

2023

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,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Christ Lutheran Church

love • live • share

ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2023 - 11 AM

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

2. DEVOTION: Pastor Brian Stoffregen

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Annual Meeting November 20, 2022

4. Old Business

A. Update on current budget year status - Bruce Mathias

5. New Business

A. Christ Lutheran Transition Process - Beth Andres & Shay Andersen

- a. Summary of Ministry Site Profile (MSP) - Shay
- b. Transition Timeline - Beth

B. Nominations

a. Call Committee Nominations*

- i. Becky McGrady
- ii. Dave Schlack
- iii. Beth Andres
- iv. Erin Beebe
- v. David Soderlund
- vi. Vicki Williams
- vii. Don Clausen
- viii. Shay Andersen
- ix. Jenise Clausen

*With the election of the above nominations, the congregation is also authorizing the council to appoint additional members to the call committee, as needed for the remainder of the transition process.

A motion for a unanimous ballot was cast to approve the candidates nominated for Call Committee. Motion was seconded and passed.

b. Council Nominations

New council members, please plan to attend the December 12, 2023 council meeting at 6:30pm. You will be sent a Zoom link.

- 1.) President: Matt Springer
- 2.) Vice-President: Steve Andres
- 3.) Secretary: Janet Wilhoit
- 4.) Treasurer: Victoria Wilhelmsen
- 5.) Preschool: _____
- 6.) Property & Mgmt: Gary Jonson
- 7.) Evangelism: _____
- 8.) Worship & Music: David Soderlund
- 9.) Fellowship: Betty Behee
- 10.) Youth: Ginny Clark
- 11.) Parish Ed: Ginny Clark
- 12.) Social Concerns: Mary Ann O'Hara

A Motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for the 2024 council nominees. Motion passed.

c. 2024 Audit Support Committee - four voting non-council members

(Time commitment: 2 - 3 meetings to gather and assess financial information.

You do not need to be an accountant! An opportunity to learn about our church finances and auditing.)

An Audit Support Committee of four voting members shall be elected to a two-year term, electing two members each year by this congregation at their regular annual meeting. Audit Support Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council. Members of the Audit Support Committee are not eligible for consecutive re-election.

From the CLC Constitution

Should a member's place on the Audit Support Committee be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall elect from candidates nominated by the Nominating Support Committee and by a majority vote, a successor until the next annual meeting.

The Audit Support Committee shall:

- a.) Elect its own chairperson
- b.) Audit all church financial records following procedures as outlined in the most recent Financial Compliance Review as published in the Region 1 Congregation Treasurer's Handbook, and
- c.) Submit a written report of all findings and conditions to the Congregation Council.

Beth Andres is entering the second year of a two-year term on the Audit Support Committee.

- 1.) Linda Anderson - nominated for a two-year term
- 2.) Erin Beebe - nominated for a two-year term
- 3.) Shay Andersen - nominated for a two-year term

d. 2024 Nominating Support Committee - four members

(Time commitment: Items (a - c), 1 - 3 meetings and conversations with potential nominees; item (d) occasionally, when requested.)

From the CLC Constitution:

A Nominating Support Committee of four voting members of this congregation shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of two years. It is recommended that two members of the Nominating Support Committee transition each year, in support of committee continuity. Members of the Nominating Support Committee are not eligible for consecutive re-election.

The Nominating Support Committee shall:

- a) Elect its own chairperson
- b) Present, at the annual Congregation Meeting, qualified and willing candidates for election to the Congregation Council and to the Audit Support Committee.
- c) Recommend qualified and willing candidates to the Congregation Council for election to complete any unexpired or vacated council position(s).
- d) At the direction of the Congregation Council, recommend qualified and willing members to serve on task forces and committees.

Nancy Tupper and Paula Saunders are entering the second year of two-year terms on the Nominating Support Committee.

1. _____ nominated for a two-year term
2. _____ nominated for a two-year term

- d. 2024 INTERFAITH COALITION ANNUAL MEETING DELEGATES**
(Time commitment: One evening - in Bellingham, date to be determined.
Recent meetings have been held in October.)
Hear inspirational stories from clients and volunteers about Interfaith Coalition's programs of justice, compassion and hope and vote on any action items at the meeting. (www.interfaith-coalition.org)
Up to Three Voting Members
1. Becky Wageman
 2. Mary Ann O'Hara
 3. Don Clausen
- e. 2024 Lutherwood Annual Meeting Delegates**
(Time commitment: two to three hours, TBD - at Camp Lutherwood in Bellingham.)
The Lutherwood Annual Meeting is your opportunity to have a voice in the direction of Lutherwood, hear reports from camp staff and receive information about the annual budget. Each member congregation can send 3 delegates (1 clergy and 2 lay persons.) Member churches are those congregations of official record directly supporting the camp financially in the prior year. (www.camplutherwood.org)
Two Voting Members
1. Nancy Tupper
 2. Jo Ann Philpot
- f. 2024 Synod Assembly**
(Time Commitment: Saturday, May 18, 2024 at Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines.)
Two Voting Members
1. Susan Holmes
 2. David Soderlund

A Motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for all nominees in sections c. through f. Motion passed.

C. Presentation of 2024 Proposed and Alternative Budgets - Bruce Mathias, Treasurer

Both budget proposals were presented and discussed. (It was noted that there may be a need to include a line item for the expense in calling and relocating a new pastor.)

A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2024 Proposed Budget as presented. Motion passed.

D. A Season of Transition and Gratitude - President, Shay Andersen

6. Prayer - Steve Andres

Minutes recorded by Council Secretary, Betty Behee

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 ANNUAL REPORT
PASTOR BRIAN STOFFREGEN

April 28, 2019 was my last Sunday as a called pastor to Faith Lutheran Church in Yuma, Arizona. (I also thought I had written my last Annual Report in January of that year.) How I went from a happy, lazy retirement in Arizona to a part-time interim minister at Christ Lutheran Church in Ferndale, Washington, is a story of seemingly miraculous events.

I received a text from a Kjell Rye, a “snow bird,” from Lummi Island, who attended Faith in Yuma during the winter. Kjell and Laurel are good friends with the Philpots. He wondered if I would be interested in talking, unofficially, with Jo Ann about serving as an interim in Ferndale.

It also turned out, unknown to me at the time, that Philpots had attended Faith in Yuma when they were there during the winter. Even though I was retired, there were a few Sundays I was asked to fill in as they went through a number of interim ministers. They had seen me in action.

At the time of my retirement, my mother, who turned 90 that year, was still living on her own in Yuma. That’s one reason we opted to stay in Yuma after retirement. She died in 2022.

Kjell thought I might be interested in coming up here because he knew we had lived in Bellingham when I completed my BA degree at Western. He knew we have a son living in Seattle, (where my mother, my brothers, and I were born).

After talking with Jo Ann, and learning that they were looking for someone for worship and administration – two areas where I think I still had something to offer – we started the process to have me serve in this interim position. I officially began August 1, 2023.

It’s been a joy to work with Don Clausen and the number of exceptional musicians at CLC. The feedback we are getting about our worship has all been positive.

It has been a learning experience for me. I’ve not had an active Worship and Music Committee before, nor a music director, in the 43 years I served as a called minister. On one hand, the committee keeps us grounded in what has been done here and what the people like and can do. At the same time, part of the role of an interim is to move the congregation away from “the way we’ve always done it,” so that the new, called pastor, might have an easier time introducing the way she or he likes to do things. I have followed an interim who didn’t rock the boat – and that made it harder for me to come in. I have also followed an interim who rocked the boat too much – and the council told the synod never use him as an interim again. However, it made it easier for me to come in begin using my gifts as a minister in that congregation.

So, in terms of worship, we are trying to balance what is old and comfortable with what might be new and innovative – and not going too much in either direction. A little bit old and a little bit new.

Besides planning for and leading Sunday worship services with Don and the Worship and Music Committee, I led memorial services in 2023 and one in 2024 for members who have died. I also lead brief chapel services three times a week for our preschool.

In terms of administration, that work is mostly hidden. I've worked on CLC's Constitution and Bylaws. There are a number of changes that should take place so that our constitution is current with the Model Constitution that the ELCA produces about every three years. Those changes will take a vote of the congregation. We've had some discussions about other changes that we might make to our council and committee structure more streamline. Most of those changes will only require a vote of the congregation since they are continuing resolutions. (I've explained to the council the differences between constitutional articles, bylaws, and continuing resolutions. All three are in the single document and require different processes to be changed.)

My wife, Linda, and I have stated that if we lived in the area, Christ Lutheran Church is a congregation we would join. My hope is that there are others living in the area who will feel the same way. We've looked seriously at homes in the area – even contacting a realtor. However, nothing fit our needs and were within our price range. We began looking at homes closer to Portland area where we grew up and where some family members live. We found one in Ridgefield, WA; about 15 miles north of Vancouver, WA. In March our home address will be changing. Even so, I plan to continue as the interim minister at Christ Lutheran until a new pastor has accepted a Call to CLC. I will, occasionally, be able to drive (or take the train or bus) home during my days off during the week and return to lead worship on Sundays; or Linda could make the trip to Ferndale to attend worship.

May God continue to bless all of us during this time of transition at CLC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Stoffregen". The ink is a light grey or blue color.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 ANNUAL REPORT
COUNCIL PRESIDENT - SHAY ANDERSEN

I don't know about you, but 2023 was a very complex year for me personally as a member of this congregation!

With Pastor Jana's departure earlier in the year, I found myself grieved to lose a mentor and friend in our Pastor, AND felt very overwhelmed with the new task at hand of embarking on the transition process. Although there are many more things I could say about the challenging logistics associated – I look back with humility and gratitude. If I had a nickel for every time someone offered me encouraging words or support this past year, I'd have quite the stock pile, let me tell you!

Embarking on the transition process takes a lot of guts, grace, and hands. And when I say "I truly couldn't have sustained the role as Council President without all of you" – please believe me. With your willingness and support we enacted a transition team, compiled a part-time pastoral team for our transition process, completed the MSP, and elected a Call Committee! Along with ALL of the other incredible ministry work sustained by committee volunteers.

The Pastor tends to be the most important person within a church organization (for good reason!)... so what happens when the Pastor is gone?! That question led to one of my greatest takeaways from the work done last year – and that is how willing and capable our church body is. I'm so proud to have had the chance to work with each and every one of you. I was and continue to be inspired by your collective hearts and distinctive expertise that are the force behind the wonderful ministry work here at CLC.

Our mission is simple and does not waver: "We live in Christ and share His love with all people."

Thank you for your work in 2023 as beloved children of God.

Blessings and Gratitude,

Shay Andersen

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 ANNUAL REPORT
TREASURER'S REPORT: PROFIT AND LOSS

	<u>Jan - Dec 23</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
General Offering	
Cash	100.00
Envelope	
Vanco Electronic giving	57,624.65
Envelope - Other	<u>204,585.08</u>
Total Envelope	262,209.73
Other	<u>650.00</u>
Total General Offering	262,959.73
Other Offering Income	
Interest Savings	<u>3,217.51</u>
Total Other Offering Income	<u>3,217.51</u>
Total Income	266,177.24
Expense	
Administration	
Payroll Expenses	
Payroll Expense	56,876.89
WH FICA Taxes	4,799.29
L&I	1,286.73
Payroll Expenses - Other	<u>0.00</u>
Total Payroll Expenses	62,962.91
Pastor Pay	
Pastor's Salary	45,559.10
Pastor's Housing Allowance	11,400.00
Pastor's salary in lieu of Medi	2,179.16
Pastor's Pen,Dis,Surv,Ret Sup	2,729.04
Pastor's Mileage	<u>1,686.66</u>
Total Pastor Pay	63,553.96
Continuing Education, Pastor	292.90
Pastor's Professional Expenses	84.46
Pulpit Supply	5,220.00
Church Supplies	
Copier Rental	7,405.96
Janitorial Supplies	831.00
Office Supplies	2,723.79
Other misc. supplies	<u>50.00</u>
Total Church Supplies	11,010.75
Convention Expenses	164.02
Other admin expenses	

	Jan - Dec 23
Bank Charge	6.00
Background Checks	252.69
Postage	263.30
Vanco Charges	673.83
Miscellaneous	30.88
Total Other admin expenses	1,226.70
Technology	
Computer Software	4,053.39
Technology - Other	452.19
Total Technology	4,505.58
Total Administration	149,021.28
Building Expenses	
MIF Loan Interest	33,820.02
Utilities	
Alarm Monitoring (Fire & Sec.)	1,772.39
Electricity	4,270.44
Garbage	1,019.48
Natural Gas	4,378.64
Phone and Internet	3,358.97
Water	4,454.29
Total Utilities	19,254.21
Insurance	8,817.00
Total Building Expenses	61,891.23
Benevolences	
Mission Support to ELCA/Synod	25,321.00
Total Benevolences	25,321.00
Evangelism Committee	
Web Site Improvements	198.00
Living Lutheran	65.12
Stephens Ministry	303.91
Total Evangelism Committee	567.03
Fellowship Committee	
Supplies	1,215.97
Total Fellowship Committee	1,215.97
Parish Education	
Confirmation	7.26
Total Parish Education	7.26
Property Management	
Maintenance	
Mower	848.05
Parking lot maintenance	326.40
Maintenance - Other	1,827.89
Total Maintenance	3,002.34

	Jan - Dec 23
Total Property Management	<u>3,002.34</u>
Worship & Music	
Music Supplies	674.71
Worship Supplies	<u>2,294.19</u>
Total Worship & Music	<u>2,968.90</u>
Total Expense	<u>243,995.01</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>22,182.23</u>

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 ANNUAL REPORT
MEMBERSHIP AND STATISTICS

***Total Membership reported to ELCA Synod Dec 31, 2022** **247**

Members Received 2023 +7
Ginny Clark, Victoria Williams, Kelly Dietsch
Marjorie Lorant,
Don Clausen, Jenise Clausen, Phyllis Crockett
254

Members Lost 2023 -61
193

By Death 6
Jerry Mullan, Peter Wilhelmsen, Brandon Hall,
Harold Loerke, Roy Finnie, Victoria Williams

By Transfer to ELCA Congregations 14
Jana Schofield, Michael Isensee, Tae Isensee,
Rod Schofield, Sharie Schofield, Jory Mickelson,
Liz, Mathias, Peter Mietenkorte, Jennifer Mietenkorte,
Charlotte Mietenkorte, Leah Petersen, Sue Loghe,
Tim Suratt, Marjorie Lorant

Inactive by own request following contact or by conversation 15
Some moved and are living elsewhere. Some are attending other churches locally.
Howard Kitchen Linda Kitchen, Myron Johnson, Cheryl Johnson, Margo
Hendrickson, Tonja Henrickson, Jesse Creydt, Erika Creydt, Grant Creydt,
Hannah Creydt, Johanna Gervol, Marcia Bride, Jill Thomas, Brody Willis

Inactive as per bylaws definition and end of "Grace Period" following Covid 19
Gavin Gillespie, Dianne Gillespie, Reese Gillespie, Noah Gillespie, Duncan Linn,
Jonathan Osgood, Todd Schapler, Sandy Schapler, Maclain Schapler, Aeden ` Schapler,
Charles Tupper, Evelyn Vogel, Gary Vogel, Jean Elsberry, Jimmie Puthoff,
Mason Waller, Kaleb Ode, Marina Sanchez Rains, Pat Kuehnel

Cont.

Baptized children removed as per bylaws 7

Parents do not participate in congregation, may not live locally, and have reached age of 10+

Ethan Anastasiadis, Ava Anastasiadis, Owen Jonson, Madeline Jonson, Joslyn Koch, Madison Krumdiak, Sawyer Krumdiak

***Statistical Adjustment of 18**

193 carried from page 1

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175 Members 12/31/23

Planting Center Data and the Parish Register for CLC align and show 175 members including Confirmed and Voting Members, Baptized Children (15), and Associate Members (4) Dec. 31, 2023. Data confirmed by Laurel Brinson-Larrabee and Carolyn Jonson.

This represents a statistical adjustment of 18 members “lost” to balance the figure of 247 shown as starting membership for 2023. Apparently the number carried over as the starting membership for past years (at least 5 years and possibly longer) has been higher than reality.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 ANNUAL REPORT
EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

A Review of Tasks and Accomplishments

The Evangelism Committee is responsible for:

- Weekly maintenance of the Outside Reader Board.
- Annual review of membership and the update of the church database.
- o Active (with voting rights).
- o Inactive (without voting rights).
- o Friends.
- Maintaining a presence on Social media.
- o Facebook.
- o Instagram.
- o Web page.
- The Stephen Ministry program.
- o Trained three new Stephen Ministers.
- o The Stephen Minister Program has increased its presence by wearing name tags and offering the intercessory prayers during the Service.
- Supporting new members class and reception (March 4-5, 2023).
- Providing a current Church Directory.
- o Printed.
- o Digital.

The Evangelism Committee developed the following social events for church family and friends.

- Summer Nights (Three Wednesday night evenings of fellowship, games, devotion, and dessert).
- Family First Friday Fun game nights.
- o October 6, November 3, December 1.
- o Bunco or Settlers of Catan.
- o 6:30 – 8:30, snacks provided.
- Advent Fest, December 3, 2023.
- o God's Eye ornaments, led by Matt Springer.
- o Assemble bags for Bridge2Services to support those living outside, led by Jan Schlack.
- o Pizza and cookies provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Hinchey, Chair

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 ANNUAL REPORT
FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

During the summer of 2023 over 90 members of CLC gathered to express their focus of hopes in the next five years. One of the “hopes” expressed by many was returning to fellowship in the form of a coffee hour. The committee discussed how we could make this happen without charging the committee with providing coffee every week. It was decided we would have members sign up to be responsible for preparing the coffee before church service between 9:15 and 10 a.m., therefore, beginning in October 2023 a sign up has been available to commit to preparing coffee for one month.

Following is a report of the events the committee hosted during 2023:

- January – no event
- February 12 - Valentine celebration with cheesecake
- March 19 - Green treats celebrating St. Patrick’s Day
- March 26 – Reception farewell for Pastor Jana
- April 9 – Easter Brunch
- May 14 – Mother’s Day Brunch
- June 17 – Memorial service, Peter Wilhelmsen
- June 18 – Father’s Day Brunch
- July – Memorial service – Jerry Mullan
- August – no event
- September 6 - “Voice of the People” celebration
- September 10 – Rally Day
- October – no fellowship event, committee inventoried kitchen supplies
- November 5 – Fall Dinner
- December 16 – Memorial service, Roy Finnie
- December 17 – Potluck after church service

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Hall, chair

Lillian Huber, co-chair

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 ANNUAL REPORT
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee members: Carol Gahm (chairperson), Liz Brown (secretary), Jan Schlack, Betty Behee, Tracy Strissel, Mary Ann O'Hara (Council representative).

The committee meets every other month. Meetings were held in the Fireside Room or on Zoom. The members coordinate many activities:

- 1) Ferndale Food Bank – Liz Brown is in charge here. She collects donated food items in tubs in the narthex and delivers to the food bank monthly.
- 2) Ferndale Other Bank – Carol Gahm collects toiletries, laundry soap, toilet paper, and other necessities that are donated and freely given to those in the community in need. The Ferndale Clothing Bank is the recipient of clothing items that are also distributed.
- 3) The committee coordinated with United Church of Ferndale during the Interfaith Coat Drive. We collected 27 adult coats, 10 children's , 33 heavy sweaters/light jackets, 64 hand-knitted hats, 14 scarves, 11 pair of gloves, 1 pair of ski pants. These items were given out in October to local families.
- 4) The ONE PARISH, ONE PRISONER committee continued to work with Jeremiah Winchester at monthly meetings attended by him and the committee members. He receives encouragement as he further transitions into the community.
- 5) Jan Schlack organized two ADOPT-a-HIGHWAY Saturdays to clean up two miles of Grandview Road.
- 6) A large group of dedicated volunteers meet every Monday in the Fellowship Hall to make quilts. So far in 2023, 152 quilts have been made to send to Lutheran World Relief. They will be distributed where needed. Several were given to CLC graduating seniors to remind them that they belong to a congregation that loves them. One was given to Jory Mikelson upon completion of his internship at CLC. Five quilts were given to counselors at Lutherwood.
- 7) Mary Ann O'Hara filled in the absence left by Mike Isensee, who coordinated the delivery of Family Promise meal kits to families living in Ferndale. CLC worked with Zion Lutheran and United Church to provide a week's worth of meals 5-6 times a year.
- 8) Jan Schlack kept the Mini Pantry stocked with nutritious snacks, granola bars, water, etc.
- 9) Betty Behee will again set up the tree with tags for the Holiday Giving Tree in the narthex. She will be coordinating with the preschool.
- 10) Tracy Strissel worked with the Red Cross and the Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Team to get CLC designated as a fall-back resource for the Cold Weather Shelter in case of a power failure at United Church. The Council approved her petition.
- 11) HELPING NEIGHBOR FUND is established to help needy persons in the community. We receive funds from 'Noisy offerings" given on each 5th Sunday. From our funds we helped several families who were financially struggling,
- 12) Our budget request for 2024 is \$500. Previously it was \$270. We need to mail quilts and continue to generously help our neighbors in Ferndale.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Gahm, chairperson
Mary Ann O'Hara

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 ANNUAL REPORT
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

There has been a lot of upheaval this year with Pastor Jana moving on and the church pulling together to consider the new directions we will heading in the coming year.

In this year, the Stewardship Committee was fortunate to get two new members: Jo Ann Philpot and Kelly Dietsch. They have brought new perspectives to our group and are very welcome additions.

The committee invited Beth Adams to come to our church to hold an Adult Education class and work with members of the congregation to set up Legacy Giving to pass on any bequests to the church in their wills and testaments.

On the recommendation of Carolyn Jonson and Jo Ann Philpot, respectively, the committee has been reading and discussing the books, "Holy Currencies" (encouraging the committee and the church to think of generosity outside of the usual venues of cash and bequests) and "Saving Ourselves" (looking into ways to bring the church into ways of reducing our carbon footprints and becoming better stewards of the church properties.)

The committee has been involved in on going discussions regarding the use of the extra land the church sits on. The most popular idea is looking into building low-cost housing for people in need. To that end, the committee planned a field trip to Emmaus Place in Langley, B.C. to learn how that church operates low-cost housing on their property. The trip happened May 18th. Carolyn, Jo Ann and Kelly went.

Stewardship Committee offered recommendations to the Church Council regarding the rental fees and charges for events held on church property, spurred on by a request to use the church for a piano concert in June.

A budget of \$250 for the Stewardship Committee requested from the Church Council for 2024. In the past few years, we have operated on no budget.

Annual Fall Pledge Drive for the church was organized. Pledge cards were printed and mailed out. Members of the committee delivered a "Stewardship Minute" during church announcements in the month of October to emphasize and cultivate a spirit of generosity in the congregation.

Walk and Talk program is in its second year. It has been fairly well attended in both its summer and winter incarnations and is popular with the participants, building relationships with the members outside of the usual church venues.

Steve Balentine

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 ANNUAL REPORT
WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

The members of the 2023 Worship and Music Committee are: Becky McGrady (Chair), David Soderlund (Council Representative), Linda Anderson (Secretary), Don Clausen (Music Director), Matt Springer, Joanne Donnellan, Sue Gault, and Pastor Brian Stoffregen

The Worship and Music Committee began 2023 with welcoming our new Music Director, Don Clausen. Additionally, David Soderlund and Becky McGrady joined the committee with Becky becoming Chair when Liz Mathias stepped out of the role and eventually departed Christ Lutheran Church. David Soderlund became the Council Representative after Liz and then after Matt Springer became Council President. In-person meetings began with the July 6th meeting and will continue, providing there are no other concerns about in-person meetings with COVID.

The streaming and sound board services have been officially added to Worship and Music and will be added to the Bylaws. Coordination of the volunteers was performed by Audra McLain for 4 years and has been transitioned to Becky McGrady.

One blended service continues at 10:00 am on Sundays, which seems to be welcomed rather well by the congregation. Don Clausen has introduced different liturgies for the service, and they are used for seasons rather than one month at a time.

The choir has grown to 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 by caroling at the PeaceHealth Cancer Center in late December.

Don Clausen has successfully created worship teams where musicians rotate in their participation. The music remains contemporary and has been well received by the congregation. The worship team sings every Sunday during the prelude, communion, and provides vocal support throughout the service. Don also has been coordinating the gift of music (previously known as special music) for those who would like to share their talents. The gift of music is offered on the Sundays that choir does not sing.

Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday in 2023. There was a 10:00 am service, a 5:00 pm contemporary service, and the 9:00 pm candlelight service. All services were well attended. A Christmas Day service was also provided at 10:00 am on Christmas day.

The year 2023 has been met with many positive changes. Grateful thanks to our wonderful committee members and our talented musicians for a job well done.

Thank you,
Becky McGrady, Chair

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 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

The members of the 2023 CLC Youth & Parish Education Committees included: Pastor Jana Schofield (January-March), Intern Pastor Jory Mickelson (January-April), Nicki Pellham (Youth Council Rep, January-July / Committee Chair, March-July), Kandi Brinson-Larrabee (Secretary), Ginny Clark (Parish Ed Council Rep), Jennifer Mietenkorte, Tracy Strissell

Committee Meetings: The committees met via Zoom five times between January and June

Decline of Committee Membership: Pastor Jana left in March, Intern Pastor Jory left in April, Jennifer went on maternity leave sometime in late spring-early summer, Nicki stepped away in July due to family medical reasons

Bullet Points of 2023:

- Godly Play: began the year with lessons every other Sunday, but attendance was low; in the spring, lessons were presented a few times during worship in place of the children's message
- Easter Egg Hunt: took place on Easter Sunday
- Youth Sunday: two high school seniors were presented with quilts on June 4
- Godly Play Training: planned and scheduled for July, but was canceled since only one person was signed up
- D3 (Donuts, Discussions, & Devotions): started off strong with a wide range of ages participating; took the summer off / did not resume in the fall
- Confirmation: only one student in the program this year; she will be confirmed on January 7, 2024
- Parent Support Group: plans were in the works for gatherings and inviting preschool families and community members to attend
- Pray Ground: Miss Daisy provided childcare during worship through late October
- Vacation Bible School: an abundance of planning and discussion occurred throughout the first half of the year, but it was decided in June, when only 3 volunteers had committed to help, that VBS would be canceled for 2023
- Adult Education: technically falls under this committee, however the topic has not been discussed at our meetings since the two committees merged in August 2021; Pastor Jana included an Adult Ed update in our 2022 annual report