



2023 Annual Report

Prepared for the Annual Meeting, February 11, 2024

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Agenda

February 11, 2024

Call to Order

Opening Devotion

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Minutes: Annual Meeting: February 12, 2023 (pg. 21)

Report of the Nominating Committee

Election of New Members to the Congregation Council

Old Business

Review of 2023 Financial Report

Review of Annual Committee Reports

New Business

Proposed 2024 Spending Plan - Brad Skogman

Adjournment

Closing Prayer

Mission, Vision, and Values

St. Luke's Mission

Helping people make life-changing connections with God through Jesus Christ.

St. Luke's Vision

St. Luke's is a faith community committed to Connecting, Growing, and Serving.

St. Luke's Core Values

Honoring God and serving Jesus Christ,

- We share Jesus Christ and make disciples
- We worship God together
- We are curious, courageous, and open to the Holy Spirit
- We celebrate children and lift up families as they are
- We practice kindness and uphold the dignity of each individual
- We are committed to being an inclusive community of grace
- We stand ready to serve and advocate for our neighbors
- We honor our past and look to God's future for us

Senior Pastor's Report

*For we do not proclaim ourselves;
we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord
and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.
2 Corinthians 4:5*

Christ calls to always remember that the focus of our ministry is not ourselves. We are gathered by God to proclaim Jesus as Lord! He is the head of who we are, the leader whom we follow, the way, the truth, the life.

Worship continues to be the center of all we do. Our proclamation of Christ is rooted in the saving work Jesus does for us – the work of Jesus pulls us into as we hear the gospel and share in the sacraments. In worship The Holy Spirit shapes and reorients us so that we do not become distracted. We are proclaimers of Jesus who is Lord. We follow him into the world.

2023 was a great year for our faith community. We worshipped regularly, walked with many families in times of joy and sorrow. We strengthened families through CLM. We continued to grow our influence with children, youth, and families.

A quick look at our financial reports show that we had a strong financial year in 2023. This is in large part due to state moneys received to support childcare and the employee retention tax credit that we received. These outside sources, which we believe to be short term gains, have been incredibly helpful. They have helped support the work we do in the name of Jesus Christ.

However, when we drill down in the finances a bit further, we realize that without these extra sources of income, our finances would look a bit different. Offerings were down a bit, while expenses of ministry jumped significantly. This is a trend that we need to attend to. So, leaders are working hard to do two things: 1) Carefully considering the impacts our various ministries have on our finances, and 2) challenging all of us to step up and help us meet the challenges that lie ahead.

A three-week stewardship emphasis in November called us to pray that the Spirit will help us open our hearts so that our faith community might grow in ministry. The Stewardship Team challenged us to grow in giving to our general fund. Our future ministry gains will happen as each of us respond with generosity.

2024 calls us to remember the mission of God at St. Luke's and to recommit ourselves to being people whose lives are changed by the connections God makes with us in worship and in this community. The more we worship together, the more we impact one another and the community around us. The more we take the sacrament together, the stronger we become in our Christian ministry.

As you read the pages of this report, you will see glimpses of the impacts that we have in ministry. We proclaim Jesus through many things: worship, funerals, Christian Education, and so much more. We live out the mission of Jesus by engaging the world.

I am thankful for this community and the love it shows. I see it poured out for each other and for the world around us. Let's keep growing together as we love and serve the Lord with one another. I am also thankful for our staff. They continue to do an excellent job of leading our ministries and encouraging us to be involved.

- Pastor Bogie and I love working together. We are a good team. He spends much of his time visiting the sick and homebound, as we called him to do. He leads children and youth programming and so much more. This year he helped raise up a new music group among us: Diverse Harvest.
- Michael Schaner continues to serve us as a dynamic and talented musician. He is a critical member of the staff – he works hard with us to ensure that the ministries of this church – not just music ministries – flourish.
- Tonia Rice serves us beautifully in the office as our Administrative Assistant. She is a very dedicated part of our ministry team who cares and attends to the needs of the congregation. The chair she fills is an important one. She touches many aspects of this congregation's life.
- Cindy Maigatter continues to lead our financial ministries. She keeps our books, pays our bills, and helps us flourish. She is a joy to have on staff, and a very competent leader.
- Laurie Rohrwasser shepherds our prayer and care ministries. She helps us look after people and blesses others through her work.
- Cari Thompson, our Youth Director, is a beloved figure in this church. She works closely with Pastor Bogie in the areas of youth ministry. I am proud of the work they are doing with our youth – they cultivate them to make faith a priority while providing places of belonging and love.
- Courtney Stangl and Liz Anderson continue to lead our CLM ministries very effectively. These ministries make such an impact in the lives of people around us – we help children, and their families connect with God through Jesus Christ every day!
- The work of our custodians continues to provide a clean and safe environment for our community. This year we said goodbye to Brian Zubek as our head Custodian. We moved Mikey Schubert from the evening custodian position into the role of head custodian. Then, we hired Don Crouse to serve among us in the evenings. They do excellent work and keep our facilities welcoming!

I am also thankful for the many volunteers and leaders of the congregation who work together to help this church flourish. We have several teams of people at work behind the scenes, doing good work for the sake of God's mission.

Finally, I extend gratitude to the people of St. Luke's. I feel your prayers and know your love. I see the ways you work alongside us to make sure that the mission of St. Luke's flourishes.

May God continue to bless you and hold you in faith. For, in trusting the new life that comes through Jesus Christ, we are found to be right with God.

In Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Paul Jordan
Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor's Report

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13 NRSV

It is hard to believe, but we have completed another year of ministry together. The support for the ministry at St Luke's is tremendous. Thank you all for your continued care in doing God's work with your hands.

Starting at St Luke's, one of my goals was to build relationships with the congregation. This prior year was an excellent year to get to know the good people of St Luke's. It is hard to believe, but this January will be the fourth January we have walked together, and it has been the sweetest. We are growing stronger as a community each year, month, and day. We have had more time to play and pray together in and outside of worship. This has been a great blessing for us both. There will always be space for us to grow our relationship, but I feel that we have nurtured a stronger connection as people serving God over the prior year. Yet, working on my connection with the good people of St. Luke's will always be a priority.

Within the Church, there are always spaces and places to grow as a leader and a child of God. For this next year, it will be essential to focus on three areas that I get the privilege to oversee:

- We focused on reforming the pastoral care team in 2023. The team re-establish visitations of home-bound parishioners. As COVID-19 started to subside, we found that between two pastors, it was a challenge to continue the pace of visitations without a system of support. The pastoral care team has been a tremendous benefit. Both pastors continue to provide pastoral care, with the help of a talented group of caring people guided by Laurie Rohrawasser the team is running smoothly.
- The Sunday School team guided by Shelly Outlaw has put a lot of energy towards strengthening the Sunday School program and has grown because of the team's efforts. The students are treated to a lesson that is deeply inspired by scripture, guided by a Bible-based theme. The students engage in a craft, a story, a treat, and sometimes a game or video to watch. They are entertained, loved, and given something to take home to think about pertaining to God.
- The praise band, Diverse Harvest started in the summer of 2023, and has been growing positive ministry. The band is able to have members come and go depending on their schedule and still be a cohesive unit. The band is looking forward to growing and providing an excellent worship experience for many seasons of worship to come. Next year we will look to enhance the presence of the staging area for the band, and work on updating equipment as needed to make the ministry more professional looking and sounding.

My family feels incredibly blessed and honored to be part of the story of St. Luke's. My family and I find joy in being part of this community, and we look forward to the years ahead as we continue merging our stories and spreading the Gospel. Thank you so much for your love, support, and care during these years!

Peace and blessings to all,

Steve Bogie
Associate Pastor

Care & Prayer Ministries Report

Care and Prayer Ministries continues to evolve and grow! Many of these ministries can be done from just about anywhere. Please, prayerfully consider how you can become involved in sharing God's love and grace with His people. As we grow, we need more "hands" to respond to people in need.

Visitation & Card Ministry

Visits to shut-ins /semi-shut ins were primarily made by our pastors. Pastoral team members also made visits. When visits were not an option, phone calls were made. Our card ministry continued to send cards to 24 shut-ins throughout the year. A huge "Thank You" to our Card Ministry Team! Plants were delivered at Easter and Christmas in part due to your generous donations for the decorating of our church. Thank you, Kathy Fontaine, for organizing the delivery of our Easter plants and Christmas poinsettias! From January through December 2023, we had 16 to 21 people who were permanent shut ins. Temporary shut-in numbers change regularly due to health situations.

Grief Ministry

Funerals are for the living. The support, the hugs, the sharing of memories are vehicles to bring about healing. Last year we added 21 people to the list of those receiving grief materials. These people receive them throughout the year for one year. At Christmas, small Norfolk pine trees were given as a remembrance of their loved ones. In December, we provided 19 trees to loved ones. This is also due in part to your generous giving. If you are aware of someone who loses a loved one, please reach out to them and let them know they are not forgotten.

Prayer Team

Our Prayer Team is composed of 30 dedicated people who have made a commitment to pray for the needs of others. Prayers come to me in varied ways. I then email those requests to our Prayer Team. There are times I may send 2 to 3 emails in a day depending on the requests that come in. This past year, the requests grew in number as needs also rose. We are always in need of others to join us in this ministry!

Card Ministry

Our card ministry continues to grow! In addition to staying in touch with shut-ins via cards, we sent 11 cards to the newly baptized and 22 cards to those celebrating the 1st anniversaries of baptism. We continue to celebrate Birthdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas via cards with our CLM teachers and staff. Thank you, Janet Steinquist, for helping with this project! We need more help with this ministry also. Communication in card form makes a difference! People appreciate and enjoy receiving cards. If you would like more information on how you can be part of any/all of these ministries, please contact me.

I am privileged and blessed to walk just a bit with people during some difficult times in their lives. Hearing their "stories" and hearing/seeing prayer in action continues to remind me that God is present and active in our lives, whether we recognize it or not.

In Faith,

Laurie Rohrwysser
Care & Prayer Ministries Coordinator

Pastoral Acts Report

Weddings	6
Funerals	19
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Weddings

Leslie Fletcher & Ryan Fletcher
Kristy Olson & Mikey Schubert
Rachel Paget & Tom Beine

Stacy Mellantine & Hayden Wage
Stephanie Slater & Jason Knutson
Beth Kendl & Stefan Thompson

Baptisms

Ainsley Bea Staffeldt
James Wright
Beverly Jean Thompson
Grace Jean Kafura

Kinsley Judith Ward
Oliver William Bjerke
Teagan Rose Kendziora
Charlee Paige Gottwald

Lucas Wright
Octavio Ace Rosado
Lucy Elora Bender

Funerals

Yvonne Shirley Larsen
Linda Grace Fletcher
Darwin C. Crouse
Kenneth Rogers
Linda Rose Rodriguez
Michael Wayne Sussek
Marlene Brach

Richard Charles Scherer
Raymundo Louis De Los Santos
Daniel Elwing
Robert and Lois Long
Shirley Kraft
Jean Tans

Richard Wood
Gary Venz Strasburg
John Joseph Greene
Gerry Goodrich
Lawrence C. Troemel
Lillian Doris Kieck

Confirmed Member

Nathan Ryan Adent

Jayden Marie Luedtke

Kayla Elizabeth Warnes

Worship Ministries Report

Worship is the beating heart of everything we are and everything we do in Christ. We are, first and foremost, a worshipping community that gathers regularly around Word and Sacrament, giving praise, lifting prayers, receiving Christ as he comes to us.

The worship life of this community continues to be strong. Here are some of the highlights of the year gone by:

- We provided more than 160 worship experiences in the past year. Almost all of them included Holy Communion.
- We celebrated 11 baptisms and 6 weddings.
- We walked with 19 families to the grave, holding funerals and conducting burials.
- We activated the Worship Life Committee, as provided for in chapter 13 of our governing documents. This committee assists the pastors and the Director of Music to create meaningful worship experiences; assists in planning for seasonal activities, oversees the aesthetics of worship and worship spaces, oversees the altar guild, assists with training and scheduling of volunteer worship leaders, and raises up volunteers for serving.
- We conducted training sessions for: Assisting Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, and Acolytes.

- The Sundays following Epiphany in 2023 were focused on a baptismal liturgy that helped us remember the basics of Luther's teaching about Baptism in the Small Catechism.
- We held a new style of worship throughout Lent in 2023 – focusing on a dialogue-style sermon series on Wednesdays and Sundays. These services also incorporated story and video in creative ways. All the while, we were helping people remember the overall shape of the biblical story, under the theme of "Echoing the Story."
- We observed the important rituals of Holy Week and celebrated Easter.
- On Pentecost, we celebrated the season with beautiful decorations and festive celebration. Balloons in the shape of flames adorned our building.
- We activated a worship band, now known as "Diverse Harvest." They provide an alternative style of worship, focusing on folk styles of music. Pastor Steve Bogie has been the primary mover behind this. Several others have followed his lead. They have been leading worship on the third Sundays of the month.
- We held a congregational picnic in Bethany Park for Rally Day.
- Our primary music ensembles led music in worship.
- We welcomed "Genesee Ridge" folk music group in worship.
- We had special guests in worship: Pastor Roy Nelson for the Hope Center, Bishop Paul Erickson for the Greater Milwaukee Synod.
- We observed All Saints Day and invited to a special service the families of all we served through our funeral ministries.
- We commemorated All Saints Sunday and remembered those who entered new life through Baptism and honored those who died in the Lord.
- We observed Stewardship Sundays under the theme of "Spirit, Open Our Hearts."
- In Advent, we returned to two familiar and uplifting liturgies: *Holden Evening Prayer* and *O, Holy One*.
- We held a Blue Christmas Service to minister to those who are struggling in the season.
- We conducted five Christmas Eve/Day Services, each one with a different emphasis and intention.

In the coming year, we hope to continue to lead our worship ministry into the future. We hope to focus on the following:

- Continuing the strong worship patterns of the congregation.
- Inspire creativity in many ways.
- Continuing to raise up Diverse Harvest.
- Encouraging people to share their gifts in the many volunteer roles.
- Teach the faith while inspiring active discipleship.

In Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Paul Jordan
Senior Pastor

Music Ministries Report

Thank you for your continued support of the music ministry of St. Luke's in 2023!

We are blessed to have so many musical ensembles here at St. Luke's, including so many opportunities for people to share their musical gifts with the congregation. The musical ability of our ensembles continues to grow by leaps and bounds, and I am so thankful for the beautiful music we get to make together. The rehearsals truly are a highlight of my week!

In July, we again hosted a music camp with the theme of *Singing the Seasons*. We sang through the church year and learned about what each season means. We had a morning session for students entering kindergarten and first grade with Anna Kate Morris. I led full day sessions for students entering second through seventh grade. Our attendance was much higher than last year. 25 children participated. We are thankful for the growth. We are hopeful that we will again have more students. Thank you to our amazing volunteers who help make music camp happen each year!

On Thursdays, in collaboration with our Joyful Noise ensembles (4 years to 6th grade,) we continue our weekly community meals. These meals serve as a time for children, youth, and parents to be together for a shared meal with others from St. Luke's. What a joy to see the children all eating together! This year we were fortunate to receive a Thrivent Action Team grant to help subsidize the meals. We are all thankful to have the time together, and many thanks go to Kathy Paulson and Kathy Fontaine for their help preparing and serving the weekly meals.

In 2023, we hosted several fantastic events as a part of our Music & Fine Arts at St. Luke's concert series. We hosted the following ensembles:

- The Wisconsin Philharmonic for their JanBoree family concert in January.
- Milwaukee Festival Brass in March.
- A joint concert between Jubilate Chorale and Purdue University Choir in March.
- The Augustana Choir from Augustana College in March.
- The Wisconsin Philharmonic Shining Stars scholarship recital in April.
- Abbey Atwater presented a solo clarinet recital in July.
- Thomas Weis and Rhonda Kwiecien in recital in August.
- Milwaukee Festival Brass holiday concert in December.

We have more outstanding events coming up in 2024 and beyond, so stay tuned!

Our relationship with Carroll University has continued to grow as we have welcomed numerous student musicians to come participate in worship. This partnership gives them a place to play in front of people, it gives us excellent music, a place for choir students to make up missed performances on campus while singing with our choirs, and it also gives us greater availability when we need to hire specific instrumentalists. I am excited to see this partnership continue to grow and develop in whatever form that entails.

Our two pipe organs, three pianos, and five octaves of handbells continue to be in good repair, and we maintain them regularly as to help preserve our investments in these beautiful instruments. Thank you to all who have contributed over the years to these instruments. What a joy to use them in worship!

As we look forward to 2024 and beyond, we are excited to have more events in our Music & Fine Arts at St. Luke's concert series. We are developing our ensembles and making music together. Music is important to the community of St. Luke's Lutheran Church!

Thank you for your continued support of the music ministry here at St. Luke's Lutheran Church. I am eternally grateful for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Schaner
Director of Music Ministries

Christian Education Report

Christian Education at St. Luke's continues to provide opportunities that help foster a life centered in Christ. At St Luke's, we help "people make life-changing connections with God through Jesus Christ" in a learning environment. These learning groups help to nurture a faith that can be lived out in the world.

We offer these small-group, faith-growth experiences for you:

• Search Bible Study	Wednesdays September through May, 9:30 a.m.
• Women of Faith	2 nd & 4 th Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.
• Book Club	1 st Tuesday, 9:30 a.m.
• Theology on Tap	2 nd Tuesday of the month, Point Burger Bar, 7:00 p.m.
• T.E.A.M.S.	2 nd Thursday of the month, St. Luke's, 4:30 p.m.
• Sarah's Circle	3 rd Monday of the month, various meeting places, 1:00 p.m.
• Theology Uncorked	2 nd Monday of the month, Casa Tequila, 7:00 p.m.

Peace and blessings to all,

Steve Bogie
Associate Pastor

Sacramental Education Ministries Report

The Sacraments of Baptism and Communion are gifts that are given to us by God. We may not fully understand the gift of Baptism or Communion, but these gifts from God do not depend on our understanding. However, we can better comprehend the grace given to us by God through sacramental education.

This year, the pastoral office continued to offer Baptismal classes in a group learning format. During the course, we provided age-appropriate materials for families to take home and read as they prepared to move toward the baptismal font. In 2023, we assisted 10 families as they prepared 11 people for Holy Baptism.

Communion education in 2023 was offered on Saturday, April 1, 2023. In 2024 Communion education will be offered on Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 10:00 to 2:00 pm. This in-person event will include games, educational pieces, creative projects, and lunch. We are looking forward to walking with your children as they are trained to be able to receive their First Communion.

Peace and blessings to all,

Steve Bogie
Associate Pastor

Child Life Ministries Report Report

2023 seemed to fly by! Our classrooms continue to be filled with the sounds of children learning and growing, and our waiting lists continue to increase. While we saw fewer numbers across the district this year for 4K, we saw an increase in our 3-year-old preschool and added an additional class. We have 125 kids enrolled: 54 in preschool, 21 in 4K, and 105 in childcare. There are 46 kids in multiple programs!

Courtney represented St. Luke's at the State Capitol in April, together with Raising Wisconsin, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA), Wisconsin Childcare Administrators Association (WCCAA) and directors from around the state. She spoke with representatives, senators, and their staff about the importance of Childcare Counts to Wisconsin's workforce and families. Childcare Counts is a program that was started to help childcare centers pay staff a better wage, afford health insurance, and keep high quality programming open and affordable to families. However, Wisconsin's government voted against continuing this program. After Courtney's visit in April, Representative Scott Allen scheduled a visit to St. Luke's Child Life Ministries in July for a meeting with Courtney and Pastor Jordan and a tour of the center. While he agreed that childcare is important, necessary, and undervalued, he felt that there would not be a vote to keep the funding going. Unfortunately, he was right. However, it's not too late to reach out to your officials and ask them to support continued financial help for high quality programs. Do it daily, or weekly, or even just once! You could also call, email, or set up a meeting with your elected officials.

The highlight of our year was ordering our new playground equipment! Our Playground Fundraiser goal was reached thanks to the St. Luke's community, congregation members, CLM families, and staff who donated money so that we can completely redo our playground. The first two steps are completed, a dead tree was removed and the sidewalk between the building and the playground was redone. The next steps will be to remove the current playset, level the ground, pour and set the pour-in-place, a soft rubber surfacing that will be poured into a base and become a permanent surface, and put in the new system. We are so excited and forever grateful for those who supported us through this process.

We are looking forward to seeing what 2024 has in store for us- and we wish you all a blessed new year!

Submitted by,

Courtney Stangl CLM Director	Liz Anderson Preschool Administrator
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Discipleship Training Report

Discipleship Training (D.T.) is St. Luke's ministry to middle school youth in grades seven and eight and those in the fall year of their ninth-grade year. Youth in Discipleship Training participate in Affirmation of Baptism in the fall of their ninth-grade year. Discipleship Training helps youth engage scripture and topics of faith, using a Lutheran lens to help youth grow as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Discipleship Training operates with the following goals in mind:

- To assist youth as they make life-changing commitments with Jesus Christ.
- To encourage youth to deepen their involvement in this faith community so that they might connect, grow, and serve in and through St. Luke's.
- To provide opportunities for youth to explore the Christian faith.
- To encourage youth to develop life-long faith practices.
- To assist parents in the on-going commitments made in Holy Baptism: "to teach [the newly baptized] the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments... to nurture them in faith and prayer... to place in their hands the holy scriptures."
- To provide social activities for youth in grades seven and eight to encourage youth to engage in Christian fellowship.

2023 continued to bring challenges and obstacles as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact almost every aspect of our daily lives, but at a less intense level than the prior few years. We continue to struggle with bringing youth and families back to the church after COVID, but improvements are happening. For 2023, our focus for the year continued to be on relationships. Relationships with God and one another, as well as exploring our Lutheran foundations. We currently have five first year students and seven second year students participating in D.T.

On October 22, 2023, three third-year students affirmed their baptismal promises in front of family, friends, and the church congregation:

- Nathan Ryan Adent, baptized March 22, 2009
- Jayden Marie Luedtke, baptized March 9, 2019
- Kayla Elizabeth Warnes, baptized April 18, 2010

A fourth third-year student will affirm his baptism in May 2024, due to family scheduling conflicts and the importance to him of having his family with him at this milestone in his faith journey.

Areas of Growth:

- Develop a D.T. mentor/teacher team to surround youth with caring adults.
- Provide opportunities to encourage youth to make connections with their church family as it takes a community to raise youth into caring adults who can see the special gifts that all have to offer.

Goals for 2024 and the future:

- Expand youth developed / youth led activities, such as the Holy Week walk experience on Palm Sunday 2023 and Youth Led Weekend.
- Develop a stable multi-generational team of D.T. mentors/teachers.
- Expand service opportunities for youth. Incorporate service and giving back into the youth's regular routine.

I would like to thank all the youth and parents that have been flexible and willing to let us try new things as we figure out what works (or does not) and for making sure that their youth are participating in D.T. A

special thank you to Pastor Jim Durnil for his leadership and support while sharing his time and talents with our D.T. youth and to Pastor Steve Bogie for being a sounding board and ministry partner to help navigate the challenges of working with middle school youth with grace and laughter.

This is an exciting but very challenging time in D.T. We are continuing to develop a program to meet the needs of our middle school age youth while exposing them to various ways that they can find their niche and plug into a caring church community. Allowing them to be themselves and know that they are a child of God. Each unique and loved, just as they are no matter what.

Submitted by,

Cari Buskel Thompson
Youth Director

Youth Group Report

Youth Group is St. Luke's ministry to youth in seven through twelfth grades. Youth group helps middle school and high school youth to experience faith in communities that connect with one another, grow in their Christian faith, challenge them to look beyond themselves and see the world and where they can make a difference. We strive to give them a safe and caring community that is a foundation that they can build on as they explore and develop their unique talents and gifts. In Fall of 2023, we expanded the youth programming to offer T.E.A.M. (Thursday Evening Action Ministry), a monthly, mid-week event on the second Thursday of the month.

Each year, one of the major highlights for the high school youth is the annual summer trip. In 2023, we headed north to experience the beauty of God's Creation. We canoed in voyageur canoes among Lake Superior's Apostle Islands. We partnered with Camp Amnicon to offer this unrivaled experience to our youth. The youth discovered their strengths, made life-long memories and experienced God's presence in awe-inspiring ways in the Wilderness. In 2023, we continued to focus on relationships with God, with families, with each other and our neighbors. We continue to expand our focus to include service and exposing the youth to various opportunities to serve others. We focused on relationships with each other, our peers, our parents, our church community, and the larger community around us. We challenged them to open their eyes, their ears, and their hearts to see the people in the community around them and how they can start to plug in and connect to make their community a better place for us all. Here are our 2023 highlights:

- The youth led all services the last weekend in January.
- Money raised through "Noisy Offerings" for the Waukesha Food Pantry in February.
- Hosted the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in February.
- Collected diapers and wipes for our Waukesha Neighbors in March.
- Fleece tie blankets were made and given to our graduating High School Seniors in April.
- First annual "adult" youth group meeting in May.
- End of year celebration cookout in May.
- High School graduate recognition during service in June.
- Hosted a luncheon for our graduating seniors and families in June.
- Youth went to iCombat and learned how to work as a Team in July.
- Voyageur Canoeing Trip among Lake Superior's Apostle Islands in August.
- Multigenerational church outing to a Brewer Game in September.
- Lock-in and baking for Rally Day in September.

- T.E.A.M kicked off their first session in September.
- Outreach for Hope Run/Walk/Ride with children's activities in September.
- Participated with 2 trunks in CLM's Trunk or Treat in October.
- College care packages were prepared in November.
- Christmas cookie sale/fundraiser in December.

Areas of Growth:

- Encourage Youth participation in the ministries of St. Luke's.
- Develop a group of adults that focus on supporting and developing the youth programs at St. Luke's. An initial interest meeting was held November 2023. The establishment of a formal Youth Committee and a Family Committee are in the works for 2024. We are also looking for a separate group to work on fundraising ideas and opportunities to support youth activities, such as the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July 2024.

Goals for 2024 and the future:

- Give youth a safe and caring community that provides a foundation on which they can build lasting relationships as they explore and discover how to use the unique gifts that God has given each of them.
- Challenge them to dig deeper into their faith and ask the hard questions, then walk beside them as they grapple with finding the answers.
- Expand service opportunities for youth – incorporate into the regular youth programming.
- Increase youth involvement in the various ministries of St. Luke's.

2023 continued to be a time of change with trying new things/ideas as well as keeping some of the established traditions and ideas. With much patience and grace for the youth program at St. Luke's, 2023 has been a growing period. The youth continued to adapt and accept all the new changes. During 2023, we walked together and have grown through the good times and the challenges. We continue to work on building a youth program that is relative and meets the needs of our teenage youth. It is a learning process with some bumps along the way as well as a lot of trial and error, but ultimately done with one goal in mind, to always love the youth and make sure they know that they have a place no matter what else is going on in their world. I personally, and on behalf of the youth, want to thank the congregation at St. Luke's for all the support you have given us and all our sometimes slightly nutty ideas.

Submitted by,

Cari Buskel Thompson
Youth Director

Sunday School Report

Our Sunday School program has grown a lot since 2020, when I first met with the group of our awesome educators. The program is life-giving and fulfilling providing a profound sense of relationship. Joy permeates the program because teachers and students are having fun. Our teachers are our greatest resource and gift for the students. They continue to focus on cultivating and maintaining relationships with students and families.

Sunday School meets in the sanctuary at 9:20 a.m., after worship, and will continue to have time with a pastor at the end of the class. We offer an excellent learning experience for our students grounded in biblical literacy. Sunday School encourages kids to grow in the love of God and neighbor through the teachings of Jesus Christ. This is and will continue to be a fantastic year learning about God.

Peace and blessings to all,

Steve Bogie
Associate Pastor

Hospitality Report

Primary Ministries:

Creating and maintaining an atmosphere of hospitality.
Hosting and greeting at special events.

In 2023 the Hospitality Committee coordinated the following events:

Hosted and coordinated Coffee Hour Treats each Sunday.
Hosted and coordinated Wednesday Lenten Soup Supper.
Hosted and coordinated Easter Egg Coffee Hour.
Hosted and coordinated Summer Picnic.
Hosted and coordinated Pie Fest Thanksgiving Eve.

Submitted by,

Wendy Bacon
Hospitality

Neighborhood Outreach Report

St. Luke's has a long history of reaching out into the community to offer a helping hand to our neighbors. There are so many places where volunteers are welcomed, and we can serve.

Prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents with one or more of St. Luke's partners.

- The Waukesha Food Pantry welcomes donations left in the food basket in the narthex. Volunteers are always welcomed at the Waukesha Food Pantry.
- ERAs has many opportunities for volunteers in addition to the spring and fall yard cleanups. Some can even be done from your home.
- Hadfield School welcomes our partnership. We respond to requests for assistance, tutoring and Blessings in a Backpack.
- The Hope Center is always looking for volunteers to assist with meals and to help in the Clothing Shop. Many hands will be needed as they settle into their new location.
- Through Loaves and Fishes, you can help provide Sunday dinners at the Hope Center. Watch for postings.
- The Women's Center's Volunteer Coordinator can match your time and talents with a need.

Thank you to the many members of St. Luke's who quietly reach out and volunteer in the community in any number of non-profits. It is a joy and a blessing to see our faith find ways to reach out, working to help ease the way for others and enjoying their tasks. You share, care and love!

Thank you for your generosity as you responded as a faith community in downtown Waukesha.

In Peace,

Neighborhood Outreach

Global Partners Report

We signed a covenant with the Maroroni, Samaria, and Kilimamoja Parishes in the Meru Diocese of Tanzania in 2015. We renewed our partnership agreement with Maroroni and Kilimamoja, and Ascension signed a covenant with Samaria during our delegation visit to Tanzania in 2018.

It would be customary to invite guests to visit Waukesha from Tanzania in 2023, but due to the fourth year of dry conditions, the need for food was identified as a higher priority. Funds were raised to send to them for "maize and beans" and for their needs. The portion of the tithe from the New Life Rising campaign was also sent to use as needed. Photos were shared of the students at Maranatha Preschool and the partnership elementary and secondary schools as the students received hot lunches. Messages of sincere appreciation were shared with St. Luke's!

Our Tanzania Partnership subcommittee continued to address the priorities for our partnership developed with Pastor Nathan Makenge and Partnership Committee Chairperson Baraka Melitha during their 2019 stay in Waukesha. Updates in our progress for these goals:

- Communicate on a regular basis with our partners. We are now using WhatsApp for frequent exchanges of messages and pictures. The start of a Pen Pal program is being discussed.
- Pray for our partners. The last Sunday in September has been designated the Common Day of Prayer and lists of prayer requests are exchanged and prayer petitions are shared in joint Zoom sessions. Our Partners are included in the prayers that are lifted up each weekend.
- Help primary and secondary students with tuition, uniforms, books, and supplies. Baraka shared messages of gratitude for the continued support to fund the cost of maize and beans as part of the tuition for students. One of the top priorities is to support education for it is the way out of poverty and the path to independence for the children.
- Maranatha Nursery School. In 2020, the Penuel congregation started a primary school called Maranatha Nursery School for under-5-year-olds to be run at the church like we run the Child Life Ministries program at St. Luke's. English is being taught to the little ones.
- Support the Professional Development Fund for pastor, evangelist, and teacher training. St. Luke's has supported Steven Judica Urioh during evangelist training, and Steven will begin his ministry in January 2024. The Endowment Committee also sent funds to support education for Pastors and other church leaders.

In 2024 we hope to build relationships with each other through communications, visits, and prayers. St. Luke's has participated in the Mt. Meru Coffee Project (MMCP) for more than 20 years. MMCP is a fair trade ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod entity that directly works with small family farmers in the Mt. Meru Synod in Tanzania. This year we:

- Sold more than \$2500 of coffee.

- Filled the Coffee Hour Sponsor calendar.
- Participated in the SOPHIA Multi Cultural Fair at Cutler Park, distributed free samples of Mt. Meru Coffee, and spoke of the importance of fair trade.
- Distributed samples of Mt. Meru Coffee Products at Carroll University Welcome event.
- Placed coffee order forms in CLM and offered free samples.

Goals for the upcoming year include:

- Filling the monthly Coffee Hour Sponsor calendar again.
- Recruiting more volunteers to sell coffee.

Needle and Thimble, St. Luke's sewing group, meets Tuesday mornings, September through June, to make warm comforters for Lutheran World Relief. This year, we:

- Welcomed many new members, and now usually have 12 to 15 present each week.
- Completed 197 quilts for Lutheran World Relief and 24 fleece pads for H.A.W.S.
- Held the annual truck-loading event on October 14. St Luke's and 8 other Waukesha churches filled Bill Kron's truck with quilts, health kits and school kits. These were taken to Lutheran World Relief's southeast Wisconsin Ingathering for shipment overseas.
- Obtained a Thrivent Action Team grant for the purchase of quilt batting.
- Received a huge donation of fleece lining facilitated by a church member.

Goals for the upcoming year include growing our group of home-based sewing, completing 200+ quilts, and again hosting a truck loading event at St. Luke's.

Submitted by,

Marilyn Olson and Diane Voit
Global Partners

Good Samaritan Fund Report

Pastor Jordan

The Good Samaritan Fund is a vital ministry that provides support and assistance to neighbors in need. When people struggle, they often turn to the church for support. This year the fund helped many people. Together, we:

- Provided rental support.
- Helped with food and medical support for many of households.
- Helped families with utility support.

This ministry has a positive impact in our community. Hundreds of people have been assisted through your generosity! We do this in response to Christ's command: Love one another as I have loved you. Jesus poured his love out for us on the cross. We pour ourselves into the community to love and serve others, as Jesus has called us to do.

In Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Lindsay Paul Jordan
Senior Pastor

President's Report

As we enter the grace-filled year of 2024, I am filled with profound gratitude and joy for the journey we shared in 2023. As your congregational president, now finishing my second year, I am continually inspired by the compassion and unwavering support you have shown, not just to me but to our entire church family.

Reflecting on the past year, I am proud of what we have accomplished together. The unique structure of St. Luke's, which fosters member-led committees, has been a cornerstone of our success. These committees' dedicated leadership and insightful vision have provided invaluable direction and insight for our congregational council. This bottom-up approach has enabled us to achieve so much, with each committee contributing significantly to the larger tapestry of our church's mission.

One of the highlights of 2023 was our all-committee meeting held in September. This gathering was a testament to the collaborative spirit that defines St. Luke's. It united all our committee leaders to share and celebrate the year's accomplishments. This meeting was not just about reflection; it was a proactive step towards fostering greater interaction and understanding among our committees. Breaking down silos and encouraging inter-committee dialogue has opened new avenues for cooperation and synergy, further strengthening our church's ministry.

As we look ahead, I am excited about what 2024 holds for us. The foundation we have built together is strong, and the commitment of each of you is the bedrock of this strength. I am confident that with our committees' continued leadership and our congregation's collective efforts, the coming year will be filled with blessings, growth, and a profound impact on our community and beyond.

Thank you, each of you, for your dedication, faith, and love that makes St. Luke's Lutheran Church a beacon of hope and a place of refuge. Let us step forward into 2024 with hearts full of expectation, ready to embrace all God has in store.

With heartfelt gratitude and blessings,

Brian Edlbeck,
Congregational President

Minutes: Congregation Meeting February 12, 2023

Call to Order

- 9:35 a.m.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- Minutes: Annual Meeting – February 13, 2022 **<PASSED>**
- Minutes: Congregation Meeting – August 28, 2022 **<PASSED>**
- Minutes were discussed and approved jointly
(1st Ed Rather; 2nd Dan Jorvig)

Report of the Nominating Committee

- The report was reviewed and approved (1st Dan D.; 2nd Fran Parsons)

Old Business

- Review of 2022 Financial Report
- Review of Annual Committee Reports
 - Amigos to add
 - Dennis Voit
 - Kevin Jarkowski

New Business

- Proposed 2023 Spending Plan – Brad Skogman **<PASSED>**
- Discussed and approved (1st Fran Parsons; ;2nd Debbie Knee)

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

- 9:55 a.m.

2023 Summary of Council Actions

In 2023 the council approved last month's minutes and the current month's agenda every meeting.

Listed below is the detailed list of every month's accomplishments:

- Approved baptism display, AED training for staff, installation of AEDs and Narcan boxes in January.
- Approved nominating committee recommendations in February.
- Repaid the loan from the memorial fund to the general fund using ERC grant money in February.
- Used New Life Rising campaign money to make an extra payment of \$100,000 on the mortgage in February.
- Purchase of new fridges were approved in March.
- Challenge grant for a new playground was approved in March.
- Appointed members to the CLM committee in March.
- Council Retreat in April.
- Approved catchup funding for pastors' continuing education and sabbaticals in May.
- Approved funding for CLM grant money as teacher continuing education and into the general fund in May.
- Did not meet in June.

- Altar repair approval in July.
- Meeting canceled in August.
- Held first annual all committee meeting in September.
- Set dates for the spending plan meeting and the annual meeting in October.
- Approved the list of 4 confirmands in October.
- Closed the safety ad-hoc committee in November.
- Social meeting for Christmas in December.

Endowment Committee Report

St. Luke's Endowment Committee distributes monies from our Endowment fund to local and global charities and provides scholarships to St. Luke's students. Monies are received from earnings and gifts through our Endowment fund.

The Endowment Fund continues to be managed by Scott Heins, Certified Financial Planner with Investors Advisor Group (IAG). The four-year average fund balance for 2023 was \$685,647.50 subject to a 4% distribution rate. For 2023, \$27,746.35 was available for distribution and included \$320.45 carryover from 2022.

These are some of the areas distributed in 2023:

- \$2500 to the Greater MKE Synod, Mt Meru Committee for professional development.
- \$2000 for Maize & Beans project.
- \$1500 for Waukesha Housing Action Coalition's overflow shelter.
- \$3500 in scholarships were distributed at \$500 each to 7 students: Maddie Thorstad, William Daniels, Alex Houle, Emily Ketter, Luke Bedalov, Nora Cerroni, and Olivia Bogie.

And distributions to many other community and service organizations who rely on support from others:

- Food Pantry of Waukesha County
- The Women's Center
- Hebron House of Hospitality
- Literary Council of Greater Waukesha
- Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha County
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Waukesha County
- ERAs Senior Network
- Greater MKE Synod (Outreach for Hope)
- Waukesha Free Clinic (formerly St. Joseph's Medical Center Clinic)
- The Hope Center
- Waukesha County Community Dental Clinic
- Lutherford Bible Camp
- SOPHIA
- Outreach for Hope
- Salvation Army
- Hadfield (formerly Whittier Elementary)
- Blessings in a Backpack

A total of \$20,900 was distributed in 2023 with reserves for 2024 of \$4,000 for Tanzania mission travel and \$2,000 youth participation at the National Youth Conference.

The committee's appreciation goes out to Diane Voit and RJ Hildebran for completing their terms in serving the Endowment Committee.

And many thanks to our St. Luke's community for the love and support of our endowment resources. The generosity of St. Luke's through this committee is making a difference in our local and global communities. It continues to provide an excellent opportunity to fulfill our mission of Connecting, Growing, and Serving.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Bjerke
Endowment Chairperson

Facilities and Maintenance Committee Report

The Facilities and Maintenance Committee continues to be an active team of dedicated members of St. Luke's who work in tandem with the custodial staff and the Amigos. The Amigos are a dedicated group of volunteers with unique skills, talents, and life experiences.

The Facilities and Maintenance Team focuses on caring for and maintaining our building and property. Projects deemed too large to be handled by the Amigos, proposals from outside contractors, are requested. Upon recommendations from the Finance Committee including funding and final approval by the Congregational Council, the projects are carried out.

2023 projects included:

- Garage door opener replacement.
- Purchased commercial refrigerator for lower-level kitchen and Hospitality area.
- Purchase commercial freezer for lower-level kitchen.
- Purchased a freezer for Hospitality area.
- Completed proposal for new CLM playground.
- Removal of tree in preparation of new CLM playground.
- New sidewalk pitched correctly on playground.
- Concrete slabs installed for eventual moving of original cornerstone From Red Brick Church to be at door #2, Carroll Street Entrance.
- Installed padded column post in Fellowship Hall for CLM.
- Amigos installed Fire alarm covers to prevent accidental alarm usage.
- Had Waukesha Public Library install parking stops to prevent damage to our chain link fence, again.
- Removed wall between #120 and #121 classroom to allow additional students to attend CLM.
- Floor drains in lower-level boiler rooms replaced and roto-rootered.

St. Luke's is fortunate to have the ongoing and weekly maintenance work carried out by the Amigos. Their work saves us tens of thousands of dollars every year. We thank them for what they do week after week. Over the course of 2023 the Amigos expended about 2,214 hours. We also thank the custodial staff for their efforts as well.

Ongoing Maintenance Projects carried out by Amigos weekly/monthly:

- Maintenance of CLM vans, cleaning and fueling.
- Maintain needs of CLM.
- Service of electrical needs as needed.
- Plumbing needs and repairs as needed.
- Service oil pumps yearly.
- Maintain HVAC and test boiler water.
- Empty baptismal font weekly and clean.
- Fill oil in candles in sanctuary weekly.
- Touch up paint and tuck point as needed.
- Monthly testing of fire extinguishers, emergency and exit lights.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Pederson
Facilities and Maintenance Chair

Personnel Committee Report

We would like to thank and acknowledge everyone working at St Luke's for another successful year supporting our missions. We welcome our new staff and thank those who have served St Luke's over the last year. We thank St Luke's members and volunteers who complement our staff by positively interacting with them. We have a limited staff that throughout the week have many important deadlines to ensure our services, communications, publications, and activities are done on time. Our volunteers are a critical part of the church, and we thank them for the hard work they do for our success. Please remember to always be thoughtful and kind in working with each other.

St Luke's staff is a strong team working hard to serve God's missions. We have retained all but a handful of our staff in a competitive job market. The outlook for the next year looks good with the continued state funds to supplement our childcare team. We are looking to expand our benefits and offer those benefits our staff is looking for. Our great management team makes St Luke's a great place to work.

God's Peace,

Personnel Committee

Stewardship Committee Report

The Stewardship Committee serves the church through the fostering of generosity and giving in order to finance the operation of the church's ministry to our congregation, our community and the world. This means raising money from the congregation to support the Lord's work! This work begins in the late Spring with planning and detailing for a stewardship campaign in November.

This year, the committee prepared a detailed calendar, letters, bulletin inserts, impact statements and special video presentations all for the purpose of making the congregation more aware of the need for funds to grow and support our ministry in 2024 and the future. Spirit, Open My Heart was the theme of the 2023 campaign. Thank you to the many who shared their stories of how St. Luke's Lutheran Church impacts their lives and others in the local and global community.

About 450 letters and commitment/pledge cards were mailed just prior to commitment weekend, November 18-19. To date, we have received 155 pledges in the amount of \$434,798 compared to last year with 144 pledges and \$406,786. The average increase in pledges of 12% (excluding six very large increases) exceeded our requested 10% increase of individual pledges. There were 28 new pledges. This shows a very good case for increased commitment, but there are still many members who have not yet responded to our Stewardship Appeal. We pray to see continued growth of generosity in our congregation.

I am reminded of a small book called *A Spirituality of Fundraising* by Henri J.M. Nouwen. The author says, "Fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission."

The Stewardship Committee looks forward to growing our generosity and participation and thanks all those who made commitments for 2024.

Submitted by,

Jack Tans, Diane Voit, Dan Jorvig, Ed Raether, Laura Cameron, Sharon Wood, Julie Doepeke, and Pastor Jordan,
The Stewardship Committee,

Capital Campaign Committee Report

The New Life Rising Capital Campaign was initiated in May of 2022 with the objective of reducing or eliminating our mortgage debt over a 3-year period. The vision of this campaign is to realize what is possible when we can repurpose the funds from mortgage payments into other important ministries. This will certainly strengthen our mission of Connecting, Growing, and Serving.



The campaign received intended gifts of about \$875,000 from the congregation over three years. New Life Rising is employing 90% of these funds for debt reduction. Then 10% of funds received are allocated as our congregational tithe for service to others. This tithe distributes 1/3 each to three focus partners identified in the campaign:

- The Greater Milwaukee Synod for their campaign of Equipping the Saints
- The Hope Center
- Our partners in the Meru Diocese of Tanzania.

Galatians 6 gives us purpose: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

We are well into our second year of New Life Rising and have been blessed with wonderful energy and generosity. The campaign has collected \$568,000 or 65% of our target which has allowed us to distribute against our debt. This has also resulted in tithes totaling \$38,850 and distributed to our three focus partners.

The committee would like to thank our congregational members for their continued generosity to the New Life Rising campaign. And special appreciation to Cindy Maigatter for her continued dedication in managing the gifts received through the campaign.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Tans and Mark Bjerke
New Life Rising Co-Chairs

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating report was not available at the time of printing. It will be made available to members prior to the Annual meeting via printed copies at the Welcome Center and by email.

2023 Financial Report

Those serving on Finance Committee:

Treasurer:	Laura Cameron		
Financial Secretary:	Cindy Maigatter		
Chairman Finance Committee:	Brad Skogman		
Finance Committee Members:	Ed Raether	David Clark	
	Robbin Krueger	Harold Bloch	
	Jenny Thorstad	Pastor Lindsay Jordan	
	Jack Tans		

2023 Financial Report:

St. Luke's is currently in stable financial health primarily due to continued DCF grant funding and a one-time ERC benefit, which together totaled almost \$222,000. Ministry income did increase by approximately \$62,000, primarily due to Child Life Ministries as general giving increased only slightly. Ministry expenses increased about \$161,000 and included a one-time catch-up of about \$30,000. The fact that Ministry expenses continue to be higher than income will put pressure on St. Luke's financial health moving forward as the DCF grant funding will not continue through all of 2024, and we do not expect another one-time benefit such as the ERC funding. The finance committee and council will continue to monitor and the financial situation and review various options to improve the financial outlook as we move through 2024.

Giving to the Building/Mortgage/New Life Rising Fund continues to do well as people are honoring their capital campaign commitments.

General Fund

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Ministry Income	1,560,806	1,498,785	1,453,216
Ministry Expenses	1,716,781	1,555,924	1,436,275
Miscellaneous Income - DCF Grant Funding	72,773	95,397	7,521
Miscellaneous Income - ERC Funding	148,818		

Building Fund / Sanctuary Renewal

Building/Sanctuary Income	261,670	306,737	232,700
Building/Sanctuary Expenses	157,621	146,014	295,996
Payments on Principal	274,686	76,624	300,831
Mortgage Balance	1,021,589	1,296,275	1,372,899
<u>Memorial Fund</u>		510,978	

Endowment Fund

Total Assets	697,097
Restricted Fund/Orig. End	398,082
Unrestricted Funds	299,015

*A complete report is available in the church office upon request.

2024 Spending Plan

	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed Plan
MINISTRIES		
Connecting		
Worship and Music	17,436	17,200
Fellowship	2,253	2,300
	19,689	19,500
Growing		
Learning	5,562	4,550
Youth	3,041	3,000
	8,603	7,550
Serving		
Benevolence		
Ministries	56,745	57,159
Community	14,182	13,650
	70,927	70,809
	99,219	97,859
MINISTRY SUPPORT		
Stewardship	4,904	4,450
Facilities	129,669	132,500
Administration	57,599	50,400
Ministry Team		
Salaries	312,164	329,149
Benefits	121,813	126,850
Allowances	106,936	77,269
	540,914	533,268
	733,085	720,618
CHILD LIFE MINISTRIES	884,477	905,464
MINISTRIES	99,219	97,859
MINISTRY SUPPORT	733,085	720,618
CHILD LIFE MINISTRIES	884,477	905,464
TOTAL FINANCIAL PLAN	1,716,781	1,723,941

2024 Monthly Mission Offerings

January **Lutheran Disaster Response:** This organization of the ELCA brings God's hope, healing, and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. In 2018 Lutheran Disaster Response provided ongoing assistance to those affected by wildfires, hurricanes, tsunamis, flooding, earthquakes, drought, war, and conflicts.

February **Healing Hearts:** Healing Hearts of Waukesha County offers a peer-to-peer support program for children, youth, and families who are grieving the loss of a loved one due to death, divorce, separation, incarceration, military deployment, or immigration. Most recently, Healing Hearts has served as a safe space for adults to meet to reset after the trauma and loss of the parade tragedy while their kids heal in peer groups.

March **Hope Center:** St. Luke's supports Hope Center each month with \$400. All gifts will help offset this amount from our General Fund.

April **Tanzania Partnership:** We give thanks for our Tanzania partnership and offer our gifts to continue to support eight congregations. We support them through prayer, through learning, through relationship building and through financial assistance as well.

May **ERAs Senior Network:** St. Luke's supports ERAs with \$300 per month. All gifts will help offset this amount from our General Fund.

June **Lutheran World Relief:** Financial gifts are sent to Lutheran World Relief to support the purchase and shipping of extra blankets and quilts in addition to the many made by the Needle and Thimble group.

July **Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan:** LSS empowers people to live their best lives by offering a path to recovery from addiction or mental illness, a home that's safe and affordable, a family to thrive in, independence and a life that is truly their own.

August **Seminaries of the Church:** Luther Seminary and Wartburg Seminary

September **Hadfield Elementary School Partnership:** St. Luke's has a relationship with Hadfield Elementary School. People from St. Luke's volunteer in the school building regularly. We also provide for students who have special needs.

October **Tanzania Partnership** (*see above*)

November **ELCA World Hunger and Waukesha Food Pantry:** During the month of Thanksgiving, we are motivated to share a portion of the gifts we have received from God with others, so they too receive the gift of food. The ELCA World Hunger program is highly regarded in its effectiveness of its ministry as is the Waukesha Food Pantry in its ministry to Waukesha residents.

December **St. Luke's Endowment Fund:** The Endowment Committee distributes money from the fund to local and global charities and provides scholarships to St. Luke's members who are attending college or seminary.

Council Roster

<u>Roster of Council Members</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
President Brian Edlebeck	2026
Vice President Jenny Thorson	2025
Secretary Ashley Bregantini	2025
Treasurer Laura Cameron	2026
Don Grossman	2026
Rob Riedel	2026
David Tank	2026
Anne Marie Vassalotti	2026
Rev. Dr. Lindsay Paul Jordan	NA
Associate Pastor Steve Bogie	NA