

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

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

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“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

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# Annual Meeting of the Congregation

## Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eldridge, IA

### Sunday, January 28, 2024 9:00 a.m.

**Call to Order**

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Minutes of the previous Annual Congregational Meeting, January 29, 2023**

#### **Presentation of Reports**

Minutes of January 29, 2023 (Theresa White)	Page 5
Pastors' Reports (Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather)	Page 7
Financial Report (Myron Scheibe)	Page 11
2023 Fund Balance Sheet (Myron Scheibe)	Page 12
2024 Budget (Myron Scheibe)	Page 13
Audit Report (Matt Briehl)	Page 17
Council President Report (Mike Garner)	Page 19
Church Council Directory (Mike Garner)	Page 20
Teams and Committee Members (Mike Garner)	Page 21
Church Records Summary (Pastor Carrie)	Page 22
Membership Information (Pastor Carrie)	Page 23
Christian Ed Report (Theresa White)	Page 24
Faith Connections Report (Mike Garner)	Page 25
Fellowship Report (Deanna Nielsen)	Page 26
Property Report (Dan O'Flaherty)	Page 27
Service in the World Report (John Hintze)	Page 29
Stewardship Report (Joan Hennigan)	Page 30
Worship and Music Report (Nina Looney)	Page 32
Youth Committee Report (Pastor Carrie)	Page 34
Endowment Committee Report (Kim Wilkins)	Page 35
Memorial Committee Report (Mary Ann Anderson)	Page 36
Memorial Account Activity Report (Carolyn Scheibe)	Page 37
Women of Faith Report (Linda Szemkus)	Page 38
Women of Faith Treasurer's Report (Karen Schmitt)	Page 39
Feed Our Children Ministry	Page 40
North Scott Food Pantry Report (Deanna Nielsen)	Page 41
Luther Properties Report (Kim Wilkins)	Page 42

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

• Thank you to Outgoing Council Members

Deanna Nielsen served three years, two years as treasurer, and one year as Fellowship team lead. Theresa White served three years as Christian Education team lead, one year as Secretary, and one year as Vice President. Mike Garner served six years. Four years as Property team lead, one year as Vice President, and two years as president.

• Election of Council Members

Val Zelinko, Kim Wilkins(2years), Nina Looney, and Sherri Brundies

- Election of Endowment Committee Members  
Endowment Committee Members are elected for a three year term. Kim Wilkins
- Election of Nominating Committee Members  
Nominating Committee Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for five: Theresa White, Joan Hennigan, Dan O’Flaherty, Tom Bauer, and Mike Strom
- Election of Synod Assembly Voting Members  
Synod Assembly Voting Members are elected for a one year term. Vote for two: Tom Bauer and Madelyn La Plante
- Election of Synod Assembly Voting Member Alternates  
Synod Assembly Voting Member Alternates are elected for a one year term. Nominations from the floor. Vote for two:
- Adoption of 2024 Budget
- Other

## **Adjournment**



**Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eldridge, IA  
Sunday, January 29, 2023 9:00 a.m.  
Minutes**

Call to Order – Mike

Opening Litany – Pastor Carrie

Adoption of Agenda – Scott La Plante motioned to approve and Sharie Garner seconded it.

Minutes of January 30, 2022 were motioned to approve by Matt Peck and Dan O’Flaherty seconded it.

**Pastor’s Report** – Pastor Carrie thanked the members of Church Council for carrying out their ministry with great leadership. She thanked Melody Sawvell, Matt Peck and Linda Golinghorst as outgoing members. She also thanked those who agreed to be on the ballot today and the Support Staff for her and Pastor Heather.....Beth Ann Anderson, Sue Becker, Terri Wittkowski and Dennis Kelly. The Ministry Teams were also acknowledged and thanked for their energy and leadership this past year.

Mike thanked the outgoing members listed above and was thankful for their voice as well as their leadership.

Mike went through the ballot saying names of those interested in Church Council, Mike Garner (2 years) , Myron Scheibe (2 years) , John Hintze, Joan Hennigan and Michelle Rasmussen. Mike called for nominations from the floor. None were received, and nominations were closed. Mike asked the congregation to fill in their votes for the council members.

Nominating Committee - Theresa White, Ken Oetzmann, Carol Marten, Lynda Miller, and Tom Bauer  
Mike called for nominations from the floor. None were received, and nominations were closed. Mike asked the congregation to fill in their votes for the nominating committee.

Endowment Committee – Scott Rochau

Mike called for nominations from the floor. None were received, and nominations were closed. Mike asked the congregation to fill in their votes for the Endowment committee.

Synod Voting Member - Duane Miller and Madelyn La Plante

Mike called for nominations from the floor. None were received, and nominations were closed. Mike asked the congregation to fill in their votes for the Synod Voting Members.

Synod Voting Member Alternate – Kim Wilkins

Mike called for nominations from the floor. None were received, and nominations were closed. Mike asked the congregation to fill in their votes for the Synod voting member alternates.

2023 Ballot Reads:

Congregation Council

Mike Garner (2 years) 53

Myron Scheibe (2 years) 54

Joan Hennigan 54

John Hintze 54

Michelle Rasmussen 53

Nominating Committee

Theresa White 54  
Ken Oetzmann 54  
Carol Marten 52  
Lynda Miller 53  
Tom Bauer 53

Endowment Committee

Scott Rochau 54

Synod Voting Member

Duane Miller 54  
Madelyn La Plante 54

Synod Voting Member Alternative

Kim Wilkens 54

For Informational Purposes – 1 abstention (not full member)

There were 54 ballots and a tally sheet with the Ballot votes scored by Matt Peck and Nina Looney is in the office.

Adoption of 2023 Budget – Kim Wilkens said he attended the Budget Meeting and would like to see an increase from 2% to 4% for the Support Staff (Beth Ann, Sue, Terri, Dennis) which would only increase the total budget \$1,300. He made the motion and Joni Schneider seconded it. The Amendment was approved unanimously.

Mike thanked the Finance Committee for all their hard work on the 2023 budget.

Mike asked if there were any questions:

Joan Hennigan asked what the process was to remove members from the membership of Faith Lutheran and he explained that every 2 years they send a letter asking if they would like to remain members out to members who do not have a gift of record or have not communed in the past two years. If there is no reply the council reviews the names on the list, makes changes as needed, and then votes to remove the names from our membership list. Mike said it was a messy science, but necessary to try and keep an accurate list of membership. The council has added 3 members back to the list already.

Presentation by Amy Murray – Sanctuary Update - Amy Murray presented visuals and information for the new Sanctuary. After several cottage meetings, the team started working on a vision that would be completed by 2025. We will have tv screens, new carpet, lighting, paint, replace all pews, removable communion rails, flooring, hearing impaired abilities, wheelchair accessibility and rear walls stay the same with glass in them but maybe new doors. Estimate is from \$150 - \$200 thousand dollars.

Adjournment – Scott La Plante motioned it and Jared Penning seconded and **the meeting was adjourned**



**The 2023 Annual Report of the Senior Pastor  
Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante**

I am sometimes asked how it is that I still have hope in the face of everything that is going on in the world and in my life. Truth be told, there are times when my hope begins to fade, but a long time ago, I decided that life is more fulfilling if I live into the hope that God is always at work in the world, often in spite of all of the terrible things that humanity can do, to bring life even in the places that often feel steeped in death. Life is also more fulfilling when I live into the hope that God is at work in the world in the midst of the joy and goodness and love that humanity is capable of spreading throughout the world. Believing that God is at work, unseen though God may be at times, allows me to live in hope, both in this life and for all of the life that God promises for all eternity.

Recently, a colleague opened a meeting using a devotion by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, a retired United Methodist pastor, from his blog, *Unfolding Light*, that spoke to this hope in which I seek to live. He bases his devotion on Hebrews 11:1: *Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen*. He writes:

Hope is not optimism, not wishing, not a bet on the future, but trust in what is already present, unseen. I hope in the sunrise because the earth is already turning. My faith is not that God will intervene and make things better or fix problems; my faith is that love is at work. I trust in hidden love even as injustice runs loose. I believe in our Oneness even as war and racism wound us. I know our Belovedness even as we assault each other. Even though we damage the earth, though the violent rage and the rich oppress the poor, still this world is born of Goodness, and grace flourishes even in bad places, and Love holds us in aching but untiring arms. Even when the way is not well lit, I live in hope.

“[M]y faith is that love is at work....Even when the way is not well lit, I live in hope.” These two phrases hit home with me as I read them over and over again. I do believe that beneath everything God’s love is at work, and even when the way is not well lit, I can live in hope because I know that God is still guiding the way. How can I trust that? I look at the ways in which God works through us in and through this place to proclaim the love of God not only here at Faith, but also in the community and around the world. The ways in which we proclaim the good news of God’s love through the ministries that we do together, proclaim hope in God’s promises for everyone.

As I look back at the pictures from the last year which you will find on the next pages, I see hope. I see joy in the faces of the children gathered on our lawn for Final Friday. I see wisdom in the Confirmation small group leaders who share God’s love with our youth each week. I see determination in the faces of our high school youth as they served and worked with the many people we met on the mission trip to Albuquerque. I see celebration in those gathered for Cheeseburger in Paradise and the Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner. I see compassion around the tables of our Congregational Breakfasts. I see praise in the midst of our worship. I see the promise of belovedness in the celebration of Holy Baptism and Confirmation. I see trust in the face of our Sunday school children. I see oneness in the tailgate party hosted by the North Scott Clergy Group on our patio. I see goodness in serving our homeless neighbors a meal. I see grace in the ways in which we share our building with other organizations who make a difference in our community. I see love in the multiple generations who are gathered together at Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Even on the days when we are not sure what the next most faithful stop will be, I see hope in the promise that Jesus will light the way. That is what keeps us, what keeps me, moving forward in hope as we listen for where we will join God where God is already at work.

I am excited to see where 2024 will lead as we continue to live in hope, trusting that God is calling us to join in the work God is already doing. I am excited for the ways that we will meet our neighbors in the places where God’s story can meet their story and invite them to join us in living in the hope that we know. I am excited to welcome new people in our midst who can help us to hear God’s call in a new way. I am excited to experience the new ministries that will be born among us as we continue the ministries that touch our lives and the lives of those around us.

Thank you all for the ways in which you continue to share the blessings that God has given to you. 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 the staff, Pastor Heather Geest, Beth Ann Anderson, Dennis Kelly, Susan Becker, and Teri Wittkowski for sharing their gifts in the ministry we are privileged to do together. Finally, thanks be to God for calling me to serve as your Senior Pastor as we continue to live together in hope for today and hope for all the tomorrows.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante











## THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR PASTOR HEATHER GEEST

“Come and see.” They really are such simple, open and inviting words. As followers of Jesus we are invited to say these three words to others who are seeking something more from life: “Come and see.” It is a gift and an invitation that we have been given by God to share with one another in this place and beyond. The spread of the Christian church across the world is the person-to-person story of millions of people who have fanned out across the globe to tell the story about Jesus and what Jesus has done for them. People become Christians because they have seen what the Christian faith has done for those whom they know. There is that old camp song, “they will know we are Christians by our love.”

Maya Angelou has the quote: “At the end of the day people won’t remember what you said or did, they will remember how you made them feel.” I have yet to meet a Christian who has said they decided to become a Christian because they read about one in a book somewhere. We love books. Jesus is the Word. We read Jesus’ story in the “Good Book.” BUT flesh makes all the difference. God became human for a reason. It is the people-to-people connection that makes a difference. All of us are created for relationships with God and one another. Sharing our faith is always about person-to-person relationships. This is how the church grows and how the Holy Spirit works to gather us together. Sometimes it is through us, sometimes it is in spite of us, but it is always where two or three or gathered in Jesus’ name.

Just this past week I was having a conversation with Joan Hennigan about the invitation to “come and see”. She shared a story and told me I could share it with you. She and her husband, Denny, were married at St. Paul Lutheran Church, both of their boys were baptized there, and they were worshiping there when they moved out to Eldridge next to Bob and Ann Bainter. One spring day as Joan was working out in the backyard picking up sticks or raking the yard, Ann strolled over and called her aside. In casual conversation, Ann asked where Joan and Denny were worshiping and if we needed a church home. Joan told her that she was happy traveling into St. Paul and figured they would just stay there. Ann casually said, “I think you might like Faith. Maybe you could come and see sometime. Check it out. See what you think. We have a young pastor that I think you will like.” So, Joan thought to herself, “Hmm. What can it hurt? I will check it out. It’s so close by, and we know a lot of people in the area.” Four months later, Joan and her family joined Faith. That summer the boys were in VBS and joined Sunday school in the fall. Joan and Denny have now been worshiping at Faith almost 30 years, and it all began with “come and see.”

This year I want you to think about how you got to be a part of this community of faith at 500 West Le Claire Road in Eldridge in 2024. Someone probably invited you to “come and see”. When we envision this congregation gathered together, here are some questions to ask yourself: Who are the people that are missing? Who can we invite? What are the ways we best communicate God’s love for the whole world? How can we magnify the brightness of Christ’s love and light in our neighborhood, so that all might “come and see?”

God draws us together and calls us through the Holy Spirit to share the good news of Jesus with others. This news is too good to keep to ourselves, and it grows with our sharing. If this makes you feel uncomfortable, please remember it is not our responsibility to prove the truth of the Christian faith or even to persuade others to become Christian. We are not asked to cram our faith down someone else’s throat or ask them if they have given their life to Christ. This sort of advice is not written anywhere in the Bible. Like the Bible tells us, we are just invited to say to others: “come and see.”

Joy in Christ,  
Pastor Heather



## 2023 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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 Myron Scheibe. The committee meets as needed throughout the year.

Rhonda Webber has quickly adapted to the ICON database. 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 for 2022 and found no issues.

	Income	Expenses
January	\$37,714.34	\$27,218.17
February	\$23,338.08	\$29,733.28
March	\$24,376.06	\$28,040.87
April	\$33,611.06	\$25,704.46
May	\$22,782.43	\$26,304.74
June	\$33,827.31	\$26,780.16
July	\$26,587.06	\$43,382.04
August	\$24,227.06	\$26,289.09
September	\$33,599.43	\$26,689.05
October	\$26,713.23	\$24,692.48
November	\$28,574.07	\$27,549.71
December	\$58,698.50	\$28,309.12
Year-to-date	\$374,048.63	\$354,043.67

Throughout most of 2023, the General Fund operated mostly in the black, helped out by a good January. We ended the year with positive income.

The finance committee reviewed the 2024 budget requests from the teams, the synod's recommendation for salary increases for the pastors, and the personnel committee's recommendation for salary increases of 3.5% for all employees. The final recommendation for the 2024 budget was determined by the council.

Our insurance carrier was changed from Grinnell Mutual to Church Mutual, saving the church over \$3,000 in premiums while getting better coverage. We moved \$60,000 from savings drawing 0.05% interest to 3 CD's drawing 5.15% interest.

Respectfully submitted,  
Myron Scheibe, Treasurer

# 2023 FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH FUND BALANCE SHEET

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1		12/31/2022					12/31/2023
2							
3		Balance	YTD Income	YTD Expenses		Transfers	Balance
4	<b>Operating Fund</b>	28,727.29	374,048.63	(353,450.94)			49,324.98
5	Payroll tax withholding						(37.85)
6							
7	<b>Total Operating Funds</b>	28,727.29				-	49,287.13
8							
9	<b>Special Funds</b>						
10	Adult Mission Trip	-	-	-			-
11	Camp	-	1,730.00	(1,730.00)			-
12	Christmas	2,225.00	2,595.00	(2,265.00)			2,555.00
13	Coffee Hour	30.55	50.00	(80.55)			-
14	Continuing Ed Assoc Pastor	2,181.71	-	(55.00)			2,126.71
15	Continuing Ed Sr Pastor	1,294.89	1,000.00	(131.20)			2,163.69
16	Disaster Relief	-	-	-			-
17	Easter	-	2,670.00	(2,670.00)			-
18	Endowment Fund	-	1,692.00	(1,269.00)	(423.00)		-
19	Fellowship Hall Roof	-	4,900.00	-	(4,900.00)		-
20	Food Pantry	-	1,650.00	(1,650.00)			-
21	Memorials	-	100.00	(100.00)			-
22	Misc In/Out	1,284.42	22,950.17	(21,161.04)			3,073.55
23	Missionary Support	(10.00)	10.00	-			-
24	Mission Trip - Youth	8,167.73	15,660.02	(18,831.21)			4,996.54
25	OCC/Global Barnyard	887.00	1,269.00	(887.00)			1,269.00
26	Outreach	236.31	1,350.00	(1,476.04)			110.27
27	Outside Plantings	686.48	-	(82.72)			603.76
28	Rooftop AC	-	-	-			-
29	Sanctuary Update	15,065.00	200.00	-	(15,065.00)		200.00
30	Summer Food Project	6,965.07	570.00	(2,405.72)			5,129.35
31	Sunday School	557.98	557.32	-			1,115.30
32	Teddy Bear	108.50	-	-			108.50
33	Thanksgiving	-	1,255.00	(1,255.00)			-
34	Unbudgeted Repairs/Mntc	(1,737.82)	1,123.00	(3,814.73)	5,323.00		893.45
35	VBS	-	848.94	(848.94)			-
36	Women of Faith	-	673.00	(673.00)			-
37	World Hunger	-	685.83	(685.83)			-
38	Youth Junior High	310.47	-	-			310.47
39	Youth Senior High	997.31	230.00	(380.35)			846.96
40	<b>Total Specials</b>	39,250.60	63,769.28	(62,452.33)	(15,065.00)		25,502.55
41							
42	<b>Bank Accounts</b>	12/31/2022	Deposits	Withdrawals	Transfers		12/31/2023
43	Checking	67,977.89	437,817.91	(415,903.27)	(15,065.00)		74,827.53
44	Payroll tax withholding						(37.85)
45	<b>Net checking</b>						74,789.68
46							
47	<b>Savings</b>						
48	Operating Fund	10,000.00			(10,000.00)		-
49	Unbudgeted Repairs/Maint	40,001.72			(25,000.00)		15,001.72
50	Rooftop AC	12,725.00			5,000.00		17,725.00
51	Sanctuary Updates	5,000.00			(4,935.00)		65.00
52	Interest	33.87	31.06				64.93
53	<b>Total Savings</b>	67,760.59	31.06	-	(34,935.00)		32,856.65
54	<b>Investments</b>						
55	Operating Fund CD				10,000.00		10,000.00
56	Unbudgeted Repairs/Maint CD				30,000.00		30,000.00
57	Sanctuary Updates CD				20,000.00		20,000.00
58	<b>Total Investments</b>			-	60,000.00		60,000.00
59	<b>Memorial Savings</b>	41,059.19	16,650.84	(9,878.09)			47,831.94
60	<b>Endowment Savings</b>						
61	First Trust & Savings CD 22903	48,443.34	483.11	(48,926.45)			-
62	First Trust & Savings CD 35477	4,048.31	81.45	(15.97)			4,113.79
63	First Central Savings	22,014.34	8,101.79	(26,697.00)			3,419.13
64	Sentinel Security Life Annuity	20,631.71	718.71				21,350.42
65	LPL Account 1775-2078 Security	-	20,005.00	(5.00)			20,000.00
66	First Trust & Savings CD32786		55,210.71				55,210.71
67	<b>Total Endowment Savings</b>	95,137.70	84,600.77	(75,644.42)	-		104,094.05
68	<b>TOTAL ACCOUNTS</b>	271,935.37	539,100.58	(501,425.78)	10,000.00		319,572.32



**2024 Faith Lutheran Church  
Proposed Budget**

	A	O	P	R
1		<b>2023 YTD</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Proposed Budget</b>
2	<b>Operating Income</b>			
3	Envelope Offerings	366,322.03		389,723.00
4	Offerings-Compassion Child	960.00		912.00
5	Offerings-Missionary Support	585.00		540.00
6	Offerings-Flowers	996.00		500.00
7	Loose	4,376.51		3,500.00
8	Rent Income	-		
9	Vacation Bible School	-		
10	Seminary Student Fund	-		
11	Miscellaneous	809.09		700.00
12				
13	<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>374,048.63</b>	<b>360,000.00</b>	<b>395,875.00</b>

**2024 Faith Lutheran Church  
Proposed Budget**

	A	O	P	R
1		<b>2023 YTD</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Proposed Budget</b>
14				
15	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
16	<b>Mission</b>			
17	<b>Synod Mission</b>			
18	SE Iowa Synod (10%)	37,069.85	36,000.00	39,478.00
19	Bible Camp	500.00	500.00	500.00
20	Compassion Child	962.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
21	Iowa City Chaplaincy	1,500.00	500.00	500.00
22	Luther Properties	200.00	200.00	200.00
23	Missionary Support	540.00	540.00	540.00
24	North Scott Clergy	700.00	700.00	700.00
25	Seminary Student Fund	400.00	400.00	400.00
26	<b>Total Mission</b>	<b>41,871.85</b>	<b>39,840.00</b>	<b>43,318.00</b>
27				
28	<b>STAFFING</b>			
29	<b>Senior Pastor</b>			
30	Salary	60,909.12	60,909.00	63,691.00
31	FICA Allowance (8.23%)	5,840.88	5,841.00	6,916.00
32	Pension/Insurance	23,073.72	23,074.00	23,521.00
33	Housing Equity Allowance	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
34	Furnishing Allowance	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
35	Mileage/Prof. Expenses	2,560.08	3,200.00	3,400.00
36	Additional Benefits	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
37	Continuing Education	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
38	<b>Total Senior Pastor</b>	<b>101,883.80</b>	<b>102,524.00</b>	<b>107,028.00</b>
39	<b>Assoc. Pastor</b>			
40	Salary/Housing	34,065.12	34,065.00	35,667.00
41	FICA Allowance (8.23%)	2,192.88	2,193.00	2,490.00
42	Pension/Insurance	29,135.28	29,135.00	30,058.00
43	Continuing Education	-	600.00	600.00
44	Mileage/Prof. Expenses	1,193.25	1,000.00	1,200.00
45	<b>Total Assoc. Pastor</b>	<b>66,586.53</b>	<b>66,993.00</b>	<b>70,015.00</b>
46	<b>Support Staff</b>			
47	Organists Salaries	8,703.00	9,741.00	10,082.00
48	Organists FICA	661.67	745.00	771.00
49	Choir Dir. Salary	8,979.03	8,979.00	9,293.00
50	Choir Dir. FICA	686.95	687.00	711.00
51	Custodian Salary	16,904.04	16,904.00	17,496.00
52	Custodian FICA	1,293.12	1,293.00	1,338.00
53	Office Manager Salary	21,038.75	25,742.00	26,643.00
54	Office Mgr. FICA	1,609.48	1,969.00	2,036.00
55	Workman's Comp.	2,300.00	2,000.00	2,200.00
56	<b>Total Support Staffing</b>	<b>62,176.04</b>	<b>68,060.00</b>	<b>70,570.00</b>
57	<b>Total Staffing</b>	<b>230,646.37</b>	<b>237,577.00</b>	<b>247,613.00</b>
58	<b>PROGRAMMING</b>			
59	<b>Fellowship</b>			
60	Coffee	174.57	250.00	250.00
61	General	410.91	800.00	800.00
62	<b>Total Fellowship</b>	<b>585.48</b>	<b>1,050.00</b>	<b>1,050.00</b>
63	<b>Service in the World</b>			
64	Adult Mission	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00



**2024 Faith Lutheran Church  
Proposed Budget**

	A	O	P	R
1		<b>2023 YTD</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Proposed Budget</b>
65	Churches United Meals	156.96	600.00	600.00
66	Promotions in our community	139.10	500.00	500.00
67	<b>Total Service in the World</b>	<b>1,796.06</b>	<b>2,600.00</b>	<b>2,600.00</b>
68	<b>Evangelism</b>			
69	Advertising	1,091.80	1,200.00	1,200.00
70	General	-		200.00
71	Hospitality/Gifts	16.67	200.00	200.00
72	Video Equipment	-	-	
73	<b>Total Evangelism</b>	<b>1,108.47</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>1,600.00</b>
74	<b>Worship/Music</b>			
75	Bulletins	1,197.33	1,050.00	1,300.00
76	Cantata			300.00
77	Clean Choir Robes	-	50.00	50.00
78	Continuing Education	284.00	200.00	300.00
79	Copyrights	778.25	750.00	780.00
80	Devotionals	442.00	400.00	450.00
81	Flowers Christmas/Easter	820.89	300.00	350.00
82	Music	992.19	1,000.00	1,400.00
83	Piano & Organ Maint	130.00	300.00	300.00
84	Special Music	300.00	200.00	300.00
85	Supply Pastor	310.00	850.00	900.00
86	Worship Supplies	2,012.75	1,500.00	2,500.00
87	<b>Total Worship/Music</b>	<b>7,267.41</b>	<b>6,600.00</b>	<b>8,930.00</b>
88	<b>Education/Youth/Family</b>			
89	<b>Children's Education</b>			
90	Background Checks	-	150.00	150.00
91	Bibles	-	-	
92	Camp	480.46	1,000.00	1,000.00
93	Library	-		
94	Meal Ministry	-	300.00	300.00
95	Mission Time/ Special Events	74.97	250.00	250.00
96	Sunday School	841.25	2,000.00	2,000.00
97	Vacation Church School	1,458.58	1,500.00	1,500.00
98	<b>Total Children's Education</b>	<b>2,855.26</b>	<b>5,200.00</b>	<b>5,200.00</b>
99	<b>Jr High Youth Education</b>			
100	Confirmation Camp	459.90	3,000.00	2,500.00
101	Confirmation Flowers	228.98	150.00	250.00
102	Curriculum	155.58	700.00	300.00
103	Meals/Snacks	1,050.57	1,100.00	1,100.00
104	Stewardship/Fellowship/Mission	308.10	700.00	600.00
105	<b>Total Jr High Youth</b>	<b>2,203.13</b>	<b>5,650.00</b>	<b>4,750.00</b>
106	<b>High School Youth Education</b>			
107	Curriculum	-	400.00	400.00
108	HS Mission Trip	4,000.00	4,000.00	6,000.00
109	Meals/Snacks	377.12	500.00	700.00
110	Post Prom	500.00	500.00	500.00
111	Senior Gifts/Flowers	498.49	500.00	400.00
112	Stewardship/Fellowship/Mission	474.87	700.00	600.00
113	<b>Total High School Youth Educ</b>	<b>5,850.48</b>	<b>6,600.00</b>	<b>8,600.00</b>
114	<b>Adult Education</b>			
115	Adult Education	-	300.00	300.00
116	<b>Total Education/Youth/Family</b>	<b>10,908.87</b>	<b>17,750.00</b>	<b>18,850.00</b>

**2024 Faith Lutheran Church  
Proposed Budget**

	A	O	P	R
1		<b>2023 YTD</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Proposed Budget</b>
117				
118	<b>Stewardship</b>			
119	Misc	114.57	50.00	50.00
120	Offering Envelopes	811.53	650.00	650.00
121	<b>Total Stewardship</b>	<b>926.10</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>700.00</b>
122	<b>Total Programming</b>	<b>22,592.39</b>	<b>30,100.00</b>	<b>33,730.00</b>
123				
124	<b>Property and Administration</b>			
125	<b>Misc. Expenses</b>			
126	Misc.	-	500.00	500.00
127	Unbudgeted Repairs	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
128	<b>Total Miscellaneous</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>5,500.00</b>	<b>5,500.00</b>
129				
130	<b>Administration</b>			
131	Bank Fees	250.10	275.00	275.00
132	Copier Lease/copies	4,607.64	6,000.00	5,500.00
133	Council Resources	-	200.00	200.00
134	Discretionary Fund	-	50.00	50.00
135	Hospitality	76.48	150.00	150.00
136	Office Supplies	2,481.96	2,000.00	2,200.00
137	Payroll Fees	840.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
138	Small Equipment Replacement	371.15	400.00	400.00
139	Subscriptions and Dues	952.39	1,000.00	700.00
140	Synod Meetings	970.07	2,000.00	2,000.00
141	Computer service	-	-	650.00
142	Postage	1,935.80	2,500.00	2,700.00
143	Telephone	2,205.27	2,300.00	2,350.00
144	Website	564.00	564.00	564.00
145	<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>15,254.86</b>	<b>18,439.00</b>	<b>18,739.00</b>
146				
147	<b>Property</b>			
148	Utilities Church	10,267.98	15,500.00	10,500.00
149	Insurance	9,213.00	9,680.00	10,000.00
150	Maint. Church	4,000.00	4,000.00	5,500.00
151	Janitorial Supplies	493.30	450.00	500.00
152	Lawn Care/Snow Removal	390.00	800.00	800.00
153	Utilities Parsonage	6,248.91	7,700.00	7,500.00
154	A/C Rooftop (4 years)	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
155	Maint. Parsonage	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
156	Lift Inspection	-	175.00	175.00
157	Furnace Agreement	2,293.41	3,200.00	3,200.00
159	Tree Removal			2,500.00
160	Security/Camera Fees	178.87	50.00	300.00
161	<b>Total Property</b>	<b>38,085.47</b>	<b>47,555.00</b>	<b>46,975.00</b>
162	<b>Total Administration/Property</b>	<b>58,340.33</b>	<b>71,494.00</b>	<b>71,214.00</b>
163	<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>353,450.94</b>	<b>379,011.00</b>	<b>395,875.00</b>
164	<b>Net Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>20,597.69</b>		
165				



# AUDIT REPORT 2022

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

**Audit Scope:** January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

**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 the Fiscal year 2022 and was conducted between August 15, and September 15, 2023.

## Observations and Recommendations

**Banking and investments – Observation.** The year end fund balance sheet matches the year end bank statement after making adjustments for outstanding items. Adjustments were also made since December 31, fell on a Saturday and the bank statement ended on Friday, December 30. The year end Memorial Savings Account balance and Total Savings account balance also matched that provided on the bank statement. It was also observed that we may have other options to possibly earn a little more interest on our savings accounts depending on how much liquidity we need to keep.

**Recommendation.** Periodically review interest income on the savings accounts to utilize our ability to earn market income.

**Banking Reconciliation – Observation.** No deficiencies observed.

**Petty Cash – Observation.** Petty cash is very seldom used but is available to cover small items in the office, mainly postage. The petty cash fund was reconciled against the balance of the previous audit in March of 2022.

**Recommendation.** Recommend that we continue to maintain a petty cash fund in case of small emergencies and in place of writing a small check.

**Income Benevolence – Observation.** No deficiencies observed.

**Income Offering – Observation.** For the July 5, offering, a check was added to the deposit after the deposit slip was filled out. There was good documentation and the bank receipt reflected the additional check. For the Aug. 2 offering, the currency was not added to the deposit slip. The bank caught this and the bank deposit receipt is for the correct amount. For the Sept. 17 offering, the offering and deposit slip totals were \$50 more than the actual deposit. This error was tied back to an offering check having been added to the total incorrectly.

**Recommendation.** Continue to strive for accuracy when counting the weekly offerings and completing the deposit slips. Retain all deposit documents. Continue to provide detailed information for all deposit exceptions at the time they occur.

**Disbursements – Observation.** In most cases, purchases are well-documented with a clear trail to the charged account.

**Recommendation.** Invoices are routinely paid in a timely manner. All check stubs note the account number being charged. Documentation is very complete and orderly.

**Credit Card Transactions - Observation.** The vast majority of credit card transactions have an auditable trail from the source document to the request for reimbursement/expense voucher to the general ledger.

**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. The supporting documentation for credit card purchases is very well organized.

**Payroll - Observation.** There were no copies or submissions for mileage details for one individual in the months of November and December.

**Recommendation.** Ensure a mileage report is filed (digitally or physically) to create an auditable trail back to the payroll item. If there is no mileage report filed, consider not including mileage in payroll until it is submitted similar to other financial best practices.

**Endowment Fund – Observation.** No deficiencies observed.



## **2023 COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT**

The 2023 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 work 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 2023: the countless volunteers who always seem to show up and 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 2023 council was inspiring 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. I have very much enjoyed my time spent on council, and I thank everyone who helped me along the way.

Mike Garner, Council President

563-349-4459

## 2023 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.

<b>Pastors</b>		
<b>Senior Pastor</b>	Pastor Carrie Lewis La Plante	
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	Pastor Heather Geest	
<b>Officers</b>		
<b>President</b>	Mike Garner (2nd Term)	Term Ends January '25
<b>Vice President</b>	Theresa White (1st term)	Term Ends January '24
<b>Treasurer</b>	Myron Scheibe (1st term)	Term Ends January '25
<b>Secretary</b>	John Hintze (1st term)	Term Ends January '26
<b>Ministry Team/Committee Chairs</b>		
<b>Christian Education</b>	Theresa White (1st term)	Term Ends January '24
<b>Evangelism/Faith Connections</b>	Vacant	Term Ends January '26
<b>Fellowship</b>	Deanna Nielsen (1st term)	Term Ends January '24
<b>Finance</b>	Myron Scheibe (1st term)	Term Ends January '25
<b>Property</b>	Dan O'Flaherty (1st term)	Term Ends January '25
<b>Service in the World</b>	John Hintze (1st term)	Term Ends January '26
<b>Stewardship</b>	Joan Hennigan (1st term)	Term Ends January '26
<b>Worship and Music</b>	Nina Looney (1st term)	Term Ends January '24
<b>Youth</b>	Michelle Rasmussen (1st term)	Term Ends January '25
<b>Council Resources</b>		
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Carolyn Scheibe & Rhonda Webber	
<b>Women of Faith Liaison</b>	Joni Schneider & Linda Szemkus	

## 2023 Teams, Committees, Synod Assembly Members

<b>Ministry Teams &amp; Task Teams</b>	
<b>Christian Education</b>	Theresa White (Chair), Pastor Heather, Betty Strom, Marla Zabel, Teachers: Denny Hennigan, Amanda Strom, Betty Strom, Theresa White, Cindy Zabel and Marla Zabel
<b>Evangelism</b>	Open (Chair), Linda Golinghorst, Mike Garner
<b>Fellowship</b>	Deanna Nielsen (Chair), Diane Cole, Carolyn Lewis, Janet Merrick, Beth Raiche-Melheim, and Melody Sawvell
<b>Sanctuary Update Task Team</b>	Amy Murray (Sponsor), Tom Bauer, Sue Becker, Donna Darnall, Pastor Carrie La Plante, Amy Powell, and Brad Yanke
<b>Stewardship</b>	Joan Hennigan (Chair), Myron Scheibe, Nancy Germain, Linda Golinghorst, Beth Raiche-Melheim
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	Nina Looney (Chair), Pastor Carrie, Sue Becker, Lucas Golinghorst, Linda Szemkus, Teri Wittkowski, Faith Families, Altar Guild, Video Crew
<b>Property</b>	Dan O'Flaherty (Chair), Ron Arp, Matt Briehl, Tom Bauer, Brad Merrick, Jared Penning, John Powell, Steve Sawvell, Myron Scheibe, Kim Wilkins, Bob White, Bill Wittkowski, Brad Yanke
<b>Service in the World</b>	John Hintze (Chair), Pam Carlson, Tom Carlson, Chris Copley, Carrie Keppy, Brad Merrick, Janet Merrick, Myron Scheibe, Joni Schneider
<b>Youth</b>	Michelle Rasmussen (Chair), Pastor Carrie, Mike Garner, Brea Harms, Joni King, Sue Kirst, Mentors
<b>Committees</b>	
<b>Audit</b>	Josh Rasmussen (Chair) 2020-23, Neal Becker 2021-24, Matt Briehl 2023-24?
<b>Endowment</b>	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
<b>Finance</b>	Myron Scheibe (Chair), Allen Lewis, Carolyn Scheibe, Rhonda Webber
<b>Memorial</b>	Mary Ann Anderson (Chair), Karen Schmitt, Carolyn Scheibe
<b>Mutual Ministry</b>	Pastor Carrie, Pastor Heather, Amy Murray (2023-2024), Annette Tomlinson (2022-2023), Mary Moore (2022-2023), Terry Fenn (2023-2024), Open (2022-2023), Open
<b>Nominating</b>	Tom Bauer, Mike Garner, Carol Marten, Duane Miller, Kenny Oetzmann, Theresa White
<b>Other</b>	
<b>Synod Assembly Voting Members</b>	Madelyn La Plante, Duane Miller
<b>Women of Faith Board</b>	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

## MARRIAGES

Andrew Peter Brodersen &  
Mackenzie Rose Mehmert

Alan Ralph Hering &  
Sandra Kaye Flenker

## CONFIRMATIONS

Kendall Rose Behm  
Lauren Kay Behm  
Madalyn Marie Eller  
Griffin Goslee Frank  
Katelyn Elizabeth Peck  
Everett Lucas Schroeder  
Nickolas Carl Schryver  
Kamilah Marie Eller  
Mackenzie Leah Gabrielson  
Grady Matthew Kirst  
Madelyn Eve La Plante  
Collin Nicholas Lewis  
Cooper Martin Schoenthaler

## MEMBER DEATHS

Randy Twigg  
Florence Whisler  
Shirley Baustian  
Sheila Baustian  
Geralean McLaughlin  
Harold Oscar Nelson  
Luella S. Wiese  
Carol Judge  
Wyatt Frahm  
Sylvia Schryver  
Minnie Irene Knake  
R. Lee (Bud) House  
Dennis L. Schmidt  
Leona Farley  
Lorenz Behrens

## NON MEMBER FUNERALS

June Braack  
Charles Richard Mephram Sr.  
Maria Mess  
Jill Kuhl  
Jan Kluever  
Wayne Griffin  
Gerald Boldt  
Joanne Tamblingson

## BAPTISMS

Hattie Mae Hillmann  
Toni Marianne Trizzino  
ShirleyAnne Rose Miller  
Erik David Alan Rose  
Caden James Noel  
Athena Helene Rogers  
Mila Rae Ellis  
Tyler Alan Stanton  
Brynley Sue Gray  
Walker Robert Madden  
Ruby Louise Cronkleton  
Maverick Theodore Claeys  
Tyler James Wise  
Blair Elizabeth Cawiezell  
Everett Charles Johnson

## NEW MEMBERS

Hattie Mae Hillmann  
Toni Marianne Trizzino  
ShirleyAnne Rose Miller  
Erik David Alan Rose  
Caden James Noel  
Athena Helene Rogers  
Mila Rae Ellis  
Tyler Alan Stanton  
Brynley Sue Gray  
Walker Robert Madden  
Ruby Louise Cronkleton  
Maverick Theodore Claeys  
Erin Denner  
Jerry & Tammy Neff  
Larry & Carolyn Dannet (Associate Members)  
Diane Johnson  
Jacob, Liz, Teagan, Colin, & Emerson Bruns  
Tyler James Wise  
Blair Elizabeth Cawiezell  
Everett Charles Johnson

## TRANSFERS OUT

Jill Kuhl

## DROPPED FROM MEMBERSHIP BY COUNCIL ACTION

None

## INFORMATION ABOUT MEMBERS

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership, end 2022:	928	706

Members received during 2023:

By baptism/children (15 years & younger)	12	0
By baptism/adults (16 years & older)	3	3
By affirmation of faith	1	1
By transfer from ELCA congregations	10	7
By transfer from other Lutheran congregations	0	0
From non-Lutheran congregations	0	0
From other sources and statistical adjustment	0	0

<b>Total members received this year</b>	26	11
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Baptized members who were confirmed in 2023: 13

<b>Subtotal</b>	954	730
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Members removed during 2023:

By death	15	15
By transfer to other ELCA congregations	0	0
By transfer to other Lutheran congregations	1	1
To non-Lutheran congregations	0	0
For other reasons & statistical adjustment	0	0

<b>Total members removed this year</b>	16	16
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<b>Membership, end 2023:</b>	938	714
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# 2023 CHRISTIAN ED ANNUAL REPORT



It was another successful and great year at Faith Lutheran Church with our students!

We kicked off the year with another Pancake Breakfast in January with students and families. Pastor Heather and Joni Schneider worked with 13 students on their First Communion in early spring, and Pastor Heather worked with 3 students for Pre-confirmation. For

Lent this past year every Wednesday a dinner was provided by each team. Christian Ed sponsored a Taco Night on Wednesday March 22. Pancakes were served by Sherri Brundies' team. Sherri also coordinated all the Congregational Breakfasts with her team! Yahoo! The dates chosen for those breakfasts were September 10 (Rally Day), October 15, November 12, December 17 (Children's Program), January 7 (Winter Rally Day with Lutheran Lakeside), February 11, March 31 (Easter Breakfast by High School students) and April 28th. Betty suggested Post Cards for Rally Day, September 10th, at 10:15. Beth Ann has made them and Theresa labeled them and got them in the mail.

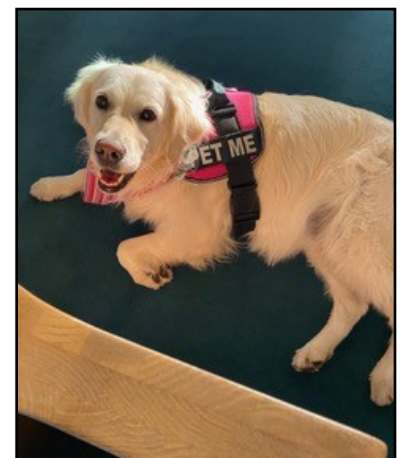
Theresa ordered a large tent, 11' by 11' for future Movie Nights, Final Friday, VBS or whatever we want to use it for! Funds came from Phyliss Green's Memorial.



Food Truck Party VBS was based on Matthew 6:11: "Give us this day our daily bread." This verse reminds us that everything we have comes from God – but it also calls us to turn to God in Prayer to meet our daily needs. Here's how Food Truck Party helps chefs learn to turn to God: Food Truck Party was such a fun

event!! Our student chefs learned about God's ability to provide. They were guided each night by the Food Truck's Top Chef and DJ Cupcake to learn about our Daily Special, lines of a familiar prayer that teaches us to turn to God to meet our needs. We had a unique food truck with Mike Garner's '53 Ford and served our yummy snacks from it!! On Thursday, we served Cappriotti's to our students and families out of our VBS Food Truck. The Top Chef, DJ Cupcake, and our student Chefs learned about how we can depend on God to take care of us. Our volunteers were plentiful and awesome! We were blessed! Sunday School students shared "The Christmas Story" on December 11th at the 9:00 service. Also, we had a Congregational Breakfast afterwards in Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Theresa White, Christian  
Education Team Leader





## **Faith Connections Team 2023 Annual Report**

**The Evangelism team had no formal structure in 2023. Mike Garner, Linda Golvinghorst, Pastor Carrie, and Beth Ann Anderson did their best to make sure some of the work was completed.**

**In September, the council recognized the importance of having an active Evangelism team, and had discussions about the way forward. It was decided that the word evangelism turns some people away. The council decided to rename the team to Faith Connections, and define its focus as: 1) Church hospitality 2) Visitor assimilation 3) Marketing.**

**In 2024, we are looking for anyone willing to work on these areas of outreach to our neighbors around us. Hospitality ideas, welcoming ideas, social media skills, the ability to write press releases, and advertising skills are all needed on this team. Please join in and share what you love about Faith Lutheran Church!**

**Mike Garner**

## FELLOWSHIP TEAM – 2023

After two years of virtual parties due to the pandemic, Cheeseburger in Paradise returned February 4, 2023. Forty-seven people enjoyed great food and conversation. The team provided burgers, condiments, and beverages. Side dishes and desserts were provided by the attendees. Door prize baskets were won by Michele & Marshall Mess. *Best Tropical Look* was awarded to Carol Roe. Seneca Rogers won the *Whitest Legs* contest.

On March 29, the team served the Lenten Meal. Approximately 55 people dined on sloppy joes, chips, carrots, and cookies.

Four people went to The Spotlight Theater in Moline to see *Oliver* in April.

The Parking Lot Picnic/Brunch on June 4<sup>th</sup> after the 9 am service, ended up in the Fellowship Hall because of the heat and humidity. 50 people enjoyed eating inside with AC and without the gnats. The team provided ham and beverages. Members provided side dishes and desserts. Melody Sawvell quilted red squares for all the tables.

The team provided the Churches United Meal at Zion Lutheran Church on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The menu was pasta bake, salad, bread, bananas, cookies and bars and bottled water. Fifty-four people were served with many coming back for seconds.

The Anniversary Dinner for people married 50 or more years was held on October 14<sup>th</sup> and was attended by 22 guests. The menu was apple salad, sweet breads, pork loin, cheesy potatoes, glazed carrots, and *anniversary* cake. Wine, coffee and tea were also offered. Diane Cole organized the entertainment - Family Feud. Diane was the host asking questions of the teams. Several rounds were played, and the teams were mixed up. The people with the highest score for the night won prizes. All participants had a great time.

Fellowship time on Sundays after worship continues. Beth Raiche-Melheim provided many sweets for the fellowship time in the past year. We need more volunteers! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. You just need to provide a few dozen cookies/pastries and mix up a pitcher of lemonade. All supplies are in the kitchen under the serving counter. It is a super easy way to serve and get to know more of our members.

A big thanks to the fellowship team: Diane Cole, Carolyn Lewis, Janet Merrick, Beth Raiche-Melheim, and Melody Sawvell. Without the help and commitment from these awesome ladies, these events would not have happened. Also, thanks to David Cole, Brad Merrick, Dan Nielsen and Steve Sawvell for helping with serving!

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Nielsen, Fellowship Team Leader

# PROPERTY TEAM 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Following is a month by month list of work done here at Faith Lutheran in 2023:

## January

Repaired mailbox.

Put up markers to keep cars off the grass. Removed snow from sidewalks.

Boiler inspection had to install a CO monitor new state law.

## February

Snow removal

## March.

Air conditioner repair, roof repair from leak around air conditioner.

Removed a fallen limb from the parsonage.

Snow removal.

## April.

Sprayed for ants and set traps.

Begin mowing and fertilizing weeds.

Cleanup day April 29th

Fixed clogged sink in kitchen.

## May

Removed Pew for wheelchair access.

Put down mulch and mowing and trim work on property.

Replaced ceiling tile in women's rest room upstairs.

Repaired a portion of the parking lot just to get by for another year.

Began working on cleaning up the weed patch on the southeast corner of the church offices.

Planted flowers and put down mulch in an area on the south of the church.

## June

Painted parking lot lines, sprayed for weeds in parking lot and sidewalk cracks. Trimmed pine trees for ease of mowing. Trimmed all shrubs on property.

Outside Chapel scraped and painted. The flower garden on the south side of the office is redone.

Met with insurance carriers to get a better premium. Met with Food Pantry discussed parking lot repair.

Repair 2600 square feet of parking lot.

Mow and maintain the property on a weekly basis, water plants and flowers on a every other day basis.

## July,

Replaced the bearing assembly and pump couplers on one of the motors in the boiler room. We had two estimates at \$5,000 and my son and I did it for under \$600.

## August,

The memorial fund purchased an AED, and we installed the storage cabinet for the machine and



held a training class to learn how to operate. Also relocated the home worship containers from the outdoor bench to the entrance wall so the bench can be used as a bench. Applied a slurry substance to the new parking lot for protection from the sun and weather.

September,

A classroom downstairs has some water damage from a leak. We are working on finding the source and making the necessary repairs. Had the roof general contractor inspected but no sign of where the problem is.

Applied weed control on the property.

Cleaning out the gutters on the west side of the church found them to be plugged on one end with a piece of shingle from the re-roof.

Remove damaged drywall from the ceiling replaced and plastered along with repaint the entire ceiling from the water damage. Also had to remove the fluorescent lights and replace them when finished.

Filled in for our custodian for a week of his vacation.

October,

Aerated the lawn.

Removed broken limb and cut up wood from damaged tree.

Got two bids for carpet cleaning.

Replaced broken doorknob in Pastor Carrie's office.

Fixed three different light fixtures in the men's room downstairs and a couple of closets.

Replaced a bearing on one of the heat pumps in the boiler room. Also replaced a shutoff valve in the boiler room.

Had all the carpets cleaned by Steam Pro.

November,

Had to replace another bearing and coupler on a motor in the boiler room.

Raked leaves and mowed for the final time.

Repaired furnace ignition board and replaced a gas valve for heat to the choir room downstairs.

Set up the Nativity scene.

First snowfall cleared the sidewalk and Food Pantry entrance.

Removed 150 chairs from a storage room downstairs and donated them to a church in Carbon Cliff IL.

Mounted brackets in a storage room to hang Christmas wreaths and swags.

As you can see the property team had another busy year. I am truly thankful for the willingness and generosity of the members of this team who give so freely their time and talents.

A huge Thank you to these team members, Ron Arp, Brad Merrick, Matt Briehl, Myron Scheibe, Bill Wittkowski, Steve Sawvell, Bob White, Mike Garner, and Gary King.

We are looking forward to another busy and fruitful year in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan O'Flaherty, Property Team Leader

## SERVICE IN THE WORLD 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Volunteering our time and resources to help others and giving to those in need was our focus throughout the year. We impacted lives locally and around the world, providing hope, support, and encouragement.

Team members are John Hintze (chair), Pam Carlson, Tom Carlson, Janet Merrick, Brad Merrick, Joni Schneider, Carrie Keppy, and Chris Copley.

Through our outreach funds, we provided support to many ministries, including Bread for the World, Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran World Relief, John Glenn Elementary, Tapestry Farms, Quad City Disaster Recovery Fund, Red Cross, Humility Homes & Services, Lutheran Disaster Relief, Churches United, and Toys for Tots. Thank you to all who donated to the fund to make this outreach possible.

We continued our commitment to the Churches United meal program. Six meals were served this year, averaging 50 people per meal. Much appreciation goes to other church committees and members who gave their time, hard work, and donations to make this happen.

The Super Bowl "Souper Bowl" event collected 106 canned food items that were donated to the Food Pantry.

On Compassion Sunday, a video was shown highlighting the hope a Compassion sponsor can bring to a child's life. Faith Lutheran supports the Compassion Children program by sponsoring John Chima and Denisse Grefa. Also, Faith supports the ELCA Global Missionaries and Ministries program by sponsoring the Bencke family.

Final Friday was a fun event for the elementary students celebrating their last day of school. There were arts and crafts, games, volleyball, and a jumpy house - good times!

The annual Blood Drive was held in October.

ELCA Good Gifts was another ministry well supported by Faith. Thanks to all who donated.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hintze, Service in the World Team Leader

# STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Team Members: Joan Hennigan, Nancy Germain, Linda Golinghorst, Beth Raiche-Melheim, Myron Scheibe

Thank you for giving generously and gladly. Our God is a God of abundance and generosity. God made it all. God owns it all, yet God provides us with so much. Let us discover joy in giving and sharing generously in response to God's generosity to us, and in doing so, to grow spiritually.

The goal of our stewardship ministry is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talent, and finances that God had entrusted to them. Stewardship can be a catalyst to a growing discipleship.

Giving is an act of Faith.

Team Activities accomplished throughout the year:

- 1 Time + Talent Sheets: Distributed in the Spring - 66 returned, updated forms on church website
- 2 Promise Cards/letters mailed out to Faith families in October - 46 returned, \$146,900 promised for 2024
- 3 Updated Digital Pew Cards with QR Codes, updated giving forms on church website
- 4 Pastors preached about Stewardship in September and October 2023. Thank you!
- 5 Gave 4 Temple Talks in October encouraging Stewardship using our Time, Talent, Treasure
- 6 Provided and mailed Thank You notes to Faith's Pastors, staff, and helpers throughout the year (144)
- 7 Wrote monthly Ambassador articles on giving generously and cheerfully, as well as using our gifts.

Thank you to all who returned Time and Talent forms. Also, thank you to all who returned Promise Cards for financial giving at Faith. Both are helpful to church leaders in determining the future vision and direction of our ministry locally, nationally and abroad.

Thank you for using your Time, Talent + Treasure to further Faith's vibrant ministries. We are making a difference in our church, community, and worldwide. As you read through the various reports of Faith's teams, you can see the Holy Spirit is at work here. May the Holy Spirit continue guiding and working in our lives and ministry as we enter a new year. Please take a few moments each day to pray for our ministry, for each other, and for the Holy Spirit to guide us in the ways of generosity so that others may see God's gifts reflected in our lives.

I especially want to thank Stewardship Team members for your dedication and input to the stewardship mission. I appreciate your time that you are giving to further Faith's ministry.

2 Corinthians 9:7-8: "Each one should give, then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to give you more than you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause."

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hennigan, Stewardship Team Leader









## WORSHIP AND MUSIC TEAM REPORT 2023

The Worship and Music Team facilitates all aspects of worship at Faith with the help of many individuals. We thank the members of our team:

**Pastor Carrie La Plante – Worship Experience**

**Linda Szemkus – Altar Guild**

**Sue Becker – Music**

**Lucas Golinghorst – Online Worship**

**Nina Looney – Faith Families**

These individuals have been instrumental for providing a meaningful worship experiences indoors, outdoors and online. 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.

This year the team served and prepared one of the Churches United meals. We also added meals prior to the Lenten Services which our team and other teams from the council provided to bring members together.

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. A special thank-you to four members that have joined the committees this year. We brought back using bread at the first service each month. Thank-you to all these bakers and anyone who wants to use their talents can sign up for 2024.

People of Praise, Resounding Joy, and Jubilation all had a wonderful musical year. Although all of the groups are small, they are mighty! Our musicians are blessed to share their music with the congregation, and having just one Sunday service at 9:00 am has allowed for much more flexibility and breathing room for the folks who are involved in these groups. During the year 2023, People of Praise provided music at 19 worship services, singing 21 different musical selections; Resounding Joy provided music at 10 worship services, playing 18 different musical selections; and Jubilation provided their contemporary service at two services each month for nine months of the year. These are impressive statistics considering the size of the groups. The highlight of the year was when People of Praise (along with a few friends who joined the choir for the presentation) performed a Christmas cantata at the Saturday evening worship service on December 9, after a "pause" of three years due to COVID. They were especially thrilled to perform the cantata not only because it was an annual tradition that was sorely missed by all, but the purchase of the music was graciously funded by the Baustian family in memory of Sheila Baustian, a former member of the choir. Resounding Joy provided two beautiful Advent songs as prelude music for this very special worship service.

Please make sure to acknowledge and thank the volunteers who participate in the music programs at Faith. They are a faithful, dedicated, hard-working, and fun bunch! You, too, can be a part of this great group of people by joining People of Praise or Jubilation (HS age and up; no experience necessary for both of these groups) or Resounding Joy (you must be able to read music to be in this group). Contact Sue Becker (for People of Praise or Resounding Joy) or Neal Becker (for Jubilation). We'd love to have you join us. Yes, the commitment is significant...but the rewards are immeasurable.

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 8 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, and Mary Moore. These individuals make sure

we have ushers, readers, and communion assistants for worship. Worship Assistance 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 after preparing the plan for the sanctuary update, it was presented to the congregation at the annual meeting. The posters and details were displayed in the narthex so all members could view the plan and ask questions about it. Hopefully we will move forward on this soon.

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 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

This year has been filled with adventures for the youth in this congregation. Our junior high ministry centers around our Confirmation program. Each Wednesday, the families of our junior high students provide dinner to sustain our youth for the evening, and this provides a good time of fellowship for our youth. In the spring, our 23 confirmation youth gathered for Confirmation Conversations centered around the stories of the New Testament, and this fall, our 11 confirmation youth gathered for Confirmation Conversations centered around Lutheran History and Catechism. Through games, videos, Bible study and small group conversation, we have learned about God's love for us. In addition to the conversations, the youth enjoyed fellowship and stewardship activities which included baking pies for Grand Haven, a Food Pantry Scavenger Hunt, and a Christmas party. The youth also have individual mentors with whom they meet five times per year to have conversations about faith. I give thanks for the many adults in the congregation who have agreed to serve as the mentors for these youth. I am thankful for Terry Behm, Sue Kirst, Joni King and Diane Krebs who have served as small group leaders for our youth this past year.



In April, we celebrated our 8th grade youth as they prepared for Confirmation. On April 26, we gathered for our Confirmation Dinner for all of the families of our confirmands, which was served by the 7th grade class. On Sunday, April 30, thirteen of our youth affirmed their baptism during our Confirmation service, and they were joined by one of their classmates who was with them for the two years of Confirmation Conversations but, because he is a member of another congregation, was not confirmed here. It was a wonderful day to celebrate God's promises together.

Over the summer, we had three youth go to Confirmation Camp and two youth go to High School Camp at Lutheran Lakeside. We had one high school youth serve as a day camp counselor that week, and two of our members served as counselors throughout the summer. The week that we went, we also took with us eight junior campers, nine adult mission trippers, Pastor Heather and myself. It was a wonderful week of growing in faith and building relationships among the various generations.



Our High School Youth Group has grown this year ranging from five to twenty youth per week.

Throughout the year, we have alternated our weeks among game nights, Bible studies, and movie nights. Our study has centered around the question *Can I Ask That?* where we have considered hard questions that are often not talked about in church. The goal is for our youth to begin to think about what they believe and begin to be able to articulate their beliefs in ways that are respectful so that they can hear what others believe and share what they believe so that everyone can grow in faith. We have spent some time watching *The Chosen* and considered what life with Jesus might have been like. We play all kinds of crazy games, including Blindfolded Musical Chairs, Romans and Christians, Minute To Win It games, and our two favorites, Hide-and-Seek and UNO. We end each evening with our highs, lows and God moments and with praying for one another. The fun part of each week is to see who comes because these youth are prolific at inviting their friends to come and see what youth group is all about.



We sometimes have special events on Wednesday evenings including photo scavenger hunts, escape room challenges, Cinco de Mayo parties and Christmas parties. We have also done a few Sunday events including a final trip to Michael's Fun World, a bonfire and hayrack ride at the Keppy's, and going to see *Journey to Bethlehem* at the movie theater. Our youth enjoy spending time together. I give thanks for Joni King and Sue Kirst who partner with me to lead this group.

This past summer, 20 youth and 5 adults traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for our mission trip through Service Learning Camps. While it was a *very* long drive, it was worth it for the experiences that we had enjoying the sights of Albuquerque and partnering with the various organizations with which we worked through the week. The organizations with which we served included the Special Needs VBS at Cross of Hope Lutheran Church, The Rock At Noonday Rescue Mission, Roadrunner Food Bank, the Department of Senior Affairs, Beta, the Balloon Fiesta, Habitat for Humanity, Tres Hermanas Farm, and Locker 505. We also had an opportunity to experience a Fry Bread demonstration where we learned much about the history of fry bread and how to make our own fry bread tacos for dinner. Upon our return, we hosted a Shareholder Dinner where we were able to share our experiences with the congregation. Thank you to Mike Garner, Brea Harms, Sue Kirst and Scott La Plante who served as the adult leaders with me on this trip.



To prepare for this mission trip and for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering, we held several fundraisers including Super Bowl Sunday Subs and Snack Mix, two Cinnamon Roll Sundays, hosted Easter Breakfast, and the Shareholder Fundraiser. The added bonus to these fundraisers is that they allow us to build relationships as we raise money, and we are grateful for all those who support our fundraisers and make these trips possible.

I am always amazed by the questions and deep thoughts of our junior high and high school youth, and I know that I continue to grow in faith in the midst of our conversations. I give thanks for all that we learned and accomplished in 2023, and I look forward to all that God has planned for us in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Carrie L. Lewis La Plante

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE 2023 REPORT

Our endowment committee consists of Kim Wilkins, Chairperson; Kenny Oetzmann, Treasurer; Scott Rochau, Recorder/Secretary; Jan Hartwig, Annette Tomlinson, Mike Garner as current Church President, and Pastor Carrie.

We generally meet only once or twice a year to discuss distributing our interest on our endowment funds. Several years ago, we set up the endowment committee and set up a goal of \$50,000. This money was not to be touched. After we reached our \$50,000 goal, it was decided to invest yearly the interest from the endowment fund in 4 separate categories. To date, we have distributed monies to Lutheran Lakeside, Humble Dwellings in Eldridge, to the Southeast Iowa Synod of Iowa, our own church, and others. For example, we gave a total of around \$1,700 to 4 different organizations last year. This year because of additional endowment funds and higher interest rates, Kenny projects we will have around \$2,500 to distribute. Our fund has grown to \$104,094.05

You may ask 'What is an endowment?' By definition, an endowment is an investment account for emergency needs for reserve funds and long-term financial stability.

To do this, we need enough financial stability that we can save for tomorrow instead of just spending for today. We need a mature fund development to include dedicated and passionate supporters and a strong major gifts component.

An endowment is a long-term investment account. It is like a 401K account. Once the money is deposited, you don't touch it but get a distribution from the interest or dividends that accumulate. The endowment provides an annual income stream that should last forever.

To create an endowment, you need 3 things:

1. You need "extra" money (after bills etc.) That doesn't mean you reduce your weekly giving to the church to put in an endowment fund.
2. You need passionate donors. When you give to an endowment, you are betting on the church in the long-term so it will last forever.
3. We need a strong donor program to invest in long-term financial health.

Please feel free to contact any member of the endowment committee with questions. Thank you,

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 REPORT FOR 2023**

Members who are deceased and recorded in our memorial book for 2023 are: Randy Twigg; Florence Whisler, Shirley Baustian, Sheila Baustian, Geralean McLaughlin, Harold Oscar Nelson, Luella S Wiese, Carol Judge, Wyatt Frahm, Sylvia Schryver, Minnie Irene Knake, R. Lee (Bud) House, Dennis L Schmidt and Leona Farley. Carolyn Scheibe will include in her report memorials received in memory of our deceased members.

Projects completed in 2023: Chair and Sofa for the Youth Room, and AED System.

We had 15 baptisms in 2023. Michele and Mark Mess, in memory of Maddie Mess, has now been presenting a rose to all who are baptized.

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

The family has 12 months to decide 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 Schmitt; Carolyn Scheibe; Pastor Carrie La Plante; and Pastor Heather Geest

## MEMORIAL ACCOUNT ACTIVITY FOR 2023

Balance 12/31/2022		\$	<b>41,059.19</b>
Inflow 1/1/2023 thru 12/31/2023			
Gifts Received	\$	16,102.00	
Interest Received	\$	48.84	
Total Inflow 1/1/2023 thru 12/31/2023		\$	16,150.84
Outflow 1/1/2023 thru 12/31/2023			
One check written for 2 Memorials & flowers - flower money to Faith	\$	(12.00)	
Camperships	\$	(680.00)	
Mission Trip	\$	(500.00)	
SS / VBS Tent	\$	(185.10)	
AED onsite defibrillator	\$	(1,349.00)	
Youth room furniture	\$	(2,472.32)	
2023 Cantata music	\$	(205.18)	
2023 Cantata music	\$	(119.27)	
Communion chalices	\$	(3,855.22)	
AED onsite defibrillator - infant pads	\$	(105.00)	
Faith Lutheran Endowment fund	\$	(1,180.00)	
Total Outflow 1/1/2023 thru 12/31/2023		\$	(10,663.09)
Balance 12/31/2023		\$	<b>46,546.94</b>

Prepared by Carolyn Scheibe  
1/2/2023



## WOMEN OF FAITH ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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.

During the school year, we meet for our monthly Bible Study from the Gather magazine. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Gathering area. All are welcome.

The Worship Bags for the children continue to be used during worship. Over 35 Christmas cards were sent to those needing Christmas cheer.

The quilting group meets during the school year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. They donated 10 adult quilts to the Center. Prayer shawls are available in the church office for anyone in need of comfort.

We served funeral luncheons for the families of Shelia Baustian, Maria Mess, Geri McLaughlin, Jill Kuhl, H.O. Nelson, Lu Weise, Carol Judge, Wyatt Frahm, Sylvia Schryver and Bud House. We were hosts at the visitation for Shelia Baustian. 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 helps keep the kitchen clean.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Szemkus, President

## WOMEN OF FAITH 2023 YEAR END REPORT

### **EXPENSE**

SERVICE PROJECTS		\$2591.26
Kitchen Supplies	\$ 282.80	
Postage for Christmas cards	25.44	
Roof Donation	1500.00	
Quilting Supplies	336.56	
Sunshine/cards	36.41	
Communion Ware	90.00	
Lenten meal	320.05	
WOMEN OF THE ELCA		\$ 275.00
UNIT GATHERING REGISTRATION/OFFERING		\$ 265.00
FUND RAISING/AD in NS PRESS FOR GARAGE SALE		\$ 20.00
MISC		\$. 62.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3213.26

### **INCOME**

FUNERAL/RECEPTIONS		\$1025.00
OFFERINGS/DONATIONS		\$ 71.00
THRIVENT		\$ 524.50
FUND RAISING		\$ 555.25
Plant Sale	\$ 532.00	
Odds & Ends (garage sale)	13.25	
Cookbook	10.00	
LENTEN MEAL REINBURSEMENT		\$ 250.00
DIVIDEND (As of 11/30/2023)		\$. 16.57
Savings	\$ 2.72	
Checking	1.18	
Certificate	12.67	
	GROSS INCOME	\$2442.32

#### **Checking DuTrac Credit Union**

Balance as of December 20, 2023 \$3142.22

#### **Savings (DuTrac)1**

Balance as of November 30, 2023 \$2294.40

#### **Certificate of Deposit** (Matures March 21, 2024)

Balance as of November 30, 2023 \$2821.64

Karen Schmitt  
Treasurer of Women of Faith



## **NORTH SCOTT COMMUNITY FEED OUR CHILDREN MINISTRY 2023 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 2022-2023 we served more than **15,449** lunches in our community through our twice a week ministry.

With support from members of the congregation and community, we were able to serve **3,502** meals during the 2023 summer break! These meals consisted of a lunch and additional items for snack or breakfast. A special thank you to Sammie and Katie Garner for organizing and managing our daily operations and inventory this season

As we look forward to 2024, 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 2024!

Feed Our Children Ministry

## NORTH SCOTT FOOD PANTRY - 2023

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 2023 include:

- A total of 683 visits were logged in 2023 which is up 28% from last year but still short of pre-pandemic use. In 2023 the pantry served an average of 57 families each month.
- The pantry is well stocked for 2024. 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 with 48,785 pounds recorded in 2023.
- Notable donations: St. Ann's Knights of Columbus annual golf open raised \$19,500. Howard & Carole Harkins Charitable Trust donated \$10,000. The Mail Carriers' food drive returned in 2023. Sixty-two totes of food weighing approximately 2232 pounds were collected. Grilling for Charity by First Central Bank raised \$4815. The NSJH FFA added an option for students to get more color packets for the annual color run by donating canned food. The response was overwhelming with 877 pounds of food being donated. The Lancer girls' basketball team hosted the "cart races" at North Scott HyVee. Local businesses sponsored the 11 teams. The teams collected 2153 pounds of food worth \$4023. Ed White School collected over 400 boxes of cereal. Eldridge Lions donated \$1000. The list could go on and on as all the local churches and schools support the pantry throughout the year.
- With North Scott Foods closing in April, the pantry received shelving and food. HyVee has worked with the pantry to set up an account to continue to use the vouchers for milk, eggs and produce. Also, HyVee has made numerous donations of bread and other food since opening in May.
- Families with school aged children picked out extra kid friendly food during the summer.
- School supplies were collected in July. Each school in the district received a large box of supplies.
- Throughout the summer and fall, fresh produce was donated by Garden Ministries and local gardeners.
- Non-food items such as toilet paper, laundry soap, shampoo and feminine hygiene products are available at the pantry. In 2023 toothpaste and toothbrushes were added. In May "spring cleaning" supplies were given out.
- We want to thank Faith Lutheran Church for housing the pantry and providing the utilities for the past 12 years. The church used our \$11,050 donation to repair a portion of the parking lot our clients use.
- Clients received additional holiday food the month prior to Easter and Thanksgiving. Clients select holiday/shelf stable food along with ham, cheese and vouchers for eggs, milk and produce. 49 families received Easter food and 65 families received Thanksgiving food.

Christmas food boxes and angel tree gifts were given out December 15 & 16. Eldridge Lions Club members packed the food boxes in early December. On distribution days, volunteers added the perishables and loaded the food into the client's vehicles. 78 food boxes were distributed. Christmas gifts provided by St. Ann and the Scott County Library's angel trees were distributed to 160 children.

It takes many wonderful volunteers using their gifts to make sure the food pantry functions efficiently. Friday hours are staffed by local churches in a 7-week rotation. Faith will man the pantry on February 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are willing to help in any way, please contact Deanna Nielsen (563- 370-7444). Thanks to Lynn Welch for serving as secretary for the past 3 years. Judy Shannon has agreed to take on the secretary position.

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 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Luther Properties has had a relatively quiet year compared to the past few years. Our administrative team continues to shine by keeping our 5 buildings near capacity, and keeps our buildings maintained and updated. Our HUD inspections continually show our facilities are top notch. We continually improve our facilities using our tenants' suggestions and as money is budgeted.

Our building managers do a great job of keeping our tenants happy and do a good job of providing extra activities for our residents.

Our Board of Directors meet every other month to discuss issues that arise concerning our 5 buildings. Most all ELCA churches in Scott County are represented and contribute to Luther Properties.

Kevin Krebs and myself, Kim Wilkins, represent Faith Lutheran on the Board. We are proud to represent our church on this needed feature in our broader community, and encourage any member to contact either of us about any concerns or questions. It should also be mentioned that our 5 facilities are open to any denomination, not just Lutheran.

Thank you for your support.

Kim Wilkins

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## OPENING LITURGY

### Son of God, Eternal Savior

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 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655  
 Text: Somerset C. Lowry  
 Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;  
 arr. Julius Röntgen  
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