

Annual Report 2022



**Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lewisburg, Pennsylvania**

Our Vision: Making Christ known as we worship, serve and grow in faith

**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held
Sunday, January 22, 2023 in the Sanctuary at noon
following the 10:30 AM service.**

***Please read the enclosed reports and bring this report to the meeting.
Please bring any errors or omissions in this report to the
attention of the Church Office before the Annual Meeting.***

Annual Report for the Year 2022

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Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church Statement of Mission

The congregation of Christ's Lutheran Church, having been nourished by the gifts of Word and Sacrament, is called to:

Be faithful to the Gospel and its proclamation in word and deed;

Worship God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit with devotion, piety and vigor, according to the mandate of the Scriptures and practices of the Church;

Be involved in apostolic works of mercy and love to our community and, through our benevolence, to the world;

Be a community of learning, encouraging one another to become involved in opportunities to deepen our understanding of the Gospel and the faith of the Church;

Be a community whose common life is characterized by understanding, support, fellowship and forgiveness;

Develop leadership for the work of the parish and the wider work of the Church, i.e., Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America;

Grow in our appreciation for God's good gifts by giving generously of our time, abilities and money;

Proclaim the Gospel to those outside the Church as an invitation to share in the life of Christ's people;

Love one another as Christ has loved us;

Work and pray for peace and justice in our nation and the world;

Work and pray for the unity of the Church;

Affirm the future as filled with opportunities for growth in obedience to our Lord and His service.

OUR CONGREGATIONAL VISION:

Making Christ known as we worship, serve and grow in faith.

Church Staff 2022

Interim Pastor.....The Rev. Justin Lingenfelter
Organist/Music Coordinator Joanne Vasey
Coordinator of Faith Formation Charlene Rineer
Choir Director Brandy Aguirre
Secretary Brenda Boyer
Bookkeeper Diane Zacker
Cooperative Preschool Teachers..... Donna Laroya/Dana Haile & Erinn Gramly
Cooperative Preschool AM & PM Aides..... Dana Haile/Gaynel Carrier & Kathleen Dadalt
Authorized Lay Worship Leader Tom Booth

Congregation Council 2022

President Rick Faux
Vice-President Bob Lamparter
Secretary Tom Stahlnecker
Treasurer Tim Eshelman
Recording Secretary
Assistant to the Treasurer Bill Bollinger

Terms Expire 12/31/2022

Bill Borys
Diane Miller
Bob Lamparter
Colleen Nevil

Terms Expire 12/31/2023

Rick Faux
Darlene Rowe
Rick Slear
Tom Stahlnecker

Terms Expire 12/31/2024

Tim Goff
Bill Wagner
Dan White
Tim Apple

2022 Parish Committee Chairs/Council Representatives

Administration & Personnel Committee Diane Miller
Benevolent Endowment Fund Tim Apple
Evangelism & Fellowship Ministries Lisa Veloz / Rick Slear
Faith Formation Team Charlene Rineer / Colleen Nevil
Finance Committee Tim Apple
Implementation Team/Strategic Plan Rick Faux
Kunkel Trust Committee Tim Apple
Property/Parsonage Committee Kevin Baker / Tom Stahlnecker
Public Relations Committee Gary Parks/Bill Wagner
Social Ministries..... Janet Shuman/Darlene Rowe
Staff Support Committee..... Tim Goff
Stewardship Committee Tim Goff
Technology Committee Tom Stahlnecker/Bob Lamparter
Worship & Music Committee Tom Booth / Dan White

Council Appointments

Upper Susquehanna Synod Delegates Charlene Rineer/ Chad Hershberger
Representatives to the Lewisburg Council of Churches..... Julie Borys
Representative to the Cooperative Preschool Carole Bollinger
Congregational Representative to Camp Mount Luther..... Tom Stahlnecker
Kunkel Trust..... Tim Apple
Benevolent Endowment Fund..... Tim Apple
Council Representatives on Nominating Committee..... Bill Borys
Lindig Foundation..... Ken Bolig

**Minutes of the December Congregational Meeting to
Approve 2022 Budget & Elect 2022 Council Members
December 12, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER – President Goff called the Congregational Meeting to Order at 11:30 a.m. It was established that there was a quorum for the meeting to be held.

OPENING PRAYER – Beverly Hoffman offered the Opening Prayer.

TREASURER’S REVIEW OF BUDGET – Tim Eshelman reviewed the 2022 budget with the congregation.

- Giving is projected approximately 1% higher than 2021 (excluding PPP Loan which was \$29,000).
- Pastor salary and expense, including housing allowance, reflect only 75% of a full year cost. (Assuming position is filled 2nd quarter.)
- The Sexton position is primarily filled with high school students. A monetary donation is made, and the school decides what to do with the donation.
- The final budget reflects a \$4,614 surplus, but a full year of pastor salary and expenses could cause a \$28,000 deficit. It is difficult to project what the actual cost of the new pastor will be, as health insurance can increase the cost. It really depends on the needs of the new pastor.
- Property and insurance costs - 2020 expenses were reduced due to COVID shut down; 2021 church resumes, 2022 projected approximately \$3,000 higher than 2021 assuming higher heating costs due to rising natural gas prices.
- Committee costs were lower in 2020 than 2021 due to COVID closures. There was a big savings due to lack of flower expense. This excludes the Property Committee.
- 2021 is expected to end with approximately a \$30,000 surplus, due to pastor vacancy.
- The Parsonage roof and porch are in need of repair. The expected cost is about \$25,000 for the repairs, and these costs will come from the building fund.

Ron Laniewski made a motion to accept the 2022 budget as stated. Trace Nevil seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

2022 COUNCIL NOMINEES – Tim Goff reviewed the five candidates to fill five positions. New members are: Colleen Nevil, Tim Goff, Bill Wagner, Tim Apple and Bob Lamparter.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER – Tim Goff shared that Tim Eshelman is retiring as the church treasurer. We are still trying to fill the treasurer position. He also wanted to thank everyone for stepping up and helping with the church services, their willingness is appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT – Bill Wagner made a motion for adjournment. Trace Nevil seconded the motion.

**Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Minutes of the January Congregational Meeting
January 23, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM - The meeting was called to order at 11:35 AM by President Rick Faux. A quorum of 13+ was established.

OPENING PRAYER – Tom Booth offered an opening prayer.

REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS –

- ❖ A&P – Diane Miller requested people volunteer to serve on the committee.
- ❖ Benevolent Endowment Fund – Bill Borys reminded us to submit applications for appropriate causes.
- ❖ Faith Formation – Charlene explained the United Youth Group and our participation in it.
- ❖ Social Ministry – Emmy Gearhart asked for new members as current members age.
- ❖ Technology – Tom Stahlnecker repeated the plea for additional volunteers.

A motion to approve the reports was made by Matt Hepner, seconded by Andy Wargo, and approved.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS –Rick Faux asked for 2 volunteers to serve as Synod Assembly voting members. Chad Hershberger and Charlene Rineer volunteered, with no others.

A motion to accept Chad and Charlene as our voting representatives to the Synod Assembly was made by Diane Miller, seconded by Matt Hepner, and approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Rick Faux asked for 4 members to serve on the council Nominating Committee, along with 2 council members. There were no volunteers.

BENEVOLENT ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE – Rick Faux asked for a volunteer to serve on the Benevolent Endowment Fund committee. There were no volunteers.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER – Rick Faux announced we have a full Church Council (12 members) this year. He also gave a brief status report about the progress of our search for a minister. Council has held several special meetings to work on the Ministry Site Profile, using the results of the congregational survey, and progressing smoothly and at a good pace. He also expressed his Thanks to everyone, Council and Congregation, for their support and cooperation during this process. Rev. Justin Lingenfelter (interim pastor) gave a brief introduction of himself, then explained our status and his interim role.

CLOSING PRAYER – A closing prayer was offered by Rev. Justin Lingenfelter.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion for Adjournment was made at 12:08 by Matt Hepner, seconded by Amy Faux, and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas R. Stahlnecker
Council Secretary

2022 Parochial Report

Average Attendance at Sunday Worship

2022 Avg. Sunday Worship: 97	*2021 Avg. Sunday Worship: 95 * Avg. based on April 4 – Dec. 26 Worship services were video only Jan. 3 – March 28 due to the pandemic.	*2020 Ave. Sunday Worship: 130 * Avg. based on Jan. 5 - March 15 In-person services were replaced by video worship services due to the pandemic.
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Attendance at Special Services

	2022	2021	2020	*NOTE: No in-person service held for Easter Sunday & Christmas Eve in 2020. No in-person services held on Ash Wednesday in 2021.
Ash Wednesday	53	*N/A	74	
Easter Sunday	221	124	*N/A	
Christmas Eve 4:30 pm	122	127	*N/A	
Christmas Eve 7:30 pm	84	88	*N/A	

Changes in Membership

Baptized Membership: 12/31/21	709	Confirmed Membership: 12/31/21	561
Baptized Members received:		Confirmed Members received:	
By Child Baptism	1	By Confirmation	4
By Adult Baptism	0	By Adult Baptism	0
By Affirmation of Faith	0	By Affirmation of Faith	0
By Transfer from ELCA	3	By Transfer from ELCA	3
By Transfer other Lutheran	0	By Transfer other Lutheran	0
By Transfer Non-Lutheran	4	By Transfer Non-Lutheran	01
Total Members Received 2022	8	Total Members Received 2022	8
Baptized Members Removed:		Confirmed Members Removed:	
By Death	11	By Death	11
By Transfer Lutheran	9	By Transfer Lutheran	6
By Transfer Non-Lutheran	2	By Transfer Non-Lutheran	2
By Other Means	0	By Other Means	0
Total Baptized Removed 2022	22	Total Confirmed Removed 2022	19
Baptized Membership 12/31/22	695	Confirmed Membership 12/31/22	550

Ten-Year Statistical Pattern

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	*2020	*2021	2022
Ave. Sunday Attendance	213	200	185	186	195	193	187	130	95	97
Baptized	759	749	746	736	744	741	741	725	709	695
Child	116	102	96	69	67	74	77	71	78	79
Confirmed	616	605	603	592	598	602	592	581	561	550
Communing (Members)	505	491	453	418	464	434	398	396	238	
(All)		579	588	668	773	777	610	774	298	
*Voting	449	447	409	391	404	332	313	268	127	186

*Voting Members are confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution of record during the current year (2022) and the preceding year (2021).

* 2021 totals based on in-person services April 4 – Dec. 26 & 2020 totals based on in-person services Jan. 5 - March 15.

Staff Report 2022

The following personnel were the paid staff of Christ's Lutheran Church during the year 2022:

Pastoral Staff:

The Rev. Justin Lingenfelter Interim Pastor
Began service at CELC – January 1, 2022 - present

Program Staff:

Charlene Rineer Coordinator of Faith Formation
Employment: October 2011 – present
Duties & Responsibilities: Oversee the Faith Formation program.

Joanne Vasey.....Organist/Music Coordinator/Director Parish Peal Handbell Choir
Employment: May 2011 – present
Duties & Responsibilities: Oversee the Music program, act as organist, select hymns, direct Parish Peal Handbell Choir, assists with instrumental ensembles, Children's Choir, Youth Drumming Ensemble, and Orff Ensemble.

Brandy Aguirre.....Choir Director/Director Youth Drumming Ensemble
Employment: September 2014 – present
Duties & Responsibilities: Directs the Parish Choir, Men's Choir & Children's Ensemble, assists with the Orff Ensemble.

Support Staff:

Brenda Boyer Church Secretary
Employment: September 17, 2018 –present
Duties & Responsibilities: receptionist, secretary, computer, edit newsletter, web page, order supplies, produce & print Sunday bulletins, etc.

Diane ZackerBookkeeper
Employment: September 2005 - present
Duties & Responsibilities: Bookkeeping, financial reports.

Preschool Staff:

Donna Laroya Teacher
Employment: September 2021 – June 2022
Duties & Responsibilities: Lead teacher Pre-Kindergarten class Monday through Friday.

Erinn Gramly Teacher
Employment: October 2015 - present
Duties & Responsibilities: Lead teacher Tuesday/Thursday AM classes and for the Pre-K Monday through Friday PM classes.

Dana Haile Teacher's Assistant
Employment: September 2021 – January 2022
Duties & Responsibilities: Teacher's assistant Monday through Friday AM classes

Dana Haile Teacher
Employment: August 2022 - present
Duties & Responsibilities: Lead teacher Monday, Wednesday and Friday AM classes.

Kathleen Dadalt Teacher's Assistant
Employment: April 2019 – present
Duties & Responsibilities: Teacher's assistant PM classes

Gaynel Carrier Teacher's Assistant
Employment: August 2022 – present
Duties & Responsibilities: Teacher's assistant AM classes

Carole Bollinger Administrator (Volunteer)

Council President's Report

Psalm 103

A Psalm of David. Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! ² Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: ³ Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, ⁴ Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, ⁵ Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Greetings and may the peace of the Lord be with you all. As we end 2022 here at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, I would like to say thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your council president. I wish to thank the other members of our council for their support and dedication. And thank you to all those members that have served or helped in any way, the many committees that continue to hold us together and provide opportunities to serve and come together as we strive in fulfilling our mission of "Making Christ known as we worship, serve, and grow in faith". Thank you to the staff and all those that make our worship services possible.

Our Call Committee remains active in receiving candidates as we continue in the process of calling a new pastor. We should continue in prayer that we would receive a pastor that will energize us, grow us, and lead us in our walk together with Christ.

In closing I want to acknowledge everyone that has continued to support CELC in 2022 in whatever way it may be, to all the members, visitors, staff, and clergy, together with us and in us, thanks be to God for his never-ending love and mercy.

 *Rick Faux*

2022 Statistical Report

Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

During 2022, the following events and “pastoral acts” were recorded:

Received as Baptized Members by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Madeline June Hauck

April 24, 2022

Received as Confirmed Members by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

None in 2022

Received as Baptized Members by Transfer or parents' Affirmation of Baptism:

Cheyenne Steiner

October 30, 2022

Received as Confirmed Members by Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation):

Olivia Abigail Koontz

June 5, 2022

Oliver William Patte

June 5, 2022

Ellis Ysolde Reed

June 5, 2022

Landon James Tillson

June 5, 2022

Received as Confirmed Members by Transfer or Affirmation of Baptism:

Kenneth Stitley

February 24, 2022

Barbara Stitley

February 24, 2022

Maryellen Paulhamus

March 28, 2022

Anne Furman

October 30, 2022

Mark Steiner

October 30, 2022

Nikki Steiner

October 30, 2022

Removed from Membership due to Transfer or other action:

Keith & Karen Wain and children: Soren, Lewis & Oscar
to Word of Peace Lutheran Church, Rogers, MN

January 28, 2022

Betsy Sue Kauffman

to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Northumberland, PA

May 26, 2022

Rev. William & Margaret Henderson

to Sharon Lutheran Church, Selinsgrove, PA

August 28, 2022

Caryl Thomas (Buehner)
to Resurrection Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN

November 8, 2022

John & Doris Nash
To Hollywood Hills UMC, Hollywood, FL

December 1, 2022

The following were received into the Church Triumphant and Funeral or Memorial services held:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Mary J. Yarger	April 2, 2022
Terry E. Mitchell	April 7, 2022
Joyce M. Campbell	April 26, 2022
Marion H. Stephens	April 27, 2022
William W. Wirth	June 10, 2022
Sandra A. Wunder	July 23, 2022
Robert W. Harrison	September 7, 2022
Joseph W. Lindenmuth	September 17, 2022
Angeline C. Stackhouse	October 30, 2022
Karen M. Erdley	November 19, 2022
Margaret M. Spielman	December 31, 2022

The following Baptized Members received their first Holy Eucharist: None in 2022

2022 Marriages

Amy Coleman and Jim Johnson	July 9, 2022
Sandy Hanzel and Dan Voneida	August 27, 2022
Amy Faux and Kate Destefano	October 8, 2022

2022 Affirmations of Marriage: None in 2022

Membership Summary:	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2022
Baptized Members	709	695
Confirmed Members	561	550
Communing Members	238	247

2022 Faith Formation Coordinator Report

Working, a whole year, without a full-time pastor has not been easy. The year has been a busy one. Thanks to everyone who have stepped up to the plate and have kept things going. Also trying to get back to a normal rhythm since the pandemic has been a challenge. Not all things were back to where I would have liked them to be. One case in point is that the national youth gathering was cancelled, by the ELCA, and we had to figure out the youth summer plans later than I would have hoped.

To start the year, I continued to post Children's messages on Facebook weekly. I dropped that to once a month starting in the summer. I still post other information and inspirational gifs on Facebook on a regular basis – both the church page and the private youth page. For the live streams I am creating the announcement power points for the services. I also do announcement slides for the TV in the Atrium.

In February I got to go to one last meeting for the ELCA Youth gathering as they let us know the plans for moving forward for 2024 and did a debrief from the work we had been doing for the 2021-22 cycle. I also got to attend the annual ELCA Youth, Children, and Family Ministry Network's Extravaganza. It was nice to see and be with my colleagues in person in Minneapolis. The theme for the Extravaganza was Boundless.

When it comes to youth activities it was a challenge with lower numbers and busy schedules. In January we did our annual soup and bread sale. We were back to the lock-in for making the soups and bread, but it was still order ahead and pick-up on Sunday. In May we held our Italian Dinner and Silent Auction. We were back to in person for the meal. We still offered take out and many people did that. The silent auction started on-line and then moved to in person. Mini Mission Mondays still attracted a fair number of participants.

During the summer we held a mini mission day camp week for the elementary age children and middle school youth. It was staffed by a few Camp Mount Luther counselors. I also, on behalf of our church, continued to help with the Summer Youth Lunch program. We packed the extra food bags the third Friday in June. Thanks to Susan Smalley for continuing to be our representative for this wonderful outreach. A highlight of the summer was the mission trip to Nashville, TN with Group work camp – Week of Hope. Thanks to Elissa Koontz for being the other adult leader. It was fantastic working with the six young ladies who went. It was wonderful to see them grow in their faith during the trip as they helped those in need.

As fall and the school year arrived it was back to trying to decide how to do ministry with all age groups. With lower numbers in Sunday School and still no pastor to help with

confirmation I got a little creative in combining the elementary with the middle school youth and still covering confirmation material. Working with the United Youth Group continued to be a blessing as we combined our efforts with the small groups of youth from all the churches. Then, it was wonderful to end the year with our traditional Christmas activities.

Trying to plan and do ministry in 2022 was complicated. Ministry still happened, but it was not ideal. We had a small group of regular attendees, and some youth/families that were only to a few things. As always it was fun juggling all the families' schedules to reach out to all the ages. Going to see them in their activities was one way I tried to stay connected. A huge thank you to all who continue to help and support the Faith Formation of all at Christ's.

Charlene Rineer
Coordinator of Faith Formation
December 19, 2022

2022 Music Team Report

The Music Ministry continued to adapt as best as possible in 2022 to ever changing dynamics. Overall, it was a challenging year for various reasons. Despite the challenges, there were highlights. Both challenges and highlights are listed below. The 2022 paid staff Music Team consisted of Joanne Vasey & Brandy Aguirre.

Challenges

- ❖ Shrinking pool of vocalists and instrumentalists of all ages due to relocations, health issues, sparse attendance or absent attendance
- ❖ Limited availability of attending musicians due to multi-tasking during worship - Musicians often served as assisting ministers, preachers/presiders, help desk workers, communion helpers, sound techs, CPIC, etc.
- ❖ Weekly pulpit supply due to no called pastor
- ❖ Folks grieving the music ministry of past years
- ❖ Realization that continuing choirs/ensembles are smaller in number and anthems more basic
- ❖ Realization that some pre-pandemic choir/ensembles may not be able to reorganize due to lack of personnel. Examples include Renew Ensemble, Men's Choir, orchestra, brass ensemble (?), etc.
- ❖ Constant brainstorming for new ways and means to incorporate vocal and instrumental anthems in worship

- ❖ Constant brainstorming for ways to use the variety of instruments owned by the church. Examples include 5-octaves hand bells, 3-octaves hand chimes, African drums, Orff instruments, rhythm instruments, wind chime, rain-sticks, guitars, trap-set, etc.
- ❖ Live-streaming/ ability to view worship when convenient contributed to folks not attending on Sunday mornings nor for special evening services
- ❖ Scheduling of choirs/ensembles for maximum numerical participation as folks were so busy
- ❖ Choosing liturgical settings that were workable for congregation and leaders
- ❖ Burn-out of the faithful attendees
- ❖ Continuation of Covid and other infectious disease spread concerns

Highlights

- ❖ Live-streaming continued for Sunday worship; allowing shut-ins and travelers to view worship
- ❖ Holden Evening Prayer was held in-person with a variety of cantors and speakers
- ❖ Continuation of a cantor for Sunday morning worship services and special evening services
- ❖ Wind instruments returned to worship
- ❖ Solo trumpet hymn accompaniment on Easter for both services
- ❖ Rehearsed Vocal Ensemble for Ash Wed., Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas Eve – including a guest singer
- ❖ Introduction of Pop-Up Vocal Choirs for selected Sundays throughout the church year –
- ❖ Well received by participants and congregation. 10:30 am choirs tended to be larger than 8:00 am choirs.
- ❖ Continuation of Parish Peal Handbell Choir/Handbell Ensemble - monthly anthems for worship - Sept.to May
- ❖ Beginning Handbell Class for interested ringers
- ❖ Inclusion of three new handbell ringers in Dec. including two youth
- ❖ Continuation of Youth Drumming Ensemble - monthly anthems Oct. thru May
- ❖ Youth Orff Instrument Ensemble for a Sunday in Advent
- ❖ Continuation of Children & Family Choir for Sunday morning and special evening services pending availability of families

- ❖ Continuation of youth/adult rehearsed Orff Ensemble for selected Sundays, Christmas Eve, etc.
- ❖ Continuation of special music opportunities for folks in the congregation - not exclusively summer
- ❖ Continuation of traditional liturgies, hymns and anthems appropriate to the liturgical day/season, etc.
- ❖ Incorporation of contemporary hymns, songs, and anthems appropriate to the liturgical day/season, etc.
- ❖ Sharing of anthems for special music by string players, a bassoonist and vocalists throughout the year
- ❖ Incorporation of rhythm instruments for special accompaniments - rain sticks, African drums, Orff, etc.
- ❖ Christmas Eve special music featured a wide variety of age groups, variety of music styles, variety of instrumental and vocal anthems. Nineteen folks took part in providing anthems for Christmas Eve.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to and/or supported the music ministry of Christ's Lutheran Church in 2022.

Respectively submitted, Joanne Vasey

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration & Personnel Committee

The A & P Committee is responsible for our Personnel Manual. This detailed manual contains many policies and procedures for all members of Christ's Lutheran Church.

The committee assists the Pastor, as needed, with staff evaluations and advises the Council Executive Committee with personnel issues, if requested. Members of this committee are also available to hear other issues from congregation members that may be pertinent to administration and/or personnel matters of Christ's Lutheran.

The Committee is always in need of new members. If you have experience in management, administration, or human resources and would like to give back of your time and talent, please contact the Council President for more information.

Altar Guild

The responsibility of the Altar Guild is to make sure the Sanctuary is ready for any and all services.

The teams are responsible for setting up for communion, baptisms, changing the seasonal colors, delivery of flowers (including seasonal Easter Flowers and Christmas flowers) as well as the weekly Sunday service flowers and laundering the linens. Many hands make this all possible.

Supplies (wine, bread, cups, candles, etc.) continued to be ordered by Jackie Goff and Beverly Harvey.

There are currently 3 teams which alternate months throughout the year. All teams assist during the Easter and Christmas seasons.

Many people assisted in setting up the Sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services (candle poles, hand held candles, etc.).

Altar Guild members are: Jackie Goff, Chair, Beverly Harvey, Co-Chair, Patti Faux, Laura Faux, Paules & Kathy Gibson, Linda Woodling, Cindy Reed, Diane & Brian Miller, Carol Lewis, Jane Williams and Marian Thomas.

Submitted by, Jackie Goff

Archives Committee

Committee Members: Charlotte Winter and Gary Parks

Progress has been steady. Tackling the inventorying of the church bulletins has been slowed as 'new' discoveries of more bulletins seem to make themselves known. A listing of Memorial Gifts from the 1980s and early 1990s was compiled from copies of thank you notes. Notable additions to the collection came from Linda Gemberling and included materials specific to Gerald Gemberling and from Karen Erdley which included materials specific to Larry Erdley. A Necrology list has been generated from memorial programs, obituaries and records kept by the minister/funeral home.

Exhibits in the Archival Cabinet have included an exhibit of artwork which depicts the church and an exhibit of angels during the recent Advent season.

Gary has been submitting a 'discovery' article to the church's newsletter and has included articles on the India lace 'project', the collection of Luther's Catechisms, Benjamin Focht's membership certificate and a Germantown, PA. Bible dated 1795.

Banner Committee

Members: Beverly Harvey, Vicki Heberlig, Emma Gearhart and Charlene Rineer

The Banner Committee hangs seasonal banners appropriate to the liturgical year in the worship space. It also is responsible for keeping the banners in good repair, and if needed - designing and constructing new banners. In addition the committee makes the small baptism banners for each child on their baptism.

Benevolent Endowment Fund Committee 2022 Annual Report

The Benevolent Endowment Fund (BEF) Committee was established in February 2007 to oversee the yearly distribution of proceeds from Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church's BEF. All undesignated bequests and gifts of whatever amount received from estates of persons who have named our church will be placed in the BEF for Christ's Lutheran Church. The BEF is managed by the ELCA Mission Endowment Pooled Trust account. The BEF should not be confused with the Kunkel Trust Fund. The purpose of the BEF is to enhance the mission outreach of Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church apart from the general operation of the congregation.

The BEF Committee consists of seven (7) members: Pastor, Church Council President, Finance Committee Chair, Treasurer, and three (3) at-large members of the congregation who each serve a three year term. The Committee meets as necessary for requests up to four (4) times a year. Available distributions amounts are determined annually and are calculated using 4.25% of the assets in the BEF. The funds are distributed through a review of applications submitted by members or committees. Applications are accepted anytime during the year are available at the church Welcome Center. The application provides a description of the BEF, directions for filling it out and how to make a gift or bequest to the BEF.

In 2022 there were two (2) BEF grants awarded: \$1,000 to Kingdom Kidz Inc. and \$2,000 to Transitions.

Unused funds will be retained for future disbursement or reinvestment in the fund at the discretion of the BEF Committee. The amount for disbursement in 2023 will be approximately \$40,000.

The BEF balance as of 11/30/22 was \$394, 576. The ELCA Mission Endowment Pooled Trust account also manages the Everett E. & Marie C. Ernst Trust Fund with a balance of \$11,328 as of 11/30/22. The Ernst Trust Fund is restricted to specific uses and is not managed or disbursed by the BEF Committee.

2022 Members of the BEF Committee were: Tim Eshelman (Treasurer), Tim Apple (Finance Chair), Rick Faux (Council President), Carol Apple (at-large 2022), Julie Albright (at-large 2023) and Tim Goff (2024).

The Cooperative Preschool

The Cooperative Preschool program provides socialization and school readiness activities for children aged two to five years. The program involves the development of all aspects of the child-physical, emotional, social and intellectual. Its purpose is to foster an understanding of the child's self, others and the world. Because the school is a cooperative, parents participate by helping monthly in the classroom and donating items when requested by staff. In addition, field trips and classroom visitors are scheduled throughout the year.

The preschool year operated on a normal schedule this year. Masks were not required but we still continue to sanitize toys and the classroom. We had several students and two staff members exposed to Covid but none became infected. All fundraisers are being held this year.

Due to health issues, the lead teacher in the MWF AM class resigned. Dana Haile was hired as the teacher for those classes. Gaynel Carrier was hired as the M-F AM aide. Erinn Gramly continues to be the T/TH AM teacher as well as the M-F PM class.

The preschool enrollment is down three students this school year.

We are blessed to have a great staff who go above and beyond their duty to the school and parents who are willing to do their part to make the preschool a success.

The preschool remains under the charter of the congregation of Christ's Lutheran Church as a valuable ministry. The Preschool's income and expense numbers are included in the total church report found in the back pages of the Annual Report.

Carole Bollinger, Administrator

Evangelism & Fellowship Ministries

Our Mission: To lead the members of the congregation in spreading the love of Jesus to current and prospective members of Christ's Church and to enrich and encourage growth in faith and discipleship to all people.

Matthew 28:19— "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

During 2022 the Evangelism and Fellowship Team has begun to provide more "normal" fellowship opportunities' in 2022. We still continue to feel some impact from the pandemic.

We were able to provide the following this year:

- Return to coffee hours at the beginning of the year offering "pre-packaged" snacks and beverages.
- Served Lenten Dinners prior to Holden Evening Prayer in a somewhat modified fashion.
- Distributed flowers for Mother's Day in May
- Provided pies for the guys on Father's Day in June
- Hosted a Strawberry Festival for the congregation in June
- Congregation members who have been members for 50 or more years were acknowledged on Anniversary Sunday in September. Cake was provided.
- Returned to normal coffee hours starting in mid-September
- Hosted a hayride and fellowship event in October. Invited other areas churches to join us.
- Provided a light lunch for the Greening event in December
- Hosted Christmas Caroling event that included hot cocoa & cookie after caroling in downtown Lewisburg.
- Held a cookie exchange for a small group of participants in December.
- Put together a calendar of 2023 events for distribution in the Christmas bulletin.
- Cards continued to be sent to our homebound members throughout the year to let them know their church family is thinking of them.

This group has been working hard to keep members excited and engaged, especially during this time with no minister.

A special thank you to all members of our committee and the congregation who were involved in helping with any of our projects.

Faith Formation Team Annual Report for 2022

Thanks to the team members - Colleen Nevil, and Beckie and Tom Stahlnecker.

Sunday School

Elementary Classes used the Sparks Material that followed the Lectionary in the winter and spring. The class had a team of teachers that took turns teaching the class. They included Sarah Patte, Joseph Martin, and Chad Hershberger. The class had 3 students who attended on a semi - regular basis. In the Fall we started something new and combined with the confirmation class on most Sundays.

Confirmation Classes used the Here We Stand Material from Augsburg. The classes were taught by Charlene Rineer. Staring the year there were 6 students in attendance. 3 were in their last year and were confirmed at Pentecost – Oliver Patte, Olivia Koontz, and Ellis Reed. In the fall classes added one new student with 3 who regularly attended classes with Charlene.

Preschool Classes were held and taught by Kailyn White. They used the Frolic Material from Augsburg. They had 4 – 6 students on a regular basis.

Youth Groups

Elementary Aged – Had game days, movie nights, and were welcome to participate in Mini Mission Mondays. A lot of them were to include families since we are small in numbers. Attendance was very sparse with only 2 regular families participating.

United Youth Group – Joined with Beaver UM, St. Paul's UM, and First Baptist for the middle school/high school youth group. For the first part of the year, we finished up the year at the movies. In the summer we had a few fun events. Starting in the fall we began the Animate series from Augsburg on the Bible and Faith. There are 7 of our youth who have participated in the group – 4 of them are regular attendees.

Middle School – High School here – We also did some activities here at Christ's for the youth of Christ's. Mini Mission Mondays continued with a steady attendance of 4 to 6 youth. We also held our own movie nights, game nights, lock-ins, other service projects (road clean ups, camp workday, and walk for Hunger), and fund raisers for the mission trip. Throughout the year we have had 12 youth participate in the events.

Mini Mission Week - June 27-30 – Boundless – God Beyond Measure

This summer we hosted a time for 5 first graders through seventh graders to do many little service projects. They also had Bible study, crafts, music, and games each day. Service

projects included cleaning toys in the nursery, making fleece blankets for Project Linus, cleaning outside toys and sidewalks, and weeding around church. We had Camp Mount Luther staff here to help lead the week.

Youth Mission Trip – 6 youth and 2 leaders went to Nashville, Tennessee on July 23 through 31. They participated in Group's Week of Hope. One group helped a family with house repairs and painting, another group helped in a food bank and in a school.

Adult Bible Studies – The ladies Bible Studies started up again in the fall of 2022. Many thanks to their leader, Kim Eshleman. They did a study on **Elijah** by Priscilla Shirer.

Report Submitted by Charlene Rineer

Finance Committee 2022 Report

The mission of the Finance Committee is to oversee the budget of the church, to monitor the financial position of the church and to recommend appropriate action to the Church Council for consideration.

Members of the Finance Committee for 2022 were Rick Faux (Council President), Tim Eshelman (Treasurer), Tim Apple (Finance Committee Chair), Bill Borys (Council liaison), Bill Bollinger, Andy Wargo and Gary Baylor.

The Finance Committee meets every month the Sunday before Council's monthly meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Apple

Implementation/Strategic Plan Team

The implementation team is currently inactive.

Kunkel Trust Committee

The purpose of the Kunkel Trust Committee is to screen applicant requests for funds from the income generated by the Joseph Kunkel Trust. The committee recommends action to Church Council who can authorize monies to be paid to the approved applicant. The Kunkel trust was established in 1982 for the benefit of Christ's Lutheran Church and other community endeavors. M&T Bank controls the principal amount of the trust, while a portion of the income from the trust investments is paid semi-annually to the church. The trust currently generates approximately \$37,000 in annual income. Our church is very

fortunate to have such a fund which not only benefits our church but the community of Lewisburg as well.

The Kunkel committee consists of seven (7) members. The church constitution designates four (4) members: Pastor, President of Church Council, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. Council appoints three (3) other members. The 2022 appointees were: Wayne Hook, Ken Bolig and Tim Goff.

The Kunkel committee meets at 9:15 am the Sunday before the monthly Council meeting. The committee also meets yearly with representatives from M&T Bank to review the investment strategies; however, because of the terms of the trust, the bank has control of the investment decisions.

Kunkel Trust applications are available in the Kunkel Trust Form mailbox. The form can be filled out and placed in the Kunkel Trust mailbox for discussion by the committee at their monthly meeting. If approved by the committee, the request will be sent to Council for final approval.

Parsonage

The Parsonage continues to be leased to Transitions. Transitions provides advocacy, empowerment, and education to victims, survivors, families, and communities to end patterns of violence and abuse. They have been leasing the parsonage since 2009 using strictly for staff office space. The agreement indicates that Transitions will perform general maintenance and upkeep to the building. More extensive projects require approval from the Property Committee and the Church Council.

This year, the porch on the back of the Parsonage was removed due to its deteriorating condition. Bids are currently out for replacement of the porch frame and roof. Additionally, the gutters were cleaned on the back of the building.

Property Committee

The property committee oversees the maintenance of the church and Parsonage. This committee is served by a small group of volunteers who have a large responsibility to keep everything 'running' smoothly. We are always looking for additional volunteers to help in any way.

Several projects occurred this year. They include replacing a circulator pump on one of the boilers, which was still under warranty. The bell tower was cleaned and wire replaced to

prevent birds from entering the tower. The gutters around the church were cleaned. Lighting was upgraded in the sanctuary to LED and the switches were replaced. The large tree near the third street entrance was pruned to prevent damage to the church building. Carpets were cleaned in the following areas: Preschool, lower church hall, scout/youth room, office spaces, parlor, and atrium.

We take care of daily maintenance issues as they occur such as replacing light bulbs, repairing toilets, replacing filters in the a/c units. We also coordinate annual outdoor tasks such as mulching, weeding, trimming, grass mowing, and leaf raking. We contract for snow removal during the winter season. A new company is being used this year due to the previous company reducing their client base. Thank you to everyone who serves on this committee and those who assist with the property committee work. Volunteer efforts help reduce what we have to pay to outside vendors to complete our work.

Kevin Baker
Property Committee Chairperson

Public Relations

Several press releases were readied and sent out to keep the Church's name current with the Community at large. The press releases not only reveal the benevolence of the Church in aiding area organizations but reveals its outreach to fellow institutions and our commitment to support our younger church members. The Church participated in Pet Blessings with several area churches in October. We were able to donate support monies during the past year to Transitions, the United Lutheran Seminary, Camp Mount Luther, World Hunger, the William Cameron Engine Company, the Good Samaritan Fund, the Donald Heiter Community Center, the Lewisburg Council of Churches, the Susquehanna Valley Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village. A number of college students, members of our congregation, were acknowledged for their academic achievements with scholarship money from the Kunkel Trust.

Social Ministry Committee Report

**"We look to the future of our church and respond to the needs of the world
with confidence in God's grace".**

Committee members: Emma Gearhart, Beverly Harvey, Joe Keller, & Janet Shuman. We welcomed Darlene Rowe as our new Council Representative.

There are many volunteers and donors who support our programs. They do not attend regular meetings. We do not express our thanks to them as often as we should, but we could not function without them. The Social Ministry Committee usually meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month except during the summer and in December.

With warm hearts and hands, we aim to serve others. We have a number of programs that are ongoing throughout the year and others that run at specific times during the year.

The year round programs include:

Healing Dinners – when needed, meals are prepared and delivered to individuals or families with temporary health problems (just out of the hospital, short term incapacitating injuries or illness). None were distributed this year.

Emergency Food Pantry, Supplemental Food Program, Soup & Scripture, and Transient Program are all Lewisburg Council of Churches programs that we support. CELC dues for that organization are paid from our budget. Our representative to the Council of Churches is Julie Borys. Julie is also the Director of the Emergency Food Pantry that is located in our building. She is on call for distribution. Through 10 months of 2022, 24 adults and 26 children were fed from our shelves.

Holy Sew 'n Sews (also known as the Sewing Ladies) – this group of 8 meets Wednesday mornings in the Lower Church Hall. Emmy Gearhart coordinates the making of quilts. This year the group decided to donate our quilts to local organizations rather than send them to be distributed through Lutheran World Relief. 20 quilts were sent to Geisinger Selinsgrove Hospice. 15 quilts went to Transitions in March and 20 more were given in November. In response to March events in Ukraine, the ladies asked and received permission from Council to offer a vintage quilt made in 1980 by Ruby Eberhart in a sealed bid contest. The project raised \$690. The quilt winner was Collette Frontz. The collection of items for personal health kits was suspended.

The Kitchen Krew works to clean cupboards, defrost the freezer, and try to keep outdated and unclaimed food items out of the downstairs refrigerator. All groups using the kitchen are asked to follow the posted guidelines.

Medical Equipment Loan Program – donations of usable equipment are stored in an upstairs closet. The closet was cleaned and organized in May to better serve members of the congregation. Items may be signed out in the church office for use as needed. A list of items available is posted on the Social Ministry Bulletin Board.

Prayer Shawl – led by Emmy Gearhart, this ecumenical group of knitters makes and prays over shawls given to persons recovering from illness or mourning the loss of a loved one. Knitters are continuing work from home. 1 baptismal shawl was presented. 5 regular shawls have been distributed. 4 shawls were presented to BVLV.

Delivery of Bulletins – weekly bulletin delivery has been suspended, but Devotional Guides are taken by a committee member to friends and members in assisted living and nursing care facilities in the area.

Remembrance Sunday - carnations were purchased and distributed to families and a candle on the altar was lit for this year's 12 deceased members at services on November 6. A central candle was lit when remembering other departed saints named silently or aloud. Memorial flowers are placed on the altar on the 1st anniversary of a death within the congregation.

Other programs have specific dates. They include:

The February Meat Project in Lewistown. This year we collected \$820 including a matching Kunkel Grant. During Lent, the luncheon Soup and Scripture program did not happen but Lenten Suppers were provided by volunteers. Blanket Sunday – envelopes were provided for contributions toward purchase of blankets to be sent by Lutheran World Relief. In October, we collected \$1,190 including a matching Kunkel grant.

There was discussion of how we might be able to extend more support to bereaved and troubled members during these difficult times. Individual contact and offering of home communion is under way. We touched base with other churches to see what they were doing. We do not want to duplicate services and may be able to partner with them in ongoing programs. The Atrium collection barrel is making a difference to people in need.

We welcome new members and visitors to the committee at any time. Committee service can be selective with no obligation to attend a regular meeting. Contact any listed committee member for details.

"In everything we do, we try to show that we are true ministers of God."

2 Corinthians 6; 4 Living Bible

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee is made up of Marion Jarrett, Tim Eshelman, Bill and Dee Wagner, and Jackie & Tim Goff. We met to do the addressing of our offering envelopes. We will mail any envelope that has not been picked up. Please let the church office know if you are unable to pick them up. Hopefully, next year we either meet in person or by zoom. Anyone looking for a great committee to make a difference should call the church office. We are always looking for people with new ideas.

Tim Goff, Chairperson

Technology Committee

Last fall (2021), after 10 years and 1 million copies, our primary copier broke down and it was determined not to be economical to repair. We did some quick research and ordered a new one, which arrived at the beginning of this year. During its absence, our back-up inkjet printer/fax also failed, so a replacement laser jet multifunction printer was ordered and placed in service in March.

The church has about 10 computers, desktops and laptops, and several Wi-Fi networks, with modem, routers, and boosters. Jason Baker fine-tunes our WIFI networks to get stronger, more seamless coverage throughout the building and is our primary technology maintenance person providing many hours of service each week.

Currently we are researching and preparing to install a video and remote lock control for our main entrance so our office personnel can more conveniently control building access during business hours. Unfortunately, several incidents in the past several years have made security a concern.

Last year we began producing live and recorded videos of our services and posting them on CELC's website. We continue recording every service, the early service is recorded locally, and the late service is available live and stored on YouTube. We hope this provides outreach and alternatives for the homebound, but it does not replace communion and in person worship when you are able.

There are currently only five of us covering the sound and video and it generally takes two per service. We very much need volunteers to assist us. Anyone interested or with tech skills is encouraged to join us. We have committee meetings on the second Tuesday of every other (odd) month. Please contact Tom Stahlnecker (570-713-5055) or tstahlneck@gmail.com if interested.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas R. Stahlnecker, Chairperson

Thrivent Report

Thrivent Financial provides a variety of services and gifts to our church. A pewter medallion is given to all who are baptized with their baptism date and name engraved on it. Also the confirmation students receive a pewter cross on their rite of confirmation.

Members of Thrivent can direct Choice dollars to the charity of their choice. Many choose to donate to Christ's. Thanks to those who have donated! The church council has directed these monies to go to the building fund.

Thrivent also has a program of granting money through Action Teams. All members of Thrivent can lead two such teams each year. Each team receives seed money of \$250.00 for a service or educational project. This year our church members took advantage of this program for seed money for fundraisers for the youth mission trip, and for children's mini mission week. Hopefully in 2023 we can get more action team grants for more projects!

Worship & Music Committee

Committee members: Tom Booth, Chairman, Joanne Vasey, Brandy Aguirre, Barb Baylor, Beverly Harvey, Vicki Heberlig, and Dan White (council liaison)

In the midst of all the changes and the absence of a pastor, our goal of providing a quality worship experience for all who worship with us was again a challenge. We still face the challenges that result from the CORONA virus and its variants, especially that we have the right protocols in place to insure the safety of those who worship here. We realize that worship will probably never return to the way it was prior to COVID. With the world around us returning to a new normalcy, we are now thinking that we are beginning to see a new normal for worship, and how people worship. We believe that the worship environment here still continues to be a positive one, especially in the area of music. As always, we are grateful for our excellent music staff. This new normal brought a lot of stress, and a lot of extra work for our staff, but in spite of that they continued to work tirelessly to insure that our worship services, no matter what the format of the services were, were the best possible.

Many thanks to Joanne and Brandy who worked tirelessly this year to provide special music for the services. It was a lot of work in light of the circumstances, basically the loss of so many of our choir people. However, the pop-up choirs, ensembles, especially for our special services, the bells, Orff, the drummers, and family choirs filled the gap nicely. It was a lot of work to put that together but it's been great! Especially for Easter and Christmas Eve, the music was spectacular!

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the music program this year! Thanks for your willingness to participate and your dedication! Great Job, much appreciated!

Also, we were blessed with a terrific tech team who put together an excellent audio/visual recording system that allow us to record the service and simulcast in real time as well as have the recording posted to our website. There's a lot of work going on in that sound room to put it all together, but the end result is excellent! Thanks for all your work, much appreciated! These services have also received great comments from viewers.

Our Wednesday evening Lenten services were in person this year. We followed Max Lucado's study: "You'll Get Through This." Many thanks to Chad Hershberger, Pam Souders who helped with the messages, all those who sang, and Joanne Vasey, Brandy Aguirre, and Charlene Rineer.

This year we decided that would alternate between a Palm Sunday worship service with a sermon, (which we did this year), and reading The Passion.

As I mentioned earlier, Easter was spectacular!

Another goal was to continue to provide a quality worship experience even with the use of a number of different Pastors and Authorized Lay Worship Leaders. We made sure the services were planned and bulletins were prepared to make it as easy as possible for our guest preachers/presiders. We relied on our worship assistants to provide leadership in the services as well. Many thanks for a job well done to them as well.

The Advent and Christmas season went well. This year at the 4:30pm service we continued the use of an interactive message for children and their families. I received many great comments on using it in place of a sermon. Thanks to Joanne, Brandy and Charlene for helping to put that together.

Finally, we want to thank everyone who helps with our services in any way. Whether you are a greeter, usher, communion usher, communion pourer, worship assistant, cantor, lector, acolyte, sound/recording technician, altar guild, take care of the nursery take care of the banners, we couldn't do it without your help.

Special thanks to each of you for a job well done!

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Booth, Chairman