

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2001 80TH ST. KENOSHA, WI 53143



**WE ARE
GOD'S PEOPLE
FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST
GIFTED BY THE SPIRIT
GO PRAY
GO LOVE
GO SERVE**

Agenda

ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

- Financial Report and Member Elections.....NEIL GUTTORMSEN

Agenda

ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION

- Call to Order/Quorum Count..... Julie Schmit, Co-President
- Opening Devotions..... Pastor Kathy Brown
- Approval of Minutes July 31, 2022 – Annual Meeting
..... Adam Fonk, Secretary
- Pastors' Comments..... Pastors Hartfield & Brown
- President's Comments and Announcements..... Julie Schmit
- Audit Committee Report..... Keith Richter
- Nominating Committee Report..... Alice Schwalbe
- Election of Council Members..... Christine Johnson, Co-President
- Nomination / Election of Nominating Committee..... Alice Schwalbe
- Financial Report/ MMRP..... Dan Neururer
- The Lord's Prayer
- Adjournment



BECOMING INCLUSIVE

Becoming a congregation that does not build walls but opens doors to **all God's beloved people.**
"For God so loved the world..." John 3.

We proclaim an open invitation to all to partake in Holy Communion when we worship.

GROWING DISCIPLES



Teaching and experiencing Christian faith for adults and children for a life of transformation.

"...be transformed by the renewing of your minds." Romans 12.

Word and sacrament will be the defining center of all worship. Worship services offer a diversity of musical and liturgical styles to engage, inspire, and teach a diverse congregation.



CONNECTING PEOPLE

Building small groups for mission, prayer, fellowship, travel, and support.
"...love one another with mutual affection." Romans 12

Honest and authentic relationships happen when we create an atmosphere of trust and non-judgmental listening.



PRACTICING GENEROSITY

Giving of our time, talent, and treasure for **God's mission in the world.**
"The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity..." Galatians 5.

We have a culture of serving on committees, ministries, mission work, and regular financial support.

NEW VISION FOR THE COMMON
MISSION OF ST. MARY'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OCTOBER 2015

Minutes from Previous Annual Meeting, July 31, 2022

JULIE SCHMIT, COUNCIL SECRETARY

Annual Meeting of the
Congregation
July 31, 2022

Council President, Leslie Sandahl asked the congregation to note the following changes to be made to the agenda:

- ✓ Leslie Sandahl reporting for Treasurer Steve Hartfield.
- ✓ In between elections, there will be recognition of outgoing council members- Julie Schmit
- ✓ Mission and Ministry Resource Plan (MMRP) – Dan Neururer, chair of Finance to present.

Leslie read voting member criteria Ch. 8 C.8.02 and had ushers take a vote of members.

Call to Order/ Quorum Count

There were 81 members present. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was called to order at 10:25 a.m. in the sanctuary by Council President Leslie Sandahl.

Opening Devotions

Pastor Kathy Brown read Acts 2 **starting with verse 43** “*Good will of all people.*” She drew our attention to ELCA Stories of Faith in Action inside the back cover of the annual report. It is our financial giving outreach. She encouraged us to read those stories and to continue our churchwide giving, giving of time, talents, possessions and all that God has first given us so that others may be reached. We prayed in unison the prayer written at the bottom of this page.

Approval of Amended Annual Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Inez Lemnus and seconded by Dan Neururer to approve the annual meeting

- ✓ Agenda as amended.
- ✓ Motion was approved.

Approval of Minutes July 25, 2021, Annual Meeting

A motion was made by Neil Guttormsen and seconded by Patti Mason to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2021, Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

- ✓ *Motion was amended to correct the spelling of Paul Petersen's name and Rosemary Beilke's name.*

- ✓ *Motion was approved.*

Audit Committee Report, 2021-2022

Keith Corso presents that the audit report covers the financial fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Keith Corso, Len Long and Sandy Bear found the bookkeeping to be in proper order.

The following was recommended for consistent recording.

1. All checks should have the memo line filled in for easy reference.
2. Finance committee minutes should be taken monthly.
3. Service contracts need to be filed for all recurring expenses and reviewed.

- ✓ *Motion was made by Neil Guttormsen and seconded by Margaret Van Boven to accept the audit committee's report.*

- ✓ *Motion was approved.*

Nominating Committee Report

Denise Fox introduced the rest of her nominating committee members as Alice Schwalbe, Patti Mason, Dianne Marx and Dana Larsen as council liaison. The nomination process started in May with a tremendous number of suggestions for which she **thanked the congregation.** This year's nominees for church council leadership are Patti Mason, Lana Woller, Lisa Zanin, and incumbent Adam Fonk. She thanked all those for

accepting the nomination and encouraged the congregation to please consider your involvement for **next year's council.**

Leslie acknowledged that we would strike the line item for council election results as we have four candidates and four positions to fill. She asked for a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for those previously listed nominees.

- ✓ *Motion was made by Dick Sjoerdsma and seconded by Markie Hylinski to cast a unanimous ballot for Patti Mason, Lana Woller, Lisa Rasmussen-Zanin and Adam Fonk to serve a three-year term on St. Mary's Lutheran Church Council.*

- ✓ *Motion was approved and all were welcomed!*

Election of Nominating Committee

Dana Larsen thanked Denise Fox for all her efforts this year with a round of applause. Denise is stepping out of her role as chair of the committee but will continue her term. Alice Schwalbe has agreed to chair this committee.

Two additional members are needed to serve as Dianne Marx has declined another term and Patti Mason was elected to council. It involves listening to your fellow church members and inviting individuals to give of their time to serve on Church Council. It is a light duty for most of the year with profiles of the candidates and procedural matters happening closer to the annual meeting.

- ✓ *Motion was made by Patti Mason and seconded by Susan Van Bendegom to accept Brian Mason and Sandy Bear as two-year committee members and Alice Schwalbe as chairperson for the Nominating Committee.*

- ✓ *Motion passed.*

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members

Julie Schmit presented Keith Corso, Leslie Sandahl, Adam Fonk, and Tim Padjen (absent) have completed their term on Council and were given a recognition plaque of our sanctuary at Christmas and a small scriptural gift made with beach glass. A round of applause for all their hard work was given.

Julie acknowledged it was a pleasure working together and asked the congregation to please consider a nomination to the church council in the future as it is a wonderful place for spiritual growth and friendship.

President's Comments and Announcements

Leslie Sandahl mentioned her page in the annual report and all the great things we have done this year and said it is ***"We, who is all of you whether you sit in a pew, give money, volunteer your time or just show up or take a phone call, it takes a village"*** and she appreciated everyone's support this year and to the success we accomplished together. A few announcements were brought to our attention:

- ✓ September 11, 2022, for Historical timeline event, on Rally Day, more information to follow.
- ✓ Tithe.ly FAQ, August 18 & 25th to learn meaning and ease of use.
- ✓ The council gathers for a brief meeting to elect new officers for the year following this meeting.
- ✓ Council meeting minutes are posted monthly and available for review in the office. If there are questions, please bring them forth.
- ✓ We are looking for people to serve on the Personnel committee as we continue visioning and strategic planning to add additional staff. If you have a passion for human

resources or that skill set, please reach out to Dave Raszkievicz or Keith Corso.

Treasurers Report

The report can be found on page 19. Leslie Sandahl is stepping in for Steve Hartfield. She reported that we delivered a very favorable budget this **year thanks to everyone's generosity** and the work of the committees putting forth effort to cut costs. The outcome is almost \$72,000.

- ✓ *Motion was made by Carol G and seconded by Margaret V to accept the Financial Report for the 12 months ending 6-30-2022.*

Discussion and questions from the floor:

- Brian Mason inquired whether there has been any discussion with the city regarding the driveway entrance from the east **side as it is damaging to a car's suspension.**
- Patti Mason noticed one of the lights in the fellowship hall was not working. Property is aware of and working on this.
- Neil Guttormsen made a clarification (page 18) of the reported mortgage balance. The account was refinanced with Thrivent with a 3.35 percent interest rate for 5 years.
- Thanks to Dan and the finance committee for their timely attention to rising interest rates.
- ✓ *motion to accept the Treasurers Financial Report as presented was voted on*
- ✓ *motion passed.*

2022-2023 Mission & Ministry Resource Plan

Dan Neururer addressed the first page of the budget, (page 20) some of the Annual Reports were printed with no line item for the Grace Welcome Center but this has been corrected in most copies. Dan solicited information from various

committees such as Education, WMA, Property, and several other committees as to what their needs may be this coming year. He reported that this budget really reflects our ministry. The revenue line is made up from contributions this past year and is about equal to what the previous year reflected. Ten percent of our revenue is given to our partnership ministries based on our monthly giving and the remainder goes to the Greater Milwaukee synod which is ten percent. Worship, Education, Youth Programming, Fellowship/Outreach, and Stewardship are all based on numbers that were given by the committees. Offering envelopes are expected to be reduced this year as more people are choosing online giving. Administrative Expenses, Dan drew attention to the Technology Website (page 24) \$4,100 and Tech Contractor -we would like to add someone to our staff to manage the technology in this church. We do not feel our volunteers should be responsible for it. ***"It is hard to get it right and easy to get it wrong"*** so we are looking at \$10,000 to hire someone. If there is no tech available this number would move to staff salaries and wages. Position will be posted soon. Under Facilities, we have increased funds for heat and electricity, gas costs are rising. Building Maintenance number is down by \$4,200 which reflects the difference in what we are paying in waste collection. Thank you to property and Chris Johnson for making the calls. Janitorial service, we aligned our expectations and greatly reduced the amount we pay for services. The ability to change the mortgage was huge, and the term was shortened to ten years. So, we have a higher monthly payment, but a lot more goes to principle. For example, last month we paid \$1125 in interest, which comes to \$13,500 in yearly interest. Every month the



interest payment goes down and the principal goes up so that is a considerable number. Included in the staff salaries and wages is a two percent increase for Sondra Kuro, Beth Kerscher and Sue Quever for the hours she spends outside the nursing piece. We expect to meet our expenses with an overage of \$3418. However, we do expect some numbers to fluctuate as the example given was parking lot snow plowing expenses if we have a bad winter.

Questions from the floor were asked about the technology contractor and Leslie clarified the responsibilities. Another question from the floor regarding the **Pastor's salary.** Leslie explained that Pastor Kathy is an Interim and her salary is in contract with the synod. Dan addressed the question regarding a second pastor or youth director and there is no room in the budget to add \$150,000. Another question was, can we retain Pastor Kathy as our full time Pastor. The answer was no that is not how the Interim process works. Leslie explained the MET team and ministry site profile and that we are moving toward a call. Leslie called for the motion on the MMRP.

- ✓ Motion was made by Sandy Bear and seconded by Carol Gilmore to accept the 2022-2023 Mission and Ministry Resource Plan.

- ✓ Motion passed.

Pastor's Comments

This time of transition when you are waiting for a new pastor to come is frustrating and anxiety provoking and yet can be an exciting time to learn more about yourself. The timeline event is for all to come and to add to their history of the church, community, nation, and world. It is

significant to this congregation, good, bad, or otherwise. It will help launch the vision and strategic planning team and the mission exploration team, so they have a clear understanding of how to answer those questions for our site profile. We lose sight of the Holy Spirit's big picture of what is going on. If we wait and watch, listen and rely, the Holy Spirit will get us there to what God wants. What does God want for the body of Christ, lived out **through St. Mary's? How can we do that?** Pastor Kathy directed us to A Prayer of Catherine of Siena on page 87 in the front of our ELW Hymnal.

*Power of eternal Father, help me.
Wisdom of the Son, enlighten the
eye of my understanding. Tender
mercy of the Holy Spirit, unite my
heart to yourself. Eternal God,
restore health to the sick and life to
the dead. Give us a voice, your own
voice, to cry out to you for mercy for
the world. You, light, give us light.
You, wisdom, give us wisdom. You,
supreme strength, strengthen us.
Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

The annual meeting of the congregation concluded at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Schmit,

Congregation Council Secretary

Minutes from Previous Annual



Meeting
July 31, 2022

Leslie Sandahl welcomed everyone and introduced Neil Guttormsen, President of **the St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation.** Council Secretary, Julie Schmit read the motion brought forth from council as he approached the lectern. **"St. Mary's Lutheran Congregation Council made a motion to approve the nominees of Neil Guttormsen, Kay Manderfeld, and John Basler to serve on the foundation board for a new three-year term."** The motion was made and seconded and was approved unanimously by the Church council. Neil Guttormsen called the meeting of the Endowment Foundation to order at 10:20am and thanked everyone in attendance. Neil stated that he had the pleasure of creating the foundation 42 years ago. He directed us to page 13 of the written annual report for list of the donors that received disbursement from the foundation over the past fiscal year. The Financial Report, which is found on page 26, lays out the current value of funds in their endowment. It also shows receipts and disbursements. The Endowment Foundation still has a reasonable amount of dollars that they are managing and investing for the many non-profits that they gift to. Neil thanked board members Steve Hartfield, Steve Seymour, Kim Frost, Chery Hayes, Tom Cnockaert, Keith Richter, John Basler, and Kay Manderfeld. The group has been very collaborative. *Carol Gillmore made a motion to approve the nominees Neil Guttormsen, Kay Manderfeld, and John Basler for a three-year term on the Foundation board and Patti Mason seconded the motion. Motion was voted on and approved.*

He further thanked Leslie and the Church Council. The Endowment Foundation meeting ended at 10:25 a.m.

PASTOR KATHY BROWN

Grace and peace to you all!

When St. Mary's 2022 Annual Meeting took place, I had been here about 5 months. I had jumped onboard the week that Lent started with no delay in getting my feet wet, but was still putting names with faces, getting to know the ropes in worship, and learning how staff, council and the various committees, teams, and task forces function.

I have now been here for 16 months. Since my last annual report, in addition to the weekly worship services, it has been my joy, honor, and privilege to have presided at 8 baptisms, 9 funerals and 1 wedding as well as presiding at Holy Communion for the ordination and installation of Pastor Debbie Hartfield. Pastor Debbie has been a great addition to our staff as the Minister of Pastoral Care working with Parish Nurse Sue Quever and me.

During the spring, summer, and early fall, I worked closely with the Vision and Strategic Planning (VSP) team as they reviewed the 2017 Vision and Strategic Plan, making revisions in order to reflect St. Mary's Lutheran congregation as it existed in 2022. Their work was thoughtful,

prayerful, and diligent. The revised VSP was presented to the congregation and approved in October. This document was very helpful in the work in which the Mission Exploration Team (MET) would engage.

The MET was formed in January and laid out a plan for completing the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), the document that describes St. Mary's current ministries and mission as well as assessing what the congregation would look for in a pastoral candidate. The MET surveyed the congregation over the course of four weeks regarding various aspects of SMLC's ministries. The answers received, as well as the VSP, were very beneficial in answering the various questions on the MSP. The MET worked through the process thoughtfully and faithfully to complete a draft of the MSP to distribute to the congregation for feedback in preparation for its presentation at the Town Hall meeting with the bishop and Pastor Kristin Nielsen on Aug. 13, 2023. After that meeting, once approved by the congregation council, the MSP will be finalized with the synod. They will use the MSP to select pastoral

candidates (who also receive a copy of the MSP) they feel will fit the profile in order to present them to the Call Committee.

The Call Committee is currently (as of this writing) being recruited and will be appointed by the council. The MSP will be used by the Call Committee to evaluate the prospective candidates and to prepare interview questions for those candidates. Please continue to pray for this committee as they follow the Holy Spirit's leading in identifying a pastor candidate for call by St. Mary's Lutheran Church.

It's been a blessing to get to know you better as individuals and as a congregation as we have been together in worship, work, and fellowship. I'm uncertain, at this point, how long I will remain here in interim with you. Certainly, I am willing and would be grateful to see you through until your new pastor comes, but sometimes the Holy Spirit has other things in mind. Thank you for all the ways in which you continue to support me and Greg in our time with you here at St. Mary's. We have been blessed.

*In Christ, in peace,
Pastor Kathy Brown*

INTERIM PASTOR



Pastor Kathy presides over holy communion during the ordination & installation of Pastor Debbie Hartfield this past June.

Pastor Kathy, along with Jasmine Fields & Kendra Richter, are pictured here with our 4 youth confirmands, May 21st, 2023.



"We can look with hope to the future in all things, because God's Holy Spirit is present with us in all things. God's love and mercy, guidance and strength is there for us in all things. So, let us keep marching on!"

Pastor Kathy article, The Spirit Newsletter, March 2023

PASTOR DEBBIE HARTFIELD

ASSOCIATE PASTOR/MINISTER OF PASTORAL CARE

Dear Beloveds in Christ at St. Mary's Lutheran,

Thank you for calling me as your Associate Pastor! I started on April 24th and I am appreciative for having had the time, before my ordination on June 17th, to get oriented with such things as the computer, phone systems, rhythm of the church office and various ministries that are lived out at St. Mary's (e.g. Quilters, Lydia Circle, Kenosha Achievement Center's SPROUTS Program). It has been an exciting time settling in and taking on a new role after being a member here for so many formative years of my life!

Pastor Kathy, Nurse Sue, and I have partnered in our ministry of pastoral care, which has brought with it the opportunity to make hospital visits as well as be in conversation and prayer with many in our congregation and the greater community.

Additionally, I have had the opportunity to meet some of our community partners (e.g., Kenosha County Behavioral Health Systems and Nurse Sue's Advocate Aurora Health Care management folks) and begin to build relationships with them. We are so very blessed to have Nurse Sue among us, someone who has long and deep relationships with members of the congregation as well as with the larger community! Her support and guidance have been a tremendous help as I continue to meet people!

I continue to participate in a weekly text study, which is open to pastors from the South Conference of the Greater

Milwaukee Synod. This weekly interaction, with those primarily from Racine churches, has provided opportunity to stay connected collegially as well as engage in the biblical texts for any given week.

Part of what I refer to as my orientation involved attending Friendly Center's May meeting, where we welcomed Rabbi Feingold and were blessed by her leading us in devotions and sharing a bit about the Jewish faith. Our ecumenical relationships are important as we strive to work together in building a community and world where God's love is shared with everybody! Additionally, I attended the May 15th FISH/FUSION night, welcoming and supporting their guest speaker and dear friend of mine, Norma. Norma shared her story and her daughter, Tehya's story of a journey through mental illness and Tehya's devastating death at the age of eighteen after she was injected with a lethal dose of drugs. Creating space and opportunity for sharing our stories is holy and sacred work that invites conversation, reflection, and prayer as we live together as people of God.

Who knew that planning a worship and ordination/installation service would be so consuming?!?!? The St. Mary's community was "all in" as plans got defined and carried out throughout the congregation! I cannot adequately describe ALL that was done, nor thank everybody enough for making my day of ordination so incredibly special and memorable! The pictures that

captured the entire day might come close to reflecting the love and support I felt that day! Whether you helped prepare for that day, were present in worship, participated in the service, helped with the reception, were there in spirit or shared in this joyous occasion in any way, I give you thanks!

As you may know, St. Mary's has not called a part-time pastor in recent history, or maybe ever! It will be a new experience for all of us and I suspect that we will all be learning along the way! Grace abounds! While 15 hours a week is very part-time, I pray and welcome being able to spend time with you, hearing your stories and walking alongside you as we all continue to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ! I especially welcome hearing what areas of faith formation you might want to delve a little deeper into and creating space that welcomes conversation and wrestling with what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our everyday lives, no matter the season of life we are in. I feel blessed to be with you on this journey!

We are God's people! Followers of Jesus Christ! Gifted by the Spirit! Go Pray! Go Love! Go Serve!

In Christ,
Pastor Debbie



CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

JULIE SCHMIT & CHRISTINE JOHNSON

Dear friends in Christ,

"We ARE God's people, gifted by the Spirit to Go Pray, Go Love and Go Serve.

Thanks be to GOD!"

Chris Johnson and I want to thank you for allowing us to collaborate the responsibilities of President on church council this year. It was a change from what we usually experience, and we felt that it allowed for more communication and more responsive follow-through. We hope that more committees will find ways to co-lead and oversee the life and activities of **St. Mary's**.

To God be the glory for all the spiritual highs that have blessed us this year. We hope you have reached out and made new connections with members. There are plenty of opportunities to do so. Just look at the calendar that Beth keeps current for us.

In retrospect, St. Mary's reflected on many years of history with our timeline event on Rally Day. This aided the Vision and Strategic planning team in their work. Oktoberfest brought us together in a spirited way and we plan to repeat that event this coming September 30.

St. Mary's resumed a few traditions with Thanksgiving pie following the service and Advent recitals with Brian Schoettler. **Fellowship with "Coffee Kringle Mingle", Quilters and Caritas** resumed their ministries. Lenten Service with soup suppers mid-week and the youth led Good Friday service all join us in communion with one another.

The diligent research of the Mission Exploration Team took place with engaging congregational surveys. It was a way to get your voices heard

and it was telling to see the responses of the congregation. A town hall meeting will be held August 13 to have the Ministry Site Profile approved by the Bishop and ELCA Synod.

We called congregational meetings to vote on a position for Pastoral Care minister and then to extend that call to Debbie Hartfield. A monumental event in the life of the congregation was **hosting Pastor Debbie's Ordination to** the ministry of Word and Sacrament and her Rite of Installation. Pastor Debbie is settling into her role and prioritizing her 15 hours a week.

We offer gratitude to Michelle, Stephanie, and Kendra as they have worked to build up our youth programs that engage children and young adults in the Word of God and all the activities (Trunk or Treat, Christmas program, Youth Rummage sale, Palm Sunday breakfast- to name a few) that help them build relationships in the church and community.

The Presidents of ELCA church councils are meeting quarterly to discuss our missions and ministries with one another and how we can be supportive of our situations as we strive to do ministry together in Kenosha.

We pulled together council liaisons and chairpersons of our many committees to communicate and determine how we can be stewards of **God's love and what that means. We** have met in January, March and June and are meeting quarterly to share **how God's love has come down to us** and how we can share that love within our church and out in our community. This brought about monthly temple talks to make known what our ministries are doing and how we can share in the mission.

We oversaw upgrades to the air handlers for our heating, cooling, and ventilation on both the east and west side of the church. There were also updated phones, internet, copier, and office systems software to provide greater efficiency. A new Information Technology committee was formed for support in the office area. The Chapel Lounge remodel is underway. Fans have been added to the library and nursery to circulate air flow and make it more comfortable. The library and room 1W will be newly carpeted to replace the old, damaged carpet and window treatments will be replaced in the Library and Nursery as a part of this project. A generous gift was received from the Endowment Foundation to help with some expenses of the remodel.

We have been blessed to work with Kristofer Twadell as our sound/video technician. He has exceeded our expectations and we will miss him as **he leaves to start his master's** program at the University of North Carolina.

The council and committees have been cutting budgets and redefining **contracts to reduce St. Mary's overall** expenditures. The Finance Committee has worked diligently to prepare our mission and ministry resource plan for discussion and your approval.

Thank you for partnering with us, the Council and all the various committees and groups that do the good work of making Christ known. You are the church!

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Julie Schmit and Christine Johnson
Co-Presidents

BETH KERSCHER

OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

This annual report article marks my 10th anniversary as a member of your staff. Starting on July 15, 2013, this then mother of 2 high schoolers carved her way as a Children's Ministry Director. That would last 7-1/2 years! The COVID-19 global pandemic forced many changes to us here at church, and thankfully I was retained as your Office Administrative Assistant. From that desk, I've been witness to so much of the life of this church and I have felt the Holy Spirit move and direct all of our steps.

Since the last Annual Meeting in July, 2022, the office has once again become the hustle-and-bustle of the church buzzing with lots of activity! It could not have been as successful a year without the tireless dedication of our front desk volunteers, all the people who count the offering, all who chair or lead one of the many committees, and all the volunteers that help keep St. Mary's Lutheran Church a vibrant part of this Kenosha community, as well as being God's hands and feet in the world. Thank you for helping in every way you do! It is my blessing to be a part of this "beehive of activity" that is the church office.

Some notable moments in the church office this past year have been the complete, 100% overhaul of our computer network, our IT management system (s) and our telephone service—not to forget this includes the completion of a large lease agreement with our copier provider. What was almost too tall of an order at times eventually resolved itself into a seamless set-up with solid equipment, necessary upgrades, and improvements to the technology needed to run a church business/office/live-streaming congregation! A mega-huge *THANK YOU* goes out to the many members that helped bring us to this point. The overall ease of use will become more noticeable as we find our rhythms using all the new stuff.

Throughout the last year, there have been a large number of publications produced by this department including:



- ✓ An ordination/installation worship bulletin (1)
- ✓ Weekly worship bulletins (52)
- ✓ Weekly announcement sheets (52)
- ✓ Monthly newsletters (12)
- ✓ Letters to the congregation mailings (4)
- ✓ Baptism certificates (8)
- ✓ Certificates of transfer (11)
- ✓ Funeral bulletins (5)
- ✓ Annual Reports (2)
- ✓ WELCA handbook (1)
- ✓ Christmas in July marketing (2)
- Plus
- ✓ All social media postings
- ✓ Church's website
- ✓ And any online presence originates from my desk
- Throw in
- ✓ Calendar scheduling
- ✓ Room reservations
- ✓ Programming the doors
- ✓ New hire on-boarding and you're caught up with this assistant who looks forward to staying closely involved as we call a new pastor in the coming months!

Thank you to all the staff members and church leadership for your support, friendship and encouragement! Working with you have been the best parts of these past 10 years! May God continue to use me for God's glory through my work in the office.

*Respectfully submitted,
Beth Kerscher*

SUE QUEVER, R.N.

Spiritual Care and Wellness Ministry

Mission - Promoting healthy living within the St. Mary's Lutheran faith community. Provide holistic nursing by ministering to the parishioners' physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Because of Jesus, we are:

Becoming Inclusive



Provided an educational opportunity "Healthy Aging Fair" (October 1, 2022) which captured various community resources and activities that would enhance good health and wellness in our congregation and community.

Connecting People



Sue has been on staff of St. Mary's Lutheran Church for 19 years. She and her husband, Grant, enjoy spending time with their sons & 4 grandchildren.



Offered "Surviving the Holidays" to those recently experiencing a death of a loved one.

Offered 2 separate sessions of Grief Share support classes which each were 10-week sessions.

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

Practicing Generosity



Admiration to the St. Mary's Care ministers that reach out and bring communion, worship, prayer, conversation, and friendship to our homebound parishioners.

Managed the Good Samaritan Fund –providing financial support to those parishioners/community members with agency referral suffering crisis with basic needs.

Delivered connection, referral, support, medical information, council, prayer, and a listening ear weekly to St. Mary's congregants as needed and as referred by the Pastors and community.

Thank you for allowing me to provide encouragement and assistance to you in time of need. Your trust and confidence in our partnership is greatly appreciated. May the Lord bless and strengthen your mind, body, and spirit!

Let your light shine!

*Sue Quever R.N.,
Faith Community Nurse/
Care Ministry Coordinator*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**STEPHANIE RASZKIEWICZ,
SUNDAY SCHOOL LEAD VOLUNTEER**

We have had such a blast this year! We continue to operate through the generous donation of time and talents of a small group of individuals helping with our education time. Rally Day kicked off our Sunday School Year on September 11, 2022. We were blessed to have 21 youth registered to participate in Sunday School this year, with four new families joining our ministry. We handed out ten Bibles to our youth this year. This has been another year of regrowth. Six youth and two adults attended our first worship camp at Lutherdale since COVID on February 4-5, 2023, where the kids learned about the *Fruits of the Spirit* (*Galatians 5:22-23*) and enhanced their faith community in ways that I was blessed to witness. Our Christmas program, "A Night Like No Other," was another successful and rewarding opportunity for our children to learn and participate in worship and the story of Jesus' birth. We are incredibly grateful for the time and talents of our families and other volunteers to make this happen. After a holiday break, we had our annual Movie and Pajama Day to mark the return to Sunday School in the New Year. We made Valentine's Day and

Easter Cards for our parishioners who have been unable to join us for service in-person to remind them that we care about them and miss their presence in our church. We made a surprise appearance at Saturday service to share our songs of joy and love with our faith partners at this service on February 25, 2023. Seven youth received their First Communion this year four weeks later, where we again used materials from *A Place for You: My First Communion Book* by Daniel Erlander. Our youth sang at the Palm Sunday service to begin our Holy week. We wrapped up the year singing for the congregation on Mother's Day and having a Commencement Day to solidify the alpha and the omega that was our Sunday School Year. We are gearing up for Vacation Bible School – "Stellar", which is sure to be "an out of this world experience," from July 30-August 2. Last year, our VBS reached 24 youth. It was exciting that 75% of the participants were not members of our congregation. The first Sunday of each month, we served those in need at the Shalom Center, having 2-4 families helping on each of these evenings. It has been a dynamic year. We

continue to grow and return to our new normal. The opportunity to interact with the children has been a fulfilling experience for me and I hope that we can continue to make our youth ministries a strong piece of our faith community. I look forward to sharing the Good News with the help of God's children – young and old, tall and small. I am grateful for the support and kindness extended to our Sunday School Ministries this year.

Yours in Faith and Peace,

*Stephanie Raszkievicz
Sunday School Lead*



Sunday Schoolers sing at a Saturday night worship service, 2/23.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Sunday Schoolers decorate Christmas cookies for the hospitality after the Christmas program, 12/22.



MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

KENDRA RICHTER, LEAD VOLUNTEER

As I reflect on the past school/church year, I am stopped right away at the thought of *"how did another year pass?"* Then as I write down all that the youth did, the memories made, the lessons learned and the friendships made, I think *"how did we fit ALL that into one year?"*.

Everything that the youth program has done and accomplished could not have been possible without the help of many adults in this congregation. I would like to thank the parents who were involved in youth committee, fundraisers, and drivers/chaperones for events. Special shoutout to the following individuals for making my role easier and way more fun - **Michelle Fonk, Adam Fonk, Ben Borter, Grant June, Jasmine Fields, Andrea Buskirk, and Mike VanLaningham**. I have said this before and I will continue to say, I am very grateful for the congregation and council's support for allowing the youth program to continue to be one of the heartbeats of St. Mary's!!

The following are some highlights of what the youth did from the 2022 Mission Trip to the End of the Year Bowling Party.

- 20/30 youth met weekly on Mondays for Fish (Middle School) and Fusion (High School)
- Hosted a multi church QUEST night
- Confirmed 12 youth between October and May
- Stayed up all night at the Rock'n Lock In in November
- Hosted the annual youth rummage sale
- 25 Youth and 5 chaperones attended WINTER XTREME at Camp Timber-lee where we took home the Broomball Championship
- Volunteered quarterly at the ELCA Outreach Center
- Brought back the Palm Sunday Breakfast

- Lead the congregation in worship for the Good Friday Service
- Carried on the tradition of Flocking
- Lended a helping hand with VBS
- Journeyed through the Old Testament as part of our Confirmation curriculum
- Tied fleece blankets and donated them to Women's and Children's Horizons

These events were filled with fun, community, LOTS of snacks, service, and the youth of St. Mary's asking good questions to help them grow in their faith.

There are moments where I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunity to provide the current youth of St. Mary's the experience of knowing what it means to be loved and share that love in return. It is special to be able to see the youth be kind, have fun, ask questions, be leaders, and care for one another, in the same space where I learned all of those same skills. I feel like I am the lucky one because I get to see the world and the love and light that God brings to it through the eyes of our youth. These youth are something special and I am thankful for everyone who has played a role in raising them! If you ever find yourself wondering who God has called us to be, I would recommend you spend some time with our youth, because they get it (and we would love more leaders). This summer, has already been filled with many conversations on how we can collaborate with other ELCA youth in Kenosha. We would love your prayers over those conversations. **We are looking forward to the Twin Cities, Minnesota Mission Trip at the end of July** and planning for what the year ahead looks like.

*Kendra Richter
Middle/High School Lead*

WORSHIP* MUSIC* ARTS ~ NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Since the last Annual Meeting, St. Mary's committee, Worship/Music/Arts has met monthly at 5:45pm on the second Tuesday. This team is comprised of music leaders, sacristy leads, liturgical arts, pastor, and a council liaison. They are tasked with reviewing all elements of worship including special services, changes in seasons, worship schedules and volunteers, like Assisting Ministers and Communion Assistants to name a few. Under the leadership of Dick Sjoerdsma, WMA has reviewed many items including:

- ◇ Rally Day, September, 11, 2022
- ◇ Handbell refurbishing
- ◇ Adult Choir
- ◇ Contemporary Worship Team
- ◇ Assistant Minister training event
- ◇ Worship bulletin edits and helps
- ◇ Tuning pianos & organ
- ◇ Small group book studies
- ◇ Sanctuary lighting and sound
- ◇ Advent organ recital with Dr. Brian Schoettler
- ◇ *All Saints Day organ recital on November 5, 2023—Dr. Brian Schoettler with dessert reception (Save the Date!)*
- ◇ Soup suppers & post-event hospitality
- ◇ Jubilate! schedule & events
- ◇ Hymn selection processes
- ◇ Holiday service times & summer worship schedules
- ◇ Communion & usher instruction
- ◇ Inclusion of children in worship
- ◇ Lenten worship on Wednesdays at 6:30pm
- ◇ Altar flowers to be delivered to shut-ins/hospitalized
- ◇ Anton's Christmas Poinsettias & Easter garden
- ◇ Potpourri of discussion
- ◇ Opening Devotions prepared

Thank you to everyone who attends these meetings and helps with the formation of the worship experiences to be rich and fulfilling.

Greetings from the 23/24 nominating committee, consisting of Alice Schwalbe, chairman, Dana Larsen, representative from Council, Sandy, Bear, and Brian Mason.

A Temple Talk was given in March by Alice Schwalbe regarding a "call to serve" and hopefully getting recruitment from the congregation to answer the call. Members of the congregation were asked to nominate people which proved to be a great response. There were about 20 names submitted. The nominated persons were sent a letter by the church office asking them to prayerfully consider being on the council, as there are 4 positions open.

After about a month and due to time constraints, Alice called all the people who had received the letters, requesting them to consider the nomination for council. Of course, there were many remarks, and hopefully I listened carefully with most people declining their nomination with various reasons of being too busy, not now, length of service of 3 years is too long, family commitments, and various other legitimate reasons.

At present, we have two persons who have accepted the nomination to serve in the council, and we are so grateful and blessed for their acceptance.

Moving forward and looking at 2024 we would like to consider getting council members to give small talks, skits or education about their duties and roles in serving on church council. We will use this time to introduce the congregation about what each committee performs and does throughout the year. I, myself, am excited to learn more about the business and workings of our church & find out about our St. Mary's church council. Watch out! I may even attend a meeting or two!

A saying that says a lot is: "When the going gets TOUGH; the TOUGH get going!"

Thank you and May Our Lord continue to guide us

*Respectfully,
Alice Schwalbe
Nominating Committee Chairman*

ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTION

KAY MANDERFELD

St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation Disbursement Report

*The Mission of St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation
The mission of the Foundation is to offer members (as well as friends) of St. Mary's Lutheran Church a haven for gifts and memorials which will provide an ongoing source of income for the encouragement of religious, charitable, educational, and outreach programs. Gifts to the Foundation are held in perpetuity, generating investment income each year that provides a continuous source of support for worthy causes that fit our mission statement.*

The following is a list of grant recipients of St. Mary's Endowment Foundation for the past year. (August 1, 2022 through July 31th, 2023)

- ◇ Grace Lutheran Church Diaper Ministry
- ◇ Redeemer Lutheran Milwaukee
- ◇ The Sharing Center - Trevor
- ◇ Breaking the Chains Prison Ministry
- ◇ KAFASI Music and Memory Program
- ◇ Garden of Eatin' Kenosha
- ◇ St. Mary's Good Samaritan Fund
- ◇ Concerned Citizens Coalition
- ◇ Wayne Family Fire Fund
- ◇ Shalom Center Soup Kitchen
- ◇ Grace Welcome Center
- ◇ Walkin' In My Shoes
- ◇ St. Mary's Youth - Camp Timber-Lee
- ◇ St. Mary's Property Committee
- ◇ ELCA Outreach Center
- ◇ St. Mary's Lydia Circle
- ◇ Five College Scholarships for St. Mary's Members
- ◇ Jubilate Handbell Choir
- ◇ St. Mary's Vacation Bible School
- ◇ St. Mary's for Live Streaming Equipment
- ◇ Habitat for Humanity
- ◇ The Healing Network Addiction and Substance Abuse Ministry (GMS Affiliated)

"Funds are available to church organizations, non-profit groups, and community organizations that meet the Foundation's goals and mission for giving. Those goals and mission seek to support special projects, programs, and initiatives... Priority will be given to ministries, missions, and humanitarian efforts that promote the values of Christian service and charity."

*"To APPLY FOR FUNDING",
SMLC ENDOWMENT
FOUNDATION DISBURSEMENT
COMMITTEE, 2023*

Grace
welcome
Center

SHALOM
CENTER
Building Hope
Food • Shelter • Guidance

The
Sharing
Center
SHARE | SERVE | ADVOCATE

KAFASI
Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services, Inc.



WALKIN'
IN MY SHOES



ST. MARY'S
Lutheran Church
Kenosha, Wisconsin ELCA



Habitat for Humanity
of Kenosha

CHURCH IN SOCIETY MINISTRY

Church in Society Ministry
2022 -2023 Annual Report

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers, you did for me." Matthew 25: 40

Serve - In response to Jesus who came to serve, I will: Care for those in need and strive for peace and justice in all the world.

CIS meets on the second Thursday of the month at 1 pm in the church library; we welcome anyone interested in advocating for the needs of others.

Church in Society Ministry has supported the following programs and projects:

1. Bread for the World — Covenant member status was renewed for 2023. Bread for the World is advocating for passage of the next Farm Bill, esp. SNAP.
2. Fair Trade — The ministry sold Fair Trade coffee and chocolates monthly.
3. Lutheran World Relief — 213 quilts and 33 personal care kits

- donated in 2022 plus: 114 quilts to ELCA Outreach, 110 to Grace Welcome Center, 6 to Lutherdale, And 2 - to the Afghan Resettlement Camp at Camp Randall.
4. ELCA Outreach Center - snacks for summer campers on July 11 - 15, 2022. Over "500" snack bags were delivered to the children in 5 days. CIS is thankful for the monetary donations that enabled this ministry to happen.
 5. Relay for Life— This was held on Friday, August 5, 2022.
 6. Christmas in July —CIS sponsors a collection of personal care items for the Outreach Center during the month of July. 285 lbs. collected in 2022.
 7. Shalom Center — Volunteers from St. Mary's help at the soup kitchen.
 8. Angel Tree Project — Members of St. Mary's supported 16 families and 51 children with gifts in December of 2022.
 9. CUSH — continues to advocate for the least of these in Kenosha.
- An Upside-Down Breakfast fundraiser was held at St. Mary's,

ANNE WINKLE, CHAIRPERSON

fall of 2022.

10. Outreach for Hope Bike Ride — September 24, 2022. Ralph Tollas participated. Outreach for Hope supports the ELCA Outreach Center and Grace Welcome Center.

11. Grace Welcome Center —

Members of St. Mary's volunteer at the Food Pantry.

12. Afghan Refugees — CIS continues to support this endeavor through prayer.

13. **"Breaking the Chains" Church** — CIS discussed and voted by consensus in October of 2022 to support this new ministry in Kenosha. CIS board members helped fill 125 Christmas gift bags for the incarcerated on Monday, Dec. 12, 2022.

14. **St. Mary's Thanksgiving** collection of food went to the Shalom Food Pantry.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Winkle
CIS Chairperson

*"Whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers, you did for me."
Matthew 25: 40*

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

CHERYL HAYES, TREASURER

Treasurer's Report

Year to Date June 30, 2022- June 30, 2023

Beginning Balance on Hand 6/30/22: \$527.30

Receipts:

Circle Offerings: \$565.25

Thankoffering: \$1070.00

Blanket Account: \$490.00

Nkoaranga Orphanage Offering: \$2150.00

Total Receipts: \$4275.25

Disbursements:

Greater Milwaukee Synod: \$344.30

Nkoaranga Orphanage: \$2150.00

LWR (Blanket Sunday): \$490.00

Year-End Disbursements: \$325.00

Afghan Resettlement Program: \$535.00

Breaking the Chains Church: \$535.00

Miscellaneous: \$49.95

Total Disbursements: \$4429.30

Bank Balance 6/30/23: \$373.30



RECONNECTIONS TEAM

The Reconnections Team has grown with new volunteers and has become a venue for many wonderful fellowship events at St. Mary's. NONE of this could happen without Volunteers. "Thank You". We average around 60-80 people attending fellowship over the weekend. Fresh fruit, cheese, crackers have been added. Hollie DeFranco joined Reconnect and offered to bake all the treats as needed for fellowship. Hollie wanted to carry on her Grandmother's tradition of baking for the church and saw a wonderful opportunity with St. Mary's.

SEPTEMBER 11- The "Historical Time Line Event" held in the gym, about 100 people attended. Each table had a platter of finger foods keeping it simple and easy so people could partake in the event. "A"

OCTOBER-1 Our First "Oktoberfest Event" Music was provided by MGV Harmonia German Male Chorus and The Hungry Five directed by Chip Millholland. Fellowship Hall was decorated in Pastor Kathy's collection of Oktoberfest attire. We welcomed our ELCA area churches to join us. New volunteers joined in helping prepare and make the homemade food and desserts. about 100 guests attended. ***SAVE the date and join us September 30, 2023 Saturday "Oktoberfest". "B"***

NOVEMBER There was two events! The Boy Scouts surprised Ralph Tollas with a birthday celebration that turned into quite an event. The fellowship hall was packed for Ralph, who endlessly volunteers helping everywhere that is needed. "The Thanksgiving Pie Event" held Wednesday after the Thanksgiving evening service. 15 pies were gobbled up and volunteers stepped up to make this another successful event.

FEBRUARY, 2023-Interest in bringing back Caritas and started back up for people interested in having fellowship after a funeral. There has been a few funerals served. Di Michalski has offered to lead this up.

MARCH-Lenten Soups started back up with Gretchen Rasch taking the lead in making homemade soup and the youth helped with serving. Average 45 people attended.

CHRISTINE JOHNSON, CHAIR

APRIL Lorraine Harris had a "Milestone Birthday Celebration" that filled every chair in Fellowship Hall, Her family was overwhelmed by the generosity of St. Mary's has on their mom. "C"

MAY Deb Black wanted to share the "Baptism Celebration" of her Granddaughter. Another full house of people mingling in fellowship. Delicious food was served.

JUNE was busy with two more events. Anne and Ken Winkle celebrated 60 years of marriage. Out of town family attended Sunday to continue the celebration. "D" JUNE 17 The "Ordination of Pastor Debbie Hartfield". What a beautiful and heartfelt event. About 175 people attended. Volunteers went above and beyond in preparing all the food, baking the delicious variety of bars and cookies, helped with set-up, clean-up. It was a day everyone wanted to help and make this a memorable event. "E"

Summer Fellowship continues whenever volunteers sign up. Kingfish event continues as a "Fun Summer Event." Led by Sandy Bear, Reconnect is more than just "volunteering" at events...It's connecting, celebrating each other and being hopeful and grateful for one another. Volunteering at celebration can fill your soul. All are welcome to join us.

Philippians 4:4-7

"Be cheerful with joyous celebrations in every season of life. Let your joy overflow! And let gentleness be seen in every relationship for our Lord is ever near."

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Johnson,
Reconnections Team Lead



A



C



B



E

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Hello friends in Christ! Our Stewardship Committee has worked to adapt to the everchanging needs of the dedicated and faithful followers in our faith community. We did not have a formal Stewardship Committee this last year. However, the leadership within St. Mary's has become our Stewardship Committee. On January 14, 2023, members of our congregation council and committee chair-people convened at a retreat at the Siena Center to discern the direction we would like St. Mary's to take in the future. During this retreat, we reviewed the ELCA's suggested stewardship materials, "Stewards of God's Love." This event was an outcome of the Vision and Strategic Planning Team's suggestion that we further explore the areas this team identified as our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as a congregation. This meeting also led to recognition of the need for our leaders to be guides to help grow and sustain our church. Within the ELCA website, it talks about stewardship as being about love and not money. However, we also know that time, talents, and treasures are needed to sustain any congregation. This balancing act of stewardship requires connection, which we have learned to be so valuable as we move passed the

COVID Pandemic. Because of this, each of our committees have chosen a month throughout the year to present a temple talk to educate our parishioners about what each committee does – inside and outside of our four walls. We are also working with our pastoral leadership to explore better ways to communicate – both in seeking your input, as well as sharing each committee's activities. It is hoped that through these concerted efforts of love and discernment, we can spread the Good News – not just of God's work, but also His love as shown through our hands. It is hoped that we can find an adaptation of the Time and Talent Campaign that can share God's love, while being thoughtful about how we can share our gifts with each other to show God's work through our hands. We continue to need you to prayerfully consider how your time, talents, and treasures can build God's House. We are ever-grateful for your support and the time of our leaders during this period of discernment about our next pastoral call and our path as followers of Jesus Christ. Go Pray! Go Love! Go Serve!

*Yours in Faith and Peace,
Stephanie Raszkiewicz
Council Liaison for Stewardship*

Annual Audit Report FY 2022-2023 for St. Mary's Lutheran Church

Annual Meeting

The annual audit for the fiscal year 2022-2023 was performed by Keith Corso and Jerry Green. Due to the annual meeting being mid-July the financial records for June 2023 were not reviewed. Controls governing the Bookkeeping practices were consistent with past practices and protocols and appear to be operating as intended. Processes reviewed:

- Deposits
- Credit Card Purchases
- Requests for payments

Additional work is needed in the following areas:

- The Finance Committee is not maintaining meeting minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

St Mary's Lutheran Church audit committee.

VISION STRATEGIC PLANNING (VSP) AND MISSION EXPLORATION TEAM (MET) REPORTS

VISION STRATEGIC PLANNING (VSP) MEETING UPDATE

The VSP team completed its work in November, 2022 to review and revise the St. Mary's Lutheran Church Visioning and Strategic Plan from November 2017 to ensure its relevancy for today's congregation. At the time of last year's annual meeting, the VSP team had examined the Core Practices and Core Value Statement and assessed the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) values from this plan to see how they were applicable to St. Mary's and our identified Core Values. After this discernment process, we integrated current materials from our Congregational Survey and Demographic Survey. It was fulfilling to notice that although our world has had some notable changes since 2017, our congregation's core values and passions were quite similar between 2017 and 2022. To further examine our church's history, we facilitated a Timeline Event and explored good times and hardships our church family has endured. The Reconnections Team was integral in this event, which was a great opportunity to reminisce and reunite through our shared experiences in Christ. As we examined events from the timeline party and their meaning to our congregation, we identified actions that could be helpful to our growth. Our philanthropic nature and desire to connect to our community will always be a strength of St. Mary's. It was noted that there is concern about the communication among leaders of the church and the congregation. It was also noted that the lack of stewardship ministries could be negatively impacting our growth. Within the congregation, a general mistrust of the institution of church, enlisting time and talents of all members of the congregation, and assimilating visitors and new members were also identified as threats to our longevity. To address these areas in need of attention, the leaders of the church – comprised of Congregation Council members and

committee chair-people – have met three times this year to develop and implement ways to perpetuate our stewardship ministries, improve communication, and explore how to spread the good news within St. Mary's and our efforts as a church family within our community and our world. These efforts have provided energy that has been passed on the Mission Exploration Team as we begin our next call for a worship leader.

Pastor Kathy, Pastor Debbie, Keith Richter, Stephanie Raszkiewicz, Richard Sjoerdsma, Dan Neuwiler, Kay Manderfeld, and Sandy Bear.

Go Pray, Go Love, Go Serve!!

MISSION EXPLORATION TEAM (MET)

The Mission Exploration Team (MET) was commissioned by the Church Council in January, 2023. Required by the Synod, the eight member MET was tasked with completing the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) for St. Mary's Lutheran Church. The most recent Visioning and Strategic Plan was an important resource. Congregational input was sought through a series of survey questions during March. The required demographic information was gleaned from a variety of sources. The MET completed the sections of the MSP they were responsible for in early June. Certain sections of the report require Church Council action. These include: the type of call, minimum credentials, compensation package, references, and establishing a Call Committee. When completed, the Synod will present the MSP at a church town hall meeting on August 13. Prior to this meeting, a draft of the MSP will be available for review by the people of St. Mary's. Submission to the Greater Milwaukee Synod follows the approval of the MSP by St. Mary's Congregation.

*Respectfully submitted by,
The Mission Exploration Team*

THE CONSTITUTION OF ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PREAMBLE

We, baptized members of the Church of Christ, responding in faith to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, desiring to unite together to preach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission, do hereby adopt this constitution and solemnly pledge ourselves to be governed by its provisions. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

"Give thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

EPHESIANS 5:20

My report of thanks:

I would like to thank all members of St. Mary's for the donations made to the church and toward special appeals this year. Your donations enabled our church to continue in the ministry of loving God and loving our neighbors. More programs of our church are becoming active, we have an increasing staff, and of our ministry partners have an increasing need. A steady flow of income becomes even more important.

I particularly would like to give thanks and commendations to our financial team at

St. Mary's Lutheran Church. These members are bookkeeper Sondra Kuro, Financial Secretary Cari Richter, and Finance Committee chair Dan Neururer, and committee members Neil Guttormsen, Andrea Beer, and Leslie Sandahl. Sondra and Cari kept our day-to-day and week-to-week operations running like clockwork. Dan, Neil, Andrea, and Leslie kept our monthly finances in order. Under Dan's guidance, this year's MMRP process was again very constructive, information based, and forward looking. When you can, thank each one of these members for their dedication to St. Mary's finances.

Steve Hartfield – Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Twelve Months Ended 6/30/2023

Dedicated Accounts

Operating Reserves	\$ 23,492.06
Long-Term Reserve	\$ 73,483.94
Building & Grounds Reserve	\$ 11,346.11
Investment Accounts	\$ 122,825.39
Miscellaneous Dedicated Accounts	<u>\$ 51,032.91</u>

Total Dedicated Accounts

\$ 282,180.41

Bank Account Balances

Checking Accounts	\$ 2,150.88
Money Market	\$ 160,684.99
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,719.11
Investment Accounts	\$ 122,825.39
Accounts Payable	<u>\$ (5,199.96)</u>

Total Bank Account Balances

\$ 282,180.41

Mortgage Balance

Interest Rate	3.350%
Payments Remaining	104
Monthly Payment	\$ 4,043.00
Principal Balance	\$ 364,440.27
Principal Paid this year	\$ 35,656.91
Interest Paid this year	\$ 12,859.09

**FINANCIAL REPORTS
ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
TREASURER'S REPORT
GENERAL OPERATING FUND**

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Twelve Months Ended 6/30/2023

Balance at July 1, 2022		\$ -
Receipts 7/1/22- 6/30/23		
Envelope/EFT Offerings	\$ 469,939.96	
Cash Offering	\$ 12,314.30	
Building Rental	\$ 1,430.00	
Interest Earned	\$ 2,267.61	
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 908.00	
Thrivent Choice Contribution	\$ 2,566.00	
Total Receipts		<u>\$ 489,425.87</u>
Total Funds Available		<u>\$ 489,425.87</u>
Expenses 7/1/22 - 6/30/23		
Benevolence:		
ELCA-Greater Milwaukee Synod	\$ 38,900.17	
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 2,713.50	
Lutherdale Bible Camp	\$ 2,713.50	
ELCA Outreach Center	\$ 5,416.00	
Grace Welcome Center	\$ 5,416.00	
Benevolence Total	\$ 55,159.17	
Worship	\$ 4,602.92	
Education	\$ 3,605.05	
Fellowship/Outreach	\$ 32.66	
Church in Society/Synod Assembly	\$ 1,685.00	
Stewardship	\$ -	
Youth Ministry	\$ 2,585.46	
Staff Salaries		
Pastoral	\$ 88,613.14	
Support	<u>\$ 96,641.83</u>	
Salaries Total		<u>\$ 185,254.97</u>
Staff Benefits	\$ 39,625.37	
Administrative	\$ 54,936.82	
Utilities/Maintenance	\$ 111,757.09	
Mortgage/Debt Reduction	<u>\$ 48,516.00</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>\$ 507,760.51</u>
Disbursements Over Receipts		\$ (18,334.64)
Loss Transferred to Operating Reserve		<u>\$ 18,334.64</u>
Balance at June 30, 2023		<u><u>\$ —</u></u>

St. Mary's Lutheran Church 2022/2023 Ministry & Mission Resource Plan

	MMRP 2022/2023	Actual 2022/2023	Variance to MMRP
Revenue			
Envelope/EFT Offering	\$ 531,900.00	\$ 469,939.96	\$ (61,960.04)
Cash Offering	\$ -	\$ 12,314.30	\$ 12,314.30
Sunday School Offering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Building Rental	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,430.00	\$ (2,570.00)
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,566.00	\$ (434.00)
Misc Income	\$ -	\$ 908.00	\$ 908.00
Interest Income	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,267.61	\$ 2,167.61
Total Revenue	\$ 539,000.00	\$ 489,425.87	\$ (49,574.13)
Expenses			
Partnership Ministries			
Greater Milwaukee Synod ELCA	\$ 37,730.00	\$ 38,900.17	\$ (1,170.17)
Lutherdale Bible Camp	\$ 2,695.00	\$ 2,713.50	\$ (18.50)
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 2,695.00	\$ 2,713.50	\$ (18.50)
ELCA Urban Outreach	\$ 5,390.00	\$ 5,416.00	\$ (26.00)
Grace Welcome Center	\$ 5,390.00	\$ 5,416.00	\$ (26.00)
Total Partnership Ministries	\$ 53,900.00	\$ 55,159.17	\$ (1,259.17)
Worship			
Music & Licensing	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,078.43	\$ 421.57
Bulletins & Inserts	\$ 300.00	\$ 432.00	\$ (132.00)
Sacristan & Altar Guild	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,251.25	\$ 748.75
Instrument Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,125.00	\$ (125.00)
Liturgical Arts	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Worship Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 37.24	\$ 462.76
Sound Board Maintenance	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Worship Software	\$ 200.00	\$ 679.00	\$ (479.00)
Total Worship	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 4,602.92	\$ 1,897.08
Education			
Sunday School/VBS/First Communion	\$ 2,420.00	\$ 2,504.71	\$ (84.71)
Devotionals/Adult Education	\$ 600.00	\$ 610.35	\$ (10.35)
Bible Distribution	\$ 200.00	\$ 489.99	\$ (289.99)
Total Education	\$ 3,220.00	\$ 3,605.05	\$ (385.05)

St. Mary's Lutheran Church 2022/2023 Ministry & Mission Resource Plan

	MMRP 2022/2023	Actual 2022/2023	Variance to MMRP
Youth Programming			
High School/Confirmation	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,585.46	\$ 14.54
Total Youth Programming	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,585.46	\$ 14.54
Fellowship/Outreach			
Welcome Center/Hospitality	\$ 500.00	\$ 32.66	\$ 467.34
New Member Team	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Fellowship/Outreach	\$ 500.00	\$ 32.66	\$ 467.34
Stewardship			
Stewardship 365	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
Offering Envelopes	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 700.00
Total Stewardship	\$ 1,900.00	\$ -	\$ 1,900.00
Other			
Church in Society	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -
Synod Assembly	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,385.00	\$ (485.00)
Total Other	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,685.00	\$ (485.00)
Administrative Expenses			
Office Supplies	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,295.60	\$ 504.40
Printing & Advertising	\$ 750.00	\$ 504.33	\$ 245.67
Postage	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,931.76	\$ 68.24
Tech. Hardware/Software Maintenance	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 20,931.25	\$ 3,068.75
Payroll Processing	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 3,880.74	\$ 919.26
Staff Recognition	\$ 500.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 470.00
Bank Fees	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,739.80	\$ 60.20
Technology & Website	\$ 14,100.00	\$ 2,862.84	\$ 11,237.16
Call Committee	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Online Giving Fee	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,806.94	\$ 693.06
Office Equipment Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Misc Admin Expense	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ (150.00)
General Insurance	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,803.56	\$ (803.56)
Total Administrative Expenses	\$ 77,250.00	\$ 54,936.82	\$ 22,313.18

St. Mary's Lutheran Church 2022/2023 Ministry & Mission Resource Plan

	MMRP 2022/2023	Actual 2022/2023	Variance to MMRP
Facilities			
Heat	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 13,915.11	\$ (715.11)
Electric	\$ 25,300.00	\$ 21,143.38	\$ 4,156.62
Telephone & Internet	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 6,395.15	\$ (1,295.15)
Water/Sewer	\$ 6,700.00	\$ 5,748.62	\$ 951.38
Building Maintenance	\$ 20,800.00	\$ 15,932.68	\$ 4,867.32
Land Maintenance	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 8,600.00	\$ 6,400.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 19,187.91	\$ (9,187.91)
Custodial Supplies	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,137.98	\$ 862.02
Janitorial Service	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,696.26	\$ (696.26)
Total Facilities	\$ 117,100.00	\$ 111,757.09	\$ 5,342.91
Mortgage principal/Interest	\$ 48,516.00	\$ 48,516.00	\$ -
Staff Salaries & Wages	\$ 178,663.98	\$ 185,254.97	\$ (6,590.99)
Staff Payroll Taxes & Benefits	\$ 38,932.02	\$ 38,821.37	\$ 110.65
Other Staff Expenses			
Continuing Education	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Conferences & Retreats	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 804.00	\$ 996.00
Mileage	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
Pastor's Moving Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Staff Expenses	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 804.00	\$ 4,496.00
Total Expenses	\$ 535,582.00	\$ 507,760.51	\$ 27,821.49
Over (Short)	\$ 3,418.00	\$ (18,334.64)	\$ 21,752.64

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

First and foremost a sincere thank you is extended to St. Mary's members who care for the building and grounds. It is often a thankless job, with hard work that needs to be done on a regular basis — mow the lawn and gather ground debris, tend to flower beds, cleaning, painting, utility repairs, among many other things. These dedicated members use their skills wisely in commitment to their church and their exercise of good stewardship. They see their work on the grounds of the church as a sacred trust, and **they take pride in their work. By so doing St. Mary's facility** continues to serve as a welcoming community of Christian faith to its members and those from outside its walls.

Some highlights of Property Committee accomplishments during the past year are:

- Replace two inoperable heating and air conditioning systems;
- Paint exterior trim and the front information sign;
- Assortment of plumbing and door handle/lock repairs;
- Installation of replacement energy efficient entrance doors;
- Installation of ceiling cooling fans in both the Library and nursery;

- Cleaning and repair of east entrance door canopy;
- Masonry repair and tuck pointing of both east and west carports;
- Ongoing assessment of essential services for – HVAC systems maintenance, snow removal, housekeeping, waste disposal, and fire protection, among others; and -
- Begin Chapel Lounge remodeling with – installation of energy efficient lighting; ceiling replacement with installation of fans; wall repair and painting; replacement of window treatment; among other well needed improvements. When completed, this improved area will instill a spiritually welcoming environment for all now and future years to come.

Looking to the future, the body of this Committee with help of many others will continue to pursue wise stewardship of energy and refuse management, water conservation, and other gifts from our Heavenly Father.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bob VanBendegom
Property Committee Co-Chair*

St. Mary's Lutheran Church
2023-2024 Ministry & Mission Resource
Plan

2023-2024

MMRP

Revenue

Envelope Offering	\$ 531,900.00
Building Rental	\$ 2,500.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 3,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 5,500.00
Faith contribution	\$ 18,073.00

Total Revenue **\$ 560,973.00**

Expenses

Partnership Ministries	Greater Milwaukee Synod ELCA	\$ 38,100.00
	Lutherdale Bible Camp	\$ 2,720.00
	Lutheran Social Services	\$ 2,720.00
	ELCA Urban Outreach	\$ 5,440.00
	Grace Welcome Center	\$ 5,440.00

Total Partnership Ministries **\$ 54,420.00**

Worship	Sheet Music and Folders	\$ 800.00
	Licensing	\$ 1,500.00
	Bulletins & Inserts	\$ 300.00
	Sacristan & Altar Guild	\$ 1,800.00
	Sound Board Maintenance	\$ 500.00
	Instrument Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00
	Liturgical Arts	\$ 300.00
	Worship Software	\$ 1,500.00
	Worship Supplies	\$ 300.00

Total Worship **\$ 8,500.00**

Education	Sunday School	\$ 3,060.00
	Devotionals	\$ 400.00
	Adult Education	\$ 300.00

Total Education **\$ 3,760.00**

Youth Programming **Fish and Fusion** **\$ 2,960.00**

Fellowship/Outreach **Welcome Center/Hospitality** **\$ 500.00**

Stewardship	Stewardship	\$ 1,200.00
	Offering Envelopes	\$ 450.00

Total Stewardship **\$ 1,650.00**

St. Mary's Lutheran Church
2023-2024 Ministry & Mission Resource Plan

**2023-2024
MMRP**

Other	Church in Society	\$ 300.00
	Synod Assembly	<u>\$ 900.00</u>
Total Other		\$ 1,200.00

Administrative Expenses	Office Supplies	\$ 1,800.00
	Printing & Advertising	\$ 750.00
	Postage	\$ 2,000.00
	Tech. Hardware/Software Maintenance	\$ 10,000.00
	Payroll Processing	\$ 4,800.00
	Staff Recognition	\$ 500.00
	Bank Fees	\$ 1,800.00
	Technology & Website	\$ 2,500.00
	Call Process	\$ 3,000.00
	Online Giving Fee	\$ 1,400.00
	Office Equipment Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00
	General Insurance	<u>\$ 19,000.00</u>
Total Administrative Expenses		\$ 48,550.00

Facilities	Heat	\$ 15,000.00
	Electric	\$ 26,500.00
	Telephone & Internet	\$ 4,500.00
	Water/Sewer	\$ 6,000.00
	Building Maintenance	\$ 7,500.00
	Land Maintenance	\$ 11,000.00
	Equipment Maintenance	\$ 21,500.00
	Custodial Supplies	\$ 1,000.00
	Janitorial Service	<u>\$ 22,000.00</u>
Total Facilities		\$ 115,000.00

Mortgage principal/Interest	\$ 48,516.00
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Staff Salaries & Wages	\$ 226,465.00
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included are

Pastor Kathy Brown
 Pastor Debbie Hartfield
 FCN Sue Quever
 Admin Assist. Beth Kerscher
 Bookkeeper Sondra Kuro
 Organist Deb Black
 Pianist Laurel Borter
 S/V Tech Kris Twadell
 Choir Director Dick Sjoerdsma
 Bell Director Maddie Weirick
 Proposed Youth Leader Position

Staff Payroll Taxes & Benefits	\$ 39,852.00
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Other Staff Expenses	Continuing Education	\$ 1,300.00
	Conferences & Retreats	\$ 1,800.00
	Mileage	<u>\$ 6,500.00</u>

Total Other Staff Expenses	\$ 9,600.00
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Total Expenses	\$ 560,973.00
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Over (Short)	\$ -
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ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT, 2022

STEVE SEYMOUR, TREASURER

ST MARYS LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT December 31, 2022

	DEC	YEAR TO DATE	INCEPTION TO DATE
RECEIPTS			
FROM DONORS	\$ -	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 1,315,702.32
DIVIDENDS & INTEREST	\$ 12,455.46	\$ 77,619.67	\$ 2,175,398.11
REALIZED GAINS (LOSS)	\$ 6,187.56	\$ 6,187.56	\$ 650,390.35
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$ 18,643.02</u>	<u>\$ 111,807.23</u>	<u>\$ 4,141,490.78</u>
DISBURSEMENTS			
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ 463.00	\$ 13,159.08
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 43,544.62	\$ 77,156.67	\$ 2,162,239.03
CONTRIBUTIONS OF PRINCIPAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 272,671.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$ 43,544.62</u>	<u>\$ 77,619.67</u>	<u>\$ 2,448,069.11</u>
BALANCE RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	\$ (24,901.60)	\$ 34,187.56	\$ 1,693,421.67

SUMMARY OF ASSETS

	COST	MARKET	%OF MARKET
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS / CD'S	\$ 24,484.62	\$ 24,484.62	0.90%
THRIVENT FLEXIBLE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	\$ 199,537.61	\$ 199,537.61	7.36%
ELCA MISSION INVESTMENTS	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	4.06%
BOND FUNDS	\$ 77,189.55	\$ 68,300.62	2.52%
PREFERRED STOCK	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
COMMON STOCK	\$ 639,930.14	\$ 1,611,660.56	59.43%
STOCK FUNDS	\$ 513,973.52	\$ 552,353.81	20.37%
BALANCED FUNDS	\$ 128,306.23	\$ 145,355.10	5.36%
TOTAL FUND ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,693,421.67</u>	<u>\$ 2,711,692.32</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

St. Mary's Lutheran Church Leadership STAFF & COUNCIL, 2022-23



Reverend Kathy Brown, Interim Pastor



Kristofer Twadell, Sound and Video Technician



Stephanie Raszkiewicz



Reverend Debbie Hartfield, Associate Pastor

Steve Hartfield, Acting Treasurer



Margaret Van Boven



Sue Quever, Faith Community Nurse/ Care Ministry

CHURCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL 2022-2023



Julie Schmit, Co- President



Lana Woller



Lisa Zanin



Beth Kerscher, Administrative Assistant

Christine Johnson, Co-President



Thank you for your service to the Congregation.



Sondra Kuro, Bookkeeper



Keith Richter, Vice-President

TERM EXPIRING 2023

Julie Schmit
Margaret Van Boven
Carol Gillmore
Gerald Green

Deb Black, Organist/Piano Accompanist



Adam Fonk, Secretary



TERM EXPIRING 2024

Christine Johnson
Dana Larsen
Stephanie Raszkiewicz
Keith Richter



Laurel Borter, Piano



Dr. Richard Sjoerdsma, Choir Director



Carol Gillmore



Jerry Green



Madeline Weirick, Handbell Choir Director



Dana Larsen



Patricia Mason

TERM EXPIRING 2025

Adam Fonk
Patricia Mason
Lana Woller
Lisa Zanin



NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL 2023-24



Andy Schroeder

Nomination for Church Council

Hello, My name is Andy Schroeder and I **have been a member of St. Mary's Lutheran Church since 2005.** My wife Carol (who, with her 3 kids- Alex, Melissa, and Jarod) had joined St.

Mary's in 2003. She and I were married

at St. Mary's in February of 2005 by my godfather, Rev.

Edward Schroeder. My parents (Art, who did bible studies and cooked for the Friendly Center and Judy Schroeder, who was a diaconal minister here and led the Friendly Center) were members (around late 1990's to 20-teens) before I joined. Actually they introduced me to Carol, thus were instrumental (as well as the Holy Spirit) in leading me to St. Mary's. I did serve a term on the church council around 2009. Why did I say yes to be a part of St. Mary's council now? Well to be honest, I usually tried to find an excuse not to; too busy, not gifted for the role, can be stressful, challenging present times, what will the future be, etc. I was even considering an excuse this time too. But one day when I was out and about, I heard a song. I do not know the name of it or who sang it. But what caught my attention was the line, *'what are you waiting for?'* What am I waiting for? Good question.

- ✓ *Yes these are trying times,*
- ✓ *Yes our congregation has been hit hard by COVID,*
- ✓ *Yes I do not know what the future holds,*
- ✓ *Yes I do not have answers for these difficult concepts.*

All I can do is try to help in whatever way I possibly can, **trusting in God's guidance, prodded by the Holy Spirit,** working with fellow council members and pastors to seek a **way to keep moving St. Mary's forward in ministering to** members/worshippers and to the community. And with the help of God I hope to do that. *What are we waiting for?*

Hollie DeFranco

Nomination for
Church Council

Hollie DeFranco has been a **member of St. Mary's since 2016.**

She has been active with the Sunday School program and supporting coffee hour. She recently quit the corporate world to focus on her own organizing business, her passion for



baking and her family. Hollie was born and raised in Racine, where she developed a strong foundation in her faith from an early age. She was a member of Atonement Lutheran (now Living Faith) in Racine, where her grandparents were heavily involved and influential. After her beloved grandmother passed away in 2019, Hollie wanted to continue doing all of the wonderful things her grandma spent her life doing (helping others and baking).

If elected to the Church Council, Hollie envisions fostering a deeper sense of spiritual growth and connection within our church community. She believes in the power of unity, recognizing the importance of collaboration and open communication among council members and congregants alike. Hollie seeks to promote initiatives that embrace diversity, inclusivity, and guiding the church in its mission to serve and uplift all members of the community. Hollie and her husband Jim currently live in Pleasant Prairie with their three children, Ethan (9), Lilliana (7) and Leo (5), who you have probably seen helping during coffee hour!

Markie Hylinski

Nomination for
Church Council

Hello St. Mary's, my name is Markie Hylinski, and I'm honored that I was nominated to run for church council. This church is a second home for me and has been for the majority of my life. It all started back in 1995 when I was 7 years old; and I would not want it any other way. Similar to my personal life, St. Mary's is in a

transition period and is going through change. Even though change can be difficult, it is a part of life, and if I was elected for council again, I would love to be a part of that journey and help St. Mary's grow. Whether it was singing in every choir St. Mary's offered, to being a Sunday school teacher, or a part of the Reconciling in Christ team, St. Mary's has been a needed and important role in my life.

With your vote, I look forward to being an active member of the church council again and to have the opportunity and ability to demonstrate that here at St. Mary's, "All ARE welcome!"



WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?



ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.75 billion in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their congregations, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local synod and the national churchwide organization.

This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the churchwide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's operating budget.

\$ \$

*This is your quickest way to reach Tithe.ly App for one-time online giving or for your regular weekly offering, scan this QR Code! We thank you to all who support the mission and ministry of **St. Mary's Lutheran Church**.*

Currently 31% of all our giving is done online—for questions about the ease and safety of online giving, or giving through your financial institution, contact Cari Richter, St. Mary's Financial Secretary: crichter5108@gmail.com

\$ \$



SCAN ME

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