



Christ Lutheran Church

69 Main Street • Hellertown • Pennsylvania

Rev. Philip C. Spohn

2024 Annual Report

January 21, 2024

Covering January 1 - December 31, 2023 Church Activity

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 4, 2024

11 am • Following Worship

Our Values:

- † **Inclusiveness:** We welcome all people to participate in our ministries. We are all children of God, created in God's image. You are welcome here.
- † **Faith Journey:** We realize each one of us is on a faith journey. We value questions, searching, discussions and debates. Each of us sees faith from our own unique perspective. We want to grow in faith as we age in life. Come join the journey.
- † **Service:** We practice our faith in loving service to others.

Our Faith Statement

The people of Christ Lutheran Church of Hellertown invite you to experience Christianity as a way of life, not a set of creeds and doctrines demanding total agreement. We invite you to join us as we seek to discover the relevance of Jesus' teachings for our time. We look to scripture, faith, experience and reason to inform our journey. We affirm that all people are created in the divine image, and that God is active in many people, including those who do not profess the Christian faith. We acknowledge and respect people of other faiths who understand that God is working in them and through them to bring about peace, justice, love, and reconciliation among God's people. We take the Bible seriously, not literally. We strive to transform our lives to live the teachings of Jesus and, above all, to love unconditionally. We welcome all persons into our midst, without regard to race, age, gender, sexual orientation, or abilities.

Annual Meeting Agenda

February 4, 2024, 11:00am, following Worship in the Sanctuary

- Call to Order – Secretary Roll Call, Approval of Quorum
- Meeting Procedures Governed by Robert’s Rules of Order
- Devotions
- Reading & Approval of 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Council President Report – Brenda Tarulli
- *The Strategic Plan* Progress Report – Ed Alosi
- Pastor Report – Pastor Phil
- Staff & Team Reports
- Endowment Trustees Committee Report – Joe Tarulli
- Endowment Mission Team Report and Approval – Kim & Corky Blake
- Financial Report – Chris Uttard
- Review and Approval of 2024 Budget – Chris Uttard
- Nomination and Election of New Council Members
- New Business
- Adjournment and Prayer

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Annual Meeting Minutes - February 5, 2023

Council Members Present: Brenda Tarulli, P, Ed Alosi, VP, Nancy DeVogel, S, Ferd Piccuiro, Gary Milla, Carolyn Raudenbush, Mark Wilten, T, Pastor Phil Spohn, Dale Hazel, Ken Doremus, and Glen Clouser

Total Number of Attendees: 61 Attendees (In-person and On-line)

Call to Order: Brenda Tarulli, President, called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees – 11:13 am

Approval of Quorum: Nancy DeVogel, Secretary, verified that there were enough participants for a quorum and the meeting could proceed.

MOTION: Ferd Piccuiro made a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes. Lenore Spohn seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objections.

Church Council Report: Brenda delivered the 2022 review of Council accomplishments and the Council 2023 goals. The 2023 Council focus will be on guidance using the values of the church which are: inclusiveness, faith journey and service. Council will also focus on improving communication from within the church and the teams. She spoke of the need for more volunteers to help the church move forward and stressed that the church is thriving because of the congregation, our excellent staff, team leaders and our volunteers.

The Learning Center Report: Given by Nancy Frederick, Director. Current enrollment is 94 student, 14 teachers, the Learning Center continues to hire. Her first accomplishment was to structure the curriculum across all classrooms. She is planning the summer school camp with the teachers. Lots of fun activities in the planning stage. Act of kindness is a current program in which the children perform acts of kindness within the Hellertown community. Nancy requested that if anyone in the congregation has talents, they would like to share with the Learning Center to please contact her. Josh Gulotta will be bringing to the Learning Center his children-focused teaching and music.

Ministry Report: Chris Myers spoke on the importance of volunteering and joining one of the church teams listed in the Volunteer Brochure. Volunteers are what make our programs successful. He encouraged members to review the brochure and pick a team to join. Angela Drake mentioned that she has a vegetable seed give away that was not in the Ministry report.

Introduction of Josh Gulotta: New Youth and Family Minister. Josh spoke of his past experience and his plans for the future. He will work with the Learning Center and Bear Creek Camp. He wants this to be a place where people feel cared-for and included. He encouraged parents to reach out to him: yfm@clcht.org

Joe Tarulli, Chair of the Endowment Trustees Committee: Trustees Report was referred to. Joe spoke about the market drop which hit our investments in 2022. Joe walked the audience through the endowment and memorial trust fund allocation requirements.

MOTION: A motion to approve the Distribution of \$17,000 from the Endowment fund and \$7,500 from the Memorial Fund was made by Kurt Rank and seconded by Angela Drake. Motion passed with no objections.

Corky and Kim Blake, Endowment Mission Team Leads: Kim explained the thought process behind the allocation of monies and reviewed the 2023 Distribution Recommendations.

MOTION: Alice Karpa made the motion to approve the distribution of monies as recommended by the Endowment Committee proposed for 2023. Kathie Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objections.

Chris Uttard, Finance Team Leader, Financial Team Report: Chris reviewed the financial statements for 2022. Reviewed the Comparative Balance Sheet slide. Mentioned projects that were not included in the 2022 budget. The Budget for 2023 was discussed.

MOTION: Carolyn Raudenbush made a motion to approve the 2023 Christ Lutheran Church proposed Budget. Louise Wagner seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objections.

Introduction of Judy Meier: New Church Council Member Nominee

MOTION: A motion was made by Enid Rank to approve the nomination of Judy Meier to the 2023 Church Council. Lenore Spohn seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objections.

New Business: Alice Karpa asked a question regarding youth members sitting on the Church Council in 2023. Pastor Phil responded that it is difficult for the youth to attend meetings due to their many commitments but he will continue to reach out to the youth and hopefully find participants.

MOTION: Corky Blake made a motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting. Mary Ann Horvath seconded the motion. Motion passed with no objections.

Pastor Phil spoke about his 2023 Annual Meeting Report. He mentioned that we are thriving as a church thanks to our amazing staff. We are all grateful for their efforts. We are becoming the Hellertown Community Center, and this is worth embracing.

The meeting closed with a prayer given by Pastor Phil.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:57 am

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy DeVogel
Church Council Secretary

Council President Report

The Church Council S.T.R.I.V.E.s to live our values and help guide the congregation to live our values, be good stewards of our resources, and encourage creation of and participation in our programs.

We are a vibrant church! Our membership is growing. Sunday service attendance is growing. Our youth programs are growing. The number of programs and activities we do is growing. Our financial giving and pledges are growing.

Our guide to how we implement our values is our five-year *Strategic Plan* which we completed in 2020. We continue to move forward, implementing more of *The Strategic Plan*. The Church Council regularly monitors and reviews our progress. We now have 40 programs up and successfully running, covering 13 of our goals, compared to 2023 when we had 24 programs covering 10 of our goals. Our Communications Specialist has helped share the news and encourage participation. So many things have changed since we completed *The Strategic Plan*. It is time to re-examine and update the plan to fit the church and community as it exists today. The church leadership will be using our Annual Retreat to re-evaluate *The Strategic Plan* and adjust it to reflect where we are today, our successes and the lessons we learned over the last three years. We will share the revised plan as soon as it is ready.

Our biggest blessing in 2023 is related to the success of our youth programs thanks to Josh Gulotta, our new Youth & Family Minister. Josh is not only nurturing and growing our programs, but has been able to restart our Faith Formation Team. He has reinvigorated our Sunday School Program, recruited teachers to help him teach, grown the Confirmation Class, become an integral part of the Learning Center's activities, and much more.

The Children's Learning Center is an important ministry for the church. It struggled financially in 2023, generating a deficit of approximately \$39,000 excess of expenses over revenue. Fortunately, the church results for 2023 more than offset this loss. Our new Director, Nancy Frederick is an experienced leader in early childhood development and care. She has spent significant time understanding the structure, needs and operations of the center and has worked diligently with our Financial Administrator and Finance Team to understand and make changes to the revenue and expense structure. Together, we anticipate that the center will break even in 2024. Nancy is involved in several professional groups in the area and has developed a very good working relationship with center and church staff.

The church is financially stable because of your generous giving and the conscientious spending of the leadership of our teams and the church staff. In 2023 the church's income exceeded our expenditures by approximately \$41,000. We have reserves which should be adequate to handle the important projects which arise. The offering pledges made for 2024 exceed what we have seen in recent years. This enables us to broaden our programs - do more of the work Jesus teaches us to do.

What makes our Faith Community so vibrant – Pastor Phil, Josh, our church staff, and all our volunteers. We have a VERY dedicated staff, contributing more than what is in their job descriptions, and they work well together. They make it easy for Pastor Phil, Josh, the leadership, and our volunteers to carry out our ministries. Special thanks to our Church Council and Team Leaders for the love they give and the time they devote.

Every one of our volunteers makes a difference. The time given by all our volunteers at the church and throughout the community are the heart and soul of what makes our Faith Community so vibrant. Service to others is the essence of sharing the love Jesus teaches us. *And, it makes you feel good!* Get involved - Is there something that interests you or an idea for something new we should try? Help us grow and spread Jesus' message of love and caring.

Sincerely,
Brenda Tarulli
Church Council President

The Strategic Plan

THEMES, STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, and GOALS

Four (4) Themes were identified from the data. A Strategic Initiative, together with Goals for the Initiative, were developed for each Theme.

THEME 1: Faith Journey – Christ Lutheran Church Hellertown is a Christian community that values each person's unique faith journey, which is centered in worship, lifelong faith formation, and sharing God's love.

Strategic Initiative: Provide opportunities and pathways that encourage and support learning, spiritual growth, and caring relationships across the lifespan.

Goal 1: Offer opportunities for people of all stages and ages to learn, have fun, and develop relationships with one another

Goal 2: Grow and sustain social and study groups

Goal 3: Continue to offer a variety of worship and faith formation opportunities and experiences

Goal 4: Develop new outreaches to the under-represented demographics of Christ Lutheran Church (youth, young adults, and families)

THEME 2: Service – Christ Lutheran Church Hellertown is a faith community that values service and outreach to the community at large.

Strategic Initiative: Increase Christ Lutheran Church's service in, connection with, and support of people and organizations in the community

Goal 1: Develop more extensive relationships and partnerships with community groups and with other faith communities

Goal 2: Develop and maintain special programs/outreaches to support community members experiencing loss or chronic challenges (e.g. food insecurity)

Goal 3: Expand the open, welcoming, and caring culture of Christ Lutheran Church in the community

Goal 4: Develop and offer educational opportunities, programs, and support services to the community at large

Goal 5: Provide support and outreach for community groups such as veterans, first responders, and essential workers

THEME 3: Communications – Christ Lutheran Church Hellertown values effective, timely connection and communication through traditional and innovative technology platforms.

Strategic Initiative: Develop a structural process of communication throughout CLC that creates and enables timely, effective communication

Goal 1: Identify and use established lines and methods of communication to insure that information is shared and related to all parties throughout the organization in a timely, effective manner

Goal 2: Create a technology team, which includes 2-3 youth/young adults to:

- Evaluate the structure, effectiveness, and efficiency of the website and all other electronic platforms and resources and recommend appropriate revisions
- Develop and implement a well-defined structure to maintain current and archival information on the website and on social media platforms

Goal 3: Provide opportunities for all ages to better understand and gain proficiency with digital technologies

Goal 4: Enhance communication, worship, and fellowship experiences through integration of digital technology

THEME 4: The Children's Learning Center – The Children's Learning Center, which is located in Christ Lutheran Church, is a loving, nurturing environment for children ages six (6) weeks to Grade 4 that offers programs for the emotional, social, academic, and physical development of children.

Strategic Initiative: Enhance inter-connection and communication between Christ Lutheran Church and the Learning Center

Goal 1: Maintain and expand relationships and interactions between Christ Lutheran Church and the Children's Learning Center

Goal 2: Provide learning and support opportunities for children and families of the Children's Learning Center

Pastor Report

It has been a great year. I feel that the energy level of our pre-pandemic congregation is returning.

2023 was the first year since 2019 that we had a Spring and Fall New Member class. We have welcomed some wonderful people into our congregation, and hopefully all of us “old timers” go out of our way to welcome and encourage them in their faith journey with us. Our 2023 Fall New Member pictures and bios are currently in print in the January 2024 DaySpring as well as on display in the narthex along with our 2023 Spring New Members.

You will also notice that we stand on strong financial ground. Thank you! Within this annual report you will find both our actual financial numbers for 2023 and what we propose for our budget in 2024. Our members realize that ministry that matters takes money. Fortunately, we have committed members that contribute generously to our mission and purpose. We are touching lives; we are changing lives; we are helping people grow in faith.

Are increasing numbers everything? How can we measure the interconnected relationships that add meaning to our lives? Can we put a number on individuals growing in faith? People are rethinking the religion of their upbringing and discovering a God that they can believe in. Numbers can't calculate the value of love within our community. After all, remember our old capital campaign theme, “Love Grows Here”? How do you measure that?

Numbers can't categorize the atmosphere here. Atmosphere is important in a faith community. We have created a climate that allows questions, struggles, thinking through things, and inquisitiveness. This atmosphere allows people to discover what they believe.

Atmosphere is everything. It's created when many of us hold to this belief that God is love and that God wants people to search and discover. Having “hand-me-down beliefs” that are not questioned are not foundations for our lives. Beliefs that we struggle with, think about, bounce off others, and discover on our own terms become part of our bedrock. Jesus is a master at asking questions because he wants people to discover on their own. Questions open us up; answers shut us down.

Atmosphere is everything. We have great numbers, numbers of people, financial numbers... but what our community needs most as we move forward in 2024 are people who want to share their passions with us. This community we call ‘Christ Lutheran’ will always need people who want to use this community to help grow more community. It doesn't matter if you like knitting or are great with a hammer. We have other people who will join you. In using your talents here, you help create community as well as continue to cultivate our atmosphere of welcome and inquiry.

Enid Rank and Kathie Jones are two people who want to hand off ministries that they have started, maintained and grew. I hope others who have been touched by their efforts step up to help. Enid started “Faith Community Fellowship Friday”, monthly events to bring a diverse group of people together for social activities. From the LV Phantoms at the PPL Center in Allentown to Fleetwood Mac tribute band at the State Theater in Easton, groups of people gathered, enjoyed entertainment, and made friends with people who they see on a Sunday morning but otherwise did not connect with. This ministry is what was needed after COVID, but it's what all churches need to create warm relationships among our church family. Thank you, Enid!

If you are interested in taking over this ministry, you don't have to do it like Enid. You might have other events that interest you... like the Freemansburg Motorcycle Hill Climb! It takes individuals who are willing to use their talents here, to help continue to make Christ Lutheran Church T.H.R.I.V.E. Think about sharing leadership with a friend! Co-leaders work great for getting involved in leadership.

Kathie Jones works in the quiet of her home each week to improve the prayers we recite in worship. Kathie began this work years ago and is ready for a change. I long noticed that many of the prayers we received from the ELCA are passive when it comes to human actions in our world. God fix this, or God do that... God doesn't need to fix anything. God gave us the abilities to bring God's kingdom here to earth. We have the abilities! Let's not burden God with fixing things that God knows we can solve. We need to be challenged to solve problems in our world and not expect God to swoop in and clean up our mess. We all have our part to play. Kathie takes the prayers from the ELCA, changes some, removes others, updates some to reflect what has happened "this week in our world" and sends them back to the church office for inclusion in our worship service. Thank you, Kathie! Do you have a desire to "work from home" and help make our church prayers relevant to what is happening in our community? Please see me if you are interested.

For everything that happens here, there are people who MAKE it happen. Please get involved. Use your God-given abilities here. This past year, plenty of members have stepped up and continue to step up to make ministry happen. This list is short on details as well as not inclusive of all we do:

Kelly Meyer, Men's Group Leader

Corky & Kim Blake, Leanne Weirback, Enid, Carol Dishmon, Monthly Food Drop-Off Coordinators
Angela Drake and Brenda Tarulli, Oktoberfest Coordinators

Rachel Anthony, Church Council, Recording Secretary

Diane Stehley, Pacesetters Coordinator

Nancy DeVogel, Lenore Spohn, and Judy Clemens, Reiki & Yoga Leaders

Nancy Fredrick, Children's Learning Center Director

Ken Doremus, Mark Stana, Tia Kentopp, Sunday Morning Audio Visual Team

Kurt Rank, Sound System Guru

Mariah Butterfield, Coffee Hour Volunteer Coordinator

Ferd Piccuiro, First Wednesday Meditation Leader

Lee & Louise Wagner, New Comer Hosts

Alice Karpa and Mary Ann Horvath, Quilters and Holiday Bazaar Leaders

Marcia Grande and Sharon Coe, BookClub Leaders

Mike Karpa, Property Team Leader

Dale Hazel, Lee & Louise Wagner, Monthly Brunch Coordinators

I hate not to continue, because NOTHING happens without someone taking the initiative to make it happen. Get involved. Start something new, or help out as you see fit. Our church is a community, and you are a part of that. MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED, MORE PEOPLE COMMITTED. Help us change the world for the better!

Know God loves you!

Pastor Phil

Youth & Family Minister Report

It's been an exciting year getting to know the congregation of Christ Lutheran. Starting in the New Year of 2023, I jumped in at the perfect time to see the cycle of the year in our community. Throughout the year, I found many ways to build ministries to strengthen our commitment to young families and young people.

Working closely with Nancy and Jaclyn, our Children's Learning Center classrooms each carved out time dedicated to making music, playing games, gardening, and learning how to care. We sing songs like *God's Counting On Me*, *God's Counting on You* and *In Our Hands Are the Caverns of the Earth*, learn how to keep rhythm, and even how to play the ukulele. With lots of thanks to and help from master gardener Angela, the CLC kids grew carrots, tomatoes, peppers, watermelons, and (of course) our award winning sunflowers. At Christmastime we practiced our winter concert in the sanctuary and performed for over three hundred members of our friends and family!

On Sunday mornings, I created a curriculum based on Progressive Christianity's *A Joyful Path* to tie the Time for All Ages and the following Sunday school together. Our class time includes a period of "Kid's Church" where we sing folk hymns and learn how to pray. This is usually followed by a short story time, with stories from the bible, Christian history, and folklore from around the world. Crafts and activities follow up the story, allowing time for discussion on themes of the day. I'm very thankful to Lily, Nancy, Mariah, and Fran for volunteering as teachers for our Sunday school program.

Twice a month, twelve members of our congregation meet together to read the bible and discern their spiritual paths. These confirmation students range from sixth to eighth grade, and engage in Christian practices of biblical study, fellowship and community, and thanksgiving and service. When they're not in the classroom, you might find them hiking, canoeing, decorating the church for Christmas, or raising funds this February for the Souper Bowl. Curriculum is adapted from Sparkhouse's *Echo the Story*, which follows the story of the bible through art, creative writing, and class discussion. Lots of thanks to Chad, Dana, Missy, and all the confirmation families who volunteered time as chaperones!

Easy to forget, a fun and successful ministry last summer was our Vacation Bible School. Last year's VBS saw a dozen young people come together to learn about the beauty of creation. Lots of thanks to Nancy, Carolyn, Enid, Louise, Kathi and the rest of our volunteers for their hard work.

Finally, I'm happy to say a new Faith Formation Team has been established, with its inaugural meeting in December of last year. Dana, Bre, Jason, Ashley, Mariah, and the rest of the team are parents, grandparents, and siblings of the young members and families of our congregation. Who better to know the needs, wants, and strengths of our young people?

Thanks so very much for letting me be a part of your community! I look forward to another year in ministry together.

Joyfully submitted,
Josh Labadie-Gulotta
Youth & Family Minister

Children's Learning Center Report

It has been an eventful and fun year with the Children's Learning Center!

Summer Camp:

Our families (and students) were thrilled with the school age Summer Camp program! We received great reviews and a desire to return this summer as well. The summer planning began back in March for a variety of activities and field trips to keep the students engaged and learning through the summer months. Some of the activities were splash days/giant water slide, swimming at the Hellertown Pool, Dimmick Park, Polk Valley Park, reptile show, volleyball tournament, Water Street Park, Jacobsburg Park, Dewey Fire House, fishing with Pastor Phil at the Grist Mill, Rita's, Mad Science, Cooking with Miss Laurie, inflatable water obstacle course, and so much more!

Service to Our Community:

Our program participated in a Food Bank challenge among the classrooms and donated a total of 802 items of food for families in need. We also participated in a stuffed animal drive for GWOH. We donated 32 stuffed animals for children in the LVHN-CC Pediatric Outpatient Surgery Center.

Special Events:

We hosted a Mother's Day event and Father's Day event that were well attended and received. We celebrated and thanked our teachers for a week of Teacher Appreciation events and food in May.

In the Fall, Grandparents were invited to come to the classrooms for snacks, conversation, and read together with the students.

The families enjoyed a super (surprisingly hot for the season) Halloween Parade and Trunk-or-Treat festivities. Many families were present for the parade and also shared some yummy treats with students.

Our Holiday Concert on December 21st was well-attended and full of cheer. After the concert, the families enjoyed a visit from Santa and some refreshments.

Updates:

We started utilizing the Funshine Express curriculum through the Lillio app (formerly HiMama) for all of the classrooms. The teachers have expressed that they enjoy the curriculum and having the access through the app/tablets. We also participated in several fundraisers such as Little Caesar's, Scentsy, Basket Raffles, and the Community Yard Sale with proceeds going toward our fundraising line item.

Employees with Children:

In 2023, nine employees received a total of \$87,164 in subsidized childcare as an employee discount.

Current Learning Center Staff:

Nancy Frederick - Director

Jaclyn Ruch - Assistant Director

Jamie Bechtel

Laurie Best

Michelle Bonfrancesco

Patrice Califano

Years of Service:

1 year

2 years

2 years

4 years

14 years

2 years

Current Learning Center Staff:

Erica Carr
Jessica Flok
Lorraine Grosset (substitute)
Ashley Hanley
Kim Harte
Emily Kalinchock
Lily McCarty
Michelle Mora
Brittany Nadal
Eva Quici
Carolyn Raudenbush (substitute)
Danielle Turdo
Leslie Venable

Years of Service:

1 year
9 years
1 year in July
2 years
3 years
3 years
1 year in August
2 years
2 years
1 year
1 year in August
4 years
3 years

Summer Camp Teachers:

Morgan Mixa and Madelyn Adams

2024 Plans:

We are looking into a new child assessment tool that ties into our Family Engagement app as well as Funshine Express curriculum.

We look forward to expanding our teaching team with additional teachers that love children and enjoy working with a great group of educators. We are flexible with either full time positions or part time positions. If you know of anyone that would make a great addition to our learning center, please have them send me an email or stop on by.

If you have a talent, passion, or interest that you'd like to share with a classroom, please reach out so that we can arrange a time for a visit. We do require a volunteer PA criminal clearance and a completed child abuse clearance if you would like to come in to volunteer. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 610-838-9790 or nfrederick@clcht.org. We'd love to hear from you and learn together.

We are hopeful for the new year and new adventures for 2024!

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Frederick
Children's Learning Center Director

Church Office Report

Baptisms

02/26/2023 Genevieve Briar Viegas
07/09/2023 Penelope Pyles
07/30/2023 Connor James Califano
07/30/2023 Nathan Charles Donchez
08/13/2023 Theodore James Airoidi
09/17/2023 Hayden Elizabeth Barket
09/17/2023 Autumn Ashley Barket
09/17/2023 Theodore David Barket

Funerals

02/16/2023 Anna Mae Gutshall
02/27/2023 Judith A. Scheks
02/28/2023 Louise P. Zellner
04/17/2023 Wendy L. Harrell
04/26/2023 Judith A. Royer
05/03/2023 Elaine B. Hunsinger
06/21/2023 Donna L. Schultz
06/30/2023 Doris M. Grimes
07/24/2023 Betty L. Pasternak
08/03/2023 Leona M. Wieder
08/30/2023 Gilbert T. Hillon
09/12/2023 Janet H. Gruver
10/12/2023 Paul A. Blizniak
10/25/2023 Salvatore J. Boscia
11/13/2023 Patricia L. Stangil
11/20/2023 Leonard J. Kunsman
11/24/2023 Hazel Pallante
12/09/2023 Christine M. Rappleyea
12/27/2023 Marcy A. Clauser

Weddings

09/23/2023 Ashley Patricia Flok & Jason Anthony Viegas
10/09/2023 Samantha Nancy Romito & Courtney Ann Yablon
10/20/2023 Lauren Elizabeth Kresge & Adrian Morales Rodarte

Respectfully submitted,
Barry Stauffer
Office Administrator

Spring New Comers 05/21/2023

Zach & Bre Barket and Hayden & Autumn
Mike & Nancy Frederick and Owen & Audrey
Jim & Rachel McCallister and Mackenzie & Addison
Sandy Moran
Angela Traub and Tanner & Logan
John & Lauren Sagrati
Derek Scott
Larry Frederick
Missy Greenawald and Braden
Chad & Dana Pierce and Conner
Jason & Ashley Viegas and Genevieve

Fall New Comers 11/19/2023

Kelly-Anne Suarez & Tim Brown and Julia & Calliope
Fran & Regina Sands-Corl
Kelly Fuderer
Elise & Phil Cheung and Eleanor & Genevieve
Bill & Cheryl Enslin
Claire Kostbar

Minister of Music Report

I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High! *Psalm 9:2*

One Church Community, Many Voices

This year, we have continued to blend a variety of music in our Sunday services from ancient to modern. Music at Christ Lutheran Church is such an important part of our worship experience. We are firmly rooted, and our church has deep theological and musical foundations. We sing songs about social justice even as we find new ways to share God's love in a fast-paced, modern world. Most importantly, our music supports our central message that God's grace is for all people—no exceptions. We are blessed with a beautiful church worship space and a wide variety of volunteers who work together to create the beautiful music we so enjoy. Of course, our music program depends on our volunteers to be successful, so if you sing, play an instrument, or just want to lend a hand, please speak to me and see how you might be able to contribute.

THANK YOU to the volunteers and participants that make our music ministry possible. I want to extend my great appreciation to all the staff, choir members, worship assistants, praise band musicians and singers, chimers, Pastor Phil, Bonnie Banks-Beers (Assistant Minister of Music), soloists, guest musicians, summer musicians, altar guild, Christmas carol singers, as well all those who participate in worship each week and give financial support. With gratitude, we can now celebrate the fact that we have a ***musically inclined*** Youth & Family Minister in Josh Gulotta. Thanks also to Kurt Rank and the members of the Worship and Music Team for their ongoing support. Lastly, I must give special thanks to our technical volunteers back in the sound and AV/computer booth; we are even able to share our services via digital streaming, and we reach people *across the globe!*

Of course, like all the ministries of the church, we depend on volunteers. Do you sing or play an instrument? Our 10am Worship Service each week includes both traditional hymns as well as praise band selections and special music. The music is selected to support the varying Biblical themes we encounter each week. We have built a library of over 200 band songs, some of which are unique to Christ Lutheran Church. We have a choral library that includes over 600 octavos! Our choir is always looking for singers. *You do not have to make a year-round commitment to join choir!* Pick a month or season and give it a try. We also often enjoy the musical gifts of soloists and small ensembles. Please don't be shy about getting involved. This is a great time to offer your musical talents as your gift to our Christ Lutheran ministry. Just contact Steve with your ideas!

We certainly have much to be grateful for, and it is exciting to make music in a church such as ours which continues to grow and serve our local community and beyond. With your continued support, church music, worship, and service at Christ Lutheran will continue to thrive in the years ahead.

In Christian Love,
Stephen Wysocki
Minister of Music

Faith Community Nurse Report

The continued support of the FCN ministry by the Faith Community is greatly appreciated. The Faith Community Nurse continues to utilize the Care Giving resources of Christ Lutheran to provide comprehensive support to the homebound, parishioners and community at large.

Staff & FCN Responsibilities:

1. Communication of care giving referrals to Pastor when identified by FCN, or follow-up of referrals from Pastor to FCN.
 - a. Referrals included, but not limited to end of life or hospice, pre/post hospitalization, illness, surgery, health agencies & facility information.
 - b. Advanced Seniors, Homebound & other Parishioner communications within the Faith Community via email, FCN homebound monthly visitations or mailings, E-greeting cards, Phone calls, and Texts
2. Visitations to facilities, hospitals, and private residences. Monthly communion visits for the homebound.
3. Contributions to Dayspring newsletter, E-blast, and Sunday announcements
4. Transportation: Coordination of transports for doctor appointments or outpatient therapies; 36 transports done
5. Blood Drive Coordinator: A mobile blood drive was completed at Christ Lutheran in February, yielding 31 units of whole blood. The November blood drive yielded 18 units of blood
6. Monthly mailings of "Hope Through Healing" bereavement series
7. Care to Share durable medical equipment donations
8. Worship & Music collaboration regarding service recommendations, the scheduling of SVM monthly communion, and holiday services. Recommendations to Steve Wysocki for Dec. homebound caroling
9. Identifying Thrivent members to sponsor Thrivent Action team to support CLC Ministries and related service projects. Assisting with the information needed or writing the grant requests and closing reports for the Thrivent grant process
10. Liaison with local Food Bank for delivery of emergency community food requests
11. Monitor Blessing Box for appropriate donations & to re-fill box as needed
12. Sunday Service Worship volunteer participant and coffee hour host

(continued)

13. Networking miscellaneous needs and making referrals to requests for yard work help, family food support, durable medical equipment, furniture, etc.
14. Completion of continuing education, on-line offerings for maintenance of nursing license. CPR recertification.
15. Matter of Balance Class: Co-taught 8-week Matter of Balance Class March thru May at the Lower Macungie Township building in partnership with St. Luke's Trauma Outreach Program Director
16. Member of the National Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association. Accepted a Board of Director position representing Synod District 7 Parish Nurses at the start of 2023. Creation of meeting agendas and facilitation of peer support meetings for Synod Regions 7 and 8.
17. Presentation on Faith Community Nursing role for Synod Learning Ministry Day in January and to Christ Lutheran during October Stewardship Month.

Care Giving Team Liaison:

1. Coordinator for the Care Giving Team ministries, see Care Giving Annual Report
2. Donation distribution from church ministry groups & parishioners to community agencies, individuals or families in need

FCN Service Projects 2023:

1. Participation & collaboration with Outreach team leader for monthly CLC drive-up food collection events and assistance with transport of donations to New Jerusalem Church or families in need.
2. Personal Care Kits x 15 gifted through the Blessing Box in 2023
3. Thrivent sponsored Family meal gift bags x 37 service project for the Blessing Box, families in need, or illness.
 - a. With Gratitude to Louise Wagner & Lila Dobrowolski for helping to assemble meals bags
4. GWOH 2023 Co-coordinator. Execution of FCN stuffed animal project for St. Luke's Pediatric Hospital.
5. December Christmas service blitz supported by FCN's Thrivent grant
 - a. Homebound Christmas caroling
 - b. Holiday cookie tray for Saucon Valley Manor Christmas service
 - c. FCN holiday gifts to homebound

(continued)

Faith Community Fellowship Friday Events:

- a. February: DeSales production "The Importance of being Ernest"
- b. March: Phantoms Hockey Game
- c. April: Newcomer Social at Carriage House
- d. May: Movie Night featuring adult "80 for Brady" and youth "Fern Gully"
- e. June: Annual Summer Church Social at Steele Club
- f. July: Iron Pigs game
- h. August: Deck Night socials
- i. September: No event with GWOH
- j. October: Oktoberfest coordinated by Angela Drake
- k. November: Fleetwood Mac Rumors cover band @ State Theater
- l. December: Tree Lighting with Reindeer theme

Respectfully submitted,
Enid Rank, BSN, RN
Faith Community Nurse

Care Giving Team Report

The Care Giving Ministries at Christ Lutheran focus on the ministries within the Faith Community that support parishioners, families, and the local community. The Faith Community Nurse continues to utilize the Care Giving ministry resources of Christ Lutheran as needed. The team hosts service opportunities throughout the year to support the Homebound, Faith Community, and some in collaboration with the Outreach Team, for additional community oriented service opportunities. The Care Giving Team hosts Coffee Hour to network with parishioners.

A. The active ministries within Care Giving Team in 2023:

1. The Blessing Box: Coordinator Enid Rank

Christ Lutheran's Blessing Box was certainly blessed by the continued generosity of many community donors, the monthly food drive-through events and parishioners, all who faithfully gifted much needed food support to the local community. The Blessing Box has seen an increase in usage as families struggle with increased prices of food.

† Grateful for neighbors helping neighbors. A Thrivent service team financed the creation of family meal kits for the blessing box.

2. The Card Ministry: Coordinator Enid Rank

Anniversary, Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Thinking of You, Valentine, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas cards. The Card Ministry is also supported by e-greetings and homebound cards generated by the Faith Community Nurse.

3. The Eucharistic Lay Ministry: Coordinator Enid Rank

The Lay Eucharistic Ministers are utilized during the Faith Community's monthly communion service. Quiet Communion is facilitated by Eucharistic Team once a month. Pastor Phil and the Faith Community Nurse are continuing monthly communion rounds with the activity director for the memory units at Saucon Valley Manor, in addition to a small holiday service for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. We've also added a monthly communion offering for the residents of Saucon Manor Apartments. The Faith Community Nurse coordinates and schedules the above communion offerings.

† With gratitude to Enid Rank for officiating Quiet Communion

† With gratitude to Donna Bergstresser, Sheryl Caliguire, and Josh Gulotta for assisting with SVM communion when Pastor or Faith Community Nurse are unavailable

† With gratitude to Bonnie Banks-Beers for providing music for SVM holiday services

4. Love Is Food Today, L.I.F.T: Lori Gough coordinator

LIFT food support is used for new moms, post hospitalization, and special circumstances.

† With gratitude to all the earthly angels that make soup & meals to support the needs within the Faith Community.

5. Prayer Chain Ministry: Email Prayer Chain Coordinator, Enid Rank

The electronic prayer chain activates prayer requests for those with email capabilities.

6. The Prayer Shawl Ministry: Coordinator Enid Rank

Baby Blankets, Prayer shawls, Prayer pockets, Winter Accessories and Baby outfits were gifted throughout the year. St. Luke's Hospice House received a donation of Prayer shawls.

† With gratitude to Rose Bachik, Nancy Bokan, Kathy Kach, and Evelyn Patterson for their hand-made creations donated this past year

7. Quilters: Coordinators Mary Ann Horvath and Alice Karpa. See report from Alice Karpa on behalf of the Quilters.

† Grateful for the many donations of baby blankets, and quilts generously outreach to both Community partners and to the Faith Community for baptisms and GIGGLES new baby baskets

8. Sanctuary Prayer Box: The sanctuary box prayer petitions are forwarded to the bulletin prayer list and/or prayer chain by the Faith Community Nurse.

9. Soup Ministry: Coordinators Lori Gough & Enid Rank

Monthly soup ministry deliveries to the homebound were completed, ~146 meals.

† With gratitude to Lori Gough for her donation of food & time to prepare our monthly food offerings & goodie bags

† With gratitude to Jeanette Alosi, Carol Dishmon, Lori Gough, and Enid Rank for assisting with meal deliveries

† With gratitude for the homemade baked goods provided by Ruth Sterner for January distribution

† With gratitude to Rose Bachik for her craft project donations that bring great joy to the homebound

B. Inactive Care Giving Ministries in 2023

1. The Funeral Luncheon Ministry

C. Care Giving Service projects 2023

1. January Family Promise adopt a family. Donated gift cards and new household items for a Lehigh Valley family moving into independent living

2. 32 Easter baskets assembled & donated through financing by the Quilters

3. Prayer Shawl Ministry Donation of 11 shawls to St. Luke's Hospice House. 19 baby blankets, infant layette crochet sets or prayer pockets for GIGGLE's new baby baskets, Baptisms, and FCN visits
4. "God's Work. Our Hands" sponsored projects: Communion & Ice cream social at Saucon Manor Apartments; Collaboration with Property Team & Confirmation group for a comprehensive senior yard project; Collaboration with GIGGLES for Fall craft items for the Homebound and for Saucon Manor Apt support group; Collaboration with GIGGLES for Front St. Senior Bingo
5. Thanksgiving turkey & food supplies for a family within Faith Community
6. Narthex Christmas Tree holiday cards for the Homebound campaign
7. Caroling & Homebound distribution of holiday ornaments

D. 2024 Goals: Involve new volunteers in the Care Giving Ministries. Imagine new service initiatives.

May Compassion & Love continue to guide Christ Lutheran's Care Giving efforts in 2024!

Respectfully submitted,
Enid Rank
Care Giving Team Lead

Connections with Each Other (CWEO) Team Report

The *Connections with Each Other* Team provides support to members. Our focus is to provide hospitality and give members and visitors an exceptional experience both during Sunday morning services and social events.

Team Members: Louise Wagner (Team Leader), Lee Wagner, Carolyn Raudenbush, Rachel Anthony (Council Liaison), Lois Apple, Jeanette Boos, Dale Hazel, Nancy DeVogel, Terry Long

Our social activities for 2023 were back on track, and I'm pleased to report that we continue to welcome many new members.

Activities for 2023

- March - Soup Supper
- April - Newcomer Social held at the Carriage House
- May - Brunch for New Comers
- June - Brunch for Children's Learning Center
- June - Summer Social at Steel Club
- Octoberfest - Oktoberfest
- November - Holiday Bazaar
- November - Stewardship Coffee Hour
- December - Christmas Tree Lighting

We have a new volunteer, Mariah Butterfield, to coordinate our Coffee Hour in 2024, and we ask everyone to step up and support Mariah. We would also like to thank our groups such as the Quilters, Men's Group, GIGGLES, Enid, our Faith Community Nurse, and other members of our congregation who have helped provide this opportunity for fellowship after the service every week.

Sunday Brunch continued through 2023, and once again, we would like to thank our "Breakfast Guys" and additional volunteers who continue to make this happen.

Our Bunco Group started back up in September of 2023 and will meet through May. We do not get together during the summer months. For those who are not familiar with "Bunco," it's a dice game (no gambling involved) that a group of 12 women enjoy on a monthly basis to provide fun, fellowship and an opportunity to provide small contributions to church-related programs.

We have many rewarding volunteer opportunities available, and we look forward to new team members contributing to the growth of Christ Lutheran Church by sharing their time and talents.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Wagner
CWEO Team Lead

Connections with Our Community (CWOC) Team Report

Team Members: Carolyn Brzezicki, Nancy DeVogel, Ken Doremus, Dave Jackson, Dave Willard

Staff Liaison: Debbi Pereira (Communications Specialist)

The resources and output from this team were greatly enhanced when a part-time Communications Specialist was hired this year. Debbi Pereira was selected based on her background with small businesses in website development, social media, e-commerce, and other communications. Much of the Team's time in early 2023 was spent reviewing the church website and other communications materials to bring Debbi up to speed.

The team met regularly to review communications with Debbi and give her input, suggestions, and requests. Many of the communications throughout the year were initiated by Pastor Phil, Barry Stauffer, Josh Gulotta, Enid Rank, and the Children's Learning Center.

A major project for the Team was Hellertown Community Day held in Dimmick Park on Saturday, August 19. Christ Lutheran had two booth spaces to showcase the church and the Children's Learning Center. Carolyn Brzezicki and Nancy DeVogel were Co-Captains for Christ Lutheran on Community Day. They did a great job recruiting volunteers and managing the booth. A number of church members represented our church at Community Day, including assigned volunteers and other members who dropped by during the day. Raffles and youth activities attracted booth visitors and engaged the community to learn more about Christ Lutheran and our mission. Thanks to Kevin Gough and Mike Karpa for handling the set-up and teardown of the booth.

Another project of our team was to update the Christ Lutheran Welcome Brochure ("Connect with Us"). We decided to use an existing format with revised copy and new illustrations. The brochure was completed in time for the Holiday Bazaar (11/18) and New Member Sunday (11/19).

This is the end of my term as Team Leader for Connections with Our Community. All current members have agreed to remain on the team. We will strive to continue building connections through effective communications. The purpose for our team is to let our community know about the unique character, welcoming spirit, and many programs and opportunities that Christ Lutheran Church has to offer.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Willard

CWOC Team Lead

Finance Team Report

Summaries for the 2023 financials and 2024 annual budget are included in this packet and will be explained during the annual meeting.

During 2023 the church received over \$18,000 more in contributions than budgeted and spent \$11,000 less than budgeted. This gave us a net profit for the year of over \$40,000. The Learning Center's receipts were about \$15,000 less than anticipated and their expenses were \$24,000 more than budgeted, leaving them with a deficit of about \$40,000.

The 2024 church budget was set to assume that expenses are in line with anticipated revenues which were based primarily on the 2024 pledge campaign, 2023 giving, and anticipated attendance at the Church.

The 2024 Learning Center budget is balanced with both the income and expenses increasing by 10%. A price increase in February and a substantial waiting list should allow us to meet the income increase. The cost increase is primarily led by raises necessary to obtain and retain teachers.

The Finance Team is currently working on the best ways to fund some property expenses and creating a list of specific needs that could be funded with memorial funds, both new and old. If any of the congregation has any suggestions, we would be glad to hear them.

Jim McCallister joined the Finance Team earlier this year and is going to take over as Team Leader after our annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Uttard
Finance Team Lead

Mutual Ministry Team Report

Team Members Participating in 2023

Anne Baum, Nancy DeVogel, Karen Milla, Ali Myers, Lou Savant

Executive Summary

The role of a Mutual Ministry Team is to act as a human resources function, with involvement in staffing, personnel matters, staff compensation analysis, training, maintaining the church employee handbook, and ensuring Christ Lutheran adheres to employment laws. The Mutual Ministry Team provides support for Church Council, management staff, and employees in personnel related matters.

Mutual Ministry Team Vision

The Vision for Mutual Ministry Team is to provide supportive counsel and enable Church staff and Council to effectively manage the operations of the church related to personnel.

What Support Does Mutual Ministry Provide?

- Review documents for content, potential compliance considerations, and provide ideas/suggestions (e.g., job descriptions, performance evaluation forms, policies, etc.).
- Conduct an annual review of the Employee Handbook to keep current with laws, regulations, and industry best practices.
- Advise on personnel related issues when church staff and council members feel they need additional support or ideas.
- Provide a safe outlet for church employees to contact and ensure Christ Lutheran provides a safe, fair, equitable, and supportive work environment.
- Interviewing and hiring support for department heads and when Church Council or an appointed Hiring Committee needs additional help.

Key Activities in 2023:

- Conducted an annual review of Church personnel policies and payroll.
- Updated the Time-Off policies in the Church Employee Handbook. Updates were approved by Church Council.
- Provided guidance to the Learning Center Director on the handling of personnel issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Savant
Mutual Ministry Team Lead

Outreach Team Report

Christ Lutheran's Service/Outreach ministry is a way for church members and friends to impact our community and beyond. We do this by volunteering for and financing projects that will positively affect the lives of those who are in need of basic services such as food, clothing and shelter. Our goals in 2024 are to continue to strengthen are current programs while seeking new areas of ministry that will inspire our members and friends to make a difference in Hellertown and beyond

- A small core of church members pick up and deliver bakery items from Giant Hellertown on weekdays to New Bethany in southside Bethlehem. On average, we deliver 25 to 40 pounds of items daily to New Bethany. This ministry is in need of volunteers who can serve as substitutes or backups as needed.
- Christ Lutheran supplements the Hellertown Area Food Bank's twice-a-month distribution of canned and dry goods with fresh produce from Valley Farm Market. This ministry is financed through donations and the annual church budget. For 2024, we are committed to a bi-monthly financial commitment of \$250 per trip for fresh produce.
- The Church Garden produced 493.25 pounds of produce and 27.25 gallons of lettuce in 2023. This was very close to last year's totals. *(Please see Angela Drake's Church Garden & Produce Report)*
- We collected approximately 5,000 canned and dry goods for the Hellertown Area Food Bank and our Blessing Box. These were collected through weekly Sunday donations and our monthly, community drive-by events. In addition, we donated 98 pounds of potatoes, 56 pounds of onions and 17 pounds of apples to the food bank from our fall Harvest Home event.
- Christ Lutheran members made quarts of chicken noodle soup in February and September for the clients of New Bethany. More than 130 quarts were delivered to New Bethany from the two events, which were covered by Thrivent Action grants.
- Christ Lutheran participated in the annual Bethlehem/Easton Mission District Ingathering event in November and early December. We fulfilled our requested amounts of tissue boxes and deodorant products by collecting 251 tissue boxes and 131 deodorants. We collected 91 pairs of socks and a total of 55 hats, scarfs and gloves. Our congregation donated \$350 to cover the purchase of additional items. The 2023 Ingathering benefited eight non-profit organizations including clients of the Hellertown Area Food Bank, New Bethany, Turning Point and Victory House.
- In early 2023, Christ Lutheran utilized a pair of \$250 Thrivent Action grants to help two families move from temporary housing into permanent apartments through Family Promise of Lehigh Valley. We provided the families with new dishes, cutlery, bathroom rugs and shower curtains, pots and pans, paper products and window blinds.
- In December, Christ Lutheran members and friends purchased and wrapped numerous Christmas gifts (toys and clothing) for the children of Hellertown Area Food Bank clients.

Respectfully submitted,
Corky Blake
Outreach Team Lead

Church Garden & Produce Report

The church garden is a visible demonstration of our produce program. Roughly half the garden space is devoted to charity produce including blueberries that go exclusively to homebound folks of our church, flat garden space where we grow winter squash to donate to the food bank and 9-10 beds where fresh vegetables are grown for donation to the food bank and to the senior housing apartments at Front Street and Northampton Street. At the Front Street apartments, we began a program in which people signed up for a CSA. We asked them for likes and dislikes and 11 people who signed up received a bag of fresh veggies whenever we harvested them for others than the food bank. This way we were able to more fairly distribute the vegetables rather than people picking vegetables unsupervised that resulted in the majority of the veggies going to just a few people.

This past growing year we had fewer gardeners than usual -- five not including spouses but we had two beds devoted to the youth of the church. At least once or twice a week the kids helped in those beds. They also helped harvest for charity (did an excellent job of that) and weeded around the garden. They were a joy to teach and to share the wonders of growing food! We hope to have more adult gardeners this season. I have two to three new folks to add to the group. Even though we don't charge a fee, the garden requires weeding, harvesting and packaging produce, so there is a cost in terms of time and effort. We also had a Sign-up Genius to attract harvesting help that was somewhat successful.

Twice a month we buy produce for the food bank's dates of operation. We added more money this past year as the food bank had more clients. This is funded through donations and the church budget. Fresh produce is somewhat of a luxury for those who have limited funds to purchase food. We get large amount (\$500) gift cards for Valley Farm Market, which gives us \$25 in free produce plus every \$500 we spend we get \$5 off. We are careful shoppers taking advantage of seasonal produce and sale items to get the best quality produce at the best price. We buy veggies and fruit, which are a luxury for those in need of help with grocery buying. We deliver it to the Hellertown Area Food Bank at New Jerusalem Lutheran and set it up on the produce tables so it is ready to give out the next morning. We started a Sign-up Genius for this program too, and it was successful at providing coverage for all produce shopping.

Our fresh food programs provide consistent amounts of fresh veggies and fruit to the food bank every month. The food bank can rely on our church to support this area of food giving year round. When the garden is producing veggies, we are able to give more because of the garden's bounty. In early spring we sign up people at the food bank to receive free vegetable seeds and plants. They are distributed in April and May to help people help themselves by growing their own fresh tomatoes, peppers, beans, lettuce, etc. That program is funded by a Thrivent grant.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Drake

Property Team Report

The Property Team's mission is to help care for the church building, grounds and property of the congregation. To accomplish this, we will rely on the experience and knowledge of our team members and their contacts throughout the contractor industry. The team will perform research for the purpose of making educated recommendations to church council and perform selected tasks internally at our own discretion. Numerous maintenance action items have been addressed throughout the year. Following are project highlights:

2023 Projects

- Spring Clean Up: mulched around property including Labyrinth, added river stone to several areas, painted gazebo, trimmed shrubs, weeded and general property clean up.
- Installed gate on top of exterior steps on northside, lower level learning center exit.
- Replaced old shelving with utility shelving in Pre-School bathroom.
- Replaced hardscaping under corner outdoor bench and reworked hardscaping under bench next to south lounge entrance.
- Installed two new railing on south lounge stairwell.
- Unearthed drainage outlet at edge of property and replaced crushed pipe.

Potential 2024 Projects

- Replace front Narthex doors with a handicap accessible solution.
- Seal coat macadam and line stripe parking areas.
- Evaluate six vintage HVAC units in spring. Potentially replace poor performing units.
- Repair shed and install vinyl siding.
- Replace flooring, ceiling tiles and lighting in Fellowship Hall restrooms/hallway.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Karpa
Property Team Lead

Stewardship Team Report

Thank you everyone for your financial contributions, as well as for giving of your time and talent throughout 2023! We genuinely appreciate all the resources each of you continue to contribute towards our many programs, services, and improvement projects.

Our goal for 2024 is to continue implementing our strategic plan to **S.T.R.I.V.E.** toward **S**uccessful ministries, a **T**hriving faith community, **R**elationships with God and each other, **I**nclusivity, **V**olunteering, and **E**xpanding our reach.

The results of this November's Stewardship Campaign were the best in recent history. Overall, we received **93** pledge cards for **2024**, compared to **82** received for **2023**. The total **2024** financial amount pledged of **\$344,098** exceeds the **2023** pledged amount by **\$63,897**! Included in these amounts are **\$27,324** pledged towards the Faith Community Nurse, **\$43,812** towards the Youth & Family Minister, **\$2,232** to the Food Bank and an additional Employee Bonus pledge of **\$100**. Important to note is that, included in the numbers above, a total of **\$47,680** was pledged for **2024** by our **17** new church member families!

In addition to the Annual Stewardship Campaign held each fall, 2023 also marked the second year of "Special Monthly Envelopes". In January we had a "Special Monthly Envelope" to help support our church's ministry of supporting our local Hellertown Food Bank & raised a total of **\$3,348**. In May, our "Special" envelope was to help support the salary for our Faith Community Nurse and a total of **\$6,627** was raised. In September, we had another "Special Monthly Envelope" to help support the salary of our Youth and Family Minister and a total of **\$14,752** was given. We will continue the "Special Monthly Envelopes" throughout 2024, while also limiting the number to 3-4 per year. We thank you for being so supportive of these ministries.

2023 also marked the beginning of monthly team leader presentations. Having one leader of a ministry team present at one service per month gives the congregation an opportunity to learn more of what each ministry team does and provides information about how to get involved. We anticipate continuing this throughout 2024.

As we move into next year, in addition to building on what we did this last year, we will be focusing on several important initiatives that we were not able to begin in 2023. These involve the following:

- A. Getting more members to give online via the church website or from their bank
- B. Providing education on the benefits of giving through your IRA RMD(s) (Required Minimum Distributions)
- C. Providing education on how to include Christ Lutheran Hellertown in your Estate Planning

Jesus teaches us that generous giving of our time, talent, and treasure is how we show our love for one another, so let's spread the love & get involved!

Thank you for all you do. Now let's continue to **S.T.R.I.V.E.** to do more!

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Myers
Stewardship Team Lead

Worship & Music Team Report

Altar Guild – Alice Karpa , Kathy Paskewicz and Leeanne Weirback. Altar Guild enriched the look and feel of our sanctuary and ensured that supplies are always on hand for communion, baptisms, devotional & altar candle lightings and other special service needs. Flowers and altar decorations enhanced Easter, Harvest Home, Advent, Christmas, and other special services.

Sunday Music – Steve Wysocki, Music Director, lead various musical offerings with the Praise Band, choir ensembles and other vocalists and instrumentalists. He also continues to provide wonderful Prelude/Postlude selections on the organ. Bonnie Banks Beers filled in for Steve when needed and led the Chime Choir during Lent, Memorial Day Sunday, and other special Sundays.

First Wednesday Meditation – Ferd Piccuiro and Bonnie Banks-Beers. In-person and virtual attendance averaged 10 people (7 In person; 3 Streaming). Thank you to Ken Doremus for supporting the audio-visual portion of these services.

Summer Music – Bonnie Banks Beers, Assistant Music Director, coordinated 12 Summer Sundays with vocalists and musicians performing various genres of uplifting music. Bonnie also accompanied some soloists and provided Prelude/Postlude music as needed. The variety of music was unique and included congregational contributions from Ferd Piccuiro, Josh Gulotta and the Praise Band.

PowerPoint/Live Streaming – Ken Doremus, Tia Kentopp, and Mark Stana selflessly present weekly PowerPoint content, created by Barry Stauffer, while directing video streaming for Zoom and Facebook.

Attendance – Sunday service averages:

	2019 2 Services Pre-Covid	2022 1 Service Return - In Person	2023 1 Service Post-Covid
In-Person	151	95	126
Streaming*	N/A	41	35
Total	151	136	161

* Streaming = # connections; may undercount viewership

Christmas Eve – Two services: 272 people attended the 4pm service (190 last year) including 6 streaming and 233 attended the 7pm service (181 last year) including 17 streaming). Thank you to the youth and congregants who helped the Altar Guild in decorating the church for the holiday.

Other supported activities:

Tree Lighting – Our December 1st tree lighting ceremony, organized by Enid Rank, included indoor (rain) Christmas carols led by Josh Gulotta and Steve Wysocki, hot chocolate and treats, followed by a family Christmas movie in the sanctuary.

Caroling – Coordinated by Enid Rank and Steve Wysocki, brought Christmas cheer to local friends of Christ Lutheran, and the carolers gathered for food and fellowship afterwards.

Saucon Valley Manor – Bonnie Banks Beers, Josh Gulotta, Enid Rank and Pastor Phil brought Christmas cheer and carol singing to the manor again this year.

Volunteers – Volunteers are a vital part of our Worship & Music ministry. We are blessed to have so many dedicated people contributing to our service experience. My thanks to all W&M Team members, readers, communion servers, ushers & greeters (and to Enid who coordinates them), praise band and choir members, chimers, soloists, musicians, and the audio-visual team. You are truly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Kurt Rank
Worship & Music Team Lead

Quilters Report

The Quilters are a great group of women (we are always looking for men to join) who keep their hands busy all year. We hand quilt tops for customers, make lap quilts to sell at craft shows and donate quilts to various organizations. We are happy to report we added two new members this year. Welcome Josh and Cheryl!

We quilt on Wednesdays 8:30am-1:30pm and Thursday 5:30-7:30pm and welcome new quilters at any skill level. We teach!

We donated 81 lap or twin quilts to various organizations including St. Luke's Hospice, Family Promise, Faith Community Nurse, Hellertown Library, Sanctuary at Haafsville and Bear Creek Auction.

We quilted seven tops for customers which were queen and king size for a total of \$1,230.00.

We did five Craft Shows this year. Between the shows and using Facebook Marketplace, we were able to sell 190 quilts, 19 tree skirts, and six twin quilts.

During 2023, we were able to donate our profits for the Annual Summer Social @ Steel Club, contribute to two memorial funds, year-end bonuses, Faith Community Nurse and Youth & Family Minister positions, microphones for the sanctuary, and new hand railings on steps to Fellowship Hall.

Our year always concludes with a beautiful lunch and gift exchange. We have a dedicated group who keep their hands busy all year so we can spread joy and help others!

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Karpa

					Christ Lutheran Church		
					P&L Statement v. Budget		
					Church		
					For Year Ended December 31, 2023		
					Actual	2023	
					2023	Budget	\$ Variance
Ordinary Income/Expense							
Income							
CHURCH							
Total 40000 · Contributions					418,181	400,000	18,181
Total 41000 · Church Projects & Programs					177	500	(323)
42100 · Faith Community Nurse					37,141	37,141	0
42150 · Youth & Family Minister					50,616	50,008	608
42200 · Facility Contribution					964	0	964
Total 42300 · Outreach Donation					5,225	6,000	(775)
42400 · Employee Bonus Contributions					12,091	0	12,091
42910 · Reimbursed Incremental Cost CLC					87,095	87,095	0
42999 · Misc Income					392	0	392
43000 · Bank interest					2,314		
Total CHURCH					614,196	580,744	33,452
Total Income					614,196	580,744	33,452
Expense							
CHURCH EXP							
Total 60000 · GROSS PAYROLL					316,986	316,301	685
Total 60300 · Church Payroll Taxes and Fees					21,610	21,668	(58)
Total 60400 · PASTORAL SUPPLEMENTS					75,199	74,392	807
Total 60700 · YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY SUPPLEM					417	0	417
61000 · Ministry Teams							
Total 61100 · CAREGIVING					4,226	4,200	26
Total 61200 · CONNECTIONS WITH COMMUNITY					4,168	4,497	(329)
Total 61300 · CONNECTIONS WITH MEMBERS					2,658	1,500	1,158
Total 61400 · FAITH FORMATION					6,701	5,200	1,501
Total 61500 · STEWARDSHIP					3,747	6,671	(2,924)
Total 61600 · OUTREACH					24,224	25,000	(776)
Total 61700 · WORSHIP AND MUSIC					4,239	7,600	(3,361)
Total 61000 · Ministry Teams					49,963	54,668	(4,705)
Total 62000 · INSURANCE					15,564	15,331	233
Total 62100 · MORTGAGE					0	0	0
Total 62300 · OFFICE EXP.					28,949	27,722	1,227
Total 62400 · PROPERTY					40,280	35,119	5,161
Total 62500 · UTILITIES					24,310	39,014	(14,704)
Total CHURCH EXP					573,278	584,215	(10,937)
Total Expense					573,278	584,215	(10,937)
Net Ordinary Income - Church					40,918	(3,471)	44,389

				Christ Lutheran Church		
				P&L Statement v. Budget		
				Learning Center		
				For Year Ended December 31, 2023		
				Actual	2023	
				2023	YTD Budget	\$ Variance
Ordinary Income/Expense						
Income						
LEARNING CENTER						
47000 · DayCare Fees				701,575	729,708	(28,133)
47100 · Title XX				22,818	48,000	(25,182)
47101 · Grant Funding				40,033	0	40,033
47150 · Fundraising				1,379	3,000	(1,621)
Total LEARNING CENTER				765,805	780,708	(14,903)
Total Income				765,805	780,708	(14,903)
Expense						
LEARNING CENTER EXP						
67000 · LC Employment						
Total 67100 · PAYROLL Expense				626,644	602,467	24,177
67150 · LC Employer Payroll taxes				46,525	46,029	496
67151 · PA Workforce Grant - ER Tax				3,439	0	3,439
Total 67000 · LC Employment				676,608	648,496	28,112
67160 · Worker's Compensation				4,644	5,373	(729)
67200 · Continuing Education				713	700	13
67250 · Curriculum				3,859	2,000	1,859
Total 67300 · Supplies				2,224	6,700	(4,476)
67350 · Food				4,583	4,200	383
67400 · Software Database				3,163	1,980	1,183
67500 · Certifications				215	440	(225)
67550 · Summer Camp				4,589	4,700	(111)
67600 · Special Events				1,025	2,000	(975)
67700 · Advertising				454	2,500	(2,046)
67800 · Equipment				1,015	2,500	(1,485)
67850 · LC Director's Discretionary				1,530	1,800	(270)
67900 · Tuition Payment Processing Fees				13,030	10,216	2,814
67910 · Incremental Cost reimbursement				87,095	87,095	0
Total LEARNING CENTER EXP				804,747	780,700	24,047
Total Expense				804,747	780,700	24,047
Net Ordinary Income - Learning Center				(38,942)	8	(38,950)
Net Ordinary Income - Church				40,918	(3,471)	44,389
Net Ordinary Income - Church & Learning Center Combined				1,976	(3,463)	5,439

Christ Lutheran Church						
Balance Sheet w/ previous Year End						
As of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022						
					Dec 31, 2023	Dec 31, 2022
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Checking/Savings						
BB&T						
10000 · Checking					85,060	76,773
10500 · Savings					4,531	268,565
Total BB&T					89,591	345,338
10600 · Morgan Stanley						
10601 · Endowment					399,731	373,565
10602 · Maintenance					49,685	44,845
10603 · Memorial					188,620	164,881
10604 · Scholarship					85,557	75,618
10606 · Savings Alternative						
10550 · Morg Stan Preferred Savings					50,000	0
10575 · Morg Stan Cert of Dep 23 06 15					50,000	0
10585 · Morg Stan Cert of Dep 23 12 18					50,000	0
10590 · Morg Stan Cert of Dep 24 03 15					50,000	0
10606 · Savings Alternative - Other					261,756	238,382
Total 10606 · Savings Alternative					461,756	238,382
Total 10600 · Morgan Stanley					1,185,349	897,291
10650 · Mission Investment Fund - 1 YR					50,000	0
10700 · Mission Investment Fund 4149					259	258
Total Checking/Savings					1,325,199	1,242,887
Total Current Assets					1,325,199	1,242,887
TOTAL ASSETS					1,325,199	1,242,887
LIABILITIES & EQUITY						
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Credit Cards						
22000 · Capital One Credit Card					0	1,000
Total Credit Cards					0	1,000
Other Current Liabilities						
Total 23000 · Designated & Restricted Funds					505,468	506,950
Total Other Current Liabilities					505,468	506,950
Total Current Liabilities					505,468	507,950
Total Liabilities					505,468	507,950
Equity						
30000 · Opening Bal Equity					430,083	430,083
31000 · Unrealized Gain					155,869	61,024
31001 · Portfolio Income					(94,773)	(82,743)
39000 · Retained Earnings					326,576	261,296
Net Income					1,978	65,280
Total Equity					819,733	734,940
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY					1,325,201	1,242,890

Christ Lutheran Church									
2024 Budget									
Church									
				2024	2023		2023		
				Budget	Actual	\$ Variance	Annual Budget	\$ Variance	
Ordinary Income/Expense									
Income									
CHURCH									
Total 40000 · Contributions				420,662	418,181	2,481	400,000	20,662	
Total 41000 · Church Projects & Programs				500	177	323	500	0	
42100 · Faith Community Nurse				38,626	37,141	1,485	37,141	1,485	
42150 · Youth & Family Minister				53,825	50,616	3,209	50,008	3,817	
42200 · Facility Contribution				0	964	(964)	0	0	
Total 42300 · Outreach Donation				7,200	5,225	1,975	6,000	1,200	
42400 · Employee Bonus Contributions					12,091		0		
42910 · Reimbursed Incremental Cost CLC				85,261	87,095	(1,834)	87,095	(1,834)	
42999 · Misc Income				0	392	(392)	0	0	
43000 · Bank interest				0	2,314	(2,314)		0	
Total CHURCH				606,075	614,196	(8,121)	580,744	25,331	
Total Income				606,075	614,196	(8,121)	580,744	25,331	
Expense									
CHURCH EXP									
Total 60000 · GROSS PAYROLL				330,019	316,986	13,033	316,301	13,718	
Total 60300 · Church Payroll Taxes and Fees				22,641	21,610	1,031	21,668	973	
Total 60400 · PASTORAL SUPPLEMENTS				76,722	75,199	1,523	74,392	2,330	
Total 60700 · YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY SUPPLEMENTS				800	417	383	0	800	
61000 · Ministry Teams									
Total 61100 · CAREGIVING				4,400	4,226	174	4,200	200	
Total 61200 · CONNECTIONS WITH COMMUNITY				4,400	4,168	232	4,497	(97)	
Total 61300 · CONNECTIONS WITH MEMBERS				1,750	2,658	(908)	1,500	250	
Total 61400 · FAITH FORMATION				8,440	6,701	1,739	5,200	3,240	
Total 61500 · STEWARDSHIP				5,260	3,747	1,513	6,671	(1,411)	
Total 61600 · OUTREACH				25,950	24,224	1,726	25,000	950	
Total 61700 · WORSHIP AND MUSIC				7,250	4,239	3,011	7,600	(350)	
Total 61000 · Ministry Teams				57,450	49,963	7,487	54,668	2,782	
Total 62000 · INSURANCE				16,632	15,564	1,068	15,331	1,301	
Total 62300 · OFFICE EXP.				32,270	28,949	3,321	27,722	4,548	
Total 62400 · PROPERTY				42,175	40,280	1,895	35,119	7,056	
Total 62500 · UTILITIES				26,741	24,310	2,431	39,014	(12,273)	
Total CHURCH EXP				605,450	573,278	32,172	584,215	21,235	
Total Expense				605,450	573,278	32,172	584,215	21,235	
Net Ordinary Income - Church				625	40,918	(40,293)	(3,471)	4,096	

Christ Lutheran Church					
Designated & Restricted Funds					
As of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022					
				Dec 31, 2023	Dec 31, 2022
23000 · Designated & Restricted Funds					
	23002 · AV Live Streaming Upgrade			146	2,942
	23005 · Bazaar / Cookbooks			692	268
	23010 · Breakfast			422	865
	23020 · Bunco			470	140
	23030 · Church Beautification			18,754	17,619
	23034 · Contingency Reserve			50,000	50,000
	23040 · Employee Bonus/ Christmas party			2,472	1,280
	23070 · Faith Community Nurse			37,140	15,038
	23075 · FCN Discretionary Fund			2,413	1,099
	23080 · Food Bank			9,112	1,520
	23085 · Community Garden			634	401
	23110 · Giggles Ministry			3,080	2,513
	23125 · Labyrinth			22	123
	23130 · Memorial Monies			3,370	5,019
	23146 · Flowers - Special Services			963	763
	23150 · Prayer Shawl			280	280
	23160 · Quilters			15,417	12,762
	23165 · Speaker Series			3,000	3,000
	23170 · Undesignated Bequests			5,538	5,538
	23190 · Youth Activities			26,788	25,647
	23195 · Youth & Family Minister			92,927	115,130
	23212 · Temporary Programs			(322)	0
	23600 · Working Cap 50K			50,000	50,000
	23700 · Endowment - Benevolent Fund				
	23725 · ELCA World hunger			20	20
	23730 · Endowment Memorial Distribution			12,068	12,068
	Total 23700 · Endowment - Benevolent Fund			12,088	12,088
	23800 · Endowment - Church Fund				
	23801 · Pastor's Discretionary Account			1,513	2,476
	23805 · Y&F Minister's Discretionary Fn			1,998	2,090
	23810 · LED Replacement			191	191
	23820 · Kitchen Improvements			3,000	3,000
	23825 · ADA Compint Pews			1,000	0
	Total 23800 · Endowment - Church Fund			7,702	7,757
	27000 · Learning Center D&R				
	27100 · LC Donation			105	3,423
	27200 · LC Security Deposits			13,666	13,582
	27300 · LC Helping Hands Fund			5,225	802
	27450 · LC State Grant			143,364	153,828
	27451 · LC - PA Workforce Grant			0	3,523
	Total 27000 · Learning Center D&R			162,360	175,158
	Total 23000 · Designated & Restricted Funds			505,468	506,950

Endowment Trustees Committee Report

Five funds are managed by the Trustees - Balances as of Dec. 31, 2022 and 2023

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Endowment Trust Fund	\$373,565	\$ 399,730
Memorial Trust Fund	\$164,882	\$ 188,619
Scholarship Fund	\$ 75,618	\$ 85,557
Maintenance Fund	\$ 44,844	\$ 49,685
Savings Alternative	<u>\$238,382</u>	<u>\$ 461,756</u>
Total	\$897,291	\$1,185,347

The assets in all funds are professionally managed by Morgan Stanley to provide stable, short and long term funding to CLC for the objectives of each fund.

The Endowment Trust Funds (Section A below) are governed by Pennsylvania Trust Regulations and Endowment Trust Agreements with CLC that define the authority and responsibilities of the Trustees.

Under Pennsylvania Trust Regulations, the money available for annual distribution from the Endowment and Memorial Trust Funds is between 2% and 7% of fund assets. The Maximum Percentage distribution for each year is determined by the Endowment Committee Trustees under the Endowment Committee By-Laws approved in 2019 by The Council. Pastor and The Council select an amount within the 2% and current year Maximum Percentage.

A. Endowment Funds

1. CLC Endowment Trust Fund

The CLC Endowment Fund was established in 1988, by a contribution from The Harrison and Myrtie Prosser Charitable Trust. The Trustee of the Prosser Trust requires fifty percent (50%) of the distribution from the fund be used for benevolent projects and activities outside CLC. The remaining fifty percent is to be used for projects and ministries which normally are not in the operating budget of the church.

The charitable organizations outside CLC selected to receive a contribution are proposed to The Council by the Endowment Mission Team. The Mission Team is required to solicit suggestions from the congregation, make recommendations for the distribution of funds, and have them approved by The Council.

2. CLC Memorial Trust Fund

The CLC Memorial Trust Fund Agreement states the trust fund was created to encourage stewardship for religious and charitable projects other than those provided for in the current budget of the church.

B. Special Funds (Managed by The Trustees to provide funding as requested by Pastor and The Council)

1. Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund was established for contributions designated to provide scholarships to members of the congregation. Interested members complete an application. The Scholarship Team reviews the applications and awards scholarships based on qualifications.

(continued)

2. Maintenance Fund

The Maintenance Fund was established for contributions designated to provide funds for major repairs and maintenance, including organ maintenance.

3. Savings Alternative

An interest-bearing cash and cash equivalent account maintained at Morgan Stanley for CLC operating, capital, and other expenditures.

2024 Distribution Recommendations

In consultation with Morgan Stanley, the Trustees estimate the long-term expected rate of return, after inflation, for the funds. In our meetings this fall, we estimated a long-term 6.4% rate of return, and the long-term 2.4% rate of inflation, resulting in a 4% after inflation real rate of return—The Maximum Percentage. The 4% falls within Pennsylvania Trust Regulations of 2%—7%. The method to calculate is consistent with best practice distribution policy followed by other endowment funds.

Endowment Trust Fund

Up to \$16,400, which is \$600 less than last year, and approximately 4% of the average balance of the previous twelve quarters ended September 30, 2023. Committee by-laws and Pennsylvania Trust regulations require a minimum distribution of 2%, or \$3,700.

Memorial Trust Fund

Up to \$7,500, which is equal to last year, and approximately 4% of the average balance of the previous twelve quarters ended September 30, 2022. Committee by-laws and Pennsylvania Trust regulations require a minimum distribution of 2%, or \$3,700.

Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund is not a trust under Pennsylvania law and, therefore, the amount distributed is at the discretion of Pastor and The Council. If the Scholarship Fund was managed as are the Endowment and Memorial Trust Funds, the recommended distribution would be in the range of \$1,800 to \$4,700.

Maintenance and Savings Alternative Funds

Distributions are at the discretion of Pastor and The Council.

TRUSTEES: Five year term, renewable once (maximum fourteen if filling an un-expired term).

Name	Term End	
Gary Milla	2026	2 nd Term
Joe Tarulli—Chair	2027	1 st Term
Laurie Stewart	2023	1 st Term
Chris Myers	2024	1 st Term
Chris Nagy	2025	2 nd Term

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Tarulli
Endowment Trustees Committee Chair

Endowment Mission Team Report

Distribution Recommendations – 2024

The Endowment Mission Team provides recommendations for the annual distribution of income from the Endowment Trust and Memorial Fund accounts. The amounts from 2023 that we will be distributing are \$16,400 from the Endowment Fund and \$7,500 from the Memorial Fund for a total of \$23,900. The Endowment Fund requires that 50 percent is allocated for outreach and 50 percent is used within Christ Lutheran. The Memorial Fund requires disbursements be used for “religious and charitable activities of the church.” This year, the committee recommends the entire Memorial Fund distribution be used for projects and ministries at Christ Lutheran. The Endowment Mission Team recommends the following distributions be made in 2024:

Benevolent (Outreach) Funding

Hellertown Area Ministerium (HAM)	\$2,000
New Bethany	\$1,500
Bear Creek Camp	\$700
Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering	\$500
Bloom for Women	\$500
Cay Galgon Life House	\$500
Family Promise of the Lehigh Valley	\$500
Lehigh Valley Autism Society	\$500
Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot	\$500
Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association	\$500
Victory House of the Lehigh Valley	\$500
Total	\$8,200

Church Funding

Pastor Spohn’s Discretionary Fund	\$9,900
Fellowship Hall Bathroom Renovations	\$4,000
Yoga & Chair Yoga Classes and Equipment	\$1,000
Bibles for 5th Graders and Church Pews	\$400
Labyrinth Fund	\$400
Total	\$15,700

Proposed Outreach Funding Recipients

- **Hellertown Area Ministerium (HAM):** HAM is a coalition of Hellertown Area churches who work together to organize worship services, community events and assist local residents in need. Presently, Pastor Spohn leads HAM and oversees HAM funds.
- **New Bethany:** This Bethlehem organization offers hope and support to people who experience poverty, hunger and homelessness. New Bethany addresses immediate needs such as food and basic hygiene, provides short-term housing solutions, and encourages long-term change that will lift individuals out of poverty through housing, case management and employment assistance.
newbethany.org

(continued)

- **Bear Creek Camp:** This 3,000-acre camp just south of Wilkes-Barre is operated by the ELCA Southeastern and Northeastern Pennsylvania Synods. The camp offers year-round opportunities, including summer residential youth camps, nature day camps, environmental education programs, weekend camp retreats and outside group rentals. bearcreekcamp.org
- **Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering:** BES is a faith-based partnership that provides a network of care and hospitality for the area homeless. Overnight sheltering is provided from November through April. The gathering place is UCC Church, 75 East Market Street, Bethlehem. During the 2022-23 season, there were 9,000 meals served, 2,000 showers provided and 9,000 guest nights with 700 people volunteering. bethlehememergencyseltering.org
- **Bloom for Women:** Bloom offers sanctuary and care to heal, empower and employ women survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. Bloom achieves this through its emergency response, its two-year residence program, pregnant survivor services and independent living housing. Bloom operates five homes in the Lehigh Valley to help the women transition to a new, positive life. bloomforwomen.org
- **Cay Galgon Life House:** The center is located in the former St. Simon and Jude Convent on Broad Street in west Bethlehem. This group home features seven rooms for homeless pregnant women. The mission has expanded to include services for pregnant women, mothers and their families throughout our community. The organization meets the needs of more than 500 women each year. caygalgonlifehouse.org
- **Family Promise of the Lehigh Valley:** An Allentown-based affiliate of a national organization assists families with children who are experiencing homelessness. Its mission is carried out through a network of local congregations and community services to provide shelter, food, and clothing while working with the families to create a pathway to permanent housing. fplehighvalley.org
- **Lehigh Valley Autism Society:** LVAS is a volunteer, non-profit organization that is an affiliate of the national organization Autism Society. LVAS offers programs and resources to empower everyone in the Autism community to live fully. salehighvalley.org
- **Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot:** LVOD's mission is to provide gently used furniture and housewares to people of the Lehigh Valley who have experienced devastating losses through fire, flood, homelessness, domestic violence, etc. The non-profit organization also assembles disaster relief kits that are shipped to crisis areas throughout the United State. lvoutreachdepot.org
- **Lutheran Faith Community Nurses Association:** The national organization provides a wealth of resources, continuing education and networks for parish nurses. LFCNA also provides grants to churches wishing to start a parish nurse ministry. lutheranfcna.org
- **Victory House of the Lehigh Valley:** Victory House, located in south Bethlehem, is a non-profit organization that provides local homeless veterans and homeless men with an avenue to transition to independent affordable housing. Victory House, formerly known as Center City Ministries, offers case management, employment, education, recovery and mental health assistance and health center services. victoryhouselv.org

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Christ Lutheran Funding

- **Pastor Spohn Discretionary Fund:** This fund allows Pastor Phil to discreetly assist members and families from Christ Lutheran and the community who are in need or may be facing an immediate financial crisis.
- **Fellowship Hall Bathroom Renovations:** These funds will be used to replace the flooring in the men's and women's bathrooms along with renovating other areas of the bathrooms where needed.
- **Yoga & Chair Yoga Classes Equipment:** Our yoga classes provide healthy outlets for church members and friends. Funds will be used to purchase equipment that will enable more people to participate and enjoy the sessions at their individual fitness levels.
- **Bibles for 5th Graders and Church Pews:** Funds will be used to purchase bibles for our fifth graders and for additional bibles to be placed in the church pews.
- **Labyrinth Fund:** This money will help replenish the labyrinth maintenance fund for 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Blake, Corky Blake, Karen Milla, Chris Myers, Lee Wagner

Endowment Mission Team

Council Nominee Biographies



Mandy Mayer

I grew up in Hellertown and Christ Lutheran Church. I graduated from Saucon Valley High School and Cedar Crest College with a B.S. in Business Management and a certification in Human Resources. I've been employed with Bucks County for the past 17 years, currently as the Community Program Coordinator for the Area Agency on Aging. I teach health & wellness classes and sit on a number of steering committees and task forces.

I live in Lower Saucon Township with my husband Dave, our youngest daughters Makenzie and Anna, our dog Ben cat Molly and 5 chickens. Our oldest daughter Andrea and son-in-law Tim live in Palmer Township with our three grand dogs.

When I'm not busy running kids around, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, reading, gardening, watching movies, fishing, camping and traveling.

As a life long member of Christ Lutheran, my kids have all attended the Children's Learning Center, I've been part of the Praise Band for more than 15 years, I've served on the Congregational Care Team and the CLC School Board. I've enjoyed watching Christ Lutheran grow into a safe loving space for its members and surrounding community. I hope to bring a family perspective and diverse voice to council as I support Christ Lutheran's continued growth.

Kelly Meyer



I grew up in Rumson, NJ and live in Lower Saucon Township with my beautiful wife of 43 years, Diane Stehly, and our Standard Poodle, Bindi.

After graduating Rutgers University, I spent 36 years working as a CPA until retiring in 2013. I've been a member of Christ Lutheran Church since 1978 and have served the church in a number of capacities.

Since retiring, I have become involved with the church in activities including weekly bible study and men's group meetings. I decided to get involved with church council again as I truly love our congregation and am excited to work with our leaders and members as we move into the future together.



Sam Raup

I was born in Rochester, New York, and currently live in Bethlehem. I live with my wife of 12 years Amanda, and my daughter Madalyn. I am a teacher in the Allentown School District at Building 21. The inspiration to become an educator came from my U.S. History Teacher in High School. He taught me to have a civic mindset and it has stuck with me ever since. Now, I inspire the next generation of students to become leaders in their communities and to use their voices through voting, writing their congressperson, and creating action plans to help support marginalized voices in our school community.

I was raised Catholic, but in Middle School I stepped away from religion. Some time later I began practicing Asatru (Norse Paganism). I've come to believe that Asatru was God's way of calling me back to a life of His service. In 2022, after facing a mental health crisis, I went to a dear friend of mine and asked her a question of faith. Her answer helped me make the decision to join this church. The things that interest me are tabletop games, playing games on my computer, story-telling, and lifting weights. The "Church of Gains" has become a second community for me, helping me to continuously improve myself, celebrate my successes, and learn from my failures.

I hope that my experiences will help to bring a new and interesting perspective to Christ Lutheran Hellertown. I also wish to help with shaping youth membership through an upcoming Dungeons & Dragons club, which I cannot wait to get started!

Church Council, Team Leads, and Staff

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Brenda Tarulli
Vice President: Ed Alosi
Secretary: Rachel Anthony
Treasurer: Mark Wilten
Glenn Butterfield
Glenn Clouser
Ken Doremus
Dale Hazel
Judy Meier
Gary Milla
Ferd Piccuiro
Carolyn Raudenbush
Dave Willard

TEAM LEADS

Care Giving: Enid Rank
Connections With Each Other: Louise Wagner
Connections With Our Community: Dave Willard
Faith Formation: Open
Finance: Chris Uttard
Mutual Ministry: Lou Savant
Outreach: Corky Blake
Property: Mike Karpa
Stewardship: Chris Myers
Worship & Music: Kurt Rank

STAFF

Pastor: Phil Spohn
Youth & Family Minister: Josh Gulotta
Children's Learning Center Director: Nancy Frederick
Children's Learning Center Asst. Director: Jaclyn Ruch
Faith Community Nurse: Enid Rank
Financial Administrator: Chip Rust
Minister of Music: Steve Wysocki
Asst. Minister of Music: Bonnie Banks-Beers
Sexton: Pete Kapustiak
Communications Specialist: Debbi Pereira
Office Administrator: Barry Stauffer