



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

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LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



The mission of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit is to

Live in Christ

Celebrate Christ

Help Others to know Christ

Serve others as Christ served.

CHURCH COUNCIL — 2023

TERMS END IN JANUARY OF THE YEAR INDICATED

Jan Schwanke	President	Term Ending 2025
Jeanne Nelson	Vice President	Term Ending 2024
Daaron Dohler	Treasurer	Term Ending 2024
Kari Davenport	Secretary	Term Ending 2026
Nancy Fencil		Term Ending 2026
Kelly Wittich		Term Ending 2024
Jennifer Prosk		Term Ending 2025
Andy Eastmond		Term Ending 2026
Michael Pedersen		Term Ending 2024
Wayne Giampietro		Term Ending 2025
Allison Wyrwicz		Term Ending 2026
Jackie Murphy		Term Ending 2025

AGENDA

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MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL MEETING

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

Call to Order: President Jan Schwanke called the meeting to order, at 10:37 a.m.

A quorum was present.

Opening Devotions: Pastor Tim led devotions.

Adoption of Agenda: Jan Schwanke presented the agenda. Janice Edwards moved that the agenda be adopted. The motion was seconded by Ken Rosko and carried by voice vote.

Acceptance of Minutes: President Jan Schwanke asked for a review of the January 16, 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes. The Church Council moved for approval. Ron Stocks seconded the motion that the minutes be approved as printed. The motion carried by voice vote.

Report of Nominating Committee: Jeanne Nelson spoke on behalf of the Nominating Committee and noted that a position for the 2023 Church Council remains open (Fellowship). Jeanne Nelson presented the following individuals as nominees for Church Council: Kari Davenport, Andy Eastmond, Nancy Fencel, Wayne Giampietro, and Allison Wyrwicz. No additional nominees were presented. Joe Labellarte moved to approve the slate of nominees; Jeanne Nelson seconded, and the motion carried on a voice vote and by a show of hands.

Pastor's Report: Members were directed to the Annual Report. Pastor Tim reflected on the activity of the last year and noted the challenges presented by the pandemic but also the vibrant activity of the congregation despite these challenges, including the addition of new members. Pastor Tim also noted financial challenges posed by the pandemic and loss of members through relocation and passing to eternal life. We are looking forward to a continued return to normalcy in 2023. Donna Williams moved to accept the Pastor's Report. Al Edwards seconded and the motion carried on a voice vote.

Membership Notes: Jan Schwanke referred members to the 2022 membership statistics.

President's Report: Jan Schwanke referred members to the Annual Report. Donna Williams made a motion to accept the President's report. Joe Labellarte seconded and the motion carried on a voice vote.

General Fund Operating Statement: Daaron Dohler referred members to the General Fund Operating Statement, noting the generosity of members in December in response to the year-end operating deficit.

Treasurer's Report: Daaron Dohler referred members to the Treasurer's Report and statements in the Annual Report. Daaron highlighted entries regarding assets and liabilities, and the treatment of designated funds within the overall budget. Daaron noted that stewardship pledges for this year increased over last year, and it is hoped that ongoing increases in weekly attendance will result in increased revenues in 2023. There was a

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discussion of proactive efforts ongoing and for consideration to limit operating expenses and increase revenues. Donna Williams moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Joe Labellarte seconded, and the motion passed by a voice vote.

Building Fund Report: Daaron Dohler presented the Building Fund report and discussed pledges from the campaign and amounts received, with receipts trending well. Daaron noted that a new building fund appeal will be undertaken this year. Arne Bilstad made a motion to accept the Building Fund report. Carol Duprey seconded, and the motion carried on a voice vote.

Council Committee Reports: Committee reports were noted with the congregation being given the opportunity to ask questions or comments. Janice Edwards moved to accept the Council Committee Reports. Larry Brady seconded, and the motion carried on voice vote.

Endowment Report: Ken Rosko referred members to the Annual Report and discussed the function and outreach work of the Fund; he also noted the Fund's performance relative to the performance of leading market indicators. Joe Labellarte noted a typographical error in the disbursement entry in the report as to the calendar year. Donna Williams motioned to accept the Endowment committee report as amended to report disbursements in 2022. Joe Labellarte seconded, and the motion carried on a voice vote.

Columbarium Report: Nila Bilstad referred to the Annual Report, noting two interments and four niche purchases in the past year, with 35 niches remaining. Ken Rosko moved to accept the Columbarium report. Jeanne Nelson seconded, and the motion carried on a voice vote.

Benevolence: Jan Schwanke referred members to the Annual Report and noted a reduction to benevolence paid to the Synod. Joe Labellarte moved to accept the Benevolence Reports. Nila Bilstad seconded, and the motion carried on voice vote.

ExPOS Report: Jan Schwanke referred members to the Annual Report. Al Edwards moved to accept the ExPOS report. Janice Edwards seconded, and the motion carried on a voice vote.

Finance Review Committee Report: Allison Wyrwicz referred members to the Annual Report and acknowledged committee members. Kelly Wittich moved to accept the Finance Review Committee report. Al Edwards seconded the motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

2023 Budget: Daaron Dohler presented the proposed budget, which was reviewed. Daaron discussed the chart included in the Annual Report and noted that three categories of expenses predominate that largely are fixed and essential. Joe Labellarte moved to accept the 2023 budget. Al Edwards seconded the motion, and it was approved by voice vote.

Declaration of Election Results: The election was approved by voice vote at the beginning of the meeting. Kari Davenport, Andy Eastmond, Nancy Fencil, Wayne Giampietro, and Allison Wyrwicz were elected.

Recognition of Council Members: Jan Schwanke and Pastor Tim expressed appreciation for the time put forth by Council. They and the congregation gave special thanks to the retiring council members: Larry Brady, Ruth Ann Grockis, and Donna Williams.

Adjournment: Donna Williams made a motion to adjourn. Ken Rosko seconded the motion, and it was approved by a voice vote. The Congregational Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Williams, Secretary, Congregational Council

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The followings individuals have indicated willingness to accept nomination to the Holy Spirit Church Council for the one or three year terms beginning in February 2024. Vacancies on the council are filled by appointment until the next election when nominations are open for all positions. Additional nominations from the floor are accepted but should be made with the approval of the person being nominated.

MEMBER BIOS

Ryan Hathaway and family joined Holy Spirit back in 2015. He grew up in Bedford, Ohio, went to Wittenberg University (1997 - Physics), and worked in systems integration consulting for 15 years before starting work in product data. He currently works at Syndigo, a multi-industry product data company.

Jeanne Nelson: I have been a member of LCHS for 26 years and have been actively involved in our congregation – Sunday School teacher, VBS director, WELCA, and various positions on council – for many of those years. It is a blessing to have the opportunity to continue to serve our church, to have the opportunity to give back for all I have received from this congregation. I currently live in Glenview with my husband, Barry.

Michael Pedersen has been serving as interim Property Chair since April. He appreciates the opportunity to be entrusted with a full term on Council. Michael and his talented spouse Terri, who previously served on Council, have been members of LCHS since 2000. Our greatest joy is our children Elizabeth (who lives in Hawaii with her husband and our grandson), Stephen (Evanston) and Christine (Salt Lake City). Michael, who retired in 2021 after an enjoyable career as a chemical engineer, is a lifelong Lutheran.

Kelly Wittich is honored to continue to serve Christian Education on the LCHS council for a second term. Kelly and her two children have been members of LCHS since 2013 when her daughter was born. She also teaches Sunday school and pitches in where she can for other LCHS human needs efforts and fellowship events. Her two children love attending LYFE on Tuesdays and she just completed her first attempt at the Christmas Orchestra. She is a physical therapist currently overseeing health and wellness benefits for the United Methodist Church.

PASTORS REPORT 2023

As we look forward and anticipate a new year of celebrating God and God's presence with us, we have much to celebrate and be thankful for.

During the past year, it's been great to see our attendance numbers go up in worship, and to have more participation in our children's programs and music programs. And we give thanks to God as we celebrated and welcomed 40 new members, who have joined our congregation. And thanks to a memorial gift in honor of Margaret Bahls, we have a new transformed look to our Gathering Space. God is certainly doing some new things in our midst, and I believe as we enter into a new year, the call for us to embrace a spirit of innovation is quite evident.

We made some innovations in the past year, in our focus on hospitality and welcoming guests to our church, but as we did, we identified some areas to grow in. We learned that although we are "The Church in the Woods", we are not easy to find and our visibility is hidden in the trees we love. New signs and advertisements and welcoming practices are needed so that we are better known in our community for all our contributions and opportunities. Some of us have been talking about a new logo with a new image to foster greater awareness and visibility.

It has been great that we are now live streaming our services on YouTube and we give thanks to those volunteers who are bringing us into many homes. But we also have some pretty significant problems in our broadcasts due to our sound system which is outdated and needs to be replaced. A big challenge for us this year is to not only invest in a new sound system, but also to upgrade our social media presence and acquire the help we need to get us there.

Many thanks must go out to our staff for their dedication and commitment to the work of our church. Ciara Crews completed her first year as Office Manager and we welcomed Karen Jirsa as our new Choir Director. Their gifts, talents, and hard work, to improve our social media presence and develop of our music ministry have made a tremendous impact on our congregation already. We also give thanks for our incredible children's ministry staff of Jennifer Williams and Bill Vaananen who never fail to provide innovative and inspiring programs and events for our kids and families. And we give thanks to our wonderful organist, Kathy Roderer, and Nancy Fencel, Patrick Cantagallo, and all who inspire us with their musical gifts. There are so many more to celebrate and thank, like our church council, the prayer team, our fellowship event volunteers, and I could go on and on. We have a wonderful ministry here at Holy Spirit and I hope we all recognize, appreciate, and celebrate the great things God is doing here through us.

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Although we have some financial challenges, we ended the year much better than last year and we continue to systematically pay down our mortgage debt. Who could have anticipated that a lightning strike would hit the church and destroy outdoor lights, copiers, computers, phones, and other equipment. And that we'd be replacing another furnace, refrigerator, and finally repairing the women's bathroom. And yet, we continue to thrive compared to many churches who are also experiencing the challenges of coming out of COVID, and the general cultural shift away from being committed to the work of the church. As our church gets older, we continue to lose some of our long-time faithful givers as well, so we will need to grow and develop strategies to financially support our mission, because we could be doing so much more with added staff and resources. As with all churches, our financial health depends on the stewardship of our members and the faithful participation in our mission. We anticipate some challenges, but with your support our ministry will continue to thrive.

In the year to come we invite everyone to participate in our new mission objectives. The Long Range Planning Team created a Vision Task Force to identify our mission priorities for the coming three years, so that we can measure our progress and get everyone aligned with our goals. We looked at our mission statement, the demographics and needs of our community, and the many ways we worship God, serve others, and make disciples, and came up with three Mission Objectives to help us focus our efforts for the next three years. Our mission is to:

Build a loving inclusive faith community

Grow in faith and spiritual understanding

Serve others with gratitude and compassion

In the year to come we look forward to utilizing these mission objectives to guide us as we Build, Grow, and Serve, and we look forward to everyone participating and aligning with our mission. Your participation is vital as we need everyone's insights and gifts as we look to expand God's presence, and our influence, in our community.

Thank you all for your love for God and our church, and for all you do to make Holy Spirit a loving, welcoming faith community. 2024 will be another wonderfully blessed year, and I look forward to the incredible things God has in store for us.

Grace and Peace be with you,

Pastor Tim

MEMBERSHIP NOTES 2023

End of Year Statistics

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Baptized Membership	569	525	514	516	550
Confirmed Membership	498	454	452	451	470

Transferred or Removed by request

Dennis and Jan Burke

Bill Collins

Removed due to inactivity

None

Removed by death

Joan Keyes

Louise Menter

Don Bally

James Lehtinen

Received into membership by Baptism

Madison Best

Harrison Pekovitch

Claire Adloff, Camden Adloff, ColeAdloff

Received into membership by Transfer or Affirmation of Faith

Steve and Emily Adloff, Claire, Camden, Cole

Bryan Burseth and Kelley Gyllenhaal Burseth, Jack, Graham

Jerry Mason

Terry and Sue McCoy

Kate Nack and Jon Nack, Will, Tyler

Jill and Pat Pink, James, Samantha, Ali

Mike and Katie Tantillo, Jack, Anna, Emily, Lucy

Trisha Zehner, Austin, Tyler

Beth and Phil Brusius

Carol Bertrand

Mary Garbrecht, Logan

Lance Smith

Josh and Trina Coe, Loretta

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023

What wonderful blessings we have here at Holy Spirit! At a time of declining church attendance, our membership and attendance are growing! The reports in this Annual Report will give you a snapshot of the highlights of 2023. However, for a full picture of what is happening in our congregation I hope you will **join us for upcoming services and activities**.

One very important point to make is that Holy Spirit depends largely on YOU. Volunteers are needed every Sunday as well as for special events on other days: ushers, greeters, worship assistants, Tuesday LYFE, extra services, fellowship events...all are important to the life of the church. Your Church Council members head a variety of committees that depend on volunteers. As you look forward to 2024, please consider what gifts you have that can be given to church.

Thank you to each person who gave of themselves in the past year to help Holy Spirit thrive. Pastor Tim is always at the helm, providing insightful sermons, comforting pastoral care, and countless behind-the-scenes support. Our office manager, Ciara Crews, cheerfully provides her daily expertise, and has upped our social media presence. We have been blessed with the talents of Jennifer Williams, Bill Vaanenen, Kathy Roderer, and Karen Jirsa on our staff.

Church Council members Daaron Dohler, Andy Eastmond, Nancy Fencel, Wayne Giampietro, Jackie Murphy, Jeanne Nelson, Mike Pedersen, Jen Prosk, Kelly Wittich, and Allison Wyrwich deserve a big round of applause. They also deserve your support as volunteers.

If you haven't noticed, my theme is **volunteering**. Holy Spirit is grateful for your important financial support. Our church is also grateful for the sharing of your time and talent. We have been blessed with an abundance of gifts. Please continue to share them with our Church in the Woods.

Jan Schwanke
Congregation Council President

GENERAL FUND - OPERATING STATEMENT

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ANNUAL REPORT - YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2023

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Balance Forward	\$4,019	\$11,860	\$0	\$0	\$0
INCOME:					
Benevolence Donations	\$373,689	\$321,184	\$345,610	\$389,402	\$332,483
Nursery School & Bldg Use	\$43,797	\$56,822	\$73,471	\$75,000	\$70,396
IRS Payroll Tax Refund				\$0	\$26,961
Insurance Claim				\$0	\$10,670
Other Income	\$35,237	\$54,533	\$9,742	\$0	\$14,147
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$452,723	\$432,539	\$428,823	\$464,402	\$454,657
EXPENSES:					
Benevolence*	\$37,000	\$33,700	\$14,055	\$17,000	\$2,500
Office of the Pastor	\$155,902	\$160,014	\$162,757	\$167,752	\$164,256
Administration	\$11,021	\$9,767	\$10,483	\$12,500	\$11,681
Christian Education	\$2,085	\$3,096	\$4,896	\$5,200	\$3,063
Church Growth	\$1,386	\$1,835	\$1,283	\$2,100	\$709
Debt Repayment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,633
Human Needs	\$0	\$0	\$40	\$200	\$0
Property	\$110,382	\$107,949	\$135,242	\$124,500	\$145,125
Music	\$9,295	\$3,105	\$5,101	\$4,100	\$4,536
Worship	\$3,034	\$3,519	\$8,722	\$7,000	\$6,818
Personnel	\$110,665	\$119,060	\$116,365	\$120,450	\$118,830
Council Expenses	\$250	\$708	\$991	\$1,100	\$824
Youth	\$25	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0
Stewardship	\$1,266	\$475	\$1,377	\$2,000	\$1,355
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$442,311	\$443,228	\$461,312	\$464,402	\$462,330
 OPERATING GAIN / (DEFICIT)	 \$10,412	 (\$10,689)	 (\$32,489)	 \$0	 (\$7,673)

* Benevolence does NOT include hunger offerings, designated "pass through" offerings or benevolence passed through from groups with the congregation (VBS, LYFE, WELCA, etc.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you to the many volunteers and staff who worked diligently all year long to ensure that our church financial records are timely and accurate.

Our offering counters faithfully ensure that offerings are counted and deposited each week. Their work is “behind the scenes” but is vital to our church finances. Thank you to Eileen Hoffman, Jackie Murphy, Jeanne Nelson, Eileen and Tom Weglarz, and Wayne Giampietro for volunteering their time for this service.

Our Office Manager, Ciara Crews, handles the Financial Clerk responsibilities including data entry of all income and expense items such as contributions, building use items, and bills to be paid. She also prepares all checks that are sent out and record the transactions in the ledger. Finally, I want to thank Pastor Tim, Allison Wyrwicz, the Church Council, and members of the Finance Committee who have each provided valuable input and support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Daaron Dohler
Treasurer

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023

<u>ASSETS</u>		<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Operating Fund	\$54,374	Memorial Fund (Restricted)	\$16,668
Building Fund	\$122,210	Parsonage Fund (Restricted)	\$24,760
Endowment Fund (Restricted)	\$175,266	Youth Fund (Restricted)	\$1,989
Line of Credit	\$50,000	WELCA Fund (Restricted)	\$3,089
Church Building	\$2,650,000	Mortgage Loan	\$531,246
(2003 estimated value after construction)		Endowment Fund (Restricted)	\$175,266
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,051,850	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$753,018

BUILDING FUND APPEALS

PRAY IT FORWARD BUILDING FUND APPEAL

May 16, 2014 to May 13, 2017

Total Pledged to Pray It Forward Building Appeal	\$421,195
May 16, 2014 to May 13, 2017	
Total appeal receipts	\$404,771
(We received 96.1% of commitment goal)	

2020 VISION BUILDING FUND APPEAL

May 17, 2017 to May 16, 2020

Total Pledged to 2020 Vision Building Appeal	\$431,129
May 17, 2017 to May 16, 2020	
Total appeal receipts	\$411,586
(We received 95.5% of commitment goal.)	

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FUND APPEAL

May 17, 2020 to May 16, 2023

Total Pledged to 2023 Building a Foundation Appeal	\$312,000
May 17, 2020 to May 16, 2023	
Total appeal receipts	\$311,316
(We received 99.8% of commitment goal.)	

CATCH THE SPIRIT BUILDING FUND APPEAL

May 17, 2023 to May 16, 2026

Total Pledged to 2023 Building a Foundation Appeal	\$287,660
May 17, 2023 to May 16, 2026	
Current Receipts to Catch the Spirit Building Appeal (May 17, 2023-December 31, 2023)	\$98,194
(Current Receipts are 34% of pledged amount.)	

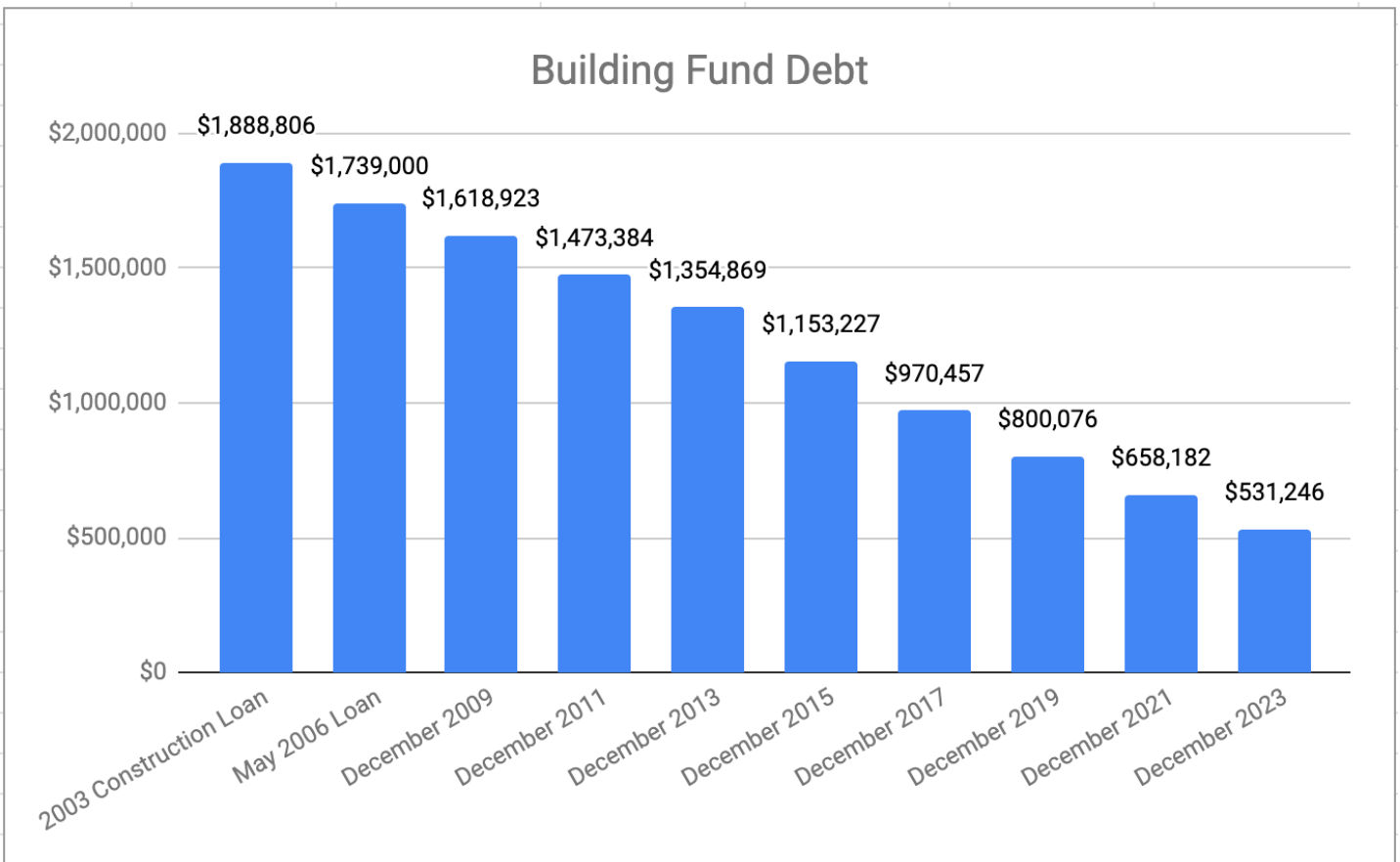
BUILDING FUND APPEALS CONTINUED

Balance in Building Fund (Year End 2023)	\$122,210
Bank Financial (Year End 2023)	\$118,349
Schwab (Year End 2023)	\$3,910

BUILDING FUND DEBT SUMMARY

2003 Final Construction Loan	\$1,888,806
May 2006 Loan Refinanced at 6%	\$1,739,000
January 2013 Loan Refinanced at 4.125%	\$1,421,964
Building Fund Debt Dec 31, 2023	\$531,246

Refinancing of the current church debt was completed in January 2013. In January 2020, the interest rate was lowered from 4.125% to 4%. The loan continues with Thrivent Financial with a monthly payment of \$7,283 due.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education at Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit is an important way to cultivate and strengthen the faith in children and adults. Our talented staff and the volunteers who lead these programs are integral to the programs' success.

Sunday School

We continue to hold a combined Sunday School class during the 9:30 service, with the children departing following the children's sermon and returning for communion. Teams of 2 volunteer teachers rotate with Children's Ministry Director, Jennifer Williams, to teach the combined class. Lessons are Bible-based, with the kids reading aloud, watching videos, completing activities, and everyone participating in discussions about our faith and our relationship with God. Curriculum and planning are spearheaded by Jennifer Williams.

We restarted Sunday School choir this year! Nancy Fencil joined the beginning of the combined class on many Sundays to lead them in a number of fun songs. Since both the cherub and LYFE-aged students sang together, we chose to call it the Phoenix choir—rising from the ashes after COVID. Everyone had a lot of fun and shared their talents with the congregation a couple of times in 2023.

A number of Children's fellowship events were held throughout the year, including our float building and parade for Mardi Gras (new and improved and sans the sharp box cutters), an Easter Egg hunt (with the community), a bounce house, Trunk or Treat and more.

One third grader took her First Communion in March 2023.

Confirmation

Seventh and eighth graders participate in Confirmation class on Tuesday evenings. Confirmation fosters growing knowledge and understanding of the Bible and Christian faith, with a specific focus on Lutheran traditions and identity. The program also provides an opportunity for service and getting involved with other ministries in the church. The individualized learning format allows for flexible class schedules with clearly defined expectations and goals for the young people in their growth toward becoming confirmed members of LCHS. The confirmation class led our Youth Sunday on February 12 and had a confirmation retreat the evening of February 10. The confirmation-aged youth also hosted a Car Wash day of service in October. Two confirmands completed their Affirmation of Faith and became full members of our congregation on May 7, 2023.

Tuesday LYFE

Lutheran Youth Fellowship Experience (LYFE) is a vibrant youth program offered on Tuesday evenings to 2nd-6th graders. It brings faith and friendship into the weekly lives of the students who participate. LYFE begins each week with a faith and fellowship activity led by Jennifer Williams, followed by Music with Bill Vaananen. LYFE attendance has been strong and the LYFE choir has sung a record number of times during church services this year. The

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annual LYFE Christmas program, *Silent Night*, told the origin story of the popular Christmas carol by following the story of a pastor and music director from Oberndorf, Austria after the church's pipe organ broke one Christmas. We followed the program with a congregational Christmas carol sing-a-long with Mr. V. What a beautiful tradition and way to celebrate Advent!

Summer Activities

Once again, we made the decision not to offer Vacation Bible School (VBS) in 2023. Significant volunteer support is needed to make VBS successful, and survey about interest in attending and volunteering for VBS in 2023 helped us determine our path. Family activities included a "s'mores and more" evening fellowship session in June and a summer Sunday School activity during church with family activity following church where we made bird feeders to hang around the property in July. In August we held our traditional Backpack Blessing with a visit from the Kona Ice truck that everyone got to enjoy!

Thursday Bible Study

The Thursday Bible Study group has continued to meet throughout 2023. Topics included: Philip Yancey's books, *The Jesus I Never Knew* and *What's So Amazing About Grace*; Robert J. Miller's *The Complete Gospels*; and a unit on *Five to Thrive as a Christian*. Bible Study meets weekly from 10:15-11:30 and all are welcome.

Adult Education Opportunities—Ideas Welcome!

We continue to explore opportunities to resume our adult Christian Education forum, which used to take place between services on Sundays. Timing for this is challenging due to multiple musical ensembles at LCHS holding their practices after services. We continue to explore ways to bring adult Christian Education back to our congregation, in a new way. We encourage congregation members to share their ideas for education topics and timing with the Church Council as we consider our options. We are also excited to share that our Book Club resumed on Fridays this year. All are welcome!

Library

The LCHS Library continues to offer reference materials such as Bible maps and atlases and introductory materials to other religions. Children's books are also available as resources for home-based religious education. Adult religious material (fiction and non-fiction) is available as well. Check out something new—keep it or pass it on. No due dates!

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Wittich

CHURCH GROWTH

Church Growth and Hospitality - 2023 Membership at Holy Spirit stood at 550 baptized members and 470 confirmed members at the end of 2023. In-person worship service remains at 9:30 am. LCHS continues to offer FaceBook Live and a YouTube channel to virtually minister to those who prefer viewing services from their own homes or afar.

GROWTH

Our community presence and support to our neighbors occurred in a variety of ways. Advertising in Lincolnshire's kiosk for 2023's Blood Drive, Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving Service, Christmas Eve Services and Easter Services hung for one week at a time. Social Media (Facebook and Instagram) as well as D103 Newsletters' publicity created increased community members' participation at many of our offered events.

Although Holy Spirit did not march in this year's Buffalo Grove Pride Parade (in June), our AInancial support allowed LCHS to be a publicized sponsor and supporter.

For the first time, we also sponsored local school districts through various fundraising efforts. As a sponsor of the D103 5k (in May), LCHS' name was on the back of every participant's t-shirt (estimated 700+ people), and a small hand sanitizer bottle (with our info) was in every participant's 'swag bag'. As a D125/Stevenson HS sponsor, Holy Spirit's information was printed in every sports catalog/game day guide for the '23-24 school year.

On-going support of our visitors included personal, hand-written Cards of Welcome once visitors' information was shared. Visitors can share their information by electing to use the Google Form connected to a QR code or signing in using our new Guest/Visitor Book. Any email addresses shared are also passed along to the church of office for inclusion in our weekly emails. Two 'New Member' Sundays occurred in 2023 as well. These special Sundays allowed new members to be formally welcomed into our congregation. Welcome Gift Bags and a special hospitality hour following service were part of the welcome celebration.

HOSPITALITY

Meet and Greet Sundays continue at Holy Spirit. Gathering after service on the last Sunday of every month remains a welcomed reminder of Fellowship. Thanks to the assistance of Tom and Eileen Weglarz, Joanne Schwarz, Jill Pink, Margy Eastmond and Trudy Bettiker for their willingness and help.

Our 'name tag' Sundays occur on the last Sunday of the month (or designated Sundays otherwise) when church attendees wear a name tag. Response for this initiative remains positive as

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CHURCH GROWTH CONTINUED

church-goers appreciate greeting one another in the sanctuary and gathering before and after service.

Holy Spirit's outreach in 2023 also included the continued support we gave to each other and to our neighbors. Successful food drives for PADS and COOL let our neighbors know they were not forgotten. The Vernon Township food pantry received Thanksgiving baskets, and responses to our Angel Tree needs were, again, overwhelming. Those activities are noted in other sections of this Annual Report. However, it is important to remember that our continued church growth is thanks to a large degree to the caring people of Holy Spirit who share God's blessings with others.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Prosk

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

We are grateful to have a staff who are deeply committed to supporting our programming and congregation here at Holy Spirit. Throughout 2023 and into 2024, they have responded to a variety of new challenges as we have begun to welcome a significant number of new members to the church over the past year and increased our variety of musical offerings due to the outstanding contributions of our new Adult Choir Director. In 2024, our personnel will also begin to support the three pillars of Holy Spirit's long-term vision.

A highlight of this year was the hiring of a new Adult Choir Director, Karen Jirsa and the departure of her predecessor, Mike Duffy. We thank Mike for his service and warmly welcome Karen to our congregation. As usual, Bill Vaananen's creative, original, musical offerings for our Youth Choir continue to amaze both young and old members alike!

We continue to match our personnel to the unique constraints of each year's annual budget but believe that we have continued to provide robust programming despite these ongoing constraints.

Our 2023 compensated personnel consisted of:

Rev. Timothy Linstrom – Pastor

Mike Duffy – Director, Adult Choir and Bell Choir; Leader, Special Music Groups (Old)

Ciara Crews – Office Manager

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PERSONNEL CONTINUED

- Karen Jirsa – Director, Adult Choir and Bell Choir; Leader, Special Music Groups (New)
- Kathy Roderer – Organist
- Bill Vaananen – Director, Youth Choir
- Jennifer Williams – Director, Children and Youth Ministries

Please thank each of our employees for their continuing contributions to the vibrancy of our congregation and contribute generously over the upcoming year as you are able in a spirit of gratitude for all that our personnel provide to Holy Spirit.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Eastmond

STEWARDSHIP

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Pledged	\$301,194	\$308,940	\$253,560	\$246,240	\$253,447	\$240,200

The reduction in income which Holy Spirit has suffered the last few years, which we believe has been mostly caused by the covid pandemic, has not quite ended. The number of pledges we have received for 2024 has slightly decreased from the amount pledged in 2023. That amount is still considerably less than the amount pledged in 2019 and 2020.

Our Stewardship program was similar to that in 2022. We had temple talks from three of our members, culminating with the presentation of annual pledges at the altar on Commitment Sunday. Following the service, we had a fully catered celebration brunch in Fellowship Hall, which allowed us to gather together in an informal manner.

Sunday attendance has almost returned to pre-pandemic levels, but our services are available to all via the Internet. We are hopeful that attendance - and giving - will return to pre pandemic levels soon.

Stewardship is a commitment between each of us and God. We hope everyone will continue to support the mission of Holy Spirit.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Giampietro, Stewardship Chair

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Goals of creating a physical environment of welcome at our church and a vision for our future mission directed the efforts of Long Range Planning during 2023.

Thanks to a gift in memory of Margaret Bahls, we were able to update and freshen our gathering space to create an environment of welcome that reflects the natural beauty surrounding our “Church in the Woods.” We added a new information desk and coffee cart specifically designed for our space, café tables and chairs, and enhanced our gathering space with new artwork.

Just as our physical space benefits from an occasional freshening, so too our mission as a congregation benefits from an occasional review. As the needs of our world and our immediate community change, it’s necessary for us evaluate how we can meet them. A Visioning Task Force comprised of Pastor Tim, Beth Brusius, Sandy Ditewig, Janice Edwards, Ryan Hathaway and myself defined the communities we serve, the needs that we might be able to address, and the specific tasks to accomplish them. We will be presenting this information to the whole congregation so that this mission will be shared by all in all we do here at Holy Spirit.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Nelson, Chairperson, Long Range Planning

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship and music are central to the life of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. We are blessed to have a talented and dedicated worship and music staff and so many parishioners who contribute to our mission on a continuing basis. Some of the ways our volunteers enhance our worship are as Assisting Ministers, Ushers, Greeters, Altar Guild, Communion deacons, and Hymn Selectors. Many adults and youth participate in the Music Ministry through the Adult Choir, Bell Choir, LYFE Choir, Cherub/Phoenix Choir, Brass Ensemble, Cantors and instrumentalists.

We have a very committed leadership team with Pastor Tim and the music staff. Mike Duffy retired this June after 25+ years of service to the church. We were grateful for his willingness to continue leading the choir until a replacement was found. Karen Jirsa was hired in the spring for a September beginning. Karen comes to us with many years of experience directing Choirs and Bell Choirs for all age levels. She jumped right in this summer, organizing several singing Sundays and began with gusto in September. She has catalogued the music library, reorganized the choir room and recruited new members for the Adult and Bell Choirs. Welcome aboard, Karen!!

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Bill Vaananen continues to compose music and direct the LYFE Choir that meets on Tuesdays. This year's musical, *Silent Night-A Christmas Story*, revisited his musical from 2013 centered on the story of our favorite carol. Patrick Cantagallo continues to lead the Brass Ensemble as well as spearheading two Jazz Services, one in February and one in November. The Cherub now Phoenix Choir meets for 10 minutes at the beginning of many Sunday School classes singing favorite youth songs. They have sung for church twice. The YOUTH lead the service on February 12. The Phoenix Choir and LYFE Choirs sang. Mardi Gras Sunday was February 19. The Brass Ensemble provided special music and a Mardi Gras celebration and parade followed. Ash Wednesday was observed with a service of distribution of ashes.

Pastor Tim led weekly Lenten services after a simple meal was shared. We held our usual Holy Week services culminating in two services on Easter Sunday with the Adult and LYFE Choirs and Brass Ensemble providing special music. A well-attended breakfast was shared between services.

We celebrated Music Sunday on June 4th with all the groups performing. We also celebrated Mike Duffy's retirement after his many years of service to the church. Godspeed , Mike!

Our summer worship continued at 9:30 a.m. We have been streaming live on YouTube and there is an archive on our YouTube channel. We continue to have sound issues and will be looking into upgrading our sound system so the sound carries evenly in our sanctuary and our live stream.

We held our traditional Advent and Christmas services. Nila Bilstad provided music for the 3:30 PM service. The LCHS Orchestra and the LYFE Choir provided special music for the 5 PM service. The adult and Bell Choir along with the Brass Ensemble provided special music for the 10 PM. The most attended service was the 5 PM and the least attended was the 10 PM service.

This year has brought changes in the music staff as we said goodbye to Mike Duffy and hello to Karen Jirsa. We are grateful for the many talented staff, parishioners, and Pastor Tim who have made worship alive and vibrant at Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. God has been good to us and we continue to be committed to the Worship and Music life of our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Fencel

HUMAN NEEDS

Human Needs is the service portfolio for the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. The LCHS congregation and membership rose to the occasion repeatedly this past year to support and provide comfort as well as necessities to less fortunate community members, including those experiencing homelessness and financial insecurity.

In 2023, we focused on Human Needs during the second weekend of each month, including monthly “Hunger” donations that benefit ELCA World Hunger, COOL Ministries, and Vernon Township Food Pantry. “Hunger” donations alone in 2023 totaled over \$20,500.

Additional monthly ministries conducted in 2023 included the following:

March: PADS Housewarming Kits donations

April: AED Refresher course

June: Lutheran Day Nursery visit to Ryerson and LCHS

August: Sponsored Backpacks/Supplies for Homeless Children through Fill a Heart 4 Kids

September: Clothing drive for PADS on Service Sunday

October: Care packages for college students, Versiti Blood Drive

November: Thanksgiving meal and gift card donations to Vernon Township Food Pantry

December: Angel Tree gifts and gift card donations

Ongoing: COOL Ministries

In many instances (for example the Housewarming Kits donation drive, Thanksgiving donations, Angel Tree/Lutheran Day Nursery gift card donations), our membership exceeded donation goals.

Our community partners are deeply grateful for our members’ outpouring of love and generosity. Thank you to all who have participated and contributed to our important mission of service to others.

Respectfully submitted,
Kari Davenport

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Our church home, just like our personal houses, demands additional care and maintenance as it ages. During the past year, it was necessary to replace one furnace and one air conditioning unit. Several furnaces and air conditioners are needed to provide comfort throughout our buildings; each also requiring routine maintenance. One of the two commercial refrigerators in our kitchen also failed late in the year and must be replaced. A power surge resulting from a lightning strike in the Spring did considerable damage to office equipment and knocked out some of the parking lot lighting. Thanks to Arnie Bilstad and Ron Stocks, who worked with a contractor to replace the parking lot lights.

The women's washroom near the sanctuary required major refurbishing. Deterioration of the drain resulted in significant subsidence and damage to the floor. The effort of Ron and Arnie to arrange for and work with a contractor to execute a repair and floor replacement is much appreciated. This project provided an opportunity to install modern toilets in this washroom as well. Earlier in the year new faucets were installed in the washrooms at the west end of the building.

Other major projects included resurfacing and restriping the parking lot. A big thank you to Jean Gates for repairing walls and painting the narthex and the hallways around the Fellowship Hall. Temporary repairs were made to the flat roof, primarily above the Confirmation and Youth rooms where a major reconstruction will be required in 2024. It is important that our facilities meet the needs not only of our congregation, but also our tenants, primarily the Lincolnshire Community Nursery School, Camp Lincolnshire and True Hope church.

Beyond the functional requirements of the facility, appearance of the property is important both for our congregation and our community. The skills and hard work of all who have participated during our scheduled work days is much appreciated. Thanks also to those who enhance the upkeep of the property on their own initiative. A special thank you to Joel Utterback for his years serving as Property chair.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Pedersen

FINANCE REPORT

The Operating Fund ended the year in a negative position with operating expenses exceeding income by \$7,675, which is less than a 2% variance to the 2023 budget of \$464,402. Benevolence of \$2,500 was paid to the ELCA Metro Chicago Synod. The Building a Foundation Building Fund appeal received pledges of \$312,000 in May 2020, and the Catch the Spirit Building Fund appeal received pledges of \$280,660 in May 2023. As of the end of 2023, total Building Fund receipts are \$123,145. The balance in the Building Fund at the end of 2023 is \$122,210. No mortgage principal prepayment was made in 2023. The current mortgage balance as of the end of 2023 is \$531,246. The mortgage maturity date is May 15, 2031, and the interest rate was reduced in January 2020 to 4.0%. This rate will adjust again in January of 2027. Currently the required monthly mortgage payment of principal and interest is \$7,283. In 2023 we renewed a \$50,000 line of Credit with Bank Financial in case of emergencies. There are no current plans to use this credit, it has a cost of \$250/yr.

Thank you to the members of the Financial Review Committee: Arnie Bilstad, Larry Brady, and Julie Utterback. This committee reviews the church's financial records and provides valued insight into the church's financial state. We give great thanks to Daaron Dohler who as Church Treasurer has once again contributed many hours and much attention to detail this year. Counters Jeanne Nelson, Jackie Murphy, Al Edwards, Phil Brusius, Wayne Giampietro and Tom and Eileen Weglarz take turns counting the monies received the preceding week and preparing the deposit. The information is entered by the Office Manager, Ciara Cruz, into the church's financial record-keeping software.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Wyrwicz

TECHNOLOGY 2022

We continued making great progress in 2023 using technology to support our church mission and expand our outreach. Our Sunday services are live streamed on YouTube thanks to the help of our volunteer You-Tubers Jeanne Nelson, Joe Labellarte, Nancy Fencl, Dominic Cantagallo, and Larry Brady. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel, "Church in the Woods – Holy Spirit Lutheran," where you will find recordings of past services and other musical productions. Please contact me if you'd like to join the team of live streamers. It's a very simple process than anyone can learn in just a few minutes.

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We've also seen wonderful growth in the use of the Vanco Simply Giving donations. In 2023 we collected over \$120,000 in donations through Simply Giving. It's an easy way for people to give using the app on their phone or donating by text. Please contact Ciara or myself if you'd like more information to sign up.

Respectfully submitted,
Daaron Dohler

FELLOWSHIP

Thanks to the many church members who give of their time and talents to plan the events, prepare the meals, help with set up and clean up for the fellowship events at LCHS. The following is a list of the fellowship events which occurred during the last year.

March – The very popular trivia night presided by a professional trivia host was enjoyed by many. 2024 Trivia night is scheduled for **Saturday, January 20**.

April – “Catch the Spirit” dinner was a very enjoyable and informative catered meal provided as a kick off to our current three year building fund commitment.

August – The LCHS golf event took place at the Vernon Hills Golf Course to enjoy some fellowship on the links. Later in the month the Outdoor service and cook out was a great success. We were blessed with a picture perfect day and not only did we have great fellowship and food, but also had the Kona Ice truck providing those delicious flavored shaved ice cups.

October – The Second annual Oktoberfest was a family evening of delicious German food and of course a dessert contest. There were fun games for all including a cell phone selfie treasure hunt. This event is sure to become a continuing fellowship event for this season.

November – A fun filled family afternoon bowling event was held at Lakeside Lanes where many were able to show off their bowling skills, as well as stretch some of the muscles which had not been used for awhile.

We look forward to the coming year and are always looking for suggestions for events to promote fellowship within our church community and beyond.

Respectively submitted,
Jackie Murphy

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE 2023

During 2023 no contributions were received. Distributions of \$5000 for our insurance deductible, \$3,538 for driveway repair, \$1,500 for Sanctuary sound system, \$699 for outer sound system, and \$2,500 for Synod were made, totaling \$13,237. Plans for next year include writing a more straightforward Endowment Fund Charter and providing information to the congregation about donations and bequests to the endowment.

Respectively submitted,
Barry L Nelson

ENDOWMENT FUND FINANCIAL REPORT 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Beginning Balance in Endowment Account 2023

Bank Financial	\$3,703.55
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Schwab	\$155,549.61
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Total	\$159,253.16
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Disbursements during 2023	(\$13,237.00)
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Adjusted Balance after Disbursements	\$ 146,016.16
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Contributions	\$0
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Add Market Adjustment	\$29,250.28
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Contributions and Market Additions	\$29,250.28
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Balance in Accounts as of 12/31/2023

Bank Financial	\$3,707.00
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Schwab	\$171,559.44
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Ending Balance as of 12/31/2023	\$175,266.44
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CIRCLE OF HOPE COLUMBARIUM & GARTH

The Circle of Hope Columbarium and Garth serves as a final resting place for the cremated remains of members of our church and their families. The surrounding Memorial Garden provides beauty and inspiration for visitors to the Columbarium and Holy Spirit Church, while also memorializing and honoring loved ones.

Three members of Holy Spirit Church serve as Trustees of the Columbarium and Garth, in consultation with the Pastor and under the supervision of the Church Council. The current Trustees are: Nila Bilstad, Christine Miller, and Scott Schwanke. Information about niche purchases can be obtained from the Trustees, as well as from an informational display in the narthex.

This year the Columbarium received the cherished remains of Joan Keyes and Louise Menter. Three niches have been purchased. 32 niches remain.

This year Jose Gaona Landscapers were hired to clean up around the Columbarium. Donations for plant purchases are applied according to the best judgment of the Trustees. We ask that the rules are observed for no glass containers to be used. Certain donation levels qualify for memorial nameplate purchases. All memorial gifts of any amount are gratefully received.

Respectfully submitted,
The Trustees of the Circle of Hope Columbarium and Garth

EXPERIENCED PEOPLE OF THE SPIRIT— EXPOS

YEAR END REPORT 2023

ExPOS began in January 2011. It is an active group of approximately 15 members meeting the second Tuesday of every month at 10:30am. When the meeting is at the church, we meet in room six and the members bring a bag lunch and at noon we have lunch and fellowship with the Pastor and staff members. Our mission statement is to promote the understanding, the enjoyment and fulfillment of our aging congregation through adherence to the mission of our Church to live, to celebrate, and to serve as Christ served.

January: We gathered for fellowship at church and to plan the upcoming activities for the year. Because of health issues, Tom Weglarz could no longer be the coordinator and plan all the monthly events. It was decided that each member would take a month and coordinate the event.

February: Mary Giampietro and Louise Menter coordinated a Valentine Potluck Luncheon at church. We shared delicious food and wonderful fellowship.

March: Al Edwards coordinated a Lenten supper and provided his delicious chili. Everyone brought something to share.

April: Carolyn Raymond coordinated “A Day at the Movies.” We met at church and the feature film was “A Man Called Otto” starring Tom Hanks.

May: Tom and Eileen Weglarz coordinated an event at the Indian Trails Public library where there was a performance by the “Lake County Radio Players.” Afterward we gathered at Deerfield Bakery where Al Edwards provided a cake in celebration of Janice’s birthday.

September: We gathered at church to plan the upcoming events for the rest of the year. It was decided we would go to the Botanic Gardens next month because on Tuesdays there are no entrance fees.

October: We gathered at the Botanic Gardens where we took a tram ride, saw the Railroad Exhibit, and enjoyed the wonderful gardens.

November: Chris Miller coordinated an event at church and invited an amazing storyteller, Mary Lou Gilliam. She shared some wonderful stories with us.

December: Everyone gathered at church for a Christmas Potluck and ornament exchange. A good time was had by all.

FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE 2023

The Financial Compliance Review Committee met with the Church Treasurer (Daaron Dohler) and Council Finance Chair (Allison Wyrwicz) to review the financial records of the Church, along with the procedures of the Church regarding financial matters, the Building Fund, Endowment Fund and Columbarium accounts.

The Committee has concluded that appropriate controls are in place regarding the collection and deposit of funds received by the Church into the appropriate accounts. The Committee also asserts that the Church follows reasonable procedures to track and approve the expenditure of funds and sees to it that all expenditures are charged to the appropriate budget accounts. The Committee reviewed the financial records and funds expended and concluded that the officers of the Church are following proper procedures in reconciling the income and expenditure of funds with the statement of accounts received from the Church's bank. The Committee further finds that the Treasurer maintains the proper records in the proper format. A review of actual checks written during the year indicates the income and expenditures of the Church are properly and appropriately posted to the financial records maintained by the Treasurer, whose records accurately reflect the financial condition of the Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit.

Dated: January 2, 2024

Financial Review Committee:

Arnie Bilstad, Larry Brady, Julie Utterback

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Proposed 2024 Budget recommended by the Church Council

To the Congregational Meeting January 20,2024

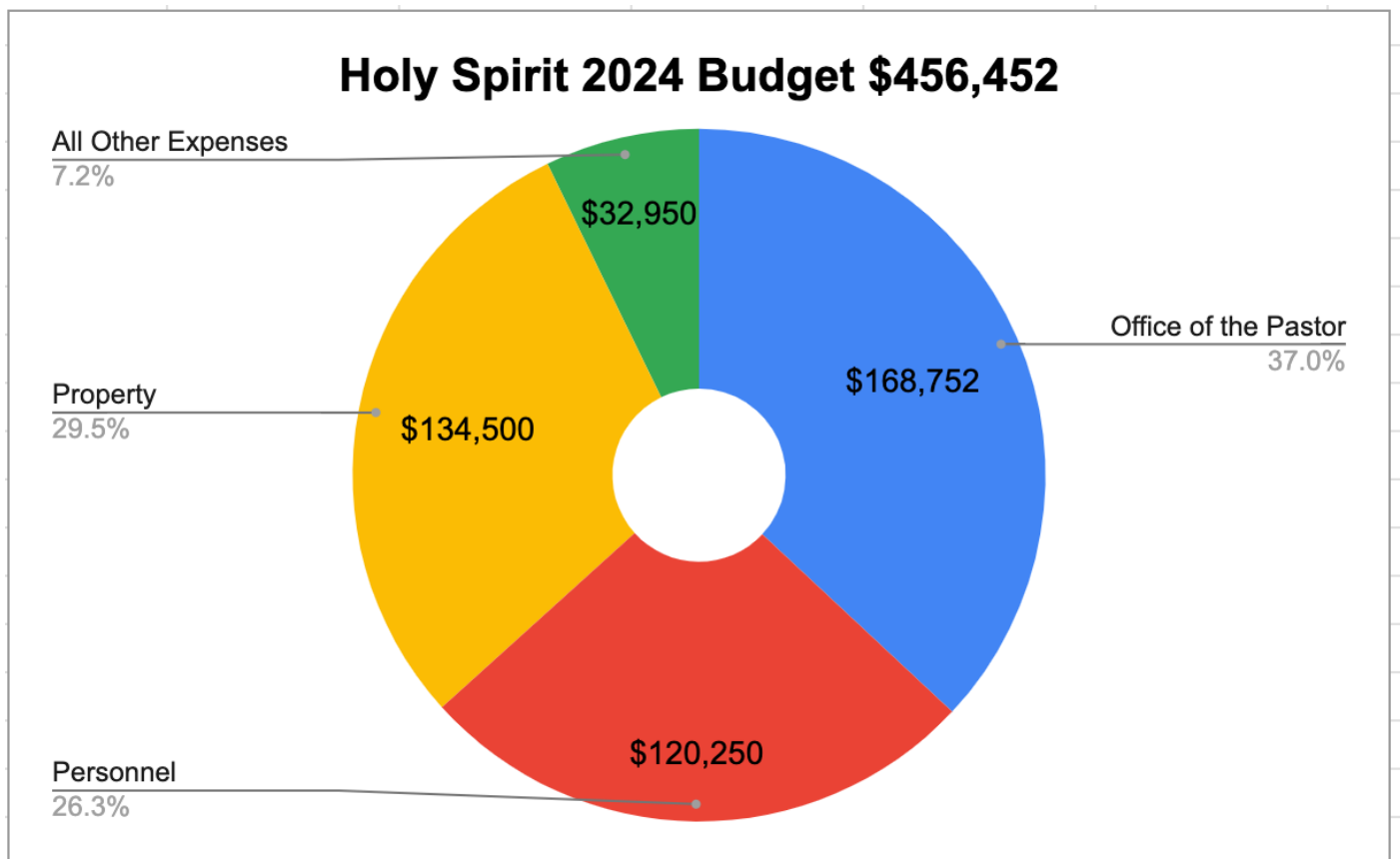
	2023	2023	2024
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
INCOME (Operating Receipts):			
Contributions Received (pledged	\$389,402	\$332,483	\$373,152
Nursery School & Building Use	\$75,000	\$70,396	\$78,300
IRS Payroll Tax Refund	\$0	\$26,961	\$0
Insurance Claim	\$0	\$10,670	\$0
Other Income	\$0	\$14,147	\$5,000
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$464,402	\$454,657	\$456,452
EXPENSES:			
Benevolence*	\$17,000	\$2,500	\$0
Office of the Pastor(s)	\$167,752	\$164,256	\$168,752
Administration	\$12,500	\$11,681	\$12,500
Christian Education	\$5,200	\$3,063	\$4,000
Church Growth	\$2,100	\$709	\$1,800
Debt Repayment	\$0	\$2,633	\$0
Human Needs	\$200	\$0	\$200
Property	\$124,500	\$145,125	\$134,500
Music	\$4,100	\$4,536	\$4,550
Worship	\$7,000	\$6,818	\$6,800
Personnel	\$120,450	\$118,830	\$120,250
Council	\$1,100	\$824	\$1,000
Youth	\$500	\$0	\$500
Stewardship	\$2,000	\$1,355	\$1,600
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$464,402	\$462,330	\$456,452
Operating Gain/(Deficit)	\$0	(\$7,673)	\$0

* Benevolence does NOT include hunger offerings or other designated "pass through" offerings

HOLY SPIRIT BENEVOLENCE LIST 2023

Chicago Metro ELCA Synod	\$2,500
ELCA World Hunger	\$10,382
COOL Food Pantry	\$5,190
Vernon Township Food Pantry	\$5,190

Gifts in Kind: PADS Housewarming Kits, School Backpacks for Homeless Children, Thanksgiving Baskets, Angel Tree Presents and Gift Cards, Blood Donations



THE YEAR IN REVIEW



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Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).

