

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)

HUTCHINSON, MN

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

MEETING ~ SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 AT 12 NOON



# ANNUAL MEETING

OUR MISSION IS:

### BUILDING FAITH

*"EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY,  
FOR BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST"*

*EPHESIANS 4:12*

TO LIVE OUT THAT MISSION, GOD CALLS US TO:

FOLLOW JESUS

ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL

INVITE ALL PEOPLE

TEACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH

HELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED

## **2023 Church Personnel and Office Assistants**

### **Church Council Officers**

President .....	Mona Hjerpe
Vice President .....	Dennis Langehaug
Treasurer .....	Ian McDonald
Secretary .....	Amanda Schueler

### **Pastoral Ministry**

Pastors .....	Scott Grorud, Dave Wollan
Mission Ministry .....	Paul Knudson (Part-time)
Visitation Pastor .....	Paulus Pilgrim (Part-time)
Pastoral Associate .....	Jeff Amundson (Part-time)

### **Lay Ministry Staff**

Administrative Assistant .....	Wendy Magruder
Custodial/Maintenance .....	Owen Weikle (Part-time)
Director of Children and Family Ministry .....	Laura Stowman
Director of Music and Worship .....	Austin Willhite
Director of Pastoral Care and Evangelism .....	Marsha Schmit
Director of Youth and Family Ministry .....	Kristen Durst
Finance Coordinator .....	Sara Wegner (Part-time)
Nursery Attendant (Sundays) .....	Erika Smith (Part-time)

### **Music Ministry**

Worship Leaders - Sunday Mornings: .....	Ronda Eckhart, Lara Liepold, Leah Kamrath, Andy and Tabetha Dawkins, Mona Hjerpe, Evan Boike, Kaylee Scheevel, Kevin Elton and Mike McDowell
Organists .....	Sharon Barton and Ronda Eckhart

### **Wedding Consultants**

Niki Pokornowski and Wendy Magruder

### **Volunteer Office Assistants**

Monday .....	Linell Loncorich and Angie Lohrenz
Tuesday .....	Sharon Romo
Wednesday .....	LoAnn Hanson
Thursday .....	Muriel Dobratz and Lynn Lange
Friday .....	Kathy Athey and Gail Telecky

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**Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda**  
**Sunday, January 28, 2024**

Call to Order

Adoption of the Agenda

Opening Devotions

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Faith Forward/Faith Internship Community/Ansgar House

Auditors' Report

Pastors', President's and Ministry Team Reports

Order of Business:

Election of Church Council and Ministry Team Members

Proposed By-law Change

Approve 2024 Budget

Phase Two Building Committee and Architect Presentation

Other

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

<b>Please bring this report with you to the annual meeting.</b>
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## Proposed By-Law Change

Unlike other congregational committees, the by-laws describing Faith Lutheran Church's Personnel Committee does not include its composition or how its members are chosen. Those two issues are described in a Personnel Committee document, but should be officially incorporated into the by-law. The committee also recently changed how it conducts annual reviews of the church staff.

The by-law for the Personnel Committee currently reads:

- B5.03. The Personnel Committee shall:
- a. Interview and recommend lay staff candidates to the church council.
  - b. Conduct annual reviews for all employees.
  - c. Review and update the church's Employee Policies and Handbook.
  - d. Recommend compensation packages for all staff as part of the budget process.
  - e. Work closely with staff and pastors on staff issues that may arise.

This is the proposed new reading (*changes/additions in italics*):

- B5.03. The Personnel Committee shall:
- a. *Be comprised of the current president, vice-president and immediate past president of the congregation; and, four at-large members of the congregation who may or may not be members of the church council or ministry teams. The at-large members shall serve three-year (3), staggered terms, which may be renewed once, but not to exceed six (6) consecutive years of service. Past congregational presidents may be nominated to serve another three-year term as an at-large member after their initial three years of service.*
  - b. *Present nominee(s) for the at-large position(s) to the church council for approval on or before the first Personnel Committee meeting of each year.*
  - ~~a. c.~~ Interview and recommend lay staff candidates to the church council.
  - ~~b. d.~~ ~~Conduct annual reviews for all employees.~~ *Oversee annual reviews for all employees as conducted by their pastoral supervisors.*
  - ~~e. e.~~ Review and update the church's Employee Policies and Handbook.
  - ~~d. f.~~ Recommend compensation *and benefits* packages for all staff as part of the budget process.
  - ~~e. g.~~ Work closely with staff and pastors on staff issues that may arise.
  - h. *Annually review the 401(k) plan and investments and approve changes as recommended by the broker of record.*

# Faith Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes

## January 29, 2023

I. Call to order at 12:02 p.m. by John Olson, Congregational President

II. Adoption of Agenda

A. Motion/Second/Pass - to accept the agenda as printed on p. 4 of Annual Report

III. Opening Devotions by Pastor Scott Grorud

- A. Highlighted some questions his father had noted in his "Minister's Prayer Book"
- B. There has never been a golden age of Christianity; there will always be struggles
- C. Despite all that our ancestors went through, they kept the faith
- D. Their example gives us hope to keep the faith
- E. 1 Timothy 6 - Cling to the promises - Fight the good fight.
- F. Despite tough days, God's promise never fail; Christ's Church will remain.

IV. Secretary's Report

- A. Motion/Second/Pass - to accept the minutes from the Annual Meeting dated January 30, 2022 as printed on pp. 5-6 of the Annual Report.
- B. Motion/Second/Pass - to accept the minutes from the special congregational meeting dated August 3, 2022 as printed on p. 7 of the Annual Report

V. Treasurer's Report

- A. A summary report is printed on pp. 27-28 of the Annual Report.
- B. A more detailed report is in the Financial Reports Addendum 2022.
- C. Question raised: Where is the Ansgar House listed in the financial reports?
  - a. Need to speak with Sara, Financial Coordinator, to get this answer.
- D. Motion/Second/Pass - to accept the Treasurer's Report.

VI. Upon This Rock Capital Campaign/Faith Forward 150 Campaign

- A. Upon This Rock campaign concluded in 2020
- B. Upon this Rock Plus fund has remained open and continues to receive donations
- C. Faith Forward: 150K for the Next 150 campaign concluded in 2021.
  - a. Funds were used to purchase the Ansgar House in 2022.
  - b. Fund remains open and continues to receive gifts.
- D. The written report is found on page 25.

VII. Faith Forward/Faith Internship Community/Ansgar House

- A. Faith Greenhouse will offer a year-long internship for those who are interested in church ministry positions.
- B. Interns would work with all church staff during their internship.
- C. Thank you to Haley and Bella Conn for their work on the Ansgar House, including painting, decorating, and upkeep of the property.
- D. Thank you to Paul and Bobbi Knudson for refinishing the kitchen cabinets
- E. We have received two applications for the Greenhouse Internships and anticipate housing an intern or two in the fall of 2023
- F. Received publicity in the Lutheran CORE and Augustana District newsletters.
- G. Updates have been made to Faith Lutheran Church's website to include internship program information and application link

VIII. Auditors' Report

- A. The report is printed on page 11 of the financial report; no irregularities found.

IX. Pastors' Report

- A. Pastor Dave presented. The printed report is on p. 9 of the Annual Report.
- B. Pastor and leadership shortages continue across the denomination.
- C. Question he has posed to himself: Why would I leave this church?
- D. Faith is a mission-minded congregation serving local and global mission partners
- E. Faith has great leadership and staff
- F. Faith is open to "adventures" like buying a church across town for youth ministry and buying a house to start an internship program for future church leadership.
- G. Concerns of our pastors:
  - a. Declining worship attendance--Importance of regular, weekly worship.
  - b. We did not quite meet our giving budget for 2022.
  - c. It was difficult to fill our church leadership/committee team positions.

#### X. President's Report and Ministry Team Reports

- A. John Olson presented. The printed report on pp. 9-10 of the Annual Report.
  - a. Ansgar House
  - b. Roof repairs
  - c. Amazing church staff
- B. Ministry Team written reports begin on p. 20 of the Annual Report. There are six ministry teams. Thank you to those who serve on them.

#### XI. Order of Business

- A. Election of Church Council and Ministry Team members, p. 23 of the Annual Report
  - a. 25 members are nominated, 3 will be serving a second term
  - b. Four nominees added for Church Council and Ministry Teams:
    - Dennis Langehaug, Vice President
    - Lesley Brellenthin, Church in the World member
    - Nick Brellenthin, Discipleship member
    - Bob Kreie, Nominating Committee member
  - c. Call for any nominations from the floor
  - d. Motion/Second/Pass - for the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for election of new members
  - e. Motion/Second/Pass - To allow council to fill the remaining open seat on the Church in the World team
- B. Approve 2023 Budget
  - a. Budget for 2023 is printed on pp. 5-8 of the Financial Reports Addendum 2022.
  - b. Proposed budget is \$940,260.00. It includes a 4.30% overall increase to the budget from 2022 to 2023.
  - c. Motion/Second/Pass to approve proposed 2023 budget
- C. Proposed Amendment to the Endowment Fund Resolution
  - a. Committee meets twice a year and determines annual disbursements from the interest earned on the endowment fund. Disbursements include local and global missions, and scholarships for local college students.
  - b. Proposal: to amend term limit for members from two terms to three terms
  - c. Motion/Second/Pass-to amend term limits on the Endowment Fund committee from two terms to three terms.

#### XII. Closing Prayer led by Pastor Dave Wollan.

#### XIII. Adjournment

- A. Thank you to all who served and helped prepare for the meeting.
- B. Motion/Second/Pass - to adjourn the meeting at 1:21p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Penny Stuber, Congregational Secretary

## Pastors' Report

*"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

Ephesians 3:20-21

This verse from Ephesians 3 was the inspiration for the *Imagine* capital campaign that started nearly ten years ago. At the time, leaders and members of Faith imagined what God might do, not only with the various areas of the new building addition, but through new and creative ministries. Some of the ideas that were developed then came to fruition and some did not, but, looking back over the years since, there is no doubt that God has indeed done "far more than all we can ask or imagine."

The most exciting development was launching the Faith Lutheran Internship Program (FLIP) and welcoming its first three participants, Courtney Corrente, Joshua Fernandez and Trevor Wersal. As they live in intentional Christian community at the Ansgar House, they are learning about every facet of parish ministry through the congregation. Each of them has chosen narrower, more specialized tracks to follow in the new year. It has been a joy and great blessing to have these "Flinterns" in the family of Faith.

This year saw other developments that we had not imagined earlier:

- Great Start is a children's ministry on late-start days at school that replaced school release time and is working much better;
- Kid's Music Club for 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders is the first effort in many years to conduct a musical group for children beyond Sunday School;
- many new members have joined the church and Sunday School is bursting at the seams;
- church attendance has noticeably improved, though it still falls short of what it should be;
- Pastor Dave finished his thesis for the Doctor of Ministry degree after three years of extensive reading and writing. As part of that academic journey, he enjoyed a month-long sabbatical.

As 2024 dawns, we still imagine other growth at Faith Lutheran:

- Most significant is the pursuit of Phase II of Faith's long-term building plan. It is much-needed, but the cost is daunting.
- Faith's stewardship and financial health have improved markedly, but the church remains far too dependent on massive offerings during November and December each year to cover its ministry commitments. We are so grateful for that astounding year-end generosity, yet we are also aware that it is a habit that leaves the church vulnerable to a financial crisis.
- It is already time to begin securing the second group of Flinterns to begin next fall after Courtney, Trevor and Joshua finish the inaugural year of FLIP.

Whether our current hopes and dreams develop as we now imagine them or not, the faithful and often surprising work God has already done in and through Faith Lutheran Church gives us abiding confidence in the promise of Ephesians 3:20-21. God surely has more in store for Faith Lutheran "than all we can ask or imagine," and we are grateful to pursue that mission together with a gifted and dedicated staff, and with the whole family of Faith.

Grace and peace to you all,

Pastor Scott Grorud

Pastor Dave Wollan

## Congregational President's Report

Dear fellow members of Faith Lutheran Church,

God's peace to you!

It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve this past year as your church council president. After having been a member for over 20 years, I have truly been blessed to have the opportunity to learn about and be involved with our church in this manner. Thank you for allowing me to do so! I would also like to express my *deepest gratitude* to our amazing FLC staff! Your commitment to working together as a team, using your individual gifts and talents collectively to share God's Word, is truly *beautiful*! I am thankful for every one of you.

As is true over time for our Faith Lutheran Church community, we have had a busy, wonderful and exciting year!



Please read on for a few of the 2023 highlights:

- Work in, on and around the Ansgar House was completed; the Ansgar House has hosted many wonderful individuals, activities, meetings, and now, has residents (the FLINterns!)
- Support groups (Caregivers, FAcE, Grief) continue to provide wonderful, much-needed care
- Our children and family ministries are growing by leaps and bounds, offering many opportunities to engage, grow and learn about Jesus
- Our youth programs continue to flourish, offering a wide variety of year-round fun and exciting activities for students within both our church and our extended community
- Wonderful educational and social opportunities are provided for all ages, including Faith Groups, Digging Deeper, Theo Thursday, Mugs and Muffins, Men of Faith (just to name a few!!)
- Much-needed roof repairs on Faith on Main have been addressed (finally!)
- A building committee (P2BC) was formed, and has been working hard with the architect to develop a plan for "Phase 2"
- Musical opportunities are available for all, including a performance of "The Messiah," traditional bell and vocal choirs and a Kid's Music Club (new!)
- A new Wednesday morning program entitled "Great Start" (in place of release time) has begun, and is a great success!

As a congregation, we worked and played side by side, sharing joy and tears while tackling a wide variety of "tasks," including things like...throwing pies at the pastors in the park on a summer Sunday morning (a fundraiser for the music department!), spending time cleaning, painting, remodeling and restoring a home (the Ansgar House repairs), serving our neighbors near and far by delivering May Day Baskets, creating quilts and blankets, partnering with local organizations to provide for those in need (Common Cup, The Closet [previously was Wings], filling Operation Christmas Child boxes [over 200!]), and cooking and sharing meals for a variety of events. *Thank you, all, for your continued commitment to sharing God's word by sharing your time, gifts and talents.* I am so thankful to be a small part of this amazing faith community. If you have not yet had the opportunity to be involved with our church by way of serving on a ministry team or the church council, I strongly encourage you to pray about it, and then, *say YES!* You will be blessed in ways you cannot know. Please consider it!

Blessings to you,  
Mona Hjerpe, Faith Lutheran Council President

## **Report from Pastor Paul Knudson, Missions Ministry**

This past year has given me opportunities to continue my principal focus on various mission endeavors that FLC supports and has asked me to give focused attention to some of them.

One mission that I and others are seeking to support is Tartu Academy of Theology along with its mission center, the Home of Hope. This mission endeavor is seeking to bring Christ back to a nation, once overwhelmingly Christian until the Soviet occupation for nearly 50 years brought persecution, church burnings and more. This decimated the numbers of Christians resulting in generations falling away from faith. The leadership of TAT/Home of Hope stepped out in faith and borrowed \$2,000,000 to provide new facilities for multiple ministry purposes, including space for training pastors. They have made great strides in their witness, but several years later still owe nearly half of that loan. Some of us are providing counsel on some of these challenges. FLC has TAT/Home of Hope on our mission budget for \$3,500.

I have continued working with others to provide funds through FLC and others for partnerships such as with NHMS and our partners in India. This also reaches out to mission partners in Ethiopia. I personally have had the privilege of being close to a couple of leaders there. This has been encouraging to them. The Augustana District continues to provide significant financial support to evangelical outreach through the Tabor Congregation, pastoral continuing education and other support for the North Central Ethiopia Synod of the national church body, EECMY.

I work with the FLC Church in the World team as they focus on both global and local/regional mission witness. It is an active and energetic team.

I continue in small ways to provide pastoral care to some of our shut-ins and others needing our support as they deal with various challenges.

## **Report from Pastor Paulus Pilgrim, Visitation Pastor**

Each year, as Visitation Pastor, I feel the need to thank Faith Lutheran and my partners in pastoral care: Marsha Schmit and Jeff Amundson. Marsha masterfully “quarterbacks” the flow of making pastoral care visits, gathering our people for communion worship at Harmony River and Woodstone, and shares leading two support groups— Grief and Caregivers. She also makes visits. Thank you for your faithfulness, Marsha. Jeff is compassionately and intelligently leading FAcE, the cancer group that meets every other week. This support group is getting noticed around Hutchinson and beyond, including our local oncology department at Hutchinson Health. Thanks for your deep concern for people struggling with cancer, Jeff.

Thanks also to Pastors Scott, David and Paul. They each make visits to hospital, the home bound and the like.

Thanks to all the seniors in action, serving their Lord by assembling our monthly *Faith Matters*, stuffing our weekly bulletins, volunteering in the church office, serving as Befrienders, serving funeral lunches, quilting, ushering, singing in Faith Singers and lots more. These hours of serving Faith Lutheran cannot be taken for granted.

It is such a joy to see our seniors at Sunday worship, hearing our Saviors’ words of grace and mercy, and doing what they can to respond with love, offering to serve Him in whatever ways they can, with God’s joy in their hearts.

Thanks to all of you for recognizing the value and needs of all our seniors in Faith Lutheran and the Kingdom of God.

## **Report from Pastoral Associate Jeff Amundson**

In 2023, I continued in remission and learning patience with a new definition of normal. I am at church Tuesday – Thursday in the mornings, plus fitting in visits to members outside of church and supporting New Hope Mission Society by acting as it’s treasurer. Mostly, thanks to God, life continues.

Pastoral Care: I have increased my visits during the last year and also have led services at different living facilities plus Bible studies. I continue to be amazed at the people I meet and their stories. They clearly value worship and time spent praising God. Most are thankful for what they have even as they face many challenges. This is an example of God working in them to support and strengthen them. It is indeed true that a hard day does not mean a bad day!

The cancer support group, FAcE: Fellowship Against Cancer, continues to meet and help many people manage their individual journeys. We have several new members and continue with many of our old members. It is so inspiring to see people move into remission and back into life after treatment. The summer gathering continues and this last year we had members from the Cancer Care Center in Hutchinson hospital speak and share tips on care and advancement in treatment for cancer. Let us not forget about the Seniors’ Potluck, food and fun! Paulus and Marsha continue to be wonderful teachers!

Missions: We have had many good discussions and tours of the local support agencies here in the community. It helps to put into perspective the importance that mission has right here in Hutchinson. There are many here who not only need help, but many who do not know about Jesus, who He is and His great gift to us, His children. I continue to support missions mainly through my treasurer responsibilities for NHMS. They continue to spread God’s Word in India. It is a great blessing to learn from Pastor Paul and understand local and global details.

Overall, it has been a good and blessed year. When I look back, I can have nothing but thanks and praise to God who continues to be my friend. As I noted last year, it is by God’s hand and all your love and prayers that I continue. That trust in God and Jesus continues for me into 2024 with hopes and prayers for a blessed year for all.

Pastoral Associate  
Jeff Amundson

## **Report from the Director of Pastoral Care and Evangelism**

*“Sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things.” Psalm 98:1*

The Lord HAS done such marvelous things in and through you, the Faith Lutheran Family! It has been such a *privilege to walk alongside* you and *work together* in ministry here at Faith. Aren’t we *blessed* to be able to spread the love of Christ?!

This year was similar to last in that I continued to meet with Pr. Paulus and Jeff Amundson for our mentor meetings, learning from the best! Pr. Paulus has such a wealth of knowledge when it comes to pastoral care, and Jeff and I feel so blessed to learn from him!

Assisting Pr. Paulus in our Caregiver and Grief Support Groups, Befrienders and in the Senior Ministries Task Force and Potluck has provided great opportunities for continued care and for more learning. Not only do these ministries help meet the needs of our people, but they reach others in the community as well.

I continue to meet weekly with the pastors and organize our visits with shut-ins, confidentially updating each other on the needs of those we care for here, to schedule communion services at our care facilities and other outreach in our community through the newspaper and radio devotions. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful pastoral team!

The other part of my job is coordinating volunteers in worship and throughout the church. I love to help people get connected to use their God-given gifts to serve at Faith. We could not do it without you, and I thank you for your willingness to step up and help!

One thing that was different this past year was preparing for and working with the interns who came at the end of August. The preparations started with getting the Ansgar house up to date and, with the help of many of you, the house was also cleaned, set up and ready for them to move in. It has truly been a pleasure having Courtney, Joshua and Trevor here this year. They are such amazing young people with a heart for God. God will surely do great things through them, and it is our prayer that their time here will provide a good foundation for ministry. We encourage you to get to know them and share your faith with them as well. God willing, there will be many more interns each year!

I pray for God to bless you abundantly in 2024!

Together in Ministry,  
Marsha Schmit

## Report from the Director of Youth and Family Ministries

This past year was marked with laughter, prayer, intentionality, and fresh perspective. My daily work as Faith's youth director is hard to sum up into a concise report. This job is unmatched with how much joy I receive. This Faith Family has given me far beyond what I could ever repay. Our youth are the heartbeat of this congregation and I hope this gives you a glimpse of this beautiful ministry.

**Middle School:** Our middle school ministries are abundantly fruitful. We have kids that are excited to be here on Wednesdays. I have an active Confirmation program that cares deeply and is invested in their faith development. Alongside that, I get to partake in the fun with them. From Mystery Bus, to God Squad, Powerhouse, and Middle School Release Time, I am amazed with these kids that show faith well beyond their years. On October 29, we confirmed sixteen ninth grade students and they are a class marked with grit as they have overcome so much in their young lives.

**High School:** FLY has always been a favorite part of my week. I enjoy the consistency of this program and the joy that walks into this church on Wednesday nights. At FLY this year, we have studied the Good Sex Series, Songs Rooted in Scripture, a series on worship and the different parts, Bizarre Bible Stories, world religions, women of the Bible, and relationships within life. I am blessed with consistent and intentional adult leaders who invest in the life of our high school students. We don't have a chaperone church, we have a leader church. They take pride in their investment. Among all of my adult leaders, we have well over 125 years of experience between each one. The key to a successful youth ministry is plugged-in leaders. We have just that and I am grateful for their dedication.

**Mission Trip:** This year we traveled to Logan County, West Virginia and it sure felt like we were on country roads that were taking us home! We loved this trip. From our work sites to the deep relationships built, I stand amazed at God's faithfulness in bringing forward this trip with intentionality and depth. Our theme was "You Hold it All Together" and there was a deep commitment to prayer from our leaders and participants. I remain amazed by this trip and would happily go on it again. We had 38 youth and 10 leaders participate in the trip this year. These trips take a lot of support and we are so thankful for your prayerful and financial support.

**Young Adults & College Ministry:** In the beginning of 2023, I had the opportunity to take a trip to Camp Penuel in Costa Rica with a group of five college guys, my dad, and Shannon Brice. It was an incredible trip that was marked with robust joy and heart-felt service. Oftentimes, we do not get to see the fruits of our labor on mission trips, but Camp Penuel is one place we always do. I have also been involved in creating our young adult community. I am thankful for the community that comes from laughter, food, and scripture! I am excited to see how it grows.

**Interns:** With the start of the internship program, it is amazing to see how God has multiplied the fruits of our labor. As I have been a part of the committee from the start, I remain assured that God surely knew what He was going to do. Laura and I had the opportunity to go to Trinity Lutheran in San Pedro, California to observe their internship program. This was a catalyst for us to begin crafting an intentional program. Our three interns that we have this school year have been nothing short of amazing. With them, I see a love for our congregation and a dedication that has been unmatched by prior internship/fellowship participants. They bring life to this church and it has been a blessing to know and serve with them. Thank you to all who have supported our internship program. We could not do it without you.

**Prayer Request** - Please be in prayer for God's continued faithfulness to the internship program as we start to look for the next interns.

Thank you for your continued prayer and support of youth ministries at Faith Lutheran Church. I do not take for granted serving in this church. I am privileged and humbled to serve here.

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,  
Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

## **Report from the Director of Children and Family Ministries**

### **SCHOOL YEAR**

**Release Time:** We completed the 2022-2023 school year at the end of March, but decided not to continue Release Time for the following school year, 2023-2024. Our reasons include fewer churches are doing Release Time, the Hutchinson Bus Line was charging for the use of buses, fewer students were attending, and Release Time was scheduled during core learning times.

**Great Start** was created to replace Release Time. Great Start is on the scheduled two-hour late start days from 7:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. This ministry expanded to include Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. We limited the number of students to 45, which filled up fast! There is no cost to the program, but donations are accepted to cover the cost of the Laabraton Bus that transports the children to school at the end of Great Start, cereal, milk, and snacks. The students start with breakfast and quiet activities, then split into rotations of games, crafts, and Bible story time. We meet up for Matins and end together with a snack. So far, we've had seven volunteers, and three staff members participate by helping with the program. Great Start has been highly successful and a huge blessing to the families who participate!

**56er's:** This Wednesday after-school ministry continues to be a success! We have 22 students who come from 2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. We have a hang out time, snack, lesson, and game. The FLN Interns have been helping with this program, which has allowed for more opportunities to bond with the students.

**Sunday School:** We kicked off the 2023-2024 school year on September 10 at Library Square. Students had class at picnic tables and Faith Rocks was at the band shelter. This is always a great way for students to ease back into Sunday School and for new students to feel comfortable meeting their teachers and classmates. Since we have 188 children registered, a fourth pre-school class was created, and next year a fourth 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class should be created, too. In total, there are 15 classes with a regular attendance of 125 students/Sunday. This year, Leah Kamrath has joined Kevin Elton in helping lead Faith Rocks. Thank you both!

**Christmas Program:** Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup>-grade Sunday School students presented a Christmas Program on Sunday, December 17 at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Christmas program team created the program, the pre-school – 1<sup>st</sup> grade students sang four songs, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students retold the Christmas story and sang two songs. Cookies were served afterwards.

**B23:** Parents and their children, birth to three-years-old, meet once a month from 9:10 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. during the school year to learn about Jesus and how to teach the faith at home. This fall the parents sat in for the Digging Deeper class on Habits of the Household.

**Sprouts:** Sprouts has really grown in attendance this year with about 25-35 students attending each week. Volunteers lead a pre-written lesson for children based on the Gospel reading for the day during the sermon of the 10:10 a.m. Foundation worship. We are always looking for volunteers in order to keep this program going.

**Nursery:** Erika Smith was hired to staff the nursery from 8:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. each Sunday during the school year to provide parents with babies and toddlers the opportunity to attend Digging Deeper classes and 10:10 a.m. worship services with less distraction. This is a great addition to our Sundays!

## **SUMMER MINISTRIES**

**God Squad:** On Wednesdays in the summer, from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., the summer interns, Kristen, and I led games, a Bible study and small groups for children who completed 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We had fewer students this summer, but the conversations were still wonderful!

**Vacation Bible School:** June 26 – June 29 from 9 a.m. – noon at Christ the King Lutheran Church. This year 107 children signed up to participate in Stellar VBS. Faith partnered with Christ the King to teach children that Jesus is the light of our world.

**Mystery Bus:** July 24- 26 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., we had 42 children attend. Mystery Bus is a fun-filled local mission trip for middle school students, with service projects and team building in the morning and an activity for fun in the afternoon. Service projects included organizing medical supplies at Global Health Ministries, packing food for Feed My Starving Children, and assembling hygiene kits for Operation Christmas Child. Activities included swimming at Lake Ann, playing at Grand Slam, and rock climbing at Vertical Endeavors.

**Day Camp:** August 7 - 10 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, for students in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Time filled with worship, crafts, and games. This summer 41 children attended. The program was led by counselors from Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps.

**Bible Camp:** Twelve children attended for either half of the week or for the entire week. Children attended the week of July 16 – 21 at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps. The cost of camp was lower due to the amazing financial support of donors from our church that go towards camper scholarships!

**Interns:** Kristen and I had two summer interns this summer. They learned how to work as a team, connect with youth, lead a VBS crew, lead lessons and games for God Squad and FLY, helped with Middle School Madness, helped with Mystery Bus, and met one-on-one with either Kristen or me each week.

## **Report from the Director of Music and Worship**

And just like that, we are in the new year! 2023 sure flew by, so here is what we were up to in the Music Department at Faith Lutheran Church this past year.

### **FAITH SINGERS**

Faith Singers continues to be one of my favorite ministry programs because of the expression of faith that comes from uniting our voices as one through the power of music! The group had a successful end to the last program year and a strong start to the new one this fall. Members of Faith Singers participated in the annual *Messiah Sing* in May and the *Coming Together in Song* concert for Common Cup Ministries in November. I am sad to report that Faith Singers has been on the decline with participant numbers over the past couple of years (21 members in 2021, 19 members in 2022, 16 members in 2023). However, I am not discouraged! The program is stronger than ever in the quality of music, organization, programming, and community. Music in the church is first and foremost for the glory of God, but it is also for us, God's people. Community is essential in achieving this goal. I hope that others will feel called into this ministry for the longevity of sacred choral music, the future of the program, and the furthering of the Gospel.

### **RINGERS OF FAITH**

Ringers of Faith continues to amaze me! The members of this ministry program have taken every challenge I give them and have turned it into beautiful music, no matter how strange my vision may seem at first. Ringers has remained steady with ten members from last program year into this year. With five octaves of bells available, there is potential to double our numbers. I would love to see member participation grow! Ringers has proven to be a place for fun, community, and a unique musical experience.

**Handbell Fundraiser:** Over the past few years, I have made some capable adjustments and basic repairs on various handbells in our collection. In April, I realized that some bells had reached a point of needing maintenance that was beyond my ability. I began researching methods and companies to have cleaning and repairs done. I settled on a company out of Texas called "The Bellman" which has a traveling truck that brings quality services to your location. The Worship Ministry team and Ringers of Faith members began planning for three main fundraisers to pay for this project. The total needed was \$3,375. Between two fundraisers in June and December, we raised \$2,940.50, and with reserves in the designated bell fund, we will have enough to complete the project without needing another fundraiser. The bell repair team is scheduled to be in Hutchinson sometime during April or May of 2024.

## **FAITH KIDS MUSIC CLUB**

Faith Kids Music Club (FKMC) has been an exciting ministry so far this program year. FKMC is a Wednesday program for kids in grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. My current roster includes 16 children. When starting this new ministry, I had three goals in mind.

- 1) **Worship Ownership** – The first goal of FKMC is to encourage a sense of ownership over worship, that the kids feel they have a part in leading, teaching, and planning worship. Rather than learning a song or two for one Sunday during offering (which is fine, too!), the purpose of this goal is to teach them about worship and why it is important. We then plan a part of worship that will enhance the Word or music in some way that is meaningful for them and the congregation. When kids feel proud of something they have done, they want more! This goal will encourage the kids to want to participate in worship more, as well as in other church activities.
- 2) **Positive Musical Experience** – It is no secret that the long tradition of choral music and broader sacred music is being lost in our youth today. Lately, I have realized that our youth are not encouraged and therefore do not understand how to participate in organ-led worship and that they are not familiar with how to read basic music. To combat this problem, the second goal of FKMC aims to provide kids with a positive experience in traditional and contemporary worship music early on. The purpose is to instill an appreciation for all types of music in worship and that no style is better than the other. Just as I stated in my report on Faith Singers above, community is important in a musical group and that is especially true for kids! FKMC is a place for all kids who want to be involved in music or worship in whatever way they are gifted. This goal will promote Faith as a place where positive musical learning experiences encourage future musicians of the church.
- 3) **Intergenerational Connectivity** – My final goal for FKMC is to promote kids working with adults. As FKMC becomes more established, I hope to have them working with Faith Singers and Ringers of Faith. Kids look up to adults who participate in activities in which they are also interested. This shows kids that their learning does not have to stop once they get older and that they have potential in music ahead of them. Music is a life-long activity meant for all ages. I have already begun intergenerational connectivity through a quilting project with the Quilters group at Faith. With goal 1 in mind, the quilting project promotes kids working with adults as well as creating something to enhance learning and worship.

If you want to know more about Faith Kids Music Club, I invite you to experience one of our sessions on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 in the Foundation or stop by my office for some discussion!

## **WORSHIP ACTIVITIES**

The biggest news in worship activities for this year is the exciting growth of our Foundation worship team. Just two years ago, we had only a few musicians that were playing every Sunday. Now I have 10 members on my worship team! It is a huge blessing to have so many talented musicians called into this ministry. I am beyond thankful for their time and dedication to the Music Department at Faith!

## **TECHNOLOGY/EQUIPMENT**

This past year has included a few updates and changes in our AV and online ministry as well as equipment upgrades.

- Three new HD cameras installed in the Foundation space
- Three new HD cameras installed in the Sanctuary space  
*Thank you to Mark Guggemos for securing and installing these.*
- Two new video switchers for our camera and recording operations
- One new mobile dual whiteboard
- Subscription to Planning Center for worship scheduling and communications

## **OTHER MINISTRIES/EVENTS**

- May 7 – *Annual Messiah Sing* joint with Christ the King choir and other community members
- July 30 through August 1 – CPH Summer Music Clinic (Austin and Sharon Barton attended)
- November 19 – *Coming Together in Song* Common Cup Ministries fundraiser concert

## **PRAYER REQUEST**

*May the God of creation who blessed us with the gift of musical expression continue to guide our hearts and minds through him and Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen!*

Soli Deo Gloria, Austin

# **MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

## **Children, Youth and Family Team**

2023 members: Jamie Kaping, Callie Backen, Tara Strey Jill Rude, Elizabeth Buckentin, Lindsey Hoffman, Maddie Hoffman, Johanna Hanneman, and (staff advisors) Kristen Durst and Laura Stowman.

The Children Youth and Family ministry team has a wide variety of programs, activities, and ministries that it works with every year. The team supports Christian parents in nurturing the faith of children and youth in the church by various means. In 2023, we worked together in the following areas:

### **Community Outreach Meal:**

The CYF team served pulled pork sandwiches, chips, potato salad, cookies or bars on Sunday, June 4, 2023.

### **Faith Family Fun:** Family Events organized by our team to bring generations together

Events included: hosting a multi-generational game day called Cabin Fever with the Congregational Life Team, swimming at the Hutchinson Middle School Pool, having Fall Kickoff at Library Square with outdoor Sunday School, leading an Operation Christmas Child packing event, and hosting a Happy Birthday Jesus Party.

### **Supported our Director of Children and Family Ministries in the following ministries:**

Vacation Bible School, B23, Mystery Bus, Sunday School, Christmas Program, and Day Camp.

### **Supported our Director of Youth and Family Ministries in the following ministries:**

Confirmation teaching and service, Youth Night, God Squad, and Mission Trips.

## **Church in the World Team**

Members: Rebecca Dressen (Chairperson), Leslie Brellenthin, Dorothy Desens, Lynn Gifferson, Lisa Ishihara, Jan Kreie, Carol Otto, and Al Scharn

One of the highlights and an area of focus this past year has been to address how various organizations we support locally complement each other in facing poverty and even homelessness. We have seen how it fits for us to work with Common Cup Ministries, but also with UCAP (United Citizens Action Program), and Homes. One result has been to be able, with budgeted and undesignated funds in our mission budget, to increase our support for providing temporary lodging to desperate people. Supplementing lodging through these agencies is one of our congregation's response to emergency needs of those facing dire situations. Through UCAP and the leadership of one of our board members, we have provided "back packs" with some basic essentials to those facing homelessness. The above community agencies on their own and collectively make a difference, and we at FLC are giving tangible help to them.

Globally, we give special priority to mission partners that are not "ashamed of the Gospel," but bear powerful witness to Jesus Christ as the Good News of salvation to all people, those among us and those in distant lands. Countless stories could be told of bold witness to our Lord by our partners in places like, India, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Estonia, Costa Rica, and to many other countries through Youth with a Mission. Katie Weikle, one of our members, is a leader of a training center through YWAM centered out of Nuremberg, Germany. Our witness also does include feeding the hungry, visiting the imprisoned and much more.

## **Congregational Life Team**

Members include Monica Schiller, Julie Monahan, Patty Pearce, Deidra Beilke, Tammy Kirchhoff, Tanja Glaser and Marsha Schmit (Staff Advisor)

The Congregational Life Team seeks to integrate church members into life and mission.

Highlights from 2023:

- We welcomed Monica Schiller and Julie Monahan to our ministry team.
- Assisted the Children Youth and Family team with a "Cabin Fever" event with games and treats.
- Coordinated a spring themed food drive, donating 613 pounds of food and \$225
- Hosted the annual "Lenten Picnic," serving over 100 members. Free will donations received went to Meghan's Place to be used for supplies for the treats they make for many of Faith's social events and an upcoming "Date Night" event that the discipleship team hosted.



- Hosted a new member luncheon, serving subs and treats for lunch and fellowship with Faith staff and new member families.
- First communion students received a card with handwritten sentiments on behalf of Faith
- Coordinated treats/beverages for outdoor worship services through the summer
- Sent 36 graduating seniors a card with handwritten sentiments on behalf of Faith
- Hosted the annual “Sundaes on Sunday” after a summer service in the park.
- Coordinated and served a community outreach meal, serving a “Build a Bowl” with chicken, rice, lettuce, black beans, cheese and many more fixings. We served about 90 people.
- Confirmation students received a card with handwritten sentiments on behalf of Faith
- Hosted the annual “Pie/Dessert” social following the Thanksgiving Eve service.
- Coordinated donations for “Adopt a Senior for Christmas” through an organization called CHAP Ministries out of Silver Lake, providing gifts to seniors within senior living facilities throughout McLeod County.
- Hosted the annual “Cocoa-N-Cookies” social following an Advent service.

The team is open to any ideas or suggestions to promote fellowship and member involvement in our family of Faith.

Tanja Glaser

## **Discipleship Team**

Members of the Discipleship Team: Jackie Backen, Nicholas Brellenthin, Cheryl Buboltz, Joy May (Council Rep), Julie Renkes, Nicki Scharn, Mark Schumann (Council Rep), Lori Swift, and Wendy Magruder (staff liaison).

The Discipleship Ministry Team Purpose: To support group activities that show love, kindness, fellowship and sacrifices given to mankind by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Discipleship Team was involved in many great activities during 2023.

- All new members of the congregation were personally called within a month or so after joining church.
- We provided “Welcome Back” advertising for outdoor services.
- Provided treats in the park one Sunday.
- Served the Community Meal on March 5; walking tacos were a big hit!
- Organized May Day baskets with flowers for homebound members of Faith.
- Planned and coordinated the annual Soup & Chili Supper! We had the most soups and chilis ever, 24 kinds to choose from!
- Sent anniversary cards to members of Faith on the anniversary of them joining Faith.
- Hosted a spring Date Night, planned a fall one which was postponed due to a low number of people who requested tickets.

The Discipleship Team has worked hard on many activities and events in 2023. We look forward to 2024 with gratitude for the path we have traveled and with plans for a future filled with hope.

*“Whatever you do, do it from the heart for the Lord and not for people. You know that you will receive an inheritance as a reward. You serve the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24*

## **Management Team**

Members of the 2023 Management ministry team included Mona Hjerpe, Dennis Langehaug, Ian McDonald, Amanda Schueler, John Dorival and Mark Guggemos. Staff liaisons were Pastor Scott Grorud and Sara Wegner.

The Management ministry team oversees the finances and property of the church by:

- Supervising the budget process of the church and the allocation of all funds.
- Securing adequate insurance to protect the church and its properties.
- Keeping a record of all money and property donated to the church and investing or dispersing of funds as directed by the Church Council or congregational meeting.
- Providing monthly financial reports to the Church Council.
- Overseeing the maintenance and improvement of church properties.
- Recommending, supervising and supporting the church custodian(s).



Highlights from the Management Team's work in 2023:

- Phase II Building Project: a building committee was formed in February, and the architect from Phase I (Brian Berg of Zerr-Berg) re-joined the team; the committee's work is ongoing, hoping to present a plan to the congregation in early 2024
- Ansgar House: the ongoing project included cleaning out the home (early in 2023), development of plans to utilize the space, receiving and accepting interns/summer fellows, hosting young adult events, indoor and outdoor repairs (appliance replacement, gutter repair, tree and bush removal); it is now completed and home to three "FLINterns"
- On-site garage: hired Nathan Fasching to evaluate and fix roofing problems
- Internet/streaming issues related to Sunday morning worship: evaluated and corrected
- Sanctuary gathering roof repair: Laraway Roofing was hired and worked toward completion of necessary repairs (October); the next steps (after finalizing the exterior), are to examine the interior damage, and develop and implement a repair plan.

Respectfully submitted by Mona Hjerpe

## **Music and Worship Team**

January: Reviewed 2002 Committee Notes

February: Welcomed new members to the group, started discussing and preparing for Lent/Holy Week and Easter Services. Austin expressed that there would be a need for Faith's bells to be maintained and repaired in the near future.

March: Discussed Maundy Thursday plans, a search began for those that would play roles in the services that evening. Talked about fundraising for bell repair, and about possible sound/AV upgrades for Foundation space.

April: The group made plans to get bids for a summer worship banner upgrade. The council retreat was held with all committees. On April 6 the Music and Ministry Team helped with the Last Supper portrayal during the Maundy Thursday services. Many church members stepped up to play the roles of the disciples and Jesus, and it went very well. A light supper was provided for those that helped out that evening.

May: Outdoor worship plans, committee members loaded the trailer for summer services, continued to finalize plans for "pie-the-staff member" fundraiser.

June: Continued discussion regarding future fundraising ideas, shared outdoor worship updates.

July: The group talked about ideas for a new children's music ministry group being created along with possible suggestions for a name, discussed ideas as to how also to help the adult music programs grow. More plans were discussed regarding the fall fundraiser, planning will continue at the next meeting in August, Austin shared that the "pie the staff member event brought in a total of \$1,493.00. It was the consensus of the group that the fundraiser went very well.

August: The team addressed individual invitations for kids in grades 2 - 5 to sign up for the new Kids' Music Club starting on 9/13/23. Plans were made for the upcoming community meal that would be served in September. Catering for the next fundraiser was discussed.

September: Re-cap of summer worship services, Austin shared that at this time there are 12 members in the Kids' Music Club and that it is going really well. The committee started talking about the upcoming Advent season and what the music theme for this season would encompass, Talked about moving a late fall fundraiser to a dinner during the Advent season. The Worship Ministry Team served the free community meal on 9/10/2023, a Thrivent grant helped offset the costs of the food and beverages.

October: Discussion was held on menu options for the catered meal that would be provided by Joanie's Catering on December 13, 2023, Austin shared plans for Festival Sunday worship services.

November: It was shared that the Thrivent grant for the upcoming fundraiser was approved, ideas were discussed regarding centerpieces and decorations, along with finalizing the menu for the meal. Austin filled in the team on liturgical themes throughout the Church seasons.

## Seniors Task Force Report

Our task force members are: LoAnn Hanson, Virginia Brodd, Dick Desens, David Franzen, Lynn Splittgerber, and Patti Anderson.

The Seniors Task Force's main duty each year is to plan "Bless The Years" Sunday, the first Sunday in May. They plan all the specifics of the day, with worship details the primary responsibility. They seek out acolytes, ushers, lesson readers, and select the hymns for the First Word worship service. Some years we have also planned Digging Deeper sessions for different subjects relating to aging people. Examples from the past: Caregivers, "Why Call Aging Years the Golden Years," and "Sharing Your Legacy." Also, each year, Virginia Brodd interviews and writes an article on one of our elders (or often a married couple) for a "Spotlight on Seniors" article appearing in our May *Faith Matters*.

## Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW) Report

During 2023, Faith Lutheran Church Women organized the following events: rummage sale in April, Mugs and Muffins in August and October, and a Christmas luncheon in December.

The rummage sale was a success and is always appreciated by the Hutchinson Community. We raised \$8,680.93.

Mugs and Muffins had a good starting turnout of 35 - 41 attendees in August and September. Sarah Hingst was our speaker in August and her daughters Abby Mitsche and Ava Hingst spoke in October.

Seven women attended the Augustana District Annual WOW Gathering in Springfield MN.

The Christmas Tea was well attended. A small committee of women organized the event. Dr. Cassie Froemming spoke about how to write your story.

At the November annual meeting the following women were elected to office: President Sarah Hingst, Vice President: Connie Saloum, Secretary: unfilled and Treasurer: Mary Ann Ward. At a later meeting the secretary position was filled by Abby Mitsche.

Disbursements of profits from the year were given to international and local charities: Faith Lutheran Church, New Hope Mission Society, YWAM Slavic Ministries, Common Cup, Faith Lutheran Hunger Appeal, Orphan Grain Train, Global Health Ministries, Harmony River, Woodstone, Meghan's Place, Meals on Wheels, Ansgar House, Kids Music Program and McLeod Alliance for Domestic Violence.

## Faith Lutheran Quilters Report

The quilters are a very busy group that meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The Orphan Grain Train and Global Health Ministries are the two main organizations that benefit from our donations. Items donated to these organizations this year:

Adult Diapers - 60	Compression Sleeve - 1	Pillow Case Dresses - 59
Assorted Blankets - 306	Hospice Kits - 50	Quilts - 187
Bandages - 5,940	Lap Napkins - 1	Socks - 3,188
Bed Pads - 34	Lap Throws - 1	Towels - 24
Bibs - 2	Medical Materials - 1,903	Uniforms and Gowns - 177
Body Slings - 30	Newborn Kits - 29	Utility Bag - 1

Many of our volunteers work from home on their own time and a few work at church one or two days a month preparing materials for the monthly work day. We would like to invite anyone (with any skill level) to join us. We offer on-the-job training for anyone interested.

A big thank you to Hutchinson Health and Harmony River for all of their material donations that support our ministry. Thank you also to those who deliver these items to Orphan Grain Train and Global Health Ministries.

Submitted by Diane Ferguson

## **Confidential E-Mail Prayer Chain**

***"Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything..."*** Philippians 4:6

We currently have 31 men and women who receive prayer requests via e-mail. Our prayer warriors pray specifically upon receiving a confidential prayer request.

If you would like to become a Faith Lutheran prayer warrior, please send me your e-mail address. You can also submit prayer requests to me at [grjohn45@gmail.com](mailto:grjohn45@gmail.com)

Geri Johnson

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

***"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. I always pray for you and I make my requests with a heart full of joy..."*** Philippians 1:3, 4

Our Faith Lutheran Prayer Shawl Ministry began in May of 2006. We have ten women actively involved in this ministry. In 2023 we presented 12 shawls. Over the past 17 years, we have presented 1,026 shawls! They have been given to residents of nursing homes/care centers, missionaries serving abroad, injured soldiers, deployed soldiers, Common Cup Ministry, those who are hospitalized, those who are mourning the death of a loved one, our youth, foster children, and the Hutch Health Cancer Center just to name a few. The shawls serve as a physical reminder that we remember the recipients in prayer.

***"Children are a gift from the Lord, they are a reward from Him."*** Psalm 127:3

Faith's Prayer Shawl Ministry includes prayer blankets for newborn babies. A prayer blanket is presented to families of Faith when a child is born. This year we presented three of these blankets. Over the years we have given out a total of 176 blankets.

We supply yarn for our shawl makers. The yarn is purchased through donations from the Faith Lutheran Church Women's Ministry, the Endowment Fund, and individuals. Thank you for your continued support. Thank you to all who create our beautiful shawls and blankets.

Each shawl and blanket is photographed and the picture is placed in an album with the name of the person who made it. When it is given out, the name of the recipient is recorded by the photo and also on a spread sheet.

If you knit or crochet and would like to become a part of our Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact me at 320-587-6733 or [grjohn45@gmail.com](mailto:grjohn45@gmail.com).

Geri Johnson

## **Common Cup Ministry Annual Report**

***"The mission of Common Cup Ministry is to gather and share spiritual and financial resources of area churches into one 'Common Cup' so that we may minister to those in need."***

Common Cup Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a board of directors from member churches and area ministerial associations. Bev Bonte is the Director, Jen Wicklund is the Program Director, and Diane Pedersen is the bookkeeper. The board of directors meets monthly. Member churches are encouraged to have a representative to serve on the reps council, which also meets monthly.

Through a voucher system Common Cup funds are administered by volunteers to help those who fall through the cracks of other means of assistance. These vouchers assist with rent, lodging, transportation, utility bills, laundry, clothing, medical resources, etc. We make referrals to McLeod Emergency Food Shelf and maintain a mini food pantry at the CCM office. CCM promotes participation in the Fare for All food buying co-op. We support and help promote the Laundry Love programs in both Hutchinson and Glencoe.

The CCM Thrift Store in Glencoe serves the community by selling donated household items with profits financing CCM programs. It also is able to provide some of these items to those in need.

Volunteers are always needed. Our volunteers offer spiritual ministry as well as financial and emotional resources and support. For opportunities, please call Bev Bonte at 320-234-8344 or e-mail her at [commoncupmn@gmail.com](mailto:commoncupmn@gmail.com). You can also contact Jen Wicklund at 320-583-9929 or e-mail her at [jenwicklund@gmail.com](mailto:jenwicklund@gmail.com). Thank you to all who give so generously of your time!

As our programs have grown our office and workspace have become issues. Please be in prayer about our space needs.

Our outreach programs for McLeod County residents included the following in 2023:

- 1) Annual Back to School Supply collection and distribution (served 566 students)
- 2) Annual Warm Coat collection & distribution, (380 coats/130 pairs snow pants/115 pairs of boots)  
We continue throughout the winter to provide these items per special requests.
- 3) Weekend Backpack Feeding Program for K-6<sup>th</sup> graders in McLeod County (411 students currently served)
- 4) Bi-monthly distribution of diapers in Hutchinson and Glencoe (over 120 bags given per month/totally)
- 5) Food products delivered to area REACH programs
- 6) Personal care products delivered to McLeod County schools and senior as well as family housing facilities.

The Annual Meeting of CCM will take place Monday, April 15, 12:00 noon, at Hunter's Ridge Community Church in Hutchinson. Each CCM member church selects one person (their rep to CCM) to be their voting member. New board members will be elected and reports on our financial position and outreach programs will be shared. All are encouraged to attend this meeting.

A special thank you to Faith Lutheran and its members for your generous gifts and for your willingness to volunteer. Through the generosity of our member churches, businesses and individuals, we have been able to continue our assistance to individuals and families with an immediate need and to provide resources for assistance through other programs offered in McLeod County.

Geri Johnson

Faith Lutheran's Representative to CCM

## **2023 Augustana District Annual Report For Congregations**

### **A TIME OF CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY**

Much has been said and written about "LCMC 3.0." The purpose of this report is to frame this within the context and future of the Augustana District. At the last Annual Gathering, participants were asked to provide input around five particular areas of LCMC 3.0. Focus groups met and discussed the following areas: Global Missions, Conflict Management, Intentional Interim Ministry, Clergy Shortage/Next-Gen Leaders/Creative Staffing, Districts and Fellowships.

### **THE NEW ROLE OF DISTRICTS**

In order to resist the temptation of addressing the challenges listed above through the hiring of more LCMC staff, districts have been challenged in new ways. According to the LCMC website, there are currently eight U.S. districts. All of them are considering ways to address at least three of the challenges listed above: conflict management, intentional interim ministry, clergy shortage/Next-Gen leaders/creative staffing. All district and fellowship leaders will meet in conjunction with the Board of Trustees and Ministry Board (June 26-28, 2024) to address these challenges.

### **AUGUSTANA DISTRICT**

As the Augustana District, we remain committed to the ministry we have always had as a priority. At the same time, we are committed to addressing new needs that arise and other areas of ministry (beyond those listed above). For instance, we added a Sr. High Youth Retreat and a First Call Retreat for pastors in 2023. We plan on continuing both. We are also planning to offer call coach training within the district. As one of the larger and more organized districts in LCMC, we continue to provide an important leadership role for other existing districts, as well as new ones.

### **THANK YOU**

Augustana *IS* the sum of the congregations that make up our district. THANK YOU for your prayers, financial gifts and support that comes in many ways. We are served well by a dedicated staff, boards and district council. As we look to 2024, Psalm 143:8 comes to mind: *Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.*

In Christ,

Pastor Randy Freund,  
Augustana District Service Coordinator

## **2023 Membership Updates**

### **Received through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

Nora Alrick	Alison Engel	William Schwarze
Miles Anderson	Hannah Kamrath	Tara Shonerd
Hudson Benage	Joshua Lauer	Treyvon Spann-Kahle
Charlotte Boike	Phillip Lauer	Mark Stone
Lila Burgoyne	Callier May	Brielle Stromseth
Tatum Bussler	Joseph May	Kobyn Terlinden
Jodi Brunner	Archer Radloff	Jensen Thompson
Charlotte Carlson	Violet Resmen	Olive Yurek
Adley Draeger	Dahlia Ruiz	
Cooper Eastman	Walker Schmidt	

### **Confirmed in their Faith on October 29, 2023**

Trinity Alderink	Owen Johnson	Lyla Selle
Mara Bruhn	Alexandra Kottke	Howie Smith
Adasyn Conn	Adler Nelson	Tessa Strei
Wyatt Drahos	Luke Ostlie	Leighton Wagner
Julianne Frank	Leigha Pausick	
Myles Harlander	Avari Piehl	

### **New Members in 2023**

Brennen Albrecht	Paul and Maureen Froemming	Michael May, Joey and Callier
Joe and Toni Becker	Barb Hedin	Russell and Rochelle Merkins
Hayden and Crystal Branson	Maddie Hjerpe	Tim Meier
Andy & Tabetha Dawkins,	Debra Kieper	Myron Oftedahl
Alayna, Elian, Elliot, and Aria	Derek and Jodi Knoll	Mary Parker
Travis Bussler & Whitney Ewert	Audrey Horrmann	Lowell and Kim Pearson
and Tatum	Josh & Leah Kamrath,	Chris & Karen Solien,
Tonia Bymers with Sydney and Taryn	Cora, Mila, and Ezra	Grace, Lily and Henry
Alexa Corrow	Terry and Kathy Knoll	Roger Wersal
Noah Corrow	Corey & Nikki Kurth and Kaison	Austin Willhite and Bailey Fields
Gregory Fraser & Jessica Meyer,	Tyler and Jessica Lauer	
Haidyn and Haddie	Zach Mandelkow	

### **Married in 2023**

Aaron and Kelly Albrecht	Nicholas and Abby Lange	Devon and Taylor Plecas
Brennen and Ashley Albrecht	Jonathon and Calla Lee	
Kyle and Julia Jensen	Logan and Ashley Miller	

### **Deaths in 2023**

Russell Barrick	Steve Jensen	Richard "Dick" Nagy
Ralph Blum	Randy Lange	Karol Nolte
Bridget Burch	Dolores Lorentzen	Scott Plowman
Betty Garberich	Ellsworth Lorentzen	Harold "Swede" Sandgren
Geraldine Grams	Milton Lueneburg	Larry Sorensen
Ronald Hahn	Frances "Fran" Lundeen	Rose Wagner
Dennis Hedin	Barbara Max	Lucille Wehking
Darlene Horrmann	Kaitlin May	

# Faith Lutheran Church Council and Ministry Team Members

## Congregational Officers

**President:** Dennis Langehaug (2024)  
**Secretary:** Amanda Schueler (2024)

**Vice-President:** Jon Kamrath (2024; president-2025)  
**Treasurer:** Al Liepold (2024)

### Church Council Representatives

#### Children, Youth and Family

Jamie Kaping (2024)

Lola Bradford (2025)

#### Church in the World

Jan Kreie (2024)

Connie Saloum (2025)

#### Congregational Life

Monica Schiller (2024)

Tanja Glaser (2025)

#### Discipleship

Joy May (2024)

Cheryl Buboltz (2025)

#### Management

Dennis Langehaug, President (2024)  
Jon Kamrath, Vice-President (2024)  
Amanda Schueler, Secretary (2024)  
Al Liepold, Treasurer (2024)

#### Worship

Derek Durst (2024)

Karna Blake (2025)

#### Nominating Committee

Virginia Brodd (2024)  
 Sharon Daniels (2024)  
 Bob Kreie (2024)

### Members

Elizabeth Buckentin (2024)

Tara Strey (2024)

Calli Backen (2024)

Tayja Mackendanz (2025)

Jessi Boike (2025)

Kati Katzenmeyer (2025)

Lisa Ishihara (2024)

Lynn Gifferson (2024)

Lesley Brellenthin (2024)

Dorothy Desens (2025)

Carol Otto (2025)

Rebecca Dressen (2025)

Patty Pearce (2024)

Juli Monahan (2024)

Shelly Grorud (2025)

Tammy Kirchoff (2025)

Nicki Scharn (2024)

Jackie Backen (2024)

Nick Brellenthin (2024)

Julie Renkes (2025)

Shari Dorival (2025)

Tim Meier (2025)

Mark Guggemos (2024)

Maria Weikle (2025)

Mike Blake (2024)

Brad Burch (2024)

Heidi Froemming (2024)

Sandy Curtiss (2025)

Roxanna Boe (2025)

Mona Hjerpe (2025)

Andrea Wollan (2025)

Randy Redman (2025)

\_\_\_\_\_ (2025)

## **Personnel Committee Report**

Current members of the Personnel Committee are: Mona Hjerpe, Dennis Langehaug, John Olsen, Jon Kamrath, Chris Wilke, Tim Piehl, and Sara Wegner (chair).

The personnel committee is responsible for reviewing staff benefits, compensation budgets, updates to the church's Employee Policies and Handbook, and to work closely with the staff and pastors on any staff concerns, issues or hiring needs.

In January 2023 we welcomed Erika Smith to our staff as our Sunday morning nursery coordinator.

We thank the staff for their dedication and service to the congregation and community. Also, we thank the many volunteers for your time and commitment to support Faith Lutheran's staff and ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara Wegner, Personnel Committee

## **Faith Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Report**

Members: Scott Ziegler, Chair; Kyle Schantzen, Treasurer/Secretary; Andy Reid, Virginia Brodd, Bob Winslow

The Faith Lutheran Endowment Fund Committee for the year 2023 continued to follow the intended purpose of the fund to enhance the outreach mission of Faith Lutheran Church. During 2022, the Endowment Fund earned \$40,300 of investment income. The endowment resolution states that 20% needs to be reinvested and the remaining amount was disbursed in 2023.

In 2023, the committee dispersed income totaling \$32,240.00 as follows:

- Global Mission – K.K. Alavi's work in India, Augustana District/Tabor, Augustana District/AIMJ, YWAM for Katie Weikle, TAT, Global Health Care, Lutheran World Relief
- Regional Missions – Ingham-Okobojo Camp, Mt. Carmel Bible Camp, Luther House of Studies, Abdul Messiah, Institute of Lutheran Theology, Lutheran seminary scholarship
- Local Mission – HOMES, WINGS (now The Closet), student scholarships, Common Cup, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Christian Counseling Fund
- Special Mission Needs – Youth Mission Trip, New Hope Mission Society – Bible College, Rev K.K. Alavi Support, FLC Alumni Ministry Support, Augustana District

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Ziegler, Chair

## **New Hope Mission Society (NHMS) Report**

Faith Lutheran Church continues to give leadership and major financial support to this Christian evangelical witness to Muslims especially in southern India. This past year Pr. Scott Grorud (chairperson of the board), Jeff Amundson, Pastor Paul, along with Jan Kreie and Dorothy Desens as board members have provided counsel along the way to the leaders of this mission. FLC is also a major financial supporter of the mission through its budget, Endowment Fund, and individual member giving.

A special highlight of the year was a group representing NHMS going to India for a dual purpose. First, Pastor Randy Freund led a group that included Ian McDonald to encourage the ongoing witness of Pastor K.K. Alavi's powerful witness. One of the participants is a professional in creating videos. He worked with K.K. to put on video his long-term witness to Jesus Christ among Muslims. In addition, the team worked with the leaders there to strengthen our bonds of love and care that this mission witness goes forward for years to come. Funds were provided to K.K. for an electric wheelchair along with provided funding for Abduls hip surgery.

2023 was another good year in terms of NHMS providing well over \$100,000 for this mission. Thank you FLC for your ongoing leadership and support.

## **Report on FLIP and the Ansgar House**

Two thousand twenty-four was the year our vision became a reality! The vision of a year-long internship program came to fruition last year due to the hard work and generosity of the Faith Lutheran community! In one year's time we:

- Housed our first summer interns at the Ansgar house- Sabrina Tracy and Jasmine Moore
- Had the soffits, fascia, and gutters repaired
- Had the main-floor bathroom remodeled
- Painted and carpeted the main-floor bedrooms
- Replaced the oven/range in the main-floor kitchen
- Removed the tree in the backyard
- Removed some overgrown shrubs
- Housed our first three Flinterns- Courtney, Trevor, and Joshua!

Thanks to all who chipped in to getting the house ready! So many people have given of their time, money, expertise, and care. Thank you, also, for making our three interns feel welcome and for all the support you've given to them!

As they move into the second half of their internships, Courtney, Trevor, and Joshua are immersing themselves into a couple focus areas, where their gifts and energy will be a real blessing for FLC. Continue to pray for them and support them as they grow and learn. Meanwhile, efforts are ramping up to recruit the next batch of interns for the fall.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Dave





# Financial Reports 2023

Faith Lutheran Church  
335 Main Street S.  
Hutchinson, MN 55350  
320-587-2093

\*Full financial reports will be available in the church office.  
If you would like one mailed, please contact the church office  
at (320) 587-2093

## Faith Lutheran Church Budget vs Actual

	2023 Budget	Jan - Dec 23 Actual	2024 Proposed
Total REVENUE-OFFERINGS	869,700.00	891,925.12	934,700.00
Total REVENUE - MINISTRY ACTIVITY	50,560.00	47,224.47	49,685.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>920,260.00</b>	<b>939,149.59</b>	<b>984,385.00</b>
Total MINISTRY - Benevolence	89,831.00	89,831.00	98,112.00
Total MINISTRY FOR DISCIPLESHIP	44,327.00	41,667.15	41,527.00
Total MINISTRY FOR FLIP	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
Total MINISTRY FOR OUTREACH	14,665.00	12,002.96	14,465.00
Total MINISTRY FOR CARE	5,000.00	6,739.38	5,850.00
Total MINISTRY FOR WORSHIP	8,725.00	8,788.92	9,725.00
Total MINISTRY FOR ADMINISTRATION	125,450.00	133,439.77	149,350.00
Total MINISTRY FOR PERSONNEL	632,262.00	627,842.95	661,356.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>920,260.00</b>	<b>920,312.13</b>	<b>984,385.00</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>18,837.46</b>	
Other REVENUE - Mission Gifts	20,000.00	10,829.67	8,950.00
Other MINISTRY - Mission Gifts	20,000.00	10,829.67	8,950.00

*\*Full financial reports will be available in the church office.  
 if you would like a mailed copy, please contact the church office at (320) 587-2093.  
 \*The Audit letter is available for review by contacting the church office.*

## Faith Lutheran Church Balance Sheet - 12-31-2023

ASSETSGeneral Fund

Cash in Bank – General Operations	86,919	
Reserve Funds - General Operations	50,000	
Petty Cash	100	
<b>Total General Assets</b>		<b>137,019</b>

Restricted Funds

Building Maintenance Fund	58,676	
Capital Appeal Funds	135,437	
Christian Counseling Fund	2,507	
Faith Lutheran Church Endowment Fund	747,895	
Faith Lutheran Church Women	5,933	
St. Morten's Cemetery Fund	2,384	
Memorial Fund	4,898	
Special Fund Account	40,039	
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>		<b>997,769</b>

Property and Equipment

Land - Main St	421,270	
Church Sanctuary and New Addition	5,593,220	
Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	218,232	
Ansgar House	169,000	
Accumulated Depreciation	-3,013,972	
<b>Total Property and Equipment</b>		<b>3,387,750</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$4,522,538</b>

LIABILITIES & EQUITIESLoans Payable

Mortgage	\$0	
<b>Total Loans</b>		<b>\$0</b>

Net Equities

General Fund (Operational Deficit)	137,019	
Restricted Funds	997,769	
Property and Equipment	3,387,750	
<b>Total Net Equities</b>		<b>\$4,522,538</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Total Equities</b>		<b>\$4,522,538</b>

