



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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).

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

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

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

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

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

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

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

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God's grace, peace, and hope be with you through our Savior, Jesus Christ .

Like rain after an endless drought, the gift of gathering in person this year has quenched a deep thirst. The pandemic revealed anew the depth of our thirst for community; Scripture also articulates this profound human need. Advances in technologies like livestreaming are indeed gifts to our church and world. Still, our hearts sing when we can rub shoulders around the communion table, embrace those who grieve, and raise our voices together in resounding song.

The mission of the synod is to support communities who share the thirst-quenching love of God – forming disciples, building beloved community, and working for just and healthy neighborhoods. I am deeply grateful for the many ways that we walk together in our journey of faith.

The synod staff walks closely in partnership with congregations, especially in times of transition, planning, or conflict. Last year, we accompanied congregations in 58 call processes. We offer skills trainings for lay members through the annual Tool Kit, and for church staff through peer groups and communicators gatherings. And, our Faith Practices & Neighborhood Practices program strengthens congregations in faith formation and engaging their neighborhoods.

Synod staff also work closely with our deacons and pastors. We experience great joy when we gather with congregations for ordinations, installations, and Ministry Site Profile reviews, as well as in preaching, presiding, and offering adult forums. We support our interim pastors who provide wise leadership in times of transition and our chaplains who provide critical care in a variety of settings. And, currently, we support 50 seminary students preparing to become pastors and deacons.

Our congregations worship in Spanish, Swahili, ASL, Oromo, Hmong, Lao, Norwegian, and Amharic. As we celebrate our diversity, we also recognize inequities affecting our congregations. Using a "racial equity lens," the synod council launched an in-depth process to evaluate and strengthen partnerships with our "strategic ministries," addressing historical realities of disconnection and resource inequities.

As a synod together, we will gather again April 28-29 for Synod Assembly. All are welcome at the opening worship Friday night; voting members will carry out the business of the synod on Saturday. We are blessed with the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III as our keynote speaker.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Lutherans in our synod and in the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, the ground-breaking for the first ever Lutheran University in Nigeria occurred this December. We celebrate God's provision and look forward to the blessings this university will bring.

During my sabbatical, I have been studying "the church in the U.S. – hopes and challenges." I would like to present some of my learnings as well as facilitate conversations in as many congregations as possible during the coming months. For more information about these visits or news about what's happening around the synod, please visit the synod website and sign up for our weekly enews.

In Christ,
Bishop Ann Svennungsen

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ELK RIVER LUTHERAN PERSONNEL DIRECTORY

CHURCH STAFF

Lead Pastor: Nathan Mugaas

Online Broadcast Specialist: Nick Campbell

Associate Pastor: Anne Schaefer

Staff Pianist: Lisa Griffin

Office Manager: Linda Nielsen

Custodian: Brian Harding

Director of Music Ministry and Worship: Taylor Quinn

Bookkeeper: Lori Sundman

Nursery Attendants: Clara Anderson and
Emma Anderson

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President: David Katzner

Vice President: Jennifer Stanley

Secretary: Sue Hales

Treasurer: Ron Stricker

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Kari Christianson

Matt Glasoe

Julie Marie Haugen

Mark Johnson

Connie Natwick

Tom Werk

ELK RIVER LUTHERAN ANNUAL MEETING

ERLC Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda
January 29, 2023 @ 9:30 am

Hybrid Meeting Options

A. Meet in Sanctuary

B. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/733768254>

1. Call to order and quorum establishment
2. Devotion and Prayer
3. Old business:
 - a. Congregational Meeting Minutes review and action
 - January 30, 2022 Annual Meeting
 - April 24, 2022 Special meeting for 2nd capital campaign
 - June 26, 2022 Special meeting for building project loan
 - July 24, 2022 Special meeting to call Pastor Anne Schaefer
 - b. Review of finances from fiscal year 2022
4. New Business:
 - a. Review and action on 2023 Budget
 - b. 2023 council, council officers, nominating committee and mission endowment fund committee elections
5. Presentation of ERLC 2022 Annual Report
 - a. Report from Pastor Nathan
 - b. Ministry Reports
6. Other Business
7. Adjourn

Elk River Lutheran Church - ELCA Minutes of the Annual Meeting

The ERLC held an Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022. Attendees were in person and online.

Call to Order

President Sarah Chur called the meeting to order at 9:36 am.

Roll Call: President Chur noted 53 in attendance with 19 online. A quorum is declared.

Pastor Nathan Mugaas welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with the Litany and members sang the hymn "God of the Fertile Fields."

Action items

- Motion to elect all those on the ballot by acclamation made by Dale Ziner and seconded by Julie Haugen. Approved. Motion carried.
- Vote to accept the ballot passed.
- Motion to accept the minutes as printed of the 2021 Congregational Meeting made by Dale Ziner and seconded by Lorie Werk. Approved. Motion carried.
- Motion to accept the 2021 financial report presented by Treasurer John Auel and President Sarah Chur made by Conni Natwick and seconded by Paula Donnelly. Approved. Motion carried.
- Motion to approve the 2022 budget made by Larry Cook and seconded by Ron Stricker. Approved. Motion carried.

Election results

- Congregation Council: Matt Glasoe, Julie Haugen, Conni Natwick, Tom Werk.
- Council officers: President David Katzner, Vice-President Jennifer Stanley, Treasurer Ron Stricker, Secretary Sue Hales.
- Nominating committee: Amy Anderson, John Auel, Diana Schansberg.
- Mission Endowment Fund Committee: John Campbell.

Presentation of Ministry Reports

President Chur encouraged everyone to read the annual report which is available online and in printed form.

Pastor Nathan thanked Sarah Chur and John Auel for their work on council and thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Hales, secretary

Special ERLC Congregational Meeting April 24, 2022

The ERLC held a special congregational meeting on April 24, 2022 on site and via ZOOM.

Call to Order

President Dave Katzner called the meeting to order at 9:46 am. A quorum is established.

Pastor Nathan Mugaas opened with prayer.

Action item

The ERLC Council presented the motion - Be it resolved that ERLC move forward with a second capital appeal commencing in the fall of 2022, and be it further resolved that ERLC enter into contract with New Horizons Congregational Consulting to again guide the entire appeal process. Dale Ziner seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.
Motion carried.

President Dave Katzner adjourned the meeting at 10:15 am.

Pastor Nathan Mugaas closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Hales, secretary

Special ERLC Congregational Meeting

June 26, 2022

The ERLC held a special congregational meeting on June 26, 2022 on site and via ZOOM.

Call to Order

President Dave Katzner called the meeting to order at 11:06 am.

There are 70 members on site and 12 on ZOOM. A quorum is established.

Pastor Nathan Mugaas opened with prayer.

Action item

The ERLC Council presented the motion - Be it resolved that ERLC move forward with the Building Committee and Church Council's recommendation to approve the project contract for \$660,000, paid for by received Powered By Love Campaign funds and financing up to \$250,000 to be secured by the Council. Greg Pouliot seconded the motion. Approved with one abstention. Motion carried.

President Dave Katzner adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.

The congregation closed the meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Hales, secretary

Special ERLC Congregational Meeting

July 24, 2022

The ERLC held a special congregational meeting on July 24, 2022 on site and via ZOOM.

Call to Order

President Dave Katzner called the meeting to order at 10:45 am.

A quorum was established.

Pastor Nathan opened with prayer.

Action item

A motion to call Anne Schaefer as Associate Pastor at Elk River Lutheran Church ELCA was made by Mark Schwarze and seconded by Dale Ziner. A vote was completed by ballot and the count of the vote was 88 yes and 0 no. Motion carried.

President Dave Katzner adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

The congregation closed with meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Hales, secretary

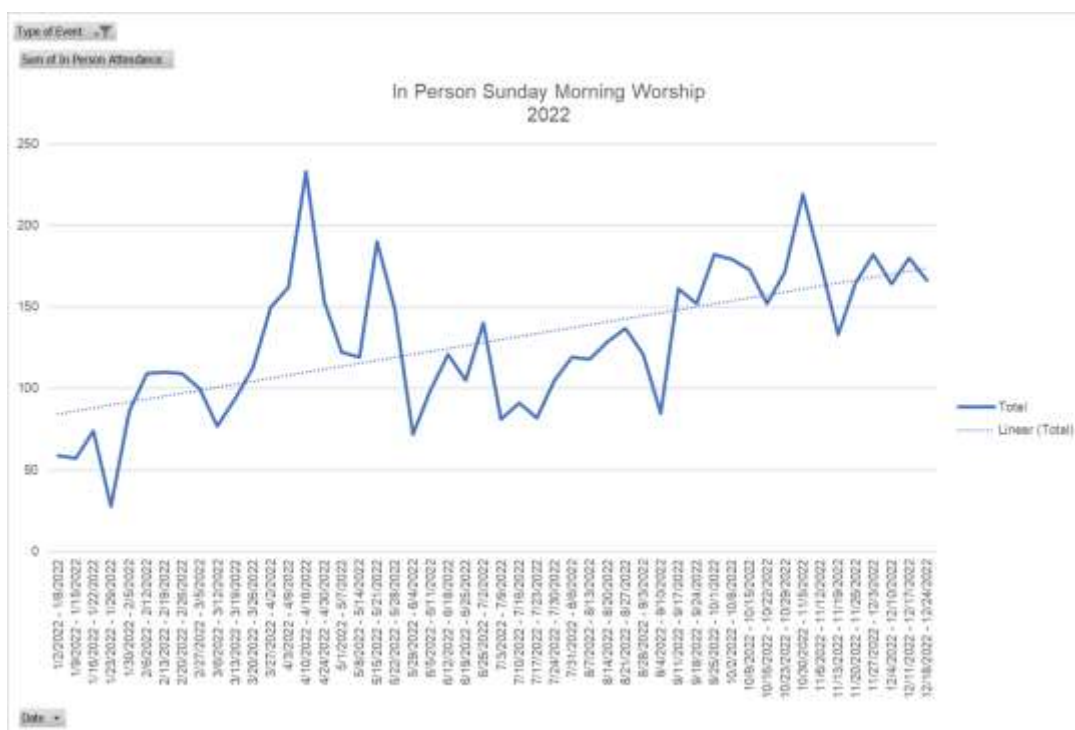
PASTOR NATHAN'S 2022 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2023 VISION AND PLAN

Dear Members and Friends of Elk River Lutheran Church,

Our church experienced major changes in 2022 and enters 2023 with great momentum for a fabulous year of life and ministry together. In this report, I walk through some of the most notable happenings of 2022 and share my hopes and excitement for 2023.

Worship

We entered 2022 in the midst of the Omicron wave of the covid pandemic, and so after returning to in-person/indoor worship for both 8:30 am & 10:30 am services in the fall of 2021, we started 2022 with very low in-person attendance. But I'm excited to report that as the world has opened up and we've learned to live with covid, we've seen a sizable and regular growth in worship attendance. We reopened our staffed nursery with Sonja Tesdahl, Emma Anderson, and Clara Anderson providing great care. Many musicians and ensembles have returned. And even as we worshiped in the Community Room for months during construction, there is a loving, joyful mood at our services. The chart of Sunday morning in-person attendance below shows a 300% increase in attendance from January to December. This really proved to be the year we returned from covid.



I share this information for two reasons:

1. To **celebrate these numbers**, because these aren't just numbers, they're people, and I'm grateful that more and more people are coming together to experience worship and life together again.
2. To serve as a reminder that **we need to be intentionally welcoming**, because at every service we have first time visitors and members who haven't attended worship in some time.

Even as we gather in person at the church we continue to have many people join us for **online worship**, including “watch party” groups at Riverview Landing in Otsego, MN, and our “ERLC South Campus” in Fountain Hills, AZ. I’m grateful for the excellent job Nick Campbell does putting out the online broadcast and for all of you who worship online. Online worship is an important ministry for our members and is our number one outreach tool, because since we started doing online worship, every (and I mean EVERY!) first-time visitor who comes through our doors has first checked us out online.

Transitions

Last spring we were sad to say goodbye to Jeremy Hallquist, who held a number of roles at Elk River Lutheran over the years: Minister of Congregational Care & Discipleship, Intern Pastor, and Interim Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. Jeremy accepted his first call as a pastor and is serving as Associate Pastor at American Lutheran Church in Worthington, MN. His ordination at ERLC is one of my favorite memories at the church. I am thankful for Jeremy’s ministry at ERLC and am grateful to count him as a great colleague and friend.



The clergy of ERLC at Jeremy’s Ordination

Last summer as Jeremy left for first call, Taylor Quinn, our Director of Music and Worship, also left for a much-deserved sabbatical. Being short-staffed is never easy, but we had major projects happening in the summer of 2022: An active Call Committee, a Building Committee preparing for a major construction project, and we were gearing up for what would become our LOVE: Inside Out capital campaign. Linda Nielsen, our office manager, stepped up in major ways and helped hold this place together this summer as I was stretched so thin. Brian Harding, our custodian, and Lori Sundman, our bookkeeper, continue to provide excellent and faithful service to the church.

Our **Call Committee**, under the leadership of Sarah Chur, worked diligently and quickly to consider several candidates for our Associate Pastor position. We were thrilled to meet, interview, and ultimately vote unanimously to call Pastor Anne Schaefer. The months working with Pastor Anne have already been such a blessing and I look forward to many years of ministry together.

Building Project

A little less than two years ago I asked Adam Horner to chair our building project and over the last nineteen months the Building Committee, under his leadership, has put in a tremendous amount of work. Now we all get to benefit from that work with the upgraded new entrance and remodeled sanctuary. Thank you to the Building Committee and to everyone who has been flexible and supportive during construction.



Return to Hosting Community Events

In 2022 we got back to hosting some of my favorite events that we do for the community: Downtown Block Party, Thursdays at the Farmers Market, Downtown Trick-or-Treating and Trunk-or-Treat, and Santa in the Park. These events are great ways for us to live out our love for our neighborhood and the people in our community.

In Conclusion

We enter this new year seeing continued growth in worship attendance, having just completed our LOVE: Inside Out capital campaign, in a new worship space, and with a new pastor. What an exciting time to be Elk River Lutheran Church! Our goal with the building project was to make our building as welcoming as our people and we've done that, so now we need to continually be aware of how we welcome people and continue to be the joyful accepting community God has called us to be. Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve as pastor here at Elk River Lutheran.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Nathan



PASTOR ANNE'S 2022 REPORT

Dear New Friends at Elk River Lutheran Church,

What a celebratory year this has been! In fact, it has been one of my favorite times in my life largely because it has brought me here, to be with you, at Elk River Lutheran. I first stepped foot onto the property of ERLC at my very first interview with the Call Committee in May. In June, I got to come back for another interview, and in July you voted to call me as your Associate Pastor.

In August, I moved my books into my new office and by the end of September, my call officially began with a huge welcome party from you all. There was delicious food and energy, and there was even hair chalk for anyone who wanted a streak of color in their hair (as I usually have!). Pastor John Hulden, who is the Assistant to the Bishop for the Minneapolis Area Synod, came out in October to install me which is the official end of the entire call process. The Call Committee was faithful and thorough, warm and welcoming...a fantastic representation of the whole congregation.

I got to meet many of you on September 1st when you came to my Ordination. Grateful, awestruck and humbled barely covers the surface of what I felt that day to



have such support and validation for God's call on my life. Bishop Regina Hassanally from the Southwest Minnesota Synod ordained me. Pastor Nathan, Taylor Quinn and Linda Nielsen all worked with me to get ready for that day and to help facilitate the worship service. 12 pastors participated in the service, over 25 pastors from the area showed up to affirm my call and pray for me, and there were many family and friends who came from great distances to celebrate. Grateful, awestruck and humbled, indeed.

As if this wasn't enough to celebrate, 2022 brought many joyful events for me personally. I graduated from Luther Seminary with my Master of Divinity degree, and my daughter graduated from University of North Dakota with Bachelor of Science in Commercial Aviation. We went on a cruise with 12 women from our friends and family to celebrate these graduations. In September, I went on a bucket list adventure with my best friends from childhood to Iceland and Norway. Then in October, my husband and I went to Sonoma County with his cousins to sip wine in the beautiful countryside. I am truly thankful for 2022 which will always be remembered as the year of celebrations. Thank you for being such a huge part of these celebrations.

I truly look forward to the years ahead of partnering with you to do God's work. You are a beautiful people, and I'm thankful to be called one of your pastors.

Grace and peace!
Pastor Anne



LOVE: INSIDE OUT CAPITAL APPEAL

It was a pleasure to again work with Pastor Blair Anderson on a capital appeal at Elk River Lutheran. Our dedicated Capital Campaign Executive Team (including Chuck Anderson, Jim Ayres, Kari Christianson, Conni and John Natwick, Sue Sass, and myself) began meeting in June to plan and recruit the leadership who would fill out several teams of volunteers.



Our theme LOVE: Inside Out is a celebration of the work that has been completed inside the church, and a call to likewise improve the outside of our facility. We are the church Powered by Love and we want our members and the whole community to experience that love inside and outside of this place. LOVE: Inside Out also acknowledges the way we experience God's love inside ourselves, and our calling to live that love out, sharing it with the world.

Goals of the campaign include:

- Funding our debt, the mortgage and construction loan for the sanctuary.
- Tending to the stucco on the outside of the building, so we can have a building that looks good and welcoming, letting the community know we are proud to be here.
- Finish the outside work that we began dreaming about several years ago; reconfiguring the drive-thru for better traffic flow, adding a patio gathering space for our own members and the church to use, as well as the community at large, and finally, some street side signage and a cross to help people know that, YES, this is a church!

As of the printing of this report we had 114 households pledge \$710,885.99 to the building fund as a part of the 2023-2025 capital appeal and 103 households pledge \$305,998.00 to our general fund for our 2023 ministry appeal.

Thank you to the many, many people who volunteered and participated in the campaign and accompanying events. And thank you to everyone who pledged to this campaign. If you have not yet turned in a pledge card, it's not too late.

This campaign was always about more than just raising money, it is a celebration of our life together and an embrace of our vision for the future. May we continue to be blessed and experience God's LOVE Inside Out.

With Gratitude,
Pastor Nathan



TEAM ANNUAL REPORTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

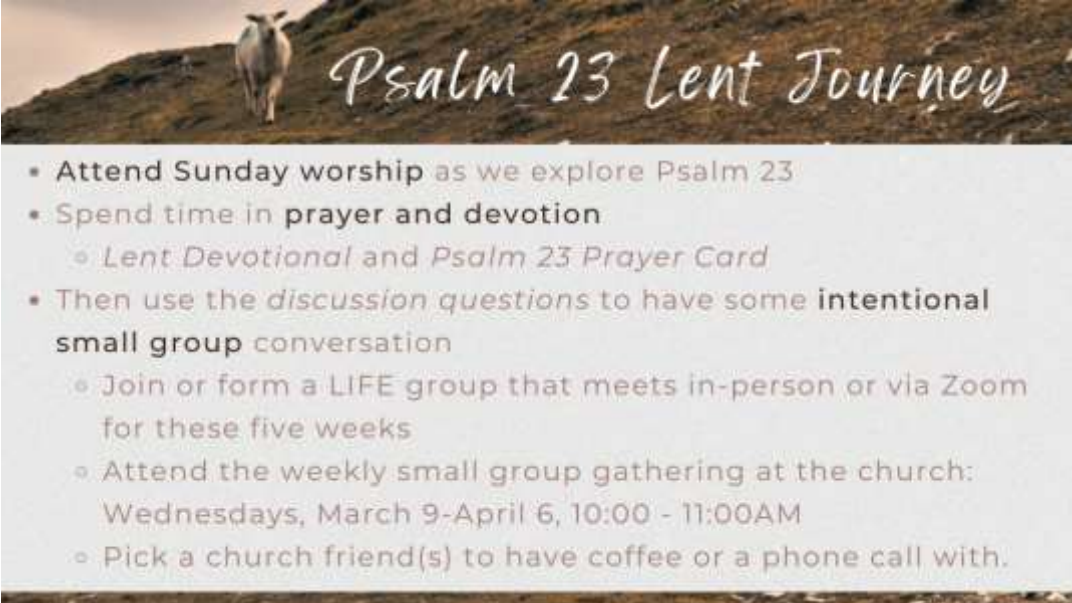
During Lent of 2022, we still weren't ready for the large group gatherings around Dinner Church services, so instead we did LIFE Groups, our sermon-based small groups. Several groups met in homes, online, or at the church to engage in conversation around themes from the previous week's sermon.

Our Men's Bible Study group continues to meet weekly on Saturday mornings via Zoom and our Women's Bible Study group meets monthly at the church. Both are great opportunities to explore the Bible, discuss life, and grow in faith.

Moving forward into 2023, we are excited about a new round of LIFE Groups at ERLC. We will have 6-8 small groups meeting at varied times to build community and discuss the previous week's sermon.

Another new ministry is coming to ERLC for 2023. It has yet to receive its official name, but the focus of ministry is to empower our community members to care for one another by visiting with and doing acts of service for our members who are dealing with mobility or health issues, grieving, or otherwise in need of the benefits of relationship. This will be a great opportunity for God's love to flow through each of us. Look for info and a chance to be part of this ministry soon!

We have had conversations with a few members and people who have helped to support Adult Faith Formation in the past about what may be ahead. There is energy for social justice, book studies and care for our communities. God is at work through our ERLC congregation, and we're looking forward to the year ahead.



Psalm 23 Lent Journey

- Attend Sunday worship as we explore Psalm 23
- Spend time in prayer and devotion
 - *Lent Devotional and Psalm 23 Prayer Card*
- Then use the *discussion questions* to have some intentional small group conversation
 - Join or form a LIFE group that meets in-person or via Zoom for these five weeks
 - Attend the weekly small group gathering at the church: Wednesdays, March 9-April 6, 10:00 - 11:00AM
 - Pick a church friend(s) to have coffee or a phone call with.

Lent 2022

ASSOCIATE PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE

The Elk River Lutheran Church Associate Pastor Call Committee was elected by the Church Council and officially commenced its work on Wednesday, March 23, 2022. The committee worked closely with the Minneapolis Area Synod to complete the ministry site profile and job description, identifying these top priorities for a new pastor:

- Build programs that integrate Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) into the life of the congregation.
- Get to know the congregation by building meaningful and collaborative relationships with members of all ages.
- Provide care and leadership for members unable to attend in person.
- Enhance the worship service experience by delivering joyful, inspirational, challenging, and thought-provoking messages.
- Engage with the Church's community partners (CAER, Farmer's Market, Downtown Association, etc.).

Following Bishop Svennungsen's visit with the congregation in early May, the Call Committee met with a representative of the Synod on May 18 and received the names of nine potential candidates. After careful consideration, initial interviews were held, and Pastor Anne Schaefer subsequently was invited for a second interview. The Call Committee identified Pastor Anne Schaefer as its final candidate and held a meet and greet event with the Church Council on June 21.

The Call Committee and Church Council unanimously recommended Pastor Anne for this call, and the congregation was invited to an ice cream social on July 20. The following Sunday, a special congregational meeting was held. On Sunday, July 24, by unanimous vote, Elk River Lutheran Church voted to extend the call of Associate Pastor to Pastor Anne Schaefer.

Pastor Anne's ordination was held on Thursday, September 1, and her first Sunday at Elk River Lutheran was September 25, 2022. The Call Committee is grateful for the support of the congregation and the Synod through this call process and is excited to have Pastor Anne as a partner in ministry at ERLC.

Website: <https://www.elkriverlutheran.org/call-committee.html>

Call Committee Members:

Rick Bock
Sarah Chur
Audrey Horner
Pastor Nathan Mugaas (ex officio)
Matt Rotz
Mark Schwarze
Jenny Stanley



BUILDING COMMITTEE

2022 was a busy year for the Building Committee as we were in full-swing planning, designing, and realizing the transformation of ERLC's sanctuary and main entrance. The Building Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous support of the Powered by Love campaign and your flexibility and support during construction.



The design effort started in 2021, wrapped up in March of 2022, and was shared with the congregation at a special meeting in April. In May, Terra Construction initiated formal bidding which culminated in the construction proposal presented to the congregation in June. On June 26, the congregation overwhelmingly approved a motion to proceed with the \$660,000 construction project. The approved project consisted of \$620,000 for construction (remodeling and roof repairs) and \$40,000 for audio/visual upgrades.

Construction started just after Labor Day with demolition work at the new entry and in the sanctuary and quickly moved into construction and the roof replacement. Over the course of the fall, we all watched as the transformation of the sanctuary and entry took shape. Throughout the construction phase, the Building Committee worked closely with Terra and CNH Architects by meeting weekly to review progress, address issues, approve changes, and discuss upcoming activities. The team worked extremely hard to find creative ways to keep the project moving forward with the goal of having the sanctuary ready for Christmas services. Terra and their subcontractors realized this goal with a few days to spare by turning the sanctuary over to us on December 16th. Even though the sanctuary was not completely done, we were able to celebrate Christmas in our newly remodeled space.

Construction will wrap up in January 2023 with the arrival and installation of the remaining components. Due to audio and video equipment lead times, the audio and video updates will occur over the winter months and are planned to be completed in Spring 2023.



To recap, in 2022, the ERLC Building Committee:

- Developed the final design proposal with Terra Construction and CNH Architects
- Presented the final sanctuary and entry design to the Congregation in April 2022
- Supported the bidding process and received a final construction proposal in June 2022
- Presented the construction proposal for congregation approval on June 26, 2022
- Started construction in September 2022
- Re-selected the audio/video contractor and re-started the A/V design
- Coordinated with Terra and CNH to address construction issues, changes, and schedule challenges.
- Celebrated receiving the temporary certificate of occupancy on December 16, 2022.

Again, the Building Committee would like to thank all of you for your support, excellent input, and flexibility during this process. We are extremely happy to have been a part of this project and look forward to finishing up in early 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Horner, Martha Hippe, Pastor Nathan, John Natwick, Greg Pouliot, Krista Schrock, and Ron Stricker



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

LiFT

Our PreK through 6th-grade students were invited to gather during the sermon time of most worship services for crafts, activities, and even science experiments to explore how God is at work in our lives. Formerly called JAM Time, Kids Connect relied on volunteers to facilitate the learning and the relationship building. This is a great way to continue to welcome young people into the life of the congregation and worship together on Sunday mornings.

Confirmation

Students in grades 6-8 come every Wednesday night for games, snacks, and conversation about God, faith, and what really matters. We have 17 students who come regularly. Pastor Anne and Pastor Nathan lead these gatherings occasionally with the help of a parent to lead a small group.

Lots of Confirmation students came to Moonlight Madness - a lockout event with 30 churches from the metro area and even Wisconsin and Duluth! We started the night at Augsburg College eating pizza and playing on their fields and in their fieldhouse. Then we played every activity at Grand Slam, saw a movie at Andover Theater, and bowled at Andover Lanes until 7 in the morning! Students were excited to be part of this and are already looking forward to this event for 2023!

Confirmation Service

On October 30th, six 9th-grade students confirmed their Christian faith publicly during our worship service. We celebrated this great act of discipleship and look forward to where God may be leading each of them in the future.

High School

We have a passionate and excited group of high school students who gather most Wednesday nights for conversation, learning, and a ton of snacks. Though the pandemic slowed this area of ministry, the students who come are really engaged in their faith and this ERLC community. We have talked about a future which involves service projects, learning, and having fun together. Watch out, Church, this group is up to something special. All are welcome here.



CYF Nights

We started a new tradition at ERLC - monthly CYF Nights! These events are celebrated monthly and invite the whole family - all ages - to engage their faith through a meal, games, large group and small group activities, and conversations. We have about 65 people who come regularly to live into community here. Topics have included telling our story, gratefulness, and Christmas. Moving into the New Year we will wrestle with resolutions and mental health.



Club 456

What a fantastic group of people! In December, we had our first event with Pastor Anne here - a Christmas Party! We played games, ate pizza and cookies, had a gingerbread competition and of course, played GROG! This is a favorite game of running through the church in the dark!



VBS

Vacation Bible School took place during a transition in CYF staff leadership (after Jeremy left, before Pastor Anne arrived), so Pastor Nathan was charged with making it happen. An amazing group of volunteers joined him in planning and leading VBS: Deb Fasanello, Audrey Horner, Janelle Katzner, Sheila Larson, and Sue Sass. They worked hard, were fun, and made VBS an exciting, memorable experience for our kids. Sue Sass (along with her assistant Ron 😊) and a group of decorators transformed the church into a beach party to match our Make Waves theme using decorations Linda Nielsen had procured from other churches. Rachel Kurtz brought her talent and energy leading music for the Sunday mornings corresponding with VBS as well as the mid-week gatherings. VBS was held on four different days: Two Sundays, which included regular worship and a time following the services concluding with lunch, and two midweek gatherings that started with dinner. Thank you to everyone who helped with everything from grilling hotdogs to wearing shark suits. We had a great week "making waves."



HOSPITALITY TEAM

The mission of the ERLC Hospitality Team is to create an atmosphere of love, fellowship, and community. Some of the ways we carry this out are by coordinating and hosting Sunday Fellowship Coffee hour, serving member and Dare funeral luncheons, and other food-related events. In addition, we maintain the kitchen and Café areas and purchase all paper products, condiments, coffee, and lemonade, as needed.



In 2022, we served lunches for 14 funerals, six were ERLC members, and eight coordinated with Dare's Funeral Home. Several members of Hospitality stepped up to assist in serving during the Capital Campaign. We assisted with Lenten suppers, the Block Party in May, and prepared and served treats during Bible School. We hosted our Annual Pie Sunday in November which is always a huge success. In December we hosted a "Christmas Goodie Sunday".

During construction, we readily adjusted to serving coffee and doughnuts in the lower level as we worshiped in the Community room. During this time the coffee machine was moved to the kitchen in the lower level. We then ordered a new Bunn Coffee Brewer for the Cafe. It was installed in the last week of December.



Going forward, Gwen Krizek and Barb Burandt will coordinate the Sunday morning coffee hour, Sandy Krumwiede will be the contact person for members and Dare funerals and Barb Overbye will be the contact to provide assistance with special events. Sandy Krumwiede provides wonderful centerpieces for tables both in the Community Room as well as in the Fellowship Area.



Shiela Mugaas

"I'm glad to see the coffee system is still next to the vault door. I love this visual because we Lutherans are VERY serious about our coffee! 😊"



The team members are Karen Acers, Barb Burandt, Peg Davies, Sue Hecker, Gwen Krizek, Sandy Krumwiede, and Barb Overbye. Jane Cazett and Dixie Rud have joined our team in 2023.

MUSIC MINISTRY

In 2022 the music ministry stayed pretty consistent from beginning to end. While the church was gearing up for the sanctuary remodel and I was preparing to take my sabbatical, the musicians continued to serve God, you, and the Elk River community with their gifts.



As it had been since September of 2021, the Riverside Ringers, Choir, and Worship Band shared their music in our services generally once a month. Riverside Ringers rehearsed on Tuesday nights from 6 to 7. The Choir rehearsed on Thursdays from 6 to 7:15ish. The Worship Band rehearsed generally on Wednesday nights; sometimes they would rehearse on Tuesdays to accommodate the members. However, by the end of the year, they rehearsed on Mondays, which proved to be a good fit for them.



There were a number of special groups that performed throughout the year.

- In February we had a special performance by the choir on RIC Sunday. They were joined by a few extra singers from the community and Amy Hinrichs, a wonderful cellist *and* the sister of Hans DuBois.
- On Camp Sunday, we were led by the Katzner (Dave, Janelle, Matthew, Nevaeh) and Horner (Adam, Audrey, Katherine, Kelli) families for a few fun camp songs. Ellie Hallquist and Emily Rotz also led
- For our Palm Sunday program, members of the Worship Band and Lisa Griffin performed “We Should Talk about Jesus”, a parody of *Encanto*’s “We Don’t Talk about Bruno”. Aziley Welton, Donna Heaston, Justin Howland, Kara Hennig, and Katie Carlson were the singers.

- A couple of special groups participated in our Easter worship services. We enjoyed the music of our Easter instrumental ensemble: Kerry Livingston (flute), Noelle Kuitunen-Johnson (oboe), Bennett Johnson (bass clarinet), Vicki Granros (alto saxophone), Alex Howland (tenor saxophone), and Emma Anderson (metallophone). We were impressed by the trio of Justin Howland, Alex Howland, and Chuck Anderson. They and their hats opened the 10:30 service with "Love Came Down" by U2. ;-)
- During my sabbatical, a number of musicians helped Lisa Griffin lead the service music: Donna Heaston, Tanner Tweet, Noelle Kuitunen-Johnson, Justin Howland, Katie Carlson, Kara Hennig, Val Behling, Ron Sass, John & Conni Natwick, Lorie Schulstad-Werk, and Chuck Anderson.
- When I returned in September, we had a VBS Sunday and the Katzner family came back to help lead songs along with Amber Bordeaux, her cousins Afton and Hazel, and Sheila Larson.
- We saw special groups lead music or perform at our services during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The Anderson, Howland/Granros, and Rotz family bands helped lead music at the Family Christmas Eve service. River's Edge Quartet, Katie Carlson, and Kara Hennig performed at our afternoon Christmas Eve services, as well as Kerry Livingston (flute) and Noelle Kuitunen-Johnson (oboe). We also had a special appearance by Diana Schansberg, who signed at our 10:00 pm candlelight service.

There were a few special events that involved the music ministry in 2022.

- In July, Friedmann Stihler performed a piano concert in our old sanctuary.
- December was a big month of musical special events.
 - About 35 singers from ERLC caroled for the Santa in the Park/Tree Lighting event at River's Edge Commons on December 3rd.
 - The Choir sang in a concert at *Our Saviour's Lutheran* in East Bethel on December 9th.
 - The kids of ERLC put on a spectacular Christmas program with the help of the Worship Band and Melissa Macari-Coon on Dec 18th.
 - And the Riverside Ringers and a dozen of our carolers provided really fun Christmas music for the residents of Riverview Landing on December 20th.





In addition to the special groups and events, other things happened this year that are worth celebrating.

- We hired Nick Campell to be our Online Broadcast Specialist in January. He has been an invaluable addition to our staff.
- In June, we bought a new keyboard for our Community Room and outdoor services.
- The Riverside Ringers got new handbell risers (equipment that elevates their music while playing).
- I went on a Sabbatical during the summer.
- Sue Sass did a fantastic job coordinating volunteers while I was gone.
- The Congregational Events Team helped me make a great video for Mission Fest.
- Our first rehearsal in the new sanctuary was on Dec 19th!



Now we look forward to 2023 in our brand new remodeled sanctuary. It's exciting to have a roomier chancel for the musicians. It's also exciting to think about the new sound system that'll be installed soon. I'm looking forward to growing the music ministry in our new space, with hopes of fine-tuning the current ensembles, creating more opportunities for musicians, and possibly bringing in outside groups to share their music with us.

I'm so glad to have a chance to reflect on 2022 with you. May God be experienced even more in 2023.



~ Taylor Quinn

QUILTING TEAM



As part of our outreach, the ERLC quilters shipped 61 quilts and 52 backpacks this year. They were donated to Lutheran World Relief to be shipped to places in need. With the help of the evening Bible Study Group and other members, school backpacks were filled with basic school supplies and given to LWR. It allows children in need to attend school with their tools & backpacks. These items truly make a difference in the lives of those who receive them.

The quilts and backpacks were blessed in June and were delivered to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St Paul. We want to thank everyone for donating fabric, sheets, school supplies, and cash for shipping and supplies needed for these projects.

In December we repurposed some holiday fabric that didn't meet LWR guidelines and had fun making pillows, aprons, and kid quilts that were available for donations. Again we are very thankful for our members' support.

From July through December, our group was very busy sewing. We were out of quilt backs and Linda Nielsen, our wonderful office manager, sent out a request for sheets for us. The response was wonderful. We have finished 65 quilts and they will be shipped in the near future.

We meet every Tuesday from 9 a.m. until around 11 a.m. in the Lower Level of the church. We welcomed 5 new people this year to our group. New participants are always welcome to join us. We cut, stitch, tie knots, sew, create and have lots of fun.

~ Linda Felska and Sue Hecker



WORSHIP AND MUSIC TEAM

The Worship and Music team proclaims our Lutheran heritage as we worship, through Music, the Word, the Sacraments, and God's Grace. We welcome all and strive to create a worship experience that is inviting, inclusive, uplifting, Christ-centered, and deeply spiritual. It has been an exciting year; a year of changes, deliberations, and dealing with the old and the new.

We began the year working with the building committee on storage for worship supplies that will be needed in the new space. We reviewed the instructions for volunteers. Most of the summer was spent in the planning of our temporary worship space - the community room. Pam Black worked with the hospitality team to be able to share space for communion supply needs. Pastor Nathan, Sue Sass, Greg Pouliot, and Lee Davies designed the backdrop for the altar. Greg and Lee built it.



There were quite a few personnel changes. Nick Campbell was hired in February to be an online broadcast specialist, so now both services could be available online. Taylor Quinn took a well-deserved sabbatical for June, July, and August. Pastor Jeremy Hallquist was ordained and left for a call to Worthington in May. Associate Pastor Anne Schaefer joined the staff in September. We had several guest preachers, including the former Presiding Bishop of the ELCA Mark Hanson, Pastor Joanne Sorenson, Pastor John Hulden, Pastor Cedric Olson, and Dr. Terri Elton. Rachel Kurtz was a guest musician for VBS and several services.

From Memorial weekend to Labor Day weekend, there was one service at 9:30 am, which was well received. Sue Sass helped with volunteer coordinating while Taylor was on sabbatical. It was great to be together. In the winter months, there was a "South Campus." Several members in Fountain Hills Arizona gathered to worship together. Having services available online has been a tremendous value.



October 2 was the last service upstairs until construction is finished. The space was decommissioned. Those at the first service collected all the hymnals. Those at the second service helped move everything out of the sanctuary so work could begin. The first day we worshiped in the Community room/sanctuary was October 9. The combination of tables and chairs worked well. The glitches were few and easily remedied.



The construction crew had set December 19th as a deadline for using the new space. Even though a few items were not finished, temporary occupancy was given Friday, December 16th. Sunday, December 18 the temporary sanctuary was 'de-sanctuaried', and moving into the new sanctuary began. The piano was moved into its place and chairs were set up. Tuesday communion items were brought back up to the sacristy and usher items were placed in the new area. Altar items were brought up and Christmas paraments set out. A Christmas tree was decorated with red and gold and poinsettias were placed on the chancel. It was all set for the first service Wednesday, December 21st which ended up being canceled because of the weather.





Everything was a go for Christmas Eve. Over 400 attended four services at 10:30, 2:30, 4:30, and 10 pm. The new sanctuary is a culmination of a lot of work by a lot of people. It will be enjoyed for many years.



Members are Pastor Nathan Mugaas, Pastor Anne Schaefer, Director of Music Ministry and Worship Taylor Quinn, Pam Black, Sue Sass, Dan Nelson, John Natwick, Karen Froelich, Sue Hales.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

It was a pleasure to coordinate the volunteers in 2022. It had never been part of my job in churches past, so I wasn't quite sure how it would go for me. I really enjoyed it. It was nice to connect with more people in the congregation.

Based on my list, we had a "good enough" amount of volunteers for both services but were lacking in some roles.

	8:30 Service	10:30 Service
Greeters	43	35
Ushers	30	22
Scripture Readers	23	32
Communion Servers	16	25
Sunday Morning Communion Set-up/Clean up	5	7
Mid-Week Communion Fillers	10	
Communion Steward	4	5
PowerPoint Operators	10	12
Soundboard Operators	3	4

All these volunteers helped make our worship services run smoothly. They were so generous with their time and input. They communicated well with me as the coordinator and put up with countless emails.

In 2023, I'm hoping to refine the volunteer coordinating system and add more people to the lists, especially where there are lower numbers.

Keep serving,
Taylor



STATISTICAL REPORT 2022

	2021	2022
TOTAL MEMBERS (AS OF DECEMBER 31)	680	695
BAPTIZED	609	609
CONFIRMED	502	502

ACCESSIONS	2021	2022
Received by Baptism	5	7
Confirmed	6	6
Received by Transfer	11	38
Total	22	51

Losses	2021	2022
By Death	9	8
By Transfer	4	1
Inactive	11	27
Total	24	36

Net Gain/Loss		
	22/24	51/36

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	2021	2022
In Person	108	143
Online Average**	395	312

EDUCATION ENROLLMENT	2021	2022
Sunday School (LIFT!)	70	39
Confirmation	22	25

PASTORAL ACTS	2021	2022
Baptisms	5	6
Confirmations	6	6
Funerals	11	5
Weddings	2	0

**Per ELCA "Tracking Online Worship Attendance"

TREASURER'S REPORT

This was the year we moved away from the pandemic years and into our full programming year. It was also the year we moved forward with our new entry and sanctuary improvements. We began with our LOVE: In and Out capital appeal to fund our ministry together for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025. It was a busy year with several projects moving at one time. We said goodbye to Jeremy Hallquist and welcomed Pastor Anne Schaefer. I want to add that our staff was exceptional in keeping us under budget for our spending and yet delivered a very robust year in all areas of ministry at ERLC.

The 2020, 2021, 2022 "Powered by Love" capital campaign allowed ERLC to pay its mortgage debt and to complete the building improvements planned. When the contractor bids were completed, we discovered the estimates that were communicated in the "Powered by Love" campaign were not going to allow us to move forward with the improvement projects. By a congregational vote, the congregation decided to borrow up to an additional \$250,000.00 to complete the two phases of the project. The final numbers for the "Powered by Love" campaign are \$817,170.50 pledged and \$752,131.10 given. We successfully secured a loan from Mission Investment Funds (MIF). MIF holds our main mortgage for the building.

Our reserved funds and building funds reflect significant decreases in balances as a good portion of the monies held in reserve were for the building improvements and roof repairs. These accounts should recover as ERLC receives the contributions pledged for the "LOVE: Inside Out" capital campaign. At the end of the year, the Council conveyed that our overall giving in 2022 projected a \$21,000.00 deficit. We communicated this to the congregation and I'm very happy to report the congregation responded, and we ended the year in the black in the amount of \$4,270.22. A big thank you for this response!

To keep our momentum going as a congregation, we are projecting an increase in budget expenditures, which means we will need to keep up our giving to meet this budget. You will see monthly updates in the weekly bulletins and newsletters. If we pull together as one church family, I'm confident that this congregation will meet the challenge.

I will be leaving the Council and Treasurer's position once my replacement comes back from warmer climates. It has been a pleasure to serve ERLC in this capacity.

~ Ron Stricker, Treasurer



Financial Report and Budget

	2022 Budget		2022 Actual		2023 Budget	
General Income	\$	501,255.00	\$	491,084.66	\$	516,450.00
General Expenses:						
Office/Admin	\$	33,460.00	\$	30,643.49	\$	32,499.00
Worship	\$	11,150.00	\$	7,820.91	\$	8,985.00
Hospitality	\$	6,300.00	\$	4,274.56	\$	2,750.00
Music	\$	6,950.00	\$	6,276.96	\$	4,650.00
CYF	\$	6,350.00	\$	4,865.10	\$	9,525.00
Adult Faith	\$	1,475.00	\$	228.61	\$	800.00
Facilities/Building	\$	41,450.00	\$	44,571.14	\$	41,500.00
Staff	\$	347,319.33	\$	334,485.62	\$	368,941.00
Benevolence	\$	46,800.00	\$	53,648.05	\$	46,800.00
Total Expense	\$	501,254.33	\$	486,814.44	\$	516,450.00
Profit/Loss	\$	0.67	\$	4,270.22	\$	-

Balance Sheet

Account Balances		2021 Year End	2022 Year End
General Checking	\$	83,690.48	77,691.23
Building Fund	\$	392,107.53	183,912.34
Reserve Savings	\$	34,181.41	42,000
MIF Account	\$	5,564.30	5,687.52
ERLC Endowment	\$	215,717.62	207,680.49
Dedicated Accounts:			
Deferred Maintenance Rsv Fund (prev. Capital Improv.)	\$	42,068.82	46,170.39
CYF	\$	5,675.22	6,715.22
Memorial	\$	13,459.60	14,033.31
Comm Outreach	\$	8,125.14	8,956.73
Good Samaritan	\$	1,610.90	1,153.53
Quilting	\$	739.81	944.73
Hospitality	\$	3,450.76	3,450.76
Total Dedicated Accounts	\$	75,130.25	81,424.67
Total Account Balances		806,391.59	598,396.25

Liabilities

MIF Mortgage Loan	\$	1,220,743.73	\$ 1,170,152.99
MIF Construction Loan			\$ 5,290.66

COUNCIL BALLOT 2023

Terms for Current Council Members:

Dave Katzner (2024)
Jennifer Stanley (2024)
Mark Johnson (2024)
Matt Glasoe (2025)
Julie Marie Haugen (2025)
Conni Natwick (2025)
Tom Werk (2025)

Outgoing Council Members

Kari Christianson (2023)
Sue Hales (2023) (seeking re-election – 2nd term)
Ron Stricker (2023)

Congregation Council: (Three Needed, three 3-yr terms)
(Vote for 3)

- ☐ Jeff Schrock
- ☐ Sue Hales (seeking re-election for a 2nd term)
- ☐ Kent Larson

Council Officers candidates – 1-yr term:
(Vote for 4)

- ☐ President – David Katzner (2nd Term)
- ☐ VP – Kent Larson (must be voted into the council)
- ☐ Treasurer – Mark Johnson
- ☐ Secretary – Matt Glasoe

NOMINATING COMMITTEE BALLOT 2023

Current Nominating Committee Members

Christy Boese (2022)
John Natwick (2022)
Greg Pouliot (2022)
Amy Anderson (2023)
John Auel (2023)
Diana Schansberg (2023)

Nominating Committee: (2-yr. term)

(Vote for 3)

- ☐ Kari Christianson
 - ☐ Vicki Simpson
 - ☐ Ron Stricker
-

Mission Endowment Fund Committee Ballot 2023

Current Mission Endowment Fund Committee Members

Kerry Livingston (2024)
Brad Tesdahl (2024)
John Campbell (2025)

Mission Endowment Fund Committee: (3-yr. term)

(Vote for 2)

- ☐ Paula Donnelly
- ☐ Hans DuBois



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