

# Annual Report 2023



**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 28, 2024 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 2023

## Table of Contents

Statement of Mission & Vision .....	3
Church Staff & Congregation Council .....	4
Minutes of the Congregational Meeting – Dec. 11, 2022	
Election of 2023 Council Members & Approval of 2023 Budget.....	5
Minutes of the Congregational Meeting—January 22, 2023:	
Annual Congregational Meeting .....	6
Church Staff & Congregation Council Reports:	
Parochial Report .....	8
Staff Report .....	9
Pastor’s Report .....	11
Statistical Report .....	13
Faith Formation Coordinator Report .....	14
Music Team Report .....	16
Committee Reports:	
Administration & Personnel Committee .....	18
Altar Guild.....	19
Archives Committee .....	19
Banner Committee .....	20
Benevolent Endowment Fund.....	20
Cooperative Preschool .....	21
Evangelism & Fellowship Ministries .....	22
Faith Formation Team .....	23
Finance Committee .....	25
Implementation Team.....	25
Kunkel Trust Committee.....	25
Parsonage/Property .....	26
Public Relations .....	27
Social Ministries Committee .....	27
Stewardship Committee.....	28
Technology Committee .....	29
Thrivent .....	30
Worship & Music Committee .....	30
Financial Pages:	
Statement of Assets & Equity Balance—December 31, 2023	
Treasurer’s Report—December 31, 2023	
2023 Fund Activity	
2022 thru 2023 Budgets vs. Proposed 2024 Budget	

## **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 2023**

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..... Dana Haile & Erinn Gramly  
Cooperative Preschool AM & PM Aides..... Gaynel Carrier & Kathleen Dadalt  
Authorized Lay Worship Leader ..... Tom Booth

### **Congregation Council 2023**

President ..... Rick Faux  
Vice-President ..... Darlene Rowe  
Secretary ..... Tom Stahlnecker  
Treasurer ..... Tim Apple  
Assistant Treasurer..... Tim Eshelman  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant to the Treasurer ..... Bill Bollinger

#### **Terms Expire 12/31/2024**

Tim Goff  
Bill Wagner  
Dan White  
Tim Apple

#### **Terms Expire 12/31/2025**

Heather Miller  
Joseph Martin  
Bill Borys  
Diane Miller

#### **Terms Expire 12/31/2026**

Rick Faux  
Rick Slear  
Laura Adams  
\*Unfilled position

### **2023 Parish Committee Chairs/Council Representatives**

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

### **Council Appointments**

Upper Susquehanna Synod Delegates ..... Charlene Rineer/ Joseph Martin/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..... Ken Bolig  
Benevolent Endowment Fund..... Tim Eshelman  
Council Representatives on Nominating Committee..... Bill Borys  
Lindig Foundation..... Ken Bolig

**Minutes of the December Congregational Meeting to  
Approve 2023 Budget & Elect 2023 Council Members  
December 11, 2022**

The meeting was Called to Order at 11:32 AM by President Rick Faux. A quorum of 13+ (44) was established.

Rick Faux offered an Opening Prayer.

The Approval of Minutes for various previous Congregational meetings was sought.

Sunday, December 5, 2021, Council nominations – Approved as presented.

Sunday, December 12, 2021, Council election and Budget – Approved as presented.

Sunday, January 23, 2022, Annual report – Approved as presented.

Sunday, December 4, 2022, Council nominations – Approved as presented.

The Election of Council Members, whose terms begin on January 1, 2023 was conducted. Printed ballots with the four nominees' names, Bill Borys, Joey Martin, Diane Miller, and Heather Miller, were distributed and then collected to be counted. Rick then thanked Council members with expiring terms, Bill Borys, Bob Lamparter, Diane Miller, and Colleen Nevil, for their service, along with members continuing to serve.

As ballots were being counted, the proposed 2023 Budget was presented by treasurer, Tim Eshelman. Tim reviewed the highlights of the new budget, along with the past year's performance and a recap of the changes. Having been approved by the Council, the proposed 2023 budget was approved as presented by the congregation. The results of the Council election was announced, with all nominees approved.

Comments for the Good of the Order were made by:

Bill Wagner – Thanked Tim Eshelman for his many years of service as treasurer.

Rick Slear – Presented a Call Committee report that they are interviewing a second candidate.

Rick Faux – Announced the next planned Congregational meeting would be January 22, 2023 for the review of the annual report.

A Closing Prayer was offered by Rev. Justin Lingenfelter.

A motion for Adjournment was made at 12:08 by Charlene Rinear, seconded by Tim Apple, and approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas R. Stahlnecker  
Council Secretary  
Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## **Minutes of the January Congregational Meeting January 22, 2023**

The meeting was **Called to Order** at 11:35 AM by President Rick Faux. A quorum of 13+ was established.

Tom Booth offered an **Opening Prayer**.

The minutes of the December 11, 2022 Congregational Meeting were approved as presented.

A **review of the Annual Committee Reports** was conducted.

**A&P** – Diane Miller stated the committee is reorganizing and asked for volunteers to serve.

**Evangelism** – Rick Slear encouraged people to submit event ideas. Rick Faux expressed appreciation for the job being done by the committee.

**Finance** – Thanks to Tim Eshelman for 12 years' service as treasurer. Tim Apple will be replacing him.

**Strategic Plan** – Rick Faux said it will be reviewed when we get a called pastor.

**PR** – Bill Wagner requested submissions for promotion.

**Social Ministry** – Emmy Gearhart asked for new members as current members age. Bev Harvey expressed Thanks to "retiring" Janet Shuman for her service.

**Thrivent** – Charlene Rineer promoted the use of Thrivent Action Teams.

**Call** – Chad Hershberger announced our third candidate has withdrawn their application. Despite this, the Synod has reinforced that we have a strong profile.

A motion to approve the reports was made by Ron Laniewski, seconded by Mark Elliot, and approved.

Rick Faux asked for 2 volunteers to serve as **Synod Assembly** voting members. No one volunteered so Council will continue to solicit participants.

Rick Faux asked for 4 members to serve on the council **Nominating Committee**, along with 2 council members, Darlene Rowe and Rick Slear. There were no volunteers.

Rick Faux stated the **Benevolent Endowment Fund** committee is currently filled.

Comments for the **Good of the Order** were made by:

Rick Faux –Expressed his Thanks to everyone, Council and Congregation, for their support and cooperation during this period and, to maintain forward momentum, that everyone consider additional service roles they may offer.

A **Closing Prayer** was offered by Tom Booth.

A motion for **Adjournment** was made at 12:05 by Ron Laniewski, seconded by Tom Booth, and approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas R. Stahlnecker  
Council Secretary

## 2023 Parochial Report

### Average Attendance at Sunday Worship

2023 Avg. Sunday Worship: 105	2022 Avg. Sunday Worship: 97	*2021 Avg. Sunday Worship: 95
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### Attendance at Special Services

	2023	2022	2021
Ash Wednesday	45	53	*N/A
Easter Sunday	194	221	124
Christmas Eve 4:30 pm	149	122	127
Christmas Eve 7:30 pm	106	84	88

**\*NOTE:** No in-person service held for Easter Sunday & Christmas Eve in 2020.  
No in-person services held on Ash Wednesday in 2021.

### Changes in Membership

Baptized Membership 12/31/22	695	Confirmed Membership 12/31/22	550
Baptized Members received:		Confirmed Members received:	
By Child Baptism	1	By Confirmation	1
By Adult Baptism	0	By Adult Baptism	0
By Affirmation of Faith	0	By Affirmation of Faith	0
By Transfer from ELCA	0	By Transfer from ELCA	0
By Transfer other Lutheran	4	By Transfer other Lutheran	3
By Transfer Non-Lutheran	1	By Transfer Non-Lutheran	1
Total Members Received 2023	6	Total Members Received 2023	5
Baptized Members Removed:		Confirmed Members Removed:	
By Death	12	By Death	12
By Transfer Lutheran	4	By Transfer Lutheran	3
By Transfer Non-Lutheran	1	By Transfer Non-Lutheran	1
By Other Means	0	By Other Means	0
Total Baptized Removed 2023	17	Total Confirmed Removed 2023	16
Baptized Membership 12/31/23	684	Confirmed Membership 12/31/23	539

### Ten-Year Statistical Pattern

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	*2020	*2021	2022	2023
<b>Ave. Sunday Attendance</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>Baptized</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>684</b>
<b>Child</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Confirmed</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>598</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>539</b>
<b>Communing (Members)</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>(All)</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>330</b>
<b>*Voting</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>187</b>

\*Voting Members are confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution of record during the current year (2023) and the preceding year (2022).

In-person services were replaced by video worship services due to the pandemic.

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



## Staff Report 2023

The following personnel were the paid staff of Christ's Lutheran Church during the year 2023:

### **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: Choir Director, Cantor.

### **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 Zacker .....Bookkeeper  
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  
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)

## Pastor's Report

Dear Christ's Lutheran,

What a year! Since January of 2023, we have certainly been through a lot together! It has been a blessing getting to know you all better during regular Sunday morning worship. It has been a privilege walking alongside you during times of pastoral care and deep grief. It has been a joy serving at your side during community meals and trunk-or-treats and Christmas crafts and pet blessings! Throughout this past year I've been encouraged by the ways in which you continue to show up in service to God's mission in and through this community. Whether in the curiosity of our study series, the sacred space of our grief support, or the camaraderie of caroling through the streets of Lewisburg it is genuinely encouraging to see you bring the whole of yourselves into this work together!

Yet, for all that we've tackled this year, perhaps the biggest project we've undertaken together has been in the nature of *how* we relate to one another. Since January of 2022, I had been contracted with you all to serve as your "on-call" interim pastor. I was available primarily for emergency pastoral care, funerals, home communion visitation, and to be regularly present during Council Meetings. I was contracted at about five hours each week for this work. However, by March of last year, it had become apparent that the limited nature of our time together was becoming an impediment to the continued mission and life here. The totality of mission in this place was underserved by such a limited pastoral role.

It was at this point, then, that our leadership began conversations about how we might be able to best be in relationship through the pastoral transition. Working together with United In Christ (UIC), we began a new contract this past Spring that has allowed for me to serve as, essentially, your half-time interim pastor. This has given me the chance to be present with you two Sunday mornings each month and allowed me to be present in the office on a more regular basis. This additional presence has been incredibly helpful for me to get to know each of you better as individuals and get to know better the scope of Christ's Lutheran's calling within the Lewisburg community. Through the continued pastoral transition, it has also helped provide some additional stability on a Sunday morning by boiling down the rotating schedule of supply preachers to a much shorter in-house pool of myself, Tom Booth, or Chad Hershberger in worship. I am so grateful to both Tom and Chad for their continued willingness to regularly lead in worship throughout this transition.

Importantly, this contract was also initially only made possible by the support of Vicar Katy Moran and her time at UIC while she completed her year of pastoral internship. As we formed the new contract here, Vicar Katy was called upon to more formally lead worship each Sunday in my absence at UIC, for which I'm also incredibly grateful! Moving towards

the end of the Summer and into the Fall, both congregations' Councils agreed to extend the contract for pastoral coverage during the continued pastoral transition with the addition that Vicar Katy would also join the rotation of worship leaders here at Christ's Lutheran. During this time, Vicar Katy was also finishing her seminary education through United Lutheran Seminary. As of December, she completed that work and was approved for ordination as a pastor while being assigned to the Upper Susquehanna Synod!

So where are we now – and what comes next?

At this point in the new year, we have open doors to a number of possibilities ahead! The opportunity immediately in front of us is that Vicar Katy's paperwork as a pastoral candidate is now able to go in front of Christ's Lutheran Call Committee for consideration. Over the next few weeks, the Call Committee will have the opportunity to review her profile, interview her, listen to her preach, and decide whether or not to recommend her to the Church Council as a potential candidate for call, a decision that would then need to be voted on by the congregation as a whole. Essentially, the road ahead is the same that was taken with previous pastoral candidates as the Call Committee does its due diligence in discerning a good match for the congregation. The only real difference is that, in this case, you get the opportunity to meet and hear from the potential candidate *well* before the time they would normally be called in for a vote!

Additionally, this process will leave the door open to continue exploring shared pastoral leadership with United In Christ. Effectively, CELC and UIC would have the opportunity to flagship a different sort of model for pastoral leadership by exploring what it would look like to have *two* full-time pastors working fully in *two* congregations. There are certainly more conversations to be had, but it's an opportunity that would remain!

In the meantime, I will continue to serve with you as I have in the weeks ahead! CELC and UIC's current contract with me runs through the end of January with the option to extend beyond, if need be. In short, the continued commitment is to work through the transition until we are set for whatever may come next!

For now, I am simply grateful for this opportunity to serve with you all! I take great hope in this place; I have been encouraged by the willingness of this community and its leadership to consider new opportunities and ways of operating. In gratitude for our time together already, I will look forward to what God has in store yet ahead moving forward into 2024!

Thanks, CELC!

Yours, in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Justin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom left of the page.

## **2023 Statistical Report**

### **Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

During 2023, the following events and "pastoral acts" were recorded:

Received as Baptized Members by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Pierce Austin Ritchie	June 25, 2023
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Received as Confirmed Members by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism:  
None in 2023

Received as Baptized Members by Transfer or parents' Affirmation of Baptism:  
None in 2023

Received as Confirmed Members by Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation):	
Lillian Eve Patte	May 28, 2023

Received as Confirmed Members by Transfer or Affirmation of Baptism:

Richard Waller	February 5, 2023
Brian Kerstetter	February 23, 2023
Tammy Kerstetter	February 23, 2023
Tylar Kerstetter	February 23, 2023
Alice Jean Rickenbach	June 22, 2023

Removed from Membership due to Transfer or other action:

The Rev. Bill & Linda Petry	
To Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, PA	March 15, 2023

Andrew Wagner	
To Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Hughesville, PA	April 26, 2023

Kathy Kaufmann	
To Epiphany Lutheran Church, Richmond, VA	November 2, 2023

Linda Fisher	
To Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, Lewisburg, PA	December 15, 2023

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
George E. Rovenolt	January 7, 2023
Sheryl D. Dauel	January 29, 2023
Jean L. Ritter	March 21, 2023
Beverly J. Hopp	April 13, 2023
Erladean J. Kilgus	May 31, 2023
Stephen G. Rozyckie	June 26, 2023
Richard T. Beck	July 3, 2023
Lena Mae Shannon	September 5, 2023
Ernest H. Keister, Jr.	September 27, 2023
Roberta A. Pickering	October 5, 2023
Judith A. Blee	November 19, 2023
Albert E. Cox Jr.	December 9, 2023

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

2023 Marriages: None in 2023

2022 Affirmations of Marriage: None in 2023

Membership Summary:	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2023
Baptized Members	695	684
Confirmed Members	550	539
Communing Members	247	227

### **2023 Faith Formation Coordinator Report**

The year has been a busy one. I am so grateful for Pastor Justin's leadership. Bringing Vicar Katy on board has also been a blessing. Thanks to everyone who stepped up to the plate and have kept things going with the education programs, and youth and family activities. Extra thanks to the faith formation committee – Tom and Beckie Stahlnecker, Colleen Nevil, and Heather Miller.

In February, I attended the annual ELCA Youth, Children, and Family Ministry Network's Extravaganza. It was nice to see and be with my colleagues for continuing education, worship, and fellowship. The theme for the Extravaganza was Enough, and it was held in California. I have also been called on by Bishop Miller to be our Synod's Champion for the ELCA Youth Gathering for 2024, and the work started for that in February at the E.

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 had a lock-in for making the soups and bread. We took orders ahead of time and pick-up was on Sunday. In May we held our Italian Dinner and Silent Auction in the lower church hall. We still offered take out and many people did that. The silent auction was all in person this year. Mini Mission Mondays still attract a fair number of participants. Movie nights and game nights happened with a few people who had a blast when they attended.

During the summer, on behalf of our church, I continued to help with the Summer Youth Lunch program. We packed the extra food bags on the first Friday in June. Thanks to Richard Waller for his leadership in this program and to Susan Smalley for continuing to be our representative for this wonderful outreach. A highlight of the summer was the mission trip to Niagara Falls, NY with Youthworks. Thanks to Heather Miller for being the other adult leader. It was fantastic working with the two young ladies who went. It was wonderful to see them grow in their faith during the trip as they helped the children at the day camp at Salvation Army.

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 continued to be creative in combining the upper elementary with the middle school youth in covering confirmation material. Many thanks to Kailyn White for being creative with the preschoolers and the lower elementary age children. I also started to work on prepping our youth and leaders for the ELCA Youth Gathering that will take place in New Orleans in July of 2024.

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. Mindy Moore the leader moved to Tennessee, and I took on more of the leadership of the group. We had many game nights and movie nights as I interspersed activities of self-care and spiritual development in the mix. It was wonderful to end the year with our traditional Christmas activities.

For the social media/tech portion of my job I post information and inspirational gifs on Facebook on a regular basis – on 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.

Trying to plan and do ministry in 2023 was a challenge and a blessing. 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 22, 2023

## **2023 Music Team Report**

The Music Ministry continued to adapt as best as possible in 2023 despite ever changing dynamics and expectations. Overall, it was another challenging and somewhat exhausting year physically and emotionally. Despite the challenges, there were highlights. Challenges and highlights are listed below. The 2023 paid staff Music Team consisted of Joanne Vasey & Brandy Aguirre.

### **Challenges**

- ❖ Shrinking pool of vocalists and instrumentalists of all ages due to numerous factors beyond our control. Please contact us if you would like more info.
- ❖ Musicians who attended faithfully were often multi-tasking in worship limiting their availability to participate with choirs/ensembles.
- ❖ Folks grieving our past music ministry and many not understanding why various choirs and ensembles are no longer viable.
- ❖ Active singers differed in the type of desired choir/ensemble. Pop-Up Vocal Ensembles were desired by folks not able to come out at night for rehearsals. Others would not participate in Pop-Up Vocal Ensembles and wanted a traditional, rehearsed Parish Choir during a weeknight. So both options were offered.
- ❖ When scheduled, Parish Choir rehearsals were sparsely attended.
- ❖ Parish Choirs were most viable for special services (Ash Wed., Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, traditional Christmas Eve) when singers were not split between 8:00 am and 10:30 am worship.
- ❖ Parish Choirs for Sunday mornings (Easter, Reformation, All Saints', Advent III) were lean creating anxiety for some singers that they would be exposed on their part.



- ❖ Choice of vocal anthems difficult with limited pool of singers and unpredictable dynamics on Sunday mornings.
- ❖ Choice of bell choir anthems also difficult due to unpredictable dynamics on Sunday mornings and wide variety of ringing experience among members.
- ❖ Realization that choirs/ensembles are smaller in number and anthems more basic.
- ❖ Mental and physical burn-out of directors trying to brainstorm new ideas and ways of using church-owned instruments and continuing the music ministry.
- ❖ Mental and physical burn-out of faithful musicians in today's busy world.
- ❖ Special Instrumental Ensembles such as Brass Ensemble were much harder to schedule due to numerous factors.

## Highlights

- ❖ Parish Peal Handbell Choir included some beginning faithful ringers as well as veteran ringers - Nice age range of ringers.
- ❖ Parish Peal Handbell Choir was able to continue ringing for both services on the 3rd Sunday of the month as well as for special.
- ❖ New folks or folks that had not provided special music in a while stepped up to provide vocal and/or instrumental anthems - Nice age range from children to senior citizens.
- ❖ Continuation of faithful folks stepping up to provide special music throughout the church year - vocal and/or instrumental.
- ❖ Children/Family Choir experienced numerical as well as musical growth with vocal and bell anthems.
- ❖ Pop-Up Vocal Ensembles were well received and included in worship whenever possible - 10:30am ensembles tended to be larger than 8:00 am ensembles.
- ❖ Youth Drumming Ensemble consisted of faithful youth who provided offertory anthems monthly - Oct. thru May.
- ❖ Every effort was made to include a choir or ensemble in worship as much possible - Pop-Up Vocal Ensemble, Parish Choir, Parish Peal, Youth Drummers, Family/Children Choir, Orff Ensemble, etc.
- ❖ Continued use of a cantor to lead the congregation.
- ❖ Great variety of cantors for Holden Evening Prayer.
- ❖ Orff instruments were played by both youth and adults at various times throughout the year.
- ❖ Small Brass Ensemble for Reformation Sunday.

- ❖ Rehearsed Parish Choir for Ash Wed., Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Reformation Sunday, All Saints' Sunday, Advent III and Christmas Eve (8:00 pm).
- ❖ Incorporation of church-owned instruments whenever possible - hand bells, hand chimes, rain sticks, wind chime, Orff Instruments, African drums, rhythm instruments, children's bells, etc.
- ❖ Continuation of traditional liturgies, hymns and anthems appropriate to the liturgical day/season, etc.
- ❖ Instrument Petting Zoo and Pop-Up Instrumental Ensemble in Nov. was well received. Pop-Up Instrumental Ensemble featured as many church owned instruments as possible as well as congregational musicians of all ages playing band and orchestra instruments. Instruments included organ, piano, guitar, saxophones, clarinets, flute, violins, bassoon, African drums, Orff instruments, handbells, trombone, trumpet, wind chime and assorted rhythm instruments played by the congregation. Church-owned instruments of all shapes and sizes were displayed in the atrium and parlor. Folks were encouraged to try various instruments.
- ❖ Christmas Eve special music featured a variety of age groups, musical styles, instrumental and vocal anthems. More than 25 different folks participated.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to and/or supported the music ministry of Christ's Lutheran Church in 2023.

Respectively submitted, Joanne Vasey

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Administration & Personnel Committee**

Committee Members: Diane Miller, Laurie Slear, Adelyn Elliott and Pam Baker.

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 is currently at work updating job descriptions as many have changed since Covid.

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, Diane & Brian Miller, Carol Lewis, and Jane Williams.

Submitted by, Jackie Goff

## **Archives Committee**

Committee Members: Charlotte Winter and Gary Parks

Work has been slow, however, Gary has finally completed the cataloguing of the Slonaker gift, an extensive collection of materials relating to the Church Council and Stephen Ministry (Gloria and Bob both participated), the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Fine Arts and Archives Committees (Gloria) field trips, the church renovation and organ investigation, and correspondence regarding Rev. Isaac McGann and with Rev. Charles Glandorf.

Memorial programs and obituaries for members and former members (when known) have been catalogued, as well as weekly bulletins and newsletters.

The Archives Cabinet in the atrium has been enhanced with images of Christ placed for the Lenten season and a display of creches/nativity scenes for the Advent Season.

Newspaper clippings have been retained from The Daily Item and the Union-Snyder County Times.

A grant application for archival supplies was submitted to the Lindig Fund of the First Community Foundation Partnership for \$892.58 for acid-free boxes, folders, etc... but we were turned down. Charles F. Lindig was a member of the church. Charles' wife Mabel was on the original Archives Committee.

### **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 baptismal banners for each child on their baptism.

### **Benevolent Endowment Fund Committee 2023 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 (CELC) BEF. All undesignated bequests and gifts of whatever amount received from estates of persons who have named our church as beneficiary will be placed in the BEF for CELC. The BEF is invested in and managed by the ELCA Mission Endowment Pooled Trust. The BEF should not be confused with the Kunkel Trust Fund. The purpose of the BEF is to enhance the mission outreach of CELC apart from the general operation of the congregation.

The BEF Committee consists of seven members: Pastor, Church Council President, Finance Committee Chair, Treasurer and three at-large members of the congregation who each serve a three-year term. The Committee meets as necessary for requests up to four times a year. Available distribution amounts are determined annually and are based on 4.25% of the average of the 3-year ending asset value in the BEF. The funds are distributed through a review of applications submitted by members or committees.

Applications are accepted anytime during the year and 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 2023 there was only one BEF grant awarded: \$1,200 grant to Kingdom Kidz, Inc. to help cover the cost of providing an internet radio program which streams worldwide.

Unused funds from prior years will be retained for future disbursement or reinvestment in the fund at the discretion of the BEF Committee. The amount available for reinvestment or disbursement in 2024 will be approximately \$60,000. The BEF balance as of 11/30/23 was \$422,258.

2023 Members of the BEF Committee were: Pastor Justin Lingenfelter, Tim Apple (Treasurer), Tim Eshelman (Finance Chair), Rick Faux (Council President), Julie Albright (at-large, term expires 2023), Tim Goff (at-large, term expires 2024) and Bill Borys (at-large, term expires 2025).

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Eshelman

## **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.

With the pandemic behind us, the preschool was able to operate on a normal schedule and again provide fieldtrips and special events as part of the curriculum. However, we did close for a week as two staff members and a student contacted Covid.

Interviews were held for an AM aide. The board hired Gaynel Carrier. Kathy DaDalt continues to be the PM aide. Erinn Gramley will again teach the Tuesday/Thursday AM class as well as the Monday-Friday PK PM class. Dana Haile teaches M/W/F AM class. The preschool enrollment is down three students this school year.

Two different issues occurred this year that necessitated policies be written for each issue. The policies have been completed and shared with church council. Pastor Justin and Rick Faux were kept informed of the issues.

As of this report the school is down two students for the 2023-2024 school year. We are blessed to have 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 board thanks Dale Bontomase for his continued no charge power washing of the play yard equipment.

The preschool remains under the charter 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 2023, the Evangelism and Fellowship Team has been providing a variety of favorite activities of fellowship opportunities. We have joined many of our social activities with United in Christ and some other local Lutheran churches.

Some of the events this year:

- Served Lenten Dinners prior to Holden Evening Prayer.
- 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.
- Provided lemonade during the Fourth of July Parade on the church lawn.

- Congregational 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.
- Hosted a hayride and fellowship event in October.
- Provided a light lunch for the Greening event in December.
- Hosted Christmas Caroling event that included hot cocoa & cookies after caroling downtown Lewisburg.
- Bingo in January.
- Sight & Sound bus trip to Lancaster in March.

This group has been working hard to keep members excited and engaged, especially during this time of change. There has been a growing enthusiasm between all churches participating in many of these events.

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

### **Faith Formation Team Annual Report for 2023**

Thanks to the team members – Heather Miller, Colleen Nevil, Beckie Stahlnecker, and Tom Stahlnecker.

#### **Sunday School**

Confirmation Class/Upper Elementary School Class used the Here We Stand Material from Augsburg and The Bible Project. They worked on the Old Testament in the Winter and Spring, and they started on the New Testament in the fall. The classes were taught by Charlene Rineer. Starting the year there were 5 students in attendance. 1 was in her last year and was confirmed at Pentecost – Lilly Patte. In the fall, classes added 3 new students, and all 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders were working toward being confirmed either in 2024 or 2026.

Preschool Classes/Lower Elementary classes were held and taught by Kailyn White. They used Frolic Material from Augsburg in the winter and spring. Then in the fall they switch to the one room Sunday School Sparks' material by Spark House. 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 (discontinued this group in the fall since we have very few elementary youth). We are having more family-based activities.

**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 Animate series from Augsburg on Faith Practices. In the summer we had a few fun events. Starting in the fall we began with the theme of Self Care and Spiritual Inspiration. There are 4 of our youth who have participated in the group this year – 2 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 3 to 5 youth. We also held our own movie nights, game nights, lock-ins, other service projects (road clean ups, Souper Bowl of Caring, 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.

**Youth Mission Trip** – 2 youth and 2 leaders went to Niagara Falls in July. They participated in YouthWork's Mission week at a Salvation Army. They helped with a day camp doing crafts, games, and songs. One evening, they also helped set up and serve at a community cook- out.

**Adult Bible Studies** – The ladies' Bible Studies were held again on Thursdays. Many thanks to their leader, Kim Eshleman. They did a few studies through the year, one was on **Prayer**.

Pastor Justin and Vicar Katy led a 6 week study in the fall on Faith and Civic Life. There were an average of 11 people in attendance each week.

At the end of November, Andy Anderson and Tim Varney started a Men's Bible Study, and they are working their way through the book of Matthew.

Report Submitted by Charlene Rineer



## **Finance Committee 2023 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 2023 were Rick Faux (Council President), Tim Apple (Treasurer), Tim Eshelman (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 Eshelman

## **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 Kunkle 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 Evangelical 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. In 2023, the church received \$31,192 in trust income. Our church is very fortunate to have such a fund which not only benefits our church, but also the community of Lewisburg.

In 2023, the Kunkel Trust Committee will have approved and disbursed \$38,146 in requests for funds. Some examples of these include \$12,500 in scholarships to congregation college students, \$10,000 to the Susquehanna Valley Synod, \$5,000 to Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village for benevolent care, \$2,000 to Lewisburg PSA for Lunch Bunch program, \$1,156 for bus trip to Sight & Sound, \$1,000 for Camp Mount Luther, with another thirteen recipients having received less than \$1,000 each.

The Kunkel committee consists of seven members. The church constitution designates four members: Pastor, Council President, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee and council appoints three at-large members for three-year terms. For 2023, the appointees were: Ken Bolig (term expires 2023), Tim Goff (term expires 2024) and Wayne Hook (term expires 2025).

The Kunkel committee meets at 9:15 AM the Sunday before the monthly Council meeting. The committee also meets periodically with representatives from M&T Bank to review the investment strategies; however, the bank has final say and 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tim Eshelman

## **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 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 replaced. There is no longer a second floor to this section. Replacement was necessary due to its deteriorating condition. The rain gutters were cleaned.

## **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. Three smoke detectors were replaced in the Atrium and Sanctuary. The gutters were cleaned around the church. An astronomical timer was installed at the Court House entrance, allowing the lights to turn on based on dusk to dawn changes throughout the year.

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. 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**

Press releases were sent to local newspapers and included information on Lenten services (February); a donation to Kingdom Kidz (April); our Strawberry Festival (May); the Kunkel Scholarships awarded to youth of our congregation (August) the Snack Pack initiative (October) and end of the year giving from the Kunkle Trust (January 2024). When published, the news articles were clipped from the newspapers and preserved in the Church Archives.

## **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: Janet Shuman, Beverly Harvey, Emmy Gearhart, Joe Keller and Darlene Rowe, Church Council Representative.

This committee initiates and coordinates the following programs and events but the entire congregation contributes to the causes.

\*Each February we ask for contributions toward the **Meat Project** in Lewistown. It is run by the Central Pennsylvania World Hunger Association. They process fresh meat for the hungry. 90% is distributed world-wide, and 10% stays local. In 2023, we donated \$740.00, which included a grant from Kunkle Trust.

\*Lewisburg Council of Churches supports the **Emergency Food Pantry** which is located in our church. All churches in the council donate food and/or money to buy food. Julie Borys is our representative to the Council and directs the Emergency Food Pantry. The Pantry had 17 calls and served 34 adults and 17 children, in 2023. To access the Pantry, call the church office.

The council of churches also supports a **Transient Program**. They provide shelter, food and bus tickets.

**Soup and Scripture** is a weekly Lenten program run by the Council of Churches. It is lunch and a short sermon, every Wednesday in Lent, in the Lower Church Hall of Christ Lutheran Church. Social Ministry coordinates serving one of the meals.

\***Holy Sew 'n Sews** (or Sewing Ladies) meets Wednesday mornings in the Lower Church Hall. Emmy Gearhart coordinates the making of quilts. Currently they have 24 quilts on hand. 11 were donated to Lutheran World Relief, 12 to Hospice in Danville, and 15 to Transitions.

\***Medical Equipment Loan Program** -we collect gently used medical equipment such as walkers, shower chairs, etc. They are stored in a closet upstairs and are accessible by contacting the church office.

\***Prayer Shawl Ministry** is led by Emmy Gearhart. Knitters knit and pray over the shawls which are lovingly given to those who are ill or recovering, and those mourning the loss of a loved one. There is a good supply of shawls available. Jackie Schaeffer contributed several, in 2023.

\***Blanket Sunday** falls in October. Envelops are provided for monetary donations, toward purchase of blankets for the Lutheran World Relief. In 2023, we collected \$920.00, which included a matching grant from Kunkle Trust.

\***Remembrance Sunday**-12 carnations and candles were placed on the altar on All Saints Day 2023, in memory of our deceased members. A central candle was lit to remember other departed saints. A memorial flower is also placed on the altar on the first anniversary of the death of a congregational member.

\***Visitation and delivery of bulletins/Devotional guides**-Individuals visit and distribute material. Phone calls and cards of encouragement are appreciated by the ill and shut-in members.

Our most recent discussions about outreach, have resulted in our church participating in supporting programs that are already established. We are gathering children's clothing for the Clothing Closet coordinated by the Presbyterian Church of Lewisburg. They distribute needed clothing at the Food Pantry at the Pentecostal Church on Rt. 192. And we are gathering hygiene products for Beacon Ministries. They are distributed at Beaver Memorial Methodist Church.

We thank the congregation for all their donations and support which helps Christ Lutheran Church show a presence in the community by helping others.

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. 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**

In 2021 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. Your comments and observations are appreciated so we can continue to improve our productions. We hope this provides outreach and alternatives for the homebound, but it does not replace communion and in person worship when you are able.

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.

We continue to plan the installation of a video and remote lock control for our main entrance so our office personnel can more conveniently control building access during business hours. Unfortunately, supply issues and scheduling have delayed our progress.

Currently, we are in the process of renegotiating our telephone/internet contract with Windstream. Our monthly bill more than doubled in the past two months, with no change in service. We think we can get improved service for less than we were originally paying.

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](mailto: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 directs these monies to go to the general fund unless otherwise specified.

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. Hopefully in 2024 we can get more action team grants for more projects!

### **Worship & Music Committee**

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

Our goal has always been to provide a quality worship experience for all who worship with us. And 2023 was a challenging year as in past years. Even though we are several years past COVID, the changes that happened as a result of the virus are still a factor in our worship and especially how we worship. Live streaming the services created what we call our "third congregation" and some are choosing to worship in the comfort of their home. In the past couple of annual reports we said worship will never return to the way it was prior to COVID, and that is proving to be true. 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.

Pastor Justin joined us this year as he became our Interim Pastor. We are grateful for his leadership, new ideas and energy.

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 that continue to plague our music program, basically the loss of so many of our choir people, and our instrumentalists. 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 our Easter and Christmas Eve services, 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 good this year as well. This year we did Philip Yancey’s “What’s So Amazing About Grace” Many thanks to Joe Miller, Chad Hershberger and Pam Souders who helped with the messages, all those who sang, and Joanne Vasey, Brandy Aguirre, and Charlene Rineer.

Holy Week services were great as well. Our theme was: Journey to the road to Emaus, making the resurrection personal. As I mentioned earlier, Easter was spectacular!

We started the year basically like last year with a number of different pastors and Authorized Lay Worship Leaders, and others leading worship. Then we developed a cooperative effort with UIC, and are now we have a worship team of: Pastor Justin, Vicar Katy Moran, Chad Hershberger, Michelle Shearer, and myself. This seems to be working very well.

The Advent and Christmas season went well. I like to say we have something for everyone, and we did! This year at the 4:00pm service we continued the use of an interactive message for children and their families, and at 8:00 we had a more traditional service. I received many great comments on the services!

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