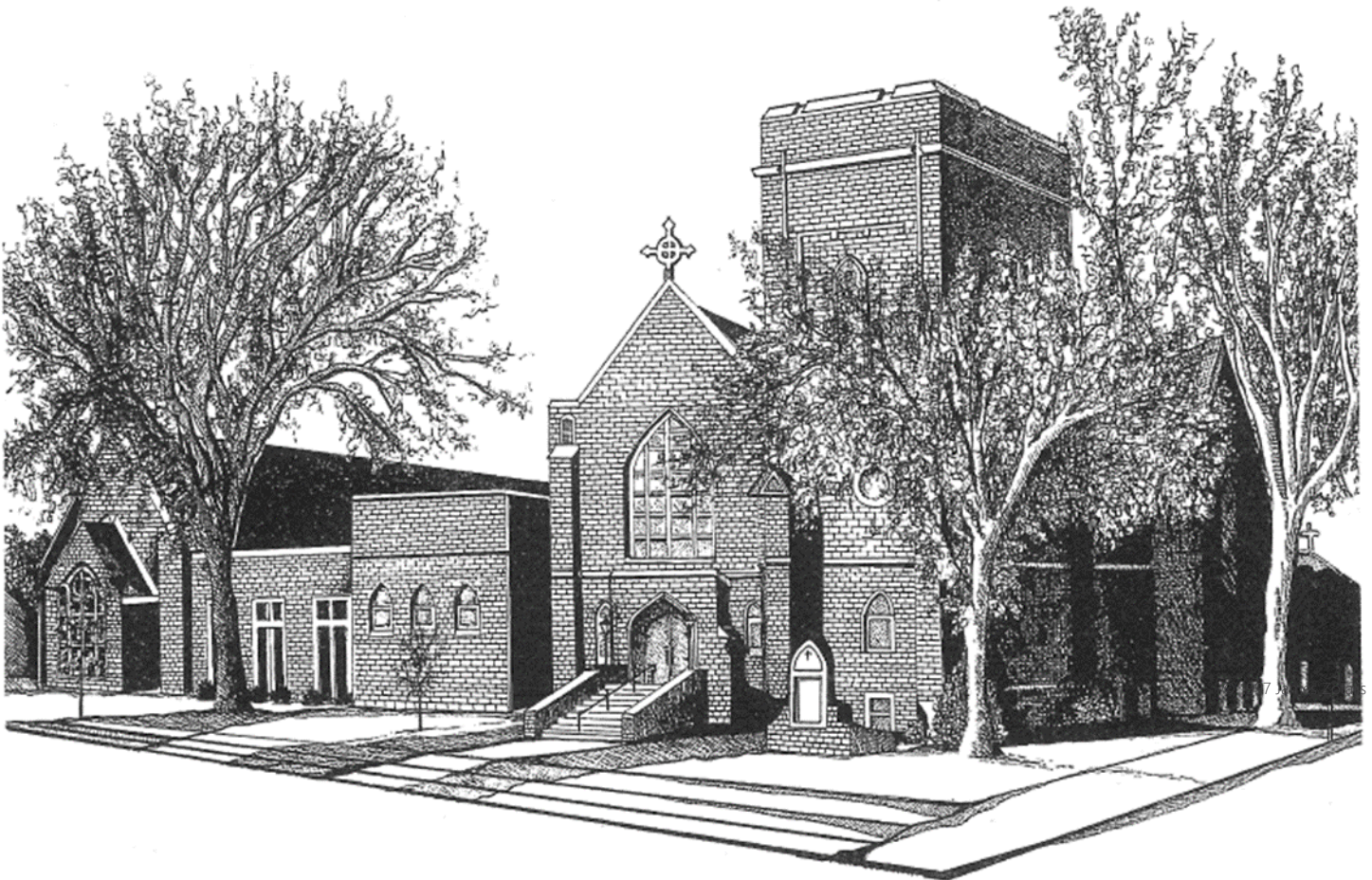


FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FERGUS FALLS, MINNESOTA

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

In Christ,

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

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

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MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

MISSION

"As faithful disciples, we serve God and welcome all people with open hearts."

VISION

We, as members of First Lutheran, glorify God in all of life,
with the Bible as our authority and the Holy Spirit as our guide.

We pledge to minister to all, loving as Christ loved us.
We will seek out new avenues to spread the good news, to build relationships
with our fellow believers, as well as those who have yet to believe.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Tiffany Sundeen*

Rev. Kate Bruns

Jennifer Hubrig

Mary Johnson

Keith Melberg

Linda Mellon

Anne Taylor

Harriet Wicklund

Kristy Wicklund

*Indicates full-time employee

Interim Senior Pastor

Visitation Pastor

Office Manager

Bookkeeper/Admin Assistant (Jun-Dec)

Organist, Choir Accompanist

Handbell Choir Director

Worship Team Accompanist/Director

Adult Choir Director

Director of Children's Ministries

CHURCH COUNCIL

Presidents – David & Lorri Holt

Secretary – Leslie Flugstad

Treasurer – Leonard Hatzenbuehler

Education – Tara Wagner

Finance – Leslie Flugstad

Membership – Kris Werner

Youth – vacant

Vice-Presidents – Rick & Linda West

Fellowship – JoAn Whitlock

Personnel – Steve Fitz

Property – Tedd Steenbock

Discipleship & Outreach – Michael Wicklund

Worship – Harriet Wicklund

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH 151ST ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
JANUARY 29, 2023

Council Members Present

Opening Litany and Prayer

Call to Order

Adoption of 2023 Agenda

Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes: *not available*

Approval of 2022 Treasurer's Report

Remarks:

President

Pastor

Presentation of 2023 Projected Budget

2022 Nominating Committee

Voting

Introducing 2023 Council Members

Introducing 2023 Nominating Committee

Introduction and Comments by 2023 President

Closing Prayer & Benediction

Motion to Adjourn

MEMBERSHIP

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership as of December 31, 2021	1390	1154
Members received during 2022:		
By baptism (children 15 & under)	8	0
By baptism (adults 16 & older)	0	0
By affirmation of faith	8	4
By transfer	23	9
From other sources & statistical	0	0
Baptized members confirmed in 2022		11
Total members received in 2022	39	24
Members removed during 2022:		
By death	16	15
By transfer	19	3
Statistical corrections	0	0
Total members removed in 2022	35	18
MEMBERSHIP END OF 2022	1394	1160

NEW MEMBERS, BAPTISMS, CONFIRMED, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

NEW MEMBERS IN 2022

Dale Anderson	Estebon & Jennifer Ibarra,
Luke & Liz Anderson, Gavin & Quinn	Isaiah, Noah, Levi, Malachi, & Elijah
Kathleen Ball & Richard Tamke	Katri Rajameini
Jason & Sarah Brunko, Sabine & Signy	Thane & Meghan Schmidt,
Jen Enstad Peterson & Tim Peterson	Lakyn, Madison, & Drew
Jim and Shelly Hubbard	Tiffany & Bruce Sundeen, Rachel & Abigail

BAPTISMS IN 2022

Thea Olinda Anderson	Malachi Ibarra
Amara Marie DeVries	Greyson JayDe Heacox
Saylor Elizabeth Hanson	Harper Jean Obowa
Elijah Ibarra	Torin Ray Westerberg

CONFIRMED IN 2022

Katie Bergren
Ellie Fuder
Ibrahim Kaderbhai
Shay Katzenmeyer
Benjamin Koch
Kyle Korby

Grace Lappegaard
Issac Maack
Mason Oland
Alec Prischmann
Ella Sem

MARRIAGES IN 2022

McKenna Kvern & Ben Graf on October 8, 2022

FUNERALS IN 2022

Beverly Aune
Darlene Berge
Joey Bernstetter
Dennis Emmen
Wayne Estenson
Betty Hatling
James Iverson
Christabel Jacobs
Gordy Kvern

Karen Lundstrom
Shania Moen
Karen Schafer
Pamela Schroden
Arthur Stortroen
Muriel Waage*
Helen Watkins
Dick Werner

*indicates non-member

MEMBERS REMOVED IN 2022

Ila Dohman
Gretchen Enoch & Kirby Herman
Chad & Kelsey Felstul, Nolan & Dexter
Troy & Jennifer Frank, Noah
Ibrahim Kaderbhai

Jennifer Lee
Peter & Jody Thom
Zachary & Sunniva Thom, Grayson
Casey Thom

PASTOR TIFFANY SUNDEEN, INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

“You make the Lord glad with the JOY of your presence.” Psalm 21:6

Dear First Lutheran Friends,

Thank you for a pivotal year in First Lutheran’s history. I realize there have been way too many interim pastors through your doors in the last six years and that Pastor Gretchen’s leaving was abrupt for some people. Covid was hard on pastors and the card shower and generous gift of a computer was a way to say goodbye in a way she chose. Together, in 2022, we lived in God’s presence, reflected God’s grace, and lived out generosity to one another near and far.



The 150th Celebration of Joy echoed throughout the entire year. We acknowledged, gave thanks for 150 years of ministry and now embark faithfully on 150 more. We continuing to follow Jesus, deepening our commitment to prayer, and clarifying First Lutheran’s vision God is calling us to throughout the congregation, community, country, and world. As your interim pastor, I have noticed that when a need arises, FLC responds generously.

- Fill the Cup giving \$6,000 that watch matched to the Lutheran Disaster Response that was matched and \$4,000 to local charities.
- Relay for Life honoring Karen Lundstrom that raised over \$5,000 for Lake Region Cancer Center
- Honoring Steve Hosch and Pastor David Strom at their retirements (even with Packers colors!)
- Harvest Dinner serving 330 in person and giving 200 meals to Salvation Army for the first time in 3 years
- Volunteer Custodians giving their time while we found the right person (currently happening).
- Honoring our promise to our partnership with the NWMN Synod of \$18,000 of which 50% goes back to congregations.
- Quilts and school kits donated through Lutheran World Relief which means the difference between a child attending school or not attending school.

Cookie bakers and deliverers to over 50 people in a snowstorm, funeral servers creating space for family and friends during a time of grief, dinner church that feeds the soul, Palm Sunday Brunch, Rally picnic, Senior Sunday Picnic, Generosity Sunday Potluck, OWLS gatherings, Archives Committee weekly meetings, Organ Dedication Concert with Daniel Aune, weekly confirmation, people returning to worship, and more!

All of this happens, not because of a pastor, but because YOU are involved and invested in the mission and ministry in this place. People are at a church much longer than any pastor will be. Your leadership, compassion, presence all “make God glad” (Psalm 21:6). (It makes your interim pastor glad, too!) It is a sign of health when we come together, work together, give together, and welcome others together in the name of Jesus our Savior. It isn’t about any one of us, it is about being called together as a community of believers in Jesus’ name and responding to God’s call in this particular time and place.

This upcoming year together, we will deeply listen to what God's vision is for First Lutheran, form and call committee, and prepare to welcome your next senior pastor. We have gifted leaders serving on church council and on the transition team, AND will need your voice, too. Your presence makes all the difference at FLC.

May God's generosity and presence flow through us as we begin this new year. May we learn that life through God's eyes overflows with meaning, truth, and love. May we have our ears and eyes opened by the One who brings eternal life, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Tiffany Sundeen". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Tiffany" being more prominent than the last name "Sundeen".

Pastor Tiffany Sundeen

PASTOR DAVID STROM, VISITATION PASTOR

It was my honor and privilege to serve as your Visitation Pastor from October, 2021 through August, 2022. I have compiled a snapshot of my activity since January 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022 and beyond respective to preaching and officiating at funerals. *Footnote – I was on a sabbatical from April 25 – May 22.*

- 81 PERSONAL VISITS
- 12 HOSPITAL VISITS
- 35 PHONE VISITS
- 23 BIBLE STUDIES (Including the Adult Men's Bible Study; Mill Street and filling for Pastor Tiffany when she was not available)

FUNERALS

- John Burton
- Kirk Williams
- Wayne Estenson (Shared with Pastor Tiffany)
- Karen Lundstrom (Shared with Pastor Tiffany)
- Muriel Waage (Graveside)
- Betty Hatling
- Joseph Bernstetter
- Christabel Jacobs.

PREACHING

- 1/9/22
- 1/16/22
- 4/3/22
- 4/14/22 (Maundy Thursday)
- 4/17/22 (Easter – Two services)
- 4/24/22 (Confirmation – Two services)
- 5/29/22
- 7/3/22
- 7/10/22
- 8/27/22
- 10/23/22

Respectfully Submitted:

Pastor David Strom



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a ride....

We started out the year with a new Interim Pastor. Pastor Tiffany Sundeen. She has been a God send in leading us in a growing church community of faith and love for one another.

Our Staff at the church has also changed. Each new person brings their own talents to blend and move forward with taking care of the needs and business of the church.

We were still in the grasp of Covid-19 when the year started. Worshiping together but still wearing masks. People were very cautious and slow to return to worshiping at the church. We were all very thankful when the pandemic was declared less threatening and we were able to have a more open worship. Some people still wear masks, it is each individual's choice. We now have learned to live with the new virus in our world. The threat is still there, but we have learned to defend ourselves from it. We also continue to use the radio worship and you tube worship for our congregation as another outlet to hear Gods word.

This was the year of our 150th Church Anniversary. So many volunteers made all of the celebrating events possible. Please see the 150th Committee's Recap of the events in this book.

This church would not survive without all of the employees of the church and the volunteers of the church. It does take a lot of time to be involved in the church council or on a committee of the council. Where would we be as a church whole without the people who step up to serve in these positions? We need you all to prayerfully consider taking a turn to help our church move forward by becoming more involved. We have great things to look forward to. Our next goals as a church will be to hire a full time Senior Pastor and a full time Director of Youth and Family Ministry. We all know these positions are so vital for our growth as a congregation.

For Lorri and I we chose to be co-presidents together. We have been able to lean on each other for support and knowledge to carry our council through the past year. This has also enabled us to grow together in our own faith journey. We will still be involved in our church family as we all have so much to do and look forward to. We thank you so much for having us serve in this position.

God bless,

David and Lorri Holt

Council Presidents

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY/SUNDAY SCHOOL & FLY K-6

The past year has provided a shift from distancing to connecting. We went back to in-person Sunday School and have been able to hold FLY at First Lutheran on the days when the weather is not favorable. Children and families have found their way back and apart of the First Lutheran community along with we have welcomed many new families. Sunday school/Butterflies attendance has increased by 10-15 children this school year with averaging 30 children a Sunday, and FLY K-6 has increased by 2 children this year averaging 19 children on Wednesdays.

Thank you for your continued support of our children's ministry programs and making First Lutheran Church a welcoming place for children and families to come and worship, connect, and grow.

Blessings,

Kristy Wicklund

Director of Children's Ministries

Kristy@flcff.org

BIBLICAL THEME(S)

2021-2022 School Year: "Let the Children Come to Me". "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" - Matthew 19:14

2022 Butterflies Vacation Bible School: "Wild 4 God"

2022 Day Camp with Luther Crest: "Boundless"

2022-2023 School Year: "Scoop up the Joy." "You make the Lord glad with the JOY of your presence." - Psalm 21:6

MINISTRIES

This year our goals were: 1.) Building a foundation to help them live in God's way 2.) Discover that the Bible matters 3.) Connection with each other 4.) We are part of a community.

FLY K-6: FLY is a Wednesday after school program from 3:30-4:30 for ages Kindergarten through 6th grade. It is a time to worship and learn about Jesus through Bible stories, games, and activities. It is also a time to build relationships within our church community. Every couple of months, we have an event for youth (Kindergarten through 6th) that brings us together through different activities and projects.

Sunday School: During the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school year, we are using the *DIG-IN* curriculum. Our in-person classes are grouped into four groups: Butterflies (ages 0-3 years), Preschool-Kindergarten, 1st-3rd grade, and 4th-6th grade. Each Sunday the lesson includes a story from either the Old or New Testament that teaches one of the foundations of faith. There are low and high energy games and a craft to reinforce the objective of the lesson along with other activities for a deeper understanding. For individuals that are not able to attend in-person an at-home lesson is sent via text message which includes the story with activity along with a short video and discussion. Each family receives a take home summary of the Bible Story along with the lesson's objective with some activities or things to talk about at home during the week. This is designed to help empower parents in both their children's faith journey and their own.

CURRICULUM

DIG IN (Foundation in Faith) published by Group Publishing (December 2022-May 2022)

DIG IN (Epic Teachings of the Bible) published by Group Publishing (September 2022-December 2022)

EVENTS/PROJECTS

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>FLY K-6</u>
Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Butterflies & Sunday School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park/First Lutheran Church
Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Butterflies & Sunday School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park/First Lutheran Church • Sledding and Ice Skating at Cleveland Hill
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Butterflies & Sunday School • 5th Grade Pottery Class and First Communion Instruction • At-Home Lenten Journey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park/First Lutheran
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Butterflies & Sunday School • First Communion for 5th graders on Maundy Thursday • Palm Sunday Festival • Easter Egg Hunt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park/First Lutheran
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Butterflies & Sunday School • Muffins for Moms • Last Day of Sunday School Party & Picnic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park • Bowling Party
June		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesdays Play at the Park • Nerf Night
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butterflies Vacation Bible School at Hope Lutheran Church • Day Camp with Luther Crest at Hope Lutheran Church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesdays Play at the Park • Lemonade Stand
August		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesdays Play at the Park • Uncle Eddies with the 5th & 6th graders
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rally Sunday- "Scoop Up the Joy" • Sunday Butterflies & Sunday School • Family Day at Otter Cove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park/First Lutheran
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Butterflies & Sunday School • Bible Milestone for 2nd graders • Family Day at the Pumpkin Patch (put on by the President of the council) • Sunday Butterflies & Sunday School • Spirit Sundays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesdays FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park/First Lutheran • Trunk & Treat at Fleet Farm • Wednesdays FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park/First Lutheran

- | | | |
|----------|--|---|
| November | • Winter Wear Clothing Drive | • Assisted with Harvest Dinner setup |
| December | • Sunday Butterflies & Sunday School | • Wednesdays FLY K-6 at Roosevelt Park/First Lutheran |
| | • "The Gifts of Christmas" Sunday School Christmas Program | • Christmas Baking |
| | | • Pajama & Christmas Movie Party |

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

As you probably all know, this year marks the 150th Anniversary of the founding of our congregation. That means 150 years of Discipleship to our Lord and 150 years of service to Fergus Falls and beyond. To celebrate such a momentous occasion, this year's Generosity Sunday was spread out over three weeks for us to celebrate the Joy of Giving. Members of our committee were also able to participate, along with a few other members of our church, in a seminar, *Cultivating Generous Congregations*. This was, among other things, an opportunity for us to meet members of other ELCA congregations, and to share with each other inspirational stories about the importance of generosity. Lastly, we closed out the year strong by providing 31 Christmas food baskets for families in need within the community (8 more than last year) and by exceeding the \$75,000 goal for our Wrap it Up campaign by \$7,000, for a total of \$82,000 raised! Hallelujah!

Thank you so much for your support these last 150 years, here's to 150 more!

With gratitude,

Michael Wicklund

Discipleship Chair

Committee Members: Leonard Hatzenbuehler, JoAn Whitlock

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Individuals Served:

Sunday School including Butterflies birth-6th grade

FLY Program

Confirmation Students 7-8th grade

Adult Education

Education Committee Members: Tara Wagner, Kristy Wicklund, Pastor Tiffany, Kirsten Kragness, Michelle Shearer, Kristi Dinsmore, Dani West, Erin Warren, and Trista Kitzman.

This past year we experienced positive changes as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our church community is rebuilding. Attendance in the fall has increased and maintaining numbers. The Sunday School theme was "Scoop up the Joy". Following along with the celebration of the 150th church anniversary. This theme was perfect and lots of joy was spread. The same curriculum is used. The Sunday school time changed to 10:30-11:30.

VBS was well attended this summer with 80 kids participating. 40 kids in Butterflies. There were 8 Luther Crest Counselors and 8 volunteers throughout each day. This was held at Hope Lutheran Church. VBS was a huge success!

FLY program is offered on Wednesdays after school. Kristy Wicklund continues to do an amazing job engaging the children in meaningful conversations and projects. Please see Kristy Wicklund's notes for more details.

Confirmation: 7th and 8th grade students. This occurs on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm. Led by Pastor Tiffany and Vicki Hanneman.

Adult Bible Studies led by Pastor Tiffany and David Strom.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tara Wagner, Education Chair

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

2022 was a challenging year for the personnel committee.

We started the year needing to fill two key position in our staff. Our senior pastor (Pastor Gretchen Enoch) resigned in December 2021 and our full time office assistant/bookkeeper (Doreen Oliphant) resigned the next month. Our treasurer, Leonard Hatzenbuehler, with his extensive background in bookkeeping, agreed to help with the bookkeeping duties until a replacement was hired.

In late January 2022 we hired Pastor Tiffany Sundeen as our interim senior pastor. She accepted a two year contract which has added a lot of stability to our staff. Throughout 2022 Pastor Tiffany has demonstrated true leadership skills and presented a clear vision for our path forward as First Lutheran Church community.

Beginning in January 2023 a transition team will begin the process of identifying the needs of our congregation so a call committee can be formed by late spring. The call committee will begin the search for our next senior pastor who we hope to have in place later this year.

Mary Johnson, a lifelong member of FLC joined the staff on June 1 as a part time office assistant/bookkeeper. Jennifer Hubrig became our office manager in September after Katie Shallue resigned. Jennifer had ten years of experience working at an ELCA church in St. Peter, MN so she was able to come right in and fill the position. She has been working part time for the past four months but will transition to full time in February.

We currently do not have a Youth and Family Director for grades 7 – 12 to complement the great job Kristy Wicklund does with our K-6th grad youth. We plan to define the Director of Faith Formation job description and post for that full time staff position by early spring. The intention would be to have the position filled by September 2023 when the next school year starts.

Our custodian of 35+ years (Steve Hosch) retired in July and we are working to fill this key staff position. We are currently relying on volunteers from the congregation to fill our custodial needs so if you can help us please contact the church office.

Pastor David Strom retired in September as our visitation pastor. He has been a great asset to our staff and we thank him very much for his dedication. We appreciate that he will continue leading the men's bible study group. Pastor Kate Bruns recently accepted our offer to become visitation pastor. She started January 3. Her years of pastor experience and knowledge of our community will make her a great addition to our staff.

We continue to have a dedicated staff that meets the needs of our church – Organist, Keith Melberg; Senior Choir Director, Harriet Wicklund; Bell Choir Director, Linda Mellon; and Praise Band Director, Anne Taylor. We appreciate all they do to make FLC our “home”. Each week our church needs many volunteers (greeters, ushers, communion assistants, lector, acolytes, sound technicians, altar guild, and coffee servers). Your willingness to fill these spots is most appreciated.

I also want to thank Joe Ellig for his many years of service to the personnel committee. He retired from the committee on 12/31/2022.

The current members of the personnel committee are: Kim Ward, Andrea Loomer, Al Jenson, and Bob Ronning. I appreciate their service and dedication to this committee and look forward to working with them in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Fitz, Personnel Committee Chair

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- Removed/treated Boxelder Bugs
- Removed Bats
- Stained & sealed all window sills
- Ordered new frame for large Narthex East window
- Landscaped entire church property
- Removed unwanted trees
- Adding security cameras
- New mailbox
- New plumbing upper & lower restrooms
- New chairs in conference room
- New tables & chairs Narthex
- Updated plumbing in boiler room
- Removed old furniture from basement
- Updated kitchen plumbing
- Cleaned drains in kitchen

A big thank you to all volunteers doing janitor work

Property Committee: Keary Toso, Steve Leitte, Duane Gran, Richard T, Tedd Steenbock

Security Committee: Mary/Jen, Connor W, Richard T, Tedd, Pr Tiffany

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. (Psalm 100: 1-2)

Happy 150th anniversary, First Lutheran Church! We can remember this most recent year along with 150 years that brought us to where we are with JOY!

The doors of First Lutheran Church are wide open, allowing us to worship together! Attendance in worship continues to be considerably less than it was prior to the onset of the recent pandemic. Along with attendance being down, the number of people willing to volunteer for roles in worship is also down. “Who will ring the bell? Who will serve as usher, communion assistant, lector, cantor...? This year, we have worked and continue to work to re-establish these roles which in the past were more easily filled.

Our worship committee’s assignment is “to foster the worship life of the congregation...”

“Worship is the heart of congregational life, and our committee meets monthly to give careful consideration to providing an inviting and meaningful experience, with Jesus Christ at the center.” Work this year has been focused on providing support in planning and preparing for the worship experiences of our congregation. We were excited to plan special music offerings through the celebration of our 150th anniversary.

Highlights of our committee’s work in 2022 include:

- Maintaining our committee’s agenda and supporting our pastor as requested
- The celebration of our church’s 150th Anniversary which included an Organ dedication concert
- Working with our Pastor on planning and executing festival and other services
- Monitoring and supporting live-streaming and sound system issues
- Coordination with our Altar Guild
- Messenger articles on liturgical purpose and history

Sincere thanks to all who participate in our services. We are grateful to those who serve regularly as musicians, as decorators, as ushers, as sacristans, as members of the altar guild. We anticipate with hope, this new year of worshiping together, lifting our voices in praise through songs and hymns, praying together, and giving thanks to our living God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior!

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Wicklund, Chair

Committee members: Jody Hanson, Keith Melberg, Linda Mellon, Anne Taylor, Judy Jensen, and our Pastors

150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Our theme was “Celebration of Joy”, 150 Years, 1872-2022, the 0 in 150 was filled in with Luther’s Rose.

Each month we put memories in the monthly church messenger, sometimes it was interviews of members and sometimes it was out of the 125th Anniversary book.

Our Archives committee put in many, many long hours organizing and putting together many picture books to update and tell the story of our churches history by adding on the past 25 years. They also updated and expanded Heritage Hall in our basement under the ramp. They also put together a booklet (led by Vicki Hanneman) of First Lutheran Church, 150 Years of History. The committee consisted of Vicki Hanneman, Jody Hanson, Joanne Peterson, and Leonard Hatzenbuhler.

We had many members that worked very hard to help clean up outside around our church grounds. We took old trees and bushes down, replaced the roses around the south side of the church with new low maintenance plants, big rocks, and new mulch. We put in a new low maintenance garden along the east side of the building as well. We hope to finish it next summer. The garden area in the courtyard was also updated and is looking beautiful.

We had guest speakers throughout the fall that were all children of the church and are now in the ministerial field. This included Madeline Trosvig, daughter of Tom and Jeannie Trosvig, who is a Senior at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She is studying Religion and the Classics. She was our guest speaker on August 14, 2022. Pastor Keith Anderson, son of Russell and the late Lucille Anderson was our guest preacher on September 4, 2022. Pastor Keith served as Pastor at Rock Creek Lutheran Church in Rock Falls, Wisconsin; Our Savior’s Lutheran church in Merrill, Wisconsin, and Zion Lutheran Church in Woodville, Wisconsin. He retired in August of 2020. Pastor Liz Eide, daughter of George and Ann Mathison was our guest Preacher on September 25, 2022. Pastor Liz is the Pastor at Lutheran Church of Peace in Maplewood, Minnesota. On October 30, 2022 Pastor Jeff Fitzcappes was the last of our guest Preachers. He is the son of Steve and Gail Fitz and he is the Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Montevideo Minnesota.

On August 17, 2022 we held a “75” and older luncheon. We had a great attendance at this special luncheon and many stories about the past at First Lutheran Church were shared.

Sunday October 2, 2022, we enjoyed a fabulous Organ Concert at First Lutheran Church which we invited the public to. The concert was sponsored by the Jacobs family in honor of Al and Christabel Jacobs. The Organist was Daniel Aune. He is an Underwood MN native, and a Hillcrest Lutheran Academy graduate. Daniel has been the director of music and organist at Christ Lutheran Church in Baltimore since 2011. Aune holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music. The concert was followed by refreshments and the archives through out the church were on display.

Saturday October 9, 2022 Our church families were encouraged to go out to enjoy a fall afternoon at Theas Pumpkin Patch by Pelican Rapids MN. Families were able to participate in all of the activities and the children were able to bring home a pumpkin. Many families participated as it was a lovely sunny day.

On Sunday October 10, 2022 we celebrated our 150th Year as a church family. The church was dressed in its finest. The atmosphere in the air was so joyous as we celebrated our Lord in this beautiful church. Special music was provided by our Senior Choir and Hosanna Hand Bell Choir. We had several past Clergy attend as our honored guests. Pastor Tiffany Sundeen led the worship along with Pastor Curt Rotto who was our guest preacher. A “family” picture was taken of the whole group in the sanctuary. We enjoyed a catered dinner in our fellowship hall after the service along with a program which included a short history presentation by Vicki Hannemann. A joyous time was had by all. God's love was so present in our day of worship!

150 Years – 1872-2022

Celebration of JOY!!!!

Secretary-Lorri Holt

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The primary responsibility of the Finance Committee is to coordinate and supervise the financial activities of the congregation. This includes giving accurate reports to the congregation and preparing a Ministry Spending Plan for the year.

The Finance Committee is happy to report that due to the generous giving of the members of the church we received \$554,130 in 2022 which is greater than the amount of \$551,414 in 2021. We thank each and every one of you for your offering, no matter its size, and thank God for continued strength and resilience for the year ahead.

It is great news that our congregation's offerings have increased. We are anticipating a rise in our expenditures in 2023 and we know the members of FLC will meet that need with their unwavering generosity.

We extend our sincere thanks to the staff at FLC. Also, a big thanks to the volunteers and members of FLC as we continue to be faithful stewards of God's abundance.

Leonard Hatzenbuehler, Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORTS

First Lutheran Church Budget Comparison for GENERAL FUND For 2022

Revenues	2022	2022
General Revenues	Actual	Budget
Building Offering	\$ 13,937.44	\$ 2,800.00
Confirmation Revenue	127.00	500.00
Day Camp/VBS Revenue	488.00	200.00
Envelope Offering	468,224.73	520,674.00
Facility Rental Revenue	870.00	
Fellowship Revenue	5,076.17	2,800.00
Initial Offering	115.00	200.00
Interest	66.62	
Local Expense Only Offering	2,533.00	6,000.00
Loose Offering	6,698.31	1,500.00
Memorial Offering	2,525.00	
Merchandise sold	541.10	
Miscellaneous Revenue	67.00	
Special Offerings	8,258.29	3,000.00
Sunday School Offering	109.95	200.00
Parking Lot	10,332.00	5,040.00
Radio Broadcast	5,330.00	5,200.00
Subtotal General Fund	527,321.61	550,136.00
Special Funds Revenue		
Benevolence Offering	12,703.56	800.00
Christmas Basket		500.00
Good Samaritan	4,558.05	500.00
150th Anniversary	4,270.00	
Cookbooks	5.00	
Education Rev	1,712.50	
Library	1,440.00	
Memorial Undesignated	145.00	
Owls	580.00	
Property	770.15	
Senior Chair	25.00	
Service Food Cards	1,029.00	
Wednesday Night	254.65	
Thrivent Choice Dollars	1,338.00	1,500.00
Good Samaritan		
Subtotal Special Funds	28,830.91	1,500.00
Total Revenues	\$ 554,130.52	\$ 551,414.00

Expenditures
Discretionary Expenditures
General Expenses

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget
Benevolences		\$ 35,000.00
Christmas Baskets	\$ 1,403.70	
Day Care Provender Appreciation	200.00	
Fergus Falls Food Bank	1,274.50	
Flood Relief Florida	100.00	
Lake Region Cancer Center	2,453.56	
Mill Street Residence Chapel	1,500.00	
Local Missions	730.70	
Morning Watch	25.00	
Rural Ministerial Development	1,487.50	
Salvation Army	663.50	
Synod Mission Support	19,000.00	
Ukraine Relief	6,351.00	0.00
Subtotal Outreach Exp	<u>35,189.46</u>	<u>35,000.00</u>
150 Anniversary	<u>\$ 7,512.61</u>	<u>\$ 2,000.00</u>
Education Exp		
Adult Ed	82.40	600.00
Bible Study Supplies	0.00	300.00
Confirmation	1,580.62	400.00
Day Camp/VBS	4,267.04	500.00
Library Books/Supplies	884.72	150.00
Sunday School/FLY K6	3,790.55	1,900.00
Subtotal Education Exp	<u>10,605.33</u>	<u>3,850.00</u>
Fellowship Exp		
Appreciation Events	699.83	5,100.00
Fellowship	3,856.30	1,400.00
Kitchen	484.32	
Wednesday Night	1,414.16	0.00
Subtotal Fellowship Exp	<u>6,454.61</u>	<u>6,500.00</u>
Governance		
Council Retreat	325.12	1,300.00
Synod Assembly Exp	535.50	700.00
Subtotal Governance	<u>860.62</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Membership Exp		
Devotions Christ Home	1,164.06	1,300.00
New Member Reception	334.16	
Publicity/Advertising	1,465.00	1,100.00
Subtotal Membership Exp	<u>2,963.22</u>	<u>2,400.00</u>

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget
Personnel Exp		
Background checks	126.80	200.00
Employers FICA Contribution	8,651.35	10,395.00
Employers Medicare Contribution	2,023.31	2,431.00
Medical Insurance	51,377.18	62,208.00
Non-Pastoral Continuing Ed Expense		500.00
Other Befits (Life & Disability)	3,490.82	4,512.00
Other Travel Expense	287.28	200.00
Pastoral Benefits Expense	96.96	
Pastoral Continuing Ed Expense	0.00	1,000.00
Pastoral Salary Housing Expense	37,598.54	126,300.00
Pastoral Professional Expense	1,238.21	2,500.00
Pastoral Salary Expense	9,344.96	
Pastoral Social Security Expense	7,110.83	
Pastoral Travel Expense	0.00	3,500.00
Pension	15,977.38	22,068.00
Program Benefits Expense	122.17	
Non-Pastoral Salary	202,519.79	168,000.00
Staff Misc. Expense	8,959.12	
Support Staff Benefits Expense	856.32	1,000.00
Travel Interim Pastor	14,050.71	0.00
Travel Visitation Pastor	190.92	0.00
Subtotal Personnel Exp	364,022.65	404,814.00
Property & Management Exp		
Building/Equipment Maintenance	26,695.93	6,750.00
Communications	1,395.00	5,300.00
Copier	10,045.50	8,500.00
Grounds and Landscaping	7,336.09	2,300.00
Insurance	14,432.47	14,100.00
Office Expenses/Supplies	6,899.32	5,000.00
Postage	4,713.90	4,500.00
Software and Services	10,769.87	6,800.00
Supplies	0.00	500.00
Taxes	689.30	600.00
Technology replace/maint	14.01	600.00
Telephone/Network Security	4,624.61	200.00
Utilities	34,874.06	22,300.00
Vehicle Maintenance	319.69	400.00
Subtotal Property & Management Exp	122,809.75	77,850.00
Stewardship Exp		
Online Giving/Web Hosting	1,945.16	1,500.00
Stewardship Offer Envelopes	0.00	300.00
Stewardship Sunday	100.00	500.00
Subtotal Stewardship Exp	2,045.16	2,300.00

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget
Worship Exp		
Adult Choir Music		
Altar Guild	1,078.41	900.00
Radio Ministry	5,950.00	5,200.00
Handbell Choir Music	1,623.15	650.00
Instrument Maintenance	1,571.00	1,500.00
Licensing		400.00
Lighting & Sound	1,780.00	500.00
Senior Choir Music	56.24	500.00
Special Music	1,675.00	250.00
Worship Decorating	291.00	500.00
Worship Supplies	3,243.24	2,000.00
Worship Team Music	1,396.25	300.00
Subtotal Worship Exp	18,664.29	12,700.00
Youth Exp		
Youth Activities & Trips	370.41	2,000.00
Subtotal Youth Exp	370.41	2,000.00
Total Expenditures	<u>571,498.11</u>	<u>551,414.00</u>
Other Revenues		
Dividend Revenue	1,180.10	0.00
Interest Revenue	325.01	0.00
Payroll taxes refund	453.57	0.00
Resse Fund	5,000.00	0.00
Total Other Revenues	6,958.68	0.00
Special Funds Expenditures		
Tables & Chairs	4,577.79	
Fleece Baby Blankets	365.10	
Owls	1,736.52	0.00
Total Special Funds Expenditures	<u>6,679.41</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Revenues	554,130.52	551,414.00
Total Expenditures	-571,498.11	-551,414.00
Total Other Revenues	6,958.68	0.00
Total Special Funds Expenditures	-6,679.41	0.00
Less Revenues then Expenditures	\$ (17,088.32)	\$ -

First Lutheran Church

Statement of Financial Position For All Funds as of 12/31/2022

Assets

Banks

General SSB Checking	\$ 50,089.92
SPECIAL SSB CHECKING	66,111.94
Thrivent Money Market	21,406.60
Total Bank	137,608.46

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable	756.00
Total Accounts Receivable	756.00

Other Current Assets

Dorn & Co Durner Cash	22,780.34
Dorn & Co Durner Investments	92,985.96
Total Other Current Assets	115,766.30

Total Assets	\$ 254,130.76
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First Lutheran Church
Statement of Financial Position For All Funds as of 12/31/2022

Net Assets	
Unrestricted Funds	
ADULT BIBLE STUDY	\$ 404.50
ALTAR GUILD FUND	67.24
BUDGET RESERVE FUND	-30,103.46
BUILDING RESERVE FUND	560.00
CLEARING ACCOUNT FUND	1,315.00
COOKBOOKS FUND	1,275.25
DISCRETIONARY REVENUE	500.00
DURNER CASH	22,780.34
EASTER PLANTS POINSETTIAS FUND	594.85
EDUCATION FUND	2,471.63
ESCROW ACCOUNT FUND	350.43
FAMILY MINISTRY FUND	4,399.56
Fellowship	5,999.55
FF Conference Intern Support	300.00
GENERAL FUND	75,108.01
GIVING TREE	70.51
GOOD SAMARITAN FUND	11,971.45
GRAD FLEECE QUILTS FUND	-956.23
HAITI DRESSES	-0.80
HANDBELLS FUND	3,086.92
JEAN DAHLING ESTATE FUND	16,637.18
LIBRARY FUND	2,048.12
MEETING DOOR ACCESSIBILITY	700.00
MEMORIAL UNDESIGNATED FUND	37,862.44
NURSERY FUND	164.59
ORGAN FUND	-21,542.33
OWLS FUND	4,506.66
PARKING LOT FUND	18,958.42
PROPERTY FUND	-15,239.48
RADIO BROADCAST FUND	1,527.16
RADIO MINISTRY	265.00
SANCTUARY AIR CONDITION FUND	994.00
SENIOR CHOIR FUND	6,094.88
SERVICE FOODS CARDS	2,069.00
SPECIAL FRIENDS FUND	285.23
STAINED GLASS REPAIR	-10,810.00
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS	2,230.30
WORSHIP FUND	-1,328.61
YOUTH FUND	10,484.75
YOUTH MISSION TRIP SUPPORT	5,097.74
Total Unrestricted Funds	161,199.80
Restricted Funds	
DURNER INVESTMENTS	92,985.96
Total Restricted	92,985.96
Total Net Assets	\$ 254,185.76
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Total Liabilities + Net Assets	254,185.76

PROPOSED 2023 BUDGET

	2022 Actual	2023 Forecast
Benevolences		\$ 39,000.00
Christmas Baskets	\$ 1,403.70	
Day Care Provender Appreciation	200.00	
Fergus Falls Food Bank	1,274.50	
Flood Relief Florida	100.00	
Lake Region Cancer Center	2,453.56	
Mill Street Residence Chapel	1,500.00	
Local Missions	730.70	
Morning Watch	25.00	
Rural Ministerial Development	1,487.50	
Salvation Army	663.50	
Synod Mission Support	19,000.00	
Ukraine Relief	6,351.00	0.00
Subtotal Outreach Exp	35,189.46	39,000.00
150 Anniversary	\$ 7,512.61	
Education		
Adult Ed	82.40	600.00
Bible Study Supplies	0.00	200.00
Confirmation	1,580.62	600.00
Day Camp/VBS	4,267.04	3,000.00
Library Books/Supplies	884.72	1,600.00
Sunday School/FLY K6	3,790.55	2,000.00
Subtotal Education	10,605.33	8,000.00
Fellowship		
Appreciation Events	699.83	1,200.00
Fellowship	3,856.30	4,000.00
Kitchen	484.32	500.00
Wednesday Night	1,414.16	4,800.00
Subtotal Fellowship	6,454.61	10,500.00
Governance		
Council Retreat	325.12	400.00
Synod Assembly Exp	535.50	600.00
Subtotal Governance	860.62	1,000.00

	2022 Actual	2023 Forecast
Membership		
Devotions Christ Home	1,164.06	1,300.00
New Member Reception	334.16	400.00
Publicity/Advertising	1,465.00	1,500.00
Subtotal Membership	2,963.22	3,200.00
Personnel		
Background checks	126.80	200.00
Employers FICA Contribution	8,651.35	10,757.00
Employers Medicare Contribution	2,023.31	2,516.00
Medical Insurance	51,377.18	51,000.00
Non-Pastoral Continuing Ed Expense		500.00
Other Befits (Life & Disability	3,490.82	4,100.00
Other Travel Expense	287.28	
Pastoral Benefits Expense	96.96	
Pastoral Continuing Ed Expense		1,000.00
Pastoral Salary Housing Expense	37,598.54	29,000.00
Pastoral Professional Expense	1,238.21	1,500.00
Pastoral Salary Expense	9,344.96	
Pastoral Social Security Expense	7,110.83	6,321.00
Pension	15,977.38	18,200.00
Program Benefits Expense	122.17	
Non-Pastoral Salary	202,519.79	253,042.00
Staff Misc. Expense	8,050.12	7,500.00
Support Staff Benefits Expense	856.32	1,000.00
Travel Interim Pastor	14,050.71	15,000.00
Travel Visitation Pastor	190.92	250.00
Subtotal Personnel	363,113.65	401,886.00
Property & Management		
Building/Equipment Maintenance	26,695.93	35,000.00
Communications	1,395.00	2,500.00
Copier	10,045.50	9,000.00
Grounds and Landscaping	7,336.09	7,500.00
Insurance	13,679.26	14,000.00
Office Expenses/Supplies	6,899.32	5,000.00
Postage	4,713.90	3,000.00
Software and Services	10,769.87	7,500.00
Supplies		500.00
Taxes	689.30	700.00
Technology replace/maint	14.01	300.00
Telephone/Network Security	4,624.61	3,000.00
Utilities	34,874.06	37,500.00
Vehicle Maintenance	319.69	300.00
Subtotal Property & Management	122,056.54	125,800.00

	2022 Actual	2023 Forecast
Stewardship		
Online Giving/Web Hosting	1,945.16	1,600.00
Stewardship Offer Envelopes		300.00
Stewardship Sunday	100.00	500.00
Subtotal Stewardship	2,045.16	2,400.00
Worship		
Adult Choir Music		
Children's Choir		100.00
Altar Guild	1,078.41	900.00
Radio Ministry	5,950.00	5,200.00
Handbell Choir Music	1,623.15	500.00
Instrument Maintenance	1,571.00	1,500.00
Licensing		1,200.00
Lighting & Sound	1,780.00	2,200.00
Senior Choir Music	56.24	500.00
Special Music	1,675.00	1,500.00
Worship Decorating	291.00	400.00
Worship Supplies	3,243.24	3,000.00
Worship Team Music	1,396.25	1,200.00
Subtotal Worship	18,664.29	18,200.00
Youth		
Youth Activities & Trips	370.41	1,000.00
Subtotal Youth	370.41	1,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 569,835.90	\$ 610,986.00

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (WELCA) 2022

“As Women of the ELCA we are called to grow in our faith, to support one another, and engage in ministry and action.”

FELLOWSHIP

All women of First Lutheran Church are members of WELCA, and of the ELCA Northwest Minnesota Synod Conference 7. This includes the WELCA board, Hannah Circle, and Love Days Quilters at First Lutheran Church. All are welcome to participate in these activities.

We began the year with determining how and when to offer these group activities to begin after Covid-19 restrictions had lessened. After numerous discussions with over 20 are churches, the desire was to proceed. First Lutheran Church was asked to host the annual Conference 7 Spring Gathering in April. It was held in the Narthex and well attended and received.

Other events attended were the “Women’s Day at Luther Crest” in June, the annual synodical Convention at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in September, and the annual Conference 7 Fall Gathering at Hope Lutheran Church in October.

MISSIONS

Our annual fall campaign “Coins, Cash, Checks Change Lives” was very successful. All proceeds are given to local and global missions.

The annual November “Thankoffering” donation are sent to the National ELCA office and are used to address the concerns of women and children in crisis.

Love Days Quilters’ quilts and other items, in addition to Lutheran World Relief projects continue throughout the year.

Through our offerings, we purchases a sound system and cart for the narthex to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of First Lutheran Church.

We are grateful to all who support our projects.

THE 2022 WELCA BOARD

Gayle Fitz, Donna Quam, Judy Mouritsen, Sandy Pearson, Katie Haugrud, and Joan Anderson

WELCA 2022 ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

<u>BALANCE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2022</u> – Checking	\$ 431.46
- Savings Account	2283.53

RECEIPTS

Transfer from Savings	1000.00
Circle Offerings	1210.75
Thankoffering	900.00
Interest on Savings Account	3.11
Fall Event (Cash & Checks Change Lives)	2030
Registration for Conf 7 Meeting	161.00
Reimbursement for Conf 7 Meeting	<u>288.90</u>
<u>2022 TOTAL INCOME</u>	\$ 5593.76

DISBURSEMENTS

Stamps	12.00
WELCA hosting Conf 7	269.48
WELCA Conf 7 registrations	161.00
WELCA Conf 7 offering and fee	180.00
Thank you for Conf 7	250.00
LutherCrest Bible Camp	11.000
WELCA Convention registration fees & offerings	250.00
Sound system and cart for narthex	688.70
Total Benevolences	<u>3875.00</u>
<u>2022 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</u>	\$ 5796.18

BENEVOLENCES

WELCA Synodical	250.00
Thankoffering	900.00
OBA	500.00
KBRF Morning Watch	250.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	200.00
Meal by Wheels	150.00
Camp Knutson	200.00
A Place to Belong	325.00
Someplace Safe	450.00
Luther Crest	250.00
Pioneer Home Foundation	200.00
Haiti Medical Mission	<u>200.00</u>
<u>2022 TOTAL BENEVOLENCES</u>	\$3875.00

Checking Account Balance 12-31-22	\$ 225.93
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Savings Account	\$2283.53
Interest	3.11
Transfer to Checking	<u>-1000.00</u>
Savings Account Balance 12-31-22	\$1286.64

Sandra Pearson, Treasurer

LOVE DAYS QUILTERS

We had nine members that met every Monday to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and other organizations.

We sent 47 quilts to Lutheran World Relief in June. In December, we sent five quilts to Slumberland and ten quilts and six baby quilts to the Salvation Army. Slumberland donates beds to area children in need of beds and bedding. Three quilts were given as gifts. We have over 50 quilts completed to be donated later in 2023 and many more in various stages of completion.

We have 27 school kits ready to be send to Lutheran World Relief this spring/summer. We plan on putting together another 25 kits. The items in the kits were possible from donations from the congregation.

We also have several pillows ready to be sent to the Otter Tail County Humane Society to be used as beds for cats and dogs.

Balance, December 31, 2021		\$1,677.63	checking account
		\$100.00	cash
Receipts			
Donations	\$130.00		
Quilt purchases	<u>\$50.00</u>		
		\$180.00	
Disbursements			
Oklee Quilters	-508.92		batting
Walmart	-337.09		sheets, notebooks (school kits)
JoAnn Fabrics	-96.65		fabric
Hobby Lobby	-30.10		cording for backpacks
Joan Anderson	-59.95		sewing machine service
Joanne Peterson	-250.16		sheets, fabric
		-	
		<u>\$1,282.87</u>	
Balance, December 31, 2022		\$674.76	Balance, checking account

THE FOUNDATION

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND INCOME AND EXPENSE For Year End December 31, 2022

Income		
Memorials	\$ 5,552.75	
Income from Investments	<u>53,388.88</u>	
Total Income		\$ 58,941.63
Dedicated Income		<u>11,182.03</u>
Income Available for Benevolence 2023		<u><u>\$ 47,759.60</u></u>
<u>BENEVOLENCE: Paid in 2022</u>		
A Place to Belong	1,500.00	
Archives Supplies	3,141.23	
Bibles Youth	690.79	
First Lutheran Church 150th Celebration	2,000.00	
Food Cards	3,000.00	
Food Cards Salvation Army	5,000.00	
Food Shelf	6,500.00	
Jail Inc.	400.00	
Jeff Firzkappes	1,000.00	
Luther Crest Bible Camp Operation funds	2,000.00	
Luther Seminary Rural Focus	2,000.00	
Meals By Wheels	3,000.00	
Morning Watch	500.00	
Otter Cove Children's Museum	1,000.00	
Relay Sunday	1,000.00	
Salvation Army	4,200.00	
Scholarships - Church Colleges	1,000.00	
Scholarships to Luther Crest for Kids	1,676.50	
Shop With A Hero	750.00	
Some Place Safe	1,500.00	
United Way Feeding Backpack Program	7,000.00	
United Way Imagination Library	2,000.00	
Young Life	<u>2,500.00</u>	
Total Benevolence		<u>53,358.52</u>
Other Expenses - Insurance		<u>24.00</u>
Total Amount Expense		<u><u>\$ 53,382.52</u></u>
Additional Endowment Expenditures		
From Star Fund M Nelson Scholarship	\$ 2,000.00	
From Pimco Income Fund Cheshire Children Fund	\$ 15,233.80	

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION
ENDOWMENT FUND
For Year End December 31, 2022

Bank Accounts

Treasury Money Market	\$ 9,847.40
Money Market for 2023 Budget	<u>47,845.38</u>

Total Bank Accounts	\$ 57,692.78
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Investment Accounts

American Balance Fund	\$ 7,608.09
Otter Tail Power Stock	141,843.36
Pimco Income Fund Cheshire Children Fund	-
Star Fund M Nelson Scholarship	15,548.97
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index	635,926.78
Vanguard Total International Bond Market Index	74,515.38
Vanguard Total International Stock Market Index	23,774.78
Vanguard Total Stock Market Index	574,945.75
DL "Lindy" Thoreson & Harriet K Thoreson	
Balance Stock Fund	228,145.27
Franklin Income Series	84,851.23
Franklin Strategic Income	58,842.58
Franklin Templeton Utilities	120,579.28
Templeton Global Bond	<u>46,499.80</u>

Total Investments	<u>2,013,081.27</u>
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Total Endowment Fund	<u>\$ 2,070,774.05</u>
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tim Johnson -President
Linda Mellon Vice-President
Vicki Hanneman Secretary
Leonard Hatzenbuehler Treasurer
Greg Wagner Trustee
Brad Larson Trustee
Jennifer Smestad Trustee

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY

First Lutheran's two cemeteries are open to all First Lutheran members as well as people from other faiths and traditions. The largest cemetery, referred to as the North Cemetery is in Fergus Falls Township about three miles northwest of the church. The other cemetery, referred to as the South Cemetery is located in Dane Prairie Township approximately 2 1/2 miles southeast of the church. The committee's goal is to keep these areas well groomed, i.e.; grass mowed regularly, weed control, trees pruned, and removal of old flowers and ornaments and to keep driveways in good condition. Our main objective is to assist families in selecting a proper burial plot for their loved ones at the time of need. Another important task is to see that a written notice is sent to each family of their plot selection including the rules and regulations of the cemetery. All plot ownership records are available at the church. The committee also assists local funeral homes and monument companies in locating and marking grave plots when requested. Within the North Cemetery is a shelter in which a detailed directory is housed to assist families and other visitors in locating the resting place of their loved ones.

During the calendar year of 2022 there were a total of 9 burials in the North Cemetery and no burials in the South Cemetery. The committee continues to maintain both cemeteries to the highest standards so as to make them inviting to all who choose to visit their deceased loved ones.

Committee Members:

Chairman: Steve Leitte

Vice Chair: Jerry Toso

Secretary: Mark Hermes

Directors: Leonard Hatzenbuhler, Terry Gervais, Keary Toso,, Lowell Wendel , Mary Johnson.

Report respectfully submitted by Mark Hermes, Secretary

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERIES

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2022

Maintenance Account

Balance January 1, 2022		\$ 5,831.99
Income		
Dividend from investments	3,306.71	
Sale old lawn mowers	1,300.00	
Total Income And Transfer		4,606.71
Expense		
Lawn Mowers	7,100.00	
Supplies	357.43	
Mowing	833.66	
Total Expense		8,291.09
Balance December 31, 2022		\$ 2,147.61

Permanent Care Account

Balance January 1, 2022		\$ 704.14
Income:		
Memorial	1,415.00	
Lot Sold	2,700.00	
Interment Fee	400.00	
Transfer Fee	50.00	
Interest	0.45	
Total Income		4,565.45
Amount transferred to Investment		2,500.00
Balance December 31, 2022		\$ 2,769.59

Head Stone Account

Balance January 1, 2022		\$ 1,546.34
Income		
Total Income		
Expense		
Total Expense		
Balance December 31, 2022		\$ 1,546.34

Investment Funds

Balance January 1, 2022	\$81,153.56
Amount invested	2,500.00
Increase (Decrease) in value	(9,780.19)
Balance December 31, 2022	\$73,873.37

All Funds

Fund Balance January 01, 2022	\$89,236.03
Fund Balance December, 31, 2022	80,336.91
Value Increase (Decrease)	\$ (8,899.12)

Leonard Hatzenbuhler
Treasurer

151ST ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 30, 2022

These minutes cannot be located at this time. If you have a copy of them, please turn them in to the church office.

LUTHER CREST

LUTHER CREST

PROGRAM

2022 Annual Meeting



2022 PROGRAM FUN FACTS

881 ONSITE CAMPERS!

**21 OFFSITE DAY CAMP
PARTNERING
CONGREGATIONS**

**717 OFFSITE DAY
CAMPERS!**

**44 SUMMER STAFF
MEMBERS!**

**13 CURRENT PARTNERING
BTF CONGREGATIONS!**

BOUNDLESS

LUTHER CREST 2022

God's Boundless love is on the move at Luther Crest! This past summer we welcomed 1600 campers to Luther Crest and to congregations across Minnesota to experience the Boundless love, mercy, forgiveness, and welcome of God!

We boldly returned our offsite day camp program and it very quickly filled to capacity. Our partner churches and staff members united as teams to meet the needs of the over 700 campers who came to "camp" in this way! We can't wait to do it again!

We increased our capacity for intergenerational ministry and hosted three family camp sessions! All of them filled to their capacity!

We especially give thanks to our Summer Ministry Team who worked tirelessly to proclaim the gospel by loving and caring for each and every camper. They met and overcame challenges and made the magic of camp happen!

Annual Report to Congregations
January 2023

PioneerCare’s mission is to promote quality of life in a Christ-like way for those we serve by providing diverse and holistic care, focusing always on individual dignity and worth.

Warmest greetings to partners in our shared special ministry of caring for those in need. In the same spirit of PioneerCare’s founding 95 years ago, church representation and leadership has continued to guide Pioneer in fulfilling its mission through these living settings and services:

- **PioneerCare Center**, our main campus, provides up to 105 people with short term rehabilitative therapy and skilled nursing care in a beautiful, award-winning setting.
- **Pioneer Pointe**, a 44-unit apartment complex offers retirement living with an ala carte menu of services and amenities for older adults.
- **Pioneer Cottages**, provides specialized memory care and support for up to 70 people living with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia in Fergus Falls and Breckenridge.
- **PioneerLink**, offers technology-based services in more than 650 homes in over a dozen counties, including personal alert services and home medication management solutions.

Workforce challenges and residual effects of the pandemic continue to create intentional limits to our capacity as we work to provide the quality of care expected by all of us. That said, 2022 was a year of implementing creative solutions and steady rebuilding and retaining of compassionate, well qualified, and mission-driven staff. These efforts will help ensure Pioneer’s sustainability and position us well for the future of aging services.

CHURCH MEMBERS’ ROLES IN OUR PARTNERSHIP

We are especially grateful for the partnership and common connection we hold with our five partner ELCA congregations. We thank those of you serving as Auxiliary, Foundation, and Corporate Board members, leading us forward. Your congregation’s elected delegates to Pioneer have a formal role in representing your church, and many of you have served as volunteers, and faithfully engaged with loved ones here. Thank you for sharing in this ministry.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding PioneerCare, please contact us:

Nathan Johnson, PioneerCare CEO	Phone 218.998.1518
Pr. Krehl Stringer, PioneerCare Chaplain	Phone 218.998.1504
Sara Watkins, Administrator of PioneerCare Center	Phone 218.998.1516
Karen Wulfekuhle, Director of Pioneer Cottages Memory Care	Phone 218.998.9677
Marie Tysdal, Director of Pioneer Pointe Retirement Living	Phone 218.739.7772
Steve Guttormson, PioneerCare Foundation	Phone 218.998.1501



NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD



Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Is This as Good as it Gets?

“The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God....²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world..., to reduce to nothing things that are,²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18, 28-29

*“Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**”*

- Excerpts from readings and prayers for January 29th – the 4th Sunday After Epiphany, 2023

Beloved in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

In the 1997 movie by the same name, a mentally ill character played by Jack Nicholson, wonders aloud to a waiting room full of fellow sufferers, “Maybe this is as good as it gets.” Over this last year, I’ve heard many of you lay and rostered leaders wonder the same thing about our life together as the church in this early part of the 21st century as we continue to deal with the lingering effects of the pandemic and the many years of gradual decline in church attendance leading up to it. Although this may not be everyone’s reality, we all live among beloved neighbors for whom it is. For many of you, this means, among other things, that you are having to make some hard decisions at this year’s annual meetings.

Paul’s letters to the Christians in Corinth were written to people who never expected the church to amount to much of anything in this world, and Paul is encouraging them to be good with that. Then, 400 years later, things took an unexpected turn, and for the next 1,400 years or so, the church enjoyed a place of power and prestige in western society. That bygone era yielded mixed results for humankind, for the planet and for the Gospel. But having a big institution with lots of members enjoying great influence over the affairs of this world was never the point; it still isn’t.

Consider that being a community of faith that feels its fragility and knows that its place in society is closer to the margins than it is to the center, is a better place from which to practice the way of Jesus – the way of love, service, and humility. There are two things that do not require slick, well-funded programming or big crowds of people, and they happen to be the two most important things: we can share the good news about Jesus Christ, and we can give ourselves, our time, and our possessions to love and serve the neighbors that God has placed among us.

“Will the people come back?” “Will our congregation survive another 5 or 10 years?” These are heartfelt questions that we ask because we cherish these congregations and what they’ve given us. But these are not Gospel questions. Some Gospel questions might be, “How can we use what we have to grow closer to Jesus?” “With whom can we share the good news, and how will we do it?” “Who needs our love and care, and how will we give it in a Christ-like spirit?” Focusing our life together on these questions costs us nothing – and everything. But what more could there for us be than this, for us who follow Jesus?

Beloved in Christ, thank you for your faithfulness in the Gospel. On behalf of our entire staff, we are grateful for you and for all that you do to share the love of Jesus Christ in the world.

In Christ,

Pastor Bill Tesch,
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

BALLOT

151st Annual Meeting, FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Fergus Falls, Minnesota

The Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for office to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 29, 2023.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION

Becomes President following year (Vote for One)

() Leslie Flugstad

() _____

SECRETARY (Vote for One)

() Lorri Holt

() _____

TREASURER/PROPERTY/FINANCE (Vote for One)

() Leonard Hatzenbuhler

() _____

DISIPLESHIP/MEMBERSHIP/STEWARDSHIP (Vote for One)

() Kris Werner

() _____

EDUCATION & YOUTH (Vote for One)

() Kristie Dinsmore

() _____

FELLOWSHIP (Vote for One)

() JoAn Whitlock

() _____

PERSONNEL (Vote for One)

() Steve Fitz

() _____

WORSHIP (Vote for One)

() Harriet Wicklund

() _____

2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(Vote for 4)

() Michael Wicklund

() David Holt

() Gail Fitz

() Orrie Leabo

[President and Vice-President also serve advisory roles on Nominating Committee]

NW MN SYNOD DELEGATES

(Vote for 2 men and 2 women: 1-year term)

() Rick West

() Linda West

() Leslie Flugstad

() _____

() _____

() _____

PIONEERCARE DESIGNATE

(Vote for 1 man and 1 woman: 1-year term)

() Dale Hanson

() Jody Hanson

() _____

() _____