



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

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

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“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

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**Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
January 28, 2024

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Approval of Agenda

Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

White pages

Approval of 2023 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes

White pages

Reports

Pastor

White pages

Financial Officers

Green pages

Committees & groups

Ivory pages

BWELCA, Farm, Social Concerns, Memorial

Mission Endowment Fund

Gold pages

Old Business

New Business

1. Elections – Council, Endowment Committee,  
Farm Committee, Nominating Committee

1. Approval of the 2024 Budget

Green pages

3. Approval of the 2024 Mission Endowment Budget

Gold pages

2. Church usage agreement for non-members

Other Business

Closing Prayer – Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

## Voting Members

December 18, 2023

Bethlehem's Constitution defines a voting member as follows: ***Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.*** Attendance records and offering statements based on envelope usage are the only records on which the following list can be based.

1. Shelley Beeck
2. Kathy Becker
3. Lary Becker
4. Meagan Behrle
5. Rochelle Busch
6. Debra Christiansen
7. Jerimiah Christiansen
8. Wyatt Chirstiansen
9. Kelly Doll
10. Scott Doll
11. Mckenna Doll
12. Donna Dosland
13. Kathy Duffey
14. Leta Dunt
15. Joyce Feuss
16. Tricia Feuss
17. Darla Fields
18. Lisa Fields
19. Katie Fields
20. Jeff Fields
21. Tom Gerdes
22. Pat Hansen
23. Jimmey Hicks
24. Marlene Hicks
25. Jenna Holtz
26. Jim Holtz
27. Jody Holtz
28. Joshua Holtz
29. Brent Ihns
30. Charlotte Ihns
31. Clara Ihns
32. Diana Ihns
33. Enos Ihns
34. Jessica Ihns
35. Warren Ihns
36. Jerry Kapinski
37. Connie Kleppe
38. Joan Kleppe
39. Roger Kleppe
40. Jone Paarmann
41. Les Paarmann
42. Callie Petersen
43. Coy Petersen
44. Becky Ihns-Petersen
45. Bill Pithan

46. Ellen Pithan
47. Betty Rehmke
48. Herold Rehmke
49. Al Schroeder
50. Jeanette Schroeder
51. Kelly Schroeder
52. Lucile Schurbon
53. Ed Sheldon
54. Eleanor Sheldon
55. Allan Smith
56. Jason Sullivan
57. Haley Sullivan
58. Xera Tubbs
59. Tim Thiede
60. Madge White
61. Brent Willimack
62. Jessica Willimack
63. Kassidy Willimack
64. Doug Wulf
65. Noah Zeller
66. Sue Zeller

### Additions

Gale Kleppe  
JC Watson

### Associate Members

1. John Alden
2. Kris Becker
3. Elenor Bentrott
4. Karisa Brown
5. McKenna Brown
6. Chad Christiansen
7. Cody Current
8. Courtney Current
9. Gary Current
10. Stacy Current
11. Heth Davis
12. Shawna Davis
13. Lola DeMoss
14. Rex Duffey
15. Melissa Ford
16. Stella Franck
17. Chase Gruenwald
18. Halie Gruenwald
19. Hannah Gruenwald
20. Ryne Gruenwald
21. Emily Kleinsmith
22. Marcia Kleinsmith
23. Paul Kleinsmith
24. Ryne Kleinsmith
25. Tracy Kleppe
26. Melissa McChesney
27. David Mickelson
28. Sara Mickelson
29. Heather Moore
30. Kindy Nissen
31. Dale Rickels
32. Dylan Rickels
33. Laurie Rickels
34. AJ Schroeder
35. Jo Thiede
36. Bruce Von Sprecken
37. Joan Von Sprecken
38. Deanne Bennett



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL MEETING  
January 22, 2023

Call to order at 9:42 am. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Present: see sign in list

Agenda: Tim/m, Brent/s, /c to approve.

2022 annual meeting minutes: Tom/m, Sue/s, /c to approve.

Special meeting minutes: Brent/m, Enos/s, /c to approve.

Pastor's report: Pastor reported on the number of funerals, weddings and baptisms that were performed in 2022.

Old Business:

-Project summary report for the parsonage project, furnace/AC project and the basement project.

April 2022 - Furnace & AC units replaced \$36,334.03

August 2022 - Basement tile and asbestos removed \$6,900.00

September 2022 - Basement epoxy installed \$11,457.00

October 2022 - Patronage project completed \$16,190.13

New Business:

-Election ballot, Brent/m, Tom/s, c/ to approve unanimous ballot. The new council and committee members therefore will be:

Council - Josh Holtz and Brent Ihns 3-yr term and Roger Kleppe 1-yr term.

Mission Endowment - Scott Doll

Farm - Jason Sullivan

Nominating Committee - Trisha Feuss, Sue Zeller and Connie Kleppe

Budget:

-Pay raises: Increase of 8.7% across the board.

-Treasures report - There was a change in line 9 & 10 on the budget.

Stewardship/Evangelism/Benevolence will be rolled into one category. There will be a \$1,200.00 allowance for this category in the budget.

-Church Mutual - Deduct for wind/hail damage increased from \$2,500.00 to \$10,000.00 for the church and from \$2,500.00 to \$5,000.00 for the parsonage. Other deductibles remain the same.

-Insurance on the parsonage - pay to replace has changed to pay cash value of the roof.

Enos/m, Jone/s, c/ to approve.

Endowment Budget:

Enos/m, Marlene/s, /c to approve

Church Usage Agreement:

-Church Usage Agreement - The policy will remain the same as before. If a non-member wants to rent the church basement, they would have to have some ties to a member of the church as a contact person. That person would be responsible for opening/locking up the church and making sure the list of requirements for renting the church were completed. The cost for a non-member to rent the church will be \$50.00. The cost for a member to rent the church will stay at the current rate of \$30.00.

Pastor closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjourn: Tim/m, Jim/s, /c to approve at 10:17am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kelly Doll  
Council Secretary



Grace, peace, and the blessings of God be with you all.

With the turning of the seasons, and the beginning of a new year, I am reminded of a passage from the book of Ecclesiastes. In particular is it Ecclesiastes 3. While this may be an odd passage to think of, considering it is almost exclusively used as a reflection during funerals, I believe that it applies in almost all situations. "For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven." This could not be truer as the seasons have literally just felt as if they have changed and the promised cold and snow has finally arrived.

Throughout the year, the words of these verses speak truth to what we have experienced, and what we can anticipate in a new year together.

*"A time to be born and a time to die... a time to weep and a time to laugh."*

Together we have celebrated the birth and baptism of new children; welcoming them into the body of Christ, and celebrating the promised made by us and completed by God's promise in the Water and the Word. Together we have mourned the loss of those who have proceeded us in death; celebrating the completion of their baptismal journey and joining Christ in his resurrection. In new life and passing death, the care of those in need is a testament to the love of the neighbor that I see at work amongst us.

*"A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up."*

Together we have seen and supported the hard work of those who strive to bring about healing and wholeness. The support of this congregation towards the work of feeding the hungry both for those in our communities and those around the world is a testament to the love of the neighbor that I see at work amongst us. The clothing to warm the bodies and souls of those experiencing the trauma of abuse- and supported by DVIP- and those experiencing homelessness in the cold bitter months is a testament to the love of the neighbor that I see at work amongst us.

*"A time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak."*

Together I have born witness to the dedication, care, and compassion towards those who have served our country and those who serve the world in need. In every stitch and square sewn together to make a quilt or those who have served our country I see a deep love of those who serve; in your response to this sacrifice, I see a testament to the love of the neighbor that I see at work amongst us. In your support of the global missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I see the call being answered to support those in need both locally, nationally, and globally as a caring fulfillment of the promises made in your baptism. In this near and far reaching call to care, I see a testament to the love of the neighbor that I see at work amongst us.

"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."

As this new season and new year dawns, I await with joy and excitement to see what tomorrow brings and I look forward to seeing it together.

In God's Peace,

Pr. Daniel Pell, 2023

## Pastoral Acts

### Baptisms

Houston Lasak\*  
 Saige Ihns-Petersen  
 Ezra Zeller  
 Caroline Allen  
 Mayson Zeller  
 Braydon Zeller  
 Adler Schroeder  
 Ike Willimack

### Confirmations

Clara  
 Charlotte  
 Caycee\*  
 Caitlin\*  
 Kelli\*  
 Mya\*

### Marriages

Emma (Vacek) and Scott Adams

### Funerals/Burials

Susan Jacobsen-Grant\*  
 Barb Small  
 Karl Dona  
 Patricia Boster\*  
 Pauline Schoop (Rev. Larson)  
 Darrel Hicks

### Joint Confirmation Program

2 Students (1- BLC 1<sup>st</sup> year, 1- BLC 2<sup>nd</sup> year)

## Membership Statistics

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership: Dec 31, 2022	289 <sup>Δ</sup>	184 <sup>Δ</sup>
Membership Received		
Baptism	7	0
Transfers	1	1
Adult Affirmations	0	0
Baptized Youth Confirmed		2
Membership Removed		
By death	4	2
By transfer to ELCA	0	0
By transfer to Non-ELCA	0	0
Total Removed	4	2
Membership: Dec 31, 2023	293 <sup>Δ</sup>	185 <sup>Δ</sup>
Voting Membership	66/ 68	

## Average Attendance

2021- 34  
 2022- 41  
 2023- 38

\* - Indicates non-BLC individual

<sup>Δ</sup> - indicates info to be updated



## 2023 Officers and Committees

### Council:

President	Tom Gerdes
Vice President	Enos Ihns
Secretary	Josh Holtz
Treasurer	Tim Thiede
	Roger Kleppe
	Brent Ihns

### BWELCA Board:

President	Connie Kleppe
Secretary	Diana Ihns
Treasurer	Darla Fields

### Endowment:

President	Jim Holtz
V-President	Scott Doll
Secretary	Kassidy Willimack
Treasurer	Jessica Willimack

### Member:

Sue Zeller

### Farm:

Jason Sullivan, Enos Ihns, Trish Feuss

### Memorial:

Treasurer Jessica Ihns

### Members:

Joan Kleppe, Kelly Schroeder

### Social Concerns:

Rochelle Busch, Jone Paarmann

### Nominating Committee:

Trish Feuss, Sue Zeller, Jone Paarmann, Connie Kleppe

**Audit Committee:** Connie Kleppe, Joan Kleppe, Allan Smith

**Education:** Kelly Doll

**Church Financial Secretary:** Jessica Ihns

**Church Bookkeeper:** Jone Paarmann

**Personnel:** Organist: Brenda Vacek Church Secretary: Deanne Bennett  
Custodian: Sara Mickelson



## 2023 Treasurer's Report

### Income

Offering	\$ 64,190.38
Benevolence	\$ 317.50
Initial	\$ -
Loose	\$ 800.80
World Hunger	\$ -
SMLC Reimbursement	\$ 26,263.38
Parsonage Rent	\$ 67.14
Farm Rent	\$ 48,279.70
Other (food pantry, rent)	\$ 1,689.82
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 141,608.72</b>

### Expenditures

Our Mission In World/Community	\$ 10,665.67
Our Mission at Home	\$ 5,422.75
Our Pastoral Ministry	\$ 58,919.02
Supporting Mission/Ministry	\$ 60,175.26
Non-budgeted Mission World/Comm	\$ 26,411.82
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 161,594.52</b>

### **Checking Account**

Balance 1/1/23	\$ 24,865.29
Income	\$ 141,608.72
Expenses	\$ 161,594.52
<b>Balance 12/31/23</b>	<b>\$ 4,879.49</b>

### **Savings Account**

Savings end of 12-31-22	\$ -
Interest	\$ 100.08
Transfer	\$ 9,655.94
Deposit	\$ 869.37
Withdrawal	
<b>Balance 12/31/23</b>	<b>\$ 10,625.39</b>

### **Parsonage Fund**

Balance 1/1/23	\$ -
Income	\$ 6,000.00
Expenses	\$ 870.59
Transfer to Parsonage Savings	\$ 5,129.41
<b>Balance 12/31/23</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

CD \$ 25,000.00

**Total Liquid Assets \$ 40,504.88**

### **ELCA Mission Support**

8% of Member Giving	\$ 5,589.24
Designated Benevolence	\$ 317.50
World Hunger	\$ -
	<b>\$ 5,906.74</b>



	2023 Budgeted	2023 Received	2024 Proposed Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
Member Giving	\$ 61,500.00	\$ 65,058.32	\$ 62,706.00
Farm Rent	\$ 48,279.70	\$ 48,279.70	\$ 50,618.00
Other	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 2,007.32	\$ 2,000.00 *A
<b>TOTAL INCOME FOR BLC</b>	<b>\$ 112,479.70</b>	<b>\$ 117,352.66</b>	<b>\$ 117,324.00</b>
<i>St. Mark's 25% of Pastoral Ministry</i>	<i>\$ 30,150.00</i>	<i>\$ 26,263.38</i>	<i>\$ 18,821.00</i>
<b>Total Income for BLC including SMLC</b>	<b>\$ 142,629.70</b>	<b>\$ 143,616.04</b>	<b>\$ 136,145.00</b>

	2023 Budget	2023 Expenses	2024 Proposed Budget
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Our Mission in the World &amp; Community</b>			
1 ELCA Mission Support (8.25%)	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 5,474.87	\$ 5,150.00
2 Synod Assembly Costs	\$ 500.00	\$ 362.80	\$ 500.00
3 Gifts and Memorials	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
4 Fruits from Farm to Endowment	\$ 4,827.97	\$ 4,827.97	\$ 5,062.00
	<b>\$ 10,927.97</b>	<b>\$ 10,665.64</b>	<b>\$ 11,212.00</b>
<b>Our Mission at Home</b>			
6 Worship - supplies	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,441.53	\$ 1,500.00
7 Organist	\$ 3,995.00	\$ 3,594.20	\$ 4,000.00
8 Faith Formation / Education	\$ 500.00	\$ 244.20	\$ 300.00
9 Community Assistance Funds	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 142.82	\$ 200.00 *B
	<b>\$ 7,495.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,422.75</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>
<b>Our Pastoral Ministry</b>			
10 Pastor's Salary	\$ 46,458.00	\$ 46,148.16	\$ 47,768.00 *C
11 Pastor's Benefits (soc sec + med + pension)	\$ 9,610.00	\$ 9,566.31	\$ 9,903.00
12 Extra Pastoral Services	\$ 900.00	\$ 185.00	\$ 900.00
13 Reimbursements	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 3,019.55	\$ 2,900.00
	<b>\$ 59,868.00</b>	<b>\$ 58,919.02</b>	<b>\$ 61,471.00</b>
<b>Supporting Our Mission and Ministry</b>			
14 Secretary	\$ 4,425.00	\$ 4,088.53	\$ 4,600.00 *D
15 Custodian	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 4,557.86	\$ 4,700.00 *D
16 Bookkeeper	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
17 FICA - Secretary & Custodian	\$ 850.00	\$ 744.03	\$ 800.00
18 Office supplies / equipment	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 2,192.55	\$ 2,300.00
19 Communications / Telephone	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,667.77	\$ 3,800.00
20 Postage	\$ 350.00	\$ 149.22	\$ 200.00
21 Repairs/upkeep - church	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,388.10	\$ 2,500.00
22 Parsonage housing allowance	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00 *E
23 Electricity	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,611.21	\$ 4,800.00
24 Fuel	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 6,092.85	\$ 6,100.00
25 Water, Sewage, Garbage	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,067.47	\$ 1,100.00
26 Insurance	\$ 7,850.00	\$ 8,548.73	\$ 8,900.00
27 Farm Expenses and Taxes	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 5,211.00	\$ 5,400.00
28 Special Maintenance (10% farm)	\$ 4,827.97	\$ 4,827.97	\$ - *F
29 Retained savings from farm rent (10%)	\$ 4,827.97	\$ 4,827.97	\$ 5,062.00
	<b>\$ 62,980.94</b>	<b>\$ 60,175.26</b>	<b>\$ 57,462.00</b>
5 Non Budget Sharing (WH, 20/20, Food Pan)	\$ -	\$ 1,011.82	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 141,271.91</b>	<b>\$ 136,194.49</b>	<b>\$ 136,145.00</b>
<i>Reimbursements from SMLC for Pastor</i>	<i>\$ (30,150.00)</i>	<i>\$ (26,263.38)</i>	<i>\$ (18,821.00)</i>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES FOR BLC</b>	<b>\$ 111,121.91</b>	<b>\$ 109,931.11</b>	<b>\$ 117,324.00</b>

\*A - Benevolence, World Hunger, Thrivent, use of church, Misc

\*B - Evangelism / Stewardship / Benevolence

\*C - see Pastoral Salary sheet for further information

\*D - 3.2% increase per employee (cola)

\*E - BLC share \$4,500 - for repairs & upkeep at the parsonage

\*F - Eliminating the Special Maintenance from farm to help pay for 75% Pastor cost sharing



2024 Budget Pastor Salary

	Yearly Full Time	75% Cost Share BLC	25% Cost Share SMLC
Base Pay	\$ 41,440.00	\$ 31,080.00	\$ 10,360.00
2.5% Pay Increase per Year - 6-years	\$ 6,328.00	\$ 4,746.00	\$ 1,582.00
Housing Allowance	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
SS Allowance	\$ 4,113.00	\$ 3,085.00	\$ 1,028.00
<b>Defined Compensation</b>	<b>\$ 57,881.00</b>	<b>\$ 43,411.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,470.00</b>
<b>Cash to Pastor (Base + 2.5%/yr + SS)</b>	<b>\$ 51,881.00</b>	<b>\$ 38,911.00</b>	<b>\$ 12,970.00</b>
Health Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Disability	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Life Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Retirement	\$ 5,788.00	\$ 4,341.00	\$ 1,447.00
Retiree Support	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Benefits Cost</b>	<b>\$ 5,788.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,341.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,447.00</b>
<b>Base Pay + Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 57,669.00</b>	<b>\$ 43,252.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,417.00</b>
Mileage	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00
Continuing Education	\$ 350.00	\$ 263.00	\$ 87.00
Fall Conference	\$ 300.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 75.00
Books / Publications	\$ 250.00	\$ 188.00	\$ 62.00
<b>Misc. Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,900.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,176.00</b>	<b>\$ 724.00</b>
<b>Total Pastoral Care Cash Expense</b>	<b>\$ 60,569.00</b>	<b>\$ 45,428.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,141.00</b>
Phone & Internet & Cable	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 600.00
Garbage, Water, & Sewer	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 765.00	\$ 255.00
Electricity	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 600.00
Gas - Heat	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 450.00
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>\$ 7,620.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,715.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,905.00</b>
<b>Total Cash Outlay with Parsonage</b>	<b>\$ 74,189.00</b>	<b>\$ 55,643.00</b>	<b>\$ 18,546.00</b>
Supply Pastor - Drill Weekends	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 825.00	\$ 275.00
<b>Total Cost with Supply Pastor</b>	<b>\$ 75,289.00</b>	<b>\$ 56,468.00</b>	<b>\$ 18,821.00</b>

\$ 500.00 Housing allowance - monthly amount  
7.65%

0.00% Covered by Reserves - No Cost  
3.00% Defined Compensation  
0.30% Defined Compensation  
10.00% Defined Compensation  
0.70% Defined Compensation

\$0.670 Fed reimbursement rate  
\* discussed with Pastor  
\* discussed with Pastor

200.00 per month  
85.00 per month  
200.00 per month  
150.00 per month

\$ 275.00 per Sunday - 4 Vacation Sundays



## Memorial Fund - 2023 Report

Balance as of 12/31/2022	\$5565.57
Income – Memorial Gifts	
Pauline Schoop	\$325.00
Darrel Hicks	\$260.00
Income – Interest	2.82
Total Income	<u>\$ 587.82</u>
Expenses	
None	
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Balance (1/1/2023) + Income for 2023	\$ 6153.39
Expenses	- 0.00
Balance as of 12/31/2023	<u>\$ 6153.39</u>

### Committee Members

Jessica Ihns, Treasurer, Joan Kleppe, Kelly Schroeder

## Social Concerns Report

**Beginning Balance 1/1/23** **\$ 1,480.99**

### INCOME:

Fellowship 670.29

Interest 1.47

**Total Income** **\$ 671.76**

### EXPENSES:

Fellowship Expenses

Christian Outreach \$ 945.24 See breakdown below

**Total Expenses** **\$ 945.24**

**Ending Balance 12/31/23** **\$ 1,207.51**

March \$ 200.00 Project Hope - Ghana wells

July \$ 200.00 DVIP - Coveralls

Iowa Bishops Ride for Hunger @

August \$ 127.00 RAGBRAI

\$ 50.00 DVIP - Coveralls-leftover 2022 coverall money

December \$ 200.00 DVIP - Gift cards

\$ 168.24 Angel Tree gifts

**\$ 945.24**

Members: Rochelle Busch, Jone Paarmann



## BWELCA 2023 REPORT

Quilting began Mon. Jan. 2 - Mar. 20 along with our potluck noon meals, and some of us also gathered on Wednesdays, about 10-12 including some new volunteers. We completed 189 quilts. We were so grateful for the kitchen crew of 6 guys who helped with the meals, clean up, and delivering some meals. Best of all, they treated us to pizza on the last day!!!

The quilts were sent to: The King House, High Tower, Lutheran Social Services of Clinton, Domestic Violence Intervention Program, Re-entry Program and Open Heartland Program of Iowa City, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Union Presbyterian, and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches of Lost Nation. Three boxes were packed for Lutheran World Relief. Three Quilts of Valor were completed and presented at the Lost Nation Legion Veterans Day Program. Seven quilts/wall hangings were delivered to EWALU.

We hosted the Annual Cheer Brunch on Sat. Feb. 4. Pastor Daniel was our speaker. He shared his duties and experiences as a Lutheran Chaplain in the Reserves. Our ladies packed and delivered 44 cheer plates.

The Friendship Party was held on Sunday Feb. 19. 38 adults and kids enjoyed tacos, ice cream, and bingo.

World Day of Prayer was on Mar. 3. We celebrated it on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> with a noisy offering totaling \$91.82 which included \$25 of our annual budget. Taiwan was the focal country this year.

The Lenten soup suppers were held on Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. The congregation and S.S. kids packed 64 baby care kits and 80 personal care kits during 2 of the soup suppers. They were delivered to LWR in Cedar Rapids along with the quilts.

The Spring Quilt Display and Luncheon with Bake sale was held on Mar. 25. Church cleaning was held after church on April 23.

The Senior/Senior celebration was on Sunday April 30 hosted by Bethlehem Circle. There were no graduating seniors, but we honored 7 senior members.

The Community Coffee was held June 15.

The Ice Cream Social was held on June 25 with dine in and drive through. Approximately 100 attended.

We helped with the Rustic Days Ecumenical Brunch which was held at the UPC following church services on July 16. Approximately 65 attended.

We weren't able to serve a meal at the DVIP, but gave a monetary gift towards meals for the residents. We also sent cookies, bars and items from their needs list.



Sept. brought election of officers: President- Connie Kleppe, Secretary- Diana Ihns, Mission Growth/ Stewardship- Kelly Schroeder. Remaining officers are: Mission Action/ Discipleship- Rochelle Busch, Mission Community/Justice- Jone Paarmann, Treasurer- Darla Fields.

The EWALU Quilt Auction was held Sept. 16 and Bethlehem's quilts brought \$450.

We packed 128 school kits in Oct. for LWR with the help of the S.S. kids and the guys!

Other fall events were the Harvest table, treat the Food Pantry, and the Thankoffering Service led by the Mission Community/ Justice Committee.

On Dec. 3 we decorated the church for Christmas and enjoyed pizza afterward for our Christmas Party.

We've kept busy most of the year and offer many thanks for all the helping hands it took to carry out our projects for this past year!

Blessings to you all in 2024

Connie Kleppe



## BWELCA BUDGET FOR 2024

### Special Gifts-Missions

Camp Courageous- Monticello	\$ 100.00
EWALU-Strawberry Point, Iowa	\$ 100.00
Habitat for Humanity-Scott Co.	\$ 100.00
Domestic Violence Intervention Program (Iowa City)	\$ 100.00
Lutheran Services in Iowa	\$ 200.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 100.00
Midland Post Prom-April	\$ 50.00
Clinton YWCA Domestic Violence	\$ 100.00
Wartburg Seminary-Chaplain Cindy Breed Scholarship	\$ 100.00
Global Health Ministries Shipping	\$ 100.00
World Day of Prayer Offering (Sunday, Feb 25)	\$ 25.00

### BWELCA Expenses

Materials, Handbooks, Quilting supplies	\$ 200.00
Sunday School Assistance/Bible School	\$ 200.00
Flowers \$ Gifts (fruit basket, community coffee)	\$ 150.00
Memorials (\$20.00 each member) *	\$
Youth Camperships (\$100.00 per camper)	\$ 500.00
Matching Funds for Bible School offerings up to(at BLC)	\$ 250.00
Lutheran World Relief Shipping (\$40 April, \$40 October)	\$ 80.00

### Conventions (reimbursed)

Triennial Convention: (July) expenses will be reimbursed equally to all attending up to a total of \$600.00	\$ 200.00 yrly
Triennial Offering: (in addition to individual offering)	\$ 50.00
Synodical Convention: (June) Expenses will be reimbursed equally by all attending up to	\$ 200.00
Synodical Offering: (in addition to individual offerings)	\$ 35.00
Hope Cluster Spring Gathering Offering (plus individual offerings)	\$ 25.00

### Notes

- ... 50% all offerings sent to the WELCA Benevolence cause.
- ... 100% Thankoffering goes to the Treasure of WELCA. none credited to the congregation budget.
- ... \$.40 per mile for travel to Synodical Conventions and workshops.

\*Agencies receiving memorial gifts: Camp Courageous, YWCA Domestic Violence, Lutheran Services of Iowa, EWALU, L'Arch, Iowa Veterans Home



## Memorial Fund - 2023 Report

Balance as of 12/31/2022	\$5565.57
Income – Memorial Gifts	
Pauline Schoop	\$325.00
Darrel Hicks	\$260.00
Income – Interest	2.82
Total Income	<u>\$ 587.82</u>
Expenses	
None	
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Balance (1/1/2023) + Income for 2023	\$ 6153.39
Expenses	- 0.00
Balance as of 12/31/2023	<u>\$ 6153.39</u>

### Committee Members

Jessica Ihns, Treasurer, Joan Kleppe, Kelly Schroeder

## Social Concerns Report

**Beginning Balance 1/1/23** **\$ 1,480.99**

### INCOME:

Fellowship	670.29
Interest	<u>1.47</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 671.76</b>

### EXPENSES:

Fellowship Expenses		
Christian Outreach	\$ 945.24	See breakdown below
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 945.24</b>	

**Ending Balance 12/31/23** **\$ 1,207.51**

March	\$ 200.00	Project Hope - Ghana wells
July	\$ 200.00	DVIP - Coveralls
		Iowa Bishops Ride for Hunger @
August	\$ 127.00	RAGBRAI
	\$ 50.00	DVIP - Coveralls-leftover 2022 coverall money
December	\$ 200.00	DVIP - Gift cards
	<u>\$ 168.24</u>	Angel Tree gifts
	<b>\$ 945.24</b>	

Members: Rochelle Busch, Jone Paarmann



### **Farm Committee 2023**

The Farm Committee met with Keith Dexter in early August as is standard practice. Keith discussed his management practices of the farm and answered any questions the committee had. This is the first year (2023) of the three-year lease. The rates are as follows: 2023 payment \$48,279.90, 2024 payment 50,617.70, and 2025 payment 53,189.50 with payments due March and October 1st of the respective year.

Respectfully submitted,

Farm Committee – Brent Ihns (Council Member), Trisha Feuss, Jason Sullivan

### **Audit Committee**

The audit committee met on January 11, 2023; they found all the books satisfactory.

Committee:

Connie Kleppe, Joan Kleppe, Allan Smith



	Bethlehem Mission Endowment Fund					
	2024 Budget					
		2023 Budget	2024 Budget			
Endowment Value		\$781,105.00	\$786,249.00			
Interest Income		1.96%	4.60%			
1	Interest on CDs	\$15,310.00	\$36,132.00			
2	10% returned to CD principal	<u>\$1,531.00</u>	<u>\$3,613.00</u>			
	Total Interest Income to Disburse	\$13,779.00	\$32,519.00			
	Disbursements					
I. Local						
1	LN EMTs	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,000.00			
2	LN Food Pantry	\$ 900.00	\$ 2,000.00			
3	LN Cemetery	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,200.00			
4	Busch Cemetery	\$ 450.00	\$ 600.00			
5	Smithtown Cemetery	\$ 450.00	\$ 600.00			
6	Veterans - LN Legion	*****	\$ 1,200.00			
7	LN Scoop	*****	\$ 750.00			
8	LN Fire Department	*****	\$ 1,000.00			
9	Sleep in Heavenly Peace	*****	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>			
	Local Total	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 9,350.00			
II. Synod & Area						
7	LSI - Bremwood, Beloit	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,200.00			
8	Women's Resource Center	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,200.00			
9	Anamosa Prison Ministry	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00			
10	DVIP - Iowa City	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 2,000.00			
11	Ronald McDonald House	*****	\$ 1,000.00			
12	Camp Courageous	*****	\$ 1,000.00			
13	YMCA	*****	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>			
	Synod and Area Total	\$2,900.00	\$ 7,900.00			
III. World						
14	Missionary Sponsorship	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,000.00			
15	BWELCA Quilts/LWR Kits	\$ 1,029.00	\$ 1,100.00			
16	Mawuvio Outreach-Child Sponsorship	<u>\$ 450.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>			
	World Total	\$2,129.00	\$ 3,000.00			
IV. Bethlehem						
17	Elevator Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,600.00			
18	Parsonage/Church Remodeling	*****	<u>\$1,200.00</u>			
	Bethlehem Total	\$1,500.00	\$ 2,800.00			
V. Education						
19	College Scholarships (Full & P.T.)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00			
20	EWALU - General	\$550.00	\$ 1,000.00			
21	EWALU - Camperships	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00			
22	Midland Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00			
23	Delwood Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00			
24	Cal-Wheat Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00			
25	Lost Nation Library	*****	\$ 1,169.00			
26	Midland Comm School – Leader in Me	*****	\$ 800.00			
27	Maquoketa Middle School – Leader in Me	*****	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>			
	Education Total	\$ 4,050.00	\$ 9,469.00			
	Total Interest Income Disbursements	\$13,779.00	\$32,519.00			
	First Fruits from Farm Income	\$4,828.00	\$ 5,062.00			
Disbursements						
28	Carroll Assistance Center	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00			
29	DAC, Inc. - Maquoketa	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00			
30	VNA - Hospice	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00			
31	Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,000.00			
32	LN Hometown Pride	\$500.00	\$ 562.00			
33	Veterans - LN Legion	\$ 628.00	Moved to Local			
34	LN Scoop	\$ 500.00	Moved to Local			
35	LN Fire Department	<u>\$ 500.00</u>	<u>Moved to Local</u>			
	Total First Fruits Disbursements	\$ 4,828.00	\$ 5,062.00			



**ENDOWMENT FUND REGISTER 2023**

DATE	CHECK#	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1/1/2023	BAL	Balance Forward		9,619.05
1/3/2023	1523	Schumacher Elevator – annual maint	-1,523.60	8,095.45
1/9/2023	DEP	Interest – checking	0.79	8,096.24
1/31/2023	Dep	CDARS Interest	764.86	8,861.10
2/9/2023	DEP	Interest – checking	0.77	8,861.87
02/28/23	DEP	CDARS Interest	690.8	9,552.67
03/09/23	DEP	Interest – checking	0.77	9,553.44
04/07/23	1290	LN EMTs	-600.00	8,953.44
04/07/23	1291	LN Food Pantry	-900.00	8,053.44
04/07/23	1292	LN Cemetery	-800.00	7,253.44
04/07/23	1293	Busch Cemetery	-450.00	6,803.44
04/07/23	1294	Smithtown Cemetery	-450.00	6,353.44
04/07/23	1295	LSI Bremwood Beloit	-800.00	5,553.44
04/07/23	1296	Women's Resource Center	-800.00	4,753.44
04/07/23	1297	Anamosa Prison Ministry	-250.00	4,503.44
04/07/23	1298	DVIP	-1,050.00	3,453.44
04/07/23	1299	Mamuvio Outreach	-450.00	3,003.44
04/07/23	1300	EWALU General	-550.00	2,453.44
04/07/23	1301	EWALU Campership	-500.00	1,953.44
04/03/23	Dep	CDARS Interest	764.86	2,718.30
04/07/23	Dep	Interest – checking	0.96	2,719.26
4/28/2023	Dep	CDARS Interest	740.17	3,459.43
5/9/2023	Dep	Interest – checking	0.78	3,460.21
5/31/2023	Dep	CDARS Interest	764.86	4,225.07
<u>6/9/2023</u>	<u>Dep</u>	<u>Interest – checking</u>	0.60	4,225.67
06/30/23	Dep	CDARS Interest	145.57	4,371.24
6/30/2023	Dep	CDARS Interest	297.30	4,668.54
6/30/2023	Dep	CDARS Interest	297.30	4,965.84
7/7/2023	Dep	Interest – checking	0.56	4,966.40
8/7/2023	1310	Midland CSD	-500.00	4,466.40
8/7/2023	1311	Delwood CSD	-500.00	3,966.40
8/7/2023	1312	Calmus-Wheatland C SD	-500.00	3,466.40
7/31/2023	Dep	CDARS Interest	764.86	4,231.26
8/9/2023	Dep	Interest – checking	0.70	4,231.96
8/32/23	Dep	CDARS Interest	764.86	4,996.82
9/8/2023	Dep	Interest – checking	0.63	4,997.45
9/11/2023	Dep	CDARS Interest	147.96	5,145.41
9/29/2023	Dep	CDARS Interest	1,431.97	6,577.38
10/6/2023	Dep	Interest – checking	0.61	6,577.99
10/13/23	Dep	CDARS Interest – Correction	307.11	6,885.10
10/31/2023	Dep	CDARS Interest	2,247.25	9,132.35
11/9/2023	Dep	Interest – checking	0.82	9,133.17
11/23/2023	1315	Missionary Sponsorship	-650.00	8,483.17
11/23/2023	1316	BWELCA Quilts	-1,029.00	7,454.17
11/30/2023	Dep	CDARS Interest	2174.64	9,628.81
12/08/23	Dep	Interest – checking	0.74	9,629.55
12/31/2023	Transfer	To Discretionary – Unused scholarships	-1,500.00	8,129.55
12/21/2023	EXP	First Trust – Reinvest 10% of budget	-3,677.00	4,452.55
12/29/2023	Dep	CDARS Interest	2247.25	6,699.80



2023

**FIRST FRUITS FUND REGISTER 2023**

DATE	CHECK#	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1/1/2023	BAL	Balance Forward		897.58
3/2/2023		Transfer from Checking	4,828.00 \$	5,725.58
04/07/23	1302	LN Scoop	-500.00 \$	5,225.58
04/07/23	1303	Carroll Assistance Center	-500.00 \$	4,725.58
04/07/23	1304	DAC, Inc	-628.00 \$	4,097.58
04/07/23	1305	VNA Hospice	-1,000.00 \$	3,097.58
04/07/23	1306	Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach	-700.00 \$	2,397.58
04/07/23	1307	LN Fire Dept	-500.00 \$	1,897.58
04/07/23	1308	LN Hometown Pride	-500.00 \$	1,397.58
11/1/2023	1313	LN Legion	-500.00 \$	897.58

**DISCRETIONARY FUND REGISTER 2023**

DATE	CHECK#	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1/1/2022	BAL	Balance Forward		8,798.09
4/7/2023	1309	Midland Post Prom	-250.00	8,548.09
11/1/2023	1314	LN Scoop (additional donation)	-500.00	8,048.09
12/31/2023	Transfer	From Disc. – Unused scholarships	1,500.00	9,548.09

**CHECKING BALANCE 12/31/2023**

Endowment Fund Balance	6,699.80
First Fruits Fund Balance	897.58
Discretionary Fund Balance	9,548.09
<b>TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUND</b>	<b>17,145.47</b>

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a national organization with chapters in Jackson and Clinton Counties. The organization believes that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. Funds will be used to build beds for children without them. You can find information for Jackson County at <https://www.facebook.com/SHPIAJacksonCo/> or Clinton County at <https://www.facebook.com/SHPCamanche/>.

Leader in Me helps schools and districts build leadership and life skills in students and staff members, create a high-trust culture and accelerate academic achievement. Maquoketa Middle School will use the funds to support 22 Leadership Squads in which students are learning to be leaders for themselves, for the building and for the community. Examples of squads include Art with Heart where students paint murals to improve the environment of the building and Welcome Wagon where students welcome new students to the building and visitors to community assemblies.

Midland is beginning Leader in Me this school year and will use the funds to support the program also.



# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## OPENING LITURGY

### Son of God, Eternal Savior

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.**

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 to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

#### **Receive our prayer, O God.**

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as 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 who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

**Amen.**

1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,  
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.  
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,

Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,  
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.  
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.  
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:

you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:  
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;  
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,  
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.  
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655

Text: Somerset C. Lowry

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;

arr. Julius Röntgen

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Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America