



Bethany  
Lutheran Church  
2023 Annual  
Report



# Our Mission

*"We Reflect Christ in Message and Action."*

## Guiding Principles

- *Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior.*
- *We welcome and invite everyone.*
- *We worship God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments.*
- *We are a community of faith who prays, cares, comforts, and encourages.*
- *We joyfully give with generosity and open hearts.*
- *We grow and share our faith through teaching and learning God's Word.*
- *We faithfully serve our wider community and world.*



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# Bethany Lutheran Church Staff

## Pastor

Rev. Cathy Daharsh, Senior Pastor



## Staff

Sashire Ayares, Director of Children and Family Ministries  
Lena Burke, Children's Music  
Dr. Ayesha Casie Chetty, Collaborative Pianist  
Dr. Aaron Knodle, Director of Worship and Music  
Jerry Larsen, Property Manager  
Jody McKesson, Office Administrator



## Council Members

Sarah Korreck, President  
Peter O'Reilly, Vice President  
Roger Wolfe, Treasurer  
Hector Mendoza, Secretary

Melissa Calomino  
Stacie Freeman  
Matt Helms  
Becky Huffman  
Larry Johnson  
Catherine Peterson  
Cynara Pierzina  
Bob Schunter  
Erin Smith  
Ashley Szatkowski

# Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

Opening Prayer  
Video Message

Minutes from the January 29, 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting  
Minutes from the March 19, 2023 Special Congregational Meeting  
Minutes from the May 7, 2023 Special Congregational Meeting

President's Report  
Pastor's Report

Rev. Cathy Daharsh

Pastoral Acts and Parish Statistics

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Office Administrator

Director of Worship and Music

Director of Children and Family Ministries

Treasurer

Statement of Income and Expenses

Standing Committee Annual Reports

Property

Social Action

Thoughts Prayers & Action

Hooks & Sticks

Global Mission

Worship & Arts

Bethany Arts Series

Anniversary & Archives

Other Committees, Boards and Ministries

Memorial Team

Endowment Fund Board

New Business

Nominating Committee Report

2024 Budget (See Budget Packet)

Closing of Congregational Annual Meeting



**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING  
JANUARY 29, 2023**

Call to order: President Sarah Korreck called the meeting to order at 10:32am. Attendance was taken and it was established that we had a quorum of voting members present.

Opening Litany: Was given by Pastor Paul Cannon.

**Approval of the minutes and Committee reports**

- Ron Henning motioned to accept the minutes of the annual meeting from January 30, 2022 and Bethany Gola seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Approval of the minutes from the April 10, 2022 special congregational meeting. Pat Henning motioned to accept the minutes from the special congregational meeting on April 10, 2022 Jennifer Reuskens seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Sarah Korreck presented the President's report. Pastor Paul Cannon Presented the pastor's report. Bethany Gola motioned to approve the president's and pastor's reports Rob Huffman seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Sarah presented the Pastoral Acts and Parish statistics report. Rob Huffman motioned to approve the pastoral acts and parish statistics report Jennifer Reuskens seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Staff reports were presented for review. Dawn McKay motioned to approve the staff reports Sue Dobbe seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Roger Wolfe presented the Treasurer's report. Ron Henning motioned to approve the Treasurer's report Nichole Nordschow Seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Standing committee reports were presented for review. Sue Dobbe motioned to approve the standing committee reports Rob Huffman seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Other Committee reports were submitted for review. Pat Henning motioned to approve the other committee reports Bethany Gola seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

**Nominating Committee report and Nominations**

- Pete O'Reilly presented the nominating committee report and presented the nominees for next year's council. Ron Henning moved to approve the nominees for the 2023 church council. Sue Dobbe seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Election of the 2023 nominating committee. Jennifer Reuskens motion to approve the 2023 nominees for the nominating committee Sue Dobbe seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Motion to approve the election of a nominee for the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees nominates Peggy Boncosky to a five-year term. Rob Huffman motioned to approve the

nomination Sherry Bagby seconded the motion and the motion passed.

- Motion to approve nominees for the 2023 Synod Assembly members. Jennifer Reuskens motioned to approve the 2023 Synod assembly members Dori O'Reilly seconded the motion and the motion passed.

#### **Budget Report**

- Roger Wolfe presents the budget for the fiscal year of 2023. The church council motions to approve the budget for the 2023 fiscal year Ron Henning seconded it, and it was approved.

#### **Adjournment**

- Motion for the Congregational meeting to be adjourned. Ron Henning motioned to adjourn Sue Dobbe seconded the motion and the motion passed. The congregational meeting was adjourned at 11:42am

Respectfully submitted,  
Hector Mendoza, Council Secretary

### **BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MARCH 19, 2023**

Call to Order: 10:01am

Opening Prayer: Pastor Paul

Sarah Korreck confirmed that we had enough congregation members for a quorum.

The council found that after approving the balcony and sanctuary remodel designs and hiring David Shultz and Associates that we needed to seek congregational approval for the costs of that contract. The total of that contract is 77,360.00. Once the project is bid and approved we would need to hold another special meeting to approve the total costs and the method of payment.

The council motions to authorize the Contract with David Shultz and associates for the total value of \$77,360.00

Motioned: Jennifer Reuskens; Seconded: Bill Stanton  
Motion passed

Motion to Adjourn: Greg Cole Seconded: Jessica Rueskens  
Motion Passed

Meeting Adjourned at 10:06 AM

Respectfully submitted by  
Hector Mendoza, Recording Secretary

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
MAY 7, 2023**

Call to order: 10:08 AM

Approval of Minutes from the Special congregational meeting on 03/19/23.

Motion: Ron Henning; Second: Susan Godwin

The motion was approved.

Treasurer Mel Myers Report:

Roof repair cost 168k, 70k from property reserve. 70k was paid in architectural fees. We are approved for a 600k mortgage. \$3700 mortgage payments.

Property team presentation. Bethany Gola and Brian Bromley

Project has been ongoing for the last seven years. Asbestos abatement has changed the timeline.

Motion to approve total project cost of \$625,000 including \$575,000 estimated construction cost and \$50,000 of contingency costs.

Motion: Brought forward by Bethany Lutheran Church Council; Seconded: Greg Cole

The motion was approved.

Motion to seek financing of a loan of up to \$600,000 from the Mission Investment Fund.

Motion: Brought forward by the Bethany Lutheran Council; Seconded: Ron Henning

The motion was approved.

Pastor Cathy and the congregation say the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to Adjourn

Motioned: Pete O'Rielly; Seconded: Ron Henning

The motion was approved

Adjourned at 10:33 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Hector Mendoza, recording secretary



## COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

Submitted by Sarah Korreck

Another busy year comes to a close at Bethany Lutheran Church. In 2023 we celebrated 100 years of Bethany Lutheran! It has been a time to commemorate our past and prepare for future generations through our Expand The Table generosity initiative. And we are still expanding! This has been a year of transformation at Bethany, and I hope you feel inspired, encouraged and challenged to see where God is calling you.

### **Accomplishments:**

- As a Council, we led two – 4-week Bible studies to engage congregation members (one in the winter, one in the fall).
- Completed the renovation of the sanctuary and gathering space including a new AV system.
- Navigated staff transitions and the hiring of a new Director of Communication & Outreach.
- Hired a Director of Childrens Music and a Collaborative Pianist.
- Established a Call Committee to lead the search for our new Associate Pastor.
- Welcomed a Ukrainian School into our building on Saturdays to strengthen our relationship with the local community.

### **Gratitude:**

I would like to say a big thank you to EVERYONE involved in the renovation of our sanctuary and gathering space including the Property Team, Finishes Team, AV Team, Finance Team, the Church Council, all staff and many volunteers. So many people put in countless hours to get us to the finish line. I think we can all agree it was worth it!

I would like to also say thank you to our Church Council for your support and dedication over the past year. We worked hard with numerous extra meetings to keep moving forward during a time of transition. Everyone stepped up to help wherever needed. This Church Council is exactly the group of people we needed during this time and I'm thankful for the gifts that everyone brought to this Council.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to the entire congregation. This is an amazing church family. Everyone at Bethany has stepped up to help in the past year and it did not go unnoticed. The outpouring of help and support during Mitchell's funeral was just remarkable.

I have enjoyed being your Council President for the past 2 years. It has strengthened my relationship with this church and the people in it.



# Pastors' Reports

## SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Rev. Cathy Daharsh

As we reflect on the events and milestones of 2023, I am humbled to share with you the journey we have undertaken together. The words from Isaiah 54:10 resonate in our hearts, reminding us that though mountains may depart, and hills may be removed, God's steadfast love and covenant of peace remain unshaken.

The beginning of the year saw a transformative period of sabbatical for me, spanning January through March. This sacred time allowed me to delve into the Spirit's work, renew my faith, and align with our generosity initiative, Expand the Table. Traveling to the Holy Land, Arizona, and Panama, I immersed myself in diverse experiences, exploring Jesus' ministry, envisioning our community's leadership, and serving our neighbors through Mission Save a Smile. I extend my deepest gratitude to the congregation for this invaluable opportunity.

Upon my return, change became a constant companion throughout Spring, Summer, and Fall. Staff transitions, the loss of our dear son Mitchell, a significant building project, and the addition of three new staff members marked this period. In the face of these challenges, your unwavering commitment and extraordinary efforts have deepened our faith, demonstrating the awe-inspiring work of God in our midst.

Here are some highlights of our collective growth and the expansion of Bethany's Table:

### **Set a Place for Everyone:**

Hosted the 4th Annual Halloween Carnival Community Event

Participated in Pridefest in Woodstock

Connected with Bethany in Chicago five times during the year

Successfully completed the Building Project and improved the AV system

Introduced pronouns and hosted Las Posadas with the Synod



### **Serve Our Neighbors:**

Engaged with Head Start classrooms through monthly readings

Volunteered at the Crystal Lake Food Pantry

Supported Husmann Elementary students with summer activity baskets and provided Christmas presents for families in need

Replaced the Blessing Box with a larger shelving unit

Upgraded information boards in the gathering space for community announcements

### **Feed Our Souls:**

Welcomed Dr. Jesse Kinne, Dr. Ayesha Cassie-Chetty, and Lena Burke to our team

Conducted fall and winter sermon series with community Bible Studies

Introduced Hanging of the Green and created a New Care Board

Formed a Call Committee for a new Associate Pastor and initiated Sunday Snacks

Celebrated 100-year milestones throughout the year and established the This and That Crew



Amidst farewells to Pastor Paul Cannon and Maria Bruno, we embrace the promise of new leadership in 2024. Our collaborative spirit has been instrumental, with new leaders emerging and contributing significantly to our ministries. Special appreciation goes to those involved in the building project, the Finishing Team, the Property Team, and the leadership of Bethany Gola and Brian Bromley.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to the council, a phenomenal team that navigated the hills and valleys of the year with passion and dedication. Sarah Korreck, our president, deserves special acknowledgment for her outstanding leadership during her two years of service as president. As she completes her term, we express our deepest thanks for her tireless efforts. Recognition is also extended to Pete O'Reilly, Roger Wolfe, and Hector Mendoza, as well as departing members Melissa Calomino and Larry Johnson.

A special word of thanks to the This and That Crew for their invaluable support in managing essential details within the Bethany community. Susan Gavle's exceptional dedication has been a pillar of strength for both my family and the church.

Our financial team, working silently in the background, ensures the proper handling of your generous contributions. Thank you to Roger Wolfe, Mike Bagby, Carolyn Lundine, Linnea Kountz, and Stacie Freeman for their commitment to maintaining our financial integrity.

As we celebrate a century of ministry, let us remain faithful to God's call, guided by the examples of those who paved the way before us. Despite the challenges of 2023, God's steadfast love has sustained us, offering a peace that surpasses understanding. In gratitude, we say, "Thanks be to God."

Peace and hope be with you,  
Pastor Cathy



## PASTORAL ACTS & PARISH STATISTICS



**3 Member Funeral Services:** Mitchell Daharsh, Clarence Fleming, Joyce Morris

**2 Non-Member Funeral Services:** Florence Barango, Dianne Uramkin



**10 Baptisms:** \*\*Kendall Elizabeth Abruscato, \*\*Kolton Connor Bell, Parker Grace Boncosky, Madison Jane Cross, \*\*Aeneas Augustus Canopus Dobroth, \*\*Geddy Orion Kairos Dobroth, Charlotte Ava Jordao, \*\*Dean Randall Knack, Oscar March Mendoza, \*\*Shay Jean Wietlispach

\*\* members received through baptism



**8 Confirmed:** Natalie Beier, Bryleigh Cooper, Cameron Cooper, Jessie Merritt, Averie O'Keeffe, Cole Pierzina, Danny Pierzina, Lucy Thome



Total 18 New Members Received

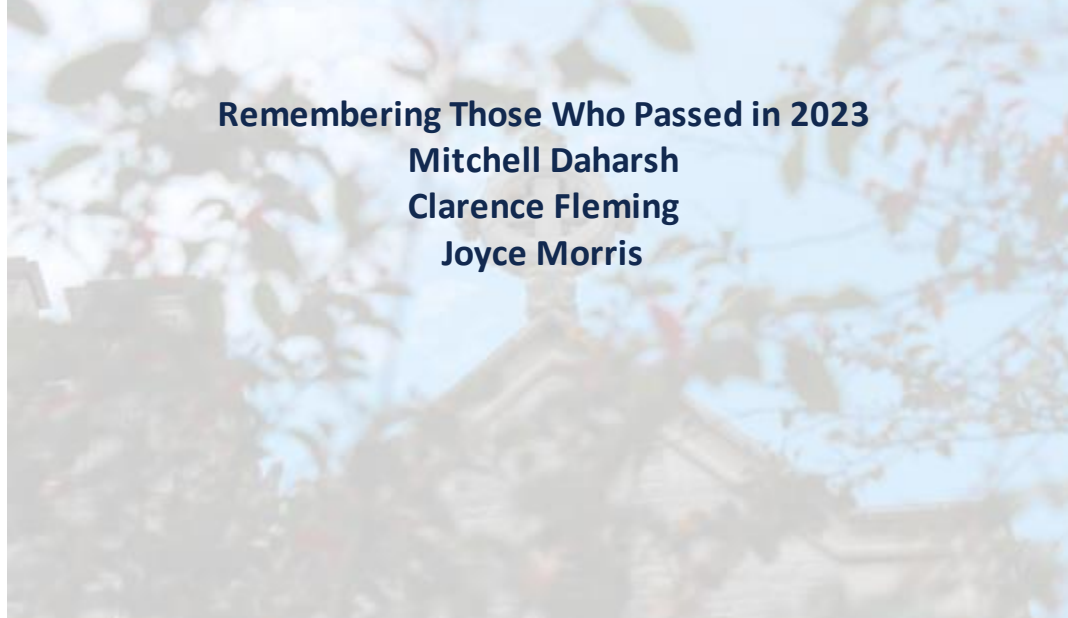
Total 11 Members Removed: (3 by death, 2 Transfer, 6 Moved No Transfer,)

**Membership Year End 2023: 971 Baptized, 706 Confirmed**

## Attendance

Weekly attendance is determined by adding the onsite attendance number to the number of households attending online x 2, per synod directive.

Average Weekly Worship Attendance – Sunday (excluding Easter & Christmas)	366
Largest Sunday Attendance (not Easter) 6/4/2023	478
Smallest Sunday Attendance 1/1/2023	209
Christmas Eve	768
<b>Lent 2023</b>	
▪ Ash Wednesday	270
▪ Lenten Mid-Week Average	212
▪ Palm Sunday	379
▪ Maundy Thursday	237
▪ Good Friday	235
▪ Easter	593
▪ Thanksgiving Eve	293
<b>Advent 22</b>	N/A
Average Midweek (12/2, 12/9, 12/16)	N/A



**Remembering Those Who Passed in 2023**  
**Mitchell Daharsh**  
**Clarence Fleming**  
**Joyce Morris**



# Staff Reports

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT 2023

Submitted by Jody McKesson

2023 was a year of adventure! Dealing with staff vacancies and building renovations presented challenges in keeping the office running smoothly. With God's help, and the help of more than a few volunteers, the office is still functioning, and the work of the church is being accomplished.

Much of my work this year has been stepping up to cover tasks that needed to be done as a result of staff vacancies. As a result, I have learned new skills, and am in a much better position to pinch hit for other staff members if the need should arise in the future.

Although the renovations turned the office topsy-turvy, it has provided the opportunity to reimagine the work space, and arrange it for maximum efficiency. Thank you to the individuals that spent time evaluating the space and consulting with office furniture professionals to determine what would best meet our needs.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Bethany congregation for their constant support. It is an honor to work together with you to share the love of God with those here at Bethany, and those out in the world!

Respectfully submitted,

Jody McKesson



## DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Submitted by Dr. Aaron Knodle

### About:

- 2023 was yet another year of transition, particularly with the sanctuary renovations. Nevertheless, we remained flexible throughout and continue to move forward in exciting ways, both old and new!

### Accomplishments:

- We started a Children's/Youth Choir via new, part-time staff (Children & Youth Music Director) to help support the intersection between the Music Ministry **and** the Children & Family Ministry.
- We moved the annual Christmas Program to include all Sunday School students in order to increase access and tie in the themes of the Christmas Program into the Sunday School curriculum.
- We successfully recruited new members into our bell choir (The Bell Canto Ringers).
- We started an (annual) mini summer arts series (Summer Sundays at Bethany) that recruited volunteers from both Bethany and the broader community and raised (through a free-will donation at each of the 3 concerts) over \$1500 all to benefit Kids in Need (KIN) of McHenry County.
- We saw the summer musical theatre program grow exponentially to involve more than 50 youth and almost as many volunteers both from Bethany and the broader community.
- We scheduled, organized, and hosted a Posadas celebration in conjunction with the NI Synod (ELCA) and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Chicago. Over 100 people attended this celebration.



### Changes:

- We added additional (2) part-time music staff (Collaborative Pianist and Children & Youth Music Director) in order to increase the effectiveness of choral leadership and thus the choral experience, and support the intersection between the Music Ministry and the Children & Family Ministry.
- Despite a range of (often predictable) hurdles, we have been (and will continue) intentionally working to broaden both our youth volunteer base and our engagement of a broad range of musicians from both within Bethany and from the broader community as well.
- We continue to finesse the amount of music required of our bell choir and vocal choir so that, in the spirit of doing less better, we can focus on strengthening the music program.

**Gratitude:**

- A thank-you to all the volunteers who have given and continue to give the gift of time and talent to participate in Bethany's music ministry, its standing ensembles (The Bell Canto Ringers, The Bethany Choir, The Youth Choir), its programming (Annual Christmas Program, Summer Musical Theatre Program, Summer Sundays at Bethany), and those who provide musical leadership in worship in any form. You are the music ministry; we could not do it without you!
- Another thank-you to those who volunteer to lead in worship as assisting ministers, readers, ushers, greeters, acolytes, AV and sound technicians, communion assistants, baristas, Sunday Snack providers, etc. Again, your leadership is essential to our worship (and fellowship) experience and could not be done without your gifts.
- A final thank-you to those who volunteer to serve on the Worship and Arts Committee, the Visual Liturgy Team, and the Altar Care Team. Your work in organizing, planning, and preparing spaces and experiences for the community at Bethany (and by extension the broader community) is vital to our success and fundamental to how we engage with worship and programming at Bethany Lutheran Church.

**Goals:**

- To seek successful and sustainable models and practices for involving more children and youth in worship at Bethany.
- To increase the variety of our musical offerings and programming (particularly those that also engage a broader community) with a keen eye towards the use of music by women, racially minoritized persons, members of the queer community, and from a variety of different cultures.
- To implement some larger-scale musical programming around All Saints, Advent, and (possibly) Holy Week.
- To find creative and sustainable ways to increase the volunteer base for our Worship and Music ministries
- To reorganize and digitize Bethany's music libraries
- To implement a broader variety of hymns in order to appeal to different demographics while also paying closer attention to the language in hymns and engaging with those that use more current, inclusive theology.

It is my pleasure to be a part of the Bethany community and I look forward to the coming year.

Peace,

Aaron



## DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Director, Sashire Ayares

Christian Education encompasses all educational opportunities for our members and local community. We strive to collaborate on developing and coordinating programs that meet the needs of our members and the community through classes, groups, and materials for the home to enhance everyone's faith journey.

**Accomplishments:** In 2023 the Committee maintained or achieved the following

- Served several hundred children and families through our many different ministries.
  - Continued to welcome new students into Sunday school classes.
  - Welcomed new volunteers this year through partnering with Crystal Lake Central's Avid program.
  - Grew our adult volunteer base and team.
  - Served the community with Vacation Bible School, Drama Camp, and the Halloween Carnival.
  - Participated in connecting our Bethany community to local organizations like Kids in Need.
  - Sunday School students contributed artwork for the International Day of Peace banner used in our Sanctuary.
  - 4th Sunday Family Fun Days began in September. Families gather once a month to enjoy fun activities.
  - Bibles and Blessing gifted to our new students, preschoolers and third graders.
  - "From the Hillside" Christmas program was presented by our Sunday School students, supported by several adult and youth volunteers, and celebrated by all.
  - This year we welcomed Ms. Burke as our Children's Music Director.
  - The Children's Choir began with Ms. Burke directing.
  - Holy Communion Class, Journey through Jerusalem lessons and presentations, Confirmation, and Affirmation of Baptism were provided.
  - Bethany Kids Youth group now meets weekly, and we have increased our numbers.
  - Confirmation, Collaborate Curriculum continues to be utilized.
  - Lenten Fair, Reformation Stations, Advent Fair, and other fun events to engage the families of Bethany.
  - Adult Education Programs, Thoughts, Prayers, and Action, take a Breath, and many Bible Study groups
- Gifted many donations by the generosity of our Bethany community to help us serve these students and families.
- Continued to work with, collaborate, and donate to other churches and preschools.

**Changes:** In 2023 the following changes and new projects were achieved by the committee.

- Continued our efforts at revamping the Christian Education Wing and children's spaces in the church.
  - Finished phases two and three in the Christian Ed Resource room.
  - Installed cabinets in the preschool classroom (L-7)
  - Revamped the community room closet to house our gross motor materials for youth groups, Sunday school, VBS, Head Start materials, and scouts.
  - Continued to organize and be better stewards of our materials.

- The nursery space has benefited from the renovation by receiving paint and a new floor. An infant/ toddler area was placed to offer a space for our youngest visitors. New chairs have been added to provide comfort and a space to connect with others.

**Gratitude:** We are truly blessed and thankful to welcome all those who lend hands, gift materials, and come to create an amazing environment where fun, fellowship, and faith can flourish! Many hands make light work is always possible with the community we have. We are grateful for the love and inspiration our volunteers share! We thank all who donated their time, talents, and materials to make our ministries and space meaningful and impactful.

**Goals:** The following goals were set by this committee for the future.

- Continue to minister to the people of Bethany by providing opportunities for those of all ages to better understand the Bible, grow spiritually, and become more familiar with the ways our faith can and does impact our lives of discipleship.
- Continue to update our space for future growth in our ministries.
- Strengthen our relationships with our scout groups.
- Continue to enhance and modify current ministries
  - Confirmation camp
  - VBS
  - Bethany Kids
  - Youth Groups
- Create new ways to have our students serve in our community and world.
- Create more intergenerational programs and events.
- Continue to grow in volunteers and participants.

This year has been filled with many changes and challenges. It has been wonderful to see how the people of Bethany support one another and our space. It was wonderful to see the unfolding of all the projects happening in the church. Through it all, we kept our ministries running and thriving. We praise God for the many opportunities to come together and serve. Christian Education has been finding new ways to engage in our community and experienced growth this year with students and volunteers.



## **TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

Submitted by Roger Wolfe

The year 2023 was a successful year financially for Bethany Lutheran Church. Our very generous congregation gave a total of \$999,512 to Expand the Table Tithes and Offerings in 2023. This was higher than last year's \$972,856 which was the first year of the Expand the Table initiative. We also continued implementing our One Fund concept of funding church activities. This allowed us the flexibility to divert \$225,000 of this year's total giving to the Expand the Table Capital Reserve in addition to the \$221,937 diverted last year. This reserve allowed us to cover the initial funding of the capital project which included the roof redesign project, some new HVAC equipment for the Sanctuary and the initial costs of the Sanctuary Upgrade. And, at the end of 2023, there is still \$160,129 left in the reserve to be used to pay down the mortgage to keep it as low as possible. The mortgage, which covered the bulk of the Sanctuary Upgrade costs, is currently at \$397,844 but that is before we have received the final invoices from the general contractor and the architect. We are hoping to cover those invoices with the remaining reserve and hold the mortgage where it is. Then, with the last three months of the Expand the Table initiative and hopefully continued generous giving in 2024, we would like to pay down the mortgage even more.

You will find a Statement of Income and Expense for 2023 on the next page of this Annual Report. After deducting the above amounts for the capital reserve, we had \$776,218 in operating income in 2023. This was above the 2022 income of \$752,529 but below our estimated budget of \$855,582. This budget shortfall in income was due to both the amount we transferred to capital and our somewhat over optimistic budgeting. However, our operating expenses were well below budget at \$771,455 compared to a budget of \$855,582. The expense reduction was primarily due to going half of the year without an associate pastor. This gave us a modest surplus of \$4,763 for the year. Added to our carry-forward surplus from last year of \$59,369, our new surplus is \$64,132.

Our benevolence giving is required by our constitution to be a minimum of 18% of the year's receipts. This is to be calculated as the percentage of Tithes & Offerings inclusive of Dedicated Funds intended for outreach, such as global missions, world hunger, social action, and support of our Synod and the ELCA. The total adjusted income received in 2023 was \$747,375 and our total benevolence expenditures were \$138,875. Thus, the percentage of payments to total adjusted receipts for 2023 is 18.6%.

Our Property Replacement Reserve began the year with a balance of \$93,590. In 2023 we contributed \$40,501 to this fund. Most of that came from the One Fund accrual of \$32,000 that we made from the tithes and offerings. Building usage fees, mostly Head Start, contributed another \$8,246. We spent \$16,656, so the year-end balance ended at \$117,435.

There are many volunteers to thank for their work in the finance area this year, but I especially want to thank the Financial Secretaries (Carolyn and Linnea), the Assistant Treasurer (Mike), the Bank Account Reconcilers (Leslie and Stacie), the Finance Committee (Ashley, Fred, Mike B, Mike S, and Carolyn), and the two former Treasurers (Mel and Fred) for dedicating their time and talents to assure financial accuracy and controls, sound financial decision making, and fiscal accountability for our church. Thank you all for what you do!

# BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Statement of Income and Expenses for 2023 vs Budget and 2022

	Actual		Budget	Actual	Variance
	2022		2023	2023	Vs Budget
<b>Income</b>					
Tithes & Offerings	\$750,919		\$853,582	\$774,512	(\$79,070)
Other Income	\$1,610		\$2,000	\$1,707	(\$293)
Total Income	\$752,529		\$855,582	\$776,218	(\$79,364)
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>Benevolence</b>					
Mission Support	\$102,000		\$105,000	\$105,000	\$0
Social Action	\$14,183		\$16,766	\$14,256	\$2,510
Global Mission	\$2,400		\$3,400	\$2,300	\$1,100
Total Benevolence	\$118,583		\$125,166	\$121,556	\$3,610
<b>Staff</b>					
Ordained	\$254,240		\$261,542	\$197,399	\$64,143
Support	\$183,806		\$204,950	\$200,747	\$4,203
Total Staff	\$438,046		\$466,492	\$398,146	\$68,346
<b>Property</b>					
Total Fee Income	(\$21,382)		(\$23,800)	(\$24,739)	\$939
Total Expense	\$181,953		\$208,752	\$199,291	\$9,461
Net Total	\$160,571		\$184,952	\$174,552	\$10,400

	Actual		Budget	Actual	Variance
	2022		2023	2023	Vs Budget
<b>Other Committees</b>					
IT Costs	\$12,655		\$11,300	\$12,570	(\$1,270)
Office Expense	\$16,436		\$17,235	\$17,462	(\$227)
Christian Education:	\$7,697		\$11,250	\$13,223	(\$1,973)
Evangelism	\$4,427		\$10,930	\$6,989	\$3,941
Worship & Music	\$11,795		\$16,722	\$8,566	\$8,156
Youth Ministry	\$978		\$4,135	\$9,806	(\$5,671)
Finance & Stewardship	\$7,442		\$7,400	\$8,585	(\$1,185)
Total Committees	\$61,430		\$78,972	\$77,202	\$1,770
Total Expenses	\$778,630		\$855,582	\$771,455	\$84,127
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$26,101)		\$0	\$4,763	\$4,763

# Standing Committee Reports



## PROPERTY

Submitted Chris Calomino

**"Life is a collection of behind-the-scenes moments."**

Each year the Property Team builds on the prior year to continually create a place that members can come to feel welcome, feel at peace, and feel thankful. To feel that way, it takes a lot of little actions and some very big actions. 2023 was filled with both, but none greater than one of the largest renovations in recent memory both inside and out. While the quote talks about life being a collection of behind-the-scenes moments, Bethany Lutheran is the life we are building with the behind-the-scenes moments being this team's silent leadership, guidance, and countless hours of their volunteer work to bring these moments to life for every member.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers we had in 2023.

Brian Bromley, Charley Lemond, Chris Calomino (Chair), Don Kountz, Jerry Larsen (Property Manager), Larry Johnson (Council), Larry Kohn, Sherry Bagby, and Tom Daharsh

**Accomplishments:** Instead of listing out all the individual projects that the Property Team has accomplished in 2023, I think it's important that we recognize a specific set of individuals within the Property Team for their tremendous leadership, time commitment, and above and beyond effort in some monumental projects undertaken this year.

Brian Bromley was instrumental in his leadership in getting the sanctuary prepared for renovations and completion. He spent an immense amount of time collaborating with the other committees, architects,

and the contractor to ensure the renovations lived up to their expectations that Bethany Lutheran deserved. With his experience and time served to support this initiative the Sanctuary and newly renovated areas throughout Bethany have come to fruition.

Larry Kohn has been a key member of the team leading the way for creating the beautiful new hardscape and landscape all around the outside of Bethany. His tireless efforts in getting quotes, recruiting volunteers, working with various contractors, and partnering with internal committees makes walking into Bethany any day of the week a pleasure.

This doesn't discount the remaining team members like Don Kountz who was been key in the lighting within the newly renovated Sanctuary, Sherry Bagby for her preparation for next years Prayer Garden and key collaborations and contributions on the various committees she is part of, Larry Johnson for his council commitment and communications between Property and Council, Tom Daharsh for leading the way for the Property Team for most of 2023, Chris Calomino for taking the torch to lead the Property Team into 2024, Charley Lemond for his working hands when the weeds need trimmed or the lift is needed to change the lights we can't get to, and last but not least Jerry for all his day-to-day property management and maintenance that often goes unnoticed .

#### **2024 Goals:**

- Prayer Garden
- Garbage Receptacle Wall Replacement
- South Parking Lot Resurfacing
- Sprinkler System
- Tuck Pointing
- Landscaping

## **SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

Submitted by Corrine Zoellick and Darlene Shaffer

#### **About:**

Each year, the Social Action Committee receives 10% of the previous year's budget in accordance with the Bethany Benevolence obligation. The responsibility of this committee is to allocate this money to organizations within our community that address the needs of those who need assistance. This includes the homeless, the hungry, veterans, struggling families, developmentally disabled individuals, those without funds for holiday celebrations, clothing and school supplies, and other occurrences and emergencies that may arise.

#### **Accomplishments:**

In 2023 funds were given to the following organizations:

Good Samaritans, LSSI (Lutheran Social Services of Illinois), Lutheran Outdoor Ministry, Lutherdale, Crystal Lake Food Pantry, Senior Care Volunteer Network, Family Health Partnership Clinic, Home of the Sparrow, Habitat Fox Valley, Turning Point, Piecers, Veteran's Path to Hope, PADS, Mission Save a Smile, CASA of McHenry County, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Thresholds (Mental Health), Blue Star Banner Program, New Directions, The Hope Foundation (Formerly Journey Care Hospice), Keeping Families Covered (formerly Diaper Bank of McHenry County), Gi Gi's Playhouse, Strikers, Pastor Discretionary Fund, Caring Vine.



In addition, the following activities took place with some of the funds , donations, and a LOT of volunteer hours:

Blood Drive, Vacation activity baskets for disadvantaged children, Community Harvest for the Food Pantry, Food Pantry workers, Piecers/Quilters-Quilts for Lutheran World Relief, Partnership with Husmann Elementary School, Knitters Group-hats for Husmann children, Christmas packages for (15 ) disadvantaged Husmann families and (1) HeadStart family serving (41) children and Gift Cards for the parents, Caring Vine -meals to families with illnesses or following surgery, etc, Giving Corner/continuous donations for Vets, Food Pantry, Blessing Box, Sheltered Village -filled (85) Christmas stockings and provided other activities throughout the Year

**Goals:**

Our GOALS would be to continue helping those in need in our community, determine where to allocate the funds available in 2024 and continue to do many of the projects listed with the help of Bethany Volunteers.



## THOUGHTS PRAYERS ACTION TEAM

Submitted by Cheryl Reimer

The Thoughts Prayers Actions team is an informal team under the guidance of Social Action. We formed in 2020. Our team acts on issues that affect our communities-Bethany; Crystal Lake; Illinois; the U.S. and the world. Our goal is for Bethany to be a truly welcoming, diverse, and caring congregation-what we feel we already are!

**Accomplishments**

Along with Global Missions, we maintain and support the Blessing Box-a source for food and basic supplies for anybody who needs them. The Blessing Box has been used extensively by the local community.

Participated in the Woodstock Gay Pride Parade for the fourth year in a row. TPA marched in the parade to let our McHenry County community know that we are a welcoming congregation that does not discriminate against LGBTQIA+ people. In fact, we welcome and embrace our LGBTQIA+ friends.

Continued our relationship with Bethany South in Chicago-an African American ELCA congregation. We worshiped together four times this year including the Installation of the Reverend Sean Ramsey as pastor of Bethany-South. We are looking for ways to deepen our relationship with Bethany-South in



2024. If we and the Global Mission team are successful in getting our Kiutu siblings here to Crystal Lake in 2024, we are hoping to have several events and activities with Bethany-South. In addition to worship, we would like to have a potluck with food from all of our cultures, an African American museum visit, a visit to LSTC and other cultural activities. We are also interested in establishing a book club.

Hosted the Posada event-a reenactment of Mary and Joseph at the Inn as interpreted by our Mexican friends. We invited the Head Start families as many of them come from a Mexican background. We sang, had a short devotional, and ate traditional Mexican food including tamales, cookies, hot chocolate, and punch. We finished off the celebration with a pinata. We look forward to continuing this new tradition next year.

Explored the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ designated church. Reconciling Works is a separate entity of the ELCA. It is a formal organization whose purpose is to help, support and guide churches as they reach out to all people of all genders and races. A Reconciling in Christ formal designation tells the world that we welcome all people forced into the margins of our society, including people of different races and sexual orientations. As part of that welcome, we will dismantle barriers and build bridges until all of God's people are treated with dignity, equity, and respect.

### **Changes**

Our team is new, and we are changing all the time. As we see a need or are asked for help, we change and adapt. In this past year, we have focused on deepening our relationship with Bethany-South, preparing for the visit of our Kiutu siblings, and exploring whether Bethany is interested in becoming a Reconciling in Christ community.

### **Gratitude**

We are grateful for our congregation's generous support of the Blessing Box, for our relationship with Bethany-South and for our congregation's willingness to explore becoming a Reconciling in Christ church.

### **Goals**

In 2024, along with the help of Global Missions, we will continue to maintain and care for the Blessing Box. We will also work to deepen our relationship with Bethany-South. And we will actively pursue our congregation's input and feelings about being designated a Reconciling in Christ church.

## **HOOKS AND STICKS**

Submitted by Lanet Cunningham

Hooks and Sticks makes Prayer Shawls to be given to those who are going through difficult times, and prayer patches for anyone who wants one.

This year we also made praying bunnies for Easter. They were handed out after service on Palm Sunday.

For the past couple of years the crocheters and knitters of Hooks and Sticks have made hats and scarves for Husmann School children. This year Head Start also needed hats. So some of our hats went to Husmann School and some went to Head Start.

Hooks and Sticks members use supplies purchased by the group or donated to the church. We appreciate the donations. The only small cost to the church is the printing of tags for the prayer shawls and prayer patches.

If you like to knit or crochet you are welcome to be part of our group. Some of us meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 9:00 at church while others prefer to knit or crochet at home. Either way, we would encourage you to join the group.



## GLOBAL MISSION

Submitted by Cheryl Reimer

### Accomplishments:

Continued to strengthen our relationship with the local immigrant community through our Headstart program and through Bethany's Blessing Box

Hosted, along with Thoughts Prayers and Actions team, the first Posada event here at Bethany

Supported two missionary families in 2023

Worshiped with our sister parish-Bethany-South (Chicago) four times in 2023, including the Installation of the Rev. Sean Ramsey in October

Prepared for a delegation of eight Kiutu parish members to visit us here in Crystal Lake -originally planned for 2023, now moved to 2024

### Changes:

We worked hard this year to get our Kiutu siblings here in 2023 in time for our 100th anniversary. We had home stays arranged, transportation available, meals being provided and many opportunities to worship and grow in our relationship. Unfortunately, the delegation has been having trouble getting tourist visas from the U.S. Only two of the eight have been approved. They have interviews scheduled early next year and we are hopeful and praying they will all get their visas. So, they have moved back their visit to June 2024. Please pray for them. We really want them to visit in 2024.

As the number of team members who regularly attend meetings has dwindled to three and the purpose and focus of Global Missions and Thoughts Prayers and Action commingle with each other, we have been including Global Missions business with the TPA meetings. We really appreciate the congregation's financial support and praise, but we could always use more help with the meetings and activities.

**Gratitude:**

Thank you, Bethany for filling the Blessing Box! So many people use the food and supplies provided. Our church is known as a caring, safe place for so many people.

Thank you, Bethany for supporting and helping to prepare for our Kiutu siblings in 2023 and now into 2024. We are a richer congregation for maintaining this relationship with the Kiutu parish in Tanzania.

Thank you, Bethany for continuing to support our missionaries in Tanzania and Costa Rica. Again, we are a richer congregation for supporting our ELCA missionaries around the world.

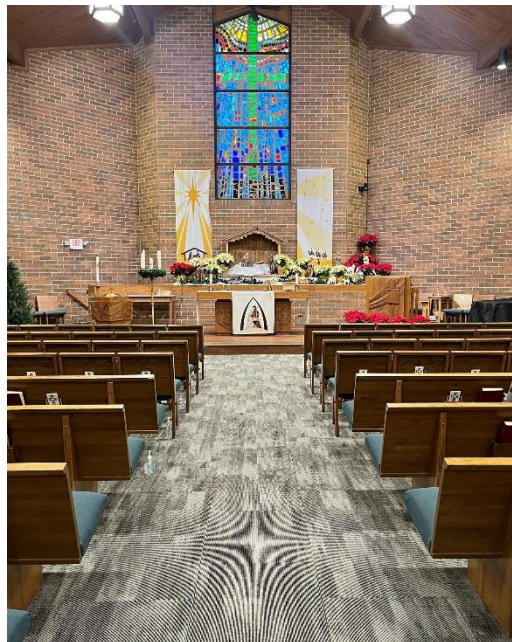
Thank you, Bethany for participating in and supporting our relationship with Bethany-South. Global Missions starts right here at home!

**Goals:**

We will continue to build our relationship with our missionary families

We will pray for and prepare for our Kiutu parish siblings that they may be able to visit in 2024.

We will continue to worship with Bethany-South on a regular basis-at least every fifth Sunday through 2024. And we will explore opportunities to deepen our relationship in the new year.



## **WORSHIP AND ARTS COMMITTEE**

Submitted by Christine Ticknor

### **Communion**

- We continue to offer a hybrid format of Communion, using the pre-packaged chalices for those who wish to remain seated and using open cups for those wanting to come forward.
- In May, we returned to the pre-Covid practice of using Hawaiian bread instead of the unleavened wafers. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.
- New portable communion kits were purchased and service to homebound members has resumed. Off-site communion continues to be offered at The Fountains and at funerals.

### **Sanctuary Renovation**

- Members of the Visual Liturgy and Altar Care teams were involved in the process of selecting the lighting, flooring, millwork, railings and upholstery for the renovation.
- Worship Services were held in Luther Hall from June through mid-December. Only one service was offered during the summer.
- The renovation project was completed in time for Worship Services to be held in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve.

### **100th Anniversary**

- Many events, both big and small, were incorporated into the worship services throughout the year to commemorate Bethany's 100th Anniversary.
- Bishop Stacie Fidler helped usher in the celebrations on Sunday, February 26th.
- Throughout the year, each month had a focus/theme. Worship highlights include using an engraved silver communion set from the early 1920s, reciting the Lord's Prayer in Swedish, incorporating traditional hymns and music from various eras, having a brief wedding vow renewal, and sharing many wonderful photographs in the PowerPoint presentations.
- Sunday, October 15th was designated as the grand celebration day with many special elements incorporated into the service, followed by other activities later in the day.

As we enter the New Year and return to Sanctuary as our worship space, we will be seeking more volunteers to assist with communion clean-up and other aspects of providing a meaningful worship experience.

## **BETHANY ARTS SERIES**

Submitted by Rich Nielsen

**Accomplishments:** In 2023 the Committee maintained or achieved the following

- The Bethany Arts Series hosted a performance by guitarist Mark Kroos on April 30, 2023. Mark also performed during our Sunday service on that day.

- The Arts Series provided financial support and production assistance for the Bethany Summer Musical Theater production of “The Little Mermaid Jr.” Two performances were held this year, on July 21 and 22, involving many students and parents from within our church and from our wider community.
- The Arts Series hosted a performance by the German organist Mirjam Laetitia Haag on August 20, 2023. Ms. Haag’s performance was part of her tour of Europe and the US, and was held at First Congregational Church in Crystal Lake, while our sanctuary was unavailable during renovation.
- Committee member Judy Hollister curated a show of paintings, photographs, fabric art, and jewelry, created by artists from Bethany and from our wider community. The show was on display in Luther Hall during August and September.
- The committee commissioned a musical piece “God We Gather,” composed by Michael Burkhardt, for organ, choir, bell choir, and brass choir. The commission was generously funded by the Bethany Endowment Fund, to honor our church’s Centennial Year, and was first performed during our Centennial Celebration on October 15, 2023.
- On November 12, 2023, The Arts Series hosted a performance by “La Caccina,” an a capella vocal group consisting of nine women from Chicago. Their program “Begin Again,” featured music ranging from the 16th century to new pieces recently commissioned for this group.
- On December 10, 2023, The Arts Series will sponsor a performance by The Swedish American Children’s Choir. This event is co-hosted by the Centennial Celebration committee, and will include a potluck supper following the performance.

**Changes:** In 2023 the following changes and new projects were achieved by the committee

- In addition to our normal programming, and to celebrate our Centennial, the Arts Series commissioned the new Michael Burkhardt piece, and funded the Swedish American Children’s Choir.

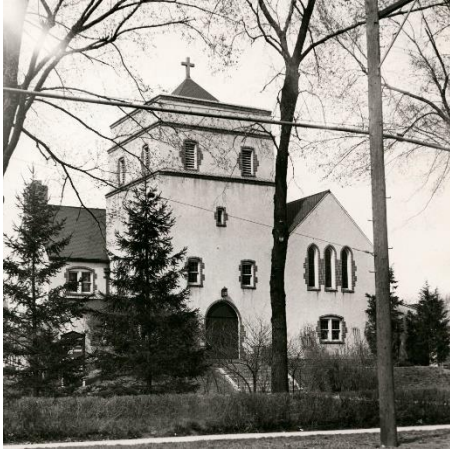
**Gratitude:** The Following is a space to share appreciation for the people who helped make this work possible

- We are grateful for the generous contributions from so many in our church community, who make our programs possible. We are also thankful for the efforts of our entire committee, and of so many others who have helped us bring these programs about. We are grateful to First Congregational Church, for opening their sanctuary for our concert in August. We are grateful for our opportunity to use the arts to share our common faith with our surrounding community.

**Goals:** The following goals were set by this committee for the future

- We are committed to growing our audience, both within our church membership and in our surrounding community.
- We are committed to expanding the scope of our programs, to attract and include a wider range of ages and artistic expression.





## **ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE AND ARCHIVES**

Submitted by Lisa Solak, Chair and Archivist

I became a member of Bethany Lutheran Church in late 2021. Almost immediately, I learned there was an Archives closet. Soon after that, a 100 year anniversary was on the horizon. I joined the 100 Year Anniversary Committee because I love history. I have also been an Archivist for over 25 years. I began organizing the materials in storage and soon found myself as Chair of the Anniversary Committee. I was nervous, I can arrange and research archives with no problem. I was a new member, I didn't have roots here - this wasn't my history. I was so wrong. Once I became a member, the history was also mine. And I was going to be a part of that history too. The members of the committee are a wealth of information - they and their families are the very stones that are part of the foundation.

Throughout the year, we have highlighted moments, people, and ministries that make Bethany Lutheran Church what it is. I learned that all members, new and old, make up the history of Bethany Lutheran Church. The calendar year for our 100 year celebration has come to an end. The legacy and history will always move forward building on the strong foundation laid so many years ago.

I'd like to thank the members of the committee for attending meetings, coming up with great ideas, turning into event planners, setting up, cleaning up and keeping me sane. I am looking at other dates of note and materials in the Archives and will be proposing activities, projects, and events in the future. Stay tuned, our journey is not over if you'd like to continue on the ride. I'd also like to thank Pastor Cathy, staff and the church council for their support and guidance throughout the year.

### **Anniversary Committee**

At the start of 2023, Maria Bruno passed the torch to me as Chair of the Anniversary Committee.

Our events included:

- The return of the member art showcase in August, coordinated by Judy Hollister
- Our banquet in October featured a catered meal and folk dancers. Attendance was approximately 100 for the performance and 200 for the dinner. It was a full house in Luther Hall. Plenty of food of was provided by 3 Chefs Catering. The team coordinated the event down to decorating the tables. Staff, Council and volunteers were a tremendous help and are always much appreciated.

- December event that was co-sponsored by the Fine Arts group. The entertainment was the Swedish Children's choir. The concert was followed by a multicultural potluck. Both were well attended with over 50 attendees.

Cost estimates for 2023: Catering \$2491.00

Dancers \$250.00

Supplies reimbursed: unknown but most likely recorded by finance.

Each month of the year was punctuated with a different theme with slideshows, announcements, service music, and small activities, all outlined by a book that Maria put together for members.

### **Archives**

I began organizing boxes and labeled different series of materials. I began foldering newsletters. I also combined ledgers into one place. I assessed objects and packed them in a central location.

To enhance storage, I installed metal shelving to store cubic foot boxes and to make them more accessible.

To support the Anniversary Committee, I spent most of my archival time pulling images, scanning, editing and sharing images with the communications team for display during and in between services each month to match with the theme.

On September 19th, I reached out to Jody regarding Archival paperwork in the volunteer workspace that I wanted to transfer to the Archives room to be sorted and stored. Susan Gayle took it upon herself to move the items and let me know afterwards. There may be more, and I will evaluate the material and make suggestions. Due to construction and the temporary storage of AV equipment I was unable to move in the storage area and had no workspace in order to do any work. I paused the project until 2024. Now that the sanctuary is done, the timing is looking good to resume work. I am anxious to resume foldering, arranging, and cataloging. I am also creating a finding aid per Archival standards and mirroring the ELCA format.

Supplies for 2023: Legal folders and other archival office supplies - ordered by Maria in the first quarter of 2023. Material shelving installed was my own.

## **Other Committees, Boards, and Ministries**

### **MEMORIAL COMMITTEE**

Submitted By Carol Heisler and Susan Gavle

The Memorial Committee continues to minister to Bethany families who have had a member pass away. The Memorial Fund gifts provide a lasting memory for families and friends and provide a meaningful way to honor and lift up loved ones.

The needs of the church and of its ministries continue to evolve especially now with the many upgrades to the building. The generosity of the families has provided new and innovative ways that allowed our ministry to continue and thrive.

The following gifts were made during 2023 and were acknowledged on All Saints Day 2023:

Blessing Box, Bob Denny; Supplies for the Blessing Box, David Zoelick; Audio/Sanctuary and Landscaping, Helen Bengston; Landscaping, Mitchel Daharsh; Holders for Slat Boards, Verna Studley; Landscaping, Joy McGuire; Softball Team, Don Brandt; Plant Stand, Mae Foster; Plant Stand, Darrel Gavle, Plant Stand, Dennis Studley; Christian Education Room Update; Lois Dinzole.

## **BLC MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND**

Submitted by Jill Peterson, Mission Endowment Fund Board of Trustees Chair

Our congregation is truly blessed to have a Mission Endowment Fund. **The Bethany Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund** was established in 2002 with a portion of the Agnes and Clarence Carlson Bequest and a generous bequest from the Art and Marie Boncosky Estate in 2007. The Fund is administered by a Board of Trustees.

The purpose of this Fund is to extend and enhance the mission of Bethany Lutheran Church beyond and apart from the programs, ministries and work of the congregation which are normally supported through regular offerings and pledges. The Fund cannot be used for operating expenses, general debts, liabilities and obligations of our congregation or outside organizations.

The Endowment Board helps others as partners in Christ by supporting mission activities not only **within our congregation**, but also to **support 501(c)3 organizations outside of our church** in projects that will stimulate and facilitate God's work in our community and beyond. In 2019 our Board of Trustees decided to **support ELCA Seminarians**, devoting 30% of our yearly budget to support the growth in the number of ELCA pastors.

**Accomplishments in 2023:** As effects of the COVID Pandemic lingered, we received fewer requests for funding than in previous years.

### **Application Requests approved for funding, in progress or completed on 11/30/2023: \$ 27,763**

- **Seminarian Support**

For the second year, our Endowment Board was not presented with any Northern Illinois Synod (NIS) seminarian candidates to support; these funds will be carried over and added to the 30% of our 2024 budget which will be immediately set aside for Seminarian Support. We are looking to expand our support to candidates from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in 2024, in addition to NIS. **(\$13,148)**

- **Pastor Cathy Daharsh: Sabbatical**

Educational, travel and other expenses related to the enhancement of our BLC Mission **(\$5,000)**

- **Bethany Arts Series: Commission of Centennial Music-Michael Burkhardt, Composer**



The Endowment Fund is pleased to fund the commission of a new musical work to commemorate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023 **(\$2,000)**

- **Senior Care Volunteer Network (SCVN): Entrance Door Replacement**

The Senior Care Volunteer Network had an immediate need to replace their entrance door so an Occupancy Permit could be issued. **(\$2,365)**

- **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children) of McHenry County: Advocate Training Session**

Funding for one 40-hour training session for 15 volunteers who will advocate for abused or neglected children placed into the foster care system by the Juvenile Court. **(\$5,250)**

**Preliminary Financial Report Balance for 2023:**

Total 2024 Budget = \$61,194 of which \$10,420 is expended and \$13,427 is encumbered

Remaining Budget Balance (11/30/23) = \$37,347

<u>ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust:</u>	Beginning Balance:	01/01/23:	\$ 367,927
	Interest:	09/30/23:	\$ 11,735
	Change in Value	09/30/23:	\$ 10,310
	Transfer to checking	10/31/23:	<u>\$ 25,000</u>
	<b>Balance:</b>	<b>10/31/23:</b>	<b>\$ 357,167</b>

<u>Harris Bank Money Market:</u> (Cash Reserves)	Beginning Balance:	01/01/23:	\$ 24,009
	Interest Earned:	11/30/23:	\$ 517
	Deposit - ELCA Trust	11/15/23	\$ 25,000
	Expenses Paid:	11/30/23:	<u>\$ 10,420</u>
	<b>Balance:</b>	<b>11/30/23:</b>	<b>\$ 39,106</b>

A very heartfelt Thank You to the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees for their time and contributions: Jack Heisler, Tom Leahy, Wayne Mitchell, Peggy Boncosky and Pastor Cathy (advisory). Thank you to our congregation members who submitted requests.

**Goals for 2024**

- Continue to expand Community Outreach to provide opportunities for mission support
- Encourage Bethany members to share new ideas to support
- Develop a partnership with Metropolitan Chicago to support additional TEEM and Seminarian candidates
- Continue to foster personal relationships with our seminarians

*As stewards of God's countless gifts, we are called to faithfully manage and generously share all that He gifts to us. **We need your help in spreading awareness** of the funding opportunities available through our Endowment Fund. If you have, or know of a 501c(3) non-profit organization that has a good idea or need that aligns with Bethany's Mission Statement and Guiding Principles, please take an Endowment brochure from the bulletin board shelf or visit our website's Resources tab ([bethanylc.com](http://bethanylc.com)) for more information and applications.*

# New Business

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Nominating Committee consists of voting members of Bethany Lutheran Church. The committee's purpose is to encourage and select members of the congregation to volunteer their time and talents to serve on the Bethany Lutheran Council and other positions.

### **2023 Nominating Committee Members:**

Melissa Calomino, Sarah Korreck, Larry Johnson, Pete O'Reilly, Cynara Pierzina, and Pastor Cathy Daharsh.

### **Positions Nominated to be Elected by Congregation Church Council:**

Dianne McCarter (2-year term)

Kyle Nicholas (3-year term)

Michelle Sprague (3-year term)

### **2024 Nominating Committee**

Pastor Cathy Daharsh Senior Pastor

Stacie Freeman Outgoing Council

Pete O'Reilly Outgoing Council

Cynara Pierzina Outgoing Council

### **Synod Assembly**

Larry and Karen Johnson, 2 council members TBA, plus 1 youth member TBA

### **Positions Approved and Elected by Council**

**Treasurer** – Roger Wolfe (term expires January 2025)

**Assistant Treasurer** – Mike Bagby (term expires January 2025)

**Council Recording Secretary** – Hector Mendoza (no term requirements)

### **Continuing Positions**

#### **Council Members**

Stacie Freeman (term expires January 2025)

Pete O'Reilly (term expires January 2025)

Cynara Pierzina (term expires January 2025)

Becky Huffman (term expires January 2026)

Catherine Peterson (term expires January 2026)

Bob Schunter (term expires January 2026)

Erin Smith (term expires January 2026)

Ashley Szatkowski (term expires January 2026)

#### **Audit Committee**

Brad Boncosky (term expires January 2025)

Jason Coates (term expires January 2025)

Greg Cole (term expires January 2025)

Sharon Larson (term expires January 2025)

**Financial Secretary/Assistant Financial Secretaries**

Carolyn Lundine (term expires January 2025)

**Assistant Financial Secretaries**

Linnea Kountz (term expires January 2025)

**Endowment Fund Board of Trustees**

Peggy Boncosky (2028), Chairperson

Jack Heisler (2025)

Tom Leahy (2026), Recording Secretary

Wayne Mitchell (2027), Financial Secretary

Barb Meyer (2029)

Pastor Cathy Daharsh, Advisory Trustee

