I know many people do a lot of behind-the-scenes work and I know firsthand that this is not lost upon our visitors or our members.

As we move ahead, I look forward to watching the generations continue to merge together. I am impressed by the people who have made sure things run smoothly for decades. I still am not sure how some things get done each week, each month, or each year, but they do. I am equally impressed by the next wave of people who are stepping into new roles, helping in new ways, and sharing their time. It is important that we work together, learn from each other, and remind ourselves that everyone has a way to positively impact our community.

God's peace,
Michael Dowden

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Pastor's Message

As I review the year, I am reminded of how much happens in one year, the highlights, the struggles, and all we did together. In January, we welcomed a wonderful group of new members. Our Lenten services brought joy and fellowship as we worshiped together and enjoyed comedic but meaningful skits put on by our members. Choir is back to singing. This year, we tried a diaper bank ministry, which did not take off. However, it was encouraging that our members gave of their time because they desired to help others. We have a fantastic group of children attending Sunday school. The youth are doing some fun new things including CROP walk, a back-to-school bonfire, and a Christmas movie party. Two of our youth and myself attended a mission trip together with Faith and Sugar Creek Lutheran to West Virginia. The turkey dinner created a fun evening of working together.

Through the endowment fund and help from WELCA, we hosted a last-day-of school book drive in Sharon. We gave away over 85 books on the day of the event in addition to inviting kids who came to worship over the next weeks to choose a book as well. The kids who came to the park on the last day of school received a book and a free kid-friendly lunch. Interacting with the kids and seeing their joy in choosing a book was the ministry highlight of my year. The books were beautiful and new, and there were choices that appealed to all ages and interests. I felt like we were saying to the kids of our community, "You matter to us!"

Mary DeYoung, Carol Frederick, and I participated in our synod's Faithful Innovation program. The focus of the program was listening to God, each other, and the community. Pastor Robb Kosky served as our site coach. He came to Sharon to have conversations with us about the community and ministry. We interviewed some members about what their faith means to them in their everyday lives, and we talked to two new downtown Sharon business owners to learn more about the community. The experience gave me much to think about and sparked some new inspiration for future ministry as I look to this new year.

This Easter, we returned to our joyful, celebrate-big Easter worship with balloons, singing, and even the Easter egg hunt. When the pandemic began right in the season of Lent, we first assumed that we would be gathering for a wonderful in-person worship service on Easter. When that didn't happen, we assumed we would simply postpone it, and gather for a joyous

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Easter celebration in the summer. We soon realized that it would be a gradual return. We finally did have that joyful Easter with a packed church in 2022, and it was wonderful.

Although we have returned to normal in many ways, we are still feeling the effects of all that happened in the past two years. Like many churches, our attendance has not jumped back to what it was. I think we are a little tired, and in need of some newness.

Our God is a God of renewal and resurrection. I am praying for the energy of the Gospel—Jesus' dying and rising love for all creation—to infuse our life together as a congregation. I am praying that God will lead us through our in-process projects and decisions concerning the belltower and parsonage. I am also praying that we can, led by the Spirit, explore and strengthen our ministry of welcoming and loving others, including our ministry to the people who are participating in our congregational life now, those who come on Sunday morning as visitors, and to the community.

Every year at annual report time, as I review the events of the year, I am reminded of the faithfulness and love of the people of this congregation. Thank you for all you do. So much of it happens behind the scenes, and I thank you for all you do to support God's work here at this church. May God continue to be with us, so that the love of Jesus can be shared with the world.

Peace,
Pastor Kalen

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Pastoral Acts

2022 Baptisms

Wade Petersen
Simon Wuttke
Madison Dowden

First Communion

AJ LaFrance
Jannessa LaFrance
Zoe LaFrance
Nathan Luerssen
Leah Noe
Brooks Rithamel

New Members in 2022

Dan Dowden
Kathy Dowden
Marjorie Krause
Marie Rithamel
Keith Rithamel
Becky Roney
Karen Wuttke
Roger Wuttke
Lori Wuttke

2022 Funerals

Carl Reiher
Tom Fredrick
Billy Chism
Karen Ross
Raymond Lowry
Doris Wehrwein
Audrey Way
Ruth Welge (graveside)

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PROPOSED BUDGET 2023

ACCOUNT	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Proposed Budget
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Administration

Copier Lease/Service Contract	800.00	435.60	900.00
Council Retreat	200.00	0.00	200.00
FICA - Employer Share	1,051.00	1,048.20	1,102.00
Internet Service	750.00	784.32	800.00
Offering Envelopes	200.00	203.86	200.00
Office Supplies	200.00	285.52	200.00
Postage	200.00	87.22	200.00
Postal Box & Safety Deposit Box	80.00	84.00	105.00
Software	400.00	458.84	500.00
Synod Assembly	1,000.00	809.50	1,000.00
Vanco - EFT Charges	275.00	267.76	275.00
SubTotal Administration	5,156.00	4,464.82	5,482.00

Benevolent Giving

Synod Benevolence Expense	9,013.00	9,012.96	9,482.00
SubTotal Benevolent Giving	9,013.00	9,012.96	9,482.00

Christian Education

Confirmation	200.00	0.00	200.00
Stewardship/Adult Education	300.00	30.84	200.00
Sunday School	600.00	216.31	600.00
Vacation Bible School	750.00	750.00	750.00
SubTotal Christian Education	1,850.00	997.15	1,750.00

Operations and Upkeep

Church Maintenance	2,000.00	60.00	2,000.00
Organ & Piano Expense	150.00	0.00	175.00
Parsonage Maintenance	500.00	0.00	1,000.00
Property & Workers Comp Insurance	6,200.00	6,616.25	6,500.00
Repair & Cleaning Supplies	150.00	673.66	500.00
Sexton - Salary	6,100.00	6,063.96	6,400.00
Snow Removal & Lawn Care	2,000.00	2,143.55	2,000.00
SubTotal Operations and Upkeep	17,100.00	15,557.42	18,575.00

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ACCOUNT	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Proposed Budget
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Pastoral Ministry

Book Allowance	250.00	0.00	250.00
Continuing Education	800.00	600.00	800.00
Housing Allowance	9,500.00	9,499.93	9,500.00
Mileage	1,500.00	806.95	1,500.00
Official Meetings	450.00	335.83	450.00
Pastor Salary	35,719.00	35,719.45	37,637.00
Pension & Health	17,961.00	18,036.48	19,029.00
Renewal Ministry	335.00	250.00	250.00
Social Security	3,460.00	3,459.35	3,606.00
Supply Pastor	750.00	700.00	700.00
SubTotal Pastoral Ministry	70,725.00	69,407.99	73,722.00

Utilities - Church

Electric	3,600.00	3,123.86	3,600.00
Gas	1,700.00	2,652.09	2,500.00
Telephone	700.00	643.41	700.00
Water & Sewer	1,200.00	1,231.42	1,200.00
SubTotal Utilities - Church	7,200.00	7,650.78	8,000.00

Utilities - Parsonage

Electric	600.00	337.73	600.00
Gas	700.00	813.66	700.00
Water & Sewer	500.00	552.29	500.00
SubTotal Utilities - Parsonage	1,800.00	1,703.68	1,800.00

Worship & Music

Choir Music	200.00	0.00	200.00
Organist - Salary	7,638.00	7,638.00	8,000.00
Supply Organist/Musicians	300.00	0.00	0.00
Worship Supplies	700.00	1,265.31	1,000.00
SubTotal Worship & Music	8,838.00	8,903.31	9,200.00

Total Expenditures	121,682.00	117,698.11	128,011.00
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Budget Increase - \$6,329 or 5.2%

Synod Benevolence - 8% (Same percentage as 2021)