

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

January, 2023

## MISSION STATEMENT

*We are a church centered in Christ,  
inviting all into a community of worship,  
nurturing all to be disciples of Jesus.  
Together we reach out to make a difference here and  
throughout the world.*



## OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

West Salem, Wisconsin

[www.oursaviorswestsalem.org](http://www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

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## **THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Sunday, January 29, 2023 – 11:30 a.m.

President Jen Linse, presiding

### **DEVOTIONS**

### **VIDEO GREETING FROM BISHOP MALPICA**

**MINUTES** of last Annual Meeting, January 30, 2022

### **REPORTS**

1. Pastors
2. President's and Church Council
3. Committees, Ministries and Other Reports
4. Financial

### **ELECTIONS**

- Congregation Council
  - four for three-year terms
- Two to the Endowment Fund Committee for a three-year term

### **NOMINATING PROCESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Approval of the 2023 Budget - Resolution #1
- Approval of Mission Endowment Proposal – Resolution #2
- Building Needs Presentation

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
January 30, 2022

President Jen Linse called the meeting to order at 11:20 AM. There were 31 in attendance.

**Agenda:** President Linse noted that there were two additions to the agenda – the election of Sugar Creek and Bethany Homes representatives, and a revision of the authorized amount for the tech project. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

**Devotions:** Pastor Jean led devotions.

**Minutes:** President Linse drew attention to the minutes of the June 14, 2021 annual meeting, which were approved by the Congregation Council at its July, 2021 meeting.

**Reports:** The following reports were noted: Pastors, President and Council, Committees, Financial, and other reports.

- A motion was made and seconded to receive the various reports, as well as accept the 2021 budget report and other financial reports for 2021. Motion carried.

**Elections:** President Linse noted the following nominations in the annual report on p.22, and the additional nominees for Sugar Creek and Bethany Homes on the addendum distributed at the meeting.

- Congregation Council (three-year term – four to be elected) – Naoko Giblin, Alison Hemker, and Jen Linse
- Congregation Council (two-year term – one to be elected) – Michelle Witte
- President Linse asked for nominations from the floor for Congregation Council. Jeff Haldeman was nominated for a three-year term.
- Mission Endowment Fund (three-year term – two to be elected) – Jeff Rich, Melody Schmitz
  - A motion was made and seconded to close nominations for all positions. Motion carried.
  - A motion was made and seconded to elect the five candidates for Congregation Council and two candidates for Mission Endowment Fund as nominated. Motion carried.
- 2022 Synod Assembly voting member (four to be elected for one-year term) – President Linse noted that there are no nominations for Assembly voting member. In the absence of nominations from the floor, the Congregation Council will appoint voting members.

- Sugar Creek representatives –Mike Larson, Jeff Haldeman
  - A motion was made and seconded to close nominations for Sugar Creek delegates. Motion carried.
  - A motion was made and seconded to elect the two candidates as nominated. Motion carried.
- Eagle Crest Communities (formerly Bethany Homes) representatives – Larry Blunck, Jim Michelson
  - A motion was made and seconded to close nominations for Eagle Crest Communities delegates. Motion carried.
  - A motion was made and seconded to elect the two candidates as nominated. Motion carried.

**Nominating Committee** – President Linse noted that for the past several years we have used a different process for securing nominations rather than a Nominating Committee. Pastor Jon explained that process, stating it has worked well. There being no nominations for the Nominating Committee, the congregation will use the same process next year.

**Unfinished Business** – Pastor Jon reported that the tech project is expected to begin the week of May 23 after a long delay due to supply chain issues. As with other areas, costs have risen. In 2021 the Annual Meeting authorized an expenditure not to exceed \$40,000. Dean Olson has requested an additional \$5,000 to complete the work we have planned.

- A motion was made and seconded to increase the authorization for the tech project from \$40,000 to \$45,000. Motion carried.

### **New Business** –

- **2022 Budget** – President Linse presented the proposed 2022 budget, and asked Pastor Jon to review the budget. Pastor Jon reviewed the 2022 budget proposal and answered questions concerning several budget line items.
  - A motion was made and seconded to adopt the 2022 budget as presented. Motion carried.
- **Mission Endowment Fund Resolutions** – President Linse drew attention to resolutions #2-4, on pp. 42-43, regarding the Mission Endowment Fund, and come to this meeting recommended by the Congregation Council. Pastor Jon explained each of the three resolutions.
  - A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution #2, removing undesignated memorials from the third resolved of the Resolution Establishing Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Endowment Fund. Motion carried.

- A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution #3, amending Section I, Paragraph 7 of the Plan of Operation for the Mission Endowment Fund by changing the amount from \$750,000 to \$1,500,000. Motion carried.
- A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution #4, amending Section III, Paragraph 4 of the Plan of Operation of the Mission Endowment Fund to require the annual distribution to be adopted by the Annual Meeting of the congregation. Motion carried.

**Expression of Thanks** – Pastor Jon expressed the thanks of the pastors for all who have served on councils over the past years, and for those who continue to serve us, and especially for President Linse for her leadership of the council and congregation. He also thanked the many who have continued to share in the work of this congregation and to support our work together.

**Adjourn**

- A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 PM. Motion carried.

Pastor Jon closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Jean Schmidt  
Acting Congregation Council Secretary

## 2022 Congregation Council Members

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>	<u>TERM</u>
Jaime Fortier	2023	First
Bonnie Gensch	2023	First
Naoko Giblin	2025	First
Jeff Haldeman	2025	First
Alison Hemker	2025	Second
Tiffany Janisch	2024	First
Carolyn Karl	2023	First
Jen Linse	2025	Second
Brenda Skittone	2024	First
Chad Vick	2023	First
Michelle Witte	2024	First

### Officers of the Church Council and the Congregation

President: Jen Linse  
Vice-president: Jaime Fortier  
Secretary: Carolyn Karl

### Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Jonathan Schmidt  
Associate Pastor: Jean Schmidt  
Administrative Assistant: Kris Seeger  
Director of Youth Ministry: Wendy Amundson  
Treasurer: Jill Iliff  
Music Director: Linda Berg  
Musicians: Linda Berg and Laurie Noelke  
Senior Choir Director: Eric Sorenson  
Choir Accompanist: Linda Berg  
Financial Secretary: Karen DeSchepper  
Custodian: Josh Corning

## Senior Pastor's Report

As I write this report it's cold and rainy. Yes, it's January, it's Wisconsin, and ... it's raining. But not to fear, the weather forecast for 48 hours from now includes "watching a potential winter storm." Not the best weather! Of course, as I have heard people say, "If you don't like our weather, just wait five minutes. It will change!" (*Note: they say the same thing in Upper Michigan, Chicago, and Buffalo!*) The point is that things are cold, ugly, and depressing. And the only change in the forecast is ... worse!

That is kind of the way things feel these days. We've struggled over the past three years to move out from a pandemic, moving beyond Covid, hoping for things to change. And what do we get? Still Covid, but now the flu and RSV. Moreover, most economists predict a recession coming, political dis-ease remains, and the war in Ukraine isn't going away. And to add insult to injury, the Packers didn't make the playoffs, the Vikings are already out, and Pastor Jean's Bears have the first pick in the upcoming NFL draft because they earned it.

And then it will snow on Wednesday!

Like the view outside my window, there seems to be no hope, no light, and little to be excited about. It's rain and cold and wind ... and a snowy forecast. Yet, despite the view, there are some signs of hope. And it starts (and ends) with "Jesus is Lord and Savior." More on that in a moment.

But first ... 2022 was still "un-normal." The old normal is gone, but the new normal is still not yet evident. The rhythms of life are still changing, and haven't stabilized. In other words, change is still happening! We just don't know yet where we will land. And when we do land, if we will land on our feet! Worship, education, pastoral care, outreach and service, community building within and without the congregation – all have been, and continue to be, impacted by the changing world around us.

Yet, despite all the change, one thing has not changed. "Jesus is Lord and Savior." Again, more on that in a moment.

So, what did 2022 mean for us? Maybe ... the future?

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Way back in 2021 we gathered a small team, a "think tank" of sorts, to ponder life and the world ... and ministry. What might God be calling us to be and to do? And in light of God's call, what makes us "us?" Through prayer, scripture, and sharing we began to discern our "guiding principles." A "guiding principle" is something that defines who we are, or at least what we want to be. To put it another way, if you are going to know Our Savior's, you have to know our guiding principles. They are sort of our "DNA" as a community seeking to be faithful to God's calling.



The list of our “guiding principles,” by definition, begins with “Jesus is Lord and Savior.” All we are, all that we value, flows out of this affirmation. It’s the heart of who we are as disciples of ... guess who? Jesus!

The rest of our principles reflect who and what we believe God wants us to be. Welcoming ... difference makers ... care for the world around us, both people and creation ... the value of being together ...

After developing an initial draft, we then brought the conversation to the Congregation Council. Over several months of conversation and reflection, we revised and refined our understanding of who we are to be.

- 1. Jesus is Lord and Savior. (I told you it would come up again!)*
- 2. All are welcome, and we are intentional about that welcome.*
- 3. God gifts and calls every one of every age to be a difference maker in the world.*
- 4. We treasure the gift of creation and embrace the call to protect God’s world.*
- 5. We value the gathering of God’s people in worship and all our ministries.*
- 6. We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a world that has changed dramatically.*

But, now what? Now, we use these “guiding principles” as a measure of our work and our ministry. Sort of a yardstick to make sure we are staying faithful to what we discern God is calling us to be, with the understanding that perhaps in time, we will discern new guiding principles. But for now, this is where we are!

So, take a peek and see what you think. Do you see Our Savior’s in that list? Can you see our life and ministries reflecting those principles? Can you imagine new ways to live out what God is calling us to be?

We’ve started to share a bit about each of these in the newsletter, so watch for more in the coming months. All essential to who we discern we are called to be as people of God and a community of faith.

2022, however, was more than just defining who we think we are called to be. It was also filled with the ministry we carried out, even in a changing and challenging world.

## **WORSHIP**

Worship returned to a full, in-building experience as the year unfolded. The liturgy was gradually reintroduced, the choir and handbells resumed, and the SOS Band brought energy to our worship experience. In-building worship numbers are at about 55% of pre-pandemic levels, while online worship (harder to count – we have to estimate) adds another 40%, putting us close to where we were in 2019. While we would love to return to a “full house,” the ELCA Bishops had been warned to expect a 15-20% drop in attendance due to the pandemic, so these numbers are not unexpected. Moreover, we need to be understanding of those for whom in-building does not work right now, and celebrate that there are other ways they can join in the worship experience.

We also have a number of new individuals and families. Some have joined the congregation, while others have been regular worshipers with us. Always exciting to

welcome new folk in our midst! Meanwhile, we look forward to welcoming back (*when they are ready*) those who have not been comfortable yet joining us in the building.

A piece of unfinished business was the retirement of Kathy Brisson as our Assistant Worship Musician. Kathy retired as the pandemic began, but we weren't able to honor her as we wanted, so ... we honored Kathy's many years of work in a variety of roles in late November. As we said then, we say again now – *thank you, Kathy!*

## **EDUCATION**

Confirmation classes continued with some tweaks in how we operate, but still focusing on the Bible, catechism, and servant leadership. Check out the page elsewhere in the annual report. Adult Bible study also continues, and Pastor Jean and I continue to ponder new ways to share Bible, faith, and life in a very busy and changing world.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

Pastoral care means a lot of things – weddings, funerals, baptisms, homebound visits, hospital calls, and just general conversation – all part of the “pastoral care” ministry of the church, and of the pastors.

2022 was a bit of a mixed bag. Weddings were few, though that continues a trend that began several years ago. That trend includes more weddings held outdoors or at venues. On the other hand, it was a busy year for funerals. Most of the funerals were not members, but had connections to Our Savior's. That's part of our ministry!

Hospital calling is much reduced from years past, but that too is both a trend and result of Covid conditions. Please let us know when you are hospitalized and desire a visit. It is harder to get that information from the hospital, and with stays shorter than they once were, our window to visit is pretty small!

We continue to visit homebound folk, with more frequent visits as Covid conditions improved over the year. We have also continued, when we are able, our worship at the care facilities in West Salem. Occasionally those services are canceled, but always by the facility due to a Covid outbreak in their building. Finally, we are looking to renew our “Home Communion Ministry” in early 2023. Thank you to all who have been a part of that ministry in the past, and all who will continue to connect and share in the future.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

First of all, ***thank you!*** Thank you to all of you who have been so faithful in supporting the work we do together. We really do make a difference. Lives are changed because of the work we do together. Some of those lives are here, in our own backyard, and others are literally around the world!

The good news is that we ended 2022 with only a small deficit, and a very healthy general fund balance. However, with the pressures of inflation, and the continued

renewal of our ministries, our budget needs for 2023 are almost 10% higher. We will need to continue to work on our stewardship as 2023 unfolds. Still, over the almost 170 years Our Savior's has been around, God has always challenged us, blessed us, and empowered us through the Holy Spirit. So, our budget is a bit of a challenge – but we have God's calling and God's gifts ... and remember ... Jesus is Lord and Savior.

## **OUTREACH**

I hate to say only a brief word about outreach, because it is so vital to who we are, but there are reports elsewhere on these ministries. Just know that I treasure the many ways we seek to "reach out" in our outreach ministries. Ways like ... Mission Support, Quilting group and prayer shawl ministry, Feed Our Children, Norwegian Dinner (where all the proceeds go to ministries and programs outside the congregation that meet the needs of people), Mission Endowment Fund distribution (\$18,300 proposed for 2023, with over 70% going to support missions and ministries outside the congregation), Corn Roast, World Hunger Appeal, Care and Share Food Pantry, and more!

Meanwhile, through our mission support of the La Crosse Area Synod and the ELCA we work together in our outreach across the area, the country and the world. And then ... in our support of Sugar Creek Bible Camp and LuMin (campus ministry) we change the lives of young people right here in our area.

## **COMMUNITY**

Over the past year we have held a variety of conversations about the future and what are we called to do and to be. For the congregation, for the community around, for our youth ministry – just what is the big need? The answer kept coming back to community and relationships. One of our tasks in the coming year is to find new ways to connect with each other. That doesn't mean "rewinding the tape" and doing what we have always done, nor does it mean suggesting that everyone else ought to do and like what I do. It means meeting people where they are at, and discovering new connections that work for them. How? I don't know. Not yet, anyway, but that's something we will be praying about over the next few months.

## **BUILDING ISSUES**

2022 was supposed to bring new tech in worship. Didn't happen! After a series of disappointments (but no money spent), we had to pivot to a new provider. We are now much further along in the project, and we expect the new tech will be in place by spring. Live-stream worship, projection capabilities, a new audio system, and more. Yes, there is a cost, but it will be a huge benefit to our ministry.

There are also some other building and facility needs. A new roof, the parking lot surfaced, and some other upkeep projects are in our future. We will be working with an engineer to get the appropriate recommendations and cost estimates early in 2023. Remember that many years ago faithful folk put forth the resources to leave us a building. Our turn to invest in the future of God's work here at Our Savior's!

## FINALLY

After all that ... what else is there to say ... but thank you? So ...

- **Thank you** to all of you as we have been drawn together in a community of faith, called to work together, and blessed with each other! Thank you for your support and partnership over the past year ... and years.
- **Thank you** to the community of West Salem, Bangor, La Crosse County ... and beyond ... around us. Why? First, because our ministries receive generous support from the community. But also, without the community we have little purpose. It is essential for us to be grounded in our community and it's needs. So, thank you to the community for your support ... and for the opportunities you give us to be servants and disciples of Jesus!
- **Thank you** to all who have shared in leadership ... members of the Congregation Council and especially Jen Linse, our president. But also, to all who in less visible ways have helped lead, shape, and nurture our life and work together. Your sharing of time and energy is a gift – and to you and to God, I give thanks!
- **Thank you** to our staff who work hard for the gospel, and work well together! Jill (treasurer) and Karen (financial secretary) keep our finances in order, Josh (custodian) keeps our building in shape, Linda (music director and lead musician) and Laurie (handbells and assistant musician) keep us singing and humming, Eric (choir director) leads our “messengers of music,” Tony (after school dishwasher), and Elliott (keeps the lawn mowed!) – all valued partners in our work together. And then a *special thanks* to Kris our administrative assistant, who keeps our office in order and our work in line! Thank you to all of you!
- **Thank you** to Pastor Jean and to Rebecca! Yes, Pastor Jean is my colleague, and I rely on her for so very much. The work she does, the sounding board she provides, her presence ... But also Rebecca, who gives me the space to be me, and to be what God has called me to be. Thank you both for all you share!
- And finally, **thank you** to a good and gracious God, and yes ... to Jesus (who) is Lord and Savior! Gifted and empowered by God, we live out our baptism in our discipleship. Do you wonder what the purpose of life is? This is it – and it just doesn't get any better than this, to be what God has created us to be, to be faithful in all that we do, and to know that, in the end, God has our back!

2022 had its challenges ... 2023 will have even more challenges. But we are the people of God, gathered together in this place, for this time, to embrace the tasks God places before us. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

*Pastor Jon*

## Associate Pastor's Report

The beginning of 2022 seems like so long ago, a distant memory ... maybe it's hysterical amnesia, maybe so many things have changed so many times it's hard to keep up ...

The year began with access to the building still limited, but by the end of the year we were back to some semblance of "normal" – or at least our new normal moving forward. The transition was probably more gradual for most people, but for me it was abrupt and jarring. Having been on sabbatical this summer, transitioning out with not a lot of people around in May, and coming back to all of the hustle and bustle of fall scheduling, took some getting used to, and at times was even a bit overwhelming.

Last winter and early spring, some ministries were cautiously added back, but still with restrictions. The Sunday School classes were split so only half of the students were in the building each week. But even with the crazy schedule, it was good to have the kids back. And, it was even better in the fall when we resumed the regular schedule with everyone here together. Having the kids together in the building is life giving – all of their energy, enthusiasm, and love shines brightly. The fall brought challenges with getting teachers and music leaders, but one thing we learned from the pandemic was to be flexible and willing to change, and that is what we did ... some classes were combined, teachers committed to being here every week (our teachers are the BEST!!), parents and others stepped up to be substitutes to give the teachers a break (THANK YOU!!), and we did without music except for the Christmas program.

As we began to worship with more people coming back to the building, there were (and still are) those who were not comfortable. Our virtual presence – YouTube and Zoom – is still an important part of worship and continues to be a high priority. We had high hopes of having our tech project up and running earlier in the year to provide a livestream option for worship as well. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we had to start all over this summer, including engaging a new company to provide this service for us. We thank Dean Olson for his patience, diligence, persistence, and knowledge as he quarterbacked this project. We also thank the congregation for staying with us on this, and for your continued financial support of this project. I can't wait until it's done and to be able to take advantage of the new technology!

During the summer I was able to take my long-awaited sabbatical that was to happen in 2020. Timing is everything and my timing wasn't so great for Pastor Jon. He had the busiest summer in his 37 years of ministry and I wasn't here to help out. But selfishly, my time re-connecting with those from my past was renewing, life-giving, and needed more than I ever imagined. I traveled to Iowa to visit with a seminary classmate and spend time in Amana, where I had visited with my family as a child; back to Iowa to meet up with my cousin from Missouri and get caught up with all things family; up to the Upper Peninsula to catch up with friends that I have missed from our congregations and synod work; back home to Chicago to meet up with my college roommate, a friend from Sunday School days, a friend from kindergarten, church friends, and family; and finally to Lake Geneva for a "girl's weekend" and to attend an evening "class" at the Lake Geneva School of Cooking where we prepared and consumed a four-course gourmet meal and wine pairings, in the midst of laughter and memories. A highlight

when I was in Chicago was attending my home congregation and being able to preside at Holy Communion on the spur of the moment ... it's a long story, ask me about it! Thank you for allowing me this time of renewal and sabbath.

In addition to reconnecting with the people of the past, was reconnecting with something I used to love to do ... cook. Rebecca and I were supposed to make dinner twice a week while I was off, but best laid plans ... We were able to plan, prepare for, and make several meals – all new recipes – which meant Pastor Jon had to “try” new things, and he was a good sport, claiming to like most of them.

In order to invite the congregation to be a part of the reconnecting, I decided to create a cookbook using recipes from congregation members, as well as the family and friends I reconnected with on my trips. We got off to a slow start, but I ended up with 313 recipes! It was more of a project than I had expected, doing everything by myself – typing, editing, proofreading, designing, deadlines – but I had fun reading the recipes and the stories that went along with them ... and there were some pretty great stories!! Thank you to my “publicity agent”, Brenda Skittone, for selling the books before and after most worship services this fall; and to Kris Seeger for collecting recipes and selling books during the week. When all have been sold, we will be sharing \$2,000+ for the roof fund. (There are still some left, if you haven't gotten yours!)

To get people reconnected with various ministries that they were involved with pre-pandemic, we went back to assigning them a day/time rather than relying on them to sign up. For the most part this has worked well ... and it has reconnected some people, allowing us to see familiar faces in the building again. Assigning people may not seem to allow for new people to join in helping with the various ministries, but everyone is always welcome, at any time ... just let us know and we'll get you signed up!

During the LaCrosse Area Synod Assembly, I was elected to a three-year term as Dean of our West Conference clergy. The West Conference includes 13 congregations and 3 synod ministries – Eagle Crest Communities, Lutheran Campus Ministry, and St. Croix Hospice. That means keeping the schedule of our monthly meetings and sending out reminders; and chairing the Pre-Assembly Caucus for our conference. The Dean's meet monthly to share what's going on with the pastors and congregations in each of our four conferences. As Dean, I am also a member of the Synod Council – like a congregation council, but the governing body for the whole synod. This means more meetings, but I am also “in the know” on what's going on in the synod.

I continue to serve as one of four community members on the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Gunderson Health Systems. During the pandemic we would meet virtually, as the hospital limited who was in the building. As things have evolved, meeting virtually has continued to be a good option, especially in those months when there is limited business on the agenda, and driving downtown would take more time than the actual meeting. This committee has allowed me to keep my finger in the healthcare “pot” that had been so much a part of my life previously.

As activities and events in the schools opened back up, we were once again able to be out in the community. They welcomed back the Scholastic Book Fair in the spring, and volunteering for that is always a fun time for us being able to see so many of our elementary kids. We get a warm, fuzzy feeling as the kids' eyes light up when they see

us and yell "Hi Pastor Jon! ... Hi Pastor Jean!" As a judge for the High School Senior Exit Project (SEP) event, it was nice to be back in the building again. That is a learning time for me as these young adults come up with some excellent projects and share about them. And, we even got to attend several home football games this fall ... good to see so many of our families supporting the team, and so many of our young people playing! Doesn't hurt that we both love to watch the game, too!

2022 was a year to begin transitioning back to more familiar, comfortable ways of doing ministry. We have learned to be more flexible, discovered that some new ways of doing things have advantages, appreciated some of the "old" ways, and look forward to seeing where ministry goes in the year to come. We are learning to live with having Covid, other variants, and more significant flu's as a regular part of life ... and making adjustments to get things accomplished. Despite doing everything possible to stay healthy, no one is immune from getting sick ... including us ... and there are lingering side-effects that we have to work through.

As we look to ministry in 2023 so many ideas are swirling around ... restarting home communion ministry ... having homemade bread for communion ... getting the Senior Ministry Team back together and planning OWLs events ... getting the Mom's Group back together for support and fellowship ... starting small group discussions on various topics (got any ideas?) ... having more intentionality connecting with our college students ...

For those who are new to Our Savior's during the past couple of years, for those who have been away for a while and are re-connecting, for those who have been around forever and are looking for something new to get involved with ... we have a place for you! Old ministries, new ministries ... you are always welcomed, encouraged, invited to be a part of things ... just let us know!

There have been so many people who have stepped up this past year to make sure ministry happens, and to experience worship and all that we do within and outside of our walls ... too many to name, as I'm sure I would accidentally forget someone ... and to all of you I say THANK YOU!! You are such an important part of the life of this congregation!!

Thank you to our staff ... Kris Seeger, Josh Corning, Linda Berg, Eric Sorenson, Laurie Noelke, Jill Iliff, Karen DeSchepper, and Wendy Amundson. Your presence and work, as well as your support and encouragement has been a gift to me personally and to this congregation.

Thank you to the ones who keep me going, who give me support and encouragement, who love me no matter what, who because we are together make me whole ... Pastor Jon and Rebecca ... I love you!

And, thank you Jesus, for giving me strength, forgiving me, loving me, and giving me new life and hope in the midst of all of the challenges and chaos, joys and sorrows.

Blessings in our ministry together,

*Pastor Jean*

## MINISTRIES

**Worship Helpers** – As fall came, we finally felt comfortable stepping out and trying to get back to some sense of “normalcy”. To that end, we started scheduling people to once again help with worship – acolytes, communion assistants, and ushers. In the process we have “rebranded” some of the jobs to better reflect the ministry that is taking place. Our ushers are now the Welcoming Team, putting the emphasis on greeting and welcoming all who come through our doors. The acolytes continue to light/extinguish the candles, but they are now also helping to serve communion rather than collecting empty cups; so, they are now considered Worship Assistants. The Communion Assistants continue to be a vital part of the Lord’s Supper, preparing and serving Communion. It is good to have the people of God sharing their gifts during worship.

**Home Communion Ministry** – Delivering communion and visiting our shut-ins has always been an important ministry at Our Savior’s and we have missed that these last years – our shut-ins miss the visits and those who would do the visiting have missed seeing “their people”. This ministry is in the process of being re-started and will begin again in February 2023. We all look forward to reconnecting with our homebound members.

**Altar Guild** – For the last two+ years, I have been the Altar Guild, along with Pastor Jon and Kris – filling the candles, changing paraments and banners, preparing for communion. I am excited that starting in the fall, we have been able to reengage this faithful group and they are now back providing this ministry for our congregation. We try to have teams of two, serving for one month at a time, and depending on how many teams we have, most serve about two times a year. Others are always welcome to join us – *the more the merrier!*



**Prayer Ministry** – Our prayer ministry is probably one of the only things that never missed a beat throughout the pandemic years. Because we communicate via email, the prayer petitions were always sent, and those receiving them were able to pray wherever they were. We all know how important prayer is and how it impacts ours and others' lives. We are grateful to this faithful group of pray-ers who work on behalf of the community gathered here. We welcome others to join us ... in the comfort of your own home, on your own schedule, doing God's work.

**Senior Ministry** – The "obvious" part of senior ministry may not have been happening in recent years, as gathering together for fellowship has not been an option, but ministry to our seniors has continued. We thank Carolyn Karl for faithfully delivering DVD's of the worship service to several of our shut-ins every week. Birthday and holiday greeting cards have continued to be sent to our "over 80" crowd, letting them know they are never far from our thoughts. With the resumption of in-person Sunday School, our classroom grandparents are once again receiving greetings from "their" kids! The Pastors have been able to return to Lakeview, Salem Terrace, and Mulder's for monthly worship services. As we head into the new year, we are hopeful to get our team together again and plan activities for our "Older, Wiser Lutherans" (OWLs) ... and maybe even get back in to Salem Terrace for our monthly "study" and fellowship. If you would like to be a part of the Senior Ministry Team, let Pastor Jean know.

**College Ministry** – Keeping connected with our college students has been a challenge in recent times. It feels like we have lost track of so many of them ... are they still in school ... what year are they now ... are they living at home or on campus?? Too many questions and not enough answers. Late in the year we tried once again to be intentional about remembering our students at semester exam time with a note and gift card, but that too was a challenge not having many addresses/contact information. We want our young people to know they are an important part of this church community and that we are thinking about them and missing them while they are away. Hopefully in the new year we can continue to reconnect with more of our young people.

**Vacation Bible School** – Based on the lack of participation and interest in VBS in 2021, we have chosen to suspend that at this time. Perhaps VBS no longer fills a need/purpose for our children. We are open to re-evaluating this decision in the future and will gladly host a time to gather if the interest presents itself. An alternate idea may be to plan a Day Camp experience at Sugar Creek?

## **Sunday School –**

After being virtual and hybrid for two years, we were excited to be back together this fall for Sunday School. It was great to be able to interact with the children and see their smiling faces. They are full of enthusiasm and energy and bring life to us and to this place. We returned to using the *Whirl* lectionary-based curriculum from 1517 Media and having video time with Pastor Jean, along with the lesson with our teachers. In the absence of enough teachers, we ended up combining several classes. The curriculum is designed to make that work well. We also didn't have a music leader in the fall, but were able to make things work so there was music for the Christmas program. The lack of a Sunday morning routine during the pandemic seems to have taken a bit of a toll on Sunday School attendance, but we are hopeful as things continue to get back to "normal", we will also see our kids more regularly. We really did miss them and very much appreciate our time together.

The Sunday School Christmas program, "*Be Born in Us Today*", was held during the 10:30 AM worship service on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. The kids worked hard for many weeks preparing for the program and they did a great job! We are grateful to our teachers, musicians, and helpers for making this possible, and to our parents for getting the kids to practice each week ... which was sometimes a challenge as flu bugs continue to run rampant. The congregation seemed to enjoy being a part of this program once again.

We continue to gift our children with their first *Frolic Bible* at the time of their baptism, and our PreK children once again received their *Whirl Story Bible* in worship this fall. Pastor Jon was particularly excited to be able to have the Bible Workshop in person with our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children and their parents, and then to present the Bibles during worship.

We are eager to be able to reconnect with our Sunday School classroom grandparents, and also to get to know our new grandparents that were recently "adopted". In the new year we will plan a time to get together and have some fun.

We are grateful to our Sunday School teachers who were eager to get back in person with our children to share their faith and excitement. We thank them for putting in the extra time and effort that has been required this year. They are truly a gift to our children and to this congregation. Thank you ...

### **Sunday School Staff 2022-2023**

*Pre-K & Kindergarten:* Erin Hebrink

*1<sup>st</sup> Grade:* Amanda Vick

*2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:* Lindsey Gilberts

*3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:* Stacey Sjoquist & Mariette Stefferud

*5<sup>th</sup> Grade:* Eric Iliff

*Substitutes:* Clark & Dani Draxler, Jen Evenson, Naoko Giblin,  
Brenda Skittone, Abbey Vick

## Worship and Education Participation for 2022

*The pandemic has changed our worship patterns. Where once we had 10-12 people connecting online over the following week, we now average 90 a week in online worship. We continue to seek new ways to connect in a changed world. And while we love to have people join us in "face to face" worship, we encourage you to use our online worship opportunities when that works for you! Later in 2023 we will add a "livestream" of our worship, to go along with a recording available at any time. Remember, however, that while worship style and patterns change (as they always have), the one we worship remains faithful and steadfast – even in challenging times!*

Total participants in "face to face" weekend worship (51 weekends) 6,129

*Average weekly participants - 120*

Ash Wednesday	100
Lent	230
Maundy Thursday	90
Good Friday	66
Easter	354
Thanksgiving	50
Advent (two services)	87
Christmas Eve/Day	433

Total estimated participants in weekend virtual worship (51 weekends) 4,587

*2,414 views in seven-day period - two participants per view (industry standard)*

*Average weekly participants - 90*

Ash Wednesday	78
Lent	302
Maundy Thursday	34
Good Friday	82
Advent (1 service)	70
Christmas Eve	262

Total Christian Education in-person participants for 2022

Sunday School	61	
Confirmation	91	
Bible Study	18	<i>(includes Wednesday study and WELCA Ruth Circle)</i>

## **Pastoral Acts**

### **Baptisms**

Charlotte May Sherry  
Carson Kyle Vike  
Layne Elizabeth Arttus  
Jaxon Lee Stugen  
Benjamin Stanley Stugen  
Harrison Charles McClintock  
Eleanor Dawn Koenen  
Evelynn Kay Haines  
Grady Ronald Wickland  
Beau Anthony Wiedemann  
Adalyn Rae Peterson

### **Funerals**

Alice Christina Gums  
Judith Mary Ann Romskog  
Charles Sylvester Paulson  
William Nehls  
James Russell Johnson  
Gregory Archie Craig  
Larry Howard Larson

Carol J. Pederson  
Kathleen Anne Iverson  
Norma Ruth Marking  
David Kenneth Witte Sr.  
Dale Perry Anderson Sr.  
Levi Roger Beckstrom  
Barbara Ann Zitzner

Evelyn Carol Anderson  
Robert John Olson  
Marvin Alan Iverson  
Theodore E. Wilcox  
Eleanor Lorraine Lee

### **Marriages**

Elizabeth Trocinski & Brett Trautsch  
Danielle Piper & Zachary Jaske  
Allison Rigotti & Tyler Boudry

### **Confirmations**

Treavor Arentz  
Emily Bell  
Turner Campbell  
Marissa Eckland  
Jayden Hansen  
Emma Haun  
Jessalyn Hickey  
Makena Ihle  
Hailey Ives  
Owen Kendhammer

Aubrey Langrehr  
Andrew Larson  
Leah Leren  
Mallory Long  
Ella Muellenberg  
Samantha Niemeier  
Carter Quackenbush  
William Stefferud  
Eve Twite  
Lauren Zarecki

## **New Members**

Joseph & Leslie Vike  
LaVerne Bjerke  
Steve Ulliman & Kris Bjerke-Ulliman  
Jane Henricks

Scott & Carol Thompson  
Katrina Lewis, Evelyn & Gannon Millner  
Trudy Drugg  
Lisa Cash

## **Transfer Out**

Dale & Jeanne Marcou & Family

## **Residents of Nursing Homes & Assisted Living Facilities**

\*(as of December 31, 2022)

### **Mill Street Manor**

Arlan Gilbertson  
Lana Helgeson

### **Salem Terrace**

Velma Schmidt  
Mary Storandt

### **Mulders Healthcare**

Cristi Johnson  
Meryl Kirkeng  
Virgil Mikkelson

### **Havenwood**

Judi Rogness

### **Bethany Riverside**

Rich Storandt

### **Springbrook - Onalaska**

Valgean Anderson  
LaVerne Bjerke  
Doris Yeske

### **Eagle Crest South**

Joe & Carol Stekel

### **Onalaska Care Center**

Eva Farris  
Helen Friell

### **Azura Memory Care**

Lydia Ferguson

# Nominations

## Congregation Council

Four to elect to a three-year term

- Jaime Fortier

I reside in Bangor with my husband Paul, daughters Alea (recent graduate from UW-Platteville and currently teaching K-5 Physical Education at Hillsboro) and Emma (a senior at Bangor High School looking forward to attending UW-Stout next year and continuing her love of playing softball). I am the Donor Relations and Scholarship Coordinator in the Foundation at Western Technical College in La Crosse. I have enjoyed being a teacher for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, a confirmation guide, serving as a reader, usher, communion assistant, and on Altar Guild. We have been members of Our Savior's for 17+ years.

- Bonnie Gensch

I have been a member of OSLC for 42 years. I am a retired RN since 2020. I belong to the OSLC quilters. I was on a Medical Mission trip to the Dominican Republic in 2019 which was rewarding to see so many grateful patients. I enjoy spending time with family and friends.

- Carolyn Karl

I came to LaCrosse after the death of my husband after thirty-two years of marriage. I have three daughters and one son, eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Caring for others and being active in the church are my reasons for living.

- Chad Vick

I am a life long resident of West Salem, and have been a member of OSLC for 18 years. My wife, Shannon, and I have four daughters who have been involved in various church activities. I worked as a Dairy Farmer for 30 years, and now work at Indus International in West Salem. I have been on the board for Farm Bureau and the Snowmobile Club. I am an avid Packer fan, and enjoy watching my daughters' softball games and show choir performances.

## Mission Endowment Fund Committee

Two to elect to a three-year term

- Katie Drury

I have lived in West Salem for the past ten years. I am married to Justin, and gave two daughters. I am a nurse, graduating from Viterbo University and the University of Phoenix, and currently working at Scenic Bluffs in Cashton. I love watching my kids do good things, I love to camp, and I'm newly into "clogging."

- Scott Thompson

I grew up in LaCrescent MN and my family belonged to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. I graduated from UW-L with a major in Mass Communications and minor in Business Administration. I have worked as a news reporter for WXOW-TV19, a Senior Buyer for Shopko Stores Inc., and after 20 years I retired from Totes-Isotoner as a National Sales Manager. My wife, Carol, and I moved to Green Bay in 1979 where we raised our three daughters. We moved back to the Coulee Region in 2017 to retire and help elderly parents. We joined OSLC in 2022.

### **2023 LaCrosse Area Synod Assembly Voting Members** (June 9-11, 2023 in LaCrosse)

Four to elect to a one-year term

- Jen Linse
- Jaime Fortier
- *Nomination from the floor or council appointment*
- *Nomination from the floor or council appointment*

### **Delegates to Sugar Creek Bible Camp**

Two to elect to one-year term

- Naoko Giblin
- Jeff Haldeman

### **Delegates to Eagle Crest Communities** (formerly Bethany Lutheran Home Corporation)

Two to elect to one-year term

- Carolyn Karl
- Jim Michelson

## President's Report

As a congregation we have continued to experience changes during 2022 – many of these changes have felt familiar to us from times prior to the pandemic. In the springtime, we worked towards less restrictions in the church building – while supporting each other to participate in the changes that felt comfortable and safe for each person. In the Fall, Wednesday nights returned to in-person confirmation, handbells, and choir practice. Worship and Sunday School have also felt more familiar as we have returned to sharing the peace of Jesus, taking Holy Communion together, hearing the Word in special music, and the connection of Coffee Hour. A highlight for me this year was watching the kids celebrate the birth of Christ through the Sunday School Christmas program!

As the Church Council President, but also as a member of our congregation who has experienced unexpected health issues in 2022, I find my understanding of how important our connection to faith, worship, and our congregational community is to each of us - to those who come through our doors once, twice, or many times per week, and for those who are not able to or haven't yet come through our doors (but experience OSLC through our extended community support and virtual worship).

During the restrictions of COVID we were able to connect through church services virtually. During the first several months we realized how important it was to provide a quality experience for those participating virtually to stay connected and engaged. As we've had the opportunity to return to the building, I recognize how our online presence continues to be extremely important for those who are temporarily unable to be in church due to illness, traveling away from home, working, or other circumstances – and for people who are not able to come through the building doors due to physical limitations, providing fulltime care to a loved one, and other limitations that may make leaving home unsafe or extremely challenging. There were several weekends over the last six months that my only option for worship was virtual – and during some really difficult times, I was able to feel a connection to Christ and our congregational community even though I was not able to be there in person. What a gift to all to be able to provide options to participate in our faith. It will be exciting in 2023 to see how the duet of in person and virtual worship will continue to develop and strengthen!

Thank you, Pastor Jon and Pastor Jean, for leading and listening over the past year. Thank you to Linda, Eric, and Laurie for bringing us meaningful special music. Thank you to the Congregation Council, special committees, and those who come to work every day at OSLC for your effort and dedication. Thank you to each of you – your love of the Lord and care for each other are what make OSLC a truly special place to so many.

Sincerely,  
Jen Linse, Congregation Council President



## **Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee did not meet in 2022. We will see what 2023 holds for us!

Submitted by, Linda Berg

## **Music Ministry**

Music is an important part of the ministry of our congregation. Most of our musical groups cautiously resumed in 2022. The Senior Choir started meeting and singing for church services in September and sang the cantata "Classic Noels" for services on December 18. The SOS Band started playing for services again, including the Gospel on the Green service at the Lion's Shelter in August. The Bells of Joy prepared selections and played for several services during the year. The Guitar Group continued to meet and work on their skills. We were able to add brass musicians back in to the schedule to play for Reformation services in October.

Kathy Brisson was honored for her years as a church musician in November.

We are fortunate to have so many talented people in our congregation, and we invite anyone interested to join us!

Submitted by, Linda Berg

## **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee's ministry is to provide reasonable assurances that good stewardship is being used in handling and accounting for the funds and other assets of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Members of the 2022 Audit Committee were Dori Jensen, Jeff Haldeman, and Jim Anderson. The committee met seven times and completed an audit of the church's accounts and financial practices. In conducting the audit, the committee reviewed selected months of the General Fund Account, the WELCA Account, the Quilting Account, and the Youth Account. The committee also reviewed procedures for handling, counting, and depositing offerings, as well as payroll procedures; procedures for accounts payable and payments to vendors; IT access and backup procedures; and Scrip card and Youth Account procedures.

The committee found that procedures and internal controls in place are generally adequate to protect the church's finances and only a handful of minor procedural changes were recommended to the Council for their consideration. There were no account irregularities identified.

Jim Anderson, Audit Committee Member

## Confirmation Youth

After a tough year in 2021, 2022 was a bit more “normal” for confirmation youth and the ministry we carry out with them. Confirmation classes were all in person, though a bout with Covid in October forced Pastor Jon to record a class and let the kids watch on YouTube. In addition, many of the core classes either were, or already are, recorded, ensuring that students have access to the classes, even when they are forced to miss a class.

One “gain” from the pandemic experience was the “outdoor gathering.” We gather in the prayer labyrinth lot, with a fire in the fire pit and some goodies to share, and have time to connect, or even carry out a class. Started as a temporary effort to get the kids together, we discovered it was well received – and we plan to make regular use of that opportunity in the future.

An important component of the confirmation ministry, “small groups,” was not brought back due to a lack of small group leaders. We miss that, and hope that perhaps in a future year we can move back to small groups. Way too much benefit to let that go too easily!

On the other hand, another important component, “servant leadership,” has continued to thrive and grow. Becky Murphy teaches 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders the concepts behind “servant leadership” in two sessions each year, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders are challenged to imagine how they might be servant leaders in the future. In addition, late in 2022 conversations began with Rachel Holthaus to engage her as our new “Director of Youth Ministry” with an emphasis on servant leadership development among confirmation and post-confirmation age youth. We will be excited to see that grow in the coming years.

Throughout our programming, from 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade, we are always seeking ways to make the connection between learning in the classroom and living in the world. We also welcome and encourage new participants on the journey (new students!) and new partners in the ministry (new ways for adults to share their witness!).

We thank all the adults who are a part of the work we do together, including the parents who share the meal with the After-School crowd, and those who join us in the classroom, either as parent helpers or leading an elective course. A special thanks to Corey Sjoquist for his continued faithfulness in working with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders as he starts them off with a solid Biblical grounding.

Pastor Jon

## **Lutheran World Relief School Kits & Personal Care Kits**

The congregation supported three Lutheran World Relief (LWR) projects in 2022. We continued our annual support of the LWR Quilt and LWR School Kit projects and initiated first-year support for an LWR Personal Care Kit project.

The LWR Personal Care Kit project was initiated as a Lenten challenge by youth director Wendy Amundson. This project offered an opportunity for families to purchase and individually assemble a care kit that would in turn provide basic hygiene necessities for a family or individual displaced by natural disaster, poverty, war, or economic situation. The kit consisted of a bath towel, two bars of soap, toothbrush, comb, and nail clipper. A total of 210 personal care kits were assembled by individual families and by the Wednesday "after school" confirmation student volunteers who assisted with the final assembly of 120 of that total number.

The annual LWR School Kit project was reactivated by our office secretary, Kris Seeger, in time for summertime purchases following the youth director position vacancy. School supply sale prices were not as generous nor as numerous in 2022 as supply shortages, inflationary price increases, and the pandemic all impacted supplies. We were able to complete 101 kits, though that was a decrease from last year. WELCA again provided the school kit bags through a donation from Thrivent allowing us to purchase additional supplies. The Wednesday "after school" confirmation student volunteers completed 100% of the unpacking, sorting, counting, and bundling (pens & pencils) of all supplies, and the final building of 50 kits. After a two-year pandemic interruption, the combined third and fourth grade Sunday School class of Ms. Stefferud and Ms. Sjoquist were again able to assist with the packing of 51 kits.

All LWR donations were boxed and transported to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in La Crosse on October 9th. From there they were to be trucked to the LWR warehouse in South St. Paul, MN, for redistribution, probably in 2023. The 37 boxes of quilts, 17 boxes of care kits, and 10 boxes of school kits were loaded and transported by Carolyn Karl, Carla Burkhardt, Eric Sorenson, and Josh Corning. All boxes had tracking tags that will allow us to find out the final destination of each item. Tracking tags from our October 2021 shipment indicate that our donated school kits were shipped to Syria and Jordan, and the quilts went to Peru. Both warehouse shipments were completed in March 2022. In previous years quilts and school kits had gone to Lebanon, Rwanda, Georgia (the country), the Bahamas, and Honduras.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these projects a success. Somewhere the lives of 611 families/individuals have been supported by your generosity (300 quilts + 210 care kits + 101 school kits = 611 donations). We look forward to the continuation of these projects in 2023.

Submitted by, Jim Michelson

## **Summer Lunch Program – Feed Our Children – West Salem**

First of all, we were lucky/blessed that major donors like Linda's Bakery, Hansen's IGA, 1st CCU, Union State Bank, LaCrosse County Dairy Producers, Kwik Trip, Compeer Financial, and the Le Coulee Cheese Castle returned to help us out in various ways. Connie Pinski and Lynette Ender both applied for and received Thrivent Grants, as well as went shopping for needed supplies of food and storage items for us, which was amazing. Of course, Kris in the office, Pastors Jon & Jean, and Josh helped us regularly as they were here with us in the building, cleaning up, taking calls, etc. Judy Long would check in on us on behalf of the Food Pantry. Erin at Wafer made a couple of contacts with extras that we were able to serve. There are really so many who donated items and volunteered, this truly is a community partnership and huge group effort.

I would like to point out Carla Burkhardt, who took the lead on delivery options when, with less than a week to prepare, school funding changed to allow lunches to be free for all during summer school!!!!!! Kids on our delivery list got two meals every day for those 3 weeks!

By the end - we were serving just under 200 children daily. Some days we were even able to toss in a few healthy snack/breakfast items for the next day. Compeer Financial (with the lead of Tracy Skrentny) provided meal packs that we were able to include with all of our deliveries, as well as families in need who utilize the BGC.

I want to thank you all for your help and participation. The use of this space and the support of our congregation is how this is possible.

Respectfully,  
Angie Hemker  
Feed Our Children, Summer Lunch Program

*Editor's Note: A special thank you to all from Our Savior's and the community who make this program so successful. And ... a very special thank you to Angie Hemker for ALL the work she puts in to plan, organize, and coordinate this very special ministry. Angie, you are a gift to us and to West Salem!*

## **Community Care & Share Food Pantry**

In 2022 we saw a return to near normal for our pantry. Since Fall we have seen increased usage, which has been common among most food pantries in the area. We undertook an effort to make people more aware of us with posters, social media postings, adding an evening open time, and information included with community dinners.

We are very thankful for the continued support of our community with donations of food, personal items, and dollars. With this support we are able to give more to our clients. With a focus on nutrition we are buying Hamburger, Spam, beans, and other items to increase the amount of protein we are able to give out. Almost weekly trips to the Hunger Task Force provide some fresh fruits and vegetables. We also appreciate the gardeners who share their bounty with us. All this would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers who help with Saturday distribution, and marking and shelving of food.

This year we have two High School students, fluent in Spanish, who volunteer almost every week and assist us with Spanish speaking families. They are such a blessing!

Please share the information that we are open every Saturday 10 am-12 pm and serve the residents of Bangor, Rockland, Barre Mills, Mindoro, Melrose, and West Salem. There are no income restrictions. We are here to assist anyone with food insecurity.

Submitted by  
Melody Schmitz, Board Member

## **ELCA World Hunger**

This year coming out of Covid has been a quiet year for World Hunger activities. Late fall we started up again thinking of Advent and selling ornaments through ELCA Good Gifts. This coming 2023 we will be focusing on water. Clean water, use of water, equity of water, waste of water, and to increase our awareness of our reliance on this limited resource. Please continue to support World Hunger ... Until all are Fed.

Scrip cards are also a way to make donations to World Hunger! We all grocery shop and gas up our vehicles. This is another chance to give. Our committee of Phil & Judy Gilbert, Eric & Lynette Ender, and Jane Henricks would gladly take on new members, if interested. Christ is our center, not our borders!

Submitted by, Judy Gilbert

## Outreach Committee

This year we were able to have a live running event for June Dairy Days instead of a virtual run like 2021. Our number of runners and walkers was lower, but still the beautiful morning of exercise and community was experienced. We had about 75 runners! Our great volunteers from past years took their post and some new volunteers joined in. The event was a success!

In the spring we usually have a booth for Celebrate West Salem, but the event was reconfigured and now runs in the summer as West Salem's National Night Out. In fact, it was a week before our Community Corn Roast! The Church Council was kind enough to take that event over so we could concentrate on the community dinner.

The Community Corn Roast served approximately 375 guests who were able to have lots of corn seconds. The day was beautiful and the rain came in big drops after the event clean-up. Again, so many wonderful volunteers to thank!

God's work, our hands!

Submitted by, Judy Gilbert

## Social Committee

The Social Committee engages in several ministries throughout the year – Gospel on the Green, tree trimming, and coffee fellowship.

**Coffee Hour** – We are very pleased that beginning in September, coffee hour resumed. Many people have stepped up to the challenge assisting with baking and serving between services. Coffee hour is an excellent way to reconnect with your fellow church family members.

**Tree Trimming** – Jeff & Melissa Haldeman coordinated the decorating of the Sanctuary and Gathering area. Once again Jon & Lynn Labus picked out two beautiful trees to grace our Sanctuary. Thank you to all the youth volunteers who assisted with setting up and tear down. Special thanks to Carla Burkhardt for all her hard work (and her truck).

**Outdoor Worship/Gospel on the Green** – This year we had two services at the Lion's Shelter – Confirmation in April and Gospel on the Green in August. Still cautious about serving food, there was no potluck meal along with the Gospel on the Green worship service.

Submitted by, Jeff Haldeman

## **WELCA**

**Ruth Circle** - Ruth Circle met on the 3rd Monday of the month, usually in the church library. We discussed the Bible study found in the *Gather Magazine*. In 2022 we studied "The Kingdom of God" in the spring, "Rest, Renewal, and Community" in the summer, and "Jesus & Nature: Teachers of Faith", discussing the topics of trees, soil, creatures for the fall series. Our offerings of \$900 were disbursed to nine different ministries.

In 2023 we will be studying the Ten Commandments, with some interesting twists. All women of the congregation are welcome.

Submitted by, Connie Blunck, Chairwoman

**Dorcas Sewing Circle** - The Dorcas Quilting Group had another successful year in 2022. We meet every Wednesday afternoon from 1-3 p.m. in the church basement.

This past calendar year we were able to complete and send to Lutheran World Relief 300 quilts. Some of the proceeds of the Norwegian Dinner helped with the cost of shipping.

Our group currently consists of 6 to 10 women. We would always welcome any additional help. No experience is needed. We will be glad to teach you all you need to know. If you can't attend on Wednesdays, squares can be taken home to sew them on your own time. We also welcome donations of material and thread.

Submitted by, Maryrose Hetland, Quilter

### **Norwegian Dinner**

*\*Note: Due to the Covid pandemic, the annual dinner was not held in 2020 and 2021.*

The Norwegian Dinner resumed in 2022, but only as carryout. There was a small amount of space available in the fellowship hall for guests to "dine in", with water and coffee available on a "serve yourself" basis. The amount of food cooked was 50% less than in previous years. Very little food was left over to be sold the next day.

We served a total of 211 dinners. Tickets were \$16 for the meatballs only dinner and \$18 for the meatballs and lutefisk. Profit was \$3,900.

The dinner required a great deal less of help. The committee has a list of recommendations for the 2023 dinner.

Submitted by, Lynette Ender

## **Mary & Martha Prayer Shawl Ministry**

As 2022 began, this group of 4-6 members continued knitting or crocheting these "Shawls of Comfort" from home, then getting them to one of the pastors to be given to those in need of being wrapped in the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ, as well as the love of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

As the year progressed and health concerns began to decline, it was decided that we would once again attempt to meet as a group in the Koinonia Room at OSLC beginning in September. We did manage several small-group meetings, but because of some health problems and even weather concerns in November and early January, we weren't able to meet as often as we'd hoped.

In spite of not meeting, members continue to produce prayer shawls and bring them to the church for those in need of one for a variety of reasons: illness, hospitalizations, shut-ins, adult and non-infant baptisms, those suffering grief, high school graduates, and numerous other occasions.

Prayer shawls are available for anyone – not only members of this congregation. If you are aware of anyone who could benefit from being wrapped in this love, please notify one of the pastors.

We continue to gratefully receive gifts of yarn for making these shawls and monetary gifts for purchasing yarn.

We look forward to being able to meet as a group, constructing shawls, and offering prayers for those who will receive them. We will plan to meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. If we will not be meeting we will notify Kris in the church office.

We always welcome anyone who would like to be a part of this group. All Are Welcome!

Praying for all to stay healthy and safe.  
Blessed Be!

Carol Wittenberg

## **Mailing Crew**

The Mailing Crew meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. to assemble the Newsletter. The crew has found it a time of work and fellowship as they stuff and label the newsletters. We thank Connie & Larry Blunck, Bev Bockenhauer, Carolyn Karl, Vernetta Moe, Velma Schmidt, Marion Twite-Stensven, and Carol Thompson for helping put the newsletter together. Their help is invaluable.



## Mission Endowment Committee

In 2022 the Mission Endowment Committee recommended for Annual Meeting approval the distribution of \$18,300 to the organizations listed below.

We thoughtfully evaluate our proposed gifts to each organization utilizing the guidelines set by Our Savior's Church Council. This year we again focused on giving locally and supporting endeavors close to home. The Endowment Fund has allowed Our Savior's to distribute in excess of \$240,800 to various organizations since being established in 2002.

Donations are always welcome. We receive gifts as memorials, bequests, wills, and honoring birthdays and anniversaries. We always appreciate suggestions of new groups or activities that could use our support.

Members of the Endowment Committee: Linda Arentz, Eric Ender, Lee Friell, Jeff Rich, and Melody Schmitz

This year the proposed distribution of funds is as follows:

Clothes Closet - Our Savior's La Crosse	\$500
Jail Ministry - La Crosse County	\$200
New Horizons	\$1,000
La Crosse Warming Center	\$1,000
Sleep in Heavenly Peace	\$1,000
St. Claire Health Mission	\$1,000
St. Claire Health Rotary Mobile Clinic	\$600
ELCA World Hunger	\$2,000
Lutheran Social Services	\$1,000
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$2,000
Sugar Creek Camperships (for OSLC kids)	\$3,000
OSLC Capital Improvements	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total	\$18,300

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melody Schmitz, Chairperson

# Mission Endowment Fund

## 2022 Financial Report

### Assets

ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust (337.50864 shares)	\$418,822.11*
* Share value as of September 30, 2022 @ (\$1,240.92)	
River Bank Money Market Checking Balance	\$24,540.43
River Bank Easy Checking Balance	\$11.00

[Balance in Checking Accounts as of December 31, 2022]

### Income

Money Market Checking Interest	\$76.73
Contributions	\$1,060.00
ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Fund Dividends	\$18,326.71

### Expenses

Distribution (as detailed in Committee Report summary) to be approved at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation	\$18,300.00
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Submitted by Eric Ender,  
Financial Secretary

# Asset Report – 2022

## WELCA Account

Account #	Account Name	End of year Balance
<b>Assets</b>	WELCA – Union State Bank Checking	\$2,809.06

### 2022 FUND REPORT

#### WELCA Account

		Beginning Balance 1/1	Income	Expense	Ending Balance 12/31
3.88.100	WELCA General Fund Balance	\$372.33	\$30.00	\$154.74	\$247.59
3.88.200	Norwegian Dinner Fund Bal	\$0.00	\$5,887.60	\$5,887.60	\$0.00
3.88.300	Ruth Circle Fund Balance	\$176.00	\$1,290.00	\$1,200.00	\$266.00
3.88.400	Quilting Fund Balance*	\$0.00	\$2,306.01	\$10.54	\$2,295.47

\*As of 5/12/22 Quilting savings account closed and monies transferred to WELCA checking account.

#### 2022 Recipients - Ruth Circle

New Horizons	\$100.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	\$100.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$100.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$200.00
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$100.00
WS Community Assistance	\$100.00
LaCrosse Area Synod WELCA	\$100.00
Salvation Army	\$100.00
WELCA Katie's Fund/Thank	\$200.00
Children's Vision	\$100.00
Total Donation	\$1,200.00

### 2022 Recipients - Norwegian Dinner

ELCA World Hunger	\$400.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief	\$500.00
LWR Quilt Shipping	\$400.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$500.00
Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$300.00
LAS Seminary Scholarship	\$200.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$200.00
Salvation Army	\$500.00
St. Clare Mission - Sparta	\$500.00
LaCrosse Warming Center	\$200.00
OSLC Camperships	\$178.19

Total Donation	\$3,878.19
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# Asset Report – 2022 Youth Account

Account #	Account Name	End of year Balance
<b><i>Assets</i></b>		
1.77.000	Youth – Union State Bank Checking	\$22,757.34
<b><i>Liabilities</i></b>		
2.77.700	Pass Through Accounts	0.00

## 2022 FUND REPORT

### Youth Account

		Beginning Balance 1/1	Income	Expense	Ending Balance 12/31
3.77.100	General Fund Balance	\$23,589.91	\$299.32	\$1,000.00	\$22,889.23
3.77.200	Scrip Card Fund Balance	(\$5,187.44)	\$19,590.00	\$24,584.00	(\$10,181.44)
3.77.300	Student Fund Balance	\$10,112.05	\$1,122.50	\$1,185.00	\$10,049.55
3.77.350	World Hunger Fund Balance	\$1,007.75	\$16.50	\$1,024.25	\$0.00
3.77.402	Peach Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.77.500	Mission Trip Fund Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

## 2022 Pass Through Accounts

### Youth Account

	Beginning Balance 1/1	Income	Expense	Ending Balance 12/31
General Pass Through	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

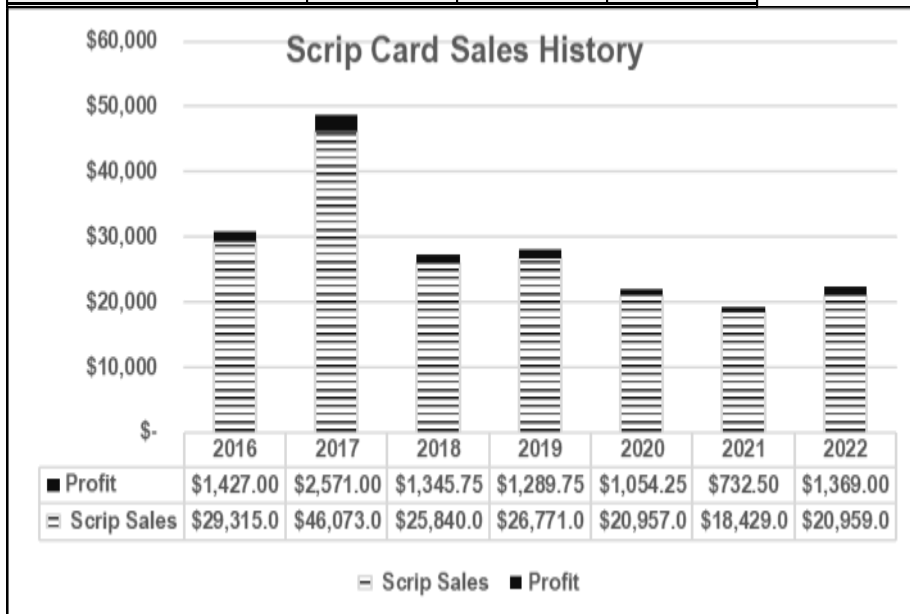
## 2022 Our Savior's Scrip Card Sales Report

Thank you to Pastor Jon, Pastor Jean, Kris and Brenda Skittone for selling scrip cards

### Summary/comments:

- Sales increased over 2021
- **Woodman's** continues to be the best seller
- **Festival** will be dropped when remaining cards are sold
  - Profit is only 3% and we are required to pay shipping to have cards delivered.
- **Kwik Trip**
  - These cards require additional monitoring as they lose value if not used within one year
  - \$20 cards will no longer be offered when the inventory is depleted.
- **Ship Shape** car wash
  - \$10 sales in past 2 years

2022	Sales	Profit	Profit Margin
<b>Culver's</b>	\$ 1,015.00	\$ 101.50	10%
<b>Festival</b>	\$ 75.00	\$ 2.25	3%
<b>Kwik Trip</b>	\$ 5,175.00	\$ 258.75	5%
<b>Kwik Trip Car Wash</b>	\$ 684.00	\$ 304.00	\$16 per card
<b>Ship Shape GC</b>	\$ 10.00	\$ 2.50	25%
<b>Woodman's</b>	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 700.00	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,959.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,369.00</b>	<b>7%</b>



Thank you for support of the Youth and World Hunger programs.

Prepared by Linda Arentz

January 1, 2023

Submitted by Scrip Team Members

Linda Arentz

Tracy Skrentny

Jan Wee

## 2022 Budget Report 2023 Proposed Budget

### INCOME

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
General Envelope	\$216,000.00	\$191,958.34	\$215,000.00	(\$1,000.00)	-0.46%
Loose	\$1,500.00	\$1,581.27	\$1,600.00	\$100.00	6.67%
Electronic	\$102,000.00	\$102,223.50	\$102,500.00	\$500.00	0.49%
Initial	\$400.00	\$810.00	\$700.00	\$300.00	75.00%
Advent	\$900.00	\$845.00	\$850.00	(\$50.00)	-5.56%
Christmas	\$7,500.00	\$5,001.00	\$6,000.00	(\$1,500.00)	-20.00%
Lent	\$1,000.00	\$1,632.00	\$1,750.00	\$750.00	75.00%
Ash Wednesday	\$500.00	\$1,130.00	\$1,200.00	\$700.00	140.00%
Holy Thursday	\$250.00	\$225.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Good Friday	\$300.00	\$600.00	\$650.00	\$350.00	116.67%
Thanksgiving	\$500.00	\$360.00	\$375.00	(\$125.00)	-25.00%
Prepaid	\$10,200.00	\$10,200.00	\$13,362.00	\$3,162.00	31.00%
Thrivent Choice	\$1,000.00	\$1,354.00	\$1,300.00	\$300.00	30.00%
Lutheran	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$250.00)	-100.00%
Interest-General	\$8,900.00	\$9,769.81	\$10,000.00	\$1,100.00	12.36%
Sunday School	\$350.00	\$405.00	\$400.00	\$50.00	14.29%
Special Event	\$0.00	\$275.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Rental	\$6,600.00	\$6,600.00	\$6,850.00	\$250.00	3.79%
Interest-Parsonage	\$8,200.00	\$8,784.28	\$9,000.00	\$800.00	9.76%
Easter	\$2,500.00	\$2,750.00	\$3,000.00	\$500.00	20.00%
Amazon	\$0.00	\$113.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Offset	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
EFT Processing	\$0.00	\$87.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$368,850.00</b>	<b>\$346,704.83</b>	<b>\$374,787.00</b>	<b>\$5,937.00</b>	<b>1.61%</b>

### EXPENSE

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
La Crosse Synod	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.04	\$32,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Campus Ministry	\$3,000.00	\$3,112.78	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Sugar Creek	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.16	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Community Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Causeway	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	0.00%
WS Fire Dept	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>Mission Total</b>	<b>\$38,500.00</b>	<b>\$38,612.98</b>	<b>\$38,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Salary, Senior	\$60,500.00	\$60,500.16	\$63,520.00	\$3,020.00	4.99%
Benefits, Sr Pr	\$27,996.00	\$27,996.43	\$28,523.00	\$527.00	1.88%
Housing, Sr Pr	\$13,890.00	\$13,890.00	\$13,890.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Cont Ed, Sr Pr	\$800.00	\$35.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Books, Sr Pr	\$300.00	\$199.43	\$300.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Synod Mtg, Sr Pr	\$400.00	\$537.87	\$400.00	\$0.00	0.00%
FICA Sr Pr	\$4,184.00	\$4,184.16	\$4,184.00	\$0.00	0.00%

<b>Senior Pastor Total</b>	\$108,070.00	\$107,343.05	\$111,617.00	\$3,547.00	3.28%
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Salary, Assoc Pr	\$40,000.00	\$39,999.96	\$41,000.00	\$1,000.00	2.50%
Benefits, Assoc Pr	\$21,623.00	\$21,622.51	\$22,058.00	\$435.00	2.01%
Housing, Assoc Pr	\$10,725.00	\$12,000.00	\$10,725.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Cont Ed, Assoc Pr	\$800.00	\$291.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Books, Assoc Pr	\$300.00	\$43.25	\$300.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Synod Mtg, Assoc Pr	\$400.00	\$107.88	\$400.00	\$0.00	0.00%
FICA, Assoc Pr	\$3,231.00	\$3,230.64	\$3,231.00	\$0.00	0.00%

<b>Assoc Pastor Total</b>	\$77,079.00	\$77,295.24	\$78,514.00	\$1,435.00	1.86%
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Secretary	\$26,750.00	\$26,074.88	\$28,000.00	\$1,250.00	4.67%
Youth and Family	\$10,750.00	\$135.00	\$10,750.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Music Coordinator	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,680.00	\$180.00	4.00%
Organist	\$14,700.00	\$15,433.99	\$15,300.00	\$600.00	4.08%
Choir Director	\$6,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$6,240.00	\$240.00	4.00%
Maintenance	\$10,000.00	\$8,668.76	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Treasurer	\$4,713.00	\$4,713.00	\$4,900.00	\$187.00	3.97%
Counter	1,957.00	1,956.96	\$2,035.00	\$78.00	3.99%
Dishwasher	\$450.00	\$160.00	\$450.00	\$0.00	0.00%
FICA	\$6,106.00	\$4,968.54	\$6,300.16	\$194.16	3.18%

<b>Lay Salaries</b>	\$85,926.00	\$69,611.13	\$88,655.16	\$2,729.16	3.18%
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Conference/Conventio	\$800.00	\$760.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Property Insurance	\$5,000.00	\$6,092.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,000.00	20.00%
Workers Comp	\$1,500.00	\$2,006.00	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	33.33%
Pulpit Supply	\$500.00	\$375.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	0.00%

<b>Administration</b>	\$7,800.00	\$9,233.00	\$9,300.00	\$1,500.00	19.23%
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Postage/Petty Cash	\$2,500.00	\$2,355.90	\$2,750.00	\$250.00	10.00%
Office Supplies	\$2,750.00	\$3,075.82	\$3,000.00	\$250.00	9.09%
Copier Supplies	\$1,000.00	\$842.31	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Office Equipment	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Software	\$1,100.00	\$519.00	\$600.00	(\$500.00)	-45.45%
Auto Expense	\$2,000.00	\$2,010.24	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Internet/Telephone	\$3,100.00	\$2,626.92	\$2,750.00	(\$350.00)	-11.29%
<b>Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,700.00</b>	<b>\$11,430.19</b>	<b>\$12,350.00</b>	<b>(\$350.00)</b>	<b>-2.76%</b>
Gas	\$4,000.00	\$4,968.83	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00	25.00%
Electric	\$6,000.00	\$5,801.44	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Water/Sewer	\$900.00	\$960.50	\$1,000.00	\$100.00	11.11%
General Maintenance	\$10,000.00	\$9,630.18	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Green Thumb	\$400.00	\$324.57	\$400.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>Building</b>	<b>\$21,300.00</b>	<b>\$21,685.52</b>	<b>\$22,400.00</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>	<b>5.16%</b>
Outreach Committee	\$1,000.00	\$1,115.31	\$1,200.00	\$200.00	20.00%
Lutheran Subscription	\$400.00	\$565.11	\$550.00	\$150.00	37.50%
Senior Ministries	\$250.00	\$290.39	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
OWLS	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>\$1,750.00</b>	<b>\$1,970.81</b>	<b>\$2,100.00</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>	<b>20.00%</b>
Parish Activities	\$600.00	(\$33.30)	\$500.00	(\$100.00)	-16.67%
<b>Social</b>	<b>\$600.00</b>	<b>(\$33.30)</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>(\$100.00)</b>	<b>-16.67%</b>
Stewardship Comm	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$100.00)	-100.00%
Envelopes	\$1,300.00	\$1,226.73	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Electronic Giving Fee	\$1,200.00	\$1,075.44	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>\$2,600.00</b>	<b>\$2,302.17</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	<b>(\$100.00)</b>	<b>-3.85%</b>
Music Supplies	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	(\$50.00)	-9.09%
Worship Supplies	\$3,300.00	\$2,311.45	\$2,750.00	(\$550.00)	-16.67%

Devotional Materials	\$550.00	\$611.25	\$625.00	\$75.00	13.64%
Copyright Fees	\$1,385.00	\$1,404.00	\$1,400.00	\$15.00	1.08%
Wednesday Worship	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	(\$3,000.00)	-54.55%
<b>Worship</b>	<b>\$11,285.00</b>	<b>\$4,326.70</b>	<b>\$7,775.00</b>	<b>(\$3,510.00)</b>	<b>-31.10%</b>
Parish/Adult Ed	\$0.00	\$79.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Sunday School	\$2,500.00	\$1,348.13	\$1,800.00	(\$700.00)	-28.00%
Confirmation	\$800.00	\$456.05	\$600.00	(\$200.00)	-25.00%
<b>Education</b>	<b>\$3,300.00</b>	<b>\$1,883.26</b>	<b>\$2,400.00</b>	<b>(\$900.00)</b>	<b>-27.27%</b>
Youth Program Suppor	\$750.00	\$97.12	\$750.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Sugar Creek Campers	\$2,650.00	\$3,285.00	\$3,000.00	\$350.00	13.21%
College Student Suppo	\$650.00	\$190.00	\$500.00	(\$150.00)	-23.08%
Family Ministries	\$250.00	\$195.79	\$250.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<b>Youth</b>	<b>\$4,300.00</b>	<b>\$3,767.91</b>	<b>\$4,500.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>4.65%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$375,210.00</b>	<b>\$348,153.66</b>	<b>\$381,111.16</b>	<b>\$5,901.16</b>	<b>1.57%</b>

# Asset Report – 2022

## Church Accounts

Account #	Account Name	End of year Balance
<b><i>Assets</i></b>		
1.00.200	Interest Checking Account	164,209.29
1.00.608	ELCA Pooled Trust – General*	299,386.95
1.00.609	ELCA Pooled Trust – Parsonage*	<u>197,908.97</u>
<b><i>Total Assets</i></b>		<b>\$661,505.21</b>
 <b><i>Liabilities</i></b>		
2.00.200	Federal tax deposit	1,492.54
2.00.300	State Withholding tax	439.11
2.00.900	Pass Through Accounts	<u>830.79+</u>
<b><i>Total Liabilities</i></b>		<b>\$2,762.44</b>

\*These balances are as of November 30, 2022 based on the statement from ELCA Endowment Pooled Trust. The December 31, 2022 numbers will not be available until 23 business days in to January/February. The numbers will be updated once they are received to reflect the correct ending balance of 2022 and will show on the 2023 annual report.

### **Update to 2021 Annual Report Asset Report -**

1.00.608 ELCA Pooled Trust – General –	
End of Year Balance reported in 2021 Annual Report	\$369,933.53
Interest as of 12/31/21 added in February 2022	\$10,470.45
Actual End of Year Balance (12/31/21)	\$380,403.98
1.00.609 ELCA Pooled Trust – Parsonage –	
End of Year Balance reported in 2021 Annual Report	\$244,543.60
Interest as of 12/31/21 added in February 2022	\$6,942.47
Actual End of Year Balance (12/31/21)	\$251,465.07

+ Includes monies designated for College Scholarship and Sugar Creek Campership Support donations.

# 2022 Fund Report

	Jan 1	2022	2022	Dec 31
	Balance	Income	Expense	Balance
3.00.000 General Fund	\$143,243.31	\$350,564.01	\$348,275.81	\$145,531.51
3.01.100 Building Fund	\$10,538.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,538.35
3.01.102 Facility Needs Fund	\$17,474.17	\$1,295.00	\$18,769.17	\$0.00
3.01.103 Cap Improvements	\$5,975.12	\$3,460.00	\$0.00	\$9,435.12
3.01.104 Emergency Fund	\$5,020.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,020.25
3.01.105 Equip Repl Fund	\$1,156.23	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,156.23
3.01.200 <i>New Facilities/Programs</i>				
3.01.201 New Fac/Programs	\$45,900.80	\$0.00	\$5,218.33	\$40,682.47
3.01.202 Youth Program	\$7,136.14	\$830.00	\$0.00	\$7,966.14
3.01.300 Building Centennial Fund	\$20,929.13	\$3,100.00	\$1,157.05	\$22,872.08
3.02.102 Johnson House South	\$2,193.53	\$3,300.00	\$1,742.70	\$3,750.83
3.02.103 Market Gain-ELCA PT Parsonag	\$251,465.07	\$0.00	\$53,556.10	\$197,908.97
3.03.100 <i>Memorial/Bequest Fund</i>				
3.03.101 Bequest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3.03.102 Memorial Fund	\$43,253.16	\$585.00	\$2,062.37	\$41,775.79
3.03.103 To Be Designated	\$2,310.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,310.00
3.04.101 Eggen Seminary Scholarship	\$8,060.96	\$322.00	\$0.00	\$8,382.96
3.04.102 Eggen-Anderson Camper Fund	\$2,328.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,328.12
3.04.103 Meyer/Lewis Scholarship Fund	\$4,301.80	\$172.00	\$500.00	\$3,973.80
3.04.105 Marking Scholarship Fund	\$20,993.31	\$803.00	\$1,400.00	\$20,396.31
3.04.106 Michelson Scholarship Fund	\$57,649.08	\$2,306.00	\$0.00	\$59,955.08
3.04.107 Moe Scholarship Fund	\$1,689.82	\$68.00	\$0.00	\$1,757.82
3.04.108 Piper Scholarship Fund	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
3.05.101 Dir-Youth/Family Salary Fund	\$4,646.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,646.67
3.05.102 Sabbatical Fund	\$6,027.20	\$0.00	\$5,968.75	\$58.45
3.05.103 Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$506.10	\$1,493.90	\$1,125.00	\$875.00
3.06.101 Choir Fund	\$3,651.64	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$3,731.64
3.06.102 Confirmation Bibles Fund	\$1,174.38	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$1,674.38
3.06.103 Disaster Relief Team Fund	\$2,135.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,135.00
3.06.104 Education Fund	\$3,017.97	\$265.00	\$0.00	\$3,282.97
3.06.105 Coffee Fellowship Fund	\$864.66	\$169.13	\$15.96	\$1,017.83
3.06.107 Green Thumb Fund	\$1,858.13	\$1,109.00	\$2,202.13	\$765.00
3.06.108 Music Fund	\$1,674.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,674.77
3.06.109 Senior Ministry Fund	\$1,136.65	\$245.00	\$0.00	\$1,381.65
3.06.110 Social Fund	\$2,523.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,523.89
3.06.111 Youth Ministry Fund	\$8,833.21	\$458.00	\$0.00	\$9,291.21
3.06.113 Summer Lunch Fund	\$2,143.60	\$1,855.00	\$2,850.75	\$1,147.85
3.06.114 Youth Mission Scholar Fund	\$2,881.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,881.10
3.06.115 Confirmation Fee Fund	(\$552.67)	\$125.00	\$200.00	(\$627.67)
3.06.116 Long Education Fund	\$3,142.38	\$235.00	\$177.34	\$3,200.04
3.06.117 SEP Resource Fund	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00

3.06.118	PLC Fund	\$520.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$520.00
3.06.119	Conf-Servant Leadership Fund	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
3.06.201	Administration-Bequest Fund	(\$262.86)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$262.86)
3.06.202	Outreach-Bequest Fund	\$5,626.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,626.74
3.06.203	Stewardship-Bequest Fund	\$1,748.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,748.03
3.06.204	Worship Fund	\$297.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$297.53
3.06.301	Library Fund	\$1,944.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,944.38
3.07.101	Market Gain-ELCA PT General	\$103,284.37	\$0.00	\$81,017.03	\$22,267.34
	Total Funds				\$658,742.77
	Total Liabilities				\$2,762.44
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balance				\$661,505.21

## Ministry Giving – 2022 (Via Pass Through account)

Ministry Supported	Amount
ELCA World Hunger	4,573.65
Care & Share Food Pantry	470.00
Lutheran Social Services	500.00*
Lutheran Campus Ministry	1,260.00
Salvation Army	500.00*
LaCrosse Warming Center	263.10
OSLC Summer Lunch	1,105.00
Lutheran World Relief	1,086.00*
Lutheran Disaster Response - Ukraine	5,553.80*
Sugar Creek	255.00
OSLC Camperships	2,865.00

\*\*Note: Amount includes donations from "2021 Lutefisk Dinner Challenge"

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **RESOLUTION #1**

*Recommended by the Congregation Council*

Resolved, that the proposed budget for 2023 in the amount of \$381,111.16, including mission support and salaries, be adopted.

### **RESOLUTION #2**

*Recommended by the Congregation Council*

Resolved, that the congregation approve the proposal from the Mission Endowment Fund Committee for the 2023 disbursement as presented.

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

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

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”  
(Hebrews 13:16).

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## OPENING LITURGY

### Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

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

**And also with you.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Receive our prayer, O God.**

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

**Amen.**

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

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

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

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

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

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

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