English Lutheran Church 2023 Annual Report

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 28, 2024— 10:00 am







2023 Staff

2023 CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor ·····	·····Pastor Peter Warren
Financial Administrator	Sydney Durfee/Ava Maxwell
Communications Coordinator	Sydney Durfee/Tammy Rieck
Custodian ······	
Accompanist ·····	Ava Maxwell
Music Director	Missy Kowalchyk

2023 Congregation Council

2023 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Jill Hague Denise Hager Lynette Winger Dennis Swanson

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2024 Annual Meeting Agenda

English Lutheran Church Congregation Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2024, 10:00 am

CALL TO ORDER

OPENING PRAYER

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF 2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

ANNUAL REPORTS

Pastor Ministry Teams & Committees Highlights from 2023 Financial Reports

REVIEW AND VOTE ON 2024 BUDGET

Property Discussion

ELECTIONS

Congregation Council Congregation Officers Memorial & Gifts Mission Endowment Committee Synod Assembly Representatives Nominating Committee Stewardship Committee

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

English Lutheran Church Congregation Annual Meeting Sunday January 29, 2023 @ 10:15 am.

Called to Order by Peter Carr, President.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Pete Warren.

Quorum was reach with 48 people in attendance.

Adoption of the 2023 Annual Meeting agenda. MSC.

Approval of the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes. MSC.

Annual Reports (presented in writing):

- -Pastor Report
- -Altar Guild
- -Graduate Quilt Ministry
- -Children, Youth, and Family
- -Community Missions
- -Finance Committee
- -Women's Bible Study
- -Malawi
- -Memorial & Gifts
- -Mission Endowment & Stewardship
- -Music & Worship
- -Property Committee
- -Northwest Synod of Wisconsin ELCA

Pastor Pete Warren shared a few highlights of the Pastor Report. Peter Carr highlighted our Church accomplishments and thanked all volunteers. A special note to thank the members of the Call and Transition Committee. Peter also noted our positive experience with and our interim Pastor, Charlie Bunk.

Gary Brown presented a few highlights of the 2022 budget and the proposed 2023 budget. Adoption of the 2023 budget. MSC.

Minutes: Annual Meeting of the English Lutheran Church Congregation 1-29-23

Elections by Unanimous Voice Vote Congregation Council Members: Denise Hager Greta Larson Lynette Winger Dennis Swanson

Memorial & Gifts Committee: Jeannette Wright Melanie Johnson

Mission Endowment Committee: Traci Maxwell

Synod Assembly: Joel Schulze Sharon Schulze

Nominations Committee: Peter Carr Sue Myers Julie Davis

Election of Council Executive Committee by Ballot: Eric Van Nocker President Melba Smith, Vice President Gary Brown, Treasurer Greta Larson, Secretary

Other Business

Kip Gore thanked all outgoing Council Members for their leadership. Peter Carr updated the congregation on the upcoming landscaping project. Peter also noted the Stewardship Committee needs a volunteer. Interested congregation members should reach out to Pastor Pete.

Adjournment. MSC.

Parish Records & Pastoral Acts - 2023

Membership As of January 1, 2023:	431 (Baptized)	288 (Confirmed)
Members received during 2023 By Baptism: children By Baptism: adults By Affirmed faith By other denomination By transfer Other & Stat. Adjustment Baptized Members Received Baptized Members Confirmed Confirmed Members Added	1 1 0 0 0 0 0 +2	0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Members removed during 2023 By death By transfer Total members removed As of December 31, 2023	3 <u>0</u> -3 430 (Baptized)	3 <u>0</u> -3 288 (Confirmed)

Pastoral Acts - 2023

Baptisms - 2

Funerals - 6

Weddings - 1

Statistics

Dorthea Olson

Thomas Lewis*
John Geister*

Average weekly worship attendance - in-person (includes special services - Lent Wednesdays, Good Friday, Maundy Thursday, & Christmas Eve) - 66

Average weekly Sunday worship attendance includes in-person as reported to ELCA (no special services) - 65

Parish Acts - 2023

Confirmands **Baptisms New Member** Brooklyn Irene Boettcher None (10/29/2023) Jodi Brathell Ethan Ladwig Wyley Myers **Transfers Out** Weddings None Joseph Lewis Phillip & Morgan Truax **Holy Communion Class Funerals** No Holy Communion Class Dale Melstrom

Milt Helmer
Steven Bartlett*

* Denotes Non Member

Report from Pastor Pete Warren

Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

What a year it has been! I have enjoyed getting to know you and my family and I love living in Ellsworth! Thank you for welcoming us into your village and your homes and we look forward to many years together with you.

My goal for the past year was mainly to get to know you and get a feel for how things work around here. We have been having a bit of turnover in the office lately, but I am sure that everything will soon settle down. You may have noticed that at the end of June, I moved my office to the old intern office/Pastor Laurel's office/ library and conference room. The old pastor's office is now a conference room/library. I get to be one of the first faces that you see when you come up the stairs during the week!

2023 was an awesome year. The season of Lent and Easter was a blur for me as were all of the Spring activities because I was so new. In the summer, we partnered with Our Savior's Lutheran Church and brought back VBS, and we are looking forward to it again this summer. I had a blast going out and cheering for our Church Softball team this summer and want to thank Jared Melstrom for organizing the team last summer. We even won the Championship tournament at the end of the season! And we had a couple of youths go to Luther Point and it was awesome for me to be back up there.

This Fall was a flurry of activities that lead up to the Advent & Christmas Seasons. Advent and Christmas were amazing this year. In five Sundays, including Christmas Eve, we had SIX different worship experiences. Thank you so much to Missy and Ava for the hard work that they put into the Christmas season, especially with the Christmas Cantata. It truly was a wonderful time of the year!

It has been a pleasure for me to serve breakfast to the guys on Thursday mornings. This was a ministry that I did up in Bemidji and thank you for allowing me to continue it down here! It is nice to get to know people outside of Sunday mornings, and I hope to get to know more of you as time goes on. Speaking of which, my emphasis for 2024 is visitation and getting to know more people. Sunday mornings offer a limited amount of time to speak with people, so I'm hoping to be out and about more during the week. Let me know if you want to grab a cup of coffee or a bite to eat. I would love to sit down and talk with you. I want to know about you, and I want to hear what your hopes and dreams are for our church. What do you think God is calling us to do?

And that is what you are going to hear me say a lot! What is God calling us (ELC) to do? Who is God calling us (ELC) to be? I have heard and read a lot of our history and we have a rich past. Sometimes, it is hard to not wish longingly for the "good ol' days." Our God is calling us forward, to be ever re-forming who we are. And I look forward to exploring who we can be. I am excited for the future of English Lutheran Church! Thank you for calling me to be your pastor! I love you! God Bless!

Pastor Pete Warren

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us," Hebrews 12:1

Report from Altar Guild

Members: Sharon Schulze, Judy Dumermuth, Tammy Brenner, Kriste Lewis, Nancy Johnson, Andrea Hinrichs, Bev Greeley, Ava Maxwell, Vi Wilhelm, Tammy Rieck, Jeanette Wright, Sue Myers, Cindy Reuvers, and Traci Maxwell. We are pleased to welcome Diane Wiskerchen to Altar Guild.

The duties of the Altar Guild members are to arrange altar items necessary for Sunday services, communion, baptisms, Affirmation of Baptism, Lent, Easter, Christmas, weddings and funerals. We have three or four members on each month of the year to help with the following tasks:

Fill wine glasses

Fill oil candles

Change the paraments

Re-fill the eternal flame

Set up for baptisms

Launder the communion linens

Decorate the church for Advent, Christmas and Easter

If anyone is interested in joining our group; we gladly accept new members at anytime. Each group of 3 or 4 serves for three months of the year; you may pick which group works best for you.

Submitted by Bev Greeley.

Graduate Quilting Ministry

Team Leaders: Judy Erickson & Tammy Brenner

Team Members: Melanie Johnson, Vicki Nelson, Tammy Rieck, Sharon Schulze

Ministry Purpose: We gather as a dedicated group to craft a gift of a quilt for high school graduates of English Lutheran Church.

Highlights of 2023:

- The ministry group met on several Saturday's in the fall and spring, from 9am to noon at the church.
- On May 21, 4 graduates received their quilts during a special church service.
- The quilt group received a memorial donation from Delores Olsons family.

The committee donated quilts to Caring and Sharing hands in Minnesota.

• Several baby quilts were made by one of our members (Vicki Nelson) and donated them also.

Submitted by Judy Erickson and Tammy Brenner

Goals for 2024:

We hope to encourage more help
 no sewing skills needed. Quilt tops are sewn by
 members at their homes, assembly is done at the church during meeting times.

Acknowledgments: Thank you for donations that make this ministry successful and for the dedication of the Graduate Quilt Team.

Graduate Quilt Sunday

Report from Children, Youth, and Family

Team Member Roster: Trina Groen, Renee Van Nocker, Kayla Zimmer, Denise Hager, Pastor Pete, Kim Warren, and Phillip & Morgan Truax

Ministry Purpose: To promote shared growth for children, youth, and families. To facilitate shared events that extend the ministry of our church for children, youth and families.

Sunday School: Our Sunday School students worked on outreach projects during Easter for our shut-ins, and we recently had a Christmas party with the Sunday School students along with the "No Rehearsal Christmas Program." Thank you to Katie Groen and Piper Van Nocker for volunteering to teach our students and for preparing fun activities for them. We appreciate you!

Kingdom Kids: This year we started a pilot program called Kingdom Kids. It is the first Wednesday of every month. We have had a great turn out so far averaging 25 students each time. Pastor Pete has planned lots of fun activities and Missy and Ava have been leading music activities. We will continue this through the end of the school year.

Vacation Bible School: This year we partnered with Our Savior's Lutheran Church and had a successful Vacation Bible School. We used an amazing program called Stellar - Shine Jesus' Light. We had about 30 students participate. The program was 4 days a week after Summer School for 3 hours. It was such a fun program and we look forward to next year!

Confirmation: This past Fall we confirmed 3 students (Wiley Meyers, Ethan Ladwig, and Joseph Lewis). This Summer a group of our confirmation students along with our Confirmation Guides, Phillip & Morgan Truax, took a trip to the beach and to Crystal Cave for a round of mini golf. They had a blast! Our Confirmation students collected food for our Thanksgiving meal baskets. We served over 30 families because of this project. Our students also went to Feed My Starving Children last February and look forward to another trip February 7, 2024. We also participated in the Live Nativity at the East End Park before Christmas and handed out bells that were a huge hit! At each class students are served a meal, we play games, and worship together. Please look for all the wonderful photos that have been shared on Facebook and in the newsletters for both Confirmation and Sunday School.

Goals: We will also continue work to fund our Confirmation Program so it can be free for our youth. Any ministry team/group/ individuals are welcome to serve a meal to our confirmation kids on a Wednesday night. The confirmation program pays for the meal, you would just take care of purchasing, cooking, and serving the meal. Anyone can join Sunday School, Kingdom Kids, and Confirmation at any time of year. We always encourage our students to bring a friend if they would like. We will continue to strive in making personal connections with our students/kids/youth, be there for them, have fun, keep things simple, and get them to open up their Bibles to learn about our Lord.

Thank You: We would like to thank Pastor Pete for all of your help with the youth programs, for your leadership, and the yummy food you are always making for everyone! We would also like to thank all of those that served meals for confirmation nights, Sunday School leaders/teachers, Vacation Bible School Volunteers,

our Confirmation Students as they serve as worship volunteers, drivers for the Thanksgiving project, Live Nativity participants, Confirmation Guides, Phillip and Morgan Truax for taking the kids on a summer day trip, participants for the No Rehearsal Christmas Program, Our Savior's Lutheran Church for your partnership in Vacation Bible School, Julie Baggenstoss for driving the Bunny Bus and for keeping our church clean, Darren Place for driving the bus to Feed My Starving Children, and for any of you we may have forgotten to thank. Also, a big thank you to Missy Kowalchyk and Ava Maxwell for your musical talents. Thank you!

Submitted by Kayla Zimmer.

Report from Community Missions

2023 Missions Committee Annual Report

Members: Chris Karlstad, Nancy Johnson, Julie Baggenstoss, Cindy Baird

This committee has tried over the past year to be some of the hands and feet of ELC to help ourcommunity.

In 2022 we also welcome a new enthusiastic member, Cindy Baird. Cindy has been a great addition to the committee with fresh, new ideas.

The following projects were coordinated by the team, along with very supportive volunteers.

 Souper Bowl Sunday - Donations collected to pay for a meal at Sharing & Caring Hands.



Sharing & Caring Hands

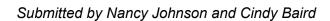
- Sharing & Caring Hands ELC volunteers: Cindy Baird, Denise Hager, Dan Klaustermeier, Joel and Sharon Schultze, Diane Wiskerchen, and Nancy Johnson served a meal at Sharing & Caring Hands.
- Adopt A Highway Clean up on County Road C in both the spring and the fall with other ELC annual volunteers— Curt Dumermuth, Chris Karlstad, and Dan Klaustermeier.
- Pierce County Food Shelf- year-long food collection
- Thanksgiving Meal Baskets— All the groceries needed for a Thanksgiving meal were provided to over 31 families in the community on the weekend before Thanksgiving. Confirmation students collected the food again this year. ELC volunteers packed and distributed food at the front doors of the church. Some volunteers who help are Dan Klaustermeier, Julie Baggenstoss, Sharon Schulze, Joel Schulze,

Nancy Johnson, Kriste Lewis, Gary Brown and Chris Karlstad. I apologize if you volunteered and your name is omitted. Thank you for your help!

- Christmas Tree of Spirit- 77 Christmas gifts where purchased for five families in the Ellsworth School
- Gift Box Program.
- Acts of Kindness
- Paid for meals, gift card to familys in need
- Gifts for Christmas Family
- Thank you to all the Thrivent members for applying for Visa gift cards, the members of ELC and the Endowment Fund for helping fund our community mission projects.



Thanksgiving Meal Baskets





Report from Finance Committee

Committee members: Gary Brown, Curt Dumermuth, Kris Flock, Sue Gulbranson, and Julie Gore

Mission Purpose: Review the financial reports of the congregation monthly for accuracy and provide recommendations to the council for any changes needed.

Overview of 2023 activity: Twenty-Twenty Three was another very interesting year for English Lutheran Church. Pastor Pete Warren answered the call to become our pastor and was installed on November 20, 2022. The Finance Committee worked together with Pastor Pete throughout 2023 to review the monthly reports and prepare recommendations to the church council.

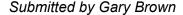
In March 2023, CCF Bank contacted Gary about the option of transferring money from our checking account into a business money market account. Our current checking account was getting very little interest compared to the money market that would receive 2.25%. The finance committee recommended to the church council that funds be transferred into the money market account. In April the council approved the transfer that allowed the church to receive a much better interest return on our deposits.

In August the finance committee discussed the possibility of combining the present nine church parcels into one or two parcels. Every two years the church needs to report the tax-exempt status of the church properties to the village. The village previously charged a flat fee of \$25.00 to file this information with the state. This fee changed to \$50.00 per parcel, meaning the church currently pays \$450.00 every two years. After research into the cost of a certified survey map and the associated village fees, the finance committee recommended no action to the council at this time.

The Pierce County Fair stand was again successful in 2023. The profits were slightly down this year because of a couple of rainy periods that limited sales.

The Thrivent Investment account has recovered from a down year in 2022. Gary and Greta have also now been added as representatives on the account so that we can access any information as needed.

Overall, the financial health of English Lutheran Church remains strong due to the faithful giving of the congregation. We will need to have this continued support in 2024 as our church costs increase in the coming year.





Report from Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am in the Fireside room.

We do not meet in June, July, or August.

Our study covered the 10 Commandments, we also studied our life journey and where it will take us, even during difficult times?

Join us as we begin our new year.

Submitted by Nancy Ellefson.



Report from Malawi

Team Members: Over the years, Bobbie Sawyers has kept the Malawi team up and running. As she has moved away, we currently do not have an active team member to write this report. Below is an update on Malawi from the Synod.



Merry Christmas [Khrisimasi Yabwino], friends.

Warm greetings on behalf of our partners and friends in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi. Here are a few updates for you!

HEALTH

In early August the Ministry of Health in Malawi made a public declaration that Cholera was no loner a public health emergency. After cases significantly decreased in all areas of the country, the emergency efforts ended, although the population was encouraged to continue ongoing prevention efforts.

In collaboration with the World Health Organization, there have been increased efforts to vaccinate children against Polio and health officials have established pop-up clinics around the country to increase accessibility to the vaccine and awareness of the disease.

And, in September, there was an announcement about the launch of a long-acting, injectable HIV PreP; this Pre-exposure Prophylaxis is bringing a hopeful option for the prevention of HIV/Aids. This disease, affecting nearly 1 million people in Malawi, is the leading cause of death there, surpassing even Malaria and neonatal conditions.

BISHOP ELECTION

The election for bishop in the Blantyre diocese, originally scheduled for July was postponed for additional planning and preparation. Once the election has happened, an update will be shared so we may celebrate this milestone together.

WATER IS LIFE [Madzi ndi moyo]

In October, Pastor and former Bishop Bob Berg passed away. Family and friends from the US and Malawi grieved his death and celebrated his life together, thankful for his gentle spirit and faithful call to ministry. It was during his call as bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin that a formal partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi was established. From early on Bishop Berg and Bishop Byumbwe discussed the importance of clean water and lifted up the idea of building borewells in rural areas that did not have sufficient access to clean water. He shared his love for Malawi with the synod and through his encouragement, and the vibrant fundraising efforts of his granddaughters Emma and Claire, they were able to raise more than \$114,300.00 for borehole wells in Malawi.

These efforts grew with subsequent bishops and the work of the companion coordinators as the partnership between the NWSWI and the ELCM continued over the years. After our recent visit to Malawi in August (more on that below!) we continued to hear how access to clean water was an integral part of every ministry priority in the ELCM. We visited several new deep-drilled borehole wells and saw the impact they were already having in those communities. Access to wells provides drinking water, but also improves overall physical health, education and safety for girls, and agricultural outcomes.



Report from Malawi Continued

As climate change continues to affect weather patterns and causes more frequent extreme droughts and flooding, there is also a growing need for solar-powered wells which have the capacity to draw water from much deeper underground. These can be a game-changer during the dry season, during a draught, or in the aftermath of severe storms and flooding similar to the effects of Cyclone Freddy from this past February/March. To read more about this, you can check out this article: https://impact.economist.com/sustainability/resilience-and-adaptation/malawis-battle-for-climate-resilient-water-and-sanitation

Therefore, we have started a Bishop's Initiative called **WATER IS LIFE** - the goal is to partner with the ELCM and raise \$40,000 by synod assembly 2024, enough to build 2 new solar wells. If you would like more information or would like to be a part of this initiative for clean water by making a gift to this fund, please visit: https://nwswi.org/malawi.

ECONOMY

Malawi is experiencing severe economic strain - the pandemic destabilized exports, especially tobacco, the largest of their agricultural exports, and there have been consistent struggles with imports, causing shortages in goods and fuel.

A few quick statistics:

- 40% inflation rate
- Kwacha (Malawian currency) is seeing a 44% devaluation against the US dollar a staggering 85% devaluation overall.
- · Fuel, water, and power have all increased by 50%
- Food and goods have increased 15-50%

These struggles continue to be impacted be several factors, but were exacerbated by a cholera epidemic, and Hurricane Freddy earlier this year which displaced nearly 90,000 people and increased housing, water, food, and job security across the country. This crisis has forced people to make difficult sacrifices in order to feed their families, pay school fees, and maintain health. These realities also create barriers for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi, making it very challenging to do the work and maintain the programs and projects that they have been called to do.

MALAWI VISIT

In early August our group of 8 travelers landed in Malawi for the first in-person visit since 2019. Included in our itinerary was time in Lilongwe, Balaka, Lower Shire, Migowi, and Monkey Bay. Bishop Laurie shared scripture, preached about courage, and blessed congregations and children in each community. A representative from Chetek Lutheran also visited her partner parish in Chimvu where we learned how the women of the congregation have started a cattle program. And, representatives from Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire spent time with their partner parish in Zomba where we saw the progress of their building expansion which will accommodate the growing membership there.



Report from Malawi Continued

Along the way we made stops to see several borehole wells, all of which were built near feeding stations in remote villages in the south. Gathered around these wells with the community we took turns pumping the handle, heard "madzi ndi moyo" (water is life), and celebrated the gift of water as we learned how transformational this well has been.

We visited Phalombe and saw first-hand the devastation of Hurricane Freddy - heavy rains and wind caused mudslides all over this region, destroyed homesteads, and resulted in the deaths and disappearances of hundreds of residents. Survivors told us their stories which often included the children and spouses that they lost as they searched for high ground in the middle of the night. We walked past emergency tents, and stood on the river of boulders and dried mud where houses and crops once were, knowing that this would now be a permanent landscape in this village.

During our two weeks there, we also explored Mvuu Camp (safari camp) and took in native wildlife, birds, and nature. The group spend some time with the ELCM and ELDS staff who are working so hard to preach good news, expand programs that will improve health and well being for others, and provide relief efforts as they face a growing number of natural disasters. We spent quality time with our Malawian friends, met new people, laughed, danced, and ate delicious meals together, and learned so much. If you wish to read a more detailed account of our visit, our travel blog and photos can be found here:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.cloversites.com/0a/0a854394-3a19-4d9f-b1ae-f93021508921/documents/Malawi_Blog_2023-3.pdf

NEW RESOURCES

During this liturgical year you may see some new resources that are designed with our Malawi partnership in mind. The first resource, **The Warm Heart of Advent**, is a 4 week worship series that captures the experiences we have had and the heart of the people from Malawi. The second resource will be a 40-day Lenten devotional called **Journey to the Neighbor** and will be a collaboration of writings from partners in the US and the ELCM. These resources, and others, can be found here: https://nwswi.org/malawi

THANK YOU

I am so grateful for the enduring and faithful partnership of the people and congregations of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Your continued generosity, prayers, support – ALL the ways you show up for our siblings in Malawi – is greatly appreciated. And, as always, please feel free to reach out to me any time for further conversation, partnership support, or educational workshops regarding our accompaniment with the ELCM.

Mulungu akhale nanu, (May God be with you)



Report from Memorial & Gifts Committee

Members: Melanie Johnson, Diane Wiskersen, Dan Klaustermeier, Jeanette Wright

No new officers were elected in 2023 so Jeanette Wright serves as officer in all positions. The Finance Administrator for the church deposits all memorial money in the back and prepares the checks when a request for funds is made and approved by the committee. Memorials are donations given to honor a loved one following their death. Gifts are also given upon a significant occasion such as birth, baptism, wedding, birthday, anniversary, or any other important event. Some memorials or gifts are intended to be used for a specific purpose stated by the donor. An undesignated memorial or gift is not given for a specific purpose. When a need arises within the church for funds, this team authorizes expenditures for a given need. In 2023, gifts were given in memory of Dorothea Olson, Milton Helmer, John Geister and Thomas Lewis. No areas of ministry used any memorial funds this year.

Submitted by Jeanette Wright.

Memorial & Gifts 2023								
Fund Name	Beginning Balance	Funds Received	Funds Used	Ending Balance				
Altar Guild	\$1,123.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,123.33				
Banners	\$83.75	\$240.00	\$0.00	\$323.75				
Children's Ministry	\$82.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$82.74				
Church Furnishings	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00				
Landscaping	\$693.04	\$0.00 \$0.00		\$693.04				
Mission Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
Music Ministry	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$225.00				
PC Fair	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200.00				
Quilters	\$108.01	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$133.01				
Sunday School	\$384.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$384.16				
Undesignated	\$6,961.26	\$1,635.00	\$0.00	\$8,576.26				
Youth Ministry	\$2,301.65	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$2,351.65				
Total	Total \$12,212.94 1,950.00 \$400.00 \$14,162.94							

Report from Mission Endowment Committee

Mission Endowment 2023 Annual Report

Submitted by: Warren Johnson

Endowment Committee Members: Warren Johnson, Chair (term ends 1-31-25), Peter Carr, Treasurer (term ends 1-31-24), Traci Maxwell, Secretary (term ends 1-31-26), Dixie Basch (term ends 1-31-24), Mary Sokolik (Term ends 1-31-25), Diane Wiskerchen (term ends 1-31-24), Trina Groen (term ends 1-31-25). The length of one's term is 3 years for a maximum of 3 terms. 3 members' 3 year terms are up 1-31-24. They are: Peter Carr (Treasurer), Dixie Basch, and Diane Wiskerchen. They may be re-elected to serve another term for a period of 3 years.

Endowment Mission Statement: Transforming lives by spreading God's love through Christ-Centered generosity.

2023 Summary:

Following Church guidelines and protocol, the Endowment Committee met on four occasions: 2/08/2023, 5/10/2023, 8/2/2023, and 11/8/2023.

I'm pleased to report that all of the distribution requests from various church committees were approved by this committee, so our goal of supporting our youth and outreach ministry was fulfilled. We continued discussing the ongoing needs the Sharing Shed has seen.

One area of importance to clarify is just how Endowment funding works for you and for all of the church, both inside and outside its walls. Some view personal money gifts at work only if there is some visual, tangible brick and mortar objects to be seen. Endowment is typically so much better. Through your Estate Planning or Will, or other monetary gift, you can designate where your ongoing gift to the church is to go, a gift which has no end. All monetary gifts given to the Endowment Fund take the interest accrued on your capital given, so your personal gift of money never get exhausted. Currently, there are 3 categories which exist to offer your gifts. They are: the Children's Education Fund, the Women's Fund and the General Fund. Keep in mind, there is an ever-increasing need to help the General Fund, as there are many outward ministries needing our support. This year, we are still in want of General Fund support. Your monetary gifts given are not used to pay ongoing bills of the church, such as utilities, but rather, are used to provide further ministry within our community and surrounding areas, as well as to provide resources needed by individual people needing our help.

Examples of ministries and programs supported by the Endowment Fund in 2023 include: Sunday School Easter baskets, Sunday School programs and activities, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation program activities, Luther Point scholarships, the Assistance & Resource Center and Sharing Shed expenses.

Goals for 2024:

For the coming year, we hope to continue dispersing gifts where needed, and prayerfully, increase our church outreach to those areas in need. Another goal is to continue showing unchurched members of our society we are here to love, support and pray for them in good times and in bad times. Your financial gifts help our church to accomplish "our reach," accomplishing what Christ has set us out to do. We pray you can and will become part of our 2024 goals.

And remember, a giver in need becomes happy indeed!

Warren Johnson, Endowment Chair

Submitted by: Warren Johnson

Report from Mission Endowment Committee cont.

2023 Mission Endowment Fund Treasurer's Report

Mission Endowment funds are maintained in two separate accounts. The first is an investment account managed by the ELCA. Within that account there are separate accounts for a Children's Fund, a Women of ELCA Fund and a General Fund. The second account is a checking account referred to as the Mission Investment Fund checking account. Investment earnings from the investment account are automatically deposited into the checking account four times per year. Funds deposited in the checking account are used to support Mission Endowment distribution requests. Summaries of both accounts are provided below.

Submitted by Peter Carr.

Endowment Investment Account 2023 Fiscal Summary						
			ELC Endowment Fund			
			to ELC Endowment			
	2022 Year End	Nov. 30, 2023	Checking			
	Balance	Balance	Checking			
Children's Fund Investment Account	\$80,773	\$85,365	\$3,400			
Women's Fund Investment Account	\$41,045	\$43,378	\$1,728			
General Fund Investment Account	\$19,402	\$20,505	\$816			
Total of Endowment Fund Investment Accounts	\$141,220	\$149,248	\$5,944			

^{*} This account has the principle funds.

Mission Investment Fund Checking Account 2023 Fiscal Summary						
	2022 Year End 2023 Year End 2023 Requ					
	Balance	Balance	Funded			
Children's Fund Portion of the MIF Checking Account	\$4,125	\$3,590	\$3,085			
Women's Fund Portion of the MIF Checking Account	\$2,510	\$3,306	\$500			
General Fund Portion of the MIF Checking Account	\$889	\$902	\$600			
Totals MIF Checking Account	\$7,524	\$7,798	\$4,185			
This account is the interest from the principle.						

Report from Music & Worship Ministry

Committee Members: Bev Greeley, Tammy Brenner, Ava Maxwell, Joel Schulze, Sharon Schulze, Melba Smith, Missy Kowalchyk, Pastor Warren

Worship & Music Meeting together with Altar Guild met in January to discuss Lent and Easter.

The Lenten season consisted of using Holden Evening Prayer Service on Wednesdays evenings.

Worship & Music met in August to discuss outdoor service, Kingdom Kids, possible change in lectionary format, choir schedule dates, possible Christmas Cantata.

Worship & Music met in September to discuss/plan Holden during Wednesday in Advent, scheduling of Cantata, Sundays in Advent plans.

Special music has continued to be part of service.

There has been more involvement from the youth of the church in leading music on Sunday services.

The collaboration between Ava and Missy continues to work well; The choir continues to add to the themes of services, The choir's dedication to the Christmas Cantata was extraordinary with practices beginning September and multiple weekly practices culminating in nearly 40 hours of practice. Music choices continue to challenge and stretch the musical skills of this dedicated group.

The Christmas Cantata was open to the public; Free will offering/non-perishable food item was the requested admission

Thank you to all who are partners on our team!

Submitted by Melba Smith, Ava Maxwell, and Missy Kowalchyk

Report from Property Committee

Committee Members: Curt Dumermuth, Dave Greeley, Mark Groen

Projects during 2023 included: 1)Remodel of upstairs bathroom and lower storage rooms was finally completed. 2) Landscaping was also completed by Reuver's Nursery this fall. 3)Temporary repair of the front steps 4) other minor repairs in the church. A major project in the future will be the complete demo and repair of the front steps leading to main street as recommended by all concrete contractors contacted (also depending on how well the temporary repair is working).

Thanks to all who donated to each of the projects. Minor projects like ceiling tile, light fixtures, wall surface repairs, etc. are generally completed by the committee of Dave Greeley, Mark Gruen, and Curt Dumermuth. Please contact one of them with any concerns noticed by members.

Submitted by Curt Dumermuth



Report from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin ELCA

A Simpler, Humbler, and Bolder Churchi

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Philippians 2 Do nothing from selfish ambition or enjoy concell, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God... emptied himself ...he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

It is time for your congregation's annual meeting! This is a great
opportunity to reflect on the past year of faithful ministry. Now is the time to ask the BIG questions! How
were we faithful in in ministry? How were we faithful in participating in God's simple mission to love
our neighbor? Now is the time to celebrate how God's Spirit has inspired your ministry! Give thanks to
God and celebrate for the good that your congregation has accomplished!

Now is also the time to tell the truth about your ministry. How has your congregation fallen short and not been faithful to God's will? Lacked energy, a sense of purpose or mission? Now is the time to humbly tell the truth if your congregation has lost its focus or has little energy for God's work.

We all need to take an honest look in the rear view mirror of the last year and ask how have we been faithful and how have we failed to be faithful to our baptismal promises. Then we can boldly move into the New Year 2024 asking how we can with God's help do better.

The Church of England took a long look into the rear view mirror and with much prayer has discerned that moving forward they will strive to be a Simpler, Humbler and Bolder Church in the future. The Church of England described their vision for the future in this way:

Simpler, humbler, holder are virtues we believe God is calling from us at this point in our history. They run through the vision and shape all we do and all that we are.

- Simpler because we are not as big a church as we used to be
- Humbler because we are facing our failures, and this is not easy.
- Bolder because the love of Christ compels us. We have a gospel to proclaim, and we live
 and minister in a world of much pain and confusion.

I believe these three virtues could also help us in the coming year. I invite your councils and leaders to lean into these questions in 2024:

- Simpler: How can we simplify our structure so more time and energy
 can be spent on loving our neighbors and joining in God's mission in our
 community? How can we focus on what is really important and let go of
 the trivial or unnecessary?
- 2. Humbler: What isn't working? How have we fallen short? We can't do everything we use to do so what ONE thing can we do for Jesus? How can we work with other churches, denominations in our community?
- 3. Bolder: How can your congregation be braver and bolder in sharing the good news about Jesus in a hurting world? In prophetic witness to justice issues in our world? In working for right relationships with our neighbors and all of creation?

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joyfor your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete: it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:3-6

Friends. I am truly grateful for your partnership in the gospel and all the ways you are faithful in ministry. I invite you to move joyfully, simply, humbly and boldly into God's future in 2024.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Report from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin ELCA

I am truly grateful for your prayerful and financial support of the work we do together as the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ so that the next generation will come to know and love Jesus and all generations will experience God's forgiveness and grace in their live. Thank you for all the ways you are supporting Bible Camps, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Malawi, Lay school, Seminarians, Youth Gatherings, Justice Teams, World Hunger Appeal, Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Relief, Synod Ministers, Call processes, Area Strategies, Faithful Innovation and all the other work we to do together in Jesus' name. Thank you and Happy New Year.

Bishop Laurie Okow-Anderson



A prayer for the New Year:

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world limited by space and time. In this new year, protect us from all the distractions and help us focus on the main thing, the transforming work you have done through Jesus. Grant that we may know your presence, see your love at work, and be strengthened by it to do what is most important; to love you and to love our neighbors. Help

us to find joy in this life of faith, and invite others to walk in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN

Introduction to the NWSWI Land Acknowledgement: Let us acknowledge that we are on the ancestral homelands of indigenous peoples of the Council of Three Fires including the Ho-Chunk, Menomonee, Dakota, and the Anishinaabe (or Ojibwe) which includes the Bands of Red Cliff, Bad River, Fond du Lac, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mille Lacs, and St. Croix. Each of these Nations and Bands is unique and sovereign. We are grateful to their ancestors for their deep commitment to caring for the land.

Calendar of upcoming synod events--for more information

https://nwswi.org/home/calendar?sapurl=LyttYzg5L2xiL2NhLyszMnN0bnc0P2VtYmVkJmJyYW5kaW5n

January 23 Winter Theological Gathering, Luther Park, Chetek

February 11 Christ Jam Middle school Youth Gathering, Bethany Rice Lake

February 15 Due Annual Reports to Bishop, Mission Support, Reports A & C.

March 11 Walking Together, synod wide learning event, Bethany Rice Lake

March 15 Resolutions for Synod Assembly deadline

March 12-18 YA trip to Pine Ridge

March 18-25 YA trip to New Mexico

April Youth Advocacy Day

April TBD Pre Assembly Forums on Zoom

April 29 Synod Assembly, Bethany Rice Lake

July 17-20 Rostered Ministers Gathering Phoenix AZ

July 24-27 TriSynod Sr. High Youth Gathering UW River Falls

Aug 4-20 Synod Trip to Malawi

September Fall Ministry Retreat Heartwood

November 1-6 Synod Civil Rights Pilgrimage

January 8-17, 2024 Synod Trip to the Holy Land

2023 Dedicated Funds

12-31-23 Cash Balances:						
	2022 Year End	2023 Year End				
General Fund	\$122,507.03	\$118,150.69				
Dedicated Funds	\$85,452.68	\$78,056.47				
Thrivent Fund	\$92,534.84	\$101,849.34				
Total:	\$300,494.55	\$298,056.50				

Endowment fund balances are noted on page 18 of this document.

Dedicated Funds

	Beginning			Ending
Dedicated Funds	Balance	Credits	Debits	Balance
801 Adult Education Fund	165.61	0	0	165.61
808 ARC Fund	-150.33	600	300	149.67
802 Banner Fund	0	0	0	0
851 Church Fair Stand	0	0	0	0
822 Community Missions Fund	1038.34	213	25	1226.34
811 Confirmation Funds	0	0	0	0
845 Dollar Club	315.71	1141.32	1145.48	311.55
810 Fairstand Fund	16000.75	54452.37	49089.88	21363.24
812 Funeral Fund	4867.12	975	664.61	5177.51
816 Hospitality Fund	1261.3	466.87	433.03	1295.14
826 Medical Supply Fund	2982.43	0	1803.01	1179.42
819 Memorial & Gifts Fund	12212.94	2150	5200	9162.94
820 Misc Dedicated	843.74	0	0	843.74
821 Mission Endowment Fund	0	0	0	0
842 Mission Trip	2916.45	0	0	2916.45
824 Music Misc	672.01	0	458.97	213.04
825 Offering Envelopes	0	0	0	0
827 Property Fund	14467.96	18239.43	23862.3	8845.09
830 Soup Suppers	0	0	0	0
832 Special Music Fund	541.3	0	0	541.3
846 Summer Trip Fundraisers	397	75	25	447
834 Sunday School	5439.62	77.98	487.81	5029.79
835 Sunday School Offering	3	0	0	3
836 Thrivent Choice Dollars	605	572	0	1177
837 Turkey Baskets	124.21	485	1174.88	-565.67
838 Vacation Bible School	190.79	0	0	190.79
847 Women's Group	4841.76	0	0	4841.76
840 World Hunger	0	0	0	0
852 year to date	0	0	0	0
848 Youth Leader	4252.32	0	0	4252.32
839 Youth Ministry	8537.42	4138.69	3386.67	9289.44
Dedicated Funds Totals:	82526.45	83586.66	88056.64	78056.47

2023General Fund & 2024Proposed Budget

2023 General Fund & 2024 Proposed Budget

		T	•			
Line			2022	2023	2023	2024 Proposed
No.	Description		Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
101	Envelope Offering		109,851.00	110,000.00	107,401.00	115,500.00
	Loose Offering		1,064.80	1,000.00	1,035.39	
	E-Giving		72,252.30	75,000.00	73,912.87	79,000.00
121	Church Fair Stand		20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
123	Miscellaneous Income		498.02	0.00	2,988.43	
		Total:	203,666.12	206,000.00	205,337.69	219,000.00
400	ELCA Benevolence		5,212.25	5,956.00	5,804.19	6,478.50
401	LSS		1,320.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,320.00
402	Luther Point Bible Camp		1,653.96	1,654.00	1,653.96	1,654.00
403	Malawi		1,191.63	1,300.00	1,299.96	1,300.00
		Total:	9,377.84	10,230.00	10,078.11	10,752.50
			,		·	
410	Salary-Pastor		21,033.69	47,318.00	47,317.92	49,421.00
	Housing		18,705.63	14,195.00	14,195.04	
412	SS Allowance		3,193.71	4,706.00	4,705.92	
413	Health Allowance		2,008.02	31,785.00	26,930.67	·
414	Pension/Disability/Group Life		0.00	6,622.00	13,284.88	7,607.84
415	Reimbursable Mileage		0.00	1,200.00	1,730.53	
	Continuing Education		0.00	800.00	95.00	800.00
	Pastoral Books/Publications		0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
418	Official Meetings		0.00	500.00	485.99	500.00
	Mobile phone reimbursement			600.00	600.00	600.00
		Total:	44,941.05	108,026.00	109,345.95	115,438.06
420	Staff Mileage		0.00	100.00	25.50	100.00
		Total:	0.00	100.00	25.50	100.00
422	Salary-Communications Coordinator		18,644.96	20,020.00	14,839.14	21,000.00
423	SS AllowanceC Coord.		1,426.33	1,531.53	1,135.17	1,606.50
424	Continuing EducationC Coord.		0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
		Total:	20,071.29	21,751.53	15,974.31	22,806.50
426	Salary-Finance		4,935.83	3,640.00	5,394.94	6,500.00
428	SS Allowance-Finance		377.59	278.46	412.71	497.25
427	Continuing EducationFin. Admin.		0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
		Total:	5,313.42	4,118.46	5,807.65	7,197.25
429	SalaryMusic Director		17,350.00	10,400.00	10,200.00	10,400.00
430	SS AllowanceMusic Director		1,327.27	795.60	780.30	795.60

2023 General Fund & 2024 Proposed Budget

2023 General Fund & 2024 Proposed Budget

Line			2022	2023	2023	2024 Proposed
No.	Description		Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	SalaryMusic Director		17,350.00	10,400.00	10,200.00	
	SS AllowanceMusic Director		1,327.27	795.60	780.30	
	Continuing EducationMusic Director		0.00	250.00	0.00	
701		otal:	18,677.27	11,445.60	10,980.30	
		otai.	10,077.27	11,445.00	10,300.30	11,770.00
432	Salary Accompanist		0.00	7,800.00	6,600.00	7,800.00
	SS Allowance Accompanist		0.00	596.70	504.90	
	Continuing EducationAccompanist		0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Musician Substitutes		225.00	600.00	75.00	
	Guest Musicians		75.00	400.00	150.00	
100		otal:	300.00	9,396.70	7,329.90	
		otai.	000.00	3,030.70	1,023.30	3,230.70
440	Youth Director		0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
	SS AllowanceYouth Director		0.00	153.00	0.00	
		otal:	0.00	2,153.00	0.00	
	•	-	0.00		0.00	5.00
450	SalaryCustodian		2,595.00	3,500.00	3,135.00	3,500.00
	SS AllowanceCustodian		198.51	267.75	239.84	
<u> </u>		otal:	2,793.51	3,767.75		
		<u>Jtan</u>	2,: 00:01	0,101110	0,01 110 1	3,101110
460	ElectricityChurch		4,844.93	5,000.00	4,457.32	5,000.00
	GasChurch		4,860.10	5,000.00	4,495.95	·
	Water & SewerChurch		577.43	700.00	630.35	
463	TelephoneChurch		2,090.83	2,200.00	2,397.67	
464	Garbage		893.03	1,000.00	1,070.48	1,000.00
467	Water & SewerYouth House		206.30	0.00	0.00	
	Т	otal:	13,472.62	13,900.00	13,051.77	14,100.00
471	Custodial Supplies		415.54	500.00	221.70	500.00
472	Snow Removal/Sanding		6,300.00	4,000.00	4,995.00	4,000.00
473	Building Maintenance		1,302.89	2,000.00	1,790.33	2,000.00
474	Elevator Maintenance		1,948.00	2,000.00	2,040.04	2,000.00
475	Grounds Maintenance		1,159.00	1,200.00	1,995.00	2,000.00
478	Fire Alarm		0.00	125.00	0.00	125.00
479	Property & Liability Insurance		5,195.46	6,700.00	6,935.97	9,000.00
	T ₁	otal:	16,320.89	16,525.00	17,978.04	19,625.00
	Workman's Compensation		2,108.87	1,120.00	1,074.73	
	Data Base/Accounting		1,490.78	1,000.00	1,711.60	·
	Office Supplies		1,866.90	1,800.00	1,625.91	·
	Office Equipment Maintenance/Repair		0.00	200.00	0.00	
	Postage		174.00	500.00	594.14	
485	Copier Lease & Usage		2,306.01	2,500.00	2,307.57	
	T	otal:	7,946.56	7,120.00	7,313.95	7,100.00

2023 General Fund & 2024 Proposed Budget

2023 General Fund & 2024 Proposed Budget

Line		2022	2023	2023	2024 Proposed
No.	Description	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
419	Pulpit Supply	352.34	1,000.00	600.00	1,000.00
486	Sundays and Seasons	419.00	450.00	419.00	450.00
487	Sheet Music, Music Supplies, & Piano Tuning	280.00	300.00	641.99	300.00
488	Copyright Lease	1,476.06	1,500.00	977.02	1,200.00
489	Altar Guild Supplies	542.71	700.00	477.09	700.00
490	Banners	164.46	200.00	0.00	200.00
491	Seasonal Worship Supplies	315.84	300.00	313.00	300.00
	Total:	3,550.41	4,450.00	3,428.10	4,150.00
492	Local Outreach	500.00	700.00	900.00	700.00
494	New Members	159.61	400.00	0.00	400.00
495	Portals of Prayer	605.50	500.00	169.00	250.00
496	Advertising & Website & Ext. Ad. Banners	708.00	800.00	756.00	800.00
498	E-Giving Fees/Envelopes	894.13	1,000.00	1,524.52	1,300.00
499	Stewardship Committee	0.00	200.00	73.18	200.00
	Total:	2,867.24	3,600.00	3,422.70	3,650.00
503	Confirmation Curriculum/Supplies	572.37	600.00	251.59	500.00
504	Youth Activities/Events	119.60	200.00	213.07	200.00
505	Senior High Ministry	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
507	Adult Education	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00
	Milestone Ministry	55.67	200.00	151.68	200.00
	Summer Youth Trip (form. Christikon)	1,089.65	1,000.00	232.60	250.00
512	Children/Youth Event Scholarships	0.00	100.00	18.10	
	Total:	1,837.29	2,400.00	867.04	1,550.00
	Miscellaneous Expense	4,576.33	250.00	675.00	
	Synod Assembly	150.00	200.00	150.00	
	Council/Leadership Education	0.00	200.00	0.00	
516	Synod/Conference Dues	0.00	50.00	40.00	
	Total:	4,726.33	700.00	865.00	700.00
	Total Income:	203,666.12	206,000.00	205,337.69	219,000.00
	Total Expenses:	152,195.72	219,684.04	209,843.16	231,679.36
	Difference:	51,470.40	-13,684.04	-4,505.47	-12,679.36

Terms of Office: Preliminary Nominees for Election

Notes: Names of nominees are in bold print.

Nominees up for reelection are indicated with an *.

Members whose terms expire January 31, 2024 Eric Van Nocker, Gary Brown, Melba Smith

Jill Hague

Members whose terms expire January 31, 2025 Denise Hager*, Greta Larson*, Lynette Winger

Dennis Swanson,

Nominees who, if elected, will serve until January 31, 2026 Jill Hague*, Paul Tonsager, Mark Groen,

MEMORIAL AND GIFTS COMMITTEE (2 YEAR TERM)

Members whose term will expire January 31, 2024 Dan Klaustermeier

Member whose term will expire January 31, 2025

Jeannette Wright *, Melanie Johnson*

Nominees who, if elected, will serve until January 31, 2026

MISSION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE (3 YEAR TERM)

Members whose term will expire January 31, 2024 Peter Carr, Dixie Basch, Diane Wiskerchen

Members whose term will expire January 31, 2025 Mary Sokolik, Trina Groen, Warren Johnson

Members whose term will expire January 31, 2026 Traci Maxwell*,

Nominees who, if elected, will serve until January 31, 2027

SYNOD ASSEMBLY: NOMINEES TO BE VOTING MEMBERS (1 YEAR TERM) JUNE 7TH & 8TH, 2024

Nominees who, if elected, will serve as ELC delegates

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (1 year term) NO LIMIT ON TERMS

Members whose terms expire January 31, 2024 Peter Carr, Sue Myers*

Nominees who, if elected, will serve until January 31, 2025