



**2023 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE CONGREGATION
January 29, 2023**

2023 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, January 29, 2023

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2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Call to Order

Called to order by Robert Hall at 10:45 am.

Opening prayer by Pastor Mike

33 in attendance, 10 online.

Prayer

Approval of Minutes from 2021 Congregational Meetings:

Annual meeting of January 26, 2021

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2021

by Justin Noel. Second – Mary Kunkel. Approved.

Reports:

President – Blessed and thankful for those members of the congregation who are with us. Exciting things happening within the congregation. Lots of changes since the 20 years when the congregation was formed. Thank you for the last year and staying committed and hopeful

Pastor – Lots of changes within the last 2 years. How we are worshiping and doing communion. Thank you for being flexible. The greatest changes are the members that we have lost through death and those who are moving. Blessed for the number of new faces and members who have joined the congregation. Thank you to all our members and lots of hope moving forward.

Christian Education – Worked with a ministry leadership team on recommendations to improve our Christian ministry. Will be using a blend of large, small and intergenerational group formats for our in-person gatherings and supplementing with home and family-based activities. Will be adjusting volunteer recruitment and retention approach so as those who are serving will not feel overburdened. Making the most of our existing events (Hosanna Day, Rally Day, Christmas Program) as anchor points for each month's programming.

Evangelism – Team reboot during 2021. Working on internal Church signage to make it easier for visitors to navigate. Also taking considerations for outside signage and along nearby streets and roadway.

Christmas marked the first time for Hosanna! Providing yard signs for members to place in yards to invite people to Christmas Service.

Working on website and social media re-design.

Discussing Visitor welcome packet and Hosanna! Swag

Property – Needing extra help to lend a hand to assist in keeping up appearances. Big property and needs the added assistance.

Social Ministries – Many projects to help those in the community including, Valentines for Vets, In As Much Ministry, and MLM Christmas store activities including Coat Drive, Christmas in July and the Christmas Store volunteers

WELCA – The Hosanna Women is comprised of 'Shirley Circle'. This group meets monthly, combination of Zoom and in-person meetings. The meetings consisted of devotions, business meeting, bible study and a time to fellowship. This group donated to the following projects: In As Much Ministry, Harvesters, Liberty Hospital Snacks for employees, Central States Synod WELCA Educational Scholarship Fund, and Central States Synod WELCA – 10% of offering.

Prayers Weavers sub-group donated 1670 blankets in 2021 going to the following organizations: Children's Mercy Hospital, Children's Mercy Hospital Northland Clinic, Children's Mercy Hospital in St Joseph, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Boy's home in Liberty, Girl's home in Liberty, Synergy and other children's organization which wish to remain private.

Minutes Continued...

Worship and Music – Our leadership from Pastor Mike and Dr Dan is crucial to the success of our Worship time. The ability to have in-person, on-line and sometimes outside worship services. The adaptability of the Altar Guild, Pastor Mike and worship assistants to find new and better ways to share the meal.

Stewardship – Council took a hard look at where our giving comes from. The 15 deaths and moves that have occurred has been significant loss of gifts to the congregation. If you can, give a little more or take the next tier. Survey on how to assist and be involved in serving Hosanna! Those online, there is a form to fill out. Thank you for all the gifts.

Treasurer's Report -Checking has a balance around \$74, 6396.19, mortgage \$805, 257.81 for end of year. Covid had a significant impact on our budget. Expenses has not gone down. Office area has reduced the amount of expense and trimmed any unnecessary spending. Insurance coverage has gone up, as building materials have increased. Budgeting a short fall of \$23, 584. The payroll protection act has assisted in maintaining the accounts with a positive balance. Recommendation to recruit new members.

Audit Committee Report – There were no abnormalities found. A couple of concerns with two years of deposits together but were able to reconcile the journal and account statements against each other. A checklist created moving forward to be consistent with each audit.

Parish statistics

Old Business

None

New Business

Mary Kunkel - 2022 Nominations and Elections

For those on the phone, Robert read off the nominations

Tony Belcher – President, Justin Noel- Vice President (1 yr term), Ben Cerra – Treasurer, Council – Alyssa Willett, Duane Witt (2 yr term)

Nominating 2022- Brad Kunkel, Jamie Heil, Sue Tonks, Jane Bradbury, Jane Gibbs & Beth Schoening

Audit – Robert Hall

Justin Noel motioned to close the ballot for voting, Beth Schoening seconded. All approved.

Robert recognized those who has served and nominated

Nancy made motion to accept the nominations, Justin seconded. All approved

The online ballot was sent out and participants on the phone were given the opportunity to vote.

Voting completed with all approving

2022 Budget

Council presented the 2022 budget. Mary Kunkel motioned to accept 2022 budget, Justin Noel seconded. Approved.

Election Results:

Council Officers

President – Tony Belcher (1st year of 2 year term)

Vice President – Justin Noel (1st year term to complete Tony Belcher 2nd Year term)

Secretary - Janeen Bollhoefer (Continuing council)

Treasurer – Ben Cerra (New to council)

Council

Duane Witt - (1st year of 2 year term)
Alissa Willett - (1st year of 2 year term)
Jeanine Stubbs – (2nd year of 2 year term)
Beth Schoening – (2nd year of 2 year term)
Jane Gibbs – (2nd year of 2 year term)

Synod Assembly

Boyd and Louise Ahrens

Audit

Bryan Williams 3 year term- Continuing [2020, 2021, 2022]
Scott Schmidt 3 year term- Continuing [2021,2022,2023]
Robert Hall 3 year term (2022, 2023, 2024]

Nominating committee for 2022: Beth Schoening – Outgoing Council, Jane Gibbs – Outgoing Council, Brad Kunkel, Jamie Heil, Sue Tonks, and Jane Bradbury
Ballot count – unanimously approved, 43 Yes (33 in person, 10 online)

Capital Campaign – Suggestion to replace HVAC units. Four units for sanctuary alone, 11 total needs to be replaced. We are in discovery phase, but we need to be aware of the AC replacements. Raise enough money to replace the 4 of 6 sanctuary AC units. Two of the units have already been replaced. Fundraising very similar to how we did the parking lot. Floor throughout the church needs to be replaced as well. No firm plans, and this is on our radar.

Changes to Continuing Resolution C13.07.A06 – Suggestion by the ministry alliance change name from Christian Education to Faith Formation. Also included in what is entailed is included in worship. Removing Health and Wellness from a Committee – Beth Schoening and Mary Kunkel have offered to provide Blood Pressure checks whenever anyone needs them. We also have medical equipment for members to borrow.

Mary made motion to change Christian Education to Faith Formation. Justin Noel seconded. All approved.

Mary indicated that we really want to start the choir back up. Please consider being a part of the choir.

Justin made motion to close annual meeting. Mary seconded. All approved.
Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Prayer

*Respectfully submitted by Janeen Bollhoefer
January 30, 2022*



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello and Happy 2023!

This past year felt as if we were making strides back to a semblance of what we used to know as “normal”. Under the direction of Dr. Dan, the choir was able to start meeting again and has performed many times during our Sunday services. During service, we have been able to move back to in-person communion without using disposable cups and lids. Finally, after service we are now able to join in fellowship with our friends and family. One of the best things we were able to bring back last year was the in-person children’s Christmas program; thank you to all who worked hard to make that such a great success!

As we move forward, there is plenty for us as a congregation to be excited about. We have seen many new faces join HOSANNA! this last year and we look forward to more new faces. In 2023. Also, in 2022 came the announcement of the development on the other side of A Highway. This has the potential to give HOSANNA! much more visibility to those who do not know about us. Knowing that this development will bring more housing to our area, the council has started exploring the possibility of using the education wing to house a daycare.

The renewed excitement that I feel throughout the congregation and thinking about the future of HOSANNA! has my family and I very excited. We could not be any happier than we are at HOSANNA! and we look forward to all that this year has in store for us, and the years to come.

Tony Belcher



PASTOR'S REPORT

“Thus says the Lord, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert . . . to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.” - Isaiah 43:19-21

Early in my ministry with you (6.5 years ago!) I sometimes described Hosanna! as being like a teenager--17 years old and still trying to figure out who we are and what we want to do when we grow up. We’re 23 now, we’ve graduated from pandemic college, and I think we’ve grown up a lot.

I’ve been especially encouraged by the vision work the council has done this past year, as well as the formal and informal conversations we’ve all had together in worship, faith formation, and fellowship. **We’ve identified our core values and our God-given talents: meaningful relationships, grace and acceptance, generosity, and joy.** We want to get to know and respect people for who they are, welcome and nourish kids, and for all people (no matter their age) to feel valued, connected, and sustained.

I believe we've always valued these things, but now that we've identified their centrality to our identity, we have the opportunity to lean into them. With these values in mind, our faith formation team has focused on intergenerational activities and having intentional conversations together through our LiFT (Living in Faith Together) monthly guides. We've resumed our Lunch Bunch, started God on Tap, and are talking about more opportunities to gather and get to know each other more deeply. New families with young kids are joining our ministry. We're working to better understand neurodiversity (the different ways our brains work) and to support and value those who might appear "different." The council is talking about how to better engage those who are inactive, marginally involved, and homebound. In the office, we're developing a plan for regular mailings to children and seniors to foster connection. I am personally reevaluating how I spend my time, and how I can better delegate so that I can focus more on spending time with people, coordinating connections, and building relationships.

Hosanna! offers something unique in the church and in our community. In an increasingly polarized world-- between young and old, well-to-do and scraping by, busy and retired, liberal and conservative --we are choosing relationship and connection with one another. We are seeking God's will for our lives, building up instead of tearing down.

Although many congregations are aging and struggling to engage kids, we are blessed with so many children among us. Many face declining membership, but we are holding steady and looking forward to growth. Most churches are struggling with finances, but we have hope based on potential daycare relationships, local housing development, and caring people who invest in our ministry. **A lot of congregations are focused on and lamenting who they once were, but we're excited about who we are now and the growth ahead of us.**

As we begin another year in our twenties, we are focused on what it will take to be who we want to be. I invite you to join us in taking responsibility for making it happen. It's going to take commitment, work, and sacrifice. We're going to have to choose between competing priorities. We're going to have to try to new things and let go of others. We're going to fail and get back up again. **But we are not going to back down from the responsibility of creating the church and the community we yearn to be a part of.**

We do this confident that we have all the resources we need in one another and in the God who is leading us, equipping us, and bringing us to new life. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord . . .

Pastor Mike Kern



FAITH FORMATION

It has been a year of growth, creativity, and fun for the faith formation programs at Hosanna. As we all continue to find our way forward after the pandemic, we are uniquely positioned to be bold in trying new things and testing old models to see what fits us best now.

The faith formation committee combined the insights from our consulting partner, Ministry Leadership Initiative, with feedback from congregation members and developed a new monthly rotational model for the 2022-2023 school year (September to May). Each week of the month offers a different approach to learning and growing in faith for people of all ages, including intergenerational, small group, traditional age-based classes, and service projects. One key Bible story and theme carries throughout each month, so that we can go deeper and explore more connections to our faith, families, and friends at Hosanna.

The best way to learn is through experience, so if you haven't had a chance to join us for faith formation yet this year, you can start anytime!

Submitted by Alison Kern



EVANGELISM/FELLOWSHIP

Members include Jeanine Stubbs, Pam Schmidt, Sarah Read, Bill George, Nancy Kunkel, Alison Kern and John Canuteson.

1. CHURCH SIGNAGE

In 2022, the interior and exterior signage for the church was completed. Thanks to Pam Schmidt and her Cricut machine skills for creating the signs. Last year, the signage hung made it easier for visitors and members to quickly identify the key rooms of the church upon entry as well as within the interior of the building. In 2022, additional signs were placed on some of the exterior doors to better designate for visitors where into the building the doors would lead them.

Still pending for the committee are creation and placement of signs along various roadways to help guide visitors to Hosanna!

Christmas of 2022 marked the second year Hosanna! members were invited to display yard signs to invite people to Hosanna! for Christmas services.

2. TAILGATE EVENT

In October, Hosanna! Hosted a tailgate event at the request of Christian radio station Life 88.5.

Members from Hosanna! were on hand to serve ice cream floats and hand out Hosanna! stickers that were made specifically for the event.

3. DINNER IN/DINNER OUT GROUPS

Dinner groups resumed in 2022 and drew terrific interest from members of the congregation. We had 2 rounds of groups. The first group met 4 times in the first 6 months of the year and the second group met 4 times during the last 6 months. Our group size increased from 22 in round one to 33 in round 2. During round two, we expanded the options to get together to include meeting in a restaurant setting in addition to the in-home setting. We had a terrific cross section of demographics in the groups including not only couples, but singles, and families with children. Participants ranged in age from preschool to 90+. These dinner groups provided all those who participated the chance to get to know one another beyond visiting following Sunday services and certainly fueled deeper relationships with one another.

4. ON SITE MEALL EVENTS

Numerous meal events and other opportunities to gather for fellowship were hosted in 2022.

Events ranged from bingo and after service brunch fundraising events to a fall pie auction. The participation from church members was strong at all events, many of which were aimed to support raising funds needed to replace 2 HVAC units which were successfully installed prior to the end of the year.

If anyone would like to join the evangelism team, please contact Jeanine Stubbs @ 816.309.2322.



Respectfully submitted by Jeanine Stubbs

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Women of the ELCA is a churchwide organization. The mission of the Women of the ELCA is: "Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ". Our Purpose Statement as Women of the ELCA is: "As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our calling, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world." The Hosanna Women of the ELCA is comprised of Shirley Circle.

We met the second Monday of each month with a combination in-person and Zoom meetings due to the weather. As of the end of the year, Shirley Circle had 11 members. Each month meetings consisted of a devotion, business meeting, bible study from the Women of the ELCA Gather magazine, and a time of fellowship. We held an ice cream social in August and a Christmas gathering in December was held at the home of Karen Orrill.

2022 Projects consisted of the following:	
Central States Synod WELCA – 10% of Offerings	ELCA National Welca
Gift Cards to School Teachers	Liberty Community Christmas
SafeHome	Liberty Meals on Wheels
In As Much Ministry – donated ~ 29 pair socks for children	
Love Inc. – donated ~ 30 Back to School Kits for Kids (hygiene), ~ 70 packages Baby Wipes	
<i>Total donations of \$892.50, excludes individual donations to IAMM and Love Inc.</i>	

Each month members of the Shirley Circle called, visited or sent cards to Hosanna members to brighten their day.

Two WELCA members, Louise Ahrens and Karen Orrill, attended the 34th Central States Synod Annual WELCA Convention in July which was held in Overland Park. The Theme for the Convention was "Rejoice in Hope" and was woven throughout the weekend. There were several inspirational speakers. A business meeting was held to handle business and elect officers. Bible Study, prayer, and fellowship remain central for all the WELCA units. Louise Ahrens will serve as an at-large delegate for the 2023 Triennial meeting in September in Phoenix.

All women are welcome to join our meetings and other events held by Women of the ELCA. For 2023, we look forward to another year of gathering together. We plan to serve as we have been, however, projects supported may vary as we go forward.



Respectfully Submitted, Marty Berggren, President Hosanna WELCA

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Christian social ministry is generally defined as *activities carried out by redeemed individuals called by God to proclaim the good news, to minister to the needy and to seek justice for all.* Hosanna! Lutheran accomplished this mission in many ways in 2022:

- **Valentines for Vets** - Members of the congregation donated items to package up 134 hygiene kits that were delivered to the VA Clinic in Excelsior Springs in time for Valentines Day.
- **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** - Hosanna members collected bedding for this organization in March/April
- **MLM Christmas in July** - A generous amount of household items were donated during the month of July.
- **Rebuilding Together Day** - Members of the congregation volunteered to help a retired school teacher in Excelsior Springs with repairs and improvements to her home in September.
- **Alzheimer's Walk** - Hosanna sponsored a team in the Liberty Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimers on October 8. Hosanna raised \$550.
- **In As Much Ministry** - A Thrivent Action Team event for the benefit of IAMM was held on Oct. 22 at Price Chopper. Volunteers handed out flyers to shoppers with the list of items in need. In addition, food and hygiene donations are always welcome year around and can be brought to church and placed in the food wagon.
- **MLM Christmas Store** - Once again Hosanna collected a large variety of items for the Christmas Store during the month of November and the items were delivered the first week of December. 1024 households were served. It is a little under 4,000 individuals.

Thank you to everyone who contributed one way or another to these worthwhile projects in 2022

Social Ministry Team members

Jane Gibbs, Donna Krugman, Sarah Oprinovich, Karen Orrill, Joyce Uber, Karen Weber, Marjorie Yates

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Uber



PROPERTY

While the church sat quietly, awaiting patiently for our return, this past year has been bright and exciting as a place to rekindle with friends and family, as well as meet new friends. It is that special place of tranquility that we are able to gather and pray. As always it takes a lot of hands to help maintain this building and the surroundings outside. I really appreciate everyone who helps put in time to keep this structure up and running. It doesn't matter if the time is small or great, as every little bit helps. I would like to thank Steve who has greatly helped by coming up and cleaning the church weekly. Your hard work is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank Pastor Mike for his time in researching and helping get some of these projects completed. As mentioned last year report, I would like to say that we accomplished several projects around here. First, the church sign was showing signs of deterioration, as the brick was breaking apart and no longer attached to the mortar. This has been repaired and looks good. We hope another twenty years will continue to shine the light of messages. While we are on the subject of light, the lights in the church has been updated to LED. With this new change, the inside looks a lot brighter and hopes that we can save on the electricity bill as well as the environment. We had another Boy Scout do a project which cleaned the front of the church by the patio and retaining wall. Hopefully, we can maintain control of the weeds and any bushes from too much overgrowth.

As we look into this new year, there will be always be something that can be helped on. One is that

as it gets warmer and plants return, we always could use help weeding around the church and trimming up the bush. While we know it is hard to get people together as a group to do these at times, but if you have time and notice an area that needs some tender, loving, care that needs improvement, then go for it. Just putting thirty minutes into pulling weeds, goes a long way. A project that we are looking into, is fixing the columns near the entry ways, as they are deteriorating and need to be replaced. We are looking at replacing with PVC, so it can weather better and last longer. Recently, we found some shingles down on the ground, and will need to fix a patch on the roof, where we assume several high winds may have loosened them and tore them off. We will be looking at a company that can repair that as well as fixing a few areas of the siding that has been torn off by wind. As last summer was pretty hot, it kept us from waiting to work on the back of the church, by pushing the amount of brush and overgrowth away from the church. This will be looked into and see if we can get this accomplished this year. If you have any ideas or something that we need to look into, please don't hesitate to let us know. Also, if you know of a Boy Scout who needs another project, I'm sure we can help in that area.

Submitted by Scott Schmidt, Property Chair



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

What a wonderful year of meaningful worship we have had at Hosanna! From new candle lighters to a full choir offering their gifts and everything in between, we are blessed. We have continued online services along with our in person worship and have seen consistency in that attendance. Throughout 2022, we have eased restrictions for distribution of Holy Communion and now offer the individual cups of wine and wafers as we had pre-pandemic. Our practices will continue to be monitored for the safety of the congregation. We are mindful that the cost for supplies (candles, cups, wafers, flowers, etc.) continues to increase. Thus, we are attempting to not be wasteful of our resources.

This year we are especially thankful for:

- All who volunteer their time and talents to worship by being acolytes, crucifers, blessers, altar guild members who prepare, and clean-up Holy Communion, audio/video tech, communion assistants, lectors, counters, greeters, ushers, and fellowship hosts.
- Karen Weber who served on Altar Guild this past year.
- Three new candle lighters: two with wicks and one with a small oil reservoir.
- The assistance of the volunteers who help keep the sanctuary clean.
- The supplies prepared to help make our worship space neurodivergent friendly.
- The worship and music planning team.
- All involved in another wonderful Christmas program.
- Pastor Mike and his continued work in all areas of Hosanna! each week, including, but not limited to: setting-up the audio-video for worship streaming, finding props for children's sermons and graciously meeting with each and every family after services.

If you want to get involved in any aspect of the planning of worship services, please reach out and we'll get you connected to the right folks! My email is margaretgrote@gmail.com. Make a joyful noise from wherever you can worship this coming year.

Prepared by Margaret Grote and Katharine Fairchild



STEWARDSHIP

We are grateful for everyone who shared their time, talents, love, and finances with the congregation in the past year. We recognize that many of you went above and beyond what you planned. Thank you!

Highlights from 2022:

- Although pledging givers exceeded their pledges as a whole, our unpledged offering income was down about \$30,000 from what we anticipated. We had expected a moderate post-pandemic-crisis “bump” that did not materialize.
- Once the giving trend was identified mid-year, the council determined that we no longer receive numerous large gifts from members who have passed away or moved. The council then began working to identify additional revenues.
- Pandemic stimulus grants available in 2020 and 2021 that helped our balance were not available in 2022.
- The RaiseRight gift card fundraising program was introduced in the fall.
- We gave over \$20,000 to replace two (of eleven) aging HVAC units. We revised our goal mid-year due to increased HVAC prices and the pace of giving. This investment reduce utility costs, maintenance costs, and potential crisis-fueled replacements.
- We utilized rebates from our Evergy to replace all our fluorescent lights with LED at no cost to the congregation, but will reduce utility and maintenance costs in the future.
- We converted our membership database to the Breeze platform in order to take advantage of cloud-based systems, improve record-keeping, streamline giving processes, provide member access to a current online membership directory, and provide increased functionality with decreased time required for staff.
- As attendance rebounded and participants felt more comfortable, opportunities to serve in worship and other ministries were increased from pandemic-crisis levels.
- Members were invited to update contact information and take new pictures for the database transition.
- Members were encouraged to fill out a Time and Talent Inventory to let us know how they’d like to serve and participate in the ministry of the congregation.

What is ahead for 2023:

- Our bank balance will allow us to continue for most of the year at the current rate of income and expenses.
- We will receive \$1,000+ from a full year and increased participation in the RaiseRight gift card program.
- We have filed for the federal Employee Retention Credit, and expect to receive \$1,770.
- The council is researching grant opportunities and how they can be used to support new and ongoing ministry and maintenance.
- A new picture directory will be printed, and access to an online directory will be available through our Breeze database.
- We will put the Time and Talent Inventory information to better use, and visit with active participants who have not filled it out.
- The council is exploring a partnership with a local daycare seeking to rent space wanting to expand their capacity. It would provide a significant boost to income (it will not balance our books alone). *Additional details are provided on the next page . . .*



No matter how you give, you can track your giving by creating a Breeze account at hosannaliberty.breezechms.com/login. With this account, you can give online and make recurring gifts. You can also manage your worship sign-ups. Soon, you’ll even be able to access our member directory.



RaiseRight™

Support Hosanna! when you shop. Buy e-gift cards online or on your phone, then use them to pay when you shop. Get started at www.raiseright.com/enroll.
Enrollment code: ZQYW7RKE5MRL

If you haven’t filled out a Time and Talent Inventory, fill it out at www.hosannatogether.org/pledge.

If your contact information has changed or you haven’t had your picture taken, please send them Cathy in the church office.

DAYCARE POSSIBILITIES

Since Hosanna! has had a building, it has been a dream of many to use our space for daycare or preschool throughout the week. Although this hasn't materialized in the past, and the time hasn't been right, budget shortfalls and conversation in the council have led us to pursue this possibility with renewed vigor.

The congregation council has begun talking with a local daycare that has expressed interest in expanding their capacity by opening a second campus in Hosanna's building. We are still early in the process, but we wanted to be open about this pursuit and address some questions we've asked and heard from members.

- **What space will they use? Will we still be able to use those rooms?**

The daycare is interested in most of the education wing, upstairs and downstairs. Whether they will use the upstairs restrooms and/or fellowship hall has yet to be determined. They would also require space outside, probably the lower patio and surrounding space. We intend to maintain the ability to use almost all or all of the rooms ourselves. However, we may need to be creative when it comes to storage space, and flexible when it comes to how the space is arranged.

- **What's the benefit to us?**

Not only will we receive rental income, people with young children will regularly be in our building and know us. We hope to have open communication with the daycare and support one another.

- **Are they for-profit? Can we trust them?**

The daycare is for-profit and already licensed by the state. Some of Hosanna's kids currently attend this daycare, which is how we got connected. Even so, before we make commitments, we will conduct due diligence and draft a contract that details permissible and impermissible uses, costs, insurance, terms of cancellation and renewal, and much more. We will consult professionals in drafting the contract, so if you have recommendations for real estate and/or legal advice, please let us know!

- **How many kids will they have? How much will we receive in rent?**

The state is examining our layout and will determine the square feet qualifying for daycare. That number will dictate how many kids the daycare can have, and how much we'll be able to charge for rent. We anticipate the income will lead to a significant reduction of our deficit, but not eliminate it completely.

- **What is the impact on our insurance, liability, and tax-exempt status?**

We expect some impact on our insurance rates, but the daycare will carry their own insurance and liability. We will need to begin paying Unrelated Business Income (UBI) tax on the income received. It will not jeopardize our tax-exempt status or impact unrelated income and property.

- **What about additional cleaning and utilities?**

Daycares typically have stringent cleaning guidelines and procedures, so we anticipate additional cleaning will be their responsibility. Utility increases will be negotiated with the daycare and part of any contract.

- **What changes need to be made to the building?**

We're not sure at this time. We are waiting on the state to inspect the building to tell us and the daycare what will need to be done for them to operate within our building. Responsibility for improvements, modifications, or accommodations will be negotiated with the daycare when we know what they are. We intend to look into grants for items that would be our responsibility.

- **Will the congregation have a say in any of this?**

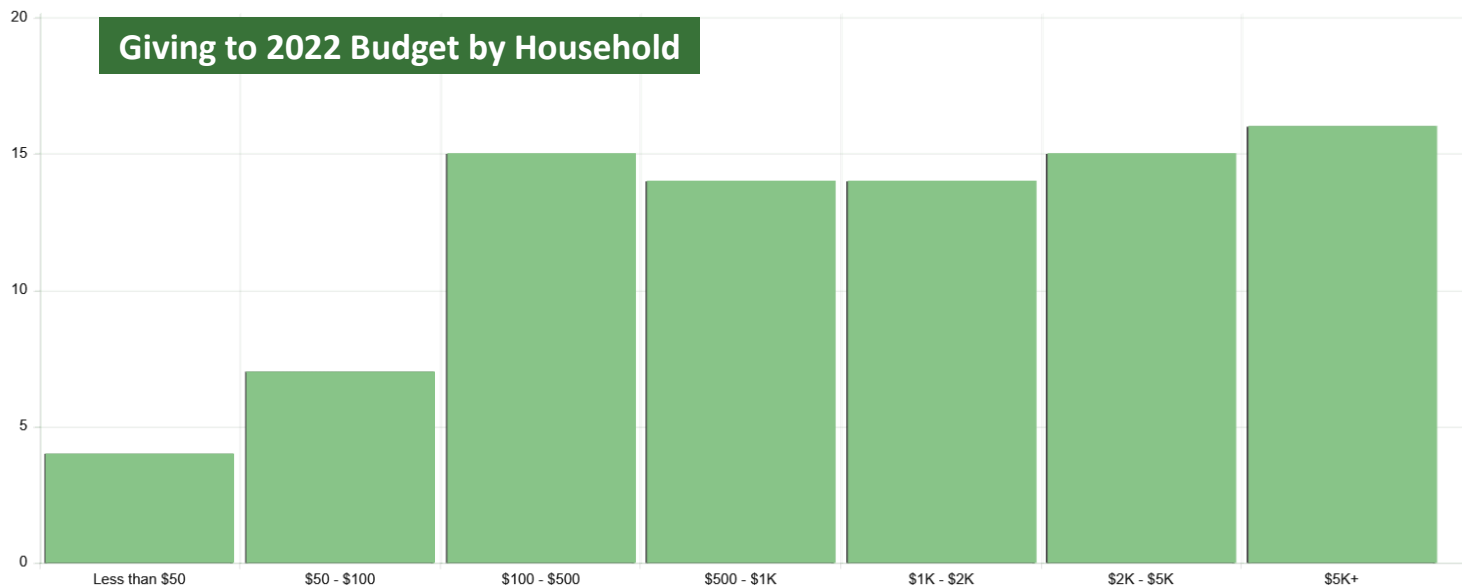
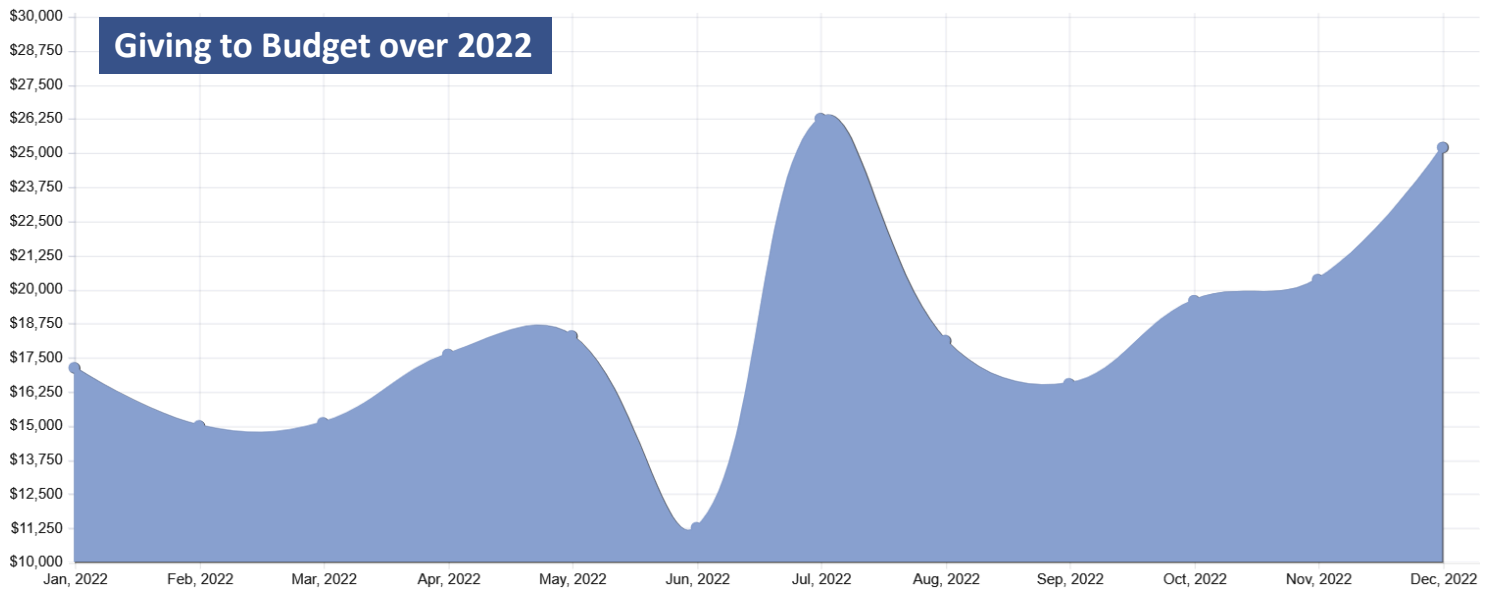
That's why we're bringing it up now. Please talk with council leadership, share insight, and help connect us with resources. We're assembling a team to take the lead on research, plans and contracts, and the ongoing relationship. If you'd like to join this team, please talk with Tony Belcher or Pastor Mike. The congregation will have the opportunity to see and vote on any contract before it is signed.

- **What's the timeline? Are there kids and staff to start a daycare?**

Daycare is in short supply in our area, and the daycare has a waitlist that could fill up our building on the first day. It is up to them to hire and maintain the necessary staff, and they have a record of success in doing so. Both they and we would like to see things move forward quickly, hopefully before the summer.

TREASURER REPORTS

Bank Account Balances	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022
CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$59,708	\$77,033	\$74,396	\$55,476
Building Reserve	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Pastor Continuing Education	\$1,553	\$2,218	\$2,083	\$2,218
Discretionary Fund	\$265	\$265	\$264	\$265
Youth Fund	\$3,101	\$3,551	\$5,576	\$7,946
Undesignated	\$34,789	\$54,551	\$52,049	\$25,048
MEMORIAL ACCOUNT	\$10,369	\$10,057	\$14,179	\$14,187



HISTORICAL INCOME / EXPENSES + 2023 BUDGET

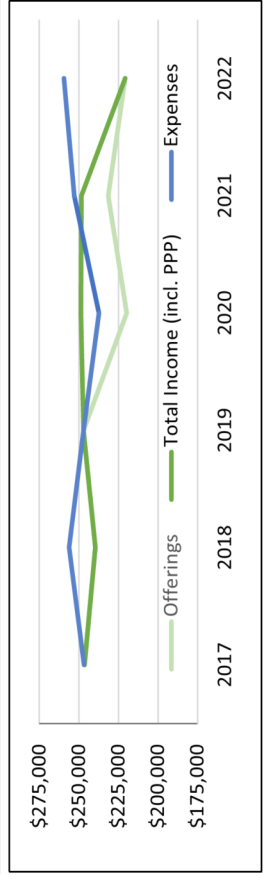
INCOME	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	Comments
Faith Commitments/Envelopes	\$134,862	\$51,140	\$19,701	\$151,384	\$156,374	\$163,000	2023 Budget: 35 pledges, exceeded pledges 2022 Actual: 39 pledges, exceeded pledges
Free Will & Loose	\$112,197	\$160,265	\$210,823	\$90,000	\$58,583	\$58,000	2023 Budget: Based on 2022 actual 2022 Actual: less than expected
Designated to Operating Expenses		\$8,435	\$1,473		\$678		Flowers, Bibles, and other gifts designated to operating items
Other Income to Operating Expenses					\$1,444	\$1,500	2022 Actual: Thrivent Choice (\$714), Amazon Smile (\$343), RaiseRight (\$387)
HVAC campaign surplus					\$1,478		2022 Actual: Unneeded HVAC Campaign Gifts
Pie Auction					\$2,121	\$1,770	2022 Actual: Winter fundraising event
PPP Grant / Employee Retention Credit		\$28,787	\$16,801		\$0		PPP = Payroll Protection Grant / ERC = one-time federal grant (2023 only)
TOTAL INCOME	\$247,059	\$248,627	\$248,798	\$241,384	\$220,678	\$224,270	
EXPENSES	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	Comments
BENEVOLENCE	\$3,000	\$4,936	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	Contribution to Central States Synod/ELCA. 2022 Actual: Missed Q3 and Q4.
PERSONNEL	\$135,419	\$138,453	\$149,973	\$157,133	\$157,707	\$163,315	
Pastor Salary, Housing, SECA Allowance	\$57,421	\$57,920	\$63,227	\$68,684	\$68,639	\$68,684	2023: Unchanged salary
Pastor Benefits	\$32,651	\$38,263	\$40,172	\$40,513	\$45,762	\$46,500	2023: Insurance cost increase
Pastor Continuing Education	\$800	\$135	\$800	\$800	\$774	\$800	2023: Unchanged, per Synod Guidelines
Pastor Mileage	\$1,129	\$198	\$463	\$500	\$504	\$600	2023: Mileage rate increase
Supply Pastors	\$816	\$0	\$837	\$1,050	\$741	\$800	4 Sundays at \$165 + mileage
Administrative Assistant + FICA	\$24,958	\$25,023	\$26,293	\$26,950	\$23,084	\$26,576	2023: No change. \$18.26/hr @ 26 hrs/wk. + Employer SS/Med contributions
Music Ministry	\$17,644	\$16,914	\$18,181	\$18,636	\$18,203	\$19,355	2023: No change. \$341/wk + addl. services + substitutes + resume Lent services
MINISTRIES	\$44,944	\$36,126	\$35,145	\$39,899	\$35,813	\$38,000	
Office	\$8,546	\$3,611	\$1,861	\$3,500	\$1,777	\$7,500	2023: Moved copier expenses (\$5,508) from Building and Property
Building & Property	\$10,323	\$12,748	\$13,279	\$12,000	\$10,651	\$5,500	2023: Moved copier expenses (\$5,508) to Office
Utilities	\$13,363	\$8,549	\$7,651	\$8,500	\$9,548	\$9,500	2023: Rising utility costs, minus reduced consumption due to new HVAC/LED
Insurance	\$7,171	\$7,473	\$8,428	\$8,849	\$8,629	\$10,000	2023: Anticipate increased cost.
Faith Formation	\$1,814	\$1,711	\$483	\$2,500	\$1,013	\$1,500	2023: Adjusted to match reduced expenses.
Evangelism	\$186	\$552	\$809	\$1,200	\$934	\$1,000	2023: Fewer nametags, more outreach costs
Fellowship	\$528	\$0	\$362	\$500	\$583	\$500	Primarily cakes, hospitality expenses, etc.
Social Ministry	\$50	\$121	\$0	\$150	\$0	\$100	Costs are often donated.
Stewardship	\$563	\$310	\$0	\$250	\$78	\$100	2023: Adjusted to match reduced expenses.
Synod Assembly	\$883	\$0	\$195	\$450	\$555	\$300	2023: Reduced cost due to online format.
Worship & Music	\$1,517	\$1,051	\$2,077	\$2,000	\$2,045	\$2,000	2023: Unchanged
MORTGAGE	\$63,936	\$57,982	\$63,977	\$63,936	\$64,011	\$63,936	2023: Unchanged
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$247,299	\$237,498	\$253,095	\$264,968	\$259,531	\$269,251	2023: 2022 actual expenses +3.75% / 2022 budget +1.6%
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	
INCOME	\$247,059	\$248,627	\$248,798	\$241,384	\$220,678	\$224,270	
EXPENSE	\$247,299	\$237,498	\$253,095	\$264,968	\$259,531	\$269,251	
DIFFERENCE	-\$240	\$111,129	-\$4,297	-\$23,584	-\$38,853	-\$44,981	

\$3,926 Average cost per active household.

\$1,369 Average cost per active individual.

HVAC CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

INCOME	2022 Actual	Comments
Fundraising designated to HVAC	\$20,328	
EXPENSE	\$18,850	\$18,400 for 2 units installed + \$450 for inspection/cleaning of remaining
DIFFERENCE	\$1,478	Reallocated to Operating Expenses



WHERE DID OUR OFFERINGS GO IN 2022?

OPERATING EXPENSES:

BENEVOLENCE - \$2,000

50% to Central States Synod support of congregations, regional ministries, communications, resources

50% passed on to ELCA Churchwide

STAFF - \$157,707

\$68,639 - **Pastor** Salary and Housing
\$5,251 - SECA Allowance: SS/Medicare employer contribution (7.65%)

\$40,511 - Benefits: health, survivor, disability insurance + retirement

\$774 - Pastor Continuing Education

\$504 - Pastor Mileage: work-related

\$742 - Supply Pastors: 2 Sundays

\$21,444 - Administrative Assistant

Salary: \$18.26/hr at 1,352 hrs (approx. 26 hours/week)

\$1,640 - Admin. Assist. SS/Medicare employer contribution (7.65%)

\$17,452 - **Music Director** Salary:
\$341.45/week

\$450 - Non-Sunday services compensation

\$300 - Supply Musicians: 2 Sundays

BUILDING & PROPERTY - \$10,650

\$5,158 - Copier

\$3,195 - Lawn care

\$600 - Sign brick repair

\$470 - Pest control

\$315 - Security monitoring

\$227 - Supplies / Kitchen / Coffee

\$205 - Snow removal

\$200 - Plumbing

\$125 - Miscellaneous

\$89 - Fire extinguisher maintenance

\$66 - Electrical

FAITH FORMATION - \$1,055

\$251 - Bibles for children

Much of this is sponsored, in Designated Operating Income

\$295 - Activities / Events

\$180 - Curricula

\$167 - Milestones (baptism, first communion, confirmation, etc.)

\$113 - Christ in Our Home (quarterly adult devotional)

\$50 - Faith at Home

EVANGELISM - \$968

\$780 - Nametags

Some of this is sponsored, in Designated Operating Income

\$76 - Advertising

\$43 - Pastoral Care

FELLOWSHIP - \$583

\$239 - Food Permit

\$235 - Cakes, fellowship events, etc.

\$109 - Funeral meals

INSURANCE - \$8,629

\$7,841 - Property and liability

\$788 - Worker's compensation

OFFICE - \$1,801

\$824 - Paper and office supplies

\$351 - Postage

\$200 - Pastor phone subsidy

\$150 - Zoom Subscription

\$134 - Database

\$36 - Technology

\$26 - Other

SOCIAL MINISTRY - \$0

All expenses were covered by participants

STEWARDSHIP - \$78

\$78 - Software

SYNOD ASSEMBLY - \$555

\$555 - Registration

UTILITIES - \$9,334

\$6,089 - Electricity

\$2,217 - Natural Gas

\$1,008 - Trash

\$234 - Water/Sewer

\$214 - Phone

WORSHIP & MUSIC - \$1,697

\$860 - Altar guild

\$673 - Easter / Christmas Flowers

-\$620 - Donations towards flowers

\$277 - Copyright licenses

\$221 - Miscellaneous

\$170 - Music

\$115 - Palms

MORTGAGE - \$64,011

\$64,011 - Annual payments

\$773,555 - Remaining principal balance

4.125% - Interest rate

8/15/2039 - Loan maturity date

TOTAL OPERATING - \$259,068

NON-OPERATING FINANCES:

HVAC - \$18,850

\$18,400 - 2 units replaced in sanctuary

\$450 - Inspect/clean 9 units

-\$20,228 - Fundraising

CHILDREN'S OFFERINGS - \$1,570

\$353 - Medical supplies (raised 2021)

\$530 - ELCA World Hunger (animals)

\$435 - Blanket supplies

\$252 - Variety KC (disability ministry)

GOD SQUAD - \$2,220 (income)

****Why don't the break-downs add up to the line item totals?** Transactions are rounded during categorization.

****Why don't the Treasurer's Report and Budget numbers match, including the total income and expenses?** The Treasurer's Report contains every transaction. Some are independent of the operating budget (e.g. Youth Funds, Children's Offerings, Continuing Education, Parking Lot, Memorials), and may be transferred to another account or held to be spent in subsequent years. Some lines (e.g. Worship & Music) are impacted by designated gifts (e.g. altar guild, flowers, Bible donations, etc.).

WHAT WILL OUR OFFERINGS DO IN 2023?

We have a lot of expenses that go to things like salaries, building, mortgage, and more. But what do those budget items actually make possible? In order to develop a clearer picture of what our offerings accomplish, we've divided up our expenses according to what they will make possible in the coming year.

CONNECTING - \$60,285 - 22%

Building Relationships - \$16,285 - 6%

We value relationships, so we dedicate resources to spending time and connecting with one another.

Spiritual and Emotional Care - \$22,318 - 8%

This includes caring for members and non-members who are celebrating, hurting, grieving, or simply looking for support from the pastor and church staff.

Serving People - \$7,254 - 3%

Much of what we give to serve people is *not financial*, but it does require some time and work from our staff to help organize, support, and share in the service.

Hospitality - \$14,424 - 5%

We offer safe and supportive space for people in and outside the congregation to gather with one another for enjoyment, celebration, funerals, and more.

GROWING - \$52,242 - 19%

Faith Formation for Adults - \$24,700 - 9%

We host weekly Bible study, plan and lead monthly and seasonal studies, provide devotional books and Lenten resources, and many more opportunities.

Faith Formation for Youth - \$27,542 - 10%

We celebrate and honor the milestones of children and youth, purchase curricula and supplies for Sunday school, sponsor seasonal events, provide moving experiences, and give age-appropriate and interesting Bibles.

PARTNERING - \$50,781 - 19%

Communicating - \$25,377 - 9%

With several hundred people involved, we do a lot of communicating. There are the weekly Hosanna! Happenings, but also periodic mailings and frequent e-mails and texts. Technology such as computers and our copier are helpful tools.

Coordinating - \$14,737 - 5%

It takes a lot of time to offer everything we do. This includes staff time meeting with congregational leaders, scheduling volunteers, and spending time visioning and planning our future together.

Managing Financial Gifts - \$10,677 - 4%

We seek to be good stewards and honor the gifts we are given. This requires time, technology, and postage. Like anyone with a bank account, there are also costs involved managing finances.

REACHING - \$18,619 - 7%

Partnering with the Wider Church - \$8,864 - 3%

We share our offerings with the Central States Synod of Missouri and Kansas and the ELCA Churchwide, so that they can provide support and resources to us and other congregations. We also dedicate time and resources to partnering with other congregations and organizations in the community.

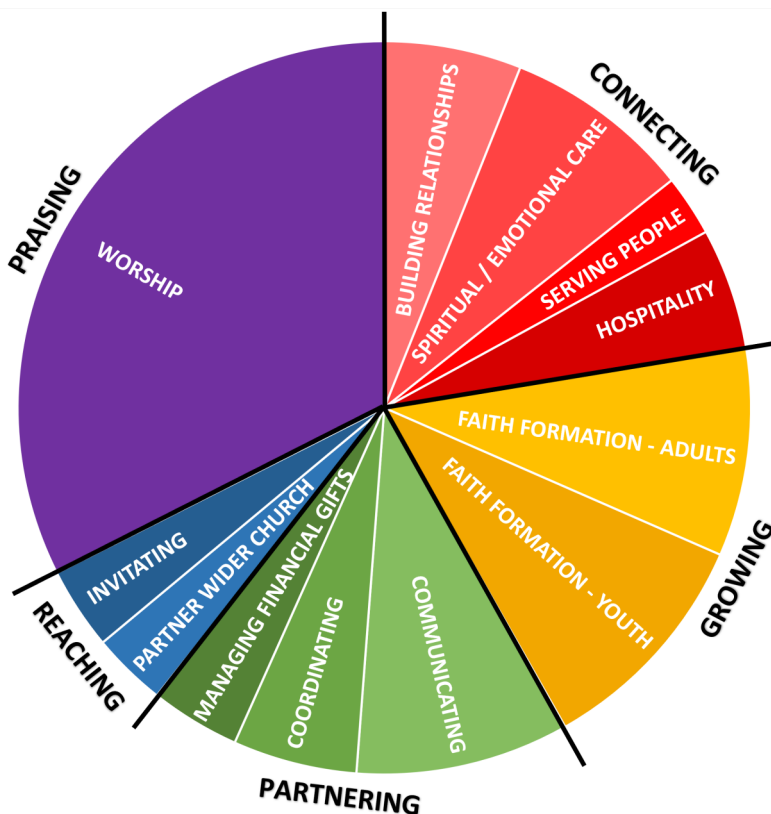
Inviting - \$9,755 - 4%

The Gospel is not for us alone, so we welcome others to experience the joy of faith. This not only helps us grow and meet new friends, but also share God's love to those who need it.

PRAISING - \$87,328 - 32%

Worship - \$87,328 - 32%

Worship isn't all that we do, but it is when the highest number people connect with God and one another. We dedicate a lot of staff time and physical resources to preparing for and implementing worship--moving music, helpful bulletins, and inspiring sermons don't come quickly.



NOTE: This represents what our financial contributions accomplish. It does not necessarily indicate where our time, passion, and energy are.

A MESSAGE FROM CENTRAL STATES SYNOD

BISHOP SUSAN CANDEA



Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong.

Psalm 100: 1-3

I wonder what might happen if instead of complaining about all the things that are wrong in this world, in this church, in our lives, we made a joyful noise to the Lord. I wonder how things might shift if instead of serving our own interests, attending to our own agendas, arguing our own positions, we served the Lord with gladness.

When the focus is on ourselves, it is very easy to be negative about the "state of the world," to be critical of the behavior of our fellow human beings, to find fault in the actions and views of others. There is a lot in the world and unfortunately in the church as well, that rightly deserves critical judgement. We have made a mess of creation, we continue to use violence and hate against those who we deem as different, and we do not work together to ensure the welfare of all.

However, when we remember and know (that is a relational word, not an intellectual state) that the Lord is God, and we focus on God's presence in our lives and in our world, we are able to see and experience joy. In the midst of all that is broken and sinful, all that is harmful and hurtful, we are able to give thanks not because of some "pie in the sky" denial of the painful realities, but because the Lord is God, we are God's people, and good indeed is the Lord!

God's presence is like a prism that enables us to see the beauty of the world, of others, even of ourselves, in all of their complexity and connectedness. Rather than rose colored glasses which mask the reality we see, this prism of joy, of thanksgiving, of God in our midst, reveals what is truly and wonderfully there, our maker to whom we, and all of creation belong.

As we gather, my prayer is that we embrace more joy, that we sing with more gladness, that we give thanks and praise more often, that we let the goodness of our God bless us so that we might indeed be more of a blessing to this world.

Rev. Susan Candea
Bishop



We are more than the people who gather as Hosanna! We work in partnership with faithful people throughout our region, the nation, and the world. Learn more about our purpose and what we accomplish together as the Central States Synod of Missouri and Kansas at <https://www.css-elca.org/about>.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at ELCA.org/SOFIA.

PARISH STATISTICS

NEW MEMBERS

Chris, Jealaine and Ellen Marple	January 23
David and Joyce Uber	January 23
Karen Weber	January 23
Scott Carlson	October 2
Robbie Murta	October 2

CONFIRMATIONS

Anna Fairchild	October 30
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MEMBERSHIP TOTAL

Baptized:	252	[2021: 246, 2020: 248, 2019: 248]
Confirmed:	185	[2021: 179, 2020: 183, 2019: 184]

DEATHS

Sue Schwenk	March 17
Art Harnish	May 26
Mel Peterson	August 17

FUNERALS

Kathry Louise Fisher	March 21
Art Harnish	June 11
Mel Peterson	September 3
Gloria Murray	December 8

AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

2022: 89	[2021: 74, 2020: 79, 2019: 102]
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PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Every three years the ELCA Churchwide Assembly approves updates to the Model Constitution for Congregations, which serves as the basis of our own constitution. Certain revisions are required to be incorporated into our constitution whenever it is updated. **Therefore, the Hosanna! Council has proposed changes to our constitution that incorporate the modifications from the 2016, 2019, and 2022 assemblies.** Only amendments to bring our constitution into conformity with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have been proposed at this time, which may be passed or amended with a majority congregational vote pursuant to C17.04 of our current constitution.

A full document (27-pages) of the proposed amendments is not included in this report, but may be found online at www.hosannatogether.org/meeting (you may scan the QR code on this page) or by contacting the church office.



Below is a summary of the proposed changes:

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly authorized the secretary of the ELCA to:

- strike the words “ordained minister/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament”;
- strike the word “clergy” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament”;
- strike the words “pastor/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament” where appropriate;
- strike the words “associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Service”; and
- make editorial corrections that identify the rosters of this church and implement the creation of the ministers of Word and Service roster.
- update language in places previously ambiguous to provide clarity

The 2019 Churchwide Assembly authorized the secretary of the ELCA to:

- strike “synodical” and replace with “synod”
- strike “the congregation” and replace with “this congregation” where appropriate
- make editorial changes so that the Model Constitution for Congregations follows the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Constitution for Synods.
- update language in places previously ambiguous to provide clarity

The 2022 Churchwide Assembly authorized the secretary of the ELCA to:

- further elaborate on the mission of the church as it is articulated in the constitution
- remove gender-specific language when referring to bishops, pastors, deacons, officers, and members
- change language related to disability to reflect current understandings and to clarify that inability and incapacity to conduct the pastoral office effectively are the standards to be considered for termination of a rostered leader
- update language in places previously ambiguous to provide clarity

2023 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOMINATIONS

Officers (2-year term)

Vice President: Justin Noel
Secretary: Joyce Uber

Continuing:

President: Tony Belcher
Treasurer: Ben Cerra

Council (2-year term)

Margaret Rockhold
Chris Marple
Beth Schoening

Continuing: Alissa Willett
Duane Witt

Synod Assembly Voting Members

Marty Berggren
Stephen Stubbs

Nominating Committee (1-year term)

Angelika Schmitt
Pam Schmidt
Ben Oprinovich
Jeremy Grote
Alissa Willett (*outgoing council*)
Duane Witt (*outgoing council*)

Audit Committee Member (3-year term)

Louise Ahrens (2023; 2024; 2025)

Continuing: Robert Hall (2022; 2023; 2024)
Scott Schmidt (2021; 2022; 2023)



Tony Belcher



Justin Noel



Ben Cerra



Joyce Uber



Margaret Rockhold



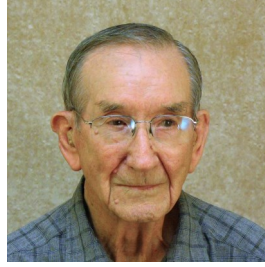
Chris Marple



Beth Schoening



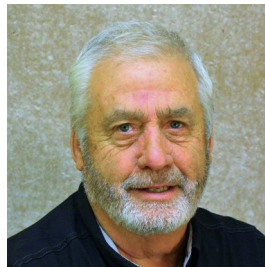
Alissa Willett



Duane Witt



Marty Berggren



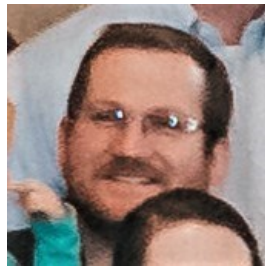
Stephen Stubbs



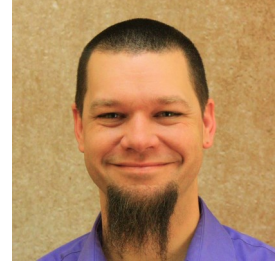
Angelika Schmitt



Pam Schmidt



Ben Oprinovich



Geremy Grote



Louise Ahrens



Robert Hall



Scott Schmidt

Litany

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Almighty God, teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability, creativity, and faithfulness to adapt to the cultural, economic, and social changes occurring in the people we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures and its successes, and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders among us who lead us to live consistent with God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Almighty God,
you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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