



WHOLLY DEVOTED

to loving God and our neighbor



Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Annual Report 2023



Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*"Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.
You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus." Luke 2:30-31*

Dear Beloved in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

This message is written in the season of Advent, a season I have loved since I was old enough to know that there were seasons. There is something about this season's mix of melancholy and hope, darkness and light, that resonates with me. Children are central to the stories of Advent and Christmas – both in their preciousness and in their vulnerability. Every parent knows the agonizing mix of hope and fear that we carry for our children. As I write this, there is a devastating war happening in the land where the stories of our faith unfolded. And tragically, this war's devastating cost is landing mostly on children. *"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matt 2:16).* Join me in praying every day for a just peace in the lands of Israel and Palestine and for protection of the children.

As a parent and now grandparent, I know that the most desperate prayers we pray are for our children. When I visit congregation members and leaders across the synod, one deep question is always lurking: "What will our children's and grandchildren's experience of church be?" What I have learned is that making it about our kids means making it about faith in Jesus, plain and simple. We must give up needing our kids' experience of church to be like ours was, and instead pray for and work toward a church where children simply have a deep faith in Jesus Christ and a community of faith that loves them. It's back to basics! Back to basics often involves letting go of cherished traditions, buildings and ways of doing things that may have worked for us, but now only hinder us from focusing on growing our and our children's faith.

So, much of our work this last year has and will continue to focus on how to become a church where a child's faith can grow. This does not mean throwing programs and events at our kids, hoping something sticks. IT MEANS MAKING OUR LIFE TOGETHER ABOUT OUR FAITH IN JESUS and then generously, freely and often, sharing our faith with our children. Jesus-loving adults are the force that shapes the faith of children. This means freeing up communities to expend less energy on "keeping this thing going," and much more on hearing the gospel, praying, dwelling in God's word, serving the neighbor and seeking Jesus in our everyday life.

Hence, this year has been filled with hard and focused work of continuing to build out a robust network of support and accountability for lay ministers who serve in Word and Sacrament ministry under the mentorship of a seminary-trained, ordained pastor. Our process for vitality of smaller member congregations, "Rural Revival," has drawn us deeply into finding right-sized ways of providing word and sacrament ministry tailored to the unique needs of each community. While neither of these efforts look like "youth ministry," they really are because they free people to be more focused on the basics, more focused on following Jesus. ANY church that is focused on following Jesus is a church that is for the children.

So that is my simple appeal to you as you gather for your annual meetings this year. Let's make it all about being Jesus-followers sharing our faith with everyone, starting with our children.

Your Partner in Christ's Mission,

Bishop Bill Tesch

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

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

And also with you.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Amen.

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live;
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

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

arr. Julius Röntgen

Text and music are in the public domain. May be reproduced without restriction.

Wabanica Lutheran Church

2023 Report of the Congregation

Our Mission

Wabanica Lutheran Church:

Is a welcoming family of faith united in Jesus Christ.

We are:

claimed by God's amazing grace,
gathered by the Holy Spirit at the water, Word, bread and wine,
growing together in faith, and
sent with hope to serve in all God's creation through word deed.

Our Vision

Wabanica Lutheran Church:

Is a place where we grow together in faith and fellowship, while serving and proclaiming the Gospel.

Our Core Values

Wabanica Lutheran Church holds these as their "guiding principles":

Honoring Place
Welcoming Everyone
Worshipping
Nurturing Growth
Supporting Family
Affirming Children and Youth
Acknowledging Multi-Generational Gifts
Encouraging Service



President's Newsletter

2024

Greetings

2023 went by way too fast. Pastor Birgitte left us for another call. She will be missed. We were very fortunate to have Calista available to be our S.A.M. (Synod Authorized Minister).

The TV and internet are up and running. We will look into streaming our services and programs in the future.

Our 6 pizza nights this year have led to a total donation of \$5,555 for 6 different nonprofit organizations in our community.

The Quilters have been busy and productive. They have sent many quilts to Pastor Birgitte to aid in her mission in the Bemidji area.

The pickleball players have a stable group of players. We welcome new players.

We are now the most attended church in our parish. Therefore, our percentage of the parish budget has increased to 41%. Our finances are in good shape, but please consider increasing your donation if you can. We encourage automatic payments.

We are blessed with the numbers of young couples and their children attending our church.

Thank you for your generosity.

Many blessings to all.

Roger

**Wabanica Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
February 11, 2024
9:45**

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Devotions/prayer**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Secretary's Report Jan. 22, 2023**
- 5. Financial Reports**
 - A. Treasurer's Report**
 - B. Financial Secretary's Report**
- 6. Reports**
 - A. Pastor's Report**
 - B. Committee Reports**
 - **Buildings and Grounds**
 - **Congregational Life**
 - **CYF Report**
 - **Hospitality and Service**
 - **Outreach Ministry**
 - **Endowment**
- 7. Old Business**
 - A. Cemetery Policy**
- 8. New Business**
 - A. Review/Adopt Mission Plan 2024**
 - B. Council Elections**
 - C. Volunteers Synod Assembly**
 - D. Pizza Night Donations**
- 9. Adjournment and Lord's Prayer**

2023 Statistical Report

Baptisms		
Navy Jaymes Hanevold		Colton Weston Fickert
Chance Alan Hanevold		Christian Jo Fickert
Kenna Ann Marie Kraft		Shawn Jacob Fickert
Olivia Sue Proznik		
Amelia Sue Fickert		
Confirmation/Affirmation of Faith		
Deaths/Funerals/Memorial Services/Burials		
Beth Mollberg		LuAnn Hennum
Dawson Pierson		Jan Nordine
Jason LaValla		
Membership		
<i>Transferred to other churches/removed by own request/removed by council action</i>		
<u>Colleen Stanton</u>		
<i>Administrative Removal</i>		
<i>Members Received</i>		
Nash, Courtney and Hank Hanevold		
	Baptized	Confirmed
December 31, 2022	198	138
December 31, 2023	207	138

Wabanica Lutheran Church - Annual Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2023

President Roger Erickson called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. with 23 members present. We opened with the litany and hymn as printed, and Pastor Birgitte led us in prayer.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Brian Peterson, second by Carol Erickson, to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Motion by Ken Horntvedt, second by Doris Nelson, to accept the Secretary's Report from the January 23, 2022 Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: The Financial Secretary's Report shows a total General Fund income of \$123,810.03 for 2022 (this includes the LOWBC amount of \$26,037.53). We donated generously to Missions, with a total of \$7,793.00. The Treasurer's Report shows a General Fund balance on hand of \$123,132.63 to start the new year. Motion by Carol Erickson, second by Carol Brune, to accept the financial reports. Motion carried.

Synod Report: Printed and included in our handout - please read!

Pastor's Report: Our parish has helped to bring Hospice of the Red River Valley and Ruby's Pantry to our community this past year, both addressing definite needs. In the coming year, one area Pastor wants us to focus on is the idea of observing the Sabbath, of taking the time to rest and listen to God in the midst of our busy lives.

Committee Reports

The Committee Reports and photographs are included in the Annual Report itself and we are pleased with all we have been able to do this year. Thank you to all who serve in any way, as we keep looking for ways to involve more people. Also, the Endowment Committee reports will be included here from now on.

Old Business

- A. Lake of the Woods Bible Camp: We received \$26,037.53 from the sale and are using it to start our Mission Endowment Fund.
- B. Pizza oven shelter: This has been completed and will keep our oven in great shape for years.

New Business

- A. Mission Plan for 2023: Our percentage of Parish expenses will be 36%, based on pew pad tallies of all three churches. Monthly amount to meet our 2023 Mission Plan is \$8,303.50 and monthly amount for Parish expenses is \$4,956.00. Motion by Gloriann Fischer, second by Jody Horntvedt, to approve the 2023 Mission Plan. Motion carried.
- B. Elections: Current officers President Roger Erickson, VP Brian Peterson, Secretary Deb Perala, and Financial Secretary Ken Horntvedt each have 1 year left of their 2-year terms, and Shelley Spears has 2 years left of her 3-year Member at Large position. Doris Nelson has agreed to remain as Treasurer for another 2-year term. No one present expressed interest in the Member at Large 3-year position that is open, so it will remain open at this time. Motion by Ken Horntvedt, second by Brian Peterson, to close nominations and to cast a unanimous

ballot for Doris as Treasurer. Motion carried. Synod Assembly Voting Members are also needed, which will require attending a meeting on March 18 ahead of the Synod Assembly to be held at several sites on June 3. Shelley Spears has agreed to be a Synod Delegate and we will continue to seek one more person.

- C. Groundskeeper: We are in need of a groundskeeper as Alex Nelson is moving on to other employment, and we thank him and his helpers for a job well done. Roger Erickson and Brian Peterson are willing to share the duties, if no one else expresses interest. The question was raised as to whether we pay Ken Horntvedt and Eugene Mollberg for snow plowing and shoveling as well. Ken said they volunteer as part of their giving. We will put this on the Council agenda to be discussed further, as perhaps we could reimburse them for gas.
- D. Pizza Night funds: Council will be deciding the recipients of the Pizza Night fundraisers for April-September. If anyone has ideas other than those we have been doing, let us know.
- E. Endowment Fund: the Wabanica Endowment Committee Report is in our packet, which includes the Wabanica Lutheran Church Gift Policy and the Mission Endowment Fund Policy, both of which the Church Council has adopted as continuing resolutions of the congregation. Members of Endowment Committee are Brian Peterson, Jody Horntvedt, and Bruce Streich. We are actually establishing two funds, the Mission Endowment Fund and the Memorial/Cemetery Fund. The goal is to have the funds in place by the end of the first quarter of 2023, but not to withdraw from the accounts until 2025. Going forward, we will all learn more about making contributions to the Endowment Funds and the possible uses of these funds. A huge thank you to the Endowment Committee for all the work they have done and continue to do!

Motion to adjourn by Gloriann Fischer, second by Sandy Sindelir. Motion carried and we adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Perala, Secretary

Income and Spending 1/1/23 through 12/31/23

Income Categories

Balance on Hand-----\$ 123,132.63

Farm & Garden	95.00
Lent Offering	75.00
Giving Hearts Day	320.00
Offerings	78,694.00
Regular	54,409.00
Vanco	24,285.00
Other Income	8,063.00
Funeral	750.00
Thrivent	2,313.00
Youth	5,000.00
Cards	12.00
Special Offering	7,630.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 94,889.00</u>
Income + Bal. on Hand	<u>\$ 218,021.63</u>

Expense Categories

Alter Guild	130.84
Bank Charges	465.71
Benevolence	10,500.00
Building & Grounds	244.99
Building Maintenance	103.78
Education	431.41
Education Misc.	91.82
Books & Supplies	39.49
S.S. Materials	300.10
Computer Exp	12.81
517 Media	128.13
Electric	1,745.00

Building Fund Income

Bal. on Hand	\$ 15,439.80
Trans. From Gen Fund	<u>8,180.00</u>
Total Offerings	\$ 23,619.80
Refrigerator	<u>3,074.59</u>
Total Bal. Offerings	\$ 20,548.21

Endowment Fund	75,000.00
Farm & Mkt.	95.00
Financial Sec.	75.00
Garbage	288.56
Groundskeeper	2,675.00
Snowplowing	400.00
Heating	5,910.00
Hosp. & Service	1,531.69
Funeral Exp	266.67
Kitchen Supp	698.06
Misc.	499.93
Insurance	4,492.22
Building	3,898.22
Work Comp	594.00
Janitorial	2,441.61
Salary	2,100.00
Supplies	341.61
Misc.	1,299.04
Organist	2,625.00
Outreach Ministries	395.00
Parish Expense	39,374.67
Special Offering	7,630.00
Telephone	418.52
Treasurer	75.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$158,488.98</u>
Transferred to	
Building Fund	<u>8,180.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$166,668.98</u>

Bal. On Hand 51,352.65

Financial Secretary's Report, January - December 2023

GENERAL FUND

Offerings

Plate.....	\$ 5,889.00	
Envelopes.....	\$48,520.00	(includes \$5,000.00 transfer to Bldg Fund)
Online giving.....	\$24,285.00	(includes \$3,180.00 transfer to Bldg Fund)
		Total Offerings: \$78,694.00

Donations for Missions

Lenten Gifts.....	\$75.00	<i>to L/W Food Shelf</i>
Bakeless Bake Sale.....	\$1,325.00	<i>to various missions</i>
Giving Hearts Day.....	\$320.00	<i>to NWMN Synod</i>
Garden/Egg Sales.....	\$95.00	<i>to L/W Food Shelf</i>
Santa Anonymous.....	\$750.00	<i>to Women of Today</i>
Firebrick Pizza Nights....	\$5,555.00	<i>to Take a Kid Fishing, Red River Valley Hospice, LSS Nutrition, L/W School Backpack Program, Hunter Nordlof Be Kind Foundation, and L/W Humane Society</i>
		Total Donations for Missions: \$8,120.00

Other Income

Thrivent.....	\$2,313.00	<i>from member gift designations</i>
Donations.....	\$5,000.00	<i>for youth</i>
Card Sales.....	\$12.00	
Funerals (serving).....	\$750.00	<i>for Jason Lavalla, Jan Nordine, & Willis Bitter</i>
		Total Other Income: \$8,075.00

TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME: \$94,889.00

BUILDING FUND

Gifts

Donations	\$5,000.00
Online Giving	\$3,180.00

TOTAL BUILDING FUND GIFTS: \$8,355.00

Submitted by
Ken Horntvedt, Financial Secretary



Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Our Mission is to nurture safe and healthy spaces for the ministry of the Gospel to unfold and shape an abundant future for all in Northwestern Minnesota.

Freed by God's grace to be wholly devoted to Jesus and our neighbor in love.

FAITHFUL in relationships. AUTHENTIC in our welcome. LOVE that makes a difference.

Quick Stats:

Congregations: 216

Total Baptized Membership: 79,350

Rostered Ministers: 291

Synod Authorized Ministers: 48

Synod Staff (job areas on the website)

Bishop: Rev. Bill Tesch; btesch@cord.edu

Associate to the Bishop: Rev. Genelle Netland; genellenetland@cord.edu

Director for Evangelical Mission: Rev. Rebel Hurd; rebelhurd@cord.edu

Office Administrator: Cheryl Zeh; czeh@cord.edu

Director of Communications, Events and Youth Ministry: Kristina Dernier; krisdernier@cord.edu

Financial & Data Systems Specialist: Joan Meulebroeck; jmeulebroeck@cord.edu

Minister for Vocations: Rev. Jon Olson; jonolson1@cord.edu

Ministers for Community and Leader Engagement: Kathy Levenhagen (Conferences 1 & 2 and SAM Coordinator) klevenhagen@cord.edu; Rev. Chris Leach (Conferences 4 & 6) chrisleach@cord.edu; Rev. Dennis Preston (Conferences 7 & 8) dennispreston@cord.edu; Bp. Bill Tesch and Rev. Genelle Netland (Conferences 3 & 5)

ELCA Regional Gift Planner: Rev. Keith Pearson; keith.pearson@elca.org

Minister for Mental Health & Wellness: Rev. Dr. Aaron Suomala-Folkerds; aaron.suomalafolkerds@mnstate.edu

F.A.C.E.S Coordinator: Rev. Kari van Wakeren; vanwakeren@cord.edu

Rural Revival Mission Developer: Rev. Melissa Pickering; mpickering001@luthersem.edu

Ways to Connect:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org) - Rostered minister forms; congregation best practices; worship resources for special times; constitution helps; annual appeals and more!

Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA (nwmnsynod.org) - Synod staff contact information; transition updates; pulpit supply list; resources; candidacy, upcoming events; shared resources

Social Media - Events; inspiration; information - Facebook: @nwmnelca; Instagram: @nwmnelca; X/formerly Twitter @nwmnsynod

Quarterly Zoom meetings for rostered ministers and SAMs; quarterly Zoom meetings for council presidents

Bi-monthly Zoom meetings for those who do ministry with and for children, youth, and families

Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Physical Location

310 14th Ave S, Moorhead, MN 56560

Mailing Address

Concordia College, Moorhead, MN 56562

Phone: 218-299-3019 or 800-452-3692

Website: www.nwmnsynod.org

Save the Date!

February: Giving Hearts Day (Feb 8) - Programming Fundraising

April: Joint Theological Day (April 18 with Eastern North Dakota Synod)*

May: Synod Assembly at Concordia College (May 17-18); Spring Appeal - Grant Fundraising*

Late Summer/Fall: Synod Road Trip (Coming to a town near you!)

*September: Theology for Ministry Conference**

November: Give to the Max - Programming Fundraising; Middle School Youth Gathering

December: Year-end mailing - including materials and reports to be returned to the Synod Office

May/June 2025: Synod Assembly at Concordia College (May 30-June 1)*

***Required for all rostered ministers per Letter of Call, and SAMs per Letter of Appointment**

Did You Know?

- **We offer a seminary debt reduction program** for rostered ministers. Applications available in February
- **We have Bible camps:**
 - Luther Crest: luthercrest.org - Year-round programming for all ages
 - Pathways: pathwaysbiblecamps.org - Year-round programming for all ages
- **We have Lutheran education:**
 - Oak Grove Lutheran School: www.oakgrovelutheran.com; Concordia College: www.concordiacollege.edu; Lutheran Campus Ministry of Bemidji: lcm Bemidji.org;
 - Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSUM: www.crossroadsmsum.com
- **We have ministries with our Indigenous neighbors:**
 - Peoples Church, Bemidji: www.facebook.com/peopleschurchbemidji
 - The Way, Fargo-Moorhead: www.facebook.com/p/Native-American-Christian-Ministry-of-Fargo-Moorhead
- **We have a Companion Synod:** Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church of India (AELC)
- **We have an active Synod Women's Organization:** www.nwmnsynod.org/pages/synod-womens-organization
- **We have a strategic plan for our synod:** It can be found at the bottom of this page: <https://www.nwmnsynod.org/about>

Pulpit Supply: If you need a supply preacher, you can find the link here:

<https://www.nwmnsynod.org/pages/pulpit-supply--130> . This site is password protected; please email krisdernier@cord.edu or czeh@cord.edu for the password.

One-Day Licensure: If you need someone to preside over the Sacraments of Holy Communion or Holy Baptism, and you have asked a lay person (not an ordained pastor/Word and Sacrament Minister) to serve you, you will need to request a one-day licensure for them to preside at communion, which will authorize that lay person on that one day that is requested in that specific congregation/parish. The pastor or council president should request this in writing (email) at least 10 days in advance to Bishop Tesch.

Synod Authorized Ministry (SAM): This is a growing way for lay people to serve as leaders of congregations. New expectations have been set for this work and partnership in our synod. To learn more about becoming a SAM, having a SAM serve as your congregational leader, OR being a SAM mentor, please read this handbook for more information: <https://www.nwmnsynod.org/pages/sam-process>

ELCA Constitution Support: Your congregational constitution is the foundation for all good mission and ministry to thrive. If your constitution needs to be updated, there are tools and resources to help you along the way: www.nwmnsynod.org/pages/constitution-resources

Ministry Updates



Peoples Church

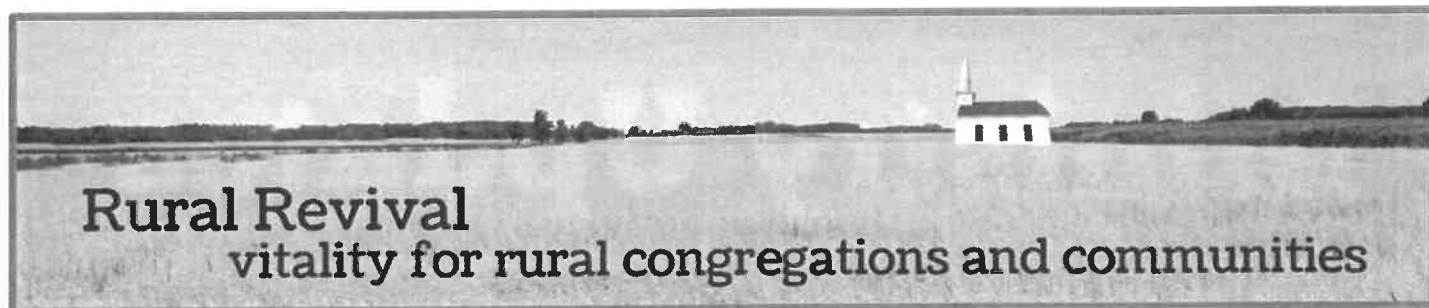
This summer, Peoples Church leadership shifted. Pr. Birgitte Simpson was installed as Mission Developer, and Julia Plum was commissioned as a SAM. Together and with a host of partner congregations, Peoples Church walks with folks living in poverty and homelessness. With and among the people of God, they enter into a ministry of hospitality, addressing hunger and clothing needs, worship, and care. Peoples Church is a multicultural congregation in Bemidji, within miles of three of the largest Indigenous reservations in Minnesota. They strongly desire to be a bridge between those living in homelessness and poverty and your congregations.

A New Journey Lutheran Parish

A New Journey Lutheran Parish consists of four congregations that have worked hard over the past couple of years to form a union in their neck of the woods for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each of the four congregations has a long history of rich and faithful ministry. As A New Journey Lutheran Parish, they have come together to share resources, leaders, and passions and live out their calling together. A New Journey Lutheran Parish is led by Pastor and Mission Developer René L. Mehlberg and supported by two Synod Authorized Ministers, Katie DeMarais and Rachel Roggenbuck.



Your Companion Synod Team has been commissioned to walk in accompaniment with our partners in ministry of the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church in India. Bp. Bill Tesch and Chris Tesch, Dn. Jon Leiseth, Per Anderson, Pr. Salim Kaderbhai, Pr. Rebel Hurd and Jeff Hurd, David Hunstad and Pr. Sue Koesterman are all members of the team. For the past year, they have worked to build strong relationships, learn and understand the work of our companions, including the Bible Women of Andhra. They have studied the caste system of India and have taken a deep dive into a political culture vastly different than ours here in the United States, all through the lens of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. As they continue the work of accompaniment, please hold our siblings in Christ across the globe and this team in your prayers.



Many of our rural congregations are experiencing a strain on resources and members as the populations of rural communities are decreasing and expenses continue to rise. Our Rural Revival movement lives deeply into a vision of leaning on one another, sharing gifts, ministry, and resources as a community, as evangelists, and as neighbors.

As part of our synod's strategic plan, we "Strive to enhance the general health and resiliency of congregations with special attention on small member rural congregations." Spiritually committed rural congregations with a willingness to create a shared vision, gather and leverage shared passions and resources, and work hand-in-hand on community engagement, tactical implementation, and adaptive leadership ARE WELCOME!

Listening to the needs along the way is integral to the Rural Revival Process. Sometimes, these are things we hear from leaders, and sometimes, they are things we hear at the local gas station while getting gassed up to keep us moving around the synod. We want to be at the table with you. Small or rural does not mean you are not vital congregations. Let's explore what God might be up to together. Reach out if you would like to learn more.



Area Mission Conversations

Have you heard of Area Mission Conversations (Strategy Tables)? They are Christ-centered gatherings with guided and focused conversations around what God is up to in specific areas. Among many topics, such discussions focus on maximizing the mission and ministry at participating sites and creating opportunities to share ideas, energies, leadership, and resources for Christ's Church.

Currently, Pr. Rebel is facilitating an Area Mission Conversation with seven churches in the northeast part of our synod. This Area Mission Conversation is in response to the congregations' experience of needing leadership (both rostered and lay), wanting to find ways to support and respect each congregation's traditions, histories, and identities while desiring to collaborate for the sake of the Gospel. Over the last eight months, they have dreamed, prayed, created, trusted, wondered, implemented, and have been spiritually committed to one another and the health of their congregations. Can you imagine an Area Mission Conversation in your neck of the woods? Go, God!



Churchwide Partnerships



More than 820 million people - that's about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Resources

Check out the website <https://www.elca.org/Resources/ELCA-World-Hunger> for a lot of great, free, downloadable resources.



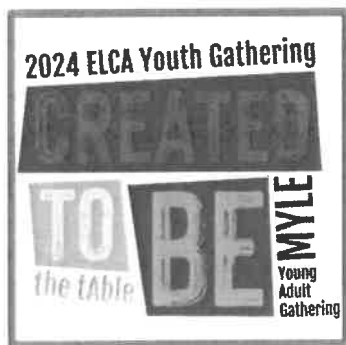
Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing, and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

How We Work

We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder. Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. We are a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others. We recognize that every disaster is local. Because of this, we believe every response needs to be rooted in the community; we work to accompany that community from immediate relief through long-term recovery. In our international work we partner closely with companion churches and other Lutheran and ecumenical relief agencies to make sure local needs are being addressed and met. In the United States, we work through our extensive affiliate network and other partners to address these same concerns.

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
- Promoting disaster risk reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes



A LIFE-CHANGING FAITH FORMATION EVENT OF THE ELCA

July 13-16, 2024: MYLE & the tAble

July 16-20, 2024: ELCA Youth Gathering & Young Adult Gathering
New Orleans, LA

Mission and Goals: The Gathering's mission of faith formation in young people is the hub from which all things come for MYLE, the tAble and the Gathering. The goal is to create environments and opportunities for faith formation through worship, interactive learning, Bible study, service and fellowship. While some of the experiences

can be replicated at home, some are unique and special to the Gathering because of the size and scope of this ministry.

Five Core Goals: Affirmed and challenged their faith, experience new perspectives, ponder their vocation, bond with their congregational group, and learn more about the ELCA and its partners.

Multicultural Youth Leadership Event [MYLE] A pre-event of the Gathering and the largest gathering of people of color within the ELCA, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) empowers young people of color and those whose primary language is not English to claim their story as part of God's story.

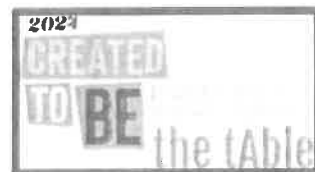


The Gathering is excited that for the 2024 Gathering cycle, the registration fee for the MYLE will be waived for the first 1,000 people. Participants are required to register for and attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering immediately following. We (the NW MN Synod) are excited that we have participants from our synod registered to attend MYLE this next summer.

One of the pre-events to the Gathering, **the tAble** blesses and encourages young people who live with a wide range of physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities so that they might grow as wise, faithful, and courageous witnesses.

The tAble is open to youth who are ages 14-18 or are engaged in a high school youth group, or are enrolled in high school or the vocational education equivalent. Youth who attend the tAble must be accompanied by an adult companion. The adult companion will receive a waived registration fee to attend the 2024 Gathering alongside their young person.

The Gathering is excited that for the 2024 Gathering cycle, the registration fee for the tAble will be waived for the first 200 people. Participants are encouraged to register for and attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering immediately following if they are able. We (the NW MN Synod) are excited that we have participants from our synod registered to attend the tAble this next summer.



Young Adult Gathering

The Gathering is thrilled to partner with ELCA Young Adult Ministries to provide the first-ever ELCA Young Adult Gathering alongside the 2024 Gathering in New Orleans! Individuals who will be 18 to 35 at the time of the Gathering are invited to attend. We recognize that 18-35 is a wide age range and anticipate that most of our programming

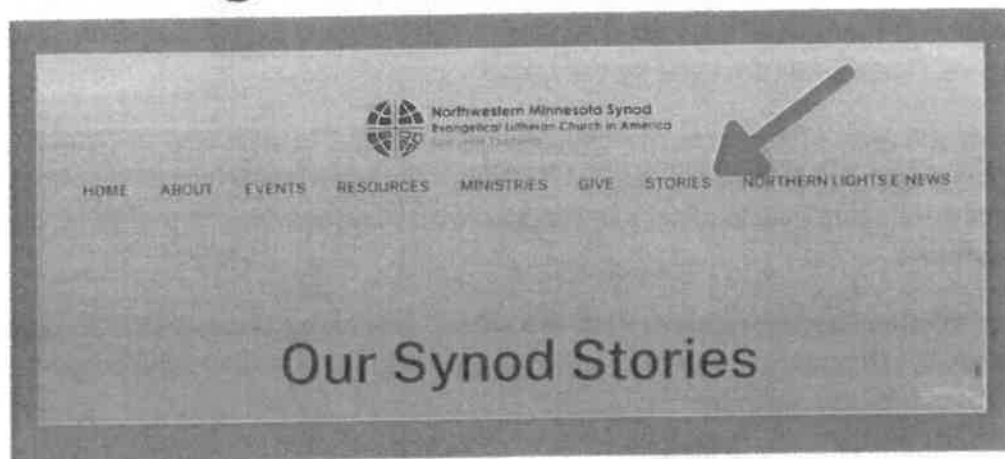
will be geared toward those 18 to 25 years old. All young-adult participants will be divided into cohorts based on age.

Individuals interested in attending the ELCA Young Adult Gathering will need to register apart from any congregational group attending the ELCA Youth Gathering. Childcare will be available for those attending the ELCA Young Adult Gathering. Please note that children are not allowed to attend Mass Gathering programming.

Your Synod Gathering Champion is Kris Dernier [eating a beignet at Café du Monde in picture]
krisdernier@cord.edu



INTRODUCING STORYTELLING



**HERE YOU WILL FIND STORIES FROM AROUND THE
SYNOD THAT HIGHLIGHT WHERE OUR FAITH, OUR
LOVE OF NEIGHBOR, AND OUR CORE VALUES
CONNECT. WE ARE NWMN!**

Story to share? Contact Pr. Devlyn Brooks at
701.412.8377 or devlynbrooks@gmail.com



2023 Holy Cow Award
Recipient



The Holy Spirit
Moving in Lake
Bronson



Trinity Lutheran in
Pelican Rapids
commissions original



First Lutheran's
"Reverse Trick or
Treating"



Warm Hearts Warm
Hands - Good
Shepherd Lutheran



We hope you can come visit soon!

nwmnsynod.org

Mission Support

Mission Support is the money your congregation sends to support ministries of our synod, churchwide and local partners in ministry. At the start of each year, congregations pledge a percentage of their offerings toward Mission Support. These funds are used for the synod's annual mission plan and budget.

Of the Mission Support you give, 47% goes to our Churchwide ministries to start new ministries and accompany existing congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission. These funds also provide the staff and resources for developing new leaders, partnerships with churches around the globe, alleviating poverty, and so much more.

The remaining **53% of Mission Support remains with the synod**, supporting the ministry alongside congregations and leaders, call process, candidacy, conflict mediation, and staff. Additionally, 11% of these funds go to support these ministry partners:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| + Lutheran Campus Ministry of Bemidji | + Crossroads Campus Ministry at MSUM |
| + Luther Seminary | + ELCA Colleges and Universities |
| + Oak Grove Lutheran School | + Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota |
| + Minnesota Council of Churches | + Parish Nurse program |
| + The Way | + Peoples Church |



Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

over and above

fundraising for initiatives

What is the difference between the "Mission Support" that congregations give yearly and the money raised through Give to the Max and Giving Hearts Day and other special appeals? Our annual appeals like Give to the Max and Giving Hearts Day are used solely to support new and emerging needs or initiatives that cannot be covered through our annual synod mission plan.

Why does the synod hold these appeals? Isn't Mission Support enough? One way to think about this is that the annual synod budget, which your Mission Support supports, is an expression of our *long-term* relationships and commitments. The budget represents things we've all agreed are essential for us to support over the long haul. As such, the synod budget does not have much "wobble room" and does not change much yearly. Our special appeals, however, allow us to offer grants, programs, and services to support new and emerging needs and ministries. These kinds of programs and ministries are fluid and more responsive to current realities.

How is the Spring Appeal (formerly the Easter Appeal/Synod Assembly Offering) different? The Give to the Max and Giving Hearts appeals support Strategic Plan initiatives. Our Spring Appeal is for missional endeavors in our community and around the world. In 2023, the funds were shared between Care of Creation Grants and our Companion Synod ministry with the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church in India.

2023 Minister's Report

What a year! 2023 was a year of growth for me in many ways, especially with my new role as the Synod Authorized Minister and adding a new baby to my family. I appreciate all your hard work this year and taking ownership of your congregations. I believe that my maternity leave was an important time for the congregations to remember that these churches belong to you!

From leading worship, technology challenges, pastoral care visits, etc., you have stepped up and faithfully helped each other through yet another transition. What a beautiful thing it has been to watch you help each other and keep moving forward through the unknown.

I am looking forward to continued growth in 2024, specifically in relationships. My star word for the parish is RELATIONSHIP. If 2023 has taught us anything, it's that we cannot do church (in all forms) without each other. My challenge for us this next year is to think about how we can get creative in growing our relationships with our neighbors. How can we show up for our people outside the church walls?

Maybe it's been a while since you have gone to a community meal. Maybe there is a sporting event that you used to make time for, but time has slipped away. How do we show each other that we care every day of the week, not just Sunday mornings? How do we show we care during ordinary times and not just when someone needs us?

I firmly believe that if we focus on the relationships within and outside of our parish, we can do wonderful and faith-filled things. Let's move into the new year in stride TOGETHER.

Your sibling in Christ,
Calista Wolf

Building and Grounds Committee Annual Report, 2023

There's not enough room in all of heaven for you, LORD God. How could you possibly live on earth in this temple I have built? But I ask you to answer my prayer. This is the temple where you have chosen to be worshiped. Please watch over it day and night and listen when I turn toward it and pray. 1 Kings 8:27-29 (Contemporary English Version)

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The role of the Building and Grounds Committee is to be responsible for the overall management, maintenance and repair of the congregation's property.

Their responsibilities include, and are not limited to the following:

- Developing plans and setting priorities for the short- and long-range maintenance of the building and grounds, and organizing efforts to complete them (i.e. identifying building-related expenses for improvement and repairs, finding volunteers to work on projects, hiring contractors, etc.),
- Inventorying contents of church building and other structures on the property
- Reviewing insurance policies (annually) and making recommendations to the Council,
- Paying attention to OSHA guidelines and other safety issues (i.e. fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, exit lighting, etc.),
- Maintaining indoor/outdoor equipment (i.e. check for safety/cleanliness of electrical appliances, playground equipment, etc.),
- Identifying (annually) individuals to serve as janitors, lawn maintenance, and others as needed
- Scheduling clean-up events (i.e. interior cleaning including carpets, window washing, spring clean-up of grounds, trimming trees and shrubs, etc.),, *and*
- Other responsibilities as identified by the Building and Grounds Committee and/or requested by the church council.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (2022):

Co-Chairs: Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269, cell / kenhorntvedt@gmail.com)
Jerry Gubbels (634-2218, home, 218-434-3403)
Council Liaison: Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269, cell)
Members: Eugene Mollberg (218-368-4159, cell)
John Perala (218-395-0531, cell)
Roger Erickson (218-929-7749, cell)

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. **Purchased 4 picnic tables with Leroy Nelson memorial funds.**
2. **A clogged drain tile caused some basement flooding. This was repaired and the basement was vacuumed with shop vacs.**
3. **Purchased a new refrigerator which was paid for out of the building fund.**

PLANS FOR 2024:

Our Goals: In addition to the ongoing work of the committee (above), we will be purchasing 2 plastic picnic tables to replace 2 wood ones and replace the rain gutter on the west side of the church and purchase gutter guards for all of the gutters.

Congregational Life Committee Annual Report 2023

"May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and increase your numbers until you become a community of peoples." Genesis 28:3 (NIV)

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The role of the Congregational Life Committee is to focus on the fellowship and special ministries of the members of the congregation. Their responsibilities included activities such as:

- Congregational Breakfasts (i.e. Rally Sunday, Epiphany, Easter, other)
- Social Activities (i.e. Summer Picnic, Family Nights, Men's Fishing Derby, other)
- Special Speakers and Programs (Women's Luncheon, other)
- Honoring Elders (Christmas Remembrance, Summer Brunch, other)
- Honoring Youth (Activity Bags for Worship, Nursery, Last day of SS lunch, other)
- Advent Festival / Trim the Tree
- Adopt-a-Family (i.e. at Christmas, back-to-school, ongoing)
- Other responsibilities as identified by the Congregational Life Committee and/or requested by the church council

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Chair: Jody Horntvedt (218-689-0281, cell) / jodyhorntvedt@gmail.com

Members: Carol Brune: 218-556-8071 (cell) / brune.carol@yahoo.com
Carol Carlson: 612-597-1163 (cell) / ccarlson@starmax.com
Carol Erickson: 218-929-7767 (cell) / carol.erickson.59@gmail.com
Deb Perala: 218-434-0215 (cell) / ranger31@mncable.net
Wendy Peterson: 612-812-1942 (cell) / wpeterson927@gmail.com
Lynne Reiersen: 320-894-0235 (cell) / lreiersen@ymail.com
Vicki Streich: 612-247-3984 (cell) / vstreich@hotmail.com

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

I'm sad to report that the committee never met during 2023, though this didn't stop people from stepping up and taking on a variety of activities and projects throughout the year.

Book Lending Library. Our thanks to Carol Carlson for setting up the "lending library". Several members of the congregation enjoy reading and having access to books right there at the church!

Youth Activity Bags for Worship. We continued to make activity bags available, though they probably weren't sorted and restocked as often as they could have been...we'll try to focus on this a bit more often in 2024!

Puzzle Lending Library. We set up a bookshelf for puzzles (originally donated to us by First Lutheran Church). It seems the variety and selection of puzzles is ever changing, so thanks to those who have donated puzzles to the collection.

The Kids Table. The addition of a table in the basement fellowship area has been a big hit with all the 'littles' in the congregation. It is low to the ground with small chairs so they can all gather around to be with each other as they eat their snacks!

Honoring High School Graduates. We gifted quilts to Mia Gubbels, Garrett Hennum and Sam Stephani this year...and served cake in their honor during fellowship time after the service. The quilters this year were Laurie Mollberg (sewed Sam's quilt), Carol Erickson (sewed Garrett's quilt) and Jody Horntvedt (sewed Mia's quilt)



Christmas Cards to those 80+. This has been a tradition for decades and we thank Carol Brune for sending those out on behalf of the congregation.

Santa Anonymous. Thank you to members of the congregation who donated \$750 this year. The council also voted to give an additional \$200 to support that program.



GOALS FOR 2024:

The committee will meet in 2024 to make a plan for the year. We will discuss (in addition to the ongoing work of the committee noted above) ways to involve more people in a variety of congregational activities. Some of those things committee members have lifted up previously for consideration include:

- Game Days (or Nights)
- Mystery Dinner for Families
- Cooking Classes (herbs, artisan breads, pizza, etc.)
- Clean up the nursery (signage, stock with supplies, etc.)
- Bake and Take Day
- Just Say Thanks event

We welcome other ideas that members of the congregation have to suggest. And if you'd like to get in on the fun, consider joining our committee in 2024!

Submitted by Jody Horntvedt

2023 CYF Report

The children, youth, and families in this church were busy in 2023!

Sunday School ran smoothly at both Wabanica and Clementson. A huge thank you to the adults who have stepped up to teach our children and be an example of what it means to be a leader in our church. It is wonderful to see the relationships that have been made this year through this children's ministry.

Wednesday evenings were busy during Lent and the fall with Soup Suppers and Soul Food. We shared many meals and faith conversations this year. Confirmation also took place on Wednesday night with an average of 10 active students in attendance. It has been such a blessing to get to know these kids and support them in their activities. I can't wait to continue our learning together in 2024.

Vacation Bible School had another successful year! We had over 20 preschoolers and 20 elementary school attendants. We learned how to care for each other and creation using Illustrated Ministry's Compassion Camp curriculum. Thank you so much to our volunteers who make this such a success every year! A special thank you to the youth in our parish who stayed and helped each day. It was wonderful to have youth volunteers this year and I hope it continues.

I am looking forward to continuing these education ministries and adding new ones in 2024. Be on the lookout for new studies, events and education opportunities!

Yours in Christ,
Calista Wolf

Hospitality and Service Committee Annual Report, 2023

"Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:9-10 (NIV)

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The role of the Hospitality & Service Committee is to plan for the food and special recognition events in the life of the congregation.

Specifically,

- Coffee/Refreshments (serving after Sunday worship, Lenten worship, others)
- Funerals (serving refreshments, meals, etc.)
- Special Celebrations (Mother's Day, Graduation Sunday, Father's Day, Confirmation Sunday, etc.)
- Special Events (serving for anniversary or birthday parties, Women of the ELCA events, weddings, etc.)
- Kitchen Management (ordering supplies – paper products, juice and coffee, other items – and organizing and cleaning the space – ordering cleaning supplies, scheduling annual cleaning, etc.)
- Other responsibilities as identified by the Hospitality & Service Committee and/or requested by the church council

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

Chairperson: Judy Griffen (218-434-0513), cell/ jgriff@mncable.net)

Council Liaison:

Members: Janeva Erickson (634-2480, home / deejay56623@hotmail.com)
Laurie Mollberg (634-1092, home / elmollberg@centurylink.net)
Carol Brune (634-1700, home / brune.carol@yahoo.com)
Sandra Sindelir (612-581-8087 cell)
Merlyce Gubbels (634-2218, home/ merlycegubbels@gmail.com)
Sheri Gibbins (218-368-5134) cell/ moosetracks@wiktel.com

Individuals identified to help with special projects:

- Coffee after Church: Judy Griffen
- Kitchen Supplies Sub-Committee: Laurie Mollberg

2023 Accomplishments: The Hospitality Committee served for 2 funerals this year. We also served coffee after church on numerous occasions.

Submitted by Judy Griffen

Outreach Ministries Committee Annual Report –2023

"They have spread their gifts around to poor people Their good works continue forever" Psalm 112:9

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE: *The role of the Outreach Ministries Committee is to promote and direct projects and activities focused on assisting those in need in the local community and beyond.*

Committee Members: Sheri Gibbins, Shelley Spears, Deb Anderson, Janeva Erickson, Judy Griffen

- In February, the Bakeless Bake Sale was organized and distributed to the Women of the Wabanica Church to decide which missions to support this year. We collected \$1325.00 which was distributed to 4 organizations, each receiving \$331.25. Those organizations were: LLS Nutritional Board, Friends Against Abuse, Brink Center the Salvation Army.
- We gave quilts to the following:
 - 8 quilts to people in a Care Center
 - 6 quilts sold with money donated to Santa Anonymous
 - 12 quilts to the Veterans Hospital in Fargo
 - 40 quilts to the Peoples Church in Bemidji (Homeless Shelter)
 - 23 quilts to the Village of Hope in Bemidji (Family Shelter)
 - 2 quilts to homeless in the Cities (Girl Scout Project)Total of 91 quilts
- We received many donations of sheets for backing and material for squares throughout the year as we as Thrivent Funds for batting. A former summer quilter sent us 14 quilt tops she had made. We thank all those who have contributed and worked to make our quilts.

Submitted by Judy Griffen

Wabanica Endowment Committee Report, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Brian Peterson (term ends Jan 2026)
- Jody Horntvedt (term ends Jan 2027)
- Bruce Streich (term ends Jan 2028)

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Committee works under the advisement of the Wabanica Council. The committee is responsible for managing the congregation's two endowment funds: 1) Mission Endowment Fund (for programs and activities such as community service and outreach, supporting the wider mission of the ELCA, and Christian education, worship and music), and 2) Memorial/Cemetery Fund (for cemetery maintenance and upkeep, and special items internal and/or external to the church building). They are also responsible for monitoring distributions from the Funds, making recommendations for grant distributions from the Mission Fund, and encouraging new gifts to the Funds.

SPECIAL ITEMS TO NOTE:

Establishing the Funds. The first deposit to the funds were as follows:

- Memorial/Cemetery Fund on April 14, 2023 for \$25,000
- Mission Fund on April 24, 2023 for \$25,000 *NOTE: The Wabanica Council added an additional \$50,000 to this fund on August 10, 2023.*

Fund Balances. The current value of the funds are as follows:

- Mission Fund = \$78,648.11
- Memorial/Cemetery Fund = \$27,164.59

Fund Distributions. At the January 2023 Annual Meeting it was agreed to suspend distributions from the Funds for the first two years. *NOTE: This means that no funds will be distributed from either fund until 2025.*

Gifts to the Funds. Gifts can be made to either of the endowment funds at any time throughout the year. Checks are to be made payable to Wabanica Lutheran Church with a designation or memo to the desired fund. Gifts will be tracked by the congregation's financial secretary and reported back to each individual on the annual Statement of Giving form.

GOAL FOR 2025:

Determine Processes and Protocols for Managing the Funds. In 2023 the Endowment Committee will need to:

1. Discuss and put into writing the protocols/thresholds for transferring money to the endowment funds
2. Discuss education and promotion needed to encourage giving to the endowment funds
3. Determine the process for fund requests for the annual distribution of endowment funds.

Submitted by Jody Horntvedt, Endowment Committee Recorder (January 2024)

Wabanica Lutheran Church Mission Plan Worksheet 2024

<u>Our Outreach Ministry</u>	<u>Actual 2021</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Proposed 2024</u>
Northwestern MN Synod	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 10,500.00
Special Ministries (Food Shelf, etc.)	3,286.00	8,399.00	8,120.00	8,500.00
Outreach sub-total =	\$13,286.00	\$ 18,899.00	\$ 18,620.00	\$ 19,000.00

<u>Parish Staff</u>	<u>Actual 2021</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Proposed 2024</u>
Pastor Salary and Benefits	\$31,949.18	\$ 29,632.05	\$ 10,048.64	\$24,205.00
Office Staff (Salaried)	-0-	13,261.10	13,783.39	9,780.00
Staff (Consulting)	5,905.71	-0-	2,314.80	-0-
Future Staffing Needs	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Travel / Mileage	1,150.80	1,238.82	790.88	1,410.00
Synod Assembly (Pastor)	115.87	173.12	136.08	300.00
Business/Professional/Books/Etc.	194.23	194.23	32.59	310.00
Continuing Education	245.03	235.39	769.61	470.00
First Call Theological Education	84.37	-0-	-0-	-0-
Pulpit Supply	65.62	-0-	81.00	940.00
Pastoral ministry sub-total =	\$ 39,610.81	\$ 45,047.02	\$ 27,956.99	\$37,415.00

<u>Parish Worship & Education</u>	<u>Actual 2021</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Proposed 2024</u>
Confirmation & Retreats	\$148.99	\$256.64	\$52.81	\$360.00
Baptismal/Grief Counseling	-0-	55.36	12.58	165.00
First Communion	-0-	32.73	-0-	50.00
Adult Education (<i>Christ in our Home / Living Lutheran</i>)	-0-	307.49	207.53	230.00
Vacation Bible Schools	316.49	230.48	348.97	470.00
Soul Food Worship/Education	283.51	776.91	918.98	1,180.00
Worship Supplies	914.49	611.81	335.91	520.00
Licenses / Materials	489.50	744.49	475.56	660.00
Parish Worship/Education sub-total =	\$2,152.98	\$3,015.91	\$2,352.34	\$3,635.00

<u>Parish Administration</u>	<u>Actual 2021</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Proposed 2024</u>
Copier Maintenance & Lease	1,553.80	1,573.50	\$1,559.66	\$2,260.00
Internet / Phone / Website	871.52	879.84	863.35	1,160.00
Paper/Office Supplies	735.67	777.78	899.95	1,320.00
Postage	490.26	434.57	372.30	290.00
Breeze Online Database	75.00	279.97	303.84	400.00
Parish Treasurer / Accounting	506.25	669.24	648.00	850.00
Workman's Comp & Liability Ins	-0-	858.97	803.64	1,050.00
Miscellaneous (gifts, etc.)	1,156.95	510.85	1,851.59	1,800.00
Parish Administration sub-total =	\$5,389.45	\$ 5,984.72	\$ 7,302.33	\$9,130.00
TOTAL PARISH Expense =	\$ 47,153.24 [37.18%]	\$54,047.65 [37.18%]	\$37,611.66 [36.00%]	\$50,180.00 [47.00%]

Monthly needed to meet Parish expenses =

\$ 4,182.00

Wabanica Lutheran Church / Mission Plan Worksheet 2024

<u>Our Church Home</u>	<u>Actual 2021</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Proposed 2024</u>
Technology (phone, internet, etc.)	\$ 431.73	\$ 432.47	\$ 431.33	\$900.00
Electric & Heating	3,518.00	5,067.06	7,655.00	8,000.00
Janitor (& supplies)	2,376.51	2,565.15	2,441.61	2,750.00
Groundskeepers	960.00	2,125.00	3,075.00	3,000.00
Buildings & Grounds Maintenance	2,730.00	1,382.33	103.78	1,000.00
Insurance (Building)	3,317.40	3,759.63	3,898.22	4,000.00
Insurance (Workman's Comp)	941.00	267.00	594.00	600.00
Garbage Pickup	227.28	227.28	288.56	300.00
Church Cleaning	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Emergency Funds	-0-	-0-	-0-	500.00
Church Home sub-total =	\$ 14,501.26	\$ 15,825.92	\$ 18,487.50	\$ 21,050.00

<u>Congregational Life</u>	<u>Actual 2021</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Proposed 2024</u>
NWMN Synod Assembly	\$ 213.00	\$ 213.00	\$ -0-	\$ 250.00
1517 Media (for Living Lutheran)	805.50	796.55	128.13	200.00
Organist	1,770.00	2,325.00	2,625.00	2700.00
Postage	-0-	159.82	-0-	150.00
Piano Tuning	290.00	130.00	-0-	150.00
Altar Guild	-0-	-0-	130.84	200.00
Treasurer	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Financial Secretary	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Fundraising Supplies	-0-	568.15	-0-	500.00
Misc (bank charges, supplies, greeting cards)	714.79	628.29	1,764.75	2,000.00
Congregational Life sub-total =	\$3,943.29	\$ 4,961.81	\$ 4,798.72	\$ 6,300.00

<u>Committee Expenses</u>	<u>Actual 2021</u>	<u>Actual 2022</u>	<u>Actual 2023</u>	<u>Proposed 2024</u>
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 8,270.36	\$ 457.24	\$ 244.99	\$ 400.00
Congregational Life	-0-	-0-	-0-	450.00
Christian Education (SS included)	-0-	319.73	431.41	1,500.00
Hospitality & Service	850.42	1,369.05	1,531.69	1,600.00
Outreach Ministry	-0-	-0-	395.00	400.00
Health & Wellness/Parish Nurse	105.00	-0-	-0-	100.00
Stewardship (postage/offering env 2 yrs)	-0-	-0-	-0-	0.00
Youth (scholarship/camperships given)	32.21	355.89	-0-	1,000.00
Committees sub-total =	\$9,257.99	\$2,501.91	\$2,603.09	\$5,450.00

GRAND TOTAL =	\$88,141.79	\$87,837.29	\$87,837.29	\$93,480.00
	Proposed \$99,765	Proposed \$98,531	Proposed \$99,642	
	Monthly needed to meet mission plan =			\$7,790.00

Wabanica Lutheran Church Summary on Memorial Fund Account

Prepared by Ken Horntvedt

Balance [1-1-2023]= \$ 35,733.93

Receipts.....= \$ 4,350.00

Perpetual Cemetery Care

Bette Michaels, Loren Ortendahl = \$ 3,300.00

Memorials

Jason LaValla, Willis Bitter = \$ 1,050.00

Disbursements= \$ 30,089.19

ELCA Foundation (endowment) \$ 25,000.00

Ken Horntvedt (4 picnic tables) \$ 5,089.19

Balance [12-31-2023]= \$ 9,994.74

In Loving Memory

Those we love don't go away,

They walk beside us
every day.

Unseen, unheard,
but always near.

Still loved, still missed,
and very dear.

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## Wabanica Lutheran Church Pizza Night Community Outreach

Prepared by Ken Horntvedt



The pizza oven was built during the summer of 2016 and since that time we have served pizza more than 36 times. Some of those events have been for congregational events (*eg Sunday School, Father's Day, special benefit events, etc.*), but most have been planned as fund raising events for local charities.

We started out by asking congregational members to donate food items to make the pizzas. Then during COVID we started using Thrivent Action Team grants requested by various congregation members to purchase pizza crusts and all the supplies.

We've kept track over the years and thought it would be interesting to share this summary.

Total donations over the years have been \$25,322 which were given to the following organizations:

Brink Senior Center  
Hunter Nordlof Be Kind Foundation  
Lake of the Woods Food Shelf  
Lake of the Woods Humane Society  
Lake of the Woods School Backpack Project

Lutheran Social Services Senior Meals  
Red River Valley Hospice  
Take a Kid Fishing  
Senior Boating Program



## 2023 Wabanica Council Officers, Members @ Large & Committee Members

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Council Officers:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <i>Terms are 2 years, with a maximum of 2 consecutive terms</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>President:</b> Roger Erickson (218-929-7749)<br><b>Vice President:</b> Brian Peterson (612- 220-5556)<br><b>Secretary:</b> Deb Perala (218-434-0215)<br><b>Treasurer:</b> Doris Nelson (218-766-1616)<br><b>Financial Secretary:</b> Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269)                       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> term begins Jan. 2022-2024 _____<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> term begins Jan. 2022-2024 _____<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> term begins Jan. 2022-2024 _____<br>4 <sup>th</sup> term begins Jan. 2023-2025 _____<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> term begins Jan. 2022-2024 _____ |
| <b>Members at Large:</b><br>Shelley Spears (218-434-0618)<br>Gloriann Fischer (218-202-0071)                                                                                                                                                                                               | <i>Terms are 3 years with a maximum of 2 consecutive terms.</i><br>1 <sup>st</sup> term begins Jan. 2022-2025 _____<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term begins Jan. 2021-2024 _____                                                                                          |
| <b>Church Committees: 2023 (Unlimited terms)</b><br><b>*Chairperson</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Buildings and Grounds</b><br>*Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269)<br>* Jerry Gubbels (218-434-3403)<br>Roger Erickson (218-929-7749)<br>John Perala (218-395-0531)                                                                                                                             | <b>Endowment</b><br>*Brian Peterson (612-220-5556)<br>Bruce Streich (612-247-4550)<br>Jody Horntvedt (218-689-0281)                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Congregational Life</b><br>*Jody Horntvedt (218-689-0281)<br>Carol Brune (218-634-1700)<br>Carol Carlson (612-597-1163)<br>Carol Erickson (218-929-7767)<br>Deb Perala (218-434-0215)<br>Wendy Peterson (612-812-1942)<br>Lynne Reiersen (320-894-0235)<br>Vicki Streich (612-247-3984) | <b>Education</b><br>Sarah Pierson (218-202-1873)                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Outreach</b><br>*Deb Anderson (218-395-0496)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Health &amp; Wellness</b><br>*Carol Brune (218-634-1700)                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Stewardship</b><br>*Roger Erickson (218-929-7749)<br>Doris Nelson (218-766-1616)<br>Ken Horntvedt (218-434-0269)                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Hospitality &amp; Service</b><br>*Judy Griffen (218-634-1009)                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

**Appointments and Volunteers 2023-24:**

| <b><i>Jobs/Positions</i></b> | <b><i>2023</i></b>                                                                       | <b><i>2024</i></b> |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Altar Guild                  | Laurie Mollberg, Jerry & Merlyce Gubbels, Leah Larson, Deb Peralá, Bruce & Vicki Streich |                    |
| Organist                     | Jody Horntvedt                                                                           |                    |
| Worship Coordinator          | n/a                                                                                      |                    |
| Custodians                   | Roger Erickson                                                                           |                    |
| Groundskeepers               | Roger Erickson/Brian Peterson (summer)<br>Eugene Mollberg/Ken Horntvedt (winter)         |                    |
| Parish Nurse                 | Carol Brune                                                                              |                    |
| Cemetery Records             | Eugene Mollberg, Ken Horntvedt                                                           |                    |
| Memorial Fund                | Ken Horntvedt                                                                            |                    |
| ELCA Women Contact           | Deb Anderson                                                                             |                    |
| Guest Book                   | Carol Brune                                                                              |                    |
| Cheer: Get Well/Sympathy     | Carol Brune                                                                              |                    |
| Historians                   | Doris Nelson, Marsha Beckel                                                              |                    |
| Wedding Book/Policies        | Laurie Mollberg                                                                          |                    |
| Nominating Committee         | Council                                                                                  |                    |
| Auditing Committee           | Brian Peterson, Bruce Streich                                                            |                    |
| Synod Assembly Delegates     | Shelley Spears                                                                           |                    |