

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
of Columbia Heights, Minnesota





## 2022 Annual Report

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## First Lutheran's Mission Narrative

**A**t First Lutheran Church, we are called to connection with God, each other, and our neighbors in and beyond Columbia Heights. God connects with us through the reconciling act of Jesus Christ and the daily ministry of God's Spirit.

We connect to God as a spiritual community through worship and prayer, study and the sacraments, and mutual support and service. This sacred connection calls us into relationship with our neighbors with whom God's love has knit us together. We connect especially to the neighborhood and its youth who have been an essential part of our story from the very beginning when a rural ministry to immigrant children evolved into a long-standing and ever-present calling to love, nurture and mentor young people in our community.

As our neighborhood and world changes we commit to adjust as well, making space for growth, healing, generosity and community-building. We will honor each other's diverse stories and continue living connected to God and to each other. We rely on God's Spirit to guide us.

## Welcoming & Inclusion Statement *(Pending Annual Meeting Vote)*

First Lutheran Church strives to be inclusive and welcoming to everyone in our church, our community, and our partner organizations. We seek to connect and serve our neighbors wherever they are on their faith and life journey. We aim to support people of every race & culture, age & ability, family structure & economic status, and every sexual orientation & gender.

## Church Leadership/Staff

### Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Bonnie Wilcox, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Jill Bergman, Associate Pastor

### Office Staff:

Joyce Weaver, Administrative  
Assistant

### Finance & Operations:

Jana Dietering, Finance &  
Operations Manager

### Music Department:

Jeffrey Patry, Dir. of Music  
Ministries



### Children, Youth & Family:

Rachel James, Dir. of Children, Youth  
and Family Ministries  
Angela Montero, CYF Associate

### Hospitality & Outreach:

Nathan Roberts, Dir. of Community  
Engagement

### Building & Grounds:

Roger Johnson  
Derek Sabot-Borgan

### Wedding Coordinator:

Sonja Super

### Director of Food Services:

Rock Hauser

### Security:

Joe Stinson  
Jim Johnson

**Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda**  
**First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights, Minnesota**  
**Sunday, January 22, 2023 (Draft)**

- I. Call to Order/Establish Quorum
- II. Opening Prayer
- III. Approve Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting (pg. 4-6)
- V. Business
  - a. Acceptance of the Annual Report
  - b. Presentation & Approval of the 2023 Budget
  - c. Update to the Constitution & ByLaws
  - d. Consideration of the Welcome & Inclusion Statement
  - e. Presentation of LIRS Certificate (Randy Bergman)
  - f. Ordination of Nathan Roberts in the United Church of Church (UCC)
- VI. Prayer Break
- VII. Nomination Committee Report on Elections; Election by the assembly
- VIII. For Boards & Councils (Outgoing and incoming members) - Important Dates
  - a. Sunday, Jan. 29, 10 AM - Installation of Council & Boards
  - b. Saturday, Feb. 11, 8:30 AM - 12 PM Synod Tool Kit – training, learning and networking for congregational leaders and staff. This year, held at FLC!
  - c. Sunday, Feb. 19, 11:30 AM - 1 PM Abbreviated Boards & Council Retreat
- IX. Closing Prayer/Benediction
- X. Adjournment

## Thank you to our 2022 Council & Board Members!

### Executive Committee

Warren Watson, President  
 Julianne Wyckoff, Vice President  
 Kathy Ballard, Treasurer  
 Grace Fishbeck, Secretary

### Board of Spiritual Growth

(Rev. Jill Bergman, Staff)  
 Michelle Edwards (Chair)  
 Char Zarich (Vice Chair)  
 Randy Bergman  
 Lee Lucas  
 Janet Zarich

### Board of Worship

(Jeffrey Patry, Staff)  
 Jan Meyen (Chair)  
 Faith White (Vice Chair)  
 Cheryl Ballingrud (Altar Guild & Enhancements)  
 DJ Ferrise  
 Ruth Dodson  
 Wendy Ramirez

### Board of Hospitality & Outreach

(Nathan Roberts, Staff)  
 Chris Dansby (Chair)  
 Larry Bugbee (Vice Chair)  
 Jaime Alvarez  
 Steve Ketchum  
 Jon Lueth  
 Tammy Rogne

### Board of Children, Youth & Family

(Rachel James, Staff)  
 Katie Schweiger (Chair)  
 Anna Presseller (Vice Chair)  
 Melissa Habeck  
 Paula Million  
 Michelle Young  
 Doug Zamora

### Nominating Committee

Jane Bugbee  
 Jeff Beck  
 Patrick Tapp  
 Dorothy Markowitz

### Memorial & Endowment

(Jana Dietering, Staff)  
 John Peterson (Chair)  
 Chad Habeck (Vice Chair)  
 Chris Larson (Treasurer)  
 Bob Nelson (Secretary)  
 Paul Turner  
 Drew Stolba

### Personnel Committee

(Rev. Bonnie Wilcox, Staff)  
 Dorothy Markowitz (Chair)  
 Beth Tapp  
 Ruth Dodson  
 Grace Fishbeck  
 David Hagen (Finance Rep)

### Synod Assembly Representatives

Rev. Bonnie Wilcox &  
 Rev. Jill Bergman  
 Kevin Ketchum  
 Jon Lueth  
 Janet Meyen

### Finance

(Jana Dietering, Staff)  
 Wendy Watson (Chair)  
 Rock Hauser (Vice Chair)  
 Kathy Ballard  
 Chad Habeck  
 David Hagen  
 Jill Presseller  
 Teri Schweiger

**First Lutheran Church, Columbia Heights & Live Stream**  
**Sunday January 23, 2022, 11:15 am**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes (*Abbreviated*)**

**Attendees:**

Meeting Led By: Jeff Beck – Congregational President

Meeting Minutes taken by: Tiffany Lovik – Secretary

Voting Members:

73 people signed in for the annual meeting, with 71 voting members present

7 people joined online (non-voting)

8 confirmation students observed the meeting from the balcony

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order/Establish Quorum. Verified the minimum of 50 voting members are present.
2. Opening Prayer – read by Pastor Bonnie Wilcox with responses from congregation
3. Agenda - ***A motion was made and approved.***
4. Approval of Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting - ***A motion was made and approved.***
5. New Business

Acceptance of the Annual Report – ***A motion made and passed***

Presentation & Approval of the 2022 Budget – Chris Larson

The 2021 budget actuals are not finished - still working on the December treasury report. Will issue an addendum to the Annual Report as soon as it is ready and will post it to the church website.

2022 budget work is based on November month-end figures and projecting out to end of the year.

**Income:** General offering is budgeted as a 4% increase over projected 2021 actuals.

We are projecting total special gifts for 2021 at \$203,700 which is higher than normal. Special gifts can't be planned for and are hard to budget. We are including \$100,000 for special gifts in the 2022 budget which is approximately 50% of 2021's actuals.

Charter school income budget includes \$125,000 for January – June from the Tesfa buyout. They prepaid due to leaving the contract early. Funds will cover July 2021 – June 2022. Have drawn half to use monthly toward the 2021 budget. Still looking for another charter school for the 2022-2023 school year. Included \$100,00 in the budget for 2022 (half of the school year). If we don't get a school, we'll need to draw from rent reserve.

**Expense:** Did not include pay increases for staff for 2022 because we will have a deficit budget. Due to special gifts received in 2021 we were above budget for 2021. As a result, we were able to give the staff lump sum payments on their last check in 2021 which amounts to the amount they would have received in 2022 with a pay increase. The total is compensated in a different way because of the way the budget played out.

Attempting to reduce staff in 2022 by .5 FTE and reconfiguring staff duties.

Minimal changes to other expense categories.

Increase in expenses of approximately \$32,000 proposed for next year. Having a Charter school will contribute to custodial and utilities costs. Will not have the offsets in first half of 2022 since we don't have a Charter school. Budgeted about half of what we would normally get (amounting to approximately \$20,000 of the deficit). This is the main reason we have \$32,000 difference.

**Mortgage:** In the past gifts have covered mortgage. For the last several years (2019 – present) they have not covered the mortgage. Have done a mortgage paydown which has lowered the monthly payment.

Total deficit budget is \$130,000. This is 50% of the reserve in the special projects accounts that cover any deficits we have each year. We don't have a Charter school and its offsets.

**Discussion** – What is left in the mortgage? Don't have the exact number but it is approximately \$1.2 million. Interest is in the 3% range. I'll try to include that information in year-end actual.

**Discussion** – What was our interest rate? The original interest rate started in the 6% range. Have been working to bring interest rate and mortgage payment down. Length of mortgage still has about 20 years left on it. Got the payment down to help with cash flow.

**Discussion** - 2022 is the last year of the capital campaign commitments.

***A motion was made and passed to accept the 2022 budget as proposed.***

Nomination Committee Report; Election of Boards & Council members

Nomination Committee Report presented. Still need a chair for spiritual growth.

***A motion was made to accept the nomination committee report. The motion passes.***

6. Prayer Break
7. Elections

### **Stories of adaptation and innovation**

**Spiritual growth – Jay Craft:** This year we held two events –

During holy week we held a virtual watch party to watch the passion of Christ with discussion.  
Held a 24-hour virtual prayer vigil.

**Board of Worship – Jan Meyen:** Moved forward with changes with worship. Started the year worshipping in the parking lot. Started with individual bags for communion, now doing individual cups for communion. Will be starting baptismal greeters. Have some funeral greeters that we started this year.

**CYF – Katie Schweiger:** Sunday school was online for 2020-2021 school year, now doing things in person again. Kids enjoy in person more. Did VBS outside last year, and this year we did it inside.

**H&O – Larry Bugbee:** Food is a very important part of our mission here. We gave out over 8,000 meals this last year between community meals, after school program and special events. Started 2021 delivering meals / meal pickup. Started in person meals in the fall. Thanks to all the volunteers that have helped and adapted to different meal delivery. After-school program, we started the year delivering meals to the kids. In May we started again delivering meals outside. This year instead of taking a break over the summer, we kept the after-school program going to help the kids with meals and socialization.

**Finance – Chad Habeck:** Adaptation has been a big word for finance this year. It is hard to leave when there is a negative budget. The Charter school went out early which caused a lot of changes. The lutefisk dinner hasn't happened the last 2 years and is a big fundraiser for the church. Confident in our members and special gifts that keep us afloat.

**Congregational updates – Jeff Beck:** Another year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Live streaming has come a long way along with in person worship. Charter school tenant search is ongoing. Parking lot rain garden project is progressing. We have a \$50,000 pending grant application for that project. Previous recorded project update is online if you would like to view project details. Will be creating a strategic planning group in 2022. There will be opportunities to get involved if you are interested. Will help us figure out where our congregation is going in the coming years. Staffing update to reconfigure staff roles to fill a new role combining administration and building operations in a single position. Many board members stayed on an extra year. Excited to see new faces in 2022 boards and council.

*Report continues on pg. 6*

New Executive committee & Board members proposed presented

***A motion was made to elect 2022 Executive and Board Members as presented. The motion passes.***

**Discussion** – Need 5 members for the nominating committee (October – September) and Synod assembly which is April 30th (2 members + 2 alternates – 2 men & 2 women)

Volunteers for the Nominating Committee: Pat Tapp, Dorothy Markowitz, Jan Mayen, Jeff Beck

Volunteers for the Synod Assembly: Jon Lueth, Steve Ketchum, Ruth Dodson, Jane Bugbee

Can follow up after meeting for additional volunteers for the Nominating Committee.

**Discussion** – What does the Nominating Committee job entail? – Determine how many board and council member positions they need to fill, brainstorming who would be good for the positions and asking people to be on the board (especially executive committee). Each board needs at least 4 members. Outgoing president is automatically on the Nominating Committee.

Thank you to current boards and nominating committee members.

8. Please note:

Outgoing & Incoming Boards & Council members meet on **Sunday, January 30, 11:15 AM-12:30 PM** for a planning retreat.

Installation of all Boards & Council members is **Sunday, February 6, 10 AM**

9. Closing Prayer/Benediction – Pastor Bonnie Wilcox

10. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned.

*This copy of the January 23, 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes has been slightly abbreviated and reformatted (single spaced) for print in the Annual Report. The 4-page copy is available upon request.*

## Pastoral Acts and Statistics

2021 Statistics		2022 Statistics	
Baptisms	3	Baptisms	5
Marriages	1	Marriages	2
Confirmations	3	Confirmations	3
Funerals	14	Funerals	17
New Members	7	New Members	14
Average Worship Attendance	*	Average Sunday Attendance	*

*\* Not applicable due to the Covid pandemic.*



## Report from Bishop Ann Svenningsen, Minneapolis Area Synod



God's grace, peace, and hope be with you through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Like rain after an endless drought, the gift of gathering in person this year has quenched a deep thirst. The pandemic revealed anew the depth of our thirst for community; Scripture also articulates this profound human need. Advances in technologies like livestreaming are indeed gifts to our church and world. Still, our hearts sing when we can rub shoulders around the communion table, embrace those who grieve, and raise our voices together in resounding song.

The mission of the synod is to support communities who share the thirst-quenching love of God – forming disciples, building beloved community, and working for just and healthy neighborhoods. I am deeply grateful for the many ways that we walk together in our journey of faith.

The synod staff walks closely in partnership with congregations, especially in times of transition, planning, or conflict. Last year, we accompanied congregations in 58 call processes. We offer skills trainings for lay members through the annual Tool Kit, and for church staff through peer groups and communicators gatherings. And, our Faith Practices & Neighborhood Practices program strengthens congregations in faith formation and engaging their neighborhoods.

Synod staff also work closely with our deacons and pastors. We experience great joy when we gather with congregations for ordinations, installations, and Ministry Site Profile reviews, as well as in preaching, presiding, and offering adult forums. We support our interim pastors who provide wise leadership in times of transition and our chaplains who provide critical care in a variety of settings. And, currently, we support 50 seminary students preparing to become pastors and deacons.

Our congregations worship in Spanish, Swahili, ASL, Oromo, Hmong, Lao, Norwegian, and Amharic. As we celebrate our diversity, we also recognize inequities affecting our congregations. Using a “racial equity lens,” the synod council launched an in-depth process to evaluate and strengthen partnerships with our “strategic ministries,” addressing historical realities of disconnection and resource inequities.

As a synod together, we will gather again April 28 -29 for Synod Assembly. All are welcome at the opening worship Friday night; voting members will carry out the business of the synod on Saturday. We are blessed with the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III as our keynote speaker.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Lutherans in our synod and in the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, the ground-breaking for the first ever Lutheran University in Nigeria occurred this December. We celebrate God's provision and look forward to the blessings this university will bring.

During my sabbatical, I have been studying “the church in the U.S. – hopes and challenges.” I would like to present some of my learnings as well as facilitate conversations in as many congregations as possible during the coming months. For more information about these visits or news about what's happening around the synod, please visit the synod website and sign up for our weekly enews.

In Christ,

Bishop Ann Svenningsen



## A message from ELCA Presiding Bishop

*Elizabeth  
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the

work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (Hebrews 13:16).



## Report from Congregational Council President—Warren Watson



**I**t has been my honor and privilege to have been your Congregational Council President in 2022. I want to recognize the amazing dedication and talent of our members who participate in Boards and Committees as well as the Council. All in all, we had over 50 members serving in these capacities during the year 2022! God bless them all.

This year we took on a major challenge to update our Constitution and Bylaws for First Lutheran Church. The ELCA requires all member churches to create and maintain a current constitution, bylaws and (if any) continuing resolutions document. Our current constitution was approved in the year 2000 and our current bylaws document was approved in 2017. Considering the latest ELCA Model Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions document is dated 2022 it was obvious we had some updating to do!

Our Council Vice Chair (Julienne Wyckoff) has the responsibility for any updates to our constitution and bylaws. I worked with Julienne taking the lead drafting an updated document and coordinating with the ELCA Office of the Secretary and the Minneapolis Synod to assure our revised document complied with the needs of First Lutheran Church as well as all the ELCA requirements. Many members were also involved in the review and comment process during the drafting of our document. A huge THANKS to all who took time and helped create the document we hope to approve at our January 2023 Annual Meeting!

The Minneapolis Area Synod has the ultimate authority to approve our document following congregational approval. Moreover, there are certain provisions in the constitution that require not one but two congregational approvals, the second of which would be made at the January 2024 Annual meeting. So, this will take some time but, in the end, we will have a fresh document that meets our governance needs as First Lutheran Church and is current with the requirements of both the ELCA and the Minneapolis Area Synod!

Please continue to support and encourage the dedicated FLC members who serve in these leadership roles. I have seen first-hand how committed they are to the mission of our First Lutheran Church!

Thanks.  
Warren Watson

## Senior Pastor Report—Rev. Bonnie Wilcox

### OUR RELATIONSHIP TO OUR BUILDING

“Building Faith” was our theme last fall – a play on words that pointed to the work on our parking lot, as well as to our growth as Jesus-followers AND a way to tell stories about places in our building (videos are available on our YouTube Channel).



When the congregation moved here in the 1980s, spaces in the building were created to share the Gospel and meet the needs of our community and our members. We are identified within the Heights community as a congregation that is generous, and a congregation that cares.

**Columbia Heights needs a community center like First Lutheran Church.** A place that provides safety, a place for people to meet. Last year we hosted meetings with renters fearing eviction, we helped Oromo Ethiopian immigrant leaders start a new year of school, and we served over 7,000 meals from our kitchen!

Each Sunday we do our best to speak to our faith, as well as cultural and social issues of the times with compelling and relevant worship topics. Several days of the week, our church offers a safe place for young people of diverse backgrounds to play, grow, and develop in their faith. We host a charter school led by and empowering young people from the Oromo Ethiopian community. We host dramas, music concerts, community conversations and service projects that help knit our community together.

**All this ministry at our church building takes time and resources. Our building is nearing 100 years old and like any older building it requires study, planning, labor, and resources.**

It has been quite a year for First Lutheran Church! We worked on these projects related to our building and how we use it as a tool for mission:

- Parking Lot/Rain Mitigation Project - the

culmination of three years of study, financial considerations, and a deeper understanding of the landfill under our parking lot and grounds.

- Sanctuary air conditioning (AC) repair after the AC unexpectedly broke down mid-year.
- Repairs, painting, and deep cleaning of fifteen classrooms for our new education tenant, Bultum Academy - all completed by staff and volunteers.
- Removal and replacement of diseased boulevard trees.
- Every fluorescent light bulb in the education wing of our facility was replaced to reduce energy costs and take advantage of government grants and a generous gift.

Each time we take on these projects our church leaders are asking this question: ***What is our relationship to this building?***

First Lutheran has lived in 4 buildings since its founding. In the 1980s, having outgrown the church building at 40th & Quincy, the church took the bold step to move to this location, a former public elementary school with a lot of land. Construction to add a sanctuary and eventually new offices followed.

And people came and learned of God’s love for them in Jesus Christ (just as they had in the former church), and as the community, state and world changed around them.

Our community is changing. Columbia Heights Public Schools include 83% minority students (majority Hispanic), which is more than the Minnesota public school average of 36% (majority Black and Hispanic).

The decline in our membership has little to do with “mistakes” made by First Lutheran. The world around us has changed. First Lutheran used less and less of the facility, and found that renting to charter schools met a need for all parties.



## Senior Pastor Report—*continued*

### **It takes a lot to maintain a building of this size.**

Consider:

- A. We depend on the income from charter school tenants to continue our mission and ministry from this site.
- B. Our education space is relatively small, and we recognize that our building is a good incubator for *new* charter schools. We have a good track record in that our first two charter schools outgrew our space.
- C. To find a new tenant for 2022, we hired and paid realtors specializing in this work to help market our facility.
- D. To prepare for a new tenant, we had a large amount of rehab to do in classrooms – remove outdated amenities, patch and paint walls, replace or shampoo carpets, repair and paint the large colonial-style windows.
- E. We had leaders from the church work on the negotiation for new space in the absence of a building manager or financial director. I appreciate and ask you to thank staff member Nathan Roberts and Julie Wilson, Council President Warren Watson, as well as Christopher Larson, David Hagen, and Randy Bergman for their work on the search and lease negotiations, and to Larry Bugbee and Paul Eddy, as well as custodians Roger Johnson and Derek Sabot, for many, many hours of work on the education wing of our facility.

**Each time we have a change in school tenants, this work is repeated.** It is time-consuming and expensive. We are grateful that our relationship with Bultum is going so well, and that our facility rings out with the sound of cheerful voices and busy feet!

### **And that's just the school part of the building!**

This is a very large facility and our stewardship of what God has given us is very important. We have aging roofs and deteriorating windows. I am so very grateful for the people, their talents and financial gifts that have gotten us through a complicated year (including our first full year after the Covid-19 shutdown. Covid, unfortunately, is still with us).

**Congregations across America are facing these challenges. I seek out and study alternative ministries being done all over the U.S., by Lutherans and others. Indoor farmers' markets, community coffee shops, low-income housing.**

Columbia Heights needs First Lutheran Church, and FLC needs Columbia Heights. How can we find new ideas, new visions, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit?

**Here are some questions to consider, to seek additional information, and to hold in conversation and prayer:**

1. Long-term, is this how we want to spend our staff energy and volunteer hours? Are we called by God to continue to maintain a facility that is larger than we need for Sunday mornings and evening ministries? Do we still feel called to host a charter school?
2. Is our building truly aligned with the long term needs of Columbia Heights and First Lutheran's mission to "Live Connected to God and one another?"
3. Or, is the Spirit calling us to invest our time and resources in some other way?

**I honestly do not know the answer (or answers), and nothing has been decided.** But it is time to have conversations, formal and informal, to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Friends in Christ, don't worry, and don't panic... Remember, the angels said, **"Don't be afraid."**

**This is the beginning of a conversation.** I am writing to let you know that I will be dedicating time to prayer and thinking about this with the church council and a forward-thinking leadership group. I invite you to join me in praying about this, as we enter a time of discernment about creating a sustainable future for our congregation.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Bonnie Wilcox, Senior Pastor



## Associate Pastor Report—Rev. Jill Bergman

*“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.”  
(1 Corinthians 3:11)*

2022 was a year of building upon strong foundations. As we continued to recover from the Covid pandemic, we were able to return to activities and practices that had been meaningful to us but not possible due to pandemic restrictions. We brought more people together to do things that helped us grow closer to each other and closer to Jesus. We also learned a few new skills during the pandemic that we were able to improve upon this year.

One of our newest ministries is our FLC podcast. While we started it in 2021, we got a lot better at it this year. We became more efficient and our sound designer, Drew Stolba, brought in higher quality equipment. In 2022, we incorporated members from our congregation in a Lenten podcast which read all the way through the Gospel of Luke and an Advent podcast which focused on our favorite psalms, linking to our psalm focus in worship. We also recorded a divine encounter series which will air in January 2023. When reviewing listener statistics from our Lenten podcast, I was surprised to learn that people were listening to our podcast from states as far away from Minnesota as Nevada and Pennsylvania and in foreign countries including Canada, Brazil, and India.



We were also able to build upon our live theater ministry by hosting both a Lenten and a fall play. During Holy Week, we performed our Last Supper drama including a new



scene involving John the Baptist baptizing folks in our FLC font. In the fall, we unveiled Burn the Church, which taught us about a congregation in WW2 that gave its entire building to keep people warm during the winter.

Our ministry of bringing communion to homebound members suffered when we weren't allowed to visit many of the places where our members lived due to pandemic restrictions. Even when the restrictions were lifted, most unnecessary visitors were discouraged from coming. This caused our visitation ministry to slow down. In August of 2022, we reignited this ministry by getting our home communion servers together for lunch and brainstorming how to get back to bringing communion to our homebound members. We now have a structure, a way to connect more members with visitors, and plans to support one another in our outreach.

Of course, a large part of pastoring involves meeting with people to walk with them through life changes and helping them to remember their infinite value to Jesus. I have been blessed to meet with many families and individuals as they joined the Body of Christ through baptism, affirmed their faith during Confirmation, or celebrated the life of a loved one in a funeral or memorial service. These are holy moments where God's presence is especially meaningful.

I also have been honored to support our Christian education ministries through helping at Vacation Bible School, teaching Generation Change (financial wisdom) to confirmation students, helping new acolytes learn how to serve in worship, and supporting our Bible study ministry through the Board of Spiritual Growth.



Jesus Christ is our foundation and we are blessed to be invited to build upon Him. May you be strengthened in His Spirit.

Peace,  
Pastor Jill

## Worship & Music Ministry Report—Jeffrey Patry

*My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

**T**his quote is a favorite hymn of mine. I'm sure that many of you recognize its very poignant text. I always find these words to be a comfort to me in the craziness and busy-ness of life. These words truly capture what my vocation is in life – to provide music to glorify our Lord and Savior.

What a tremendous year it has been at First Lutheran! I want to first acknowledge and thank my two right hand men, Chris Larson and Drew Stolba. They go above and beyond every weekend providing our livestream and doing everything "technical." Drew also leads our Campanile Handbell Ensemble. Thank you both so much! Thank you to our tremendous pastoral team of Bonnie and Jill. It is a joy to work along beside you.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our many volunteer musicians including those in the Campanile Handbell Ensemble, Sanctuary Choir, small groups and instrumentalists. You bring such beauty to our worship services! Again, I can only execute my job well with willing volunteers! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!



First Lutheran continues to be a busy place and offer rehearsal space to many choral groups on a weekly basis. These include Chorus Polaris, Augsburg Centennial Singers and Caritas Vocal Ensemble. I'm overjoyed that we can offer our abundant space to these fine groups.



We have offered many musical opportunities this past year at FLC. Again, I'm very happy that we can offer our acoustically perfect sanctuary along with our fine musical instruments to outside community and professional ensembles. Some highlights have included: The Mississippi Valley Orchestra, Magnum Chorum, Bella Lumina Women's Ensemble, Chorus Polaris, Bells of the Lakes and others. I have also teamed up with colleagues and have offered a Meditation Recital for piano, violin and cello as well as a Halloween Spooktacular. This past summer, our building was the site for the Augsburg Music Publishers annual summer conference. Again, I am ecstatic that we can offer our building to these fine music happenings.



I continue to make weekly Friday musical offerings through my Facebook page as well as our community Facebook page. Check it out!

I want to thank the parishioners of First Lutheran for allowing me to be your Director of Music. It truly is an honor to serve you and our Lord!

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How Can I keep from singing?*

In His service,  
Jeffrey Patry



## Children, Youth and Family Ministries Board Report—Rachel James



Thank you First Lutheran Church for all your support of children, youth and family ministries in our church and community this year! We were blessed with amazing volunteers, wonderful generosity from the church and engaged young people.

### FAITH FORMATION

**Confirmation** this year was in person with a rotation of teachers including Pastor Jill Bergman, Nathan Roberts, Randy Bergman and Rachel James. There are 8 registered students. This Fall we had a unit on Bible literacy. Pastor Jill is teaching a unit on Financial Health using the Generation Change curriculum.



We are very proud of our **2022 Confirmands**: Isabelle Tapp, Greta Solem and Junia James. They each completed a project and pastor interview, along with 3 years of classes, service projects and events.

**Sunday School** has been growing, with 25 registered students and with 11 amazing teachers. Thank you to John Miller, Janet Zarich, Lyndsey Barnhart, Ethan Dittbenner, Cole Young, Anna Presseller, Chris Million, Roger Rogne, Greta Solem, Junia James and Hazel Bendix.

In spring, we did a 4-week rotation Sunday School series in depth on Psalm 23, using science, music, drama and art to learn about the psalm. This fall, we are following along with the stories of the Narrative Lectionary.

**FLY Youth group** has held weekly in-person events this whole year with an average of 20 youth per event. It has been a joy to connect with neighbor youth, friends of youth and the community.



We started a new ministry of the **Baby Book Club**, with a monthly book of faith, a small faith toy, and spiritual practice to try for the month for 12 families in church.

### SERVICE & JUSTICE

**Thank you to all who participated in our Vacation Bible School 2022**

**Intergenerational** - adult and teen volunteers, church members who supported and families who attended together. We met on Wednesdays in June and July. We had an average of 50 people involved each night with special events, including a slip-n-slide, bonfire, ice cream sundaes and more. Our theme was the "Tree of Healing" from ELCA World Hunger VBS focuses on healing in an expansive sense – the healing of mind, body, spirit, community, and creation.



**Middle School Youth participated in Summer Stretch local service week** with Nativity Lutheran in St. Anthony. We had 8 youth from FLC join in for a week of service and fun. We volunteered with Feed My Starving Children, the Nativity Preschool, and the Dignity Center. We had a learning day with Rev. Kelly Sherman-Conroy about sacred places & Native history in MN at Pike Island. And we had a lot of fun at Valleyfair! Thank you to the parent volunteers.

*CYF Board Report continues on next page*



## CYF Board Report *continued*



### High School Youth did a Service Learning Camp Mission Trip to the North Shore

On July 24-29, our team of 15 youth and adults went to Two Harbors, MN for a mission experience doing service-learning. We volunteered at Community Partners in Two Harbors, Lake County Conservation, Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, and Tettegouche State Park. We worshiped God in nature, visiting Gooseberry Falls State Park, kayaking on Lake Superior, and enjoying Duluth on the North Shore.

We had 32 campers from First Lutheran Church attending Camp Wapo camps this year. They learned about the theme TAKE HOLD, based on John 16:33, which we translate as: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take hold! I have conquered the world."



### LEADERSHIP

Thank you to our dedicated and faithful **Children, Youth and Family Board:**

Katie Schweiger (chair), Anna Presseller (vice chair), Melissa Habeck, Doug Zamora, Paula Million & Michelle Young. The CYF Board hosted several Family Fun Days and fundraising events this year.

**JAN:** Three Kings Day party in Youth Group

**FEB:** FLC Classic Mini Golf Family Fun Day



**MAR:** Palm Sunday Brunch fundraiser, Palm Parade and Egg Hunt in Courtyard

**APR:** Earth Day Adopt-A-Park Clean-up

**MAY:** Last Day Party w/ Courtyard picnic & games

**JUN:** Graduate Appreciation Sunday

**AUG:** Youth Leadership Dinner

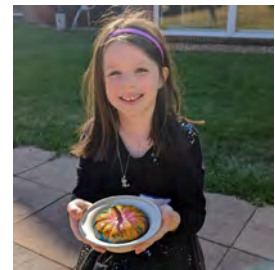
**SEPT:** First Day Party with Bounce House & treats

**OCT:** Fall Family Fun Day with pumpkin decorating, cider and cookies.

**NOV:** Youth Fundraising Efforts: Spud Fest, Holiday Market, Thanksgiving Pie Social

**NOV:** 15 Youth came to the Youth Lead Conference

**DEC:** Christmas Checklist Kids Drama & Happy Birthday Jesus Party



Thank you for your prayers as we continue in this journey together.

In Christ,

Rachel James

Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries and the Children, Youth and Family Ministries Board

## Hospitality and Outreach Board Report—Nathan Roberts



### COMMUNITY MEAL

**Meals Served Weekly: 90 in person / 20 take-a-ways**  
**Volunteers: 7-10**

We have maintained our pre-COVID meal numbers in the dining hall. This is a great outreach to the community with around 20 neighbors each week. We also serve a lot of members and their families! We continue to be blessed with amazing volunteers, great community support, wonderful connections with church members and neighbors in need. We are also serving coffee and cookies each week in the link with the support of H & O board members.

*Thank you to Rock & Kari Hauser, Brian Schweiger, Roy Weber, Jane & Larry Bugbee, Kevin Kaliher, Julianne Wyckoff, Judie Opheim, Betty Krah, Pam Hartel, Chris Dansby, Jaime Alvarado, Jon Lueth, Steve Ketchum, and the youth & families that helped!*

### AFTER SCHOOL

**Students: 15-30 (week)**  
**Volunteers: 12 (week)**  
**1 Northwestern University Intern**

Our After School Program continued to invite students back in person. We now have returned to pre-COVID enrollment. We have a great group of students, mentors, and we continue to serve delicious and nutritious foods for dinner. We were blessed to have a great group of regular volunteers, and an amazing Northwestern University Student fall Intern.

*Special thanks to Jane and Larry Bugbee, Rachel James, Shanequa Cook, Angela Gallo, Karen & Phil Mattison, Carly, Martha, Ben and Molly, and Joe Stinson for their support of this ministry.*



### COMMUNITY OUTREACH/RAPID RESPONSE TEAM: Volunteers 12

First Lutheran staff (Rachel, Bonnie, and Nathan) continued to work alongside a diverse group of community leaders to support the Mayor in a



Rapid Response Team. This team is trained to respond in a crisis situation or times of heightened tension in the community. We had 3 events that required responses and both were handled with de-escalation tactics learned in this group. One event was a mass eviction threat that affected 23 rental homes in Heights. The group helped the families relocate or stay in their homes to avoid becoming homeless. We continued our training on "How to have better conversations on race and racism," co-sponsored by Columbia Heights Adult Education.



### DRAMA MINISTRY

**50 Volunteers**

We performed two dramas this year. In the fall we performed "Burn the Church," an original play by First Lutheran's Nathan Roberts based on a true story about the heroic acts of a Lutheran Church during WWII. A city is surrounded by the Nazi's and the town is forced to survive a cold winter by burning everything they have... including their church. We also perform our Last Supper Play on Holy week. Both were fun and well attended.



## Hospitality and Outreach Board Report *continued*



### HALLOWEEN

**Trick or Treaters: 200 / Volunteers: 20**

On a very joyful note we had a wonderful community trick or treating event, followed by a great spooky music concert and games with Jeffrey Patry and 70 guests! This event continues to grow each year. *Special thank you to our After School team, Worship Board, and the Bergman family for handing out tricks and treats.*



### CHURCH CLEAN UP

**Volunteers: 60**

The H & O board worked with the Sunday School & Confirmation students to do two clean-ups this year. We had a playground clean-up and a courtyard clean up. Both were a big success and got a lot of work done.

### Larry Bugbee and Paul Eddy

worked above & beyond this year to prepare the education wing for our Charter School to move in! Literally so much work you wouldn't even believe us if we told you. Changing out thousands of light bulbs for energy efficient LED lights. They cleaned, painted, and spackled all the classrooms. Bruce Shelito, Roger Jonson, and Derek Sabot also worked hard to maintain our boiler, HVAC, and plumbing!



### NEW TREES!

The city of Columbia Heights forester planted new trees along our Polk Street to replace the diseased ash trees.

Marigold Preschool also donated & planted two maple trees for shade in the playground.



### NATHAN ROBERT'S PATERNITY LEAVE

On a staffing note, Nathan Roberts and his wife Emilie Robinson were blessed to welcome their son Francis "Frankie" Roberts. Thank you to the congregation and volunteers who stepped up to make space for Nathan to take a six week paternity leave in June and July.

*Thank you to the H & O Board Chair: Chris Dansby  
Vice Chair: Larry Bugbee  
Jaime Alvarez, Steve Ketchum  
Tammy Rogne, Jon Lueth*



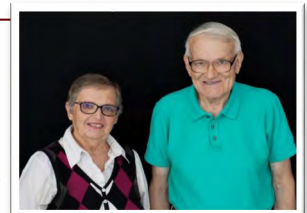
### PHOTO DIRECTORY

An update to our 2018 photo directory and database clean-up began with the photographing and collecting pictures (digital & hardcopy) of our congregation. As in the past, a photo directory can be generated from our database for households who have submitted a picture.

For those without a picture, a manual listing of our current faith community is being compiled from the mass listing of visitors and members. This important

contact information will appear in the back section of the directory.

We appreciate all who took the time to participate in this 'Faces of First' directory project and anticipate having the directories printed by early spring! *A special thank you to Larry Bugbee, Angela Montero, Joyce Weaver, Faith White & Karen Peterson.*





## Community Garden Report—Dan Fishbeck



2022 was another year of dynamic change for the FLC Community Garden and its mission. The slowing pandemic continued to present challenges, but also new opportunities. The season was one of growth, repair and enjoyed the continued energy and curiosity of the Marigold Preschool.

Sunday morning Farmers' Markets resumed and were well supported. Our produce was well received by the community and served as a conduit of outreach and fellowship.

In the spring, half of the raised beds were rebuilt with donated lumber obtained through a grant from Anoka County. A dedicated crew of volunteers set to work demolishing the old frames and installing the new. Soil and compost were added as well as new mulch between the beds.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dan Fishbeck, FLC Community  
Garden Coordinator



## Marigold Preschool—Brenda Haak

All spring, summer, and fall the children of Marigold enjoyed the garden. Everyday there was work to be done and wonder to behold. Caterpillars, bunnies, birds, and butterflies were regular visitors to the garden. Each day the children would exclaim, "Look, look!" because there was always something new to discover. Pumpkins were delightful and digging for potatoes was like finding gold.

It was especially wonderful to get messages from Farmer Dan on tasks that needed to be done. The

children loved picking, washing, and delivering the harvest for Sunday's farmer's market. Teachers, parents, and children are so grateful to share in taking care of this amazing garden that First Lutheran has created. It is good work that offers wisdom to the children that will last a lifetime.

Thank you!  
Brenda Haak, Marigold  
Preschool Director & Lead  
Teacher



## Board of Spiritual Growth Report—Janet Zarich

### Board of Spiritual Growth Members for 2022:

Pastor Jill Bergman, Michelle Edwards (Chair), Char Zarich (Vice Chair), Randy Bergman (M&E Representative), Lee Lucas, Janet Zarich

### End of Year Report for 2022

The board of Spiritual Growth continued to work toward enhancing the spiritual growth of First Lutheran Church and its community. As we developed and carried out our goals for the year, we were continuously mindful of making sure we were meeting the mission of our church and the mission of our board.

**Mission of FLC:** We hear God calling at First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights to be a community growing in Christ, serving others and reaching out to welcome all people with the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Mission of Spiritual Growth Board:** With gratitude for God's gifts we foster and promote opportunities to share our joys, treasures, time, and talents with others through ministry and community building.

We developed seven goals for the year:

1. **First Day event - Staff a table on First Day with information about small group ministry:**  
Michelle Edwards created cards for each small group ministry at our church. She used the name "Connection Points" since it sounds more inviting than small groups. Each card gave details about the ministry group (contact information, where and when the group meets, purpose of the group, etc.). Board members sat at table on First Day and the following two Sundays. There was good conversation that happened, and it was a good way to showcase all of the ministry that happens at First Lutheran. Michelle also created tri-fold brochures that listed the groups.
2. **Discernment process for Refugees, Congregational Discernment Process:**  
Early in the year we asked the questions; Are we open to supporting the current needs of Ukrainian refugees? How is God calling our church to help? Are we willing to be on a list to sponsor a Ukrainian Family?

In August and September Randy offered three Zoom sessions, "Be Not Afraid." The participants talked about experiences with immigrants and

about our congregational gifts which could benefit immigrants.

We are thankful to Blaine Barnhart. He was a valuable resource for us as we decided to begin the discernment process. Blaine majored in Russian and has traveled to the areas. Blaine has connection with the Ukrainian American Center. He developed a presentation, given on Sept. 18, about the Ukraine. This was the initiation of the discernment process. Following Blaine's presentation, Randy facilitated three discernment sessions via Zoom meetings.

A ministry team was developed with the following members: Blaine Barnhart, Joni Vanselow, Katie Schweiger, Kira Bergman. Karen Mattison plans to be a support person for the team. This team created recommendations to the council regarding the involvement of First Lutheran with immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The recommendations involve working with Lutheran Social Service to support and advocate for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers through ministry and prayer. Our board will work with the ministry team in 2023 as we continue to move forward with this process of supporting immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Thirteen First Lutheran Church members completed The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services Discernment Guide. A certificate of completion will be awarded to the congregation at the annual meeting by a representative from Lutheran Social Service.

3. **Hold an Adult Confirmation Class:** Randy Bergman led an in-person adult confirmation class on 4 Wednesdays following Easter for the purpose of helping adults better understand our Lutheran founding beliefs and traditions. The class went well. We would like to offer it again, perhaps identifying it as a theology discussion rather than a confirmation class. We will continue to discuss this opportunity in 2023.
4. **Create two prayer vigils, one for Easter and one for Pentecost:**

A virtual prayer vigil on the Easter Vigil traditional day of the Saturday before Easter was held to help our faith community grow in our relationship with God and to contemplate the miracle of Easter.

*Report continues on next page*



## Board of Spiritual Growth Report *continued*

A prayer vigil was held on June 4, the day before Pentecost, in the chapel for two hours in the morning. There was silent prayer and times for people to pray out loud. People were also encouraged to pray at home if they could not attend the prayer vigil in person. Attendance was small. However, the few people who attended this in-person prayer session had a valuable experience.

5. **Create a Lenten podcast:** The Lenten podcast included daily Bible readings from the Gospel of Luke and a short meditation offered by members of our faith community. It was released on Ash Wednesday and finished the Saturday before Easter.

In addition to the Lenten podcast, Pastor Jill Bergman worked with members of the congregation to create a podcast of divine intervention stories. It will be released in January. A Podcast based on the Psalms was created and released for the season of Advent. Participants chose a favorite Psalm and then shared some thought about the Psalm.

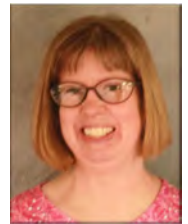
6. **Plan a Fix-it clinic/tech help day:** We are in the process of planning this event to take place in 2023. *With the help of Anoka County and Joyce Weaver, an event is scheduled for April 1, 2023.*

7. **Make the Bible Study a hybrid with both in-person and virtual options:** Michelle Edwards leads a Bible study offered in person and via Zoom. It was so well attended that we ordered more Bibles. The group finished their study of the New Testament with a study of Revelation, before focusing on Genesis. During Advent, Michelle led a study on Christmas angels. After Advent the group will resume a study of Genesis.

Maintaining the Little Free Library is another way that our board contributes to spiritual growth of First Lutheran members and the surrounding community. Char and Janet Zarich continue to monitor the Little Free Library, taking books out and putting new books in as needed. The Little Free Library will be moved to a different location, since the new parking lot has changed the ease of access to the Little Free Library.

We are proud of the accomplishments we made this year to increase the spiritual growth of our congregation and the community. We look forward to continuing our work in 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janet Zarich, Board of Spiritual Growth



## Board of Worship Report—Jan Meyen

2022 for the Board of Worship has brought us back to a more traditional worship style & responsibilities. We continue to provide Communion Servers, Ushers, Readers & Communion Bread Bakers. This year we updated the instructions for Baptismal Greeters & continue to look for more volunteers.

Our largest project was to update our Safety & Emergency manual. We met with Columbia Heights Police & Fire Department leadership to assist us with this project. Jane Bugbee also provided CPR and AED training for our ushers and staff. We also assisted the WET team with decorating for special church holidays.

*A heartfelt thank you to our board members: Faith White, Jeffrey Patry, Ruth Dodson, DJ Ferrise, Cheryl Ballingrud & Wendy Ramirez.*

In faithful service,  
Janet (Jan) Meyen, Worship Board





## Memorial and Endowment Committee Report

### Members:

#### Council Appointments

John Peterson	Chair	<u>Term Expires</u> January 2024
Chad Habeck	Vice Chair	January 2024
Robert Nelson	Secretary	January 2023
Chris Larson	Treasurer	January 2023
Paul Turner		January 2023
Drew Stolba		January 2024
Board of Worship Appointment:	Faith White	January 2022
Board of Spiritual Growth	Randy Bergman	January 2022
Church Treasurer:	Kathy Ballard	January 2023

Thank you to Faith White and Randy Bergman for their service to the Committee. Representatives from the Boards of Worship and Spiritual Growth will be needed for 2023.

#### Description of Funds

The Memorial Fund consists of gifts received from congregation members and friends in memory of loved ones. These gifts are often designated for a program or activity that was near and dear to the individual being memorialized. The Endowment Fund consists of gifts given for the long-term, future benefit of the congregation, as well as the earnings generated by those gifts. The Endowment Fund is a "permanent" fund in that the gifts received - or principal - are held in perpetuity ("Dollars Forever"). Only the earnings generated by investing these gifts are spent.

#### Summary of 2022 Activities

**THE GOAL FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND IN 2022 WAS TO INCREASE ITS UNDESIGNATED BASE BY 3%, WHICH IS \$31,000. Due to stock market declines, we will not achieve this goal.**

The Committee fulfilled the following requests for 2022 expenditures: Soundtrack equipment for sanctuary \$9,691.20; College Scholarship Awards \$3,000; Benevolences \$20,000 (Allocated by the Finance Board); Additional expenditures may have been completed by the end of the year.

Total \$32,691.20

#### Planned Activities for 2023

**THE GOAL FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND IN 2023 IS TO INCREASE ITS UNDESIGNATED BASE BY 3%, WHICH IS \$31,000.**

The Committee has received the following requests for 2023 expenditures; College Scholarship Awards \$4,000; Benevolences \$20,000 (To be allocated by the Finance Board); Youth & Adult Jamaica Mission Trip \$10,484; Worship Technology upgrade \$14,212.

Total \$48,696

Bob Nelson,  
Secretary

## Report of the Board of Finance—Wendy Watson



Dear First Lutheran:

**I**t has been quite a year for finance! We started the year having to look for a new Finance and Operations director. We were able to contract with an outside source, Clergy Financial Resources, to help us as an interim bookkeeper. We appreciate a member of our congregation, Dave LaSota, for stepping in to help with the day to day finances. We were fortunate to welcome Jana Dietering in September as permanent Finance/Operations Director. She has been hard at work creating reports, tracking payments and fund transfers and performing other important duties.

We had four goals as a board this year:

**Goal 1:** Provide a monetary value for non-cash benevolence activities, e.g. service projects

**Goal 2:** Secure a new charter school tenant for 2022-2023 school year or develop a plan for alternative rental income

**Goal 3:** Funding the parking lot so it could be completed in 2022

**Goal 4:** Provide funding for a roof replacement and cupola repair over the Sanctuary by end of 2022

We discussed Goal 1 but did not come up with a way to monetize special projects and volunteer hours. We also could not develop a good system for keeping track of volunteer hours. There is also the question of legitimacy of including these hours as in-kind donations.

We were much more successful with our other goals. We were able to secure a new charter school, Bultum Academy which started classes this fall. They have already requested more space

which will generate more income and are looking to add more students next school year. This partnership has been working well and it is good to have this income again.

We were able to complete the parking lot this fall! After adjusting the original plan due to soil issues, we were able to have the lot resurfaced and striped and added more handicapped spaces. Most of the landscaping was completed with a few plants to be added next spring. Thank you, Pastor Bonnie, for your work negotiating this and securing grants.

We have secured funding from a special gift to complete the roof replacement and cupola repair. We are currently receiving updated bids for this and looking at options for the cupola repair. We should have this finished next year. This again demonstrates the importance of special and legacy gifts!

I am also pleased to report that as of this writing, we will finish the year in the black! This was not the case as of the creation of last year's budget. This is due in great part to the extra work and time from the Finance Board members: Rock Hauser, Chad Habeck, David Hagen, Jill Presseller, Teri Schweiger and Treasurer Kathy Ballard. Thank you! I also thank Chris Larson for always being available when we requested his assistance.

Thank you to all the members of First Lutheran who give so much of their time and talent to help us live out our mission.

In Christ,  
Wendy Watson, Finance Board Chair

## A few Ministry Updates & Thank You—Joyce Weaver

I have the pleasure of overseeing the church business office. This affords a wonderful opportunity to serve the people of First Lutheran, and as the first point of contact in welcoming our faith community. It is amazing to witness firsthand the love and commitment from the congregation, volunteers and church staff.

With the seven-month absence of an Operations & Finance Manager, the retirement of our Head Custodian, Roger Johnson and welcoming a new Charter School, there were many opportunities to increase volunteer hours and staff duties.

Each week minor repairs, day to day operations, facility rentals & scheduling, safety procedures & inspections, office equipment and technology updates occurred with the help of devoted volunteers.

Volunteers also commit to greeting guests, answering phones, offering bus transpiration, mailings, counting offerings, assist with database management, attending to funerals & other pastoral acts, as well as lead ministry teams and events.

We are grateful and blessed as a community! Thank you to each of you that give as you are able of your time, talents and finances.

A 'shout-out!' to few volunteers & ministry leaders I've had the honor to work with that may not be listed in other board reports...

\* Funeral Coordinators:

*Cheryl Ballingrud, Judy Eddy, Karen Mattison*

\* Bus Drivers:

*Jay Craft, Roger Johnson, Charles Pierson III, Pam Sigurdson*

\* Front Desk Volunteers:

*Kathy Ballard, Jan McFall, Dave Meyer, Matt Palm, Karen Peterson, Faith White*

\* Money Counters: *Kathy Ballard, Marilyn Lueth, Bobbie Sauer*

\* Book Club: *Char Zarich*

\* 55+ Singles:

*Faith White, Karen Peterson*

\* Prayer Shawls: *Mona Wold*

\* Holiday Market / Lutfisk: *Dorothy Markowitz, Lyn Larson, Cheryl Ballingrud, Ruth Dodson & Michelle Young*

\* Mission Workshop: *Lisa Tenhoff*

\* Young at Heart Team:

*Paul Christensen, Paul Turner, Faith White, Bob & Joyce Beeksma, Paul & Judy Eddy*

With respect & gratitude,  
Joyce Weaver

### MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

We hosted an exciting Sacred Heart of Jesus community celebration for a neighbor Spanish family group. Pastor Jill, along with several staff members, hosted this all-day Saturday event for 300 people. The celebration included traditional foods, Mariachis, and Azteca, Chinelos & Toucan's costumed dancers, along with a worship service. The morning began with the group playing music as they processed to the church from 44th Street and circled the parking lot before entering.



Outdoor Worship. High School Grads receive blessings and quilts from Mission Workshop.

### CHRISTMAS FOR A NEIGHBOR FAMILY

In addition to the Christmas Offering & Teen Gift Cards First Lutheran provided to SACA, we partnered with our local VFW & AA rental group to help sponsor a neighbor caring for nine children. The woman pictured reached out for help as she'll be caring for her sister's children during her extended drug treatment.



The 2022 return of the Annual Young at Heart Christmas Dinner & Song Fest!





**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH / 1555 40TH AVE NE  
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN 55421  
PHONE: 763-788-9653 / WEB: FLCCH.ORG**

**YOUTUBE** - VIEW LIVE STREAMED WORSHIP

**FACEBOOK** - FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF COLUMBIA HEIGHTS -  
@FIRSTLUTHERANCOLUMBIAHEIGHTS

*Thank you for another terrific year at First!*



### In Worship, Friendship & Prayer



# First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights

## Statement of Financial Position Comparison

As of December 31, 2022

	<b>Total</b>
	<b>As of Dec 31,</b>
	<b>2022</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
1100 General Fund Checking 4435	\$ 78,146
1102 Cash on hand	\$ 60
1106 General Fund Perpetual Reserve	\$ 31,959
Citizens Bank CD-Mat. Feb 6 21	\$ 75,565
<b>Total 1106 General Fund Perpetual Reserve</b>	<b>\$ 107,525</b>
1107 Mortgage + Maintenance Fund Savings	\$ 102,914
* 1111 2020 Capital Campaign	\$ 42,458
1153 Bus Maintenance	\$ 964
1161 WET Team	\$ 1,154
1176 After School Nutrition	\$ 17,770
1177 Community Garden	\$ 2,977
1185 After School Programming	\$ 1,289
1186 Undesignated Gift	\$ 121,547
1189 FLY	\$ 1,650
1196 Rent Reserve	\$ 34,047
1198 Community Sunday Dinners	\$ 986
<b>Total 1110 Special Projects Savings</b>	<b>\$ 224,842</b>
<b>Memorial &amp; Endowment</b>	
1388 Mortgage Buydown Loan June '20	\$ 78,226
1355 ELCA Foundation	\$ 731,550
1359 Endowment Savings 7037377	\$ 102,473
<b>Mission Investment Fund Summary</b>	
1390 Mission Inv. Fund #38148	\$ 4,372
1393 Mission Inv. Fund acct#26506	\$ 2,168
1394 Mission Inv. Fund acct#32816	\$ 2,136
1395 Mission Inv. Fund acct# 32824	\$ 4,182
1396 Mission Inv. Fund acct# 32832	\$ 4,366
1397 Mission Inv. Fund acct#38121	\$ 4,158
1398 Mission Inv. Fund acct#38156	\$ 4,209
<b>Total Mission Investment Fund Summary</b>	<b>\$ 25,591</b>
1389 Thrivent Fixed Income - Schwab	\$ 430,500
1392 2017 Playground Loan	\$ 1,332
1356 Memorial Savings 7007834	\$ 45,336
<b>Total Memorial &amp; Endowment</b>	<b>\$ 1,415,010</b>



<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,928,496</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$ 60</b>
1401 Land	\$ 262,412
1402 Building & Improvements	\$ 2,023,603
1403 Sanctuary & Commons	\$ 1,998,733
1404 Equipment & Vehicles	\$ 654,064
1405 Kitchen Equipment	\$ 1,037
1406 Music Equipment	\$ 6,596
1407 Other	\$ 663,320
1408 Office Equipment	\$ 23,352
1410 Construction in Process	\$ 3,553,500
1411 Roof Repair 2002	\$ 100,521
1412 Computer	\$ 184
1498 Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (6,577,232)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,710,149</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 4,638,644</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
2100 Payroll Liabilities	\$ 864
2102 State Withholding MN	\$ (594)
2110 Federal Withholding	\$ (1,246)
2125 Thrivent Retirement Payable	\$ 200
2129 ELCA Retirement Payable	\$ (2,605)
2119 Health Care FSA	\$ 229
2120 FICA	\$ (1,865)
2121 Employee Portico Contribution	\$ 697
<b>Total Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ (4,319)</b>
2203 Prepaid Rent	\$ 10,000
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 5,681</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 11,362</b>
<b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>	
2800 Mortgage Payable	\$ 1,213,473
2904 Endowment Loan - Mortgage	\$ 78,226
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,291,699</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,303,061</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
3800 Opening Bal Equity	\$ 919
3900 Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 1,419,047
3910 Restricted Net Assets	\$ 1,856,425
Net Revenue	\$ 59,192
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 3,335,583</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 4,638,644.19</b>

\* \$212,291 raised but \$169,832 moved into the Endowment mortg buydown loan



## 2022 Benevolence Offerings

Benevolence Offerings	2022 Benevolence Offerings
Mpls ELCA	\$ 25,000
Lake WAPO Bible Camp	\$ 2,000
Pushpa	\$ 2,000
Meals on Wheels	\$ 2,500
Prison Ministry	\$ 425
SACA	\$ 3,376
Mission Jamaica	\$ 2,000
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 2,280
Hope 4 Youth	\$ 2,000
Every Meal	\$ 3,000
Scholarships	\$ 4,000
Benevolence Total	\$ 48,580

	2021 Actuals	2022 Actuals	Budget 2023	
<b>Memorial &amp; Endowment Income</b>				
<b>3081 Memorial &amp; Endowment Interest</b>	\$ 600.75	\$ 502.00	\$ 500.00	
<b>3312 Endowment Fund Transfers In</b>		\$ 49,778.00	\$ 1,600.00	80% of Capital Campaign Trf
<b>3370 Endowment Contributions</b>		\$ 15,711.17	\$ 15,000.00	
<b>3600 MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	\$ 1,690.00	\$ 715.00	\$ 600.00	
<b>Memorial Gifts</b>	\$ 3,170.00	\$ 9,295.00	\$ 9,000.00	
<b>Total Memorial &amp; Endowment Income</b>	<b>\$ 4,860.00</b>	<b>\$ 76,001.17</b>	<b>\$ 26,700.00</b>	
<b>Memorial &amp; Endowment Expenses</b>				
<b>6305 Memorial Expenses</b>	\$ 1,530.00			
<b>6315 Endowment Expenses</b>	\$ 4,609.00			
<b>6320 Endowment Fund Tranfers Out</b>		\$ 27,633.20		\$20,00 for benevolences and \$7633 for Video equip
<b>Total Memorial &amp; Endowment Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,139.00</b>	<b>\$ 27,633.20</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Total Memorial &amp; Endowment Revenue</b>	<b>\$ (1,279.00)</b>	<b>\$ 48,367.97</b>	<b>\$ 26,700.00</b>	

**First Lutheran Church of Columbia Heights**

**Operational Budget 2023**

	2021 Actuals	2022 Actuals	Budget 2022	Budget 2023
<b>Revenue</b>				
<b>Mortg &amp; Maint</b>	\$ 37,319	\$ 113,788	\$ 46,000	\$ 130,000
<b>Rent Reserve Income</b>		\$ 114,839		\$ -
3040 Lease/Rental Income	\$ 50	\$ 22,902	\$ 15,000	\$ 13,880
3050 Charter School Lease Rental	\$ 21,900	\$ 125,120	\$ 225,000	\$ 300,364
3060 Building Use Fees		\$ 7,545	\$ 7,000	\$ 9,900
<b>Grant Income</b>	\$ 10,630	\$ 7,972		\$ 2,000
<b>General Fund Interest</b>	\$ 1,814	\$ 2,218	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,200
<b>Events</b>	\$ 6,462	\$ 10,319	\$ 5,000	\$ 21,000
<b>Benevolences</b>	\$ 170	\$ 22,819	\$ -	\$ 1,500
<b>Special Gifts - Designated</b>	\$ 74,122	\$ 52,891	\$ 100,000	\$ 4,500
<b>Hospitality \$ Outreach</b>	\$ 12,852	\$ 12,540	\$ 13,000	\$ 15,000
<b>Ministry</b>	\$ 4,577	\$ 5,143	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,150
<b>MUSIC</b>	\$ -	\$ 27,433	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,300
<b>Stewardship Receipts</b>	\$ 464,204	\$ 471,996	\$ 379,000	\$ 493,930
<b>Youth</b>	\$ 3,255	\$ 7,468	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,212
<b>General Fund Income</b>	\$ 637,355	\$ 1,004,993	\$ 815,000	\$ 1,026,936
<b>General Fund Transfer In</b>	\$ -	\$ 10,191	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Gross Profit</b>	\$ 637,355	\$ 1,015,184	\$ 815,000	\$ 1,026,936
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	\$ 66,512	\$ 98,799	\$ 70,000	\$ 76,571
<b>OPS &amp; MAINT</b>	\$ 121,309	\$ 158,634	\$ 119,000	\$ 207,089
<b>MINISTRY EXPENSE</b>	\$ 10,125	\$ 9,285	\$ 12,000	\$ 5,300
Youth Ministry	\$ 2,966	\$ 13,562	\$ 19,000	\$ 11,997
Benevolences	\$ 46,915	\$ 46,577	\$ 42,500	\$ 49,686
Special Gifts - Designated	\$ 455	\$ 1,555	\$ -	\$ 1,630
Education	\$ 5,306	\$ 4,168	\$ -	\$ 6,522
Hospitality \$ Outreach	\$ 15,659	\$ 17,920	\$ 16,000	\$ 18,150
Lutefisk and Bazaar Fundraisers	\$ 485	\$ 1,795	\$ 500	\$ 7,250
Music Expense	\$ 2,143	\$ 11,433	\$ 5,000	\$ 9,000
Payroll Expenses	\$ 558,591	\$ 494,347	\$ 558,000	\$ 534,141
<b>General Fund Expenses</b>	\$ 830,464	\$ 858,075	\$ 842,000	\$ 927,336
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	\$ (193,109)	\$ 157,109	\$ (27,000)	\$ 99,600
<b>Net Other Revenue</b>	\$ 20,140	\$ (154,851)	\$ (123,072)	\$ (62,000)
<b>Net Revenue</b>	\$ (172,970)	\$ 2,257	\$ (150,072)	\$ 37,600
<b>Trsf for Benevolences from Endowment</b>			\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
<b>Net Revenue after transfer</b>		\$ 2,257	\$ (130,072)	\$ 57,600
<b>Mortgage pmts</b>		\$ 31,967		\$ 57,600