

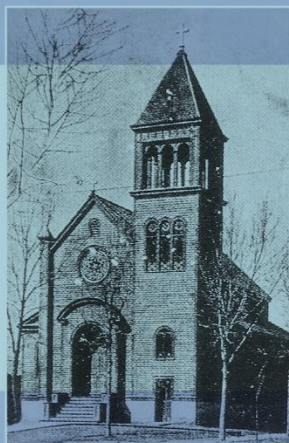
2023 Annual Report



1898 to 2023 • 125 years



Luther House - 1953-1961



first building - 1901-1925



second building - 1925-1990

English
LUTHERAN CHURCH



CHURCH STAFF



PASTORS

Senior Pastor.....The Reverend Mark Kvale
Associate Pastor.....The Reverend Rebecca Goche

PROGRAM STAFF

Director of Youth & Family Ministries..... Kristen Arends (Jan)
Director of Faith Formation..... Jared Kronback (Apr-Dec)
Children's Ministry Coordinator..... Ann Kvale (Feb-Dec)

WORSHIP STAFF

Director of Music..... Trevor DuPey
Director of Worship Technology..... Jarod Griswold
Bell Choir Director..... Jim Knutson
Pianist..... Luke Thering
Interim Senior Choir Director..... Trevor DuPey
Children's Choir Director..... Maria Higgins (Jan-Jun)
Children's Choir Director..... Ann Kvale (Jul-Dec)

OFFICE STAFF

Office Manager..... Jennifer Jones
Administrative Assistant..... Carol Robertson

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Building Maintenance Coordinator..... Dane Melby
Kitchen Coordinator..... Alisha Merwin (Mar-Oct)
Kitchen Coordinator..... Niki Pohnl (Oct-Dec)



VISION BOARD & LEADERSHIP



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

Kathy Hageseth
Kaitlyn Hamann
Paul Holman
Dennis Naumann
David Seiffert

LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

Five Big Rocks

DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL: Julie Hatfield,
Anna Mueller, Pastor Mark Kvale

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

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

MINISTRY COUNCIL: Mary Fitzpatrick, Sue
Johnson, Mike Schnitzius, Beth Twiton,
Bob & Kathy Weeks, Pastor Becky Goche

WORSHIP COUNCIL: Kathy Hageseth, Lori
Moe, Adam Schneider, David Seiffert,
Denise Strudthoff, Cathy Walth, Trevor
DuPey, Pastor Becky Goche, Pastor Mark
Kvale

STABILITY TRIANGLE

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Adam Hatfield,
Vicki Markussen, Lisa Weston, Pastor
Mark Kvale

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

OTHER COMMITTEES

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

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

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

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Tim Durtsche,
Denise Ganey, Lois Oliver, Joyce Wichelt,
Pastor Mark Kvale

YOUTH STEERING COMMITTEE: Laura
Eber, Bethany Eber, Avery Farmer, Caleb
Farmer, Emily Farmer, Bonnie Martin,
Henry Martin, Alayna Trushenski, Genny
Trushenski, Landon Trushenski, Jared
Kronback



TABLE OF CONTENTS



	PG #
BEQUEST FUND	17
BUDGET - 2024 GENERAL FUND	22
COMMITTEE - AUDIT	19
COMMITTEE - BETHLEHEM EVENT.....	13
COMMITTEE - ENDOWMENT.....	17
COMMITTEE - FINANCE	18
COMMITTEE - LIBRARY	16
COMMITTEE - MEMORIAL	18
COMMITTEE - PROPERTY.....	15
COMMITTEE - RECONCILING IN CHRIST	14
COMMITTEE - STEWARDSHIP.....	14
COUNCIL - DISCIPLESHIP	6
COUNCIL - EVANGELISM.....	10
COUNCIL - FELLOWSHIP	11
COUNCIL - MINISTRY.....	12
COUNCIL - WORSHIP	13
TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORTS	20-21
MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE STATISTICS	22
MINUTES - ANNUAL MEETING 2023	1
PASTOR'S REPORT - SENIOR.....	3
PASTOR'S REPORT - ASSOCIATE	5
SYNOD MISSION DOLLARS REPORT	23-24



ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES



Adam Hatfield, President of the Congregation, called the meeting to order at 12:05pm on Sunday, February 12, 2023.

Devotions/Prayer- Pastor Mark Kvale

Approval of Minutes from 2021 Congregational Meeting

Motion: Karl Green Second: Kaitlyn Hamann Motion carried

Elections

Vision Board

Nominations taken prior to the meeting:

-Michelle Wanders (second term), Dennis Naumann, Paul Holman

No new nominations were made from the floor.

-Motion to close nominations: John Cleveland. Second: Carol Taebel. Motion carried unanimously.

The nominated members were elected unanimously with 43 votes each via paper ballots.

Synod Assembly

Question from the floor: What is the commitment for voting members to the Synod Assembly?

Response: Attendance at Pre-Assembly Caucus (March) plus attendance and participation in the three-day assembly (June 9, 10, 11).

Five members were nominated from the floor: Margo Erickson, Pam Strittmater, Bob Weeks, Eddie Kim, and Maddie Sweeney.

The nominated members were elected unanimously with 43 votes each via paper ballots.

Sugar Creek Bible Camp Annual Meeting Representatives

The annual meeting takes place February 19, 2023 at 2pm.

Two members were nominated from the floor: John Cleveland and Dennis Naumann

A motion to close nominations was made by Lisa Weston and seconded by Karl Green.

Motion carried unanimously

The nominated members were elected unanimously with 43 votes each via paper ballots.

Pastors' Reports

Reference pp. 2-4 of the 2022 Annual report.

Pastor Mark Kvale- Acknowledged the first anniversary of membership at ELC for his wife and himself. Focused on 2022 as a year of many transitions: New members, deaths of dear members, and changes among the staff. The Kitchen Coordinator position, Child Ministry Coordinator (new position), and Director of Youth and Family Ministries (new position) remain to be filled. Pastor Kvale expressed gratitude for the staff that did work to leave us well as they moved out of positions. He also expressed gratitude to the many members who have stepped up as lay leaders throughout the many transitions.

Pastor Becky Goche- Highlighted the Reopening Team and the work done as the congregation navigated the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. She also thanked the membership for making her sabbatical (May 15- August 14, 2023) possible.

Reconciled in Christ (RIC) update provided by Eddie Kim (he/him/his)

Eddie currently co-chairs the RIC committee with Peggy Sannerud. One outcome is to write and adopt a statement of welcome to all with particular attention to the LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities. This commitment helps us in our efforts to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.” The congregation will be asked to vote on becoming an RIC congregation at the 2024 annual meeting. Committee members present were asked to stand and be recognized.

Question from the floor: Are there other RIC congregations in the synod?

Response: Yes. Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in La Crosse, Peace Lutheran Church in Tomah, and the Lutheran Campus Ministry in La Crosse. The entire Chicago Metro Synod also carries this status.

Question from the floor: Are we [ELC] planning any educational opportunities during the year prior to the vote?

Response: Yes, through sermons/services, adult forums, fellowship time, newsletters, and social media.

Constitution and Bylaws

Pastor Kvale shared that the changes have largely come from the Churchwide Assembly where changes were made to some small language updates and changes to the model constitution used by congregations. Some changes are required. Another change C10.05 presented at previous annual meeting includes an addition that gives the congregational members to participate remotely and vote by proxy or absentee ballot in meetings. These changes are designed to keep our constitution up to date. Motion to approve changes: Mike Schitzius Second: Kaitlyn Hamann. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report- Lois Oliver

Reference pp. 14-17 of the Annual Report for 2022. Simply Giving now accounts for 53% of giving and envelopes account for 47% of giving. Despite finishing the past year in a deficit, there was no need to liquidate any other resources to meet all of our obligations.

Endowment Committee Update- Tom Monson

The fund currently holds about \$433,000. Annually the fund awards 3%-6% of the balance to local, domestic, and global missions. During 2022, funds dispersed accounted for about 4.5% of the fund balance. The Vision Board has asked for approval to have 1% of the fund balance be allocated for up to three years in order to address unusual maintenance items and capital improvements. This would equate to about \$4000 at this time.

Motion to approve: Carol Taebel. Second: Joan Allen. Motion carried.

Question from the floor: Can the administrative costs for the fund be explained?

Response: The administration fees are based on 1% of the fund and provided to Trust Point for management of the investments.

2023 Budget Proposal- Bill Newburg

Reference p. 18 of the 2022 Annual Report

The 2022 budget proposed a \$99,382 deficit that was reduced to a \$76,288 deficit by the end of the budget year thanks to additional gifts and generous giving. The 2023 budget proposal includes a \$75,865 deficit plan. If giving does not reduce the deficit, the congregation does have access to five other sources of liquid assets totaling

\$75,137.73. Our current intentions of giving are \$30,000 ahead of the previous year's intentions.

Question from the floor: Are we concerned about our financial position?

Response: There is always appropriate concern for our finances, but not overly concerned. Based on giving patterns and funds available, there is no expectation that we cannot meet our commitments and serve our mission. The members were reminded that we have successfully met our commitments and expect to continue to be able to do so. The use of the rental property next door continues to be a consideration for the future.

Question from the floor: Does our budget proposal include all staff positions, including those that are currently vacant?

Response: Yes, the budget includes the full annual wages/salaries for all positions filled and vacant. As in the past year, there may be some reduced expenses if positions are not immediately filled.

Motion to approve budget proposal: Bill Newberg Second: John Cleveland. Motion carried unanimously

Congregational President Adam Hatfield thanked all those who serve ELC in many and various ways.

Motion to adjourn: Bill Newberg Second: Karl Green Motion carried unanimously

Lord's Prayer

Adjourned 1:10pm

Respectfully submitted, Greg Fenton



SENIOR PASTOR



“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” is one of my favorite hymns. The first verse and chorus of this powerful witness of a song is this:

*I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

Every day we are given the great gift of seeing what God is up to in our world as we respond to Jesus' call to follow him and serve God's people and creation. I give thanks to God, that your call to follow Jesus does not just begin and end with 'showing up on Sundays,' but extends outwards into your daily lives; at home, at work, in caring for the least and lowly.

This annual report provides the opportunity to reflect on this past year, and to look forward to what God has in store for us as a congregation as we follow the Light of the world; Jesus Christ.

It has been an eventful year! Last May, I received a new aortic valve, a pacemaker, and I suffered a stroke. It might sound strange to be grateful, but I am. I thank God for healing and putting me on a path to good health. And dear friends, I thank God for all of you; for your prayers, and good wishes, for your cards and visits, and for everything you are!

I thank God for your faithfulness in serving Jesus, especially while I was recovering, and when Pastor Becky was on sabbatical. To know that this congregation was in good hands bears witness to your love of Jesus, and the great abilities you have as a congregation! I am thankful for the tremendous leadership of the Vision Board (especially Adam Hatfield) and all the councils, and committees.

My gratitude extends as well to the amazing staff of English Lutheran Church; Pastor Becky Goche, Jennifer Jones, Carol Robertson, Trevor DuPey, Dane Melby, Jarod Griswold, and for our newest additions; Jared Kronback (Director of Faith Formation), Ann Kvale (Children's Ministry Coordinator), and Niki Pohnl, who has rejoined our staff as Kitchen Coordinator.

A Lutheran understanding of what it means to be 'church' is that a church is where the Word of God is preached, proclaimed, and taught; and where the Sacraments are administered. We are living into this definition. Every week, the Word of God is taught, learned and lived into. Our children's ministry is alive and well, as is our confirmation program and so many other learning opportunities. The Word of God, Jesus Christ, is the light that illumines our lives as a congregation and as individuals. It is a joy to witness how this Word shapes us and is part of everything we do.

It is a joy as well, to see how this love of Jesus extends outside of our walls; our care for the homeless, the hungry, and the outcast reflect the light of Jesus that shines in this world.

The year 2024 is shaping up to be a great year as well. At our annual meeting, we will be voting to become a "Reconciling in Christ Congregation." As part of this process, we will vote on a Welcome Statement that states that "The faith community of English Lutheran Church is rooted in Christ and committed to living life generously. . . that is united in the Holy Spirit as we embrace our differences. And that we will strive to be a community equipped for God's mission in the world."

Part of The Strategic Plan what has been put forward by the Vision Board focuses on empowering our members for greater ministry and participation. Dear friends, there are so many opportunities for you to be involved. Particularly, we need your help in re-energizing the ministries of evangelism, fellowship, discipleship and stewardship.

Do you feel drawn to be part of the joy of sharing Christ's love; inviting and welcoming, and connecting people? Then please consider being part of our Evangelism Council. Do you love facilitating fun, friendship, and caring? Then the Fellowship Council is for you.

Do you feel it is important to “equip the saints” for the building up of the body of Christ through faith practices: Pray, Study, Worship, Invite, Encourage, Serve, and Give?” Then we need you to be part of the vital ministry of the Discipleship Council.

If you feel called to these ministries, or others not named, then please let Pastor Becky or myself know.

Jesus Christ is the light and life of the world, shining in the midst of all that is bleak and hurting. We are called to reflect the love of Christ in all that we are as members of English Lutheran Church. Thank God for being the One who calls us, loves us, and shows us the way.

Soli Deo Gloria! (To God alone the Glory!)
Pastor Mark Kvale



ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Transitions:

There were a few transitions and changes in 2023. Kristen Arends’, the Director of Youth and Family Ministries, last day was January 31. With Kristen’s leaving and the vacant Director of Discipleship position, we had team of people who helped re-imagine how to best facilitate faith formation for our children, youth and adults. Two positions were created: Director of Faith Formation (full-time, filled by Jared Kronback on April 11) and Children’s Ministry Coordinator (part-time, filled by Ann Kvale on February 23). I supervise the Children’s Ministry Coordinator and Pastor Mark supervises the Director of Faith Formation.

Pastoral Care:

I facilitated the Cancer Support Group in 2023 whose last meeting (at least for now) was May 8. We continue to provide care for our members who are grieving the loss of a loved using the “Journeying through Grief” from Stephen Ministries. This series of four books is sent to the families over the course of one year following their loved one’s death. While I was on sabbatical, Beth Twiton continued to send out the materials. On December 4, Beth volunteered to take over sending out these materials. In 2023, 14 families were reached through this ministry.

The Caring Ministers who visit and extend the Lord’s Table by bringing Holy Communion to our homebound members gathered on November 2 to reconnect, share stories, and review how to share communion. Eight people attended, including three people new to this ministry.

Other acts of pastoral care:

- Presided at three people’s baptisms and one child blessing.
- Presided at five people’s funeral/memorial services.
- Visited numerous members and their families in the hospital, skilled care facilities, assisted living facilities, and their homes during times of illness, impending death, and simply trying to stay connected with those who are no longer able to participate in the life of this congregation in person.

Sabbatical (May 15 - August 13, 2023):

I had my first-ever sabbatical in 2023! My guiding theme was: “Refreshment, Renewal, Reconnection and Reflection.” During my sabbatical, I found physical and emotional refreshment, and spiritual renewal. I was able to reconnect and strengthen my relationships with family and friends, some of whom I haven’t seen in years. And I spent time reflecting upon the intersections of my passion for creation and ministry. It was truly a gift! I appreciate the sacrifices and how our staff and others took on additional responsibilities so that I could have this time away.

I am grateful that God has surrounded me with such a creative, passionate and dedicated team of people whom I get to work with every day. It is a joy to serve with each one of them! I am grateful to be your Pastor. Thank you for walking and serving with me as we join in God’s mission to the world through English Lutheran Church. To God be all the glory!

Pastor Becky Goche



DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL



Since getting back into the groove of things with most everyone and everything coming back in person, it has been a joy to see different things in action. It is a blessing to continually see active participation and engagement in many capacities with events, programs, and service projects. Over the past year, we have celebrated all of the successes and achievements with the programs and events held here at English Lutheran Church.

Children’s Ministry

Children’s Ministry Coordinator: The Children’s Ministry Coordinator position is new as of 2023, staffed by Ann Kvale. As Children’s Ministry Coordinator, I oversee Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, the Nursery, the Christler’s program, and assist with P.A.C.K. I am responsible for the Sunday School and VBS curriculum, as well as lining up teachers and youth assistants for each classroom. I have helped hire two new college students to help with the Christler’s this past year: Maddie Sweeney and Kelly Rudolph were both hired to work with the kids in Grades 1-6 and Lauren Nash continues to work with the program as the nursery assistant. I assist these three in putting together activities for each Wednesday evening. Lauren also works in the nursery on Sunday mornings. I try to make sure there is a middle or high school person to help her out for each time slot. Though Jared, as Director of Faith Formation, does most of the planning for P.A.C.K., I am there to support and assist in any way needed.

This 15 hour per week position has made for a busy and fun year. I have enjoyed getting to know the students and their families. I have been privileged to work with a great team of teachers, assistants and staff who are all working together to make a safe, comfortable and Christ centered environment for the children of English Lutheran to learn and grow.

Director of Children’s Music Ministry: In August, I also began doing the work of the Director of Children’s Music Ministry. This 5 hour per week position has primarily been tied to Sunday School opening time, helping the Sunday School students sing for

worship and coordinating the Sunday School Christmas Program. I look forward to expanding this to include more music opportunities for our youth in the future.

Your partner in Christ, Ann Kvale,
Children's Ministry Coordinator and Director of Children's Music Ministry

Sunday School

- 65 students are registered ages 3 years to 6th grade Fall of 2023
- Students meet each Sunday from 9:45 am to 10:30 am.
- Rally Day on September 10 involved parents and students going on a Scavenger Hunt together to find their classrooms, teachers, library, large group opening space and the music room where they could work on a craft or play a game
- Students were involved in a service project this fall, collecting paper products for the Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry
- Martin Luther visited the students on Reformation Sunday
- Students participated in an all Sunday School art project on All Saints Day
- The Christmas program Guess Who's Coming to Bethlehem was presented at the 10:45 worship on December 17th.

Vacation Bible School

- VBS ran June 16-20th and was planned and organized in house as Sugar Creek was not able to offer Day Camps this summer
- 27 students ages 3 years to 6th grade participated
- VBS sessions ran from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm with a meal being served at 5:00
- Sessions were led by Jared Kronback as Ann Kvale had family issues to manage at the time
- Several middle school and high school youth, along with many parents and grandparents enjoyed assisting with class sessions, music, games and crafts

Christlers

- Christlers meet most Wednesdays from 6:15 pm to 7:30 pm
- 22 students are on the roster
- 3 college students help with the Christlers Room and nursery
- Activities include games, crafts, service projects and Bible Study

Nursery

- The nursery is staffed by a college student and our own high school and middle school youth every Sunday morning from 8:15 am - 11:45 am and Wednesday evenings from 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm
- There are about 10 families who use the nursery on a regular basis

P.A.C.K. (Pre-Confirmation Age Activities at Church for Kids) Nights

- These nights have been a great way for the pre-confirmation age students to connect and have fun together. They have played a variety of games, carved pumpkins, and toured the Rotary Lights at Riverside Park! Building relationships at this age will only strengthen them when they reach confirmation ages.

Middle School, High School, and Youth Ministry

Happy New Year everyone! Since beginning in April, It has been a blessing to be a part of the ministry happening here at English Lutheran Church. I am always learning new things while working in a church setting, but also learning new things with my role being a new position. This position was created since the positions of Director of Discipleship and Director of Youth and Family Ministries became vacant. As Director of Faith Formation, I cover all ages from birth and beyond, focusing primarily on middle school and high school age students, and young adults. I oversee and coordinate the confirmation program, plan and facilitate youth nights and lock-ins. I help plan and coordinate any event or trip planned for our youth, as well as assist with P.A.C.K.

The work I do includes facilitating meaningful Christ-centered relationship building among our young people and their families. I also help develop a culture at English Lutheran Church that supports growth in faith, fellowship, and discipleship. Amongst all of the things I have been a part of here at English, I am reminded of why I do the work I do. I'm reminded of the rewarding work when I see a youth student smiling and enjoying participating in one of the many activities we do here at church.

Yours in Christ, Jared Kronback, Director of Faith Formation

Confirmation

- The students have been back in full swing with the school year starting back up again! The year has been full of local field trips to places including the Rose Chapel and Congregation Sons of Abraham, service projects, and involvement in worship on Sundays with acolytes, ushering, altar ministry, and more.
- Adult leaders are individuals that are called upon each year dedicate their time and talents to our confirmation age students. They facilitate discussion of various topics covered during confirmation allowing for growth and exploration in their personal faith lives. They are recognized for their hard work and commitment to the students in confirmation and allowing them the opportunity to grow individually, communally, and spiritually.

Confirmation Curriculum

- In the 2023-2024 school year, a new part of the confirmation program has developed. Once per month, all grades are being mingled together for either a service project or a learning experience together. 7th grade and 8th grade are mingled together and are learning as a large group and they are learning about the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed respectively, plus much more. Our 9th graders, before participating in their Affirmation of Baptism, they are learning The Lord's Prayer together plus much more.

Service Projects

- This year, the confirmation students have been a part of service projects that have impacted the local community in La Crosse. They volunteered with Trunk or Treat in helping lead games, craft activities, and even help direct traffic and parking! They most recently made Christmas cards that were distributed to different organizations including WINN (What I Need Now), the Warming Center, and nursing homes! They are currently in the midst of collecting items to be put together in mini-care packages, and to then be distributed to our homeless brothers and sisters, with a goal of making 250 mini-care packages.

Youth Nights and Lock-Ins

- With a few that have happened and are being planned, they are slowly making a comeback and allowing our youth to be in community together and form connections outside of the walls here at church. These youth nights and/or lock-ins that happen have a variety of activities each time. There are games, group activities, food, devotional time, and of course fellowship! They land on Friday nights and sometimes into Saturday mornings, if it is a lock-in, but allow for ample time together getting to know one another on a deeper level.

Middle School and High School Sunday Youth Group

- This revamped program has been reintroduced and began in October. This youth group is for anyone in 7th-12th grades and can be joined at any time! There are different games and group activities that take place during these times together. We are meeting once a month on the 2nd Sunday of every month in between services at 9:45 a.m. in the youth room. This time is designed for those that attend the first service to hang around after, as well as those who attend the second service to come in a little earlier each weekend.

Fall Retreat

- This newer program that Sugar Creek Bible Camp offers caught the attention of a few middle school and high school students! This 24 hour retreat was attended by 6 students and 2 adult leaders from English Lutheran. There were a total of 11 students and 4 adult leaders making it a load of fun and a blessing to see them enjoy worship, nature, and other fun activities together!

Statistics:

- 10 children and 1 adult were baptized in 2023 (some non-members)
- 15 students were confirmed
- 24 students participated in the First Communion class and took their First Communion
- 20 high school students graduated and received beautiful handmade quilts from the English Lutheran Quilters
- 6 3rd/4th graders received the Spark New Revised Standard Version Bibles
- 12 three, four and five year olds received the Spark Story Bible

Youth Steering Committee

- This group meets consistently on a monthly basis to discuss events and activities for our youth ministry participants to be part of. In these meetings, business is conducted amongst parents/guardians and the youth as well. We welcome anyone of any age to participate to both be informed and bring ideas to the table. We meet on the second Wednesday to discuss current and upcoming events in our church and greater community.
- In 2023, the Youth Steering Committee covered a large amount of planning for events here at English Lutheran as well as partnering with local organizations in the greater La Crosse area. As a group, we planned P.A.C.K. nights, Trunk or Treat, Youth Nights and Lock-Ins, updating and planning the budget for our youth group, and hopes of bringing back pancake and burrito breakfasts.

Youth Steering Committee Members: Emily Farmer, Avery Farmer, Caleb Farmer, Genny Trushenski, Alayna Trushenski, Landon Trushenski, Bonnie Martin, Henry Martin, Laura Eber, Bethany Eber, Jared Kronback

Adult Education

- Wednesday Night Parent Group is continuing to grow in both spiritual knowledge and quantity of people. Along with this growth, they are looking into the possibility of splitting into smaller groups with an intergenerational aspect along with different topics included in discussions. This group is coordinated by Scott Gabriel and meets on Wednesday nights at 6:15 p.m.
- Seekers continues to meet on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. here at church and is coordinated by Kathy Slindee.
- Fayze's Bible Study needed to find a new location for meeting since the closure of Fayze's in October of 2023. With coordination from Mike Buncak and Paul Bjornstad, they are now meeting at the same time of 7:00 a.m. on Thursday mornings at Las Margaritas, located on State Road. It will remain named "Fayze's Bible Study" in honor of the first location of English Lutheran Church.
- Mary Circle is a group of about a dozen women continues to meet for a few hours from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month here at church.
- Parables of Jesus is being taught and coordinated by Pastor Dennis Johnson and meets on Thursday evenings @ 6:30 p.m. here at church. They will soon finish the Parables and move on to another study.



EVANGELISM COUNCIL



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

In 2023, the Evangelism Council focused on ministries and events that have been on-going. In 2024, this Council will re-evaluate its mission and goals, as it rebuilds and discerns how to best put into action what the Vision Board has tasked it to do.

A BIG thank you to Jennifer Jones for her continued oversight, updates and creativity with ELC's website, social media platforms, brochures, flyers and such throughout the year. Thank you to Carol Solyst who designs and edits the Voice Newsletter which is published every other month.

Events:

- The outdoor River Service was held at Copeland Park on August 27 at 10:45 am. This was the only worship service offered on Sunday. Worship Council members planned the service with Trevor DuPey during the summer while both Pastor Mark Kvale (medical) and Pastor Becky Goche (sabbatical) were gone. Adam Schneider, Denise Strudthoff and Cathy Walth, Pastors Mark and Becky, and Pastor Phil Waselik from Trinity Lutheran Church (our invited guests) led the service. Following the service, a catered meal was served by "Black Tie Catering, La Crosse." Estimated attendance was 160 people.
- The Evangelism Council and Reconciling in Christ Team, along with other church volunteers participated in the annual "Pride in the Park" on September 9 at La Crosse's Riverside Park. The booth for ELC had a "fishing" theme designed by Jennifer Jones, Jared Kronback and Carol Robertson. Visitors could "cast" their line and catch a prize like a mug, t-shirt or backpack tag.
- The annual "Blessing of the Animals" service (the commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi) was held on October 1 at 1:00 pm in the bell tower courtyard

in the unusually sweltering 90-degree heat! There were treats for dogs, cats and people. Jarod Griswold took pictures of people with their pets for Jennifer Jones to create a commemorative photo postcard. Twenty people, 6 dogs, 2 cats, 1 hamster and 1 fish attended.

- Community Conversations is hosted at ELC. It is coordinated by the Interfaith Leaders Coalition, chaired by Rabbi Brian Serle from the Congregation Sons of Abraham and Pastor Mark Kvale of ELC.

New Members:

In 2023, we re-imagined the new member “class” and named it the “New to ELC? Gathering.” The intent was to make it feel less like a formal membership class, try to facilitate more organic conversations, and answer the questions people may have. The “Gathering” is geared for people who want to learn more about ELC or who are interested in officially joining. There is no expectation that those who attend will join ELC. Two “Gatherings” were held: February 26 and October 15. Of the 22 family units who participated in the “Gathering,” 19 family units (49 people) chose to join ELC.



FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL



Hixon Forest Hike

- The first summer event took place in June with a total of 4 people in the Upper Hixon Forest Trails. It was a success even if there were only a few individuals in attendance.

Movie Night

- In July, a movie night took place and we watched, “Monsters, Inc.” together enjoying some snacks, popcorn and different drinks! 20 individuals was the total number of people in attendance for this family fun filled night!

Loggers Baseball Game

- This revamped event took place in August and was a total hit! We had 37 total in attendance that night and it was a good night to enjoy a great pastime while also connecting with many congregant members!

Trunk or Treat

- This loved and cherished tradition was successful because of many volunteers who helped with games, crafts, and bringing trunks. We are on the incline of it being a larger event year after year. We had 16 trunks total with 3 trunks winning a skeleton trophy and other prizes.

Sunday Coffee Fellowship

- This ministry is coming back to a volunteer-led model, coordinated by Carol Robertson, with assistance by Niki Pohnl.

Senior Fun & Fellowship

- This group of 55+ friends meets monthly for a potluck or lunch outing.

Crafters Retreats

- Crafters Retreats are coordinated by Karen Guptill and happen about once a month. We have up to a dozen people who pack up their projects and spend a weekend together in fellowship.

Submitted by: Jared Kronback, Director of Faith Formation



MINISTRY COUNCIL



To connect the work we do with our faith in God, the Ministry Council strives to provide opportunities for ELC members to serve the church, community, and beyond. Members include Sue Johnson, Mary Fitzpatrick, Beth Twiton, Mike Schnitzius, Bob & Kathy Weeks, and Pastor Becky Goche.

Mission Interpreters: (Sue Johnson & Mike Schnitzius) Connect our work and financial support to that of the synod and larger church. Features: Reconciling in Christ, ELCA's support of migrants through AMMPARO, projects to support people with disabilities.

Lenten Project: Part of Synod Water Project. Weekly challenges, devotions based on water, and displays linked our spiritual and physical need of water. Dan Rift, Director of World Hunger and Disaster Relief, visited ELC to share the church's work and mission in addressing hunger and providing relief. \$6,565.00 was collected to support ELCA water ministries.

Monday Ministries at Trinity Lutheran: ELC volunteers help at the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet each Monday. ELC provided four Monday Meals serving 155-215 people. Mary Circle provided cookies. Wednesday Night Parent Group families helped prepare and serve food. Donated Thrivent Action Grants helped fund meals. Our Sunday School children collected paper products as a part of their "All Saints Service Project."

Sugar Creek Bible Camp: ELC members volunteer throughout the summer and fall. Ministry Council continues to clean, paint, and do repairs on the Seeker Cabins.

Quilters: Made/distributed 244 quilts: 45 Bethany Homes, 20 high school senior, 116 Lutheran World Relief, 20 Boys & Girls Club, 20 New Horizons, and 2 Sugar Creek.

School Kit Project: 1,044 school kits assembled for Lutheran World Relief. Backpacks sewn by Sue Marsolek, Deb Mayer, Donna Schulz, and Karen Guptill. Members donated 8 Thrivent Grants and Target supported the project. Eighty people assembled the kits on August 20. Kits were delivered to LWR Warehouse by Pete Bemis and Mike Betz.

WAFER: Donations of money, food and other items continues. In 2023, ELC donated 1,790 pounds of food to WAFER!

Donation Center: Bins are available to collect specific donations for a number of agencies. Mary & Jack Fitzpatrick sort and deliver donations.

Giving Tree: Supported ELCA Good Gifts, two Emerson Elementary School families, and two Hope Restores families. A total of \$2,275.00 was given for ELCA Good Gifts.

Caring Ministry: Nine Caring Ministers regularly visit and provide communion to our homebound members. In 2023, Stephen Ministries' "Journey Through Grief" books were sent to 13 members who lost loved ones.

Other Ministries: Mobile Meals (Karen & Bill Newburg), Sunshine Ministry (Lisa Weston chair), La Crosse Community Thanksgiving Dinner (Mary Fitzpatrick), Coulee Region Hunger Walk, Jail Ministry, Hope Restores, and WINN.



WORSHIP COUNCIL



Members: Denise Strudthoff, Kathy Hageseth, Cathy Walth, Trevor DuPey, Lori Moe, Adam Schneider, Pastor Becky Goche, Pastor Mark Kvale

The word ‘liturgy’ comes from the Greek word meaning, ‘work of the people. This word is used primarily these days regarding worship. The great joy of the Worship Council is the opportunities to help resource, direct, and empower English Lutheran Church in all the work of English Lutheran Church in worship.

Music is a huge part of our worship at English Lutheran. We are grateful for the work and talents of our musicians, Trevor DuPey, the Choir, Bell Choir, cantors, accompanists, and guest musicians who provided such amazing support to worship.

We are also grateful for the Altar Ministry Team, Lectors, Ushers, Communion Servers, and all who gather in worship, either in our sanctuary, or online.



BETHLEHEM EVENT



The Bethlehem Event is a long-standing event at English Lutheran Church. Essentially, we turn the Fellowship Hall into the Village of Bethlehem, complete with shops, characters, animals, goods, along with the smells and sounds of Bethlehem at the time of the birth of the Christ Child. The last Bethlehem Event was held on Saturday, December 17th and Sunday, December 18th, 2022.

We sponsored a special tour for confirmands from area churches on Tuesday, December 7th and Tuesday, December 14th. These special nights allowed our guests to tour the event in small groups and not be mixed in with the public. This aspect of Bethlehem is always well received by our confirmand guests and area pastors. During these tours our youth and parents played the roles of the village members.

The event, including confirmands and public tours, accounted for over 2,300 touring guests. This year, for the first time, we utilized electronic registration, which worked out well. This dramatically improved the time for guests to wait for a tour from 3-4 hours to 15 minutes. It also improved parking and scheduling/sign-up of volunteers.

There was a small group of volunteers that worked very hard during the construction phase. We had open workdays, but turnout was below expectations. We also cut several village actors and booths due to a shortage of volunteers. Financially the event was stable and not a draw on church finances beyond what was budgeted. The process of selling gifts in the narthex will be thoroughly reviewed by the Vision Board.

Bethlehem Event was completed in a timely, entertaining, and educational aspect. Guests greatly appreciated our efforts. The next one is tentatively scheduled in 2025.

Submitted by: Peter Bemis, Bethlehem Event Lead, 2022



RECONCILING IN CHRIST



Reconciling in Christ Team Members: Peggy Sannerud (Chair), Debra Daehn Zellmer, Mike Schnitzius, Jon Hageseth, Kathy Hageseth, Lee Johnson, Trevor DuPey, Pastor Mark Kvale, and Pastor Becky Goche

We identified questions that we are asked frequently: “What is Reconciling in Christ?” and “What is the basis in scripture?”

These questions helped us plan adult forums in the fall, and other less formal ways to answer these questions. We decided that our aim should be a congregational vote at the congregational meeting in February, 2024.

Actions we took in 2023:

- Added a Reconciling in Christ page to the ELC website for easy reference
- Staffed a table on several Sundays to answer questions in a more personal way
- Shared our own reasons for being on this team, at “Temple Talks” and in publication

We spent the summer working on the Welcome Statement to make our status clear. Following is the DRAFT statement from July 25, 2023:

Reconciling in Christ Welcome Statement: The faith community of English Lutheran Church is rooted in Christ and committed to living life generously. We celebrate diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, economic status, marital status, physical, or mental ability. We are united in the Holy Spirit as we embrace our differences. We welcome all as we strive to be a community equipped for God’s mission in the world. We invite you to join us as we seek to promote racial equity, social and economic justice, and care for our environment. Wherever you are on your faith journey, there is a place for you here.

The following forums were held:

- September 16 - Introduction to Reconciling in Christ and Reconciling Works
- September 17 - How do we read the Bible?
- September 24 - a look at verses used to exclude people
- October 1, - a look at verses used to welcome all people
- October 22 - follow up regarding becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation

These forums led to more questions which we will try to address with other forums and Temple Talks before the annual meeting scheduled in February, 2024.

- Is this [becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation] going to change us?
- Do we have to pay [Reconciling Works] for it?



STEWARDSHIP



“Walking as Children of the Light” was the theme of this year’s Stewardship Appeal. This theme is based on one of my favorite hymns: “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light.” The first verse and chorus of this powerful witness of a song is this:

*I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

Every day we are given the great gift of seeing what God is up to in our world as we respond to Jesus' call to follow him and serve God's people and creation. I give thanks to God, that your call to follow Jesus does not just begin and end with 'showing up on Sundays,' but extends outwards into your daily lives; at home, at work, in caring for the least and lowly.

A good question for all of us is this: How does my faith in Jesus impact the way I live? Our grateful response and answer to the amazing gift of our faith and of Jesus Christ's faithfulness is to give our best so that others experience the love, mercy, and presence of God in all aspects of life.

Thank you for a successful appeal! Your generosity in giving of yourselves, both financially and with gifts of abilities and time, allows all of us to live faithful lives as we seek God and give God thanks for all that God does in Jesus Christ. As of January 10, 2024, 176 families have completed and returned intention of giving cards totaling \$595,297. Thanks to all of you!

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

On behalf of the Stewardship Ministry Team, Pastor Mark Kvale



PROPERTY



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

Church Property:

- Replaced skylights in the Sanctuary and Narthex
- Installed new shades on the east facing windows in the Sanctuary
- Relocated the computer server from the basement to Room 116 with installation of new cables and HVAC system.
- Expanded landscaping to additional locations of the property
- Initiated upgrades to hall and room lighting by replacing with LED
- Installed initial phase of a security system

Rental House:

- Replaced upper window on north side of house
- Installed new dryer
- Repaired rain-caused leak in upper apartment window
- Repaired damaged kitchen window sill

Mark Flaten, again, deserves special thanks for his leadership and individual work. Pete Bemis is “always there” for landscape maintenance and installation. Our church is fortunate to have such a dedicated employee, Dane Melby, as its operation and maintenance coordinator.

The Property Committee always welcomes anyone who has an interest in helping maintain our church property, whether as a committee member or working on our seasonal special projects.

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

 **LIBRARY** 

2023 was a busy year for the library. Each year we have a big display in the fellowship hallway to introduce our new children, youth and adult books to the congregation. However, because 2022 was the year for the Bethlehem Event, we were unable to use the hallway. So we had a display at the end of January in 2023 and the second one in November. During those times, members were able to self-check out books.

The library is always available for checking out books when the church is open. If a librarian is not on duty, there is an easy self-check system that can be used. All church members are encouraged to stop in and check out a book or two.

Also, the Sunday School classes are periodically scheduled to visit the library, giving the students an opportunity to check out books. Something new this year is that the librarian reads a Bible story to the Pre/K through 2nd grade students before they check out a book.

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

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

ELC Library Financial Report for 2023

Balance as of 1/1/23	\$4,359.78
<i>includes CD and interest</i>	<i>622.19</i>
<i>and checkbook balance</i>	<i>3,737.59</i>
Income (Amazon adj):	18.18
Expenses:	
Books	755.34
Supplies	19.99
Total Expenses	<u>\$775.33</u>
Balance as of 12/31/23	\$3,613.95
<i>includes CD and interest</i>	<i>633.51</i>
<i>and checkbook balance</i>	<i>\$2,980.44</i>



BEQUEST FUND



BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022	\$46,598.92
INTEREST RECEIVED 2023	<u>497.52</u>
BALANCE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023	\$47,096.44

Two CD's were combined into one at the beginning of the year, changing the total value from \$46,391.46 to \$46,598.92 (interest earned in the interim). The CD was cashed in May of 2023, for HVAC and technology costs associated with moving the server from the basement to the ground floor due to poor location and plumbing issues. Early termination fees were \$458.61, netting the church \$46,637.83 to project costs. There is no designated Bequest Fund committee; however, any disbursement there from requires the approval of the Senior Pastor and the Vision Board. A vote was passed at the March 28, 2023 Vision Board meeting.



ENDOWMENT FUND



The Endowment Fund Committee met on January 7, 2024 and voted to recommend to the Vision Board and congregation that the following grants be made in 2024:

A. Global Mission:

1) LWF Augusta Victoria Hospital	\$1,500.00
2) ELCA World Hunger	\$1,000.00
3) Lutheran World Relief	\$1,000.00
4) Churches for Middle East Peace	\$1,000.00
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>\$4,500.00</i>

B. Domestic Mission:

1) Hope Restores Corporation	\$1,500.00
2) WINN (What I Need Now)	\$1,500.00
3) Mobile Meals of La Crosse	\$1,500.00
4) WAFER	\$1,000.00
5) The Exchange	\$1,000.00
6) CouleeCap/Monroe Co. Food Pantries	\$1,000.00
7) GROW La Crosse	\$1,000.00
8) Salvation Army	\$1,000.00
9) Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000.00
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>\$10,500.00</i>

C. Congregation Mission:

1) Sugar Creek Bible Camp	\$2,000.00
2) Monday Ministries @ Trinity Lutheran	\$2,000.00
3) La Crosse Area Synod Migrant Justice	\$1,000.00
4) ELC Youth Scholarships (camp, etc.)	\$2,000.00
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>\$7,000.00</i>

GRAND TOTAL **\$22,000.00**

Thank you for past contributions and continued future support. Because of those contributions, we can help many wonderful missions both here in La Crosse and globally. If you want information on how to contribute to the Endowment Fund,

contact a committee member: Adam Hatfield (chair), Chris Dreves, Sarah Herath, Tom Monson, Lois Oliver and Pastor Mark Kvale.

Endowment Fund Activity for the Year Ending December 31, 2023:

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	\$433,806.66
Investment Activity:	
Contributions Received	0.00
Realized & Unrealized Gains (Losses)	41,568.76
Distributions made in 2023	(26,516.33)
Other Expenses: Administrative Service Charges	(4,350.97)
Ending Balance December 31, 2023	\$444,508.12

The Bible Fund is a subset of the Endowment Fund. Beginning year balance was \$13,042.13 and end of the year balance was \$12,670.89. We distributed Bibles to 3rd Graders and 7th Graders in 2023. The total cost was \$1,463.21.

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



MEMORIAL COMMITTEE



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

During 2022, memorial gifts were received for the following individuals: Joan Roberts, Peter Allen, Cathi Novotney, John Monson, Sharon Norris, Jane Johnson, Stephanie Stannard, Robert Midland, Patricia Potts, Barbara Musgjerd, Tom Wuttke, Chuck Forer, and Marilyn Wildt.

Honorarium gifts were received for the following individuals: Kent Sween and Donald Melby.

Disbursements from the fund were for quilting supplies, hymnals, sanctuary banner, albs and cinctures for acolytes, landscaping, Christmas and Easter flowers, and a \$2,000 transfer to the Communion Fund.

ELC Memorial Committee Financial Report for 2023

Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$57,580.94
Designated	\$30,890.98
Undesignated	\$27,264.72
Balance as of December 31, 2023	\$58,155.70



FINANCE COMMITTEE



The Finance Committee monitored the financial needs of the congregation during 2023, including Synodical and other benevolence commitments as well as administrative, operating, and programing funds and the insurance needs of the congregation. The committee is responsible for preparing the annual General Fund budget as well as reporting receipts/expenditures to the congregation during the year.

In 2023, church attendance returned to nearly pre-pandemic numbers, both in person and on-line. In the early part of the year, General Fund receipts and disbursements were pretty much in line with our budget. After Easter in April, receipts dropped off but increased during the last couple of months of the year. Expenses were steady during the year, so we did have a deficit starting in the summer and continuing until the end of the year.

We continue paying down our mortgage with Mission Investment Fund; during 2023 we paid \$2,127 every month to reduce the principal from \$346,914 to \$334,616. Our interest rate is 3.875% on a 20-year loan with a 5-year ARM. Additional contributions to help further reduce the principal would be welcome and most appreciated. More repairs and maintenance will be needed in 2024, but it is hoped that these projects can be accomplished using existing church funds.

Church offerings are counted during the week by four teams, each serving one week of the month. We thank Dave and Judi Konop, Richard and Barbara Morrison, Dennis and Lois Peterson, and Bill and Karen Newburg for their faithful services during 2023.

We hope 2024 will be a year of pre-pandemic normal congregational life with growth in faith and service for all. Thank you for your prayers and the contributions of your time, talents, and treasure. They are all greatly appreciated.

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



AUDIT COMMITTEE



The Audit Committee met on January 11, 2024 to review the operations of the various funds of the congregation during 2023. Committee members present were Congregation Treasurer Lois Oliver, Jeff Schneider, and Larry Vangen. Also, present were Finance Committee Chair Bill Newburg and Office Manager Jennifer Jones.

The committee reviewed the balance sheet for 2023. All bills have been paid, but since disbursements exceeded revenue we had a deficit of \$39,488. This compares with a deficit of \$74,788 for 2022.

The committee also reviewed the operation of the rental property. Tenant rents were all paid in full during the year, but maintenance, repairs, and insurance expenses, as well as a PILOT (property taxes) of approximately \$8000 generated a net loss for the property. There were no major repairs to the property during the year, but the future of the property will be discussed at the Annual Meeting on February 11.

Upgrades on the Church building included replacement of the skylights and improvements to the computer and telephone systems. All were paid for with available funds. The church did not need to borrow additional funds.

The committee also reviewed the cash reserves in church accounts and the value of church assets. All were found to be in good order. The committee also reviewed the year end balances in the General Fund since 2011, the first year of our self-audits. All were found to be in good order.

The budget for 2024 was approved by the Finance Committee and the Vision Board and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting for approval. The Audit Committee determined that funds were being managed properly and had appropriate safeguards.

Respectfully submitted, Audit Committee



TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORTS



BALANCE SHEET - as of December 31, 2023

Assets

Bank

102 General Fund		-5,372.98
111 Communion Fund	3,867.60	
131 Rental Property	30,547.54	
155 Thrivent Choice	2,441.48	
158 Fellowship Trips & Tours	2,619.83	
Total 102 General Fund		34,103.47
120 Memorial Fund		35,905.06
152 Building Fund		2,527.00
Certificates of Deposit		
128 Memorial Fund	22,250.64	
129 MIF	629.04	
Total Certificates of Deposit		22,879.68
141 Bethlehem Event		5,222.72
150 Endowment Fund		444,508.12
Total Bank		545,146.05

Fixed Assets

180 Soell House		318,823.09
Buildings		
182 Stoffel Hall	1,651,973.00	
183 Church	1,808,839.54	
184 Building Improvement	3,680,516.11	
Total Buildings		7,141,328.65
185 Maintenance Equipment		180,532.97
186 Piano		66,712.00
187 Organ		75,390.00
181 Land		315,822.01
189 Accumulated Depreciation		-3,764,660.64
Total Fixed Assets		4,333,948.08

Total Assets

4,879,094.13
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BALANCE SHEET (continued) - as of December 31, 2023

Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

Payroll Withholding & Taxes		
201 SS Withholding & Medicare	1,396.88	
202 Federal Withholding Tax	794.00	
203 Wisconsin Withholding Tax	1,265.50	
Total Payroll Withholding & Taxes		3,456.38
227 Security Deposits Rental Property		2,348.00
228 Other Current Liabilities		
210 Senior Pastor Sabbatical Set Aside	2,300.00	
211 Associate Pastor Sabbatical Set Asid	2,494.10	
212 Synod Benevolence	8,021.71	
216 Prepaid Pledges 2024	36,318.09	
Total 228 Other Current Liabilities		49,133.90

Total Other Current Liabilities **54,938.28**

Long Term Liabilities

230 MIF Mortgage		334,616.34
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Total Long Term Liabilities **334,616.34**

Total Liabilities **389,554.62**

Net Assets

Unrestricted

Building Fund	1,959,174.22
General Fund	2,376,863.86
Memorial Fund	153,501.43

Total Unrestricted **4,489,539.51**

Total Net Assets **4,489,539.51**

Total Liabilities + Net Assets **4,879,094.13**

CONSOLODATING INCOME STATEMENT - as of December 31, 2023

English Lutheran Church							As of December 31, 2023 - FINAL					
Consolidating Income Statement												
and Cash/Liabilities Summary												
Year 2023	Revenue	Cash Expenses	Amortization Depreciation	Change in Value	Total Expenses	Net Income (Loss)	Checking Account	Cert of Deposit	Investments	Total Cash	Liabilities	Net Current Assets
General Fund	728,756	768,244			768,244	(39,488)	(5,373)			(5,373)	(52,590)	(57,963)
Communion Fund	10,213	8,216			8,216	1,997	3,868			3,868		3,868
Rental Property	24,038	18,463			18,463	5,575	30,548			30,548	(2,348)	28,200
Hungry Jar	8,062	8,062			8,062	0	0			0		0
Thrivent Choice	717	588			588	129	2,441			2,441		2,441
Fellowship Tours	0	0			0	0	2,620			2,620		2,620
Wedding Fees	0	0			0	0	0			0		0
Total River Bank General Fund	771,786	803,573	0	0	803,573	(31,787)	34,103	0	0	34,103	(54,938)	(20,835)
Building Fund (Mortgage Reduction)	28,447	465	194,088		194,553	(166,106)	2,527	629		3,156	(334,616)	(331,460)
Building Fund (Investments)	0	0		(232)	(232)	232			0	0		0
Memorial Fund	10,516	9,941			9,941	575	35,905	22,251		58,156		58,156
Endowment -Trust Point	0	26,714		(41,569)	(14,855)	14,855			444,508	444,508		444,508
Bequest Fund	705	0			0	705		0		0		0
Bethlehem Event	110	0			12,549	(12,439)	5,223			5,223		5,223
Total Funds- General Ledger	811,564	840,693	194,088	(41,800)	1,005,530	(193,966)	77,758	22,880	444,508	545,146	(389,555)	155,591
Christian Education	0	111			53	(53)	70			70		70
Youth - Scrip Fundraising	46,514	41,342			41,342	5,172	12,229			12,229		12,229
Global Mission Trips	18	0			0	18	8,849			8,849		8,849
Youth & Family - Mission Trips	989	0			0	989	9,741			9,741		9,741
W-ELCA	1,393	20			20	1,373	3,524			3,524		3,524
Library Committee	0	757			757	(757)	2,980	634		3,614		3,614
TOTAL ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH	860,478	882,924	194,088	(41,800)	1,047,702	(187,224)	115,152	23,513	444,508	583,173	(389,555)	193,619

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024

	Budget 2023	Actual 12/31/2023	2024 Proposed Budget	2023 Actual vs Budget
REVENUE				
Envelope, Electronic, Loose Offerings	774,000	715,716	764,000	(58,284)
Initial & Special Offerings	8,150	11,582	8,150	3,432
Misc: Interest, Building Use, Etc.	750	1,458	1,200	708
TOTAL REVENUE	782,900	728,756	773,350	(54,144)
EXPENSES				
Benevolence	86,625	83,636	85,500	2,989
Personnel				
Pastoral Staff (Salary, Housing)	123,514	123,514	126,318	(0)
Lay Staff Salary	252,057	231,419	262,966	20,638
Payroll Tax (All Staff)	28,731	27,033	29,780	1,699
Benefits - All Staff	121,118	104,426	118,884	16,692
Finance/Stability Triangle				
Administration (Vision Board, Conventions & Meetings, Etc.)	4,000	3,264	4,000	736
Technology, Office Supplies & Equipment, Postage	35,375	18,335	30,885	17,040
Financial Expenses (Envelopes, Bank/Payroll Fees, Etc.)	6,500	9,559	8,500	(3,059)
Utilities (Gas, Electricity, Phone/Internet, Water & Sewer)	49,076	40,802	44,600	8,274
Insurance (Property & Workers Comp)	21,000	24,980	26,000	(3,980)
Property Supplies, Maintenance, & Repairs	45,680	34,345	41,050	11,335
Mortgage (Principle & Interest)	26,524	25,524	25,524	1,000
Five Big Rocks				
Discipleship	20,545	10,469	20,245	10,076
Evangelism	6,500	4,597	6,500	1,903
Fellowship	3,500	4,976	4,000	(1,476)
Ministry	6,000	2,069	5,300	3,931
Worship	22,020	19,295	22,020	2,725
TOTAL EXPENSES	858,765	768,244	862,073	90,522
GAIN/LOSS	(75,865)	(39,488)	(88,723)	36,377



MEMBERSHIP & STATISTICS



	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
MEMBERSHIP END OF 2022	1,277	1,045
Members Received in 2023:		
Child Baptism	5	0
Adult Baptism	1	0
Transfers In & Affirmation of Faith	<u>47</u>	<u>27</u>
Total Members Received in 2023	53	27
Members Removed in 2023:		
Death	11	11
Transfers Out	4	4
Inactivity & *Statistical Adjustment	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Total Members Removed in 2022	20	20
2023 Confirmation Class		15
MEMBERSHIP END OF 2023	1,310	1,067

**No statistical adjustments were made in 2023.*

AVERAGE IN PERSON WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 225
Plus an average of 82 joining us on our livestream each week!



La Crosse Area Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Cultivating Life-Giving Relationships Rooted in God's Love

**Our Mission Support at Work in 2023:
 Locally, Nationally and Globally**

"In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
 (Acts 20:35)

Thanks be to God and to the people of **English Lutheran Church** Congregation

Your generous 2023 contribution of \$70,970.33 to ELCA/Synod Mission Support helped to cultivate life-giving relationships rooted in God's love by funding the following ministries:

Within the La Crosse Area Synod

Synod, Staff, Programs and Facilities **\$35,485.17**

- Pastoral counseling to congregational pastors, deacons and lay leaders
- Facilitation of call process for congregations in pastoral transitions
- Resources and training for congregations seeking renewal
- Consultation for worship, faith development, outreach, justice/advocacy, stewardship, and vitality ministries in congregations
- Professional development for rostered leaders through educational meetings
- People and resources to aid congregations in conflict
- Connection to companion churches in Peru and the Czech Republic
- Process and support for candidates for rostered ministry
- Facilities, to be used by congregations and synod leaders, for meetings and events
- Synod School of Theology

ELCA Seminaries - Wartburg & Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

\$709.70

- Educate, examine and prepare trained leaders for the professional rosters of this church
- Provide practical and theological training for church leaders outside of regular degree programs
- Faculty who are willing to serve the whole church, often invited to speak at congregations, lay academies and special events
- Facilitate learning that promotes understanding of inter-religious and ecumenical relationships
- Provide field opportunities in multiple local and international contexts for hands-on, transformational learning

Lutheran Campus Ministries in La Crosse

\$1,419.41

- Pastoral care to students attending UW-La Crosse, Viterbo and Western Technical College
- Weekly worship and Bible studies for students
- Common Ground Building (14th & Pine St., La Crosse), an ecumenical, grace based outreach center for all students and members of the campus communities
- Continuation of a Lutheran faith presence to students as they leave home congregations
- Service learning mission trips
- Leadership development for young adults

Partnership Ministries

\$709.70

- Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin working for justice and peace
- Wisconsin Council of Churches working to promote healthy ecumenical relationships
- First Call Theological Education to aid rostered leaders in transition from seminary to parish
- Wisconsin Lutheran Planned giving to assist donors with major gifts for ministry

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – Churchwide Programs

Christian Community and Leadership (CCL)

\$11,603.65

Grows the church and spreads God's word by working in conjunction with synods and congregations.

- Directors for Evangelical Mission (DEMs) – Pr. Dione Stepanek in the La Crosse Area Synod
- Advocacy & Public Policy Ministries
- New and Renewing Congregations
- Youth & Young Adult Ministries
- Outdoor & Campus Ministries
- Ethnic Specific & Multicultural Ministries
- Seminaries & Colleges
- Domestic Hunger & Poverty ministries
- Lutheran Social Services in America
- Lutheran Disaster Response
- Stewardship Ministries
- Worship Ministries

Service & Justice (Formerly called the Global Mission Unit)

\$6,671.21

Supports and builds capacity of this church's work in other countries and its relationships with churches throughout the world.

- Missionaries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, Latin America & the Caribbean
- Companion Synod Relationships
- Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)
- ELCA World Hunger support

Mission Advancement Unit

\$2,576.22

Shares the ELCA's message of God's love to all audiences, across all media, and directs efforts

for support of the ELCA through major gifts, appeals and planned giving.

- Marketing & Publications: Seeds for the Parish, Living Lutheran online, ELCA.org
- Funding for the ELCA & Partner ministries including new congregations, World Hunger, ELCA Foundation, Fund for Leaders, and Lutheran Disaster Response
- Resource Centers of the ELCA for Leaders and Congregations

3 ELCA Offices:

\$11,795.27

Office of the Presiding Bishop, Office of the Secretary, Office of the Treasurer

- Ecumenical Relationship of the ELCA
- Strategic Planning for Mission
- ELCA Archives
- Congregational Administration Resources
- ELCA Budget & Finance
- Information Technology
- Strategic Initiative Fund
- General Treasury, Retiree Minimum Health obligation and Depreciation

In addition, all designated gifts to local, national and global ministries as specified by your congregation are forwarded 100% to those causes. \$23,786.59
