

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



SPIRIT OF CHRIST

COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Report for 2023 Annual Meeting - January 28, 2024



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Worship: 11:00am on Sundays

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9am-2pm





Grace, peace, and hope through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Day by day ... they ate their food
with glad and generous hearts,
praising God and having the good
will of all the people. – Acts 2:46-47*

In May, we meet for our 2024 Synod Assembly under the theme “With Glad and Generous Hearts.” The phrase describes the early church as they gathered on Pentecost. It is also an appropriate description of the past year of our life and ministry together.

In 2023, our hearts were gladdened by:

- Your congregation, along with the other 136 congregations in our synod, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, nurturing community, and loving neighbors and neighborhoods.
- The privilege of accompanying congregations in 72 Call Processes; presiding at 14 Ordinations and 30 Installations; and walking with 34 people preparing to become pastors or deacons.
- 142 lay leaders and 28 clergy from 31 congregations learning to be church in the 21st century through our Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices intensive learning communities.
- 6,500 people receiving our weekly enews. (Sign up at mpls-synod.org/sign-up to feel more connected.)
- 100s of rostered and lay leaders involved in synod sponsored peer groups, conferences, and retreats.
- 100s of leaders from synod congregations helping pass the state’s “100% Clean Energy By 2040” and “Restore The Vote” legislation that advance both climate justice and racial justice.
- 100s of leaders faithfully serving as Deans, on Synod Council, and Candidacy, Audit, Program Committees.
- 15 gifted and devoted synod staff members: 10 funded by Mission Support from you and other congregations, and 5 funded by Lilly Endowment and other external grants.

We praise God for the congregational generosity that makes all this happen. At the same time, we recognize that mission support from congregations has declined 16% over the past 10 years, resulting in a reduction in synod staff hours. Especially as we prepare to elect a new bishop this spring, we invite you to consider strengthening your support for the future of the synod’s work.

Conference Assemblies are just around the corner: Saturday, February 10, 9:30 a.m. – Noon. Of particular importance will be conference nominations for bishop as well as for voting members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, July 28 - August 2, 2025. We encourage congregations to send the same voting members to both the Conference and Synod Assemblies.

As we look at declining mission support or grieve the closing of a congregation, we can become discouraged. In such moments, I encourage you to listen to a remarkable conversation from our 2023 Synod Assembly. Our keynote speaker, the Rev. Otis Moss III, was asked: “what do you say to those who think the church is dying?” Filled with courage and hope, Moss responded, “the church is not dying, it is being born, refashioned, and remade. The early church was an alternative community. Today we use the metrics of the market to evaluate the church – buildings, budgets, numbers. But, the early church looked at **impact**: were people hearing the good news of Jesus who lived and died for our salvation? Was suffering being relieved? Were people being welcomed and healed?” (mpls-synod.org/our-synod/synod-assembly-2/2023-synod-assembly-archives-4:57:27 of the second day)

Rev. Moss reminds us that we are called to be alternative communities. What might it take to measure our churches by **impact**? The work of synod leadership is to support the 137 communities and the thousands of leaders who are making an **impactful** difference in the 21st century: sharing the good news of Jesus, extending radical welcome into beloved community, engaging their neighborhoods in love with justice.

I am filled with both gratitude and sadness as I write this, my final annual report to congregations. I have loved serving as your bishop and am profoundly grateful for this calling. We pray for the year ahead, trusting in the goodness and faithfulness of our God, made known in Jesus Christ.

Bishop Ann Svennungsen



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.

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

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



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Agenda

Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Sunday, January 28, 2024

- I. Call to Order
- II. Quorum Determination
- III. Welcome- Council President
- IV. Approval of last year's Annual Meeting Minutes as found in annual report
- V. Pastor's Report
- VI. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Budget recap
- VII. Old Business
- VII. New Business
 - a. Acceptance of 2024 Budget as found in annual report
- IX. Nominations and Elections
- X. Adjourn with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction- Pastor Durk



Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church
2022 Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 29, 2023

Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church
5801 Minnetonka Boulevard
St Louis Park, MN. 55416

I. Call to Order-Dina Strachota

Congregation President, Dina Strachota, called the meeting to order at 11:53 am.

Dina did ask that Trust Fund Committee Member changes be added to the agenda under New Business.

II. Determination of a Quorum

It was determined that we have a quorum present.

III. Welcome-Council President

Dina thanked Pastor and the council for all their hard work during the past year. She also thanked all those who helped in getting the building ready for Aldersgate United Methodist Church to begin sharing our building, worship space. AUMC has signed a lease for 2023.

IV. Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

Members had the opportunity to read the minutes prior to this meeting. Dina, Congregation President, asked for a motion to approve the 2021 minutes as written in the Annual Report.

Motion: To approve the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes as written.

Vote: M/S/C with no discussion

V. Pastor's Report – Pastor Durk Thompson

Pastor thanked Dina and the entire council for all that has been done this past year.

Pleased that AUMC has shared our space for half the year, we look forward to start moving into shared ministries. Pastor Paul will be leaving and a new Pastor will be starting in July.

Pastor briefly reminded us of the stories about the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. The son wanted to return, but was afraid. When he did return, he was welcomed with open arms. This is the same for our congregation-members may have left and some may return. And there will be new members who may join. We will continue to welcome them with open arms and embrace them.

Please refer to Pastor's Report.



VI. Treasurer's Report-2022 Budget Recap-Cindy Guddal

Giving was down \$13,000 counted from envelopes, loose, and PayPal. \$24,000 was taken from the ALC fund. Part of the funds are in a conservative account; and there was also a loss because of the current stock market.

Expenses were in line as planned. We are currently doing ok with cash flow.

Please refer to the Financial Secretary's report.

There was no further discussion or questions regarding the 2022 Budget Recap.

VII. Old Business

a, Constitution-second vote for final approval

We voted at the last congregational meeting to approve the changed Constitution. We now have our second approval vote. Some of the wording in this constitution was changed prior to the last vote. One difference is that a quorum needed for a congregational meeting will be 25% of the voting membership rather than a specific number.

Bylaws are an identifiable part of the body of the Constitution rather than being a separate document.

Motion: To approve by 2nd vote the Constitution of Spirit Of Christ Community Lutheran Church

Vote: M/S/C with no further discussion

VIII. New Business

a. 2023 Proposed budget-Cindy Guddal

Members had the opportunity to review the proposed budget prior to today's meeting.

We need to note that this will be the first full year with AUMC rent as part of the budget.

There is a reduction in the regular giving category because of past history.

We still include the \$24,000 from the ALC fund, \$2,000 per month.

We will designate \$4500 to the Synod, and \$4500 to the Social Action Committee.

We will tithe from the money taken from the ALC fund; this will be a decision of the Council.

Utilities will go up as the building is being used more often.

Maintenance and snow plowing budget will stay the same; this is hard to predict.

Pastor's salary was increased to match the synod guidelines, and a 5% increase given to the Parish Coordinator and the Music Director.

We do end with a negative budget of \$4700.



Motion: To accept the proposed 2023 budget as presented.

Vote: M/S/C

b. Trust Fund New Members - Carolee Cohen

Carolee stated according to the Trust Fund rules, members may have (2) 3 year terms. She thanked Barb Endres Erickson, Matt Klinkhammer and Dave Latvala for their service on the committee.

New members will be Joanne Stone, Jennie Mornes, and Renee Compo.

Motion: To accept the new members of the Trust Fund Committee.

Vote: M/S/C

IX. Nominations and Elections

The slate of Executive team members and the Council was presented to the congregation.

President-Bruce Strachota

Vice President-Cheryl Hanson

Treasurer-Cindy Guddal

Secretary-Jeanne Worm

Social Action-Deb Schmitz

At Large-David Gratz

At Large-Bruce Lindquist

Motion: To accept the slate of Executive Team and Council Members as presented

Vote: M/S/C with no further discussion

X. Adjourn with The Lord's Prayer

Prior to adjournment, Pastor stated that the Executive Committee and the Council will be installed on February 4, 2023.

Motion: To adjourn the Annual Meeting

M (Brooklynne Patterson)/**S** (Yoomee Harmsen)/**C**

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Worm for Anne Kraft



Pastoral Acts and Membership



Funerals:

Oriette Aagaard
Eileen Soderberg
Glen Soderberg

Membership

Baptism	0
Transfer	2
Death	3

Baptized membership as of the end of 2023 94
Confirmed membership as of the end of 2023 84



Reports



Pastor

Well, 2023 was another good year.

It's hard to believe that I've been here at *Spirit of Christ* for the past 6 ½ years.

It is such a blessing to serve as your pastor and to work with our church council along with the rest of our staff.

I am especially grateful that you allowed me to take a sabbatical this summer as the time off allowed me to get away, get some exercise, and come back feeling refreshed and ready to work all the harder.

I truly enjoy serving both *Spirit of Christ* and *Grace* and still believe that a half time call at each church is still the right choice for both congregations.

And while I wish weekly church attendance was higher, we are not alone as every church regardless of their size has seen attendance drop these past few years.

Now, I've always believed that size doesn't matter and that there is nothing wrong with being a part of small worshipping community.

In fact, I rather like that we all know each other, what's going on each other's lives, and truly care for one another.

And that's rather special.

It's special to know that when you don't show up on a Sunday that there's a good chance someone is going to reach out to you and see if everything is all right.

And it's also special that so many of you have chosen to take such an active interest in making *Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church* the best we can be.

Now, could we be doing more?

Of course, we could, but still you've got to admit we are doing a lot already.

A lot more than many churches our size.

And I think that's because we've come to understand that it is only by doing or by supporting those who are actively out in our community trying to make things a little better for others that we are truly living into our calling as followers of Christ.

We've learned that where there's a will there is a way and I continue to be amazed by the will each of you has demonstrated.



Now I am hopeful that we will never lose what makes us such a special congregation, but we can't just rest on our past laurels, but must continue to seek out new ways to make a difference, share the gospel, and embody the love of Christ.

Because our Christian calling is ongoing, should never become static, and must always be pushing out to do more each year.

So, this year I invite you to up your game by showing up more often, increase your giving as you are able, and don't be bashful about bringing up suggestions for how we might want to expand our ministries.

Personally, it has always been a dream of mine to establish a tiny house community and now that the State of Minnesota has given the greenlight for religious organizations to just that by bypass many current zoning laws maybe our church just might want to consider if this is a future possibility for us.

And I'm sure many of you also might have so great ideas so please speak up, share your thoughts, and together maybe we can discover where the Holy Spirit just might be leading us next.

Because our story is not over, we're just at the beginning of a new chapter.

A new chapter where everything is on the table, and everything is still possible.

Blessings,

Pastor Durk



Council President

*I am the church!
You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!
The church is not a building,
the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place,
The church is a people.*

This song is a favorite of mine. I spent many years teaching this song to Sunday school kids. I think this song sums up what the church is in the world. **It is not just a building it is the people.**

Spirit of Christ is a community of believers who serve the needy in our world. What that service means is different in many churches. Our church seeks to do our very best to help those who are hungry, homeless and in need of the necessities of life.

We are taught to be good stewards or caretakers of the church. In our striving to become better stewards we need to make sure that we pay our bills. Financial stability is a goal that will free our congregation from continually worrying about closing and/or perhaps merging with another congregation. Like many churches we are striving to overcome financial instability. We do need more members and we do need more money to keep our church open. That is the reality. How we solve this problem is up to us. We can have a big membership drive with everyone asking at least one person to attend one of our church services. That might help to get new members in the future, but we should also strive to increase giving. If everyone gave just \$5.00 more per week, we could increase our funds by almost \$10,400.00 for 2024. That would be awesome!

I am new to the role of President of our church. We have accomplished some wonderful things in 2023: repaired the potholes on the upper half of our parking lot, had a thorough cleaning of the carpets and floors, etc. We have always been a welcoming church and we can do more to make our church more appealing to others inside and outside our building.

Some more highlights of 2023 include Valentine Party in February, Spring and Winter choir concert, a Christmas skit which really was very fun.

I now want to share with you all a poem that illustrates the elements involved in true stewardship.

May we all be so inspired.

(the president's report continues on next page)



Stewardship

**Life is a test. Life is a trust.
Life is a temporary assignment.
And all men are but stewards.**

**All that we have is ours only in trust.
Given us not to keep
but to use to the glory of God
and for the gain of others**

**Our greatest resource does not lie
beneath the ground nor up in the sky,
but right within each of us;
There are time, treasure, talents,
and temple; our brains and bodies.
That's all it takes to make a difference.**

**What a person becomes depends on
the thoroughness with which he utilizes
his time, treasures, and talents.
Overcoming is the only way of earning
God's trust for greater responsibilities.**

**Regardless of our path and length of days
We all have room to play our part
and to rise or fall as we choose.**

Ogolla Encok 30th March,2023

Sincerely, Bruce Strachota



Worship & Music

Greetings!

Here are some **highlights** of this past year from **Worship and Music**.

- In January we had Reconciling in Christ Sunday in recognition of being a welcoming congregation to all and to celebrate our diversity of ability, age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, culture, and citizenship.
- We held midweek Lent services and had our Good Friday service with Vista Lutheran. Easter Sunday at Spirit of Christ.
- The choir presented their spring concert in May.
- Pastor Durk was on sabbatical from May 22nd to August 15th. Many thanks to the lay leaders and pastors that filled in Sunday mornings over the summer.
- Our choir started up in the fall after a summer break and performed during worship services one to two times a month.
- In December we had our Christmas Music Sunday with the choir. We also had a skit called “The Christmas Quilt” featuring several members from the congregation.

Thank you!

Thank you to **Pastor Durk** for your excellent and thought-provoking messages that keep us grounded in God’s Word.

Many thanks to **Steve Mollick** who directs our choir and provides beautiful music for our weekly worship services.

Thanks go out to our awesome Worship and Music committee members who give of their time and talents. **Bruce Strachota**, for his gift of music. **Jeanne Worm** for setting up communion and keeping the altar looking great. **Nancy Brammer** for keeping the lector schedule up to date. **Anne Kraft** for keeping the Usher schedule up to date. Finally, to **Nikki Christensen** for everything she does behind the scenes in preparation to make sure all is good to go for our weekly worship services. This includes but is not limited to- setting up the PowerPoint slides, formatting and printing bulletins, running PowerPoint, and the Facebook Live on the church’s website every Sunday. Finally, **thanks to all** who attend worship services or help out during worship by ushering, lectoring, providing treats for fellowship. Thank you to the choir and those that share their musical talent. Thanks to all who greet visitors and make them feel welcome.

If you would like to sign up for choir, have a musical talent you would like to share, usher or become a lector please talk to Pastor Durk or any of the Worship and Music Committee members.

2023 Worship and Music Committee

Dina Strachota (Chair)

Pastor Durk Thompson

Nancy Brammer

Nikki Christensen

Steve Mollick

Bruce Strachota

Jeanne Worm



Mission & Social Action

In 2023, the Social Action team focused on activities that Spirit of Christ members could participate in to keep a congregation-wide focus on our Social Action mission:

The Mission and Social Action Committee shall oversee this congregation's mission and social outreach activities to engage with others in compassionate, caring and helpful service to those in need, engender awareness of community issues and provide opportunities to partner with others in the community to arrive at solutions that are based on a ministry of Christian love, and contribute to the mission of this congregation.

2023 Summary

A part of the Spirit of Christ 2023 annual budget, you approved **\$4,500** for Social Action activities. Here is a summary of how the Social Action team chose to use your contributions and what this amount bloomed into with your other in-kind donations for the year. You all should be very impressed with these figures!

Cash donations to nine organizations totaling **\$3,237!**

- **STEP**

- received **\$500** for their fund-raising efforts during Minnesota FoodShare month.

- was provided with **\$175** in gift cards for school supplies in the summer.

- accepted proceeds from the November Bazaar in the amount of **\$1037** and we thank all the members and vendors who brought many creative crafts and goodies that generated these funds.

- was given **\$500** in Target gift cards to support their holiday gift drive.

- **MoveFWD MN** received **\$500** to support homeless and at-risk kids and their families with quick-response, barrier-free, no-cost **counseling** and **case management**. They serve young people at the older end of the spectrum with a **housing program** and **drop-in for everyone**.
- **Clare House** was sent a donation of **\$25**.
- **Tapestry** was given **\$500** to support their assistance to immigrants navigating the complicated path to citizenship.

-



In addition, Spirit of Christ members made in-kind donations valued at more than **\$32,200** and logged almost **2,700 volunteer hours** to carry out our mission and benefit the following groups:

- **SLP Bird Feeder** – SOC delivered food donations valued at **\$1,030** throughout 2023.
- **STEP** - SOC sent backpacks and school supplies along with **394** pounds of food to support the food shelf this year valued at **\$2,150**. STEP also received donations of bread that 5-10 congregation and community members bagged up every Tuesday. Thanks to the coordination provided by Cheryl and Bret Hanson, over **5,500** pounds of quality bread products valued at approximately **\$26,000** retail from Breadsmith could be enjoyed by STEP clients at no cost to STEP. This represents approximately **2,500** hours provided by you, our members, to deliver these baked goods to STEP in 2023. Small groups of people working together can really make an impact!



- **Meals on Wheels** (Lutheran Social Service) – you participated in the November service project making **48** Blizzard Meals valued at **\$440** to cover times when meal deliveries are hampered by weather conditions.
- **Our Saviours Community Services** – Volunteers spent **83** hours cooking and serving dinners every other month. We had volunteers ranging from 6 years old to 70+! With fewer groups stepping up to serve meals, your contributions to our Chili Cook-Off last January resulted in a delivery of **13 gallons** of chili for the residents to enjoy on nights when there are no meal providers. Our Saviours also received mittens, gloves, hats made or purchased by members plus hand and foot warmers to keep winter at bay and some shoe storage boxes donated to help them organize supplies. In all, the in-kind donations to Our Saviours totaled **\$1030** in 2023.



- **Camp Noah** – For God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday, members assembled 50 kids’ art supply kits valued at **\$450**.
- **Simpson Housing** – in April, you participated in a baby shower for Simpson Housing and SOC provided three welcome baskets with everything a new baby needs valued at over **\$750**.

In **Isaiah 1:17** (The Message) we are asked to: **Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless.**

Thank you to all who demonstrated a commitment to ‘doing good’ in 2023 by supporting Social Action activities and sending a message that you are here for our community and especially those who are in need of help with their daily challenges.

As shown in our report, your donations and efforts resulted in donations (that were valued at eight times of the **\$4,500** budgeted amount) of more than **\$35,500** in support of many deserving organizations and people in need. Our budget is like the seeds that were sown that produced so much more with our efforts to support our community and beyond. Thank you all for contributing to the successes of 2023.

Submitted by Deb Schmitz, SOC Council, Social Action lead with much appreciation for the work done by the Social Action Committee: Jeanne Worm, Joanne Stone, Renee Compo, Pat Latvala, Mark and Carolee Cohen.



Altar Guild



Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church celebrates Holy Communion every Sunday with donated bread, wine and grape juice. Members of the altar guild set up communion and, as needed, change the paraments and banners according to the liturgical church calendar.

Members of the Altar Guild also assist the Worship and Music Committee with decorating the altar and sanctuary for Christmas and Easter.

Members will continue to assist the Worship and Music Team as needed.

Respectfully submitted

Pat Latvala

LeRoy and Mary Anne Murray

Deb Schmitz

Jeanne Worm

Slate of Officers for 2024

President	Bruce Strachota
Vice President	Cheryl Hanson
Secretary	Jeanne Worm
Treasurer	Cindy Guddal
At Large	David Gratz
At Large	Anne Kraft
At Large	Bruce Lindquist



Finances





January 28, 2024

Here are the updates for the Trust Fund for 2023. The Trust Fund made no disbursements in 2023 due to low interest earnings. In May 2023, the committee approved the purchase of a 15-month CD that will mature in August 2024. At that time, we anticipate being able to make a disbursement from the interest earned on that CD. Joanne Stone agreed to be the secretary for the Trust Fund Committee

Trust Fund Statement for 2023

Fund balance as of 01/01/2023	\$ 27,494.24
First quarter interest 31 March 2023	\$ 2.29
First quarter balance	\$ 27,496.53
12 May 2023 opened CD for 15 months \$27,396.53	\$ 100.00
Second quarter interest 30 June 2023	\$ 1.59
Second quarter balance	\$ 101.59
Third quarter Interest 30 September 2023	\$ 0.01
Third quarter balance	\$ 101.60
Fourth quarter interest 31 December 2023	\$ 0.01
Fourth quarter balance	\$ 101.61
Interest earned 2023	\$ 3.90
Savings balance as of 31 Dec 2023	\$ 101.61

Φ Outstanding loan balance to Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church \$8,500.00

Trust Fund Committee

- Carolee Cohen, Trust Fund Chair
- LeRoy Murray, Trust Fund Treasurer
- Joanne Stone, Trust Fund Secretary
- Jen Mornes, Trust Fund Committee Member
- Renee Compo, Trust Fund Committee Member



Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church
December 2023 Revenue and Expense
General Fund



Receipts	Current Month			Year To Date		
	Actual	Budget	Variance fav/(unfav)	Actual	Budget	Variance fav/(unfav)
Envelopes	\$5,435	\$5,350	\$85	\$58,985	\$64,200	(\$5,215)
Loose	\$330	\$331	(1)	\$2,551	\$3,983	(1,432)
PayPal	\$2,390	\$1,887	503	\$19,585	\$22,600	(3,015)
Rent	\$7,100	\$3,400	3,700	\$41,275	\$40,800	475
Ascension Fund Monthly Transfer	\$2,000	\$2,000	0	\$24,000	\$24,000	0
Special	\$0	\$88	(88)	\$1,618	\$1,100	518
Total Receipts	\$17,255	\$13,056	\$4,199	\$148,013	\$156,683	(\$8,670)
Expenses						
Benevolence						
Minneapolis Synod	2,625	375	(2,250)	4,500	4,500	0
Social Action	1,051	375	(676)	4,500	4,500	0
Other Giving	0	200	200	2,400	2,400	0
Total Benevolence	\$3,676	\$950	(\$2,726)	\$11,400	\$11,400	\$0
Personnel						
Pastor						
Salary	3,662	3,666	4	43,948	43,948	0
FICA Allowance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pension and Insurance	1,213	1,612	399	15,946	19,300	3,354
Pastor Subtotal	\$4,876	\$5,278	\$402	\$59,894	\$63,248	\$3,354
Support Staff Salary						
Parish Coordinator	1,175	990	(185)	11,784	11,924	140
Music Director	1,313	1,307	(6)	15,750	15,750	0
Pulpit Supply	125	112	(13)	1,800	1,300	(500)
Sub-organist	0	163	163	400	2,000	1,600
Support Staff Salary Subtotal	\$2,613	\$2,572	(\$41)	\$29,734	\$30,974	\$1,240
Support Staff FICA	90	76	(14)	901	912	11
Pastor's Education	0	56	56	0	650	650
Total Personnel	\$7,579	\$7,982	\$403	\$90,529	\$95,784	\$5,255
Operations						
Education	0	19	19	243	250	7
Evangelism	78	25	(53)	342	300	(42)
Mileage/Pastor's Ministerial	112	50	(62)	737	600	(137)
Software/Hardware	208	137	(71)	1,242	1,600	358
Finance	0	25	25	1,865	300	(1,565)
Youth	0	19	19	0	250	250
Fellowship/Membership/Active Adult	241	50	(191)	1,729	600	(1,129)
Misc.	0	38	38	0	500	500
Total Operations	\$638	\$363	(\$275)	\$6,159	\$4,400	(\$1,759)
Worship & Music						
Altar	133	163	30	1,480	2,000	520
Choir & Music	0	125	125	178	1,500	1,322
Bulletins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Worship & Music	\$133	\$288	\$155	\$1,658	\$3,500	\$1,842
Properties						
Insurance	1,143	462	(681)	7,367	5,500	(1,867)
Utilities	1,714	1,540	(174)	18,741	18,480	(261)
Cleaning Service	787	754	(33)	8,391	9,048	657
Snowplowing/Lawn Service	0	413	413	1,564	5,000	3,436
Maint & Supplies	730	462	(268)	8,259	5,500	(2,759)
Total Properties	\$4,373	\$3,631	(\$742)	\$44,322	\$43,528	(\$794)
Office						
Supplies	143	87	(56)	1,024	1,000	(24)
Equipment	130	125	(5)	1,548	1,500	(48)
Postage	0	25	25	0	300	300
Total Office	\$273	\$237	(\$36)	\$2,572	\$2,800	\$228
Total Expenses	\$16,672	\$13,451	(\$3,221)	\$156,639	\$161,412	\$4,773
Net Activity	\$582	(\$395)	\$977	(\$8,625)	(\$4,729)	(\$3,896)



Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church
December 2023 Fund Balance Summary



Cash Funds	General Fund	General Fund 2	Total General Funds	Benevolence Social Action Fund	Memorial Fund	Youth Fund	Misc. Fund	Total All Cash Funds
Previous Month Ending Balance	(\$18,776)	\$17,844	(\$932)	\$3,135	\$11,026	\$799	\$4,978	\$19,006
December Receipts	17,255	0	\$17,255	0	355	0	3,225	\$20,835
December Payments	(16,672)	0	(\$16,672)	(1,234)	0	0	(3,195)	(\$21,101)
December Ending Balance	(\$18,193)	\$17,844	(\$349)	\$1,901	\$11,381	\$799	\$5,008	\$18,740

Long-Term Investments Thrivent

Previous Month Ending Balance	\$218,791
Deposit/(Withdrawal)	(2,000)
Investment Income/(Loss)	0
Ending Balance	\$216,791



	YTD Dec 2023	2023 budget	2023 YTD varinace	2024 proposed budget	variance 2023-2024
Receipts	Actual	Budget			
Envelopes	58,985	64,200	(5,215)	47,000	(17,200)
Loose	2,551	3,983	(1,432)	2,500	(1,483)
PayPal	19,585	22,600	(3,015)	18,500	(4,100)
Rent	41,275	40,800	475	44,400	3,600
Ascension Fund Monthly Transfer	24,000	24,000	0	36,000	12,000
Special	1,618	1,100	518	14,700	13,600
Total Receipts	148,013	156,683	(8,670)	163,100	6,417

Expenses

Benevolence

Minneapolis Synod	4,500	4,500	0	3,400	1,100
Social Action	4,500	4,500	0	3,400	1,100
Other Giving	2,400	2,400	0	4,900	(2,500)
Total Benevolence	11,400	11,400	0	11,700	(300)

Personnel

Pastor

Salary	43,948	43,948	0	45,235	(1,287)
FICA Allowance	0	0	0	0	0
Pension and Insurance	15,946	19,300	3,354	16,000	3,300

Pastor Subtotal	59,894	63,248	3,354	61,235	2,013
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Support Staff Salary

Parish Coordinator	11,784	11,924	140	12,520	(596)
Music Director	15,770	15,750	(20)	16,538	(788)
Pulpit Supply	1,800	1,300	(500)	600	700
Sub-organist	400	2,000	1,600	600	1,400

Support Staff Salary Subtotal	29,734	30,974	1,240	30,258	716
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Support Staff FICA	901	912	11	958	(46)
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Pastor's Education	0	650	650	950	(300)
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Total Personnel	90,529	95,784	5,255	93,401	2,383
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Operations

Education	243	250	7	250	0
Evangelism	342	300	(42)	300	0
Mileage/Pastor's Ministerial	737	600	(137)	800	(200)
Software/Hardware	1,242	1,600	358	1,200	400
Finance	1,865	300	(1,565)	1,140	(840)
Youth	0	250	250	250	0
Fellowship/Membership/Active Adult	1,729	600	(1,129)	1,000	(400)
Misc.	0	500	500	500	0

Total Operations	6,159	4,400	(1,759)	5,440	(1,040)
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Worship & Music

Altar	1,480	2,000	520	1,500	500
Choir & Music	178	1,500	1,322	250	1,250



Bulletins	0	0	0	0	0
Total Worship & Music	1,658	3,500	1,842	1,750	1,750
Properties					
Insurance	7,367	5,500	(1,867)	14,664	(9,164)
Utilities	18,741	18,480	(261)	19,000	(520)
Cleaning Service	8,391	9,048	657	9,000	48
Snowplowing/Lawn Service	1,564	5,000	3,436	5,000	0
Maint & Supplies	8,259	5,500	(2,759)	7,000	(1,500)
Total Properties	44,322	43,528	(794)	54,664	(11,136)
Office					
Supplies	1,024	1,000	(24)	1,100	(100)
Equipment	1,548	1,500	(48)	1,500	0
Postage	0	300	300	300	0
Total Office	2,572	2,800	228	2,900	(100)
Total Expenses	156,639	161,412	4,773	169,855	(8,443)
Net Activity	(8,629)	(4,729)	(3,900)	(6,755)	(2,026)

Receipts include anticipated credit from IRS

Draw from the Ascension fund increased by \$1000 per month but will only occur at direction of Council

Pastor's salary at Synod guidelines

staff salary have 5% increase



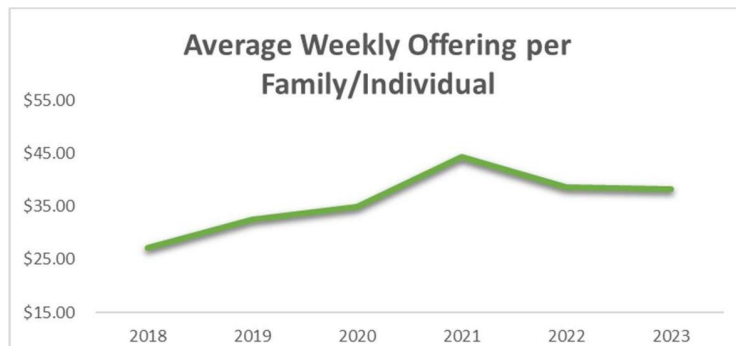
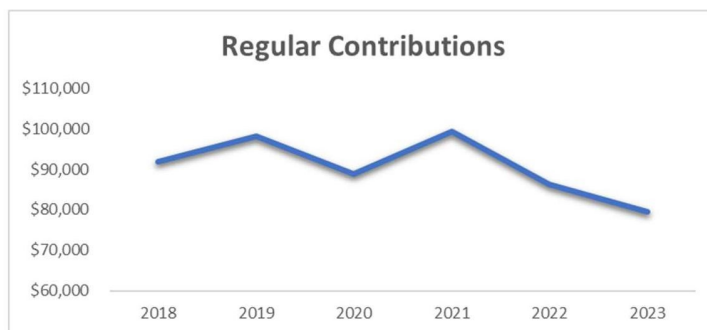
Financial Secretary's Report

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

This report is focused on the weekly offering which helps pay our general expenses. Ten percent of this giving is used for benevolence above and beyond funds specially designated for missions and other activities.

In 2023, 40 individual members/families regularly gave funds to support our general operations, which is down from 43 last year. This resulted in lower contributions for the second year in a row.



Average weekly giving is around \$38/week, which was the same as last year.

Please prayerfully consider your contribution to Spirit of Christ when contemplating your financial gifts in 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Kraft
SOC Financial Secretary

