



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

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

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

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Annual Meeting Agenda

January 28, 2024

1. Call to Order—Orrin Ausen
2. Opening Devotions—Pastor Ale
3. Approval of Minutes from 2022 Annual Meeting
4. Pastor's Report—Pastor Ale Tulu
5. Vice-President's Report—Orrin Ausen
6. Church Committee Reports
 - a. Missions
 - b. Worship & Service
 - c. Parish Education
 - d. Property and Management
 - e. Youth
 - f. Stewardship
7. Other Organization Reports
 - a. Breckenridge Lutheran Women
 - b. Breckenridge Lutheran Quilters
 - c. Men's Club
 - d. Prayer Shawl Ministry
 - e. Altar Guild
 - f. Trust Fund Committee
8. Elections:
9. Approval of 2024 Budget
 - a. Discussion of Operating Income versus Dedicated Accounts
10. Old Business
11. New Business
12. Adjournment

Congregational Annual Meeting

January 29, 2023

1. Call to order - A quorum was reached and the annual meeting was called to order by President Jill Blaufuss.
2. Opening Devotions - Pastor Ale Tulu opened the meeting with the Call to Worship as printed in the Annual Report Booklet. Pastor also thanked the volunteers who helped last winter when our then secretary Laurie Allen was ill and before Lois Fenske joined our staff.
3. President Jill suggested that agenda items 3-7 (Approval of Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting, Pastor's Report, President's Report, Church Committee Reports and Other Organizational Reports) be combined for a vote.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Mary Ann Conrad to approve agenda items 3-7.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Russ Graves.
 - c. Action: The motion carried. Orrin Ausen from the Finance Committee reported that last year's budget came in just \$2,100 short of projection, calling it an "amazing accomplishment", and thanked the congregation for its past and continued support. He also encouraged members to consider volunteering for open committee positions and to contact a Council member if interested.
4. Elections – Council Candidates are:
Orrin Ausen-Vice President, 2-year term
Connie Jensen-Secretary, 2-year term
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Clark Dybdahl to approve the Council Candidates as listed.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Evie Fox.
 - c. Action: The motion carried.
5. Approval of 2023 Budget – There was discussion regarding clarification of the budget for Property and Management committee; this will be discussed further with the committee and Council.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Dennis Hasbargen to approve the 2023 proposed budget.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Mary Ann Conrad.
 - c. Action: The motion carried.
6. Old Business – None
7. New Business –
 - A. Approval of Synod Constitution Guidelines and Revised Constitution to be current as of 2021: Copies of the recommended Guidelines and revised Constitution were shared with attending congregation members. Attendees discussed the value of in-person attendance versus the potential for greater involvement by those unable to be physically present.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Evie Fox to approve Chapter 10 CONGREGATION MEETING C10. 04 and Chapter 12 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL C12. 12.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Mike Belseth.
 - c. Action: The motion carried.
 - B. Newsletter: A suggestion was made to change the monthly newsletter to bi-monthly as it has been difficult to obtain enough articles. Ideas for publishing the newsletter include making available a monthly paper/electronic calendar to reflect changes in programming, etc.
 - a. Motion: Orrin made the motion to make the newsletter bi-monthly.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Kris Klindt.
 - c. Action: The motion carried. The congregation also expressed its appreciation for Lois Fenske and her work and creativity.
8. Adjournment –
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Dennis Hasbargen to adjourn the meeting.
 - b. Second: The motion seconded by Gary Fox.
 - c. Action: The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Jensen
Acting Secretary

Pastor's Report

How lovely is your dwelling place O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Psalm 84:1-2

Every year just about this time, we gather for our annual meeting to take inventory of our performance for the past year and make plans for the coming year. It is good that we do this every year. It helps us to see where we are and do what we can to live up to our budget and stay a healthy congregation. But, whether we achieve our goals and expectations or not, what the Lord wants from us is to continue to dwell in His house and live in fellowship with Him and our church family as we continue to serve Him faithfully.

The writer of Psalm 84 talks about his burning desire for the house of God, how he longs to be there and how that place is very special to him. We too have a beautiful place of worship where we encounter our God in worship and enjoy fellowship with each other as His precious children. Like the psalmist, it fills my heart with great joy to know how deeply people are involved in the life of this congregation and the considerable amount of time they spend here at our church. This shows how special this place is for many of our congregation members and that is why it seems that our church is always open and our light is always on.

Every moment of every day at Breckenridge Lutheran Church, the time we spend attending board and committee meetings, teaching Wednesday school and confirmation, attending Sunday and Wednesday worship and being nurtured by word and sacrament, doing bible studies, quilting, choir and bell practices, taking part in WELCA programs and community events, all these activities we do, we do it for the glory of God and for the purpose of serving His church.

This church is truly blessed with many talented and gifted and generous people who love this church and would do anything to keep it a healthy and vibrant congregation so that we may continue to do the task we are commissioned to do by our Lord Jesus Christ. As we do all these, our strategy and our priorities may change from year to year but our main goal is always the same which is to share the good news our Lord Jesus Christ in word and deed.

We can be proud of all that we have accomplished in 2023 working together. It may have been a challenging year for us financially but at the same time we are able to send our benevolence to our Synod in full, paid off 1/3 of our mission investment debt, completed our elevator repair and sewer system as well as doing a number of other projects around our church building. Considering all these works, we have much to be thankful for what has been done in this past year.

It is such a great pleasure for me to work with such a great staff and congregation. Now, may the Lord who blessed us in the past year continue to bless us to grow in faith, worship, and attendance as we move ahead to the 2024 church year.

Sincerely and faithfully

Pastor Ale

Vice President/Acting President's Report

2023 was a fantastic year for our church. Despite dealing with a sewer line clog in the basement to the street, finishing off insulating the second floor, pumping water out of the elevator shaft, hooking up the emergency fire and sump pump alarm systems, the landscaping project outside the north side of church, our pictorial directory engineered by Jill Blaufuss, and our work on the membership roll and inactive members list. So many people came together and worked hard to get things done. Many generously donated their time and talents and we managed all of it.

In addition to many hands completing these tasks, it has become very apparent the hands completing the tasks are becoming fewer and fewer. We need more volunteers to help complete the mission and work of our church. As I have stated before and you have heard me say that WE are a "FAMILY." We need to come together as a family to reach our financial budget and project goals set by the Church Council. More family members are needed to serve on various committees and on our council. As it is, we are not meeting our functioning according to our church constitutional by-laws. I propose that you prayerfully consider to get involved with your time and talents to serve on one of the various committees/groups or we may experience in the near future these committees/groups will cease to exist. We need you!!

The norm of our church worship services is divided between Wednesdays and Sundays. Bri Allison found a curriculum for Wednesday education that works well for her and the other teachers and subs, Deb Berndt, Tracy Bommersbach (who also shares her amazing musical talent with our kids), Ashley Johnson, Jordan Snyder and Amanda Crouse. Lexi Hought and her LYO committee are doing so many meaningful and cool things for our confirmation aged kids. Lexi Hought, Misty Arenstein and Pastor Ale are our confirmation teachers, and Rene Hasbargen meets with 10th graders/mentors once a month. Rene Hasbargen and Clark Dybdahl are staples of our worship services, beside our Pastor Ale, who in his fourth year, is such an important part of this church family.

Tuesday and Friday morning coffee with Pastor Ale and staff are popular gatherings for many folks. Pastor Ale also has a Men's Breakfast gathering at the Fryn' Pan in Wahpeton on Thursday mornings. He is always out helping and visiting with folks who are homebound or in the hospital. He gives back to our church generously. And truly cares about all of us. I think we're so fortunate to have him.

Our BLW was very active planning the Meatball Supper and women's suppers. The Meatball Supper had another very successful fundraising event again this past year. Our quilters worked hard every month to create meaningful works of art and our bell choir headed by Mary Jane Pauly and church choir headed by Kay Nelson kept our church services supplied with joyful music.

Jackie Mertes, as chairman of the Alter Guild, and Altar Guild members keep our church looking so beautiful. Custodian, Teresa Pearson, put in many hours to make our church so clean, checking to make sure sump pumps are working and making sure everything else is in good repair. Jim Grawe is here almost daily checking on the boiler. And our property committee has done an excellent job getting so many tasks completed.

Connie Jensen heads our Missions committee and has done an especially amazing job calculating where our church is most compelled to provide dollars needed to local, national, and international communities and basis our monthly mission strategies on that. The money we donated truly went to beneficial use in our community and the world.

Lois Fenske has been an enormous blessing to our church as office administrator. She is unbelievably good at computer technology, and always finding easy ways to save money in our budget. She is an amazing graphic designer, and her Weekly Words e-newsletter is very professional and fun to read. She's got great ideas, is organized, patient and such a hard worker. She is a terrific asset to our church staff!

Deb Berndt graciously stepped in as our accountant over the past two years and has been doing it completely as a volunteer, working evenings and weekends around her regular full-time accounting job. She deserves a huge thank you for this time and effort. We were so fortunate that someone with her skills stepped forward to help our church without hesitation. Thank you so much Deb.

Deb and Lois implemented a new church accounting program/software entitled IconCMO this past year in which Lois completes most of the monthly budget work now. This new software also allows you to view the church directory and view/print your contribution statements.

There are so many other people who regularly volunteer behind the scenes. And I apologize for leaving anyone out.

Thank you to everyone who has shown their support and kindness during my time as vice-president. I will continue serving and I ask for your continued support. I want to be as approachable as possible, so please do not hesitate to share your thoughts and concerns with me as we continue to work as a "FAMILY" to do our church work and carry out our mission!

Sincerely,

Orrin

Missions Report

The following is a summary of contributions/donations given by members of Breckenridge Lutheran Church:

Month	Mission	Amt Rcvd
January/February	Someplace Safe	\$270
March/April	Richland/Wilkin Food Pantry	\$110 & 75# of groceries
May	Valley Lake Boys Home	\$250
June	Kinship	\$97
July/August	Luther Crest/20+ quilts to Micah's Mission	\$375
September	Worked with Rebekah Circle to receive donations of personal and school supplies	
October/November	Operation Christmas Child	43 gift boxes
December	Wilkin County Needy Families	24 gift cards

Our congregation has been so generous to share with others what God has first given us. This list does not fully represent all the donations other groups in our church have given. Thank you to all who have shared so that others may benefit. Thank you to Lois and Deb for their financial and organizational assistance. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,
Connie Jensen

Worship & Service Report

The committee members for 2023 have been Heidi Genereux, Mary Jane Pauly, Kay Nelson, Janel Butts, and Pastor Ale.

The worship committee met about three times during the year and planned for the music that contributed to our worship.

The beginning of the year the church council approved Kay Nelson to be our adult choir director/organist who selected hymns for Sunday services. Mary Jane Pauly continued directing the Bell Choir and shared the organist responsibilities with Kay. Roberta Whitehead agreed to be the choir accompanist until her stroke in July prohibited her from continuing. Kay has been directing as well as accompanying since then.

We have been grateful for Janel Butts who has stepped in and been the number one volunteer to cover for Kay Nelson when she is gone.

Our committee would like to thank Lois for all of her planning and preparation of producing our bulletin. We would also like to thank all our volunteers contributing to our service and especially to Scott Wendorff and to all of the many volunteers working on our online services and sound system. We sincerely thank and appreciate Pastor Ale, Rene Hasbargen and Clark Dybdahl for blessing us with leading us in worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Nelson

Parish Education Report / Wednesday School

The children of Breckenridge Lutheran continue to fill the church with energy and laughter on Wednesday nights. The Pre-K through 6th grade students have been learning about God through the curriculum, "Digging into the Heart of God." Each weekly lesson focuses on a specific quality of God. The activity-based lessons show the kids how God is present in their everyday lives. The kids wrap up the night with music. We had 32 Pre-K through 6th grade students participating in our Wednesday education program.

The younger students have been involved in the church in many ways. They have been helping in the kitchen with serving and clean up for Wednesday night suppers. The students sang at the Palm Sunday service in April. First Communion was celebrated by six 5th graders in April. Youth sang at the Mother's Day service in May. Four Breckenridge Lutheran youth attended the space themed Bethel Lutheran Vacation Bible School in August. The kids had a great time at the pool party in August. Six 2nd graders had Bible classes with Pastor Ale in October and received their first Bibles from the church. Some of the youth helped with the Richland Wilkin County Backpack Program in October and December to fill backpacks full of food for area students in need. The youth wrapped up the year with the Christmas program, which focused on how Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

Respectfully submitted,

Brianne Allison

Property & Management Report

We finished the repair of the elevator and added the phone addition. The sewer blocked up and needed to be replaced out to the street. Attic insulation was added and is working very well to keep the heat from escaping and causing ice dams. The foundation was sealed along the building and has stopped the leaking into the Rap room in the basement area. There are other projects that will need to be addressed (such as flooring replaced) that have been put on hold due to the elevator and sewer expense.

Respectfully submitted,

Evie Fox

Breckenridge Lutheran Youth Report

LYO has a goal of creating time for youth to gather in fellowship, serve in volunteer hours and fundraise to self-fund our events. The LYO board consists of Lexi Hought, Bri Allison, Deb Berndt and Joel Herder.

We had a lot of fun together over the past year at events including: a ski trip to Andes Tower Hills, Family Feud Gameshow, trip to Valley Fair, Breckenridge Pool Party, a trip to the Haunted Farm and after party

Our service projects involved preparing, serving and cleaning up after many meals over the year. The youth did this with a great attitude and a smile on their face. Other service projects included Feed My Starving Children, Operation Christmas Child, and Backpack Program which all helped children both locally and across the globe. These service projects helped the youth get a broader feel for those in need and how we can help in Jesus's name. Fundraisers included food booths at the two day Headwater's Music Festival and Headwater's Day event and a soup cook off in October.

Confirmation families have helped support by donating, preparing and serving Wednesday night dinners during Lent with proceeds from the free will donations going to LYO and Confirmation. Last year our end of the year confirmation event was held at Thunder Road. We also attended the Middle School Synod Youth Gathering at Luthercrest in November. We have seven youth and two adults signed up for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July of 2024. We have witnessed these events bring in more youth and currently have 22 students grades 7-9 regularly attending confirmation.

Our account balance as of December 31, 2023 was \$22,011.86, which includes two \$4,000 CDs.

Respectfully submitted,

Lexi Hought

Stewardship/Finance Report

The purpose of the finance committee is to promote stewardship at Breckenridge Lutheran Church which includes member's commitment of time, talent, and finances. The finance committee's goal is to promote caring, giving, and "Generosity", of our Christian faith through stewardship in the lives of the members of the congregation. We try to make everyone aware that God has given us many and varied talents to use by leading members toward higher levels of proportionate giving of their time, talents, and tithes for the Lord's work in the congregation, synod, national, and worldwide missions. Your generous gifts are used every day to do the work of meeting our yearly budget.

We had a very good year in 2023. Thank God for your support for our church and our efforts to reach souls locally and globally for Christ. BLC relies on the generous donations of its members to do what it does. Being good stewards of those funds is the primary responsibility of the church board and finance committee. Together, the church council and finance committee plan, propose, review, and adjust the yearly budget to meet the church's operational needs.

Debt Management—The finance committee should have a strategy for paying down debt, and that should be part of the budget. Multiple fundraising efforts and generous donations helped significantly reduce the elevator repair project. Paying down this debt (\$35,000 in 2023) came through capital campaigns that were designated for debit reduction, or from aggressive principal-only payments. The finance committee, of which there is no one currently serving, monitors the budget every month by reviewing the actual dollars that came in, the actual dollars that went out and analyzing any variances. Midyear adjustments were made to the budget as projections fell short or unexpected expenses came up.

The Numbers—All of the church financial budgeted line-item numbers for the 2023 yearly income and expenses can be found in the treasurer's report. Many thanks to all council members for submitting their annual reports and to Deb Berndt and Lois Fenske for preparing the financial budget and compiling the council member's committee reports for our 2024 annual meeting.

Orrin Ausen, Stewardship/Finance Committee

Parochial Reports

Membership & Attendance

MEMBERSHIP AS OF 1/1/23		1,123
Members Received		
- By Baptism		3
- By Transfer		3
Total Members Received		5
Members Removed		
- By Death		12
- By Transfer		33
- For Other Reasons and Statistical Adjustment		6
Total Members Removed		51
MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/2023		1,032

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR 2023	
Average Sunday Attendance	63
Average Wednesday Evening Worship Attendance	65
Special Services:	
- Maundy Thursday	34
- Good Friday (Worship at Breckenridge United Methodist)	52
- Easter Sunday	183
- Christmas Eve	4pm—167

Parochial Reports

Transfers, Baptisms, Funerals

Members received by Transfer:

Beverly Pompe
Guy & Roberta Whitehead

Members received by Baptism:

Teeko Colby
Carson Crouse

Members removed by Transfer:

Roger & Connie Albertson	Gerald & Celine Brudvik
Al, Angie & Anna Cleveland	Doyle & Mary Gylten
Brett, Rachel, Austin, Andrew & Alex Johnson	
Seth Klostreich	Debra & Ronald Knudtson
Brad & Tracy Lindberg	Aubree Platt
Allison Sprenger	

Members removed by Death:

Harriet Bakken	Curtis Funkhouser
Al & Earlett Johnson	Virginia Klein
Philip Koppelman	Kevin Melkert
Glenn Rakow	Arlen Steffens
Cliff Strege	Delores Wessels
Stella Ziegler	

Confirmation and Graduation

2023 Graduation Class:

Haylee Andel	Beau Arenstein	Gusten Bergkvist/Eriksson
Caytlin Bruns	Kelsey Ceroll	Peyton Christensen
Joseph Conzemius	Kolby Differding	Carson Dohman
Corey Dohman	Dallen Ernst	Isabel Haavig
Gibson Hasbargen	Mason Hendrickx	Abigail Johnson
Josephine Johnson	Alex Ohm	Addison Twidwell
Ace Wika		

2023 Confirmation Class:

Eli Butts
Jaelie Ernst

2024 Ballot for Church Council

We are looking for candidates for a few committees. Please consider volunteering

Council Nominees

President (2 year term)

Orrin Ausen

Vice-President

Jared Miller

Finance/Stewardship

Jill Blaufuss

Mike Belseth

Current Council & Committee Members

President: Vacant

Vice President: Orrin Ausen

Secretary: Connie Jensen

Treasurer: Deb Berndt

Property Committee: Evie Fox-Council Rep., Jared Miller, Roy Marohl, Teresa Pearson, Jim Grawe, Chellee Conzemius

Finance/Stewardship: Orrin Ausen-Council Rep.

Missions Committee: Connie Jensen-Council Rep., Mariah Hought, Harry Ockhardt, Cooper Allison

Worship Committee: Heidi Genereux-Council Rep., Mary Jane Pauly, Kay Nelson, Janel Butts

Parish Education Committee: Ashley Johnson-Council Rep., Bri Allison, Deb Berndt, Lexi Hought

Youth Committee: Joel Herder-Council Rep., Bri Allison, Lexi Hought

Congregational Trust: Kathy Smith-chair, Heidi Arnhalt, Mike Belseth, Rod Myhra, Steve Kent, Mike Hasbargen, Megan Fedderson Wallace

Audit Committee: Kara Gruenberg, Kathy Affield, Orrin Ausen and Deb Berndt

Personnel Committee: Kara Gruenberg, Steve Kent, Deb Berndt, Heidi Genereux

Mutual Ministry Committee: Vacant

Nomination Committee: Vacant

Evangelism Committee: Leslee Ausen

Financial Reports Trust Fund

(balances as of December 2023)

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

Bell Bank	4/25/24	\$25,000	5.31%
Bell Bank	3/28/24	\$25,000	5.25%
Bell Bank	3/28/24	\$15,375	5.25%
Total amount in CD's		\$66,375	

MUTUAL FUND

Thrivent	\$89,082
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CHECKING ACCOUNT

Bell Bank	\$6,553
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Total BLC Trust Fund Balance \$162,010

During 2023, the Trust Fund Committee received request applications from seven students and two adults. The requests are for funds to assist with expenses for the group to attend the National Youth Convention July 15-20, 2024 in New Orleans. The requests were granted for the designated funds and approved by the committee. Payment will be made to the Youth Fund in 2024.

The Trust Fund accounts are all doing well and continue to grow. Goals for the 2024 Trust Fund Committee are to review Trust Fund bylaws, seek new committee members and to educate others on growing our Trust Fund planning.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Smith—Chair

Heidi Arnhalt—Secretary

Mike Belseth—Treasurer

Steve Kent

Rod Myhra

Mike Hasbargen

Megan Fedderson Wallace

Financial Reports

Breckenridge Lutheran Women

The Breckenridge Lutheran Women had four meetings in 2023: March, May, September, December – with the annual Pentecost Supper held in September where we invited members of the community to enjoy the entertainment provided by the Moline Sisters. The year-end meeting was held in December with an informative speech by Jo Bolte from Someplace Safe. Synod Conferences were held in April and October. Our **Annual Election Night Meatball Dinner** was held on Tuesday, November 8 with dine-in, carry out and delivery options. Our income was \$9,672.90 (\$3125 in raffle sales; \$4,418 in meal sales; and \$2,129.90 in donations). Expenses were \$1,672.31 with a **PROFIT of \$8,000.59**. The following is a breakdown of the BLW account activity:

Starting Balance January 1, 2023:	\$	14,270.87
 <u>DEPOSITS</u>		
Circle Offerings	\$	515.00
Thank Offerings	\$	285.00
BLW Meeting Offerings	\$	440.00
Donations	\$	12.00
Lenten Dinner	\$	197.00
Meatball Dinner	\$	8,893.00
Cards	\$	43.00
Conferences	\$	132.00
 TOTAL DEPOSITS =	 \$	 10,517.00
 <u>EXPENSES</u>		
Women of ELCA	\$	128.25
Staff Appreciation Gifts	\$	150.00
Women of ELCA – Conference	\$	212.00
MN Synod Convention	\$	750.00
Elevator Fund	\$	7,000.00
Meatball Dinner Expenses	\$	912.42
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$	100.00
Pentecost Supper	\$	200.00
Sound System	\$	500.00
Wilkin County Family Christmas	\$	250.00
Speakers for Meetings	\$	250.00
Landscaping	\$	2,002.86
New Stainless Steel Coffee Urns	\$	757.13
Miscellaneous	\$	111.98
 TOTAL EXPENSES =	 \$	 13,324.64
 Ending Balance December 31, 2023:	 \$	 11,463.23

Financial Reports Quilters

The Evening Quilters is a small group. The past year we have made baby quilts for baptism, tied some fleece blankets and are making backpacks for Lutheran World Relief. We meet the Third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. New member are always welcome!

Day Quilters meet the Third Wednesday with an average of 18 ladies. This past year we gave quilts to 19 Graduates, Valley Lake, Someplace Safe, Veterans Home, Micah's Mission and Lutheran World Relief.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl meets the Second Tuesday at 1:00 pm. The shawls are made of torn batik strips. We do not stock pile shawls. They are made as a name is given to us. They are made for members facing illness, loss of a loved one, encouragement, etc. While working, we pray for the person we are making the shawl for. The shawl is blessed before delivery.

Breckenridge Lutheran Men's Club

(No Activity)

Altar Guild Report

Co-chair leaders were Jackie Mertes and Rene Hasbargen. The Altar Guild members cleaned the brass before Lenten season. They served a Lenten night supper for the congregational members. Easter Lilies and Mums were sold as a fundraiser in the Spring. The members decorated for the Advent season in December. Altar Guild purchased a few new Christmas decorations this year. We held a Bake Sale for our fundraiser in December.

Thank you to the Congregational member who made donations to the Altar Guild this year to help us continue to do God's work in our beautiful church.

Submitted by,
Jackie Mertes

Altar Guild Members:

Jackie Mertes—Chair
Rene Hasbargen—Treasurer
Jill Blaufuss—Communications Assistant
Corrina Erickson
Mary Ann Conrad
Kristen Hasbargen
Julie Aigner
Janel Butts
Brienne Evans
Heidi Arnhalt
Shannon Wendorff
Char Schuler
Bonnie Karels
Deb Berndt

Financial Reports
Altar Guild 2023 Treasurer's Report

Balance as of January 1, 2023	\$1,866.60
Expenses:	
January 11, 2023	
Check 1037—Heidi Arnhalt (Christmas Supplies)	-33.97
April 6, 2023	
Check 1038—Bergen's Floral (Easter Flowers)	-234.00
April 13, 2023	
Check 1039—Richland/Wilkin Food Pantry Donation	-279.00
December 22, 2023	
Check 1040—Jacki Mertes (Banners, Altar Guild Supplies)	-342.69
Income:	
April 10, 2023	
Good Friday Supper	+279.00
December 22, 2023	
Altar Guild Bake Sale on 12/17/23	+663.00
Ending Balance as of December 31, 2023	\$1,918.94

Rene Hasbargen
BLC Altar Guild Treasurer

Financial Reports
Dedicated Fund Account Balances 12/31/2023

Altar Guild	434.00
Benevolence	10.00
Bible Study/Book Club	71.82
BLW	362.65
Building/Property	4,189.54
Call Committee	194.90
Chalice	713.67
Childrens Music Director	50.00
Choir/Music	1,928.58
Church Rental	300.00
Confirmation Class Material	170.58
Confirmation Robes	428.04
Debt Reduction	1,355.48
ELCA World Missions	41.00
Elevator	1,030.00
Faith Care Share	7,062.70
Fellowship Tables	68.46
Handbell Choir	592.31
Insurance	429.80
Library	186.61
Luther Crest	1,603.00
LYO	11,645.86
LYO-Middle School	175.00
LYO-NYG	1,650.00
LYO-Soup Bake	541.00
LYO-CD #1	4,000.00
LYO-CD #2	4,000.00
Men's Breakfast Group	380.00
Monthly Mission	2,803.54
New HVAC Furnace	13,440.00
Office Improvement	1,710.84
Organ	395.00
Pastors Discretionary	2,413.36
Prayer Shawl	352.45
Property/Sewer Repair	3,476.58
Quilting	1,601.72
Radio Sponsorship	479.00
Sunday School Memorials	395.90
Sunday School Offering	1,354.19
Thrivent Choice Dollars	2,444.01
TV and Radio Memorials	238.91
Undesignated Gifts	11,751.07
VBS	4.00
Wednesday Supper	4,563.62
Worship Instruments	-836.49

Financial Reports

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/23

Assets		
Bank		
Checking-Bank of the West		104,882.10
Total Bank		<u>104,882.10</u>
Other Current Assets		
Other Fixed Assets		22,478.03
Total Other Current Assets		<u>22,478.03</u>
Fixed Assets		
Buildings		687,277.00
Total Fixed Assets		<u>687,277.00</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>814,637.13</u></u>
Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Payroll Withholding & Taxes		
State Withholding Tax Payable		
State Withholding Tax Payable-Employee	285.00	
Total State Withholding Tax Payable		<u>285.00</u>
Total Payroll Withholding & Taxes		285.00
Total Other Current Liabilities		<u>285.00</u>
Long Term Liabilities		
Note Payable- Mission Investment	84,313.00	
Principle	<u>-31,352.84</u>	
Total Note Payable- Mission Investment		<u>52,960.16</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities		<u>52,960.16</u>
Total Liabilities		<u><u>53,245.16</u></u>
Net Assets		
Restricted		
Altar Guild		434.00
Benevolence		10.00
Bible Study/Book Club		71.82
BLW		362.65
Building/Property		4,189.54
Call Committee		194.90
Chalice		713.67
Childrens Music Director		50.00
Choir/Music		1,928.58
Confirmation Class Material		170.58
Confirmation Robes		428.04
Debt Reduction		1,355.48
ELCA World Missions		41.00
Elevator		1,030.00
Faith Care Share		7,062.70
Fellowship Tables		68.46
Handbell Choir		592.31

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/23 (continued)

Insurance	429.80
Library	186.61
Luther Crest	1,603.00
LYO	6,873.88
LYO-Middle School	175.00
LYO-NYG	1,650.00
LYO-Soup Bake	541.00
Mens Breakfast Group	380.00
Monthly Mission	2,803.54
New HVAC Furnace	13,440.00
Office Improvement	1,710.84
Organ	395.00
Pastors Discretionary	2,413.36
Prayer Shawl	352.45
Property/Sewer Repair	3,476.58
Quilting	1,601.72
Radio Sponsorship	479.00
SS Memorials	395.90
SS Offering	1,354.19
Thrivent Choice Dollars	2,444.01
TV and Radio Memorials	238.91
Undesignated Gifts	11,751.07
VBS	4.00
Wednesday Supper	4,563.62
Worship Instruments	-836.49
Total Restricted	77,130.72
Unrestricted	
Christmas	790.00
Church Rental	300.00
General	677,613.16
Holy Week Easter	4,464.50
Lenten Offerings	688.00
Thanksgiving	325.00
US Treasury Refund	80.59
Total Unrestricted	684,261.25
Total Net Assets	761,391.97
	=====
Total Liabilities + Net Assets	814,637.13
	=====

Financial Reports

Profit & Loss—January through December 2023

Revenues

Contribution Revenues

Contributions

Christmas Offerings	790.00
Church Rental	375.00
Easter Offerings	4,464.50
Envelope Offerings	223,349.51
Lenten Offerings	688.00
Thanksgiving Offering	325.00

Total Contributions 229,992.01

Total Contribution Revenues 229,992.01

Miscellaneous Revenues

US Treasury Refund

80.59

Total Miscellaneous Revenues 80.59

Total Revenues 230,072.60
=====

Expenditures

Operating Expenses

Benevolence

7,000.00

Delegate Expense 255.00

Total Benevolence 7,255.00

Church/Grounds Maintenance Expense

Custodial Supplies 727.77

General Building Maintenance 7,224.72

General Grounds Maintenance 3,289.55

Repairs & Renovations 358.99

Total Church/Grounds Maintenance Expense 11,601.03

Church Rental-Custodial

150.00

Insurance

Business Owners/WC/Commercial XS 16,884.97

Total Insurance 16,884.97

Interest Expense-Mission Investment

4,128.30

Musicians

Accompanist 850.00

Choir Director 950.00

Handbell Director 1,040.00

Medicare Withholding 52.64

Organist 6,550.00

Total Musicians 9,442.64

Office Expenses

380.63

Office Equipment Lease/Repair 2,863.10

Office Supplies 928.94

Postage/Mailing Expense 1,348.95

Software - Upgrades/Support 1,106.56

Vanco/Simply Giving Fees 509.14

Profit & Loss—January through December 2023—continued

Total Office Expenses		7,137.32
Pastor Salary/Benefits		
Continuing Education	502.50	
Health Insurance	45,679.72	
Housing Allowance	15,999.85	
Pastors Salary	53,143.96	
Retirement Fund	8,379.40	
Total Pastor Salary/Benefits		123,705.43
Programming Expense		
Books/Bibles/Curriculum	194.99	
Confirmation Class Materials	296.88	
LYO	20.00	
Sunday School	1,017.62	
VBS	80.00	
Total Programming Expense		1,609.49
Staff Salaries		
Administration Salaries	21,403.00	
Custodial Salaries	9,375.04	
Medicare Withholding	851.89	
Social Security Withholding	2,572.57	
Systems Operator	1,465.00	
Total Staff Salaries		35,667.50
Telephone/Internet Expense		
Internet Expense	2,202.41	
Telephone Expense	1,282.35	
Total Telephone/Internet Expense		3,484.76
Utilities		
Garbage	1,737.89	
Gas	7,183.30	
Public Utilities	6,633.38	
Total Utilities		15,554.57
Worship Expenses	521.58	
Celebrate Inserts	584.56	
Choir	29.11	
Devotionals	477.00	
Handbell Choir	227.72	
Hymnals	49.20	
Liturgical Calendars	56.57	
Music Licensing	434.25	
Organ/Piano Expense	240.00	
Total Worship Expenses		2,619.99
Total Operating Expenses		239,241.00
Total Expenditures		239,241.00
		=====

Profit & Loss—January through December 2023—continued

Other Revenues			
Interest Income			
Bank Interest		3.56	
Total Interest Income			3.56
 Miscellaneous Income			
Other Income			
Altar Guild		434.00	
Benevolence		10.00	
BLW		1,367.65	
Building Fund		2,255.00	
Choir		40.00	
Confirmation Class Material		20.00	
Debt Reduction-Mission Inv		4,865.00	
ELCA World Missions		25.00	
Elevator		11,815.00	
Ethiopia Night		2,048.31	
Faith Care & Share		2,931.32	
Food Pantry		180.83	
Handbell Choir		85.00	
Insurance-Misc		429.80	
LYO	7,499.30		
Middle School		175.00	
NYG	2,100.00		
Soup Competition/Bake Sale	541.00		
Total LYO		10,315.30	
Mens Breakfast Group		525.00	
Monthly Mission		14,764.00	
New HVAC/Furnace		60.00	
Office Improvement		250.00	
Prayer Shawl		70.00	
Property/Sewer Repair		17,700.00	
Quilting		1,730.00	
Radio Sponsorship		3,100.00	
Smelt Fry		3,026.00	
Sunday School Memorials		95.00	
Sunday School Offering		24.27	
Thrivent Choice Dollars		860.00	
TV & Radio Memorials		2,045.00	
Undesignated Gifts		7,580.00	
Wednesday Meal		4,178.81	
Total Other Income			92,830.29
Total Miscellaneous Income			92,830.29
Total Other Revenues			92,833.85
			=====
 Other Expenditures			
Other Misc Expenses			
Bank Service Charges		170.26	

Profit & Loss—January through December 2023—continued

Boards/Groups			
BLW		2,446.59	
Faith Care & Share		2,017.15	
LYO	668.42		
NYG	450.00		
Total LYO		1,118.42	
Mens Breakfast		500.00	
Misisons		1,258.52	
Pastors Discretionary Fund		830.00	
Prayer Shawl		79.90	
Quilting		599.68	
Total Boards/Groups		<u>8,850.26</u>	
Building Fund		8,564.78	
Elevator		27,442.01	
Ethiopia Night		170.87	
Life Insurance Payable		429.80	
Monthly Mission		14,005.83	
Other Expenses			
Radio & TV/Equipment		4,777.08	
Total Other Expenses		<u>4,777.08</u>	
Property/Sewer Repair		14,223.42	
Radio Sponsorship		3,840.00	
Smelt Fry		964.28	
Sunday School Memorials		64.05	
Thrivent Choice Dollars		866.67	
Wednesday Meal		1,688.81	
Worship Instruments		1.32	
Total Other Misc Expenses		<u>86,059.44</u>	
Total Other Expenditures			<u>86,059.44</u> =====
Other Financial Sources-Uses			
Operating Transfers			
Transfers In		52,533.48	
Transfers Out		<u>-52,533.48</u>	
Total Operating Transfers			<u>0.00</u>
Total Other Financial Sources-Uses			<u>0.00</u> =====
Net Revenue			<u>-2,393.99</u> =====

Financial Reports

Proposed Budget for 2024

Account	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<i>Benevolence</i>		
Delegate Expense.....	\$ 255.00	\$ 400.00
Luther Crest.....	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
NW MN Synod.....	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
Ottertail Conference.....	\$ 0.00	\$ 250.00
	\$ 7,255.00	\$ 8,150.00
<i>Church/Grounds Maintenance Expense</i>		
Custodial Supplies.....	\$ 727.77	\$ 1,000.00
General Building Maintenance.....	\$ 7,224.72	\$ 10,000.00
General Grounds Maintenance.....	\$ 3,289.55	\$ 4,000.00
Repairs & Renovations.....	\$ 358.99	\$ 500.00
	\$ 11,601.03	\$ 15,500
<i>Insurance</i>		
Business Owners/WC/Commercial XS.....	\$ 16,884.97	\$ 18,000.00
<i>Interest Expense-Mission Investment</i>	\$ 4,128.30	\$ 2,880.00
<i>Musicians</i>		
Accompanist.....	\$ 850.00	\$ 900.00
Choir Director.....	\$ 950.00	\$ 1,000.00
Handbell Director.....	\$ 1,040.00	\$ 1,550.00
Organist.....	\$ 6,550.00	\$ 7,000.00
Payroll Taxes.....	\$ 707.69	\$ 750.00
	\$ 10,097.69	\$ 11,200.00
<i>Office Expenses</i>		
Miscellaneous.....	\$ 380.63	\$ 300.00
Office Equipment Lease/Repair.....	\$ 2,863.10	\$ 3,000.00
Office Furniture Expense.....	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Office Machines.....	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Office Supplies.....	\$ 928.94	\$ 1,000.00
Postage/Mailing Expense.....	\$ 1,348.95	\$ 1,500.00
Software - Upgrades/Support.....	\$ 1,106.56	\$ 1,750.00
Vanco/Simply Giving Fees.....	\$ 509.14	\$ 600.00
	\$ 7,137.32	\$ 8,150.00
<i>Pastor Salary/Benefits</i>		
Continuing Education.....	\$ 502.50	\$ 750.00
Health Insurance.....	\$ 45,679.72	\$ 39,000.00
Housing Allowance.....	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Pastors Salary.....	\$ 50,718.96	\$ 46,719.00
Pulpit Support.....	\$ 2,425.00	\$ 2,500.00
Retirement Fund.....	\$ 8,379.40	\$ 14,365.00
	\$ 123,705.58	\$ 123,334.00

Proposed Budget for 2024—continued

Account	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Programming Expense		
Books/Bibles/Curriculum.....	\$ 194.99	\$ 250.00
Confirmation Class Materials	\$ 296.88	\$ 400.00
Confirmation Robes	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
LYO	\$ 20.00	\$ 250.00
LYO Chaperone.....	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00
Sunday School	\$ 1,017.62	\$ 500.00
VBS	\$ 80.00	\$ 250.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 1,609.49	\$ 2,150.00
Staff Salaries		
Administration Salaries	\$ 21,403.00	\$ 24,000.00
Continuing Education.....	\$ 0.00	\$ 100.00
Custodial Salaries.....	\$ 9,375.04	\$ 11,000.00
Payroll Taxes.....	\$ 2,769.41	\$ 2,850.00
Systems Operator.....	\$ 1,465.00	\$ 1,750.00
Travel-Lodging/Meals/Transportation.....	\$ 0.00	\$ 100.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 35,012.45	\$ 39,800.00
Telephone/Internet Expense		
Internet Expense.....	\$ 2,202.41	\$ 2,250.00
Telephone Expense.....	\$ 1,282.35	\$ 1,300.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 3,484.76	\$ 3,550.00
Utilities		
Garbage	\$ 1,737.89	\$ 1,800.00
Natural Gas	\$ 7,183.30	\$ 7,500.00
Public Utilities	\$ 6,633.38	\$ 7,500.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 15,554.57	\$ 16,800.00
Worship Expenses		
Bulletins/Envelopes	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Celebrate Inserts	\$ 584.56	\$ 0.00
Choir/Instruments/Electronics	\$ 29.11	\$ 100.00
Devotionals	\$ 477.00	\$ 500.00
Handbell Choir	\$ 227.72	\$ 200.00
Hymnals	\$ 49.20	\$ 250.00
Liturgical Calendars	\$ 56.57	\$ 75.00
Miscellaneous.....	\$ 521.58	\$ 500.00
Music Licensing	\$ 434.25	\$ 500.00
Organ/Piano Expense.....	\$ 240.00	\$ 500.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 2,619.99	\$ 2,625.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2023 Budget	
TOTAL	\$ 288,195.00	\$ 239,091.15
		\$ 252,139.00

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America