



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

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

2023 ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
LORD OF LIFE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 28, 2024
Revised

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
1143 North 26th Street
Bismarck, ND

Pastors: John Streccius and Beth Walch

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Lord of Life Lutheran church
Annual Meeting Agenda
January 28, 2024 – 9:30 A.M.

- I. Call to Order – Cindy Anderson, President
- II. Opening Prayer – John Streccius, Senior Pastor
- III. Approval of the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting minutes
- IV. Approval of reports printed in Annual Report
 - a. Senior Pastor – John Streccius
 - b. Associate Pastor – Beth Walch
 - c. Lord of Life Membership Report
 - d. Council Reports
 - i. Congregational Care & Outreach Team
 - ii. Education Team
 - iii. Executive Team
 - iv. Financial Stewardship Team
 - v. Nominations & Placement Team
 - vi. Property & Maintenance Team
 - vii. Worship & Music Team
 - viii. Youth Ministry Team
 - e. Other Reports
 - i. Annual Audit
 - ii. Endowment Fund
 - iii. Women of the ELCA
 - iv. Lutheran World Relief
 - v. Piecemakers
 - vi. Young at Hearts
 - vii. Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center
- V. End of year December 2023 Financial Report – Keith Demke, Financial Stewardship
- VI. Presentation of 2024 Annual Budget for approval – Pastor John Streccius and Council VP Bob McConnell
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Proposal of elevator feasibility study.
 - b. Synod Assembly May 31-June 2, 2024 in Watford City. Representatives needed.
- IX. Election of 2024 Council Members, Team Chairs, and Council Vice President and Secretary
- X. Closing Prayer, The Lord's Prayer – Bob McConnell
- XI. Adjournment

Endowment Fund Annual Meeting – Call to Order – Jim Boyd

Council and Team Chairs Elected at Lord of Life Annual Meetings

2023 Council Executive Team

Cindy Anderson, President

Bob McConnell, Vice President

Randy Binegar, Secretary

2023 Council Team Chairs and Council Liaisons (terms are calendar years)

<u>Team Name</u>	<u>Chair</u> / <u>term</u>	<u>Liaison</u> / <u>term</u>
Education	Michelle Mielke / 2023-24	Dawn Stein / 2023-24
Congregational Care & Outreach	Crystal Engel / 2023-25	Denise MacDonald / 2022-24
Financial Stewardship	Jordan Nygaard / 2021-23	
Property Maintenance	Jeremy Kjos / 2021-23	Rod Kudrna / 2023-25
Worship and Music	Becky Salveson / 2023-24	Kylah Aull / 2023-25
Youth Ministry	Craig Nelson / 2022-23	Amanda Gill / 2023-25
Nominations & Placement	Bruce Boe / 2021-23	Erin Dukart / 2022-24
	Other members – Al Klein / 2023-25 Judy Froseth / 2021-23 Linda Simmons / 2022-24	
At-Large Council Member		Tammie Sauer / 2023-25

Lord of Life Church
Annual Meeting
1/29/2023 – 9:30 A.M.

Call to Order

9:30 A.M. The meeting was called to order by Steve Andrist at 9:30 A.M.

Opening Prayer

An opening prayer was provided by Steve Andrist

Confirmation of Quorum Report:

The Council Secretary reported 889 Confirmed Members. A required quorum of 89 confirmed members was verified. There were 105 confirmed members in attendance representing the required quorum.

Approval of the 2022 Annual Congregation Meeting minutes

The Annual 2022 Annual Congregational meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion to accept the 2022 minutes was made by LeAna Hug and seconded by Stephanie Hickman. All present voted to affirm the motion, there were none opposed.

Approval of reports printed in Annual Report

Submitted reports printed in the Annual Report were reviewed by the members present. All reports were approved except the Nominations and Placement Team report, which was done later in the meeting. A motion to accept the submitted reports except for the Nominations and Placement report was made by LeAna Hug and seconded by Gloria Snyder. All present voted to affirm the motion, there were none opposed.

End of Year December 2022 Financial Report

The 2022 Year End December Financial Report was reviewed and highlighted by Keith Demke. Keith related that we entered 2022 with a projected shortfall however when compared to the 2022 budget, our actual revenues are under budget by \$21,732 and our expenditures are \$63,940 under budget. It appears that we will need less from reserves than anticipated.

We are looking at a budget deficit again in 2023 but should be significantly closer to a balanced budget compared to 2022. We have faith that our income will increase to meet the new budget demands for 2023 moving forward.

The 2022 budget began with a total mortgage of \$827,937.67. On December 31st, 2022 the amount owed was at \$762,791.97. because of monthly principal payments and additional gifts dedicated to mortgage pre-payment.

A motion was made by Rod Kudrna to accept the Financial Report and seconded by Renae Gall. All present voted to affirm the motion, there were none opposed.

Presentation of 2023 Annual Budget

A Presentation of the 2023 Annual Budget was presented by Pastor John and Cindy Anderson. The proposed budget reflected a 0.1 % reduction from the 2022 budget.

The total amount of anticipated revenues is reported as \$741,607 which includes \$64,607 transferred from Money Market, with anticipated expenses of \$741,607.

A motion was made by Keith Demke to approve the 2023 Annual Budget and was seconded by Larry Klundt. All present voted to affirm the motion, there were none opposed.

Old Business

There was no other Old Business

New Business

Proposed revisions to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Continuing Resolutions

A presentation of proposed changes to Constitution, By-Laws, and Continuing Resolutions was done by Levi Andrist. These changes were made to bring conformity from 2016 to 2022 wording in the constitution. Some of the bylaws were amended and moved to continuing resolutions which facilitated ease of approval moving forward. The final change places all Governance documents into a single document which makes it much simpler for members to locate governance documents rather than searching in several documents.

A motion was made by Allan Klein to approve the proposed revisions to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Continuing Resolutions. The motion was seconded by LeAna Hug. All present voted to affirm the motion, there were none opposed.

Synod Assembly 2023

The 2023 Synod Assembly was announced as being June 2-4, 2023, in Bismarck. Representatives from the congregation were solicited for the upcoming Synod Assembly.

Election of 2023 Council Members, Team Chairs, and Council Secretary

Nominations and Placement Committee Report

The Nominations and Placement (N&P) Team nominates the following Lord of Life members for the Council and Team positions as shown below:

Council Secretary	Executive Team	2023-2025	Randy Binegar
Congregational Care & Outreach	Chair	2023-2025	Crystal Engel
Education	Council Member	2023-2024	Michelle Mielke
Education	Chair	2023-2025	
Financial Stewardship	No Vacancies		
Property & Maintenance	Council Member	2023-2025	Rod Kudrna
Worship & Music	Chair	2023-2024	Becky Salveson
Worship & Music	Council Member	2023-2025	Kylah Aull
Youth & Family Ministry	Council Member	2023-2024	Amanda Gill
At-Large	Council Member	2023-2025	Tammie Sauer

A motion was made by David Leer to approve the nominees presented by the Nominations Committee and seconded by Mavis Jundt. All present voted to affirm the motion, there were none opposed. The new Council and Team positions as presented were elected by the congregation.

Closing Prayer by Cindy Anderson

Meeting was Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

Robert McConnell
Council Secretary

Love, Serve, Welcome All

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.” Romans 12:9-13

Grace and peace to Lord of Life Lutheran Church,

2023 was a year filled with study, discernment, inspiration and development. I am so thankful to the council and staff for all that has been accomplished at Lord of Life in such a short time. There is still much work to be done as we put into practice living out our purpose and guiding principles. It is my privilege to work with a congregation filled with generous and willing followers of Jesus Christ. Here are my highlights for 2023.

- Strategic planning process successfully completed.
- Adoption of a new purpose statement, guiding principles and priorities for ministry.
- Implementation of a year round stewardship program, Stewardship for All Seasons.
- Significant growing in generosity.
- Streamlined the budget process for the teams and executive team.

As I look to the new year of 2024 there are significant challenges ahead. The greatest of these continues to be staffing. We have created a full time position for a youth minister and will make this the highest of priorities. My hope is to explore all potential possibilities to fill this important gap in our staff. In addition, we continue to seek the right fit for the A/V technology and Music coordinator positions.

With a new purpose statement and principles adopted we will now encourage our teams to begin focusing on the priorities of expanding relationships with our partners in ministry, exploring new opportunities and relationships in which we can live out the Gospel. I encourage each of you to examine the generous gifts God has given and then to discern how you can use those gifts to join in God’s work among us. God invites us to make a difference in the world each day, through kindness, hospitality and welcoming the stranger. As you join in this most important work, God’s kingdom is revealed in new and wonderful ways. We all need to find a way to say yes to this important work.

It is such a gift to work with the Executive team and council, Pastor Beth and the staff at Lord of Life. Truly God equips us for the places God calls us.

This year I will celebrate my 30th anniversary of my ordination and I am thankful to serve Christ with you.

Blessings and Peace to you...Pastor John Streccius

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.” Romans 12:12-13

FROM PASTOR BETH WALCH

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in everyone of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:3-6)

It seems that this past year has simply flown by! So many changes, personally and here at church. In January my mother, Mary Harpstead entered Hospice Care. In March, it became evident that her time with us on in this life was growing short. My mom passed away at her home on April 5th, 2023. I was able to be away for those last weeks with her and I am grateful for the outpouring of love from this congregation as I navigated that change. Another major change personally is that I became a Grandma! Harper Elizabeth was born to my son and his wife on November 13th. I was able to use some time away to meet that beautiful child of God. Thank you for the ways you all help us as staff to balance work and family.

Here at Lord of Life, there have been lots of changes also, most notably is that we welcomed sixth grade into our confirmation program so now we teach four grades instead of three! That has required finding more small group leaders (thank you to those faithful adults!), more classroom space, more supplies and of course more teachers – or rather more juggling of schedules with the teachers we already have!

I am grateful to the youth team which I have worked closely with this past year. Beth Anderson and Amber Mcguire spearheaded the youth room transformation and also started a devotional time for senior high students in their new comfortable space. I also give thanks for Craig Nelson and Mandy Gill who have led the team, cooked food, made posters and newsletter articles. I pray that one day, the right person is called to lead our youth ministry! Until that day, we will continue to do our best for the kids in this congregation.

I also am grateful to Lora Isakson, Children's Ministry Director and the Education team who have completely revamped the children's ministry and church school program. In the fall, Lora led the way with a new rotation church school curriculum. It has been a resounding success! Thank you to Lora and all the support she had from the team.

Adult education has also expanded to include a Wednesday Bible Study. We continue to offer an Adult Forum on Sundays as well as Brunch with Beth on Thursday mornings.

I continue to represent the East Missouri Conference on the Western North Dakota Synod Council and that has given me a great opportunity to understand the greater church. Ask me about what I do there.

It has been a joy to work alongside the staff at LOL and especially to collaborate with Pastor John, this is an amazing staff and congregation and I give thanks for all of you.

Peace be with you all,

Pastor Beth Walch

LORD OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP

	<u>01/01/23</u>	<u>12/31/23</u>
Baptized	1078	1002
Confirmed	767	724

The 2023 additions are as follows:

Baptisms in 2023 = 8

New Members: 12
 Baptized = 21
 Confirmed = 8

Confirmation = 10

Those removed during 2023 are as follows:

Transferred: 14
 Baptized = 11
 Confirmed = 8

Inactive: 89

Deceased = 10

EXECUTIVE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

The Lord of Life Executive Team had a busy and effective year. Our major activities focused on completion of our strategic plan, implementation of a new stewardship program, and updates to our Team responsibilities. Much of the focus of the Executive Team in 2023 centered around developing Lord of Life's strategic plan. In April, the Executive Team, along with members of Council, the strategic plan facilitation team, and other congregants met for an in-house retreat to further the planning process. With guidance from our consultant, Dave Daubert, the Council adopted our new purpose statement, "Love all, serve all, welcome all as Christ" and our guiding principles: deepening our faith, loving and caring for one another, welcoming and listening, connecting to our neighbors, giving generously, and sharing Christ's love. The Executive Team presented strategic priorities to Council, based on the strategic planning process. These priorities became the basis for our fall Stewardship program.

The Executive Team participated in extensive training beginning in May, to implement Stewardship For All Seasons, a Western North Dakota Synod-sponsored stewardship program. Via a congregational-cohort model, the Executive Team attended monthly training sessions that guided the development of stewardship materials shared with the congregation during fall worship services. The stewardship strategic priorities were: 1) Full access for all—elevator project completion, 2) Youth and families to grow deeper in faith—full-time youth/family minister, and 3) Sustain current excellent ministries.

At the February Council meeting, the Executive Team welcomed new members and reviewed the responsibilities of the various teams. Each Team was asked to review and update their Team orientation documents to reflect current practices and share this with the Nominations and Placement Team to use when they communicate expectations of open positions in which they are recruiting. During the summer months, we worked on updating our Continuing Resolutions, specifically updating the resolutions that list the responsibilities of each Team. These revisions were reviewed and adopted by Council in November.

Efforts continued throughout the year to recruit a part-time youth director and were unsuccessful. We are deeply appreciative to the parents of our current youth who have volunteered their time and leadership to support the faith formation of our youth throughout the year. We hope the strategic initiative for 2024 to seek a full-time youth/family minister is successful.

Yearly routine activities included preparing the annual budget and monitoring it throughout the year, coordinating Advent and Lenten suppers, selection of representatives to the Synod Assembly, and preparing for the annual congregational meeting.

We are extremely grateful to the dedicated and talented staff at Lord of Life. Jessica Axtman keeps everyone very well organized and we are deeply grateful for her talents. Bill Gall does a great job of keeping our facility and grounds well maintained. Lora Isakson uses her talents to coordinate a robust and meaningful children and family ministry program with the assistance of Taylor Heinzen. We extend our appreciation to Reid Halvorson for his work in music ministry and A/V coordination over the years and wish him well as he pursues new opportunities. We appreciate the work of our pastors and volunteers who quickly slipped into the role of A/V technicians throughout the fall worship schedule.

We thank our dedicated pastors, Pastor John and Pastor Beth, for their leadership and devotion to our congregation. It has been wonderful to work so closely with them throughout the year on the strategic plan and the new stewardship program. We valued their expertise, ideas, and wisdom while discerning Lord of Life's current and future ministries.

It has been my privilege to serve as Council President in 2023. I am incredibly grateful to the other members of the Executive Team: Pastor John, Pastor Beth, Bob McConnell, and Randy Binegar and to the Council members and Team members. Lord of Life is blessed to have their leadership in living out our purpose to Love All, Serve All, and Welcome All as Christ.

God's Blessings to All,
Cindy Anderson, Council President
Executive Team: Bob McConnell, VP and Randy Binegar, Secretary

TEAM OF EDUCATION

The Education Team filled the interim chair position in June. Dawn Veil-Stein joined the team agreeing to stay on through the end of term. Lora Isakson and Taylor Heinzen continued in the shared position for the Children and Family Ministry, meeting their one-year mark in August 2023.

Specific Ministry Highlights for last year:

- Church School – We held VBS June 4-7 with a Food Truck Party theme. Rally Day kicked off the 2023-2024 school year at Sleepy Hollow on September 10th. Over 80 kids signed up between Wednesday and Sundays. Mary Ann Gray and Betsy Debertin continue as part time Superintendents positions. There has been great excitement around changes to the Church School curriculum. Every 4-6 weeks the kids experience a rotation of workshops all focused on one lesson. The children experienced their first rotation of Creation through art, bible skills/games, science, cooking, creative drama, and video. This new format allows the workshop leaders to lead the same lesson for several weeks and with shepherds that move the groups from one workshop to the next each week. The congregation can assist the church school education by volunteering for workshop leaders or shepherds and the commitment is only on a 4-6 week rotation. Family church school was discontinued. Memory work is now being shared at the top of the stairs, displayed for the congregation to see. Jennifer Pittenger was instrumental in decorating the downstairs to elevate the Creation rotation experience. The Christmas Program was Dec 13 & 17 with a simple program format like 2022. Told the Christmas story and sang songs.
- Adult Education – Adult education includes Sunday morning Forum and has also expanded to include a Wednesday Bible Study. Held sessions on a variety of topics including Basics of American Sign Language and Creation. We continue to offer Brunch with Beth on Thursday mornings.
- Confirmation – 6th grade was added to Confirmation. Kids continue to affirm their faith in the 10th grade. Small group leaders are a backbone of our program.
- Nursery – The Nursery was relocated, and the old nursery was repurposed as a meeting place.
- Youth Room – relocated and remodeled.

Thank you to the team of Education Committee members: Pastor Beth, Pam Passarello, Betsy Debertin, Alayna Gottsman, Mary Ann Gray, Lora Isakson, Taylor Heinzen, Dawn Veil-Stein and Michelle Mielke.

Respectfully submitted, Committee Chair, Dawn Veil-Stein

TEAM OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND OUTREACH

Our Congregational Care and Outreach team supports and develops ways of joining in fellowship and service within Lord of Life and outside its walls. We also donate to various charities in town and around the world.

In 2023 we delivered Meals on Wheels, served lunch at the Banquet, collected clothing for Closet 701, collected items for Camp of the Cross through Mother/Father the Camp, bingo prizes and calendars for Missouri Slope and school supplies for Stuff the Bus. We also collected food and warm clothing for our own Little Free Pantry. We volunteer at Heavens Helpers Soup Cafe the second Wednesday of each month, and encourage people to go on their own when they can.

The Instant Church Directory can be updated anytime, and through it we are able to send text blasts out for important events to everyone whose cell phone number is in the directory. The Instant Church Directory App is wonderful to have for easy access to names, phone numbers and pictures. If you need help setting it up, we can help. Send in pictures any time to stay updated!

We stay connected to people who are unable to make it to church through our HomeTouch monthly mailings. We attended a Larks baseball game; had a Gateway to Science outing; participated in Trunk or Treat; recognized graduating Seniors, volunteers and confirmands; put on a Global Feast and Advent Fun Day; collected gift cards through our Angel Tree; and supported new refugees in town.

Our Plarners have completed 23 mats since September 2022, and all go to Ministry on the Margins. We meet every Wednesday at 3:30 in the quilt room.

The grief ministry stays connected with people who have lost a loved one.

CCO finds Service Group leaders for the upcoming year. These leaders find people from their monthly list to serve coffee and treats between services on Sundays, and to provide bars for funerals, if needed.

If you are interested in helping out with any of our activities, would like to know more about us, or have an idea of something more we can do, just contact one of the following, we are happy to visit with you.

Members of CCO: Peggy Christman, Karla Kilen, Shirley Klein, Denise MacDonald, Kathleen Mangskau, Lori Meza, Connie Peterson, Bonnie Repnow, Kelly Wahl and Crystal Engel, Chair.

TEAM OF FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The financial stewardship team continues to carry out its duties as specified in the Lord of Life Lutheran Church Constitution. Our duties include, but are not limited to, planning and promoting the annual financial stewardship program for the congregation, regularly reviewing the financial statements and stewardship commitments, making recommendations to the Church Council regarding various financial issues that arise, and assisting with the drafting of the annual budget for consideration by the congregation at the annual meeting.

We entered 2023 anticipating that we would have a shortfall. The 2023 budget relied on about \$64,606 from reserves to meet the expenses projected at \$741,606. As of December 31st, the 2023 actual income was \$36,887 under our actual expenditures. When compared to the 2023 budget, our actual revenues are under budget by \$27,612 and our expenditures are \$56,223.32 under budget. It appears that we will need less from reserves than anticipated.

We took a new approach to our Stewardship Campaign in 2023. We are encouraged to see a roughly 20% increase in members who have pledged to give and about a 20% increase in pledged dollars. About \$45,000 in pledged dollars are lead gifts towards our goal of adding an elevator! The congregation continues to be generous in their gifts of time, talent, and treasure as we continue to move forward. We knew 2023 would have challenges and a shortfall. Fortunately, we needed less from reserves than anticipated. We are looking at a budget deficit again in 2024 but should be closer to a balanced budget. We have faith that our income will increase to meet the new budget demands for 2024 moving forward.

One item in the financial structure of the Church that remains quite constant is the mortgage on our property. 2023 began with a total mortgage of \$762,791.97. On December 31st, 2023, the amount owed was at \$695,907 because of monthly principal payments and additional gifts dedicated to mortgage pre-payment.

The Team is grateful for the support of staff and the congregation as we work to provide the needed resources for the mission of Lord of Life as we continue to Love all, serve all, and welcome all as Christ. The Financial Stewardship team members are Keith Demke, Judy Kudrna, & Jordan Nygaard

TEAM OF PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE

The Lord of Life property team would like to thank everyone that uses our wonderful facility for being so helpful and conscientious about making sure it remains in excellent condition. We are proud of our building and grounds, and the members of the committee work diligently to make sure we take care of the property while being responsible with gifts given to by individuals and families to the ministry at Lord of Life. Here are some of the larger issues that were able to address this year.

The contract cleaning and lawn/snow care has gone great throughout the year and we will continue with the contracts with them. This year we also contracted to have all the main area carpets professionally cleaned. Again, as stated in the last report, Lord of Life is very fortunate that Bill Gall takes care of all the details that aren't always obvious but need to be handled.

There are several exciting transitions that have happened and still continue to improve our facility in regard to education, youth, and activity space. The new nursery has been completed and the process of converting the 2 classrooms into the current youth room is just about complete with just some minor details left to finish, but the room is functional at this time. New kitchen slide outs were installed and some rubber matting put into place to help with fatigue when working in the kitchen. New lights were installed in the Narthex which definitely brightened up this area. The Property team will continue work and assist with any projects when needed.

Continuation of the elevator project: With our youth education program thriving, there is a glaring need to address the need for an elevator to make the lower level educational space accessible for students and teachers. This is likely a project that will approach \$170,000 to complete. We simply don't have the resources to address this with our annual budget, but we will continue to pursue grant funding and individual gifts, and are open to the idea of someone spearheading a fundraising effort to bring this idea to fruition. Please contact the pastors, church office, or someone from the property team if you have ideas of ambition to get this off the ground. The Property team received some quotes this year for the installation of an elevator.

It has become the norm in recent years for the Property Team to reduce its budget, specifically in discretionary spending, and then manage its activities so that we are underspent on an annual basis. That is true again in this last year. The team was very conscientious this year in saving wherever possible and only engaging in 'needs' rather than 'wants'. We have addressed with the church council, however, that Lord of Life doesn't have a funding mechanism for setting aside money for long-term capital projects that will need to be dealt with over the next 10 years as our facility ages. This is a priority, and early in 2023, the team will develop a list of projects that will be required and an estimated timeline for when they need to be completed. We hope this will put a spotlight on developing a long-term plan so the congregation isn't caught off guard and in a crisis when they occur. Thank you.

TEAM OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Committee Members:

Tondi McGuire, Franky Enger, Justine Bennes – Altar Guild Liaison, Kylah Aull – Council Representative, Becky Salveson – Chair. Staff: Pastor Beth Walch, Pastor John Streccius, Reid Halvorson (through August), Shea Lee (September through December).

Duties of the Team:

- Provide for an orderly, effective, and meaningful worship service.
- Provide music leaders.
- Organize, train, and supervise ushers, acolytes, assistant ministers, and communion assistants.
- Be responsible for the acquisition and care of hymnals, Bibles and other materials and equipment used for congregational worship in accordance with copyright laws.
- Supervise operations of the audiovisual system in conjunction with the Team of Property Maintenance.
- Maintain records of worship attendance.
- Organize worship themes for special services such as Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.
- Oversee the functions of the altar guild.
- Direct all audiovisual and music personnel and their involvement in the worship service and other musical programs.
- Aid the music and audiovisual personnel in recruiting volunteers from the congregation
- Subject to the approved budget, the Team will procure, maintain, and dispose of all music, musical instruments, equipment and property.
- When requested, identify next year's proposed activities and propose an annual budget for the Team and submit as directed by the Executive Team.

Significant Activities:

- Created new Worship and Music orientation document.
- Welcomed new team member, Justine Bennes, to coordinate with Altar Guild.
- Bob Salveson agreed to serve as Sunday usher recruiter/coordinator.
- Supported Pastors and service volunteers in Lenten, Palm Sunday and Holy Week services.
- Used Sign Up Genius for usher and communion assistants from May through summer months. Returned to sign up sheets in fall.
- Recommended to council that one Sunday service be considered for fall 2023 in order to better use volunteer and other resources. Council decision was to stay with two services in fall 2023.
- Ordered carnations to present on Mother's Day.
- Ordered cross keychains to present on Father's Day.
- Decided upon All Creation Sings as liturgy for summer 2023.
- Approved update of language in Constitution regarding Holy Communion.
- Supported Reid Halvorson in creating guidelines for accompanists/musicians. Approved same.
- Approved Christmas Eve service times of 9:30 am, 3:30 and 5:00 pm for 2023.
- Endorsed Lord of Life use of WND synod guidelines for pulpit supply.
- Encouraged pastors to wear their personal stoles for special services as appropriate.
- Said a grateful goodbye to Reid Halvorson as Music and Technology Coordinator.
- Supported Executive Team in hiring of Shea Lee as Music Coordinator.
- Supported Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service to be held at Faith Lutheran.
- Approved purchase of 25 ACS pew copies from donor gift.
- Voted to strike "Secure a choir director and provide for the needs of a choir" from Continuing Resolutions.
- Discussed need for more Altar Guild volunteers or examination of duties in order to simplify. Meeting scheduled for January 2023.

What We Need from You:

- Attend, participate in, and invite/welcome others to attend our varied and meaningful services.
- Take time to be aware of and thank the people who help with worship – assistant ministers, acolytes, communion assistants, Altar Guild members, musicians, ushers, live stream technicians, custodial workers, altar flower donors and more. Worship services require a "Village of People". Please pray for those people. And consider becoming part of that village.
- Work together with Pastor John, Pastor Beth, and the whole Lord of Life family to *love all, serve all, and welcome all as Christ.*

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

TEAM OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

By Craig Nelson

Happy holidays to all from the Youth and Family Team! As another year comes to a close, let us reflect on 2023 as a whole. Thank you to our awesome team members, current and former, for their commitment to our Team this past year. You are all a blessing to our church family and to our Youth Team. We look forward to another great year, filled with challenges and opportunities to allow this team to shine.

The fundraising events of this Team in 2023 included caramel roll sales, and cookie sales. Thanks to all who support our Youth fundraising efforts, as it helps our youth grow spiritually, and enables collaboration with others on projects that improve the lives of all involved.

The new Confirmation classes were filled with young LOL members. Affirmation of Faith Sunday was also amazing, as we witnessed these amazing youth get confirmed. These Confirmation students participated in various activities together, as they prepared to *confirm their faith*. These activities have included various camps and retreats, as well as participating in Rally Day and Vacation Bible School through the years. Pastor Beth continues to work with our confirmation students to assist them in their Christian journey.

The 2022 ELCA National Youth Gathering that was scheduled in Minneapolis was canceled. The next gathering is planned for 2024 in New Orleans. These events are always a great spiritual and service event that brings our fellow ELCA Lutheran's youth all together to share God's love and promises. The National Youth Gathering is an event that is presented every 3 years by the ELCA, and many of the Western and Eastern ND Synod church's youth attend.

May the Lord bless the youth and families of LOL, our awesome Team, and all of the members of this wonderful congregation.

LORD OF LIFE NOMINATIONS AND PLACEMENT TEAM

2023 Report

The Nominations and Placement Team gratefully acknowledges the service of those who have completed their terms in 2023, specifically: Cindy Anderson, Council President; Financial Stewardship Team Council Member, Kathy Wiese; Nominations & Placement Team Chair, Bruce Boe; Financial Stewardship Team Chair, Jordan Nygaard; Property and Maintenance Team Chair, Jeremy Kjos; Youth Ministry Chair, Craig Nelson; Nominations and Placement Team Member, Judy Froseth; and At-Large Council Member, Tammie Sauer. Thank you for your time, talent, and dedication.

The Nominations and Placement (N&P) Team here nominates the following Lord of Life members for the Council and Team positions as shown below. The N&P Team thanks these members for agreeing to accept these nominations.

For **Council and Executive Team Secretary**, who will become Council and Executive Team vice-president for 2024 and then president for 2026: Tammie Sauer.

For **Team chairs** and **for council members who will also serve as liaisons** to the teams as specified, we nominate those listed below. Each team liaison serves as the direct connection between the Council and their respective team.

Education	Chair	2025	Dawn Stein
Financial Stewardship	Chair	2024-2026	Lauren Sauer
Financial Stewardship	Council Member	2024	Arlin Gardner
Property & Maintenance	Chair	2024-2026	Patrick Isakson
At-Large	Council Member	2024-2025	Noah Knudsen
Youth Ministry	Chair	2024-2026	Craig Nelson
Nominations and Placement	Chair	2024-2026	Jim Gray
Nominations and Placement	Team Member	2024-2026	Roxanne Gardner

The listed teams above are constitutionally created. Each team, except for Nominations and Placement, also includes non-elected members. There are many other ministry service activities at Lord of Life. We encourage all Lord of Life members to join a team or another activity, many of which are described in this congregational annual report.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Boe, Chair

Judy Froseth

Linda Simmons

Erin Fox Dukart, Council Member

Al Klein

Pastor John Streccius

ENDOWMENT FUND

This past year the ND Community Foundation reports, the Lord of Life Endowment Fund principal balance has increased to \$207,583 as of November 1, 2023. This compares to the \$202,563 reported last year (2022). Only unrestricted income from the endowment are used to make grants which support the ministry of Lord of Life members, not the principal.

This year, approximately \$15,700 was used for grants to ministries supported by Lord of Life members. This included new earnings (\$8,930) and carryover of unspent earnings (\$6,770) from previous cycles. The grant application window ran from September 20, 2023 through November 10, 2023. Grants were limited to a maximum request of \$1,000 per application.

Grants awarded funding in this year's funding cycle were:

1. Sisters in Stitches – Help Purchase Cereal Snacks for Low Income School students in Mandan.
2. Heaven's Helpers Closet - Grant to provide monitors and hookups needed for a security system at new facility
3. Heaven's Helpers Closet - Purchase rolling office chairs
4. Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry - Purchase a Chest Freezer and installation of Electric Outlet for additional frozen food storage.
5. Global Neighbors - Apartment items, Food, Clothing, and Adm. Cost associated with client reception & placement.
6. LOL Children & Youth - Purchase 10-12 Ukuleles to start a Ukulele Choir.
7. LOL Youth Team – Funded 7 applications to assist Youth with expenses for ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans (July 2024).
8. LOL Youth Team – Funded 3 applications to assist Youth Leaders with expenses for accompanying youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans (July 2024).
9. LOL Youth Team - Funded 3 applications to assist with expenses for attending an ELCA training event in January 2024 for church staff and for adult youth leaders attending ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

The endowment fund will continue to grow as Lord of Life members provide gifts into it. Gifts of any amount are encouraged. Gifts of \$5,000 or more can be of particular benefit not only to the congregation, but to the giver, as well, thanks to a North Dakota law that allows for a tax credit of 40 percent. Benefits can vary depending on a donor's tax bracket and one should always check with their tax preparer when making a donation.

Grants from the fund are available in three general categories:

- The Congregational Program Fund supports the expansion of ministries in such areas as education, worship, music, the arts, parish life, and staff development.
- The Benevolence Fund supports special mission needs of members of the congregation, the community at large and the mission of the Western North Dakota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- The Capital Projects fund supports planned capital improvements to Lord of Life facilities.

Grants do not have to be used at Lord of Life, but applications must be sponsored by Lord of Life members.

The Endowment fund was incorporated in 2013. Current members of its board are: President - Jim Boyd; Vice President- Randy Bineger; Secretary/Treasurer Dan Wrolstad; and directors Judy Froseth (Elected) & Pastor John Streccius. Bob McConnel was council liaison this year. This year Jim Boyd and Randy Bineger terms expire in January 2024. Diane Clinton and Doug Doolittle have agreed to be nominated to serve regular three year terms.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF REPORT

Piecemakers

We have had another successful year of quilting with lots of participants. We have two groups of quilters. The evening quilters meet the first and third Monday at 6:30 pm. The daytime quilters meet at 9:30 am on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Sewing experience is not required to participate and it is a great way to meet other women and form lasting friendships.

This year we were able to send 193 quilts and 2 blankets to Lutheran World Relief. We also donated 12 quilts to Camp of the Cross for their annual quilt auction. A total of 61 quilts were sent to local charities. The congregation was very generous in donating money to help cover the cost of mailing the quilts overseas. The quilts are sent to 95 countries. The quilts are used for warm bedding, tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to carry a baby in.

The quilters are providing baby quilts for baptisms and senior quilts to those that are graduating. Thanks to all the quilters who are showing their love with those in need and letting them know they are not alone and giving them hope.

Baby Care Kits

This year, we were able to send 68 baby care kits to Lutheran World Relief. A big thank you to all of you who donated baby clothes, soap and hand towels. With lots of helping hands we were able to sort, assemble and pack the donations in October. The items provided in a baby care kit provide the basics a family needs to care for their baby.

Personal Care Kits

In May, we were able to ship 109 personal care kits to Lutheran World Relief. The items included are a bath towel, toothbrush, comb and nail clipper. The simple items provide much needed self-care and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty. A big thank you to those who donated items and helped assemble and pack kits.

Respectfully submitted
Barb Wrolstad

COZY COMFORT

Cozy Comforts is a group of dedicated knitters and crocheters that meet the first Monday of each month. We donated 18 prayer shawls and 296 loovies in 2023. The shawls went to people who need extra comfort, and the loovies went to Social Services, rescue squads, Adult Abuse Center, the Salvation Army and Abate. Come and join us, and if you know of anyone needing a little more comfort just let us know.
Deb Knudsen, Karey Lyson, Marilyn Hegre, LeNor Dollinger, Judy Froseth and Crystal Engel

2023 Women of the ELCA Report

Our purpose and goal as Women of the ELCA is to provide opportunity to grow in faith, have fellowship with other Christians, witness to others and help those in need both local and afar. At Lord of Life, we try to achieve these goals by providing educational materials, Bible studies, fundraisers and gatherings for women to experience fellowship with other women. All women are automatically members and welcome to attend any meeting or gathering. We also try to support children's needs.

Bible Study is held on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30.

On January 30th, in conjunction with Giving Hearts Day, we disbursed \$7,450 to the following charities:

LOL Sunday School for chairs -	\$1500
LOL Library -	\$1000
Camp of the Cross -	\$1000
Women's Care Center -	\$1000
Great Plains Food Bank -	\$1000
Backpack Program -	\$950
Missouri Slope Assisted Living -	\$500
Missouri Slope Skilled Nursing -	\$500

Thankoffering and Blessing Calendars were used during Lent by members to collect funds for the national Women of the ELCA projects.

On April 1, the East Missouri Cluster Meeting was held at Peace Lutheran.

In May, Personal Care Kits were assembled for shipping to Lutheran World Relief. On Wednesday, May 10th and Sunday the 14th, quilts were displayed on the pews before shipping to Lutheran World Relief.

On July 25, the Flowers and Fellowship event was held and was attended by 18 people at the home of Le Ana Hug.

The East Missouri Cluster meeting was held in Ashley on September 9.

The Piecemakers meet on the first and third Monday nights and on the first and third Tuesdays to make quilts for local needs and Lutheran World Relief. Quilt Wednesday was held on October 11th and Quilt Sunday was held on October 15th. The quilts were shipped the following week to Lutheran World Relief. Throughout the year quilts are also donated for local needs.

Baby care kits were assembled and shipped to Lutheran World Relief in October.

Bookmark Crosses were given to the confirmation girls in October.

Cancelled stamps are collected and sent to assist in raising funds for the shipping costs of Lutheran World Relief.

In November on the 9th, volunteers made lefse for the Camp of the Cross Scandinavian Supper Fundraiser on the 18th and Global Neighbors Potluck at LOL on the 12th. The annual lefse making was held on the 16th and 18th then sold as a fundraiser on the 19th.

We extend an invitation to all women to come and join us in fellowship and participate in our efforts to help others.

Submitted by
Barb Wrolstad, Secretary
Ann Sletmoe, Treasurer
Janell Quinlan, President

Young at Hearts

Young at Hearts has met monthly during the past year to provide a welcoming and relaxed setting for food, fun and fellowship for retirees. We believe that socializing is vital to all of us, regardless of age. We meet the second Monday of every month at either 11:30 am if we serve lunch or at 2:30 pm if we serve desserts and coffee.

We are very grateful to the Endowment Fund Grant which has supported us in providing programs, food and supplies. Besides enjoying each others company and eating well, we had trivia with John, Beth and Reid, representatives from Clarity Mind and Memory Clinic, Doug Wurtz talked about North Dakota Day Trips, Nancy Kleingartner played a medley of piano pieces for us, and AARP spoke on fraud. Join us whenever you can, it's a great way to meet others and just relax together.

We encourage any retiree to come and make Young at Hearts one of your monthly activities. You will be most welcome.

Missouri Slope Annual Report

Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center is a ministry that was originated by the Lutheran churches of the Bismarck-Mandan area. Even today, each of the member churches, including Lord of Life, is represented on the governing board.

Our focus throughout the past year has been on growing the workforce to meet the increasing needs of our community. Our services remain in high demand. We are at full occupancy most weeks at new North Washington nursing facility, and our Hillview facility re-opened one of the nursing units in October after entering a nursing facility contract with the Veterans Administration. This has been received very well by area veterans, who are now able to stay in Bismarck and receive the care they need.

The Assisted Living Facility maintains over 86% occupancy, and this year a new service, was launched to help people remain in their homes.

The Capital Campaign remains a high priority for funding building projects, including the additional development phases at North Washington. The campaign has been successful in raising funds this year to purchase and install stained glass windows in the chapel, building the Missouri Slope Bistro and Coffee Shop, and a new deck for our residents to enjoy the outdoors. Additional funding is needed to bring the finishing touches to our chapel and other great projects that will enhance the care and services provided at Missouri Slope.

Larry Giese, our Chaplain/Director of Pastor Care, retired this year, and a call committee is moving forward with hopes of filling the position early in 2024.

Please feel free to reach out to me or Reier Thompson, President and CEO, with questions or comments about your ministry at Missouri Slope.

Steve Andrist
Lord of Life representative
Missouri Slope Governing Board



Western North Dakota Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.

January 2024

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior Jesus the Christ!

In this season of Annual Reports, Annual Meetings, and elections of new congregational leadership, I pray that the Spirit walks with you and guides you along the way.

Jesus says, "You are witnesses of these things." (Luke 24:48)

As part of the Western North Dakota synod, you and your congregation are called to be witnesses of the good news of Jesus, the savior of the world.

As the western North Dakota synod, here are a few small examples of the ways we witnessed to good news of Jesus in 2023 ...

... by supporting seminarians, pastors, deacons, and synod authorized ministers who serve alongside us in mission and ministry.



... on college, university, elementary, middle, and high school campuses and bible camp ministries that provided thousands of opportunities for worship, prayer, service, and fellowship.

... joining our sisters and brothers in Christ in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic in joyous centennial celebrations in Minneapolis/St. Paul and across the countryside of Central Africa Republic.

... through new partnerships that are building new ministry opportunities within congregations and parishes across our synod.

... in church basements with gifted leaders who are carefully listening to the Spirit's voice as we give thanks for all that God has done through our congregations and wonder what God might be calling us into next.

Thank you for being a witness to the good news of Jesus! Simply stated, none of the work God calls us to do as church is possible without you. You are a gift for which I am incredibly thankful. May you and your congregation be filled with all joy and peace in believing throughout 2024!



Serving in Christ together,

The Rev. Craig A. Schweitzer
Bishop, Western North Dakota Synod – ELCA





*Camping with Christ...
for Lives of Faith...*

Camp of the Cross Ministries
1228A 47th Ave. NW
Garrison, ND 58540
Voice & Fax (701) 337-2246
www.campofthecross.com

Greetings to you from Camp of the Cross Ministries!

We are so thankful and blessed at CCM by the many people who pray for us, participate in, and support our ministries. We are honored to provide a ministry to all ages that helps each person ***"Live out their Lives of Faith!"***. Thank you as a constituent congregation for your support in our success!

CCM, during the year 2023, even though we continued to be challenged by the pandemic, had a profound influence in the lives of children, youth, young adults, and adults who were touched by our ministry. This could not have been done without our mission partner congregations like yourselves!

In March, we welcomed our new Executive Director, Deacon Janie Hague, and we are so excited for all that she has to bring to camp.

During the summer months, we welcomed campers, new and past attendees, to our site. The joy and excitement they brought this summer was extremely rewarding. Our camper numbers were up this summer! We had 100 new campers this summer, for a total of 323 campers. For the first time in two years, we were able to host a full summer of camp and not shut down early due to COVID.

We are already planning for the summer of 2024 with a similar program, and we are hopeful because of the success we had this past summer. Registration for Summer 2024 is open now!

The year-round retreat ministry for children, youth and adults began in January. We are now fully booked through January of 2025, which we are really excited about as we continue to move forward in ministry.

We were excited to celebrate and host many "friendraisers" and fundraisers this year. We had our work project weekends, Prairie Lake Festival, Scandinavian Supper, we held a booth during the Dickens Festival, and visited many congregations as you put on meals for us or hosted us in worship. We thank you all for partnering with us and continuing to share in our ministry together.

**Thank you for praying for us and supporting us!
Your mission in Christ is especially important to us!**

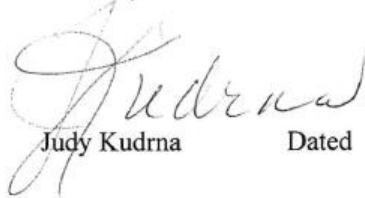
2023 AUDIT REPORT

January 2, 2024

To The Board of Lord of Life

I have completed the review of the financial statements, income received and expenditures paid, on a monthly basis for the year ending December 31, 2023. I feel the financial statements are properly recorded for the 2023 year.

Sincerely,

 1-2-24
Judy Kudrna Dated

Cindy Anderson, president and Bob McConnell, vice president, hereby verify that the salaries and benefits of the Ordained Staff of Lord of Life have been reviewed and have been properly paid and recorded for the 2023 calendar year.

 1/3/24
Cindy Anderson Dated

 1/3/24
Bob McConnell Dated

2023 TREASURER'S REPORT



840 43rd Avenue NE, Suite 100
Bismarck, ND 58503

📞 701-222-4100

📠 701-224-0117

ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT

Board of Directors
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Bismarck ND 58501

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statements of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, (a nonprofit corporation), which are comprised of the statement of financial position – modified cash basis as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statement of income and expenses – modified cash basis for the twelve months then ended, in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting, and for determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable financial reporting framework. We have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. We have not audited or reviewed the financial statements nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on these financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the disclosures, the statement of changes in net assets and the statement of functional expenses ordinarily included in the financial statements prepared in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. If the omitted disclosures and statements of changes in net assets and functional expenses were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Organization's financial position, results of operations and cash flows. Accordingly, these financial statements and supplementary schedules are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

The modified cash basis of accounting requires that fixed assets be depreciated over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The Organization has elected to not record depreciation on its fixed assets, which is a departure from the modified cash basis of accounting. Management has not determined the effect of this departure on the financial statements.

The supplementary information contained on pages 7-9 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. This information is the responsibility of management. The supplementary information was subject to our compilation engagement. However, we have not audited or reviewed the supplementary information and, accordingly, do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on such supplementary information.

We are not independent with regards to Lord of Life Lutheran Church.

Haga Kommer, Ltd.
Haga Kommer, Ltd
Bismarck, North Dakota
January 4, 2024

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Statement of Financial Position - Modified Cash Basis

December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022	Difference
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents			
112 Capital Credit Union	\$ 89,760.85	\$ 114,589.63	\$ (24,828.78)
123 Savings	954.42	953.94	0.48
124 Money Market	76,332.32	75,968.58	363.74
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	<u>167,047.59</u>	<u>191,512.15</u>	<u>(24,464.56)</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>167,047.59</u>	<u>191,512.15</u>	<u>(24,464.56)</u>
Land & Buildings (15)			
151 Building	2,153,489.37	2,153,489.37	-
150 Land	19,964.00	19,964.00	-
152 Parking Lot	109,544.66	109,544.66	-
Land & Buildings Totals	<u>2,282,998.03</u>	<u>2,282,998.03</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Assets			
140 Cash Back Bonus Account - CCU	\$ 935.35	\$ 412.85	\$ 522.50
125 Certificate of Deposit 15 Month	21,540.77	21,359.37	181.40
130 Edward Jones	85,991.81	81,991.67	4,000.14
Total Other Assets	<u>108,467.93</u>	<u>103,763.89</u>	<u>4,181.54</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,558,513.55</u>	<u>\$ 2,578,274.07</u>	<u>\$ (20,283.02)</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities (30)			
Visa - CCU	2,126.83	292.27	
202 Payroll Withholding-Fed Taxes	214.84	145.94	
203 Payroll Withholding-State Tax	\$ 180.00	\$ 264.00	\$ (84.00)
252 Payroll Withd-FlexMed/Childcare	886.82	713.66	
Total Current Liabilities(30)	<u>3,408.49</u>	<u>1,415.87</u>	<u>(84.00)</u>
Long Term Liability (45)			
210 Mortgage Payable 210	695,906.81	762,791.97	(66,885.16)
Long Term Liability Totals	<u>695,906.81</u>	<u>762,791.97</u>	<u>(66,885.16)</u>
Net Asset (90)			
300 Fund Equity - Without Donor Restrictions	1,782,300.84	1,751,565.59	30,735.25
301 Fund Equity - With Donor Restrictions	76,897.41	62,500.64	14,396.77
Net Asset Totals	<u>1,859,198.25</u>	<u>1,814,066.23</u>	<u>45,132.02</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	<u>\$ 2,558,513.55</u>	<u>\$ 2,578,274.07</u>	<u>\$ (21,837.14)</u>

See Accountant's Compilation Report.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Statement of Income & Expenses - Modified Cash Basis
Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022	Difference
Unrestricted Income			
Offerings (5)	\$ 622,387.79	\$ 607,528.48	\$ 14,859.31
500 Envelope General Offering	604,514.86	590,139.39	14,375.47
501 Other General Fund Offering	17,872.93	17,389.09	483.84
Other Income (10)	20,516.20	18,181.00	2,335.20
502 Confirmation	20.00	-	20.00
503 CCO	422.00	120.00	302.00
504 Worship	1,613.97	950.00	663.97
505 Education	2,198.21	1,832.61	365.60
506 Youth & Family	3,419.03	570.00	2,849.03
508 Property/Building	3,309.38	1,650.00	1,659.38
509 Rental Income	2,340.00	6,679.79	(4,339.79)
510 Memorial Income	3,850.00	6,378.60	(2,528.60)
511 Coffe/Donuts	1,856.73	-	1,856.73
512 Miscellaneous Income	1,486.88	-	1,486.88
Other Income (15)	5,585.13	1,758.29	3,826.84
533 CCU Checking Interest	516.87	233.61	283.26
534 CCU Savings Interest	0.48	0.48	-
535 CCU Money Market Interest	363.74	132.21	231.53
536 CCU Certificate of Deposit 24m	181.40	139.43	41.97
Cash Back Bonus Rewards - CCU	522.50	334.32	188.18
560 Edward Jones Interest Income (560)	4,000.14	918.24	3,081.90
Total Unrestricted Income	648,489.12	627,467.77	21,021.35
Unrestricted Expense			
Education (35)	5,728.31	8,592.03	(2,863.72)
608 Children & Family Ministry	132.41	75.41	57.00
620 Milestone	630.65	1,041.25	(410.60)
750 Publications	632.30	582.80	49.50
751 Christian Education	1,655.55	3,496.60	(1,841.05)
752 Vacation Bible School	878.88	1,173.00	(294.12)
753 Confirmation	955.41	1,282.09	(326.68)
756 Adult Education	773.86	863.89	(90.03)
757 Library	69.25	73.99	(4.74)
783 Nursery Supplies	-	3.00	(3.00)
Youth & Family (40)	4,050.69	2,822.38	1,228.31
676 Youth Event	1,500.00	1,559.38	(59.38)
761 Camp Scholarships	-	1,178.00	(1,178.00)
766 Relational Ministry	247.39	-	247.39
768 Travel/Adventure	1,850.49	-	1,850.49
769 Promotion	452.81	85.00	367.81
Congregational Care and Outreach (45)	21,733.89	23,181.50	(1,447.61)
643 New Community Benevolence Project	2,409.92	1,491.15	918.77

See Accountant's Compilation Report.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Statement of Income & Expenses - Modified Cash Basis
Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022	Difference
664 Camp of The Cross Dining Hall	-	-	-
666 Boy Scouts	500.00	300.00	200.00
681 Refugee Support	1,896.02	2,500.00	(603.98)
724 Community Benevolence	3,750.00	3,750.00	-
726 Cozy Comfort Ministry	45.35	86.75	(41.40)
728 Outreach	843.83	1,813.75	(969.92)
729 Web Site Maintenance	272.17	272.17	-
731 Missouri Slope Lutheran	1,000.00	875.00	125.00
732 Global Mission Sunday	500.00	500.00	-
733 Camp of the Cross	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
736 Public Relations	1,576.56	2,353.83	(777.27)
737 Missionary Support	800.00	750.00	50.00
738 Evangelism Supplies	195.00	118.00	77.00
770 Rally Day	475.93	110.85	365.08
773 M50 Delegate	300.00	312.00	(12.00)
776 Congressional Fellowship	1,720.67	1,207.06	513.61
781 Caring Ministry	363.44	128.89	234.55
782 The Church Directory\Postage	85.00	1,612.05	(1,527.05)
Executive (50)	460,785.39	470,501.23	(9,715.84)
Executive	97,439.26	104,697.60	(7,258.34)
723 Benevolence	50,000.00	50,000.00	-
629 Copier Maintenance	1,321.59	2,005.50	(683.91)
634 Staff Mileage Reimbursement	1,083.08	1,133.05	(49.97)
646 Financial Services Contracted fees	24,320.10	23,512.52	807.58
660 MSLCC Chapel Challenge	-	4,000.00	(4,000.00)
661 Organist	5,425.00	6,235.00	(810.00)
665 Staff Workers Comp Ins	379.93	195.27	184.66
670 Church Conferences	2,223.92	2,332.15	(108.23)
672 Computer Supplies/Equipment	2,962.58	7,735.00	(4,772.42)
673 Postage & Mailing	1,454.39	1,592.47	(138.08)
674 Office Supplies	2,988.16	2,288.87	699.29
675 Personal Background Check	252.00	-	252.00
679 Executive Comm. Discretionary	1,354.45	82.58	1,271.87
682 Bank/Vanco Fees	3,674.06	3,218.31	455.75
685 Staff Christmas Party	-	366.88	(366.88)
			-
Ordained Staff	256,458.31	256,407.27	51.04
Lay Staff	106,887.82	109,396.36	(2,508.54)
Property (55)	180,749.99	166,135.64	14,614.35
710 Utilities	25,383.66	28,039.04	(2,655.38)
711 Supplies/Upkeep	4,457.74	2,973.67	1,484.07
712 Snow/Lawn Care	7,029.38	6,492.64	536.74
713 Special Assessments	8,916.26	7,717.03	1,199.23

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Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Statement of Income & Expenses - Modified Cash Basis
Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022	Difference
714 Building & Grounds Maintenance	17,816.12	17,199.49	616.63
715 Building Improvement	13,759.23	4,292.17	9,467.06
716 Property Insurance	10,735.00	8,719.00	2,016.00
717 Mortgage Interest & 210 Mortgage Principle	92,652.60	90,702.60	1,950.00
Financial Stewardship (60)	7,119.45	1,447.73	5,671.72
721 Offering Envelopes	1,753.16	1,338.86	414.30
722 Stewardship Program	5,366.29	108.87	5,257.42
Worship & Music (70)	5,208.96	5,728.15	(519.19)
639 Altar Guild	600.00	760.82	(160.82)
686 CCLI License	1,706.31	1,506.17	200.14
741 Music	-	327.14	(327.14)
742 Misc. Worship Supplies	1,458.80	1,706.02	(247.22)
743 Instrument Repair	443.85	578.00	(134.15)
748 Guest Musicians & Preachers	1,000.00	850.00	150.00
Total Unrestricted Expense	685,376.68	678,408.66	6,968.02
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ (36,887.56)	\$ (50,940.89)	\$ 14,053.33
Reduction for 210 Mortgage Principle	65,980.16	63,445.70	2,534.46
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets Adj. for Mortgage	\$ 29,092.60	\$ 12,504.81	\$ 16,587.79
 Designated Funds			
Designated Income With Donor Restrictions	47,180.33	65,129.82	(17,949.49)
Designated Expenses Released from Restrictions	31,140.91	77,133.13	(45,992.22)
Change in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	16,039.42	(12,003.31)	28,042.73
Total Change in Net Assets	\$ 45,132.02	\$ 501.50	\$ 44,630.52

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Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Statement of Dedicated Accounts (With Donor Restrictions)

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Account and Description	2023	2022	Difference
Education			
907 Family & Children	\$ -	\$ 1,649.91	\$ (1,649.91)
951 SS/WS Offering	96.58	94.67	1.91
952 Vacation Bible School	-	338.40	(338.40)
953 Adult Education	-	513.21	(513.21)
Education Totals:	96.58	2,596.19	(2,499.61)
Youth & Family			
911 Youth Event & Mission Trip	26,769.04	23,664.80	3,104.24
933 Camp Scholarship	2,802.42	2,102.20	700.22
965 Confirmation Offering	22.09	10.09	12.00
Youth & Family Totals:	29,593.55	25,777.09	3,816.46
Evangelism			
925 Care & Share	6,774.78	4,756.79	2,017.99
942 Dollar Mission / World Hunger	250.00	225.00	25.00
Evangelism Totals:	7,024.78	4,981.79	2,042.99
Executive			
901 Misc Payables	-	1,137.65	(1,137.65)
904 Staff Christmas Party	116.31	297.41	(181.10)
999- Misc. Credit Card	-	(29.93)	29.93
Executive Totals:	116.31	1,405.13	(1,288.82)
Property			
950 Sanc/Bldg Improvement	15,578.00	-	15,578.00
955 Garage	8,895.00	8,895.00	-
Property Totals:	24,473.00	8,895.00	15,578.00
Volunteerism			
941 Fellowship	-	2,389.80	(2,389.80)
Volunteerism Totals:	-	2,389.80	(2,389.80)
Worship & Music			
906 Altar Flowers	318.39	373.97	(55.58)
914 Sound & Music	-	266.21	(266.21)
920 Choir Fund	3,035.78	3,035.78	-
922 Altar Guild	-	421.34	(421.34)
Worship & Music Totals:	3,354.17	4,097.30	(743.13)
Financial Stewardship			
910 Mortgage Pre-Payment	-	-	-
959 Endowment	12,239.02	12,358.34	(119.32)
Financial Stewardship Totals:	12,239.02	12,358.34	(119.32)
Total Dedicated Accounts (With Donor Restrictions)	\$ 76,897.41	\$ 62,500.64	\$ 14,396.77

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Current Month - December 31, 2023

	January 1, 2023	Prior Months	Current Month	Year-to-Month Totals	End of Current Month
Checking Account Balance					
Per Statement of Financial Position	\$ 114,589.63				\$ 89,760.85
Savings Assets:					
Passbook - 123	\$ 953.94				\$ 954.42
Money Market - 124	\$ 75,968.58				\$ 76,332.32
Cash back bonus	\$ 665.55				\$ 935.35
Certificate of Deposit - 24 month-127	\$ 21,359.37				\$ 21,540.77
Edward Jones Account - 130	\$ 81,991.67				\$ 85,991.81
Total	\$ 180,939.11				\$ 185,754.67
Total Checking, Petty Cash & Savings	\$ 295,528.74				\$ 275,515.52
Interest Earned on Savings					
Passbook -534	\$ 0.44	\$ 0.04	\$ 0.48		
Money Market - 535	\$ 332.77	\$ 30.97	\$ 363.74		
Cash Back Bonus Reward - CCU	\$ 481.15	\$ 41.35	\$ 522.50		
Certificate of Deposit - 24 month-536	\$ 165.93	\$ 15.47	\$ 181.40		
Edward Jones - 560	\$ 3,632.95	\$ 367.19	\$ 4,000.14		
Total	\$ 4,613.24	\$ 455.02	\$ 5,068.26		

GENERAL PROGRAMMING

Income/Receipts (Excludes Interest Earned from Savings)			
Checking Account Interest	\$ 463.53	\$ 53.34	\$ 516.87
General Offering	\$ 539,830.74	\$ 64,684.12	\$ 604,514.86
Loose Offering	\$ 14,190.68	\$ 3,682.25	\$ 17,872.93
Team Fund Raising	\$ 15,680.95	\$ 4,835.25	\$ 20,516.20
Total	\$ 570,165.90	\$ 73,254.96	\$ 643,420.86
Expenses/Disbursements			
Wages and Benefits	\$ 333,099.54	\$ 30,246.59	\$ 363,346.13
B&G Insur, Spec. Assessments, Utilities & Upkeep	\$ 70,905.40	\$ 3,432.76	\$ 74,338.16
ELCA Benevolence	\$ 45,833.37	\$ 4,166.63	\$ 50,000.00
Camp of Cross Benevolence	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 80,340.00	\$ 5,940.56	\$ 86,280.56
Building & Grounds Improvement	\$ 12,000.06	\$ 1,759.17	\$ 13,759.23
Mortgage Interest	\$ 24,571.31	\$ 2,101.13	\$ 26,672.44
Mortgage Principal (Budgeted Payments)	\$ 60,122.74	\$ 5,857.42	\$ 65,980.16
Total	\$ 631,872.42	\$ 53,504.26	\$ 685,376.68
Income/Receipts over (under) Expenses/Disbursements	\$ (57,093.28)	\$ 20,205.72	\$ (36,887.56)
Budget (Annual budget of \$741,607 prorated YTD)			
Receipts over (under) Budget	\$ (105,026.36)	\$ 11,909.48	\$ (93,116.88)
Disbursements (over) under Budget	\$ 47,933.08	\$ 8,296.24	\$ 56,229.32

				Cum. Mortgage Principal Pymnts from:		
				Gen. Programming	Designated Accts.	
Mortgage Payable	\$	762,791.97	\$	60,122.74	\$	5,857.42 \$ 905.00 \$ 695,906.81
Current Liabilities	\$	-	\$	3,408.49		
Net Gain (Loss) for the year						\$ 29,092.60

DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS (Funds With Donor Restrictions:

Beginning Balance	\$	61,762.99			
Receipts	\$	25,728.75	\$	21,451.58	\$ 47,180.33
Disbursements: Funds Released from Restrictions					
Expenses	\$	26,033.25	\$	5,107.66	\$ 31,140.91
Trf from Mort Pre-Pmt Fnd to Gen Fund (Mortgage Pre-pmt)	\$	760.00	\$	145.00	\$ 905.00
Total Disbursements:	\$	26,793.25	\$	5,252.66	\$ 32,045.91
Receipts over (under) Disbursements	\$	(1,064.50)	\$	16,198.92	\$ 15,134.42
Ending Balance	\$	60,698.49	\$	16,198.92	\$ 76,897.41

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Monthly Envelope Giving Comparision

Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

Month	Number of Sundays		2022 General Envelope Offering Only	2023 General Envelope Offering Only	2022 Offering vs 2023 Offering
	2022	2023			
January	5	5	\$ 43,926.00	\$ 42,682.78	\$ (1,243.22)
February	4	4	\$ 39,153.49	\$ 42,331.10	\$ 3,177.61
March	4	4	\$ 43,877.17	\$ 57,891.90	\$ 14,014.73
April	4	5	\$ 52,238.15	\$ 55,826.82	\$ 3,588.67
May	5	4	\$ 41,978.32	\$ 50,927.15	\$ 8,948.83
June	4	4	\$ 45,055.15	\$ 46,891.07	\$ 1,835.92
July	5	5	\$ 41,898.07	\$ 49,989.32	\$ 8,091.25
August	4	4	\$ 50,623.15	\$ 49,374.40	\$ (1,248.75)
September	4	4	\$ 51,419.41	\$ 45,847.32	\$ (5,572.09)
October	5	5	\$ 52,842.44	\$ 55,699.40	\$ 2,856.96
November	4	4	\$ 43,556.22	\$ 42,369.48	\$ (1,186.74)
December	4	5	\$ 83,571.82	\$ 64,684.12	\$ (18,887.70)
Totals	52	53	\$ 590,139.39	\$ 604,514.86	\$ 14,375.47

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Lord of Life - 2024 Proposed Budget			
A/C #	2023 Budget	2024 Draft Budget	% Change from 2023
Education Team			
756 Adult Education	\$519	\$1,000	93%
751 Christian Education	1,631.00	3,000.00	84%
608 Children & Family Ministry	375.00	375.00	0%
753 Confirmation	900.00	900.00	0%
757 Library	75.00	75.00	0%
620 Milestones	1,500.00	1,500.00	0%
750 Publications	490.00	490.00	0%
752 Vacation Bible School	862.00	1,200.00	39%
783 Nursery supplies	<u>25.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	-100%
Subtotal - Education Team	\$6,377	\$8,540	34%
Youth & Family Ministry Team			
761 Camp Scholarships	\$0	\$0	0%
676 Youth Event	1,500.00	2,000.00	33%
769 Promotion	400.00	500.00	25%
766 Relational Ministry	175.00	250.00	43%
768 Travel Adventure	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>2,500.00</u>	0%
Subtotal - Youth & Family	\$4,575	\$5,250	15%
Congregational Care & Outreach Team			
724 Community Benevolence	\$3,750	\$4,000.00	7%
666 Boy Scouts	500	\$500.00	0%
731 Missouri Slope Lutheran	1,000	\$1,500.00	50%
773 M50	300	\$500.00	67%
733 CCM (benevolence)	5,000	\$5,000.00	0%
732 Global Mission Sunday	500	\$500.00	0%
737 Missionary Support (benevolence)	800	\$800.00	0%
728 Outreach	2,200	\$2,200.00	0%
736 Marketing & Public Relations	4,000	\$4,000.00	0%
782 Church Directory/Postage	800	\$0.00	-100%
738 Postage & Supplies	200	\$200.00	0%
776 Fellowship	1,400	\$4,000.00	186%
770 Rally Day	500	\$0.00	-100%
781 Caring Ministry	500	\$1,400.00	180%
726 Cozy Comfort Ministry	100	\$0.00	-100%
643 New Community Benevolence Project	4,000	\$2,000.00	-50%
681 Refugee Support	<u>2,500</u>	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	0%
Subtotal - CCO Team	\$28,050	\$29,100	4%
Executive Team			
Ordained Staff	\$262,998	\$276,491.88	5%
Lay Staff	\$142,228	\$168,515.94	18%
723 Benevolence (to ELCA)	\$50,000	\$50,000.00	0%
679 Exec Committee Discretionary	\$1,500	\$1,500.00	0%
670 Church Conferences	\$2,500	\$2,500.00	0%
672 Computer Supplies/Equip	\$6,625	\$4,500.00	-32%
674 Office Supplies	\$3,000	\$3,500.00	17%
673 Postage Mailing	\$2,000	\$2,000.00	0%
629 Copier Maintenance	\$2,000	\$2,000.00	0%
661 Organist/pianist	\$6,500	\$6,500.00	0%
665 Staff Workers Comp	\$750	\$750.00	0%
646 Financial Firm	\$24,000	\$1,800.00	-93%
634 Staff Mileage Reimbursement	\$2,500	\$1,000.00	-60%
685 Staff Development	\$0	\$2,000.00	100%
645 Staff Medical Allowance	\$1,200	\$0.00	-100%
682 Bank/Vanco Fees	\$3,000	\$3,500.00	17%
675 Personnel Background Check	\$750.00	\$500.00	-33%
729 Website Maintenance	<u>300</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>	0%
Subtotal - Executive Team	\$511,851	\$527,358	3%
Property Team			
714 Buildings/Grounds	\$16,900	\$20,000.00	18%
715 Building Improvements	\$15,000	\$10,000.00	-33%
716 Insurance	\$9,000	\$12,000.00	33%
717 Mortgage	\$90,103	\$90,103.00	0%
712 Snow/Lawn Care	\$7,500	\$7,500.00	0%

713 Special Assessments	\$8,950	\$9,000.00	1%
711 Supplies/Upkeep	\$4,000	\$4,000.00	0%
710 Utilities	<u>\$28,000</u>	<u>\$29,000.00</u>	<u>4%</u>
Subtotal - Property Team	\$179,453	\$181,603	1%
Stewardship Team			
721 Envelopes	\$1,600	\$1,600.00	0%
722 Stewardship Program	<u>\$4,100</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>22%</u>
Subtotal - Stewardship Team	\$5,700	\$6,600	16%
Worship and Music Team			
639 Altar Guild	\$600	\$800.00	33%
748 Guest Musicians/Preachers	\$1,200	\$2,900.00	142%
743 Instrument Repair	\$450	\$600.00	33%
741 Music	\$250	\$250.00	0%
742 Misc. Worship Supplies	\$1,500	\$2,000.00	33%
686 CCLI License	<u>\$1,600</u>	<u>\$1,600.00</u>	<u>0%</u>
Subtotal - Worship & Music Team	\$5,600	\$8,150	46%
Total Annual Team Budgets			
Education	\$6,377	\$8,540	34%
Youth and Family	4,575	5,250	15%
Congregational Care & Outreach	28,050	29,100	4%
Executive	511,851	527,358	3%
Property	179,453	181,603	1%
Stewardship	5,700	6,600	16%
Worship and Music	<u>5,600</u>	<u>8,150</u>	<u>46%</u>
Total Annual Budget	\$741,606	\$766,601	3.4%
Projected Income			
500 Offering Envelope Income	\$650,000	\$671,000	3%
501 Loose Offering Income	16,000	20,000	25%
503 CCO Special Income	2,000	1,000	-50%
505 Education Special Income	500	2,000	300%
508 Property Special Income	1,500	2,500	67%
504 Worship Special Income	1,000	1,000	0%
506 Youth and Family Special Income	3,000	1,000	-67%
Interest Earnings(533-536,560)	<u>3,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>100%</u>
Transfer from Money Market	\$64,606	\$62,101	-4%
Total Income	\$741,606	\$766,601	3%