



#### **PASTORS**

Interim Senior Pastor...... The Reverend Glen Bickford (Jan)

Senior Pastor...... The Reverend Mark Kvale (Jan-Dec)

Associate Pastor...... The Reverend Rebecca Goche

#### **PROGRAM STAFF**

Director of Caring Ministries...... Irene TenEyck (Jan-Jul)

Director of Discipleship...... Niki Pohnl (Jan-Jun)

Director of Youth & Family Ministries...... Kristen Arends

#### **WORSHIP STAFF**

Director of Music...... Trevor DuPey

Director of Worship Technology...... Jarod Griswold

Bell Choir Director...... Jim Knutson

Pianist ...... Luke Thering

V.I.P. Director...... Brittany Thummel (Jan)

Interim V.I.P. Director...... Trevor DuPey (Aug-Dec)

Children's Choir Director...... Maria Higgins (Aug-Dec)

#### **OFFICE STAFF**

Office Manager...... Jennifer Jones

Administrative Assistant...... Carol Robertson

#### MAINTENANCE STAFF

Building Maintenance Coordinator...... Dane Melby

Kitchen Coordinator...... Roxanna Flaten (Jan-Jun)



### **VISION BOARD**



Adam Hatfield (President)
Karl Green (Vice President)
Michelle Wanders (Secretary)
Lois Oliver (Treasurer)

Emily Farmer Greg Fenton Kathy Hageseth Kaitlyn Hamann David Seiffert

#### LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

Five Big Rocks

DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL: Julie Hatfield, Anna Mueller

EVANGELISM COUNCIL: Kirsten Gabriel, Kari Heckman, Maddie Sweeney, Mary Lea Yeomans, Pastor Becky Goche

FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL: Vicki & Mark Hatleli, Bonnie Martin, Carol Robertson, Kristen Arends

MINISTRY COUNCIL: Mary Fitzpatrick, Sue Johnson, Mike Schnitzius, Mary Sween, Bob & Kathy Weeks, Irene TenEyck, Pastor Becky Goche

WORSHIP COUNCIL: Denise Strudthoff (chair), Kathy Hageseth, Eddie Kim, David Seiffert, Cathy Walth, Trevor DuPey, Pastor Becky Goche, Pastor Mark Kvale

#### **STABILITY TRIANGLE**

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Bill Newburg (chair), Lois Oliver (Treasurer), Scott Engebretson, Howard Mills, Paul Moe, Larry Vangen, Jeff Wildt, Pastor Mark Kvale

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Craig Ubbelohde (chair), Tom Barth, Chris Burman, Jeff Jackson, Vicki Markussen, David Strudthoff, Lisa Weston, Pastor Mark Kvale

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Mark Flaten (chair), Mike Buncak, Ivan Fercho, Chuck Gustafson, Howard Mills, Dennis Naumann, Tom Nigon, Pastor Mark Kvale, Dane Melby

#### OTHER COMMITTEES

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: Adam Hatfield (chair), Chris Dreves, Sarah Herath, Tom Monson, Lois Oliver, Pastor Mark Kvale

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Adam Hatfield (chair), Karl Green, Michelle Wanders, Lois Oliver, Pastor Mark Kvale

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Howard Mills (chair), Joan Allen, Terri Johnson, Heidi Morris, Mary Sween, Pastor Mark Kvale

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Joan Allen (chair), Tim Durtsche, Denise Ganey, Lois Oliver, Joyce Wichelt, Pastor Mark Kvale

YOUTH STEERING COMMITTEE: Laura Eber (chair), Piper Amundson, Kristen Arends, Bethany Eber, David Eber, Marcus Eber, Avery Farmer, Emily Farmer, Charlie Martin, Justice Miller, Alayna Trushenski, Genny Trushenski



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### ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES



Karl Green called the meeting to order at 12 p.m. on Sunday, February 13, 2022.

#### **Devotions - Pastor Mark Kvale**

#### Approval of Minutes from 2021 Congregational Meetings

Motion (Brad Quarberg), second (Pamela Strittmater). Motion carried.

#### **Elections**

#### Vision Board

Karl Green, Kaitlyn Hammond, and Adam Hatfield on the ball for three-year Vision Board terms (Karl and Adam second term). No other nominees received from those attending the meeting. Vision Board members elected by majority vote on paper ballot.

#### Synod Assembly

What is expected of a nominee? - Attend a pre-assembly caucus May 1; attend the three-day assembly. Floor nominations taken:

- Pamela Strittmater
- Becky Strittmater
- Maddie Sweeney
- Joan Allen
- Bob Weeks (Kathy Weeks is willing to serve as an alternate)

Synod Assembly attendees elected by majority vote on paper ballot.

#### Sugar Creek Bible Camp Annual Meeting Representatives

Pastor Kvale, Pastor Becky, John Cleveland

#### Pastor's Reports

\*Reference pages 6, 7, 8 of the 2021 annual report for Pastor Becky Goche and Pastor Glen Bickford's reports. Pastor Kvale offered gratitude for the warm welcome and for ELC staff and their abilities; Faith, Worship, Community will be his focus.

#### **Constitutional Amendment**

C10.05 - voting by proxy or absentee ballot: Proposal would allow voting by electronic or submitted ballot

Process: Would need to be discussed at two annual meetings and then a congregational vote

- -Discussion: Should there be a consideration of a full review/edits of the constitution?
- -Point of interest: Feb. 28 Workshop being held through ELCA (Zoom meeting)
- -Discussion: Assemble a committee to review the voting proposal and review constitution in full?

Motion (Mike Schnitzius) and second (Lois Oliver) for Vision Board to establish constitution committee to review and propose changes for the 2023 annual meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Financial Report-Lois Oliver

\*Reference pages 24 of the annual report \$46,145 net gain for 2021; Stewardship: Giving dropped ~\$144,000; PPP Grant: ~\$83,000

#### 2022 Budget Proposal - Bill Newburg and Lois Oliver

Proposed budget deficit of \$99,382. Proposal to allow Vision Board to access up to \$100,000, if needed, from the Endowment Fund in 2022. Motion (John Cleveland), second (Mike Schnitzius). Motion carried unanimously.

### Lord's Prayer

Adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Adam Hatfield



## **SENIOR PASTOR**



"Come and See the works of The Lord" was this year's theme for our Stewardship drive. The text is from Psalm 46; the psalm Martin Luther used as the basis of his great hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." As we end this year of 2022 and look forward to what God has in store for us at English Lutheran Church, I find myself drawn to these words of promise from a God who indeed is working among us and through us in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

This annual report marks the end of my first year of ministry and the beginning of my second year as Senior Pastor, serving alongside all of you as we follow Jesus Christ. And I am so thankful and blessed to be part of this amazing ministry!

A lot has happened this past year; some hard things and some wondrous things. We have said goodbye to faithful members, who have died and are now experiencing life forever in the presence of Jesus. We have welcomed new members into the body of Christ; in baptism, in the affirmation of baptism, and welcoming new siblings in Christ who have found a faith home among us at ELC.

And, it has been a year of other significant transitions, especially among the staff of English Lutheran Church. This past year has been marked by the leaving of four of our staff: Roxie Flaten (Kitchen Coordinator), Irene TenEyck (Director of Caring Ministries), Niki Pohnl (Director of Discipleship), and Kristen Arends (Director of Youth and Family Ministries).

I am so grateful for their good work among us. They have been and continue to be a gift to all of us at English Lutheran Church. I say this because each one of these siblings in Christ have made our continuing ministry possible. They have ended their ministry well, and set us up to be a viable community of faith moving forward. Roxie, Irene, Niki, Kristen; on behalf of all of us at ELC, thank you!

I am also grateful for the amazing staff at English Lutheran Church. I thank God every day for dedication, abilities and skills, and witness of Pastor Becky Goche, Trevor DuPey, Jennifer Jones, Dane Melby, Carol Robertson, Jarod Griswold, and the latest addition to our team, Maria Higgins, who serves as Children's Music Director.

I thank God for the leadership teams of English: The Vision Board, and the Discipleship, Evangelism, Fellowship, Stewardship, Ministry Council, Property, Finance, Personnel, Youth Steering Committee, and Worship Council. Dear friends, thank you for the fun, skilled, caring leadership you provide in this congregation.

It has been a good, challenging, hard, wondrous year. And now, we look forward to what God has in store for us.

In addressing the gaps in the staff leadership, we are moving ahead with some exciting opportunities. With the departure of our Director of Discipleship and Director of Youth and Family Ministry, a team of leaders have created two positions:

Director of Faith Formation: This is a full-time position that will work primarily with our youth, grades 7-high school and their families, as well as young adults. This position has been listed and we are waiting and praying for the right person to apply and begin their ministry with us.

Children's Ministry Coordinator: This position is 15 hours per week and will work with our children, birth through 6<sup>th</sup> grade; coordinating Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and nursery care.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC): English Lutheran has begun the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We are working towards being a fully welcoming community of faith, where racism, sexism, ageism, able-ism, heterosexim, homophobia, and so many other 'isms' that work towards exclusion, have no place in the ministry we are part of as followers of Jesus. We have begun well and will be continuing the work in this coming year. I thank God for the leaders in our congregation is this important ministry.

The psalmist calls us to "Come and See the works of the Lord." As important and lifegiving as it is to gather, to come to ELC to see what God is up to, it is even more important that we go, leave the confines of these four walls, and go out into our communities and world and expect to find Jesus there. May this coming year provide us at ELC to experience Jesus wherever we are called.

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone the glory)

Pastor Mark Kvale Senior Pastor



### **ASSOCIATE PASTOR**



<u>Transitions:</u> The year 2022 began with the transition from Interim Senior Pastor Glen Bickford whose last day was January 16, 2022, to new Senior Pastor Mark Kvale who began on January 24, 2022. Staffing transitions continued through the year with the resignations of people who I directly supervised, including Irene TenEyck, the Director of Caring Ministries, whose last day was July 31, 2022, and Kristen Arends, the

Director of Youth and Family Ministries whose last day was January 31, 2023. Kristen had taken on many additional roles including children's ministries following the resignation of Niki Pohnl, the Director of Discipleship in June, 2022.

<u>Pastoral Care:</u> Following Irene's resignation, I took over some of her roles including the facilitation of the Cancer Support Group and coordinating the sending of grief materials. This Stephen Ministries resource includes a series of four books which are sent to people over the course of one year, following the death of their loved one. In 2022, 11 families were reached through this ministry.

#### Other acts of pastoral care:

- Presided at seven people's baptisms.
- Presided at seven people's funerals, memorials or graveside services, including one person who had been a member of the former St. Paul's Lutheran Church, but due to her age and health, did not have a new church home.
- Presided at three weddings, including pre-marriage counseling with the couples.
- Visited numerous members and their families in the hospital, skilled care facilities, assisted living facilities, and their homes during times of illness, impending death, and simply trying to stay connected with those who are no longer able to participate in the life of this congregation in person.

ELC's Reopening Team held its last formal meeting on November 1, 2022. This team first began meeting in October, 2020. Members were tasked to offer their professional insight and guidance to help minimize the risks of Covid as people began gathering again in person at church in as safe a manner as possible. This group has been moved to an ad hoc status, and will continue to monitor and be cognizant of Covid and its many variants that continue to be with us. Members of the Reopening Team included: David Bleidorn, Mark Flaten, Karl Green, Jennifer Jones, Mary Mueller, Niki Pohnl, Brenda Rooney, and Pastors Mark Kvale and Becky Goche.

I am grateful that God has surrounded me with such a creative, passionate and dedicated team of people whom I get to work with every day. Thank you Kristen Arends, Trevor DuPey, Jarod Griswold, Maria Higgins, Jennifer Jones, Pastor Mark Kvale, Dane Melby, and Carol Robertson for all you do! It is a joy to serve with you!

And I am grateful to be your Pastor. Thank you for walking and serving with me as we join in God's mission to the world through English Lutheran. To God be all the glory!

Peace and All Good Pastor Becky Goche



## DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL



The by-laws in the constitution of English Lutheran Church state that the mission of the Discipleship council is to equip the saints for the building up of the body of Christ through faith practices: prayer, study, worship, invitation, encouragement, service, and giving. . . providing all baptized members, friends, and visitors opportunities to grow in faith and discipleship through education, nurture and life-long learning.

This past year has brought many opportunities for members of English Lutheran Church to grow in faith; whether parents of newly baptized children, junior high students getting ready to make public affirmation of their baptisms, or adults digging into Bible study; the discipleship council works to invite all people of all ages into a life of following Jesus.

Some highlights from this past year:

- Fourteen children were baptized.
- Third grade Sunday School students were presented with bibles.
- Twelve children took part in the Lord's Supper for the first time.
- Nineteen ninth-grade students publicly affirmed their baptism.

Sunday School has experienced a new start after the time of pandemic. We are blessed with caring teachers and families who are learning about God and growing in faith. Joining us this year is Maria Higgins, the new Children's Music Director.

Vacation Bible School: this past summer kids were able to come to ELC for Vacation Bible School, learning, having fun, and growing in faith! "Christlers" is a learning opportunity for children who are not in confirmation to learn and have fun on Wednesday evenings. We have seen this ministry continue to grow.

Growing in faith is not just for children but for children of God of all ages. The Wednesday night small group bible study has become well-established. Likewise, on Thursdays, you will find the Seekers study group meeting in the morning and a class, taught by Pastor Dennis Johnson, gathering in the evening to learn about the Gospel of John or now the parables of Jesus.

In 2023, we hope to offer even more life-long learning opportunities for all of the members of English Lutheran to grow in faith as we follow Jesus.



### **EVANGELISM COUNCIL**



Evangelism Council Members: Kirsten Gabriel, Kari Heckman, Maddie Sweeney, Mary Lea Yeoman, and Pastor Becky Goche

#### **Events:**

- We held the outdoor River Service at 10:45 am at Copeland Park on Sunday, August 28. This was the only one worship service on Sunday; it was also livestreamed. Trinity Lutheran Church's members were invited and their pastor, Pastor Phil Waselik, helped preside at the service. Several Worship Council members participated in the service, including Cathy Walth who preached. Following the worship service, there were activities for young people and a catered meal of chicken and all the fixings was served by "Serves You Right." One hundred and twenty-five people attended.
- The Evangelism Council and RIC Team participated in "Pride in the Park" on Saturday, September 10. Due to inclement weather, the event was moved from Riverside Park to Logan High School's gymnasium. This venue was nice as

vendors, displays, etc. were in all the same space rather than spread out across the park. Hundreds of visitors attended the event. The booth for ELC included several items for people to pick up. In addition, people had a chance to win an ELC mug in the game called "Cup of Blessing," in which participants needed to throw or bounce a ping pong ball into a mug in order to win.

- There was no Block Party this year. Instead, the congregation participated in "God's Work, Our Hands" on the weekend of September 10 and 11, with service projects arranged by the Ministry Council. This weekend also was Rally Weekend, i.e. the kick-off of Sunday school.
- The annual "Blessing of the Animals" service (the commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi) was held on Sunday, October 2 at 1:00 pm on the outdoor patio under the bell tower. There were treats for dogs and cats. New this year was an opportunity for people to have their picture taken with their pet by Jarod Griswold. Jennifer Jones then used these photos to create commemorative photo postcards for all who attended. Thirty-four people and their pets attended.

#### **Community Conversations:**

In 2022, the Evangelism Council did not oversee the monthly "Community Conversations" program. This program was available online only for the months of January through March. It returned to in-person at ELC for the April, October and November programs (no programs in the summer months). Meals were not prepared and participants were welcome to bring a brown bag lunch. This event is now coordinated by the Interfaith Leaders Coalition, chaired by Rabbi Brian Serle from the Congregation Sons of Abraham and Pastor Mark Kvale of ELC.

#### **New Members:**

Three new member and faith formation classes were held on February 6, May 11 and August 24. Nineteen families (40 people) were received during the year. The Evangelism Council gave each family a small gift featuring an ELC mug and assorted chocolates. The Council also begun re-evaluating the new member class model that ELC has been using for the past many years to determine if it is still effective.



### FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL



In 2022, after the many challenges and changes of post-pandemic life the Fellowship Council kept things fairly simple. We focused on coffee hour with a few special events added throughout the year. Coffee hour is kept delicious by our wonderful cookie providers and Bean Juice Coffee! We are so glad to be getting our coffee from a local, family owned business here in La Crosse.

The Fellowship Council provided two special meals this year. We hosted a welcome to spring lunch in conjunction with the Discipleship Council on Milestone Sunday and we also provided the meal, games, and conversation cards for after the River Service worship.

We also introduced a new event led by Pastor Becky and her wife, Cheryl. We invited folks out for a bird watching walk around the marsh. Over 20 people attended despite very cold, wet weather and we learned a lot! It was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy God's creation and time with one another.

In 2023, we would like to focus on adding active members to our council. We know that members of English Lutheran are starting to look for more ways to be together, including fun events and bringing back book studies. If you have an idea, the Fellowship Council encourages you to make it happen!

We look forward to working with and for all the members of English Lutheran to provide opportunities to grow and connect with each other in faith and friendship.

Respectfully submitted, Fellowship Council

Fellowship Council Members: Vicki and Mark Hatleli, Bonnie Martin, Carol Robertson, and Kristen Arends



## MINISTRY COUNCIL



The mission of the Ministry Council is to identify needs and provide opportunities for ELC members to serve our neighbors, and then to connect the work we do here in our church, community and beyond with our faith in God. Following is a summary of our work for 2022.

Pastor Becky took over as staff liaison for Ministry Council as Irene TenEyck left her position at ELC in July. We are grateful for Irene's leadership and will miss her. We welcomed Beth Twiton onto the Council.

Our Mission Interpreter Team of Sue Johnson and Mike Schnitzius continue to connect our work and financial support to that of the synod and the larger church through bulletin boards and Ministry Moments in the E-Voice.

There was no Lenten Project this year because of the drive to complete the piano fund.

Sunshine Ministry under the leadership of Lisa Weston was able to provide seven meals to four member families during times of need.

Under the leadership of Karen and Bill Newburg, we continue to deliver Mobile Meals (Route #3) for the first 15 days of each month.

Seven members from ELC volunteered regularly at Sugar Creek Bible Camp throughout the year, doing maintenance jobs, lawn/garden care, mowing, wood splitting, etc. ELC adults and youth did clean up, painting, and repairs on the Seeker Cabins at Sugar Creek in spring.

ELC Quilters continued to make beautiful quilts and donated 200 quilts to a variety of organizations including: 26 to Bethany Homes, 12 to graduating high school seniors, 132 to Lutheran World Relief, 10 to Boys & Girls Club, 10 to New Horizon's Women's Shelter, 2 to Sugar Creek Bible Auction, and 8 for other needs.

Through donations and five Thrivent Action Grants, we filled and deliver 858 school kits to Lutheran World Relief. The kits were assembled on August 21st with about 60

ELC members helping. This year the Ministry Council provided the cord for the backpacks.

Donations of non-perishable food to WAFTER continues with the emphasis on donating the first Sunday of each month, and for Packers vs Vikings games. Over 2,000 pounds were collected this year. Lou Wuench retired from delivering these items to Wafer after 19 years of service.

We continue to help provide meals and volunteers at the Warming Center, Econo-Lodge, and Houska Park.

In May, under the leadership of Mary Fitzpatrick, a Mental Health Workshop was held which included a presentation by Pastor Mark Shaw. Materials and resources were made available.

Because the Block Party was dropped this year, we participated in ELCA's God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. Service projects were available and ELC members were invited to adopt a Sunday School or confirmation class.

We have committed to support Trinity Lutheran's Monday Ministries by providing food and workers for four of their Monday meals, offering donation bins at ELC, and by providing regular volunteers on Mondays.

Ministries that were supported include donations to the La Crosse Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Coulee Region Hunger Walk, Jail Ministry, Hope Restores, donations to New Horizons, Our Savior's Women's Clothes Closet, and others.

The 2022 Giving Tree featured donations going to ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts, and gifts donated to two Emerson Elementary families, two Hope Restores families, and two Hope Restores teens. A total of \$1,697 was given to support ELCA Good Gifts.

Ministry Council Members: Pastor Becky Goche, Sue Johnson, Mary Fitzpatrick, Mary Sween, Mike Schnitzius, Beth Twiton, Bob & Kathy Weeks



## WORSHIP COUNCIL



Welcome back! After almost two years of online worship, the Worship Council is grateful that we can now join together face-to-face for services and fellowship. We're thrilled that attendance at all three of our weekend services have seen steady increases almost reaching our pre-COVID numbers. We will continue to offer an online option as attendance there has been consistent viewers, including long-distance viewers have become new regulars at our worship services.

In the midst of the pandemic, we began a fundraising drive for our new Yamaha piano. We knew that the support from the congregation would be great, and it was! All necessary funds were raised by the time the piano was delivered. Thank you!

Fantastic, unique music and worship experiences at English are staples. This year, the bluegrass band Coulee Creek performed twice, the La Crosse Brass Quintet enhanced our worship three times, and a jazz quintet led by Jon Ailabouni livened the sanctuary

in November. The VIP Choir performs once per month and is now nearing 25 members! The English Ringers are back in full swing as well. Maria Higgins was hired to lead the youth choir, and we were entertained by their performances. Thanks to all of those who share their musical gifts to boost the spiritual experience of worship!

In addition to our regular three services each week, English also held special services throughout the year. On the first and third Saturdays of the month in nicer weather, worship was held outside in the courtyard. Our annual River Service at Copeland Park is always a popular event, and this year an added bonus was the participation of members of Trinity Lutheran. In early December, we had a solace service which aimed to sooth attendees at a time of year that is always hectic and often unpleasant for some. The St. Francis of Assisi pet blessing service, held in the fall, is much anticipated by all pet owners and lovers, and we're glad that we can include God's furry, feathery, and scaly creatures in our worship experience as well.

Worship services require lots of volunteers to read, serve communion, attend to the altar, usher, and to just plain organize. To that end, we've begun trainings for people who are interested in serving but who aren't sure how to do so. In October, ushers were trained; and in the new year, we will continue with trainings for Altar Ministry volunteers.

As you may recall, Joyce Abernathy, a local fiber artist, created the two hangings located behind the altar as well as the large wall banner on the south wall of the sanctuary. The Worship Council has commissioned Joyce to create liturgical year banners that will hang near the choir area.

Denise Strudthoff, Chair

Members: Denise Strudthoff, Kathy Hageseth, Eddie Kim, Cathy Walth, Trevor DuPey, Pastor Becky Goche, Pastor Mark Kvale



### YOUTH & FAMILY STEERING



Into the unknown and back to life as usual for our young people at English Lutheran. In January 2022, we were still experiencing disruptions in our ministry and lives due to Covid-19. As the months went on we got back to "normal" and with that ALL other aspects of young people's lives like school, sports, and jobs went back to full swing too. Our Youth Steering Committee added new members (student and adult) this fall who have been excellent idea generators and leaders.

#### We celebrate!

- Youth Nights We've been able to separate our youth nights into middle school and high school events again because of active youth participation in both age groups.
- **Relationships** The ways in which relationships are building across generations is amazing. Particularly in the intergenerational pen-pal luncheon that was hosted in conjunction with the Ministry Council.
- Youth Leadership The leadership skills of our young people as they led Bethlehem tours and acted in the cast was outstanding. Young people also led at Vacation Bible School and in worship.

- **Serving Together** We went to Sugar Creek for a work day, provided a meal for the warming center, and packed meals at iFeed.
- P.A.C.K. Nights These events have continued to be a great way to connect our younger students to youth ministry at ELC. Building relationships at this age helps to propel students into strong relationships at Confirmation and beyond.
- **Rebound Youth Event** With the cancellation of the ELCA Youth Gathering, we participated in a Tri-Synod Youth Event which will continue to occur in nongathering years.
- Trunk or Treat Lots of help inside with games, eight trunks, and about 30 kids all made our trunk or treat event a spooky good time! We love this tradition
- Burrito Breakfasts It has been such a joy to be serving and eating burritos again on Sunday mornings. The cooking team led by Jeff Fennie and Paul Bjornstad make great partners with our young people led by Laura Eber.

#### In 2023, we look forward to...

- Hosting a high school and middle school retreat.
- A mission trip of some kind!
- The hopeful return of Sunday morning programming for students in grades 7-12.
- Hosting additional family events like Trunk or Treat on a seasonal basis.

Your partner in Christ, Kristen Arends, Director of Youth & Family Ministry

**Youth Steering Committee Members:** Laura Eber (chair), Piper Amundson, Kristen Arends, Bethany Eber, David Eber, Marcus Eber, Avery Farmer, Emily Farmer, Charlie Martin, Justice Miller, Alayna Trushenski, Genny Trushenski



### **STEWARDSHIP**



"Come and See the Works of the Lord" was the theme of this year's Stewardship Appeal. This phrase is taken from Psalm 46, the psalm Martin Luther used for the basis of his great hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God."

Dear members of English Lutheran, thank you for a successful appeal! Your generosity in giving of yourselves, both financially and with gifts of abilities and time, allows all of us to live faithful lives as we seek God and give God thanks for all that God does in Jesus Christ.

Beginning in October and culminating on Christ the King Sunday, we learned, through letters, bulletin inserts, e-voice and newsletter articles about the great gift of living lives of generosity in response to God's grace. And then on Christ the King Sunday, we prayerfully responded by completing an intention of giving card for the coming year.

As of January 19; 202 families completed intention of giving cards for \$590,862; an increase of almost \$30,000 more than last year! Thanks be to God and to all of you!

Here are our stewardship goals for this coming year:

-Increase the number of members completing intention of giving cards

- -Increasing opportunities for year-round stewardship learning opportunities
- -Build an even stronger stewardship ministry team

Please consider being part of this exciting ministry. If you would like to help the members of English Lutheran continue to grow in stewardship, contact Pastor Mark Kvale.

Every day, as members of English Lutheran, we are given the great gift of seeing what God is up to in our world as we respond to Jesus' call to follow him and serve God's people and creation. Thanks be to God! And thank you for your faithfulness.

On behalf of the Stewardship Ministry Team, Pastor Mark Kvale



This year the Property Committee sponsored a number of projects for maintenance and repair to the building and grounds. Thanks to all those who managed and/or participated in these projects.

#### Church Property:

- Completed the replacement of the HVAC systems in both the Sanctuary and Narthex
- Installed PVC pipe lining in part of the existing sewer pipes located in the north wing of Stoffel Hall
- Purchased and installed counter tops in order to rearrange storage areas in the kitchen
- Contracted to have the skylights in both the Sanctuary and Narthex replaced in
- Repaired a number of water system problems due to age and the function of the boilers

#### Rental House:

- Replaced a number of windows and window frames
- Installed four (4) window air conditioners
- Replaced house water heater
- Rebuilt rear entrance outside steps/railing

Rick Heiden deserves special recognition for his leadership role in all the projects relating to HVAC. Rick provided specifications, designed, sought out contractors, and provided overall Project Management. Kathy Slindee has spent countless hours, with her expertise, to make sure all controls for the systems are totally operative.

Also, we recognize the many members of the congregation who volunteered during this year to help with the maintenance of building and grounds - A JOB WELL DONE!!

Mark Flaten, our Committee Chair, deserves special thanks for his leadership and individual work, devoting many hours for the upkeep of the facilities. Pete Bemis, continues as our consultant and workman for everything outside.

Please help us recognize Dane Melby, Building Maintenance Coordinator, for all the effort he gives to the upkeep of our facility and operations running smoothly!

In recent years, we have lost Committee members, mainly due to moving from the area. We have a need for members who have an interest in maintaining our church property. This past year we welcome Tom Nigon as a member of our Committee. Please contact the church office and they will arrange for a follow-up call.

Respectfully submitted, Chuck Gustafson; Committee Members: Mark Flaten (chair), Mike Buncak, Ivan Fercho, Chuck Gustafson, Dane Melby, Howard Mills, Dennis Naumann, Tom Nigon, and Pastor Mark Kvale



2022 was a busy year for the library. The biggest project was to take inventory of our book collection and weed out old and little used books. The weeded books were offered free to the congregation and those that were left were given to the La Crosse Jail Ministry, The Good Steward, or used to supply our Little Free Library.

New books were ordered this past fall and will be revealed in a display in the Fellowship Hallway in January/February. Watch for the display and be ready for some great reading. A self-checkout system will be used.

The library is always available for checking out books when the church is open. If a librarian is not on duty, there is an easy self-check system that can be used. All church members are encouraged to stop in and check out a book or two. Also, the Sunday School classes are scheduled periodically to visit the library, giving the students an opportunity to check out books and DVD's.

We wish to thank all contributors who gave books, DVD's, and other materials this past year, as they help sustain the growth of your church library. The library staff also appreciates your suggestions for new books and materials and continues to use the library policy regarding your book donations.

Chair: Nancy Mills; Librarians: Christina Fenton, Carmen Gustafson, Barb Myers, Karen Newburg, Sharon Odahl, Vivian Storm, Kathy Weeks

ELC Library Financial Report for 2022					
Balance as of 1/1/22	\$5,617.11				
includes CD and interest	619.88				
and checkbook balance	4,997.23				
Income:	0.00				
Expenses:					
Books and DVD's	949.26				
Supplies	132.38				
ResourceMate contract	178.00				
Total Expenses	\$1,259.64				
Balance as of 12/31/22	\$4,359.78				
includes CD and interest	622.19				
and checkbook balance	\$3, <i>737</i> .59				



### ENDOWMENT FUND



The Endowment Fund Committee met on January 12, 2023 and voted to recommend to the Vision Board and congregation that the following grants be made in 2023:

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1)	LWF Augusta Victoria Hospital	\$1,500.00
2)	ELCA World Hunger	\$2,500.00
3)	Lutheran World Relief	\$2,000.00
	Sub-Total	\$6,000.00

#### **B.** Domestic Mission:

1)	Hope Restores Corporation	\$2,000.00
2)	WINN (What I Need Now)	\$2,000.00
3)	Mobile Meals of La Crosse	\$1,000.00
4)	WAFER	\$3,000.00
5)	The Exchange	\$1,500.00
6)	Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$2,000.00
7)	Trinity Lutheran Church	\$2,000.00
8)	Black Student Leaders Girls Group	\$1,400.00
	Sub-Total	\$14,900.00

GRAND TOTAL \$20,900.00

Thank you for past contributions and continued future support. Because of those contributions, we can help many wonderful missions both here in La Crosse and globally. If you want information on how to contribute to the Endowment Fund, contact a committee member: Adam Hatfield (chair), Chris Dreves, Sarah Herath, Tom Monson, Lois Oliver and Pastor Mark Kvale.

### Endowment Fund Activity for the Year Ending December 31, 2022:

Beginning Balance January 1, 2022 \$	528,285.34
Investment Activity: Contributions Received Realized & Unrealized Gains (Losses)	25.00 (69,143.90)
Distributions made in 2022	(20,707.10)
Other Expenses: Administrative Service Charges	(4,652.68)

### Ending Balance December 31, 2022 \$433,806.66

The Bible Fund is a subset of the Endowment Fund. Beginning year balance was \$16,669.42 and end of the year balance was \$13,042.13. We distributed Bibles to  $3^{rd}$  Graders and  $7^{th}$  Graders in 2022. The total cost was \$1,207.10.

Note: The range of distributions per Endowment Fund documents fall between 3-6% of year end market value. The minimum Endowment Fund balance is \$300,000. No distributions are allowed if the balance is below \$300,000. Furthermore, distributions may not take the fund balance below \$300,000.



## BEQUEST FUND



BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021 \$45,494.33
INTEREST RECEIVED 897.13
BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021 \$46,391.46

There were no contributions received designated for the Bequest Fund during 2021; nor were there any disbursements. There is no designated Bequest Fund committee; however, any disbursement there from requires the approval of the Senior Pastor and the Vision Board.



### MEMORIAL COMMITTEE



The Memorial Fund Committee members are: Howard Mills (chair) Joan Allen, Terri Johnson, Heidi Morris, Mary Sween, and Pastor Mark Kvale.

During 2022, memorial gifts were received for the following individuals: Betty Bailey, Alice Sather, Marge Milliren, Thelma Overholt, Tracy Kagel, Terrance Krueger, Arla Redman, Ron Rogers, Mary Key, Delores Boehlke, Ron McKelvey, Terry Welch, Glen Peterson, MaryLea Yeomans, Barbara Berg, Peter Allen, Joan Roberts, Willard & Irene Sill, and Cornelius & Beverly Miller.

Honorarium gifts were received for the following individuals: Rev. Donald Johnson, Kathy Weeks, Finn Napierala, and Marla Engbloom.

Disbursements from the fund were for storage containers for archive items, quilting supplies, Stephen Ministries, purchase the piano, tables for the fellowship hall, Easter and Christmas flowers.

### **ELC Memorial Committee Financial Report for 2022**

Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$57,580.94
Undesignated	\$24,446.69
Designated	\$33,134.25
Balance as of December 31, 2021	\$78,379.29



## FINANCE COMMITTEE



The Finance Committee monitored the financial needs of the congregation during 2022. This included Synodical and other benevolence commitments as well as administrative, operating, and programmatic funds and the insurance needs of the congregation. The committee is also responsible for preparing the annual General Fund budget and reporting on receipts and expenditures to the congregation during the year.

During 2022, as the COVID-19 pandemic strengthened and waned we celebrated worship in a variety of ways. The General Fund had a shortfall during 2022. Receipts

were less than our budgeted amount and less than 2021 actual receipts. Disbursements were less than budgeted but greater than 2021 actual expenses. It will be important to control expenses during 2023 and encourage generous giving throughout the year.

As the building ages (over 60 years now for the original Stoffel Hall built in 1961!), repairs and maintenance become imperative. In 1990, the new sanctuary was built to replace the worship space at 16<sup>th</sup> and Cass Streets. In 2012, the open courtyard was filled in to create the Fellowship Hall, a new kitchen, and new classroom spaces on the west end of the building.

In 2018, a mortgage was secured from MIF for \$258,000 to cover new sanctuary and narthex carpeting, office remodeling, some new air conditioning equipment, and roof replacement. By the end of 2021 the mortgage was down to \$220,000.

At the beginning of 2022, it was determined that much of the HVAC system and technology control systems were obsolete and needed to be replaced. Additional funds were borrowed from MIF creating a consolidated mortgage balance of \$374,000. We are paying \$2,127 from the General Fund per month at an interest rate of 3.875%. The mortgage balance at the end of 2022 is \$ 346,900.

More repairs and maintenance will be needed in 2023, but it is hoped that these projects can be paid for using existing church funds.

Thanks to Dave and Judi Konop and Dennis and Lois Peterson for their faithful counting services during 2021 and 2022.

May 2023 be a year of recovery with a return to a more normal congregational life with growth in faith and service for all. Thank you for your prayers and the contributions of your time, talents, and treasure.

Finance Committee: Scott Engebretson, Howard Mills, Paul Moe, Bill Newburg (chair), Lois Oliver (congregational treasurer), Jeff Wildt, and Larry Vangen



## TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORTS



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2,614.00

### BALANCE SHEET - as of December 31, 2022

л	-	•	_	+-

102 General Fund	16,141.84
111 Communion Fund	1,870.17
131 Soell House Rental Property	25,238.81
155 Thrivent Choice Gifts	2,312.43
158 Fellowship Trips & Tours	2,619.83
Total 102 General Fund	

48,183.08 120 Memorial Fund Checking 36,074.51 152 Building Fund 8,274.90

Certificates of Deposit

128 Memorial Fund CD #30063278 21,506.43 129 MIF CD & Checking 616.29 163 Bequest #30062526 25.719.15 164 Bequest #30060650 20,672.31

Total Certificates of Deposit 68,514.18 141 Bethlehem Event 17,661.41 150 Endowment Fund 433.806.66 151 Building Fund Investments 137,742.10

Total Bank 750,256.84

Fixed Assets

318,823.09 180 Soell House

**Buildings** 

182 Stoffel Hall 1,614,139.56 183 Church 1,636,018.54 184 Building Improvement 3,680,516.11

**Total Buildings** 6,930,674.21

185 Maintenance Equipment 180,532.97 186 Piano 66,712.00 187 Organ 75,390.00

Total 185 Maintenance Equipment 322,634.97 181 Land 315.822.01 189 Accumulated Depreciation -3,570,572.74

**Total Fixed Assets** 4,317,381.54

**Total Assets** 5,067,638.38

#### Liabilities

#### Other Current Liabilities

Payroll Withholding & Taxes 203 Wisconsin Withholding Tax 1,133.40

Total Payroll Withholding & Taxes 1,133,40

227 Security Deposits for Soell House 228 Other Current Liabilitites

210 Senior Pastor Sabbatical Set Aside 1,150.00 211 Associate Pastor Sabbatical Set Asid 6,229.15 212 Synod Benevolence 7,791.72 216 Prepaid Pledges 2024 5,400.00 12,900.00 221 Prepaid Pledges 2023

Total 228 Other Current Liabilitites 33,470.87 37,218.27

Total Other Current Liabilities

### BALANCE SHEET (continued) - as of December 31, 2022

Long Term Liabilities

230 MIF Mortgage 346,914.88

Total Long Term Liabilities 346,914.88

Total Liabilities 384,133.15

Net Assets

Unrestricted

 Building Fund
 1,943,083.59

 General Fund
 2,596,420.21

 Memorial Fund
 144,001.43

Total Unrestricted 4,683,505.23

Total Net Assets 4,683,505.23

### CONSOLODATING INCOME STATEMENT - as of December 31, 2022

English Lutheran Church												
Consolidating Income Statement								As of Decem	ber 31, 2022 - FI	NAL		
and Cash/Liabilities Summary												
Year 2022		Cash	Amortization	Change in	Total	Net	Checking	Cert of		Total		Net C
	Revenue	Expenses	Depreciation	Value	Expenses	Income (Loss)	Account	Deposit	Investments	Cash	Liabilities	Ass
General Fund	711,767	788,055			788,055	(76,288)	16,142			16,142	(34,604)	(1
Communion Fund	10,005	9,859			9,859	146	1,870			1,870		
Rental Property	24,176	18,991			18,991	5,185	25,239			25,239	(2,614)	2
Hungry Jar	2,600	2,600			2,600	0	0			0		
Thrivent Choice	591	750			750	(159)	2,312			2,312		
Fellowship Tours	0	0			0	0	2,620			2,620		
Wedding Fees	2,040	1,135			1,135	905	0			0		
Total River Bank General Fund	751,179	821,391	0	0	821,391	(70,211)	48,183	0	0	48,183	(37,218)	1
Building Fund (Mortgage Reduction)	13,448	4,312	184,196		188,508	(175,060)	8,275	616		8,891	(346,915)	(33
Building Fund (Investments)	0	0		12,803	12,803	(12,803)			137,742	137,742		13
Memorial Fund	9,116	4,654			4,654	4,462	36,075	21,506		57,581		5
Endowment -Trust Point	25	23,360		69,144	92,504	(92,479)			433,807	433,807		43
Bequest Fund	897	0			0	897		46,391		46,391		4
Bethlehem Event	15,732	4,964			4,964	10,769	17,661			17,661		1
Total Funds- General Ledger	790,398	858,681	184,196	81,946	1,124,823	(334,425)	110,194	68,514	571,549	750,257	(384,133)	36
Christian Education	1,580	1,967			1,967	(387)	123			123		
Youth - Scrip Fundraising	42,407	41,573			41,573	834	9,509			9,509		
Global Mission Trips	1,505	65			65	1,440	8,828			8,828		
outh & Family - Mission Trips	2,904	2,026			2,026	878	8,752			8,752		
W-ELCA	602	100			100	502	2,151			2,151		
Library Committee	0	1,260			1,260	(1,260)	3,738	622		4,360		
TOTAL ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH	839,395	905,671	184,196	81.946	1,171,813	(332,419)	143,294	69,136	571,549	783,980	(384,133)	39

#### PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2023

REVENUE	Budget 2022	Actual 12/31/2022	2023 Proposed Budget	2022 Actual vs Budget
Envelope, Electronic, Loose Offerings	779,000	683,969	774,000	(95,031)
Initial & Special Offerings	8,200	27,219	8,150	19,019
Misc: Interest, Building Use, Etc.	1,250	579	750	(671)
TOTAL REVENUE	788,450	711,767	782,900	(76,683)
EXPENSES	07.400	02.425	06.625	4.760
Benevolence	87,188	82,426	86,625	4,762
Personnel Pastoral Staff (Salary, Housing)	119,361	116,110	123,514	3,250
Lay Staff Salary	290,173	251,290	252,057	38,883
Payroll Tax (All Staff)	31,329	27,746	28,731	3,583
Benefits - All Staff	129,211	115,214	121,118	13,997
Finance/Stability Triangle	•	•	•	,
Administration (Vision Board, Conventions & Meetings, Etc.)	3,500	5,362	4,000	(1,862)
Technology, Office Supplies & Equipment, Postage	31,820	13,426	35,375	18,394
Financial Expenses (Envelopes, Bank/Payroll Fees, Etc.)	5,800	8,329	6,500	(2,529)
Utilties (Gas, Electricity, Phone/Internet, Water & Sewer)	36,500	45,650	49,076	(9,150)
Insurance (Property & Workers Comp)	17,000	19,022	21,000	(2,022)
Property Supplies, Maintenance, & Repairs	47,350	25,696	45,680	21,654
Mortgage (Principle & Interest)	21,500	22,183	26,524	(683)
Five Big Rocks				
Discipleship	22,700	15,183	20,545	7,517
Evangelism	7,500	5,758	6,500	1,742
Fellowship	3,900	5,113	3,500	(1,213)
Ministry	4,800	3,226	6,000	1,574
Worship	28,200	26,323	22,020	1,877
TOTAL EXPENSES	887,832	788,055	858,765	99,777
GAIN/LOSS	(99,382)	(76,288)	(75,865)	23,094



### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**



The congregation's Audit Committee met on January 18, 2003 to review the operations of the various funds of the congregation during 2022. Committee members present were Congregation Treasurer Lois Oliver, Jeff Schneider, Jeff Wildt, and Larry Vangen. Also present were Finance Committee chair Bill Newburg and Office Manager Jennifer Jones.

The committee reviewed the operation of the Soell house rental property. Tenant rents were all paid in full during the year, but maintenance, repair and insurance expenses, as well as a PILOT (property taxes) generated a net loss for the property. The Audit and Property Committees would like to discuss the future of the property with the Vision Board during 2023.

The committee also reviewed the cash reserves in church accounts and the value of church assets. All were found to be in good order. The committee also reviewed the year end balances in the General Fund since 2011, the first year of our self- audits. All years were in good order. We have not had to take a line of credit loan since before that time (2011). All years' balances were correct per each year's records.

The budget for 2023 has been approved by the Finance Committee and the Vision Board and will be forwarded to the annual Congregational Meeting for final approval. The Audit Committee determined that all funds were being managed properly and had appropriate safeguards.

Respectfully Submitted, Audit Committee



## MEMBERSHIP & STATISTICS



	<u>Baptized</u>	Confirmed
MEMBERSHIP END OF 2021	1,276	1,033
Members Received in 2022: Child Baptism Adult Baptism Transfers In & Affirmation of Faith Total Members Received in 2022	12 0 <u>37</u> 49	0 0 <u>29</u> 29
Members Removed in 2022: Death Transfers Out *Inactivity & Statistical Adjustment Total Members Removed in 2022	12 13 <u>23</u> 48	12 9 <u>15</u> 36
2022 Confirmation Class		19
MEMBERSHIP END OF 2022	1,277	1,045

\*No statistical adjustments were made in 2022 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### AVERAGE IN PERSON WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 197

Plus many more joining us online through Facebook, YouTube, and our website!



### SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP



Sugar Creek Bible Camp makes a lasting difference for kids, families, and the Church. Programs focus on skills for faith and life to strengthen connections with congregations through fun, Christ-centered adventures. Today's world brings hard new challenges, but God answers in a BIG WAY at Bible camp thanks to your generosity and faithfulness:

#### Summer Bible Camp

**624** Overnight Summer Campers + **82** 1-day "Explorers" + **222** Family Campers! **18 Unique Summer Programs** for grades K-12, and families.

**24 Youth Ministry Summer Staff** + **40 professional leaders volunteering** (pastors, youth leaders, nurses, doctors, and builders) at Bible Camp this past summer.

#### Special Programs led by Sugar Creek

- 4 Weekend youth programs, fun faith-building events
- 4 Family Camp sessions with over 64 families attending
- 19 Adult Programs & Events: craft retreats, bus trips, special events, and more
- 1 Bible study theme by LOM: "Boundless" ~ Ephesians 3:18-19
- 0 (zero!) suspected cases of *Covid-19 transmission* in Sugar Creek programs

#### Meaningful Retreats & Events

- 91 Retreats & Events at Sugar Creek in the "Off" season! (Sept.-May)
  - 2,675 guests at 77 events for Families, Churches, Hobbyists, & Businesses
  - 129 guests at other Christian Youth Retreats at Sugar Creek
  - 734 guests at multiple Outdoor Education Days
  - 60 hard-working supporters at 2 Volunteer Weekend programs
  - 50 special volunteer day events: Volunteer Tuesdays, Mass Mailing, and more
  - 4,174 guest-nights and 7,796 guest-days
  - All 52 Weeks hosting events for guests usually multiple each weekend!

### All are Welcome at Bible Camp

- 350 Summer Bible Campers received program financial aid totaling \$82,280
- +16 Summer Bible Campers received greater-need Camperships totaling \$9,520

Recent Sugar Creek staff currently enrolled at Lutheran Seminaries: 5

**Contact Hours** of intentional Christian Education this year at camp: **54,366**\*

\*conservative estimate

Thank you for YOUR ministry in this sacred place!

SugarCreekBibleCamp.org - 608-734-3113 - camp@SgrCreek.org - ACA Accredited