



2022 Annual Report



Celebrating

150 years

ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
-EST. 1872-



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150th Anniversary

SHARI BUCKELLEW

What a memorable year—celebrating the 150th anniversary of St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and completing the Vision 2020 building project! Dozens of volunteers helped to plan and execute anniversary events and create historical displays, banners, and *Weekly News* inserts.

Four events were held throughout the year:

- The first event was on February 27 and centered on the conclusion of the Vision 2020 Building Project and the opening of the new Worship Center. Worship began in the Parish Life Center where worship services had been held since December 2020. Beautiful music by the bell choir entertained the standing-room-only crowd prior to a prayer of thanksgiving and a processional to the new Worship Center. A special thank you to the Bishop S. John Roth and multiple musical groups for participating in this special worship service. More than 500 people were present and received a specially decorated cookie as they exited the Worship Center. Many people remained long after the service enjoying fellowship in the new Gathering area.
- On June 12 a family friendly Summer Celebration was held. More than 300 attendees enjoyed a Sunday morning worship service followed by lunch offerings from two food trucks; Bingo; cake walk; kids’ activities, sponsored by various groups from the church; and working together to build a St. John’s logo Lego display.
- OctoberFest was held on October 15. More than 200 people enjoyed celebrating our history and Pastor David Glesne’s 25th ordination anniversary at the event. The celebration included a video filled with pictures and a serenade by Deacon Lyn with his favorite hymn—with specially written words—to

years



commemorate this important anniversary. Participants enjoyed music provided by Keith Straus and the Polka Confetti Band, local beers from Analytic Brewery and Keg Grove Brewery, and a German menu from Hy-Vee.

- The final event of the year was the Anniversary Gala on December 9. The evening highlighted our Swedish Heritage with an array of Swedish desserts provided by church members, appetizers from Biaggi's, and cocktail hour music by the Brian Choban Jazz Quintet. The history banners were unveiled, along with an extensive self-guided tour of historic relics displayed throughout the building. The evening concluded with State Representative Dan Brady presenting a special plaque and a Readers Theater written by Cyndee Brown using "Dear St. John's" letters written by members of the church.

The anniversary weekend ended with the Anniversary Worship service on Sunday December 10. The bishop, retired Senior Pastor Knight Wells, and Pastor David talked about the past, present and future of

St. John's Lutheran church. A cake and dessert reception followed, closing out a year of celebration.

In addition to the events and banners, weekly inserts with monthly themes were highlighted in the *Weekly News* throughout the year. These inserts are available on the St. John's website. The historical inserts included information about the pastors who have served at St. John's; the various locations we have worshiped; and the history of the youth, children, adult, missions, and care ministries. The inserts concluded with information about how we managed through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senior Pastor

DAVID GLESNE

What a year—from unique events like our year-long celebration of 150 years of ministry to the joyful opening of our new Worship Center and remodeled facilities. Add to that the blessings of our day-to-day work and ministry to the realigning of our staff and programming to deal with new realities—it has been quite a year indeed!

If I were to list all the wonderful contributions made by staff and volunteers to our ongoing mission, I fear I would never finish this report, and I'd be bound to forget someone! But I do feel it is important to thank those who help lead and direct all of this good stuff! The Congregational Council, especially, President Joel Murphy, Vice President Mark Scott, Treasurer Steve BeMiller, and Secretary David Johnson—thank you for your time and your thoughtful and prayerful leadership. For the staff of St. John's, both current and past, particularly the leadership team—Deacon Lyn, Dave Bollmann, and Shari Buckellew—your dedication, passion, and grace have been a true blessing to me and the ministry of this congregation. I also want to call out Shari, in particular, as she has deftly and competently coordinated many aspects of the building program and all its demands, in addition to her passion for our anniversary celebration. She has helped make this year a blessing for many.

You will find other reports detailing the many ministries inside and outside the walls of St. John's that impact the world in Jesus' name. It might be a little tough to see from where you stand, but I see the love of God flow from this place every day in ways big and small. It isn't hyperbole to say that the ministries of St. John's change the world in Jesus' name. From big things like the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering to small things like a stitch in a quilt, from serving a meal at Safe Harbor to packing food at Midwest Food Bank. From caring for the church grounds to helping others care for themselves and their community through Growing Hope Globally (Hopedale Growing Project) and in hundreds of other ways.

As I pondered this past year, a scripture verse came to mind that resonates deep within me. "I thank my



God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace." (Philippians 1:3-7a)

As I look back on the year that was, I also find that I am always drawn into looking forward to what will yet be. As we give thanks for what has been, the focus for St. John's in the years ahead will continue to be, "now what?" God has blessed us with a marvelous building, beloved members, and a call into the future, for God is not just the God of what was but the God of the now and what will yet be.

I don't claim to be a master grammarian, but I know scripture is full of verbs—action words that are in what is known as an imperfect tense. It is my understanding that the imperfect tense in Hebrew and Greek (the original languages of the Bible) is that it often denotes a past action that carries on into the future. As in Paul's opening exhortation in Philippians, the work that was begun long ago carries on in and through us in Christ Jesus for the sake of our neighbor, wherever and whomever they are.

What else do I need to say? What will the year to come bring? Well, I don't really know. But what I do know is this: I know we have a promise that Jesus will be with us always; I know we are called to be and do in His name and as his people. In thousands of ways, we continue to bring a Gospel message to those who need to hear it. As we Worship, Love, Give, and Grow, Jesus goes with us, guides us through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and blesses us to be a blessing to others, and I can't wait to see where God leads us next.

Intern/Deacon

LYN AHEARN

Last year I served as Interim Deacon; however, beginning in September, I am now in a learning role as a Pastoral Intern. I am seeking ordination for Word and Sacrament Ministry, which means I will spend one year learning, taking one class, and reflecting on theology and ministry as a Pastor. I am grateful to the Internship Committee (Chris Magnuson, Jolie Hoffmann, Todd Peterson, and Kelly Heim) and Pastor David for their time and willingness to teach. As part of the internship time, I am preaching at least monthly, facilitating the Faith and Life Bible Study, teaching Confirmation, and participating in a community clergy worship. I will also begin a project in the spring which will be starting and leading a DivorceCare class.

Worship and Music

We are so grateful for the new Worship Center. It was such a wonderful service on February 27 to begin using this space for worship. While there are still opportunities to learn more regarding the technical workings of the space, overall the use of the screen and hymnals, sound booth and lighting is well on its way to providing for meaningful worship. It takes so many volunteers, and as staff has changed roles and responsibilities, we continue to work together to provide music, liturgy, and volunteers in many areas for worship.

New musicians have been added this year—Natalie Fowler, a senior at Olivet University, began as contemporary band director in August; Amy Ersland and Cheryl Goldberg have graciously restarted a children's choir.



Walter Stout continues to provide wonderful music through the organ, keyboards, choir, and bell choir, as well as working with soloists and instrumentalists. I am grateful for his flexibility, faith, and skills. We are blessed to have another Illinois State University Graduate Assistant helping with sound, slides, and streaming—Jai Wright has been a wonderful addition to the staff.

Lent and Advent Midweek worship continue to be a time for innovation and involving many youth.

Congregational Care

There are so many active parts to our Congregational Care ministry. I am so grateful for Gudrun Dunt, Member Care Coordinator, who keeps so many care programs going.

I am grateful for the visits our BeFriends have provided to our members. Seven new BeFriends were trained in the fall. Not only do they have a gentle and guiding listening ear, but they bring the church and communion to our members who are not able to connect in person.

Other areas of pastoral care are the *Caring Connections* devotions, home visits, hospital visits, and presiding at funerals. *Journeying Through Grief* booklets are mailed to provide information and encouragement to those who are grieving.

We are continuing with a new class of GriefShare. This was a new ministry introduced last year that was well received. It is a national program of videos and small group discussion to connect those who are grieving loss of loved ones.

Prayer Ministry is an integral part of how we care for each other. Prayer Chain, Thursday Prayer Group, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry all focus on communicating our praise and needs to God.



Council President

JOEL MURPHY

Building on the Past, Called to the Future was the theme for the 150th Anniversary Year as a congregation, and what a year it was! It was a year filled with celebrations and a return to a “new normal”—all for the Glory of God.

We started our Anniversary Year with a Kick-Off Anniversary Service in the Parish Life Center. It continued throughout the year with the Summer Celebration in June, an OctoberFest event in October, and a Gala Celebration in December, with a culminating Anniversary Service bridging our past, present, and future in one spectacular service! Many thanks to Cyndee Brown and her group for planning and organizing the Summer Celebration. Thanks to Deacon Lyn and others for securing the Polka band and arranging the food for OctoberFest. And a special thank you to Shari Buckellew for coordinating the Gala and all who helped make it a wonderful evening.

Our anniversary wasn't just about celebrations. We continue to do God's work through the many ministries at St. John's. In fact, we held a Missions Bingo that highlighted all the things we do for God's people—we were each encouraged to check off things we did and ways we served to get a Bingo. Working off of the theme, we received regular history lessons with *Weekly News* inserts and short

articles. Also, a set a magnificent banners was created that provides a visual timeline of our 150 years as a community of Christ! I know a lot of hard work went into researching all of this history and scouring through all the artifacts for our past. Thank you to Betty Hope and her group for pulling together our past. And to Norma Fagerland for laying out and producing such a wonderful testament to the work St. John's has done.

Of course, the capstone event of this year was the opening of our new Worship Center! What a blessing to have all of us worship God in one place and to have a Gathering area for fellowship and learning. I am just awestruck by its beauty, the incorporation of our past, and its potential for the future.

It has been a great honor to serve as your Council President these last two years. I want to extend my sincerest thanks to Pastor David, Deacon Lyn, Shari Buckellew, our staff, and the congregation for a historic year for St. John's. Thank you also to members of the Congregational Council who have served this year.

Congregational Council Members: Mark Scott, David Johnson, Steve BeMiller, Dean Brown, Jolie Hoffman, Kelly Heim, Randy Holthaus, Connie Moll, Carla Snell, Carlton Potts, and Pastor Glesne; Kelly Heim is completing her term and Tammy Fahling will join; Dean Brown will serve as president and Jolie Hoffman as Secretary

Noah's Ark Early Learning Preschool

SHERRI LEWIS

For more than 45 years, Noah's Ark teachers and staff have been inspiring learning for children and families. While attending Noah's Ark, children learn readiness and social skills needed to prepare them for their school journey. *Creative Curriculum*, a researched play-based curriculum is used to guide teachers lesson plans and activities, as well as *Second Step*, a social emotional curriculum that teaches children social skills and respecting one another's like and differences.

In 2022 we received a grant to purchase a more updated SMART Board. Children can play teacher-guided interactive games and broaden their knowledge of the world around them. This year we have been able to return to the more traditional things our program offers. Parents are able to be back in the building to help with class projects. Church staff is again sharing monthly bible stories in the new Worship Center. Noah's Ark continues to be a ministry and early childhood education program where St. Johns members and families from our community can enroll their young child. Noah's Ark provides an opportunity for non-member parents to

learn about programs and events held at the church by receiving fliers and social media updates.

Our enrollment is a diverse group, attracting families from many different cultures. During their time at Noah's Ark, families build supportive relationships that are kept for years to come.

It is a blessing to be located in the St. John's church building and have so many resources available.

Noah's Ark registration for the 2023-2024 school years will be online. If you are a family with young children, I encourage you to think about enrolling your child. If you are part of the St. John's church family, please consider spreading the word about this important ministry.

Noah's Ark Financials

Noah's Ark enrollment and financial situation continue to rebound and stabilize after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Year ended June 30, 2022

Total Cash Reserves = \$72,788.02

Total Income = \$194,491.71

Total Expenses = \$176,718.16

Net Surplus = \$17,773.55

Six months ended December 31, 2022

Total Cash Reserves = \$89,442.33

Total Income = \$112,803.00

Total Expenses = \$95,848.69

Net Surplus = \$16,954.31



Children's and Youth Ministries

AMY RADEMACHER

St. John's Children's and Youth Ministries had a year of big changes in 2022. The first half of the year, the three ministries functioned as they always had in the past, as three separate ministries often collaborating on projects and events. In July of 2022, Steve Terry, longtime Senior High Ministry Director, took a job in Florida, leaving his position open. Kerri Cordray, who served as the Junior High Ministry Director, moved into a new staff position at St. John's over the summer, as well. She now serves as the Director of Connection Ministries. With these two staff changes, an opportunity to reimagine how our Children and Youth Ministries function and serve the church opened doors for some new possibilities. I began discussions with Pr. David and the staff leadership team about combining the Children's, Junior High, and Senior High director roles into one role that would oversee the direction of all three ministries. In this way, more alignment, coordination, and collaboration between the three ministries allows for more cohesive programming from birth through 12th grade. So in July of 2022, I became the Children's and Youth Ministries Coordinator.

In August, Emily Lewis was hired as the Family Ministry Associate. Emily has been a crucial part of giving this new function of Children and Youth Ministries progressive direction. She brings experience with youth to her role, as well as vitality, relevance,



and passion! The last part of 2022 has been one of trial and error, evaluating how we implement our programs and events and brainstorming new ways to reach and serve families. We look forward to continued growth in 2023!

Winter/Spring 2022

- Faith 45 Kids was held in two sessions each Sunday morning with about 12-15 children attending in total. Thrive for junior high students was held each Wednesday evening with usual learning, service, and fellowship events. Chaos also met weekly on Wednesday evenings for fellowship with the senior high students, while Ignite met twice monthly for devotions and prayer on Sunday evenings.
- Kerri Cordray and I attended the Children's Pastors' Conference in January in Orlando, Florida. The week together allowed for wonderful collaboration and inspiration and we spent much of the spring renewing our focus and vision for the two ministries. It was time and money very well spent!
- 8th grade students began their Confirmation journey with several retreats throughout the semester including their parents and mentors. They also participated in a service night at Midwest Food Bank in April.
- All three ministries had children and youth that were involved in Midweek Lenten Worship services, as readers and greeters, candle lighters, musicians, and singers.
- Junior and senior high students hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning between worship services. The youth stuffed hundreds of eggs with candy and they were hid throughout the Parish Life Center and Atrium for the younger children to hunt. Rainy weather meant we had to have the event inside, but children still enjoyed themselves!
- 23 children participated in the Holy Communion program which consisted of two learning workshops and one creative workshop prior to the celebration worship service held on Sunday, April 10.
- Kerri Cordray and I collaborated to host a Volunteer Fair in May, highlighting the many opportunities available to serve in Children's and Youth Ministries.



Programs and events from all three ministry groups were on display with information and education about each one available to the congregation.

- Junior and senior high students held several fundraising events to raise money for both Camp MIX and Work Camp attendants. The two ministry groups hosted the Nelson's Chicken Dinner in April, Portillo's Dinner Night Out, a bake sale and the return of the Spring Garage Sale in May. In total, the fundraisers reaped about \$10,000 in donations!

Summer 2022

- Vacation Bible School finally returned! Rocky Railway VBS was held the week of June 13 with 65 children attending and more than 100 volunteers involved in the preparation and implementation of the program. Pr. David served as the Large Group Worship Leader and the kids just loved having him involved each day. He brought so much energy and fun to his role as the train conductor. Many staff and congregation members served as station leaders, crew leaders, kitchen crew, hospitality team members, and on the decorations team. This year, children brought offering each day for the Zambia Education Fund, exceeding our goal of \$1,500 by raising almost \$3,000! The kids and congregation were blown away! On Sunday, June 18, the VBS kids and volunteers helped during the 10 AM



worship service by leading the congregation in some of the VBS songs they learned during the week. It was great to have VBS back in person again!

- 20 senior high and adult mentors attended Work Camp in Port Huron, Michigan, during the week of June 18. During the week, students were grouped with youth from other churches from around the country to complete home projects for those in need. The students also participated in group meals and worship, small group devotion, and Bible study, as well as plenty of time for fellowship and fun—playing games and cards at night, sharing conversation, and spending a day at the lake and beach!



- 12 junior high students and three adults headed to Indiana Wesleyan University for CIY Camp MIX from July 11-15. The theme “Broadcast” helped the kids learn more about Christ and themselves through his parables. They spent the week in large group worship, small group devotions, and study, while also participating in fun and crazy fellowship games and events! The kids enjoyed a half day at a local water park with lunch off campus one of the days before heading home.



- Family Ministries hosted a summer movie night in July, hosting a hot dog dinner and watching *Ratatouille* in the Worship Center.
- Kerri Cordray coordinated with Dean and Cyndee Brown to host a theater workshop, *Stepping into Scripture*, for junior and senior high students in August. During the workshop, students used scripture stories as their script to work through a variety of acting skills and tools. It was a one-day event with 12 students in attendance.



- Chaos continued to meet weekly through the summer on Wednesday evenings, while Thrive and Faith 45 Kids was on hold per the usual summer schedule. Pew Projects were offered for children ages 3 years through 5th grade during the 10 AM worship service in lieu of Faith 45 Kids.

Fall 2022

- Working in full capacity as the Children’s and Youth Ministries Coordinator with Emily Lewis assisting, the new school year kicked off with an exciting initiative for our families and children. REIMAGINE Children and Youth Ministries was the vision for the new year, encouraging families and the church to think differently about how we do children and youth ministry programs and events. After several years of canceled plans and programs, we felt liberated being able to be back in business in our full, in-person capacity. This inspired us to be creative, try new things and think outside the box. We hosted an Open House on Sunday, August 28, to introduce families to the newly updated spaces and new plans for learning and fellowship programs. We resurrected JoyZone, our previous Sunday morning faith formation program for children ages 3 years through 5th grade, and we are now

enjoying spacious activity stations in the Parish Life Center where the children can explore a variety of activities while learning about the Bible and Christ’s love for them! The Junior and Senior High rooms got a bit of a makeover with fresh paint, decluttering, and some rearranging of the rooms to create a lounge and a game room. These rooms are enjoyed by our 6th-12th grade students, especially on Wednesday evenings during Thrive and Chaos.

- JoyZone has about 50 children registered with 25-30 students attending the program weekly. Most children are attending about twice a month. We currently have about 30 volunteers who rotate to assist with JoyZone on Sunday mornings, as well as about 5-8 other volunteers who have stepped up to assist with planning, clean-up, and other various tasks.
- Thrive has 35 students registered and attending with five small group leaders and 3-4 volunteer subs. Thrive meets weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 PM and rotates each week between learning events, fellowship events, and service events. They are studying the Lutheran Catechism this year.



- Chaos sees about 15-20 students on Wednesday evenings for fellowship, as well as service events. Sessions close with a short devotion and prayer each week.
- Eleven 9th grade students completed their Confirmation journey on Sunday, October 30, in celebration during the 10:30 AM worship service.
- Youth Ministries hosted a Trunk-or-Treat event for the youngest congregation and community members on Sunday, October 30. Due to weather, the event had to be held in the Fellowship Hall. Students and adult helpers decorated 16 different tables or stations in a variety of themes. During the two-hour event, more than 300 children from the church and community, along with their families, walked through, collected candy, and enjoyed the festive atmosphere!

- Later in the evening on October 30, our youth members enjoyed their own Halloween festivities at Flannel Fest. Again, due to weather the event had to be held inside, but a good time was still had by all! 35 students attended and enjoyed a hot dog and chili dinner along with plenty of sweets, treats, hot cocoa, and an oven-toasted s'mores bar. They played games, decorated and carved pumpkins, and watched *Charlie Brown and the Great Pumpkin!*

Winter 2022

- Students of all ages participated in the Midweek Advent Worship services on Wednesday evenings. Students served as readers, greeters, candle-lighters, actors in skits, and musicians.
- Children's Ministries hosted a Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 18. About 75 families were in attendance with 25 volunteers serving during the event. Snacks and hot cocoa were served while children played games with prizes, enjoyed a variety of crafts, played dress-up in the Nativity drama, decorated cookies, and visited with Santa Claus. A short devotion with Christmas carols was given at the close of the event. Parents received information about the Christmas Eve Worship services as well as the JoyZone program before leaving.
- Thrive and Chaos enjoyed one last Fellowship event before taking a break from meeting over the holidays. The kids and their leaders chose a variety of fun activities including a game night, playing at Altitude Trampoline Park, going for ice cream or Starbucks, and Christmas shopping at Target.



Adult Education

DAVE BOLLMANN

Adult education continued to evolve in 2022. There have been several new topics during the year offered by Pastor David and Deacon Lyn meant to study relevant topics. Opportunities to highlight included a summer study on the ELCA's position on abortion, which followed the change in national policy that occurred in June. A second study happened in the fall on Wednesday evenings called Faith, Sexism, and Justice. A third offering focused on a book titled *Waking Up White*, began during the fall of 2021, concluded in the spring and was led by Pastor Mary Kay Henson.

Small group learning continues through the use of several resources, namely *RightNow Media*. Two small group studies continued in 2022 held on Sunday mornings between services. One class focused on studying that week's Narrative Lectionary and the other a video forum using series found on *RightNow Media*. In-person groups meet regularly, including a Friday morning Men's Bible Study, Monday evening women's group, and women's circles. The Wednesday evening men's group also met in-person and socially.

Finding ways to continue to expand Adult Education is an area of focus in 2023. This dialogue will involve many staff, the Council, and lay leaders to offer input.

Parish Life

GUDRUN DUNT

Fellowship and Meals

The new Gathering space has been wonderful for fellowship. Whether it is between services on Sunday morning, small group gatherings throughout the week, or larger receptions, the blessing of this newly renovated space is wonderful. In 2022 we saw the return of Sunday morning donuts as well as several 150th Anniversary events, including the February 27 Celebration of the new Worship Center, June 12 Summer Celebration, December 9 Anniversary Gala and December 11 Anniversary worship. A huge thank you to the 150th Anniversary Committee for a truly amazing job.



Women's Ministry

We had initially hoped to have an Advent tea in early December but with the 150th anniversary events, thought it best to postpone. Plans are underway for a Women's Breakfast event in February 2023.

The one remaining Women's Circle/Bible Study, Abigail Circle, now meets four times per year. Thanks to the leadership of Ayna Mekuria and Jean Kuethe this sweet fellowship of Christian women continues.

Kaffehuset

Kaffehuset continues to meet the first Wednesday of the month. Dawn Conway and Linda Fisher have built a solid team of volunteers and have offered some wonderful opportunities for learning and fellowship.

New Member Reception

On November 6 we were able to welcome and celebrate those who have chosen to make St. John's their church home in 2022 with a new member reception. It was wonderful to see new members, longtime members, and members of Council and staff celebrating together.

Health and Wellness

Following Jesus to Jerusalem Walking Program

We had 90 individuals participate in an imaginary journey from Bloomington to Jerusalem, logging their exercise miles. We easily completed the 6,100 mile journey.

Flu Clinic

The annual Flu Clinic continues to be a popular event. We once again partnered with Hy-Vee Pharmacy. A total of 57 individuals were immunized against influenza.

Prayer

The Thursday Prayer Group continues to meet via Zoom. We continue to receive a number of requests from individuals who are in need of prayer. Numerous requests have also been received by the Prayer Chain. We are grateful for the faithful presence of these prayer warriors.

Christian Care

BeFriender Ministry

BeFriender Ministry continues to be an important part of pastoral care at St. John's. We were able to have our first training for new BeFrienders since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. Seven individuals were commissioned as BeFrienders in September 2022. Additionally, Josh Peters, completed the national training for BeFriender leaders and has become a valuable member of the leadership team.

We currently have 29 individuals serving in BeFriender Ministry. Pastor David, Deacon Lyn, and I meet weekly to identify pastoral care needs that might benefit from a BeFriender. We were able to make several BeFriender assignments in 2022.

BeFriender Ministry was highlighted in publications and worship throughout the month of August. It was our intent to share the value of BeFriender Ministry for all ages and situations. There is a perception that BeFrienders care is for the elderly and bringing Communion. While it is true that a number of our BeFrienders visit older members, we have also seen a great opportunity to minister to those facing other life situations.

The strength of BeFriender Ministry continues to be our monthly Making Meaning. This is an important time of connection and continuing education for St. John's BeFrienders. In addition to having the opportunity to reflect on our individual ministries, BeFrienders are able to participate in continuing education.

Topics in 2022 included:

- Spiritual Assessment, Hospital and Home Communion training, led by Deacon Lyn Ahearn.
- Thanatology—the Study of Death and Dying, led by Rev. Tim Mitchell.
- Stress, Depression, and Anxiety in Youth, Families, and the General Population, led by Steve Terry.

Finally, this past Summer BeFriender Ministry celebrated 40 years as a national organization. We are grateful to be part of this important ministry of listening and care.

Funeral Ministry

One of the great challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic was the disruption of normal funeral practices. The opening of the new Worship Center and Gathering spaces provided the perfect time to review and update funeral procedures with staff and volunteers. In 2022 we had five funerals in the new Worship Center. We have found that the Chapel is the perfect place for visitations. Comments we have received from families, congregation members, and funeral home staff have been very positive.

Funeral luncheons are also an important part of the care we provide for families who have experienced the death of a loved one. Funeral luncheon coordinators met early in 2022 to discuss how to safely resume this ministry. Our first post-COVID funeral luncheon offered the option of individually wrapped sandwiches, chips, cookie, and drink. As we contacted volunteers we found that the large majority were very comfortable with resuming regular funeral luncheons. We have a solid team of coordinators that share the responsibility of organizing luncheons.

Wedding Ministry

Due to some realignment of staff responsibilities, I am once again serving as the staff liaison for weddings. We are blessed with a solid team of wedding coordinators that are an invaluable part of helping weddings run smoothly. As we continue to adapt to the new Worship Center, their feedback has been most helpful. Now that we have had three weddings in the new space, we will be reviewing and updating the wedding guide.

Caring Connections and Daily Blessings

Deacon Lyn and I continue to write weekly *Caring Connections* letters to St. John's senior members. We have added some new writers to our *Daily Blessing* writing team in 2022. Both of these communications continue to be well received.

Caregivers Ministry

Caregivers continue to meet twice a month to prepare cards for those celebrating milestone birthdays and anniversaries, baptisms, weddings as well as those experiencing illness. We added two new volunteers to this group in 2022.

SPLASH Cradle Roll

Twenty-two families are receiving *SPLASH* curriculum each month. Focused on the faith formation of children birth through age three, families receive a monthly newsletter, parenting ideas, a bible story, prayer, and worship suggestions.

Grief and Loss

Journeying Through Grief

Journeying Through Grief materials were sent to 30 individuals in 2022. This Stephen Ministry series

is sent at intervals of three weeks, three months, six months, and 11 months following the death of a loved one.

GriefShare

GriefShare is a national program that takes place in 13 self-contained sessions. We launched our second GriefShare group at St. John's in October. We have 12 individuals participating. GriefShare is open to members of St. John's as well as the community.

Those who participated in GriefShare in 2021 continue to meet monthly for dinner and fellowship. We are grateful for the connections and friendship that have grown out of a shared experience.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This year prayer shawls, prayer squares, and caps were shared with members of St. John's including high school graduates, the Carle Cancer Institute, and St. Joseph's Cancer Center. Caps were also shared with Illinois Cancer Care and the Sharing Fence. In 2022 Prayer Shawl members made 43 prayer shawls, 268 prayer squares, 97 caps, and one baby blanket.





Guest Experience and Connections

KERRI CORDRAY

The Guest Experience and Connection Ministries continued the theme of re-engaging and reconnecting throughout 2022. Coordinator teams for the three services, consisting of 13 people, play an important role in building relationships with guests and preparing and equipping members to serve in worship. With the exciting transition into the new Gathering space and Worship Center, a new scheduling process was introduced to more effectively communicate and schedule weekly worship volunteer teams through the Shelby database system. A total of 294 people serve in the roles of ushers, communion assistants, lectors, greeters, technology, and coffee set-up.

Throughout the year, volunteers spend an average of 1.5 hours preparing worship elements and greeting guests for each service. When totaled for an entire year, around 2,340 volunteer hours are dedicated to serving the Lord and our St. John's family.

In the fall, a weekly volunteer reception team, consisting of seven people, was established to help with greeting guests, answering phone calls, and other miscellaneous tasks. This wonderful team has been faithful in assisting the staff and completing other church duties behind the scenes.

To engage our congregation with opportunities for service and growth, a volunteer survey was created called, *Growing Connections, Giving Love*.

The results were as follows:

- 77 completed surveys
- 153 boxes were checked indicating people currently participating in ministry and service opportunities in the church
- 78 boxes were checked noting an interest in participating in an area of ministry and/or service
- 44 boxes were checked of people ready to begin participating in an area of ministry and/or service

The new member process continues to evolve as an essential way of integrating new people into the life of St. John's. A reception was held in early November to celebrate and honor the 19 newest members and their families. This event provided wonderful fellowship and connection for all who attended.

God's presence can certainly be experienced each weekend in the Gathering area, along with the Worship Center! Evidence of God's joy, peace, and love can be seen and felt through the smiles and care for one another. People are enjoying gathering with one another, and through worship and mission opportunities, the goal of lives becoming re-engaged and reconnected has been reached.

A special thank you to our amazing coordinators, past and present, who have invested time in the relationships and care of our many worship volunteers! Thank you also to so many amazing people who have been a part of blessing our congregation through the giving of their time and talents.

Reception Team: Ann Ament, Lynn Carpenter, Bill Leary, Diane Murphy, Betty Trimble, Debbie Whelton, Sharon Wunderlin

Worship Coordinator Team: Jim Click, Dawn Conway, Debra Cruise, Jan Dosen, Grace Hanson, Michelle Harris, Bill Leary, Chris Magnuson, Diane Murphy, Melissa Plassman, Betty Trimble, Julie Williams, Margarete Winland



Mission Outreach

VICKIE ROBERTSON

Mission Outreach had another very busy year in 2022. We are so blessed to be able to share St. John's love through our local and global work. Our team and volunteers from the congregation work with our ministry partners throughout the year on a wide variety of projects.

Mission Outreach projects include our very successful Hopedale Growing Project with Growing Hope Globally. In 2023, we will be celebrating 20 years of partnership with the Hopedale Mennonite Church. St. John's donates money for leasing the land, farmers in Hopedale grow the crop, and crop sale profits are used for growing projects and agriculture education around the world. In 2022, our members donated \$8,000.



The Zambia Pastors' Children Education Fund is another long-term commitment for St. John's. And once again, the requested amount was given and sent overseas to make sure that Lutheran pastors can cover the cost of school and supplies—more than \$14,000.



We start collecting for Lutheran World Relief in the summer for our quilt, school, and personal care kits ministry. In the fall the Big Give collects canned goods and Thanksgiving foods for Home Sweet Home Mission. The Giving Tree is another long-term commitment that gathers gifts at holiday time for several local social service agencies.

Other ongoing projects includes monthly volunteer work at Safe Harbor serving and preparing meals. At Midwest Food Bank, we work monthly to sort





and box food items which are sent to pantries all over the country. Yearlong projects include Center for Hope's food and clothing pantries and a Lenten collection. Faith In Action transportation ministry is another partnership where our members volunteer to take people to their doctor appointments and for treatments. Thirty St. John's members serve in this capacity.

St. John's holds three Red Cross Blood Drives per year. In 2022, we collected 150 units. This mission is one of our longest and most successful. We have hosted 60 drives with more than 3,079 units collected since 1997! Many members show up to give blood and help run the events and provide the best blood drive food in the city!

For more than 35 years, we have served as a host for a regional Lutheran World Relief Ingathering. It was a pleasure, after a long pandemic, to host this year's

"normal," in-person event complete with breakfast and lunch. More than 70 St. John's members volunteered. Visitors lingered and we loaded 1,800 boxes in two semi-trailers.

St. John's worked successfully for the second year with Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Services as a regional hub for the Hope for the Holidays project. A group of members collected, sorted, screened, and processed thousands of Christmas cards for the many immigrants and refugees in detention centers throughout the United States. St. John's members received over 7,000 cards from 70 states. More than 6,700 cards were distributed to 18 detention facilities—4,800 in Spanish and 2,400 in English. St. John's members gave over 550 cards alone!

Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, and St. John's members answered the call from the ELCA to donate funds to help in the war-torn country. Over \$15,000 was raised quickly and donated.

Our goal in 2022 was to expand the Mission Outreach team and include some new faces, and we did just that last year! We meet monthly. If you'd like to participate in a project, e-mail Vickie Robertson at jbev.robertson@gmail.com.

Ministry Team members: Chris Ayers, Steve BeMiller, Jim Dumouchel, Norma Fagerland, Julie Holiday, Terry Houchin, Gloria Jameson, Connie Moll, Steve Pruet, Vickie Robertson





Property

FRED RENDER

The property committee maintains and protects all congregational property and provides a safe environment for our members and guests. Responsibilities include keeping updated facility use guidelines and recommendations for long-range facility use.

We have been worshipping in our new Worship Center for almost a year now and are getting very comfortable with the new space. The best part is all the new storage space we have acquired. We have a new bigger office space and larger and revamped work area. Each Ministry Team now has their own storage area.

We have been able to do a good job with keeping our facility clean in spite of all the extra square footage. Many thanks to the facilities staff for their due diligence in working hard to do so.

Thank you also to the Tuesday Tee Timers and their shepherd Dave Lowe for keeping our grounds looking magnificent and for all the other projects they do to keep our facility looking great!

I am very humbled and honored to work with such an awesome staff and congregation. We had a fantastic 150th year and look forward to growing and prospering for the next 150 years.

Staff Facility Members: Myron Adams, Ed Embree, Carolyn Kern
Property Committee Members: Jim Click, recording secretary; Roger Haab; Randy Holthous, council liaison; Kip Iverson, team leader; Marvin Rasch; Fred Render, Facility Director; Dave Schaffer; Lynn Spaid



Finance

SHARI BUCKELLEW

The finance committee oversees the financial affairs of the congregation to ensure they are being conducted effectively and in accordance with financial best practices.

In 2022 the Finance Committee focused on financial transparency of the Church's position and activity as it related to both operations and the Vision 2020 Building project.

The monthly stewardship mailing and the quarterly *InTouch* newsletter were used to communicate monthly financial results and the impact of the congregation's stewardship of time, talent and financial giving.

This year's fall stewardship theme was *The Next 150 Years*. We received 206 pledges totaling \$918,485 as of December 31, 2022. In addition to annual pledges, many members continue their giving through online recurring contributions.

Specific actions of note include:

1. Reviewed and monitored monthly financial statements. On-budget giving and slightly below budget spending resulted in a small net surplus for the year.
2. Reviewed, monitored and closed out the building project financial activity. We converted our construction loan to a \$5.5 million mortgage in April. Our monthly payments of \$28,710 are covered by existing pledges through 2024 at which time a debt reduction campaign may be needed.
3. Reviewed and monitored the Endowment Fund accounts, communicating with PNC investment advisor through a volatile financial market year.
4. Integrated the Columbarium Association financial activity in the finances of the church.
5. Reviewed and monitored Noah's Ark financial reports resulting in financial stability and continued effort to rebuild their financial resources.

See pages 22-25 for the 2022 Financial Statements.

Committee Members: Steve BeMiller, Treasurer; Shari Buckellew, Staff; Dawn Conway; Tammy Fahling; Pastor Glesne; Elizabeth Haines; Roger Hellman; Tim Kelly; Sara White; longtime member Dale Nunemaker retired from the committee during the year

Columbarium

SHARI BUCKELLEW

The St. John's Columbarium Association activities and finances were integrated into the finance office of St. John's Lutheran Church in 2022. After many years of faithful service, volunteer Vern Veal retired from active administration of the Columbarium. The board thanks Vern for his many years of service.

The board would like to offer special thanks to Linda Redmon, Laura Veal, Fred Render, and Myron Adams for maintaining the beauty of the Memorial Garden.

The Columbarium board met quarterly in 2022.

The following actions were taken:

1. Hired Pontiac Granite Company after excessive delays with the current engraver.
2. Increased prices for 2023 to reflect increased costs and future maintenance needs.
3. Updated the bylaws to reflect the change in activity management to the church's finance office.

The announced increase in prices and the improved visibility of the Columbarium as a result of the Vision

2020 Building Project resulted in many sales at the end of 2022.

2022 Activity

- 18 niches sold
- 17 engravings completed
- 4 inurnments

Financial Results—Year Ended 2022

Columbarium Income

Niche Sales	\$12,750.00
Engraving Fees Earned	\$3,100.00
Donations	\$754.00

Total Income \$16,604.00

Columbarium Expenses

Engraving	\$4,815.00
Urns	\$884.00
Fees	\$10.00

Total Expenses \$5,709.00

Net Income \$10,895.00

Cash in Bank at 12/31/2022.	\$ 51,247.12
Engraving Fees Due	\$ 225.00
Prepaid Engraving Fees	\$ 19,390.00



Vision 2020 Building Project

SHARI BUCKELLEW

The Celebration Worship service for the completion of the Vision 2020 Building Project took place on February 27, 2022. More than 500 people attended a Spirit-filled celebration worship which began in the Parish Life Center and moved to the new Worship Center as the organist and choir sang *Lift High the Cross*. Attendees from P.J. Hoerr, BLDD Architects, and Amplo Systems were recognized and thanked for their hard work and dedication to the project. It was a memorable and fitting event for a project that began in 2020 after many years of planning and was completed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project includes a new 500-seat Worship Center with the technology to offer multiple styles of worship for both in-person and online participation; a complete renovation of the office area to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and security for the staff; and a remodel of the former Sanctuary into a warm and welcoming Gathering area.

Since February the new and renovated areas have been used for funerals and visitations, weddings, birthday parties, a Synod gathering, Noah’s Ark performances and meetings, recitals, the summer anniversary celebration in June, and the 150th Anniversary Gala, as well as worship and learning events. The Gathering area is a welcoming and cozy space for members to gather before, between, and after worship or during the week to visit and build relationships.

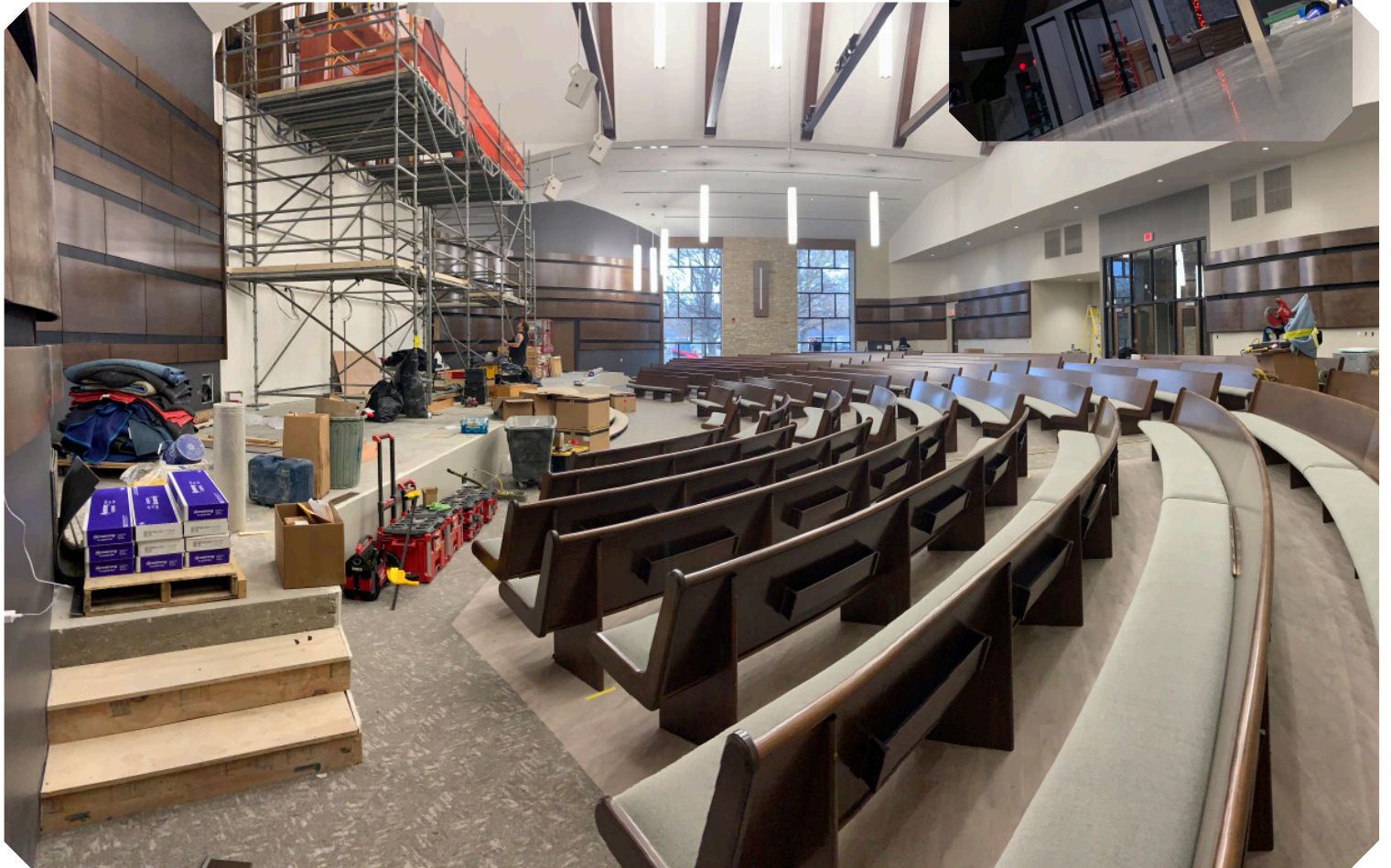
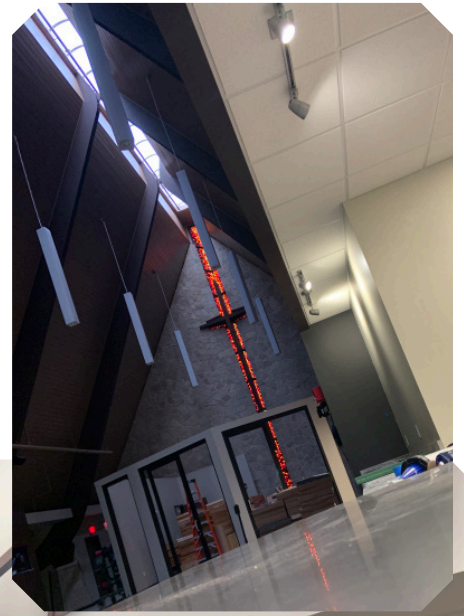
Financial Information

ACCOUNT	Project Actual Costs	Paid Through 12/31/2022	Remaining at 12/31/2022
Survey and Testing	\$ 6,123	\$ 6,123	\$ —
Architect and Engineering	577,216	577,216	—
Furniture/Equipment	162,546	162,546	—
Organ	400,000	400,000	—
Audio/Visual	367,960	333,414	35,546
Construction Costs	6,5566,355	6,566,355	—
Total Direct Construction	\$8,080,200	\$8,044,645	\$35,546

The Vision 2020 Building Project was finished and costs capitalized and transferred to the operating fund in 2022. The project was completed at a cost of \$8,080,200 (not including financing costs), which was approximately \$120,000 below the approved budget of \$8.2 million.

The project was completed using a variety of funds, including Vision 2020 donations, operating reserves, an Endowment contribution of \$312,000, an Endowment loan of \$650,000, and a mortgage of \$5.5 million with the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA.

Monthly mortgage payments of \$27,810 began in May 2022. Existing multi-year pledges and unpledged gifts will cover mortgage payments through 2024 when it is anticipated that St. John’s will hold a debt reduction campaign.



Statement of Activities

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

Account	Operating Budget
RECEIPTS	
Gifts and Offerings	\$ 1,350,000
Mission and Work Camp Appeals and Events	39,600
Total Contributed Income	\$ 1,389,600
Ministry Fees	\$ 18,650
Miscellaneous Income	
Parking Lot and Facility Rentals	15,500
Total Non-Contribution Income	\$ 34,150
Interest and Dividend Income	\$ 200
Investment Value Change	1,500
Endowment Transfer	40,000
Total Investment Income	\$ 41,700
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,465,450
DISBURSEMENTS	
Benevolence—Synod and Community	\$ 100,000
Global and Local Missions	35,400
Mission Trips	13,700
Total Benevolence and Missions Disbursements	\$ 149,100
Adult Discipleship Ministry	\$ 2,700
Children's Ministry	5,800
Junior High Ministry	6,800
Senior High Ministry	3,000
Parish Life Ministry	12,800
Guest Experience Ministry	550
Stewardship Ministry	500
Worship Arts Ministry	16,800
Total Direct Ministry Disbursements	\$ 48,950
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 1,015,000
Other Personnel Expenses	17,400
Office/Administrative Expenses and Technology	86,000
Facility and Grounds	66,500
Insurance and Life Safety	22,500
Utilities	60,000
Mortgage Interest	
Total General Operating Disbursements	\$ 1,267,400
Total Disbursements	\$ 1,465,450
NET SURPLUS	\$ —

Operating Actual	Building Fund Vision 2020	Memorial Fund	Endowment Fund
\$ 1,373,643	\$ 553,202	\$ 5,735	\$ 29,627
81,257		100	
\$ 1,454,900	\$ 553,202	\$ 5,835	\$ 29,627
\$ 24,478			
1,723			
18,745			
\$ 44,946	—	—	\$ —
\$ 2,570	\$ 1,146	\$ 274	\$ 43,113
(8,227)		(1,168)	(309,667)
\$ (5,657)	\$ 1,146	\$ (894)	\$ (266,554)
\$ 1,494,189	\$ 554,348	\$ 4,941	\$ (236,927)
\$ 100,000			
56,212		\$ 1,841	
12,760			
\$ 168,972	—	\$ 1,841	\$ —
\$ 925			
5,755			
9,069			
2,934			
16,864			
242			
16,654			
\$ 52,443	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
\$ 949,883			
12,887			900
80,327	\$ 1,413	\$ 150	\$ 7,107
90,663		11,978	
23,809			
90,274			
	\$ 209,548		
\$ 1,247,843	\$ 210,961	\$ 12,128	\$ 8,007
\$ 1,469,258	\$ 210,961	\$ 13,969	\$ 8,007
\$ 24,931	\$ 343,387	\$ (9,028)	\$ (244,934)

Statement of Financial Position

DECEMBER 31, 2022

	Operating Fund December 31, 2022	Building Fund December 31, 2022
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Investments	\$ 688,974	\$ 268,170
Receivables		
Fixed Assets		
Building and Land	\$ 17,952,212	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(5,900,235)	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 12,740,951	\$ 268,170
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Prepaid Pledges	\$ 25,440	
Temporarily Reserved Funds	24,838	
Construction Loan		5,400,926
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 50,278	\$5,400,926
INTERFUND TRANSFERS	\$ 90,530	\$ 561,025
EQUITY		
Total Equity, Beginning Balance	\$ 5,091,201	\$ 1,858,080
Transfer Completed Building Project	7,895,248	(7,895,248)
Current Surplus (Deficit)	24,931	343,387
Non-Cash Items—Depreciation Expenses	(411,237)	
Total Equity, Ending Balance	\$ 12,600,143	\$ (5,693,781)
TOTAL LIABILITIES, INTERFUND TRANSFERS AND EQUITY	\$ 12,740,951	\$ 268,170

Membership Summary

Baptized members at the end of 2021	1,783
Members received 2022	33
Baptism Children (15 and Under)	10
Baptism Adult (16 and Up)	0
Affirmation of Faith	9
ELCA Transfer	3
Non-Lutheran Transfer	6
Other Lutheran Transfer	4
Request for Reinstatement—Adults	1

Members removed 2021	51
Death	15
Removed by Action of Council	0
ELCA Transfer	0
Non-Lutheran Transfer	5
Other Lutheran Transfer	7
Other (Personal Request, Stat. Adjust.)	24
Net membership loss	18
Baptized members at end of 2022	1,765
Confirmed Membership at End of 2022	1,423
Baptized Members (Un-confirmed)	342
Children of Baptized/Confirmed members who have not been baptized	24
not counted in total baptized members	

Memorial Fund December 31, 2022	Endowment Fund December 31, 2022	All Funds
\$ 51,538	\$ 1,178,804	\$ 2,187,486
		\$ 17,952,212
		(5,900,235)
\$ 51,538	\$ 1,178,804	\$ 14,239,463
		\$ 25,440
		24,838
		5,400,926
\$ —	\$ —	\$ 5,451,204
\$ (1,555)	\$ (650,000)	\$ —
\$ 62,121	\$ 2,073,738	\$ 9,085,140
(9,028)	(244,934)	114,356
		(411,237)
\$53,093	\$ 1,828,804	\$ 8,788,259
\$ 51,538	\$ 1,178,04	\$ 14,239,463

Average Weekly Attendance

Faith and Life Adult Bible Study	18
Children's Choirs	9
Adult Bell Choir	10
Adult Choir	17
Adult Sunday Morning Classes	17
Children's Ministry	25
Junior High Camp MIX	12
Junior High (Thrive)	30
Kaffehuset	25
Senior High (CHAOS)	15
Senior High Work Camp	20
Worship	320

Additional Information

Adults Participating in New Member Classes. . .	N/A*
Member Funerals	8
Non-member Funerals	2
Weddings.	3
Confirmation.	11
First Communion	25

*Those interested in membership met individually with the Senior Pastor.

