



Ministry Year

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Annual Report

Congregational Meeting

May 21, 2023

At 9:30 am / Dining Room

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Church Leadership

LEAD PASTOR:	The Reverend Joe Skogmo
ASSOCIATE PASTOR:	The Reverend Lauryl Ivers
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Paul Haarstick
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS:	Melissa Christianson
DIRECTOR OF SUPPORT MINISTRIES*:	Mackenzie Hamm
INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGIES & MEDIA	Cory Oswald
PARISH NURSE:	Denise Gaard
YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY DIRECTOR:	Emma Duncan
CUSTODIAN:	Paul Heisler, Patty Walter
MUSIC DIRECTOR:	Karen Bimberg

CHURCH COUNCIL:

		Term Expires
PRESIDENT:	Nathan Olson	2023
PRESIDENT-ELECT:	Gail Colby	2023
SECRETARY:	DeAnn Udby	2023
TREASURER:	Tom Neuenfeldt	2024
MEMBERS AT LARGE:	Catharine Weisenburger	2023
	Todd Gaard	2023
	Scott Sonstegard	2024
	Tanner Duncan	2024
	Carla Solem	2024
	Erin Erickson	2025

JUBILATE CHOIR DIRECTOR

Kathy Larson

ORGANISTS/PIANISTS

Karen Bimberg
Holly Heisserer
Paul Heisler
Sharon Wesbrook

ALLELUIA RINGERS DIRECTOR

Carla Hansen

**Term ended March 27, 2023*

Annual Meeting Agenda

1. **Call to Order by President, Nathan Olson**
2. **Devotion by Pastor Joe Skogmo**
3. **Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2022 Annual Meeting**
4. **Reports**
 - a. Pastor Joe Skogmo | Pastor Lauryl Ivers
 - b. President, Nathan Olson
 - c. Treasurer, Tom Neuenfeldt (assisted by Paul Haarstick)
5. **Elections**
 - a. Foundation Board
 - i. Ryan Manke, Patti Cummins, Sue Schaffer
 - b. Vision Council
 - i. Carla Solem (Pres. Elect), Paula Schulz (Sec.), DeAnne Udby (At Large), Catherine Weisenberger (At Large), Jon Freeman (At Large)
6. **Approval of the FY24 Mission Budget**
 - a. MMCDC Loan
 - i. Building maintenance projects: patio brickwork and parking lot
 - b. FY24 Budget Presented by Paul Haarstick, Business Manager
7. **Unfinished Business** – No unfinished business from 2022
8. **New Business**
 - a. Bylaws:
 - i. *Rescinding*:
 1. B.L.1.01, B.L.2.1, B.L.2.02, B.L.2.03, B.L.2.04, B.L.3.01, B.L.3.02, B.L.4.01, B.L.4.02, B.L.4.03, B.L.5.01¹, B.L.5.04 in the current Constitution of FLC.
 - ii. Note: **B.L.3.01**, **B.L.4.03**, **B.L.5.04** have been absorbed into the main body of the amended Constitution (see **C9.32**, **C14.01**, **Chapters 11/12** respectively)
 - iii. *Approving*:
 1. C10.01.01 and C10.01.02 articulated within the amended Constitution of FLC
 - b. Ratification of Amended Constitution
 - c. Strategic Planning Update
9. **Motion to Adjourn**
10. **Closing Prayer by Pastor Lauryl Ivers**

¹**B.L.5.01** has been updated and revised and is up for approval as a new set of bylaws.

2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2022

11. President, Steve Schantzen called the meeting to order at 9:46 am

12. Devotion by Pastor Lauryl Ivers

13. Approval of the minutes from the May 16, 2021 annual meeting

- a. Motion to approve the 2021 annual meeting minutes was made by Carla Solem and seconded by Shan Manke. All approved.

14. Reports:

- a. **President, Steve Schantzen** – Steve voiced gratefulness to be able to gather in person for the annual meeting after 2 years. He provided an overview the kitchen repairs, upcoming need for the HVAC and exterior brickwork updates, and the long-term planning of the FLC building maintenance. Steve also discussed the strategic planning meetings and next steps after the information is gathered. Steve thanked the staff, Vision Council and Personnel Team for all their hard work and leadership during this past year.
- b. **Treasurer, given by Susie Reitmeier for Chad Carlblom** – Susie reviewed the Treasurer’s Report through March 2022 in the Annual Report page 7. Summary of Year-to-Date Income is \$510,455.52 compared to the budget of \$510,650.01 which put us (\$194.49) under our income budget. Summary of Year-to-Date Expense is \$507,189.95 compared to the budget of \$514,219.53 which put us (\$7,029.58) under our expense budget. The current General Fund cash position as of March 31, 2022 is \$104,147.02. The current Dedicated Accounts cash position as of March 31, 2022 is \$399,767.84.
 - i. A motion to approve the Treasure’s Report as presented was made by Adrienne Buboltz and seconded by Barry Fewson. All approved.

15. Elections

- a. The slate of candidates for the Foundation Board included on the enclosed ballot form: Lynn Schulberg, Don Busker, and Ted Heisserer
 - i. A motion to cast a unanimous ballot was made by Terry Kemmer and seconded by Madalyn Sukke. Paper ballots were collected and counted. 78 ballots were counted with the unanimous ballot to elect the slate of candidates for the Foundation Board being approved with the vote of 78-yes and 0-no.
- b. The slate of candidates for Vision Council included on the enclosed ballot form: Nathan Olson (President), Gail Colby (President Elect), Tom Neuenfeldt (Treasurer), and Erin Erickson (Member at Large)

Lead Pastor's Report

When I first got here in the Summer of 2020 – in fact, it was the week before I started – I asked a long-time member what their greatest hope was for FLC. He responded rather quickly, as if he'd thought of this many times: "I just want First Lutheran to no longer be in recovery mode."

On one hand, as sinful people part of a broken world, we'll never fully escape the feeling of needing to 'recover.' We'll never quite feel whole and complete, or as if 'we've arrived' until we've fully arrived in eternity with our Maker – as St. Augustine wrote over 1,600 years ago in his Confessions, '...our heart is restless until it rests in you, [Lord].'¹ On the other hand, I still understand what this man meant, especially with the aching and hopeful yearning in his voice, and I still point to the promise that God can make all things new (cf. Revelation 21:5).

As I reflect on this last year, I can't help but think back and ponder this member's comment and wonder where we might place ourselves in relation to it. Are we still in recovery mode? To be sure, the state of congregational life is a complicated thing to measure. There can be churches that are growing but are unhealthy and toxic. There can also be churches that are declining or plateaued but are incredibly healthy and faithful. Therefore, gauging the health of our community should be done from multiple angles.

So, let's explore a couple angles.

Angle #1: The Numbers

Membership: after statistical adjustment, membership has gone up two years in a row! These back-to-back membership increases are the first since 2016 & 2017:

- 2020 – 1,208
- 2021 – 1,231
- 2022 – 1,284

Financial Stewardship: Let me first say, you are an incredibly generous congregation. From the way many of you support the critical and robust work of the general fund, to the way many of you support various dedicated accounts, to the way you support capital campaigns big and small, to the way Noisy Offering has exploded into thousands and thousands of dollars your financial generosity is sturdy.

Thank you to every single last one of you who has given any amount.

On that, it should come as no surprise that our financial health is stable. In each of the fiscal years I have seen close here at FLC (FY20, FY21, FY22, FY23), this congregation has given enough to accomplish the ministries of our agreed upon budget. That is no small thing. That is incredible!

¹ Saint Augustine, *Confessions*, trans. By Henry Chadwick (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998), 3.

Now, for A deeper dive into our financial health, here are some fun facts I've pulled from recent Stewardship Team reports and past financial reports:

- Quarter 3 of '22 was our best Q3 in three years: (\$128k, \$140k, \$145k respectively)
- Quarter 4 of '22 was our best Q4 in three years: (\$179k, \$186k, \$204k respectively)
- Quarter 1 of '23 was our best Q1 in FIVE years:
 - \$136k, \$140k, \$152k, \$151k, \$174k respectively
- The number of giving households has rebounded beyond pre-Covid #s:
 - 2018 – **395** | 2019 – **358** | 2020 – **249** | 2021 – **311** | 2022 – **369**
- Fiscal Year 2022 closed with the highest levels of offering received for the general fund since at least 2016!²

Worship Attendance: In-person worship attendance is certainly not what it used to be, which many of you have mentioned and grieve. And...we might be seeing some rebounding and/or stabilization. It's hard to know how Covid has changed us forever, and one of those might be how people engage worship. For instance, in my February 2022 Newsletter I highlighted that we conservatively estimate, that roughly 50 to 75 people are connecting with us *online* for weekly worship (this is a very challenging true number to identify) meaning that anywhere from 1 in 5 to 1 in 7 people who worship each week, do so online. Remarkable!

And again, we are possibly seeing some rebounding and/or stabilization in our weekly *in-person* worship. It's a small sample size, but 2023 is seeing some of the highest in-person worship attendance in a few years (so far, above 2019 numbers). See the chart below:



Whether experiencing a period of stabilization or modest growth, God be praised for God's Spirit of sustenance and new life! —and thank you to all you resilient people who have hung in together.

² Here is a snapshot of the last five years:

FY18: **\$591k** | FY19: **\$614k** | FY20: **\$586k** | FY21: **\$625k** | FY22: **\$686k**

To be sure, money and data isn't everything. We can take raw numbers and get some of the story, but there is always a risk of numbers being a mirage, an anomaly, or a latent cherry-picking. Therefore, I think we need to turn to the next angle, a biblical angle.

Angle #2: Fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5) or 'The Vibes'

In Galatians 5 the Apostle Paul directs his congregation to be on the look out for marks of a healthy community, that is, for fruits of the Spirit (vv. 22-26). He essentially asks them, *are these signs present in your church?* —and he gets specific and lists a few: “...**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**” According to Paul, a healthy and faithful community will bear these fruits. So, FLC, are these fruits present as you look around? What are *the vibes* here?

Of course, no congregation is perfect, and we have gaps and sin and growing edges just like anyone else, but as I look around, I do see fruits of the Spirit here.

- **Love?** YES! I see it in your generosity, volunteerism, service projects, fellowship gatherings, funeral services, prayers, and more.
- **Joy and Peace?** YES! I see these in your worship, in and with our children from the sanctuary to the Ed. Wing, and in your music, your fellowship, and your encouragement of one another.
- **Patience?** YES! Through new pastors, through staff transition, through Covid, through the imperfection of leaders and fellow members, and all sorts of unexpected happenings, you have shown patience with one another.
- **Generosity?** YES! I see it with your time and talent, and, again, look at Angle #1! I see it in FLC's commitment to social assistance, and I see it in the dynamic sharing of your building.
- **Faithfulness?** YES! I witness this in your worship, your music, your leadership, your education, and more.
- **Self-control?** YES! I see this in your patience articulated above, and I saw self-awareness and self-discipline in the Cottage Meetings where you were courageous enough to name how we can all do better, and I see it in the diligent discernment and decision making of your leadership bodies.

I see **fruits of the Spirit** every day in this congregation and on many levels. It is a sight to behold, it is hopeful, and thanks be to God.

As I said verbatim in last year's Annual Report, I say with even more conviction this year: “as I look at this past year I see evidence of God making good on God's promises: promises of sustenance as we go through dark valleys and rough waters (Psalm 23:4; Isaiah 43:2), and a God who continues to grow new life (Revelation 21:5).”

On that note, I cannot thank enough people with enough sincerity. There are too many people to list. All I can say is, profoundly, thank you for giving so much to this place and people, especially as so much else demands upon your lives. Of course, things are imperfect, sometimes slow,

awkward, or not without their challenges, but in a world where so much is wrong, I give thanks for the body of work done by the Body of Christ right here at FLC in Detroit Lakes, MN.

Cheers to all of you, thanks to the Triune God, and on ahead through “recovery mode,” and by God’s grace, into **renewal**.

For more on the ‘numbers,’ Paul (our Business Manager) and I worked together to provide a graphic: ‘Where Does Your Offering Go?’ when you give to FLC (see page 14). This is a move of transparency as we try to best steward your generosity, and a move of storytelling to show the direct impact of your benevolent offerings.

Associate Pastor’s Report

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:44-47)

Thank you for the joy of serving Jesus and our community with you! In Worship it was good to start receiving Holy Communion again at the Altar railing - with real bread, and even a taste of Cana wine from the Holy Land! We continue to extend our Worship Services not only online, but also into our Community – to our local nursing homes, independent and assisted senior living, and adding monthly Bible Studies at Pelican Landing.

When Bishop Tesch asked First Lutheran pastors to consider a rural ministry partnership with Richwood Lutheran Church, we accepted. I have had the pleasure of preaching and offering Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month at Richwood. I also provided pastoral care, funerals, weddings and baptisms as needed. Some of our friends at Richwood have attended our FLC Advent, Lenten and Holy Week Services as our partnership continues, and they discern their future needs for pastoral leadership.

This was our first year to offer the nationally acclaimed grief support group, GriefShare. It’s a 13 week, in-person, video-based support group, and we had good attendance. The group recommended we continue this grief support program next Fall - and open it up to the whole community. In order to do this, we will need more Co-Leaders for GriefShare. Contact me if you’re interested!

This past November, I was able to visit the Holy Land on an educational tour led by Dr. Karoline Lewis, New Testament and Biblical Preaching Professor, from Luther Seminary. I’ve shared what I’ve learned in Adult Forums and other events, and I continue to ponder all that I learned there. Thank you for the time for this once in a lifetime opportunity!

As we await our new Ministry and Social Assistance Coordinator, I’ve been joining the staff in welcoming and caring for guests who arrive at our doors in crisis every day. And I participate in the Homeless Shelter Ministry with other pastors and community leaders. This group just hired a

consultant to create a Business Plan with the hope of developing a Homeless Shelter in Detroit Lakes, since all of the existing Minnesota shelters have been full for the past several years. I am so very grateful to FLC for your donations to the Agape Fund so we can provide the temporary shelter, clothing, food and transportation, along with our prayers, that people need to move forward in their lives!

Our Parish Nurse, Denise Gaard, and I attended a workshop on “Soul Shop Ministry and Suicidal Depression” by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and we addressed this crisis in our community with a special event, “Post Traumatic Success: Seeing in Color Again”, with speaker and former FLC member, Scott Geiselhart.

It was a joy to Worship with our Creation Care Team watching their inspiring video, and to participate in planning for our Pollinator Habitat Garden. Our Adult Faith Formation Team has hosted thought-provoking book studies, as well as fun game day events. Our Hospitality Team is doing a great job inviting more people to volunteer in Worship, welcoming our New Members, and helping us host Ministry events.

The Northwest Minnesota Synod hosted “Theology for Ministry Retreat: Repairing the Breach/Moving Forward in Love”, and we explored ways to be more faithful and just partners with our Indigenous neighbors. They also sponsored “The Great Synod Get-Together” – a new format for congregation leaders throughout the Synod to get to know each other better before the Annual Synod Assembly, hear our Bishop Tesch’s vision for our future, and listen to guest speakers’ encourage the importance of telling our personal stories of faith in a more secular 21st Century church. (Fun fact - I attended a zoom workshop about ministry with Gen Zers, and was delighted to learn that one of the activities they find healing, that draws them together, is cooking! Who knew! I’m thinking chocolate chip cookie baking Bible Studies 😊)

Lastly but not least, the FLC Prayer Team meets every Friday at noon for a brief prayer time in the Chapel, praying for everyone who’s requested prayer, and for our congregation, staff, upcoming events, community, national and world needs.....Please know we would love to have you join us anytime!

Thank you for your love for Jesus and all the ways you share that love and grace with each other and our community, and for the wonder – full world God created!

Vision Council President’s Report

Submitted by Nathan Olson

Like most years, the past fiscal year was busy for Vision Council. In addition to the review of team/staff reports and the treasurer’s report that happens at every monthly meeting, below are some other actions that occurred throughout the year:

- The council worked closely with the Building and Grounds Committee to approve the work of installing a new heat pump and humidifier, as well as researching loan options for completing improvements to the parking lot and brick work.

- New members for the Stewardship Committee were approved.
- A new contract with Laker Prep to operate a daycare in our space was approved after Laker Prep achieved their 501c3 status.
- An agreement was entered into with Richwood Lutheran Church for Pastor Lauryl to assist with pastoral services.
- A new version of the constitution was recommended for approval by the congregation at the annual meeting.
- Accepting a loan for \$225,000 from the Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation for completing the brick work and parking lot was recommended for approval by the congregation at the annual meeting.
- Authorized the opening of two CDs, each one for \$100,000, to take advantage of the high interest rates and help the Church obtain some income from the assets it has in the bank.

In addition to the work completed above, strategic planning work spanned several months to review the information gathered during the cottage meetings with church members. These meetings were needed to obtain feedback from members about things such as what they thought the church was doing well, what the church could do better, and what their greatest hope is for our church. Reviewing this information took many meetings over several months to create these four goals:

1. Continue to create accessible, relevant, and faithful worship to promote congregational & community engagement.
2. Healthy support of pastoral leadership & staff to join them in the work of the church.
3. Grow in authentic relationships & discipleship through education, small group ministries, and fellowship opportunities.
4. Provide a safe, healthy, and inviting facility to support the thriving of the church's ministries.

Vision Council used these goals throughout the past several months to guide the work of the church and will continue to use them in the future, which I think is looking bright. Although we have lost some members of our church family this past year, we also are seeing new members joining the church and Christ's family growing with baptisms. We continue to be fiscally responsible with your generous donations and I am confident that the church will be in good hands with those who will be elected at the Annual Meeting. Thank you for your support over this past year and see you in Church!

Treasurer's Report

Summary of Income and Expense from July 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023, unaudited:

Our year-to-date income total of \$524,699.83, when compared to our budget of \$515,555.00, puts us \$9,144.83 over our income budget.

Our year-to-date expense total of \$516,683.04, when compared to our budget of \$527,734.06, puts us \$11,051.02 under our expense budget.

General Fund Assets

Beginning Balance, July 1, 2022:		\$	102,852.06
Income to date:	\$	524,699.83	
Less Expenses to date:		<u>(516,683.04)</u>	
Net Change in Assets:	\$	8,016.79	
Ending Balance, March 31, 2023:		\$	<u>110,868.85</u>

Dedicated Funds Assets

Beginning Balance, July 1, 2022:		\$	377,940.08
Income to date:	\$	135,762.54	
Less Expenses to date:		<u>(152,417.59)</u>	
Net Change in Assets:	\$	(16,655.05)	
Ending Balance, March 31, 2023:		\$	<u>361,285.03</u>

Liabilities

Ending Balance, March 31, 2023:		\$	<u>7,143.39</u>
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Completed FY23 financial statements with auditor's comments will be available in Fall 2023 in the <i>Annual Report Financial Supplement</i> .

Where does my Offering Go?

This is what you're creating for every \$100 given:

Social Assistance \$7.16

Providing supplies, resources, referral ministry, staff, pastors, and presence to people in need who come to us

Faith Formation of Adults \$2.23

Providing activities, books and supplies, fellowship, pastors, and staff

Pastoral Care \$10.71

Providing the ministry of presence to members who are sick, injured, lonely, or grieving

Buildings and Grounds \$16.75

Sustaining safe, comfortable, and reliable spaces for all our ministries and hosted organizations

Benevolences \$4.72

Supporting neighbors helping neighbors: LSS, DL Ministerial, Luther Crest, NWMN Synod, etc.

Communications \$8.30

Connecting members and community: newsletters, social media, online worship, office reception, etc.

Faith Formation of Youth & Children \$16.67

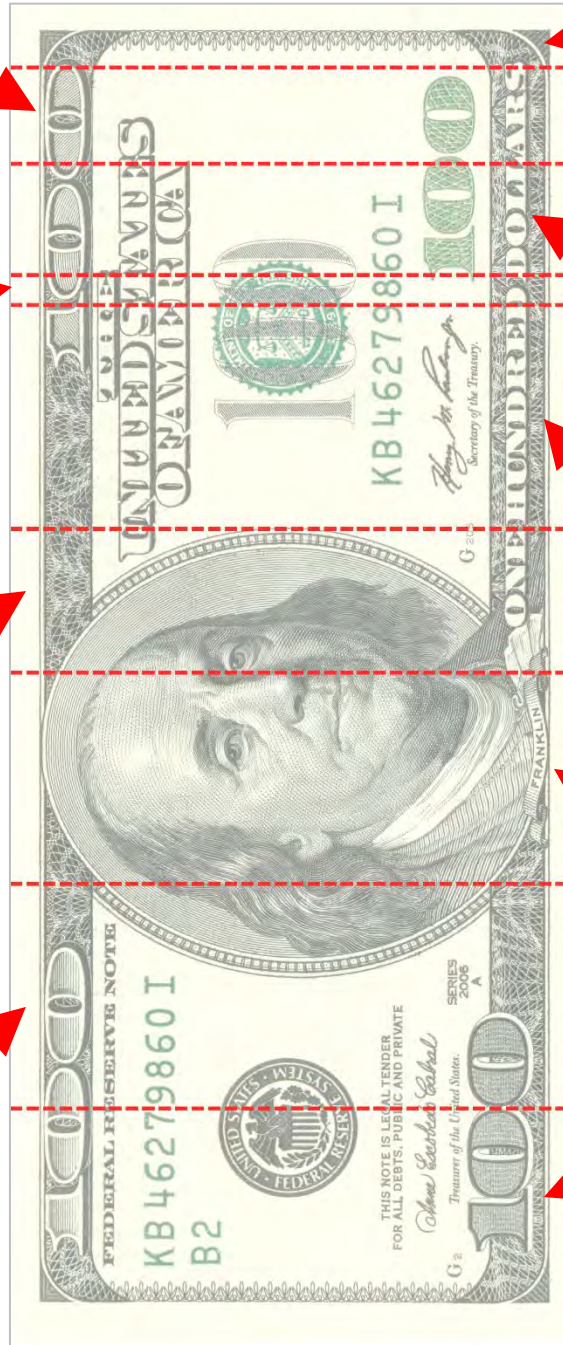
Providing curriculum, activities, fellowship, staff, supplies, pastors

Worship \$15.72

Providing space, staff, supplies, pastors, and music

Executive Leadership and Administration \$17.75

Providing supervision, staff, and pastors for organizational logistics and operations



Note: This is just General Fund giving and does not include additional giving to our designated accounts, such as: Buildings & Grounds, Music, and Agape.

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY24 Budget</u>	<u>FY23 Budget</u>	
General Offerings	\$ 713,935	\$ 686,972	+3.9%
Other Revenue	17,100	8,980	
Program Revenue	<u>5,000</u>	<u> </u>	
Total	\$ 736,035	\$ 695,952	+5.8%
<u>Benevolence</u>			
ELCA Synod	\$ 29,500	\$ 29,500	
Miscellaneous Ministry Support	2,000	2,000	
Lutheran Social Service	1,200	1,200	
Detroit Lakes Ministerial Assoc.	550	550	
Luther Crest	<u>350</u>	<u>350</u>	
Total	\$ 33,600	\$ 33,600	0.0%
<u>Business Management</u>			
Utilities	\$ 46,000	\$ 45,000	
Building Maintenance	23,000	20,000	
Insurance/Appraisals	12,000	12,000	
Snow removal/lawn care	10,000	10,000	
Office Supplies	8,000	7,800	
Accounting Firm	5,200	12,000	
Copier Lease/Color	4,600	10,000	
Telephone	4,500	4,500	
Postage	4,220	5,000	
Computer Exp.	4,000	4,000	
Custodial Supplies	4,000	4,000	
Assessments	4,000	4,000	
Bank Fees	1,500	1,200	
Synod Assembly	1,000	700	
Personnel, General	300		
Sabbatical Pulpit Supply	250	1,500	
-Eliminated Categories-		<u>2,750</u>	
Total	\$ 132,570	\$ 144,450	-8.2%
<u>Member Care / Outreach</u>			
Communication	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Evangelism & Marketing	600		
Parish Nurse Supplies	300	300	
Chamber Dues	<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>	
Total	\$ 3,150	2,550	23.5%
<u>Spiritual Growth for Adults</u>			
Devotional Books	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	
Stewardship	1,000	1,000	
Creation Care	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	
Total	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,100	+42.9%

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Assumptions

The FY24 Budget that is being recommended was constructed with the following assumptions.

Revenue

- FLC will continue to provide services to Richwood Lutheran Church
- Laker Prep Early Childhood will continue to rent our facility
- FLC will transfer the earned interest on the collateralized Certificate of Deposit into its General fund upon maturity (ETA March 2024)
- Program Revenue for VBS

Benevolence

- Pledged \$29,500 to Northwestern Minnesota Synod for Mission Support

Business Management

- Removed accounts and funds that no longer fit our mission
- Reduced Accounting Firm due to payroll provider and audit firm
- Reduced Copier lease expense due to purchase in FY23
- Pest Control moved to Building Maintenance
- Decreased Sabbatical Pulpit Supply due to healthy fund balance
- Added Personnel, General to promote Staff Development

Member Care / Outreach

- Added budget for marketing and evangelism of ministries

Spiritual Growth for Adults, Children, Youth

- Corrections due to inflation and actual costs
- Aligned budget categories to better reflect actual programming

Worship

- Changed to better reflect actual usage

Personnel

- 5% increase in salaries
- Base increase of 6% for Portico (clergy fringe benefits)
- Increased taxable fringe benefit for full-time staff to \$300/month
- Created a staff continuing education pool
- Adjusted auto and business expenses to better align with actual use



Ministry Reports

Adult Faith Formation

Submitted by Terry Kemmer

The First Lutheran Church Adult Faith formation team works toward a goal – planning and coordinating spiritual and educational opportunities for the growth and development of FLC adult members.

The team meets monthly and discusses future opportunities that meet the goal. New members have been recruited, especially after the ministry fair that was held in October 2022. If membership on the Adult Faith Formation team interests you, please visit with Pastor Lauryl or Parish Nurse Denise. Perspectives of all ages are needed to develop truly appropriate spiritual and educational learning opportunities for the adult members here at FLC.

Some highlights from the current programmatic year include:

- Pastor Joe's summer nights with the Old Testament Bible study – to complement this study, food and drink reminiscent of the Old Testament were served. This study was held on the green space and drew 35 to 40 participants during the four evening sessions. Pastor Joe is planning another Bible study this summer – keep watch for details.



Attendees at the Summer Nights with Pastor Joe Old Testament Bible Study

- Pastor Joe's nativity stories from the four Gospels during Advent
- Pastor Lauryl's Griefshare support group Monday evenings November through February . . . with hopes of offering this again starting this fall.
- Capturing generational stories and pictures through hard copy books that can be handed down from generation to generation.
- A book study – ***Do I Stay Christian?*** by Brian McLauren – offered this Lenten season and just finished during Holy Week.

The three Sunday afternoon table game sessions certainly brought a different perspective – having fun and snacks while playing table games, an opportunity to gather for fun during this long Minnesota winter. Participants were limited but fun was abundant!

The Walk to Jerusalem was coordinated by Parish Nurse Denise and the team to encourage FLC membership to get moving and compile miles with this imaginary walk starting in mid-January to Easter Sunday.

Several summer potluck picnics were offered by the Adult Faith Formation team in tandem with the FLC Hospitality team.

Please mark calendars for May 17 – the mental health presentation by Scott Geiselhart – May is Mental Health Awareness month.

FLC members are encouraged to plan and sponsor their own book studies, especially featuring books that they have read and enjoyed. The Adult Faith Formation team will be happy to help with any marketing needs.

If interest has been piqued to join the team, share suggestions and thoughts, or offer your own book study, please contact Pastor Joe, Pastor Lauryl, or Parish Nurse Denise. Keep watch for opportunities to learn and grow . . . thank you!

Buildings & Grounds

Submitted by Nathan Olson

The Building and Grounds Committee is made up of five church members, the Business Manager, and a liaison from the Vision Council. Serving on the Committee this year was Krista Pihlaja, Chris Borgman, Rich Johnson, Jeff Murphy, and Tom Klyve. Nathan Olson served as the liaison to the Vision Council. This was Tom Klyve's last term on the Committee, and we thank him for his help all these years. Here are some accomplishments and tasks the Committee completed this past year:

- The issues with the heated front steps were resolved.
- The large stained-glass window had a crack in the thermo pane that was repaired.
- An energy audit was completed.
- The dry fire sprinklers, alarms, and extinguishers were inspected.
- A pollinator plot managed by the Creation Care Team was reviewed/approved.

Projects on the docket to be completed over the next year:

- Installation of a new heat pump and humidifier.
- Repaving of the parking lot, new parking lot lights, and wider driveways on Minnesota Avenue (pending congregational approval).
- Repairing the brick work by the patio and outdoor worship area on the south side of the church (pending congregational approval).

Other projects that are in discussion:

- Shading for the Worship Team on the patio.
- Upgrading the lighting in the dining room and sanctuary to LED.
- Installing a middle handrail on the front steps.
- Reinstalling trim around the front door.
- New doors as needed to replace ones that have been damaged due to low humidity.
- Remodeling of the kitchen, fellowship hall, and education wing.

Business Manager

Submitted by Paul Haarstick

Firstly, thank you to all the congregation members, Vision Council members, and staff who have been so welcoming to me since I have started. You all have made me feel welcome and integral to the life of this congregation. Thank you to Susie Reitmeier for helping me transition into this role.

In my ten months here, I've worked on the following projects in addition to the routine tasks that keep the lights on, bathrooms stocked, and bills paid.

- Implemented Positive Pay with Bremer Bank to prevent check fraud
- In-housed payroll processing
- Selected an audit firm, Brady Martz & Associates, to consult with us on internal controls and test the financials that are presented
- Updated toilet paper, paper towel, and soap dispensers
- Purchased a copier that will reduce our recurring service costs
- Worked with Pastor Joe to invest in certificates of deposit at Midwest Bank, taking advantage of historically high interest rates

Finally, each week I have the privilege and honor to steward your gifts to their ultimate destination of building God's Kingdom and allowing us to love our neighbors. For all your treasures that you entrust to us, I am humbled by your generosity and devotion. Your dollars create more than just utilities and copy paper, they build community, enable pastoral care, nurture the growing faith of young people, and allow us to live the mission we are called to do. Thank you!

Creation Care

Submitted by Tom Neuenfeldt

FLC Creation Care Team (CCT) was formed in early 2020 in response to the threat of the climate crisis and its disproportionately large burden on those less privileged in our community/country/world, and, as followers of Christ, our desire to care for God's creation. The CCT adopted a mission statement, "***Intentional stewardship of God's creation for future generations.***" The CCT met several times in the past year to plan events and work on a series of initiatives as described below:

- Conducted a study of the book "Caring for Creation" by Mitch Hescox and Paul Douglas
- Developed a program of adding Creation Care Notes to weekly bulletins
- Assisted and coordinated host activities for Detroit Lakes Electric Vehicle Event



*Former KARE-11 meteorologist Paul Douglas speaking at Detroit Lakes Electric Vehicle Expo.
Vicki Gerdes / Detroit Lakes Tribune*

- Participated in First Lutheran Church Ministry Fair
- Developed and implemented an elementary Sunday and Wednesday school youth Creation Care lesson/activity
- Helped wash dishes at Oasis meals to avoid the use of paper products
- Produced a short Creation Care video as part of NWMN Synod Spring Appeal Devotional series
- Coordinated the "Abundant Grace Garden – At Home Edition" to produce food for those in need
- Conducted third annual Tree Give-Away to promote planting of carbon sequestration trees
- Participated as worship assistants in Creation Care oriented worship service
- Staffed Creation Care display at Detroit Lakes Earth Day activity

- Worked with Becker Soil and Water Conservation District and FLC-Building and Grounds Team to plan a pollinator plot on First Lutheran Church campus
- Conducted a youth event for Earth Day 2022 where we had over 20 youth and adults participate in four mini-classes (the Bible & trees, climate change, soil, trees for our area) taught by people from FLC and planted 100 carbon-sequestering, conservation trees

Plans for 2023/2024 include:

- Plant a pollinator plot on First Lutheran church grounds
- Support/Host another Electric Vehicle Event
- Continue publishing Creation Care Notes in worship bulletins
- Engage youth to participate in an inter-generational activity
- Encourage every member of the congregation to spend time outdoors appreciating God's Creation

In his book, *Do I Stay Christian*, pastor/author Brian D. McLaren states that one of the ways to develop our faith is to, "enter the natural world mindfully, reverently, as silently as we can, waiting for the beauty, intricacy, and wonder of what is outside us to overwhelm and hush the barrage of words chattering inside our heads."

May you all invest some time to find a measure of peace in the beauty and wonder of God's amazing creative work.

FLC Foundation

Please see the FLC Foundation Treasurer's Report on page 65.

FLC Quilters

Submitted by Sue Christensen

The First Lutheran Quilters have had another busy year. In spite of being shorthanded at times we made more quilts than last year.

We packed up and sent a total of 118 quilts (57 in May and 61 in December) overseas through Lutheran World Relief.

Please check out the quilt in the monthly church newsletter and those placed around the church. They make great gifts for Mother's Day, Graduation, and Christmas.

Thank you very much for your support of the quilters this year.



WHERE DID LWR QUILTS & KITS GO IN 2022?



- facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief
- instagram.com/luthworldrelief
- twitter.com/LuthWorldRelief
- youtube.com/LutheranWorldRelief



Parish Health

Submitted by Denise Gaard

Mission Statement

Opening doors to life in Christ by promoting the spiritual, physical and mental health of all members of First Lutheran Church and our Community.

This past year has been a long-awaited blessing in many ways. It is such a pleasure to do activities and events that I used to take for granted such as, visiting with members face to face, worshipping together in the Sanctuary, having fellowship together in the dining room, and having meetings with staff and various teams in person instead of virtually! Along with these blessings are times of sadness and grief. Losses, such as friends moving, relatives and fellow members of FLC passing away, missing events or unable to visit someone because of the ever-present Covid-19. But, thankfully I know that God is always with me and with those I love, providing strength, comfort, and peace.

Like I said already, it has been a joy to meet and work with staff and team members in person. We have a wonderful and talented staff. It is a blessing to work alongside each one of the staff members and pastors.

I am a member of several teams. These teams include the Creation Care Team, Adult Faith Formation Team, and the Visitation Team.

The Visitation Team is active and looking for more members. We have added a couple new members to our team but need more! We have over 75 members of FLC that the pastors, me, and the few members of the visitation team contact at least each quarter. This contact could be an in-person visit, a phone call, or a mailing of a card/devotional. We need more team members to do this important ministry. We want the members that we visit to know they are still a remembered and loved member of FLC. Please contact me if you are interested in or have questions about becoming a member of the visitation team.

I am very excited that FLC will be hosting a community event during the month of May 2023, Mental Health Awareness month. Members of the Adult Faith Formation Team and I organized this event. Scott Geiselhart, former member of FLC, is speaking at this event. Scott does speaking engagements around the country about mental health, PTSD, addiction, and suicide. We are so fortunate to have Scott speak at FLC and for our community.

Tai Ji Quan Classes also started again this past year. I led a 12-week session that started last fall. I plan on having 1 -2 more sessions this year. It is a wonderful program that helps with our strength and balance. Watch the newsletters and bulletins for more information.

We hosted 2 very successful blood drives last year and are planning to host 2 drives this year. There is a severe shortage of blood throughout our country, and we are happy to help in any way that we can with this shortage.

I am always available to talk, visit, and assist each of you. Call and leave a message for me at the office anytime.

I look forward to another year of serving you and the God we love.

The Lord gives strength to his people, and the Lord blesses his people with peace. (Psalm 29:11)

Personnel

Submitted by Steve Schantzen

It's surprisingly been another year already, and with some sadness my tenure with FLC leadership term comes to an end. I moved into chair the Personnel Committee after my Vision Council term ended and thought it should be a low-key year, and likely not much for critical business. I know better. Regardless, the Pastors and staff are in my eyes some of the best talent we as First Lutheran could ask for to lead and support our ministry and congregation.

An update of where this year has led, we as the Personnel Committee have overseen the retirement of our faithful Business Manager Susie Reitmeier and successful replacement with Paul Haarstick. It was not without much angst when Susie called and delivered the news that she was starting a new chapter in her life. This was quickly turned to joy when Paul Haarstick accepted the position to join First Lutheran Church. Paul quickly jumped in and has been an amazing addition to the staff.

Another long-time faithful staff member MacKenzie Hamm recently moved on to a different career. We are currently accepting applications for her position and at the same time interviewing potential candidates. This position is twofold as it supports and helps coordinate First Lutherans ministry groups as well as coordinating all the social assistance that First Lutheran Church provides. If you know of anyone that may be interested in this position don't hesitate to reach out to myself or the staff.

Moving on to other business, as part of the Strategic planning process, our goal is to promote, support, and retain healthy pastoral & staff leadership. Part of this process is to ensure we are providing adequate opportunities and promoting continuing education. It is hard to see two key staff depart in just a short time span, and it may happen regardless of how much effort is given, but I do not want to rest thinking there's nothing we as a congregation can do. Your giving, and the passing of the upcoming annual budget helps to make sure we are providing adequate compensation and opportunities for learning for our Pastors and Staff. Moreover, your support in volunteering to hold up the work of the church is of vital importance as our staff cannot support the church alone, we are all needed to fulfill the ministry of First Lutheran Church.

Other business the Personnel Committee has overseen this year is typical, but a few key items remain for the upcoming year. The updating and passing of First Lutheran's Employee Handbook will be a high priority for the committee to complete. Additionally started was the revamping or streamlining of the annual employee review process. This should also be a priority of the upcoming Personnel Committee to complete this next year.

With this I will close out with a huge thanks to our Pastors and staff along with recognizing the Personnel Committee who commit their time to helping:

- Bridgette Bergman
- Susan Bjorklund
- Paula Hines
- Nathan Olson

On behalf of the Personnel Committee thank you!

Social Justice

Submitted by Mackenzie Hamm

In addition to the ongoing ministries within the church, Ministry Events of a more outreach nature that took place here at First Lutheran Church include the:

Agape Fund

With FLC parishioners' generous gifts, Agape Fund has helped with barriers people have experienced being in crisis. Your donations help people with bus tokens, bus tickets, purchases new tires, assisting with electricity bills, & paying to fix housing problems like leaking pipes. Individuals who are seeking employment or applying for housing are sometimes missing vital documentation. You have helped buy birth certificates, driver's licenses, social security cards, & paying a month's cell phone bill so they can make & receive calls for employment. Thank you for your gifts to allow us to bridge a gap for many individuals. These individuals meet with First Lutheran church Staff & Pastor and talk about the need and then administration talks amongst each other on how to best help the individuals.

Becker County Food Pantry

We provide volunteers to stock shelves in November of each calendar year. Thank you for volunteering for this wonderful ministry! The Food Pantry provides emergency food bags for our church to use for crisis walk-ins. Fiscal year-to-date, First Lutheran, through directed donations and internal ministries, donated \$880 to the Food Pantry.

Christmas Angel Tree

A tree was in our entryway and decorated with many angels with information of individuals and items to purchase. Members of the congregation bought Christmas gifts in order to anonymously bless members of our community who have had life challenges with adverse financial effects the previous year. With the generosity of individuals in this church buying gifts and donating cash for Angel shoppers, we fulfilled all 350 Angels this year! "We are blessed to be a blessing." Church staff delivered all the gifts to be delivered to a central location to be given out anonymously to individuals.

Christmas at Our House

We were back with the dining in option for Christmas at Our House this year and it was wonderful to see so many people coming to enjoy their time eating with neighbors. We served 136 people including some volunteers who ate in the dining room. We delivered 197 meals to people with in the city limits. We had 100 come for Curbside pick-ups as well. That is a total of 433 meals!



*Judy Peterson, left, and Kathryn McCormack, right, serve ham at the start of the 10-person, volunteer serving line during the annual Christmas Day meal, hosted by First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes, on Dec. 25, 2022.
Michael Achterling / Detroit Lakes Tribune*

This could not be possible without the tremendous number of volunteers. Jim McCormack puts together the order and cooks some food the night before all while setting the tables. This is his last year so if you have a heart for giving back to your community Jim has kept very good records of how it is done to hand over for an easy and seamless transition. Please reach out to the office if you are interested. Also please tell him thank you for the many years he and his family have volunteered for this ministry! In the office we collect voicemails and take the reservations for about a month prior. Then we document the deliveries into a route for 12 different vehicles to deliver with about 24 volunteers as most cars had 2 people to help with delivering. We have about 20 people help in the Kitchen from preparing food to serving and doing dishes. There were another 10 volunteers helping serve the meal and bus tables. 5 volunteers delivered meals to cars at curb side. In total to pull this vital ministry off, about 60 volunteers were here on Christmas day! I can't thank you all enough!!!

Children's Christmas Store

Another amazing ministry that you have put your time and donations toward. You donated so many gifts and wrapping paper and bags throughout the year that we were able to have over 100 little kiddos come through and shop for their family members! There were about 50 volunteers who helped as set-up and clean-up crew, shopper helpers, gift wrappers, greeters and kitchen help! It is such a gift to see the joy on the young faces as they do their own shopping! Thank you for providing that for so many young ones in our community.

The joy you see on the children's faces when they get to pick out their own gifts for their family members is priceless. Thank you to Tanzy & Gary Haisley and the large team of volunteers who made it happen!

Churches United for the Homeless

FLC became the first Detroit Lakes church member in 2019, and Patti Cummins represents FLC. We refer individuals who are seeking shelter to Churches United. Churches United provides shelter, support, and case management services for men, women, and families - up to 85 per night. In the winter, mats on the floor are used when needed, sheltering up to 112 per night.

First Lutheran sponsored a table this year and representatives of First Lutheran who help with the Sheltering ministry participated in the annual fundraiser. Donations that come into the church directed to Churches United totaled \$300



Attendees at the 2022 Gourmet Soup Kitchen Fundraiser, left to right, are: Patti Cummins, Maureen Karsnia, Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Emma Duncan, Melissa Christianson, Mackenzie Hamm, Paul Haarstick, and Dave Johnson.

Detroit Lakes Ministerial Association

We are a partner church for crisis help in the community, and we all use Charity Tracker and voucher system for clothing, food, gas and hotel needs. In 2022, twenty-six households were provided assistance consisting of: 19 gas vouchers, 3 grocery vouchers, 2 thrift store vouchers, and 3 nights at a hotel.

Detroit Lakes Overnight Emergency Shelter

First Lutheran continues to do intake daily of people who are in need, whether it is financial emergencies or homelessness. For a program history of the DL Overnight Emergency Shelter please ask the office or read more on the website at firstlutheranchurch.com. See the current updates in the newsletters or on the weekly updates that are emailed out on Fridays.

For every person who comes here to seek shelter we fill out an intake form and send a referral to MAHUBE-OTWA so they can meet with their housing intake workers. We try to help them until their intake worker can connect with them. We have had people sleep in the church during the day hours until their bus can take them to a shelter. Numerous individuals come here to warm their food, have coffee, and seek assistance. We help individuals find shelter in the Fargo-Moorhead or surrounding Areas.

Volunteers: I can't say thank you enough to everyone who volunteered in some way. We had individuals donate clothing and many items that were needed for shelter guests. Volunteers handmade special faith items that are handed out to individuals to remind them that people are praying for them and they are loved. Many volunteers cooked meals, donated gift cards, organized the supplies, did laundry, and donated day passes to the DLCCC so individuals can shower and enjoy the facility.



Paul Haarstick with meals that were cooked and later frozen to be given to our neighbors in need.

Ministerial Voucher Program: This program allows us to issue a voucher with a limited monetary amount for items like gas, clothing, food, or an emergency hotel stay. This ministry is funded by donations from area churches. Gas vouchers have been written out to those who need to travel for doctor appointments and those who need extra help getting to work. Thrift store vouchers are issued to those who need help with clothes for themselves or children, bedding, and some various household supplies. Vouchers for food are issued to those who need help with groceries. Hotel vouchers have been issued on a one-voucher limit to guests who have been stranded in the area, need to flee an unsafe living situation, or for individuals who are living in cars and need to escape the cold. Each church has access to a database which documents who we help. We limit these vouchers as we express to the individual these are for when they are experiencing a crisis. This is a great ministry that will remain, and you should be proud of all the churches who contribute to this and who assist individuals in emergency need with these vouchers. This shows the compassion and collaboration between so many churches.

Fuller Center of Housing

A big thanks to Bob Jernberg who directs fundraising at “Tuesday night Summers in the Park” and FLC provided 12 volunteers to serve burgers & brats on July 12, 2022. Funds from the meal go to support building homes for the Fuller Center.

Salvation Army

10 First Lutheran Church members rang the bell at Central Market on November 12, 2022.

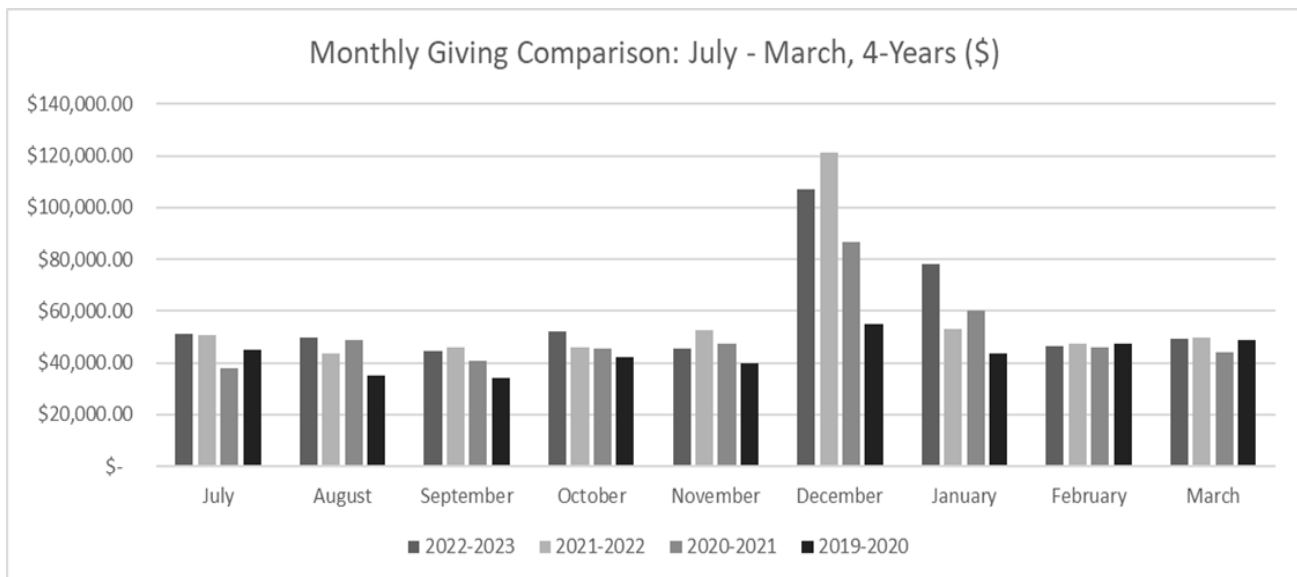
Stewardship

Submitted by Tom Neuenfeldt

Give freely and spontaneously. Don't have a stingy heart. The way you handle matters like this triggers God, your God's, blessing in everything you do, all your work and ventures. There are always going to be poor and needy people among you. So I command you: Always be generous, open purse and hands, give to your neighbors in trouble, your poor and hurting neighbors. Deuteronomy 15:10-11 (The Message)

Thank you for the many ways you have given of your time, talent, and treasure this last year. Through your actions, words of affirmation, and financial gifts, the Good News has been proclaimed in word and deed. God has blessed the ministry of First Lutheran Church through your gifts.

Over the last year, the Stewardship team has analyzed our annual pattern of giving and expenses. The team met quarterly to compare current giving and expenses with previous months, quarters, and years. The chart below compares giving for the period July through March for 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 in dollars. This chart demonstrates our giving pattern. During the period July through March over the last 4 years, December averages to be the highest giving month and September averages to be the lowest giving month.



Total amount given – July 2019-March 2020 = \$390,840.30
Total amount given – July 2020-March 2021 = \$457,192.47
Total amount given – July 2021-March 2022 = \$510,455.52
Total amount given – July 2022-March 2023 = \$523,688.95

In addition to giving to the General Fund to further the building up of God's kingdom, the proclaiming of the message, and the loving of our neighbors, you have given your spare change through the Noisy Offerings. You have given gifts to the following local, national, and global organizations: Feed My Starving Children, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Social Service of MN, Lutheran World Relief, Fuller Center for Housing (Detroit Lakes), FLC Agape Fund, ELCA

Seminary Support, Global Health Ministries, and Becker County Food Pantry. **Your spare change given through the Noisy Offering (July 2022 through March 2023) adds up to \$5,116.58!**

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:8-10

Support Ministries

Submitted by Mackenzie Hamm

Support Ministries are “ministries that support our pastors and one another in our faith growth through worship and fellowship.”

I am blessed to see so many of you who care so much about First Lutheran Church. With my position, I get to see first-hand how much you are “the hands and feet of Jesus.” Below will be a brief report from different ministries here at First Lutheran Church! If your heart is tugging for you to belong to a ministry, please reach out to the office to see how you can get involved.

Abundant Grace Garden

Took a break in 2022 to let the ground rejuvenate. People still brought in their own garden goodies and donated them to the food pantry and to our Abundance Food Produce Cart in front of the church for those to grab. All donations that were provided were still given to the food pantry.

Action Corps

Action Corps is composed of all FLC parishioners who are divided into 12 teams to serve the 12 months during fellowship. These teams provide treats and serve coffee during fellowship time on Sunday mornings, provide desserts for funerals, and serve for other congregational events. It has been a tremendous blessing that several of the Action Corps leaders who schedule the servers have now led their team for consecutive years. I have greatly appreciated those who have stepped in to take a leader role for the first time. Emails/Postcards continue to be sent out ahead of time to inform Action Corps team members that their service month is coming up and encouraging them to initiate calling their leader. I also send out an online sign-up form to everyone on the Action Corps group. This online sign-up sheet allows those with email or text to sign up online in the role they would like to help with. Our hope is to always increase the number of congregation members to sign up ahead of time prior to being called upon.

In addition to providing servers for fellowship time, Action Corps is a way to stay connected to members of our congregation! It is intended that each member and active non-members of the congregation is part of an Action Corps Team so that, at least once a year, they will be called to serve. Much information and insight is gathered and reported to the office from responses of those team members called!

Winter Rotation: Dec, Jan, Feb
Spring Rotation: Mar, Apr, May

Summer Rotation: Jun, Jul, Aug
Fall Rotation: Sep, Oct, Nov

Here are the Leaders of each season:

WIN3-Joyce Klyve;

SUM1-Carol Moe/Adrienne Buboltz

WIN1-Sue Harper

SUM3-Glenette Olson

SPR2- **(NEEDED)**

FALL2- **(NEEDED)**

SPR3- **(NEEDED)**

FALL3-Tanzy Haisley

SPR1-Ardys Horner

FALL1-Deb Sprague

SUM2-Linda Dahlin

WIN2-Terry & Sandi Kemmer

Altar Guild

Jean Benson and Sue Berg continue to supervise the Altar Guild, which oversees the altar area, paraments, supplies for Holy Communion, and an annual cleaning each year. Thank you to all those who have signed up to be part of the Altar Guild. Also, a thank you to Denise Gaard, Pastor Lauryl, Pam Orth, and Janelle Maday for baking the communion bread. Thank you to Jan Adkins for sewing new Altar Cloths. Altar Guild is looking for more people to join. Please call Sue or Jean if you would like to join.

Audiovisual Team

The sound system, slides, & webcasting is provided during church worship services, funerals, weddings and many special events. This team from 2022 consisted of Gary Haisley, Jay Volden, Ted Cihak, Jim McCormack, Carter Mouw, Jim Bruflodt, Les Perry, Tanzy Haisley, Coleen Voeltz, Reece Borgmann, Sidney Borgmann, Nathan Olson, Eric & Melissa Christianson. Mackenzie Hamm schedules and subs when needed, Cory Oswald continues to aid in collecting feedback, purchasing & setting up equipment, Melissa C continues to produce the content for the slides. This ministry allows many to watch and listen to the service from home when they are not able to attend in person.

Cooks and Crew for Oasis, Lent & Advent

The Wednesday evening Oasis serving team consists of: Cindy Bruflodt, Allissa Mork & Cheri Haderly, along with volunteers who sign up. Homemade meals, pizza, salads & deserts are served Wednesday evenings. Lent and Advent soup and sandwiches for lunch were put together with the help of Denise Gaard & Dave Johnson. Thank you to the volunteers who help serve and cook for all your help and hospitality.

Financial Assistants

Two individuals from this team arrive each Monday morning to process the church offerings. Dianne Fillmore & Ardys Horner are members who are trained in this task. This group acts under the supervision of the Business Manager.

Flower Committee & Decorating Team

Shan Manke and Jeannie Gilbertson are managing a team of ladies who each take a month to manage the Altar Flowers. They provide decorations and line up volunteers to help decorate for Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas. In 2022, the monthly flower team members who worked with Shan and Jeannie were: Jonna Goreham, Sue Berg, Jill Unruh, Denise Gaard, Catie Herman, Carol Moe, Krista Pihlaja, Ardys Horner, Catharine Weisenburger, Sue Christensen, Judy Maxwell and Jean Benson. Thank you to Shan Manke, Belinda Freeman, Deb Wickum, Arlene Reiersen, Norma Perry, Catharine Weisenburger and Mandy Musielewicz for continuing to maintain the flower garden area on the west side of the lawn! Shan and Jeannie and oversaw decorating the large flower pots outside the East and West church entrances.



Funeral Team

The Support Coordinator, Mackenzie Hamm, worked with caterers and called on volunteers for setting up & serving and providing hospitality for the family and visitors from the funeral. The month's Action Corp group was still called upon to provide treats for the funerals. Thank you to those volunteers who sign up to help with this ministry to help provide a comfort of food and fellowship to families in a time of sadness.

Hospitality Team

In response to the wishes of the congregation to find ways to grow in service, the Hospitality Team organized a Ministry Fair in October!!

Many of the ministries of FLC were represented in the dining room. This was a wonderful opportunity to discover, learn and actively participate in the service ministries at FLC!

The past Kitchen team merged to the Hospitality Team: Team members take turns tending to the upkeep of the kitchen and pantry areas, keeping them clean and well supplied. The group as a whole makes decisions regarding operations of the kitchen and maintains inventory of the kitchen and other areas with service ware.

Library Attendant

Patti Cummins maintains the records of books and videos. The church library regularly adds new and relevant pieces of literature, so if there is a book that is of interest to you, check & see if we have it, suggest it or even donate it! The catalog system is fully updated and available to view online. Go to our website under Faith Formation and you will find the FLC Library Catalog. Our Library rocks! Check it out.

Men's Day Break Bible Study

A faith-building ministry of men congregating together to study the bible and develop relationships. Wednesday mornings start with selected passages from the Master Builders Bible for Men and a coffee cup question. Breakfast ends with closing prayers. A great way to start your day...feeding your body and soul. Attendance is between six and nine men. Held every Wednesday morning at 6:30 am at the Holiday Inn.

Office Assistants

Each Tuesday morning, the church office staff meets to review, coordinate, and plan ministries here at First Lutheran. During that time, a volunteer covers the front office so the staff is free to focus exclusively on their meeting. These ladies are available to help with random projects the office is in need of. Thank you to Sandi Kemmer, Ardys Horner, Patti Cummins, and Deb Anderson.

Thank you to others who have helped out as well for occasional 5th Tuesdays, Staff Retreat or any other time the office needs front desk coverage. If you are looking for ways to help out the church staff, please reach out and we can always find a tasks.

Prayer Chain

Denise Gaard and Pastor Lauryl Ivers co-lead this ministry. They are the primary contact to communicate information provided from those requesting prayer to a team of saints whose ministry is prayer support. This ministry is different from the congregational prayers in that the prayer chain maintains confidentiality.

Wedding Coordinators

Madalyn Sukke continues as the director for every wedding that takes place here at First Lutheran. She assists the bridal party in everything from clarifying options for decorating to the service itself, including the rehearsal. A wedding Coordinator is required for ceremonies at the church and is a tremendous blessing for both the bridal party and the Pastor.

Worship Assistant Ministry

The Worship Ministry of 'Worship Assistants' is the service of greeters, ushers, communion assistants and lesson readers. Congregants indicate how they prefer to participate and they can sign up via sign-up sheet by the office, using a form that is emailed and/or texted to them or with making a phone call to Mackenzie in the office. Thank you to all those who have signed up to be Worship Assistants! Your part of each service is valued tremendously.

Women of FLC

Submitted by Members of WFLC Co-Council

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

All of the women at First Lutheran Church, members and visitors, are welcome to attend the Circle Bible Studies using the “Gather” Magazine, and attend meetings each month in either the Rachel Circle (the 1st Tuesday at 2:00 pm), the Rebecca Circle (the 2nd Tuesday at 9:00 am), or the Ruth Circle (the 2nd Thursday at 1:30 pm).

FLC’s WELCA supports Lutheran World Relief by donating quilts, soap, sewing kits, layettes, school kits, and health kits, and Personal Care Kits. They also coordinate the collection and distribution of gently used blankets for community crises; the “Valentines for Vets” with hundreds of cards sent to the VA in Fargo and the Veterans Home in Fergus Falls. They hold a Christmas Sweets Sale fundraiser, and each year WELCA sends a Thank-Offering gift to the ELCA Church Wide in Chicago, and a share of Circle offerings to the NW MN Synod.

WELCA 2022 Programs included the Christmas Tea at FLC, the NW MN Synod Convention at Bethlehem Lutheran in Fergus Falls, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Women’s Ordination, gifting all Women Pastors in our Synod with special bracelets of the liturgical seasons, and featuring Dr. Jacqueline Bussie who wrote, Love Without Limits. 2023 WELCA Programs include: Spring Conference 6 Gathering with Lutheran churches in our Synod, with Guest Speaker: Sandy Gunderson, who presented: “For the Beauty of the Earth”. Upcoming programs in 2023 include The Triennial Gathering, on September 19-21 in Phoenix, AZ; The NW MN Synod Women’s Convention whose theme is “Love Our Neighbor”, on September 9th at Zion Lutheran in Thief River Falls; and the Fall Conference Meeting at FLC on October 7th, with MacKenzie Hamm presenting the program and Pastor Lauryl offering devotions.

Youth and Family Ministries

Submitted by Emma Duncan

Mission Statement: “Exploring with children and their families what it means to follow Jesus in our daily lives and grow in our relationships with God and with others.”

Early Childhood Ministry

Early Childhood Ministry was created at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year to include our little tikes in church activities. Our team organized 3 events through that school year, however our attendance was low. We are currently brainstorming on a possible better way to move forward with this ministry and are solidifying a team to lead it.

Children’s Ministry

Curriculum: This year and next year we are following the “Whirl Classroom” curriculum. This curriculum follows a schedule covering popular Bible stories. Each lesson includes an activity and craft that the children do in their classroom with their teachers.

Sunday and Wednesday School: Our hour-long classes are divided up into two different sections. During the first half, the Prek-2nd grade classes come to large group, while the 3rd-5th graders have their classroom time. While in large group, our prek-2nd graders watch a video of the lesson, then we usually sing a song, play a game and end with a prayer. THEN we switch and the younger kids go to their classrooms with their teachers and the 3rd-5th graders join Emma in the rec room for large group, where they specifically work on Bible and Church knowledge by doing trivia every week. This gives them a chance to get familiar with their bibles and dig into the basics of Lutheranism before they begin Confirmation.

We have seen a large shift in our numbers and attendance for Sunday School. Many of our families have chosen to move to Wednesdays, because it works better for them, so we have seen a decrease in numbers for Sundays, but an increase for numbers on Wednesdays.

This year, Sunday School serves 35 children, ages preschool through 5th grade. Wednesday School is serving 84 children, ages preschool through 5th grade.



Vacation Bible School: Last summer we hosted Luther Crest Bible Camp staff here at First Lutheran and they put on our yearly Vacation Bible School. They did a marvelous job and we served about 75 kids. We are hoping to serve around that same amount this year from June 19-22, 2023. Due to many reasons, including rising Luther Crest registration costs and inconsistency of other funding sources, we are no longer able to offer VBS for free. However, it is offered at a reduced cost, and children's ministry has budgeted to cover 60% of the registration fee per camper.

Christmas Program: We had a very successful and exciting Christmas Program this year! We combined the Sunday and Wednesday kids for one large program at the 10:45 service and they did a splendid job.

Service Projects: We continued our Service Projects with the children's ministry in the same manner as last year. We were able to have them complete different project by grade throughout the year. These projects were creatively run and planned by Alissa Mork. She was the person who contacted our speakers that came in with each project, she collected any supplies that were needed and led the actual event each time. I am extremely grateful for her hard work and dedication to these service projects. We enjoyed this method of service work but are always looking for more help so that we do not burn out any volunteers.

Preschool- Made Birthday Boxes for the Becker County Food Pantry.

Kindergarten – Created build a bears for first responders to give to children during a crisis.

1st grade – Learned about how we can care for the earth and made paper.

2nd grade – Had a special visit from a Patriot Assistance Dog.

3rd grade – Created warm heart kits for those experiencing homelessness in our community.

4th grade – Created tie blankets for local senior living center and FLC housebound members.

5th grade – Created packages of activities for kids at the Lakes Area Crisis Center Shelter.



First graders learned about reducing recycling and reusing with Sandy Gunderson from Becker County at their service party. They even got to be recyclers themselves, making recycled paper!

5th Grade Communion Class: When we transitioned to “All Family Communion” a couple years back, we moved away from celebrating a “1st Communion”. Instead, we now offer a class for all 5th graders that breaks down Holy Communion, where it comes from, why and how to take it, and why it's a beautiful sacrament. Emma taught the class to a total of 10 different 5th graders and their parents in early May.

Baptisms: We had 12 souls baptized in 2022. This is a frequent ministry that thrives due to the efforts of Jan Adkins and the staff. There is more information on this in the Parish Records annual report.

The Children's Ministry Team is extremely dedicated to this ministry and to the kids and families that are a part of it. They each give so much of their time and their hearts to help create something beautiful and meaningful. I would like to thank our amazing team that consists of Deb Ormseth, DeAnne Udby, Alissa Mork, Joanie Malecka, Courtney Schantzen, Destany Okeson, Krystal Meyer and Paula Schulz. They have worked tirelessly this year to bring new and exciting opportunities for our children to grow in their faith. I am blessed to have each of them by my side.

Also a special thank you to all of the amazing Sunday and Wednesday School Teachers and helpers!!!

Youth Ministry

6th Grade Intro to Confirmation: We have dedicated the 6th grade year to fellowship, fun and relationship building. The rest of confirmation digs deep into their faith with many in depth lessons and discussions. The 6th grade year, gives them the opportunity to become more comfortable with each other and their church so that they will be ready to have good discussions in class with the pastors. We want the 6th grade year to be a year of ownership as well. A chance for them to become a bigger part of the church, more comfortable and involved. I am very pleased with this ministry and excited to see how we can make it even better. Special thank you to Jeff Sliper and Nathan Olson for their commitment to the 6th graders!



Confirmation: Our Confirmation Program is a 2 Year Confirmation Program. The pastors teach Confirmation class to the 7th and 8th graders on Wednesday nights in the sanctuary. The curriculum rotates every other year between "Lutheranism" and "Bible". Once a month, the youth

get a chance to meet with their small groups. This is a time to reflect on what was taught in the previous weeks while also asking questions and having discussions with their leaders.

Each spring we will confirm our 8th graders who have completed both the Lutheranism curriculum year, as well as the Bible curriculum year. They also need to complete Sermon Note and Worship Assistant requirements to be confirmed. On May 7th, we confirmed 16 youth in our 1pm service.

Special thank you to our small group leaders this past year, Jodi Kuehn, Sandi and Terry Kemmer, and Steve Schantzen. You have all been incredibly influential in the faith growth and development of our youth. Thank you for being positive role models and providing a safe and loving place for our 7th and 8th graders.

Youth Fundraisers: We have had multiple fundraisers this year:

- **Gobble Up Turkey Dinner:** Our 2nd Gobble Up Turkey Bingo and Dinner was a massive success! We are very excited to keep this fundraiser going! We had over 10 people and ministries donate prizes, and over 120 people participate! Our youth served a delicious pulled turkey dinner and did a phenomenal job leading the games of Bingo!
- **Youth Breakfast:** We hosted 3 youth breakfasts during fellowship hour where the youth served muffins, yogurt parfaits, donuts, caramel rolls, fruit and other delicious foods.
- **Pie Auction:** We had another very successful Pie Auction in April that helped raise money for our High School Mission trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Over 50 pies were donated and we raised just over \$4,000! Every youth that worked during the pie auction completely paid for the remainder of their trip with this fundraiser! Amazing support from our church family.

High School Mission Trip: In late June, myself, Pastor Joe and an adult volunteer, Hudson Kalina, will be taking 6 high schoolers to Tulsa, Oklahoma for our High School Mission Trip. We are working with an organization called Praying Pelican Missions. We will be working with a church in Tulsa that helps families by providing a day camp for their kids. This church also creates, packages and distributes meals to many different areas of Tulsa to people who are homeless and/or hungry. We look forward to giving our time, energy and hearts to a mission that God has called us to.

High School Ministry

We had an amazing first year with the re-vamp of our high school ministry. We had different types of get togethers about once a month for our high schoolers to participate in. It ranged from bowling to tubing to an afternoon in the park. We look forward to continuing to grow our high school ministry and dip even deeper with some bible studies as well as more discussions about sermons and the ups and downs of life in general.



Senior Recognition and Blankets: We have 20 graduating seniors this May. Each of them received a blanket made by someone in the congregation, as well as a devotional from our Youth Program.

The Youth Team has helped transform this ministry into something so meaningful and beautiful. I am beyond blessed to have each of them working by my side and continuing to give their efforts, time and hearts to this program. I couldn't do it without these amazing women, Kari Borgmann, LeAnn Mouw, Cindy Bruflo, Jessica Burhans, Meg Barker and Dawn Chase. They have done everything from help run youth breakfasts and fundraisers, to planning out a yearly schedule. It is because of them that I can do this job. Thank you so much ladies!!!

Every year I get the opportunity to recap my area of ministry. It started as part time children's ministry and moved to full time children's ministry and now I have the pleasure of leading our Youth and Family Ministry. I love that every year there are changes. These changes help us to not only be productive and strategic, but to focus on the ministry that truly matters, which is creating a loving and welcoming place of worship and community for every single kid that walks through our doors. To make it known that they are loved not only by our awesome God but by their church family. I feel that with the support and help from my teams, teachers, subs, church staff and pastors, we have been able to make this happen and we can continue to make this our mission for this ministry for many years to come. Thank you everyone for your support, love and prayers for our Youth and Family Ministry.



Parish Acts

Baptisms

Chea Altenburg, Augustus Liberius

Born: October 4, 2020; Son of Bjorn & Gwen Chea Altenburg
Baptized July 31, 2022; Presiding Pastor Lauryl Ivers
Sponsors: Kurt Altenburg, Alison Greterman

Chea Altenburg, Lazuli Romary Marie

Born: March 18, 2022; Daughter of Bjorn & Gwen Chea Altenburg
Baptized July 31, 2022; Presiding Pastor Lauryl Ivers
Sponsors: Kebbeh Tinnie; Kirbie Draidahl

Christen, McKadyn Charles

Born: October 2, 2021; Son of Matthew Christen and Teaira L. Taylor
Baptized November 27, 2022; Presiding Pr Joe Skogmo
Sponsors: Elisa Smith & George Nolasco; Brandon & Aina Christen

Ellingson, Kayden Scott

Born: May 13, 2021; Son of Dylan Ellingson & Mercedeez (Sadie) Odden
Baptized January 9, 2022; Presiding: Pr Lauryl Ivers
Sponsors: Brand & Emily Ellingson; Adam Odden; Jennifer Odden

Gigstead, Knox Daniel

Born: November 29, 2021; Son of Daniel & Serena (Biewer) Gigstead
Baptized: January 16, 2022; Presiding: Pr Joe Skogmo
Sponsors: Andy Foster; Chuck & Rachel Loreth

Hagedorn, Lucy Mae

Born: January 2, 2018; Daughter of Alex & Alyssa Kamrowski) Hagedorn
Baptized October 26, 2022; Presiding: Pr Joe Skogmo
Sponsors: NA

Hagedorn, Willow Marie

Born: February 26, 2021; Daughter of Alex & Alyssa (Kamrowski) Hagedorn
Baptized: October 26, 2022; Presiding: Pr Joe Skogmo
Sponsors: NA

Hanson, Isabelle Janice

Born: January 28, 2022; Daughter of Matthew & Andrea (Klein) Hanson
Baptized May 15, 2022; Presiding: Pr Joe Skogmo
Sponsors: Brady & Michelle Klein

Huus, Fallon Kristine

Born: December 26, 2021; daughter of Jason & Megan Huus

Baptized: February 20, 2022; Presiding: Pr Joe Skogmo
Sponsors: Nathan Bauusman, Payton Schultz, Rebecca Huus

Maristuen, Harper Rae

Born January 22, 2019; Daughter of Chad & Courtney (Hedstrom) Maristuen
Baptized: August 7, 2022; Presiding: Pr Joe Skogmo
Sponsors: Christian Hedstrom; Travis Maristuen

Maristuen, Mason James

Born July 13, 2021; Son of Chad & Courtney (Hedstrom) Maristuen
Baptized August 7, 2022; Presiding: Pr Joe Skogmo
Sponsors: Travis Maristuen; Christian Hedstrom

Rasmussen, Daxton Lee Born: December 14th, 2021; son of Dawson & Shelby (McManus)
Baptized: July 10th, 2022; Presiding: Pr Joe Skogmo
Sponsors: Morgan Rasmussen

Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)

Confirmation Sunday, February 13, 2022

Blake, Brooklyn Kennedy	Daughter of Brent and Jodi Blake Baptized June 30, 2007 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN
Buboltz, Nicholas	Son of TJ and Karen Buboltz Baptized April 29, 2007 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN
Casey, Cole Matthew	Son of Matthew Cole and Shari Cole Baptized November 26, 2006 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN
Fields, Jace Michael	Son of Mike Fields and Christine LaFave Baptized June 24, 2007 at Zion Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN
Hilde, Alexis Jeneva	Daughter of Kayla Klatt and Tyler Hilde Baptized December 15, 2012 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Frazee, MN
Lundmark, Keifer J	Son of Eric and Katie Lundmark Baptized April 29, 2007 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN
McLaughlin, Madilynn Mae	Daughter of Heather Hanson and Brent McLaughlin Baptized March 23, 2008 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN
Mouw, Carter James	Son of Brent and LeAnn Mouw Baptized November 5, 2006 at Bethel Lutheran Church, Brainer, MN
Pender, Isla Marie	Daughter of Mason and Sara Pender Baptized March 11, 2007 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN
Ramsey, Anna	Daughter of Tim Ramsey and Kim Christianson Baptized April 25, 2018 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN
Shepard, Megan Jane	Daughter of Brian and Sara Shepard Baptized March 18, 2007 at St Peters Lutheran Church, Audubon, MN
Strand, Caden Robert	Son of Robert Strand and Taressa Strand Baptized November 11, 2006 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN
Suckert, Thomas	Son of Mike and Taunia Suckert Baptized October 7, 2007 at St Peters Lutheran Church, Audubon, MN
Syverson, Averi Grace	Daughter of Judd Syverson and Amber Syverson

Baptized July 29th, 2007 at Grace Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Thompson, Dylan Thomas Son of Charles and Tamara Thompson
Baptized April 15, 2007 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Confirmation Sunday, May 1, 2022

Aelony, Linnea Daughter of Jared and Sara Aelony
Baptized November 26, 2006 at Joy Lutheran Church, Prescott, WI

Ask, Carter Son of Matthew and Kelly Ask
Baptized at Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND

Burhans, Brock Son of Brian and Jessica Burhans
Baptized May 4, 2008 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes MN

Disse, Griffin Son of Nick and Paula Disse
Baptized March 8, 2008 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes MN

Erickson, Shane Son of Zackary and Sara Erickson
Baptized Septmeber 13, 2008 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Fradenburgh, Brody Son of Ben and Kristi Fradenburgh
Baptized August 10, 2008 at Samhold Lutheran Church, Gonvick, MN

Lokken, Charlee Daughter of Steve and Alicia Lokken
Baptized

Malecka, Peyton Son of Chris and Joanie Malecka
Baptized September 27, 2008 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Moench, Alonna Daughter of Jessica Moench
Baptized December 6, 2008 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Ohm, Kelsey Daughter of Kayla Ohm
Baptized April 20, 2008 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Okeson, Kyleigh Daughter of Markus and Destany Okeson
Baptized August 26, 2007 at Grace Lutheran Church, Luverne, MN

Olson, Marcus Son of Ben and Heidi Olson
Baptized September 16, 2007 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,
Rochester, MN

Omberg, Mya	Daughter of Nick Omberg and Jaime Gunderson Baptized May 11, 2008 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes MN
Peterson, Emily	Daughter of Jeremy and Jessica Peterson Baptized December 23, 2007 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN
Schaefer, Tyden	Son of Sally Clemenson and Tresten Schaefer Baptized September 28, 2008 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN
Susag, Ava	Daughter of Mark Susag and Bridget Carlson Baptized May 3, 2015 at Hope Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND
Whitworth, Carter	Son of Wade and Julie Whitworth Baptized October 26, 2008 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Members Received

New Member Welcome, May 22, 2022

	Received By	Sponsor(s)
Alex & Alyssa Hagedorn Children: Lucy & Willow		Pastor Joe & Margaret Skogmo
Daniel & Holly Gustner Children: Avery & Lucas	Transfer	Courtney & Steve Schantzen
Paul & Joleen Backlund	Transfer	Bob & Jill Larson
Ryan & Melissa Brodsho Children: Hendrix, Jameson & Blakely	Transfer	Carla Hansen
Emily Olson	Transfer	
Jessica Jensen Children: Jase, Jaelynn* & Jenner	Transfer	Jodie Johnson
Matt & Jodie Johnson Children: Jeric*, Jordyn* & Rylee*		
Kayla Klatt & Tyler Hilde Children: Alexis*, Jaelyn & Gavin	Transfer	
Sharon Schanilec		Deb & Kurt Anderson
Connie Goff		Bill Wegscheid
Eric & Alexa Stelzer Children: Ian & Grant	Transfer	Pastor Joe & Margaret Skogmo
Delbert & Nora Saarinen	Transfer	Joe & Kim Bergquist
Samuel & Kayla Ruppert	Transfer	
Kevin & Jennifer Mosher		

Children: Mathew, Trevor
& Emma

Matthew & Kelly Ask Children: Carter*, Kellan & Camden	Transfer	Mason & Sara Pender
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New Member Welcome, August 21, 2022

Jeff Skogmo	Associate Member	Pastor Joe Skogmo
Hudson Kalina	Transfer	Pastor Joe Skogmo
Lisa & Doug Anderson	Transfer	Mackenzie Hamm
Julie Dalen	Transfer	Mackenzie Hamm
Jeremy Feist & Paige Jagol		Emma Duncan

Members Pending Update Form

Kayla & Dustin Pavlacky Son Evan	September 9	Mackenzie Hamm
Kari & Jed Melbostad Children Cadence, Sarah & Odin	October 20	Melissa Christianson
Paul Haarstick	October 20	Mackenzie Hamm
Cory & Danielle Smith Children: Sawyer & Andrist	November 19	

* Previously recorded as member due to confirmation or baptism

Members Transferred or Released

Nicole & Phil Kirchner Children: Grady, Madi, & Maycen	Released - no transfer to another church
Gary & Darcy Nansen	Released—no transfer to another church
Kimberly Wegleitner	Released—no transfer to another church
Sarah & Josh Tommerdahl Children: Everly, Laila & Boden	Released—no transfer to another church
Rosemary McGuire & Bradley Refsland	Released—no transfer to another church

4 members removed due to inactivity or for other reasons and statistical adjustments. If you would like to see this list, contact the office.

The following were previously listed in Parish Records as Released due to other statistical adjustments:

Wesley Borah	Transferred to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN
Ricky & Wesley Anderson	Transferred to Calvary Lutheran Church; Perham, MN
Jim & Joyce Armstrong	Transferred to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Roseville, MN

Weddings

	Newlyweds	Presiding Minister
June 4	Kaitlin Marissa Sillerud & Robert Nicholas Guetter Jr. Witnessed by Sara Tauer Williams & Colin John Guetter <i>Off Site</i>	Pr. Joe Skogmo
June 18	Kelsey Sue Biewer & Jordan Glen Houle Witnessed by Crystal Dawn Binsfeld & Serena Jo Gigstead	Pr. Lauryl Ivers
August 13	Mercedeeze Marie Odden & Dylan Scott Ellingson Witnessed by Jen Odden & Luke Ellingson <i>Off Site</i>	Pr. Joe Skogmo
October 6	Christi Lea Stevens & Cory Thomas Miller Witnessed by Mackenzie Olson & Seth Scott <i>Non-member hosted at FLC</i>	Pr. Joe Skogmo
October 31	Holly Nicole Breeden & Curtis Wesley Trautman Witnessed by Brooke Braseth & Alexandria Score <i>Non-member hosted at FLC</i>	Pr. Joe Skogmo

Funerals

Svenby, Shirley Mae; member

Born: December 21, 1934 in Veblen, ND

Died: January 5, 2022 in Fargo, ND

Services: January 14th, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Oak Grove Cemetery, Detroit Lakes, MN

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Barnum, Virginia D; member

Born: January 27, 1937 in Bismarck, ND

Died: January 15, 2022 in Maple Grove, MN

Services: February 18th, 2022 at Gearty-Delmore Plymouth Chapel, Plymouth, MN

Interment: No record

Presiding Minister: No record

Mallow, Glen Charles; non-member

Born: April 21, 1941 in Bertha, MN

Died: January 28, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: February 4th, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Private

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Johansson, Janet Ellen; member

Born: April 24, 1933 in Rugby, MN

Died: January 23, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: February 5th, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Oak Grove Cemetery, Detroit Lakes, MN

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Hoeglund, John Edward; member

Born: October 4th, 1931 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Died: April 4, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: May 13th, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Oak Grove Cemetery, Detroit Lakes, MN

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Lindgren, Esther; member

Born: October 15th, 1928 in Renville County, MN

Died: April 24, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: July 15th, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Private

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Sumner, Patsy Lee; member

Born: June 11th, 1938 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Died: June 12th, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: June 22nd at Oak Grove Cemetery, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Oak Grove Cemetery, DL

Presiding Minister: Pastor Joe Skogmo

Hultgren, Delmoure Harry; member

Born: February 1st, 1936 in Karlstad, MN

Died: June 10th, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: June 17th, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Memorial Garden at United Methodist Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Ellingson, Ann Louise; non-member

Born: December 2nd, 1930

Died: January 1st, 2021 in Alta Loma, CA

Services: May 14th, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Oak Grove Cemetery, DL

Presiding Minister: Private Family

Dalen, Joe; member

Born: October 24th, 1964

Died: July 20th, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: July 25th, 2022 at Wright Funeral Home in Moorhead, MN

Interment: Private

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Halvorson, Arvin; member

Born: October 13th, 1931 in Galesburg, ND

Died: July 24th, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: July 28th, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Burial TBD at a later date

Presiding Minister: Pastor Joe Skogmo, Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Pastor Neal Halvorson-Taylor

Magnusson, Patricia; member

Born: October 21st, 1937 in Drayton, ND

Died: August 7th, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: August 12th, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Oakdale Cemetery, Crookston, MN

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Evenson, Otto; member

Born: February 24th, 1928 in Mayville, ND

Died: August 23rd, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: Sept 1st, 2022 at West Kjos Funeral Home, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Bruflat Cemetery, Portland, ND

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Suter, Steven; member

Born: March 11, 1954 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Died: October 7, 2022 in Fargo, ND

Services: October 14th, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Oak Grove Cemetery, Detroit Lakes, MN

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Fingalson, Marvin "Dewey"; member

Born: January 23, 1943 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Died: October 15, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, ND

Services: October 20h, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Oak Grove Cemetery, Detroit Lakes, MN

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Cameron-Dickson, Angie; member

Born: November 24, 1946 in Grand Forks, MN

Died: October 24, 2022 in Rochester, MN

Services: TBD

Interment: Greenwood Cemetery, Hallock, MN

Presiding Minister: N/A

Thompson, Gordon "Bud"; member

Born: July 3, 1926, 1926 in Ada, MN

Died: November 4, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, ND

Services: November 10h, 2022 at David-Donhower Funeral Home, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Private, Detroit Lakes, MN

Presiding Minister: Masonic Service

Mathison, Delroy "Pete"; member

Born: July 15th, 1937 in Morris, MN

Died: November 9, 2022 in Monticello, MN

Services: Trinity Lutheran Church, Alberta, MN

Interment: Frog Lake Cemetery, Alberta, MN

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Nordmark, Mary; member

Born: January 19th, 1933 in Grafton, ND

Died: November 16th, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: November 22nd, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Minot, ND

Presiding Minister: Pastor Joe Skogmo

Elletson, Beverly; member

Born: March 26th, 1935 in Buhl, MN

Died: November 24th, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: December 29th, 2022 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN

Interment: Oak Grove, Detroit Lakes, MN

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers

Jacobson, James; member

Born: April 23, 1941 in Fertile, MN

Died: December 1st, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN

Services: December 27th, 2022 at Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home, Fargo, ND

Interment: Holy Cross Cemetery, Fargo, North Dakota

Presiding Minister: Pastor Lauryl Ivers



Financial Reports

Statement of Activities

First Lutheran Church of Detroit Lakes
Statement of Activities
July 1, 2022—March 31, 2023

INCOME	<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY23 Budget</u>	<u>FY22 Actual</u>
General Offerings	\$ 510,018.24	\$ 477,900.00	\$ 471,285.32
Special Offerings	2,495.00	31,220.00	31,187.00
Miscellaneous Income	11,510.85	5,850.00	7,503.14
MIF Interest Income	<u>675.74</u>	<u>585.00</u>	<u>480.06</u>
Total	\$ 524,699.83	\$ 515,555	\$ 510,455.52
EXPENSE	<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY23 Budget</u>	<u>FY22 Actual</u>
<i>Benevolence</i>			
Luther Crest	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
ELCA Synod	24,348.29	22,125.01	23,361.89
DL Ministerial	550.00	550.00	550.00
Lutheran Social Services	0.00	1,200.00	0.00
Misc. Ministerial Support	<u>300.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>800.00</u>
Total	\$ 25,198.29	\$ 25,375.01	\$ 24,711.89
<i>Personnel</i>			
Payroll	\$ 301,346.46	\$ 301,795.06	\$ 285,327.02
Continuing Ed.-Ivers	877.12	1,500.00	202.00
Business Expense-Ivers	222.64	250.00	148.99
ELCA Fringe Benefits-Ivers	9,959.97	10,638.00	10,379.46
Life Insurance - staff	36.10	149.99	92.10
ELCA Fringe Benefits-Skogmo	26,100.36	26,046.00	24,842.04
Continuing Ed.-Skogmo	1,902.41	1,500.00	147.00
Parish Nurse Mileage	395.57	720.00	0.00
Cell Phones-Staff	1,420.00	1,350.00	1,440.00
Pastors auto allowance	288.75	2,250.00	83.66
FICA/MEDI	14,739.43	14,481.00	13,738.58
Business Expense-Skogmo	301.31	250.00	118.75
Continuing Ed. - Emma	120.00	1,000.00	0.00
Continuing Ed - Staff	405.00	0.00	0.00
Recruiting	<u>754.57</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 358,869.69	\$ 361,930.05	\$ 336,519.60
Business Management			
Office Supplies	\$ 9,153.79	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 5,567.62
Postage	3,571.19	3,735.00	3,212.34
Insurance/appraisals	10,388.32	12,000.00	11,829.13
Hospitality	178.73	500.00	865.68
Synod Assembly	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Fees	992.92	900.00	844.04

Business Management, cont'd	FY23 Actual	FY23 Budget	FY22 Actual
Accounting Firm	\$ 3,673.99	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 7,215.00
Computer Repl. & Repairs	3,282.28	4,000.00	486.03
Copier Lease/Color cost	6,959.87	7,470.00	6,937.84
Pest Control	609.11	558.00	625.00
Custodial Supplies	3,387.19	3,006.00	2,500.69
Ministry Vision	260.04	1,000.00	0.00
Telephone	3,394.74	3,375.00	3,317.86
Building Maintenance	14,233.54	16,000.00	28,374.83
Organ/Piano Maintenance	370.00	500.00	110.00
Natural Gas	7,672.59	8,800.00	10,121.57
Electricity	26,262.16	27,300.00	25,965.60
Assessments	1,828.97	2,000.00	1,831.00
Sabbatical Pulpit Supply	0.00	0.00	0.00
Snow Removal/Lawn Care	<u>11,763.63</u>	<u>9,200.00</u>	<u>12,814.28</u>
Total	\$ 107,983.06	\$ 115,644.00	\$ 122,618.51
Member Care / Outreach			
Communication	\$ 749.20	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,126.22
Parish Nurse Supplies	230.34	200.00	16.70
Chamber Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00
Creation Care	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 979.54	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,142.92
Spiritual Growth for Adults			
Stewardship	\$ 840.78	\$ 800.00	\$ 640.00
Devotional Books	<u>1,268.49</u>	<u>585.00</u>	<u>773.63</u>
Total	\$ 2,109.27	\$ 1,385.00	\$ 1,413.63
Spiritual Growth for Children			
Sunday School	\$ 6,759.88	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 8,815.36
Vacation Bible School	4,629.80	8,500.00	500.00
Bible Camp	150.00	0.00	0.00
Baptism Supplies	516.29	200.00	194.55
Service Projects	152.66	800.00	0.00
Early Childhood Ministry	<u>0.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 12,208.63	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 9,509.91
Spiritual Growth for Youth			
Extracurricular Activities	\$ 835.16	\$ 800.00	\$ 0.00
Sr. Breakfast/Confirmation	0.00	0.00	183.22
Confirmation	77.55	200.00	1,921.09
National Youth Gathering	0.00	0.00	0.00
misc. youth	668.47	800.00	1,062.14
High School Ministry	194.30	0.00	0.00
Mission Trip-Youth	<u>500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,275.48	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 3,166.45

<i>Worship Celebration</i>	<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY23 Budget</u>	<u>FY22 Actual</u>
Altar Supplies	\$ 328.38	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,178.57
Copyright Fees	1,335.86	1,000.00	1,256.84
Worship/Music Supplies	2,005.62	1,200.00	430.26
Beautification	<u>42.42</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>433.18</u>
Total	\$ 3,712.28	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 4,298.85
<i>Miscellaneous</i>			
Refunds	\$ <u>3,346.80</u>	\$ <u>0.00</u>	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 3,346.80	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total Income	\$ 524,699.83	\$ 515,555.00	\$ 510,455.52
Less Total Expense	\$ <u>516,683.04</u>	\$ <u>527,734.06</u>	\$ <u>503,381.76</u>
Net Change in Assets	<u>\$ 8,016.79</u>	<u>\$ (12,179.06)</u>	<u>\$ 7,073.76</u>

Completed FY23 financial statements with auditor's comments will be available in Fall 2023 in the *Annual Report Financial Supplement*.

Statement of Financial Position

First Lutheran Church of Detroit Lakes
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2023

ASSETS	<u>FY23 Actual</u>	<u>FY22 Actual</u>
Checking Account	\$ 330,095.22	\$ 372,519.30
Payroll Prefund Account	17,000	17,000
Mission Investment Fund	<u>132,202.05</u>	<u>131,395.56</u>
Total	\$ 479,297.27	\$ 503,914.86
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,440.06	\$ 4,661.14
Credit Card	5,703.33	0.00
Long Term Liabilities	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total	\$ 7,143.39	\$ 4,661.14
NET ASSETS		
General Fund	\$ 110,868.85	\$ 99,485.88
DEDICATED ACCOUNTS		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 16,414.10	\$ 36,956.67
With Donor Restrictions	<u>344,870.93</u>	<u>362,767.84</u>
Total	\$ 361,285.03	\$ 399,767.84
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 479,297.27</u>	<u>\$ 503,914.86</u>

Completed FY23 financial statements with auditor's comments will be available in Fall 2023 in the *Annual Report Financial Supplement*.

Schedule of Dedicated Accounts

First Lutheran Church of Detroit Lakes
 Schedule of Dedicated Accounts
 July 1, 2022—March 31, 2023

Account	<u>FY23 Income</u>	<u>FY23 Expense</u>	<u>FY23 Balance</u>
Altar Guild/Paraments	\$ 25.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3752.48
Angel Tree	1,690.00	1,690.00	0.00
Becker County Food shelf	300.00	0.00	300.00
Broadcast Ministry	2,450.00	3,379.00	256.41
Building and Grounds	3,483.07	10,520.17	37,785.51
Children's Ministry	2,277.04	371.39	10,493.75
Christmas Store	2,451.00	1,816.47	2,055.35
Creation Care	675.00	1,215.00	867.01
Family Needs/Agape	51,588.42	59,283.89	22,218.81
Flower Fund	1,234.76	1,171.56	647.34
Hospitality	17,547.88	19,441.91	10,331.64
In/Out*	2,001.26	2,109.26	(1,031.28)
Kitchen Remodel/Updates	1,900.00	2,536.61	207,038.92
Laker Prep Daycare*	22,245.13	21,707.43	0.00
Lent Easter Appeal	1,053.00	0.00	1,053.00
Library	166.00	148.10	141.51
Memorials Unspecified*	1,149.15	2,110.66	5,059.48
Missionary Support	3,765.00	7,000.00	7,627.30
Music Fund	335.00	3,958.39	8,205.21
National Youth Gathering	0.00	0.00	7,619.22
Noisy Offering	3,295.98	1,676.69	1,619.29
Parish Nurse	1,250.00	231.98	3,393.09
Sabbatical Fund - Assoc Pr*	0.00	759.93	5,931.71
Sabbatical Fund - Lead Pr*	0.00	200.00	4,954.19
Sabbatical Pulpit Supply Fund*	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Sound and Technology	481.00	468.99	481.00
VBS	160.00	585.73	2054.00
Women of First Lutheran	3,051.47	3,427.61	2,187.87
Youth/Youth Fundraising	<u>11,187.38</u>	<u>6,606.82</u>	<u>14,742.22</u>
Total without Restrictions*	\$ 25,395.54	\$ 26,887.28	\$ 16,414.10
Total with Restrictions	<u>\$ 110,367.00</u>	<u>\$ 125,530.31</u>	<u>\$ 344,870.93</u>
Total Dedicated Accounts	<u>\$ 135,762.54</u>	<u>\$ 152,417.59</u>	<u>\$ 361,285.03</u>

Completed FY23 financial statements with auditor's comments will be available in Fall 2023 in the *Annual Report Financial Supplement*.

FLC Quilters Treasurer's Report

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2022:		\$	1,485.24
Receipts:			
Quilt Sales	\$	1,465.00	
Memorials		<u>300.00</u>	
Total Receipts:		\$	<u>1,765.00</u>
Disbursements:			
Oklee Quilting Supply	\$	978.80	
Postage		27.50	
Janke Sewing Repair		40.00	
Lutheran World Relief		300.00	
First Lutheran Church		200.00	
Angel Tree Gift Cards		75.00	
LaVerne Maxwell		112.00	
Wayne Benson		50.00	
Supplies		<u>733.91</u>	
Total Disbursements:		\$	<u>2,476.21</u>
Net Change in Assets:	(\$	711.21)	
Ending Balance, December 31, 2022:		\$	<u>774.03</u>

FLC Foundation Treasurer's Report

For the Quarter Ended December 31, 2022

Bell Bank Checking

Beginning Balance, September 30, 2022: \$ 1,320.86

Deposits

Donations	\$ 1,045.00
Transfer in from Fidelity	<u>23,000.00</u>
Total Deposits:	<u>\$ 24,045.00</u>

Disbursements:

Churches United for the Homeless	\$ 500.00
Lutheran Immigration	500.00
West Central Initiative	10,000.00
Lakes Crisis Resource Center	500.00
Lakes Area Imagination Library	500.00
Becker County Food Pantry	1,000.00
First Lutheran Church Agape Fund	6,000.00
TeachHaiti	2,500.00
South Dakota State University-Hinrichs	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Disbursements:	<u>\$ 22,500.00</u>

Ending Balance, December 31, 2022: \$ 2,865.86

Total Donations received in 2022: \$ 2,320.00

Fidelity Investment Account

Ending Balance, December 31, 2022: \$ 687,661.84

Funds Available to Award in 2022

Calendar 2022 Estimated Investment Cash Income (as of 12/31/21)	\$	53,930.00
Per Guidelines, 75% Available for Disbursement in 2022	\$	40,447.50

Previously awarded for 2022

Pathways Lutheran Outdoor Ministries	\$	1,000.00
Perham Food Shelf		1,000.00
Churches United for the Homeless		5,000.00
2022 Scholarships		3,000.00
MN Flyers Gymnastics		1,250.00
Fireflyfields Youth Ranch		1,500.00
Fuller Center for Housing		5,000.00
Lutheran Immigration		500.00
West Central Initiative		10,000.00
Lakes Crisis & Resource Center		500.00
Lakes Area Imagination Library		500.00
TeachHaiti		2,500.00
Becker County Food Pantry		1,000.00
First Lutheran Church Agape Fund		<u>6,000.00</u>
Total Awarded for 2022	\$	38,750.00

Remaining Balance \$ 1,697.50

Scholarships awarded in 2022, but not yet claimed/disbursed

Nathan Cihak	\$	1,000.00
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Funds Available to Award in 2023

Calendar 2023 Estimated Investment Cash Income (as of 12/31/22)	\$	55,402.00
Per Guidelines, 75% Available for Disbursement in 2023	\$	41,551.50

WFLC Treasurer's Report

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2022: \$ 2,156.02

Receipts

Circle Offerings	\$	1,077.25
Recycling/Ruth Circle		130.67
Thankoffering 2021		76.00
Thankoffering 2022		485.00
Memorials		330.00
Sweets Bake Sale		487.65
Christmas Tea		<u>886.00</u>
Total	\$	3,472.57

Disbursements

Benevolences		
Lutheran Campus Ministries/Moorhead	\$	100.00
REACH/Backpacks		100.00
Global Health Ministries/Shipping		100.00
Christmas Gift to Missionary		100.00
Haiti Medical Ministry		<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$	450.00

Women of the ELCA

Thankoffering to Churchwide	\$	611.00
NW MN ½ Circle Offerings		538.63
NW MN Convention Offering		100.00
Convention Registration for Delegate		100.00
Convention Expense Fund Expense		25.00
NW MN Scholarship Fund		50.00
WELCA Triennial Offering		100.00
Conference Convention Offering		<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$	1,574.63

Local Unit Expenses

FLC Office Expenses	\$	125.00
Circle Pass thru Expense		210.00
Christmas Tea Food & Program Expenses		1,295.00
Central Market Food for Great Get Together		<u>29.36</u>
Total	\$	1,659.36

Total Disbursements	\$	3,683.99
Less Ruth Circle recycling money		<u>21.19</u>

Ending Balance, December 31, 2022 \$ 1,923.41



First Lutheran Church of Detroit Lakes

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