

Annual Report 2022



Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

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Central Lutheran Church, Annual Meeting of the Congregation

February 12, 2023
12:00 p.m.
Jeff Block, President

AGENDA

Welcome and Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Adoption of the Agenda

Approval of Minutes

February 13, 2022 - Annual Meeting Minutes

President's Report

Rostered Ministers' Reports

Written Reports to Note

Information Items

Advocating/Walking With Strategic Initiative and Next Steps

Casavant Organ Committee Report

Action Items

Treasurer's Report

2023 Budget

Nominating Committee Report and Elections

Granting of Emeritus Status for Deacon Mark Sedio

Prayer and Benediction

Adjournment

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Central Lutheran Church was held in person on Sunday, February 13, 2022, and via the livestream link at www.centralmpls.org. The 2021 Annual Report was available to Central members attending or online via the church's website.

Call to Order

Congregation President Lisa Beane began the meeting with a brief welcome and overview of the meeting and logistics for communication for those members on the livestream. She then called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m., noting that those in attendance surpassed the constitution quorum of 100.

Opening Prayer

The meeting began with an opening prayer led by Pastor Stephanie Friesen.

Approval of Minutes

Congregation President Lisa Beane presented the minutes from the August 22, 2021 Special Congregational Meeting that can be found on page 5 of the 2021 Annual Report. A motion to approve these minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Congregation President Lisa Beane then presented the minutes from the February 13, 2021 Annual Meeting that can be found on page 4 of the 2021 Annual Report. A motion to approve these minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

President's Report

Congregation President Lisa Beane shared highlights from her report. The Congregation President's report can be found on page 10 of the 2021 Annual Report.

Rostered Ministers' Reports

Pr. Peter shared highlights of the written reports from the Pastors and Deacon. These reports can be found beginning on page 6 of

the 2021 Annual Report.

Pr. Peter also highlighted the Church Statistics, found on page 7, that continue to be impacted by the pandemic. He encouraged all members to read the other written reports found in the 2021 Annual Report.

Information Items

Pastor Peter gave brief updates on the Bell Tower and Historic Sanctuary Entrance Lighting Project and the Baptismal Font Project.

Action Items:

Treasurer's Report and 2022 Budget

Treasurer Karl Starr presented an overview of the financial reports, which began with Director of Finance, Obie Holmen's report found on Page 26 of the 2021 Annual Report. The financial reports, Financials: Assets and Liabilities, Proposed Budget, 2021 Designated Fund Summary, and Mission Forward Campaign Recap, begin on page 27 of the 2021 Annual Report. A more detailed presentation of the financial reports was given at a virtual Budget Meeting two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. A motion to adopt the 2022 Budget was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee Report

On behalf of the Nominating Committee and as affirmed by the Council, President Lisa submitted the following nominations for leadership: Council (two-year term) -- President Jeff Block, Vice President Rexanne Spicer, Secretary Heidi Tysk-Poppe; Council at-large Members (two-year term) Julie Anderson, Rachel Moeller and Rod Richter; Nominating Committee (three-year term) -- Samina Welijan, Jenna Harvieux and Karen Hielsberg; Audit Committee (two-year term) -- Bruce Ellingson. The Synod Assembly Voting Members -- Christa Olson, Karen Knox, Judy Hedman, Brian McKinley. This

report appears on Page 25 of the 2021 Annual Report.

According to the Constitution, President Lisa asked for any nominations by email or phone three times, of which there were none. A motion to approve the full slate of candidates was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Words of Gratitude, Closing Prayer, and Benediction

Pastor Peter introduced the new leadership that was just elected and thanked the leadership whose terms were completed, including President Lisa Beane. Pastor Melissa closed the meeting with prayer and a benediction.

Adjournment

President Lisa Beane adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Pat Hansen, recording for
Jen Surla, Secretary*

2022 Historian's Report

January 2022

- Omicron surge cause many in person activities to go on hold
- 2022 Budget meeting in person (1/30)
- Obie Holmen, Director of Finance, retires and is wished Godspeed after 6 years of service (1/30)
- Sara Masters begins as Director of Operations and Finance (1/30)
- Sara Klomp serves as interim Director for Communications (1/30)

February 2022

- Wednesday Bible Studies on the Gospel of John resume in person (AM) or hybrid (PM) (2/9)
- Doane University Choir sings at worship (2/12)
- Annual Meeting (2/13)
- Baptismal Font Project begins
- 17 new members and 2 children welcomed (2/26-27)
- Choristers resume in-person rehearsals

March 2022

- Ash Wednesday Worship (3/2) and Lenten Mid-week Worship offered in person or online
- Lenten theme "God's Abiding Presence" shaped by the Gospel of John and Luther's Small Catechism; Lenten devotional book available to members and emailed daily; Lenten Appeal supports ELCA's Disaster Response and the crisis in Ukraine.
- The Whys and Hows of Advocacy on Zoom (3/14)
- Lenten Prayer Retreat with St. Stephen (3/26)
- Young Adults Gatherings resume (3/27)

April 2022

- Downtown congregations share panel discussion and interfaith service on the Power of Redemption
- Central Cares for Creation (C3 Team) restarts (4/3)
- Palm Sunday Weekend Worship (4/9-10)
- Holy Week/Three Days/Easter Worship (4/14-17)
- Easter Garden continues its decades-old

tradition of sanctuary flowers that are later delivered to homebound members

- Central hosts Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly (4/30)

May 2022

- Confirmation Weekend (4/30-5/1) – five Central youth affirm their baptisms
- Sunday Adult Forum begins 3-part series, "Reimagining Generosity: Let's Talk," led by Generosity Team
- Restoration Center holds Back to Basics Underwear Drive
- Annual Align Minneapolis furniture drive (5/14)
- Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra presents the world premiere of "Will's Ladies" by Carol Barnett
- Seminarian Intern Sarah Hanson completes 2-year internship with Tree of Life and Central Lutheran
- Vacation Bible School dates set for 6/12, 7/17 and 8/21

June 2022

- OWLS resume monthly outings (6/1)
- Working Together: Central and the CLC Foundation hold informational session (6/5)
- Global Mission Forum features speaker, the Rev. Dr. Raheb, founder-president of Dar al-Kalima University, Palestine (6/5)
- Choir and MSO present Mozart's "Coronation Mass" (6/12)
- Traditional communion resumes with option to commune in place (6/18-19)
- Central Booth at Pride Celebration (6/25-26)
- Augsburg Central Health Commons host Covid-19 Vaccination Booster Clinic (6/27)
- Middle School Mondays set for 6/27, 7/25 and 8/22
- Caring Crew resumes visiting in person

July 2022

- Summer on the Plaza, with carillon music and food truck dining, begins for six Sundays after worship (7/10)
- Wednesday Summer Book Study, featuring Howard Thurman's *Jesus and the*

- *Disinherited* (7/13 – 8/3)
- HS students camp at Forestville Mystery Cave State Park near Preston, MN (7/27)

August 2022

- C3 Ministry Team secures Hennepin County grant to purchase compost and recycle bins for waste.
- “The Cloud of Witnesses,” an interactive study, art, and prayer experience by Rev. Glenn Berg-Moberg, on Sundays 8/7-14 and Wednesdays 8/10-17
- Central’s YAGM, Britta Koenen and Sophie Warnberg, introduced at worship; meet with Global Mission Team (8/14)
- Great Central Community Get Together for recent new members (8/24)
- Nine new members welcomed; Baptismal Font Dedication; All Church Picnic after 10:30 worship (8/27-28)

September 2022

- Kari Colchin joins Central staff as part-time Children, Youth and Family coordinator (9/1)
- Central Book Club resumes in-person monthly meetings, as does many Circles and groups
- Central Choir, Choristers and Central Bells begin with opening year dinner gathering; Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio announces retirement. (9/7)
- Rally Weekend (9/10-11) – Worship on Saturday and Sunday, with an intergenerational learning activity and fellowship between Sunday services.
- Sunday Morning Adult Forums and Children, Youth and Family programming resume; Empowering Conversations focus on the Envision Community (9/18)
- Elder Fraud Prevention presented by CLC Foundation (9/25)

October 2022

- Brenda Blackhawk joins Central staff as Director of Communications (10/1)
- Nine 9-to-Dine groups formed and each begin setting up gatherings
- Wednesday PM Bible Study resumes, studying “Prophets and Hope” (10/5)
- Global Mission Weekend with Rev. Lisa Kipp of Lutheran World Relief and Global Mission Fair (10/8-9)
- 15 people attend confirmation retreat at Camp Wapo (10/15)

- Sunday Adult Forum begins 4-part series, “Hope in a Season of Anxiety,” led by Dr. Marty Stortz (10/16)
- Empowering Conversations and Neighborhood Prayer Walk (10/16)
- MSO Concert: Beautiful Powerful Nature (10/16)
- CLC Foundation annual end-of-life series begins and goes for three Sundays (10/23)
- Fall Enneagram Day Retreat with Rev. Scott McRae (10/29)
- Generosity In-Gathering (Stewardship) Weekend (10/29-30)
- Tree of Life Pastor Marissa Sotos accepts new call to Augsburg Fortress as their Worship Resource Developer and will continue part-time with CLC Worship Décor.

November 2022

- All Saints’ Weekend (11/5-6)
- Sabbath to End Homelessness with worship, adult forum, and an Empowering Conversation related to the topic of ending homelessness (11/12-13)
- Mark Sedio Retirement Weekend with worship and a sold-out dinner (11/19-20)
- Thanksgiving Community Meal (11/21)
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Hennepin United Methodist (11/24)
- Joe Osowski joins Central staff as interim Choir Director (11/30)
- Advent Wednesday Contemplative Prayer: Visio Divina/Divine Visualized Prayer and Conversation begins (11/30)

December 2022

- Augsburg Advent Vespers (12/1-3)
- Advent Fair, an intergenerational event centered on Advent and Christmas traditions from across cultures (12/4)
- Lorraine Wookey joins Central staff as the new Kitchen, Custodial and Security Support staff member (12/5)
- New Mobile Free Store opens on Nicollet Mall (12/6)
- OWLS Christmas Luncheon (12/13)
- Sunday School Christmas Program (12/18)
- Christmas Community Meal (12/19)
- Christmas Eve falls on Saturday with two services at 3 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.; Christmas Day on Sunday has one service at 10 a.m.

President's Report



In *A Spirituality of Living*, Henri J. M. Nouwen states that “Community is not an organization; community is a way of living. We gather around us people with whom we want to proclaim the truth that we are the beloved sons

and daughters of God.” This past year, we have seen physical evidence of community at Central Lutheran with the completion of the baptismal font, bell tower, and lighting projects. This spirit of community has also guided the Council’s 2022 work.

One of the Council’s areas of focus has been how to create and maintain community among our members. During the past year, we have seen a gradual return to in person worship, but a significant number of members and visitors continue to worship online. This gift of an expansive membership presents an opportunity to create community among worshippers. To partially address this challenge, the Belonging Strategic Initiative was formed. This group has created “Nine-to-Dine” groups who meet 3 times during the church calendar year to share a meal and conversation. Participants have made new friends and connections which strengthens our church family.

The Great Room Ambassador Program is another effort to bring worshippers together. Our ambassadors are available after the Saturday evening service and between the Sunday services to welcome members and visitors. They also help connect folks with programs and resources offered at Central Lutheran. Furthermore, the Communications and Virtual Community Task Force continue to use technology to create and maintain community through up-to-date website development/design, livestream, and Zoom offerings.

The second area of focus has been how to better create community and minister to our downtown neighbors, especially as it

pertains to housing insecurity. Many who attend the Monday lunch and worship do not have secure housing situations. Because of our location and our existing commitment to downtown ministry, Central Lutheran is in a unique position to address this problem. To facilitate, the Council created the Advocating/Walking With Strategic Initiative to help educate ourselves about housing insecurity and inform our response. Currently, there are several proposals on how to best use our resources to address this challenge. We look forward to sharing these proposals with the congregation in a series of small group discussions in early 2023. This is a complex issue, so we are soliciting as much congregational input as possible to find solutions that may exist.

It has been an honor to serve as your Council president during the past year and I look forward to continuing in this role as we meet the challenges and opportunities that 2023 presents. Thank you for the support and prayers that you offer our rostered leaders, staff, Council, and numerous volunteers. And most of all, thank you for participating in the life of the church.

*Sincerely,
Jeff Block*

Church Statistics

The Annual Report statistics were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic again in 2022. You may recall that we communed in place during worship until the weekend of June 18-19. With the vaccinations and our individual tending to life with COVID, worship attendance has shown a few signs of recovery. The pre-pandemic, in-person weekend worship average was between 500-550. This year's in person worship average for all services was 350. The online worship for the weekend, with the multiplier (assuming some IP addresses have more than one person) was 300. While some program offerings returned, much of children, youth and family ministry remained suspended for the first half of the year because of the lack of a vaccine for the little ones. This report follows the same format of previous pandemic years.

Life Passages	Baptisms	Confirmations	Weddings	New Members	Funerals
2022/'21/'20	13/11/3	5/5/6	6/6/6	28/19/25	26/9/18

Worship*	Weekend Average	Triduum	Easter Weekend	Christmas Eve and Day
2022/2021/2020	850/529/650	913/566/1030	1595/895/1560	1213/1714/1205

***Notes:**

For the worship numbers they are the total for in person and online. The online number is based on the IP addresses for the live stream through the website and uses the multiplier of 1.5 to consider households where two or more worship on the same IP address. The numbers do not include Facebook Live numbers. Facebook Live tends to have people join and leave the feed during the services, where the live stream IP address tend to remain from beginning to end.

For children, youth, family and adult education, there are some reflections from the second half of 2022. There are 22 students registered for the 3-year-olds – 5th grade classes. This fall, on average, 14 students participated each week. There are 15 total confirmation students registered in grades 6-8th, with an average of 12 participating each week. There are 24 total high school students in the youth group. Sunday morning adult forums had an average attendance of 59 participants. Wednesday night hybrid Bible study had an average attendance of 33 participants.

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe



In this annual report I reflect on ministry items from the past year. We continue to live with COVID-19, rising inflation, and with complex challenges in our lives, community, and world. God continues to call, gather, and enlighten us as a faith community. God is faithful and promises to ground us in worship, prayer, learning, community, and inspired generosity.

Gratitude

Thank you for your faithfulness and for all the ways you seek to embody God's love, mercy, grace, and hope. COVID-19 continues and so too the ups and downs as we learn to live and adapt to the virus. The year began with a COVID surge, which resulted in suspending some in-person events, delaying the return to Sunday School, Confirmation, and high school youth. We continued to worship, communing in place with the helpful "communionables," as we called them. We have much to be thankful for as a faith community. God has led us through challenges, provided continued healing, and blesses this faith community so that we may bless others.

Mark Sedio, Emeritus, and Search Process

We gathered to give thanks for Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio on November 19-20, 2022, as he retired. It was a weekend that honored his twenty-two years here at Central. It is the recommendation of the Personnel Committee and the Council that the congregation offer Mark the honorific title of Cantor Emeritus. This status gives Mark permission to return to play on occasion, teach, serve as needed, and be in relationship. When pastors and deacons depart from their calls, it is understood that a firm boundary is in place. That means only returning as visitor and not in any leadership role for funerals, weddings,

worship, official duties, and the like. With the title of Emeritus, it opens that boundary and allows for some structured possibilities within and for the congregation. We will tend to the motion to grant Mark the honorific title of Cantor Emeritus at the Annual Meeting.

We are grateful to Isaac Drewes for his leadership, specifically for his added duties in this interim time. We are grateful that Joe Osowski is serving as the interim choir director and for Tim Short's work as interim organist. This summer a team will form to reflect on the needs for worship leadership and develop the needed job description. Once the job description is approved a search process will begin.

Advocating and Walking With: Next Steps

The Council began a discernment process as the pandemic hit, initiated wisely by the then Council President, Lisa Beane. With in-person church life suspended, it was a blessed time for Council to ponder God's call for us. The recent MAP survey data helped the council launch task forces to listen for God's call for communication (both within the congregation and external), for what is needed in this new world of virtual community, how we are called into relationship (a belonging task force), and where God calls us to advocate and walk with our neighbors.

The communications task force helped define some marketing plans, with more work on the horizon. With the retirement of Obie Holmen, who faithfully served as Director of Finance for nine years, Sara Masters was affirmed for the expanded role as Director of Finance and Operations. A new Director of Communications was sought and Central is blessed by Brenda Blackhawk and her gifts. Thank you to Sara Klomp who served as interim communications director for most of last year. Thank you to the communications task force, Sara Klomp, Susan Troselius, Mark Bernhardson, Tom

Emig, and Jim Hart.

The virtual community task force continues to meet. We are blessed by the gifts of Mark Kieffer, our technical director, for online worship and hybrid learning.

The belonging task force launched the 9-to-dine initiative for the year. 90 people are participating, with the goal to help members connect and deepen relationships. It is fun to look out on the great room after worship on a Sunday and see the 9-to-dine groups checking in and supporting one another. The belonging task force will resume their planning and seek to offer other ways we can connect and grow in relationship. Thank you to the members of the belonging task force, Stephanie Beane, Kristin Block, Katie Brenke, Karen Snyder, Tom Edelen, and Brian McKinley.

The Council has tended the advocating and walking with work this year. The Council, led by President Jeff Block, brought in two speakers, and designated significant time at each meeting to listen for God and discern pathway options for us as a congregation to consider. Small group offerings will follow in March where we will gather, learn, and share input on the different pathways. The goal is to listen to God's call and discern together the next step for our work to advocate and walk with our neighbors. Thank you to the Council leaders over these past years for your attentiveness and deep listening for God's call.

Acts 2:42

Eight years ago, the congregation gathered for a series of cottage meetings to reflect on ministry, listen for God and seek to set a new mission statement and ministry paradigm into motion. We gathered at thirty cottage meetings, with insights that led to informational congregational meetings and then a recommendation that was approved at the Annual Meeting. The cottage meetings, conversation and prayer were grounded in

the Book of Acts, chapter 2, verse 42: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." This single verse defines a life of faith and leads to community and care for the neighbor.

In 2015 the congregation approved the mission statement: *Exploring the promise of God for all*. We gathered for ministry under the paradigm of mission areas for worship, formation, community, and generosity. As we tended to God's call, we experienced healing that led to the building renewal and new growth.

At the 2020 annual meeting we became a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, grounded in a welcome statement: *You are welcome, no exceptions*. Today a short "tag line" grounds us as the call continues: *an everyday church for everyone*.

In this new year of ministry and mission, may we be devoted to weekly worship, daily prayer, growth in faithful formation, community life and care, generosity, and fellowship. As I close this year's annual report, I offer my thanks for every member and friend of Central. Thank you to my pastoral colleagues, the remarkable staff, all the teams, committees and task forces I have the privilege to work with, and for the Council leaders. It is a privilege to serve this community of faith that seeks to be devoted to God's love in Jesus Christ.



Pastor Melissa Pohlman



"Surely God has become my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; the LORD has become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2

A few new developments this year belong to the Community Ministry Mission Cluster, where a great deal of daily ministry is tended to with commitment and consistency by the volunteers who make the ministry happen.

The Central Cares for Creation Ministry Team was relaunched this year after a time of quiet. We are thankful for the good work of the existing team and remember Joyce Ellingson with love and thankfulness. With the help of Dave Rodriguez and his amazing crew we have launched composting at Central. There have been lots of education and outreach events and we are amazed at how well folks have taken on the separating. A big thanks goes out to Mark Carroll in the kitchen who is constantly figuring out ways to reduce trash and supplying us with compostable everything.

Another new development is that after several years working in the kitchen Adam Koland took a new position where he could use the skills he learned in Central's kitchen to feed people in a care center. After a short search we welcomed Lorraine Wookey to the position of Kitchen, Custodial, and Security Support. She comes from many years of church work and is a great addition to Sherry Shannon in the kitchen. Thank you to Mark, Sherry, and Lorraine for all the meals and coffee and cookies that keeps Central running.

Emergency Rental Assistance intakes were restored at Central this May with our amazing team of volunteers. Every Monday and Wednesday they see several families who are just trying to make the rent after they have experienced a crisis. When they

are a good fit for our program, the volunteers painstakingly gather the information needed to make the best case for support from our ERA program with Align. This year alone, 109 households were assisted by Align's ERA program. That's 109 families that did not experience homelessness this year. If you think this volunteer work sounds interesting or you would like to give to this impactful program, please let me know. We always need assistance to assist others.

In our work with Align we also restarted StreetSong this year. That is a choir for people who are experienced in homelessness – people currently homeless or formerly homeless and those who care about them. The choir rehearses every Monday at 12:30 p.m. for one hour. If you are interested in singing with the choir, please just stop in at that time. No experience needed.

While the work of the Free Store goes on and the need we experience continues to climb, we were invited to bring the Mobile Free Store to the Downtown Improvement District storefront of Nicollet Mall and 6th Street in December 2022. It was a great success as we served folks who had never been at Central and didn't know the Free Store was here to help. Folks got warm coats and socks and an invitation to come and see what else we have to offer at Central. We hope to continue this Mobile Free Store in the new year.

The final new start in the community bucket this year is Spiritual Listening. Every Monday at noon we offer a time of quiet reflection. A spiritual practice through the Ignatian Spirituality Project, it is for folks to come together and listen to each other and listen for God, all the while remembering their own belovedness. Since June, people from a vast variety of backgrounds and experiences gather and listen and care deeply for one another. The hope is that these gatherings will also allow for deep trust to build in such a way that we can go on retreat

together and with other ISP folks throughout the Twin Cities. To learn more, check out ISP at ispretreat.org.

All of the good ministry we have been doing from the community bucket for years continues in the midst of these new things God has trusted us to take on. The Community Meals, the Fine Arts Ministry Team, the Garden Team, Street Voices of Change, the Augsburg Central Health Commons, Empowering Conversations, Align Central, and I am sure I am missing someone! None of this ministry could happen if it were not for the good care Dwayne Wright and Freddy Coleman give to every last person who walks through our doors, and for Karen Knox who really does keep the wheels turning every day. I am ever so thankful for Katie Clark who keeps an eye on our blood pressures and Katie Dillon who keeps Align in alignment with all our partners. For Pat and Sara who pay all the wild bills for things we never knew we needed until we did (so many pants hangers). For Brenda who helps us tell the stories and Isaac who helps us sing and Michael who is always ready to clean up after us. For Dave and Theresa and Charles who make the building inviting after a long and hard day. For my colleagues Pastor Peter and Pastor Stephanie, who are both our greatest encouragers and our wise fences, I give thanks.

Finally, for every last one of you who make meals and hang clothes and listen to stories and write checks and hang art and plant flowers and hold silence and plan protests and strategize and pray, I cannot begin to tell you how thankful I am that we get to do this together in this place.

*Shalom,
Pastor Melissa*

Images
from the
Thanksgiving
and Christmas
Meals



Pastor Stephanie Friesen



*"I thank my God every time
I remember you, constantly
praying with joy in every one of
my prayers for all of you, because
of your sharing in the gospel
from the first day until now."
Philippians 1:3-4*

The first time someone read these words from Philippians in a staff devotion, I felt my breath catch. It was a moment of profound welcome and inclusion, something we all need to hear when working with others.

Knowing that we are part of a community that loves, welcomes, and holds God's people in prayer is at the core of what we do each day – 365 days a year here at Central, and Paul's invitation to participate in life as God's beloveds is essential to our life together.

This year was filled with restarts and renewals of all kinds.

Pastoral Care visits resumed in people's homes, enabling us to visit hundreds of people over the past 12 months. The Caring Crew, our eucharistic ministry team, also returned to their much-loved home visits, rekindling friendships and relationships between members young and old. Each month, we are blessed to hear stories of members visiting members, sharing stories, and making memories with one another.

Over the summer, kids came for Vacation Bible School to learn with their eyes, ears, and hands. We told stories, made bread and art projects, and acted out Bible stories that made the characters and places of the Bible come alive. The middle school students learned about the Restoration Center, spending four Mondays in a program called

Middle School Mondays. We volunteered by working in the Free Store, serving lunch, and discovering ice cream throughout downtown Minneapolis. And our high school students piled into a van to explore Minnesota's Driftless – an area in southern Minnesota left untouched by the glaciers. It was a great exploration in God's good creation.

By fall, we launched learning for all ages. Classes resumed with fun milestones for the Sunday school kids. Sunday morning classes are up and running with a group of heart-warming adults in classrooms each Sunday to welcome children to class by name. We even pulled together a Christmas Pageant during Advent. Confirmation is bustling with new friends and faces. In addition to classes on Sundays, the students spent a day at Camp Wapo in October reconnecting and learning about the importance of relationships. The high school students are meeting and planning a trip to Montana in the summer.

Adult programming including Bible studies, book clubs, Sunday morning forums and prayer retreats are all back on the calendar, and we are learning that our learning is a never-ending opportunity to engage with God and with one another.

So, please hear these heartfelt words of gratitude to you and for you. Like Paul, I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy. It is a privilege to serve at Central and to work with such amazing people.

*Grateful,
Pastor Stephanie Friesen*

Music Report



2022 saw several milestones in the Central Lutheran music department. In February, our Choristers returned to in-person rehearsals for the first time since COVID. The Adult Choir presented Mozart's

monumental Krönungsmesse in May. Then in November, we said farewell to Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio after an amazing 22 years of service. Mark brought passion and enthusiasm to everything he did, and we are incredibly grateful for his ministry here.

We have now entered an interim time to allow us, as a church, to discern the next step forward in the music department. During this time, I have taken over most of Mark's duties relating to liturgical music planning. We also welcome our Interim Adult Choir Director, Joe Osowski, who is the Director of Choirs at St. Michael Albertville High School. We are incredibly blessed to have Joe on board and look forward to his leadership. The interim period will last through summer of 2024, after which we anticipate calling a permanent Director of Music/Cantor.

Also during the interim, Tim Short, our carillonneur and a fine organist, has assumed the leadership of the Saturday 5 p.m. service. We began scheduling volunteers, in addition to section leaders, as song leaders at this service. This adds another way to be involved in music here at Central.

The Adult Choir continues strong singing weekly at the 10:30 a.m. service. In December, we said goodbye to our soprano section leader, Froya Olson, as she moved to Chicago. We are in the process of hiring that position; in the meantime, we are thrilled to have Paige Armstrong-Hetterick with us as a short-term substitute. The Bell Choir also continues to enrich our worship. They rehearse Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and perform approximately once per month at both Sunday services.

Our Children's Choir, the Choristers, is growing both musically and in numbers. This choir is open to children in 2nd-8th grades and sings a variety of repertoire. We now have a core of singers from Central Lutheran, and some new members from other congregations that do not have their own children's choir programs. In this way, Choristers is becoming a ministry to the wider community. More information is available at: <https://www.centralmpls.org/choristers/>.

There are so many ways to be involved in music here at Central Lutheran. If you are interested, please email josowski@centralmpls.org for Adult Choir, or idrewes@centralmpls.org for everything else. Whether you are singing in the pews or participating in a musical ensemble, it is a joy and a privilege to make music with you. To God be the glory!

*Isaac Drewes
Acting Director of Music*

Facilities Report



This past year has been a refreshing change, as we are finally putting the pandemic in our rearview mirror. While the unusual circumstances did provide us unique opportunities to accomplish some building

projects, it is exciting to be preparing for our big events again. We have been seeing the big events return to the Convention Center as well, which has led to more and more traffic in the parking lot. While we had the opportunity this past summer, we resurfaced and restriped the parking lot to be ready for the busy season ahead. We also replaced the old inefficient parking lot lights with high output LED lights.

I am pleased to report that we have also been able to wrap up the bell tower lighting project and the baptismal font. These two projects have turned out to be amazing statement pieces! I never tire of hearing

visitors comment on the beauty and scale of the baptismal font, and I look forward to having the sanctuary full and see all the people marvel at this beautiful piece of one of a kind art.

Along with these fun projects, we also tended to two of our older flat roofs in the west side of the sanctuary. These two roofs had been patched more than once, and definitely needed to be replaced. I feel very lucky that we are in a position where we can afford to complete these projects, even while experiencing such uncertain times. I am so grateful to all of you for your support – it allows us to do the right things to take care of this wonderful facility for generations to come. I would also like to give thanks to Charles, Theresa, Dwayne, Freddy, Michael Dee, and all our amazing people on staff that makes this such a special place.

*Dave Rodriguez
Director of Facilities*

Security Report



Greetings Central! We have taken many steps this year to return to normal, or maybe it's our "new normal." We are up to full capacity in the Free Store, Health Commons, and the Monday meal. Folks know we are

here to serve them, and they are glad to be back! And things are really picking up at the Convention Center. So, you will see that the parking lot will be full at times when you come to church. If the flat lot is full, feel free to park in one of the staff spots. If there is an orange cone in the staff spots, feel free to move them because we reserve them for you and staff. Dave Rodriguez and I work the parking lot on Sundays to make sure

everything goes smoothly. Hospitality begins outside the building and in the parking lot, so we will be sure to greet you, but feel free to offer us a handshake, or fist or elbow bump. Even hugs are accepted. Dave loves hugs!!!

This past year we have added a defibrillator in the Lower Narthex, and we have also have a new medical cabinet in the kitchen. I would like to give special thanks to security officer Freddy Coleman, Augsburg Central Health Commons, Free Store volunteers, Monday meal volunteer and to my staff colleagues. It is a blessing and a privilege to serve here at Central.

*Peace, Dwayne Wright
Director of Security*

Communications Report



My first three months at Central were the last three months of 2022, so I won't speak for the first nine months except to express gratitude to Sara Klomp and Sara Masters for tag-teaming all the communications needs of this thriving faith community.

I've learned so much about Central, its ministries, and its people in these past months. I'm thankful for the warm welcome extended to me in every interaction I've had so far, and I look forward to many more in 2023.

October to December in 2022 was really a time for me to get used to the rhythms of Central. This is a busy place, which means there is a lot of communication going out! Between the various newsletters, the website and electronic communication, and the social media – Central offers so many ways for folks to get – and feel – connected.

I have several projects that I am looking

forward to in 2023. First, I've put together a small team of folks to help capture moments at Central that we can share on our social media. You'll be able to follow along with stories about what is happening at Central with different campaigns and series, starting with Feature Fridays beginning in February! If you don't follow Central's Facebook and Instagram, you'll want to.

Another big project will be a website update and overhaul. I will be looking for some help from leaders in the congregation as I begin this process in the next few months. An updated website will offer a fresh look, but also, better ease of access for members and visitors to find the information they need.

I'm excited to go into 2023 knowing that I will be serving a wonderful community who works hard and cares deeply.

*With much gratitude,
Brenda Blackhawk
Director of Communications*

Food Service Report



In 2022, it was a lot like how things looked pre-COVID. Volunteers were all back, ready to help. Thank you to the Monday volunteers for your continuous support in the kitchen. Community meals are back to normal numbers.

The community has enjoyed friendship and conversation while eating their meal. Now, we have little to no to-go meals.

We were also able to bring back Sunday lunches. It was great to see everyone again. More members are enjoying fellowship.

Street Voices of Change is still gathering for Thursday morning breakfast. Adam and Sherry continued to make delicious breakfasts.

The beginning of 2022 was very busy with numerous funerals being held. Thank you to all the funeral volunteers.

Adam decided to move on with his career. I wish him great success and hope he enjoys his new adventure. With Adam's leaving, Central hired a new kitchen assistant, Lorraine Wookey. Lorraine has been excited to learn the kitchen duties. She is also catching on very well to making meals for large groups. Lorraine and Sherry are making great breakfasts for Street Voices. If you see Lorraine, please feel free to introduce yourself and welcome her to Central.

Sherry, Lorraine, and I are looking forward to a wonderful 2023.

*God bless you all,
Mark Carroll
Food Service Coordinator*

Bishop's Report



God's grace, peace, and hope be with you through our Savior, Jesus Christ .

Like rain after an endless drought, the gift of gathering in person this year has quenched a deep thirst. The pandemic revealed anew the depth of our thirst for community; Scripture also articulates this profound human need. Advances in technologies like livestreaming are indeed gifts to our church and world. Still, our hearts sing when we can rub shoulders around the communion table, embrace those who grieve, and raise our voices together in resounding song.

The mission of the synod is to support communities who share the thirst-quenching love of God – forming disciples, building beloved community, and working for just and healthy neighborhoods. I am deeply grateful for the many ways that we walk together in our journey of faith.

The synod staff walks closely in partnership with congregations, especially in times of transition, planning, or conflict. Last year, we accompanied congregations in 58 call processes. We offer skills trainings for lay members through the annual Tool Kit, and for church staff through peer groups and communicators gatherings. And, our Faith Practices & Neighborhood Practices program strengthens congregations in faith formation and engaging their neighborhoods.

Synod staff also work closely with our deacons and pastors. We experience great joy when we gather with congregations for ordinations, installations, and Ministry Site Profile reviews, as well as in preaching, presiding, and offering adult forums. We support our interim pastors who provide wise leadership in times of transition and our chaplains who provide critical care in a variety of settings. And, currently, we support 50 seminary students preparing to become pastors and deacons.

Our congregations worship in Spanish, Swahili, ASL, Oromo, Hmong, Lao, Norwegian, and Amharic. As we celebrate our diversity, we also recognize inequities affecting our congregations. Using a “racial equity lens,” the synod council launched an in-depth process to evaluate and strengthen partnerships with our “strategic ministries,” addressing historical realities of disconnection and resource inequities.

As a synod together, we will gather again April 28-29 for Synod Assembly. All are welcome at the opening worship Friday night; voting members will carry out the business of the synod on Saturday. We are blessed with the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III as our keynote speaker.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Lutherans in our synod and in the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, the ground-breaking for the first ever Lutheran University in Nigeria occurred this December. We celebrate God's provision and look forward to the blessings this university will bring.

During my sabbatical, I have been studying “the church in the U.S. – hopes and challenges.” I would like to present some of my learnings as well as facilitate conversations in as many congregations as possible during the coming months. For more information about these visits or news about what's happening around the synod, please visit the synod website and sign up for our weekly enews.

In Christ,
Bishop Ann Svenningsen

Align End-of-year Letter



January 23, 2023

Dear Align Minneapolis Supporters,

Thank you for your generous support during 2022 of Align Minneapolis and our interfaith collaboration to address homelessness. Your donation helped Align continue our important work to inspire and educate our community, advocate for meaningful change across the housing spectrum, coordinate direct services for those on the margins, and partner with people with lived experience with homelessness.

2022 was a difficult year as we saw the end of federal and state COVID help and the eviction moratorium lifted, resulting in many people losing their housing and entering into homelessness. We also saw rising costs and unexpected emergencies cause increased instability and people getting behind on their rent. Our Emergency Rental Assistance program processed an unprecedented number of applications for assistance, and our program assisted 109 households in 2022 to get caught up on their back-due rent and prevent homelessness.

Our congregational organizing in 2022 included presentations about homelessness at many of our member congregations, and calls to action including advocating for increased investment in affordable housing at the local and state levels. We also launched our monthly newsletter in April of this year, providing timely updates and education to over 850 newsletter subscribers. Our seasonal guides (published three times per year) provided educational, volunteer, and goods drive opportunities to our network of congregations.

As we go into this new year, we know that the issues of housing and homelessness are as critical as ever and we are committed to working across our faiths and across private and public sectors to improve the lives of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. We are grateful to have you as a part of this work we do *together* to address homelessness.

Sincerely,

Katie Dillon
Director, Align Minneapolis
katie@alignmpls.org

Camp Amnicon



2022 Amnicon Report to Central Lutheran

2022 was another strong year of ministry for Amnicon. From summer group canoe trips, to retreat groups and cabin rentals – we continue to grow in the number of youth and adults who are experiencing grace and peace in the wilderness through our site and our programs. The impact these experiences have on the lives of our participants and guests continues to inspire and motivate our work together:

"I feel like I grew a lot this week, through the many thoughtful conversations, our deep campfire talks, the quiet moments in the woods, the hike to the lighthouse, the night sleeping on the beach. Thank you!" ~Fisher, 2022 Sr. High Camper

We are grateful we were able to help meet the needs of so many more people this past year. We are also grateful for the many people who came together to support the impactful ministry of Amnicon in even greater ways this past year.

As you may know, Amnicon has struggled with financial sustainability for many years while relying on a reserve fund to make up for yearly losses. Amnicon continued to operate at a budget deficit in 2022. An estimated \$23,000 in additional inflation-related expenses from food costs, utilities, and gas did not help. Regardless, 2022 was still our best financial year in over a decade. Income from individual donations, program income, and retreat/rental income all grew once again in 2022, continuing a trend since 2019.

Because of this growth and some alterations to our program to reduce expenses, we feel confident that 2023 can be the first year since 2007 that Amnicon breaks even financially. This is especially critical as the reserve fund that has been sustaining the organization for the last 10 years is now gone. In order to continue to work towards an inspiring future for Amnicon, our valued donors and supporters are as important as ever.

Our biggest new addition in 2022 was the construction of three new personal retreat cabins: Gratitude, Quietude, and Solitude. These beautiful river-view cabins will provide wonderful additional housing for guests and visitors.

We have much to celebrate at Amnicon. As our mission grows to serve more people, we give thanks to the community of Central Lutheran for your continued support and partnership with Amnicon.

With gratitude,

Jesse Weiss

Executive Director
Camp Amnicon

Tree of Life



Over the course of this past year, Tree of Life has celebrated a number of milestones, beginning last January with the official release of “Brightness and Shadows,” an Epiphany-themed setting of evening prayer developed through a multi-year collaborative effort of the community. In May Tree celebrated with Intern Sarah Hanson as she completed the MDivX program, finished her internship, and graduated from Luther Seminary. In the spring and early summer, the community took a big step towards organizing themselves as a congregation by forming a Steering Committee. There are currently five people serving on the committee.

In the fall Tree celebrated a wedding and a baptism, said goodbye to longstanding leaders, and learned they received a small grant from ELCA Young Adults in order to experiment with some group spiritual direction. December 2022 provided a nice bookend to the year with the premier of a second original setting of evening prayer, “As the Dark Awaits the Dawn.” This was again a collaborative project, with music composed by Assistant Musician-turned-Music Director Sophia Spiegel, who also wrote some portions of the script. Professor Trish Zimmerman of St. Olaf College was commissioned to write some original text, and several members of Tree of Life contributed to the composition of the prayers. Both original vespers services can be found on Tree of Life’s Bandcamp page, where you can purchase for yourself or gift others with digital downloads of this gorgeous liturgical music.

Tree of Life is in a transitional season right now, with a full turnover of paid leadership. Pastor Marissa Sotos ended her call in October, and after a leave of absence for the sake of discernment, Music Director Nate Cray ended his time with Tree in December. Rev. Dr. Catrina Ciccone began serving as the Interim Pastor in November. Sophia Spiegel, who had been functioning as the Music Director during Nate’s leave, officially transitioned into this role in December. Together with the Steering Committee and the members of Tree, we are working to discern what gifts Tree offers to the world, what gifts are already present among those participating in the community, what gifts are most needed in their next mission developer, and who/what God is inviting them to be in this next chapter of their life together.

The impact of this ministry is undeniable. When asked to share the difference Tree makes in their lives, we received notes like this:

“Tree of Life means so much to me as a young queer Christian. There is a small handful of spaces in my life where I can show up in my full authenticity without feeling guilty or like I have to suppress parts of who I am. The end of my first service at Tree last summer was when I decided that I was going to stop running from my call to ministry. If there was at least one space in the ELCA like Tree, I could begin to trust and envision my own future in the ELCA. Now, I’ve been accepted into two seminaries and am about to begin candidacy. Even as we work to find new equilibriums, I am deeply grateful for the home I’ve found at Tree.”

- Kayla Z

“As a Young Adult, I feel so grateful that we have a worshipping community that is tailored to my demographic. At Tree, I can show up as me, queerfully and wonderfully made, and know that I will leave with my cup more full than when I arrived. Tree of Life would not exist without the support of Central, so THANK YOU for the ways you support the ministry of Young Adults through this beautiful worshipping community. If you’re ever curious as to what we’re doing at Tree, please come and join us, we’d love to have you.”

- Ian H

I echo these thanks. It is a true gift to walk with this community in this transitional season, and the wide-ranging support that Central provides (financially, collegially, administratively, logistically, and prayerfully) is invaluable.

With gratitude and peace,
Rev. Dr. Catrina L. Ciccone

Columbarium Report



Central Lutheran Columbarium Association

COLUMBARIUM ASSOCIATION BOARD

Chuck Anderson
Joyce Anderson
Christopher Haug
Bill Masche
Mark Peterson
Les Rosecke
Karl Starr
David West



December 31, 2022

Columbarium Association Annual Report

We are pleased to have this opportunity to report to the Central Lutheran Church congregation on the activities of the CLC Columbarium Association during 2022. We continue to strive to support a dignified, elegant, and peaceful resting place in the care of the church. The dimmable LED lighting and motion detectors were added to the Columbarium in January 2022. Two sconces from the old building were refurbished and placed on either side of the entrance. We continue discussions on signage and other enhancements.

We encourage you to visit the Columbarium. Information about policies, procedures, and pricing are available on Central's website --- centralmpls.org/worship/columbarium. The Columbarium Board members, Pastor Peter, and Michael Acuña Dee are eager to visit with you and answer your questions.

The care and support we experience by our beloved Central Lutheran Church in life continues in our death as our bodies rest in the Columbarium.

If cremation is not an option for you, we have several gravesites available for purchase at Sunset, Hillside, and Crystal Lake cemeteries. These graves were purchased by Central families but never used and inherited by the congregation through estate gifts. The Columbarium Association is offering these gravesites at 50 percent of the current market rate. For further information, please contact Michael Acuña Dee or Joyce Anderson.

Columbarium Milestones

2014	Founding resolution; First wall construction and dedication.
2015	Established as stand-alone account; first entombment.
2021	Second wall construction and expansion dedication.
2022	LED lighting, motion detectors, and sconces added.
306	Number of total niches in Columbarium
71	Number of niches reserved in total as of Dec. 31, 2022
4	Number of entombments in this calendar year (since January 1, 2022)
57	Number of entombments in total as of Dec. 31, 2022

Entombments in this program year

...We look for the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come. Amen.

These bodies have been taken into the care of the Church until the Day of Resurrection:

+ Richard Kloos
+ George Berglund
+ Donna Lutz
+ Mary Steinke

Financial Statement – CLC Columbarium Association

Opening Balance	\$24,556.16
Niche Purchases	+ 10,600.00
Sale of Gravesites	+ 4,200.00
Lighting Expenses	- 2,568.00
Other Expenses	- 1,302.67
Closing Balance on 12/31/2022	\$35,485.49

Respectfully Submitted,
Joyce Anderson and Michael Acuña Dee
For the CLC Columbarium Association

CLC Foundation Report



The Central Lutheran Church Foundation Board met on May 18 and December 14, 2022. As the distribution rate was increased by a half of a percentage point to a record distribution of 6.75% by vote of the Board on May 18, for the year starting January 1, 2023, nothing was done at the December meeting to change that. A formula based on a 3 year average of the market value determines the amount of distribution. Even though the investment portfolio has fluctuated with the stock market, and in fact has decreased this year, the 3 year average formula has kept the distribution steady for now.

The five working committees have continued to meet throughout the year, including the Executive Committee, chaired by the President, which discusses necessary items to bring before the Board and to determine the agenda for the semi-annual Board meetings.

The Audit Committee, chaired by Kay Dixon, meets with the auditors to go over the draft of the annual audit report and sees to the distribution of those reports.

The Development Committee, chaired by Joyce Anderson, has developed and maintained the new Foundation website, which will be overseen by committee member Scott Fisher. Events are planned and carried out by this committee, including past events such as, church/foundation information session, elder fraud event, end of life series, surviving spouse luncheon and legacy partner promotion and recognition.

The Governance Committee, chaired by Chas Scheiderer, updates and retains governing documents, such as Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, etc. It also runs elections of Board members and officers and keeps in compliance with all governing matters.

The Investment Committee, chaired by Steve Studt, meets quarterly with the G. S. Investment managers, who then review the portfolio in detail and the benchmarks that are in use at the time. They may rule on what is acceptable as a gift and what is not acceptable.

As of December 31, 2022 the End Account Balance of the Foundation portfolio was \$21,114,486.74. This can and will change with the fluctuation of the stock market, with the gifts given and the distributions made to the church.

The amount of gifts received through memorials, designated funds, current outright gifts and estate and trusts for 2022, was a little under \$411,000.

Thank you for all who have contributed to the Foundation, attended the events scheduled and made inquiries. The Foundation helps to insure the success of Central's mission now and into the future.

Present members of the Foundation are: Emilie Anderson, Joyce Anderson (Vice President), Kay Dixon, Patrick Egan, Ron Fiscus, Scott Fisher, James Heintz (Secretary/Treasurer), Kari Lyle, Sara Masters (Director of Operations and Finance), Pastor Peter Nycklemoe-Senior, Charles Scheiderer, Steve Studt, and Bonnie Weisenburger (President).

Bonnie Weisenburger

Casavant Organ Report

Our Casavant organ plays a central role in our music program. It lifts the assembly's voice in song, supports the choir, and plays solo repertoire with sensitivity and musical depth. Designed in 1963 by Lawrence Phelps, it is arguably one of his finest instruments, worthy of preservation. However, it has experienced some problems in the last few years, and we are now in the planning stages of significant organ renewal.

The impetus for this project was various ciphers (notes that sound when they are not supposed to) and non-playing notes. Our organ technician, Russell Draeger, found that excessive winter dryness had caused cracks to form in the windchests. These cracks cause air pressure to escape, resulting in dead notes and ciphers.

The solution is to replace the windchests. (Restoration of the current windchests is not advisable because it would be an equally large project.) We are also considering replacing the original organ console, which has mechanical and electrical issues of

its own, with a new movable console. It is important to note that this project is unrelated to the 2006 restoration, which focused on pipework. That work is still in good condition.

We have assembled an organ committee to guide this process, which is now considering two bids. The committee members are:

- Pastor Peter Nycklemoe
- Isaac Drewes, Acting Director of Music
- Russell Draeger, Organ Technician and Consultant
- Deacon-Cantor Mark Sedio (recently retired, but continuing to serve on this committee)
- Phil Holst
- Judy Hadler
- Heruy Mesfen
- Lynn Erickson

At the annual meeting, we will report on our progress. Additionally, if you have any questions, please contact Isaac Drewes or Pastor Peter Nycklemoe.

Generosity Ministry Team Report

"Don't forget to do good. Don't forget to share with others. God is well pleased with these offerings."

Hebrews 13:16 (NIRV)

Can you believe it? March 2023 will mark three years since COVID ended the routines in our lives and in our worshipping community. During 2022, in-person worship and gatherings returned even as we accommodated some permanent changes like hybrid ministry team meetings and not passing the offering plate. Through it all, Central Lutheran was open and God's work in the world was possible because our culture of generosity continues to be accompanied by a culture of gratitude.

The Generosity Ministry team's first activity for 2022 was giving thanks for the generous support for the annual faith promise initiative. Both the total dollars pledged and the number of households submitting their financial intention to Central increased for 2022. In February, Valentines were sent to all Central households from the Generosity Team to share the message of God's love. "Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you." Isaiah 31.4

In May, the Generosity Team's members facilitated three adult forums entitled "Let's Talk About Resources". This three part series used case studies from the Lake Institute on Faith and Giving. Participants learned about big cultural changes that are occurring in communities and congregations and then were asked to use creativity and focus on the imaginative use of financial and non-financial resources God has entrusted to us. That same month, Generosity Team members wrote individual notes to welcome new members to Central.

In late August, the Generosity Team hosted new members for a casual dinner with a State Fair theme calling it "The Great Central Get together." This annual, fun evening is geared to welcoming and inviting new members to learn more about Central and get connected with worship, faith formation, and community ministries. They learned how our

congregation excels in generous acts within Central's programming and in our daily lives. Generosity and gratitude are infused into our lives at Central. The rostered leaders and the Nine-to-Dine team engaged new members at small tables to answer questions and encourage involvement.

Our annual generosity ingathering was held on October 29-30, Reformation weekend. The theme was from Jeremiah 29:11. "For surely I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "Plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Team members prepared temple talks in the weeks preceding the ingathering weekend. They handed out packets at worship services in October. The ingathering of our faith promises is a joyful response to God's abundance in our lives. Because of your responses, the Generosity Team is filled with hope and gratitude.

With thanksgiving, we share the news that 208 Central households have generously responded to God's love and the invitation to join in funding our missions in 2023. We know these numbers will grow. Worshipers can commit to this act of intention between you and God at any point. Faith promises and changes in your electronic giving are welcomed at any time by contacting the Business Office. As of January 23 these early faith promises total \$1,002,957! Each gift is important, and your faithfulness is truly a blessing.

A huge thank you and big note of appreciation to the members of the Generosity Team who invest their time, enthusiasm, creativity, can-do spirit and energy into our meetings and activities: Ken Hardy and Tom Edelen, Steve and Chris Dahlberg, Seth Peter, John Severtson, and Ron Fiscus. We are grateful for the leadership and inspiration Pastor Peter provides to us and our congregation.

Kathy Fiscus

Fiscal and Property Committee Report

The Fiscal and Property Committee resumed in person monthly meetings transitioning from zoom sessions. The committee is charged with reviewing the monthly financial reports with the treasurer and business manager. The income and expense reports, the balance sheet, the designated funds accounts, and the investment accounts are tracked. Minutes are taken at each meeting and are on file in the church office.

The committee tracks and reviews maintenance and capital projects at the monthly meetings. When necessary, committee recommendations for spending

are forwarded to the Congregation Council. The baptismal font, organ issues, building lighting, boilers, and roof issues and reviewing the annual audit were regular agenda items. The committee reviews the draft budget prepared by staff and sends its recommendation to the church council.

For 2023, the committee will continue reviewing the ongoing maintenance and capital projects that are part of maintaining the facility. There is never a shortage of items to address with the building and grounds.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Studt*

Building Renewal and Mission Forward Capital Appeal Final Report

The Mission Forward Capital Appeal came to a successful completion on December 31, 2022. The combined appeals, the Building Renewal and Mission Forward, spanned 2016-2022. We paused to give thanks to God and to each member of Central for this remarkable generosity in worship on Saturday, January 7 and Sunday, January 8. After worship, there was cake to celebrate, of course!

It was with joy and thanksgiving that we celebrated the successful completion of the Building Renewal and Mission Forward Capital Appeals and Projects. We offered thanks to God for the generosity from our congregation that has made this possible, all by God's grace. The total project cost, for both the building renewal and the mission forward appeal, was over \$16 million. With two capital appeals, from 2016 through 2022, the congregation contributed \$5.5 million dollars, combined with the Central Foundation's donation of \$750,000. With previously dedicated funds, debt reduction gifts, and budgeted principal payments, the total giving has been an amazing \$7.3 million. All this extra giving happened without a reduction in annual giving. Thank you for your generosity.

As a congregation, we voted to step out in faith and take on initial loans with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund of just over \$8.5 million. Your gifts directly empowered both capital appeals and have reduced the loan balance by over \$3 million. This includes the payoff of the prior loan before we began the projects. Now we move forward with a loan of \$6.5 million with mortgage payments within the regular annual budget at 3.5% interest rate for the next five years.

Do you remember all we have done to enhance our ministries here

at Central? The Great Room, commercial kitchen, Sunday school space, the free store and health commons, the meeting rooms, offices, lower narthex, parking lot upgrades, and the care for the stained-glass windows, sound and lights are among the blessings for the ministry and mission we are called to on this corner of the world. We communicate these accomplishments, so you have a sense of the deep gratitude we extend for our congregation's faithfulness and the abundance that God empowers here at Central.

Central Lutheran Church		
Building Project Summary - Phases 1 and 2		

Sources and Uses of Funds			
Sources	\$	%	
Mission Investment Fund (MIF) Loans	\$8,793,000	55%	
1st Capital Campaign	\$3,564,236	22%	
2nd Capital Campaign	\$1,942,983	12%	
Foundation Contributions	\$753,277	5%	
General Fund Principal Payments	\$696,762	4%	
Prior Designated Funds	\$216,669	1%	
Debt Reduction Donations	\$68,541	0%	
Miscellaneous	\$42,332	0%	
Total	\$16,077,800	100%	

Uses	\$	%	
Construction Costs	\$9,904,204	62%	
MIF Loans Paydown	\$2,434,301	15%	
Sanctuary Renovations	\$1,068,166	7%	
Prior Loan Payoff	\$647,239	4%	
Furniture & Equipment	\$593,441	4%	
Parking Lot	\$392,701	2%	
Short term mortgage interest	\$367,213	2%	
Financing & Campaign costs	\$227,360	1%	
Lower Narthex & Landscaping	\$235,636	1%	
Benevolence	\$150,000	1%	
Project Due Diligence	\$57,539	0%	
Total	\$16,077,800	100%	

Finance Report



With Obie's retirement last year, I started on this new adventure as director of operations and finance. It has been a year of learning and challenges, but I'm so glad I made the change.

We completed the Mission Forward Campaign at the end of 2022. Members gave \$259,000 last year, with the Foundation kicking in \$84,000. Thank you for your generosity. We had several extra mortgage principal payments that reduced the mortgage owed. We have now re-amortized the loans at 3.25% for the next five years to lower the payments as much as possible so that they will be entirely paid out of the operating budget this year.

In 2023, we look to a balanced budget. Offerings exceeded the budget forecast last year, and we anticipate the same in 2023. We also are assuming a growth in parking revenue in the new year. It probably won't be at pre-pandemic levels, but more than 2022. Looking at the Convention Center calendar, we are seeing more events coming back downtown and hope that translates to higher revenue for our parking lot. One such event that will be back is the auto show March 31-April 8 (During Holy Week!). We

are very thankful for this revenue that the parking lot generates as it directly supports the Restoration Center and our community outreach.

My job also encompasses events and daily goings on in the building. It is great to be able to work with everyone on the staff and members to make this place a welcoming place for all. We will have several events held in our building this year, like Festival of Homiletics, Luther Seminary Commencement, and a VocalEssence concert, to name a few.

I would like to thank Sara Klomp for serving as interim communications director part of last year while we looked for a new permanent person. In October, Brenda Blackhawk was hired, and she is a great addition to our staff.

In closing, I can't forget to thank Pat Hansen. Her spirit and joy have helped me with my transition this past year. She is a blessing to work with. And to the counters (Paul and Susan Troselius, Leon Tibben, Mary Farmer, Ron Wahlberg, Larry Gregerson, and Steve Dahlberg) who come in each week to count offerings. Thank you!

*Sara Masters
Director of Operations and Finance*

Assets and Liabilities

ASSETS

OPERATING	12/31/2022	12/31/2021	12/31/2020
Checking Accounts	\$142,233	\$208,892	\$288,935
Reserve Account	\$271,477	\$202,210	\$202,755
Align, TOL	\$176,717	\$227,812	\$240,365
TOTAL OPERATING ASSETS	\$590,427	\$638,914	\$732,054
 BUILDING & CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS			
Checking Accounts	\$32,342	\$54,432	\$315,881
Sanctuary and New Construction*	\$17,130,000	\$17,130,000	\$17,130,000
Parking Lot Land and Equipment**	\$5,714,286	\$5,714,286	\$5,714,286
TOTAL BUILDING & CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS	\$22,876,628	\$22,898,718	\$23,160,167
 DESIGNATED FUNDS (RESTRICTED)			
Checking Account	\$28,813	\$181,984	\$174,810
Funds Invested-ELCA	\$114,212	\$111,731	\$109,903
Life Insurance-Cash Surrender Value	\$29,684	\$26,601	\$27,790
Investments	\$386,456	\$419,542	\$352,261
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS ASSETS	\$559,165	\$739,858	\$664,764
 COLUMBARIUM	\$35,485	\$24,556	\$69,411
 TOTAL ASSETS	\$24,061,705	\$24,302,046	\$24,626,397

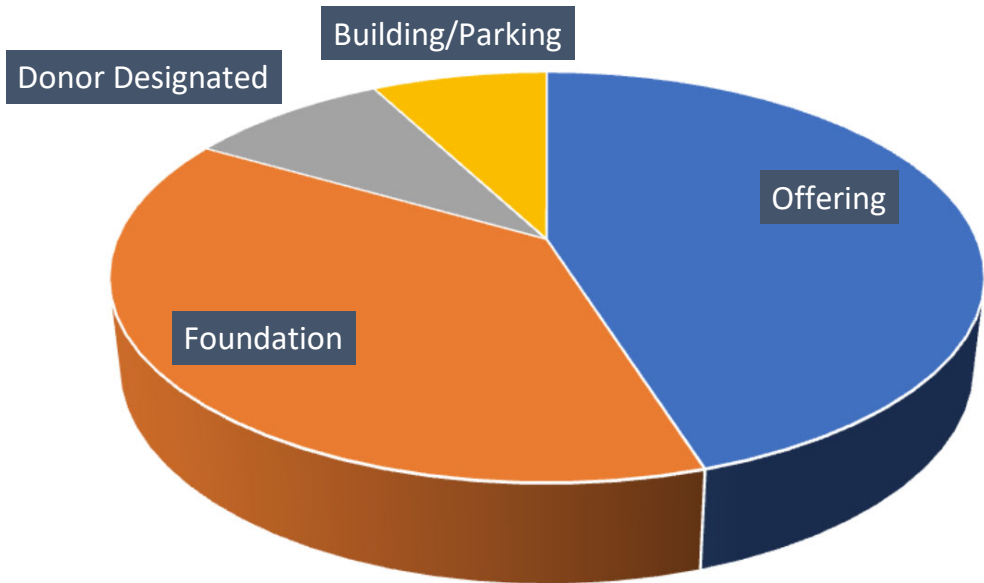
LIABILITIES

FUNDS HELD FOR OTHERS (ALIGN & TOL)	\$212,373	\$227,812	\$240,365
 MORTGAGE NOTES			
Long Term Note Payable-MIF	\$5,596,238	\$5,779,134	\$5,956,182
Short Term Note Payable-MIF	\$762,461	\$1,123,064	\$1,859,285
 DESIGNATED FUNDS (RESTRICTED)	\$553,266	\$726,505	\$621,774
 TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$7,124,338	\$7,856,515	\$8,677,606
 NET ASSETS	\$16,937,367	\$16,445,531	\$15,948,791

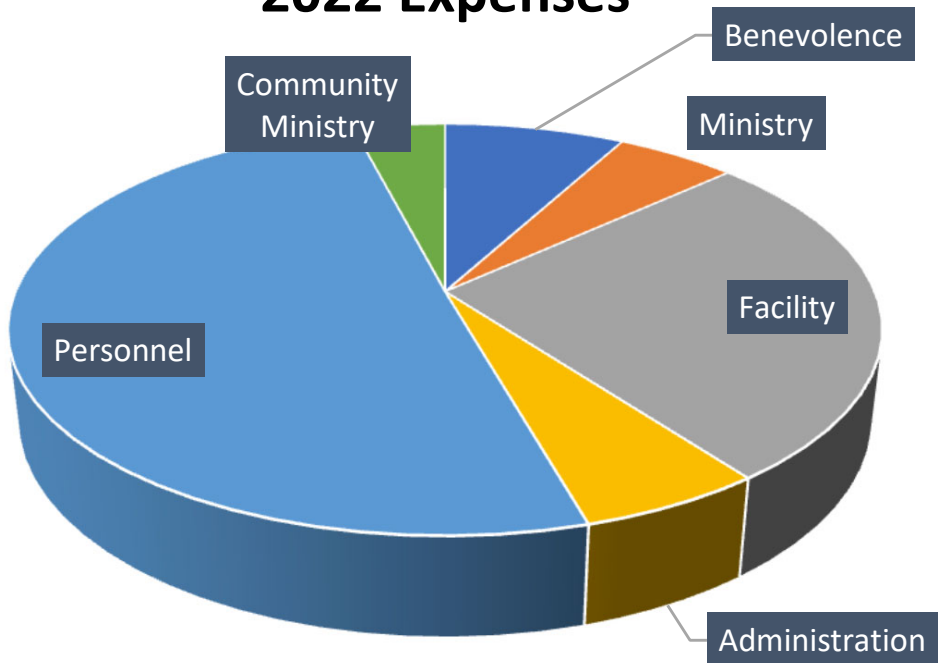
*Based upon a prospective appraisal dated September 29, 2017 obtained for the MIF loan application

**The valuation of the parking lot is based upon net operating income and a capitalization rate

2022 Revenues



2022 Expenses



2022 Designated Fund Summary

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
ACTS	\$827.00	\$827.00
Baptismal Font	\$83,811.84	\$20,787.10
Bequests	\$0.00	\$0.00
Book Club	\$600.00	\$600.00
Camp Amnicon Designated	\$1,350.30	\$1,350.30
Caring for Creation	\$792.65	\$792.65
Casavant Restoration Fund	\$0.00	\$15,022.48
Central Nursing Fund	\$1,143.22	\$1,143.22
Central Quilters	\$27.05	\$52.05
Circle of Hope	\$460.00	\$1,485.00
Community Ministry	\$86,711.93	\$43,878.64
Congregational Events	\$0.00	\$1,575.00
Covid Cont Ed Carryover	\$573.00	\$0.00
CYF	\$33,050.42	\$42,583.01
Debt Reduction	\$0.00	\$0.00
Designated Reserve	\$58,078.43	\$64,283.43
Downtown Music Festival-2015	\$2,007.43	\$0.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$0.00	\$100.00
Fine Art Acquisition	\$16,957.73	\$14,713.04
Floral Guild	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gardening Corps	\$3,547.40	\$3,068.10
Global Missions	\$16,204.21	\$21,640.24
Kitchen Fund	\$2,060.00	\$2,060.00
Library Reserve	\$8,154.42	\$8,154.42
Lighting Project Escrow	\$65,358.00	\$0.00
Long-term Projects	\$169,293.01	\$169,293.01
Maint & Sec Staff Discretionary	\$2,083.22	\$0.00
Memorials	\$1,050.00	\$14,761.00
Men's Fellowship	\$921.42	\$0.00
MF Lutheran Health Care Bangladesh	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Music Commission	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Music Fund	\$22,964.15	\$29,843.85
Organ Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$6,642.00	\$767.44
Peace & Justice Forums	\$2,556.60	\$1,656.60
Prayer Shawls	\$567.43	\$827.43
Repair Fund (Consumables)	\$58,536.82	\$41,090.66
Saturday Night Worship	\$844.94	\$0.00
Sem Scholarships (Hanson & others)	\$3,765.80	\$5,505.73
Senior Adult Ministry	\$34,726.09	\$33,128.91
Sound and Technical	\$2,214.23	\$1,276.66
Staging Lift	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Ukraine Crisis Response	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ushers	\$5,602.52	\$0.00
Youth Gathering Parking	\$2,022.22	\$0.00
Total Restricted Net Assets	\$726,505.48	\$553,266.97

Proposed Budget

Accounts	Budget 2023	Budget 2022	Actual 2022
Revenues			
Regular Offering	\$1,500,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,454,615
Building Usage Revenue	\$17,000	\$10,000	\$16,800
Parking Revenue	\$325,000	\$220,000	\$262,555
Foundation Revenue	\$1,296,000	\$1,212,000	\$1,232,814
Kitchen Cash Receipts	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$8,416
Donor Designated Restoration Ctr	\$162,350	\$106,750	\$171,457
Donor Designated Global Mission	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,499
Donor Designated Audio Visual	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Donor Designated Music	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
Donor Designated CYF	\$30,000	\$42,000	\$42,000
Donor Designated Seniors	\$30,000	\$42,000	\$42,000
Donor Designated Seminarian Support	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Interest/Investment Revenue	\$500	\$15,000	-\$38,237
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total CLC Revenues	\$3,393,350	\$3,082,750	\$3,225,967
Other Revenues			
Estate Gifts	\$0	\$0	\$13,754
Wedding and Funeral Services	\$0	\$0	\$34,847
Total Revenues	\$3,393,350	\$3,082,750	\$3,274,570

Proposed Budget (continued)

Expenses			
Mission Emphasis (Benevolence)			
Churchwide Partnership	\$62,400	\$60,000	\$60,000
ELCA Mission Start (North Loop)	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$24,999
ELCA South Sudan Mission	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Young Adults Global Mission (YAGM)	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Bright Stars of Bethlehem	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Luther Seminary CPL	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,550
Synod Leadership	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$10,640
MN Council of Churches	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Lutheran Healthcare Bangladesh	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Lutheran World Relief	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
China Service Ventures	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Wycliffe-Follingstad	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Wycliffe-Gaultney	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Envision Community (tiny homes)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Align Minneapolis (Partner Support)	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
Mental Health Connect	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
ERA (Align Mpls)	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Lutheran Social Services	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Augsburg Health Commons	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
Camp Amnicon	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
ReconcilingWorks	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total Mission Emphasis (Benevolence)	\$282,400	\$270,000	\$259,190
Ministry Emphasis			
Worship Life Ministry	\$30,000	\$25,750	\$23,802
Music Ministry	\$41,950	\$29,950	\$40,294
Children/Youth/Family Ministry	\$22,750	\$21,250	\$16,010
Community Ministry	\$132,350	\$106,750	\$131,657
Fellowship Ministry	\$41,000	\$24,000	\$75,157
Other Ministries	\$24,300	\$15,300	\$17,906
Total Ministry Emphasis	\$292,350	\$223,000	\$304,830

Proposed Budget (continued)

Facility Expenses			
Building Operations	\$175,500	\$177,000	\$181,315
Utilities	\$162,000	\$125,000	\$161,094
Mortgage Loans	\$377,160	\$368,004	\$368,004
Foundation Escrow	\$120,000	\$108,000	\$108,000
Exterior Maintenance	\$50,000	\$40,000	\$44,920
Total Facility Expenses	\$884,660	\$818,004	\$863,334
Congregational Life			
Administration	\$169,050	\$127,550	\$155,255
Council & Committees	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$3,883
Communications	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$2,355
Banking, Legal, and Audit	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$28,352
Total Congregational Life	\$212,250	\$170,750	\$189,847
Personnel			
Facility Staff	\$118,592	\$116,006	\$114,416
Ministry and Admin Staff	\$868,303	\$820,385	\$829,386
Security & Restoration Staff	\$346,794	\$342,223	\$337,782
Employee Benefits	\$294,818	\$309,379	\$313,119
Continuing Education	\$18,500	\$18,500	\$13,465
Mileage & Expense Accounts	\$11,000	\$10,050	\$8,848
Misc Personnel Expense	\$49,840	\$16,200	\$24,948
Total Personnel	\$1,701,847	\$1,632,743	\$1,641,966
Non-budgeted Wedding and Funeral Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$20,225
Total Expenses	\$3,373,507	\$3,074,497	\$3,279,393
Net Total	\$19,843	\$8,253	-\$4,823

Nominating Committee Report

Here are the leaders that the Nominating Committee recommends for approval by the Council.

Council:

President: Jeff Block – 1 year remaining on term
Vice President: Rexanne Spicer – 1 year remaining on term
Secretary: Heidi Tysk-Poppe – 1 year remaining on term
Treasurer: Karl Starr – 2-year term

At Large:

Julie Anderson – 1 year remaining on term
Rachel Moeller – 1 year remaining on term
Rod Richter – 1 year remaining on term
Ann Oyen – 2-year term
PJ Ritters – 2-year term
Laurel Stewart – 2-year term

Nominating Committee:

David Brenke – 1 year remaining on term
Matt Grahn – 1 year remaining on term
Cathy Egan – 1 year remaining on term
Jenna Harvieux – 2 years remaining on term
Karen Hielsberg – 2 years remaining on term

New - confirmed:

Sara Stensaas – 2-year term
Eric Penne - 3-year term
Claire Johnson – 3-year term
Meghan Eliason – 3-year term

Audit Committee:

Bruce Ellingson – 1 year remaining on term
Mary Farmer – 3-year term
Aaron Sankey – 3-year term

Synod Assembly:

Christa Olson
Karen Knox
Judith Hedman
Brian McKinley



Exploring the Promise of God for All

You are welcome.
No exceptions.



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