



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).

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AGENDA

2022-2023 FLC Annual Meeting

Opening Devotions from Pastor Jess Daum

- I. Call to Order and Welcome — Council President Kris Seas
- II. Approval of Minutes from the September 18, 2022 Annual Meeting
- III. Pastor's Message
- IV. Acceptance of Written Reports
- V. Balance Sheet
- VI. Ministry Spending Plan
- VII. Elections
 - A) Council
 - B) Cemetery Board
 - C) Nominating Committee
 - D) Lay Voting Members to 2024 Synod Assembly
 - E) Audit Committee
- VIII. Resolutions
 - A) Resolution of Remembrance

Closing Devotions from Pastor Trey Daum



MINUTES FROM 2021-2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Held September 18, 2022

**First Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD
9:30 am in the FLC Sanctuary
Attendance – 70 members**

Opening devotions from Pastor Jess Daum

- I. Call to Order and Welcome – Council President Kris Seas
- II. Approval of minutes from the September 26, 2021 Annual Meeting
 - Motion to approve by Julie Abraham
 - Seconded by Kathy Dekraai
 - All in attendance approved by voice
- III. Pastor's Message
- IV. Acceptance of Written Reports
 - Motion to approve by Lonnie Bayer
 - Seconded by Geoff Gayne
 - All in attendance approved by voice
- V. Balance Sheet
 - Wendy Flanery on behalf of FLC Treasury Team
 - 15% increase in giving for the church calendar year
 - Increase in capital improvements of \$200,000.00, one time expenditure
 - Wendy noted three improved changes in the financials presented they are:
 - i. Page 36 – Cash Unrestricted should be \$138,520 rather than \$49,716
 - ii. Page 36 – Cash Restricted/Dedicated should be \$98,400 rather than \$182,204.
 - iii. Page 38 – Under Income – Loose Offering should be \$697,001 rather than \$608,198.
 - iv. Page 41 – Total (Income Actual) should be \$1,054,728 rather than \$972,906.26.
 - Motioned to approve by Judy Alickson
 - Seconded by Stuie Lewis
 - All in attendance approved by voice
- VI. Ministry Spending Plan – 8% increase in new budget to include:
 - Increase in funding to University Lutheran Center and SD Lutherans Outdoors
 - Addition to Nursery and childcare
 - Continuing Education
 - Pastors Discretionary Budget
 - Adult Education
 - New hire benefits
 - Staff salary increase of 3%
 - Motioned to approve budget by Geoff Gayne

- Seconded by Kathy DeKraai
- All in attendance approved by voice

VII. Elections

- a) Council – Three Nominees, Hanna Holmquist – 4 year term, Erik Dahl – 1 year term and Keith Corbett – 4 year term.
 - Vote by paper
 - All three nominees were approved; Hanna 56 votes, Erik 59 votes and Keith 56 votes
- b) Cemetery Board – Thank you to Brad Erickson and Nicki Brooks for their years of service on the board. Ken Nelson will remain on the Board
- c) Cemetery Board New members - Kathy Dekraai, Betty Hind, Dale Nelson
 - Motioned to approve by Deb Bortnem
 - Seconded by Deb Pederson
 - All in attendance approved by voice
- d) Nominating Committee – One year, two year and three year terms
 - Nominees - Brenda Algood, Kay Dahl, Jane Dunn
 - Motioned to approve by Julie Abraham
 - Seconded by Dawn Taylor
 - All in attendance approved by voice
- e) Lay voting members to 2023 Synod Assembly – Tiff Lewis, Levi Silva
 - Motioned to approve by Judy Alickson
 - Seconded by Stuiie Lewis
 - All in attendance approved by voice

VIII. Resolutions

- a) Resolution of Remembrance
 - Motioned to approve by Stuiie Lewis
 - Seconded by Julie Abraham
 - All in attendance approved by voice
- b) Resolution to Approve Contract for Cemetery Storm Cleanup
 - Motioned to approve by Lonnie Bayer
 - Seconded by Deb Bortnem
 - All in attendance approved by voice

Closing devotions from Pastor Trey Daum

Motion to adjourn Julie Abraham

Seconded by Kathy Dekraai

All in attendance approved by voice

A Letter From Kris Seas, Council President

Hello fellow members of FLC,

I am finishing up my four years on the Council this September and just wanted to take a few minutes to reflect on my time served. Wow, first of all, thank you so much for entrusting me to be a voice of our church. I remember when Suzanne Hegg first approached me with an “opportunity” to be on the Council I was a bit wary. I told her I would think and pray on it and I did. I can honestly say that I am very grateful that I said yes and have had this experience in my life. It has helped me spiritually so much. I can’t say the words “our church” enough. It truly does belong to each and every one of us and we each have a voice in what our church can and should do for us. Please consider getting involved in some way. I believe it makes your faith stronger by serving your church.

I am not a weekly “Sunday morning church goer”, but I do like to get involved with things going on in church. Over my years of being a member I have been a Sunday School teacher, Confirmation mentor, Youth Group leader/chaperone, Mission Coffeehouse volunteer, table decorator for Purses with a Powerful Purpose, Tuesday evening Bible Study group member, attended Pub Theology, and a Council member. In my 4 years on the Council I was a voting member for 1, Vice President for 1 and President for 2. In those 4 years we went from Pastor Dave, Pastor Nyla, Pastor Steve, to interim Pastor Dave Zellmer and finally to our new Pastors Jess and Trey! Did I mention we navigated a pandemic as well. Can you say “change”? You better believe we have gone through massive changes in 4 years and we should be so proud of how we have navigated those changes. As a Council, I can tell you we have grown into a very thoughtful voice for our church. We listen to members needs and wants and do the best we can to meet those needs and wants. We are a business, I know, it’s easy to forget that, but please know that decisions are being made in the best interest of the Church, the Members, the Missions, our Pastors, and our Staff that we support and all that goes into running a business. Not a pandemic or even an unexpected derecho will get us down (as much as they tried at times). We will persevere. I always shied away from talking “money” at church, but being on the Council doesn’t allow you to not see the importance of everyone’s giving. Every time we felt beat down by another “emergency” a bright light of giving came through. You all are so amazing. I cannot say that enough, OUR church is amazing!

It feels good to be a part of a church that is growing. Yes, we are a growing church. Yes, we lost many in-person people due to the pandemic, but we still have a lot of them via radio or online streaming. Looking at our membership reports and seeing the new members each quarter is exciting to see. All the new babies and baptisms going on makes me smile. We have navigated a couple of annual campaigns such as the Year of Invitation and now we are in the Year of Connection. These weekly reminders to be inviting and connected with others always warm my heart. The Council works hard alongside our Pastors to bring a fresh voice to church each year.

As I leave the Council, I am excited about those accomplishments but even more excited about what is yet to come. We are kicking off a time of Strategic Planning that will help us really dive into what our church means to each of us and what we can do to stay relevant in a changing world. Maybe we will find we are doing things right? Maybe we will find a lot needs to change....regardless, I want my voice heard and to be a part of our church and anything we tackle in the future. I hope that all of you feel the same way. Get involved and let’s have some fun dreaming!

God is so good and God has blessed me with many friendships I have found through church and has given me the guidance to be kind out there in our community and world. Thank you so much for your kindness, your encouragement, your friendship, and for being a welcoming church.

God’s Blessings to you All,
Kris Seas

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JESS

Our Mission as First Lutheran Church:

To equip all people to live a life connected with God and others.

We are all connected. Jesus says, “I am the vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5). As we abide in Jesus, and he abides in us, we bear much fruit. To abide is to be connected, to exist in that connection, to rest in that connection, to find our identity in that connection. Our congregation’s mission is to be connected to God and to each other, and to equip everyone to do so. You might say our mission is to abide together with God. To be branches of the same vine, sharing the life of Jesus, sharing life with each other.

This year is a Year of Connection. After Easter, fueled by the Good News of the resurrection, we set out to notice and name the countless ways we are connected with each other and with God because of our connectedness with our congregation. Each week a story of connection has been featured in our new weekly First Things Monday Morning email. We have been building a puzzle to visualize these connections, adding a piece to the picture each week. I hope you have seen yourself in these connections, and I hope you will share your story of a particular way you have connected with God or others because of First Lutheran Church. As we see these connections, we also see the opportunities for new connections as our big picture continues to take shape before us.

Here are some of the main points of connection worth noticing, naming, and celebrating this year:

- **Mission Connect Initiative: Bringing your ideas for connection to life**
 - Thanks to a grant through Luther Seminary from the Lily Foundation, this year has seen the launch of several new ways of connecting with God and others. From Communion at the vineyard, to a community garden with vegetables to share with neighbors. From an outdoor worship space in the works, to an amazing quilting bee, to a chance to make meals while making new friends. Your ideas have come to life. And so many have felt resonance—a sense of connection with that beyond ourselves—because of these experiments. We’re scattering seeds and tilling the ground for meaningful connections. We hope you’ll share how you’ve felt resonance this year when one of our grant facilitators visits in January.
- **Connecting with God in Worship**
 - Every Sunday, and on some other days too, we gather for prayer and praise, sacraments of grace, and the Word of God proclaimed. One week a friend of mine from another state was visiting our congregation, and the next day he sent me a message about how much he had enjoyed worshiping with us. He said, “Think of how many members of your community were part of worship ... 2 pastors, youth director, music keyboardist, horn solo, praise band, 18 seniors, the quilter group, ushers, readers, kids coming up for children's time - that's close to 50 people!” Thank you to all who participate in worship in every way; we are a more beautiful Body of Christ because of you.
- **Connecting in Relationship on a Confirmation Retreat**
 - A great group of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders and a few supportive adults went on a weekend adventure to Camp NeSoDak. Our theme was “Coming Home,” and we focused on coming home to ourselves, to others, and coming home to God. It was so fun and inspiring. I can’t wait for this fall’s retreat and the chance to connect in such a meaningful way again.

- Connecting in the Community
 - We are always growing our connections to the community. Our Council showed up with an inviting presence at a new International students picnic. We hosted the warming and staging area for the Parade of Lights. Habitat for Humanity held their annual breakfast and picnic here at our space. So many, many formal and informal community groups find space to connect in our Mission Coffeeshouse, gym, parlor, and more!
- Connecting with Sabbath Rest in Lent
 - The theme was Time Out. We practiced different ways to pause including several spiritual practices. Taking a pause helped us find new connection to ourselves and to the source of our life, God who is always ready to connect with us.
- Connecting the Big Story of God's Salvation at the Easter Vigil
 - We hosted an imaginative event this April in the season of Easter. Our Confirmation students and Youth Group members helped share the story of salvation from Scripture, highlighting favorite stories in the greater arc of God's loving care for all of creation. We ended the night with a chocolate fountain and a dessert party that will go down in history. All of this helped us connect to the sweet, sweet love of God for us in Jesus.
- Connecting through Communication
 - We aim to hone how we connect with you in our communications efforts. The new First Things Monday Morning email is a chance to share a bit of what is coming up each week in the life of our congregation. I hope you're enjoying this new link connecting you to our congregation.
- Connecting with Hope
 - This May we celebrated the official grand opening of the food security building that houses the Brookings Area Food Pantry, United Way, the Backpack Program, and the Senior Food Commodity Box program on the northeast corner of our campus. It was a great celebration of a dream come to fruition. Thanks be to God for the opportunity to share the land that we steward with organizations that help those who are hungry. The street that was added to access this new center for collaboration was named Hope Drive. May so much hope be found there.
- Connecting with Generosity
 - We have experienced a significant congregational increase in giving for the second year in a row. Offerings rose nearly 10%. What a sign of God's faithfulness and our call to share the Good News in our neighborhood, the community, and beyond. Your support frees us to dream big and work hard for the sake of the Gospel. Thank you for all that you give in order to see the ministry of our congregation flourish. We continue to dream bigger dreams and serve in bigger ways, so continuing to increase what you share with God through First Lutheran Church continues to be a way we invite you to connect.

Here are some points of connection ahead for us in the year to come:

- Our Strategic Planning Process
 - Through this spring, we will connect the dots to see the bigger picture of the future God has in store for our congregation in the next 3-5 years. We have partnered with GSB Fundraising as facilitators. Everyone is invited to take part in this discernment process as we listen to each other, listen to our community, and listen to God for direction that will focus our ministry in the season to come.

- Pieces of the Puzzle
 - We have many weeks left in the Year of Connection. I so look forward to being inspired by your stories of how you've experienced meaningful connection with God and others in the coming weeks. I hope you will share your story *and* that you'll be motivated to help build new pathways of connection to invite others to come and see that God is good.
- A New Pictorial Directory
 - Soon you'll have a new tool for connecting names and faces that will help us strengthen our relationships with each other. Please be sure that you are pictured as a part of First Lutheran by participating in our new photo directory.
- Always Inviting
 - Though we're well into the Year of Connection with the Year of Invitation in the rear-view mirror, continue to remember the importance of Invitation. Connection always begins with invitation. If there is someone you know that you wish to see connected in the life of FLC, invite them. If there is someone in your life you know could use the caring community of Christ we share here, invite them. Sharing the Good News is so rewarding and always worth the risk.

Connected to you in Christ,
Pastor Jess Daum

Below members of the staff soak in a message during the staff retreat



Left: Levi Silva, Doriane Paso, Debbie Pederson, Tiff Lewis and Geoff Gayne represented FLC at the South Dakota Synod Assembly in Sioux Falls.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TREY

“Live a life connected with God and others”

What a great time to be the Church! Each year, at the occasion of our annual congregational meeting, we get to review the last 12 months, observe where we are now, and step into the future with faith. That means each year we get to take a moment for the big picture, for God’s work through us, for a wider perspective of what we do as a baptized community.

This year we proclaimed God's Word. We held opportunities for people to come and learn about God's love for them. We invited people to encounter God's Word and to offer and receive prayers for themselves, neighbors in need, and all of a God's creation. Is there another place where children, seniors, and everyone in between arrive as strangers and leave as family? Is there another place where people can experience God's glory and goodness in music, message, and movement? Is there another place where sins are forgiven and ancient rhythms of prayer and praise are offered in peace? Is there another community that offers space and time and support for the many community ministries and organizations we support? Is there another community that offers these gifts without cost? In my observation, the Church is just about the only place that does this. And we, First Lutheran, do so abundantly, graciously, routinely, and with excellence. These are the fruits of faith, that pour out of lives freed in Christ.

This year we cared for the sick, distressed, and homebound. When this congregation visits those at home or in the hospital, we bring the spirit of Christ with us, that renew, brings healing and wholeness and connects ourselves further with our family of faith. When we reach out over the radio, via the mail, and virtually on the internet, we let members, friends, and guests of First Lutheran know that they matter to us, and by extension, that they matter to God.

It is no small thing that we do this together to bless the world. As you think about the last twelve months of ministry together as FLC, receive my appreciation and gratitude that, by the grace of God, we continue to be a community that equips all people to live life connected with God and others.

May God continue to bless the work of our hands, to forgive us when we err, and to provide that which we need to go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God! Pastor Trey



Children bring in palms on Palm Sunday; Holmquist’s had baby Nolan baptized during a service; children dance at the end of service on Easter morning; people place their praises, prayers and concerns on the cross during Lenten service

FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

SueAnn Mouw, Director

First Lutheran Preschool is beginning its thirty-ninth year of operation and I am starting my twenty-sixth year as director. I continue to enjoy the duties and the challenges of working with all the children and their families as they navigate early childhood education.

First Lutheran Preschool continues to make changes to class schedules and to its creative curriculum to meet the ever-changing needs of the children and their parents' work schedules. Our preschool curriculum is designed to nurture and enhance all aspects of a child's development. And our creative team planning truly enhances the quality of the program that we provide. The teachers incorporate experiences in math, science, art, music, blocks, fingerplays, sensory activities, dramatic play, creative expression, and large and small motor development. We are very grateful for Pat Anderson, aka "Miss Pat", for leading our music program. Research has shown that music can enhance learning and creative capabilities in almost all children.

This past school year the staff and I were very excited to be back to almost all "normal" pre-pandemic activities and classroom protocols. We were happy to be able to invite in special guests and go on field trips once again!

In the spring Church Newsletter, I made a request for donations to fund two preschool scholarships for two deserving children for the 2023/2024 school year. I am so happy to announce they have both been fulfilled by very generous donors. Thank you for your support!

First Lutheran Preschool couldn't continue to be a successful academic program without such a talented teaching staff. The children, the congregation, and I are very lucky to have them all here.

Respectfully submitted,
SueAnn Mouw, Director



L: Kari York presents August Daum with his Kindergarten blessing bible

R: Madison, Pastor Jess and some youth explored the nature park this summer



NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Kari York, Director

After several years of COVID issues, staffing changes, and transitions all around, the 2022-2023 children's ministry year has seen some exciting changes. We are now gearing up for additional, exciting changes in the 2023-2024 educational year.

Fall is always a busy time in our community as well as around the church. In August and September we began training for our volunteers and paid nursery workers. Next, we kicked things off with a wonderful rally day celebration. Rally day is a great opportunity to come back together with our church family after a summer schedule to learn all the new **educational, volunteer, family** and other opportunities that will take place where we can all gather in the name of Christ once again.

This year our children's ministry began to add children's **SteppingStones** classes. These classes are very special, they allow us to celebrate and support our children and their families in the important faith milestones of their lives. SteppingStones often consist of one or two classes, culminating the following Sunday as the families attend one of the church services where our church family celebrates and blesses the families. Our hearts were full to have so many young families with young children begin to experience the SteppingStones and the joy of being part of a church family. We strive to continue to create meaningful, supportive SteppingStones classes for our children and their families in the coming years.

Journey to Discipleship is our Sunday and Wednesday Christian education programming for children 3 years to 5th grade. Membership or FLC attendance are not required to participate in these programs. This year we had approximately 130 students participate in our Journey to Discipleship. All the children's ministry programs, would not, could not be possible without all our amazing volunteers. FLC is blessed to have people of all ages and all experience levels willing to give of their time and talents whether it's to help for one event, one class, or to be a group leader for our entire year, all in the name of spreading God's word, showing his love, and modeling what it is to be part of a church family.

Our Journey program, especially our Wednesday program, experienced fewer volunteers than in the past. Despite the shortage of volunteers, we worked together creating a successful program. Our Wednesday Journey program was without a regular song leader for our worship time. Worship and songs are one of the favorite pieces for our adults and our children. It is also a wonderful way to model church service to our young ones. The Sunday program was extremely blessed to have Pastor Cassandra Lamb from University Lutheran Center lead our Sunday morning music worship before having to scoot out to the University to perform their Sunday service.

Our Journey theme was ***"You are invited to walk with Jesus."*** We learned about the Disciples, the story of the storm, and Saul to Paul. In October the Confirmation and Youth Group students put on our Fall Fest which was a huge hit with FLC families and those from the community at large. November 30 was an amazing Advent Fest of song led by a guest band. The first half of our Christian education year ended the first full weekend in December with our Christmas program.

It was a long hard winter in Brookings, but we finished strong. In February we held a **"semi" lock-in** (it ended at midnight) for our 4th and 5th graders. With about 14 children in attendance, we enjoyed making our own pizzas, ice cream sundaes, played games, enjoyed fellowship, and an overall great time. In March we had camp week. We structured our time together as if we were attending church camp. Guests from Lutherans Outdoors shared all the wonderful experiences church camp has to offer. In April the children joined the Sanctuary choir for a wonderful palm procession. April 19th was the last Wednesday of our Journey to Discipleship program. This was a very special day as we engaged in an Easter Vigil put on by the Confirmation and Youth Group of

FLC. It was moving to see so many families and church members engaging with our children/youth. What an excellent experience that will be remembered for years to come. The last event of the regular children's Christian Education year was a SteppingStone held for our fifth graders called **“Welcome to Confirmation”** intended to support the children and families in the transition from Children’s ministry to Confirmation. Students learned how they can now become involved in many other opportunities through church.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL was held June 26th through the 29th for 2 hours an evening. The theme was **“How to Train your Emotions.”** We were blessed with great weather and amazing volunteers. We ended with an ice cream social.

This year our Children, Youth, and Family Team (CYF Team) experienced some transition. As a couple of members stepped away from the team, we gained several more team members who have brought new, exciting energy. In January a special event showcasing all that our children youth and family ministries do was held with great success. We are excited to have members of all ages on this team. We would love to grow this team with the goal of empowering and enabling the team to grow meaningful programming for the children, youth, and families of FLC. Since reopening after COVID, FLC has experienced an influx of new families with young children. With only one staff member for children and one staff member for Confirmation/Youth Group, this team plays a crucial role in supporting the faith walk of our younger generation. ***The more team members, the more volunteers, the smaller the commitment, the larger the impact.*** Examples of how the team has shined this year: Advent Fest, Christmas program, Rally Day, VBS, family events, SteppingStones receptions and blessings.

As we finish out the 2022-2023 Christian education year and begin to look towards the 2023-2024 educational year, we are preparing for fall programming themed **“Connections”**. Preparing for **Great Big Sunday**, where we hope to connect with church and community members. Training volunteers, cleaning classrooms, preparing supplies will all take place. We will be developing several new steppingstones **AND a new PARENT GATHERING on our first day/night of journey to discipleship.**

FLC nursery care: *Did you know that First Lutheran Church offers nursery care during church services, Journey to Discipleship/Confirmation, and special classes? Did you know our nursery care providers are paid and trained?* This year we continued to focus on nursery care. Laci Thompson did a great job of training our care providers, coordinating the crazy, busy fall schedules. The second half of the year Laci stepped away from the position. Kyra Stoel, a college student, and First Lutheran preschool worker was hired to coordinate the Nursery under the supervision of Director of Children’s Ministry. Kyra will continue to work on staffing, payroll, cleaning, assist in training, and caring for children in the nursery. This will allow us to better train and address the needs of the nursery. Along with our 0-3 nursery care, we have discovered a higher need for childcare of older children (4-8 years old) during special events, classes, etc. A childcare request form has been created for groups that may require childcare during classes to allow families the ability to participate in church activities. This form will soon be found on the website. The goal is to find funding that will allow us to create an appropriate space and activities for this age group. As our world changes we must change with it. Another goal for the nursery is to implement a more advanced check-in/out system.

As we continue to work our way out of the COVID season and transitions at FLC, we are excited by the new families sharing in Gods’ word, God’s love, God’s family. None of which would be remotely possible without the support of our congregation or selfless volunteers. If you should find yourself wanting more information on how to nurture our program, our children, youth, and families do not hesitate to contact Director of Children’s Ministry Kari York at faithformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org or call the church office.

May God Lead your Path,
Kari York, M.Ed.
Director of Children’s Ministry

faithformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org
605-697-2751

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Madison McCabe, Director

Howdy y'all! Cheers to another year of ministry in the books! Year three for me was one filled with comfort, community, and confidence. I thank y'all for your support and prayers as our youth ministry has playfully grown, and prayerfully changed.

CONFIRMATION: 6TH -9TH GRADE

This last year for Confirmation we gathered in large group with a pastor or myself leading as well as in small groups with a mentor. We focused on the Apostles' Creed, an Old Testament story, and a New Testament story. The Confirmation students planned and hosted a community event, **Fall Fest**, in October. In November Pastor Jess, Cheryl Melby, and myself hosted a **Confirmation retreat** with 15 students at NeSoDak Bible Camp with the theme of "Coming Home". We explored coming home to ourselves, coming home to our community, and coming home to God. During Lent, Confirmation groups attended the services and reflected as small groups after. To celebrate the end of the Confirmation year each small group learned about an Old Testament story that pointed to the death and resurrection of Jesus and then hosted an **Easter Vigil** sharing those stories with the Journey students and community members.

This summer FLC began hosting events for our middle schoolers with the intent to gather as a community throughout the summer. In July we met at the Dakota Nature Park where we talked about our call to stewardship in our faith while taking a nature walk and ended the day kayaking. In August a group of us headed south to **Wild Water West** as one last summer hurrah.

Our 9th Graders experienced a new curriculum based around the **Wellness Wheel**. As well as being encouraged to come to Youth Group, we gathered once a month during the school year to explore the 8 expressions of wellness and how they are all part of our faith and humanity. Each month had a different focus, we invited community members to come and chat and went off-site to the Miller Wellness Center. The 9th graders ended the year with plans to begin their faith project to share in the coming fall.

A GIANT THANK YOU to all the mentors: Jill Heller, Kris Seas, Mike Twedt, Deb and Ken Tiefenthaler, Levi Silva, Cheryl Melby, Amber Overby, Diane Almos and Andrea Morlock! Thank you to the subs and other volunteers. Y'all are what make the wheels go round for Confirmation!

6-9th grade Confirmation students: 69

10th grade Confirmands: 11

YOUTH GROUP AND HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Youth group had our typical ebb and flow in the fall focusing on deeper dives into common texts and how they relate to our everyday life. The Youth Group supported Confirmation in **Fall Fest** and traveled down to Brandon for a trip to a **corn maze!** For much of our spring semester we welcomed Brooke Rustman, a local therapist, to help facilitate conversation on **mental health** and how it relates to our spiritual journey. The Youth Group also helped to host the **Easter Vigil** to wrap up the Confirmation experience. A **giant shout out to Stuie Lewis** for being a rock star in his own right and the backbone of our high school ministry leadership, you are more than FLC could ever ask for, thank you, Stuie.

SENIOR STEPPINGSTONE

In May we hosted seniors and their guardians for a night of discussion and reflection about faith, life, and what lies ahead. **Thank you to Pastor Cassandra** from the University Lutheran Center for joining us for the powerful conversations about what lies ahead. On Senior Sunday we wrapped our seniors in blessings and quilts made prayerfully by our loving First Lutheran Quilters. A deep and heartfelt **thank you to the many quilters** who supported this ministry. Blessings to our First Lutheran graduates as you go on to your new experiences.

Seniors celebrated: 17

SUMMER YOUTH TRIP

This summer seven youth, an adult leader, and myself headed to **Montana** to experience God in the wilderness. We traveled by train to start our adventure strong! The week at camp began with worship, high ropes, and gathering community gear. Monday after breakfast we stuffed 11 people and our 50 lbs. bags into one 11 passenger van and began our trek to the trail head. The next 4 days and three nights would consist of **16 miles** with a few thousand feet of elevation change, pumping gallons of water, rehydrating meals, and scooping peanut butter. We became pros at setting up tents and proficient enough at hanging a bear bag that our food was never scavenged by wild animals. Riddle games filled our minds (and maybe a few nightmares) as we occupied our long hours on trail. Every night we luxuriated next to a new lake (these beauties were frigid so we only swam in one) and had many close encounters with muscular mountain goats. While we were on trail we were constantly sharing space, so intentional conversation and communication was a must. We had “**mountain time**” where we took quiet time to reflect and refresh ourselves (if Jesus needed time alone in the wilderness, so do we). A highlight for many was our Bible study time where we looked at the parts of the **Holy Trinity**. Back at Camp on Thursday after showers and food, we witnessed a rendition of the **Passion of Christ** and Friday morning a **Resurrection service**, all put on by the camp staff and a few select campers. This led to profound conversations on the Bible, current faith expressions in the world, and so much more. **Whitewater rafting** wrapped up our week and we returned to Brookings missing the mountains and craving the hospitality we shared at camp.

Kudos to the youth who shared this experience! Y’all were a phenomenal team and absolutely wonderful humans to be in the backcountry with. I don’t think Ross Abraham knew he would be coming out of this adventure with a fan club, the ability to make friendship bracelets, or an outstanding nickname. For all of those shared blessings and more, **thank you for committing to the experience and trusting the ambiguity Ross!**

Y’all, you know what is so stinking awesome about our congregation?! We are able to make pivotal faith experiences like this one happen **EVERY SUMMER** thanks to your generosity! Without your continued support our summer faith experiences might be limited to every few years, but y’all show up for our youth year in and year out. With everything done and dusted we raised about \$8,000 to put towards sending our youth to camp! Thank you for knowing the value of service trips, camp outings, youth gatherings, and caramel rolls ;)

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

\$15,000 given out to 13 students: Jenna York, Karson Deckert, Kaylyn Chapman, Ryan Bauman, Grace Prusa, Ava Sandine, Emily Rystrom, Eleanor Abraham, Jaidyn Bauman, Gage Gullickson, Jazlynn Pederson and Finn Paso Little

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND:

In June I had the privilege and the pleasure to explore **The Holy Land** AKA Palestine and Israel AKA the places where Jesus, Mary, and their friends lived their lives. To say my faith was grown would be a shy way of sharing what it felt like to grow a second brain. Our guide, Mary, dropped knowledge that felt like gold in our hungry hands. The influx of new information was non-stop, familiar stories broke open daily revelations of lost details through the translation of culture, time, and language. The sites were inspiring but I believe to share space with the tremendous humans who live in these sacred spaces was even more powerful than many of the walled off sites. The women of the church on this journey with me showed up to take up space with a fierce curiosity; the hard conversations about faith, life, and discomfort as humans and as women will echo in my memory as the years pass. **GOD IS MOVING IN OUR WORLD.** In places we hear stories from a distance, in places we fear, in places we wish to intervene; God is moving. According to St. George to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land is to experience the 5th Gospel. **COME AND SEE, GO AND TELL. GOD IS AT WORK.**

Thank you to all those named and unnamed for your support and help with FLC’s youth ministry program!

In peace and prayer,

Madison McCabe

Director of youth Ministries

Music Department

“Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see:...”
ELW 733

As we wrap up another year, it is my privilege and joy to review the past year.

The Sanctuary Choir, directed by Pat Anderson, welcomed new members and said farewell to our college scholarship student, Matthew Dulas. The choir sang and led worship three Sundays out of four from September to May. One of the highlights was a combined Children’s Choir and Sanctuary Choir for Palm Sunday. It was a joyous celebration leading into Holy Week. New choir members are always welcome and the fall schedule begins September 13th at 7:00 pm.

The Hand Bell Choir, directed by Barbara Horten, met weekly and offered special music monthly. This summer three octaves of the bells were sent to Colorado to be refurbished and repaired. They are now back and ready for the year, beginning September 13th.

The Praise Band, led by Rick Jensen and a talented group of musicians, blessed the 10:30 Contemporary Worship service from September through May.

Summer worship was conducted around the favorite hymns of the congregation. What a blessing to sing these wonderful, familiar hymns of faith.

Thank you to all who participated in leading worship this past year. A special thank you to Mary Ermel, who provides us with continued professional musicianship. There have been many cantors and song leaders throughout the year also, we thank you for your commitment.

A big thank you to instrumentalists who enhanced Easter and Christmas services. I am afraid I will leave someone out if I list names so I hope everyone feels appreciated by this heartfelt thanks.

Pat Anderson,
Music Coordinator for 8:30 services



On Palm Sunday, Pat put together a children’s choir to sing along with the Sanctuary choir

MISSION COFFEE HOUSE

Jeanne Eclov, Manager

Welcome to the beginning of a new year and farewell to the last one!! It has been another amazing, exciting year! We continue to see new faces entering the doors to enjoy food/coffee, friends, and fellowship in this beautiful facility. This is proof that this unique ministry is still working.

First Lutheran Church began the Mission Coffeehouse as a stewardship tool—a way to change the world by doing the same thing you always do. We change lives in multiple ways:

- 1) Fair Trade purchasing
- 2) Tip Jar offerings
- 3) Volunteer service operation
- 4) Sharing love and hospitality

From the opening in 2006 until today in 2023 the staff and volunteers work very hard to support the reasons this mission ministry was started. It takes great dedication and love for service to make this possible. Thank you to the volunteers for your service!

Kurt at Kool Beans has been a great partner. His expertise with buying, roasting, and delivering our coffee beans continues to be a priceless asset. Thank you, Kurt, for your service.

Thank you to First Lutheran Church for always supporting our continued efforts.

May God bless the year ahead.

Top Row: People enjoying fellowship; Deb & Jeanne who run the MCH; more fellowship



Bottom Row: The wonderful volunteers who make the tasty soups offered for lunch; Jeanne's retirement celebration



EVENTS AND FACILITIES

Doriane Paso, Director

The Whole is Greater than the Sum of Its Parts

Blue skies and tomatoes, and the beginning of another year at First Lutheran Brookings, my second year as Director of Events and Facilities. This last year I spent in observation, learning, and certainly action.

The Activity Center provided community space for so many events throughout the 2022-2023 program year: the craft fairs of the autumn, Christmas Lunch, Community Lenten Worship, some good basketball evenings, and even line dancing classes! The Belize Mission group hosted a quilting bee that brought people from across the miles, strangers, old friends, and friends reunited after many years, worked together at a common goal, 100 quilts in a day. This space is also host to our youth ministry events, organized by Kari York and Madison McCabe. Thank you for your dedication to our young people, Kari and Madison!

There are many rooms in our church, and many other community groups avail themselves of our hospitality. In addition to First Lutheran myriad music rehearsals (Thank you for the music Pat Anderson, Mary Ermel, Rick Jensen, and Barbara Horton!) a fly on the wall throughout the year will hear music, laughter, theological discussion, and literary discussion in any given room at any given time. This same fly can also enjoy a caramel roll and socialize in the Mission Coffee House where the conversation flows. (Thank you, Jeanne Eclov, for the fine ambience provided by this café). You won't find that fly, though. Deb Bortnem will have gotten him, thanks Deb!

During the school year, The north side of our building is bubbling with excitement, learning, and friends thanks to SueAnn Mouw. Thank you SueAnn, for your tireless dedication to Christ-guided education.

The work of keeping our interior environment clean, welcoming, and safe for visitors, staff, and the preschool students falls to our team of custodians, Judy Alickson and Jason Liles. With 63,497 (not a typo!) square feet of building, this is no mean feat. These two have made my first year a good learning experience by sharing their years of knowledge in a helpful and happy-hearted way. When you see Judy and Jason, say thanks!

The facilities aspect of this position is essential to building and equipment longevity and to providing a welcoming place for all. It is important that the ambient temperature remains correct for the organ in the Sanctuary, that our staff and visitors can remain warm or cool as the season dictates. This happens through an extensive HVAC system in two parts in our premises! Over the year we turn things on, turn them off, repair burned out pumps, and many more behind-the-scenes tasks to keep our machinery and equipment in good shape to serve our congregation for years to come. An urgent project at the moment is completing the repairs on the roof that will stop the leaking into the gym, as well as a serious roof drain issue in the Sanctuary that is causing a slow leak over the Praise Band and sound system. This time of year is perfect for completing these outdoor projects, and our service providers are generous with their time and knowledge in helping to diagnose and solve these issues.

There is always something that needs a fix in a building this size. We wouldn't be able to keep up without the help of our volunteer handy-people! Dale Nussbaum is a dab hand at hinging doors, among many other mechanical talents, and Dave Lenander can glue just about anything back together again. Thank you, Dale and Dave!

Our stewardship extends to the outdoors as well. It was a very snowy, icy winter, as we all know. The snow removal was extensive. Jason worked with volunteers to keep our walks and entrances clear and safe, and Rounds Construction kept the parking and three driveway entrances clear quick as anything. This snow challenge also solidified our First Lutheran Snow Policy: if South Dakota State University closes, we close! Let's forget about winter for a good while yet!

Back to our lovely outdoor campus. As well as doing the clean up after a dirty winter, the lawns are maintained by volunteers spraying weeds and mowing and trimming: Thank you Lyle Anderson and Ron Langner! Our sprinkler system is serviced by a local provider, and maintains the beautiful green throughout the summer. We have had some one-off large projects outdoors this year, too. Trees needed to be removed due to threatening damage to our building and the public. Also, the removal of the parsonage left a lovely, large, rubble and trash filled hole that could be viewed from the Sanctuary. Randy Richards is great at getting rid of junk, thanks Randy! Working with Rounds Construction, we filled that basement, leveled the ground, and seeded last fall. And the grass did grow this spring.

The coordination of all these community pursuits and the yearly church calendar along with planned and unexpected life events could not go so seamlessly without the efforts of our colleague, Cyndi Johnson, Communications Coordinator. Thank you, Cyndi, for your organizational skills!

First Lutheran Brookings' stewardship reaches out from our campus into the community with our liaising with Habitat for Humanity and the Food Security Building. We help host Habitat get together through the use of our space and equipment. The new Food Security Building at 908 Hope Drive is built on land provided by First Lutheran. We are working together with these entities to build community and provide a safe and welcoming place to the Brookings community at large. This collaboration is so valuable to Brookings. It is vital not only to our populations' spiritual well-being, but also the physical and mental health of our friends and neighbors.

Finally, through their vision and faith, Pastor Jess and Pastor Trey, Ruby, Calvin and August provide a vibrant, nurturing environment in which to grow and mature our faith. Thank you the Daum family!

Aristotle wasn't wrong: the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

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The raised garden bed and the food security building built within the last year on the north side of our property.

ALTAR GUILD

Deb Bortnem, Chair

Co-Chairs for this committee are Debbie Bortnem and Diane Almos. Diane has stepped in to help in Doris Hornby's absence. We currently have 16 members and each person would typically work 2 times a year on a Sunday morning preparing the sacraments and serving. During the school year the chair for the month and one other cover both services as well as one service in the summer. If you would be interested in being involved with this you can contact Debbie or Diane.



The Altar and Baptismal Font decorated with flowers for Easter morning.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Members: Jane Dunn, Chair, Lyle Anderson, Gail Gullickson, Lyla Hanson, Randy Richards and Ellen Sandager

The hospitality committee met a few times this year, with the purpose of assisting with new membership meeting and meal as well as participating in new members' Sundays. It has not been determined or decided as to the purpose and membership of the Hospitality committee going forward. We do not hold monthly meetings like we had in the past. Those were held at 5pm on the first Monday of the month in the Mission Coffee House.



The Hospitality Committee hosted a retirement party for Jeanne Eclov, manager of the Mission CoffeeHouse

MISSION INTEREST QUILTERS

We have been blessed.

The First Lutheran Church (FLC) Mission Interest Quilters made and distributed more than 400 quilts and sold several quilts and seasonal items with the help of our First Lutheran members and friends. The quilts and other items were distributed to the following agencies locally and world-wide:

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) – 400 quilts
Gifts & Donations to area families – 3 quilts
County Sheriff & Police Dept. – 15 car robes
Sleep in Heavenly Peace – 5 quilts
Gifts – 6 lap robes

Domestic Abuse Families – 7 quilts
FLC Graduation Seniors – 19 quilts
Teen Challenge – towels and clothing
Salvation Army – 18 quilts
Marissa House (Sioux Falls) – 10 quilts

The Mission Quilters received income from memorials, monetary donations, personal gifts, and proceeds from the sale of quilts and seasonal items in the amount of \$6,324.57 to cover expenses for quilting supplies and special mission projects. Quilters raffled two quilts during the year and \$1,370.57 was raised through these efforts. Donations were also received through gift cards from Thrivent Action Team Projects during the year to the amount of \$2000. Expenses for the year were \$6,236.24. Mission Quilters donated to the Belize Mission Project to support a student scholarship that covers school tuition, supplies, and transportation. This year for the first time a college scholarship for an FLC student was also sponsored by the Mission Quilters. An additional donation was given to assist residents of Marissa House in Sioux Falls. Upcoming expenses will include approximately \$900.00 to send mission quilts overseas in the fall of 2023.

In June of 2022, the FLC Quilters group held a “Tie One On” Quilting Bee that invited members of First Lutheran Church, Brookings community, and area churches in the Medary Conference to spend a Saturday together to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief missions. Sixty plus individuals including men, women, and youth worked together to finish 68 quilts and 30 plus quilt tops during the day. A generous donation was received from an FLC member to cover expenses of the food and refreshments for the day. The day was a most successful adventure and was a strong example of an intergenerational project for the church.

There are two quilting groups working through First Lutheran Church. One group recognized as the “Sew What” group meets on Monday evenings throughout the year. The second group meets on Tuesday mornings. There are presently 22 individuals that consistently meet during the Monday evenings and Tuesday morning sessions. The Mission Quilters welcome new members at any time to either of the quilting groups – no matter what the skill level or past sewing experience is! The group always is looking for volunteers to help cut fabric squares, assemble and tie quilts, bind or hem quilts, enjoy the fellowship, and support the mission outreach program of First Lutheran Church. Fabric donations of curtains, sheets/pillow cases, table cloths, etc. are always welcome.

The First Lutheran Church Quilters are most appreciative of the fabric items and monetary donations that members of our church and community have provided to us for the many projects that have been completed throughout the year. Thank you to all that have assisted us in many ways. We have been blessed!



Quilters gift high school seniors a quilt at graduation



BELIZE MISSION

“Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.” John Fawcett

As Dee Shanley, First Lutheran Church (FLC) missionary in Belize, begins her fifth year as a volunteer sewing teacher in a Christian high school, the ties and support created from this ministry to others continue to increase and strengthen. Thanks be to God for these blessings!

The following connections with both Belizeans and locals illustrate the breadth of Dee’s and the travel team’s work this past year.

In Belize the FLC ministry grows with

- continued tuition support for thirty-two students at Alvin L. Young High School, plus funds for lunches, school materials, and transportation, as needed;
- higher education support for four students;
- a ten-day visit from an FLC travel team – the first one since Covid travel restrictions; team members included Deb Pederson, Dee Herrig, Dee Shanley, Nancy and Jim Schade, Kathy Greenlee and her family Brooke, Kaya, and Channing; in addition, Jean Gentry served for a month with Dee at the high school;
- relationships renewed and developed among FLC travel team members and Alvin L. Young High School administrators and staff;
- improvements to the school campus including plastering, painting and tiling in the new kitchen and floor tiles in the computer classroom through hands-on support from the FLC travel team and funding from donations;
- connections made to Camp SeKonsa staff and their guests (children and families with special needs) with FLC travel team supporting an overnight camping experience and a day of vacation Bible school style activities;
- relationships sustained with previous mission work in Corozal as the FLC travel team delivered an action-filled day of vacation Bible style activities to community children. We continue to support a family there with tuition support for three children.

In Brookings the FLC ministry grows and connects with many through

- a well-supported Purses for a Powerful Purpose luncheon in December 2022 and broad community-wide participation; Augustana University President **Stephanie Herseth Sandlin** will speak at the **Dec. 8, 2023 event!**
- generous donations of purses, jewelry, and Christmas décor sold during the Purses weekend and a silent auction with decorated Christmas trees; we continue to receive and prepare for the 2023 Purses mission weekend.
- a summer donor luncheon with the 2023 FLC travel team showcasing their experiences in Belize.
- fundraisers including Sunday rolls, lefse sales and a scholarship celebration update from Dee.
- increased numbers of volunteers working behind-the-scenes, serving in multiple ways.

In South Dakota FLC relationships to Lake Whitewood Church continue through the Belize mission.

- Dee connected Pastor Steve Loan and Alice Harrison with Belize students. Four of the five students they have sponsored for the past four years graduated in June 2023.
- Lake Whitewood congregational members along with Pastor Steve and Alice plan to continue their support for students.

International, regional, and local support for the Belize ministry has increased and blossomed over the past year. We are thankful for faithful supporters and the ties that connect us as One Body in Christ!

Respectfully submitted,

Belize Steering Committee members Dee Shanley, Jim Schade, Jean Gentry, Deb Pederson, and Mary Moeller

**Belize Mission Team
Financial Report
Fiscal Year 2023
As of August 15, 2023**

Revenues from Fundraising

Purses for a Powerful Purpose	
December Fundraiser	\$10,981.25
Scholarship Donations	\$6,995.00
Celebration Luncheon	
Scholarship Donations	\$11,233.00
Summer Luncheon	\$4,190.00
Belize Mission Donations	\$8,666.00
Total Revenue	\$42,065.25

Expenditures

Alvin Young Nazarene High School	
32 high school scholarships	\$14,400.00
5 night school scholarships	\$2,750.00
New Cafeteria building improvements and kitchen fixtures	\$12,100.00
Teaching Assistant for Dee Shanley	\$1,000.00
Higher Education Scholarships	\$4,010.65
Designated Gifts for Dee Shanley Travel	\$2,000.00
Computer lab tile and other travel expenses	\$3,882.00
Purses and Summer Luncheon Expenses***	\$228.12
Total Expenses	\$40,370.77

*** Most of the costs of the Purses event and the Celebration Luncheon were covered by the donations of Thrivent Gift Cards by Members of First Lutheran Church.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF MINISTRY

Submitted by Mary Moeller

First Lutheran Church (FLC) support for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) (<https://lwr.org>) reflects our beliefs that we have been **“blessed to be a blessing”** to others (Gen. 12) and that through God’s abundant grace, there is always enough to share (Matt. 14). We focus on two service project areas: quilts and Personal Care Kits.

QUILTS: Two FLC Mission Interest Quilters groups, meeting weekly on Monday evenings for “Sew What” and on Tuesday mornings, create these from donated material and sheets as well as purchased items. Both groups strive to be welcoming and inclusive with volunteers from a range of ages, genders, and even church memberships. This year the groups challenged themselves to double their annual output to 400 quilts. They organized a Saturday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. quilting event called “Tie One On” in the Mission Coffee House Activity Center to support that challenge and generate momentum from area quilters. Please refer to the Mission Interest Quilters annual report page for more details on this event and on quilting donations, financial receipts, and expenditures.

PERSONAL CARE KITS: provide valuable self-care and hygiene tools for people in need around the world. Each kit contains 2 bars of soap, 1 toothbrush, 1 nail clipper, and 1 comb, tied up in a bath towel. Previously these kits had been organized by the FLC Women’s Organization. This year a volunteer group, with guidance from the Mission Interest Quilters and leadership from Jennifer and Tim Swartz and Mary Moeller, promoted the project, collected completed kits and items donated by FLC members, inventoried, and purchased needed items. During Vacation Bible School students helped unpackage multiple packs of toothbrushes and seal them in envelopes as required by LWR.

This year the Journey students combined their Sunday and Wednesday offerings for a total of \$1,194 and donated them to the Personal Care kits project. These funds were used to purchase hygiene items and to pay for shipping costs of \$2.65 per kit. At the LWR warehouse a tube of toothpaste will then be added to the kit. Total shipping costs for 150 kits were \$397.50. On September 17, with help from students, their families and the congregation, kits were completed, boxed and ready for distribution around the world!

ABUNDANCE AND GENEROSITY: Donations and support from many FLC members combined to help us increase and meet our giving goals for LWR projects. **Thanks be to God for guiding this ministry!**



All ages enjoyed the “Tie One On” event

VBS students unpack toothbrushes and put them in envelopes per LWR procedures

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” 1 Timothy 6:18

The FLC Foundation allows the management of the Church’s long-term assets to be separated from the day-to-day management of the Church. This ensures the demands of the present do not cause the opportunities of the future to be neglected.

The Foundation currently has Endowment Funds designated in support of:

Youth	Cemetery	Preschool
Scholarships	Seminary Scholarships	Sabbatical

The Endowment Funds are invested in the ELCA Pooled Trust and managed by the ELCA Endowment fund to provide perpetual support to each of their designated areas. All gifts to the FLC Foundation are invested with only the earnings being used each year. If you are interested in supporting these programs in a perpetual way, we encourage you to contact any of the Foundation Board members.

The ELCA Pooled Trust has not been immune to the recent investment market fluctuations. The Pooled Trust posted the following annual returns as of June 30, 2023:

1 year = 8.90%
3 years = 7.20%
5 years = 5.50%
10 years = 6.40%

Performance figures were obtained from the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust second quarter 2023 report. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

On 7/1/2022 the Foundation had total assets of \$1,965,777. For the twelve months ending 6/30/2023, the Foundation received contributions totaling \$16,400 and made distributions totaling \$97,329 (see detail). The Foundation ended the most recent calendar quarter on June 30th , 2023, with total assets of \$2,133,121.

Details of the distributions made during July 2023 for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2023 are as follows:

- \$11,335 was distributed in support of the FLC Cemetery
- \$15,107 was distributed to our youth through the FLC Scholarship Fund
- \$9,263 was distributed in support of the FLC Youth program
- \$20,001 was distributed via the Seminary Scholarship fund
- \$2,035 was distributed via the Preschool fund
- \$1,899 was distributed via the Sabbatical fund
- \$37,689 was distributed via the Undesignated fund

These distributions are only possible because of the generous support received from the many people who care deeply about the ministries of First Lutheran.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Dale Nelson, Chairman, Kathy DeKraai, Secretary, Ken Nelson and Betty Hind

We would like to extend many thanks to Brad Erickson and Nicki Brooks for serving the prior few years.

First Lutheran Cemetery is open for burials to non-members as well as members. The cost for a monument permit is \$300 which is the same as Greenwood Cemetery charges. Costs for niches in the columbarium vary by level. Contact our sexton, Dan Billet, for more information.

The cemetery requires much annual maintenance to provide perpetual care. Contributions and memorials to the cemetery fund are welcome for maintenance as well as continued improvements. In addition to First Lutheran Cemetery, the congregation provides lawn care maintenance at Pioneer Cemetery and Sterling Lutheran Cemetery. Reitz Lawn Service is our current mowing service for First Lutheran Cemetery, while Bachar Lawn Care and Landscaping mows both Pioneer and Sterling Cemeteries. Turfguard sprays for weeds and unwanted growth.

The clean-up and repairs from the devastation of the 2022 Derecho has been mostly completed. MANY THANKS to those who helped with the enormous cleanup effort.

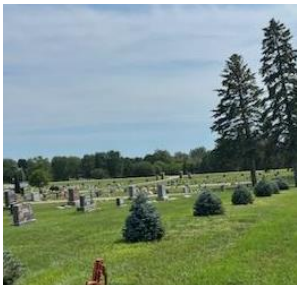
The Cemetery Committee and Church Council made the decision to go ahead with the purchase and planting of 60 Blue Spruce trees early in June of this year. Planting went well and watering each tree with soaker hoses has been ongoing since the plantings. Donations to offset the expense of the tree replacement are greatly appreciated.

Discussions at Spring and Fall 2023 Cemetery meetings with no action taken are as follows:

- Mowing, trimming and weed spraying options
- Tree watering as they mature
- East Entry sign painting and repair will be done
- Move American flag and pole to the center just north of Columbarium
- Main entrance masonry pillars repair

Regular maintenance has made spring and fall cleanups much easier for our volunteers. We are thankful that a nice crew shows up for the cleanups. There was a good crew of volunteers that helped this spring and the committee says “Thanks” for your help. **Fall cleanup is scheduled for Tuesday October 3rd at 10am. In case of inclement weather, the cleanup will be the following Tuesday, October 10, at the same time.**

As per cemetery rules, artificial flowers, decorations, and plants in pots are allowed only on the monument, end base of the monument or foundation from May 1 to October 1. During clean up, we will be discarding items not in compliance, so if you have concerns, please come out before our October 3 cleanup and remove the listed items.



Photos of the newly planted trees and the spring clean-up crew

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE

Origin: Church Council

Whereas: the following persons connected to First Lutheran Church died in the faith this past year, and have been committed to the Lord of Life:

Harry Jones

Lorna Foster

Leon Lengkeek

Arlie Steenson

Paul Ust

Duane Rollag

Erin Link

Betty Gadnalski

Patricia Sedivy

Virgil Bernstein

LaVonne Wunnette

Donna McLagan

James Coulson

Mason Kirk

Clayton Ness

Margaret Sorenson

Connie Schwartz (NP)

Rick Novak (NP)

NP = not pictured below

Therefore: Be it resolved that we commend our brothers and sisters to the loving care of a gracious and loving God.



Pictured in same order across, then down, as list above

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Wendy Flanery, Treasurer

First Lutheran Mission and Ministry Outreach FY2023

South Dakota Synold/ELCA Mission Support \$27,600.00

Congregational Ministry Outreach:

Adult Fellowship	\$ 2,221.37
Belize Adult Mission	\$ 52,292.12
Brookings Food Pantry	\$ 971.22
Childcare at FLC	\$ 4,314.00
Christ in our Home (Devotionals)	\$ 1,704.00
Christian Ed Children	\$ 5,103.00
Christian Ed High School	\$ 14,512.00
Christmas Dinner	\$ -
Radio Broadcast/Advertising	\$ 5,177.00
Volunteer Recognition	\$ 554.00
My Neighbor	\$ 5,000.00
Lutheran Outdoors	\$ 3,000.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$ 3,000.00
subtotal	\$ 114,448.71

Scholarships:

Postsecondary	\$ 14,000.00
Seminary	\$ 3,637.00
Subtotal	\$ 17,637.00

MCH Tip Jar:

Total for MCH Tip Jar* \$ 12,739.00

*See MCH for detailed giving

MISSION COFFEEHOUSE TIP JAR TOTALS

MISSION COFFEEHOUSE MISSION OF THE MONTH 2022-2023

September	University Lutheran Center	\$1,238.24
October	Smile Train	\$1,552.64
November	Project Joy	\$1,362.21
December	Good Gifts	\$1,897.62
January	Harvest Table	\$1,517.17
February	Brookings Multicultural Center	\$1,182.93
March	Brookings County Food Pantry	\$1,565.84
April	Special Training And Riding Skills	\$1,573.83
May	Samaritan's Purse-US	\$1,523.84
June	St. Teresa's Orphan Foundation	\$1,340.15
July	Brookings Backpack Project	\$1,202.74
August	Girls on the Run	\$1,354.97

Total	2022-2023	\$17,312.18
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Photos of Jeanne Eclov handing the donations to the charity representatives

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET
31-Aug-23**

ASSETS

CASH

Unrestricted	\$ 57,055.00
Restricted/Dedicated	\$ 24,028.00

Total Cash

FIXED ASSETS **Property values provided by Brookings Dept. of Equalization

MiniVan	\$ 6,800.00	
First Lutheran Church	\$ 3,500,000.00	
New Addition	\$ 3,800,000.00	
403 8th St Lot	\$ 20,000.00	
Undeveloped Property	\$ 54,900.00	
Total Fixed Assets		<u>\$ 7,381,700.00</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Short-Term

Total Short-Term Liabilities	\$0
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Long-Term

Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$0
-----------------------------	-----

Total Liabilities	\$0
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NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 57,055.00
Restricted/Dedicated	\$ 24,028.00
Investment in Fixed Assets	\$ 7,381,700.00

Total Net Assets	\$ 7,462,783.00
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 7,617,820.00
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First Lutheran Church

Chart of Account Balances

Sep 01, 2022 through Sep 30, 2023

Asset Accounts	Balance as of 2022-09-01	Balance as of 2023-08-31
Balcony Chairs (017-40-10-24)	\$ (2,044.60)	\$ (2,044.60)
Belize Adult Mission (017-40-10-27)	\$ 10,048.04	\$ (4,940.73)
CHRISTMAS MARKET (017-40-10-56)	\$ 2,015.01	\$ 6,378.97
76) CONFIRMATION FUNDRAISE (017-40-10-	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00
Cemetery (017-40-10-19)	\$ 5,685.34	\$ 5,685.34
Christmas Meal (017-40-10-22)	\$ 826.31	\$ 826.31
ELCA Nat'l Youth Gath (017-40-10-75)	\$ 5,814.47	\$ 5,814.47
Fdn'ts./Capital Campaign (017-40-10-89)	\$ 662.16	\$ 662.16
Food Pantry (017-40-10-06)	\$ 971.22	\$ 971.22
Hand Bell Ministry (017-40-10-79)	\$ 9,923.18	\$ 7,955.63
Heifer International (017-40-10-42)	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (017-40-10-86)	\$ 220.00	\$ 140.00
Lilies/Poinsett Fund (017-42-32-20)	\$ 696.00	\$ 696.00
Memorial (017-40-10-20)	\$ 555.00	\$ 555.00
Mission Outreach (017-40-10-01)	\$ 3,790.00	\$ 3,790.00
New Flooring 2021 (017-40-10-33)	\$ -	\$ -
Playground/Sports Eq (017-42-32-07)	\$ 639.04	\$ 639.04
Puerto Rico (017-40-10-87)	\$ 5,512.32	\$ 5,512.32
SR. PASTOR'S DISCRET (017-40-10-09)	\$ 1,983.33	\$ 2,183.33
Schol,baptism Envelop (017-40-10-14)	\$ 25.72	\$ 25.72
Schol,for/to Schools (017-40-10-28)	\$ -	\$ -
Semin Schol 4 Distrib (017-40-10-92)	\$ -	\$ -
UNDESIGNATED (017-40-10-02)	\$ 55,806.00	\$ 55,806.00
Wedding Consultants (017-40-10-30)	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Youth Gathering (017-40-10-29)	\$ 1,380.56	\$ 1,380.56
Youth/Camp Scholarships (017-42-32-05)	\$ 2,505.00	\$ 2,505.00

Liabilities

Wedding Deposits (012-00-10-01)	\$	(300.00)	\$	(300.00)
Pension Payable (012-00-05-01)	\$	8,154.90	\$	18,617.86
FICA Payable (012-00-03-01)	\$	-	\$	-
Sales Tax Payable (012-00-03-02)	\$	(4,568.41)	\$	(4,568.41)
FEDERAL WH TAX Payable (012-00-03-03)	\$	(36,697.70)	\$	(36,697.70)
Building Fund Clearing (012-00-03-04)	\$	(275,186.02)	\$	(275,186.02)

Income

Cemetery Income (015-93-00-01)	\$	33,922.12	\$	117,648.13
Coffee House (015-92-00-01)	\$	-	\$	-
MCH Tip Jar (015-92-00-02)	\$	8,709.22	\$	22,795.47
MCH Sales (015-92-00-03)	\$	69,140.79	\$	151,764.00
Preschool Tuition (015-32-00-01)	\$	152,107.02	\$	294,921.86
Nonrecurring Gifts (015-31-06-02)	\$	1,089.99	\$	1,089.99
Youth & Family (015-31-06-03)	\$	11,997.80	\$	21,760.80
Wedding Fee Income (015-31-06-04)	\$	1,845.00	\$	3,045.00
Mission Partners Income (015-31-06-05)	\$	3.00	\$	252.13
Golden Age Income (015-31-06-06)	\$	-	\$	-
Foundation Income (015-31-06-07)	\$	-	\$	-
Memorial Income (015-31-06-08)	\$	-	\$	-
Preschool Gifts (015-31-06-09)	\$	2,694.00	\$	3,772.00
Other Dedicated Receipts (015-31-06-10)	\$	27,174.00	\$	43,712.36
Sugg. Fac. Use Gratuity (015-30-06-06)	\$	1,995.00	\$	5,360.00
Envelope Offering (015-30-05-01)	\$	608,198.00	\$	1,356,098.47
Loose Offering (015-30-05-02)	\$	46,758.87	\$	85,593.38
Radio Broadcasts (015-30-05-04)	\$	-	\$	-
Interest/General Checking (015-30-05-05)	\$	109.31	\$	203.84
Thrivent Funds (015-30-05-08)	\$	1,301.00	\$	1,725.00
PPP Loan Funds (015-30-05-10)	\$	-	\$	-

Expense

Cemetery Expenses (016-93-00-01)	\$	43,178.25	\$	122,344.28
MCH Payroll (016-92-00-01)	\$	45,955.75	\$	96,144.12
Coffee House Expenditures (016-92-00-02)	\$	129.93	\$	129.93
MCH Tip Jar (016-92-00-03)	\$	9,382.45	\$	22,121.42
MCH Food & Supplies (016-92-00-06)	\$	59,590.79	\$	121,216.48
MCH Sales Tax Payable (016-92-00-07)	\$	1,705.68	\$	7,071.24
MCH Credit Card Fees (016-92-00-08)	\$	-	\$	-

Youth & Family Expenses (016-91-52-03)	\$	850.49	\$	850.49
Wedding Expenses (016-91-52-04)	\$	175.00	\$	2,830.00
Mission Partners Expenses (016-91-52-05)	\$	11,126.00	\$	16,958.53
Foundation Expenses (016-91-52-07)	\$	17,766.95	\$	20,644.98
Memorial Expenses (016-91-52-08)	\$	60.00	\$	60.00
Other Dedicated Expenses (016-91-52-10)	\$	27,174.56	\$	56,593.20
Preschool Teacher Pay (016-90-10-01)	\$	100,540.50	\$	194,710.30
Preschool Director's Pay (016-90-10-02)	\$	33,901.97	\$	72,181.66
Preschool Supplies (016-90-10-03)	\$	3,733.37	\$	8,828.46
Preschool Misc. (016-90-10-04)	\$	650.13	\$	1,977.70
Utilities/Church (016-85-78-01)	\$	91,313.13	\$	172,277.04
Telephone/Church (016-85-78-02)	\$	3,202.44	\$	12,519.47
Insurance/Church Bldg (016-85-78-04)	\$	19,478.14	\$	19,478.14
Repairs/Church (016-85-78-06)	\$	70,525.77	\$	96,958.20
Grounds/Church (016-85-78-08)	\$	61,585.76	\$	100,335.58
Utilities/Other Property (016-85-78-10)	\$	994.00	\$	994.00
Custodial Supplies (016-85-78-16)	\$	6,959.61	\$	12,803.55
Snow Removal/Contract (016-85-78-17)	\$	-	\$	-
Parsonages Maintenance (016-85-78-18)	\$	11.67	\$	11.67
Organ/Piano Maint (016-85-78-19)	\$	1,218.90	\$	2,564.03
Capital Expenditures (016-85-78-20)	\$	62,677.19	\$	63,677.19
Van (016-85-78-25)	\$	1,064.68	\$	1,770.06
Property Taxes (016-85-78-26)	\$	3,277.24	\$	4,954.37
Stewardship Envelopes (016-84-76-04)	\$	355.15	\$	355.15
Synod Youth Gathering (016-83-75-07)	\$	11,487.41	\$	11,487.41
Office Supplies	\$	9,922.60	\$	18,571.59
Web Page (016-82-74-03)	\$	2,805.57	\$	2,805.57
Funeral/Wedding (016-82-74-04)	\$	176.48	\$	246.48
Advertising (016-82-74-05)	\$	3,914.51	\$	9,091.51
Adult Fellowship Activ's (016-82-74-06)	\$	937.36	\$	3,158.73
Hospital Flowers (016-82-74-08)	\$	-	\$	-
Devotionals (016-82-74-10)	\$	1,692.10	\$	3,396.68
Volunteer Recognition (016-82-74-11)	\$	557.04	\$	1,111.34
Journey Chris Ed 3-5th (016-81-73-02)	\$	2,632.28	\$	6,071.68
Christian Ed/Family Event (016-81-73-04)	\$	2,219.72	\$	2,855.83
Background Checks (016-81-73-05)	\$	-	\$	-
Christian Ed/High School (016-81-73-08)	\$	266.63	\$	441.02
Stepping Stones 6-12 (016-81-73-09)	\$	1,249.06	\$	2,052.95

Vacation Bible School (016-81-73-10)	\$	1,168.41	\$	2,000.28
Elem Min 0-5,Stepping Sto (016-81-73-11)	\$	326.57	\$	1,158.32
Young Adult Ministry (016-81-73-13)	\$	24.00	\$	148.17
High School Ministry (016-81-73-15)	\$	642.92	\$	2,845.92
Christian Ed/Confirmation (016-81-73-16)	\$	800.00	\$	6,683.29
Middle School Ministry (016-81-73-18)	\$	-	\$	-
Miscellaneous (016-81-73-19)	\$	1,855.34	\$	2,903.60
Music Copyrights (016-80-61-01)	\$	2,196.10	\$	2,196.10
Music/Music Ed (016-80-61-02)	\$	177.17	\$	6,682.36
Instrumentals/Artists (016-80-61-05)	\$	1,430.00	\$	3,320.00
Cont Education (016-60-52-60)	\$	230.86	\$	230.86
Childcare (016-60-52-65)	\$	2,400.21	\$	6,714.24
Travel & Meals (016-60-52-67)	\$	1,148.66	\$	1,265.80
MCH - Food/Coffee (016-60-52-86)	\$	1,208.02	\$	1,208.02
Argus and Zoom (016-60-52-87)	\$	15.96	\$	15.96
Pastors' Compensation (016-59-52-01)	\$	189,151.48	\$	365,975.18
Other Ministry Comp (016-59-52-02)	\$	173,020.44	\$	378,876.58
Support Staff Comp (016-59-52-03)	\$	144,672.15	\$	287,573.35
Postage/Office (016-55-42-07)	\$	3,769.67	\$	3,769.67
Office Supplies (016-55-42-08)	\$	9,922.60	\$	18,571.19
Church Copier Expense (016-55-42-09)	\$	11,105.24	\$	20,012.97
Bank Charges (016-55-42-10)	\$	1,417.98	\$	5,893.64
Info Tech/Computer (016-55-42-22)	\$	1,641.44	\$	8,242.97
Misc Benevolence Exp (016-50-42-01)	\$	683.52	\$	683.52
SD Synod/ELCA (016-50-42-02)	\$	24,708.54	\$	50,758.54
Discretionary Fund (016-50-42-09)	\$	2,142.86	\$	4,773.36
Regional Charities (016-50-42-19)	\$	43.59	\$	3,043.59
Mission Trip (016-50-42-31)	\$	3,763.75	\$	3,763.75
Christmas/Annual Meeting (016-50-42-32)	\$	578.73	\$	578.73

b

FLC 2022-23 BUDGET to ACTUALS and 2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

INCOME

<u>Account Name</u>	2022-'23 Budget	2022-'23 Actual**	2023-'24 Budget
		**Rounded to nearest dollar	
BUDGETARY INCOME			
Envelope Offering	\$ 797,500	\$ 657,106	\$ 694,708
Loose Offering	\$ 31,900	\$ 36,828	\$ 40,511
Radio Broadcasts	\$ 1,980	\$ 445	\$ 490
Interest/General Checking	\$ 330	\$ 88	\$ 97
Thrivent Funds	\$ 825	\$ 425	\$ 468
FACILITY USE			
Sugg Facility Use Gratuity	\$ 2,200	\$ 3,365	\$ 3,702
DESIGNATED GEN. PURPOSE			
Non-recurring gifts			
Youth & Family	\$ 12,650	\$ 9,763	\$ 10,739
Wedding Fee Income	\$ 2,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,320
Golden Age income			
Foundation income	\$ 6,600	\$ 117,302	\$ 108,133
Memorial income			\$ 1,254
Preschool Gifts	\$ 2,475		
Other Dedicated Receipts	\$ 13,200	\$ 53,115	\$ 58,427
Dedicated Account Liquidity			\$ 19,000
PRESCHOOL			
Preschool Tuition	\$ 156,750	\$ 137,388	\$ 136,310
COFFEEHOUSE			
Coffee House	\$ 2,464		
MCH Tip Jar	\$ 16,500	\$ 15,211	\$ 15,211
MCH Sales	\$ 77,000	\$ 79,843	\$ 87,827
CEMETERY			
Cemetery Income	<u>\$ 12,100</u>	<u>\$ 83,726</u>	<u>\$ 92,099</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,136,674	\$ 1,195,805	\$ 1,270,296

EXPENSE**BENEVOLENCE/MISSION**

SD Synod/

ELCA/Synod

Events \$ 27,600.00 \$ 28,350 \$ 32,760.00

Belize Airfare \$ 1,000.00 \$ 1,349 \$ 3,000.00

ULC, My

Neighbor &

Lutheran Outdoors of SD \$ 6,000.00 \$ 6,000 \$ 9,000.00

Christmas/Annual Meeting \$ 460.00 \$ -

*Sr. Pastor/Assoc. Pastor**Discretionary Budget* \$ 4,000.00 \$ 966 \$ 3,000.00**OFFICE SUPPLIES**

Postage/Office \$ 5,000.00 \$ 3,820 \$ 5,500.00

Office Supplies \$ 11,500.00 \$ 8,840 \$ 8,657.00

Church Copier Expense \$ 10,550.00 \$ 10,068 \$ 11,000.00

HW/SW \$ 3,000.00 \$ 5,317 \$ 5,791.00

Bank Charges \$ 380.00 \$ 4,806 \$ 4,258.00

COMPENSATION

Pastor's Compensation \$ 207,400.00 \$ 176,824 \$ 177,277.00

Other Ministry Comp \$ 156,477.00 \$ 205,096 \$ 206,671.00

Support Staff Comp \$ 195,040.00 \$ 142,150 \$ 160,615.00

Benefits - Support Staff**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cont Education \$ 4,000.00 \$ 4,684 \$ 3,200.00

Childcare \$ 6,000.00 \$ 4,477 \$ 4,400.00

MCH - Food/Coffee,

Travel and Meals \$ 100.00 \$ 17 \$ 117.00

Argus & Zoom \$ 1,200.00 \$ - \$ -

WORSHIP/MUSIC/ARTS

Music Copyrights \$ 1,900.00 \$ 2,312 \$ 1,402.00

Music/Music Ed \$ 700.00 \$ 4,602 \$ 1,000.00

Instrumentals/Artists \$ 1,800.00 \$ 2,190 \$ 1,000.00

Sanctuary

Robes/Handbell Maintenance \$ 1,000.00

EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

Journey, Christian Ed 3-5th \$ 4,900.00 \$ 3,662 \$ 3,100.00

Christian Ed/Family Event \$ 1,600.00 \$ 903 \$ 636.00

Background Checks

**Added into support

staff \$ 400.00 \$ 266 \$ -

Christian Ed/High School \$ 400.00 \$ 241 \$ 174.00

SteppingStones 6-12 \$ 600.00 \$ 904 \$ 804.00

Vacation Bible School \$ 2,000.00 \$ 845 \$ 800.00

Elem Ministry 0-5						
SteppingStones	\$	600.00	\$	932	\$	2,417.00
Young Adult Ministry	\$	420.00	\$	186	\$	124.00
High School Ministry	\$	4,200.00	\$	2,009	\$	2,203.00
Christian Ed/Confirmation	\$	1,900.00	\$	5,737	\$	4,883.00
Middle School Ministry	\$	550.00	\$	926	\$	28.00
Miscellaneous	\$	2,200.00	\$	1,076	\$	1,275.00

*Adult Ed Curriculum**
Added to Devotionals
Budget*

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Worship Supplies	\$	3,200.00	\$	3,592	\$	3,251.00
Web Page (**In HW/SW)	\$	4,000.00	\$	667	\$	-
Funeral/Wedding	\$	600.00	\$	170	\$	-
Advertising	\$	5,650.00	\$	4,977	\$	5,177.00
Care and Appreciation	\$	1,600.00	\$	2,027	\$	2,700.00
Hospital Flowers (**Moved to C&A)	\$	100.00	\$	17	\$	-
Devotionals	\$	1,550.00	\$	1,963	\$	1,705.00
Volunteer Recognition (moved to C&A)	\$	750.00	\$	541	\$	-

MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

Stewardship						
Materials/Discovery	\$	1,500.00	\$	430.52	\$	9,500.00
Stewardship Envelopes	\$	400.00	\$	66.67	\$	-

PROPERTY/FINANCE

Utilities/Church	\$	61,000.00	\$	78,342.83	\$	81,746.00
Telephone/Church	\$	7,500.00	\$	9,051.71	\$	9,317.00
Insurance/Church Bldg	\$	17,586.00	\$	17,868.56	\$	17,844.00
Repairs/Church	\$	18,000.00	\$	30,097.42	\$	34,292.00
Grounds/Church	\$	5,580.00	\$	37,519.22	\$	29,980.00
Custodial Equipment & Repairs to Machinery	\$	-	\$	-	\$	10,000.00
Custodial Supplies	\$	6,000.00	\$	4,665.09	\$	7,000.00
Snow Removal/Contract	\$	12,000.00	\$	-	\$	-
Parsonages						
Maintenance**Added to Grounds/Church	\$	2,400.00	\$	-	\$	-
Organ/Piano Maintenance	\$	1,600.00	\$	1,577.62	\$	2,200.00
Capital Expenditures	\$	3,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	-
Van	\$	600.00	\$	684.84	\$	705.00
Property Taxes/Fees	\$	4,500.00	\$	2,427.00	\$	2,427.00

PRESCHOOL

Preschool Teacher Pay	\$	110,210.00	\$	93,851.00	\$	106,111.00
Preschool Director's Pay	\$	38,316.00	\$	38,067.00	\$	39,209.00
Preschool Supplies	\$	8,000.00	\$	3,733.00	\$	5,605.00
RESTRICTED						
Wedding Expenses	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,850.00	\$	-
Foundation Expenses	\$	6,000.00	\$	1,871.00	\$	2,878.00
Other Dedicated Expenses	\$	13,200.00	\$	29,419.00	\$	53,115.00
COFFEEHOUSE						
MCH Payroll	\$	48,410.00	\$	49,918.00	\$	51,416.00
Coffee House Expenditures **Moved to MCH Food & Supplies	\$	1,200.00			\$	-
MCH Tip Jar	\$	16,500.00	\$	14,211.92	\$	15,211
MCH Food & Supplies	\$	47,972.00	\$	60,364.38	\$	60,360.00
MCH Sales Tax Payable	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,300.02	\$	5,366.00
CEMETERY						
Cemetery Expenses	\$	<u>17,673.00</u>	\$	<u>79,166.00</u>	\$	19,712.00
FOUNDATION						
Foundation Distributions					\$	<u>37,377.00</u>
TOTAL	\$	1,136,674.00	\$	1,205,990.24	\$	1,270,296.00

** Distributed among Pastor, Other Ministry and Support Comp.



L: Madison McCabe, Ross Abraham and 7 youth from FLC spent a week at Flathead camp in Montana communing with God, nature and themselves. The week ended with the camp's version of the Passion Play.



The Daums and Lewis' enjoyed a week at Lutheran Outdoors family camp in the Black Hills

STATISTICS

STATISTICAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 – AUGUST 31, 2023

	<u>August 31, 2022</u>	<u>August 31, 2023</u>
Baptized Membership	1989	2003
Baptized	21	20
Funerals	9	18
Weddings	3	6



Kids and adults alike enjoying VBS 2023 – “How to Train Your Emotions”

ELECTIONS

1. NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL – 7 members – 2 seats open

_____ (4 year term)

_____ (4 year term)

_____ (Write in candidate)

Kris Seas and Erik Dahl have completed their terms

2. NOMINATIONS FOR CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Mark Foster (4 year term)

_____ (write in candidate)

3. NOMINATIONS FOR AUDIT COMMITTEE

Tyler Holmquist (4 year term)

_____ (write in candidate)

4. NOMINATIONS FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Diane Krogstad (4 year term)

_____ (write in candidate)

5. NOMINATIONS FOR REPRESENTATIVES AT SD SYNOD ASSEMBLY IN 2024

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

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

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

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

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

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

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

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America