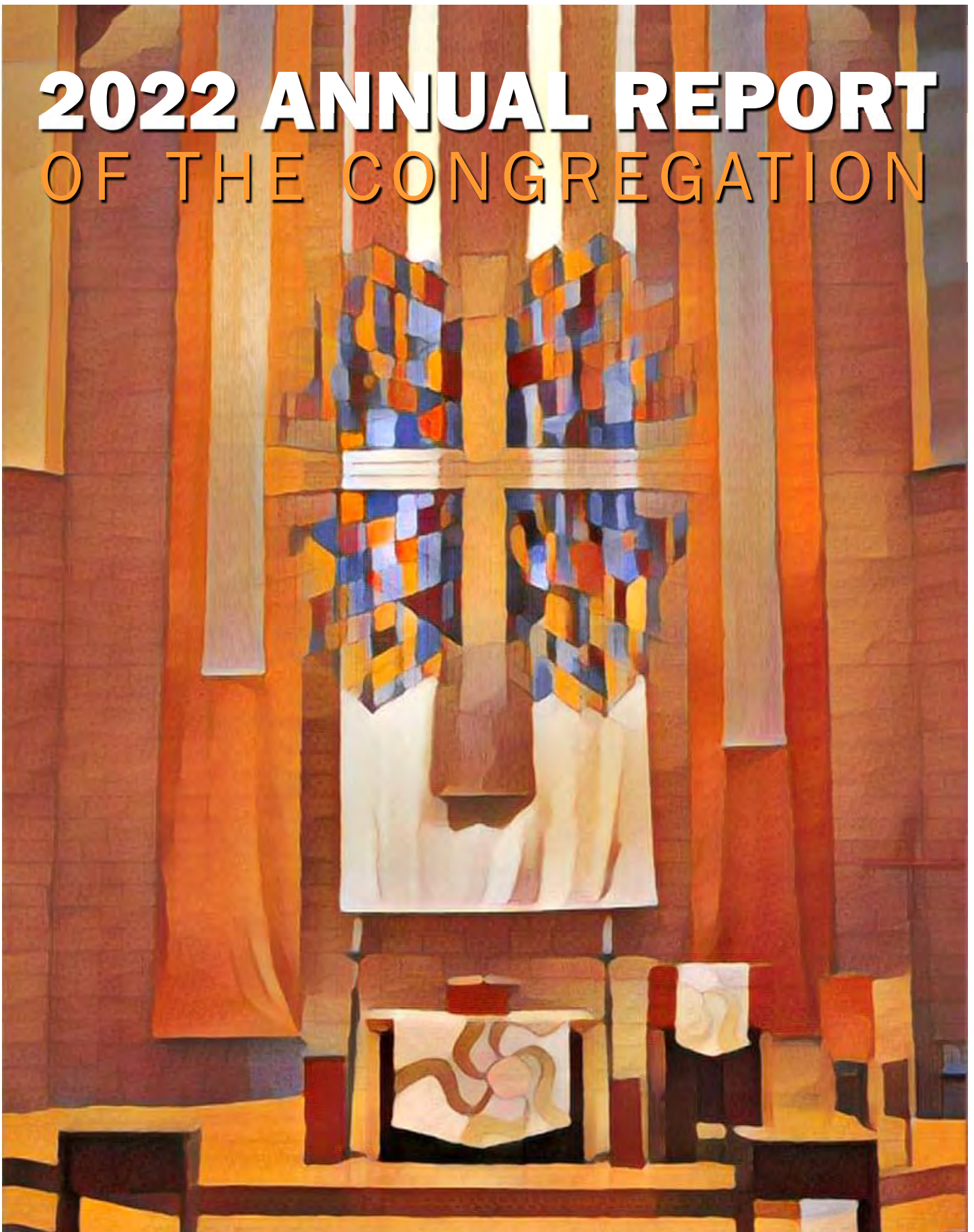


2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION



Saint Mark's
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

2022 Annual Report

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2022 Financial Report & 2023 Proposed Budget

Original cover photography by Carol Perrault



2022 Annual Report of the Synod

by Bishop Patricia Lull | January 2023

"Cold December flies away ... when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light brings unending joy, brings the endless joy of our hope ... Son beloved of heaven." – ELW 299

During the Christmas season, we sing dozens of hymns, recounting the story of Jesus' birth and the coming of Emmanuel to dwell with us. This hymn from the last century is one of my favorites, using the images of nature and the turning seasons to highlight the gifts of hope and joy, which come from God.

This past year was a time of **return** to many familiar in-person events. Though we started 2022 with the hope that the impact of COVID-19 was fading, we quickly learned that this pandemic would continue to shape our synod's life all through the year. Despite setbacks and challenges, much common work was undertaken.

By year's end it was clear that we were not simply returning to pre-pandemic realities of being God's church but that we were called to **turn** toward new habits for worship, teaching, community service and outreach with a message of God's good news for all. If there is a singular lesson to highlight it is that the church is the servant of God's mission, which will take many forms in an ever-changing society and still be the community where joy and hope are received and shared.

At the Synod Assembly in May 2022 we finally had an in-person launch for the synod's Planting Hope Campaign. This included the announcement of a formal partnership with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota to replicate a Families Together therapeutic preschool on the East Side of St. Paul, which will be housed on the first level of Grace Lutheran Church. Our aspiration is to raise \$1 million dollars for this by the 2023 Synod Assembly in May.

At year's end, \$636,703 was available for distribution to the four goals of the campaign, which in addition to the Families Together preschool include:

- Invite neighbors into life in Christ;
- Renew the congregations of the synod;
- Raise up the next generations of leaders.

Our timeline is to secure the entire \$2.75 million in dollars and intents from congregations, individuals and foundations by the end of 2024. If yours is one of the 49 congregation already invested in the campaign, I thank you. If you are engaging the campaign in 2023, I am grateful for your willingness to join in making hope real for many.

Alongside the Planting Hope Campaign, we anticipate that at the close of the synod's fiscal year on Jan. 31, mission support will be at 97% of the budget for 2022 at \$1,891,500. I am grateful for the ways that congregations connect to others through mission support, including sharing 41.5% of these financial resources with the global work of the ELCA.

As a synod, this year we were also able to reinvest \$113,000 in Gleaning From the Harvest ministry grants back to congregations for work in evangelism, racial justice, worship training and technology, and for projects entitled "We never did that before." Nineteen requests were funded from the 74 applications received.



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A church, faithful to serving God's mission, requires well prepared and supported rostered ministers and lay leaders. We currently have 29 persons in the candidacy process including eight who are awaiting their first call. This past year, 22 pastors and deacons were installed in new calls in this synod, six pastors received calls to specialized ministry beyond congregations, and the Synod Council issued synod calls to 11 pastors and deacons for interim ministry. This work with call committees and candidates, along with monthly meetings with all interims, reflects some of the most important work we do together as a synod.

Those ordained in 2022 include Pastor Marty Wyatt, Pastor John E. Swanson, Pastor Amy Johnson, Pastor Ana Becerra, Pastor Tori Remer, Pastor Terri Elton and Pastor Susie Modrow.

Synod work with congregations includes support for the vitality and stewardship of congregations. During 2022, nine congregations participated in the Stewardship for All Seasons program or the Building A Culture of Generosity cohort. Four congregations hosted spiritual gifts retreats, led by synod staff. A total of 21 congregations participated in three Tools for the Church vitality events.

In addition, this past year a new training program for congregational presidents and vice presidents was launched. This Deeper Dive program, hosted monthly on Zoom, has averaged 15 participants. Combined with the annual Tool Kit for Lay Leaders, this new program is designed to better equip lay leaders for the real-time challenges of leading a congregation.

Is your congregation among those noted above? If so, you are reaping the benefit of being part of a connected church. Are there other resources you need? Please know that new programs and formats for training grow out of feedback from you in the 107 congregations and mission developments within this synod.

2022 also brought greater freedom to travel again to our global companions in Tanzania and Guatemala with increased travel planned for the coming year. Even as Zoom has been a godsend for hosting meetings within congregations and the synod, our global companions also connected to synod committees and partner congregations using this technology. It is encouraging to see the mutuality of these partnerships continuing despite pandemic restrictions. I am also grateful for the work of the Bega Kwa Bega staff and volunteers in making visits to so many congregations in our synod and in the Iringa Diocese.

The synod continues to benefit from a multi-year grant from the Lilly Endowment for support of rostered ministers. In 2022, 10 pastors and deacons began work in a new Second Act Cohort for those in years 4 to 10 of ministry, and eight pastors completed the two-year long Kubernesis Seminar with its emphasis on preparing rostered ministers for senior level leadership position. After pursuing more individualized forms of renewal through spiritual direction, coaching or time away this year, those in the Leaders of Color cohort are preparing for a three-day retreat together with synod staff in February 2023.

We can do this and so much more because of the talented and dedicated staff of the synod. In 2022 we said farewell to Alicia Rodriguez, Michael Gold, Pastor Peter Harrits and Dr. Anna Marsh as they left the staff to take new positions. Replacing them were Kirsten Levorson, director of Bega Kwa Bega; Leslie Ortiz, executive assistant to the bishop and program director for the Lilly Grant; and Rachel Holsten in the new role of front office administrator and event planner. Other staff include Mary Smith, director of communications; David Roinas, synod finance administrator; Astine and Ryan Bose, Bega Kwa Bega coordinators in Iringa; Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer, assistant to the bishop for lay leadership and equity initiatives; Pastor Justin Grimm, director for evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop for congregational vitality; and Deacon Krista Lind, assistant to the bishop for vocational formation.

As bishop of the synod, I know the difference each colleague makes in our overall efforts to serve you and your congregation. Look around. The signs of God's fruitfulness can be seen in so many ways in this synod. Thank you for being a part of that work, too.

Yours in God's service –



Bishop Patricia Lull

Pastoral Acts & Statistics

2022 Annual Report

Average weekly attendance at regular worship services:

8:30am Service (In-person, January-April)	64
10:30am Service (In-person, January - April)	53
9:30am Summer Worship (In-person)	132
9:30am Service (In person, September-December).....	147
7:00pm Wednesday Night Service (In-person, January-December).....	45
Sunday Service Online (January-December)	57

Total attendance at Holiday Worship Services:

Confirmation (October)	97
Ash Wednesday (11am & 6:30pm)	167
Wednesday Night Lenten Services.....	60
Maundy Thursday	87
Good Friday	84
Easter (6:15am, 8:30am, 10:30am)	418
Easter (Online)	90
Thanksgiving Eve	73
Christmas Eve (3:00pm, 10pm).....	289
Christmas Eve (Online).....	53
Christmas Day.....	71

Membership Statistics:

Members as of December 31, 2022

Confirmed members	874
Child (Baptized) members.....	198

Members as of December 31, 2021

Confirmed members	887
Child (Baptized) members.....	251

Baptisms 20

Confirmed.....8

Weddings 0

Funerals 16

Mike Ericson: Congregational President

2022 Annual Report

Dear Members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

2022 was a year of hope and progress as we returned to the new normal at church. We welcomed back an important focus of our day-to-day lives: social interaction. It was so fun to see our church family in person at weekly service, choir, bell choir, quilters club, Bible studies, Wednesday night dinners, confirmation, and many other activities.

I want to start first by thanking you the congregation for your belief in the importance of your continued involvement at St. Mark's. The pandemic has had a significant impact on us over the past three years. Your return brings positivity and optimism not only to the longtime members but the dozens of new members who have chosen to join St. Mark's during a time of uncertainty. God Bless you.

We continued on with the one certain in life, change. Our council president Adam Reinke said goodbye as his career in aviation gave him an opportunity in Oklahoma. Thank you Adam for your dedicated service. We also said goodbye to Lead Pastor Mary Froiland and John as Mary decided it was the right time to retire. Mary came to us after a long search and we were so blessed and then...COVID. What a challenge, but thanks to her strong leadership skills and determination she got us through a very difficult time. Thank you Pastor Mary. We also said goodbye to Intern Eric Gustafson who brought a great personality and attitude to us. Thank you Eric.

We welcomed Interim Lead Pastor Arne Bergland who brings many years of experience and pastoral leadership. A call committee was formed and thanks to the dedicated volunteers and leadership of chair Bonnie Meyers the congregation voted to call Pastor David Bjorklund as our new lead pastor. He will do a great job and we are so excited.

St. Mark's continued to be involved in the North St. Paul community through the Polar Pack Program at North High, North St. Paul Food Shelf, outdoor farmer's market, Welcome Back Teacher's Breakfast, God's Work Our Hands projects, North St. Paul Fall Roundup Parade, and so many more.

Thanks to the property committee and dedicated staff we made a number of significant improvements including a new digital community sign, resurfaced parking lot, new HVAC unit, and the very popular Grace Space in the sanctuary for children and families. And then, by the Grace of God, we received the largest gift ever donated to St. Mark's Church by the Lucille Low estate. We give thanks for Lucille's generosity and celebrated her in December.

And a final thank you to an outstanding church council: Vice President Tyler Ronsberg, Secretary Josh Hirman, Treasurer Kelly Nickell, Dan Colberg, Bob Engwer, Gary Hook, Beth Inberg, Martha Klopp, Dave Lande, Brian Larson, Carolyn Newell, Pastor David Bjorklund, and Pastor Arne Bergland.

In God's Loving Service,

Mike Ericson, Council President

Reports from the *Ministry Staff*

The Rev. Arne Bergland: Interim Lead Pastor

2022 Annual Report

“For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” Ephesians 1:15-16

I began my interim ministry with St. Mark's last August. It has been a joy to work with Pastor David and the staff these past few months. As I write my report today we have scheduled a congregational vote to take place in just two weeks. The congregation will decide to issue the call for the lead pastor position to Pastor David. This will effectively end my time with the congregation. I will be with you to help with the transition until the end of February.

I am confident that the call committee has done their due diligence. This will not be the end of their work, however. With the lead pastor position filled they will function to discern a call for an associate pastor. I thank them for their commitment and faithfulness to the congregation in this time of change.

The next lead pastor will have the task of leading the congregation into the future. As I leave my time with you I would like to share a few observations.

- St. Mark's is a friendly hospitable congregation. This bodes well for you as you seek to grow into the future.
- The strategic direction of the congregation needs attention. This is normal for a congregation in transition. Where do you want to be in five years? How might you get there? What are you passionate about? What are you best at? What drives the resources of the congregation?
- All congregations face the difficult task of understanding how the pandemic has changed congregational life. This task will require thinking outside the box. We are not the congregation we were prior to the pandemic
- The worship life of the congregation is a challenge. The church council has made some budgetary decisions to address that challenge. It will take more than funding to find a satisfactory direction forward.
- We are an aging congregation. To attract a younger population, the faithful older congregation needs to remember that the Gospel good news may not necessarily be served by the way “we have always done it.” Let's recall the New Testament injunction about putting “new wine in old wine skins.”
- Lastly, I think it is important to remember that God never calls us to places where God does not give us the means to do the work.

Thank you for the time we have spent together. I will continue to pray for you and look forward to the great ministry that this congregation is capable of.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Arne Bergland

The Rev. David Bjorklund: Associate Pastor

2022 Annual Report

**"From there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him
if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul." Deuteronomy 4:29**

Friends in Christ,

I give thanks to God for each and every one of you. In the past year I have often been reminded of the ways you show up as the church. In ways big and small, seen and unseen, each of you have shared in the ministry and life of our congregation and so I thank you for all that you do in Jesus' name!

2022 turned out to be quite the year for St. Mark's. In the past twelve months we've made significant investments in our physical space. The parking lot was redone, a new AC unit was put in, our static signage was updated, the new electronic sign was installed, and the Grace Space got a much need improvement! Thank you to everyone who donated to fund the electronic sign and Grace Space projects!

This past year we saw a big change to our staffing with the retirement of Pastor Mary. Pastor Mary faithfully led this congregation through some challenging times and we are grateful for her years of service to St. Mark's and the larger church. Personally, I am thankful for her friendship and mentorship. I had anticipated a few more years of learning from her example firsthand but her retirement doesn't mean I don't call her for advice and moral support from time to time!

During this time of interim we have been blessed by the leadership of Pastor Arne and I appreciated the opportunity to once again learn from a wise and thoughtful mentor. As his time with us draws to a close we offer our gratitude for his service among us and ask for God's blessing on whatever may come next.

In August we said farewell to our pastoral intern, Eric Gustafson. During his tenure, Eric led us in assisting the Safi family resettle from Afghanistan, and broadened our imagination of what the church can be during the season of Lent. Eric is continuing his studies at Luther Seminary and is anticipating completing his course work in December.

2023 will bring further changes to our staff. Just a few weeks ago you called me to serve as your next lead pastor! I pray that God will grant me the wisdom, strength, courage, and humility to lead and serve you faithfully for many years to come. After my installation in February, the Call Committee will resume its work of considering candidates to round out our leadership team. As we know, the work of faithfully calling a pastor or deacon takes time, but we are hopeful that a candidate can be identified, called, and installed by the fall. Yet we should be mindful that our timeline does not always line up with God's timeline.

In February we will welcome Kate Lindberg to serve for six months as our Diaconal Intern. Kate is completing her studies at Luther Seminary and seeking ordination as a Minister of Word and Service in the ELCA. Having a Diaconal Intern will be a great gift as it will help us to gain a better understanding of the role of deacons in the church and the gifts they bring to bear in carrying out God's mission in the world. Following the conclusion of Kate's time with us we will be opting out of the internship program for the 2023-24 academic year to allow our new pastoral team time to work with the council and the whole of the church in crafting a strategic vision for our shared future.

Our Children Youth and Family (CYF) ministry continues to rebound following the disruption caused by COVID. In 2022 over twenty children were baptized and nine youth affirmed their baptismal covenants. During the summer a group of kids spent three days canoeing down the Namekagon River, and we held our first in-person Vacation Bible School since 2019. In the fall we took part in Midnight Madness, a progressive lock-in, with middle schoolers from over 30 area congregations.

The renovated Grace Space has proven to be an incredible gift to families who recognize the importance of worshipping together. This fall we introduced a new Sunday school program, Frolic, specifically geared towards preschoolers, giving families with young children a great opportunity for faith formation.

We've sought to engage families on Wednesday nights through Act(s)2, which seeks to gather the people of St. Mark's as church together through our meal, fellowship, education, and worship. We offer

education for all children. Our pre-K to 6th grade curriculum helps tell the Bible story and gives children the opportunity to learn about the important figures and events from scripture. Our confirmation program for 7th and 8th graders seeks to instruct youth in the foundation of Lutheran tradition and invites them to think about their own spirituality and what their faith means to them. Our high school youth group provides kids an opportunity to gather in a space where they can be themselves, share in conversations about faith and life, and a chance to just hang out and be together. My wife Anna has been leading a group of adults in conversations about faith and life. Those conversations are helping to build relationships and foster a sense of community.

Reengaging children, youth, and families continues to be a priority as well as a challenge. We will continue to be creative about finding ways to invite, engage, and connect with families. One of our goals for 2023 is to bring together members of the congregation who are passionate about youth ministry to become part of a Children, Youth, and Family Committee to assist the pastoral staff in planning, event and volunteer coordination, and engagement. Creating a sustainable CYF ministry requires a deep roster of committed parents and volunteers. I am excited to work with all of you, and whoever becomes our next associate pastor, to help our children know God's love for them and that St. Mark's will always be a sanctuary for them.

Friends, St. Mark's has endured many changes in the past several years. Pastoral transitions, COVID, and a shifting and uncertain religious landscape have had their impact on the life of this church. Lord knows congregations across the nation are facing many of the same challenges we are facing. Yet I have every confidence that God has granted us all that we need to overcome any obstacle and that our future is fact brighter than the past. I recognize our shared capacity to live into the future God is calling us to. Friends, we go forward with bold confidence because God is with us!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor David Bjorklund

Trevor Wolter & Dorothea Jirsa: Music Ministry

2022 Annual Report

2022 began much the same as 2021 began with a spike in the occurrence of COVID-19 cases which resulted in the post-Christmas recess of choir rehearsals extending all the way through the month of January. Unlike 2021, once things got going again, things kept going.

Music this year had a renewed focus on incorporating various instruments into worship including brass, woodwinds, strings, and percussion at various times ranging in styles. This focus also enabled us to welcome several guest vocalists over the year.

Although easily taken for granted, the partnership shared by Trevor and Dorothea was greatly appreciated when Dorothea sustained an ankle injury and then later Trevor became contagiously sick not once but twice.

The highlight of the year came on All Saints Day, November 1, when The Choir of Saint Mark's, joined by four guest vocalists as well as a flutist, Jubilee Handbell Choir, and the music directors honored our departed loved ones through word and song during a well-attended hymn festival.

The various ensembles at St. Mark's are always open to new members at any time. Experience isn't required, just a willingness to try.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothea Jirsa & Trevor Wolter

Congregational *Ministry Reports*

Call Committee

2022 Annual Report

During the summer of 2022, the Nominating Committee, on behalf of the Church Council, asked for volunteers from the congregation to serve on a Call Committee. Ten members, a youth representative, and two alternates were selected to serve.

The committee had its first meeting in mid-July and met on August 3 for an orientation led by Deacon Krista Lind from the Saint Paul Area Synod. Krista is the Assistant to the Bishop for Vocational Formation. The committee continued to meet three times a month through November.

Our first task was to update St. Mark's Ministry Site Profile. This is a form used by the synod to gather a large amount of information about a church into one document. It includes demographic information, references for candidates to contact, along with narrative about who we are and where we see our church going in the future. Also included are priorities for the ministry position, including tasks as well as gifts, skills and characteristics. We conducted a survey in September to get congregational input. We received 105 responses to the survey. These responses fed directly into the Ministry Site Profile.

As outlined in the Saint Paul Area Synod Call Process Manual, if the current associate pastor is interested in the lead pastor position, "the call committee should interview the associate before considering any other candidates. The interview and review should be thorough, as would be the case with any other candidates, without any assumptions because of familiarity." (Call Process for Congregations & Church-Related Organizations (spas-elca.org))

On Saturday, November 19, the committee spent the entire afternoon interviewing Pastor David Bjorklund. It was an extensive interview including questions we would normally ask on a first interview, plus questions for second/finalist interview, along with some additional questions specific to Pastor David and St. Mark's. Over the next few days, committee members contacted Pastor David's references and had some informative conversations. We met again to review the information from those calls. We then voted on written ballots whether or not to move forward with Pastor David as our candidate. The vote was unanimous and without hesitation. Ten strong "yes" votes.

The Call Committee had a joint meeting with the Church Council to share the results of the interview process.

On January 15, 2023 a special congregational meeting was held to vote on the call for Associate Pastor David Bjorklund to become the Lead Pastor at St. Mark's. The result was overwhelmingly "Yes."

The Call Committee will resume meeting in 2023 to begin the process of calling a new Associate Pastor for St. Mark's.

Many thanks to the Call Committee members for their hard work and commitment.

Bonnie Meyers, Chair, on behalf of the Call Committee

Sherry Berry, Mike Clasen, John Haley, Joanie Henriksen, Meg Hirman, Martha Klopp, Judy Larkins, Myrna Meek, Candy Petersen

Columbarium & Memorial Garden Committee

2022 Annual Report

The Memorial Garden with Columbarium has entered into the sustaining phase of this ministry. There were three congregation members inurned in our Columbarium this year: Bonnie Payne, Shirley Miller and Shelly Possert.

Two additional niches and two Memorial Wall inscriptions were purchased this year. Donations were also accepted. The operational expenses were as follows:

- Inscriptions for utilized niche doors require shipment to the vendor for engraving and return shipment.
- The irrigation system was started in the spring and blown out in the fall before frost.
- The rain garden was completely dug up and replaced with more functional and less invasive plantings. Picture on the right (below) is the rain garden functioning properly.
- Christmas wreaths were purchased.

Financial Information:

Beginning Balance 2021	\$8,475.00
Income	+ 6,550.00
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>- 5,965.00</u>
Year-end Balance 2022	\$9,060.00

Committee Members:

Bob Engwer, Gary Hook, Terry Kapaun, Heidi McKenzie and Miland Meek

If you would like to purchase a niche, a Memorial Wall inscription or make a contribution to the ongoing maintenance of the Memorial Garden, please contact Heidi McKenzie at heidimc@stmarks-nsp.org or 651-777-7451.



COVID Restoration Team

2022 Annual Report

Looking back at 2022 and all that was involved in providing a safe, welcoming environment for participation and getting back to our “normal” church programming, the Restoration Team continued its work by reviewing and reacting to the current local, state and national recommendations.

While it was encouraging to be able to move into a more engaging program and opportunities to gather together, the realities of the pandemic did not go away. It has been very important to continue to monitor what was happening in the greater community and adjust our activities. Resistance to vaccinations, new variants, loosening of restrictions and fatigue have all played a role in the ongoing need to stay diligent in our resolve to keep St. Mark’s a safe and healthy place.

Over the course of 2022, we were able to adjust mask requirements and continued hand hygiene promotion. We also were able to resume the normal traffic flow for distribution of communion, while maintaining individualized delivery of the host and wine. Our thanks to the ushering staff and the celebrants for their efforts.

Unfortunately, Covid infections, as well as, influenza and RSV still affect our communities. This has required recommendations for the wearing of masks during worship and fellowship activities at St. Mark’s. We continue to encourage everyone to practice safety protocols of hand hygiene, masking, and distancing when appropriate. We also look for continued diligence in building cleanliness and maintenance.

St. Mark’s Restoration Team, along with St. Mark’s staff and the Church Council, will continue our efforts to determine how to keep our doors open and our community safe.

Restoration Team

Kurt Biedermann (Chair)

Mike Ericson, Heidi McKenzie, Brad Urban, Shannon Young (Members)

Hospitality Committee

2022 Annual Report

Hospitality is an important part of our church. It is a chance for us to show love and care for each other and for our community.

- There were two **outdoor services** this past summer which included picnics where the community could participate.
- St. Mark's had a group attend the **MN Twin's baseball game** in June for some more summer fun.
- We also hosted a very successful, annual **Welcome Back Breakfast** for the staff of North High School in late August.
- **God's Work Our Hands** day of service split 52 of our members into groups supporting the work of the church and helping out our community. We prepped items for the parade, filled Polar Packs, wrote cards for essential workers, arranged snacks for the police/fire break area in Fellowship Hall which is greatly appreciated by them, preparing materials for Christian education, landscaping at church, pulling weeds at Richardson Elementary, and pulling buckthorn at Southwood park.
- The **North St. Paul Fall Round Up Parade** had 20 of us participating. We handed out candy and flyers to the community with an invitation to worship with us.
- This was our second year of the joint **Trunk or Treat** event with the local Girl Scouts. We had a 25% increase in trunks, but are always looking for more to share the joy of the Lord with the area children.
- Many people enjoyed the "pre-Thanksgiving" **pie social** after the Wednesday night service.
- In December, we were back to a more traditional **Progressive Dinner** with appetizers at homes, followed by dinner and entertainment at church. This was a fun event to invite the new members. It was attended by over 50 people and there's always room for more!

Thanks to everyone who participated in one way or another to help make these events successful. It was greatly appreciated! New event ideas and volunteers to keep our church a vibrant and relevant part of our community are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Ericson

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation

2022 Annual Report

"Your Word is a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

The St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation continued its mission of conveying the Christian message to people through excellence in worship, education and the building of relationships, both within the church and out into the community.

A highlight of the year was "Sending God's Message Into the Future" during Foundation Week where the focus was on the interns and seminary students who have been helped with grants from the Foundation. During Foundation Week, the 14 interns and students responded to questions on where they have been studying, various places where they have served in the ministry and what they are doing today. A photo display, slide show and video presentation highlighted how they have helped spread God's message throughout the community, the country and the world.

The Foundation was able to carry forward its mission by endowing grants for \$9,500 during 2022.



Places interns and seminary students have gone to spread God's message.

- Two grants have been given this year to help a church family who have opened their home to 5 siblings.
- Helping North High School families, a grant was given for food gift cards to the Polar Back Pack program during the recent holidays.
- For the second year, the Foundation helped with funding for the North High School/St. Mark's Church coat drive which gives people warm outdoor clothing during the cold winter months.
- The Foundation continued its partnership with the Lutheran Social Services program "Circle of Welcome" to help with ongoing expenses for the Afghan family sponsored by St. Mark's congregation.
- Eric Gustafson, an intern at St. Mark's during 2021-2022, received a grant to help with his continuing studies at Luther Seminary.
- The new Grace Space for our littlest members was constructed this past year with help from the Foundation.
- The youth of St. Mark's worked to raise money for God's Global Barnyard and the Foundation helped them complete their goal.
- The youth were also recipients of a grant to help fund their adventure canoe trip.

The Foundation continues to work with church staff, the congregation and stake holders in the community to find ways to help those in need.

The Foundation was blessed in 2022 with financial gifts of more than \$242,000 through legacy gifts, donations, memorials, Thrivent Choice Dollars, Amazon Smile and employee matching gifts from Wells Fargo Bank and U.S. Bank. The Foundation's assets are invested to continue to support the community through grants in 2022. The finance committee works to maximize the return on investments through engagement with professional financial advisors, creates the budget for the Foundation, and monitors the financial health of the assets of the Foundation.

The Foundation continued its commitment to keep the congregation informed about the Foundation's progress and activities. The Foundation website continues to be a good resource of information about the Foundation. Announcements about the Foundation are found in the weekly updates.

The St. Mark's Foundation Board of Trustees includes: President Terry Kapaun, Vice President Craig Sterling, Treasurer Tom Michel, Secretary Barb Michel, Judy Duffy, Paul Ellefson, Kathy Hanon, Ken Indrelie, Linda Kapaun, Rod Larkins, Steve Linder, Karyn Mikel, Bill Pickett, John Pottratz, and legal advisor Bill Baumeister.

For more information about the Foundation,
please browse the St. Mark's Foundation website at www.stmarksnspfoundation.com

Global Missions

2022 Annual Report

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Below is a summary of the Mission Committee's activities and accomplishments of 2022:

Tanzania Secondary Student and Other Sponsorships – In 2023, St. Mark's individuals or families will sponsor 20 Kiheza secondary students at a rate of \$450 per year for room, board and tuition. \$9,000 in new funds were donated in late 2022 for secondary school sponsorships.

New Partner Congregation – For 2023, St. Mark's has added a second companion church in Tanzania: Mtwivila. This church was a preaching point of Kiheza's and spun off in 2004 to become its own congregation. In fact, our mission team visited this church on their 2004 mission trip. There were sufficient funds raised this year to sponsor an additional 8 secondary school students from Mtwivila in 2023 for \$3,600.

Other Kiheza and Mtwivila Project Support – In addition to the student sponsorship support, St. Mark's will donate approximately \$3,000 for other general projects yet to be named by Kiheza and Mtwivila. These funds will come from the Craft Fair that was held in December 2022, which raised \$1,378, and Soup Sunday/Bake Sale proceeds from the January 2022 and 2023 Annual Meetings.

Life Skills Center – Funds from Oehlke Endowment Fund

The Inez Oehlke Endowment Fund provided a net amount of \$12,312 for the Kiheza Life Skills Center in 2022. The Kiheza pastors and partnership committee are working to develop a plan to strengthen existing and develop new programs at the Life Skills Center. Currently, computer classes are being held there. Expanded vocational training classes are being planned for a driving school to train professional truck drivers.

Special Fundraiser for Brayan Mwilonga Medical Needs – In May 2022, we held a special fundraiser to help with medical expenses for a young Tanzanian man from Kiheza. St. Mark's members raised \$1,500 for his medical expenses.

Other Funding Sources – In addition to the donations from members and friends for Tanzania, our Tanzania Mission received \$500 from St. Mark's general budget funds.

Travel plans to Tanzania are still pending. However, a joint trip with two other St. Paul area churches may be possible in November 2023.

India Mission – The India Mission is at a crossroads. The director of REACH Home, Kusuma Paul, passed away a few years back. The school and orphanage have closed. We are grateful to have known her and to have witnessed firsthand the good that one person of faith can do. Some of the children REACH were moved to another orphanage in the same town. Angel and I have met the director and we are planning a trip to visit Hope Orphanage next Christmas 2023. We are building a relationship with this new orphanage. After we visit we are hoping to restart the sponsorship program in 2024. Please pray for God's guidance as we discern the way forward. ~Pete Mogren

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Wolf, Chair

Mission Committee Members: Jim & Betty Wolf, Pete & Angel Mogren, Betty Beane

Personnel Committee

2022 Annual Report

Greetings, this past year, the Personnel Team has been involved in the following during the past year:

- Completed updates for the Employee Handbook. The appropriate updates are in compliance with both State and Federal Laws pertaining to small businesses. We are also following Synod Guidelines for Employees. This ensures that our Employees are protected and valued.
- Assisted the celebration for Pastor Mary Froiland, who retired in May. An exit interview was also completed for Mary.
- Posted and filled the custodian position, welcoming Patrick Handt to the staff.
- Helped prepare for a new Lead Pastor, by teaming with the Call Committee and Church Council to update the Ministry Site Profile and benefits for a Lead Pastor.
- Assisted in the hiring of Pastor Arne Bergland as our Interim Lead Pastor.
- Prepared a yearly budget for staffing at St. Mark's.

In closing, we want to express our thanks to all our staff here at St. Mark's. We as a church are blessed by each and every one of them. We wish to thank you all for your prayers and support.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Julie Urban
Committee Chair

Personnel Committee members:

Kelly Kleppe, Carolyn Newell, Suzanne Ericson, Lynn Wyman and Julie Urban

Property Committee

2022 Annual Report

Several projects were completed in 2022 as well as ongoing maintenance of our facilities and grounds.

Projects completed in 2022

- Roof replaced on Harvey's Garage due to hail damage
- Hand railings repaired and repainted (Eagle project)
- New sidewalks
- Diseased & dead trees removed
- New parking lots
- AC in the Sanctuary
- Electronic system for raising & lowering the sanctuary banners
- New emergency exit door with alarm in Rees Hall
- Purchased a power sweeper

Some projects were postponed, and the property committee will continue to work to improve the facilities and grounds of St. Mark's.

Looking ahead to 2023

- Sanctuary beam and baffle repairs
- Continued security & safety upgrades
- Sanctuary & chapel roof replacement due to hail damage
- New tree plantings

This past year, we began a rain garden collaboration with North High students. We look forward to continuing the partnership this spring.

Saturday Stewards is a monthly group of volunteers that fill the gap between custodial staff and paid professionals. They meet on the first Saturday of the month, completing tasks and projects for all skill levels. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sherry Berry or Mark McKenzie.

We are very grateful for our volunteers, who continue to give so much of their time and talent. We especially want to thank Doug Ronsberg, who spent many hours maintaining our lawn this summer, and Gary Hook, who guided us through several projects, including the replacement of the parking lots and the air conditioning in the Sanctuary.

If you are interested in volunteering for upcoming property committee efforts, please let us know. We look forward to working together!

Committee members

Heidi McKenzie
Brian Larson
Doug Ronsberg
Gary Hook
Mark McKenzie

Mike Clasen
Rod Larkins
Neil Knutson – Custodian
Patrick Handt – Custodian

Social Ministry

2022 Annual Report

As a congregation the center of our life together is worship, where the Word of God is preached and the Sacraments are shared. From that center we are sent out to serve, and St. Mark's has a long and strong history of service in our church and community. Here are some highlights of the past year:

- **Caring Hands** volunteers continue to serve families at a time of grief and loss by setting up a comfortable space and serving a meal at the time of a funeral or memorial service.
- The **Caring Ministries Team** is a group of people who care for those who are homebound. When it is possible, Holy Communion is shared. When in-person visits are restricted, phone calls and cards keep folks connected. A special service is held once a month for the residents at Polar Ridge.
- **Wednesday Night Dinners** resumed this fall. Thanks to Julie Urban for heading up the team of dedicated volunteers who make this possible. Over 800 meals served this past year!
- St. Mark's partnered with **Interfaith Action's School Supply Drive** (serving 10 programs in the Greater St. Paul area) to provide students from low-income families with the essential school tools they need. St. Mark's collected \$440 in cash donations along with backpacks and the supplies to fill them!
- The **Polar Pack Project**, a partnership with North High, is still going strong. The staff at North are very thankful that we continue to help them provide backpacks of food for the weekend for families experiencing food insecurity. We are preparing 12 backpacks a week. Grocery gift cards were also provided for holidays.
- Just over one year ago, St. Mark's agreed to **sponsor a "refugee" family from Afghanistan**. We are happy to report that the Safi family is doing a fine job of figuring out what it means to be Americans and Minnesotans. All family members have received their "green cards," which entitles them to permanent residency and a path to citizenship. The adults are employed. They recently moved to a larger and better home for their family, and the children have settled into their new school. Donations made to support the family were used almost entirely for rent and medical issues. Thanks to a large donation from outside of St. Mark's, we still have funds to help the family. Right now they are paying their own way but will need some help to cover airfare and fees for an additional family member, the youngest son, who is still in Afghanistan, but is on the path to being reunited with his family. Thank you for your support!
- We continued our partnership with Second Harvest and the NSP Food Shelf to host three **Free Produce** events (July, August, and September.) This has been a powerful way to both serve and connect with our neighbors. Over the 3 dates, we helped over 500 families get fresh produce at no cost. We averaged approximately 11 volunteers for each date. Special thanks to Julie Urban and Suzanne Ericson for coordinating the event and to our reliable volunteers who showed up each month. Also, thanks to our partners at the North St. Paul Food Shelf and Second Harvest for providing the food.
- For the first time, St. Mark's participated in **National Night Out** on August 2. Thanks to everyone who joined us on a very hot, windy evening to celebrate the neighborhood. About 50 people stopped by for food, fun, and a bounce house. Special thanks to the North St. Paul Police and Fire Departments for their participation. And thanks to Julie Urban for organizing! It was a great way to connect with some of our neighbors.
- St. Mark's partnered with students and teachers at North High to hold a **Winter Coat Drive** for a second year. We collected new and gently-used winter coats and other winter gear for those in need. Members of the community "shopped" at St. Mark's on November 17. We are grateful for the generous support of the St. Mark's Foundation for providing a grant that was used to purchase children's coat and snow pants sets.
- In December, St. Mark's continued our participation in the **Gift Goes On** program. Volunteers purchased and wrapped gifts, donated grocery gift cards, knitted hats and scarves, provided gloves and mittens, and made blankets. We supported 14 families (43 individuals) from our own congregation, Head Start families, and Ramsey County families in need. Thanks to Liz Elicerio-Nelson for making it run smoothly!

Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) Committee

2022 Annual Report

Committee members:

Betty Beane
Beth Jensen
Interim Pastor Arne Bergland
Kelly Kleppe
Pastor David Bjorklund

Dave Lande
Kathy Hanon, chair
Rod Larkins
Ann Mott, staff



The Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS) committee meets monthly to consider opportunities to encourage sharing the blessings received by the St. Mark's community to support the work God calls us to in this place and time.

A specific task for the group is to develop and manage the annual fall stewardship campaign, during which all congregants are asked to provide their intent to support St. Mark's through giving and prayer. The SAS committee identifies initiatives and goals for the campaign, explains and promotes those initiatives and goals, and assists pastors and staff in preparing materials and securing volunteers to present temple talks.

The 2022 campaign wrapped up with Intent Sunday on November 20, 2022. The goal of the campaign was to increase annual giving by \$40,000 and to increase the number of intent cards returned by 10 percent.

The results of the 2022 Fall Stewardship campaign are listed below:

Initiative	Goal	Results
Sustain ministry and fulfill financial commitments	\$40,000 in new gifts \$446,000 approx. total	(\$30,000) in gifts \$376,550 approx. total
Increase # of Intent Cards returned	16 additional intents 178 total returned	12 fewer intents 150 total

These are challenging financial times. We are thankful for the continued offers of time, talent, and treasure to St. Mark's and the work we do, together.

Additionally, during 2023, we hope to provide more opportunity to create, renew, and strengthen the bonds between us. We hope you will join us in this effort. Stay tuned for further opportunities, but know we are very excited about the possibilities!

On behalf of the Stewardship for All Seasons committee, thank you for your prayerful response to the fall campaign, and in advance for your involvement in our 2023 goal of building relationships. We are grateful for your commitment to St. Mark's.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the SAS Committee,
Kathy Hanon, chair

Women of St. Mark's

2022 Annual Report

Ministry Vision: As an organization of Christian women, we encourage all women to grow in their faith, be of service to others and engage in fellowship with other women.

The Women of St. Mark's have four Bible Study groups. We are a part of the St. Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization and the Women of the ELCA. The groups meet for Bible Study and fellowship. We remember St. Mark's shut-ins with cards and small gifts throughout the year. The Prayer Shawl Ministry knits/crochets comforting shawls for those in need. Monetary support is given to the North St. Paul Food Shelf, Second Harvest Heartland, Polar Packs, Welcome Desk at North High School, Feed My Starving Children, Kihasa Student Support in Tanzania and the Tanzania Water Project. Due to generous memorial gifts we were able to provide support to Shobi's Table, NSP Food Shelf, LWR Quilt Shipping, LWR Ukraine Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, LSS Student Support, Brayan from Tanzania for a kidney transplant and gift cards to North High students in need. The Women's Activity Directory was updated and printed by Terri Borowick.

In addition, we plan the following events. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend.

January-March – Quilting sessions were not held in January and February due to COVID. 50 quilts were made in March and April. They were sent to LWR and some were kept for local use. A drawing was held for a blue and yellow quilt raising \$1,144 for Ukraine.

May – Spring Luncheon "Thanks for the Memories" honoring Pastor Mary on her retirement. 48 women attended and enjoyed singer/guitarist Mary Hall.

September – Fall Event "Yoga for Flexibility, Strength and Balance" by Sue Davidson. 24 women attended and enjoyed fellowship and a catered lunch.

December – Women's Advent Brunch "Music is in the Air." We enjoyed a program by the Silver Harmony Singers performing Christmas hymns/songs with a sing-a-long. 28 women attended. Donations were collected for the NSP Food Shelf.

December – Ashland Production "Holiday Musical" followed by dinner at Acapulco restaurant. Twelve people attended.

The St. Paul Area Synodical Women's Convention was held at Bethesda Lutheran Church on Saturday, July 16. A resolution was passed to support LSS Bethany Crisis Center, and a Preschool Project. A day of worship, learning sessions, good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

The Collection Cupboard is located in Rees Hall. Items collected include pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, eyeglasses for the Lions International sight projects around the world, and kits/projects for the women's organization. Bar soap and Boxtops for Education are no longer being accepted.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Collier, Chairperson

Committee Members: Sherry Berry, Sue Fletcher, Darlene Dent and Bible Study Group representatives

Women of St. Mark's Financial Report

2022 Annual Report

Prepared by Sue Fletcher

CASH ON HAND 12-31-2022	\$ 5,259.38
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RECEIPTS

CIRCLE OFFERING	\$ 2,156.00
GIFTS AND MEMORIALS	\$ 155.00
SPRING LUNCHEON	\$ 460.00
FALL LUNCHEON	\$ 240.00
ADVENT BRUNCH	\$ 371.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR 2022	\$ 3,382.00

DISBURSEMENTS

WELCA OFFERING	\$ 650.00
WELCA TRIENNIAL OFFERING	\$ 75.00
WELCA CONVENTION OFFERING	\$ 125.00
NORTH ST. PAUL FOOD SHELF	\$ 300.00
SECOND HARVEST	\$ 100.00
ST. PAUL PARTNERS	\$ 100.00
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN	\$ 150.00
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF	\$ 250.00
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE(child school supplies)	\$ 100.99
SHOBI'S TABLE	\$ 100.00
ST. MARKS LUTHERAN CHURCH (office expense donation)	\$ 150.00
POLAR PACKS	\$ 100.00
POLAR DEN (Welcome Desk North High)	\$ 100.00
TANZANIA STUDENT SPONSORSHIP	\$ 150.00
TANZANIA (Bryan health problem)	\$ 200.00
SPRING LUNCHEON	\$ 654.79
FALL LUNCHEON	\$ 186.94
ADVENT BRUNCH	\$ 208.26
GIFTS	\$ 25.00
QUILTING	\$ 125.00
MISC EXPENSE	\$ 39.90
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 3,890.88

BALANCE 12-31-2022	\$ 4,705.50
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SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

QUILTING	\$ 1,515.11	
PRAYER SHAWLS	\$ 230.58	
CRAFT DAY	\$ 87.75	
TRIENNIAL 20-21 set aside	\$ 150.00	
CAPITAL FUND RESERVE	\$ 325.00	
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS		\$ 2,308.44
BALANCE AFTER SPECIAL ACCOUNTS		\$ 2,397.06

Minutes: St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 30, 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominating Committee report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ There was a request for nominee volunteers for Synod Assembly, Auditor, and Nominating committee from the floor. Mary explained the purpose of Synod Assembly meeting on May 13 and 14. Adam Reinke volunteered for Nominating and Tyler Ronsberg volunteered for Synod Assembly. ◦ Election of church Council members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bob Engwer (i), Iren Hastings Petersen (youth), Josh Hirman (i), Violet Hirman (youth), Dave Lande, and Brian Larson (i) ◦ Election of Treasurer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Kelly Nickel (i) ◦ Election of Synod Assembly voting members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Kurt Biedermann, Karyn Mikel, Adam Reinke, and Tyler Ronsberg ◦ Election of Auditor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ◦ Election of Nominating members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dan Colberg, Beth Jensen, Mark McKenzie, Adam Reinke, and Shannon Young • Thank you for your service. The outgoing members of the Council, Karen Biedermann and Shannon Young, were recognized. Sherry Berry was also recognized for her work on the Property committee. • Sexual Harassment Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The updated policy is in the office and St. Mark's is in compliance. • Review of 2021 Finances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ St. Mark's cash position is good with under budgeted spending 	<p>the 2021 Annual Meeting as stated, with the correction. All were in favor. Minutes approved.</p> <p>Shannon Young introduced nominees</p> <p>Motion by Adam Reinke to elect the slate of officers by acclamation. Seconded by Suzanne Ericson. All in favor and approved.</p> <p>Adam Reinke gave recognition</p> <p>Julie Urban made the announcement. We are required to make an annual notification and review of this policy.</p> <p>Karen Biedermann led</p>
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Minutes: St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 30, 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o of \$85,000 and close to expected budget at roughly \$569,000. o Tithes were up this year compared to previous year. o 2022 expenditures are expected to be higher this year compared to 2021. o Pastor Mary Froiland emphasized that St. Mark's ended the year with a positive balance of \$172,000 due to lower expenses and the forgiven PPP loan. Because of the current cash balance, moving with the proposed 2022 budget seems reasonable. o Bob Engwer also reiterated that though we may feel attendance has been down, St. Mark's saw an increase of \$6000 in giving from this time last year. o Sherry Berry: What was the ending cash balance? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Answer: \$171,969.00 • Discussion and Adoption of 2022 Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Two years of income greater than expenses left St. Mark's with a cash equity balance of \$172,000 o A strong cash balance and a generous stewardship response allow us to build and enhance ministries as well as continue to grow initiatives such as the internship program, tech upgrades, and community outreach o St. Mark's has a full pastoral staff o Includes a 5% raise in salary for eligible staff members o Proposal is \$36,711 over budget, but Council feels comfortable using some cash reserve to cover the gap and also with the understanding that long-term solutions must be through proposing balanced budgets. 	discussion
		Karen Biedermann led discussion

Minutes: St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 30, 2022

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bob Engwer explained through his experience on both Finance committee and Council that we should be cautious but that finances are tracked monthly and he also feels comfortable. In addition, other funds such as Reserve (\$50,000+ balance) and Building, Maintenance, and Other Improvements Fund (\$60,000+ balance) are fully funded in case of emergencies. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration Team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultimate goal is to keep congregation safe One year ago we were completely virtual We've gone through several variants but following safety protocols and access to vaccinations, we were able to open for Holy Week. Team met, and though St. Mark's space is somewhat limited, the decrease in numbers should allow to fully open up, including Wednesday services, by Feb. 16. The outdoor services and events have been highly successful, so look to future events in coming months. Restoration team recognized for their hard work SAS update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The goal is to add digital signage to St. Mark's property for outreach with estimated cost of \$30,000-\$40,000 \$2500 provided by St. Mark's Foundation \$5000 matching challenge from estate gift \$20,000 donation from St. Mark's family Sherry Berry recognized Gary Martin for his time and effort 	<p>Motion made by Kathy Hanon and seconded by Shari Hamilton to approve 2021 budget. All in favor and approved.</p> <p>Kurt Biedermann as chair of committee led review</p> <p>Pr. Mary Froiland led discussion</p>
Closing Prayer and adjournment	Closing prayer by Pr. David Bjorklund	<p>Motion by Karen Mikel and seconded by Heidi McKenzie to adjourn at 12:58 PM - all in favor.</p>

Respectfully submitted by Josh Hirman, Council secretary

Minutes: St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 30, 2022

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Action
Establish Quorum / Call to Order	Today's meeting was online and recorded via Zoom. Quorum obtained at 12:04 PM.	Called to order at 12:05 PM by Karen Biedermann.
Opening Prayer		Pr. Mary Froiland
Review of 2021 and What's Next	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established online procedures for conducting the meeting. Update to congregation on the past year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two years of "new normal" because of pandemic Continued support and participation from congregation Welcomed both Pr. David Bjorklund and intern Eric Gustafson Staff community at St. Mark's is strong Continuing to move forward with initiatives through pandemic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intern program running and budgeted for next year Ongoing tech upgrades - Zoom Room, live stream, grants for upgrades and outreach Electronic sign is a goal that is also part of outreach 	Pr. Mary Froiland
St. Mark's Ministries and CYF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on ministries, especially CYF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mark's has been welcoming and a great fit for him Acts II revamp for Wednesday night service and youth programming is meant to model the idea of worshipping with youth and adults together St. Mark's should focus on active members but also move to rebuild congregation through youth and outreach The proposed budget for youth programming is lumped together so some line items don't have specific budget allocations but will continue as a priority, i.e. VBS, etc. 	Pr. David Bjorklund
Annual Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of the Meeting Minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is one name spelling needed to be corrected 	Motion by Kelly Kleppe, seconded by Dave Lande to approve the minutes from

Minutes: St. Mark's Congregational Meeting - Sunday, July 10, 2022

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Action
Establish Quorum / Call to Order	Today's meeting was outside after morning service. Quorum obtained at 10:34 AM.	Called to order at 10:35 AM by Mike Ericson
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting on two resolutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ #1 Approve a Mission Investment Fund loan for parking lot renovations ○ #2 Approve funding to replace the HVAC Sanctuary air conditioning unit • Questions/Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the loan details? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The loan is for a 15-year term, with an initial rate of 3.875 for the first 5 years, with an adjusted rate every five years (Kelly Nickell). ○ Where will the funds come from? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ North St. Paul High pays to rent our parking space. The newly renegotiated rental contract will pay for the bulk of our loan each year (Pr. David Bjorklund). ○ What part of the parking lot will be done? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All of it. The trees that are marked will be taken out before renovation begins to avoid heavy equipment on new parking lot (Brian Larson). • Ballots collected and tallied <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resolution #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 121 Yes; 0 No ○ Resolution #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 120 Yes; 1 No 	<p>Mike Ericson introduced two resolutions for comments and questions.</p> <p>Mike Ericson announced that both resolutions passed after vote count</p>
Adjournment		Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM

Respectfully submitted by Josh Hirman, Council secretary

Minutes: St. Mark's Congregational Meeting - Sunday, December 11, 2022

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Action
Establish Quorum / Call to Order	Today's meeting took place in sanctuary. Quorum obtained at 10:13 AM.	Called to order at 10:14 AM by Mike Ericson
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote to approve the updates to St. Mark's Constitution • Questions/Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Question: what is C.13.09, the Mutual Ministry addition, and why is the description missing? Answer: The committee wanted to add the placement and framework for the ministry, with the description being added later by Council through a continuing resolution. • Proceeded to vote 	<p>Mike Ericson introduced topic and opened floor for questions.</p> <p>Motion by Bob Engwer to approve the updates to St. Mark's Constitution. Seconded by Kirk Smith. All in favor - motion passed</p>
Adjournment		Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Josh Hirman, Council secretary

Minutes: St. Mark's Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 15, 2023

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Action
Establish Quorum / Call to Order	Today's meeting took place in sanctuary. Quorum obtained at 10:41 AM.	Called to order at 10:42 AM by Mike Ericson
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vote to approve candidate Associate Pr. David Bjorklund to Lead Pastor of St. Mark's • Discussion/Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bonnie Meyers led discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Introduced Call committee ■ Reviewed call process, construction of Ministry Site Profile, interview process, committee's vote to move candidate forward, history of Pr. Bjorklund's first call, observations of references, and final support for his candidacy for lead pastor. ■ Question: after hearing Pr. Bjorklund's pastoral leadership qualities, what areas are there for attention? Answer: his experience on paper might seem light, but his call and leadership at First Lutheran Church in Enderlin, North Dakota, his time with Pr. Mary Froland and Pr. Arne Bergland, and the last several months here at St. Mark's all demonstrate his readiness for the lead pastor position. • Proceeded to vote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Result of paper ballots: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 141 total ballots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 134 "yes" • 4 "no" • 3 blank 	<p>Mike Ericson introduced Bonnie Meyers, chair of Call committee</p> <p>Mike Ericson announced that St. Mark's congregation approved Pr. David Bjorklund to be lead pastor by 2/3 majority of votes.</p>
Adjournment		Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Josh Hirman, Council secretary