

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2024 Annual Meeting Agenda 2
2024 Annual Meeting Resolutions..... 3
Nominations for Church Council..... 4
Nominations for Endowment Board..... 5
2024 NE ELCA Synod Delegates..... 6
2023 Annual Meeting Minutes..... 7
Pastor’s Report 9
Church Council President’s Report 12
Children’s Ministry Report 14
Treasurer’s Report 15
Summary of Accounts 18
Endowment Board..... 19
Congregational Statistics..... 21
Benevolence and Mission 22
Health Ministry 24
Local & World Service 26
Nursery..... 27
Prayer Team 28
Outreach 29
Property..... 30
Stewardship 32
Music Director 33
Worship and Music..... 34
Technology..... 35
Women’s Fellowship 36
Women’s Fellowship Treasurer’s Report..... 37

New Business Items

Resolution 5 - 2024 Mission & Ministry Budget 38

Operational Core Values 40

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Sunday, February 11, 2024

A Day of Celebration for our Church Family!

9:00 a.m. Cinnamon Rolls/Coffee

9:30 a.m. Annual Meeting

Worship to Follow the Annual Meeting

****Please bring this report when you come to the Annual Meeting.***

2024 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – GRETNA, NE

I. OPENING PRAYER

II. AGENDA

RESOLUTION 1 – Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

III. VITALITY INITIATIVE & CALL PROCESS

IV. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS

V. REPORTS

RESOLUTION 2 – Acceptance of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION 3 – Acceptance of Reports

1. Pastor
2. Church Council President
3. Children’s Ministry
4. Treasurer
5. Endowment Board
6. Congregational Statistics
7. Ministry Teams

VI. ELECTIONS

RESOLUTION 4 – Acceptance of Ballot and Elections

1. Election of Three Church Council Members (3-3 Year Term)
2. Election of One Endowment Board Member
3. Election of Two NE Synod Assembly Delegates

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 5 – Acceptance of 2024 Ministry and Mission Budget

IX. LORD’S PRAYER / ADJOURNMENT

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2024 ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

1. **RESOLVED:** That the proposed agenda be adopted as the order of business for our 2024 meeting.
2. **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting be accepted.
3. **RESOLVED:** That the reports of the Pastor, Church Council President, Children's Ministry, Treasurer, Endowment Board, Congregational Statistics, and Ministry Teams be accepted.
4. **RESOLVED:** That the printed ballot along with any nominations from the floor be the official ballot for the election of three Church Council members (3-3-year term), one Endowment Board member, and two NE Synod Assembly Delegates.
5. **RESOLVED:** That the 2024 Mission and Ministry budget be approved.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHURCH COUNCIL
VOTE FOR THREE (THREE-YEAR TERM)

Marilyn Ellingson

My husband, Jon, and I have been members of Resurrection Ev Lutheran for 31 years. We moved to Gretna in 1993 and have raised our 4 children here. A few years after joining RELC, I joined the SEED Team, which was known as Christian Education when I first joined. I served as a Sunday School Co-Superintendent for many years and then went on to help with the Senior High Youth and attended several Mission Trips and a National Youth Gathering. Jon and I have also served as NE Synod Delegates and helped with the planning of On the Road to Christmas for the past two years.

I currently work as an Administrative Assistant for a real estate development company. Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my family, embroidering, crocheting, quilting, and reading.

Thank you for considering me to serve on the church council.

Jeremy Reece

My name is Jeremy Reece and am honored to be considered to serve on the church council. My wife Julie and I started attending services with our children at Resurrection around 2015 and joined shortly thereafter. We were members at Lutheran Church of the Master in West Omaha, but wanted to find a congregation in Gretna as our kids were nearing middle and high school age. We have three kids: Jackson (19) is a freshman majoring in Data Science at Augustana University, Elliot (16) is a sophomore at Gretna East High School, and Emilia (12) is in 6th grade at Aspen Creek Middle School. We keep busy with the boys' track and cross country activities and marching band. With the opening of Gretna East, I am proud to be a Founding Father member of the band dads.

When we joined Resurrection, I was drawn to the phrase "Share God's Word, Show God's Love, Serve God" and the friendly, welcoming congregation. We are grateful for the educational ministries that our kids have been able to be a part of and the family, small-town feel of the church. With all the growth in our community, it's an exciting time for our congregation.

Loren Foged

I have been a member of RELC for 67 years, except for a short time when I was in the Navy and transferred my membership to Hope Lutheran Church in San Diego. I have no recollection of belonging to any non-Lutheran church. I attended RELC vacation Bible school each year as a youth and have collected many memories from those periods, most of them are fond memories. After retiring from the service, I returned to Gretna and have enjoyed attending services at RELC with my family. I am now looking for an opportunity to replenish a well of memories for our congregation and future members.

NOMINATIONS FOR ENDOWMENT BOARD

VOTE FOR ONE (FIVE-YEAR TERM)

Desiree Stednitz

My family (husband Andy and daughters Lydia, Reggie and Anna) became members of RELC in 2009.

I served a year on the council as Assistant Treasurer. The following year, I transitioned to an open part-time position in the RELC office, where I worked for 7 years until this past April. Most of my work included bill paying, financial and membership record keeping and reporting.

All three of my children have attended Camp Carol Joy Holling and two have been blessed to utilize Endowment Grants for college tuition reimbursements.

I grew up in Pennsylvania and have a Mechanical Engineering Degree from Bucknell University. I served as an Army Officer for four years, worked in sourcing contracts with General Electric for five, and the accounting department at the Nebraska Medical Center for five. I currently spend my time volunteering in different capacities supporting organizations important to our family - Teammates of Gretna, The Munroe Meyer Institute, Madonna Schools and Community Services, The American Legion, The Gretna Library Foundation and RELC.

Thank you for your consideration.

DELEGATES FOR 2024 NEBRASKA SYNOD ASSEMBLY
May 31-June 2, 2024 – KEARNEY, NE
VOTE FOR TWO

Jerry and Patti Layher

Jerry and Patti Layher and their family have been members at Resurrection for 25 years. We have served in many capacities over that time, mostly in the areas of Worship and Music, as song leaders, choir, and bell choir leaders, and also with the Altar Guild. We help throughout the year with any other events that need our assistance. We have attended the Synod Assembly once before as delegates, several years ago. We would be pleased to have the opportunity to assist again in this role.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

President Bill Schwarten call the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
Pastor Al Hanson led the congregation in an opening prayer.

II. AGENDA

RESOLUTION 1 – Adoption of Meeting Agenda

President Bill Schwarten requested a motion to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting agenda.

Motion so moved by Steve Bergman, seconded and resolution adopted.

III. ELECTIONS

RESOLUTION 2 – Recognition of Retiring Council Members

Treasurer Becky Wagner requested a motion to approve the congregation's deep appreciation to the following retiring church council members Darren Elliot, Rich Killingsworth and Bill Schwarten.

Motion so moved by Richard Ayer, seconded and resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 3 – Acceptance of Ballot and Election

President Bill Schwarten requested a motion to approve the slate of candidates:

Council Members, Deb Wallman, Kyle Slusher, Justin Pedersen, 3-year terms and Tom Ostdiek, 2-year term; Endowment Board Jon Gross; Synod Assembly Delegates Dan and Carrie Grove.

Motion so moved by Richard Bergsten, seconded and resolution adopted.

IV. REPORTS

RESOLUTION 4 – Acceptance of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

President Bill Schwarten requested a motion to approve the 2022 annual meeting minutes. Motion so moved by Mardelle Bergsten, seconded and resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 5 – Acceptance of Reports

President Bill Schwarten requested a motion to approve the reports of the Pastor, Church Council President, Youth and Congregational Life Director, Treasurer, Audit, The Endowment Board, and Ministry Teams.

Motion so moved by Ryan Bergsten, seconded and resolution adopted.

V. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 6 – Endowment Board 2023 Bylaws Update.

President Bill Schwarten requested a motion to approve that the updates to the Endowment Board Bylaws.

Motion so moved by Richard Ayer, seconded and resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 7 – Sale of Rental Property

Treasurer Becky Wagner requested a motion to approve voting on the sale of two rental properties located at 124 S. Scott St. and 620 Figg St. in Gretna, NE at/or above the current market rate.

Motion so moved by Steve Bergman, seconded and resolution adopted.

Discussion was presented for sale of property. There was a lot of discussion and questions regarding this topic. Lindsey Koch amended the motion to discuss the sale of the properties separately, motion seconded. A congregational vote occurred, accepting the friendly amendment to separately discuss each rental property.

After continued discussion, Richard Bergsten brought a motion to sell the Scott Street property. The motion was seconded, and the Aye's took majority, approving the motion to sell the Scott Street property.

Discussion on the Figg Street property was had, and a motion was brought by Steve Bergsten to sell Figg St. property. It was seconded and discussion on the Figg Street property continued. Sue Lobsiger called for a vote. A vote was cast by the raising of hands and the Aye's took majority, approving the sale of the Figg Street property.

RESOLUTION 8 – Action on Proposed 2023 Mission and Ministry Budget

President Bill Schwarten requested a motion to approve the 2023 Mission and Ministry Budget as presented on Page 46 of the annual report. Sue Lobsiger made a motion to amend the proposed budget by increasing the Synod Benevolence percentage to 8% (budget proposal was 6%). Various members of the congregation brought discussion on this topic. President Bill Schwarten called for a vote by the congregation and the Aye's carried. Benevolence will stay at a total of 10% in 2023, 8% to the Synod and 2% to be distributed locally by the Benevolence and Mission team.

Becky Wagner recognized Desiree Stednitz, Jeanne Ralston and Hannah Grove on their work over the past year because we went all of 2022 without a full office staff.

VII. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

Treasurer Becky Wagner adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

Pastor led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Schram, Church Council Secretary

PASTOR REPORT

2023 Annual Report

To the Congregation of Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church

“Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not get bent out of shape.”
— not Jesus, but sounds like him.

As I reflect on the last 10 months of serving as your Transitional Pastor, I have been heartened by the flexibility of this congregation and its leaders. Coming out of COVID, the mainline church in North America (of which we are a part) has faced tremendous challenges, with lower worship attendance and flagging program engagement.

I have been privileged to learn about the history and traditions of this congregation, and what programs and ministries have been important to you over the decades. However, I am also amazed at the level of experimentation and change you have undertaken in such a short amount of time. My goal as your Transitional Pastor is to provide leadership stability, but also raise questions about changes we can make in our ministry to help reduce stress on our volunteers and office staff. In this time where you are preparing for the call process, the preparation work we are doing now will be of benefit to this church and your newly called minister.

Vitality Initiative for Congregations Program

Currently a team of individuals from Resurrection are taking part in the Nebraska Synod **Vitality Initiative for Congregations Program**. I am proud of the dedication and hard work of this team. Their work is a three-step process.

1. They have already gathered information about this congregation’s history. That has been valuable in understanding how God has been at work for decades in this church.
2. Currently, they are interviewing people of the congregation to hear their perceptions of our church and how they see God at work here.
3. The next part of the process will include a discernment of the “vocation” that God is calling us to embrace as we live into the future.

The Vitality Initiative process will conclude in March of 2025. I know this is an extended timeline, but I am glad Resurrection is taking time to slow down, engage deeply with the Vitality Initiative process, and prepare the ministry for future opportunities and the call process.

Pastor’s 2023 Project Report

During these past 10 months, as your transitional pastor, I have been focusing my time and energy on the following areas:

1. Working with leaders to change our Sunday morning worship schedule and encourage new times and formats for Sunday school.

2. Attending ministry team meetings to introduce myself and learn each team's purpose and mission.
3. Attending Worship and Music Committee meetings and working closely with Dr. Matt Hill to create a quality and uplifting worship experience.
4. Catching up with "pastoral acts" (baptisms, new member recognition, etc.) that have been on hold during the absence of a called pastor.
5. Working with the elected leaders to develop transitional "core values" (see page 40) to guide us in this interim time.
6. Being a part of the Vitality Initiative for Congregations process and a member of our team here at RELC.
7. Leading the hiring process for a Social Media & Web Coordinator and helping our new staff member Bridgid Agosta to develop content for a new website.
8. Streamlining and administering our 6th Grade Mentoring, Confirmation and High School Youth Ministry in the absence of a paid staff member being responsible for these areas.
9. In the absence of a High School and Children's Ministry director, working with our High School and Middle School parents to have social and service events that help keep our youth engaged.
10. Interviewing candidates who have applied for the positions: Director of Children's Ministry and Director of Youth Ministry.
11. Gathering a current list of our members who are "shut ins" and unable to come to church on a regular basis.
12. Working on our administrative processes and staff interaction to create an efficient and collegial work environment.

Pastor's 2024 Focus Areas

In 2024, would like to focus my work on some of the following areas:

1. Promote new approaches to **stewardship** to encourage congregational generosity.
 - a. Personal testimonials on Sunday morning
 - b. Work with the Council on an *extra mile* special gift opportunities list / project list that impacts the budget or needed areas not in budget.
 - c. Continue pre-offering messages connecting donations with programs / ministries.
 - d. Conduct a specific and tracked end of year / holiday giving campaign.
 - e. Study the feasibility of integrating a "subscription style" giving opportunity that donors can control.
 - f. Visibility of stewardship consultants in the cafe on a regular basis to help people administer their giving through Stripe and Vanco (increase / decrease / add new).
2. Help to restart a formal home visitation team for our shut ins.

3. Promote a congregational wide Bible reading spiritual practice during Lent and Advent.
4. Work with the elected leaders to determine the feasibility of restructuring and streamline some of our boards and committees.
5. Form High School Youth and Middle School Youth parent ministry planning teams.
6. Develop new approaches to acolyting, including using families in service roles for the worship service.
7. Have a summer service day for youth.
8. Teach an adult education class.
9. Work with our Social Media and Web Coordinator Bridgid Agosta to publish a new website and increase our social media presence.

I want to thank the people of Resurrection for your acceptance, generosity and hospitality. You provided me with a warm welcome when I first arrived here in March, 2023 and I have felt your love and support when you celebrated with me my 25th anniversary of my ordination and pastoral appreciation month in October. I am truly blessed to be your Transitional Pastor and thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

May God's blessings be upon us, the people of Resurrection, as we continue to prepare our congregation for the call process with faith and **flexibility!**

James C. Lindberg
Transitional Pastor
Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church
Gretna, NE

CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

2023 Annual Report Reflection and Vision

We welcomed Pastor James Lindberg as our Transitional Minister on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. It was a day full of questions, to-dos, introductions, confirmation programming realignment and to top it off, it was the first Wednesday of Lent. After an incredibly full and overwhelming day, Pastor Lindberg introduced himself to the congregation and led our first midweek Lenten service of the season.

I was alongside him through all the first day “stuff” and I was exhausted. Yet sitting down for service that evening, I distinctly remember the calmness and connection he delivered. I may have been the only one who knew how crazy the day had been, but the takeaway was monumental. If our new leader could go through a day like that and still provide a meaningful experience, despite the typical “first-time” pressures, we were in good hands. I was energized and excited to begin a new chapter at RELC.

We expected two major tasks in 2023 as outlined in Bill Schwarten’s 2022 Council President Report: 1) the formation of a call committee and 2) to begin revisiting our Strategic Long-Range Plan last updated in 2015. Both of these tasks are multifaceted and require considerable volunteer commitment.

After finishing the program year and letting the dust settle, the council held a retreat in June 2023. Two major decisions came out of the summer retreat. First, we would delay beginning the call process and partake in an 18-month long Vitality Initiative led by the NE Synod with a cohort of other congregations. This process aims to solidify who RELC is today and will assist in our call process at its conclusion. The council also elected to adopt operational core values in support of our existing SLRP plan to guild us in making decisions during this time of transition. A list of operational core values can be found at the back of the annual report.

If you dare to think movement did not occur in 2023, you would be mistaken. A theme running deep in 2023, but also since I joined council in 2021 is the need to adapt. Sometimes the need to adapt is forced upon us such as was the case with the covid pandemic or Pastor James Sells announcing his departure from RELC. At other times, adaptation is the deliberate decision by our leaders to move things in a new direction. Your Congregational Council, in consultation with ministry leaders, made the careful decision to adapt in many areas this year: keeping worship times at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., offering Sunday School during worship services, making a choral shift to a 6-week Christmas Cantata experience for the community and bringing mid-week meals back in a new format...to name a few. Additionally, we carried out the sale of our two rental properties as approved by the congregation during the 2023 annual meeting. You can find a detailed distribution of the sale proceeds in the treasurer’s report.

Our world IS different, our kids and families ARE stretched thin, our volunteer base IS smaller than it was 20 years ago. This year we took deliberate action to ADAPT.

It has been an honor to serve and lead our congregation as your council president in 2023! As my term on council comes to an end, I look forward to teaching Sunday School more regularly and serving God and our community through the eyes of children.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Wagner

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND CONGREGATION LIFE

Annual Report 2023

The first part of 2023 was so exciting for the congregation and for myself as I finished my time at RELC. We started the year off without a transitional minister so many of us, but especially the office staff, did our best to pick up the slack. We were so fortunate to have Pr. Al Hansen commit to be our supply pastor for January and February (much longer than any of us expected) in order to provide some consistency for our worshipping community.

From January until the end of the school year I was able to take on the responsibility of leading confirmation for our seventh and eighth graders. I'm so grateful for the flexibility on the part of both the parents and the confirmands as we figured out what confirmation would look like for the rest of the year. I'm glad to have had the time to get to know the confirmands so much better.

One week during the summer we went out to Carol Joy Holling with some of the confirmands for a week of camp! We spent time learning about a few of Jesus' parables (led by Pr. James Lindberg). The parables are sometimes difficult to understand but the group took them by storm and even wrote their own parables to conclude the week. I also had the pleasure of continuing to lead the high school youth for the end of the school year. I'm so thankful for their flexibility as well as my focus was stretched to new areas. I always knew that I could leave Underground with renewed excitement for the future of the church.

Five of the youth were able to join us on a mission trip down to the Texas Border. Through a local group called Border Missions we were able to get to know some members of the community who were already doing great work and showing God's love to those immigrating to the United States, often with little more than the clothes on their back. Because of Border Missions we were able to peek into the complexity of the situation at the border by learning about the history and the real needs of the communities. At the end of the trip our high schoolers and adult leaders wrote reflections about their time on the trip. I was touched to see the way that our week had impacted their faith and understanding of the world.

I ended my time at RELC by leading Vacation Bible School hosted by our congregation in conjunction with the Methodist church. You can read more about VBS in the Children's Ministry report but I'm so glad I was able see you all off with such an exciting event (and outer space happens to be one of my favorite things)!

I have been fortunate enough to have been able to return to the congregation a couple of times since I moved to Minnesota for seminary. I am so thankful for my time at RELC in which I was able to see the congregation grow and adapt to changing circumstances. I hope that I am able to take that perseverance with me as I continue my journey. Thank you all for allowing me to be your director of youth and congregational life and I look forward to seeing how you continue to grow as a community of faith but also a community of God's love in the world.

Hannah Grove

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT
2023 Annual Report

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22: 6

Despite rebranding Sunday School to Resurrection Kids, we couldn't sustain offering the two options model for the students due to volunteer needs and inconsistent attendance numbers. We never had more than 12 students on a Sunday. It was changed to offering one option on the same topic for eight weeks. The two topics taught were Holy Week and Noah's Ark.

Resurrection hosted Vacation Bible School this year with 72 children attending and 42 volunteers. Most of the work was shouldered by RELC with limited input by the Methodist congregation. We went Stellar with the emphasis on “Shine Jesus Shine.” We started off the evening with a meal and the numbers served increased as the week continued. Then the children gathered for an opening of songs and a video to introduce the topic of the evening. After the opening, the shepherd guides would take their group to different stations. The stations included snack, craft, Bible lesson and games. We ended the night with a closing in the Fellowship Hall with songs and a word from Pastor James. On the last night, everyone gathered in the green space to send our rocket blasting into space.

Sunday school went through a lot of changes this fall. It was decided that we try to have Sunday school during the church service. The students are dismissed after the children's sermon with a blessing and then dismissed at the end of the service when their parents pick them up. We kicked off Rally Sunday with 18 students attending Sunday school. We have averaged around 10 students every week. The students studied The Battle of Jericho for five weeks with five different teachers using games, drama, science, music and art. The next six weeks the students studied Feeding the 5,000 with five different teachers using science, art, food, drama, and technology. The excitement was contagious, so we added three more sessions using Advent as our theme. Lessons were chosen by the teachers. They decided to teach Jesus as the Light, the Nativity story and the shepherd's role on Christmas. These lessons have a craft for the students to take home.

Plans for spring 2024 include topics of David and Goliath and The Lord's Prayer. We will have Sunday school starting January 14 – March 17 and April 7 – April 28. The hope is that we will hire a children's director for 2024. The planning for spring semester is well under way and a discussion about plans on VBS with the Methodist church are underway.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Wallman

TREASURER REPORT

2023 Annual Report

2023 Operating Results

We set a target of \$372,000 for our primary source of income, local offering. This reflected a 12% increase over giving totals of 2022. Based on the congregations vote during the 2023 Annual Meeting, we sold our rental properties in the first half of 2023, generating \$414,000, which was distributed in the following manner:

- 30% to pay down our mortgage
- 25% to the endowment fund
- 25% to the general fund for property improvements
- 20% in a mission investment fund

Our efforts to expand alternative sources of income, such as fundraising and hall rental, have been successful, yielding over \$10,000.

It is with excitement and hope for expanded opportunities in 2024 that I report the following financial results for 2023.

Annual Giving	Building	Offering	Total	Year End Loan Balance
2021	\$96,528.98	\$324,126.20	\$420,655.18	\$402,219.38
2022	\$99,436.46	\$332,745.38	\$432,181.84	\$334,587.69
2023	\$79,694.50	\$355,108.00	\$434,802.50	\$134,480.06

While we did not quite hit our offering goal of \$372,000, we had an overall increase in giving of nearly 7%. Giving to the building fund in 2023 was down versus prior years and was a conscious decision by a large donor, given the immediate needs of the church. With our enhanced monthly repayment schedule, large payment from the rental house proceeds, and relatively low balance at a low interest rate, it is advantageous to funnel more income toward offering. The Resurrection Run & Breakfast netted \$3,271 and income from hall rental was \$4,710 and we feel these will be on-going for years to come.

An increase in giving, successful fund raising and hall rental opportunities, proceeds from the rental property sales, and expenses landing 5% below budget translates to a solid year! Although our overall net income was \$-10K for the year, we were ahead of our budget and were able to give to the synod and other charities at historical levels, while making key investments in our beautiful church. A couple of situations that are one-time in nature occurred this year:

1. Property - We replaced a furnace in November.
2. Staffing – we had a few staffing changes in 2023.
 - a. Bill Schwarten joined as Business Administrator, replacing Desiree Stednitz
 - b. Pastor James Lindberg joined as Interim Pastor.

- c. Hannah Grove, Youth Director, departed and Pastor James, Deb Wallman and others are filling in.
- d. We added a Social Media/Web Administrator.

2023 Fund Balances

With a mortgage prepayment of nearly \$125,000 from the sale of the rental properties, plus our increased monthly mortgage payments, and continued giving to the building fund, our Mortgage/Building Fund position is in a good place. Our fund balance is \$100,392.28 and our loan balance is \$134,480.06 and is due on 6/1/2029.

The Memorial Fund is in good shape with a balance of \$122,743.40. We have no large projects on the horizon, outside of what was planned and funded using the rental property proceeds.

The General Fund is strong with a balance of \$230,850.10. A strong fund is incredibly important as we embark on our call process in 2025. Having a reserve of capital will help ensure adequate office staffing funding of our transitional minister and eventually our new pastor.

A new fund that has been put in place this year, post rental property sales, is the Mission Investment Fund or MIF. This fund has a fixed return of 5.05% and has a balance of \$85,040.85.

Fund Balances	Building	Memorial	General	Mission Investment Fund	Total Fund Balances
2021	\$87,674.75	\$127,508.48	\$173,226.75		\$388,409.98
2022	\$106,993.48	\$33,338.65	\$230,185.03		\$370,517.16
2023	\$100,392.28	\$122,743.40	\$230,850.10	\$85,040.85	\$539,026.63

2024 Budget

We are setting an income goal of \$380,000, which is an increase of 7% vs. 2023. This figure reflects the level of support necessary to maintain RELC’s physical assets and continue carrying out our mission. The generosity of our congregation is amazing and so important to meeting our goals.

The fundraising and hall rental budgets have been increased in an effort to reinforce the alternative revenue stream and build on the successes in 2022 and 2023.

Budgeted administrative expenses for 2024 are +26% or \$74K higher than 2023. The budget includes a full year of staffing for Pastor Lindberg, music director, two part-time office staff and a part-time web/social media specialist. 2023 expenses were lower due to staff openings with the departure of Hannah Grove, Youth Director and only a partial year of Pastor Lindberg expenses. To further preserve resources in 2024, we have chosen to delay the hiring of the Youth and Childrens Ministry leader until 2025. Pastor James, Deb Wallman, Becky

Wagner and others are leading these important ministries in the short term with great enthusiasm and success. Utilities & services are projected to increase by 2.5%. Additionally, the 2024 budget includes raises for our staff.

Ministry team budgets remain very lean. The Worship & Music ministry has a need for a wiring overhaul for the projectors in the Fellowship Hall and the council has found alternative sources to fund the project through a special donation, using rental house sale proceeds and some additional fundraising. Worship & Music is also taking a 'wait and see' approach to the potential replacement of the Sanctuary piano. As you will recall, we replaced the digital piano in the fellowship hall in 2023 and a family covered the \$3,500 expense. Last year we also replaced the two digital projectors. The Worship & Music ministry leaders are confident the wiring and other minor fixes will ensure our projectors will work seamlessly. All our AV equipment has been wonderfully maintained and will be used for the foreseeable future.

We have stretched where we can, and our 2024 budget shows a net income of -\$19,845. This budget enables us to continue our donations locally and through the synod and carry out our mission of Sharing God's Word, Showing God's Love and Serving God.

Closing

Thank you for the honor of serving as your treasurer this year. We finished the year financially strong and, because of the generosity of our congregation, have a very bright future, as we ***Share God's Work, Show God's Love, Serve God. Amen Alleluia!***

Andy Stednitz, Treasurer
2023 RELC Congregational Council

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS
2023 Annual Report

General Fund

Beginning Balance (01/01/23)	\$230,185.03
Inflows	\$621,502.52
Outflows	\$620,837.45
Ending Balance (12/31/23)	\$230,850.10

Memorial Fund

Beginning Balance (01/01/23)	\$33,338.65
Inflows	\$110,304.98
Outflows	\$20,900.23
Ending Balance (12/31/23)	\$122,743.40

Building Account

Beginning Balance (01/01/23)	\$106,993.48
Inflows	\$79,790.54
Outflows	\$86,391.74
Ending Balance (12/31/23)	\$100,392.28

Youth Account

Beginning Balance (01/01/23)	\$15,412.47
Inflows	\$3,417.16
Outflows	\$9,803.74
Ending Balance (12/31/23)	\$9,025.89

Church Loan Information

Principal Balance (12/31/23)	\$134,480.06
Interest Rate	4.75%

Church Investment Information

Mission Investment Fund

Balance (12/31/23)	\$85,040.85
Interest Rate	5.005%

ENDOWMENT BOARD

2023 Annual Report

Board Members:

Kevin Karas	Chairperson	5 th Year
Tammy Williams	Secretary	4 th Year
Jeremy Reineke		3 rd Year
Mark Grimm	Treasurer	2 nd Year
Jon Gross		1 st Year
Becky Wagner	Council Liaison	

The Endowment Fund was established in 1990. The Endowment Fund's principal has been funded by charitable contributions from members of the congregation and proceeds from the sale of church rental properties. The purpose of the Fund is to distribute the available investment income each year to enhance the mission of RELC apart from the general operations of the congregation for the following purposes as described in the Endowment By-Laws:

- a) For major capital improvements, debt reduction, or building programs of RELC.
- b) For scholarships or grants to members of RELC for the purpose of attending college, seminary, nursing or medical school; for church related camping or leadership conferences; or such other training which enables members of this congregation to grow in Christian faith and service to God's people.
- c) For outreach into the community including, but not limited to, grants to ELCA colleges, seminaries, social services agencies, institutions and agencies to which this congregation relates and to special programs designed for persons in our parish area who are in need.

Since its inception, the fund distributions have been exclusively used to fund scholarships. In the future, as the fund grows, more investment income will be available to potentially support other approved purposes. Below is a summary of the current Endowment Fund balance and disbursement activity.

2023 Financial Highlights:

Fund Principal (since inception):	\$314,491.48
Fund Balance as of 11/30/23:	\$344,405.31
2023 Disbursements (as of 11/30/23)	\$ 12,349.00

Summary of 2023 cash disbursements:

Tuition Scholarships	\$ 10,063.00
Camp Scholarships	\$ 2,286.00

The following table shows historical annual Endowment Fund distributions:

Historical Fund Distributions							
2023	\$12,349	2015	\$16,669	2007	\$10,068	1999	\$13,031
2022	\$19,112	2014	\$14,409	2006	\$7,345	1998	\$37,835
2021	\$17,266	2013	\$14,109	2005	\$8,307	1997	\$10,201
2020	\$22,810	2012	\$13,970	2004	\$8,531	1996	\$16,872
2019	\$17,540	2011	\$21,725	2003	\$8,518	1995	\$13,502
2018	\$15,519	2010	\$13,404	2002	\$10,046	1994	\$8,080
2017	\$11,495	2009	\$6,538	2001	\$9,698	1993	\$13,897
2016	\$6,833	2008	\$7,720	2000	\$12,325	1990-92	\$21,294
Total distributions since inception \$441,018							

Notable items in 2023:

- Conducted the annual Investment Performance Review with the fund management team from Core Bank. The portfolio allocation continues to align with our investment policy target allocation of 75% equities and 25% fixed income.
- Updated the Endowment Board website information, including new scholarship request forms
- At the 2023 annual meeting the congregation approved the proposed Endowment By-Laws changes to better align the by-laws with current practices.
- New contributions to the Endowment Fund principal balance totaling \$105,371.38 were received in 2023. Total contributions included \$104,401.08 allocated by the church council from proceeds of the sale of the Scott St. and Figg St. rental properties.

Please keep in mind that a gift to the Endowment Fund makes a long-lasting contribution to the church and its programs. The Board welcomes the input of the congregation regarding gifts and disbursements. Please contact a Board member with any suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Karas, Chairperson

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

2023 Annual Report

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
BAPTIZED	673	665	676	691	531
CHILDREN	169	193	183	173	139
CONFIRMED	446	452	459	478	378
COMMUNING	450	287	351	371	336
COMMUNED & CONTRIBUTED MEMBERS	225	174	201	218	195

CURRENT YEAR – 2023

MEMBERS RECEIVED

Baptized	6
Transferred In/Profession of Faith	11

MEMBERS REMOVED

Died	7
Transferred Out/Moved/Request	16
Statistical Adjustment-Removed Inactive	162

CONFIRMED THIS YEAR 12

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u> Pre-COVID	<u>2020</u> COVID	<u>2021</u> COVID	<u>2021</u> Post-COVID	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
SATURDAY 5:30pm	37	37	16	27	25	29	n/a
TRADITIONAL 8:30am	76	73	n/a	n/a	53	61	61
CONTEMPORARY 10:00am	108	103	34	71	80	78	79
AVERAGE WORSHIP TOTALS	221	206	54	103	146	157	135
ONLINE	n/a	n/a	#s not recorded	#s not recorded	33	34	n/a

2020 Note: Regular services were held until March 8th. Restricted COVID services were initiated June 27th and held through the end of the year. Virtual services were recorded/posted during COVID, but no attendance was recorded. The only communion recorded after March 8th was for Christmas Eve services.

2021 Note: Restricted COVID services were held until May 30th. Regular services were resumed June 6th and held through the end of the year. Virtual services were recorded/posted during COVID. June 6th through the end of the year Online attendance was recorded. (Attendance = YouTube views 8 days X 2, per Synod guidelines).

2022 Note: Saturday Services were held January through May.

BENEVOLENCE & MISSION TEAM

2023 Annual Report

Team Members:

Del Armstrong (chairperson)

Jim Eichner

Kyle Slusher (secretary)

Jimm Murray

Sue Lobsiger

Rich Armstrong

Council Liaison: Evan Kock

Nebraska Synod/ELCA Mission Share:

8% of our offering each month goes directly to the Nebraska Synod/ELCA

Total for 2023 = \$28,408.66

Other Giving:

2% of our offering is distributed to local charitable programs quarterly

Total for 2023 = \$7,102.16

- We have committed to give \$850 per year for the next 3 years to Gretna Neighbors to be used towards their rental obligation. Our \$212.50 quarterly commitment will come off the top each quarter.

1st Quarter - \$1,872.83

- \$ 212.50 Gretna Neighbors 2022-2024 Rental Commitment (\$850/yr for 3 yrs)
- \$ 500.00 HETRA
- \$ 580.17 Least of My Brethren
- \$ 580.16 Table Grace

2nd Quarter - \$1,410.06

- \$ 212.50 Gretna Neighbors 2022-2024 Rental Commitment (\$850/yr for 3 yrs)
- \$ 598.78 Project Hope – Bread of Life Campaign
- \$ 598.78 Lift Up Sarpy County

3rd Quarter - \$1,162.15

- \$ 212.50 Gretna Neighbors 2022-2024 Rental Commitment (\$850/yr for 3 yrs)
- \$ 949.65 Gretna Neighbors Thanksgiving Turkey Breasts

4th Quarter - \$2,657.12

- \$ 212.50 Gretna Neighbors 2022-2024 Rental Commitment (\$850/yr for 3 yrs)
- \$1,222.31 Table Grace Café
- \$1,222.31 Least of My Brethren

Lenten Offering - \$2,091.90

Lenten Offerings	Offering Dates	
Project Hope	22-Feb-2023	\$348.65
Table Grace Café	1-Mar-2023	\$348.65
NE Synod - NE Lutheran Outdoor Ministries	8-Mar-2023	\$348.65
Lutheran Family Services - Refugee Services	15-Mar-2023	\$348.65
Lift Up Sarpy County	22-Mar-2023	\$348.65
NE Synod - Lutheran Campus Ministry (The Lutheran Center)	29-Mar-2023	\$348.65
		\$2,091.90

Total Team Giving (M&B + Lent) for 2023 = \$9,194.06

Grand Total RELC Distribution 2023 (ELCA + M&B + Lent) = \$37,602.72

HEALTH MINISTRY TEAM

2023 Annual Report

Blessings to you from your Health Ministry Team!

Your Health Ministry Team is comprised of trained Faith Community Nurses and several dedicated health professionals and lay members who have an interest in health promotion and wellness.

Health Education – We continue with newsletters in the Messenger, offering timely information for whole-person health. In November, the Health Ministry Team received \$2500 from UNMC's Nebraska's Health Matters program and United Healthcare to provide education on prediabetes and provided all adults at church an opportunity to complete a brief prediabetes risk test. Any adult completing the risk test received a \$10 gift card to Fareway. Education packets and the risk test were also provided to adults picking up food on November 18th at the Gretna Neighbors, along with one \$10 gift card to Fareway for each family picking up food that day.

Medical Supply Closet – The Medical Equipment Closet has moved to the room on the northwest end of the education wing. If you need like-new medical equipment, you can borrow any item from the closet at no charge for as long as you need it. You are now able to check out equipment on your own. Step-by-step instructions are provided. You can also donate your gently used equipment for others to use. Contact Linda Anderson if you have any questions or do not see equipment that you need.

AED & First Aid Kits – The Health Ministry Team maintains the AED and First Aid Kits at Resurrection. The team also coordinates regular CPR/AED training for ministry leaders and staff at Resurrection. A big Thank You to LaRene Walker for providing this instruction for us!

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Dozens of prayer shawls have been distributed throughout the year to members and loved ones in our congregation, individuals in area hospitals, and veterans and others who are receiving hospice care. In addition, wash cloths and hot pads are being made and donated to Least of My Brethren and other organizations supporting the underserved. Feel free to stop by the office anytime to pick up a prayer shawl, prayer square, or lap robe for someone who is going through a difficult time. The group is currently meeting monthly - if you would like more information, contact Karen Hitz.

Physical Activity Classes –

- **Tai Chi Class** – We continue to offer two 12-week sessions of Tai Chi a year on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00-9:45 a.m. The average daily attendance at our Tai Chi class is 16. We concluded our 12-week session on Wednesday, November 22nd, and plan on starting the next 12-week session on Monday, January 15th. The class is FREE for participants. Please join us...and bring a friend!

- **Falls Prevention Awareness** – National Falls Prevention Awareness Week is recognized each year on the first day of fall. This year, the Health Ministry Team partnered with the Nebraska Older Adult Falls Coalition to raise awareness about this important health issue. On Wednesday, September 20, our Tai Chi class attendees provided a Tai Chi demo in Peterson Park, to educate the public that Tai Chi is the best practice to reduce fall risk in older adults. There were 13 in attendance at the event, including several members of the community who came to learn more. Everyone enjoyed the event, and we hope to plan another Tai Chi in the Park opportunity for the community in 2024.
- **Low-Impact Exercise** – We also offer a FREE Low-Impact Exercise class on Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Attendees exercise together at their own pace. Please join us...and bring a friend!

Blood Pressure Screenings – The Health Ministry Team is currently providing monthly blood pressure screenings between services on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Come and see us in the office between services, and get a gold star for taking charge of your health!

Colon Cancer Screening – In March, we partnered with the Great Plains Colon Cancer Task Force to distribute FREE colon cancer screening kits in the congregation. We also provided information about colon cancer prevention and screening to the Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry. The information was shared during a food distribution day, and provided information about how they could request a free colon cancer screening kit via the mail.

Earth Day Education – Team members worked with Hannah to offer an Earth Day activity for the Sunday School kids in April. The activity encouraged the kids to think about how we can all be good stewards of God’s creation.

Nursing Students – We continued to partner with nursing students from Clarkson College and Creighton University. The students learn about Community Nursing and provide health education to members of our congregation and the community.

VBS Health Table – Nurses from the Health Ministry Team covered the Health Table at VBS this year. The team provided first aid assistance to kids and adults during VBS.

As always, if you have any health-related questions or concerns, please give us a call. We are here to serve you! Also, if you have an interest in joining our Health Ministry Team, please contact Nicki Ayer or call the office.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicki Ayer

LOCAL AND WORLD SERVICE

2023 Annual Report

Areas of Focus:

Gretna & Sarpy County:

- *Provide gift cards for food or gas for people in times of need.
- *Continue to raise funds for the Good Samaritan Fund and student sponsorships through TAGG and Best Choice Save-A-Label program.
- *Helped decorate at HETRA for Blue Jeans and Dreams event.

Greater Omaha area:

- *Coordinated Lenten Gift bags – filled with various food and household items for those in need – Provided to Project Hope.
- *Partnered with Habitat for Humanity helping by providing a meal and labor for 2 Saturdays in the fall
- *Sponsored Knights of Columbus coat drive
- *Coordinated collecting travel-size hygiene items for our hospitalized military veterans.
- *Collected food to meet the basic nutritional requirements of people who reach out to Project Hope.
- *Provided Christmas gifts to 55 residents in the Douglas County Nursing Home.
- *Collected pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha.
- *Continued to promote & accept food, clothing and personal hygiene donations for Project Hope food pantry.

World:

- *Sponsoring 2 primary students in the Nkuu Kati Parish in Tanzania.

The Local and World Service Team would like to thank everyone who generously supported our team's ministry to reach out and serve others in the name of Christ.

Serving on the Local and World Service Team for 2023 were: Nicole Slusher: Chair, Shelley Schram, Kari Bergsten, Sue Lobsiger, Kathy Keasling

NURSERY MINISTRY

2023 Annual Report

My name is Megan Grove, and I am the current Nursery Director. I am a current Kindergarten Teacher in OPS and enjoy working with young children. The nursery is open every Sunday from 8:00 a.m.-the end of 2nd service. We have been averaging 2-4 children each week. I look forward to working with you and your children throughout the rest of the school year!

Megan Grove,
RELC Nursery Coordinator

PRAYER TEAM

2023 Annual Report

Prayer is a vital part of our faith. The Prayer Team mission will continue to be to pray for those in need and to share requested prayers with those on the contact list via e-mail. We received around 40 prayer requests through the first week of December. A lot of changes and a new focus for the team took place this year. After Pastor Lindberg arrived, he encouraged us to go back to the title of Prayer Team and to make that our primary purpose. With that in mind, we tried to clean up our procedures. First, we changed our email address. Second, Becky Wagner set up a QR code for us and an automated spreadsheet that keeps all prayer requests in a spreadsheet. Next, Tammy set up an automated response for first time users to let them know that their prayer request will be sent on to the prayer team. Finally, we decided to go back to monthly meetings and to set up some activities to involve the congregation more in our prayers. We handed out bookmarks on Rally Sunday with our QR code and email address and for another activity we had the congregation write on a leaf what they were thankful for in their lives and used those during service before Thanksgiving. Pastor James also shared a prayer for congregational members to use for their Thanksgiving dinners. Pastor James has been very helpful with his guidance and bringing different prayer styles during the contemporary service.

In the next year, we will continue to work on how our team will function in 2024. During Lent we hope to do another prayer event to involve more members of RELC. We continue to look at ways to grow our team and become active in our church.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 it says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." We pray that you continue your prayer journey in 2024 and lean on Him who gives us strength.

Prayerfully submitted,
Prayer Team

OUTREACH

2023 Annual Report

Team Members

Tom Ostdiek (Council Liaison), Anne Brodin (Co-Chair), Brenda Fleck (Co-Chair), Ryan Bergsten, Wendy Hirschfeld, Eric Pinkall (Recording Secretary), Bill Schwarten.

The Outreach team's purpose is to facilitate community outreach and events that introduce Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church and invite members of the community through the RELC website, marketing, and social media. We also sponsor events that support the integration of new members and member engagement.

The following activities were conducted by the Outreach team in 2023:

- The Resurrection Run & Community Breakfast was held on July 29. This is a huge opportunity to showcase our church to the community. Additional advertising and promoting this as a "community breakfast" increased the number of runners and breakfasts served. We served approximately 300 people and raised over \$3,400 from the run and breakfast combined!
- Website management is one of the ongoing tasks of the Outreach team. This entails working with a website developer and assuring the information is continually updated. In 2023, the website was redesigned/updated to account for all the changes at RELC. This role will no longer be handled by the Outreach Team as the church has contracted with a website/social media manager.
- Outreach assists in promoting RELC activities and events such as VBS, Trunk or Treat, etc.
- We create the schedule and manage the greeters for service each week.
- We manage the Resurrection Café and assure the donuts and coffee are ready to go each week. This includes assuring that supplies are stocked, and the café is staffed. We expanded the café to the entire year (in the past we only offered café during the school year).

As a team, we continue to explore ways to ensure everyone feels welcome and is aware of RELC activities and opportunities to serve. Anyone is welcome to join our team. Please consider this important and fun ministry!

Respectfully submitted,
The Outreach Team

PROPERTY

2023 Annual Report

Team Members

Bill Schwarten (Chairperson)
Brian Roeber (Council Liaison)
Evan Peters
Bryan Ralston

Steve Bergman
Dan Hokens
Jeremy Reineke
Dan Grove

Jim Haver
Miles McMahill
Dave Schram
Kris Wagner

The Property Team had another busy year in 2023 as evidenced by the below list of completed projects. We want to extend our sincere thanks to those individuals who so willingly, throughout the year, gave of their time, talents and in several cases their financial resources to assist in the completion of these projects. The Property Team understands that the completion of some of these projects could not be done without the help of congregational volunteers.

As we move forward into 2024, most of the major projects over the past several years have been completed and as you can see below, the future project list is smaller than ever. Hopefully monitoring and repairing items as they arise will eliminate the need for major projects. Since we are a team that thrives on communication, if you see a problem or a potential issue, **PLEASE** contact one of us and we will do what it takes to get the problem or issue resolved. Thank You!!!

COMPLETED PROJECTS IN THE LAST YEAR

- Supervised carpet and hard floor cleaning in fellowship hall, kitchen, and surrounding areas
- Constant monitoring of all HVAC units (14 units) for proper functioning and filter changes
- **Spring/Fall maintenance on sprinkler system
- **Landscape maintenance including Spring & Fall Cleanup
- **Weekly church property mowing
- **Removed and replaced north entry concrete and handicap pad that was failing
- **Maintain mowing equipment
- **Assist in Christmas decorating and lighting of the church
- **/**Continue the transition lighting from incandescent & fluorescent to LED as necessary or as current bulb stock is depleted
- ***Removed and infilled education hallway water fountain
- ***Replaced one furnace
- ***Replaced bad windows on south end curtain wall
- ***Offices and office work area painting

- ***Installed walk off carpet in north entry thus eliminating rug tripping hazards
- ***Started the process of changing the Fellowship Hall lighting. This project will hopefully be completed by the 2024 Annual Meeting

FUTURE PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION

- **Fellowship Hall, hallways, and classroom painting
- ***Install hard surface flooring in the Fellowship Hall where food is served
- ***Refinish/re-stain the outdoor exposed wood trusses or capping in aluminum
- ***Replace bad windows in the Fellowship Hall

**** - Includes congregational volunteers and the Property Team**

***** Includes outside contractors**

STEWARDSHIP
2023 Annual Report

See Pastor's Annual Report for information about 2024 Stewardship goals.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

2023 Annual Report

The year began after a tumultuous Advent/Christmas season as we transitioned from supply pastor coverage to our new interim pastoral leadership in the first quarter of the year. My primary goal was to ensure as much continuity in the corporate worship experience as possible, which I think we achieved.

Now, with Pastor Lindberg firmly ensconced as our Pastor, I have experienced a level of joy in ministry that I didn't know I could still have. Pastor Lindberg is a welcome colleague and spiritual leader, and I am grateful for his guidance and partnership as we work together to craft Spirit-filled services each week.

As I share every year, worship is at the heart of congregational life and we are blessed to be called to lead in this ministry.

Musical ensembles continue to be the lifeblood of the weekly music ministry at Resurrection.

The 10:00 a.m. music team is as faithful as any I have ever worked with. These musicians and our technical support volunteers work diligently to refine familiar songs and to introduce new selections in the worship flow throughout the year, with six new congregational songs added to the 10:00 a.m. catalog in 2023.

The Bell Choir continues to meet enthusiastically from September to April and has grown in number and ability in the last year. We are finally back to pre-Covid strength.

Due to a decline in participation in the Chancel Choir in recent years, we decided to employ a new strategic approach in hopes of attracting more singers for a short-term high-reward experience. The 2023 Gretna-Area Christmas Cantata Choir quadrupled the size of our Spring 2023 Chancel Choir, and provided worship-filled music making for Resurrection members and nonmembers alike. The Saturday evening Lessons and Carols style service allows us to avoid any Sunday-church-related conflicts, which makes it possible for singers from other churches to participate. Given the strong positive response this year we will continue with this format next Fall.

In addition to my musical leadership, I have overseen the bidding, purchase, and installation of new projectors for the Fellowship Hall and two new desperately-needed digital pianos for our worship spaces. I am grateful to the Worship and Music Committee and to our Council leadership for their partnership, and to you for your support of our ministry.

My prayer is that our music ministry enhances your worship experience, and that our fellowship serves those who share their time and talents with us.

May God continue to bless our work and our worship,
Matt Hill

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

2023 Annual Report

Members: DeeAnn Hartman (Chair), Beth Rippe (Secretary), Matt Hill (Music Director), Becky Wagner & Deb Wallman (Council Liaisons), Matt Layher, Patti Layher, Jerry Layher, Pr. James Lindberg

The Worship and Music Committee continues to support the work of Resurrection Lutheran Church in the context of Worship and Music Ministry. Our committee oversees several subcommittees coordinating much of the “behind the scenes” work to support the ministry. We would like to thank all of our subcommittee leaders and our many volunteers for their willingness to serve in the mission of Resurrection Lutheran Church.

We are thankful for the musical talents of our accompanists Cayce Wilkinson and Sheri Feala for our traditional services. In addition to our Contemporary Service Praise Band, we have a wonderful group of volunteers on our Screen Team who operate the screens each Sunday.

Music ensembles resumed for the programming year in September. Bell choir continues to share music on a monthly basis during the programming year and we are grateful for their music ministry and commitment to the group. Due to a decline in participation, the Chancel choir was modified to create a Christmas Cantata which rehearsed weekly from October to December with a Christmas performance on Saturday evening, December 9th, 2023. The Cantata included more than 25 voices from RELC and the Gretna Community and performed a Lessons & Carols style service followed by light refreshments and fellowship. Our music ensembles are so important to our ministry, and we want to thank all of our ensemble members for sharing their time and talents.

The W&M committee continues to maintain and update the AV systems in the fellowship hall and sanctuary. The two projectors in the fellowship hall were replaced in the fall, but not without a few bumps in the road. We look to update some hardware to aid in the sequence of powering each component appropriately. The clavino in the sanctuary was replaced thanks to a generous donation and we look to replace the fellowship hall clavino in the future. Thank you to Matt Hill for overseeing these projects and for your professional network of experienced local vendors.

As usual, if you have an interest in becoming a member of the W&M team, any of the music ensembles, or any of our subcommittees, feel free to reach out to one of our team members and we will find a place for your talents.

Serving in God’s Spirit,
Worship & Music Committee

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

2023 Annual Report

- Manage ongoing Office 365 subscriptions
- Manage email Distribution lists and One Drive sharing
- Numerous support calls were fielded
- Assist new website enablement

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

2023 Annual Report

Women Fellowship meets each month on the third Tuesday morning at 9:00 with coffee and treats followed by a Bible study. This year we are studying the lessons from the Gather Magazine. In July our group went out for breakfast to First Watch in Papillion.

Lutheran World Relief quilting group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays throughout the year. This year we sent 47 quilts to LWR in November. We welcome anyone to come and help us tie or sew tops for us at home.

We continued the practice of giving quilts to our graduating High School seniors in May. The tops are sewed by our quilt group, and the graduate and family meet with us to tie the quilt. It is a wonderful time for us to connect with the graduate and find out his or her future plans. The first Sunday in May we present the quilts to each graduate, and their family wraps the quilt around them during the church service. We had 8 seniors this year.

Our funeral committee served nine funeral luncheons this year. Thank you to all who signed up to work or brought desserts during this difficult time.

Thank you to all who change paraments, polish brass, call for flowers and bulletins, set up communion, and decorate for the holidays. We are blessed by all who help.

Respectively submitted,
Judy Feit

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TREASURER REPORT

2023 Annual Report

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2023	\$ 9,356.21
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Income:

Offering	\$ 464.00
Funeral Serving	\$ 750.00
Donations for Senior Quilts	\$ 50.00
Memorial from Birthday Bank	\$ 50.00

Total Income	\$ 1,314.00
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Expenses:

Senior Quilt Supplies	\$ 172.37
Misc. Expense (See itemization below)	\$ 5,896.98
Donations:	\$ 250.00

Total Expenses	\$ 6,319.35
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Ending Balance - December 31, 2023	\$ 4,350.86
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Miscellaneous Expenses:

Memorial-Richard Bergsten	\$ 50.00
Kitchen Supplies - 2 coffee servers, 2 cold beverage servers	\$ 154.82
New Altar Scarfs	\$ 550.66
Kitchen Paperware	\$ 141.50
New Paraments – The Cosgrave Company	\$ 5,000.00
	\$ 5,896.98

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Westenberg

MISSION AND MINISTRY BUDGET 2024

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual Cost	Budget
Income			
COMMITTEE INCOME	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,142	\$ 1,000
HALL RENTAL	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,710	\$ 5,000
INTEREST	\$ 250	\$ 1,660	\$ 1,800
Local Offering			
Vanco-Simply Giving	\$ 111,600	\$ 96,068	\$ 101,000
Local Envelope	\$ 260,400	\$ 259,040	\$ 279,000
TOTAL LOCAL OFFERING	\$ 372,000	\$ 355,108	\$ 380,000
RENTAL PROPERTY INCOME	\$ 25,392	\$ 8,011	\$ -
TOTAL FUNDRAISING	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,073	\$ 5,000
Mission - Designated			
Lenten Offering & Misc.	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,714	\$ 5,000
TOTAL MISSION - DESIGNATED	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,714	\$ 5,000
Special Events Income			
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 750	\$ 707	\$ 700
TOTAL SPECIAL EVENTS INCOME	\$ 750	\$ 707	\$ 700
Total Income	\$ 412,892	\$ 381,125	\$ 398,500
Expense			
ADMINISTRATIVE			
INSURANCE	\$ 19,000	\$ 17,257	\$ 19,000
MISC EXPENSE			
Background Checks	\$ 100	\$ 63	\$ 100
Devotion Guides	\$ 205	\$ 235	\$ 200
Misc	\$ 200	\$ 1,183	\$ 200
Pulpit Supply	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,258	\$ 1,500
Synod Delegates	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,509	\$ 1,900
Vanco Services	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,659	\$ 1,700
Total MISC EXPENSE	\$ 5,705	\$ 8,857	\$ 6,100
OFFICE EXPENSE			
Office Temporary Labor	\$ 2,160	\$ 2,408	\$ 1,000
Office Supplies	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,719	\$ 2,000
Postage	\$ 2,000	\$ 746	\$ 1,000
SERVICES-Copier & Accounting Srvc.	\$ 4,030	\$ 3,903	\$ 4,100
Total OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 10,390	\$ 8,726	\$ 8,100
SALARY & BENEFITS	\$ 239,173	\$ 220,542	\$ 266,700

	2023	2023	2024
	Budget	Actual Cost	Budget
UTILITIES			
Electric	\$ 12,000	\$ 11,626	\$ 11,900
Natural Gas	\$ 9,000	\$ 10,532	\$ 10,800
Refuse	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,149	\$ 1,200
Telephone	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,028	\$ 4,100
Water	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,657	\$ 2,000
Total UTILITIES	\$ 28,900	\$ 29,992	\$ 30,000
Total ADMINISTRATIVE	\$ 304,168	\$ 285,339	\$ 329,900
BENEVOLENCE	\$ 42,200	\$ 36,029	\$ 43,000
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$ 6,150	\$ 3,192	\$ 5,275
HEALTH MINISTRY	\$ 1,160	\$ 511	\$ 770
OUTREACH			
Marketing/Outreach	\$ 2,000	\$ 192	\$ 500
New Member Reception	\$ 250	\$ 120	\$ 200
Resurrection Cafe	\$ 1,000	\$ 917	\$ 2,000
Total OUTREACH	\$ 5,500	\$ 3,192	\$ 2,700
PROPERTY			
Fire System Maintenance	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,486	\$ 1,800
Interior Maintenance	\$ 5,000	\$ 8,239	\$ 5,000
Exterior Maintenance	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,973	\$ 5,000
Janitorial	\$ 12,000	\$ 9,845	\$ 12,000
Test Lawn Sprinkler Backflow	\$ 200	\$ 269	\$ 300
Total PROPERTY	\$ 25,800	\$ 29,769	\$ 24,100
STEWARDSHIP	\$ 400		
TECHNOLOGY	\$ 2,860	\$ 2,990	\$ 3,900
WORSHIP AND MUSIC			
Music for Choirs	\$ -	\$ 453	\$ 600
Multi-Media	\$ 500	\$ 296	\$ 500
Altar Guild	\$ 450	\$ 618	\$ 500
Choir Accompanist	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,550	\$ 800
Holiday Flowers	\$ 75	\$ 214	\$ 300
Service Accompanist	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,510	\$ 4,000
License	\$ 1,485	\$ 1,114	\$ 1,500
Maintenance/Repairs	\$ 500	\$ 508	\$ 500
Other-Pastor Service Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500
Total WORSHIP AND MUSIC	\$ 24,810	\$ 31,039	\$ 9,200
Total Expense	\$ 426,909	\$ 391,924	\$ 418,845
Net Income	\$ (14,017)	\$ (10,799)	\$ (20,345)



RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL
L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

Operating with the Following Values

Faith

We exist as a faith community, sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the world.

Focus

We focus our energy, time, and resources on the agreed upon signature ministries of our congregation with excellence and passion.

Innovation

We take creative risks and try new things to move our ministry forward.

Collaboration

We work with respect amongst our staff and leadership teams to fulfill our faith mission.

Hospitality

We foster an environment of graciousness and love for all who live among us and pass through our doors.