

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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 signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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 Meeting of the Congregation

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eldridge, IA

Sunday, January 29, 2022 9:00 a.m.

Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda

Minutes of the previous Annual Congregational Meeting, January 30, 2022

Presentation of Reports

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Page 8	Pastors' Reports (Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather)
Page 11	Financial Report (Deanna Nielsen)
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Page 14	Audit Report (Josh Rasmussen)
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Page 21	Christian Ed Report (Theresa White)
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Page 28	Youth Committee Report
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Page 31	Memorial Account Activity Report (Carolyn Scheibe)
Page 32	Women of Faith Report (Linda Szemkus)
Page 33	Women of Faith Treasurer's Report (Karen Schmitt)
Page 34	Feed Our Children Ministry
Page 35	North Scott Food Pantry Report (Deanna Nielsen)
Page 36	Luther Properties Report (Kim Wilkins),

Old Business

New Business

- Thank you to Outgoing Council Members
Melody Sawvell served 6 years as Fellowship Team Leader and 3 years as Vice President. Matt Peck served 3 years as Evangelism Team Leader. Linda Golinghorst served 2 years as Council President, 1 year as Stewardship Ministry Team Leader, and 3 years as Evangelism Team Leader.
- Election of Council Members
Council members are elected for a three year term except where noted. Vote for six: Mike Garner (2 years), Myron Scheibe (2 years), John Hintze, Joan Hennigan, Michelle Rasmussen and open.

- Election of Endowment Committee Members
Endowment Committee Members are elected for a three year term. Vote for one: Scott Rochau (second term)
- Election of Nominating Committee Members
Nominating Committee Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for five: Theresa White, Ken Oetzmann, Carol Marten, Lynda Miller, and Tom Bauer
- Election of Synod Assembly Voting Members
Synod Assembly Voting Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for two: Duane Miller and Madelyn La Plante
- Election of Synod Assembly Voting Member Alternates
Synod Assembly Voting Member Alternates are elected for a one year term. Vote for two: Kim Wilkins and tbd
- Adoption of 2023 Budget
- Other

Adjournment

Annual Meeting of the Congregation Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eldridge, IA Sunday, January 30, 2022 10:30 a.m. Minutes

Call to Order President Linda Golvinghorst called the meeting to order with a quorum in attendance.
Minutes: Pastor Carrie read the opening liturgy.

Adoption of Agenda

Minutes: The motion was made by Melody Sawvell. and seconded by Kelly Penning to adopt the agenda,
motion carried unanimously.

Minutes of the previous Annual Congregational Meeting, January 31, 2021

Minutes: A motion was made by Dan O'Flaherty and seconded by Nina Looney to approve the minutes from the 2021 congregational meeting, the motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of Reports

- Minutes of January 31, 2021 (Joni Schneider)
- Pastors Reports (Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather)
- Financial Report (Deanna Nielsen)
- Audit Report (Josh Rasmussen)
- 2022 Budget (Deanna Nielsen)
- Council President Report (Linda Golvinghorst)
- Church Council Directory (Linda Golvinghorst)
- Teams and Committee Members (Linda Golvinghorst)
- Church Records Summary (Pastor Carrie)
- Membership Information (Pastor Carrie)
- Christian Ed Report (Theresa White)
- Evangelism Report (Matt Peck)
- Feed Our Children Ministry (Beth Ann Anderson & Amy Powell)
- Fellowship Report (Melody Sawvell)
- Property Report (Mike Garner)
- Service in the World Report (Joni Schneider)
- Worship and Music Report (Nina Looney)
- Youth Committee Report (Joni King)
- Endowment Committee Report (Myron Scheibe)
- Memorial Committee Report (Mary Ann Anderson)
- Memorial Account Activity Report (Carolyn Scheibe)
- Women of Faith Report (Linda Szemkus)
- Women of Faith Treasurer's Report (Karen Schmitt)
- North Scott Food Pantry Report (Deanna Nielsen)
- Luther Properties Report (Kim Wilkins)
- Mission Statement Update Team Report
- Library Committee Report
- 2020 Fund Balance Sheet (Revised, for Approval)

Minutes: The Pastors shared some comments regarding their appreciation of the congregation's support. Deanna Nielsen shared the highlights of the financial report. She gave an overview of the proposed 2022 Budget and some proposed changes with various mission areas. She reviewed proposed salary increases for staff and some areas of predicted growth in the budget as well as some additions, such as the pulpit supply for pastoral respite. It was pointed out that the budget line item called Luther Manor should be called Luther Properties. Linda Golvinghorst thanked the

congregation for the opportunity to serve as president this past year and is grateful we can meet in person at our annual meeting and at services. She acknowledged the stress that everyone has been feeling, but emphasized that the council has worked as a team and remains committed. A motion was made to file the reports by Jared Penning and seconded by Melody Sawvell and was approved unanimously.

Old Business

• **2020 Annual Report Update:** Corrected the Fund Balance Sheet to change the “11/30/2020” heading to “12/31/2020”, and to include the \$122.57 of interest earned on the First Central CD.

Minutes: A motion was made by Deanna Nielsen to approve the corrected report and seconded, approved unanimously.

New Business

• **Thank you to Outgoing Council Members**

Joni Schneider served 3 years as Service In the World Ministry Team Leader and 2 years as Secretary. Joni King served 3 years as Youth Ministry Team Leader. Ryan Harms served 1 year as Stewardship Ministry Team Leader.

Minutes: Linda G. thanked the outgoing Council members as well as the nomination committee for their work.

• **Election of Council Members**

Council members are elected for a three year term except where noted. Vote for three: Nina Looney (Worship and Music/two years remain on term), Dan O’Flaherty (Property), (Service In the World) (Youth) no nominees.

Minutes: Mike Garner shared some comments regarding nominees and asked for help replacing outgoing Council members. Linda G. explained the ballot process and opened up the floor for nominations from the floor. None were received and nominations were closed.

• **Election of Endowment Committee Members**

Endowment Committee Members are elected for a three year term. Vote for two: Janice Hartwig and Annette Tomlinson (second term).

Minutes: No nominations were received from the floor. Nominations were closed.

• **Election of Nominating Committee Members**

Nominating Committee Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for five: Linda Golinghorst (outgoing council member), Jared Penning, Michelle Rasmussen, Melody Sawvell (outgoing council member), Joni Schneider (outgoing council member)

Minutes: No nominations were received from the floor. Nominations were closed.

• **Election of Synod Assembly Voting Members (Friday/Sat May 21st-22nd)**

Synod Assembly Voting Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for two:

Minutes: Kelly Penning and Abigail La Plante were nominated from the floor. Nominations were closed.

• **Election of Synod Assembly Voting Member Alternates**

Synod Assembly Voting Delegate Alternates are elected for a one year term. Vote for two:

Minutes: No nominations were received from the floor. Nominations were closed. Ballots were distributed and the vote was taken. Ballots were collected and counted by Jim Schneider and Rhonda Webber.

Election results- 51 ballots were cast

Council Members: Nina Looney and Dan O’Flaherty (51/51 votes)

Endowment Committee Members: Janice Hartwig and Annette Tomlinson (51/51 votes)

Nominating Committee: Linda Golinghorst, Jared Penning, Michelle Rasmussen, Melody Sawvell, Joni Schneider (50/50 votes)

Synod Assembly: Kelly Penning and Abigail La Plante (51/51 votes)

• Adoption of 2022 Budget

Minutes: The budget was proposed by Council. Myron Scheibe proposed a friendly amendment that on a quarterly basis the Council provide a detailed analysis of giving versus expenses and any adjustments that are being made as necessary. There was no discussion. The budget and friendly amendment was adopted unanimously.

• Other

Minutes: Kevin Krebs shared information about Luther Properties and that representatives from Faith are needed for the annual meeting in March, contact Kevin Krebs or Kim Wilkins if interested.

Mike Garner reminded everyone that Council can appoint members to fill the open Council positions (Service in the World and Youth), so anyone that feels called to the positions can let us know.

Glen Keppy shared his concerns about service attendance, and would like to see some options made available with the services to encourage and increase attendance.

Pr. Carrie extended an invitation to everyone, children grades 3rd-8th and adults for the mission work, to go to Lutheran Lakeside church camp this summer and that the deadline for sign up is in February.

Kelly Penning thanked the pastors and council for their work and commitment over the past year. Nina Looney mentioned that there are openings for Faith Family leaders.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Amy Murray and seconded by Dan O'Flaherty to adjourn the meeting, motion carried

The 2022 Annual Report of the Senior Pastor

Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante



They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and I think that whoever “they” are have it right. As I was considering the year that has passed and what I would write about it, I just kept going back to pictures. I looked with fondness at pictures of our Confirmation students playing various silly games in class or doing their Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt. I remembered the craziness that was the High School Cinnamon Roll baking in the spring. I recalled the joy as we decorated the Fellowship Hall for our Easter

Breakfast. I laughed as I saw all of the pictures from Final Friday, Vacation Bible School, Lutheran Lakeside Camp, and the Mission Trip to Nashville as I recalled all of the fun that children and adults alike experienced at those events. My spirits were raised as I looked at the pictures of worship, including Bishop Current’s visit, the choirs, and our celebration of our graduating seniors. I felt gratitude as I remembered all of the people who have served in this place this year, whether as ushers, communion assistants, readers, Congregation Council members, Ministry Team members, Vacation Bible School volunteers, Sunday School teachers, Mission Trip chaperones, Feed Our Children volunteers, food servers at any number of events, and so much more. I was excited as I saw pictures of our youth doing the things that they love in school and the ways that we were able to support them throughout the year. I celebrated the ways in which we served in the community by participating in the Eldridge Days parade, hosting the North Scott Clergy Group Homecoming Tailgate Party, and providing the live, albeit very mobile, nativity at Hometown Holidays. All of this is only but a snapshot of all that we did to proclaim the love and shine the light of Jesus in this place and beyond this year.

As I was going through these pictures again, I was filled with excitement and hope as the energy that has been flowing through this place in recent months filled me again. It brought to mind one of my favorite verses from Isaiah: “I am about to do a new thing; / now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? / I will make a way in the wilderness / and rivers in the desert” (43:19). God has always called us to be God’s presence in this place, yet, how we have shared the love of Jesus has changed over the years. I can feel that shift happening again as new ministry ideas are beginning to emerge as we think about how we continue to be and share the love of Christ here at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. God is doing something new here, and we are beginning to perceive the new ways in the wilderness and rivers in the desert that God is creating in our midst.

While we had some struggles this past year, we met those challenges with faith and hope, and we ended the year with strength, promise and hope. The excitement in worship and around other events puts a smile on my face each day. The new faces that we are seeing joining us for worship brings joy and new life. The celebrations of the faithful lives of those whom Jesus has called home this year and the joy-filled welcome of the numerous new saints who have joined us through the waters of baptism brings renewed hope. The way that we faced the challenge of having to put a new roof over the Fellowship Hall in a financially challenging time to meet and exceed the cost was inspiring, and we finished the year strong in our general giving as well. There are new ideas brewing as we continue to seek God’s guidance on how to best meet the needs of our members, our neighbors, our community and our world. I am entering 2023 with great joy, great trust in God’s promises, and great hope for all that we can and will do together in the year ahead in Christ’s name.

Thank you all for the ways in which you continue to share the blessings that God has given to you with this community of faith so that we can continue to do God’s mission and ministry in and through this place. Thank you to all of the leaders who have served this year, giving of their time and talent to lead our ministry. Thank you to our musicians who add that special touch to our worship services. Thank you to all who teach and mentor our youth and adults as we all continue to grow in faith. Thank you to the staff, Pastor Heather Geest, Beth Ann Anderson, Dennis Kelly, Susan Becker, and Teri Wittkowski for serving God in all that they do each day and helping to make each day a privilege for me as I serve alongside them. Finally, thanks be to God for calling me to serve as your Senior Pastor and for all the ways that God has shown up in this year to lead, guide, comfort and support us together on the journey we share.

May these pictures represent more than the thousands of words that fill my heart as I give thanks for the year that has passed and look forward in hope and joy for all that lies ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante



Pastor Heather's 2022 Report

It has been a joy and honor to be a part of ministry at Faith Lutheran for the past twelve years. I can hardly believe I have been here that long. We are a community that is faithful, strong and resilient, even when at times I have felt weak and unsteady. Our shared life together during pandemic time has not been without struggle or hardship, and yet we are still deeply grounded in the ministry of Christ, and we are evolving in new ways as a congregation. As we look to the future, I am excited about the ways we can regain and re-engage our sense of community connection and to grow spiritually in Christ being robust in faith.

One of the greatest gifts we continue to have as a faith community is the different generations of people who call Faith Lutheran their home. Our varied life experiences and ages CAN make us a stronger body of Christ. I believe one of our greatest goals for the future will be collaborating and communicating our church's story so that we can provide unity and a sense of belonging to all those physically enter our church doors or attend worship in the comfort of their own homes. As a community that follows Christ, we want to share the good news of Christ and make God's love known to the world around us, so that all may experience God's love.

In the new year I am looking forward to all the ways we can grow the community we have missed so dearly. I can't wait to hear more from the Sanctuary Update Team as they have been gathering for the past four years in hopes of creating a space that is more accessible, functional and welcoming for the larger community. This is wonderful way to re-engage and re-imagine our shared future together. I am also looking forward to the formation of a homebound ministry team that will intentionally focus on strengthening relationships with parishioners who are unable to attend worship regularly. Outreach is a critical part of our faith and so is remembering and connecting with others. I am also hopeful for the return of more meal ministries within this congregation. Being able to physically gather with others around a table to share a meal and conversation is important on so many levels. As a congregation we want to continue to provide opportunities for meaningful connection and belonging, so that all may be fed physically and spiritually within the Body of Christ. We want to strive to be a place of welcome and warm hospitality.

As we come to the start of new year, I want to personally thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ in this place as a part-time pastor. It was a tremendous gift to have respite time in October. Thank you for being a place where I can watch my children grow in faith, being a mother and a pastor is a blessing. I give thanks to God for all of you, for the work you do, and all the ways you make Christ's love known in and through this community of faith.

Peace,
Pastor Heather

Finance Committee

The finance committee works to oversee the financial aspects of the church. Members of the committee are Allen Lewis, Kevin Lee, Carolyn Scheibe, Rhonda Webber and Deanna Nielsen. The committee meets as needed throughout the year. Two cash handling policies were written and adopted.

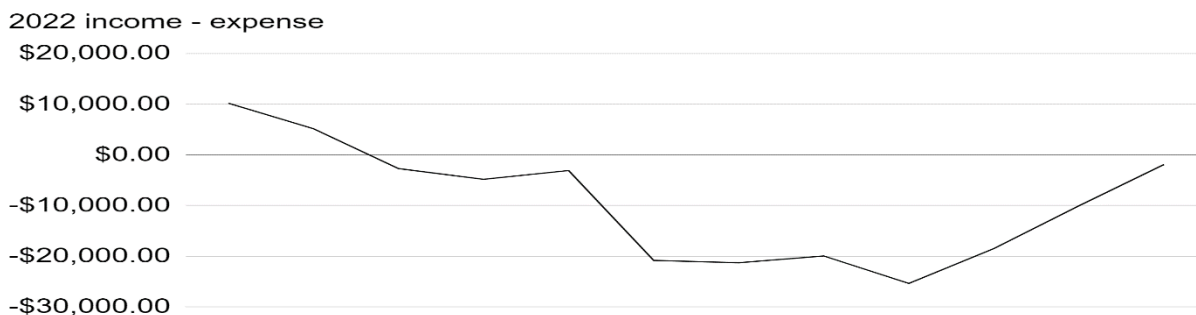
Our long-time financial secretary, Carolyn Scheibe resigned early in 2022. Carolyn had served in this position for over 20 years. We thank her for her dedication, technical skills, and willingness to teach and guide her replacement. Rhonda Webber accepted the financial secretary position and has quickly mastered the ICON database. Through August, offerings were counted and deposited weekly by a team of two people. Starting in September we returned to having two people count the offering and make a deposit after each worship service. The financial secretary enters all the contributions including online giving into our financial database, thus providing separation of duties and ensuring confidentiality.

Disbursement vouchers are submitted and approved according to the budget. The checks are written by our office manager, Beth Ann Anderson, and presented, along with the supporting paperwork to the treasurer for approval and check signing. This ensures complete separation of monies received and disbursed, with at least 2 people checking and involved in each step of the process.

Payroll is processed by Fahrenkrog Accounting. Church employees submit data to Pastor Carrie. She reviews the payroll before submitting it to the accountant for processing. The payroll checks are issued via electronic deposit.

Josh Rasmussen, Neal Becker and Matt Briehl reviewed the financial records in early April. Corrective actions have been implemented to address the audit recommendations.

Throughout most of 2022, the general fund expenses were more than the income. We started the year with large offerings in January that kept us funded until March when we needed to use reserve funds. At the end of September, we were over \$25,000 in the reserve funds but finished the year just \$1895 into the reserve funds. Offering in the last quarter for the general fund and the roof replacement were impressive! The chart shows the monthly balance (income minus the expenses).



The finance committee reviewed the 2023 budget requests from the council members, the synod's recommendation of 5.67% salary increases for the pastors, and the personnel committee's recommendation of 2% salary increases for all non-rostered employees. The final decision for the 2023 budget was determined by the council.

Finally, a big thank you to all who contributed to the re-roofing fund. Within the first 2 weeks of hearing of the need, half the money was raised. The total cost for the roof repair with the 20-year warranty was \$50,605. At the end of 2022, a total of \$48,640 had been contributed. Truly above expectations!

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Nielsen, Treasurer

2022 Faith Lutheran Church
Fund Balance Sheet

	12/31/2021	YTD Income	YTD Expenses	Transfers	12/31/2022
	Balance				Balance
Operating Fund	30,857.54	337,089.08	(338,983.64)		28,962.98
Payroll tax withholding					(235.69)
Total Operating Funds	30,857.54			-	28,727.29
Special Funds					
Adult Mission Trip	-	-	-		-
Camp	-	-	(1,320.00)	1,320.00	-
Christmas	905.00	2,240.00	(920.00)	-	2,225.00
Coffee Hour		30.55	-		30.55
Continuing Ed Assoc Pastor	1,581.71	-	-	600.00	2,181.71
Continuing Ed Sr Pastor	1,196.12	-	(901.23)	1,000.00	1,294.89
Disaster Relief	-	-	-		-
Easter	-	2,260.00	(2,260.00)	-	-
Endowment Fund	-	-	(712.50)	712.50	-
Fellowship Hall Roof		48,640.00	(48,640.00)		-
Food Pantry	-	1,780.00	(1,780.00)	-	-
Memorials	-	-	(187.09)	187.09	-
Misc In/Out	1,105.45	994.00	(815.03)		1,284.42
Missionary Support	(10.00)	-	-		(10.00)
Mission Trip	4,745.44	12,212.67	(9,290.38)	500.00	8,167.73
OCC/Global Barnyard	1,309.20	1,009.00	(1,431.20)		887.00
Outreach	313.20	1,440.00	(1,516.89)		236.31
Outside Plantings	771.62	-	(85.14)		686.48
Rooftop AC	-	-	-		-
Sanctuary Update	16,222.50	-	(1,157.50)		15,065.00
Summer Food Project	10,023.63	520.00	(3,578.56)		6,965.07
Sunday School	214.40	563.58	(220.00)		557.98
Teddy Bear	108.50	-	-	-	108.50
Thanksgiving	-	860.00	(860.00)		-
Unbudgeted Repairs/Mntc	2,578.00	1,123.07	(12,505.94)	7,067.05	(1,737.82)
VBS	8.00	321.96	(329.96)		-
Women of Faith	-	645.00	(645.00)		-
World Hunger	-	445.91	(445.91)	-	-
Youth Junior High	310.47	-	-		310.47
Youth Senior High	997.31	-	-		997.31
Total Specials	42,380.55	75,085.74	(89,602.33)	11,386.64	39,250.60
Bank Accounts	12/31/2021	Deposits	Withdrawals	Transfers	12/31/2022
Checking	73,238.09	412,174.82	(428,585.97)	11,386.64	68,213.58
Payroll tax withholding					(235.69)
Net checking					<u>67,977.89</u>
Savings					
Operating Fund	10,000.00				10,000.00
Unbudgeted Repairs/Maint	40,001.72				40,001.72
Rooftop AC	12,725.00				12,725.00
Sanctuary Updates	5,000.00				5,000.00
Interest		33.87			33.87
Total Savings	67,726.72	33.87	-	-	67,760.59
Memorial Savings	41,540.07	17,568.64	(8,712.88)	(9,336.64)	41,059.19
Endowment Savings					
First Trust & Savings CD	47,488.82	954.52			48,443.34
First Trust & Savings CD 2	4,016.13	32.18			4,048.31
First Central Savings	1,922.55	20,541.79		(450.00)	22,014.34
Sentinel Security Life Annuity	20,000.00	631.71			20,631.71
Total Endowment Savings	73,427.50	22,160.20	-	(450.00)	95,137.70
TOTAL ACCOUNTS	255,932.38	451,937.53	(437,298.85)	1,600.00	271,935.37

Faith Lutheran Church 2023 Budget

	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
General Fund Budget			\$ 385,790.00	\$ 378,236.00
Mission				
Synod Mission				
SE Iowa Synod	39,967.77	40,156.71	39,600.00	36,000.00
Additional Mission		-	3,340.00	500.00
Bible Camp	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	500.00
Compassion Child	836.00	912.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Iowa City Chaplaincy	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	500.00
Luther Properties		200.00	200.00	200.00
Missionary Support		540.00	540.00	540.00
North Scott Clergy	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	700.00
Seminary Student Fund	920.00	920.00	920.00	400.00
Total Mission	\$ 45,623.77	\$ 45,628.71	\$ 49,500.00	\$ 40,340.00
STAFFING				
Senior Pastor				
Salary	56,373.12	57,732.98	57,733.00	60,909.00
FICA Allowance	5,482.08	5,587.92	5,588.00	5,841.00
Pension/Insurance	21,915.48	22,365.96	22,366.00	23,074.00
Housing Equity Allowance	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Furnishing Allowance	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Mileage/Prof. Expenses	1,039.92	2,175.28	3,200.00	3,200.00
Additional Benefits	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Continuing Education	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total Senior Pastor	94,310.60	97,362.14	98,387.00	102,524.00
Associate Pastor				
Salary/Housing	31,450.32	32,238.02	32,238.00	34,065.00
FICA Allowance	2,073.12	2,064.96	2,065.00	2,193.00
Pension/Insurance	26,408.28	27,959.04	27,959.00	29,135.00
Continuing Education	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Mileage/Prof. Expenses	432.21	1,494.69	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total Assoc. Pastor	60,963.93	64,356.71	63,862.00	66,993.00
Total Support Staffing	64,225.84	63,036.75	68,904.00	66,785.00
Total Fellowship	671.36	659.89	1,350.00	1,050.00
Total Service in the World	2,442.03	1,483.77	3,900.00	2,600.00
Total Evangelism	1,458.97	1,171.24	1,908.00	1,400.00
Total Worship/Music	8,108.72	6,554.58	9,330.00	6,600.00
Total Children's Education	2,324.42	1,506.84	7,450.00	5,200.00
Total Jr High Youth	6,200.68	2,310.12	8,225.00	5,650.00
Total High School Youth Education	5,113.68	3,112.36	11,300.00	6,600.00
Total Education/Youth/Family	13,960.27	7,088.81	27,275.00	17,750.00
Total Stewardship	381.26	406.90	900.00	700.00
Total Miscellaneous	5,038.50	25.60	5,500.00	5,500.00
Total Administration	14,358.81	16,507.27	20,609.00	18,439.00
Total Property	34,813.31	34,701.27	34,365.00	47,555.00
Total Operating Expenditures	\$ 346,357.37	\$ 338,983.64	\$ 385,790.00	\$ 378,236.00
Operating Revenue	\$ 334,327.92	\$ 337,089.08	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 360,000.00

Audit Report 2021

Audit Team: Neal Becker, Matt Briehl, and Joshua Rasmussen (Chair)

Audit Scope: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Overview: The audit team reviewed the control environment at the Faith Lutheran Church and found no major deficiencies. The audit was conducted based on the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Audit Guide as well as the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Audit Committee Charter. The audit review period was for Fiscal 2021 and was conducted between March 28th and April 11th, 2021.

Observations & Recommendations

Banking & Investments - Observation The year end fund balance sheet did not match the year end bank statement. As is the case with most checking accounts there were several items that had not yet cleared the bank account as of December 31. There were previously written checks and other items that had not cleared the bank account. Some of those items went as far back as 2015. There was a balance of \$73,238.09 to be accurate after adjustments were made for outstanding items.

Recommendation Conduct a review of the outstanding items as of December 31, 2021, to determine whether they should be added back into the checking account or be replaced with a current check (some of these items are considered stale dated). Also, consider adding this as an annual review to ensure all necessary items have cleared in a timely manner.

Banking Reconciliations - Observation No deficiencies observed

Petty Cash - Observation Petty cash is rarely utilized and most transaction are via credit card transactions.

Recommendation If petty cash is necessary, adhere to the current standard to always keep the balance at \$20 through a combination of cash and receipts. If petty cash is no longer necessary, consider eliminating the use of petty cash and only using credit card transactions to have a better control going forward.

Income Benevolence - Observation No deficiencies observed

Income Offering - Observation For the weekend of June 24, there was no bank deposit receipt. There was a comment noting the missing receipt in the file. Another exception was found where the bank deposit receipt amount was \$5 less than the deposit slip total. The date of this deposit was October 12.

Recommendation Continue to strive for accuracy when counting the weekly offerings and completing the deposit slips. Retain all deposit documents.

Disbursements - Observation In the July miscellaneous folder, there was a payment to Lutheran Lakeside, check #18905 dated July 16 in the amount of \$2020.00. The description on the expense voucher said Adult Mission Trip Supplies and the account charged was #5310-adult mission. There was not any supporting documentation attached. The auditor found through discussions that this money was paid to Lutheran Lakeside for the purchase of repair materials and supplies for repair work completed by adult campers.

Recommendation Invoices are routinely paid in a timely manner. All check stubs note the account and account number being charged. When no source document is available, a written explanation in the file with the check stub will help alleviate questions in the future.

Credit Card Transactions - Observation While most credit card transactions had an auditable trail, there were a few small purchases where a credit card receipt was not provided. Most of these included a comment in the file noting that the receipt was not attached.

Recommendation Invoices or receipts should be retained and available to verify all credit card purchases. While the reimbursement/expense voucher has the account name to be charged, it might be beneficial for account accuracy to include the account number here as well. This would be similar to the information contained on the check stub for non-credit card disbursements.

Payroll - Observation There was 1 missing mileage log in the documentation from the period October 31, 2021. Additionally, some mileage logs contained the total miles but did not contain detailed information.

Recommendation Ensure supporting documents are attached to the payroll information. Also, include supporting documentation to support the total mileage log. If there is a recurring or monthly allowance, add a note on the mileage log to state how the total number was derived. Endowment Funds Observation No deficiencies observed

2022 Council President Report

The 2022 council was made up of dedicated volunteers who wanted to see Faith Lutheran Church in Eldridge, Iowa be a place from which God's word and works can shine forth. Our goals were to serve the needs of the entire congregation, as well as our community, and world to the best of our ability.

Some of the missions supported by your donations of time, talent, and treasure include: A Sunday school program, confirmation, an active youth program, service to others through meal preparation, providing joy with music and worship, sharing our space for community events on our lawn, supporting organizations near and far with donations, and so many others I am sure to overlook. Please take the time to read through the team reports to see more details of the exciting things that are happening.

The council thanks all those who gave in one way or another in 2022. The countless volunteers who always seem to show up. Anyone who made an offering of any kind. These gifts add up to make many lights that brighten the world.

In closing, from my perspective as president, the 2022 council was an inspiration to work with. The care, consideration, joy, excitement, and commitment that each member has for Faith Lutheran church makes the time spent with them rewarding and energizing.

Mike Garner, Council President

563-349-4459

2022 Congregation Council

The Congregation Council has general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Pastors		
Senior Pastor	Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante	
Associate Pastor	Pastor Heather Geest	
Officers		
President	Mike Garner (1st Term)	Term Ends January '23
Vice President	Dan O'Flaherty (1st Term)	Term Ends January '25
Treasurer	Deanna Nielsen	Term Ends January '24
Secretary	Theresa White	Term Ends January '24
Ministry Team/Committee Chairs		
Christian Education	Theresa White	Term Ends January '24
Evangelism	Matt Peck	Term Ends January '23
Fellowship	Melody Sawvell (2nd Term)	Term Ends January '23
Finance	Deanna Nielsen	Term Ends January '24
Property	Dan O'Flaherty	Term Ends January '25
Service in the World	Myron Scheibe (1 year appointment)	Appointment Ends '23; Position Term Ends January '25
Stewardship	Linda Golvinghorst (2nd Term)	Term Ends January '23
Worship and Music	Nina Looney	Term Ends January '24
Youth		Term Ends January '25
Council Resources		
Financial Secretary	Carolyn Scheibe & Rhonda Webber	
Women of Faith Liaison	Joni Schneider & Linda Szemkus	

2022 Teams, Committees, Synod Assembly Members

Ministry Teams & Task Teams	
Christian Education	Theresa White (Chair), Pastor Heather, Betty Strom, Marla Zabel, Teachers: Tracy Lindaman, Amanda Strom, Betty Strom, Theresa White, Marla Zabel
Evangelism	Matt Peck (Chair)
Fellowship	Melody Sawvell (Chair), Diane Cole, Carolyn Lewis, Janet Merrick, Deb Peterson, Beth Raiche-Melheim
Sanctuary Update Task Team	Amy Murray (Sponsor), Tom Bauer, Sue Becker, Donna Darnall, Pastor Carrie La Plante, Amy Powell, and Brad Yanke
Stewardship	Linda Golinghorst (Chair), Dave Golinghorst, Joan Hennigan, Beth Raiche-Melheim
Worship & Music	Nina Looney (Chair), Pastor Carrie, Sue Becker, Lucas Golinghorst, Linda Szemkus, Teri Wittkowski, Faith Families, Altar Guild, Video Crew
Property	Dan O'Flaherty (Chair), Ron Arp, Matt Briehl, Al Kluever, Brad Merrick, Jared Penning, John Powell, Steve Sawvell, Myron Scheibe, Kim Wilkins, Bob White, Bill Wittkowski, Brad Yanke
Service in the World	Myron Scheibe (Chair), Pam Carlson, Tom Carlson, Chris Copley, Carrie Keppy, Brad Merrick, Janet Merrick, Joni Schneider
Youth	Open (Chair), Pastor Carrie, Brea Harms, Joni King , Sue Kirst, Mentors
Committees	
Audit	Josh Rasmussen (Chair) 2020-23, Neal Becker 2021-24, Scott Rochau 2021-22
Endowment	Kim Wilkins (Chair) 2021-2024 (2nd term), Ken Oetzmann 2021-24 (2nd term), Scott Rochau 2020-23, Annette Tomlinson 2022-2025 (2nd term), Janice Hartwig 2022-2025
Finance	Deanna Nielsen (Chair), Carolyn Scheibe, Kevin Lee, Allen Lewis, Rhonda Webber
Memorial	Mary Ann Anderson (Chair), Karen Schmidt, Carolyn Scheibe
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather, Amy Murray (2022), Annette Tomlinson (2022-2023), Mary Moore (2022-2023), Terry Fenn (2022), Open (2022-2023), Open (2022)
Nominating	Linda Golinghorst, Joni Schneider, Melody Sawvell, Jared Penning, Michelle Rasmussen, Mike Garner
Other	
Synod Assembly Voting Members	Abigail La Plante, Kelly Penning
Women of Faith Board	Linda Szemkus (President), Joni Schneider (Vice President), Lynda Miller (Secretary and Mission Discipleship), Karen Schmitt (Treasurer), Sue Strazewski (Mission Stewardship), Sue Sissel (Mission Justice)

SUMMARY OF CHURCH RECORDS 2022

MARRIAGES

Jezmel Cruz Gomez &
Patricia Ann Marie Bettis

CONFIRMATIONS

Nathan Jay Anderson
Lauren Brianna Griffin
Addison Michele Harms
Evan George Keppy
Isabella Ashli Mohr
Lucas Charles Persson
Brooklyn Ann Flenker
Derek Conner Nimke
Ryan Andrew Zidarich
Jennifer Anne Garner
Audree Eleanor Yanke

MEMBER DEATHS

Barbara Jean Mohr
W. Norman Harvey
Patricia St. John
Arless E. Whisler
George Braden
John Kuhl
Debra S. Weston
Mary K. Flenker
Gloria LaVon Hamann

NON MEMBER FUNERALS

Patricia "Pat" Suzanne
Hoffmann
Mark Robert Hoffman
Jeanette E. Hendes
Rohwer Keppy
Gregg A. Mohr

BAPTISMS

Oliver Allen Shipman
Lucas James Messerich
Lynlee Monroe Ambrosy
Sutton Douglas
Cosgrove
Wallace Robert Gillespie
Roland William Flenker
Callan Jean Murray
Randy Ray Twigg
Isaac Joshua Scherer

NEW MEMBERS

Oliver Allen Shipman
Lucas James Messerich
Lynlee Monroe Ambrosy

Sutton Douglas
Cosgrove
Beth Raiche-Melheim
Steve & Patty Mixdorf
Darlene John
Chris & Rhonda Porter
Wallace Robert Gillespie
Roland William Flenker
Chelsea, Charlie, and
Maria Dingbaum
Joann Holston
Callan Jean Murray
Randy Ray Twigg
Isaac Joshua Scherer

TRANSFERS OUT

Susan Stoenen
Tom & Beth Bylund
Connie Warner

DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP BY COUNCIL ACTION

Allen, William & Janet
Ambort, Mason
Amhof, Matt & Kelly
Anderson, Kathy
Andresen, Tom &
Marsha
Barton, Juliann
(Bauer) Weibel,
Stephanie
Black, Craig
Buesing, Dana
Claussen, Rryan
Claussen, Travis
Danielson, Jeff & Diana
Dickey, Susan
Doss, Diana
Durant, Dale & Kathy
Eaton, David & Pam
Edmundson, Dave &
Becky
Ellis, Collin
Erickson, Derik &
Heather
Fitzgerald, Matt &
Michelle
Fleetwood, Scott & Jodi
Freund, Matthew
Gertz, Richard & Darcy
Gumpert, Tami

Hale, Miranda
Hamann, Todd (Teresa)
Hanson, Jesse & Jackie
Hass, Gene
Haycraft, Scott &
Kimberly
Herberg, Teresa
Kerling, Sue
Koski, Gary & Mary
Krambeck, Kirstin
Kroeger, Patrick
Kuhl, Timothy & Shelly
Lang, Michael & Pam
Lensch, Jolyn
Mandsager, Shannon
McCarthy, Deanne
McCracken, Greg &
Debbie
McVey, Jacob
Mueller, Marie
Niemann, Loren & Jane
O'Shaughnessy, Kathryn
Pennel, Nolan & Cari
Petersen, Lou Ann
Reed, Deanna
Rhoer, Katie
Sanders, Jan
Santee, Ann
Schmidt, Tyler
Shimp, Scott & Amy
Smith, Carolyn
Stark, Jim & Julie
Suiter, Colin
Tracy, Logan
Walters, Amelia
Welker, Angela
West, Rex
Winslow, Kristin

INFORMATION ABOUT MEMBERS

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership, end 2021:	939	829

Members received during 2022:

By baptism/children (15 years & younger)	8	0
By baptism/adults (16 years & older)	1	1
By affirmation of faith	4	4
By transfer from ELCA congregations	4	4
By transfer from other Lutheran congregations	0	0
From non-Lutheran congregations	2	2
From other sources and statistical adjustment	0	0

Total members received this year	19	11
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Baptized members who were confirmed in 2022: 11

Subtotal	958	851
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Members removed during 2022:

By death	9	9
By transfer to other ELCA congregations	0	0
By transfer to other Lutheran congregations	0	0
To non-Lutheran congregations	4	4
For other reasons & statistical adjustment	17	132

Total members removed this year	30	145
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Membership, end 2022:	928	706
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2022 Christian Ed Annual Report

What a fun year for our students and some adults with so many fun activities!

We started Sunday School January 7th with a “one room schoolhouse” concept. It went well and was nice to see the different ages work together. In February and March Pastor Heather conducted Holy Communion Milestones with some students. She also conducted Pre-Confirmation for some. Palm Sunday the students enjoyed Gracie the Therapy Dog being a donkey while students pretended to ride her into Jerusalem while the students waved real palms! A Faith Lutheran Float during Eldridge Days promoted our Vacation Bible School and that was our biggest learning activity in June as we had “Shake it Up” Café for a week! What a week!! We had so many fun lessons and our volunteers loved the week as much as the adults. Rally Day September 11th we had a Congregational Pancake Breakfast to kick off our fall session of Sunday School and introduced the teachers. The decision to use the classrooms again and divide the students by grade level was a good one. We finished our wonderful year with our December 11th Christmas Program at the 9:00 service followed by a successful Congregation Breakfast that had awesome attendance. Looking forward to another great 2023 year at Faith Lutheran.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa White

Christian Education Team Leader

Evangelism Team 2022 Annual Report

2022 continued with its online streaming initiated by the Evangelism Team to maneuver through the COVID pandemic. The church, with the help of various members, continued the online experience using current hardware and software solutions. The implementation of this hardware had an immediately and significant impact. As with any church function, there is always a need for members time and talents to help keep this platform going on a consistent basis. If you have a calling to help, please contact the church office so that members of the Evangelism Team can help you understand the process of live streaming.

The committee appreciates any feedback on the quality of the churches live streaming services and has continued to improve the quality based upon this feedback.

Matt Peck
Committee Chair

FELLOWSHIP TEAM 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Faith's Fellowship Team consists of the following members: Janet Merrick, Carolyn Lewis, Diane Cole and myself, Melody Sawvell as Fellowship Chair. We also receive the help and support of our spouses throughout the year which was much appreciated! This fall two additional members joined Fellowship: Deanna Nielsen and Beth Raiche-Melheim! Welcome to the team!!!

Our first event of 2022 was supposed to be the Annual Cheeseburger In Paradise, but due to the pandemic (still), we ran the Virtual "Cheeseburger In Paradise – Quarantine Style" again. This featured a slideshow of pictures from previous years and it was posted on Faith's website. Praying that we can host this event in person next year.

June 26th, 2022, we hosted the Annual Parking Lot Picnic with great success! The Fellowship Team served over 65 Faith members; BBQ pulled pork sandwiches, a variety of salads, watermelon, chips, ice cream bars and thanks to Jim & Joni Schneider for their donation of Strawberry Ice Cream cones too! Kids enjoyed some yard games and the adults enjoyed the fellowship of one other.

Our last event of the year was the Couples Anniversary Brunch which we held on Sunday, August 14th, after the 9:00 church service. 23 Faith members attended and enjoyed Breakfast Casseroles, Hash Brown Casserole, Fresh Fruit Fluff Salad, Various Breads, Orange Juice, Coffee and of course Anniversary Cake. Everyone enjoyed the time of fellowship, great food and played Bingo with some yummy prizes!

Coffee Hour started up this year and has been well received by all who stop by the table and enjoy some sweet treats. Still in need of volunteers to sign up and host one - but hoping that this will pick up next year! There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex for anyone willing to host and/or donate some treats. If you have stopped by the table on Sunday mornings, you can see that it is easy to just put some treats on trays, put out some napkins and make lemonade and coffee. It is much appreciated for all those that have signed up and hosted a Sunday morning and looking forward to seeing more members sign up to share some of your favorite treats. (These do not have to be homemade treats, if you are not a baker, you can purchase some donuts, cookies, etc.) We did reduce our "Coffee" line item in the budget since usage was less than the previous year.

Many Thanks to you all for your participation in any of our events (when possible) this past year and look forward to being together again in 2023!

A huge Thank You to my Team Members; Janet Merrick, Carolyn Lewis and Diane Cole, their spouses, Brad Merrick, David Cole and Steve Sawvell, and all of the volunteers that helped with the set up and tear down of the Picnic and to Joan Hennigan and Deb Peterson who helped us with the Anniversary Brunch! I appreciate the dedication and help everyone has given me and the team as a whole.

This is my last year serving on Council as Fellowship Chair, as my second term on Council is up! However, I will still remain a part of the Fellowship Team as I enjoy the events and activities we host and the joy it gives not only me, but the people we serve.

Respectfully submitted: Melody Sawvell

Property Team 2022 Annual Report

The property team had a busy year for 2022. Following is a list of projects completed by the team:

- We removed and replaced the desk in the business office.
- Removed and replaced two toilets at the parsonage along with drain cleaning.
- Replaced rotted step and corner post on deck at the parsonage.
- Replaced faucet in men's room main floor and repaired a leaking urinal in the downstairs men's room.
- Changed filters on all allergy apparatus in the church.
- Replaced thermostats at both the parsonage and the church.
- Provided snow removal.
- Mowed and fertilized the lawn.
- Replaced water damaged ceiling tiles in Fellowship Hall.
- Replaced the windows in the Food Pantry rooms downstairs.
- Landscaped with rock and border brick outside where new windows had been installed.
- Cleaned the storage garage and disposed of unneeded material.
- Held a cleanup day washed windows, applied mulch cleaned up yard.
- Scraped and painted the stained-glass window frames.
- Removed two dead trees, pulled weeds, trimmed bushes, cut back shrubs and all overgrowth.
- Removed and replaced sacristy door.
- Repaired and painted damaged panel above sacristy room.
- Replaced 22 vent dampers throughout the Fellowship Hall and downstairs rooms.
- Repaired broken stair lift.
- Repaired leaking faucet in the kitchen, replaced O-rings.
- Installed gutter guards on the East side of the church.
- Patched and repaired the parking lot and sprayed all the cracks with weed killer.
- Set up the Nativity scene.
- Had the large oak tree trimmed of all dead brush.
- Purchased and installed new solar lights in front of the church on the east side.
- Replaced the roof over the Fellowship Hall and education wing.
- Had a member purchase and install a new tree we watered daily.
- Replaced wood on the outside chapel.
- Cleaned the feed our children room and the catch-all room across from the janitor closet.

I am sure I have forgotten some of the smaller tasks we completed. As you can see we had a busy year and I am thankful to have a team as dedicated to serving our congregation as this property team.

Due to increasing cost beyond our control, such as gas, electric, insurance and general supplies we have had to increase the 2023 property budget \$13,190 to \$47,555 from the 2022 budget of \$34,365. I know this increase will be a burden on Faith Lutheran, but I am also encouraged by the continued attendance of new members and the filling of the pews and those following us online. We are making a comeback from the pandemic, and it is exciting to be a part of our growth.

I look forward to 2023 and all that the new year brings. God Bless

Respectfully submitted,
Dan O'Flaherty, Property Team Leader

Service in the World 2022 Annual Report

Team Members: Brad Merrick, Janet Merrick, Pam Carlson, Tom Carlson, Joni Kuehl-Schneider, Chris Copley, Carrie Keppy, Myron Scheibe

Outreach Funds Thank you to members that contribute monthly to fund this worthy cause. The following donations were made from these funds.

January \$200 to ELCA World Hunger

February and March \$200 to U of I Stead Family Children's Hospital

April \$147 to John Glenn Elementary for deodorant and soap

May \$150 to Tapestry Farms

June and July \$150 to Feed Our Children

August and September \$120 to Willie Ray Fairley Barbeque for meals provided for Kentucky flooding

October \$250 to All Hands and Hearts for hurricane relief in Florida

November \$100 to Tunnels to Towers

December \$250 to Winnie's Transitional Housing for repairs

Four meals were served for Churches United with about 60 to over a 100 meals served each time. Much thanks for all the food donations made by congregational members and it is the goal to expand the meal serving to members outside the SITW team.

A video was shown for Compassion Sunday on May 1.

Final Friday was a very good success for the last day of school for elementary students.

The Christmas project was for the ELCA Good Gifts and thank you to all who supported this program.

Submitted by Myron Scheibe

Stewardship Committee 2022 Annual Report



“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15, NRSV)

We give thanks for so much in 2022, notably: increased worship attendance, increased participation in our ministries, and continued strong financial support.

- We celebrated growth with new members, baptisms and confirmations.
- We offered prayers for those in need.
- More of us served in roles for worship and music.
- We supported community engagement ministries such as Final Friday, Homecoming Tailgate, Parade Float, Home Town Holidays, VBS and Feed Our Children.
- We answered the call with special offerings to cover the cost to replace a portion of the roof.
- We answered the call to support our ministries through strong offerings and appropriate financial management.

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.” (2 Corinthians 9:10, NRSV)

In 2023, we pray for continued stewardship of God’s gifts in this place so we may fulfill His purpose even more. We will invite everyone to participate in a time and talent survey and a pledge drive, which we haven’t done for a while. Please consider how you will use your gifts to support our ministries by volunteering for leadership roles, volunteering for specific ministries, and with your financial support.

Thank you,
Linda Golinghorst
Stewardship Chair

Worship and Music Team Report 2022

The Worship and Music Team facilitates all aspects of worship at Faith with the help of many individuals. We have been excited to have the worship experience back to a new normal having all of us together again. We thank the members of our team:

Pastor Carrie La Plante – Worship Experience
Linda Szemkus – Altar Guild
Sue Becker – Music
Lucas Golinghorst – Online Worship
Carol Judge/Nina Looney – Faith Families

These individuals have been instrumental for providing a meaningful worship experience for indoor, outdoor and online. We evaluated our service options, deciding that having one 9am service would bring us closer together. We would welcome any members interested in joining the team and welcome input to enhance the worship experience. We thank Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather for keeping us in The Word as they preach.

The Altar Guild has five committees led by Mary Ann Anderson, Janet Merrick, Nancy Meyer, Linda Szemkus, and Lynda Miller. We thank them and all their committee members for preparing for communion, baptisms, etc. We also welcome any new members to these committees that would want to serve.

Our choirs: People of Praise, Jubilation, and Resounding Joy are an integral part of worship and we thank them for their commitment. Sue and Neil Becker lead our choirs and kept our Lenten journey meaningful preparing the dramas with some brave members assisting. We thank Teri Wittkowski and Sue Becker as they continue to share their gifts as our organists and choir support.

Our video crew consisting of Lucas Golinghorst, Scott La Plante, and Kevin and Ryan Zidarich keep our worship available for all of us and a big thank you to them. They would be happy to have additional members to support this ministry.

We have 10 Faith Families that are asked to help with worship 1 -2 times per year. We thank our current Faith Family heads: Linda Golinghorst, Kelly Wyatt, Heather Duncan, Kelly Penning, Bob and Theresa White, Joni Schneider, Donna Gruenhagen, Mary Moore, Sue Braack, and Amy Murray for making sure we have ushers, readers, and communion assistants for worship. Online reader and usher sign ups have been added to the web page for all members to volunteer for worship assistance at any time. We welcome anyone to take a Faith Family head position as many of these individuals have been serving a long time.

Sanctuary Update Team Members: Tom Bauer, Sue Becker, Donna Darnall, Pastor Carrie La Plante, Amy Murray, Amy Powell, and Brad Yanke have busy throughout the year preparing the presentation for the annual meeting. The overall goal of the sanctuary update is to improve accessibility and functionality of the space so that all may have a comfortable worship experience. There are four key areas we are wanting to improve: 1) reconfigure the seating floor plan and altar area to allow for increased accessibility and flexibility, 2) incorporate technology into the space to enhance in-person and online worship, 3) update the sound system so that all can hear during worship, 4) refresh the aesthetic of the space while still keeping the Mid-Century Modern style. We thank them commitment and enthusiasm for this project.

We have many opportunities for members to share their specific gifts as part of worship and prayerfully ask members to get more involved. We thank all who have served this year. Our love of God and each other is alive at Faith as shown by our increased attendance as a community of believers.

Respectively Submitted,
Nina Looney, Team Leader

Youth Ministry Team 2022 Annual Report

Eleven 8th Grade students were confirmed on two weekends last spring, April 24 and May 1. God Bless these children as they continue their lives in Christ.

Summer 2022 Recap:

Lutheran Lakeside Camp, better known as Lu La C was the home away from home for 14 of our youth and 9 adults from July 17-July 22. The 14 youth who attended camp took full advantage of all camp has to offer and the adults always find ways to contribute and have fun. Faith had youth in the day camp, junior camp, confirmation camp and high school camp. With three square meals a day and snacks from the the shack various times of day the kiddos participate in bible study, congregation games, water sports, barn games, zip lining and campfires. The week has all the opportunities to make new friends, witness the beauty of God's creation and strengthen our faith. These experiences are life building for all ages. The camp adults find much joy in working at camp and feel they get more in return for the days work. This is the "BEST WEEK EVER"!

The week of July 24, 11 youth and three chaperones made the trip to Nashville (including 402 long miles through Illinois) for a week filled with learning, building relationships, serving, and growing together in their faith together. Joined by members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Owatonna, MN, our mission team stayed at Christ Lutheran Church, and the teams from the churches affected change in Nashville and the surrounding communities. With two activities per day, our Faith Lutheran team partnered with Tucker's Place, Project CURE, Village at Glenclyff, One Generation Away, Brooklyn Heights Community Garden, and Nashville Rescue Mission during their time. The church has been actively posting pictures on their Facebook page in an album, so feel free to go take a look!

Fall 2022—7th and 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION The Fall semester began with a study of the Old Testament. The students learned how God created the earth, of Moses and the 1- Commandments, and of the many individuals who predicted the coming of the Messiah. We also learned about David and Bathsheba through the "politically correct" eyes of Veggie Tales. Since returning from Christmas break, the Confirmation kids have begun the New Testament, with who Jesus is. We learned in interesting fact about the inaccuracy of the "BC" (Before Christ) and "AD" (In the year of the Lord), in that Jesus' actual birth was at least two years before AD. Therefore, in modern times, the Biblical language in some religions has changed to "BCE" (Before the common era) and "CE" (common – or current era), although this is not widely accepted by all religions.

We are slowly returning to JH Youth activities. Plans were to go Christmas Caroling at Grand Haven, but had to be canceled, due to a Covid outbreak there. We did decorate Christmas cookies and took a small group bowling in January.

Fall 2022—HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH We began the Fall semester meeting outside as often as we could. The kids LOVED sitting around the fire pit, curled up in their blankets, or going on a cellphone scavenger hunt in the neighborhood. When the weather turned cold, we returned inside.

The High School students performed a living nativity scene at Weise Park during Hometown Holidays. Animals were made possible thanks to Jared and Kelly Penning and Mike and Lisa Garner. We also decorated Christmas cookies and served the homeless at a Churches United meal at Zion Church.

We usually see between 5-20 High School kids each week, often gracing our group with Foreign Exchange Students, or friends. The thought that makes us the happiest is that these kids CHOOSE to be here. This is a place where they feel safe and loved, it doesn't matter who they are, or where they come from. After Highs and Lows, we usually play some games, have a Bible study, and end with prayers to guide us through the week. We are so pleased with these Christian young people who show up and bring joy to our hearts!

The High School Youth are preparing for their Mission Trip to Albuquerque, NM this summer. Please support them in their upcoming fundraisers in order to make this trip possible

Respectfully submitted,

Brea Harms, Carrie Keppy, and Joni King, Joyfully Serving Our Youth

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE 2022 REPORT

The endowment fund is estimated to finish 2022 with a balance of \$95,200.00. Included in that total was a generous, anonymous donation in the amount of \$20,000 this year. This fund was started in 1999 and accumulated funds until it reached \$50,000 in 2018. Since then, the interest has been expended following the committee's guidelines:

Minimum of 20 percent for outreach into the community and synod, including but not limited to grants to ELCA seminaries, colleges or students attending such schools, social service agencies, institutions and agencies to which this congregation relates, and to special programs designed for those persons in our parish area who are in spiritual and/or economic need.

Minimum of 20 percent for missions of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in this continent and worldwide, including, but not limited to, grants to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for new congregational development in North America, professional leadership, educational ministries, global mission, ecumenism, evangelism, social ministries and capital financing.

Minimum of 20 percent for capital improvements, debt reduction or a building program of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Up to 40 percent for any or all of the above designated areas in any proportion as determined by the committee are consistent with the fund purpose of enhancing the mission outreach of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The amount of funds that were distributed at the beginning of 2022 was \$950.00 with funds going to the following:

\$237.50 (25%) to Faith Lutheran's Capital Unbudgeted Repairs/Maintenance fund.

\$237.50 (25%) to Lutheran Lakeside

\$237.50 (25%) to SEIA Synod General Fund

\$237.50 (25%) to ELCA Disaster Fund

\$950.00 Total disbursement

The interest amount from 2022 available for 2023 distribution is estimated at \$1,690.00. As the principal of this fund grows, obviously more income would be available for the above uses. If you have any questions on this fund, please contact Pastor Carrie or Ken Oetzmann. Ken Oetzmann, as financial secretary, has updated our CD's to take advantage of the rising CD interest rates.

Endowment Committee

Kim Wilkins, Chair

Ken Oetzmann, Financial Secretary

Scott Rochau, Recorder

Jan Hartwig

Annette Tomlinson

Mike Garner, Council President

Pastor Carrie LaPlante, Sr. Pastor

Memorial Committee 2022 Annual Report

Members who are deceased and recorded in our memorial book for 2022 are: Barbara Jean Mohr; W Norman Harvey, Patricia St John, Arliss E Whisler, George Braden, John Kuhl, Debra S Weston, Mary K Flenker and Gloria LaVon Hamann.

Carolyn Scheibe will include in her report memorials received in memory of our deceased members.

Projects completed in 2022: Purchase of an Urn Paul, South Downstairs Windows and Automatic New Front Door.

We had 7 baptisms in 2022. Michele and Mark Mess, in memory of Maddie Mess, has now been presenting a rose to baptized infants.

A note of memorial monies received is mailed to all non-members when notification is received.

The family has 12 months to make a decision unless designated for a specific memorial. When the memorial is less than \$100.00 the committee makes the decision unless the family has a special memorial request in mind.

All memorials must be approved by the church council and recorded in the memorial book.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Ann Anderson, Chairman; Karen Schmit; Carolyn Scheibe; Pastor Carrie La Plante; and Pastor Heather Geest

MEMORIAL ACCOUNTY ACTIVITY FOR 2022

Balance 12/31/2021		\$	41,540.07
Inflow 1/1/2022 thru 12/31/2022			
Gifts Received	\$	17,521.88	
Interest Received	\$	46.76	
Total Inflow 1/1/2022 thru 12/31/2022		\$	17,568.64
Outflow 1/1/2022 thru 12/31/2022			
Transfer to Faith Endowment Fund	\$	(500.00)	
Urn Pall	\$	(187.09)	
Outside Door Opener	\$	(1,587.88)	
Basement window replacement	\$	(13,954.55)	
High School Mission Trip	\$	(500.00)	
Lutheran Lakeside Camperships	\$	(1,320.00)	
Total Outflow 1/1/2022 thru 12/31/2022		\$	(18,049.52)
Balance 12/31/2022		\$	41,059.19

Prepared by Carolyn Scheibe
1/4/2022

Women of Faith 2022 Annual Report

Board Members: Joni Kuehl-Schneider, Karen Schmitt, Lynda Miller, Sue Sissel, Sue Strazewski and Linda Szemkus.

The Women of Faith continue to serve others in various ways. In May we held our annual plant sale. The proceeds from this event help to fund other projects throughout the year. Thank you to everyone that donated plants and pots.

In September we started our monthly Bible Study from the Gather magazine. We meet on the 4th Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Gathering area. Starting in January we will study the Ten Commandments. All are welcome.

In December we put out the Worship Bags for the children to use during worship. Over 40 Christmas cards were sent to those needing Christmas cheer.

The quilting group meets during the school year on the 3rd Tuesday at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. They donated 18 adult quilts to the Center, 10 baby quilts to Humility Homes and Services and 20 baby quilts to the Children's Hospital in Iowa City. Prayer shawls are available in the church office for anyone in need of comfort.

We served funeral luncheons for the families of Barb Mohr, Norman Harvey, Arliss Whisler and John Kuhl. We were hosts at the visitations for Barb Mohr, Norman Harvey and Mary Flenker. Thank you to everyone that either helped to serve the luncheons or helped with the visitations.

We continue to provide basic items for the kitchen. Such as: paper towels, baggies, paper napkins, dish soap, hand soap and disposable cups. The activity in the kitchen has been busy this year. Thank you to everyone that help keep the kitchen clean.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Szemkus, President

WOMEN OF FAITH TREASURER'S 2022 REPORT

Expenses

SERVICE PROJECTS		\$ 342.73
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 282.81	
Postage/Christmas cards for shut-ins	\$ 59.92	
WOMEN OF THE ELCA		\$ 300.00
UNIT GATHERING/OFFERING		\$ 150.00
APPRECIATION DAY FOR STAFF		\$ 70.00
FUND RAISING (Ad in NS Press for Plant Sale)		\$ 20.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 882.73

Gross Income

OFFERINGS/DONATIONS		\$ 100.00
FUNERAL LUNCH/RECEPTION		\$ 400.00
THRIVENT		\$ 604.50
INTEREST/DIVIDENDS		\$ 16.37
FUND RAISING/PLANT SALE		\$ 446.00
TOTAL GROSS INCOME		\$ 1,566.87

Checking account as of December 19, 2022	\$	2,161.10
Savings account as of November 30, 2021	\$	3,791.88
Certificate of Deposit	\$	2,808.97

Karen Schmitt
Treasurer of WOF



North Scott Community Feed Our Children Ministry 2022 Annual Report

Feed Our Children Ministry was organized by Faith Lutheran Church in June 2017 to provide a free lunch opportunity to our children in the North Scott community during the summer break. During a typical summer, almost 25% of children in our neighborhoods are underserved through the loss of the weekday free and reduced lunch program. Over the summers of 2017-2019 and 2022 we served more than **11,947** lunches in our community through our twice a week ministry.

We were excited to resume this program in the summer of 2022. Under the daily leadership of Katie and Sammie Garner, with support from members of the congregation and community, we were able to serve 3,197 meals during the 2022 summer break! These meals consisted of a lunch and additional items for snack or breakfast. Supply chain issues continued to be an obstacle, especially for the amount of bread we needed each week. God provided when a local bread truck driver stopped at a distribution site one day to ask if we could use bread! This need had not been advertised, and had only been discussed within our leadership. Thank you to Joan and Dennis Hennigan for following up on this lead and obtaining bread each week for the program. Children not only enjoyed the lunches, but also had bagels, muffins and other items supplied by this connection.

As we look forward to 2023, we ask for your continued prayers for the children and families in need, as well as the many people working behind the scenes to grow, harvest, transport, package, purchase, organize, prepare and serve nutritious food to our children. This program not only fills the bellies of the children in the community, but the souls of those that prepare, deliver, and serve lunches. It is amazing to witness joy-filled intergenerational relationships grow while preparing the lunches. The program is also growing young leaders and allowing youth to experience the joy of serving others. Please keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to reach children in need. We look forward to serving with you again in 2023!

Amy Powell and Beth Ann Anderson
Co-Chairs
Feed Our Children Ministry

North Scott Food Pantry 2022 Annual Report

The North Scott Food Pantry, located in the basement of Faith Lutheran Church, is open to assist families in need on Tuesday evenings, 5:30 – 7:00 PM and Friday mornings 9:30 – 11:00 AM.

Highlights for 2022 include:

- A total of 531 visits were logged in 2022 which is 50% more than 2021 but still short of pre-pandemic use. In the fall of 2019, about 80 families came to the pantry each month. In 2022 the pantry served an average of 45 families each month with only 24 families coming in February and the high of 61 families in August. By May of 2022, the pantry returned to client choice for all clients regardless of vaccination status.
- The pantry is well stocked for 2023. The community has been very supportive with many groups, businesses and families donating food and/or money to the pantry. The NSFP continues to partner with River Bend Food Bank and MidWest Food Bank, Peoria. Weekly a volunteer picks up items from Panera. Food is also purchased from local retailers when it is not available at the food bank. All food donations and purchases are weighed and in 2022, 39,134 pounds were recorded.
- Notable donations: St. Ann's Knights of Columbus annual golf open raised \$18,000. Howard & Carole Harkins Charitable Trust donated \$10,000 and Fidelity Charitable Trust donated \$5000. Ed White School collected 493 boxes of cereal. The Lancer girls' basketball team hosted the "cart races" at North Scott Foods. The event donated 1490 pounds of food worth about \$2800. North Scott Foods' customers purchased 49 care package grocery bags costing \$20 each. North Scott Chamber's Hometown Holiday raised \$1155 (plus food donations) and Eldridge Lions donated \$1000.
- Extra kid friendly food was given to families with school aged children over the summer.
- School supplies were collected in July. Each school in the district received a large box of supplies.
- A power point presentation was compiled to share information about the pantry to the community.
- Non-food items such as toilet paper, laundry soap and shampoo are available at the pantry. In 2022 we added paper towels, tissues, can openers and feminine hygiene products to the inventory.
- Clients received additional food the month prior to Easter and Thanksgiving. Clients received a 4# ham, cheese, buns and a bag of shelf stable food along with vouchers for eggs, milk and produce. 35 families received Easter food and 61 families received Thanksgiving food.

Christmas food boxes and angel tree gifts were given out December 16 & 17. A small group from the Eldridge Lions Club packed the food boxes in early December. On distribution days, a small group of volunteers added the perishables and loaded the food into the client's vehicles. 85 boxes of food were distributed to 79 families. Christmas gifts provided by St. Ann's and the Scott County Library's angel trees were distributed to about 90 children.

We have wonderful volunteers that staff the pantry, pick up and deliver items, stock shelves and put in many hours working on projects. Many volunteers use their gifts to make sure the food pantry functions efficiently. Friday hours are staffed by local churches in a 7-week rotation. Faith is scheduled for February 10 and March 31. If you would like to help, please contact Deanna Nielsen (285-6194). If you are interested in helping on Tuesday evenings, call the food pantry (285-8444) and leave a message.

Thank you to everyone that donated their time, food and/or money to the food pantry. A big thank you to Faith Lutheran for housing the pantry!

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Nielsen

Luther Properties 2022 Annual Report

Kevin Krebs and myself, Kim Wilkins, continue to represent Faith Lutheran on the Board of Directors for Scott County Luther Properties. Luther Properties is primarily a low-income senior housing facility with 5 different buildings in Davenport and Bettendorf.

3118 Devil's Glen Rd., Bettendorf
1810 E. 38th St. Ct., Davenport
3116 Devil's Glen Rd., Bettendorf
3264 Palmer Hills Ct., Bettendorf
5454 N. Gaines St., Davenport

We meet every other month at a different facility on the third Monday of the month at 7:00P.M. Visitors are cordially invited. The annual meeting is coming up the 3rd Monday of March at 7:00P.M. at Luther Manor in Bettendorf. We are looking for 4 volunteers to attend this meeting. Please let Kevin or myself know if interested in attending.

Young Management out of Kansas City manage our facilities. Kelli Cogdill and her husband Dan continue to manage us on a day to day basis. We are very lucky to have them managing our properties. Kelli and Dan have done an exceptional job in keeping our finances and maintenance top notch. Facility improvements are on-going. Our vacancy rates are very low. Our residents love their homes.

Thank you for allowing Kevin and myself to participate on this board. Please feel free to contact Kevin or myself for inquiries or answers to questions.

Kim Wilkins
Kevin Krebs

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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