

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

ST. LAWRENCE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LIBERTYVILLE, IL



125 W. Church St.
Libertyville, IL 60048



St. Lawrence
Episcopal Church

Annual Meeting Agenda

January 22, 2023

- 1) Welcome and Call to Order
- 2) Opening Prayer
- 3) Approval of Prior Minutes
- 4) Rector's Address to the Annual Meeting
- 5) Warden's Report: 2022 in Review (Mary Hazen)
- 6) Financial Report for 2022 and Presentation of 2023 budget
- 7) Warden's Report: Looking Ahead to 2023 and Beyond (Deborah DeManno)
- 8) Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members and Warden
- 9) Election and Commissioning of 2023 Vestry Members
- 10) Dismissal

A YEAR OF GOOD NEWS!

In 2022 the good news just kept coming and coming! After years of work around coming to terms with our financial situation and making the difficult decision to put our building on the market, we were surprised and overjoyed to receive two major gifts that will allow us to retire our mortgage and remain in our Church Street location.

A gift of \$1 million will allow us to pay off the mortgage in its entirety by the end of 2028. A second gift of \$750,000 has been earmarked to fund the operating deficit we will continue to run until the mortgage is paid off as well as attend to overdue building maintenance and other ministry expenses.



FROM THE RECTOR

It is almost unimaginable to consider where we were a year ago, at our last annual meeting. Last year, we were launching a plan to get ready to sell our building and move to an unknown location. Now, none of that is on the agenda. It is truly amazing what can happen in a year.

I have said it before, and I will keep saying it: this is one of the bravest congregations I have ever encountered. Your willingness to meet the unknown future with curiosity was what drew me to St. Lawrence in the first place and I continue to be amazed by your courage every day. The turmoil of the past few years have taught you how to stick together when things get tough, how to face conflict with maturity and love, and how to keep claiming joy in the midst of uncertainty. None of this has gone away just because we are staying in the building.

St. Lawrence is poised to grow. And, in fact, *we are already growing*. This is not true in most churches right now. Our growth is a testament to what the Holy Spirit is doing among us and to the new life that is possible for us. So, in 2023, will build on that joyful momentum by:

- Creating more opportunities to pray together
- Building a foundation for growth that is sustainable in the long term. We have worked hard to shift vestry culture to a model that does not induce burnout, and that means broadening the base of leadership to 6 primary committees:
 - Worship
 - Outreach
 - Formation (all ages)
 - Social Events
 - Building and Grounds
 - Fundraising
- Focusing our energy on creating innovative fundraisers that leverage community events!

To do all of this, we need you. We need your voices, your ideas, your energy, your passion. Because, in a healthy and thriving congregation, leadership is not just the province of a chosen few.

It's a new day, St. Lawrence. God is not done with us. Let's go!

In Christ,



The Rev. Kristin L. Saylor, Rector



FROM THE WARDENS

2022 In Review

A year ago, at the 2022 Annual Meeting, we announced a process to begin with you the listening and visioning work to reimagine St. Lawrence of the future. Although we didn't know then about the generous gifts awaiting us, the insights and yearnings we uncovered would help guide our future focus regardless of our mortgage situation. From our listening sessions we identified the following 4 areas:

- Focus on Youth: we need to expand our efforts directed towards young children and teens, especially in formation and social activities.
- External Community Outreach/Impact: we want to grow our impact on the broader community through increased presence and visibility in Libertyville and surrounding areas.
- St. Lawrence Community: We need to invest more in enhancing our internal sense of community. There was a key emphasis on creating more opportunities for social and personal connection.
- Adult Formation: We need to reinvigorate our efforts around creating meaningful formation including intergenerational learning opportunities.

As you can see from the updates that follow, we made tremendous progress in all 4 areas in 2022! If you walked by St. Lawrence on a Thursday morning this summer and noticed the youthful engagement at our front door, attended our first chili cook off, participated in a book club, Zoom formation session, or intergenerational Better Together activity, you hopefully felt the enthusiasm! We also kept busy with the normal care and maintenance of day-to-day life of our parish. We finalized renewal of the leasing agreement with Village Green Montessori for 5 years, gave careful consideration around the use of the Vanguard Charitable Trust funds and how to use them to enrich our mission and vision, evaluated and attended to the ongoing support, safety and care of our parish and staff, and continued care of our building and ministries through the time and talent of our incredible parish. All while navigating the evolving covid pandemic.

It has certainly been a year of change: our first full year with Kristin as our rector, the arrival in Chicago of Bishop Clark, and our more hopeful financial situation. At the start of 2022, I don't think any of us could have imagined how the year would play out. It turned out to be a year of renewal and reinvigoration. St. Lawrence continued to live out our vision with our special people bringing it to life. We began 2022 asking you to dream. St. Lawrence has not only dreamed but we have come so far in bringing those dreams to life. What a blessing it has been to be part of this special journey continuing to imagine where we can walk together into the future!



Building Update and Looking Ahead

As much as I would like to skip to the dreaming piece of the ministries we hope to begin in 2023, I am also charged with reporting on the state of our bricks and mortar. So first, this brief update on how we are using the donated Vanguard Charitable Trust (VCT) funds for the care of our building and to support our ministries.

Once the building was no longer for sale, Brian Bowers (Vestry liaison for Building care) led the efforts by many to inventory and prioritize the most needed repairs and upgrades for the building and grounds. It is a long list and is keeping us busy. Like many of you caring for your homes, we have experienced that the process of gathering information and of getting quotes from contractors and vendors can move slowly. That process continues in 2023. The information will help us to model what portion of the VCT funds we should protect to cover operating deficits until the mortgage is paid off in 2028 and how much we can plan to care for the building and support ministries.

Much of the repair work in 2022 was accomplished primarily by volunteers working with donated materials under the skilled leadership of Brian Bowers, Kevin Froeter, and Tom Simpson. They managed to repair or restore

- Several leaks in the roofs
- The resultant water damage to interior walls, including mold remediation
- The commercial dishwasher in the lower-level kitchen
- Remove 3 diseased ash trees in the courtyard and replace with new trees to be planted in the spring

Brian is always looking for more volunteers willing to get their hands dirty for one stint or many, so please tell him of your interest in this work.

The vestry also approved purchase of items that support our life together, especially our worship and our hospitality, e.g.,

- New chairs and tables to support events in the narthex. In 2022 these included the Better Together intergenerational formation, Creating in the Narthex, hospitality for a baby shower and for funeral receptions, a wildly popular chili cook-off, and a very successful holiday craft fair.
- An electric organ and associated digital equipment so that our music director Alan Whaley can stop transporting his own equipment from home each Sunday.
This will also allow for supply organists when Alan cannot lead our music.

To cover the cost of these repairs and items, thus far the Vestry has approved \$24,025 in expenditures from the VCT funds.



For 2023, we are exploring several bigger projects in the building, e.g.,

- Conversion of the lighting throughout the building to LED fixtures. Our goals are to increase energy efficiency and reduce the costs associated with repair and maintenance of the old incandescent and fluorescent fixtures. Using a ComEd program of incentives and rebates, this project will cost us less than \$10,000, which is about a 75% discount on the actual cost.
- Upgrading the door locks and security cameras for the church building. With our approval, Village Green Montessori has recently upgraded security for their access points and space used for the school at no cost to St. Lawrence.
- More roof repairs, tuckpointing, weather seals on doors, and repair or replacement of broken windows in offices, classrooms, and the narthex.
- Exploring how to fund repair and restoration of the large stained-glass window in the narthex.

So, 2022 turned out to be nothing as we anticipated, due in large part to two generous gifts. Like the Magi, we came home by another road than we thought we would take. Previous generations of St. Lawrence members have bequeathed to us this church building and we now have a path to keeping it. Having expressed our gratitude, it would be tempting to rest just a bit and comfortably focus inward on our space and our life together inside our red doors. However, last year also showed us that when we step outside, try new things, and engage with the community, we are energized and our energy spreads throughout the neighborhood.

Many ideas are germinating for 2023, and we are looking to all of you to tend the new shoots:

- We are looking to expand on the success of Gardens for Hope and other ways to share knowledge of gardening including a gardening-themed fundraiser.
- Increase our presence across from the Farmers Market and village square for community building and fundraising activities. How many different ways can we get to know who are our neighbors and how to engage with them?
- Market to the wider community, including Mainstreet Libertyville, our narthex and other meeting spaces for events. Our updated Building Use Policy will support this.
- Build on our Better Together partnership, not only for shared worship, formation, and social events but to efficiently share talents and resources to the benefit of all four churches.
- Come together more often for social events, e.g., a proposed “old church cookbook cook-off”, the return of Trivia Nights, and whatever new ideas you propose.



All of these new things will need support and volunteers. Some will succeed and others will not – and that, as Kristin says, “is all useful information”. If we think again about gardens and growing new life, it begins with a radical transformation for the seeds. Protected safely in their seed coats, they can be just as they are for a long time. But once planted, that seed coat has to irreversibly split, the cells have to multiply, and grow roots down into dark, cool soil in hope of finding sufficient water and nutrients. Eventually the new growth breaks through the soil and out where it can be seen and hopefully continue to grow while changing light, air, and water into food for other beings. So, it can be with us, St. Lawrence Church – not a building but a branch of the body of Christ.

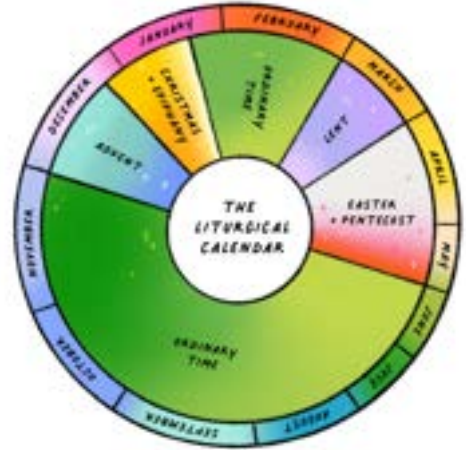
Mary Hazen and Deborah DeManno



LITURGICAL LIFE

In 2022, we celebrated:

- 5 baptisms
- 1 wedding
- 6 memorial services
- 4 services at a local retirement community
- 1 Installation of a new rector
- 77 total in person worship services!



HOPE FOOD PANTRY



Our numbers went from 91 families in January as Omicron surged, to a peak of 143 families in the month of August. Our expenses rose dramatically with these increases and inflation.

1462 families visited the pantry, for a total of 4534 individuals served.

Gardens for Hope was a big highlight of the year as we gave away over 300 lbs of homegrown produce.

We picked up 15,000 lbs of donations from Sunset, Aldi and Walmart and over 67,000 lbs of product from Northern Illinois Food Bank, including food, personal care items, laundry detergent, 1784 gallons of milk, 819 dozen eggs and 140 hams and turkeys.



YOUTH FORMATION

After a long hiatus due to COVID, we revived and reimagined our Sunday School program in the fall of 2022! An enthusiastic team of volunteers leads kids in Bible stories and crafts every Sunday and we have had to enlarge our soft space to accommodate the influx of young people in our congregation.



With our Better Together partners, we launched a two year confirmation program. Six St. Lawrence youth and 3 adult mentors are participating!



ADULT FORMATION

We kicked off the year by partnering with our neighbors at First Presbyterian to offer Sacred Ground, a ten session anti-racism curriculum designed by the Episcopal Church, to a group of 30 participants from both congregations.

In Lent, we reflected on the poetry of Wendell Berry; in September, we dove into a study of Cole Arthur Riley's memoir, *This Here Flesh*; and, in Advent, we spent four weeks immersed in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

Our book group kept busy by reading twelve different books and our EFM group remained active in their study of theology, history, and Scripture.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

With the loosening of COVID restrictions, we were able to get out into the community and show Libertyville that St. Lawrence is here to stay! Highlights included:

- 12 Thursdays of Farmers' Market Open Play
- Hundreds of dogs blessed at Dog Days of Libertyville
- Untold pounds of candy given out to Libertyville trick or treaters
- 400 cups of hot cocoa distributed at the Libertyville tree lighting
- \$2500 raised by Holy Crafters at the St. Lawrence Holiday Bazaar
- 12 volunteers participating in our Prison Pen Pal Ministry, ably overseen by Deacon Hal



SOCIAL EVENTS

We also had a lot of fun together!

- 15 participants in 5K to benefit a Safe Place
- Monthly gatherings of Creating in the Nave
- 18 entrants in the fall chili cookoff
- Many, many pie-themed coffee hours



BETTER TOGETHER



WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



We leaned into partnerships with St. Gregory's, Deerfield; Trinity, Highland Park; and St. Elisabeth's, Glencoe:

- 2 pulpit exchanges
- A fully collaborative Holy Week, featuring services at each parish
- Shared Lent and Advent devotionals
- Collaborative youth confirmation, intergenerational formation, and adult formation
- A fabulous picnic at Independence Grove, a joint Pride celebration, and a lot of fun at a Chicago Dogs game



BUDGET REPORT 2022

What a year it has been. Having been blessed with two incredibly generous gifts, we are able to turn our financial conversations towards the future – a future based here in our home on Church St in Libertyville.

Total income for 2022 was right on budget.

Expenses for 2022 were \$19,677 higher than budgeted. This is primarily due to a budgeting error related to the cost of employee benefits.

The net effect for the year is that we spent in \$114,290 more than we took in vs. a plan to spend \$94,513 more than we took in for a unfavorable variance of \$19,776.

Net change to our investment portfolio due to dividends, interest and market appreciation/depreciation is an decrease of \$18,300.

Total cash in bank at year-end of \$1,009,558 includes \$35,431 in prepaid 2023 pledges (not impacting the 2022 income statement).

Income Statement				
Operating Budget Results 2022				
	Actual	Budget	Good/ (Bad)	2023 Budget
Revenue				
Offerings	368,758	374,597	(5,840)	386,031
Other Income	48,248	42,289	5,960	46,904
Community Fundraising	2,781	3,000	(219)	4,000
Total Income	419,787	419,886	(99)	436,935
Expenses				
Fixed	306,516	283,464	(23,052)	321,083
Required Expenses	52,115	56,125	4,010	56,192
Ministry Team Expenses	12,219	9,993	(2,226)	12,210
Search	(592)	1,000	1,592	-
Total Mortgage	163,818	163,818	-	163,818
Total Expenses	534,077	514,399	(19,677)	553,302
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(114,290)	(94,513)	(19,776)	(116,367)



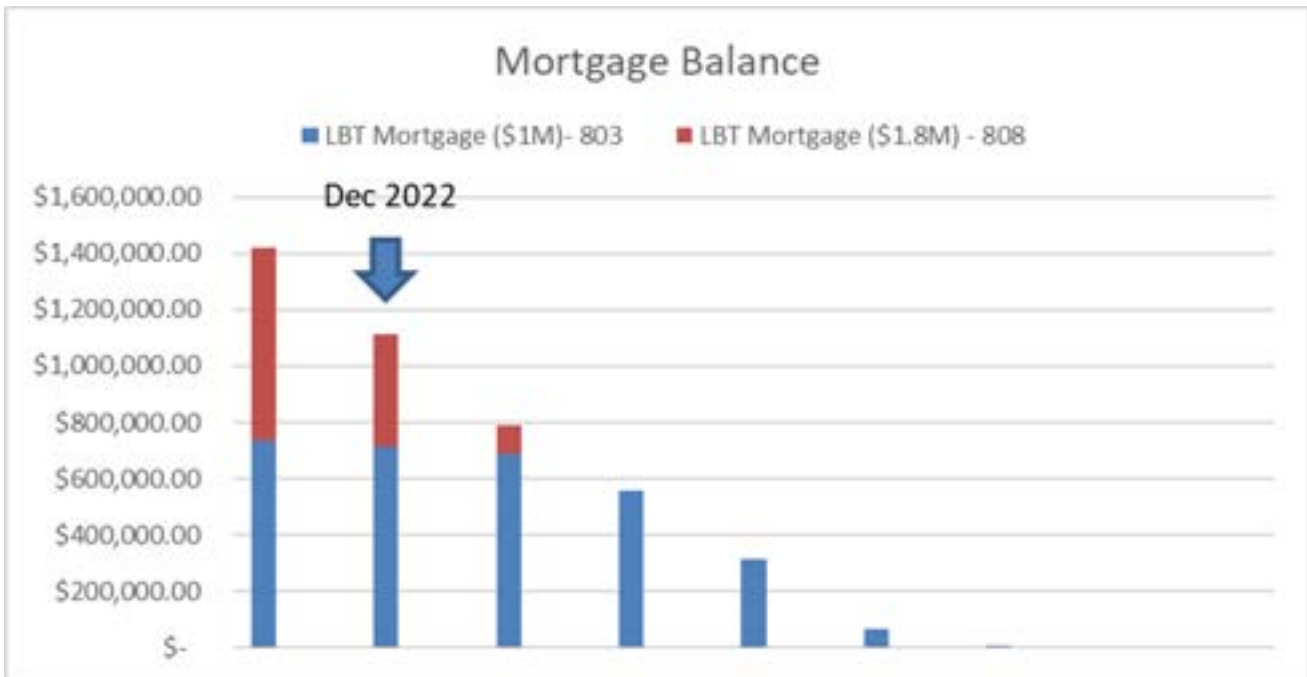
Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2022

		Assets
Cash and Money Market	\$ 1,009,558	
Stock	\$ 104,357	
Other Liquid Assets	\$ 14,687	
Total Liquid Assets		\$ 1,128,601
Original Building	\$ 1,360,000	
Building Expansion	\$ 3,383,814	
New Classroom/Kitchen	\$ 69,560	
Permanent Sign	\$ 35,449	
Total Fixed Assets		<u>\$ 4,848,823</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>\$ 5,977,424</u></u>
		 Liabilities
Pre-paid pledge		\$ 35,431
VGM Security Deposit		\$ 1,000
Withholdings		\$ 1,524
Transmittal		\$ (3)
Search Accrual		\$ -
\$1,000,000 Note	\$ 710,861	
\$1,800,000 Note	\$ 403,184	
Total Mortgage		\$ 1,114,046
Restricted Funds		\$ 996,527
Fund Principal		\$ 3,828,900
Total Liabilities		<u><u>\$ 5,977,424</u></u>



Graph of reduction in mortgage balance over time. Arrow is where we are now. When red goes away, one of the loans is paid off.



Graph of impact of loan payoff on our cash flow dedicated to mortgage payments. Green star is when the first loan is paid off.



Stewardship history for last 3 years.

2022 vs. 2023

New pledges means 4 new families pledging and 6 who resumed pledging this year vs. last year. There are another 6 that did not pledge (either left parish or chose not to pledge) for a net increase of 4 pledges.

4.7% increase in pledge dollars.

	2021	2022	2023
Total Pledged	\$308,357	\$342,597	\$358,831
Total Pledges	68	74	78
Average Pledge	\$4,535	\$4,630	\$4,600
Median Pledge	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600
New Pledgers	2 (5)	3 (10)	4 (6)

Jeanne Lasheff, Treasurer





Our Mission:

Growing relationships, serving in community,
empowered through worship.

Our Vision:

A vibrant, engaged community feeding those who hunger in body, mind
or spirit, celebrating God's love and offering a spiritual home for all.

Our Promise:

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey,
St. Lawrence welcomes you. We celebrate diversity and,
following Jesus' example embrace ALL God's children.

As a community, we cherish your uniqueness as God has made you:
across cultural backgrounds, skin color, citizenship/immigration status,
political views, age, gender identity/expression/attraction, marital and
economic status, and physical and cognitive abilities.

Whoever you are, whomever you love,
wherever you are from, WE WELCOME YOU!





St. Lawrence

Episcopal Church

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