

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

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

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

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

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

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

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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

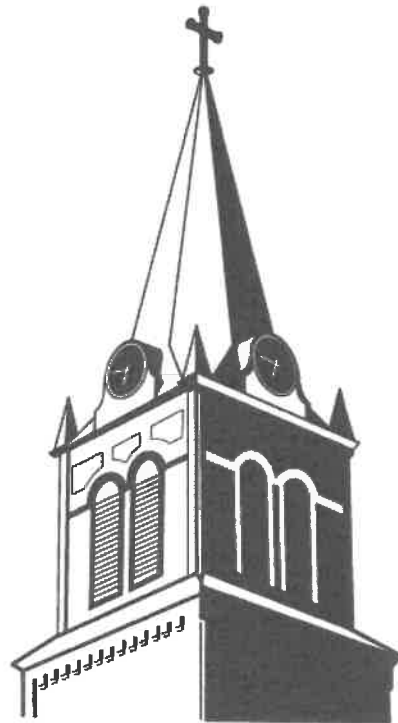
Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BARILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedes en Contradansen, 1710;
arr. Julius Röntgen

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CELEBRATION OF MISSION & MINISTRY
THE 170th
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF
CHISAGO LAKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Center City, Minnesota
January 28th, 2024
10:00am



*Chisago Lake Lutheran Church
Mission Statement*

*“Grounded in
the Gospel,
Guided by the Spirit
in the name of Christ
and by His example,
Chisago Lake
Lutheran Church openly
welcomes, shares,
educates and serves.”*

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY
2023

Pastor
Office Coordinator
Children, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator
Custodian
Director of Music & Media Ministry
Financial Secretary
Church Accountant

Pastor Brian King
Susan Abrahamson
Stacy Johnson
Bob O'Neil
Myrna Westen
Bev Sandgren
Stephanie Wendel

Cemetery
Cemetery

Lee Turner
Jim Larson

Term ends after year...

2023	2024	2025
Dave Johnson I	Jamie Carlson – I	Steve Grossmann - II
Sally Barott I (passed away 3/23)	Chris Knight – I	Chris Lundberg - I
	Lee Peterson – I	Katie Schneider – I (resigned 12/23)
	Lori Sampson I	

I = 1st 3-year term serving
II = 2nd 3-year term serving

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2023

President – Chris Lundberg
Vice–President – Chris Knight
Secretary – Lori Sampson
Treasurer – Dave Johnson

CELEBRATION OF MISSION & MINISTRY
THE 170th
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF
CHISAGO LAKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Center City, Minnesota
January 28th, 2024

AGENDA

Declaration of Quorum – 40 voting members needed

Call to Order

Welcome & Devotions

2023 CLLC Ministry Highlight Video

Council President, Chris Lundberg
Pastor Brian King

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of Draft Minutes (January 29th, 2023 Annual Meeting for year 2022)

Appointment of Parliamentarian and Tellers

Highlights of 2023 (Resolutions)

Chris Knight and Lee Peterson

Report of the Nominating Committee

Election of 2024 Congregational Council Representatives

Election of Election of Memorial, Mission & Ministry (3M) Committee Members

Election of Personnel Committee Members

Election of Nominating Committee Members

Nominating Committee

2024 Budget

Dave Johnson

Other Business

- Ratify Approved Constitution Amendments from January 29, 2023 Annual Meeting
- Property Projects Update

Report of Tellers

Announcements

Adjournment

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“Christ Be Our Light”

Pastor Brian King
p. #39 in Annual Report

Report of the Nominating Committee 2023

Term ends after year...

2023	2024	2025
Dave Johnson	Jamie Carlson	Steve Grossmann
Sally Barott	Chris Knight	Chris Lundberg
	Lee Peterson	Katie Schneider (Resigned 12/23)
	Lori Sampson (replaced Jenni Runte)	

2023 BALLOT

Congregational Council

4 positions for 3-year terms

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

<i>Personnel Committee</i>	<i>Elected</i>	<i>Term Ending</i>
Kristi Warner	2021	12/2023
David Reed	2022	12/2024
Rich Whitman	2023	12/2025
Rod Strenke	2023	12/2025
Pastor Brian King		voting member
<i>*Council Rep</i>		non – voting member

Personnel Committee (1 position for a 3-year term)

1. _____

<i>Mission, Ministry & Memorial (3 M Committee)</i>	<i>Term Ending</i>
Mark Wikelius	2021
Bonnie Anderson	2022
Anna Burch	2022
Scott Lundberg	2023
Jim Peterson	2023
<i>*Council Rep</i>	

Memorial, Mission, and Ministry Committee (1 position for a 3-year term)

1. _____

Nominating Committee (6 positions for 1-year terms)

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

The 169th Annual Business Meeting
Chisago Lake Lutheran Church
Center City, MN
Sunday, January 29, 2023

Pastor Brian King led the congregation in the opening liturgy and the hymn *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*.

President Lee Peterson declared the presence of a quorum with more than fifty members in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Vince Schoon moved to approve the agenda for the 169th Annual Business Meeting. John Nelson seconds. All are in favor. The agenda stands as written.

Mark Burch moved to approve the 168th Annual Business Meeting Minutes. Second by Jerry Vitalis. All are in favor.

Lee Peterson appointed Lori Sampson as parliamentarian.

Lee Peterson read a report from the from the Nominating Committee with a list of nominations for the following:

- The Congregational Church Council:
 - Chris Lundberg, Steve Grossmann and Katie Schneider for a three-year term
- Personnel Committee:
 - Rich Whitman and Rod Strenke for a three-year term
- 3M: Memorial, Mission, and Ministry
 - Jim Peterson and Scott Lundberg for a three-year term
 - Anna Burch was nominated from the floor by Lee Peterson for a two-year term to replace Susan Clawson. Second by Bonnie Anderson.
- Nominating Committee
 - Janie Briggs, LouAnn Mattson, Bonnie Anderson and Alyssa Hollister were nominated/volunteered for a one-year term.
- Synod Assembly Representatives
 - The floor was opened for nominations/volunteers. Chris Lundberg and Jim Peterson volunteered.
- Jerry Vitalis moved to have a unanimous ballot for all nominations. Dave Johnson seconds. All in favor. All candidates were accepted to positions.

President Lee Peterson presented the 2023 Proposed Operating Budget.

- The proposed budget reflects a (\$29,898) deficit for 2023. Lee Peterson explained that the 2023 pledges do not cover the anticipated expenses. The Church Council and the Finance Committee are hopeful that we meet the revenue needed to cover expenses in 2023.
- Judy Nelson mentioned that the Bazaar may not happen this year due to two vacant positions. Anticipated income from the Bazaar is included in the 2023 proposed budget.
- Steve Grossmann moved to accept the 2023 Proposed Budget. Jerry Vitalis Seconds. Motion passed. Budget was approved.

Other Business

- Proposed Constitution Updates – President Lee Peterson provided a summary of the steps taken to update the Constitution for Chisago Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church included on pages 30 – 34 of the 2022 Annual Report. The Church Council recommends six Amendments to the CLLC Constitution and President Lee Peterson read and explained each Amendment.
 1. Decrease the number of voting members for a quorum.
 - C10.04 ~~Fifty (50)~~ Forty (40) voting members shall constitute a quorum.
 2. Delete the word “annual” in the third sentence of C11.02.
 - C11.02 The Congregation Council shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of this congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the ~~annual~~ meeting at which they are elected.
 3. Membership of Council (new language per Model Constitution)
 - C12.01 The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall total not more than 15 individuals, and consist of the pastor and/or deacons, the officers of this congregation, at least one of whom shall be a youth and at least one of whom shall be a young adult. Any voting member of this congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A

member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, this congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

4. Increase the dollar amount in item C12.05.c
 - o C12.05. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to ~~ten~~ twenty thousand dollars (~~\$10,000.00~~) (\$20,000.00) for items not included in the budget.
5. New wording for Duties of the Personnel Committee:
 - o C13.10.A96b. Secure written applications and references of applicants for staff positions; perform background checks ~~as required by statute~~ on all staff members, check previous employment records; be aware of the candidates knowledge and ability, formal training and experience, human relations sensitivity and skills, and understanding of and appreciation for the theology, worship and life of the Lutheran Church.
6. Insert 25 into blank space in item *C16.01
 - o *C16.01 Unless provision *C16.04. is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least 25 members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify this congregation's members of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.

- Lee Peterson moved to approve all Amendments. Jerry Vitalis seconds. Motion passed.
- Chris Lundberg moved to approve the updated Chisago Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church Constitution. Steve Grossmann seconds. Motion passed.
- Lee Peterson acknowledged Jenni Runte and Barb Wikelius for their time and work on updating the Church Constitution.

Announcements and acknowledgements:

- Bonnie Anderson called attention to the Chisago Lakes Community Meal Annual Report. Bonnie expressed appreciation for a recent donation. Volunteers are welcome and are needed to help serve on Mondays starting at 3:30. Bonnie's term is ending, and a vacant Board position is available.
- Bonnie Anderson was acknowledged for her work with the Chisago Lakes Community Meal.
- Marlee Eret announced that there are two openings in February for Sunday coffee servers. Both John and Marlee Eret were acknowledged for all their work in organizing Sunday morning coffee servers.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jerry Vitalis. Vince Schoon seconds. All in favor. Motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Following adjournment, Pastor Brian King shared a 2022 Chisago Lake Lutheran Ministry Highlight Video.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Lundberg

Highlights of the 2023 Year (Resolutions)

We thank and praise God for another year of abundant ministry at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church! We have been strengthened and sustained as members in the Body of Christ, for service in the world.

- We gave thanks for the faithful witness of 8 dearly departed saints who were called from this life in 2023, 5 members and 3 non-members. We grieve with their loved ones and give thanks for their lives.
- We were excited to welcome 8 new members through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and 26 new members who took part in New Member classes. We celebrate with these disciples among us and look forward to our ministry together!
- We give thanks for the elected congregational leaders who have given of their time and service on Council, Personnel, and 3M Committees. We express appreciation for those on the past Council for their years of service; Sally Barott, Katie Schneider, and Dave Johnson.
- We are grateful for the many people who share their time and talents with our ministry! All congregational leaders and committee members, faith formation leaders, vocalists and accompanists, those who serve in worship in every capacity, coffee servers, service groups, volunteer drivers, and many others!
- We express appreciation for Pastor Brian King for his spiritual guidance and leadership.
- We give thanks for the wonderful staff we have at Chisago Lake and their commitment to our ministry on a day-to-day basis; Sue Abrahamson, Stacy Johnson, Myrna Westen, Bob O'Neil, Stephanie Wendel, Bev Sandgren, and the cemetery and grounds staff: Jim Larson, Lee Turner and Terry Sellman.
- We express gratitude to God for the continued financial support of our members to the ministry of Chisago Lake Lutheran Church.
- We rejoice in the outreach ministries of our congregation such as:
 - Global Ministries – ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, Ilula Parish in Tanzania
 - Regional Ministries – Lutheran Social Services, St Paul Area Synod Mission Start congregations
 - Local Ministries – Family Pathways, Luther Point Camp, Ecumen of North Branch, Parmly Life Pointes, Meals on Wheels, Relay for Life, Quilters, Newborn Kits
 - Community Partners – Al Anon, Narcotics Anonymous, Community Thanksgiving Meal, Community Meals, Excelsior 4H Club
- We graciously accept the bequests and memorials, which have been given and encourage members of the congregation to remember our ministry in their wills and estate plans.

Pastoral Acts 2023

BAPTISMS: (8) Emily Mae Engel, Dorothy Faye Willaert, Margo Josephine Larson, Hendrix Lyle-James Andersen, Ryan Marie Olson, Lukas Paul King, Lilly Rae Lunzer, and Oakley Loren Reed.

CONFIRMATIONS (5/7/23): (6) Connor James Maxwell Bresnahan, Devin Mathew Enebak, Addison Marie Griffin, Cooper Michael Kedrowski, Emma Grace Keller, and Owen Benjamin Rambow.

MARRIAGES (4) Kelley Lemon and Jeffrey Goranson, Lisa McCulloch and Dave Hultman, Madelyn Jensen and Joseph Willaert, and Janice Simpson and Paul Morrison.

FUNERALS: (9) Mary Ann Burch, Darlene Reed, Deanna Bulen, Sally Barott, Richard Carlson, James Scherrer, Roger Brandle, Roger Couillard, and Jane Iverson.

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE: Sanctuary – 132, Facebook – 206, Youtube – 52, Total - 396

Congregational Ministries and Leaders 2023

Church Council Members – 2023

Pastor Brian King
Sally Barott
Jamie Carlson
Steve Grossmann
Dave Johnson
Chris Knight
Chris Lundberg
Lee Peterson
Lori Sampson
Katie Schneider

Cemetery Committee

Terry Sellman – Chair
Lee Turner – Secretary
Lloyd Stream
Dale Williams
Council Rep. – Lee Peterson

Christian Education Committee

Stacy Johnson – Staff
Jodi Gechart
Council Rep. – Dave Johnson

Christian Outreach/Caring Hands

Nancy Schoon
Judy Shoberg
Jan Schneider
Karen Campbell
Council Rep. – Lori Sampson

Finance Committee

Pastor Brian
Stephanie Wendel – Staff
Chris Lundberg
Dave Reed
Council Rep. - Dave Johnson

Friends of CLLC

Chris Lundberg – President
Heidi Gemuenden – Vice President
Barb Wikelius – Secretary
Bonnie Anderson – Treasurer

Historical Committee

Sally Barott and Mark Wikelius – Co-Chairs
Barb Wikelius – Secretary
Gary Anderson – Treasurer
Don Bungum
Janet Schneider
Mark Wolcott
Council Rep. – Chris Knight

Honorary Members -

Myron Johnson, Jean Remes & Don Bungum

Mission, Ministry & Memorial (3M Committee)

Pastor Brian
Jim Peterson
Mark Wikelius
Bonnie Anderson
Anna Burch
Scott Lundberg
Stephanie Wendel
Council Rep. - Dave Johnson

Personnel Committee

Pastor Brian
Rich Whitman
Rod Strenke
Dave Reed
Kristi Warner
Council Rep. – Chris Lundberg

Property Committee

Pastor Brian
Bob O'Neil – Staff
Carrie Benson – Chair
Sue Abrahamson
Mark Burch
Karl Ruser
Jackie Sellman
Terry Sellman
Council Rep. - Steve Grossmann

Stewardship Committee

Pastor Brian
Bonnie Anderson
Dave Johnson
Jim Peterson
Bev Sandgren
Council Rep – Sally Barott

W/ELCA

Susan Abrahamson & Vida Meland – Co-Chairs
Barb Wikelius – Secretary

Worship and Music Committee

Pastor Brian
Sue Abrahamson
Rod Strenke
Rana Tharaldson
Council Rep. – Jamie Carlson

Youth Committee

Stacy Johnson – Staff
Bev Sandgren – Treasurer
Sue Abrahamson
Janie Briggs
Missy Keller
Council Rep. – Katie Schneider

We Are Called to Welcome All & “Lead Beyond Our Walls!”

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” – Matthew 28:19-20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace as we enter a new year of God’s amazing grace!

Acts 1:8 says, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Truly, 2023 was a Spirit-led and Spirit-filled year for our family in faith at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church as we continued to heed the call to be God’s witnesses “to the ends of the earth”!

Over and over, we witnessed the faithfulness of God at work in our life together and through the generosity of our members. It is God’s grace and faithfulness that enabled us to reach out beyond the narrow confines of our building and membership and it is your generous response to this gift of grace that has made all of the following possible:

- Through your prayers, gifts and service, Chisago Lake Lutheran continued to open our doors to the larger community in a variety of ways including: hosting a weekly men’s and women’s Bible study; hosting 2 series of New Member Classes and welcoming nearly 40 new members through these classes and baptisms; hosting weekly 4-H, Al-Anon, and Narcotics Anonymous meetings; hosting the Community Thanksgiving Meal here along with our faithful and significant support of the weekly free community meal served at Zion Lutheran in Chisago City; hosting numerous on site children’s and student ministry events and classes; continuing to serve our neighbors through generous support of the local Family Pathways Food Pantry (conducting the largest single drive they have ever had), offering various training opportunities for staff and members in CPR and use of our two new onsite AEDs; not to mention offering meeting space for numerous outside groups and organizations throughout the year, including several large community concerts. In addition, we sponsored a TeenServe Workcamp experience for a number of our high school students who completed significant free home renovations for people in need in Iowa Falls, Iowa.
- At a time when many churches of all sizes struggled to meet budgets, your generous support of our mission enabled us to end 2023 with receipts above expenses totaling over \$28,000 in our General Fund. We were also able to complete work on a significant water

mitigation project totaling over \$125,000.00 with many special above and beyond gifts making this possible.

- We also continue to provide financial support to the St. Paul Area Synod to impact the lives of local neighbors in need through our Synod partnerships that support theological education, domestic and international hunger and disaster relief and our companion congregation relationship with the Ilula Parish in Tanzania.
- We have also watched our in person and online participation increase dramatically in one year going from a total of 182 people per week (in person and online) to 396 people per week. And we continue to reach new people, guests and visitors each week!

These are **just a few** examples of how your time, talents and money support, encourage, inspire, and transform the lives of others through the power of the good news of Jesus Christ!

As we enter 2024, we find ourselves asking fresh questions about how we can continue to expand and grow our ministry and outreach in our 170th year and beyond. I am also hopeful that a series of “cottage meetings this year” and the beginning of a visioning and strategic planning process at CLLC this year will invite each of us and the congregation as a whole to examine and consider what more we can do and be and give for the cause of Christ in Center City, Chisago County, and beyond in the years to come. I believe that this coming time of reflection and planning will leave us poised to re-focus and re-double our efforts to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus.

May the Holy Spirit of God continue to empower each of you as together we bear witness to Jesus’ love. **“Grounded in the Gospel. Guided by the Spirit.” May we continue to be a people and place of grace!**

With Thanks for the Privilege of Serving as Your Pastor,

Pastor Brian

Chisago Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council President's Annual Report 2023

"Grounded in the Gospel, Guided by the Spirit in the name of Christ and by His example, Chisago Lake Lutheran Church openly welcomes, shares, educates and serves." – Chisago Lake Lutheran Church Mission Statement

I became a member of Chisago Lake Lutheran Church shortly after my husband and I were married here in our beautiful Sanctuary in December 1988. Through the years I have had the pleasure to serve alongside many of you when teaching Sunday school, mentoring confirmation classes, serving on committees, and participating in projects, special events and meals. This year it has been a privilege to serve as the Church Council President. I feel truly blessed and inspired to be part of this welcoming congregation that gives so generously and abundantly of their time, talents, and gifts.

As I reflect on the past year, I would like to thank my fellow Church Council members for their leadership, friendship, and selfless service to God and to our congregation. Sadly, in March, Sally Barott, Council member and lifelong CLLC member passed away. Her passion for our church, community and Swedish heritage was heartfelt and she has been dearly missed.

In March, at the Council retreat, we brainstormed ideas that we titled "Hopes and Dreams for CLLC." One theme that stood out during our discussion was the desire for more community outreach or community involvement outside the walls of the church. This past year the re-organized and energized Outreach Committee sponsored many in-reach and outreach opportunities. Their efforts and enthusiasm are praiseworthy, and I am looking forward to seeing what this team is envisioning for 2024.

Two special congregational meetings were held in 2023 to receive approval for important projects; a sinkhole and erosion project along the upper parking lot and a water mitigation project to locate the source of water flowing into the education building. The sinkhole project has been temporarily put on hold and plans are in place to repair and restore the affected area in 2024 in partnership with the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District. The water mitigation project was completed in July. The source of the water breach was a large hole in the exterior wall near the patio doors that was discovered during the excavation of the area. The hole was repaired, and the area was graded and prepped for future development. Thank you to everyone that attended the two special congregational meetings. Your voice and vote are important and appreciated! Thank you, Property Committee members, for all your work on the special projects and for all that you do daily to keep our facilities running smoothly.

Thank you to all that serve on committees. Your dedication, time and energy have made a meaningful impact on our common mission. I encourage all to read the committee reports within this Annual Report to learn more about the varied activities and important work that happened throughout the year. Our committees are always looking to add members. If you have an interest in joining a committee, please consider attending an All-Committee Night, the second Tuesday of each month. A light dinner and fellowship start at 6:30 p.m. and committee meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Thank you, Pastor Brian, for your enthusiasm, leadership, and meaningful worship services. A special thank you to our staff: Sue Abrahamson, Braydon Bresnahan, Stacy Johnson, Jim Larson, Bob O'Neil, Bev Sandgren, Stephanie Wendel, Myrna Westen and all volunteers for the hard work and faithful service you provide in supporting our mission and ministry.

Looking forward to 2024, our congregation will celebrate its 170th anniversary on May 12th. We are planning a few special events to celebrate this milestone. The Church Council also plans on hosting round table discussions throughout the year. Please consider attending as we want to hear what your hopes and dreams are for Chisago Lake Lutheran Church.

In Christ,

Chris Lundberg
Church Council President

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17



*You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.
Psalm 65:11 (ELW)*

The year 2023 brought us again to in-person worship and events after the long disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic. What we did not do as a synod was to return to everything as it had been before. Recognizing that God always calls us forward into a new future, congregations discovered myriad ways to build on the lessons and new practices learned during the pandemic. Likewise, the synod embraced new ways of doing familiar things and experimented with new ideas and programs.

Here are some highlights of the investment of time and energy by the synod office during 2023. All these are made possible because of the generous financial support that passes from congregations to the synod. Thank you for helping us be a church together as we all find ways to be faithful to our callings in a changing and complex world.

An undeniable highlight was the presentation of a check for \$1,000,000 to Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota during Synod Assembly last May. The check is for renovations to a building that will house the Families Together East Side Preschool on the lower level of Grace Lutheran Church in St. Paul. This partnership is one of the pillars of The Planting Hope Campaign, which has raised \$1,473,861 to date at the end of December 2023. This is one half of our overall campaign goal.

In addition to this transformational work with LSS-MN, in 2023 we also launched the first summer of paid internships, funded through The Planting Hope Campaign. From June through August, nine young adults served in a variety of congregations and Lutheran agencies. We are grateful for the work of Pastor Bristol Reading (St. Luke, St. Paul) in overseeing this project. Also, we gave significant financial support to congregational vitality through the campaign. Those investments are detailed later in this report.

Alongside the work of The Planting Hope Campaign, congregations like yours continue to contribute toward our budget of \$1,885,000 in mission support. Fiscal Year 2023 ends on January 31, 2024 and we hope to be at the goal by then. Again, thank you for seeing how your congregation's work is supported and expanded through our common funding of synod and ELCA churchwide ministries. Despite needing to navigate new realities in a post-pandemic world, God continues to crown our efforts with God's abundance. The synod's financial work is guided by David Roinas.

During 2023 there were 28 persons in the candidacy process, preparing to serve the wider church as pastors or deacons. Currently, 22 persons are serving their first call in the Saint Paul Area Synod. They also participate in a structured program of First Call Theological Education (FCTE). Both candidacy work and FCTE are led by Deacon Krista Lind. This past year two candidates received calls in other synods. As you might imagine, this work is important for the church today and for the church in the coming years.

Candidates ordained in 2023 include Pastor Jennifer Luong, Pastor Jua Jay Her, Pastor Carrie Stiles, Pastor Amy Vigesaa, Pastor Reed Fowler, Deacon Katherine Lindberg. We also received Pastor Stanley Ayashim, recently ordained in the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, as a first call pastor through our partnership with the Lutheran World Federation. We welcome these seven new rostered ministers.

In addition to first call candidates, the synod staff works with call committees in more than two dozen congregations each year. In addition, the call manual was revised this past year and new protocols were developed to assist congregations to be open and ready to receive candidates who are persons of color or from the LGBTQIA community. As a synod, we know how important the gifts of all leaders are to the work of God's church.

During times of transition, the synod finds pastors and deacons to serve in interim roles. Those serving in interim ministry meet monthly for prayer, mutual support and learning and are directed by Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer. With Rachel Holsten, front office administrator and registrar, Rolf coordinated the Tool Kit for Congregational Leaders in February, which brought together 165 participants from 52 congregations. The two most attended workshops addressed issues of racism and implicit bias, issues which matter to all of us in this synod. In 2023, the synod also inaugurated the Deeper Dive series, a Zoom gathering for presidents and vice presidents. Twenty-four congregations participated in this inaugural series of monthly leadership training and support.

The synod also provides other initiatives to address congregational vitality. These workshops, which include Tools for the Church, Spiritual Gifts, Stewardship for All Seasons, Building a Culture of Generosity, and Liberating Structures, are led by Pastor Justin Grimm and members of the vitality team. In 2023, participants numbered more than 300.

Serving as mission developers and redevelopers during 2023 were Pastor Liz Eide, Lutheran Church of Peace; Pastor Jon Yurk, Christ the Servant; Pastor Thomas Tsen, Minnesota Faith Chinese; Pastor Dale Stiles, St. Paul in Wyoming; Pastor William Siong and Pastor Jua Jay Her at Eternal Flame; Pastor Gilo Agwa, Foundation of Life; Pastor Jodi Houge, Humble Walk; Deacon Kari Olson, Shobi's Table; and Pastor Ana Becerra, Cristo Rey. Pastors Ben and Kristen Eisele (Farmington Lutheran) completed an exploration for mission possibilities in Rosemount. When asked what is new (or renewed) in this synod, it's easy to see fresh ideas in all these settings.

During 2023 church groups were again able to travel to our partner churches in Guatemala and Tanzania. Five congregational groups were hosted by the Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG). Two members of the Guatemala Committee, Janet Metcalfe and Jennifer Reinhardt, participated in an ELCA Global Mission international consultation in November. In 2023, 200 individuals from 16 congregations, nine affiliate organizations and two colleges traveled to the Iringa Diocese. As bishop, I was also thankful to be with our partners in Tanzania this past November.

The generosity of members of the synod supports our global companions with scholarships, emergency aid, congregation-to-congregation partnerships, and through prayer. Staff members Kirsten Levorson and Susan Seidel oversee the work of Bega Kwa Bega, which we undertake with our siblings in Tanzania.

A grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. allowed additional opportunities for pastors to be well equipped for today's challenges. Synod pastors of color and the synod program staff participated in a facilitated retreat in Sedona, Ariz., in February. In addition, this past year 19 pastors, deacons, mentors, and a facilitator were a part of the Second Act cohort for rostered ministers in their fourth through tenth years of service. Our Lilly grant programs are directed by Leslie Ortiz.

Behind the scenes, Mary Smith oversaw the launch of our new website (spas-elca.org), along with 51 editions of the weekly *News and Events* newsletter, 40 companion synod newsletters, 300 social media posts, and other essential communication from the synod. (You can sign up to receive our newsletters at spas-elca.org/subscribe-to-synod-news.)

With all this creative work of the synod staff, you may wonder what the bishop does. As bishop, I work on governance with the Synod Council and Executive Committee, as well as meeting with the finance committee. I ordain new pastors and deacons and preach regularly (29 times in congregations, synod and churchwide events in 2023). I help plan the Bishop's Theological Conference and gatherings of the ministerium. I represent the synod on institutional boards and at ecumenical and inter-religious gatherings. I am a member of the Conference of Bishops and through 2023 served as a liaison bishop on the ELCA Church Council, as well as co-chairing the Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue. I work with congregations in times of conflict and oversee the discipline of rostered ministers, when needed. Best of all, I serve as a pastor for the pastors and deacons in this synod, meeting regularly with individual leaders.

If you have visited the synod office, you know that we are not a large-scale operation; but if you think about the range of ministry we do together in this synod, you know our collective impact is mighty. We can do so much because of the dedicated talent of the individuals on the synod staff. I am grateful for all that Rachel, Mary, David, Kirsten, Susan, Rolf, Justin, Krista and Leslie have accomplished this past year. I am also grateful for the work Ryan and Astine Bose did in the first half of the year as our short-term volunteers in Iringa. I hope you will join me in thanking the synod staff when you see or speak to them.

Yours in God's service,



Bishop Patricia Lull



105 University Avenue West, St. Paul MN 55103
651-224-4313 | www.spas-elca.org

Cemetery Annual Report

2023

It was a very dry year, we laid off our helper because there was little grass to mow and to save money with expenses.

Thank you to Jim Larson and Terry Sellman for their hard work this year and there were no major repairs on any equipment this year.

There were 38 graves sold this year and 14 burials in 2023.

Lee Turner

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

2023 brought many different opportunities for Children and Youth to grow in faith and to share the love of Christ with others. It has been a joy to walk with children and youth in their faith journeys. Throughout the year, we offered many programs and activities that we hope will help to foster spiritual growth and fellowship. A few of the highlights from the year include:

Confirmation: In the spring, we confirmed 6 youth in 8th & 9th Grades. This fall, we moved confirmation back to the evenings! 7th and 8th graders now gather with a parent for a meal and confirmation classes. 6th graders are not yet in confirmation, so they have their own youth group time. And we are joining together for confirmation retreats. Mentoring; 7th-9th graders, met with their mentors once a month to grow in faith and make a connection another adult in their lives.

Sunday School: Sunday School continues to follow a four-year rotation of Bible stories, and each story is usually covered over the course of two weeks. We have some wonderful volunteers who have helped to teach Sunday School and make sure the children know that they are loved by God and loved by their congregation. The Children did a wonderful job presenting their Christmas Program based on the book, "All the Colors of Christmas" and sharing the story of Jesus' birth.

Chris Ed: Along with Sunday School, we have continued to include our faith milestones. A wonderful group participated in their Communion Milestone, "Welcome to the Table" last spring. We held several Pray and Play days, where the Elementary Children came for a fun "VBS" type event on a day off of School. Zion and Trinity joined us at CLLC for these fun days.

VBS: Our VBS theme of "Tree of healing" helped us learn how we are uniquely created to share the love of God with others. With funds from our Easter Breakfast, a Thrivent Grant, and 3M funds, we offered VBS at no cost to our participants! We had close to 40 children attend, and 20 volunteers throughout the week. It takes a lot of help to pull off a week of VBS, and we had an amazing group of Volunteers that came forward to help!

Fundraisers: Our fundraisers this year included: Take out Lasagna Dinner, Flower Sale, Palm Sunday Breakfast, Easter Rolls, Rummage Sale and Lefse Sale. The fundraisers not only help support our Children and Youth programs, but also provide a chance for community and fellowship among families.

Mission Trip: After a fabulous confirmation retreat in the spring, 4 of our recently confirmed youth were inspired to go on a summer mission trip. In June, they embarked on a week-long mission trip to Iowa Falls, IA. It was such a gift to see them grow in their faith, to build friendships, and to discover a joy that comes from serving others.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement of the children and youth at CLLC!

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Johnson, Children, Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator



Chisago Lakes Community Meal 2023 Annual Report to Chisago Lake Lutheran Church

CLCM Ministry Goals:

- ❖ *To provide a free, nutritious meal to anyone who walks in the door every Monday from 4-6 pm.*
- ❖ *To provide an opportunity for social interaction for those living in isolation or in need of company.*

The Chisago Lakes Community Meal is a combined ministry of Chisago Lake Lutheran, Trinity, First United Methodist, and Zion Lutheran churches. It is through their leadership, financial and spiritual support that this ministry thrives. We welcomed Maranatha-Chisago Lakes Campus to this ministry team as a sponsoring church in December.

Thank You to Chisago Lakes Community Meal Team Members in 2023:

Bonnie Anderson, Chair (CLLC)	Barb Prindle, Secretary (First United Methodist)
Sue Frame, Treasurer (Zion)	Dorothy Lecy, Vice Chair (First United Methodist)
Pastor Sarah Kerkes (Zion)	Katsy Hanson (Trinity)
Carol Hetrick (Trinity)	Marlee Eret (CLLC)
Pat Pojanowski (Zion)	Nikki Battles, Consultant
Jenny Ristow (Community member At Large)	
Pastor Brian King (CLLC)	

Thank you to our CLCM employees, LeRoy Mitchell, as head cook, and Deb Thompson as kitchen assistant, who purchase, plan, and prepare the meals.

Thank you to Emmy Lundeen (Zion) for coordinating our volunteers and working with various community groups and with our ministry team members to provide the servers and helpers each week.

Meal Success in 2023

We served 12,220 meals in 2023! We thanked the **1142 volunteers** who helped serve our guests. We welcomed **274 first time guests** to the meal and sent **1576 meals home** to guests who were unable to get out to see us.

Ministry details in the works:

- The Chisago Lakes Community Meal is coordinated by a team of volunteers; 2 representatives from each sponsoring church and Pastor Sarah as the host pastor. All sponsoring pastors are welcome to attend team meetings.
- In December, a MOU (memorandum of understanding) was created which defines the details and expectations of the partnership between Zion and the CLCM team involving the use of Zion's space and resources.
- In December, a MOU was created which defines the details and expectations of the ministry partner churches and Zion as related to sponsoring the CLCM.
- We await directions from the Zion council regarding our request for signage prohibiting guns at CLCM.

Chisago Lakes Community Meal Financial Report (Jan 1- Dec 31, 2023)

2023 Expenditures:

Food and supplies:	(\$ 28,722.70)
Salaries:	(\$ 11,050.00)
Total:	(\$ 39,772.70)

2023 Donations:	\$39,786.81
Difference	\$ 14.11

Bank Balance as of December 31, 2023: \$22,708.17

*** (We reopened the meal in June 2022 with a balance of \$23,544.58 which was money previously donated but left unspent during the Covid pandemic closing.)*

**We like to say this is truly a community meal:
Enjoyed by, served by, and funded by a community for their neighbors.**

Submitted with Gratitude,
Sue Frame, CLCM Treasurer, Zion Lutheran Church
Bonnie Anderson, CLCM team member, Chisago Lake Lutheran Church

CLLC Historical Committee Annual Report for the Year 2023

The Historical Committee met in February, and then monthly in April through November. We were happy to receive a few historic items and monetary donations for the archives and have kept the Heritage Room in order. The photographs of our pastors were reframed and a new heavy-duty storage shelf was purchased for the room.

Members of the committee helped plan a “Grumpy Old Men” worship service for February 12th, which was during “Celebration of the Lakes” weekend. In March we were saddened by the death of Sally Barott, long-time committee Chairperson. Sally created and promoted the “Grumpy Old Men” theme, based on the movie scene that was filmed at our church in 1992. The Heritage Room was open to visitors after the funeral service. Our committee is planning a memorial tribute to Sally.

We hosted a concert in our sanctuary by the American Swedish Institute Male Chorus on Friday, May 12th in recognition of the 169th Anniversary of our congregation. We served coffee and cookies after the concert, and also during the fellowship hour the following Sunday.

There were six church tours this year, with a total of 105 guests. We were honored to have a visit by our Saint Paul Area Synod Staff. We also helped welcome several new members who joined our congregation, with an introductory tour and copy of our church history book. The Heritage Room is open for visitors during the fellowship hour on the second Sunday of each month, and by request.

We welcomed Tanya Dubbs to our committee. We would like to have more members. We appreciate the people from our congregation who helped us with tours and serving food at events.

Historical Fund for 2023:

Balance December 31, 2022	\$3,761.23
Receipts	\$ 913.02
Disbursements	\$ 207.97
Balance December 31, 2023	\$4,466.28

Co-Chairs (January-March): Sally Barott and Mark Wikelius

Chairperson (April-December): Barbara Wikelius

Secretary (January-March): Barbara Wikelius

Secretary (April-December): Chris Knight

Treasurer: Gary Anderson

Council Representative: Chris Knight

Committee Members: Tanya Dubbs, Janet Schneider, Mark Wikelius, Mark Wolcott

Memorial, Mission and Ministry Committee

Annual Report for 2023

The Memorial, Mission and Ministry Committee (3M) is responsible for the administration of the Memorial Fund, the Perpetual Fund, and two named endowments (Valerie Mattson Campership Fund and Chisago Lake Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund). This year the committee has also played an administrative role in providing scholarships funded by the Gladys L. Johnson Scholarship Fund.

We are grateful for the many gifts, memorials and bequests that have been given to Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in 2023. The Memorial, Mission and Ministry (3M) Fund consists of the Memorial Fund and the Perpetual Fund. The Memorial Fund had grown considerably over the past several years making funds available to support many needed projects. With Council approval, it has been possible to make funds available (approximately \$540,000) from the Memorial Fund during the past three years for the following major projects:

- Replacing the roof on the Fellowship Building
- Technology to support streaming services
- Entrance, sidewalk, drainage project
- Parsonage remodeling
- Parking lot drainage repair
- Water mitigation project

Many other smaller projects have been funded in 2023; especially in support of the Community Outreach area.

The Perpetual Fund has grown slightly during this time of economic uncertainty. This fund (approximately \$500,000) provides a safety blanket for the congregation of the future.

During 2023, 10 scholarships were awarded using funds from the Chisago Lake Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Committee was also able to distribute an additional 12 scholarships using funds from the Gladys L. Johnson Scholarship Fund.

The committee would ask that church members continue to remember their church as they consider making donations, gifts and planning bequests.

I would like to thank the members of the committee who have been diligent in their discussions and decisions. A special thank you to Dave Johnson (Church Council representative and Treasurer) and to Stephanie Wendel who has been very helpful in providing accounting expertise and helping the committee members understand the financial complexities.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Wikelius, Chairperson
Jim Peterson, Financial Secretary
Bonnie Anderson, Recording Secretary
Anna Burch, Scott Lundberg, Pastor Brian King
Dave Johnson, Council Representative

Outreach Team 2023 Year End Report

Team Members: Sue Abrahamson, Sara Peterson & Karen Campbell
Council Rep: Lori Sampson

Initial meeting was held in April of 2023 followed by monthly meetings held through December of 2023. Meetings held during All Committee Night.

At the initial meeting, discussions were held regarding how encompassing Outreach can be and that reviving the Outreach Team seemed overwhelming. Although Outreach is a separate committee (Team) in actuality, Outreach intersects with many other committees and events that already occur within our congregation and community.

Pastor Brian brought ideas for Outreach to consider which included in-reach, marketing/community, local missions and international outreach. After much discussion the Team decided to start with some small events within the community and congregation. Event items were purchased and were used through the summer and fall.

Outreach had a presence at many events this summer and we are very thankful to all the individuals that helped.

The events we participated in included the following:

Karl Oscar Days 5K Recovery Area (served Chocolate Milk); Harmony in Park ran Plinko game with prizes; Saturday Morning Walking Group; Center City Days, assisted with Games at Pig Roast and Parade Walking Unit; Internal Prayer Chain Group; God's Work Our Hands Day put together First Responder Baskets with giant candy cards; Trick or Treat on Main Street; Fall Tea with Bingo; multiple tailgate parties at away high school football games serving hotdogs and lemonade; Webstore selling clothing with our church logo and Thermal Coffee Mugs with goodies for visitors. New exterior and interior signage and banners were also purchased to make our entryways more welcoming and allow us to better represent CLLC at community events. We are beginning to work on a "welcome basket" that can be shared by members with neighbors/colleagues who are new to the community.

The Outreach Team's efforts to promote a renewed excitement about Chisago Lake Lutheran Church within our congregation along with excitement and presence in the community was successful for 2023 and we are looking forward to 2024.

Respectfully submitted and Peace in Christ.

Outreach Team (Committee)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Personnel Committee is made up of four members elected at the annual congregation meeting with staggered 3-year terms. Members in 2023 are: Kristi Warner, Rich Whitman, Rod Strenke, and Dave Reed. We have a non-voting Council Representative, currently Chris Lundberg. Pastor Brian attends and provides leadership.

In April, Myrna Westen was hired. Myrna provides the music accompaniment on piano and organ during worship services as well as coordinating special music for services with congregational members.

We were asked to review our annual salary adjustments for employee annual reviews. We discussed the expected impact of inflation and merit parameters. Guidelines were recommended to Council.

At our December meeting, we reviewed employment agreements and discussed the Personnel Committee's Purpose and Duties from the By-Laws and the Employee Handbook. We also discussed the new Earned Sick and Safe Time law going into effect on January 1, 2024.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

With the gift of service, and making use of available resources to meet our needs and help accomplish the desired goals, we give thanks to our Lord.

This year 2023 was a busy year to get things done. We were blessed with the resources to accomplish these 2023 projects;

The patio area was removed in preparation for the Dewatering project. The transformer was relocated from the patio area to the north lawn of the education building. The dewatering and landscaping along with electrical work was complete in September. This was a beautiful job and a special thanks to the Peterson Companies and Lakeridge Electric.

Along with many routine maintenance issues that get addressed through out the year, we installed three park benches to the front entrance area. The roof fence was repaired. Then upper and lower parking lot and parsonage drive was seal coated. The carillon, clock and bells were repaired. The lower parking lot east entrance had some patch work done. The hot water boiler was replaced with a conventional hot water heater.

The sink hole project is still on hold due to the County Engineer review. There are several projects that have to be addressed in 2024. We have a heating boiler that needs to be replaced. We continue to have new water issues and will need some side walk repair done.

We as a committee we are grateful for our staff Bob O'Neil, Facilities Manager, who is steadfast in cleaning and maintain our Lord's House.

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Respectfully submitted

Steve Grossmann- Council Representative

Property Committee Members; Sue Abrahamson, Jackie Sellman, Carrie Benson, Donna Grossmann, Mark Burch, Gordy Carlson, Terry Sellman, Karl Ruser, Bob O'Neal, Steve Grossmann Council Representative

Stewardship Annual Report for 2023

Mark's Gospel continuously reminds us that servanthood is what makes us great. How does that apply to our money? Money has no intrinsic value. It's only as good as those things we can trade for it. What if we thought about money, time, and talent, as stored servanthood? What if we looked at our bank account balance and asked, "How am I releasing what's entrusted to me as a follower and servant of Christ?" Our congregation, the St. Paul Area Synod, and the ELCA, like you, need money to operate so that they can release what you entrust to them in our common mission – to serve those in need in the name of Christ. Even the utility bills, the salaries, the lawn service, and the property insurance serve that end. Of all the sayings of Jesus, the top subject is "the kingdom of God," but in second place is money. How we use it is an important gauge of our spiritual health. When people complain that the church is always talking about money, they need to consider "taking it up with Jesus."

Money is neither good nor evil. It's all about what we do with it. Or, what we don't do with it. Money is NOT the root of all evil, but the love of money is. Stuff. The more we get, the more we want. If you find the church asking you to share your money offensive, consider this: almost everything you do involves some sort of financial transaction. If you don't pay, you can expect a call. They generally start off friendly, but ignore them and that changes quickly. The church doesn't bill anyone for services, yet somehow, some remain appalled when asked.

Your government (Caesar), your hairdresser/barber, your favorite restaurant, the airlines, and gas stations will come after you if you avail yourselves of their services and don't pay. The church won't. You can make an appointment for counseling and pastoral conversation, you can show up at worship each week, you can participate in numerous educational programs, and you won't get a bill. Your pastor and lay ministers will come to see you in the hospital, but you won't get a bill. We will baptize your babies, bury your parents, and go to great lengths to make this place of worship beautiful and comfortable. We'll also feed the hungry, care for the homebound, sick and grieving, educate young and old, respond to disasters, and support the ministries of the larger church. No bill for any of it. We simply say, "The Gospel needs you. Will you help?"

As you have responded to this call to help others in the name of Jesus through sharing your time, talents and treasures, please accept our profound thanks for you and the ways in which you support and share in the ministries of this family in faith!

Our congregation finished the year in the black with a surplus in excess of expenses in 2023 of \$23,000.

Our stewardship pledges in support of our mission and ministry in 2024 totaled 61 pledges totaling \$190,112. Your pledges are essential as we seek to build a balanced budget for each new year and every gift no matter its size is a blessing to our life and work together!

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Chisago Lake Lutheran Church
Annual Report for 2023

Our purpose statement reads: “As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.”

In order “to grow in faith, affirm our gifts and support one another in our callings” two circles meet monthly for Bible Study. Women of the ELCA provides lessons through *Gather* Magazine. Circles also connect with homebound “Special Friends” through visits, cards and small gifts at Christmas or birthdays. Large print devotional booklets are available for anyone who requests them.

“Engaging in ministry and action” is accomplished in several ways. Through our offerings we help support ELCA Global Missionaries, Churchwide Women of the ELCA and the Saint Paul Area Synodical Women’s Organization. Dedicated quilters and other volunteers have assembled hundreds of quilts for local relief agencies and Newborn Kits for Global Health Ministries. We have been able to keep the kitchen maintained and supplied with basic foods for use by the congregation. Many funeral lunches have been provided by way of service groups. Women of the congregation serve in all areas of church life. A major fundraiser for the congregation is the annual bazaar which is held each December.

Sue Abrahamson, Chair
Barbara Wikelius, Secretary

Worship & Music Report for 2023

“But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.” John 4:23

In 2023 Chisago Lake Lutheran Church celebrated its 169th year of mission and ministry as we continued to center our congregational life around weekly worship that is “Grounded in the Gospel. Guided by the Spirit.” We have also added a regular tagline that states: “We are a people and place of grace!” which is resonating well with members, guests, and visitors alike.

2023 has witnessed a number of significant additions and changes in our worship life at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church (CLLC) while preserving and even reintroducing many long-held practices and cherished aspects of traditional worship.

Among our most notable changes, additions and accomplishments this year are:

- We re-introduced our “Grumpy Old Men” service in February attracting many visitors.
- We introduced the use of screens/monitors at most services aimed especially at assisting guests and visitors, people with “babes in arms,” and those who struggle to navigate multiple books and bulletins. Use of photos and video in worship is now possible and has been largely well-received.
- We have re-introduced more traditional elements of Lutheran worship including the Kyrie, Hymn of Praise, and Great Thanksgiving. We have also returned to a more traditional offertory.
- We continued use of our new bulletin format which has been very well-received by members and guest alike.
- We began offering a new midweek worship service: “Take 2 on Tuesdays” which is beginning to gain traction with folks who are otherwise unable to worship in person on Sundays.
- We completed a thorough cleaning and re-organization of the sacristy storage areas.
- We continued to offer the Tree of Life Choir for children under the direction of Barb Yotter, and have hired Myrna Westen as our regular worship accompanist.
- We have seen overall worship attendance increase dramatically from 2022-2023 as follows: In person weekly attendance went from 88 to 132; Facebook went from 75 to 206; YouTube went from 19 to 52; and overall attendance went from 182 to 396 with new faces, guests and visitors from all demographics (young couples and families, older singles and couples, single young adults).

Finally, we join with the whole congregation in thanking Myrna Westen for her faithful musical accompaniment, Brayden Bresnahan for his work with all our worship audio-video needs, Barb Yotter for her work leading our Children's Tree of Life Choir, Donna Grossman for her leadership of our Altar Guild, and for the MANY committed and friendly greeters, ushers, communion assistants, vocalists, and musicians who share their time and talents to contribute to the vibrancy and faithfulness of our worship life at CLLC. Well done, good and faithful servants!

With our focus on lifting Christ up and making Christ known, we look forward to what God has in store for our congregation in this 170th year of worship here at 1 Summit Avenue in Center City!

Submitted by the Worship & Music Committee

Chisago Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church Constitution Amendments Approved January 29, 2023

The following six Constitution Amendments were approved at the 169th Annual Meeting of Chisago Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church on January 29, 2023. Following congregational approval, the updated Church Constitution was sent to the Synod Office where it was reviewed and approved. The final step is to ratify the updated Church Constitution at the 170th Annual Business Meeting.

C10.04. Forty (40) voting members shall constitute a quorum.

C11.02. The Congregation Council shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of this congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected.

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall total not more than 15 individuals, and consist of the pastor and/or the deacon, the officers of this congregation, and members of this congregation, at least one of whom shall be a youth and at least one of whom shall be a young adult. Any voting member of this congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, this congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

C12.05. c. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) for items not included in the budget.

C13.10.A96 b. Secure written applications and references of applicants for staff positions; perform background checks on all staff members; check previous employment records; be aware of the candidates knowledge and ability, formal training and experience, human relations sensitivity and skills, and understanding of and appreciation for the theology, worship and life of the Lutheran Church

*C16.01. Unless provision *C16.04. is applicable, those sections of this constitution that are not required, in accord with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be amended in the following manner. Amendments may be proposed by at least twenty-five (25) voting members or by the Congregation Council. Proposals must be filed in writing with the Congregation Council 60 days before formal consideration by this congregation at a regular or special Congregation Meeting called for that purpose. The Congregation Council shall notify this congregation's members of the proposal together with the council's recommendations at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. Notification may take place by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law.

CHISAGO LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MEMORIAL, MISSION, AND MINISTRY FUND

Line	General Memorial Funds	Balance 1/1/2023	Annual Received	Annual Distributed	Investment Gain/(Loss)	Balance 12/31/2023
1.00	Community Outreach	\$ 113,587.18	\$23,107.82	\$6,242.29		\$ 130,452.71
1.01	- Compassion Kits	\$ 125.00				\$ 125.00
1.02	- Illula Scholarships	\$ 550.00	\$ 600.00			\$ 1,150.00
1.03	- Quilters	\$ 846.88	\$ 80.00			\$ 926.88
	- Benevolence		\$ 280.00			\$ 280.00
1.04	- Thanksgiving Dinner	\$ 350.00				\$ 350.00
1.05	- Community and Synod	\$ 1,075.25				\$ 1,075.25
1.06	- ELCA Mission	\$ 2,000.00				\$ 2,000.00
1.07	- Other Enhancing CLLC Mission Outreach	\$ 3,345.32		\$3,345.32		\$ -
	Total Community Outreach	\$ 121,879.63	\$24,067.82	\$9,587.61		\$ 136,359.84
2.00	Building & Capital Improvement					\$ -
2.01	- Building Improvement	\$ 25,580.11	\$32,218.32	\$3,575.00		\$ 54,223.43
	- Sidewalk Repair Contribution	\$ 13,235.12	\$168.00			\$ 13,403.12
	- Sidewalk Repair Costs	\$ (43,133.08)				\$ (43,133.08)
2.01.01	- Air conditioning	\$ 1,590.00				\$ 1,590.00
2.01.02	- Elevator Upgrade	\$ 1,210.00				\$ 1,210.00
2.01.03	- Fire Suppression System - Sanctuary	\$ 1,000.00				\$ 1,000.00
2.02	- Building Repairs	\$ 1,805.00				\$ 1,805.00
2.02.01	- Parking Lot Repair	\$ 200.00				\$ 200.00
2.03	- Landscaping	\$ 488.43				\$ 488.43
2.03.01	- Landscaping - Historic Front of Church	\$ 6,667.13		\$1,610.00		\$ 5,057.13
2.03.02	- Signage	\$ 890.00				\$ 890.00
	Total Building & Capital Improvement	\$ 9,532.71	\$32,386.32	\$5,185.00		\$ 36,734.03
3.00	Worship & Music	\$ 792.41	\$100.00			\$ 892.41
3.01	- Altar Guild	\$ 1,238.42		\$393.00		\$ 845.42
3.02	- Organ and Piano fund	\$ 3,086.54				\$ 3,086.54
	Total Worship and Music	\$ 5,117.37	\$100.00	\$393.00	\$0.00	\$ 4,824.37
4.00	Christian Education and Youth	\$ 7,360.65		\$367.50		\$ 6,993.15
	Total Christian Education and Youth	\$ 7,360.65	\$0.00	\$367.50	\$0.00	\$ 6,993.15
5.00	Undesignated	\$ 26,484.57	\$1,333.95	\$27,818.52		\$ -
5.01	- Committee Discretion	\$ 241,126.99	\$34,661.71	\$2,800.00		\$ 275,312.40
	- Parsonage Project	\$ (139,323.70)	\$ 5,331.69	\$ 3,007.99		\$ (137,000.00)
	- Water Mitigaton Project	\$ -		\$ 110,656.13		\$ (110,656.13)
5.02	- Discretionary Fund	\$ 950.00				\$ 950.00
5.03	- Carrie Holmquist Estate	\$ 25,000.00				\$ 25,000.00
5.04	- Myrtle Berglund - Bequest	\$ 14,086.95	-\$5,331.69	\$1,117.14		\$ 7,638.12
	- Parsonage Project	\$ -				\$ -
5.06	Vanco Fees	\$ -		\$16.73		\$ (16.73)
5.07	- Gain or (Loss) on Investments	\$ 29,699.31			\$14,221.88	\$ 43,921.19
	Total Undesignated Funds	\$ 198,024.12	\$35,995.66	\$145,416.51	\$14,221.88	\$ 102,825.15
6.00	Funds to be moved from General Memorial Funds					
6.01	- Perpetual Fund	\$ -	\$23,107.82	\$23,107.82		\$ -
6.02	- Valarie Mattson Campership Fund	\$ 886.98	\$1,173.02	\$2,560.00		\$ (500.00)
6.03	- Chisago Lakes Lutheran Church Scholarship	\$ 120.00	\$4,630.00	\$4,750.00		\$ -
6.04	- General Fund (CLLC Operating Account)	\$ -	\$1,280.47	\$1,280.47		\$ -
6.05	- Friends of CLLC	\$ 25.00				\$ 25.00
	- Synod Tithe	\$ -	\$11,553.91	\$11,553.91		\$ -
	- Out of 3m (i.e. Family Pathways/the Refuge/ etc.)	\$ -				\$ -
	- Gladys Johnson Scholarship	\$ -	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00		\$ -
	- Ju Family - moving donation	\$ 2,000.00				\$ 2,000.00
6.06	- Cemetery	\$ 145.00				\$ 145.00
	Total General Memorial Funds to be moved	\$ 3,176.98	\$48,745.22	\$50,252.20	\$0.00	\$ 1,670.00
	Total General Memorial Funds	\$ 345,091.46	\$141,295.02	\$211,201.82	\$14,221.88	\$ 289,406.54

CHISAGO LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MEMORIAL, MISSION, AND MINISTRY FUND

Financial Accounts						\$	-
- MidWestOne Bank: CLLC checking account	\$ 12,256.49	\$232,970.91	\$199,381.82			\$	45,845.58
- Mission Investment Fund ELCA - 3M	\$ 58,696.27		\$40,000.00	\$529.73		\$	19,226.00
- Edward Jones Investment-3M General	\$ 274,138.70			\$19,756.41		\$	293,895.11
Total Financial Accounts	\$ 345,091.46	\$ 232,970.91	\$ 239,381.82	\$ 20,286.14		\$	358,966.69
Variance	\$ -	\$ (91,675.89)	\$ (28,180.00)	\$ (6,064.26)		\$	(69,560.15)
	Balance	Monthly	Monthly	Investment		Balance	
	1/1/2023	Received	Distributed	Gain/(Loss)		12/31/2023	
Named Funds	<hr/>						
Perpetual Fund (Restricted Principal 391,444.53)	\$ 479,218.78						
7.00		\$15,107.82	\$0.00	\$62,155.76		\$	556,482.36
Total Perpetual fund	\$ 479,218.78	\$ 15,107.82	\$ -	\$ 62,155.76		\$	556,482.36
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Financial Accounts							
- MidWestOne Bank: CLLC checking account							
- Edward Jones Investment-Perpetual Fund	\$ 459,360.23	\$15,107.82	-\$20,618.61	\$61,395.70		\$	556,482.36
- Edward Jones Investment-Perpetual Fund Interest	\$ 19,858.55		\$20,618.61	\$760.06		\$	0.00
Total Financial Accounts	\$ 479,218.78	\$15,107.82	\$0.00	\$62,155.76		\$	556,482.36
Variance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$	-
8.00	Valarie Mattson Campership Fund	\$ 56,234.20		\$1,123.02	\$3,259.68	\$	58,370.86
	Total Valarie Mattson Campership Fund	\$ 56,234.20	\$ -	\$ 1,123.02	\$ 3,259.68	\$	58,370.86
<hr/>							
Financial Accounts							
- MidWestOne Bank: CLLC checking account	\$ -						
- Edward Jones Investment-Camperships	\$ 56,234.20		\$1,123.02	\$3,259.68		\$	58,370.86
Total Financial Accounts	\$ 56,234.20	\$ -	\$ 1,123.02	\$ 3,259.68		\$	58,370.86
Variance	\$ -						
9.00	Chisago Lakes Lutheran Church Scholarship	\$ 155,468.86		\$4,630.00	\$13,349.82	\$	164,188.68
	Total Chisago Lakes Scholarship Fund	\$ 155,468.86	\$ -	\$ 4,630.00	\$ 13,349.82	\$	164,188.68
<hr/>							
Financial Accounts							
- MidWestOne Bank: CLLC checking account	\$ -						
- Edward Jones Investment-CLLC Scholarship	\$ 155,468.86		\$4,630.00	\$13,349.82		\$	164,188.68
Total Financial Accounts	\$ 155,468.86	\$ -	\$ 4,630.00	\$ 13,349.82		\$	164,188.68
Variance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$	-

**Chisago Lake Lutheran Church
W/ELCA Change in Fund Balance Report
31-Dec-23**

	Year to Date		Year to Date				
	December	Total	General	Quilting	Midwife	Kitchen	Lent
Global Mission Support	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Thank Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Circle Offerings	45.00	347.00	347.00				
General Fund	443.48	4,558.36	4,558.36				
Net Lent Soup Suppers	0.00	773.50					773.50
Quilting Donations	445.00	689.00		689.00			
Newborn Kit Donations	0.00	0.00			0.00		
Total Revenues Received	933.48	6,367.86	4,905.36	689.00	0.00	0.50	773.50
Global Mission Support	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Thank Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Synodical Support	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Synodical Conf:Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Service Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00				
General Fund	669.98	3,029.12	3,029.12				
Quilting Expense	0.00	1,592.28		1,592.28			
Newborn Kit Expense	0.00	583.77			583.77		
Periodicals & Devotionals	0.00	0.00					
Total Expenses	669.98	5,205.17	3,029.12	1,592.28	583.77	0.00	0.00
Net Income/(Loss)	263.50	1,162.69	1,876.24	(903.28)	(583.77)	0.50	773.50
Cash Balance at 12/31/22		3,727.32	7,336.90	2,648.28	1,385.80	2.00	2,522.90
Cash Balance at 12/31/2023		4,890.01	9,213.14	1,745.00	802.03	2.50	3,296.40

New Members April 30, 2023 (18)

Nathan Halmrast and Yufan Ma
Magnus
Maiken
25874 Edison Ave.
Wyoming, MN 55092
239-689-9760
yufan.k.ma@gmail.com

Dave & Lisa (McCulloch) Hultman
29345 Glader Blvd
Lindstrom, MN 55045
612-655-4644
612-799-0249 (L)
davehultman@gmail.com

Laura Loehlein
Naomi Boudreau
116 Lockey Ave
Center City, MN 55012
651-226-4055
lauraloehlein@gmail.com

Mike, Kadi and Brenden Peterson
10763 Liberty Lane
Chisago City, MN 55013
(651)955-1516

Erik and Laurel (Dahlquist) Starksen
Bridgette
419 Center Street
Taylors Falls, MN 55084
952-913-1478
erikstarksen@gmail.com

Matt and Katie Zbylut
Lily
Sophia
15825 345th St
Center City, MN 55012
kzbylut08@gmail.com

New Members August 27, 2023 (8)

Caitlin Browning
31222 Cedar Ridge Drive
Lindstrom, MN 55045
caitlinsbrowning@gmail.com
218-689-9267

Charles (Chuck) and Donna Mattson
11196 Eagle Ridge Ct
Chisago City, MN 55013
chuck55013@outlook.com
donna55013@outlook.com
C: 763-772-6323
D: 763-772-6313

Syd and Pam Stewart
29195 Kenwood Way
Chisago City, MN 55013
sydstewart8040@gmail.com
S: 701-220-0550

Nancy Reistad
39657 Fawn Ave
North Branch, MN 55056
reistad@comcast.net
651-592-5298

Aidan Elwood
Lyndsee O'Neil

Christ, Be Our Light

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Refrain*

- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Refrain*

- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain*

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America