

# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION



Ferndale, Washington



**Northwest Washington Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

In Christ,

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

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

(Hebrews 13:16).



January 2023

Dear Beloveds in Christ,

*“Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’” (John 12:20-21)*

When I was in college, I sold books door to door in Alabama. One home that I approached was a trailer with no door - it had burned at some point and there was a smell of decay in the air. We were taught in Sales School that you knocked on every door. Since there wasn't a door, I knocked on the wall. A young mother with two small naked children came. I told her I was selling books. Her face lit up. She said, “Do you have any about Jesus?” And when I said yes, she came back with a jar full of coins that she emptied into my hands. “I want Jesus for my kids,” she said.

I have thought about this young mother and her children for decades now. I still wrestle with my decision to take her coins rather than just giving her the book. I wonder how the children grew up. I hope that they soon moved out of that shack and into a place with at least a door.

But her question has stayed with me the most, “Do you have any about Jesus?” It is so much like the plea from the gospel of John quoted above, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

Are we not still asking this today? To see Jesus and to be seen by Jesus. To truly see and be seen in holy community.

In this time in history when there are so many things that are difficult – in our personal lives, in this nation, in this church – we are all longing for Jesus. The very world, in its beauty and in its brokenness, is longing for Jesus.

I encourage you, as you gather for your annual meeting – and as you discuss budgets and maintenance and worship attendance and the building and salaries and all of the things needed to keep the organization of church going – to also, perhaps mostly, think about the question this young woman was so eagerly asking, “Do you have any about Jesus?” The longing that goes back to some Greeks who ran into Philip one day 2000 years ago. “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

I pray that as you gather, much of the conversation is about how Jesus sees you and how, through Jesus, you see each other and the world. What are some ways that this is made tangible in your community? Where are we falling short? Where is Jesus being shown to us outside of the church buildings and even outside of Christian community?

Above all things, I pray that as you gather, you experience the love and grace of Jesus. While we don't have the answer for all things that are happening or are coming in this next year, we do know this, Jesus is with us. The Spirit is journeying with us. We are held in God's hands. And when I see you, I see Jesus.

Thank you for the honor of being your Bishop. I am so thankful for you.

God's abundant blessings on your annual meeting and throughout 2023.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



# Christ Lutheran Church

*love • live • share*

ANNUAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 20, 2022 - 11 AM

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** President Shay Andersen  
Members present: A quorum was met

**2. DEVOTION:** Pastor Jana Schofield  
Pastor spoke about loss, grief and frustration and the longing for how things used to be. We have experienced significant changes and our church will never be the same, but God is faithful and provides a future with hope.

**3. REFLECTIONS ON 55 YEARS OF CLC'S MINISTRY BY CHARTER MEMBERS**

Joanne Donnellan reminded us that we were a mission church started by Zion Lutheran, that pastors have come and gone, members have come and gone but Christ Lutheran is still here, serving the Ferndale community. Joanne emphasized the importance of the participation of every member.

Nancy Tupper reflected that the church she grew up in was not the same church as Christ Lutheran today, but it was wonderful for the time. We have made necessary changes, expanding our ministry to welcome all people. Our God is faithful. the heart and center of our church.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Annual Meeting November 21, 2021**

**Minutes from the Annual Meeting November 21, 2021 were unanimously approved.**

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Construction loan status: Bruce Mathias, Treasurer**

In 2018 loan balance was \$990,000; current loan balance is \$715,000.

We are in the process of recasting the loan at a 4.875% interest rate fixed for five years, which will drop our payment by \$600 a month to \$4,607.

**b. Update on current budget year status: Bruce Mathias**

Our current deficit is \$6,000, even after cutting \$21,000 in expenses.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Congregational Committees - How has God shown faithfulness in your ministry this year?**

**Evangelism:** Changes with new committee members; a new Stephen Ministry class; Intern Pastor Jory's four week class on Evangelism; upcoming December 10 "Craft, Cookies and Conversation" event; new directory photos; new software for church, "Planning Center".

**Social Concerns:** Liz Brown reported that the “Helping Neighbors” fund helped many to pay bills during Covid and continues to do so; “Family Promise” has changed but continues to help families with food, shelter and more; a new ministry, “One Parish, One Prisoner” program is very successful and a blessing to our congregation; another new ministry is the “Mini Pantry”, providing food for those passing by.

**Worship & Music:** Matt Springer reported that the big change this year is going from two services to one blended service at 10am; services continue to be offered online; Matt called it “Harmony amidst changing times.”

**Property/Management:** Kurt Anderson reported that this committee fixes what is broken, finds replacement parts, keeps the plant clean. Kurt stressed the need for younger members to become active on P/M.

**Youth:** Nicki Pellham reported that Godly Play continues and a new ministry is the Parent Support Group.

**Fellowship:** Jennifer Petersen reported that Fellowship held Mother’s Day and Father’s Day brunches and served at several memorial services. Jennifer also stressed the need for younger members to become involved.

**Stewardship:** Rich Wageman reported that the committee is reading the book, “Holy Currencies” which emphasizes our relationship to our church and each other. We need to reach out and invite others in.

## **B. NOMINATIONS**

### **a. 2023 Council Nominations**

New council members please attend the December 13, 2022 council meeting at 6:30pm. You will be sent a Zoom link.

1. Liz Mathias
2. Mary Ann O’Hara
3. Jo Ann Philpot
4. Tim Surratt

**A unanimous ballot was cast for 2023 council members. The motion was approved.**

### **b. 2023 Audit Support Committee - four voting non-council members**

Jeff Retterer and Calvin Petersen are entering the second year of two-year terms on the Audit Support Committee.

- 1) Janet Wilhoite - nominated for a two-year term
- 2) Beth Andres - nominated for a two-year term

### **c. 2023 Nominating Support Committee - four members**

Erin Carampot is entering the second year of a two-year term on the Nominating Committee.

- 1) Nancy Tupper - nominated for a two-year term
- 2) Paula Saunders - nominated for a two-year term

**d. 2023 Interfaith Coalition Annual Meeting Delegates**

The following were nominated to represent CLC:

- 1) Becky Wageman
- 2) Sharie Schofield
- 3) Victoria Wilhelmsen

**e. 2023 Lutherwood Annual Meeting Delegates**

The following were nominated to represent CLC:

- 1) Nancy Tupper
- 2) Paula Saunders

**f. Synod Assembly in 2023** will not be a business meeting; no voting members required. Please plan to attend one of the two dates: May 13 and May 20, 2023. (Location to be determined.)

**A unanimous ballot was cast for the new appointees. All were unanimously approved.**

**C. Update on 2023 Pledges - Audra McLain**

41 pledges were received totaling \$207,280.00 There were 11 new people pledging.

**D. Presentation of Proposed 2023 Church Budget - Church Council**

**It was moved and seconded that the 2023 Budget be approved; discussion followed.**

There were questions about the Faith Fund and non-pledged giving under Income Description. President Shay explained that Pastor Jana would not be receiving an increase in pay and that there will be several, painful cuts made to balance the budget.

**The 2023 budget was approved as presented.**

**E. Reflection on Trust - President Shay Andersen**

Shay reflected that faith thrives when we lean into trust. God is faithful; He has been in the past and will continue to be faithful in the future.

**7. Prayer - Intern Pastor Jory Mickelson**

**8. Meeting was adjourned.**

***Those present joined the council in the narthex for cake and coffee to celebrate our 55 years of ministry!***

Minutes recorded by Council Secretary, Betty Behee

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT  
PASTOR JANA SCHOFIELD

Dear beloved people of God at CLC:

The past year we have weathered so much together. As I've highlighted below, we have experienced difficult change, revised ministry, new ministry, and much joy. God has been in the midst of it all and continues to lead us toward a future with hope (Jeremiah 29:11).

**Continuing effects of Covid**

Due to Covid, we began 2022 fully back online for 2 months, we didn't sing in the sanctuary until after our new furnaces were installed in the spring, the ELCA Youth Gathering in July was cancelled, and my own household was hit with the virus at different times. Thankfully, all those from our congregation who contracted Covid recovered, and many have been fully vaccinated and boosted.

The larger effects of Covid include a shift in Sunday worship attendance and volunteer capacity of our members. Understandably, many are out of the habit of regular in-person worship, and others are burned out from many years of congregational service and a major disruption to "how we've always done things." I am hopeful, at this end of 2022, that we are moving into more normalcy, even if it is a "new normal."

**Staffing**

This has been a year of major staff changes: Sam Blanton retired from her Parish Administrator job in August; Sum Yee Lee left her accompanist/music director position in June to begin graduate school in Ohio; Tamar Haddad left her youth minister position in August to return to Palestine; and Angie Bruns left her preschool teacher position in June to move to South Dakota.

We were blessed to welcome Laurel Brinson, Emily Perry, Daisy Gihring, Rachel McAllister, and Sue Kuwitzky to the church and preschool staff. It has been a year of transition for these new staff members, and I've spent significant time interviewing, training, and supervising new staff. God has continued to sustain us with fantastic staff and volunteers who share their gifts so generously with our ministry.

**Budget issues**

Due to a revision to the actual pledged amount of 2022 offering, we had to make some difficult budget decisions, and were unable to fill the open music/choir director and youth minister positions in the summer. I helped the Youth Committee plan Godly Play, confirmation, and D3 (Donuts, Devotions, and Discussion), and Intern Pastor Jory and I taught D3 for the last half of the year.

I am so very grateful for the volunteers who stepped up this year to keep our music and youth ministry thriving, including volunteer choir directors Joanne Donnellan and Sue Gault (and Don Clausen on Christmas Eve), volunteer Liz Mathias who facilitated the contemporary worship songs and leaders, volunteer Godly Play coordinator Jennifer Mietenkorte, and Penny Magelssen who continues to teach and mentor our confirmation students along with me. Although our children and youth ministry offerings are less than in the past, we are still able to support the youngest members of our congregation.

## **Internship**

As you know, we have been blessed beyond measure by Intern Pastor Jory Mickelson the past year and a half. Jory brings multiple gifts to our congregation, especially the gifts of preaching, writing, and teaching. Intern Pastor Jory will be with us through April 30, 2023 and will then be interviewing and awaiting call to a new congregation.

## **ReKindle**

We received a generous \$10,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment to create a project designed to “enhance congregational vitality in a post-Covid context.” Project director Erin Carampot and I attended the ReKindle conference at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta in September and started experimenting with different forms of worship this fall to meet the spiritual needs of those who might not step foot through the front door of our church. We interviewed those on the “margins” of church and received fascinating responses to these questions:

- How would you characterize your relationship with your community of faith (if you have one)?
- If the institutional church disappeared, how would that change your understanding of a thriving faith?
- Where do your faith life & daily life intersect?
- How could your relationship with The Divine improve?

From those responses, we opened a “New Church Door” with Dinner Church and Pub Church, and will experiment with Creative Church and maybe even Dog Park Church in the future!

As every research study about church notes (i.e., (<https://www.npr.org/2022/12/10/1141010320/as-attendance-dips-churches-change-to-stay-relevant-for-a-new-wave-of-worshipper>)) Christianity is going through another reformation, and our experiments help our ministry stay rooted and relevant.

## **OPOP**

We were blessed by our One Parish, One Prisoner friend Jeremiah Winchester this year. Our OPOP team supported him as he released from prison and graduated re-entry. He has opened our eyes to the realities of incarceration and the call of Jesus to care for those in prison.

## **Other joys**

- Tamar and I accompanied youth to Camp Lutherwood for a week in July.
- We partnered again with United Church of Ferndale for Lenten worship and a book study furthering our commitment to learning more about our indigenous neighbors.
- The congregation has embarked on an exploration of becoming a Reconciling in Christ church, wondering what it would mean for CLC to make an explicit statement of welcome and commitment of support to those who are LBQTQIA+ and people of color.
- Summer Family Nights were fun and attracted both church and community members alike.
- I confirmed my own son on Pentecost Sunday!

I am so very grateful for the staff, council members, committee chairs and members, and all of you who give your heart, gifts, and support to this ministry. You love your God and you love your church—you are the heart, hands, and voice of Christ in this place, and I am blessed to be your pastor.

P.S. I wrote this report before I interviewed and received a new call to Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Bellingham. I leave with deep gratitude for our 11 ½ years of ministry together, and I will always hold you in high esteem and prayer. Thank you!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

**Shay Andersen**

As I look back on 2022, I can still sense the weight of the struggles we worked through as a congregation. A large budget deficit, continued battle with Covid, in-person & online worship/blended services, staff vacancies (due to budget deficit). It was a big year at CLC! But I truly feel lightened and lifted by God's provisions and this congregation's support.

On the heels of our online worship/Covid journey, we started the spring with an upgraded HVAC system and what felt like a safer way to gather and worship in person again. Hallelujah! It felt like we were emerging from "survival mode" and had some breathing room, albeit masked.

But the first quarter started to reveal a consistent monthly shortfall in our budget, which we came to understand was bigger discrepancy that we'd have to contend with. I'm sure you remember this well, as the remainder of the year felt (a little too much – sorry!) like constant conversation about \$\$ - at council meetings, congregational chats, hallways, alleyways, you name it. The topic of money is never an easy one. And I know it got overwhelming and perhaps repetitive – but my main goal after we discovered the deficit was to be as transparent as possible. And I'd like to think that we achieved that.

After a few incredibly generous donations and adjustments to the original budget (not rehiring for youth director or choir director), we ended 2022 with a \$8,431.23 deficit (rather than \$54,000) which is something I am so proud to report. *Allow me to offer our collective gratitude to our financial volunteers (specifically Bruce Mathias & Audra McLain) for what felt like constant reports and updates on how things were going.*

I write at length about our budget deficit and the efforts resolving that issue to also highlight the **incredible** accomplishments of all of our other ministries with the deficit as a backdrop.

With three years of serving on council under my belt (two on preschool, one as president) – one thing has become abundantly clear. Our congregation has an undeniable dedication to its ministries.

Of our goals, I'm so happy to see the things that have been accomplished and will continue on as we move forward in 2023. **\*Bold = goals completed**, *italic = goals that have begun and will continue.*

1. *Create an intentional visioning process regarding future children, youth, and family ministry @ CLC. Wait to hire staff until vision is clear and goal 2 has been addressed.*

2. **Develop a plan to learn about the needs of our community through research and face-to-face encounters, leading to strategic changes to support a thriving congregation and new ministry responses. Apply for a ReKindle grant for this purpose by April 30.**

3. *Support the work of the RIC Task Force by encouraging congregation wide discussions and quarterly updates.*

4. *Develop a plan for increased social media presence and continued online worship ministry opportunities with direction (especially) from the Evangelism, & Worship & Music Committees.*

5. *Continue learning about and support of Lummi neighbors and other indigenous people, those of other faiths, those who are imprisoned, those who are experiencing homelessness, and those who are LGBTQIA+.*

6. *Teach and encourage good stewardship of God's creation.*

7. ***As we come out of the worst of the pandemic, connect with all members who have been abset, offer opportunities for healing, and assess ministries which have been on hold during the pandemic.***

8. *Explore possibilities for using the property to the north of the church building for community service and/or income generation.*

I think goals can often be misunderstood. Although goals are set to pursue, they don't have to be "achieved" to be successful. Goals are not an "all or nothing" tool. They enable us to dream, stretch ourselves, and discern what feels best for us as a congregation and community. And as you can see – we accomplished so much in 2022 – and I think it speaks to our CLC mission that the majority of our goals will still be pursued into the new year.

Looking into 2023, as we prepare to say goodbye to Pastor Jana and start the pastoral transition, we are already being led to hone in and explicitly define what is most important to us as a church. May 2023 be a year to truly reflect and align with our mission here at CLC: to live in Christ and share his love with all people. Although we are entering a season of unknown and "we do not know what to do, our eyes are on you, Lord" (II Chronicles 20:13).

Thank you all for an impactful and encouraging 2022.

All my love and blessings to you church family –

Shay Andersen  
Council President

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT  
PROFIT AND LOSS

	TOTAL
Income	
4000 General Offering	
4100 Cash	5,852.00
4120 Envelope	214,924.91
4130 Vanco Electronic giving	78,352.77
4140 Initial	24.00
<b>Total 4000 General Offering</b>	<b>299,153.68</b>
4200 Other Offering Income	
4230 Interest Savings	1,101.54
<b>Total 4200 Other Offering Income</b>	<b>1,101.54</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$300,255.22</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$300,255.22</b>
Expenses:	
5000 Administration	
5100 Payroll Expenses	72,471.37
5115 L&I	1,623.43
5120 Med. Leave	38.71
<b>Total 5100 Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>74,133.51</b>
5200 Pastor Pay	
5210 Pastor's Salary	60,658.05
5220 Pastor's Housing Allowance	34,200.00
5230 Pastor's salary in lieu of Medi	6,500.04
5240 Pastor's Pen.Dis,Surv,Ret Sup	11,382.72
<b>Total 5200 Pastor Pay</b>	<b>112,740.81</b>
5300 Pastor's Mileage	1,724.92
5320 Pastor's Professional Expenses	257.12
5330 Continuing Education, Pastor	736.70
5340 Pulpit Supply	1,194.28
5400 Church Supplies	
5410 Copier Rental	7,359.92
5420 Office Supplies	2,209.72
5430 Janitorial Supplies	1,128.16
5440 Other misc. supplies	469.53

	TOTAL
<b>Total 5400 Church Supplies</b>	<b>11,167.33</b>
5500 Convention Expenses	280.00
5600 Other admin expenses	
5610 Vanco Charges	1,380.88
5620 Postage	582.80
5630 Continuing ed - parish admin	400.00
5640 Background Checks	44.33
5660 Miscellaneous	244.10
<b>Total 5600 Other admin expenses</b>	<b>2,652.11</b>
5700 Technology	
5710 Computer Software	2,231.23
5720 Technology Expense	17.37
<b>Total 5700 Technology</b>	<b>2,248.60</b>
<b>Total 5000 Administration</b>	<b>207,135.38</b>
6000 Benevolences	
6020 Mission Support to ELCA/Synod	29,193.00
<b>Total 6000 Benevolences</b>	<b>29,193.00</b>
6100 Building Expenses	
6200 MIF Loan Interest	35,436.04
6300 Insurance	7,923.00
6400 Utilities	
6410 Alarm Monitoring (Fire & Sec.)	1,923.90
6420 Electricity	4,463.11
6430 Garbage	1,029.66
6440 Natural Gas	4,068.98
6450 Phone and Internet	3,301.70
6460 Water	3,727.46
<b>Total 6400 Utilities</b>	<b>18,514.81</b>
<b>Total 6100 Building Expenses</b>	<b>61,873.85</b>
6500 Evangelism Committee	
6510 Advertising	81.60
6520 Christ in Our Home	130.30
6540 Stephens Ministry	452.03
6550 Supplies	-279.95
6560 Web Site Improvements	343.64
<b>Total 6500 Evangelism Committee</b>	<b>727.62</b>
6600 Fellowship Committee	
6650 Supplies	170.85

	TOTAL
<b>Total 6600 Fellowship Committee</b>	<b>170.85</b>
6700 Parish Education	
6735 Communion Education	55.43
6740 Confirmation	95.26
<b>Total 6700 Parish Education</b>	<b>150.69</b>
6800 Property Management	315.50
6810 Maintenance	3,431.56
6820 Mower	772.89
6830 Parking lot maintenance	383.17
6840 Window cleaning	1,500.60
<b>Total 6800 Property Management</b>	<b>6,403.72</b>
6900 Worship & Music	
6920 Music Supplies	1,115.73
6930 Worship Supplies	2,432.33
<b>Total 6900 Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>3,548.06</b>
6950 Youth Committee	
6962 National Youth Gathering	-600.00
6965 Youth Committee Expenses	20.69
6970 Programing	62.59
<b>Total 6950 Youth Committee</b>	<b>-516.72</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$308,686.45</b>
	<b>\$ -8,431.23</b>

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT  
EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Members of the 2022 Evangelism Committee: Chair Audra McLain; Susan Holmes; Mary Kanikeberg; Matt Springer; Pr. Jana Schofield; and Intern Pr. Jory Mickelson; and Council Representative, Pat Hinchey

In 2022, the Evangelism Committee was blessed with a new and enthusiastic chairperson, Audra McLain. She recruited another young and active member, Matt Springer. The influx of young and fresh ideas has invigorated the Committee to ensure that Evangelism continues to practice outreach efforts and inreach practices to sustain and support the CLC community, unteach practices to and especially within the CLC community.

During 2022 we worked together in many ways.

- Kandi Brinson-Larrabee, continues to artfully maintain the information bulletin boards throughout the narthex and hallway near the offices. She will be posting new photographs of all members.
- Church directory photos were taken in September. Copies of these photos were made available to members who chose to provide a free will donation. Those donations paid the photographer's fees.
- Pr. Jana gave an invitation to all interested and held two New Member Classes; one on April 2 and the other on October 15. New members were welcomed during worship and assigned a Shepherd. The Shepherd is someone to keep in touch with the new member, answer questions, and make sure they feel comfortable and welcomed.
- We reviewed CLC membership and reached out to those who haven't been in worship recently. There are some whom Pr. Jana will reach out to personally.
- Stephen Ministers have continued to provide care for those in need.
- A class for new Stephen Ministers was conducted.
- Evangelism hosted Summer Nights on four Wednesdays during the summer. These family based evening provided attendees with an opportunity to share dinner, devotions, and games with others.
- We continue to work on our Social Media presence with frequent postings on NextDoor and continued live streaming of services.
- Evangelism assisted CLC in promoting volunteerism by providing Joy Jars as a means by which members could be made aware of volunteer opportunities and sign up for specific tasks.
- In September, members (Pastor Jana, Audra and Erin) attended the Organic Faith Conference. NW Synod Sacred Spaces: Open the Holy Invitation Even Wider.
- In a thoughtful manner, we sponsored and planned the Christmas Crafts, Cookies, and Conversation for December 10. Committee member Mary Kanikeberg will be teaching the techniques a no-sew, folded fabric Christmas ornament.

"How has God been faithful in the work of your ministry/committee this year?"

The Evangelism Committee has been experiencing growth (or perhaps lack of growth) pains for a couple of years. The challenge of ministering to our communities during and post-covid has proven difficult. But God has provided us with a leader and membership that, I believe, has accepted the challenge and looks upon the task as an opportunity to excel in our outreach and in-reach endeavors. Our yearly highlight is the anticipation of Jesus' birth and the Advent festivities. Nativity displays, Crafts, Conversations, and Cookies...the Holy Spirit is with us!

Submitted by Council Representative, Pat Hinchey

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT  
MEMBERSHIP AND STATISTICS

January 1, 2022      246 total in Parish Register (red book)

Voting	211
Associate	5
Baptized children	<u>30</u>
Total	246

December 31, 2022      247 total in Parish Register

Voting	218	Includes 41 designated in Grace period (3 moved to Voting: Tim Surratt, Shari Farlee, Jo Ann Philpot) (3 were confirmed, move to Voting: Tae Isensee, Jaxon Nipges, Sara Wilhoite.)
Associate	2	
Baptized Children	<u>27</u>	
Total	247	

Member loss      Hilde Seiler    Death Jan 2022  
                         Alton Gregor    Death Oct. 2022  
                         Sue Flaherty transfer to Zion  
                         Jim & Ruth Irwin by request - October 2022

Member addition      Jill Thomas  
                                 Shewanie Gounden  
                                 David and Carol Soderlund  
                                 Harold and Linda Kitchen (had been inactive)

*CLC Member Data for Year 2022 and updated as of February 23, 2023 prepared by Carolyn Jonson*

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT  
FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

As was reported in a message in the newsletter last May, the committee will no longer be providing coffee, etc. every Sunday. However, to the best of our abilities we will continue to provide social activities that involve celebrating holidays, graduations, confirmations and receptions.

During 2022 we were able to host the following events:

- April - Easter Brunch
- May - Mother's Day
- June:
  - o Cake for confirmands;
  - o Father's Day donuts;
  - o Interment lunch for former Pastor Bob Johnson
- September - Rally Day
- November - Memorial service for Alton Gregor

Submitted by:

Sandy Hall, chair

Lillian Huber, co-chair

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT  
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Social Concerns Committee members include Carol Gahm (temporary chair), Liz Brown (Secretary), Betty Behee, Mike Isensee, Jan Schlack (Council Representative), Louisa Underwood, Carol Mullan. The Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of alternating months in the Fireside Room. The committee coordinates the following activities:

**FERNDALE FOOD BANK:** Bins are provided in the narthex: for donations of food which are delivered to the Ferndale Food Bank monthly. A total of 613 pounds of food was delivered during 2022. This was lower than normal because the church building was closed part of this year due to Covid Thank you to the many congregational members who donate food to this cause.

**FERNDALE OTHER BANK:** The Other Bank provides shampoo, soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, feminine products, and other necessities which cannot be purchased with SNAP (food stamps). The Other Bank also includes the Ferndale Clothing Bank which provides clothing that has been donated to those in the community who need it. Our own Karen Nipges directs the organization of the donated clothes. Louisa Underwood oversaw the Other Bank for many years. This spring it was turned over to Sara O'Connor who is Director of the Ferndale Community Services program.

**ADOPT A HIGHWAY:** Jan Schlack is in charge of this program. Twice a year members of the church gather to collect trash along a two-mile portion of Grandview.

**ONE PARISH, ONE PRISONER:** Ten members of the church formed a team in the fall of 2021 to partner with Underground Ministries to sponsor an incarcerated person as they transition back into the community. In January we were paired with Jeremiah Winchester, who would be returning to the Bellingham area in August. The team members began corresponding with Jeremiah in January, reminding him that he was loved by God and by us. A relationship was built up so we were excited to welcome him in August when he returned to the area. He has become a true friend of the team and the church and has spoken several times to the congregation about being incarcerated and what that means. We think it has been a true eyeopening experience for all of us.

**QUILTING:** A dedicated group of volunteers meets every Monday morning in the Fellowship Hall to make quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief and then distributed all over the world where they are needed Also, special quilts were presented to the graduating seniors in June as a reminder that they belong to a congregation who loves them.

**FAMILY PROMISE:** Michael represents our church on the board of Family Promise. Four times a year he coordinates providing meal kits to several families for a week. This program has changed significantly since Covid—we no longer house them at our church building. Thanks to all those members who provide for these families.

**HELPING NEIGHBORS FUND:** The money for this fund comes from the Noisy Offering taken whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month and from other donations from members. It is used to pay bills (utility, rent, car expenses, etc.) for persons in the community who are referred to Pastor Jana. She then gets permission from members of our committee. The money is paid directly to the company (not to the individual).

**INTERFAITH COAT DRIVE:** In October of each year, we collect coats, hats, scarves, etc. from members to be distributed by Interfaith. This year we delivered 22 coats and 26 hand-knitted hats. Thanks to laurel for the hats!

**MINI-PANTRY:** Thanks to Jan Schlack and her son. a mini-pantry was installed to provide snacks for anyone passing by—especially for the high school students who walk past. Members of the committee see that it is filled with snacks provided by the congregation. It is well used.

**DITTY BAGS:** Twenty-eight ditty bags were made by members of the congregation, filled with items purchased with a Thrivent Grant, stuffed by members of the congregation, and delivered by Carol Gahm to the Seafarer's Office in Seattle. They were very appreciative.

**GIVING TREE:** Betty Behee organized the giving tree along with Liza of the preschool. Many gifts and gift cards were delivered by Betty and Darrel Behee. Thanks again to the very generous members of the congregation.

As you can see, we are a small committee that does lots of things. We could not do what we do without the help of you—our church members!! Please continue to be generous with your donations and volunteer to help with any of our projects. We definitely welcome new members to our committee!

Submitted by: Carol Gahm, Chair

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT  
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Stewardship Committee for the year 2022 consisted of Carolyn Jonson, Richard Wageman, Peter Wilhelmsen, Beth Andres and Steve Balentine.

Peter Wilhelmsen stepped down from his position as Stewardship Chairman and had to leave the Committee altogether because of continuing health problems stemming from long-term COVID. Steve Balentine was selected as the new Chairman with Carolyn Jonson replacing Steve Balentine as the Secretary.

The Stewardship Committee is expanding it's horizons beyond the ideas of gathering funds and distributing them with the church budget. Under the leadership of Carolyn Jonson, began in early 2022 the program of "Walk and Talk". It promotes health and fellowship among the congregation by offering early morning walks and opportunities for the members to develop closer relationships through conversation. In the winter, the program was taken inside the church as "Breathing, Centering and Stretching" (BCS) to continue building relations in the congregation.

The Stewardship Committee also had its members involved in speaking to the congregation in a "Stewardship Minute" to cultivate a spirit of generosity. The minutes were designed to focus the church on looking beyond tithing out of duty and finding joy in giving.

This year, the Stewardship Committee worked to bring into the church the speaker, Beth Adams, to speak about Legacy Giving. She also stayed in the area to offer to help individuals coordinate their final bequests to leave desired gifts of money or properties.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT  
WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

The Worship and Music Committee continued to adapt into 2022 as we were once again navigating Covid challenges and the impact to in-person worship. In January the Bishop sent a letter encouraging churches to temporarily move worship to on-line due to the emergence of the Omicron variant. The executive committee and council approved a motion to continue with on-line worship through February 6th. Additionally, we reset our expectations as we returned to in-person worship, followed masking protocol while singing until the new HVAC system was installed.

In February we welcomed Audra McLain, the Evangelism Chair to our meeting. We explored, discussed and leaned into how our evangelism and worship and music committees could work together in 2022. We recognized it was not possible to livestream both the 9:00 and 11:15 services with limited resources and the decision was made to live stream the 9:00 service only, until further notice. The Worship and Music Committee is incredibly grateful to Audra for managing the technology that makes it possible to reach our members and friends each Sunday, providing on-line worship via Zoom, Facebook and YouTube platforms.

We held Ash Wednesday services in-person, and Wednesday Lent services were on-line, via Zoom. We were thrilled to resume a “new normal” in person worship schedule beginning Good Friday and Easter, resuming the involvement of the choir and brass.

The committee also became familiar with our new Lutheran hymnal resource, All Creation Sings. The contemporary musicians have been listening to and raising up several new hymns that will be learned and sung by the congregation at our worship services in 2022/2023. Many of the new hymns bring an intentional sensitivity to lyrics and ask congregations to open their hearts and minds to the marginalized, the LGBTQIA+ community, and lift up how we invite diversity, equity and inclusion in our worship services.

This committee and congregation said goodbye with gratitude, to Sum Yee Lee, our interim music director/accompanist in June as she completed her undergraduate degree at WWU and concluded work at CLC. Later that month, we welcomed Emily Perry, accomplished WWU Piano Performance and Music Composition senior who assumed a part-time role as accompanist.

During the summer we moved to one service at 10:00 a.m each Sunday, and we alternated the use of traditional and contemporary music every other week.

As we returned to fall worship, Council asked the Worship and Music Committee to evolve one truly blended worship service at 10 a.m. that would include a representation of contemporary and traditional music and meaningful elements of both services. Budgetary constraints to fill a choir director's position and loss of some choir members who would not be returning to in-person worship, as well as challenges to assemble the volunteer resources required to support two services (readers, greeters, ushers) led Council to recommend we move forward with one single, blended service beginning Rally Sunday. To prepare for this change, our committee engaged in ongoing discussion to evolve the single blended service format with Pastor and established a representation of contemporary and traditional representatives to select music for the upcoming services. The worship band met with Emily weekly from July on to rehearse, inviting all who wished to participate to sing Sundays, as they are able. A choir schedule was announced as volunteer choir directors agreed to prepare anthems and direct the choir once per month beginning in September.

In December, as the choir resumed rehearsals for Christmas Eve Services, we were met with the news that Joanne Donnellan would be unable to direct the choir due to a medical emergency. Don Clausen, an experienced choral director and colleague of Joanne's, stepped in to direct the choir on Christmas Eve. We are grateful Don accepted the invitation to very quickly, and without rehearsal time due to weather constraints, provide choral leadership and direct the four Christmas anthems.

Our monthly meeting agendas are full, and our committee responsibilities are many. The committee works with our pastor, intern pastor, council, committees, and congregation to help plan and prepare for every service. We thoughtfully approach change as we seek to bridge deeply rooted tradition with elements that invite relevancy and meaning for all.

Thank you to all our musicians and vocalists, volunteer choir directors, choir, substitute accompanists and worship and music committee members. Your gifts enhance our worship experience each and every Sunday.

Additionally, we thank August Ode-Giles and Sum Yee Lee who concluded their work with the committee in 2022, and we recognize the contributions and commitment of the worship and music committee members: Pastor Jana Schofield, Intern Pastor Jory, Joanne Donnellan, Liz Mathias, Linda Anderson, Matt Springer, Sue Gault.

Gratefully,

Liz Mathias, Worship and Music Committee Council Representative and Chair

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT  
YOUTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEES\* REPORT

***\*For the time being these two committees will meet together as both  
share a common goal of shaping the faith journeys of our youth***

Submitted by Kandi Brinson-Larrabee, Secretary  
and Pastor Jana Schofield

**The members of the 2022 CLC Youth & Parish Education Committees included:** Pastor Jana Schofield, Tamar Haddad (Youth & Family Minister Jan-July), Intern Pastor Jory Mickelson, Kandi Brinson-Larrabee (Secretary), Ginny Clark (Nov-Dec), George Holmes, Jennifer Mietenkorte, Nicki Pellham (Council Rep), Tracy Strissel, Janet Wilhoite

**Committee Meetings:** Between a combination of Zoom and in person meetings, the committees met monthly from January through June and then again in November to recap the summer and fall programs and plan for the Christmas season and beyond.

**Youth & Family Minister:** Sadly, in July we bid farewell to Tamar Haddad. She brought so much to the congregation as our Youth & Family Life Minister and Children's Choir Director; she is greatly missed.

**Pray Ground Childcare Provider:** In lieu of hiring a replacement for Tamar's position, Council voted to hire a childcare provider for Sunday mornings during worship and the education hour. Daisy Gihring has been appreciated by children and parents alike!

**Family Quarterly Events / Summer Family Nights:** Family ice skating took place at Bellingham Sportsplex on March 27 and the four summer family nights took place on June 29, July 6, July 13, July 20 with food & games coordinated by Evangelism, Youth, & Parish Ed committees at CLC.

**Fundraising for Youth Gathering and more:** Several successful fundraisers including a Value Village donation drive, poinsettia sales, and cookie sales took place before the 2022 national ELCA youth gathering was cancelled due to uncertainty of the pandemic. These funds remain in the youth accounts for future use.

**Godly Play on the Road:** Five sessions took place throughout spring & summer; four at the Ferndale Library and one slightly better-attended session at Star Park.

**Camp Lutherwood:** Two youth, Pastor Jana, and Tamar attended a week of camp in July. Intern Pastor Jory joined for a half-day.

**Adult Education:** The Adult Ed planning team (Russ Creydt, Carolyn Jonson, Rod Schofield, Dave and Jan Schlack Pastor Jana and Intern Pastor Jory) planned adult education experiences each Sunday during the program year. Class highlights included guest speaker Tamar Haddad, Growing Old Gracefully, Lectionary studies, presentation by the Disaster and Emergency Preparation Team, sharing stories of faith, and RIC-sponsored presentations on RIC, How Lutherans Read Scripture taught by Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee, and a Bible study on homosexuality taught by Pastor Jana.

**Events and highlights of the 2022 education year included:**

- Easter Sunday youth egg hunt; huge success
- Confirmation Sunday, June 5; three students confirmed
- Youth Sunday, June 12; three graduating seniors recognized
- Rally Day, September 11
- Godly Play (preschool – 5th grade); after worship every other Sunday / two times per month; led by Jennifer Mietenkorte, Nicki Pellham, Jan Schlack, Russ Creydt
- D3 - Donuts, Discussions, & Devotions (middle & high school youth); led by Pastor Jana & Intern Pastor Jory every other Sunday
- Parent Support Group; informally met on Godly Play Sundays
- Children's Choir; met while Tamar was still here
- Confirmation classes were taught weekly on Zoom (January-May; four students), and weekly in person (September-December; two students) by Pastor Jana Schofield and Penny Magelssen
- Service projects in the church and community; three confirmation youth worked with mentors
- Special Christmas Children's Message, December 11

**Looking Ahead to VBS:** We are excited that we began discussing the revitalization of CLC's VBS program for summer 2023!