

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



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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 22, 2023 Annual Meeting
7. Financial Secretary's Report
8. Treasurer's Report
9. Committee Reports
  - a. Audit Report
  - b. Endowment Report
  - c. Lifelong Faith Formation Report
  - d. New Commandment Committee Report
  - e. Property Report
  - f. Worship & Music Report
  - g. WELCA Report
  - h. President Report
  - i. Pastor Report
10. Old Business
11. 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
12. Adjournment

# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## OPENING LITURGY

### Son of God, Eternal Savior

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

#### And also with you.

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

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

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

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

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

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

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

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

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

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

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

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

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

#### Receive our prayer, O God.

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

**Amen.**

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 Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

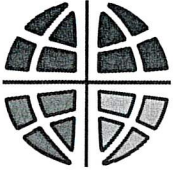
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Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).



Evangelical  
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in America





## South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Dear friends in Christ,

This past October rostered leaders throughout the South-Central Synod gathered under the theme “Building, Learning, Growing.” While we were gathered, the Rev. Kerri Parker of the Wisconsin Council of Churches led us in a visioning process to help us uncover our values. In a summary of the process Rev. Parker made some observations:

- *Prayer and scripture matter to us. We need to attend to the whisperings of the Spirit and be the Church.*
- *We desire to be collaborative.*
- *We have an energy for change and boldness.*
- *It feels good to Breathe, Bless, Dream, Share, Thrive and have Fun....*

These ring true to me as I think about this past year and as we plan for 2024. 2023 continued to bring challenges to the church, to our synod, and for many of our congregations. At the same time, we continued to trust and know that our God is our sure foundation. Our God is the source of all that we are. Lutheran Christians are anchored in God’s grace and we walk by faith and prayer guided by the Holy Spirit. I am honored to have walked with and alongside of many of you in conversation this past year as we’ve counted on God to show up and be with us.

This past year also brought new collaboration around the synod. Congregations are in conversation with each other and with their neighborhoods about how best to share the love of Jesus. New partnerships are being born demonstrating that God is active. We are learning and growing as we trust in God’s promises. As Matthew 13:31-34 reminds us, even a seed as tiny as a mustard seed grows into something mighty and beautiful in God’s hands. God is growing beautiful ministries and relationships around the South-Central Synod.

We continue to step out in faith in this new post-pandemic world. We are changing and wondering even as we are certain of God’s steadfast promise of love through Jesus Christ. We are being bold to dream and to share with one another. We are being courageous enough to sit back and breathe. We are daring to thrive and we are having fun.

I am grateful to you. I am grateful for the generosity you pour into this synod. Your financial gifts make a difference. Your gifts of service make a difference. Your gifts of prayer and encouragement make a difference. Your ministry, wherever God is leading you, makes a difference. Thank you!

Have a blessed annual meeting.

Your partner in Christ,

*Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe*

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe

## Annual Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2023

**Call to Order:** President Mike Dowden called the annual meeting to order at 11:16 a.m.

**Devotions:** Pastor Kalen Barkholtz led us in devotions and prayer.

**Quorum:** Stacie Sheppard established that a quorum was present. There were 26 voting members of the congregation present.

**Congregational Mission:** The members of the church read the congregational mission: *On our way rejoicing, proclaiming, teaching, and sharing God's love.*

**Minutes from 2022 Annual Meeting:** A Jerry Gibbons/Dan Way motion and second to approve the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting carried unanimously.

**Minutes from the Special Congregational Meeting:** A Cindy Wuttke/Deb Way motion and second to approve the minutes from the Special Congregational Meeting on September 11, 2022, carried unanimously.

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Mary DeYoung gave a recap of the Financial Secretary's Report and a description of each fund in the church's account. Our total contributions for 2022 were \$148,059.77. Our total revenue for 2022 was \$150,039.77. A Dennis Frederick/Kathy Frederick motion and second to approve the Financial Secretary's Report carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mary provided a recap of our expenses over the past year. Our budgeted expenditures for 2022 were \$121,692.00. Our 2022 actual expenditures were \$117,698.11, meaning we came in 3.2% under budget this year. A Denise Gibbons/Dennis Frederick motion and second to approve the Treasurer's Report carried unanimously. Mary was thanked for all her work as Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

**Committee Reports:** A Dan Way/Dennis Frederick motion and second to approve the committee reports as presented, as well as the audit report that was added to the 2022 Annual Report in early January, carried unanimously. Mike Dowden thanked the committees for all their hard work.

**Council President's Report:** Mike thanked the council members for all their efforts and everyone in the congregation for their support throughout the year. A Caitlin Dowden/Deb Way motion and second to approve the Council President's Report carried unanimously. A special thank you to Mike Dowden for all of his work as Council President this year.



**Pastor's Report:** Pastor expressed her gratitude for everyone who has stepped in, seen and unseen, over the past year. She gave a special thanks to the council, Mary DeYoung, Chris Lynch, Jackie Webster, and Mike Dowden for their leadership. A Dennis Frederick/Dan Way motion and second to approve the Pastor's Report carried unanimously.

**Pastoral Act Report:** A Kathy Frederick/Caitlin Dowden motion and second to accept the Pastoral Act Report, with the amendment that Susie Schilke Bottoms became a member in August, carried unanimously.

**Old Business:** No old business

**New Business:**

**Synod Assembly Delegates:** A Jerry Gibbons/Caitlin Dowden nomination for Randy Wuttke and Beth Frederick to attend the Synod Assembly on Saturday, May 20th was made. A Chris Lynch/Jerry Gibbons motion and second to close nominations and accept the nominations by unanimous ballot carried unanimously.

**Election of Audit Committee:** Stephanie Smith's term is up on the audit committee. A Dan Way/Jerry Gibbons nomination for Deb Way was made. A Denise Gibbons/Dennis Frederick motion and second to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Deb Way for the Audit Committee carried unanimously.

**Election of Endowment Committee:** Ralph Bollinger's position is open on the Endowment Committee. A Stacie Sheppard/Kathy Frederick nomination of Ralph Bollinger was made. A Randy Wuttke/Beth Frederick motion and second to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Ralph Bollinger carried unanimously.

**Election of Council Members:** The council has 3, three-year terms open. Two council positions are vacant and Mike Dowden's first, three-year term is up.

A Dani Lawler/Dan Way nomination and second was made for Mike Dowden for a three-year term. A Collin Frederick/Caitlin Dowden nomination and second was made for Beth Frederick for a three-year term. A Denise Gibbons/Stacie Sheppard nomination and second was made for Kathy Frederick for a three-year term. A Caitlin Dowden/Collin Frederick motion and second to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot carried unanimously. Mike Dowden, Kathy Frederick, and Beth Frederick were elected as the new Council members. A special thank you to Robin Ruosch for her six years of service on the council.

**Report of the Budget Committee and Proposed Budget for 2023:** Mike thanked the budget committee for all of their hard work. The budget committee is Mary DeYoung, Denise Gibbons, Randy Wuttke, and Kathy Frederick. Mary DeYoung explained the budget as presented and any categories with large increases. The 2023 Proposed Budget is \$128,011.00. This is an increase of 5.2% from the previous year. A Jerry Gibbons/Kathy Frederick motion and second to approve the budget as presented carried unanimously.

**Constitution:** Mary DeYoung will be heading up a committee to revise the Constitution in 2023. Denise Gibbons volunteered to be the council liaison.

**Property Updates:** The parsonage has been rented. The funds from renting the parsonage have not currently been set aside for any specific purpose.

The remaining funds from the belltower project are still in the property fund. The belltower project is still being actively worked on by the property committee.

Closing prayer.

**Motion to Adjourn:** A Cindy Wuttke/Dani Lawler motion and second to adjourn the 2023 Annual Meeting at 11:58 a.m. carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Stacie Sheppard*

Stacie Sheppard  
2022 Church Council Secretary



**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**  
**2023 FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT**  
**CONTRIBUTIONS**

<b>GENERAL OFFERING</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Benevolence Synod	\$132.00	\$194.00
Candle	\$65.00	\$165.00
Current Offering	\$122,554.31	\$115,935.72
Funds for Friends	\$651.09	\$448.02
Initial Offering	\$118.00	\$73.00
Lent - Simple Suppers	\$0.00	\$106.00
Loose Offering	\$925.00	\$751.03
Sunday School	\$2.00	\$165.00
VBS	\$0.00	\$200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$124,447.40</b>	<b>\$118,037.77</b>
<b>Second Sunday</b>	<b>\$3,329.65</b>	<b>\$3,022.00</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$10,045.00</b>	<b>\$15,966.00</b>
<b>Choir</b>	<b>\$36.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Community Fund</b>	<b>\$442.00</b>	<b>\$287.00</b>
<b>DEBY Dinner</b>	<b>\$1,450.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Endowment Fund</b>	<b>\$4,900.00</b>	<b>\$2,050.00</b>
<b>Library Book Project</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Lutheran Disaster Relief</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Lutheran World Relief</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,390.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous/Reimbursement</b>	<b>\$1,237.11</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Outreach - Book Drive Project</b>	<b>\$3,363.00</b>	<b>\$1,975.00</b>
<b>World Hunger</b>	<b>\$186.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
<b>Youth Fund Offering</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>\$1,892.00</b>
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$151,236.16</b>	<b>\$148,059.77</b>

<b>Building/Property Fund - Thrivent</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$27.00</b>
<b>Parsonage Rental</b>	<b>\$12,940.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Youth Fund - Sub Sandwich Sale</b>	<b>\$2,550.00</b>	<b>\$1,953.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$166,726.16</b>	<b>\$150,039.77</b>



**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**  
**EXPENDITURES FOR 01/01/2023 THROUGH 12/31/2023**

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>
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**Administration**

Copier Lease/Service Contract	900.00	527.06
Council Retreat	200.00	213.00
FICA - Employer Share	1,102.00	1,101.60
Internet Service	800.00	975.45
Offering Envelopes	200.00	192.75
Office Supplies	200.00	264.87
Postage	200.00	141.60
Postal Box & Safety Deposit Box	105.00	94.00
Software	500.00	462.00
Synod Assembly	1,000.00	350.00
Vanco - EFT Charges	275.00	289.00
<b>SubTotal Administration</b>	<b>5,482.00</b>	<b>4,611.33</b>

**Benevolent Giving**

Synod Benevolence Expense	9,482.00	9,482.58
<b>SubTotal Benevolent Giving</b>	<b>9,482.00</b>	<b>9,482.58</b>

**Christian Education**

Confirmation	200.00	0.00
Stewardship/Adult Education	200.00	104.40
Sunday School	600.00	54.85
Vacation Bible School	750.00	360.76
<b>SubTotal Christian Education</b>	<b>1,750.00</b>	<b>520.01</b>

**Operations and Upkeep**

Church Maintenance	2,000.00	1,531.00
Organ & Piano Expense	175.00	190.00
Parsonage Maintenance	1,000.00	0.00
Property & Workers Comp Insurance	6,500.00	6,645.83
Repair & Cleaning Supplies	500.00	539.40
Sexton - Salary	6,400.00	6,399.96
Snow Removal & Lawn Care	2,000.00	1,370.00
<b>SubTotal Operations and Upkeep</b>	<b>18,575.00</b>	<b>16,676.19</b>

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**  
**EXPENDITURES FOR 01/01/2023 THROUGH 12/31/2023**

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>		
Book Allowance	250.00	162.25
Continuing Education	800.00	424.00
Housing Allowance	9,500.00	9,500.15
Mileage	1,500.00	979.92
Official Meetings	450.00	185.00
Pastor Salary	37,637.00	37,637.04
Pension & Health	19,029.00	19,028.64
Renewal Ministry	250.00	38.36
Social Security	3,606.00	3,606.00
Supply Pastor	700.00	525.00
<b>SubTotal Pastoral Ministry</b>	<b>73,722.00</b>	<b>72,086.36</b>
<b>Utilities - Church</b>		
Electric	3,600.00	3,057.25
Gas	2,500.00	1,686.75
Telephone	700.00	464.02
Water & Sewer	1,200.00	1,060.98
<b>SubTotal Utilities - Church</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>6,269.00</b>
<b>Utilities - Parsonage</b>		
Electric	600.00	110.99
Gas	700.00	581.39
Water & Sewer	500.00	84.47
<b>SubTotal Utilities - Parsonage</b>	<b>1,800.00</b>	<b>776.85</b>
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>		
Choir Music	200.00	174.78
Organist - Salary	8,000.00	8,000.04
Worship Supplies	1,000.00	718.90
<b>SubTotal Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>9,200.00</b>	<b>8,893.72</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>128,011.00</b>	<b>119,316.04</b>



**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**  
**EXPENDITURES FOR 01/01/2023 THROUGH 12/31/2023**

<b>Benevolent Giving/Second Sunday</b>	<b>3,259.65</b>
<b>Lutheran World Relief</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>World Hunger Expense</b>	<b>186.00</b>
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.	

<b>Other Expenses</b>	
<b>Building Fund</b> - New Furnace, Roof Repair Over Office Area, Bell Tower	<b>32,602.99</b>
<b>Book Giveaway</b> - Outreach Activity - Books & Lunch	<b>805.27</b>
<b>DEBY Dinners</b>	<b>210.42</b>
<b>Endowment Fund</b> - Endowment Funds for Deby Dinners, Library Startup, & Individual Need	<b>2,950.00</b>
<b>Memorial Fund</b> - Roof Repair & Sound System	<b>9,204.13</b>
<b>Parsonage Expenses</b> - Water Heater and Screen Door, Gutters, Soffit & Facia	<b>6,042.84</b>
<b>Youth Fund</b> - Sub Sandwich Materials, Mission Trip, Bible Camp, Student Bibles	<b>3,584.88</b>

# Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

### ACCOUNT BALANCES

Change in Net Assets for Period: 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance	
<b>Building/Property Fund</b>	31,272.19	10,045.00	32,602.99	8,714.20	
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance	
<b>Community Fund</b>	1,945.70	442.00	0.00	2,387.70	
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers From (+) or To Other Funds (-)	Ending Balance
<b>General Fund</b>	12,892.28	125,260.09	123,977.38	8,825.26	23,000.25
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance	
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	31,990.54	0.00	9,204.13	22,786.41	
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance	
<b>Parsonage Rental</b>	0	12,940.00	6,042.84	6,897.16	
	Beginning Balance	Receipts - Offering & Reimbursements	Interest	Disbursements	Ending Balance
<b>Youth Fund</b>	6,381.20	3,189.07	11.12	3,584.88	5,996.51
	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Change in Value	Ending Balance
<b>Endowment Fund</b>	59,504.19	4,900.00	2,950.00	3,733.35	65,187.54



CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SHARON  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023



**2023 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Sunday, January 14, 2024

The Audit Committee has examined the financial records of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church for the year 2023. These include revenue and expense accounts for the General Fund, the Building/Maintenance Fund, the Community Fund, the Parsonage Rental Fund, and the Memorial Fund. 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 cursive script, appearing to read "Randall Wuttke".

Randall Wuttke, Audit Committee Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Darrell Frederick".

Darrell Frederick, Audit Committee Member

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deborah Way".

Deborah Way, Audit Committee Member

## **Endowment Report**

The Endowment committee was pleased to support two missions within Christ Lutheran. Pastor Kalen received \$1000 to develop a church library by ordering books to help meet the needs of members. \$1450 was given to support the DEBY dinners which provides meals throughout the year so members of the church and community do not have to eat alone. Income from our Endowment account is available each year to support the church and mission development.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Wuttke, Ralph Bollinger, Beth Frederick, Mary DeYoung

## **Lifelong Faith Formation Report**

The mission of the Lifelong Faith Formation Committee is to provide oversight and leadership around educational opportunities for all ages that encourage and nurture the life long process of faith formation. This year we had another fruitful year, thanks to the support of the congregation, volunteers, and all of our life-long learners

- **Bible Study**

- Pastor continues to hold Bible Study sessions throughout the year. This summer's Bible Study focused on learning about the history of our church's beautiful stained glass windows.

- **Bible Distribution**

- All youth, 5th grade and above, who had not received a Bible were presented with Lutheran Study Bibles this fall. Identical Bibles were also purchased for the Sunday School classrooms.

- **Confirmation**

- Evangeline Nash and Nathan Luerssen are working weekly with Pastor Kalen at Christ Lutheran for their Confirmation coursework. Frankie Hardt and Samantha Sheppard are attending Confirmation classes at Faith Lutheran Church in Walworth.

- **First Communion**

- This year, we had 5 new youth join us for Holy Communion for the first time on October 29th. Mackenzie Dowden, Raelynn Teliszcak, Loretta McCullough, Layton Rithamel, and James Sehppard, Jr. are now joining us weekly at the Lord's Table.

- **Mission Work**

- Kaylee Frederick and Jacob Schmig participated in a mission trip this summer where they gave of their time and hearts to do God's work in Denver, Colorado.

- **Sub Sandwich Sale**

- 171 subs were sold as part of the 2023 Super Bowl Sub Sandwich sale. Funds were distributed to youth for a variety of activities throughout the year. Thank you to the volunteers who work so hard every year to keep this event happening.



- **Sunday School Programming**

- Throughout the year, we were fortunate enough to have more than 20 different children join us to start their early faith formation. Each month the students sang, thanks to the leadership of Chris Lynch. Chris also wrote and directed another delightful Christmas program for the students to perform.
- Thank you to Kim Mizelle, Denise Gibbons, and Stacie Sheppard for leading our three different Sunday School classes.

- **Vacation Bible School**

- This August we had over 30 youth participate in an "Out of this World" Vacation Bible School program led by Beth Frederick. This huge undertaking would not be possible without the wonderful volunteers who so graciously give of their time to support this ministry.

- **Youth Activities**

- Campfire with Christ was an exciting event this summer to help our youth kick off the changes to our Lifelong Faith Formation. Everyone who attended had a great time making smores, playing games, and drawing with chalk on the parking lot.
- On October 13, 19 youth and their families participated in a Crop Walk at Kishwauketoe. The money raised helped to support local food pantries.
- Seven youth students attended Cookies and Cards on December 2. They made 20+ Christmas cards to distribute to Golden Years in Walworth and decorated cookies for themselves and to share.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacie Sheppard, Denise Gibbons, Kim Mizelle

## **Property Committee Report**

This year was a busy (and expensive) year for the property committee, as we addressed a number of pressing issues in addition to our routine upkeep. None of this would have been possible without the hard work of many great volunteers and the financial support of our congregation, so on behalf of the council, we thank you all. The three main areas of focus this year were the Parsonage, the Church overall, and the Bell Tower, and the work completed in each area is outlined below:

### Parsonage

- Hired a management company and began renting out the parsonage
- Replaced the gutters and repaired the fascia
- Installed a new storm door
- Cleaned out the small shed and made it available for tenant use

### Church

- Repaired the roof near the kitchen vents
- Repaired both flat roofs (the old office and bathroom hallway)
- Replaced ceiling tiles with water damage from the leaking flat roof
- Repaired the fences around the parking lot and in the backyard of the parsonage
  - These fences will need to be replaced in the not-so-distant future
- Removed one tree from the backyard, and trimmed several other bushes and trees
- WELCA paid to have the kitchen sludge trap cleaned by Collins Sanitary.
  - This will need to be done every 10 years
- Repaired and repainted the Church St. entrance
  - This was funded by a donation
- Carpets were professionally cleaned
- Floor tiles were waxed by Bob Lee
- One of our five furnaces was replaced in the spring, a second was replaced in January 2024, and a third will need to be replaced soon.
- Programmable thermostats were installed.

### Bell Tower

- Two separate rounds of work were completed on the Bell Tower by two companies. The work completed by each and the associated costs are discussed in detail on the following page.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Property Committee (Kathy Frederick, Beth Frederick & Collin Frederick)



## Bell Tower

Starting in August of 2021 through mid 2022 this congregation raised \$54,346 to pay for work on the bell tower. In May 2022 we hired B&B Restoration to tuck point and apply caulk and sealant to all the joints on the outside of the tower.

The area they worked on is the section with the white louvers.

B&B also worked on the roof scuppers. A scupper is a drainage system that allows water to drain from a flat roof. The cost of both projects was \$29,437. B&B did this work with scaffolding that they rented from another company.

Additional work was supposed to be done on the parapet but the contractor felt that he would need to rent a boom lift in order to determine what needed to be done as the scaffolding he had on site did not reach the top of the parapet. The Council met with the contractor and after a long discussion the decision was made not to complete this work as we were given cost estimates ranging from \$25,000 up to \$200,000.

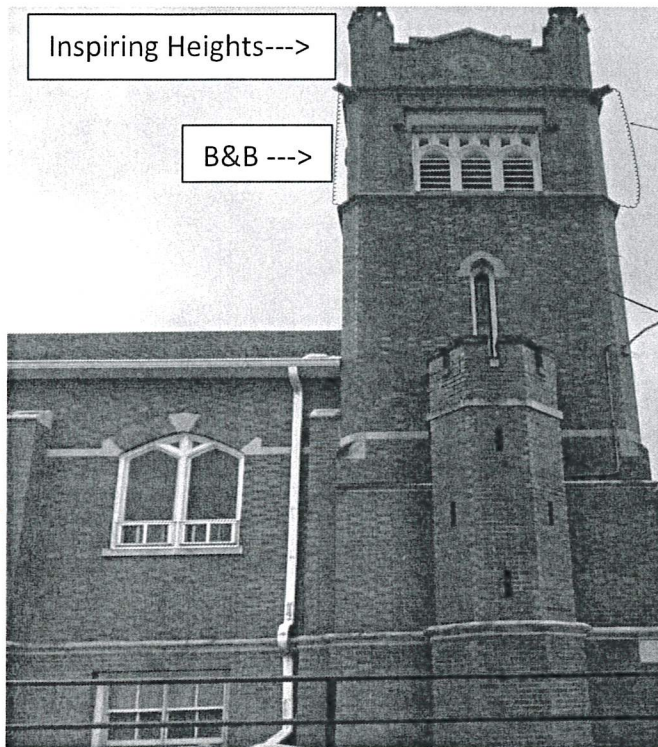
This spring the Council made the decision to spend the remaining balance of \$24,909 (rounded up to \$25,000) given for the bell tower. Phone calls were made to four different companies. Three of the four did not respond even after many attempts to contact them. One company, Inspiring Heights, was willing to work on a time and materials basis up to \$25,000 to complete the most needed repairs in the parapet. Inspiring Heights is a steeplejack company (they hang from

ropes to do the work) so expensive scaffolding was not needed.

This work was done in September and October. The inside of the parapet walls were coated and sealed to be water tight. The trusses for the floor inside the parapet were rotting and the concern was that they would not hold up if there was a heavy snow load. The trusses were reinforced with new lumber and will stand up if there is a heavy snow.

On the outside of the parapet Inspired Heights tuckpointed and sealed the joints. They also gave the louvers a fresh coat of paint. Their total cost was \$24,328.

Their recommendation is to have the parapet checked every 5-10 years to make sure that the coating is water tight and if not to have it recoated.





## **New Commandment Report**

Christ Lutheran has a new committee called the New Commandment Committee. The purpose of this committee is to encourage and promote the growth, health, and faith of individual members of the congregation and the community. We do this by striving to love each other as Jesus commanded. On the night before his death Jesus gave this instruction to his disciples: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

*Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." -John 13:34*

The New Commandment Committee is combining the previous efforts of the former Evangelism and Stewardship committees. Evangelism is sharing God's love in words and deed. Stewardship, how we care for and use all that God has given us, is a way to love each other. Endeavoring to use all resources toward God's mission is a way of loving our neighbor. The work of the committee is to share God's love with all we have.

This new committee meets on the last Sunday of the month during February, May and October and everyone is welcome to join us.

The DEBY (Don't Eat by Yourself) Dinners are back! We have planned 4-5 dinners per year. We served 20-25 people at each of the first two and the attendees are thoroughly enjoying themselves and are grateful for the fellowship. The New Commandment Committee was the recipient of a \$1,450 donation from the Endowment Committee to help fund the dinners.

The Book Giveaway was held on June 2, 2023. All the students at the Sharon School received a book, as well as a sack lunch. The children in daycare also received a book.

The 2nd annual "Show us your Talent" show was held in November and included a potluck dinner. People of all ages demonstrated their various talents.

Christ Lutheran is active in the Sharon Community through Second Sunday special offerings for ministries outside of our church. The Second Sunday special offerings go for:

- o January - Sharon Fire and Rescue
- o February - Agape House
- o March - BFHS Chiefs Closet
- o April - Lutherdale
- o May - Sharon Lions Club
- o June - VBS
- o July - Sharon Library
- o August - Backpacks for school children
- o September - Sharon American Legion
- o October - Sharon Food Pantry
- o November - Community Fund
- o December - Christmas gifts for children

Thanking everyone who donated to our church of their resources, time or talents was the theme for our Stewardship Drive. About 70 Thank You letters were sent out to show our appreciation.

The Committee thanks all who have helped share God's love throughout the past year. We thank God for the gifts He has given us and pray, by His grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, that we are able to continue to use those gifts for His glory.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathy Frederick*

Chairperson

## Worship & Music Committee Report

Our committee continues to work hard to make worship a joyful experience for all. 2023 saw us bringing back some old traditions like Penny Sunday and kneeling for communion. The choir continues to be back in full swing. They practice and sing most Sundays.

In January, we held our New Member Sunday where we officially welcomed Larry Ruegg, Jonathan Luerssen, Brittany Luerssen, Nathaniel Luerssen, Charlotte Luerssen, Logan Luerssen, Brent Rithamel, Cortney Rithamel, Brooks Rithamel, and Layton Rithamel as official members of Christ Lutheran Church.

During Lent, members of our congregation worked to put on weekly skits from "The Making of 'Messiah: A Documentary,'" about two documentarians in need of a new topic for a documentary, when they stumble into the idea of researching the Messiah. They interviewed fascinating people associated with Jesus and learned more about God's plan. Our normal Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services were held in April followed by two Easter Sunday services, complete with our infamous helium balloons, thanks to the Frederick family, an Easter Egg Hunt, and breakfast.

We held one baptism this year. A huge thank you to Pastor Kalen for coordinating this special ceremony and to Kathy Frederick for continuing to craft beautiful quilts for each newly baptized child at Christ Lutheran. In October, five members of our youth took their first communion this fall. Congratulations to Raelynn Teliszczak, Loretta McCullough, Makenzie Dowden, James Sheppard, and Layton Rithammel.

December, while a busy time, also brought a lot of Christmas cheer. Our youth performed their annual Christmas Program during worship on Sunday, December 17th. A huge thank you to Chris Lynch, Stacie Sheppard, Denise Gibbons, and Kim Mizelle for all of the hard work that made this possible. Christmas Eve services were also held.

None of the decisions made as a committee are done without a lot of thought and discussion. We are very appreciative of 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dani Lawler*

Worship & Music Chairperson



# **Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

### **Christ Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA (WELCA)**

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

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) includes all women of the church who gather for service, study, and fellowship. Our purpose is to Act Boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ while supporting our church, our community, our synod and our world. WELCA is an organization that share's God's love by helping others.

Currently, WELCA meets on the first Monday of the month in the evening. WELCA is open to all the women of the church. We invite you to join us as we work to reach out to help others as part of our faith in God and our Christian life.

WELCA had a very productive 2023 in supporting our congregation and community:

- 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
- Provided snacks for Vacation Bible School children
- Decorated the Church for Advent and Christmas with the help of the congregation
- Delivered cookie trays to our older church and community members at Christmas time
- Provided communion wine and grape juice
- Donated money to help purchase school supplies
- Donated money toward new gutters, soffit, and fascia for the parsonage

Our biggest fundraiser is our Turkey Dinner. It takes extensive planning and many people to make it a success. We are thankful for the members of our congregation and community who support this dinner with their time, monetary and material donations, and help with preparation and getting the meals into the hands of our customers. This year we serve over 620 meals.

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

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 our 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  
December 31, 2023

## **President's Report**

As we reflect on 2023 and look forward to 2024, I feel blessed to be a part of this organization. We have done so many wonderful things this past year and I hope we take a moment to reflect on the special people doing all of these great things.

We are blessed to have a council that is willing to honestly reflect on the current status of the church, what our congregation wants our church to be in the coming years, and make decisions that help guide us along this path. Thank you to all the members of Council who put in countless hours to ensure we continue to move forward.

We are blessed to have truly remarkable people working in front and behind the scenes. I feel everytime there is someone new attending our church for the first time, they are always amazed at how well our church looks on the exterior and interior and how effortlessly things are done at service. There are so many people who volunteer throughout the week and the year and we would not be who we are without all of you. We are truly blessed to have so many talents and so many willing people!

We are blessed that decisions have to be made, that members discuss these decisions with one another, that we provide multiple points of views, and that we find a way to come together to make those decisions. We cannot continue to maintain what we have or grow to what we want to become without honest conversations and reflections. Thank you to everyone who offered input and/or brainstormed on a solution.

As we move into 2024, I look forward to continuing to see what challenges and opportunities are presented to us. I hope and pray that we continue to have conversations, listen to one another, and grow together to help make our congregation and community stronger.

God bless,  
Mike

## **Pastor's Message**

2023 has been a positive year for our congregation. Many tasks and projects got underway, which will be highlighted in the committee reports. Every year at this time, when I step back and review all that has happened, I am amazed at what has been accomplished and the time and effort given by our members to keep this congregation doing God's work. I am grateful for our council, for Chris Lynch and Jaqueline Webster, and for everyone in this congregation who continues to believe and show with their presence, prayers, and actions that being the church together matters. We might be a small congregation, but God uses us to do so much.

Some ministry highlights that were meaningful to me this year:

- We had two youth, Kaylee Fredrick and Jacob Schmig, who attended a mission trip with other high school youth from Sugar Creek Lutheran and Faith Lutheran. They had the opportunity to learn about the work being done in Denver to help people with housing needs. The partnership we have begun with these two area churches has given our youth the opportunity to be a part of a larger group of kids who are also interested in growing in faith. In 2024, our confirmation youth will be attending Quake in the Wisconsin Dells with the same two churches. Quake is a weekend event filled with worship, fun activities, and speakers.
- Jacob Schmig and Kaylee Fredrick will be attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. This fall, the three churches joined together and planned a one-day confirmation retreat at Lutherdale Bible Camp. These experiences are often the moments people name later in life as being some of the most formative and meaningful in their relationship with God. I am glad our young people are participating in these events.

Before the pandemic, the council held a retreat in the spring in order to pray, plan, and get to know each other better. We held this retreat one year, and then were not able to continue the next two years. This year we brought it back. We met at Lutherdale for an afternoon of sharing faith and growing spiritually as a council.

I took an online preaching class through Luther Seminary's Faith Lead program. The class gave me some new preaching goals. It was helpful to gain fresh skills and ideas.



Our Bible Study group continues to be a source of joy for me. This summer, Robin Rousch suggested we do a Bible study using the picture windows in the sanctuary as our inspiration. We had wonderful conversations about the Bible stories and characters depicted in the windows, and I will not look at the windows in the same way again.

Five children received communion for the first time this fall. It is always a joyful time to teach them about this special way that Jesus comes to be with us and share his love.

We held our second annual book giveaway on the last day of school. We held it at the Sharon school, and each grade had a chance to come in and choose a book. There was a wide selection, so each child could choose a book that they would truly enjoy. It is humbling and exciting that the Sharon American Legion has donated \$2,500 toward this project. We will be able to provide books for years to come.

God has called us to be in this place and time to share God's love. Thank you for all you do to ensure that we are able to gather in Jesus' name and proclaim the Gospel. It is a gift to be in this ministry with you.

Peace,

Pastor

### **Pastoral Acts**

#### Baptisms

Logan Luerssen

#### Funerals

Julie Lami

Edith Nass

#### First Communion

Makenzie Dowden

Loretta McCullough

Layton Rithamel

James Sheppard

Raelynn Teliszcak

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**  
**PROPOSED BUDGET 2024**

<b>Account - Expenditures</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Proposed Budget</b>
Administration			
Copier Lease/Service Contract	900.00	527.06	600.00
Council Retreat	200.00	213.00	200.00
FICA - Employer Share	1,102.00	1,101.60	1,140.00
Internet Service	800.00	975.45	900.00
Offering Envelopes	200.00	192.75	200.00
Office Supplies	200.00	264.87	200.00
Postage	200.00	141.60	150.00
Postal Box	105.00	94.00	100.00
Software	500.00	462.00	500.00
Synod Assembly	1,000.00	350.00	500.00
Vanco - EFT Charges	275.00	289.00	300.00
SubTotal Administration	5,482.00	4,611.33	4,790.00
Benevolent Giving			
Synod Benevolence Expense	9,482.00	9,482.58	9,771.00
	9,482.00	9,482.58	9,771.00
Christian Education			
Confirmation	200.00	0.00	200.00
Stewardship/Adult Education	200.00	104.40	200.00
Sunday School	600.00	54.85	300.00
Vacation Bible School	750.00	360.76	500.00
SubTotal Christian Education	1,750.00	520.01	1,200.00
Operations and Upkeep			
Church Maintenance	2,000.00	1,531.00	1,000.00
Organ & Piano Expense	175.00	190.00	200.00
Parsonage Maintenance	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
Property & Workers Comp Insurance	6,500.00	6,645.83	8,800.00
Repair & Cleaning Supplies	500.00	539.40	500.00
Sexton - Salary	6,400.00	6,399.96	6,600.00
Snow Removal & Lawn Care	2,000.00	1,370.00	2,000.00
SubTotal Operations and Upkeep	18,575.00	16,676.19	19,100.00

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**  
**PROPOSED BUDGET 2024**

<b>Account - Expenditures</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Proposed Budget</b>
Pastoral Ministry			
Book Allowance	250.00	162.25	250.00
Continuing Education	800.00	424.00	800.00
Housing Allowance	9,500.00	9,500.15	9,500.00
Mileage	1,500.00	979.92	1,200.00
Official Meetings	450.00	185.00	450.00
Pastor Salary	37,637.00	37,637.04	40,137.00
Pension & Health	19,029.00	19,028.64	19,931.00
Renewal Ministry	250.00	38.36	0.00
Social Security	3,606.00	3,606.00	3,797.00
Supply Pastor	700.00	525.00	630.00
SubTotal Pastoral Ministry	73,722.00	72,086.36	76,695.00
Utilities - Church			
Electric	3,600.00	3,057.25	3,400.00
Gas	2,500.00	1,750.87	2,200.00
Telephone	700.00	464.02	500.00
Water & Sewer	1,200.00	1,060.98	1,200.00
SubTotal Utilities - Church	8,000.00	6,333.12	7,300.00
Utilities - Parsonage			
Electric	600.00	110.99	0.00
Gas	700.00	517.27	0.00
Water & Sewer	500.00	84.47	0.00
SubTotal Utilities - Parsonage	1,800.00	712.73	0.00
Worship & Music			
Choir Music	200.00	174.78	100.00
Organist - Salary	8,000.00	8,000.04	8,250.00
Worship Supplies	1,000.00	718.90	1,000.00
SubTotal Worship & Music	9,200.00	8,893.72	9,350.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>128,011.00</b>	<b>119,316.04</b>	<b>128,206.00</b>

Salary Increase - COLA 3.2%

Budget Increase - \$195 or 0.002%

Synod Benevolence - 8.25% (Increase of 0.25%)