



# 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 a large initial 'E'.

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

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“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

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# 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 - cmm 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 Conradsansen, 1710;  
arr. Julius Röntgen

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Members of Clementson Lutheran Church,

As we gather to plan the future of our congregation's mission and ministries, may the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with gratitude for God's blessings.

Thank you for your continued support for our church, both financially and spiritually this year. Thanks also to everyone who has volunteered their time and talents to serve on the council, and those who help maintain our church building.

We are so thankful for Calista for taking on the role as our faith leader when her life is so full. A welcome and thank you to Joyce for all her help in the parish office.

In Christ,  
Gary Swenson  
Council President

# Clementson Lutheran Church Annual Meeting-February 11, 2024

- I. Call to order
- II. Devotions
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Minutes - February 12, 2023
- V. Reports
  - A. Pastor/Sam Report
  - B. Statistical
  - C. Financial
  - D. Treasures
  - E. Church Women
  - F. Sunday School
- VI. Unfinished Business
  - A. Building improvements
    - 1. Foundation windows
    - 2. Finish entry
    - 3.
  - B. Grounds
    - 1. Tree cleanup
    - 2. Playground equipment
- VII. New Business
  - A. Approval of Mission Plan
  - B. Election of officers (2-year terms/total of 10)
    - Open seats: Vice President, Financial Secretary, Property
    - President - Gary Swenson 2017
    - Vice President - Marla Hasbargen 2020\*
    - Secretary - Carrie Hasbargen 2023
    - Treasurer - Sue Hasbargen 2019
    - Financial Secretary - Gary Hasbargen 2022\*
    - Property - Kit Hasbargen 2020\*
  - C. Election of 2 voting members and alternates
    - 1. Great Synod Get Together
    - 2. Northwestern MN Synod Assembly
  - D. Service Project
- VIII. Adjournment and Lord's Prayer

# **Clementson Lutheran Church Annual Meeting**

## **February 12, 2023**

Members present: Marla and Rod Hasbargen, Peggy Hasbargen, Jake and Jill Hasbargen, Jill and Char Hasbargen, Gary Hasbargen, Kit Hasbargen. Present by phone, Sue Hasbargen, Gary and Roseann Swenson.

Called to order: President Gary Swenson called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Pastor Birgitte led an opening liturgy.

Approval of Agenda: MSC Kit Hasbargen and Jill K Hasbargen

Approval of Minutes: MSC Kit Hasbargen and Gary Hasbargen

Report approval:

- Synod report - Pastor suggested that we read on our own
  - Pastor's report - Pastor shared her report, praying that this year we lean into a season of holy rest allowing a time to show us what is most important to us.
  - Statistical report
  - Financial - Gary Hasbargen shared a small change in the amount reported on the LOW Bible Camp deposited, correct amount \$26,037.53.
  - Treasurer's report - MSC Kit Hasbargen and Peggy Hasbargen to cancel phone service. Cell phone service has improved with the new cell phone tower in the area.
  - Church Women
  - Sunday school
- MSC Kit Hasbargen and Jill K Hasbargen to approval all reports

Unfinished business:

- Building - Kit will contact carpenters for estimates for sheetrocking the entry, foundation windows and siding the building.
- Grounds - spring clean up date set for 4/29/23

New business:

- Approval of Mission Plan - noted that in the proposed 2022 budget 2 items need correction - Flowers \$300, Building Supplies \$30,000(per minutes). Actual 2022 correction to insurance paid to \$1,249.75 per page 19. Increase building and maintenance to \$15,000 and music to \$500.00. Increase Parish Mission plan from 15.38% to 20% of the approved Parish budget. Increase amount to \$34,051.00. Total amount of 2023 budget \$64,326.00  
MSC with corrections for approval by Kit Habargen and Char Hasbargen

**Note** -total expenses minus the building expense equals \$49,326.00, the 2022 offering of \$42,060.00. We will be drawing on our reserves if offering does not increase.

- Bible Camp funds - Funds are set aside with the goal of using it for local needs. \$1,979.35 was used for startup expenses for Ruby's Pantry. Leaving a balance for \$24,058.18. Council asked for ideas on needs in the area. Hospice and Luther Crest (camping ministries) were suggested with a motion to give the Council authority to spend up to \$5000 this year. MSC Gary Hasbargen and Jill K Hasbargen.
- Election of officers - 2 year terms for President, Treasurer and Secretary are open. Gary and Sue both agreed to continue. MSC Kit Hasbargen and Peggy Hasbargen. Per the church constitution & bylaws, council members are to be on the council for a total of 10 years - A few names were given for the secretary position Roseann will follow up with calls.
- Election of 2 voting members - Pastor will mention in church service.

Adjournment: MSC Gary Hasbargen and Rod Hasbargen  
Closed with the Lord's Prayer





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.suomala-folkerds@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](http://luthercrest.org) - Year-round programming for all ages
  - Pathways: [pathwaysbiblecamps.org](http://pathwaysbiblecamps.org) - Year-round programming for all ages
- **We have Lutheran education:**
  - Oak Grove Lutheran School: [www.oakgrovelutheran.com](http://www.oakgrovelutheran.com); Concordia College: [www.concordiacollege.edu](http://www.concordiacollege.edu); Lutheran Campus Ministry of Bemidji: [lcm Bemidji.org](http://lcm Bemidji.org); Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSUM: [www.crossroadsmsum.com](http://www.crossroadsmsum.com)
- **We have ministries with our Indigenous neighbors:**
  - Peoples Church, Bemidji: [www.facebook.com/peopleschurchbemidji](http://www.facebook.com/peopleschurchbemidji)
  - The Way, Fargo-Moorhead: [www.facebook.com/p/Native-American-Christian-Ministry-of-Fargo-Moorhead](http://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](http://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](mailto:krisdernier@cord.edu) or [czeh@cord.edu](mailto: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](http://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  
with the Andhra Evangelical  
Lutheran Church of India*



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.



## Rural Revival vitality for rural congregations and communities

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.



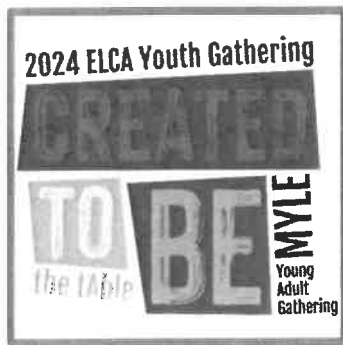
Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing, and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

## 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](mailto:krisdernier@cord.edu)



## **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

## 2023 Statistical Report

<b>Baptisms</b>		
<b>Confirmation/Affirmation of Faith</b>		
<b>Deaths/Funerals/Memorial Services/Burials</b>		
<b>Membership</b>		
<i>Transferred to other churches/removed by own request/removed by council action</i>		
Birgitte Simpson		
<i>Members Received</i>		
	<b>Baptized</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
December 31, 2022	108	89
December 31, 2023	107	88



## Clementson Lutheran 2023 Financial Secretary Report

### Month End Offering Totals

January	\$2768.00
February	\$3610.00
March	\$3981.00
April	\$4752.00
May	\$2243.00
June	\$2035.00
July	\$2440.00
August	\$2870.00
September	\$1835.00
October	\$2485.00
November	\$2378.00
December	\$3557.00
2023 Total	\$34954.00
2022 Total	\$42060.00
2021 Total	\$38260.00

## Clementson Lutheran Church Women 2023

### Checking Account

Balance 1-1-23

\$12434.89

### Deposits:

Anonymous \$500.00

Father's Day Picnic \$1820.00

Santa Anonymous \$125.00

Total \$2445.00

\$2445.00

\$14879.89

### Disbursements:

Lake of the Woods Foods \$320.66

Northern Light Region \$42.00

Dollar General \$125.43

Hardware Hank \$125.89

Joe's Pest Control \$150.00

Sue Hasbargen-lunch

(Reimbursement) \$44.00

Santa Anonymous \$300.00

Total \$1107.98

-\$1107.98

End Balance 12-31-23

\$13771.91

### Savings Account

Beginning Balance \$12990.82

Interest Earned \$33.65

End Balance 12-31-23 \$13024.47

#### CHURCH OUTREACH

1044	02/12	Northwestern MN Synod	\$3,000.00
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1053	06/14	Pathways	100.00
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Total	\$3,100.00
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#### Clementson Benevolence

1049	4/25	Pastor Birgette-pastor appreciation	\$250.00
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1058	8/8	Andy & Sarah Piersen	250.00
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1066	10/22	Calista –appreciation	500.00
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Total	\$1,000.00
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WINE	10/10		\$ 39.35
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SNOW PLOWING	Total	.00
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#### ELECTRICITY

EFT	1/23	North Star Electric	\$136.00
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EFT	2/22		119.00
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EFT	3/21		113.00
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EFT	4/21		109.00
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EFT	5/23		110.00
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EFT	6/21		84.00
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EFT	7/21		87.00
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EFT	8/22		85.00
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EFT	9/20	Capital credits applied \$203.19	.00
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EFT	10/22		.00
EFT	11/21		65.00
EFT	12/20		131.00
		Total	\$1,039.00

CHURCH INSURANCE

EFT	1/10	North Star Insurance	\$105.08
EFT	2/10		105.08
EFT	3/10		105.12
EFT	4/10		118.50
EFT	5/10		118.50
EFT	6/12		118.50
EFT	7/10		118.50
EFT	8/10		118.50
EFT	9/11		118.50
EFT	10/10		118.50
EFT	11/10		118.50
EFT	12/10		118.50
			\$1,381.78

INTERNET

EFT	1/24	CenturyLink	\$64.81
EFT	2/25	final telephone payment	65.36
	3/26		.00
	4/7		.00
	5/5		.00
	6/12	Sjobergs internet setup	221.06

EFT	7/10		36.95
EFT	8/10		36.95
EFT	9/11		36.95
EFT	10/10		36.95
EFT	11/10		36.95
EFT	12/10		36.95
		Total	\$572.93

#### MISSION SUPPORT

1045	january	Baudette Lutheran Parish	2,391.92
1046	february	Baudette Lutheran Parish	2,220.20
1048	march	Baudette Lutheran Parish	2,170.14
1051	april	Baudette Lutheran Parish	2,969.56
1054	may	Baudette Lutheran Parish	1,324.79
1056	june	Baudette Lutheran Parish	960.46
1057	july	Baudette Lutheran Parish	1,555.71
1062	august	Baudette Lutheran Parish	1,112.43
1065	september	Baudette Lutheran Parish	1,490.45
1068	october	Baudette Lutheran Parish	1,287.71
1069	november	Baudette Lutheran Parish	1,509.72
	december	Baudette Lutheran Parish –billed and paid in January	
		Total	\$18,993.09

#### LAWN MOWING

1061	8/18	Timmy Cook	\$300.00
		Total	\$300.00

**MUSIC**

1042	2/12	Jody Horntvedt	110.00
Total			\$110.00

**FUEL**

1055	7/11	Cenex-propane prebuy 1600 gallons @\$1.59 per gallon	\$2,442.36
Total			\$2,442.36

**BUILDING & SUPPLIES**

1059	8/9	Northern Lumber-church entry supplies	1,685.41
1060	8/8	Calvin Nelson-labor on entry	1,779.00
Total			\$3,464.41

**MISC EXPENSE**

1047	4/7	Hometown Hardware-material for quilts	\$28.97
1063	10/10	Hometown Hardware-material for quilts	6.50
1067	11/3	Hometown hardware-material for quilts	57.02

3725	12/27	Roseann Swenson-flowers for Christmas	55.00
Total			\$147.49

Total 2023 disbursements

Checking Account funds 1-1-23 \$44,841.69

Checking Account funds 12-31-23 \$19,716.31

7 month CD for \$25,000.00 purchased 8/9/23 due 3/9/24 5.25%

Memorial Fund 1-1-23 \$63,437.80

Memorial Fund/ 12-31-23 \$13,520.60

Interest \$ 82.80

12 month CD for \$50,000.00 purchased 8/9/23 due 8/9/24 5.25%

CLEMENTSON LUTHERAN CHURCH EXPENSES 2023 and MISSION PLAN for 2023

CHURCH OUTREACH	Actual 2022	Proposed 2023	Actual 2023	Proposed 2024
Synod Benevolence	\$3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Synod Assembly	198.00	550.00	.00	.00
World Hunger	.00	150.00	.00	.00
LOW Food Shelf	.00	150.00	.00	.00
Clem. Benevolence	1,550.00	2,500.00	1,000.00	2,500.00
TOTALS	\$4,748.00	\$6,350.00	\$4,000.00	\$5,500.00
CHURCH HOME				
1517 Media	.00	550.00	.00	.00

Stamps	0	0	0	0
Flowers	258.91	250.00	55.00	350.00
Wine	.00	75.00	39.35	75.00
Piano Tuning	130.00	150.00	.00	150.00
Misc Expenses	881.53	1,000.00	147.49	1,000.00
Electricity	846.00	1,300.00	1,039.00	1,300.00
Insurance	1,201.75	1,300.00	1,381.78	1,300.00
Telephone	738.50	750.00		canceled
Fuel	3,380.09	2,300.00	2,442.36	3,500.00
Building Supplies	12,089.27	5,000.00	3,464.41	5,000.00
Snow Plowing	.00	300.00	.00	300.00
Lawn Mowing	250.00	350.00	300.00	350.00
Safe Deposit Box	30.00	30.00	.00	closed
Musicians	240.00	250.00	110.00	500.00
Totals	\$20,046.05	\$13,605.00	\$8,979.39	\$13,825.00

,BAUDETTE LUTHERAN PARISH	Actual 2022	Proposed 2023	Actual 2023	Proposed 2024
Mission Plan Support	\$22,751.91	\$25,000.00	\$18,993.09	\$18,829.80
Totals	\$47,545.96	\$44,955.00	\$31,972.48	\$38,154.80
Ruby's Pantry	1,979.35			



## 2023 CYF Children, Youth and Family and 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

### Clementson Lutheran Sunday School

Beginning balance 1/1/23	-----	\$495.51
Deposit: 4/4/23		516.00
Expenses:		
Christmas program/Roseann		87.28
Nelson Store		308.00
Ending balance 12/31/23	-----	\$608.23

