

WHOLLY DEVOTED

to loving God and our neighbor





Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Is This as Good as it Gets?

“The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God....²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world..., to reduce to nothing things that are,²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18, 28-29

*“Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**”*

- Excerpts from readings and prayers for January 29th – the 4th Sunday After Epiphany, 2023

Beloved in Christ of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

In the 1997 movie by the same name, a mentally ill character played by Jack Nicholson, wonders aloud to a waiting room full of fellow sufferers, “Maybe this is as good as it gets.” Over this last year, I’ve heard many of you lay and rostered leaders wonder the same thing about our life together as the church in this early part of the 21st century as we continue to deal with the lingering effects of the pandemic and the many years of gradual decline in church attendance leading up to it. Although this may not be everyone’s reality, we all live among beloved neighbors for whom it is. For many of you, this means, among other things, that you are having to make some hard decisions at this year’s annual meetings.

Paul’s letters to the Christians in Corinth were written to people who never expected the church to amount to much of anything in this world, and Paul is encouraging them to be good with that. Then, 400 years later, things took an unexpected turn, and for the next 1,400 years or so, the church enjoyed a place of power and prestige in western society. That bygone era yielded mixed results for humankind, for the planet and for the Gospel. But having a big institution with lots of members enjoying great influence over the affairs of this world was never the point; it still isn’t.

Consider that being a community of faith that feels its fragility and knows that its place in society is closer to the margins than it is to the center, is a better place from which to practice the way of Jesus – the way of love, service, and humility. There are two things that do not require slick, well-funded programming or big crowds of people, and they happen to be the two most important things: we can share the good news about Jesus Christ, and we can give ourselves, our time, and our possessions to love and serve the neighbors that God has placed among us.

“Will the people come back?” “Will our congregation survive another 5 or 10 years?” These are heartfelt questions that we ask because we cherish these congregations and what they’ve given us. But these are not Gospel questions. Some Gospel questions might be, “How can we use what we have to grow closer to Jesus?” “With whom can we share the good news, and how will we do it?” “Who needs our love and care, and how will we give it in a Christ-like spirit?” Focusing our life together on these questions costs us nothing – and everything. But what more could there for us be than this, for us who follow Jesus?

Beloved in Christ, thank you for your faithfulness in the Gospel. On behalf of our entire staff, we are grateful for you and for all that you do to share the love of Jesus Christ in the world.

In Christ,

Pastor Bill Tesch,
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

2022 Annual Report Index

Contents:

1. 2022 Annual Meeting Agenda	2
2. 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes	3
3. 2022 Congregational Meeting Minutes/Vote	4
4. Pastor's Report	5
5. Congregation President's Report	6
6. Church Council Committee Reports:	
A. Missions	7
B. Worship & Service	7
C. Parish Education	8
D. Property & Management	8
E. Youth Committee	9
F. Stewardship	9
7. 2022 Parochial Reports:	
A. Membership Changes and Attendance	10
B. Transfers, Baptisms, Funerals	11
C. 2022 Graduates and Confirmands	11
8. 2023 Church Council & Ballot for Candidates	12
9. Financial Reports:	
A. Organizational Reports:	
1) Trust Fund	13
2) Breckenridge Lutheran Women Report	14
3) Breckenridge Lutheran Quilters	15
4) Prayer Shawl Ministry	15
5) Breckenridge Lutheran Men's Club	15
6) Altar Guild	16
B. Church Accounts:	
1) Dedicated Balances	17
2) Balance Sheet	18
3) Profit and Loss	20
4) 2023 Budget	24
10. Constitution Changes	26

Annual Meeting Agenda

January 29, 2023

1. Call to Order—Jill Blaufuss
2. Opening Devotions—Pastor Ale
3. Approval of Minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting and Congregational Meeting
4. Pastor's Report—Pastor Ale Tulu
5. President's Report—Jill Blaufuss
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 2023 Budget
10. Old Business
11. New Business
 - a. Constitution Changes
12. Adjournment

Congregational Annual Meeting

January 30, 2022

1. Call to order - The annual meeting was called to order by President Jill Blaufuss over ZOOM. Jill welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that since she was not able to attend in person Kara Gruenberg would preside over the meeting.
2. Pastor Ale Tulu opened the meeting with the Call to Worship as printed in the Annual Report booklet.
3. Approval of the minutes of the 2021 Annual meeting and Congregational meetings.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Orrin Ausen to approve the minutes as presented.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Russ Graves
 - c. Action: The motion carried.
4. Pastor's Report and President's Report –
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Paul Sannes to approve the Pastors and Presidents reports as presented.
 - b. Second: Motion was seconded by Orrin Ausen.
 - c. Action: The motion carried.
5. Church Committee reports –
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Dorothy Rakow to approve the committee reports as presented.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Mary Ann Conrad.
 - c. Action: The motion carried.
6. Other Organizational reports –
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Dennis Hasbargen to approve the Organizational reports as presented.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Paul Sannes.
 - c. Action: The motion carried.
7. Council Candidates –

Treasurer: Debra Berndt
Youth Committee: Ashley Johnson
Committee – Council Rep: Joel Herder
Committee – Council Rep: Chris Kelson
Evangelism – Committee member: Leslee Ausen
Mission – Committee members: Connie Jensen, Harry Ockhardt and Mariah Hought
Worship – Committee member: Kennedy Niska
Audit Committee: Kara Gruenberg, Kathy Affield, Orrin Ausen and Debra Berndt
Personnel Committee: Kara Gruenberg, Steve Kent

 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Rene Hasbargen to approve all of the above-listed people to the above listed positions.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Heidi Genereux.
 - c. Action: The motion carried.
8. Approval of 2022 Budget –
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Sandy Klindt to approve the 2022 Budget as presented.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Dorothy Rakow.
 - c. Action: A question was raised about the fact that there was such a high increase in the music budget. It was stated that our budget is significantly higher than Bethel Lutherans and their church is much larger. Heidi Genereux stated that the new rates are in line with the rest of the state of Minnesota. It was decided that the Council will review this item at one of their meetings. Seeing no further discussion the motion carried.
9. Old Business – None
10. New Business –
 - A. Constitution Change regarding the vice-president term length to 1 year instead of 2
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Rene Hasbargen to change the term length for the Vice President from two years to one. B19.05, C11.02
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Clark Dybdahl
 - c. Action: The motion carried.
 - B. Constitution change regarding wording on how congregational meetings should be called.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made Sandy Klindt to approve the Constitutional amendment to change the verbiage from and to "OR shall be called at the request of 20 voting members"

- b. Second: The motion was seconded by Russ Graves.
 - c. Action: The motion carried.
11. Kara asked for a shout out to Jill for the great job she has done this last year. Jill asked us to recognize the hard work of Teresa. Thank you to Brianne Evans, Amanda Crouse and Heidi Arnhalt for preparing the delicious breakfast.
12. Adjournment
- a. Motion: A motion was made by Heidi Genereux to adjourn the meeting.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Kitty Hansen
 - c. Action: Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra Berndt

Congregational Meeting Minutes—August 1, 2022

On August 1, at 6:30 PM a special congregational meeting was hosted by the property committee to discuss issues and ideas about how to manage the dilemma created by a new problem that arose with our elevator. We wanted a discussion of all options on the table to not be limited to just our property committee. We felt it was important, before any congregational meeting, that the congregation itself be educated on the various options, costs thereof, and be allowed time to ask questions and raise concerns. We wanted this special meeting to end with a conclusion as to how we will attempt to move forward. 36 members of our congregation were present.

If you are unaware, here is the latest on our elevator: This summer, after Schindler completed the upgrades that essentially provided us with a new elevator car and traveling system, the hydraulic jack (responsible for raising and lowering the load – and not a part of that upgrade) failed a “full-load” compliance test. This was deemed most likely due to a pin-hole leak that has developed over time due to corrosion. This jack extends down in the ground two stories. In the 80s when our elevator was installed, it was not commonplace to encase an elevator jack in PVC piping to protect it. With our area’s water table, this type of failure is not unheard of, and insurance has informed us they will inspect the jack once removed (which we are required to do - regardless if we fix the elevator or not), but that most likely it will be deemed “normal wear and tear.” At the August 1 meeting, several options were discussed including either firm, or estimated costs:

- ① fix the elevator jack that recently failed during a full-load test (this was following an extensive modernization and upgrade of our elevator car and traveler) **\$52,500 quoted**
- ② decommission/abandon our elevator and leave our basement dining/kitchen area inaccessible to those with mobility issues, take a loss on the \$62,000 we paid this year to modernize our elevator car and traveler this year. **\$35,000 quoted**
- ③ look at options for remodeling our main level to accommodate a dining space and kitchen **\$450,00 estimated on low end**
- ④ look at options for adding on to our current building to include a dining space and kitchen. \$450 estimated per square foot on low end; **costs for new addition to main level would not be under \$1 million**

Chellee Conzemius, a member of our church and architect at Foss Architects in Fargo, prepared the information and average costs for remodeling and reconstruction. The property committee spoke to the cause of the current problem with the elevator jack, and broke down the bid to replace the jack or decommission it. After a discussion of all the options and a debate as to the merits of putting more money into replacing the elevator jack, a motion was made and seconded to make a recommendation to replace the elevator jack. Those present voted unanimously to pass this motion. Because the cost of this replacement is over the threshold council can approve for spending, an official congregational meeting to vote on the recommendation is required.

Congregational Vote—August 28, 2022

Ballots were cast at a special congregational vote after the church service. Majority consent was “Yes—replace the elevator hydraulic jack”. (No dissenting votes were cast.)

Pastor's Report

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his holy name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations." Psalm 100:4-5

Dear friends in Christ,

Here we are standing at the dawn of a new year. We have already started our marching in to the unknown future in faith and hope. We trust that our Lord who brought us thus far will lead us through this year as we set out to do what we hope to accomplish. As that old hymn says, he was our help in ages past and he is our hope for years to come and we are grateful for that.

As people of faith we celebrate life with all its ups and downs. Because, we know that no matter what happens, we are in his loving care. That is why the psalmist tells us to enter his gates with thanksgiving. I personally have so much to be grateful. I am very grateful for my colleagues, Rene Hasbargen and Clark Dybdahl, who assist me in worship and help me in ministry in many ways.

I am very grateful to our office administrator, Lois Fenske, who joined our staff this past year. She has quickly gained our love and respect for doing a good job in the office.

I am very grateful to Teresa Pearson, our devoted custodian, who keeps our church building very clean and beautiful inside and out.

I am very grateful to our Wednesday school superintendent, Deb Berndt, and all our Wednesday school teachers and helpers who dedicate their time and talent to help our children grow in the knowledge of our heavenly father. I am also grateful to Lexi Haught and Renee Fedderson who have been a great help to me with confirmation education.

I am very grateful to our organ and piano players and choir directors, Mary Jane Pauly and Kay Nelson, and for all who are involved in music ministry and who make our worship services very special with their gift of music.

I am very grateful to our council President, Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss, for her excellent leadership and all our council members and different committees who provide a good leadership for our congregation.

I am very grateful to those who are generous with their gifts. Our church has experienced amazing generosity this past year which enabled us to repair our elevator and meet our budget.

I am very grateful to you all who attend our worship services faithfully and take part in many of our church activities we have.

Finally, I am very grateful for your continued support and encouragement and for making my ministry here very rewarding and precious.

Hopefully, all these gratitudes remind us how important each and every one of us is in the life of this congregation which is the body of Christ.

Now, as we move ahead through this year, may the Lord who blessed us in the past continue to bless us so that we may grow and flourish in faith, worship and attendance.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Ale

President's Report

This past year was a good one for our church. Despite the elevator jack failing, dealing with water issues in the basement, and trying to head off issues with our roof, so many people came together and worked hard to get things done. Many generously donated, and we managed all of it.

We are a church where the norm is now dividing our worship time 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 Bombersbach (who also shares her amazing musical talent with our kids), Ashley Johnson, Jordan Snyder and Patty Moses. Lexi Hought and her LYO committee are doing so many meaningful and cool things for our confirmation aged kids like the escape rooms for the Christmas party. Renee Fedderson and now Janel Butts have both stepped up to be confirmation teachers with Lexi and Pastor Ale this year. Rene Hasbargen and Clark Dybdahl are staples of our worship services, beside our Pastor Ale, who is such an important part of this church family now.

Tuesday and Friday morning coffee with Pastor Ale and staff are popular gatherings for many folks. And Pastor Ale 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 is very active planning the Meatball Supper and women's suppers. They also give back so generously to our church with their fundraising efforts. Our quilters are working hard every month to create meaningful works of art that serve a purpose. And our bell choir headed by Mary Jane Pauly and church choir headed by Kay Nelson keep our church filled with beautiful music.

Jackie Mertes keeps our church looking so beautiful as chairman of the Alter Guild. And our custodian Teresa Pearson puts in so 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, I believe, almost daily checking on the boiler. And our property committee has done a good job getting so many tasks accomplished.

Connie Jensen heads our monthly missions and has done a really good job figuring out where our church feels most compelled to give, and is basing our mission strategy on that. The money we donate is truly going to good use in our community and world. Orrin Ausen on the finance committee creatively made a Thanksgiving Tree that has been successful in helping pay for our elevator repairs.

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 professional and fun to read. She's got great ideas, is organized, patient and such a hard worker. She's a member of another church, but you wouldn't know it, the way she takes such good care of us.

Deb Berndt graciously stepped in as our accountant and has been doing it completely as a volunteer for over a year now, 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 when Laurie became ill. Thank you so much Deb.

There are so many other people who regularly volunteer behind the scenes. And I apologize for leaving anyone out. But with my remaining lines, I'd like to just say being president of this church for two years was one of the nicest experiences I've ever had. I truly enjoyed it, the challenges we've faced together, and the good times I've shared with everyone I've served with. I'm still going to be around, organizing the Wednesday evening meals and now serving on the finance committee.

Thanks to everyone who has shown their support and kindness during my time as president.

Sincerely,
Jill

Missions Report

The Mission Committee, comprised of three active youth, their parents and a committee chair, met three times throughout the year to develop and schedule the focus on mission benevolence plans for our congregation. When possible, we were able to partner with LYO and BLW on joint ventures. Once again, Breckenridge Lutheran Church stepped up and shared our bounty of God's blessings with others. The following is the monthly breakdown of donations and recipients from our church.

Month	Mission	Amt Rcvd
January	ELCA World Hunger	\$750
February	Salvation Army	\$193
March	Richland Wilkin Food Pantry (plus 30+ pounds of groceries)	\$677
April	ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response	\$370
May	Feed My Starving Children	\$220
June	LSS-Teenage Homelessness	\$225
July	Valley Lake Boys Home	\$400
August	Churches United (Diaper Drive)	3 large boxes of diapers, etc.
September	Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch - Honey Sunday	\$300
October	Circle of Nations	\$410
November	Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse)	\$410
December	Wilkin County - Gift Card Blizzard	\$1,180

Thanks be to God!

Respectfully submitted,
Harry Ockhardt, Mariah Hought
Cooper Alison, Connie Jensen-Chair

Worship & Service Report

The committee members for 2022 have been Kennedy Niska, Heidi Genereux Mary Jane Pauly, Kay Nelson, Janel Butts, Pastor Ale, and Jackie Mertes who represents the altar committee.

The worship committee met several times during the year and planned for the beautiful music that contributed to our worship and were also able to come up with recommendations for salary for all of the positions.

The beginning of the year the church council approved Kennedy Niska to be our Music Director. This was a new position which included tasks of arranging all accompanists for all services, arranging for special music with the directors of senior and bell choir, selecting hymns for Sunday services and all duties contributing to arranging the music for the church. We appreciated all of his time and talents and have missed him since June when he took a new position in the Brainerd lakes area.

We continue to be blessed with the addition of our Wednesday night services. The congregation seemed to enjoy worshipping with the Holden Evening Prayer during our Lenten services. Easter blessed us with our guest organist, Tom Hansen. We were also thankful to have my sister-in-law play organ for us on Labor Day weekend. We are also very grateful for Janel Butts and Kay Nelson's sister, Roberta Whitehead, for the times they have filled in and shared their talents throughout the year. Mary Jane Pauly and Kay Nelson have blessed us time and time again with their organ and piano talents and for their directorship talents.

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,
Heidi Genereux

Parish Education Report / Wednesday School

Wednesday night continues to be filled with the laughter and energy of our youth. The Pre-K through 6th grade students started a new curriculum this year, "Digging in to the Heart of God." The weekly lessons focus on how we can see God in our everyday lives, and incorporates crafts and games to enhance the learning. The kids wrap up Wednesday nights with singing and celebrating God in our lives. The 7th-10th grade students continue with confirmation small group discussion following the Wednesday worship service.

There were several special events that took place throughout the year. During the spring, the 5th grade students participated in First Communion. Our youth were invited to Bethel Lutheran Church for Vacation Bible School over the summer. Pastor Ale introduced the 2nd graders to the layout of the Bible and presented them with their first Bibles in the fall. The 11th grade confirmation students were also confirmed this fall. The pre-K through 6th grade students reminded us the reason for Christmas in the play, The Heart of Christmas to finish off the year.

There are approximately 31 children attending pre-k through 6th grade in Wednesday School, and 25 children in confirmation classes.

Respectfully submitted,

Brianne Allison

Property & Management Report

Our elevator is still out of commission, even though we have had the crew here for updating and repairs. When doing the final testing for the load limits, a small leak was discovered in the jack, which caused a major upheaval, and required more repair work. Due to the age of our system, the new replacement piece needed to be created from scratch. With the backlog work being done by Schindler, and the difficulty of reproducing the piston, it has taken a much longer time than anticipated. However we received news today that by next week (1-9-23) the crew will be here and the elusive part will arrive, so we are praying that all goes well and we will again have the convenience of the elevator! The good news was that the leak was small and did not require major removal of soil and debris to satisfy the MN pollution requirements.

The west gutters were installed in the late summer.

The landscaping for the north west area is underway, but will need new design and replacement the coming summer. Actually the entire surrounding area for the building will need new design, we are hopeful that a group will take that project and we won't need to hire professionals.

Work is in the process to get our video and sound system to operate in a stable manor to be viewed by our shut-ins.

For 2023 our vision is to work on the exterior of the building, with cleaning the stucco or covering it where necessary. Also the cross on the front is still in need of repair.

We are having a recurring leak in the basement middle room (Rap room) and kitchen, that seems to be coming from beneath the floor. We are waiting for estimates for trenching along the inside of the exterior walls to drain.

Respectfully submitted,

Evie Fox

Breckenridge Lutheran Youth Report

We participated in the following events this past year:

February we had a Family Ski Trip

The confirmation classes served Wednesday Evening meals twice during Lent

We packed twice at the Richland Wilkin Backpack food program

In June we cleaned highway ditches

August we had a family swim event

September we participated in the Headwaters Parade and had a game night

We packed 50 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child in November

In December we had a Christmas Party with 2 Escape Rooms

Our checking account balance as of December 31, 2022 was \$16,040.60.

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.

Considering the remaining roof repairs from winter 2020 and replacement of the elevator shaft, we had a very good year in 2022. 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 aided to significantly reduce the elevator repair project. Paying down this debt came through capital campaigns that are designated for debit reduction, or it can be from aggressive debt payments.

The finance committee monitored 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 2022 yearly income and expenses can be found in the treasurer's report. Many thanks to Deb Berndt, Jill Blaufuss, and Lois Fenske for their exhaustive hours preparing the financial budget and compiling all committee reports for our annual meeting.

Orrin Ausen
Finance Committee

Parochial Reports

Membership & Attendance

MEMBERSHIP AS OF 1/1/22	1,030
Members Received	
- By Baptism	4
- By Transfer	10
Total Members Received	14
Members Removed	
- By Death	7
- By Transfer	10
Total Members Removed	17
MEMBERSHIP AS OF 12/31/2022	1,027

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR 2022	
Average Sunday Attendance	51
Average Wednesday Evening Worship Attendance	30
Special Services:	
- Maundy Thursday	47
- Good Friday (Worship at Breckenridge United Methodist)	No Record
- Easter Sunday	133
- Christmas Eve	4pm—94 10pm—37 Total—131

Parochial Reports

Transfers, Baptisms, Funerals

Members received by Transfer:

Kelsey, Landrie & Lexie Kent
Kennedy Niska
Ale, Sunny & Rebeka Tulu

Nicholas Matz
Brynlee Platt
Linda Whitaker

Members received by Baptism:

Kane Andel
Evelynn Fuder-Guin

Kinsley Campbell
Peyton Holbrook

Members removed by Transfer:

Carson, Parker, Raychel, Sawyer & Tanner Bertelsen
Jaelynn, Jase, Jenner & Jessica Jensen
Hayley Mertes

Members removed by Death:

Ardyce Austin
Tom Dietz
Betty LeNoue
Joan Vertin

Linda Dietz
Mel Klindt
Ray Trower

Confirmation and Graduation

2022 Graduation Class:

Avery Albertson
Taylor Bommersbach
Ana Erickson
Anjelina Hodges
Gavin Snyder
Christina Willemsen

Logan Andel
Morgan Bruns
Jeremiah Fox
Camryn Kaehler
Victoria Udem

2022 Confirmation Class:

Beau Arden Beyer
Jaxton Merlin Bolte
Jake McKay Bommersbach
Isaac James Hasbargen
Jacey Louise Hendrickx

2023 Ballot for Church Council

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

Council Nominees

President (2 year term)

Vice-President/President-Elect

Orrin Ausen

Secretary

Connie Jensen

Congregational Trust

Finance/Stewardship

Worship Committee

Current Council & Committee Members

President: Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Deb Berndt

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: Jason Butts, Heidi Arnhalt, Mike Belseth, Rod Myhra, Kathy Smith, Steve Kent

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 12-31-22)

Bell Bank Savings Account	\$ 15,540.16
Bank of the West Checking Account – Neoma	\$ <u>4,591.47</u>
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 20,131.63
Thrivent Accounts	
Memorial - Moderate Conservative Allocation Fund (Acct. 35-#####4855)	\$ 6,103.19
Memorial - Moderate Allocation Fund (36-#####4855)	\$ 8,462.01
Perpetual - Moderate Allocation Fund (36-#####1669)	\$ 48,223.88
Memorial – Moderate – Neoma Fund (36-#####0391)	\$ 35,044.08
Unnamed Life Insurance Policy – surrender value	\$ <u>8,049.22</u>
Total Thrivent Accounts	\$ 105,882.38
US Bank Accounts	
Memorial – Neoma – 30 month	\$ 26,453.45
Memorial – Neoma – 58 month	\$ <u>27,850.12</u>
Total US Bank Accounts	\$ <u>54,303.57</u>
Total all funds/savings as of December 31, 2022:	\$ 180,317.58

During 2022, the Trust Fund Committee did not receive any requests. The Trust Fund accounts are all doing very well, and the overall balance has continued to grow the last few years.

The terms of Jason Butts and Mike Belseth are expired, and Deb Reynolds has stepped away from the committee, so we are looking for three members of the congregation to join the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Butts – chair
Heidi Arnhalt – secretary
Mike Belseth – treasurer
Rod Myhra
Kathy Smith
Steve Kent

Financial Reports

Breckenridge Lutheran Women

The Breckenridge Lutheran Women had three meetings in year 2022: February 24, May 26 and September 22. The year-end Christmas party was postponed due to weather. Synod Conferences were held on April 30 with 11 Breck Lutheran Women attending and October 22 with 8 Breck Lutheran Women attending. Our annual Election Night Meatball Dinner was held on Tuesday, November 8 with dine-in, carry out and delivery options, with a profit of \$6,212.54. The following is a breakdown of the BLW account activity:

Starting Balance January 1, 2021:	\$	17,640.39
INCOME		
Circle Offerings	\$	589.00
Thank Offerings	\$	473.00
BLW Meeting Offerings	\$	537.00
Memorials	\$	1,115.00
Lenten Dinner	\$	174.00
Meatball Dinner	\$	5,924.00
Cards	\$	62.00
Conferences	\$	151.00
Basket Raffles	\$	764.00
 TOTAL INCOME =	 \$	 9,789.00
EXPENSES		
Women of ELCA -1/4 Offerings	\$	224.50
Staff Appreciation Gifts	\$	700.00
Women of ELCA – Thank Offering	\$	473.00
Women of ELCA – Conference	\$	1,181.00
Giving Hearts Day	\$	206.83
Elevator Fund	\$	5,000.00
Meatball Dinner Expenses	\$	877.46
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$	1,000.00
Wilkin County Family Christmas	\$	300.00
Air Conditioning Units	\$	613.22
Speakers for Meetings	\$	225.00
Ovens for Kitchen	\$	2,124.98
Miscellaneous	\$	1,588.71
 TOTAL EXPENSES =	 \$	 14,514.70
 Ending Balance December 31, 2022:	 \$	 12,914.69

Financial Reports Quilters

Breckenridge Lutheran Quilters meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am. We have 18-20 quilters. Our focus is on Twin Size quilts made for Lutheran World Relief, our graduates, fire victims, Valley Lake Boys Home, Someplace Safe, Veterans Home and Churches United.

New this year is an Evening Quilters group that meets every 3rd Tuesday at 6:00 pm. This group is making Baby quilts.

All are welcome. No experience needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Dell Krueger

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues even through these times of Covid. Each shawl is made while keeping the recipient in mind and in prayer. It is then blessed during a worship service before being given to the recipient. All materials and time were donated this year. Our account balance as of 12/31/22 is \$362.35.

Respectfully submitted,
Celine Brudvik

Breckenridge Lutheran Men's Club

The beginning balance of the Men's Club checking account was \$2,627.72.

We added funds of \$230.00 from the Lenten supper we provided to make the ending balance \$2,857.72.

I look forward to more opportunities for the men of Breckenridge Lutheran to get together in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Wendorff

Altar Guild Report

Co-chair Leaders were Jackie Mertes and Rene Hasbargen. The Altar Guild members cleaned the brass items before Lenten season. They served a Lenten night support for the congregational members. Mums were sold as a fundraiser in the Spring. Altar Guild made the decision to change out the oil candles to battery operated candles as this was more efficient. Ten new banners were added to our collection. Four were purchased and six were donated. We purchased a new Christmas tree for the Altar this year and we also got some new Christmas decoration for the church thanks to Faith, Care & Share.

We held a Bake Sale this year for our fundraiser instead of Poinsettia plants and it went very well—we had a great response. We will plan on doing it again next year. Thank you to the congregation members who made donations to the Altar Guild to help us continue to do God's work in our beautiful church.

Submitted by,
Jackie Mertes

Financial Reports
Altar Guild 2022 Treasurer's Report

Balance as of January 1, 2022	\$1,219.35
Expenses:	
January 12, 2022	
Check 1033—Jackie Mertes (Christmas trees, Poinsettias)	-218.62
April 11, 2022	
Check 1034—Bergens Flowers (Easter Flowers)	-212.50
April 29, 2022	
Check 1035—Jackie Mertes (Altar & Supper Supplies)	-124.59
September 9, 2022	
Check 1036—Jackie Mertes (New Christmas Tree & Candles)	-938.62
Income:	
May 26, 2022	
Breck Lutheran (Gifts-Memorials-Donations-Flowers)	+464.00
	+1,050.78
December 26 & 30, 2022	
Altar Guild Bake Sale on 12/18/22	+533.80
	+93.00
Ending Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$1,866.60

Rene Hasbargen
BLC Altar Guild Treasurer

Financial Reports
Dedicated Fund Account Balances 12/31/2022

Bible Study/Book Club	71.82
BLW	1,445.85
Building & Church Repairs	10,499.32
Chalice Fund	713.67
Children's Music Director	50.00
Choir Fund	1,081.20
Communion & Confirmation Robes	428.04
Confirmation Curriculum	150.58
ELCA World Missions	16.00
Elevator Fund	37,177.21
Faith, Care & Share	5,568.00
Fellowship Tables	68.46
Hand Bell Choir	709.08
Library Fund	186.61
Luther Crest Scholarship Fund	1,603.00
Monthly Mission Emphasis	1,403.54
New HVAC/Furnace System	13,380.00
Office Improvement Fund	1,460.84
Organ Fund	635.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	2,993.36
Prayer Shawl Fund	362.35
Quilting	471.40
Radio Sponsorships	1,219.00
Radio and Television Memorials	1,811.78
Sunday School Memorials	300.90
Sunday School Offerings	2,041.99
Television/Radio/Technology	1,159.21
Thrivent Funds	2,452.00
Undesignated Gifts	4,171.07
VBS	84.00
Total Dedicated Checking	\$93,715.28

Financial Reports

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/21

Dec 31, 22

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Bank of the West	
General Checking	47,679.93
Dedicated Checking Account	
Wednesday Supper	1,512.11
Men's Breakfast Group	355.00
Bible Study/Book club	71.82
BLW	1,445.85
Building & Church Repairs	10,499.32
Call Committee	194.90
Chalice Fund	713.67
Children's Music Director	50.00
Choir Fund	1,917.69
Comm & Confirm Robes	428.04
Confirmation Curriculum	150.58
ELCA World Missions	16.00
Elevator Fund	37,177.21
Faith Care Share	5,568.00
Fellowship Tables	68.46
Food Pantry	250.00
Hand Bell Choir	709.08
Library Fund	186.61
Luther Crest Scholarship Fund	1,603.00
Monthly Mission Emphasis	1,403.54
New HVAC/Furnace System	13,380.00
Office Improvement Fund	1,460.84
Organ Fund	635.00
Pastor Discretionary Fund	2,993.36
Prayer Shawl Fund	362.35
Quilting	471.40
Radio & Television Memorials	1,811.78
Radio Sponsorships	1,219.00
Sunday School Memorial	300.90
Sunday School Offering	2,041.99
Television/Radio	1,159.21
Thrivent Funds Bank	2,452.00
Undesignated Gifts	4,171.07
VBS	84.00
Worship Instruments	-836.49
Total Dedicated Checking Account	96,027.29
Total Bank of the West	143,707.22
Bank of the West LYO Checking	20,045.54
Total Checking/Savings	163,752.76
Total Current Assets	163,752.76
Fixed Assets	
Building	687,277.00
Fixed Assets	22,478.03
Total Fixed Assets	709,755.03
TOTAL ASSETS	873,507.79
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	
FWH	
Employee	199.00
Total FWH	199.00

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/21 (continued)

	<u>Dec 31, 22</u>
State Withholding MN	54.00
State Withholding ND	159.00
Payroll Liabilities - Other	<u>1,039.25</u>
Total Payroll Liabilities	1,451.25
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,451.25
Total Current Liabilities	1,451.25
Long Term Liabilities	
Mission Invest/Building Loan	<u>88,111.51</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	88,111.51
Total Liabilities	89,562.76
Equity	
Retained Earnings	786,065.77
Net Income	<u>-2,120.74</u>
Total Equity	783,945.03
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>873,507.79</u>

Financial Reports

Profit & Loss—January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Insurance Misc Income	52.07
Christmas Offerings	1,025.00
Church Rental	575.00
Envelope Offerings	228,682.34
Genl. Fund Memorial	140.00
Initial Offering	321.00
Lenten & Easter Offerings	11,073.00
Loose Plate Offerings	809.00
Miscellaneous Income	20.00
Radio Sponsorships	240.00
Thanksgiving offering	400.00
Total Income	243,337.41
Gross Profit	243,337.41
Expense	
Administration	
Choir Director	4,241.68
Custodian	10,729.71
Hand Bell Director	1,520.00
Mileage	50.00
Office Administrator's Salary	23,009.40
Office Administrator Benefits	646.40
Organist	6,280.00
Pastor Continuing Education	356.12
Pastor Housing Allowance	15,999.18
Pastor Other Payroll SS	0.00
Pastor Pension & Medical	58,884.45
Payroll Taxes	3,645.16
Senior Pastor's Salary	50,718.96
Systems Operator	1,380.00
Administration - Other	550.00
Total Administration	178,011.06
Benevolence Fund Expense	
NW MN Synod	6,850.00
Total Benevolence Fund Expense	6,850.00
Church Home Expense	
Building & Repairs	10,236.31
Church Phones	956.40
Custodial Supplies	866.12
Fuel	4,955.79
Insurance-	13,806.51
MidContinent Communications	2,038.40
Miscellaneous Expense	985.69
Pulpit Support	2,400.00
Simply Giving Transaction Fees	721.04
Snow Removal	2,301.00
Waste Management	1,463.48
Water and Lights	6,795.91
Total Church Home Expense	47,526.65
Loan Interest exp	4,621.49

Profit & Loss—January through December 2022—continued

	Jan - Dec 22
Programming Expense	
Evangelism	53.60
Office Equip Repair/Lease	2,486.60
Office Supplies	823.29
Parish Education	543.69
Postage and Mailing	1,045.48
Software, upgrades & support	1,756.63
Stewardshp	485.82
Worship	2,045.15
Worship Bulletin & Envelopes	1,073.32
Total Programming Expense	<u>10,313.58</u>
Total Expense	<u>247,322.78</u>
Net Ordinary Income	-3,985.37
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Wednesday Evening Meal	2,289.86
Men's Breakfast Group	355.00
Altar Guild	404.00
Benefit Fund Other Income	4,229.56
BLW	1,420.00
Building & Church Rprs Other In	4,288.91
Choir fund	25.00
Comm & Confirm. Robes	511.11
Confirmation Curr Other Income	269.00
Elevator other income	65,503.69
Faith Care & Share Other Inc	3,310.00
Food Pantry Other Income	250.00
Hand Bell Choir	10.00
Lillies, Poinsettias, Flowers	360.00
LYO	
LYO - Expense	-1,488.00
LYO - Income	2,200.08
Total LYO	712.08
Monthly Mission Emp-other inc	2,842.03
New HVAC/Furnace other inc.	710.00
Pastor Discretionary Other Incom	1,000.00
Prayer Shawl Other Income	30.00
Quilting	360.00
Radio & Television Memorials	20.00
Radio Sponsorships Other Inc	3,015.00
Sunday School Memorials	10.00
Sunday School Offering	582.37
Thrivent Funds	940.00
Undesignated Gifts	2,615.00
Total Other Income	<u>96,062.61</u>
Other Expense	
Wednesday evening supplies	730.48
Altar Guild Expense	464.00
Benefit Fund Other Expense	4,229.56
BLW Expense	138.36
Building & Church Repairs OtExp	4,752.39
Choir Fund Expense	836.49
Comm & Confirm. Robe Expense	167.84
Confirmation Curriculum Expense	905.56
Elevator-other expense	56,820.99
Faith Care & Share Other Expens	3,551.13
Flower Expense	1,050.78
Hand Bell Choir Expense	130.40
Monthly Mlssion Emp-other exp	13,552.26
Pastor Discretionary Other Expe	400.01
Quilting Expense	1,234.47
Radio Sponsorships Other Exp	2,880.00

Profit & Loss—January through December 2022—continued

	Jan - Dec 22
Sunday School Expense	
Sunday School Offering Expense	735.26
Total Sunday School Expense	735.26
Undesignated Other Expense	1,078.00
Worship Instruments Other Exp	540.00
	<hr/>
Total Other Expense	94,197.98
Net Other Income	1,864.63
	<hr/>
Net Income	-2,120.74
	<hr/>

Financial Reports

Proposed Budget for 2023

	2022 Proposed		2022 Actual		2023 Proposed
1. For the preaching of the Gospel among us					
Lead Pastor					
Salary	\$ 50,719	\$	50,719	\$	50,719
Housing Allowance	\$ 16,000	\$	16,000	\$	16,000
Social Security Allowance	\$ 5,104	\$	-	\$	5,104
Professional Reimbursement (VSR)	\$ -	\$	-		
Family Medical Expense Account (VSR)	\$ -	\$	-		
ELCA Benefits Gold Plan & Pension	\$ 51,591	\$	58,885	\$	57,000
*VSR=voluntary salary deduction					
Additional Expenses					
Continuing Ed	\$ 750	\$	357	\$	400
Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 1,200	\$	-	\$	600
Pastoral Pulpit Support	\$ 800	\$	2,400	\$	1,600
Total	\$ 126,164	\$	128,361	\$	131,423
2. For the efficient administration of God's business in ministry					
Office Administrator's salary	\$ 45,225	\$	23,009	\$	24,000
Office Administrator's pension	\$ 7,000	\$	646	\$	-
Office Administrator's continuing education	\$ 300	\$	-	\$	100
Payroll Taxes (all staff)		\$	3,645	\$	3,700
Postage and mailing	\$ 1,700	\$	1,167	\$	1,500
Office equipment repair and service (incl. Security System)	\$ 3,150	\$	2,487	\$	2,900
Office equipment purchase and replacement	\$ 500	\$	-	\$	500
Office supplies	\$ 1,300	\$	703	\$	1,000
Staff mileage	\$ 100	\$	50	\$	50
Simply Giving Transaction Fee	\$ 500	\$	722	\$	750
Software Upgrade and Support	\$ 1,600	\$	1,757	\$	1,750
Total	\$ 61,375	\$	34,186	\$	36,250
3. For the Care of God's house and properties					
Custodian salary and payroll tax	\$ 11,000	\$	10,730	\$	11,000
Systems Operator	\$ 2,000	\$	1,380	\$	1,750
Fuel	\$ 5,000	\$	4,956	\$	5,000
Electricity/water/sewer - Breck Public Utilities	\$ 8,700	\$	6,796	\$	7,500
Garbage - Waste Management	\$ 1,200	\$	1,464	\$	1,500
Recycling Service	\$ 30	\$	-	\$	-
Elevator Service - Schindler	\$ 1,600	\$	1,590	\$	1,600
Phone Service, maintenance & ads	\$ 900	\$	956	\$	1,000
Doormat Service - Aramark	\$ 950	\$	1,023	\$	1,000
Custodial Supplies	\$ 2,200	\$	867	\$	1,600
General maintenance & service	\$ 15,000	\$	10,236	\$	12,500
Building Improvement/Miscellaneous Expense	\$ -	\$	986	\$	25,000
Snow Removal	\$ 6,500	\$	2,301	\$	4,500
Interest Expense	\$ 4,000	\$	4,622	\$	4,750
Total	\$ 59,080	\$	47,907	\$	78,700
4. For leading and enriching our worship of God					
Organist expense and payroll tax (incl Wednesday Evenings)	\$ 9,100	\$	6,280	\$	7,000
Accompanist	\$ 500	\$	550	\$	750
Keyboard maintenance and repair	\$ 350	\$	270	\$	300
Worship electronics	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Celebrate worship insert	\$ 550	\$	427	\$	500
CCLI License	\$ 300	\$	300	\$	385

Financial Reports Proposed Budget for 2023

Candle Liquid	\$	250	\$	-	\$	-
Flowers & Plants	\$	100	\$	-	\$	-
Communion Supplies	\$	300	\$	361	\$	350
Other: Offering envelopes	\$	350	\$	728	\$	100
Liturgical calendars	\$	12	\$	12	\$	12
Handbell choir director	\$	1,550	\$	1,520	\$	1,550
Choir Support	\$	7,500	\$	4,242	\$	1,500
Total	\$	20,862	\$	14,690	\$	12,447
5. For instructing our members in Christian discipleship						
Education Curriculum (Wednesday School)	\$	500	\$	167	\$	500
First Communion Instruction	\$	75	\$	-	\$	75
New Member/Adult Education	\$	50	\$	-	\$	50
Bible, Books & Supplies	\$	390	\$	399	\$	400
Confirmation Education	\$	600	\$	906	\$	500
Devotional - Christ in Our Home	\$	485	\$	499	\$	550
VBS Curriculum Supplies and Food	\$	400	\$	-	\$	500
Miscellaneous	\$	100	\$	-	\$	100
Stewardship/Evangelism (Parade supplies, etc.)	\$	-	\$	485	\$	500
Food and Hospitality						
1st Communion Reception (flowers)	\$	75	\$	-	\$	50
Confirmation Reception (stoles, letters, flowers)	\$	375	\$	-	\$	300
Total	\$	3,050	\$	2,456	\$	3,525
6. For the ministry of the Lutheran Youth Organization						
Budget Support	\$	1,500	\$	-	\$	250
Chaperone Expense	\$	1,800	\$	-	\$	500
Total	\$	3,300	\$	-	\$	750
7. For Protection from claims against our congregation						
Comprehensive property, workers' compensation, liability, etc.	\$	12,500	\$	13,807	\$	15,000
Total	\$	12,500	\$	13,807	\$	15,000
8. For bringing people to Christ and to Breckenridge Lutheran Church						
Website (software upgrades/support)	\$	175	\$	187	\$	200
Television Ministry/Midco/supplies	\$	2,000	\$	2,039	\$	2,050
Community Events/Faith & Family Suppers	\$	300	\$	-	\$	150
New Members Program	\$	75	\$	-	\$	50
Total	\$	2,550	\$	2,226	\$	2,450
9. For bringing Christ to all the world						
Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Ministries	\$	6,600	\$	6,850	\$	7,000
Ottetail Conference	\$	425	\$	-	\$	400
Synod Assembly expense	\$	250	\$	-	\$	250
Total	\$	7,275	\$	6,850	\$	7,650
Total needed for planned ministry of Breckenridge Lutheran Church						
1. For the preaching of the Gospel among us	\$	126,164	\$	128,361	\$	131,423
2. For the efficient administration of God's business in ministry	\$	61,375	\$	34,186	\$	36,250
3. For the Care of God's house and properties	\$	59,080	\$	47,907	\$	78,700
4. For leading and enriching our worship of God	\$	20,862	\$	14,690	\$	12,447
5. For instructing our members in Christian discipleship	\$	3,050	\$	2,456	\$	3,525
6. For the ministry of the Lutheran Youth Organization	\$	3,300	\$	-	\$	750
7. For Protection from claims against our congregation	\$	12,500	\$	13,807	\$	15,000
8. For bringing people to Christ and to Breckenridge Lutheran Church	\$	2,550	\$	2,226	\$	2,450
9. For bringing Christ to all the world	\$	7,275	\$	6,850	\$	7,650
TOTAL	\$	296,156	\$	250,483	\$	288,195

Proposed 2023 Amendments to the Constitution

Breckenridge Lutheran Church's Constitution has been updated to reflect the current edition of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which contains changes adopted by all churchwide assemblies, including the sixteenth Churchwide Assembly in 2022. It is consistent with the requirements of the governing documents of the ELCA's churchwide organization and synods, and it provides organizational flexibility to recognize the context of local congregations. If you would like a copy of the Constitution & Bylaws, please contact the office.

Generosity

Generosity is a spiritual practice that includes more than what we give financially to the church. It includes generosity of the land, generosity of space and building, generosity of time, generosity of finance, generosity of voice and talent, generosity of leadership, and generosity of care - it all matters. What makes it possible for us to do ministry in these generous ways is our calling to live as an interdependent church. We, as the church, as a synod, have an opportunity to participate in ministry and mission that is greater than ourselves, and larger than our individual congregation's ministries. We are able to live into a much greater mission together.

Mission Support funds the work of our synod: our evangelical outreach, mobility, call process, candidacy, retreats, education, multicultural mission, support to our new start ministries, support of local social ministry, relationships with our global companion synod, ecumenical relations, synod governance, Synod Assembly, stewardship, conflict resolution, communication, and administration.

Supporting New Ministry/ Mission Starts and their Developers



Table of Mercy

At Table of Mercy, you will find Pr. Grant Vanderford offering a ministry of presence with our neighbors experiencing homelessness and economic insecurity, in the Moorhead area. Table of Mercy, your sister church, exists for the sake of the gospel outside the walls of a church building, walking with folks out on the streets, in local shelters and supportive housing, and wherever folks find themselves on life's journey. Table of Mercy delivers the Word and Holy Communion in places where

people do life, whether on the streets of Moorhead or at the laundromat where dignity comes in the form of clean clothes. They deliver, on behalf of all of us, a reminder that no matter whether you are housed or unhoused, you are enough, you are loved, and you are children of God.



A Community Called Grace

A ministry of the wider Bemidji community, A Community Called Grace with Pastor Emily Papke-Larson offers space and time to meet with folks who want to engage their faith in new ways, including Outdoor Worship; Pints of Grace: Pub Theology, a monthly open gathering to discuss faith, philosophy, meaning and ideas, good beer and great conversation; Cups of Grace: Coffee Shop

Theology, a monthly open gathering similar to Pints of Grace and held in an alcohol-free setting, with good coffee and great conversation; and Fall and Spring Bible/Book Studies – with a special focus on work by LGBTQ+, BIPOC and female authors!



Area Conversations and Strategies/Missional Vision and Planning

A New Journey Lutheran Parish

A New Journey Lutheran Parish consists of four congregations that have worked hard over the last year to form a union for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Each of the four congregations has a long history of rich and faithful ministry. As A New Journey Lutheran Parish, they have come together to share resources, passions, and ministry to meet the needs of the neighbors in surrounding



communities and to live out their calling as children of God. Through the hard work of committed members and a willingness to build a new identity in Christ together, A New Journey Lutheran Parish lives. They have called their first pastoral leader/mission developer to join them in January to continue to nurture the growth of this ministry.

Synod Mission Supported Ministries

The money that you generously share with the synod goes to support many ministries. From the Mission Support you give, 47% goes to the churchwide expression to enable the ELCA to begin new ministries and accompany existing congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission. These funds also provide the staff and resources for the development of new leaders, partnership with churches around the globe, alleviating poverty, working for justice and peace, and so much more.

Also, a percentage of the remaining 53% goes to support these ministry partners:

- + Lutheran Campus Ministry of Bemidji
- + Luther Seminary
- + Oak Grove Lutheran School
- + Minnesota Council of Churches
- + The Way (formerly Native American Christian Ministry)
- + Crossroads Campus Ministry at MSUM
- + ELCA Colleges and Universities
- + Lutheran Advocacy – Minnesota
- + Parish Nurse program



Mark your calendars

Great Synod Get Together – Saturday, March 18th @ First Lutheran Church, Bemidji
Synod Assembly – Saturday, June 3rd @ four locations across the Synod

More information for both events coming soon!



Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Concordia College
Moorhead, MN 56562



218.299.3019



www.nwmnsynod.org

