

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## 2024 ANNUAL **REPORT** TO THE CONGREGATION



**Northwest Washington Synod**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

All around us, we see signs of God's love and goodness. A person who has stepped away from church for many years steps back into a congregation, feeling the call of the Holy Spirit. Young adults feeling isolated in a digital-first world start gathering in person in a small group, enjoying the warmth of a hug and a new friend asking about their week. A mother plants a garden, and it yields fruits and vegetables, giving her nutritious food for her kids and extra produce to sell at the local market. Everywhere we look, we see signs of Christ's love. In Psalm 93, we read: "More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore" (4-5).

God's love is a majestic thing, and it moves us to share it in word and deed. The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, across our country and around the world.

I am so grateful for you, dear church. Your generosity to each of these three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has bolstered the church's ability to share the message of God's love to people who are longing for it. Through your

“More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.”

—Psalm 93:4-5

financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices, you've helped carry this message of God's majestic love. Thank you, dear church. As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to stand steadfast in God's promises, sure of God's love and goodness.

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



Northwest Washington Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January 2025

Dear Beloveds in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from the Triune God who – always and without end – creates, loves, gathers and sends.

As I write this letter for you to use at your annual meetings, I am also preparing for the 2025 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly. Our theme this year comes from Galatians 3:26-28: *Woven Into God's Story*.

In the third chapter of Galatians, Paul writes that the baptized are clothed with Christ. That Christians are free from both powers that enslave and free from attempts to save oneself by works. Paul writes that in the freedom of Christ, God's love is all inclusive – no one is left behind. As Paul writes in Galatians 3:28, *"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer enslaved or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

In Galatians, Paul defends God's radical grace against any and every other "different gospel," which he dismisses in chapter one as "no gospel at all." Throughout Galatians, we are reminded that even though we sometimes are tempted towards worldly validation or praise or power or whatever we think marks our success, Paul reminds us that God works in a much different way. When we are disappointed or exhausted or think that we are not doing enough, Paul reminds us that we are made beloved and we are free, through Christ.

In other words, we don't have to justify ourselves. We don't need to purify ourselves by scapegoating others. We don't need to pretend to ignore something in order to not make a mistake. We don't need to be busy for the appearance of being productive. We don't need to pretend all is well when it is not. And on and on. We are enough. Paul emphasizes that the gospel he is proclaiming enters into the very heart of what God did in Christ. And we are made for freedom: to move and dance and be in the Spirit of Christ. Together we are made to be woven into God's story.

What amazing good news. It is truly the best news – that we are freed from sin, loved beyond measure, forgiven and made new. And because of this, because of these promises, because we are set free from all that might bind us, because everyone is included in this promise, we are then free to live out the calling to be God's people. We are then free to be a blessing to our neighbor and to the world. We are then free to speak out against injustice and to listen to those who have been silenced. In other words, because we are filled and freed in Christ's love we are therefore sent out for the sake of the world.

As you gather for your congregation's annual meeting, I pray:

- that you hold onto God's promises as you discuss budget and goals, elect officers, council members and other committee people, and as you vote on compensation for pastors and staff salaries.
- that you hold onto God's promises when fear of the unknown threatens to pull you backward.
- that you hold onto God's promises as you wonder and prayerfully move towards what God is calling you and your congregation towards in the next year.
- that you hold onto God's promises as events in life and events in the world cause chaos or disruption or exhaustion.

- that you hold onto God's promises as voices cry out for justice, as immigrants cry for a home, as the temptation towards silence and apathy happen.
- that you hold onto God's promises as you are tempted to be busy for the sake of busyness or apathetic in the face of despair.

I pray that you hold onto the promises of God's radical grace, love, mercy, justice, forgiveness, and hope as you move and breathe into God's radical freedom ensured through Jesus our Savior.

I am grateful for all of you and I thank you for the honor of being your Bishop. May we trust that these promises through Christ hold us and strengthen us in 2025 and in all the days to come. May together we be woven into God's story.

In Christ's Love and Grace,

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

## **11/17/24 Annual CLC Meeting**

*Minutes recorded by Ginny Clark*

1. **Call to order** Matt Springer Counsel President
2. Pastor Leigh opened in **prayer & devotion** on Romans 12 being one body in Christ & how we all have our gifts that can build up our church & community.
3. **Approval of the 2023 minutes**
  - a. Motion approved to approve the minutes with several corrections
4. **Old Business**
5. **New Business**
  - a. **Constitution Changes**
    - i. Adding language to support if there's a **committee counsel rep vacancy** we can supply a non-voting counsel rep to report to counsel if needed. This way all committees can be heard.
      1. Kurt brought up the issue that that committee wouldn't have a vote despite having a voice.
    - b. The way we run **counsel running quarterly** (executive still meets monthly & counsel can have special meetings) to make serving accessible C1211
      - i. JoAnn asked if anyone had questions about the quarterly change
        1. Carolyn pointed out the burden that puts on Executive Committee
        2. Beckie talked about the need for executive could decide when a special meeting is needed
        3. Beth talked about not wanting there to be penalties for the decreased meetings resulting for the work of the church not being shifted to a small group of people & several people agreed with her.
        4. Language to add that counsel meet "The congregation counsel shall meet at least quarterly, and more frequently as needed as determined by the discretion of counsel." Many people agreed with this. Jenise liked the wording of "and" in place of "but" as well as "at least" instead of "minimally."
        5. Carolyn added some things for better flow that Shay wrote down and read through "Mutual ministry."
        6. Matt moved for this approval to amend. It passed unopposed.
  2. Nancy C1205C question about if the \$500 not included in the budget being a continuing resolution and not a constitutional change.

- i. Shay changed it to be that they have up to \$2,000 and will be a continuing resolution.
- ii. Karen pointed out that we should change the language to include “and may incur obligations in no more than \$2,000 in excess...” because we don’t want to remove the counsel’s requirement to amend the budget.
- iii. Gary brought up a plumbing issue for example needing more than that and requiring a congregational meeting.
- iv. Audra said that it could be from a designated fund for deferred maintenance.

### **3. Counsel Nominations**

- i. 9 committees to fill but currently missing: evangelism, parish ed, youth (who are not meeting at the time, so not needed). We are recruiting for five open spots to fill and will let counsel make that decision. Steve, VP end of term & Bette end of term because they have served so long they have maximized their terms.
  - 1. Social Concerns MaryAnn Ohara, but now Bette said that she is willing to serve another year.
- ii. Updates to treasurer role
  - 1. Treasurer role is tough so Shay is picking up certain bookkeeping tasks that will take some off of the treasurer role such as pay roll, entry. Audra as financial secretary will maintain her role with receiving. Treasurer will still have responsibility to make the budget.
  - 2. Audra clarified that the treasurer is not on counsel but is appointed. SO four counsel positions & a treasurer.
  - 3. **Becky Wagmen, Lillian Huber, Gary Barnes & Sam McGrady also volunteered.** David moved to vote on those names to be approved for counsel. The vote was unanimously approved.
  - 4. Carolyn pointed out that MaryAnn could be elected to counsel & then be elected as a rep.
  - 5. Current Counsel: Matt Springer, Ginny Clark, Jenise Clausen, JoAnn Philpot, David Soderlund, Mary Ann Ohara. Sandy & others are pointing out that you \*can\* have 12 but don’t have to have 12.
    - a. If no one volunteers it’s up to the nominating committee who hasn’t been getting a lot of responses. Also there are only four people on the nominating committee.

6. JoAnn mentioned that she didn't like the Office 360 & Matt & Shay said that they would add that to the December meeting agenda.

**4. 2025 Audit Support Committee**

- i. Need four non-counsel members. Currently Linda & Shay.
  1. **Jan Schlack & Liz Brown volunteered for the two years. Erin for the one.** But Audra pointed out that Erin can't audit herself.
  2. They were approved unanimously.

**5. 2025 Nominating Support Committee**

- a. Need four members. Their job is to get people to be on counsel.
- b. **Shay & Bette Volunteered for two years.** (Steve was suggested for the one year). They were voted on and approved unanimously.

**6. 2025 Interfaith Coalition Annual Meeting Delegates**

- a. Becky Wagaman & Kelly volunteered
- b. It was clarified that you only get one vote no matter how many people go.
- c. The third position was previously used for a youth to go as well.

**7. Lutherwood Annual Meeting Delegates**

- a. Nancy & Beth
- b. Feb 1st 10am

**8. Synod Assembly 2025 at Conference Center in Everett**

- a. both Holmes volunteered & JoAnn alternate

All delegates were voted on & approved unanimously

**9. Presentation of Proposed 2025 Operating Budget**

- a. Within \$1800 of breaking even
- b. David Schlack moved to approve the budget & it was unanimously approved.

**10. RIC congregation**

- a. We want to resume the taskforce & Becky McGrady has agreed to chair. Bette is serving as well.

- b. Kelly Diech, Susan Holmes, Jennifer Peterson, Mary Ann, Beckie Wagner & Nancy Tupper all volunteered.
  - c. Becky will go through the training with Pastor Leigh & it will start up in January.
4. Carolyn asked for minutes of counsel in newsletters, not just posted to the website. That the congregation would read those minutes and be informed.

**11. Closing Prayer David Soderlanad.**

**12. Adjournment Matt Springer**

## Annual Report – Pastor Leigh DeVries

In early January of 2024, I wrote an email to Reverend Andy Yee, the Assistant to the Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod. I asked him about a church posted on the “Current Openings” page of the ELCA website, Christ Lutheran Church in Ferndale, WA. After a brief initial interview with Reverend Yee, he sent me the Ministry Site Profile for CLC, and a few weeks later, he shared my ministry profile and resume with CLC. A year later, I am tremendously grateful for that initial meeting with Rev. Yee, who thought I, a born and bred Presbyterian, might be a good fit for this thriving Lutheran congregation.

I started my tenure as the Pastor at CLC in mid-August of 2024, following interim part-time Pastor Brian Stoffregen. In my first months at CLC, I was delighted to learn more about the congregation, Lutheran worship and polity, and pastoral leadership. During my first four and a half months of CLC in the year 2024, I have been deeply impressed by the love of this congregation – for one another, for God, and for the community of Ferndale. God is up to something in this place, and I am honored to be a part of it.

From Property Management to Worship & Music, from Quilters to Walk & Talk to our Stephen’s Ministry, members of this church worked tirelessly this past year to provide leadership and friendship in this community, safely, faithfully, and justly. We accomplished our mission to “live in Christ and share his love with all people” in various ways, through

- Meaningful Sunday morning Worship services
- Regular Preschool Chapel, three times a week
- An Advent Study of *Names for the Messiah* by Walter Bruggeman for Community Education in the month of December
- Community Events such as the 100th Birthday of Harvey Bishop
- Special joint worship services with United Church Ferndale for Thanksgiving and the Longest Night (Blue Christmas)

I would be remiss not to use this opportunity to express my profound gratitude for the ways my wife, Jenni, and I have been welcomed into Christ Lutheran Church. While we are still settling into our new life here in the Pacific Northwest, we count ourselves exceedingly blessed to be a part of this wonderful church. We’re so grateful to be here. I am honored to be the CLC pastor and can’t wait to see where God leads us in the coming years.

Peace & love,

Pastor Leigh DeVries

Annual report 2024

Council President Matthew Springer

Hello?

Hey Matt! How would you feel about being the Council President?

That was a phone call I received from Shay one afternoon while working in a beer cave. I was on council as the evangelism committee rep. Starting my 3<sup>rd</sup> year on council I thought it might be fun to try something new, and being a problem solver I said yes. Stepping into the role of President meant I had to grow up. I had been on council before, how hard could it be? I could not have done it without the support of Shay, Steve, And Pastor Brian especially for helping understand what Roberts rules of order were!

2024 was a big year for the church. We were in the transition process and looking for the right person to lead us. Working with the Call Committee was a wonderful experience and we were able to find Pastor Leigh! Many hands make light work, and with the help of the pastoral team of Pastor Eric, Pastor Dave, and Pastor Brian our church was successful in its mission of finding a new leader.

2024 also brought some much needed updates to our constitution making changes and changing wording to make it clearer as to the roles of the council.

Even through our transition process we were able to add some new members and the church continues to grow!

I look forward to the future to see what Christ Lutheran has to offer the community of Ferndale!

Thank you

Matthew Springer

**Christ Lutheran Church  
2024 Report for  
Membership and Statistics**

**Total Membership reported to ELCA Synod Dec 31, 2023** **175**

Of these, 156 were voting members, 15 were baptized children and youth, and 4 were associate members.

**Members Received 2024** **+15**

Jill Thomas, Sharon Klassen, Scott Fulton, Teresa Hartley  
Gunther Hoffman, Marijo Hoffman, Mary Springer, Linda  
Osgood, Ozzie Osgood, Sawyer Clark, Melanie Halsell,  
Michael Terry, Mary Terry, Matt Durkee, Pr Leigh DeVries **190**

**Members Lost 2024** **-9**

**181**

By Death: Ann Gregor, Betty Lorenz, Claydene Lederer  
By Transfer to ELCA Congregations: Phyllis Crockett, Shari Farlee  
By Transfer to Other Congregations: Penny Magelssen, Dave Magelssen to  
Grace Lutheran, Blaine  
Donna Christianson to Redeemer Lutheran, North Bellingham  
Inactive at CLC by own intent, following contact or by conversation:  
Mike Davis

**Total Membership Dec. 31, 2024** **181**

164 voting members, 2 associate members, 14 baptized children and youth,

**2024 changes in Member designation** - does not affect count

Gary Barnes from Associate Member to Voting Member  
Solving Schermer confirmed and moves to Voting Member

**Recommendation:** Contact should be made with approximately 35 members who may no longer meet the definition of "Member" as per CLC Constitution and Bylaws, C8.05.01. A few no longer live locally, some are attending other churches, others live locally but have drifted away from worship or participation at CLC. This is an opportunity for outreach and encouraging members to return or to become involved with a Christian community that would serve them well.

The last time membership was thoroughly reviewed and contacts made was early 2023 before Pastor Jana resigned to accept the call at CTS. There has not been an active Evangelism Committee to assist pastor with this task since then. Contacts in past years have been by personal visit, telephone, and letter. It is possible that digital templates for the letters exist in office files.

Report prepared by Carolyn Jonson, January 30, 2025

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 January through December 2024

11:31 AM  
 02/10/2025  
 Cash Basis  
Jan - Dec 24

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

General Offering

Stripe Electronic giving 43,117.66

Envelope 192,079.68

Total General Offering 235,197.34

Other Offering Income

Interest Savings 1,652.23

Total Other Offering Income 1,652.23

Total Income 236,849.57

Gross Profit 236,849.57

Expense

Administration

Payroll Expenses

Payroll Expense 54,228.66

WH FICA Taxes 4,093.47

L&I 977.67

Payroll Expenses - Other -314.20

Total Payroll Expenses 58,985.60

Pastor Pay

Pastor's Salary 45,228.63

Pastor's Housing Allowance 10,258.06

Social Security Offset 1,706.80

Pastor's salary in lieu of Medi 1,003.60

Pastor's Mileage 415.28

Total Pastor Pay 58,612.37

Pastor's Professional Expenses 444.17

Pulpit Supply 250.00

Church Supplies

Copier Rental 6,917.43

Janitorial Supplies 693.23

Office Supplies 1,870.87

Total Church Supplies 9,481.53

Convention Expenses 215.44

Other admin expenses

Background Checks 89.11

Call Committee 14,390.16

Postage 638.55

Stripe Charges 392.04

Total Other admin expenses 15,509.86

	<u>Jan - Dec 24</u>
Technology	
Computer Software	1,623.29
<b>Total Technology</b>	<u>1,623.29</u>
<b>Total Administration</b>	145,122.26
<b>Building Expenses</b>	
MIF Loan Interest	30,906.17
<b>Utilities</b>	
Alarm Monitoring (Fire & Sec.)	2,630.31
Electricity	4,909.21
Garbage	1,145.93
Natural Gas	3,970.10
Phone and Internet	3,977.31
Water	4,346.81
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<u>20,979.67</u>
Insurance	9,230.00
<b>Total Building Expenses</b>	<u>61,115.84</u>
<b>Benevolences</b>	
Mission Support to ELCA/Synod	23,264.63
<b>Total Benevolences</b>	<u>23,264.63</u>
<b>Evangelism Committee</b>	
Web Site Improvements	198.00
Christ in Our Home	360.28
Stephens Ministry	106.65
Supplies	136.41
<b>Total Evangelism Committee</b>	<u>801.34</u>
<b>Fellowship Committee</b>	
Supplies	1,316.51
<b>Total Fellowship Committee</b>	<u>1,316.51</u>
<b>Property Management</b>	
<b>Maintenance</b>	
Mower	1,622.51
Maintenance - Other	2,314.10
<b>Total Maintenance</b>	<u>3,936.61</u>
<b>Total Property Management</b>	<u>3,936.61</u>
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	
Music Supplies	1,575.63
Organ & Piano Tuning	730.00
Worship Supplies	1,623.11
<b>Total Worship &amp; Music</b>	<u>3,928.74</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>239,485.93</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-2,636.36
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
Other Income	

	<u>Jan - Dec 24</u>
<b>Designated Fund Income</b>	
Disaster & Emergency Preparedne	481.00
Building Proj. Forward in Faith	23,848.20
Future Building Fund	1,750.00
<b>Benevolences</b>	
Ferndale Other Bank	150.00
Ferndale Food Bank	805.00
Lutherwood	713.27
<b>Total Benevolences</b>	<u>1,668.27</u>
Call Committee	5,000.00
Christmas Eve	1,192.00
Council Discretion	1,551.00
Fellowship	325.00
<b>Memorials</b>	
Kevin Gahm	25.00
Alton Gregor	40.00
<b>Total Memorials</b>	<u>65.00</u>
<b>Social Concerns</b>	
Helping Neighbors(NFFNsOffer)	2,858.89
Quilting	370.68
Unhoused Ministry	740.00
<b>Total Social Concerns</b>	<u>3,969.57</u>
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	
Altar Guild	
Easter / Christmas Flowers	860.00
Altar Guild - Other	340.00
<b>Total Altar Guild</b>	<u>1,200.00</u>
Music Fund	250.00
<b>Total Worship &amp; Music</b>	<u>1,450.00</u>
<b>Total Designated Fund Income</b>	<u>41,300.04</u>
<b>Preschool Income</b>	
<b>Field Trips</b>	
Pumpkin Patch	148.00
<b>Total Field Trips</b>	<u>148.00</u>
Preschool Tuition	81,694.00
Registration Fees (current yr)	3,840.00
Supplies	1,125.00
Interest Income	163.00
<b>PEP Income</b>	
Butterbraids	2,937.40
Plates and Bowls	314.00
<b>Total PEP Income</b>	<u>3,251.40</u>
<b>Total Preschool Income</b>	<u>90,221.40</u>

	<u>Jan - Dec 24</u>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	131,521.44
<b>Other Expense</b>	
<b>Preschool Expenses</b>	
<b>Payroll Expenses</b>	
<b>Staff Salaries</b>	
Housing Allow - CLCP Director	24,600.00
Staff Salaries - Other	52,912.80
<b>Total Staff Salaries</b>	77,512.80
<b>WH FICA Taxes</b>	4,047.82
<b>Taxes (L&amp;I)</b>	806.61
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	82,367.23
<b>Administrative</b>	
ELEA Membership	395.00
Marketing	297.44
Misc Expense	75.00
Staff Continuing Ed	259.85
Brightwheel	256.06
<b>Total Administrative</b>	1,283.35
<b>Operating Costs</b>	
Classroom supplies	1,024.77
Field Trips	507.09
Office supplies	2,357.66
<b>Total Operating Costs</b>	3,889.52
<b>PEP Team Expenses</b>	
<b>Preschool Needs</b>	
Classroom	625.16
Emergency Tuition Expense	400.00
Photo Processing	387.24
Playground	50.20
<b>Total Preschool Needs</b>	1,462.60
<b>PEP Team Events</b>	
Xmas	77.01
Daddy's Night Out	104.39
Graduation	173.99
Lutheran Schools Week	80.55
Mothers' Tea	574.74
Teacher Christmas Gifts	50.06
Teacher Appreciation Week	849.41
<b>Total PEP Team Events</b>	1,910.15
<b>PEP Team Operating</b>	
Childcare	25.00
Hospitality	12.99
<b>Total PEP Team Operating</b>	37.99

	<b>Jan - Dec 24</b>
Total PEP Team Expenses	<u>3,410.74</u>
Total Preschool Expenses	90,950.84
<b>Designated Fund Disbursements</b>	
Building / Remodel Expenses	392.40
Call Committee	2,928.87
Columbarium	159.12
Council Discretion	413.30
Disaster & Emerg. Preparedness	275.92
Future Building Fund	6,670.17
<b>Property Management</b>	
Emergency Capital Repairs	1,731.21
Window Cleaning	<u>795.00</u>
Total Property Management	2,526.21
<b>Social Concerns</b>	
Helping Neighbors Fund (NFF)	1,731.26
Quilting	430.96
Unhoused Ministry	<u>300.00</u>
Total Social Concerns	2,462.22
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	
Altar Guild - Flowers	811.66
Worship & Music - Other	<u>926.33</u>
Total Worship & Music	1,737.99
<b>Miscellaneous Benevolences</b>	
Miracle Food Network	500.00
Lutherwood	713.27
Ferndale Food Bank	<u>155.00</u>
Total Miscellaneous Benevolences	<u>1,368.27</u>
<b>Total Designated Fund Disbursements</b>	<u>18,934.47</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>109,885.31</u>
Net Other Income	<u>21,636.13</u>
Net Income	<u><u>18,999.77</u></u>

## **Preschool Committee**

### **2024 Annual Report to the CLC Congregation**

Preschool Committee members:

- Director-Pastor Liza Okan
- Parent Representatives- two unfilled positions
- CLC Council Representative-Jenise Clausen
- CLC Member Representatives- Susan Holmes, Melanie Halsell, Sandy Nelson, one position unfilled
- Pastor Leigh DeVries

Christ Lutheran Church Preschool has continued to provide an environment where students, parents and teachers thrive. The great staff includes two teachers: Ms. Asia Roman and Mrs. Aubree Wood. They are assisted by Mrs. Jessica Garcia. Teaching is focused on preparing students for kindergarten academically and socially. Every month there is a seasonal theme, a focus on specific letters, numbers, colors, and shapes. CLCP is very fortunate to have retired music teacher Melanie Halsell volunteer her time, expertise and enthusiasm for music instruction. Students and teachers enjoy their time with her.

Biblical themes are taught each month. In addition to Christian lessons in the classroom, Pastor Brian Stoffregen (last spring) and presently, Pastor Leigh DeVries lead Chapel Time in the sanctuary. Students hear a bible story/message, have discussion time, sing songs and pray with Pastor Leigh every week.

The CLC preschool community and congregation said goodbye to a cherished teacher. After 29 years teaching at CLCP, LaVonne Eggink retired at the end of the 2023-24 school year. She will be greatly missed.

Student enrollment was 52 in 2023/24 and is presently 44 for the 2024/25 school year. This diminishing number of students is mainly due to state support for public school preschool/transitional kindergarten programs. Many Ferndale parents are taking advantage of this opportunity. Liza will be working creatively to keep the program intact, should enrollment continue to decline next year.

Thank you, Pastor Liza and your staff for your devotion to provide a quality preschool program at Christ Lutheran Church.

Prepared by:

Jenise Clausen

CLCP Council Representative

## ANNUAL REPORT OF SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE 2024. CLC COUNCIL, FERNDALE, WA

Throughout the year the Social Concerns Committee provides support for local people who petition the committee with various needs. Most of this support is through financial donations. Current committee members are Carol Gahm (committee chairperson), Liz Brown (secretary), Betty Behee, Mary Ann O'Hara, (Council rep) Jan Schlack, Tracy Strissel, Teri Hartley, and Melanie Halsell.

We meet in the Fireside Room at the church building the first Thursday of every other month.

Several programs are addressed each month:

1. Other Bank – provides clothing and personal supplies. Volunteers serve these needed supplies. Items are gathered in the narthex of the church and taken to the Ferndale site.
2. We donated 286 pounds of food stuff to the Ferndale Food Bank on February, 2024.
3. We gave \$360 from our Helping Neighbor Fund to help with rent for a family who was sleeping in their car.
4. We provided meals through Family Promise to two hungry families.
5. We continued to support Jeremiah, our OPOP representative.
6. 100 gifts were delivered from the Giving Tree in December, 2023.
7. Disaster and Emergency Planning is on-going.

Spring of 2024 (April report)

1. Several bags of clothing to Other Bank.
2. Food Bank was given 107 lbs of food.
3. Helping Neighbors Fund balance was \$1913.91. \$400 and \$100 checks were given to two individuals.
4. There will be a designated offering for Lutherwood. (\$713)
5. Family Promise was provided two family meals.
6. OPOP
7. The mini-pantry was started for after school hungry people
8. Adopt-a-Highway – 4 volunteers, 13 trash bags collected.

(June report) – Active programs:

1. Other Bank
2. Food Bank
3. Helping Neighbors – two requests filled.
4. Family Promise – two families.
5. Mini- Pantry
6. World Relief was formed and is in training. The organization will provide support for immigrant families in our area.
7. 84 quilts made and our for distribution.
8. Donation tub for homeless. Jeremiah (OPOP representative) will deliver.

August report – active and ongoing programs /regular programs.

Other Bank, Food bank, Helping Neighbor Fund.

OPOP, Mini Pantry, Quilting (8-10 weekly volunteers).

World Relief- still waiting to be assigned families.

Coat Drive – collection and distributing in October.

5000 lbs garbage collected from homeless camp and delivered to dump. Requested to pay for funds,

October report:

Other Bank, Food Bank, Helping Neighbor Fund

OPOP – will present adult ed class

Quilts, Coat drive (Oct 25-26). World Relief.

Giving tree in December.

Red Cross Emergency prep, IFC feeding program

Betty reviving pamphlet

Final meeting to be Dec 5.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Mary Ann O'Hara, 17 October 16, 2024

## Stewardship 2024

Steve Balentine chair, Beth Andres, Kelly Dietsch, Carolyn Jonson, Jo Ann Philpot ( council rep), Audra McLain

The Stewardship Committee had been reading "Saving Us" By Kathryn Hayhoe. It is a book on Climate Crisis and how to speak to others about the changing climate. To that end the committee decided to have an Earth Care Fair. We expanded our committee to include Shay Anderson who helped us design banners, website, and communications for the event. Sara Wilhoite also in designing signs and information, Sharon Klassen joined us for the Master Gardening portion.

Kelly organized the food, Carolyn bought plants and worked through the education for the event. Steve and Beth both worked on entertainment, Beth and Jo Ann solicited businesses. Beth headed up the setup and organization of all the booths, children events, and more. This event was for the church and community. The Stewardship team met every two weeks for three months. It was a labor of love. I am sure I missed someone and some part of this endeavor. Overall there were a-lot of volunteers. But we felt we were communicating to the church and community our need to think and do things differently to be good stewards. We felt that with 71 people attending plus 10-20 from the community we made a great start and impact.

In July JoAnn and Carolyn made a presentation to Faith Lutheran Church Bellingham council on Stewardship committees and their functions and assets.

Stewardship committee desires to be a more consistent presence in the church's life. Therefore, the committee worked with Audra in organizing the giving receipts for designing a pledge drive. The word PLEDGE and how to communicate this to the congregation was then discussed.

For instance Matt told us he did not even know what Pledge was until he was president of the congregation. Audra helped us with demographics, and accounting methods to get maximum impact. The stewardship team gave temple talks at church to stress what stewardship means, how the prayer and spirit aspect is important, and leading people to consider their pledges.

The pledge drive included a coffee and donut time after church for people to ask questions about pledges in general.

The rest of the year was spent considering an Art Gallery event for viewing. It is not meant for sales but rather as a gallery walk.

Church Property - This discussion of the back property was tabled in 2024. It will be addressed in 2025.

We are already gearing up to develop a rental fee schedule. This work will be going into 2025.

Overall 2024 was a very exciting year in Stewardship. If anyone is interested in joining our team feel free to contact Steve Balentine or Jo Ann Philpot. Normally we meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2pm, subject to change.

Listed below are events hosted by the Fellowship Committee during 2024:

January 6...Memorial service - Vicki Williams

January 7...Confirmation reception

February 11...Valentine cookies

March 17...Spud social (potato bar)

March 31...Easter Brunch

April 13...Memorial service - Kevin Gahm

May 2...Memorial service - Anne Gregor

May 12...Mother's Day Brunch

June 16...Father's Day Pancakes

July...no event

August 25...Farewell reception - Pastor Brian

September...no event

October 20...Reception for Pastor Leigh following Rite of Beginning service

November...no event

December...no event

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2024 ANNUAL REPORT  
WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

The members of the 2024 Worship and Music Committee are: Becky McGrady (Chair), David Soderlund (Council Representative), Linda Anderson (Secretary), Don Clausen (Music Director), Matt Springer, Joanne Donellan, Jennifer Petersen, and Pastor Leigh DeVries.

The Worship and Music Committee had a few changes in committee members in 2024. Sue Gault resigned her service, and the committee is grateful for her gifts and longtime contributions to worship and music at Christ Lutheran Church. Pastor Leigh DeVries joined upon her hire in August and Pastor Brian Stoffregen moved on from being the transitional pastor. Jennifer Petersen joined the committee in September and was the substitute secretary when Linda Anderson was not able to attend. Most meetings are in-person with Zoom as an option for those who cannot attend physically. Due to schedules, the meeting date has been changed to the last Tuesday of the month.

Becky McGrady continues to coordinate the volunteers for streaming and sound board. A few Sundays were not streamed but recorded and uploaded to improve the video quality. This was not successful, and viewers expressed disappointment about not being able to view church live. Shay Anderson was able to increase the broad band, so streaming will resume, and the team will continue trouble shooting if there are issues with the Wi-Fi timing out.

One blended service continues at 10:00 am on Sundays. Pastor Leigh and Don Clausen are exploring different formats to improve the length of time of the service and to make room for Sunday School.

Soup Suppers were offered prior to the Wednesday Lenten Service, which was well attended. We also held an in-person Sedar Meal for the first time since COVID. The choir sang 3 anthems, and the service concluded with a dramatic reading and the stripping of the altar.

Pricing was updated for weddings and created for funerals and memorial services since many families are not using funeral homes, who used to coordinate payment and the service. The lists were approved by the Council with minor updates to the wedding guidelines.

The choir remains at nearly 21 members throughout the year. They sing in the worship service twice a month and on special occasions such as the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Easter. The choir finished the year 2023 by caroling at the PeaceHealth Cancer Center in late December.

Don Clausen has successfully continued with worship teams where musicians rotate in their participation. The music is contemporary and is well received by the congregation. The worship team sings every Sunday during the prelude, communion, and provides vocal support throughout the service. Don coordinates the gift of music for those who would like to share their talents. The gift of music is offered on Sundays that choir does not sing.

Thank you to the committee for your hard work during this year of transition. I am looking forward to all that will be accomplished in 2025.

Thank you,

Becky McGrady, Chair