

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 12, 2023



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Clear Lake, Wisconsin

Annual Meeting

February 12, 2023

(Reports given for 2022)

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2023 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

February 12, 2023 - 10:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order
2. 2022 Minutes
3. Review of Reports
 - a. Pastor
 - b. President
 - c. Finance
 - d. Property
 - e. Other Reports
4. Council Elections
5. Proposed Budget
6. Other Business
7. Adjourn

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff – 2022

Pastor..... Bryan Anderson
Sunday School Superintendent..... Patti Wyss
Custodian..... Julie Barfknecht
Office Administrator..... Terri Moe
Treasurer..... Jennifer Munson
Music Director..... Brian Wick
Pianist..... Sherry Wirth

Church Council Officers – 2022

President Dale Wirth
Vice President Tim Wyss
Secretary..... Jackie Goodmanson

Church Council Members

Until 2023

Janette Cain
Heidi Colbeth
Liz Johnson
Open

Until 2024

Rosemary Johnson
Dennis Luehman
Bill McIntire
Dale Wirth

Until 2025

Jackie Goodmanson
Kevin Kamm
Neil Larson
Tim Wyss

2022 Augustana District Annual Report for Congregations

Prepared by Pastor Randy Freund, AD Service Coordinator

The role of LCMC Districts and Fellowships within LCMC is significantly changing as a function of “LCMC 3.0.” As an association, LCMC is taking specific and intentional steps to address growth within LCMC, while maintaining our congregationally focused DNA. “LCMC 3.0” is the general way in which we refer to these changes. For the purposes of this Annual Report, it seemed best to address these changes as it pertains to the Augustana District using the categories of our motto, “Theology. Church. Mission.”

THEOLOGY

In order to be clear about LCMC’s theological commitments and distinctives, a number of initiatives are taking place under the direction of Pastor Julie Smith, LCMC Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships. Because Augustana has a long-standing commitment to the role theology has in forming and shaping our district, the Augustana District has the opportunity to offer itself to this new emphasis in “LCMC 3.0.” We do this as we continue to focus on how theology shapes our district. An active and talented Board of Theology and Ministry guides us in this area.

CHURCH

In general, the “Church” part of our motto has to do with support to congregations. This support is carried out primarily by staff, as well of the Board of Christian Education and Board of Congregational Services. The call process, conflict resolution, assimilation into LCMC and AD from new congregations, are primary ways in which this is played out. Under “LCMC 3.0,” church plants are now carried out by districts, fellowships and congregations (and not coordinated by a LCMC staff position). To date, Augustana has been involved four church plants or “re-starts.” They are, The Table Ministry (Sioux Falls, SD), Faith Community Lutheran Church (Slayton, MN), Tahoma Lutheran (a house church in Maple Valley, WA), Living Word International Christian Fellowship (a mission restart in St. Paul, MN). We are anticipating first international church plant in Mazatlan, Mexico.

MISSION

Global Mission has always been a hallmark of the Augustana District. Under the guidance of the Board for World Mission, 40% of all proceeds to support this “Great Commission” work in places outside the US. The challenges and opportunities here will only increase. As LCMC congregations seeks to have closer ties with vibrant missions around the world, global mission partners continue to reach out to AD, seeking closer ties with our district.

As you can sense, it is an exciting and significant time to be a part of the Augustana District!

THANK YOU to the many congregations and individuals who make this possible through your prayers, support and financial contributions!

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2022 Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday, February 13, 2022

Meeting called to order with 52 voting members present.

2021 Minutes: Motion made by Brian Wick to approve minutes. Linda McIntire seconded motion. Motion was approved.

Pastor reviewed his report and thanked congregational leaders.

Six nominees were presented to serve on Council: Heidi Colbeth, Jackie Goodmanson, Liz Johnson, Kevin Kamm, Neil Larson, and Tim Wyss. Dick Becker made a motion to accept nominees for Council. Brad Ayer seconded motion. Motion was approved.

Proposed Budget for 2022: Mike Johnson made a motion to approve budget. Seconded by Bill McIntire. Motion was approved.

Motion to adjourn made by Dick Becker. Seconded by Curtis Glaesemann.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sherry Wirth

2022 Pastoral Acts

12 Baptisms

Dreya Bignell	Landon Kamm
Dan Cain	Levi Kuhn
Evan Cain	Walker Olson
Haydin Cain	Michael O'Shea
Seth Cain	Lennox Ruble
Etta Cardinal	Kasen Witthoft

11 Confirmation Class

Isaac Anderson	Rayna Case
Lily Anderson	Trevor Gilbertson
Lisa Anderson	Joshua Kaczmariski
Seth Brihn	Dylan LaBeree
Alexis Buhr	Brynn Olson
Evan Cain	

6 First Communion Class

Haydin Cain	Lilly Hanacek
Griffin Colbeth	Evan Larson
Hailey Gilbertson	Kiley Munson

6 Funerals

Robert Briesemeister	Wendy Kjelstad
Robert Croes	Gary Peterson
Carole Green	Ardys Whitmer

2 Marriages

Darren Croes & Emily Engesether
Aaron Paulson & Cassie Urlaub

6 New Members Received

Don & Sheila Dipprey
Duke & Janet Krueger
Deann & Tiffany Wagner

11 Members Transferred Out

Shannon Arcand (Landon, Nolan, Mason)
Richard & Doris Buhr
Julie Fehlen (Phylicia, Andrew)
Tracy (Brabec) Peterson
Carol Williams

PASTOR'S REPORT

Given February 12, 2023, summarizing January 1-December 31, 2022

Beloved in Christ, grace to you and peace. Thank you for our shared ministry as we enter our 17th year together.

WORSHIP

Our in person attendance is slowly returning to pre-pandemic levels. This past year we averaged 32 persons at the first service and 100 at the second. We average a dozen on Facebook and about the same on YouTube every Sunday. Brian Wick deserves our special recognition for his musical leadership. The Worship Committee worked hard to complete an upgrade to livestream technology. We hope to encourage in person attendance as the norm this year.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Thanks goes to our Sunday school superintendent, Patti Wyss for her fine leadership of the program and her army of volunteer teachers, especially Theresa Anderson who led the Sunday school Christmas program to the delight of us all. What a joy to have over 100 kids participate in Community Vacation Bible School this year hosted by the United Covenant Church. We are always looking for volunteer Sunday school teachers so please consider serving.

This year our high school youth will journey to the Leech Lake Reservation for a week of service and outreach. High School youth continue to meet Wednesdays for Bible study and breakfast. We now offer meals on Wednesday nights and the youth room is open and supervised by parents from 5:30-8:30 PM. Youth group has been meeting once a month for activities and we have been introducing family events into the mix of programming. Special thanks to Dale Wirth who cooks for the youth on Wednesdays.

MISSIONS

All of our mission commitments were met again this year. Well over \$20,000 was donated to various groups and missionaries both local and international. We celebrate the many quilts made and donated by our quilting group along with dozens of school kits sent around the world through Lutheran World Relief. Many local children were blessed by our annual Christmas toy drive in cooperation with the Methodist Church. Our Easter Egg Hunt Outreach was another great success along with our Red Cross Blood Drive. The Women's Event in February has become a very well attended annual event. All new movers to our area received a welcome postcard from the congregation. We hope to start visiting those people in person as well. Don't forget to take a prayer shawl to those in need of extra support and thanks so much to those who make the shawls. Thanks to all who help us grow God's family by serving.

MEMBERSHIP

Our greeter corps is now welcoming all who come for Sunday services. New signage, outreach literature including welcome packets and the round tables at fellowship all facilitate a more intentional climate of warmth and concern for visitors and long time members. We continue to seek everyone's participation in the online membership directory. Currently we have 580 members and took in six additional new members this year. We grieve the loss of five members this past year. Remember those families in your prayers and love. How might you do your part to graciously welcome and receive all comers to our worship and various ministries?

FINANCES

Thanks to our membership we have a financially stable congregation during trying times. That is no small accomplishment meeting all general fund expenses as well as a significant mortgage. Remember the office has established an online giving portal on our church website welcome page as well as a QR giving code on Sunday bulletins. The proposed 2023 budget has a minimal increase over last year so we continue to hold the line on expenses. The downward trend in the economy has affected us all but we trust in everyone's generosity to see us through. Thanks for your sacrifice!

Join me in prayer and hope as we strive to build up the body of Christ here at First Lutheran. Let's shine brightly for Christ as we seek to know Christ and make him known. As our mission statement says, "Growing God's Family by Serving".

Thanks Be to God!
Pastor Bryan Anderson

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a blessing and an honor to serve as your Council President in 2022. A special thank you to all council members and especially those retiring after this year. I ask each congregational member to consider volunteering as a council member at some point, I believe you will find the experience very rewarding.

We proudly display our mission statement "Growing God's Family by Serving" in our publications and on our signage. We have worked hard in 2022 to become a more welcoming church by having volunteer greeters, visitor parking spaces, gifts for those who visit our church and welcome postcards for people that move into the larger Clear Lake community. As a church member I am proud of the wide variety of programs and events available to us and the community. I would suggest inviting someone to attend with you one of the Women's events held at church. There is one scheduled for February 11, 2023, titled Victory's Crown. We offer a wide variety of Bible studies for men and women in the church and pastor holds a monthly Bible study at the Ridgeview apartments. We offer a wide variety of youth events including First Brew and You on Wednesday mornings and supper and open youth room and activities before and after confirmation. We host the annual Easter Egg Hunt for the community and take turns hosting the community Vacation Bible School. Other youth events are planned throughout the year so please watch the newsletter and Facebook for event times and dates. If you enjoy music and worshipping through music, church has a Worship Team that sings at first service and a choir sings at second service and participates in quite a few holiday concerts and community services. Please consider joining one of these groups. As Solomon wrote in Psalms 100:1 "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." The church has also been asked for several years now to participate in the Hope Alive Outreach in June in Amery. We give out ice cream cones and live music, food, and family games are provided. In the summer we are busy with Clear Lake Heritage Days where we hold the garage sale and the Shake Shack both of which are not only good outreach programs but are also important events to help decrease the mortgage. In the Fall Sunday school starts up with our Rally Sunday and chicken dinner. The energy the children bring to our church is unmeasurable. In the Fall we also hold the Fall Dinner and basket raffles. Again, another well attended outreach program and our largest money generating event to decrease the mortgage fund. I know I have missed something and if I missed your event, I apologize, however you can see this is a long list. To accomplish all these things many people have stepped up and donated their most precious gift, their time and talent. But we could use more people and more help so please consider this year helping at an event. I guarantee you will find it rewarding and worth your time. I also am placing a challenge for each member this year to invite someone to one of these events that do not currently attend our church. I also ask that each parent and grandparent consider bringing their kids to one of the youth events. Confirmation is not graduation and we need to work to keep the older youth involved in church and its ministries.

Thank you to everyone that volunteers their time and talents to the church. Let's make 2023 a big year and continue to work to bring those that do not know the Lord or have a home church into Christ's family.

The Bible says in Matthew 24:10-12 "And then many will fall away and betray on another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray." Let's continue to work hard to make sure that's not us or our children.

God Bless,
Dale Wirth
Council President

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – 2022

- January** Approved upgrade of livestreaming technology not to exceed \$2,500.
- February** Elected Council officers: Dale Wirth, President; Tim Wyss, Vice President; Jackie Goodmanson, Secretary.
- March** Decided to do an online church directory with Instant Church Directory.
- April** Katie Wagner suggested the Council investigate creating a church logo for social media and outreach use.
- May** Moved forward with the design for a memorial space including a concrete slab at 20' x 20' with benches and flowerpots.
- June** **No Meeting.**
- July** **No Meeting**
- August** Gratefully received a gift from Carol Anderson estate to fund a handicap door opener at front entrance.
- September** Approved promotional mailing to all new movers to invite them to join us for worship.
- October** Hired out carpet cleaning and purchased commercial mixer for kitchen.
- November** Contracted snow plowing and reviewed contemporary service options.
- December** Agreed to purchase a Smart TV for youth room. Reviewed the 2023 proposed budget.

We thank the following Council members for their service this past year:

Janette Cain
Heidi Colbeth
Jackie Goodmanson (Secretary)
Liz Johnson
Rosemary Johnson
Kevin Kamm
Neil Larson
Dennis Luehman
Bill McIntire
Dale Wirth (President)
Tim Wyss (Vice-President)

2023 COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Council is an elected body of 12 members serving 3-year terms on a rotating basis. The Council meets monthly to oversee the ministry of the congregation and its pastor. Each member also serves on one committee and serves as an offering counter and communion assistant on a rotating schedule. A group of four comes up for election at each Annual Meeting. Nominations will be taken from the floor as needed:

Term expires Jan. 2023	Term expires Jan. 2024	Term expires Jan. 2025
Janette Cain	Rosemary Johnson	Jackie Goodmanson
Heidi Colbeth	Dennis Luehman	Kevin Kamm
Liz Johnson	Bill McIntire	Neil Larson
Open	Dale Wirth	Tim Wyss

Nominees/Incumbent*

1. Heidi Colbeth*
2. Hannah Eckwall
3. Kristin LaBeree
- 4.

SAMPLE COUNCIL BALLOT **First Evangelical Lutheran Church – 2023** **Vote for 4 for a 3-year term.**

Heidi Colbeth (3 yr.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kristin LaBeree (3 yr.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hannah Eckwall (3 yr.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ (3 yr.)	<input type="checkbox"/>

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Do you enjoy crocheting or knitting but don't have an outlet for your craft? The Prayer Shawl group is always open to new members. We meet once a month on the last Wednesday from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM and share a cup of coffee and a snack and a little conversation while we work on our current project. Finally, we pray for all the recipients and those in need we have ministered to and we are done for the month.

Maybe you don't have time for meetings, but you are more than welcome to donate whatever you make. Just leave them with the office with your name attached.

Sixteen prayer shawls were given out in 2022. If you know someone who could use the comfort of having a shawl with extra prayers woven into the pattern to help them heal, racks of available shawls are in the church entry. Take what you need but leave a name on the clipboard, so we can pray for the recipient.

WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW) 2022

We were once again blessed to be able to hold the annual fall dinner. The bake sale netted \$1320.00. The meal was served "to go" or to "eat in" the dining room.

We were able to sponsor 14 camperships. The WOW group paid \$1800.00 toward the sponsorship of our fine young people. Twelve attended Wapo Bible Camp and two attended Arrowhead Bible Camp. Thanks to everyone who helped make it possible for these kids to attend camp! We were also able to donate to our favorite local charities.

All women belong to the WOW group. We meet quarterly or when necessary to plan an upcoming event. There is no planned meeting set at the present time, but will be listed in the bulletin if one is scheduled. We are in need of a President and Secretary to lead our WOW group (2 open positions), so if you feel you are willing to fill either position please let the office know. We are happy for all input from the women of this congregation!

All women are invited to join a Bible Study of their choice. Morning Grace Bible Study meets the second Thursday of the month @ 9:30 AM at church. Ridgeview Bible Study meets the second Thursday of the month at Ridgeview @ 2:00 PM. Evening Grace Bible Study meets at the church the last Monday of the month @ 7:00 PM. Each year we study the Bible guided by a workbook. Bible Study groups usually begin to meet in September and end in May. Recently we have added a book study the second and fourth Saturday of the month as well as an annual Women's Event Outreach in February. It's a great way to learn about our Bible and get acquainted at the same time. Thank you for continuing to contribute so generously.

Barb Anderson, WOW Secretary

MEN'S BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY

The **Lutheran Men in Mission for Christ (LMMC)** has been the men's ministry at First Lutheran Church for 32 years. The group provides fellowship and spiritual growth through Bible study. The group meets on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month and any man is welcome. The group is typically ten to twelve men. The morning activities include coffee and breakfast served at 6:30 by a volunteer followed by Bible study lead by Pastor Bryan from 7:00 to 8:00. In 2022, we read the books of Galatians, James and Ephesians and just started reading Philippians. We generally read and discuss only one chapter of the book during a session, so studies are thoughtful and deliberate with time for discussion.

No prior Bible study experience is needed to fit in with this group. Any man who wants Christian fellowship with other men and wants to explore his faith through Bible study should join us. No reservations are needed and the church office will even put you on a mailing list to receive a reminder if you want.

To support church mission projects, in 2016 we began selling shopping cards to some of our favorite local merchants. The shopping cards are available at church each Sunday and can be used like a debit or gift card. The men's group purchases the cards at a discounted price from the merchants and makes them available to you at face value. You receive the full value of your purchase! When you shop local with these cards from the men's group, you are supporting local businesses while supporting church missions. We currently offer cards for Nilssen's Market, Clear Lake True Value and Kwik Trip.

Among the ongoing missions of the LMMC is the monthly financial support of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) located in the Clear Lake Community Center where Pastor Bryan serves on the board of directors. LMMC has also financially supported the youth Mission Trip, supplies apples for the Sunday School Christmas program and were responsible for the purchase of a defibrillator. The number of missions supported can increase as more funds become available through your purchase of the shopping cards, so please consider the opportunity.

Tim Wyss
LMMC President

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION FOR CHRIST

TREASURER'S REPORT – 2022

RECEIPTS

OFFERING	\$938.00
CARD SALES	\$26,873.96
DIVIDEND	\$3.56

TOTAL RECEIPTS **\$27,815.52**

DISBURSEMENTS

CARD PURCHASE	\$26,088.75
CHILD EVANGELISM	\$480.00
BECKER LAWN CARE	\$189.75
FFA ALUMNI	\$50.00
BANK FEE CHECKS	\$24.88
GIFTS DONATIONS MISSION TRIP	\$300.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS **\$27,133.38**

PROFIT **\$682.14**

MEMBERSHIP SAVINGS

\$5.00

JANUARY 1, 2022	\$6,005.59
2022 RECEIPTS DEPOSITED	\$27,815.52

TOTAL RECEIPTS **\$33,821.11**

2022 DISBURSEMENTS	\$27,133.38
OUTSTANDING CHECK	\$50.00
	\$380.00

WESTCONSIN	\$4,263.86
BALDWIN	\$2,853.87

BANK BALANCE **\$7,117.73**

CHECKBOOK BALANCE 12/31/2022 **\$6,687.73**

TOTAL DEPOSITS ON HAND **\$6,692.73**

CARDS ON HAND 12/31/2022

KWIK TRIP	\$1,400.00	Pastor	\$100.00 card
TRUE VALUE	\$225.00	Soup	\$50.00 card
NILSSEN'S	\$200.00	LM	\$100.00 card
	\$1,825.00		

Respectfully submitted by,
Michael Johnson, Treasurer

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

CRADLE ROLL

In 2022 we added eight lambs to the Sunday school banner in the church, one for each child baptized by the congregation. These lambs go up on the date of a child's baptism and are sent to them on their 3rd birthday, along with a Beginner's Bible thanks to the Women of the Word. Children enter Sunday school following this ministry at 4 years old and continue through 6th grade when Confirmation instructions begins at 7th grade.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There are currently 50 children enrolled in our Sunday school program-ages 4 through grade 6. We moved to online registration this year utilizing a Google form.

First Communion for fifth-grade students was held on Maundy Thursday, April 14. The following students received their First Communion: Haydin Cain, Griffin Colbeth, Hailey Gilbertson, Lily Hanacek, Evan Larson and Kiley Munson.

First Lutheran Church continues to utilize a rotational model for Sunday school. The Good News Bible was distributed to the seven Sunday School students entering third grade and is used through confirmation. The Beginners Bible is given to and used by children when they exit the cradle roll and is used through second grade.

The 2021-22 scope and sequence of curriculum lessons used (published by Augsburg Fortress) included: "Noah's Ark", "Joseph and the Pharaoh", "The Lord's Prayer", "The Sower", "The Widow's Offering", and "Four Friends". Sunday, January 30 was utilized as Bible Camp Promotion Sunday. Twelve First Lutheran Students attended WAPO Bible Camp last summer and two attended Arrowhead Camp, with the Women of the Word supporting their attendance with a \$150 campership for each student.

Rally Sunday was held on September 11 as we kicked off the Sunday school year. Theresa Anderson directed the Sunday School Christmas Program with the help of Lily Anderson, Natalie Petersen, Tiffany Wagner and Kim Elwood. This gift of song and story, "The King is Born" was presented at the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, December 18.

The rotational model requires the commitment and involvement of numerous members of our church family. As teachers, they bring their talents, experiences and gifts to share with our children. We thank them and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to stir hearts to stay involved with this very important work of the church. Theresa Anderson and Stacia Hoefflerle continue to write and perform puppet shows to introduce each rotation. We thank Brian Wick for helping with music during opening when possible. We also extend a special thank you to all who volunteer as teachers for their ongoing dedication to the Christian education of the children of First Lutheran.

Submitted by Patti Wyss, Sunday School Superintendent

CONFIRMATION

Eleven 10th graders were confirmed on Sunday, October 30th. Confirmation instruction is held on Wednesday evenings for 7th-9th graders. Tim Wyss and Theresa Anderson team teach the 7th grade class. They study the Gospel of John. Pastor Bryan is the instructor for the 8th and 9th graders. 8th graders are led through a Bible overview and the 9th grade works their way through the Small Catechism. Youth group and regular worship attendance are also encouraged. Each youth must turn in a minimum of 20 sermon notes a year and serve the congregation in some fashion. All Confirmands are also encouraged to attend a week of Bible Camp in the summer or a servant trip during the three-year program.

YOUTH

The First Lutheran Church Youth group coordinated events with Pastor Bryan and other volunteers. The youth room is open and supervised by parents on Wednesday evenings. Also, the youth started having suppers on Wednesday nights before confirmation classes, thanks to our cook Dale Wirth. Other events in 2022 included a winter fun day, mission trip to St. Louis, bowling night, movie nights and a canoeing and picnic adventure on the Namekagen River hosted by the Nelsons. At the end of 2022 it was decided that a line item for youth expenses would be added to the church budget and the youth's separate bank account would be closed.

Congregational Report 2022

Thank you for being a Partner Congregation! We remain grateful and inspired by the work and support of so many people who've continued to rally around this ministry in order that others should experience fellowship in community and come to know Jesus in these beautiful outdoor spaces. We are grateful for a year filled with campers and retreat guests, for our donors, prayer warriors, and our partner congregations. Though Covid continued to provide challenges during the year, our staff was thoughtful, diligent and creative in finding solutions so that safe & healthy ministry opportunities could happen.

Summer 2022 We were back to business as usual at Wapo and Ox Lake welcoming over 3700 campers and families to camp. Wilderness Canoe Base sent 98 guided canoe trips into the BWCAW as well as hosted family groups and island camp on site. Our summer staff was outstanding! They were required to be flexible and resilient - and they excelled, often times responsible for unexpected tasks. We are constantly looking for young adults to work at camp so if you know someone who would be perfect, please send them our way! It's the perfect resume builder for any future career path.

Strategic Plan Initiative In December the Board approved the Strategic Plan Initiative. The Initiative focused on mission and core values and three main Strategic areas: Identity, Inclusivity, and Generosity/Engagement. Some of the first tasks to be completed in 2023 include: comprehensive site plans, the formation of a Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, Inclusion (DEAI) committee and the completion of a DEAI assessment, and a development audit to enhance fundraising capacity. We are confident this strategic initiative will help us provide meaningful and transformative outdoor ministry experiences for all.

Hello and Farewell In 2022 we welcomed Gay Gonnerman, to serve as the Director of Donor Engagement. With her vast experience in working with donors she is ready to work with individuals and families who want to support camp in all sorts of ways. Please reach out to her if you want to learn more about opportunities to support camp (gayg@campwapo.org). We said goodbye to Bill & Kristin Middlesworth, who have served WCB for the past 7 years. We are so grateful for their diligent care of facility and people. Gracious hospitality, attention to every detail, and good hard physical labor were at the center of their work. We wish them every success in their new roles and community in Colorado.

Retreats and Events in 2021 Retreats at Wapo and Wilderness continue to transition back to pre-pandemic schedule. Reach out to Ryan (ryanb@campwapo.org) to schedule your retreat at Wapo or Wilderness. Special events also looked a lot more normal in 2022. We hosted over 400 people for our Memorial Day Pancake Extravaganza, our 20th year of the Wapo Golf Tournament hosted 31 foursomes for a fun day on the course, and over 1000 guests and volunteers helped us welcome in Advent with 8 performances of the 33rd annual Christmas Dinner Theater.

Mission Support Fund This year Wilderness Canoe Base received a \$40,000 gift match for the GiveMN Give to the Max day. On November 17th, friends of WCB met that match, raising just over \$80,000 for Wilderness Canoe Base. We also had a tremendous response to our Mission Support Fund appeal to support operating and camper scholarships. Every gift has a life changing impact on thousands of lives each year.

A New Project for Camp Wapo We are currently working on plans for a complete kitchen remodel and additional dining and meeting space at Camp Wapo. Stay tuned to learn more about how you can help support this important project.

Our theme for 2023 is "All the Stars" Isaiah 40:26 says "Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? God who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of God's great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing." As a child of God, each of us has been beautifully and wonderfully made. Like all the stars in the sky, we are called by name and cannot be lost. No matter where we are in life, we belong to God.

We look ahead with eager anticipation and a sure sense of hope. See you at camp in 2023!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Our worship experience at First Evangelical Lutheran has always been rooted in the rich Lutheran liturgical heritage that was developed by Martin Luther at the time of the Reformation. We are believers who gather around the Holy Word and Sacraments, seeking forgiveness and renewal, as we hear God's Word proclaimed through scripture, sermon, and music. The one thing that we bring to the service is our sinful self and a repentant heart. We come to the service to hear and receive what God does for us. Our "School of Faith" is a time for us to refresh our souls and to prepare us to go out and be a witness of our faith.

We are thankful for the people who add their talents and abilities to make our worship a meaningful experience as we are "Growing God's Family Through Serving". This includes Pastor Bryan, the ushers, the altar guild, the readers of the lessons, the communion assistants, the choir, the worship team, and the projection operators. And we can't forget the Sunday School and puppets who are always a big hit when they perform for service. Thank you also to Brother Gary for his teamwork with me when we fill in for Pastor. Special thanks to Jay Case for the great work he has done in our technology area.

We share our worship experience as an outreach by broadcasting our services as a livestream on Facebook and YouTube along with the radio transmission at 87.9 FM. We continue to offer the broadcasts to reach our members who are not able to be at service on Sundays. At the same time, our broadcasts have been a witness to those people outside of our church family. People have expressed their gratitude and we have received comments and thanks from people outside of our immediate area who have been able to watch our broadcasts. We are making a difference in peoples' lives with what we are doing here in our worship experience.

Here are some worship and music highlights from the past year:

- The midweek Lenten services using the Holden Evening Prayer and the program "Walk with Me" Lent in a Bag.
- The series of sermons exploring the book of Revelation.
- The spring and Christmas concerts presented by the choir.
- The annual Sunday School Christmas program.

To God be the power and the glory for what He has done for us and enabling us to worship Him in a meaningful way. If you would like to be a part of any of the groups that is involved in the area of worship and music, contact me or the office and we will get you hooked up with the people involved with that particular group.

Thanks be to God!
Brian Wick

OUTREACH REPORT - 2022

February 12th, 2022 – Our Annual Women’s Event, “Be Still

- We were able to bless 100+ women this special morning.

February 17th, 2022 – Joe Delegrave - Speaker

- An inspirational/motivational message for our youth and the greater Clear Lake community.

March-April, 2022 – Holden Evening Prayer Lenten Services

- Wednesday series with soup/sandwiches and “sermons from a bag”.

March 29th, 2022 – American Red Cross Blood Drive

- 28 units of blood were donated. A cause that saves lives!

April 9th, 2022 – Annual Easter Egg Hunt, a Community Event

- A well-loved children’s event, with 60+ children in attendance.

May 4th, 2022 – 2nd Annual May Day Dinner

- Complimentary dinner celebrating Spring and our retired guests.

June 1st, 2022 – Hope Alive Community Event/Amery, WI

- Many ice cream cones were served along with invitations to worship.

June 12th-15th, 2022 – Community Vacation Bible School at United Covenant Church

- Co-hosted with Covenant Church, Approximately 100 children in attendance.

June 23rd-24th, 2022 – Shake Shack/Clear Lake Heritage Days

- First Lutheran Church food booth with the best chocolate shakes around, raising \$1,800.

July 10th-15th, 2022 – Youth Servant Trip/St. Louis, MO

- 12 youth, 5 chaperones. 593 miles (each way). Too many blessings to count.

November 9th, 2022 – Fall Dinner & Bake Sale/Basket Raffle

- Our popular free-will Fall Dinner, largest fundraiser of the year, approximately \$5,000 to reduce mortgage.

‘Twas the Season of Advent Family Event

- Family time devoted to preparing our hearts during this busy season.

Ongoing Outreach: Men’s Bible Study, Women’s Bible Study, Women’s Book Study, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Quilting Ministry, Little Dresses/Britches for Africa, Back-to-School Backpacks, Community Toy Drive with Methodist, Benevolence donations.

“In the same way, your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in Heaven.” Matthew 5:16 (Good News Bible)

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jackie Goodmanson & Heidi Colbeth

Lifeline Food Pantry – 2022

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

Hard to believe another year has come and gone. Through this past year, the Lifeline Food Pantry went back to food distribution inside the pantry, taking all precautions for the COVID virus and through the generosity of our supporters, Lifeline Food Pantry was able to offer food assistance to many families in the Clear Lake and Clayton area. With the help of other organizations, LFP was able to supply additional food to families in need.

This past year, through grants, LFP was able to purchase (3) new freezers and (2) more carts which are greatly needed.

During 2022, LFP distributed over 37 ton of food. Our donations come from church groups, community drives, civic clubs, individuals and local businesses. The counties in Wisconsin, formally serviced by Second Harvest continue to be served by the St Croix Food Bank which is located in Hudson, WI. As an agency partner, we can receive items from the food bank for pennies per pound, thus monetary donations go a lot farther.

Lifeline Food Pantry is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization and contributions are tax deductible.

We are open for food distribution twice a week and are available for emergency food boxes or short-term service for anyone in need. Our contact information is posted on the Clear Lake Community website. This past year, we supported an average 68 families that followed our once per month visit policy. We sincerely respect our client's privacy and confidentiality is a priority. The statistics below represent annual service activity. You will note our numbers have gone down over the past years, we have attributed to the Covid pandemic, stimulus checks and the extra government money some families received and people moving out of our service area. That being said, we have slowly seen our numbers going up. If you know of anyone in your area who could use a box of food, even if it is for a month or two, please encourage them to come check out the food pantry. If you know of anyone 60 years of age or older who could use food, please encourage them to check out our commodity program.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of families	1526	1479	1007	773	814
Individuals in these families	3683	3499	2392	1672	1657
Adults 18 & older	2513	2436	1720	1274	1389
Children under 18	1170	1063	672	398	414

LFP continues to operate as a host site in Westcap's seven county service area for the seniors only Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Low income seniors who are pre-qualified receive a box monthly of assorted commodity foods as nutrition supplements. The USDA commodities arrive at the pantry and LFP distributes on behalf of Westcap. This service is separate from the normal pantry monthly service. This year we served an average of 50 individuals on our monthly Commodity service.

The Lifeline Food Pantry would not be here if not for the volunteers and we have been truly blessed with many wonderful volunteers who unselfishly share their time, talents, and energy in picking up and helping to organize and distribute food. Thank you to all who generously offer help in any way. God bless you as you continue to support LFP's mission to fight hunger in our community.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

2022 was a year of project beginnings and completions.

We started with the initial layout of the prayer garden and layout of the edging and blocks on the north side off the building. There still needs to be more moving of landscape rock and edge blocking around to the east of the building. We hope to finish the prayer garden this next spring.

After landscaping is completed we will be able to move the shed from the west side of the parking lot to the southeast corner of the sanctuary. It will be almost out of sight but still in a very useful location.

The second layer of asphalt was completed on the parking lot and final painting of the parking lines was done, sure looks nice.

With the help of a lot of different people, the mowing was always completed and snow removal was done, and thanks to Phil Anderson for keeping the parking lot clean and ready to use.

The lights got all cleaned and washed and vacuumed – darn bugs.

We are looking into a water softener system for the kitchen area and would like to thank Patti Wyss for looking up information on both reverse osmosis and softener systems to get a better understanding of the differences between the two.

We are also talking about getting a committee together of at least five people, from the congregation to help with solutions for improving things in the building and hearing about more projects from other people that the property committee might not be aware of.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill McIntire and Dennis Luehman

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – 2022

The committee would like to thank our financial secretary, Jenny Munson, and Terri Moe our administrative assistant, for their continued work regarding all financial requirements of the Church. We appreciate their hard work and efforts to make sure the Church financial obligations are administered well.

This year we completed the second layer of blacktop for the parking lot. This was an expensive but necessary project that we needed to complete at some point. We did have money put aside to help meet that cost going into the year which helped tremendously.

Financially the Church remains strong with a good balance in the general fund to carry over into 2023 and in 2022 we were able to pay an additional \$19,000 more off the mortgage against the principle and ended the year with a balance owed of \$678,576. The three big fundraisers for the building fund include: the garage sale, Shake Shack, and Fall Dinner. These are tremendous opportunities for the Church to help lower this obligation with a little group effort.

Our financial obligations continue to be covered with the incredible generosity of our congregation. We leave this year with healthy bank balances. It should be noted however, giving for 2022 fell a little short of the plan. As a council we looked at the economic situation and the potential for a recession and prepared a budget for 2023 as close to 2022 giving levels as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Wirth, Finance and Stewardship Committee

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND REPORT

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022

Type	Date	Number	Name	Memo	Amount	Balance
First Lutheran Memorial Account	01/01/2022					18,001.72
OUTDOOR SIGNAGE	01/01/2022					<u>1,527.00</u>
Total Outdoor Signage						1,527.00
MEMORIAL GARDEN	01/01/2022					8,102.00
Y-T-D Deposits					<u>680.00</u>	<u>8,782.00</u>
Total Memorial Garden						8,782.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL	01/01/2022					3,119.94
Y-T-D Deposits					520.00	3,639.94
Check	07/05/2022	1004	Shem Raschla	Sunday School Keyboard	<u>-250.00</u>	<u>3,389.94</u>
Total Sunday School						3,389.94
UNSPECIFIED	01/01/2022					1,474.41
Y-T-D Deposits					*16,030.00	17,504.41
Check	08/30/2022	1005	Valley Builders	Handicap Door Opener	-8,679.75	8,824.66
Check	09/28/2022	1006	Clear Lake Electric	Electrical Work for Door Opener	-427.28	8,397.38
EFT	10/05/2022		Main Street Checks	Checks	-16.67	8380.71
Check	10/13/2022	2500	JoAnne Nilssen	Reimbursement for Kitchen Mixer/Stand	-619.81	7,760.90
Check	11/03/2022	2501	Sign-Xpress	Church Banner Signs	<u>-409.00</u>	<u>7,351.90</u>
Total Unspecified						7,351.90
BUILDING	01/01/2022					3,765.00
Y-T-D Deposits					2,560.00	6,325.00
Check	01/18/2022	1003	Mortgage Fund Bremer	Council Motion: Move to Bremer Mortgage Fund/Pay down Mortgage	<u>-3,765.00</u>	2,560.00
Check	12/21/2022	2502	Mortgage Fund Bremer	Council Motion: Move to Bremer Mortgage Fund/Pay down Mortgage	<u>-2,520.00</u>	<u>40.00</u>
Total Building						40.00
FIRST LUTHEAN MEMORIAL ACCOUNT – OTHER	01/01/2022					13.37
Y-T-D Dividends					<u>9.67</u>	<u>23.04</u>
TOTAL FIRST LUTHERAN MEMORIAL ACCOUNT 12/31/2022						<u>21,113.88</u>

*YTD Unspecified Deposits includes \$10,000 memorial gift from Carol Anderson Family designated for Handicap Door Opener.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

for the year ended December 31, 2022

	TOTAL		
	Jan - Dec 22	Budget	\$ Over Budget
GENERAL FUND			
Income	198,794.39	214,860.59	-16,066.20
Interest Income-Savings	4.24	1.07	3.17
Total Income	198,798.63	214,861.66	-16,063.03
Gross Profit	198,798.63	214,861.66	-16,063.03
Expense			
Staff	123,349.90	127,893.25	-4,543.35
Property	82,798.51	75,500.00	7,298.51
Office	7,211.15	6,000.00	1,211.15
Worship	5,652.85	4,600.00	1,052.85
Education	7,044.50	3,700.00	3,344.50
Missions	12,456.00	12,000.00	456.00
Miscellaneous Expense	6,830.09	2,000.00	4,830.09
Total Expense	245,343.00	231,693.25	13,649.75
NET GENERAL FUND	-46,544.37	-16,831.59	-29,712.78
BUILDING FUND			
OTHER INCOME			
Dividend-Memorial Checking	9.67	13.37	-3.70
IBM Dividend Income	148.50		
Mortgage Reduction Fund	70,133.50	55,452.00	14,681.50
Interest Income-Building Fund	64.98	16.99	47.99
Total Other Income	70,356.65	55,482.36	14,874.29
Other Expense			
Bremer Principal Payments	58,129.93	24,723.37	33,406.56
Interest Expense-Building Fund	31,373.73	32,976.74	-1,603.01
Total Other Expense	89,503.66	57,700.11	31,803.55
NET BUILDING EXPENSE	-19,147.01	-2,217.75	-16,929.26

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bank Account Balances As of December 31, 2022

	<u>Dec. 31, 2022</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First Bank of Baldwin Savings	105.31
First Bank of Baldwin-General	
Youth	630.82
First Bank of Baldwin-General - Other	24,602.41
Total First Bank of Baldwin-General	<u>25,233.23</u>
Total First Lutheran Memorial Account	<u>21,113.88</u>
Mortgage Fund BREMER	<u>30,020.62</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>76,473.04</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>76,473.04</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>76,473.04</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00

Bremer Note Payable Principle Balance **\$678,576.81**

2023 PROPOSED BUDGET (Rounded)

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Proposed
Staff			
Pastor			
a. Base Salary ↑ 3% 2023	59,907	59,907	61,700
b. Social Security Offset	4,583	4,583	4,720
c. Pension	8,384	8,384	8,635
d. Health & Disability	1,500	1,500	1,500
e. Mileage	1,200	0	0
f. Continuing Education	600	711	600
g. Supply Pastor	400	0	0
Administrator/Secretary ↑ 3% 2023	28,628	28,628	29,490
Music Director	5,000	5,000	5,000
Pianist	1,200	1,200	1,200
Youth Director	3,000	375	0
Treasurer	1,600	1,600	1,600
Custodial Services	7,000	7,000	7,000
Payroll Taxes	3,842	3,322	3,388
Property			
Insurance (Including Workers Comp.)	4,000	4,391	5,400
Communications (Phone/Internet)	4,000	3,463	3,500
Utilities	16,500	19,729	20,000
Maintenance (Paint Parsonage)	51,000	56,204	12,000
Office			
Postage	1,500	1,363	2,000
Copy Machine	1,500	1,412	1,500
Office Supplies	1,500	2,482	2,500
Software License/QuickBooks	1,500	1,953	2,000
Worship			
Supplies and Music	4,000	4,982	2,000
Offering Envelopes	600	670	800
Education			
Cradle Roll/Sunday School/VBS	1,000	1,606	1,000
Confirmation & Youth	1,200	3,866	6,200
Adult Education/Library/Devotionals	1,500	1,573	1,500
Missions	12,000	12,456	12,000
Outreach	0	0	2,000
Miscellaneous	2,000	6,830	2,000
Total General Fund Budget	230,644	245,190	201,233
Minimum Mortgage Payment (\$4,621 x 12)	55,452	89,504	55,452
Grand Total with Mortgage	286,096	334,694	256,685

2023 BENEVOLENCE SCHEDULE

Month	LCMC	Augustana District	WAPO Bible Camp	Local Ministries	World Ministries
January	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$300 CL Food Pantry	\$250 Lutheran World Relief
February	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$300 CL Food Pantry	\$250 Lutheran World Relief
March	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$300 CL Food Pantry	\$250 Lutheran World Relief
April	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$300 CL Food Pantry	\$250 Christian Carpentry Ministries Rod Elbaor
May	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$250 Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers	\$250 Christian Carpentry Ministries Rod Elbaor
June	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$250 Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers	\$450 Lutheran Bible Translators
July	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$450 Child Evangelism Fellowship	\$450 Lutheran Bible Translators
August	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$450 Child Evangelism Fellowship	\$450 World Mission Prayer League
September	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$250 Habitat for Humanity	\$450 World Mission Prayer League
October	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$250 Habitat for Humanity	\$450 World Mission Prayer League
November	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$450 Salvation Army	\$450 World Mission Prayer League
December	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$450 Salvation Army	\$450 World Mission Prayer League
TOTALS	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$4,000	\$4,400

Grand Total \$12,000