



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION 2022

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2022 Congregational Meeting
Christ Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, IN November 13, 2022
"This Church changes lives!"

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting
3. Approval of August 2022 Special Meeting Minutes
4. Year in Review
5. Ratification of the Proposed Amendments/Bylaw Additions to the Constitution
 - a. Incorporate Model Constitution changes from ELCA
 - b. Make the LLP Board Chair a Voting Member of the Church Council
6. Approval of Updated Spending Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-2023
7. Approval of Spending Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024
8. 2022 Church Council Acknowledgments
9. 2023 Church Council Nominees
10. Closing Prayer

Proposed Rules of Assembly

1. Each speech from the floor on all resolutions and motions will be limited to 3 minutes.
2. A member who has spoken on the pending question(s) may not move the previous question(s). *(Someone cannot comment on a proposal and, at the same time, call for an end to others' comments. Calling for an end to debate must be their first and only comment.)*
3. A motion to end debate by moving the previous question shall apply only to the immediately preceding motion. *(It's not appropriate to call for an end to all comment on all issues or agenda items, only the topic currently under consideration.)*
4. A motion to end debate on all matters on the floor or more than the immediately pending question is not in order. *(See above; it is important that we are able to get through all agenda items.)*
5. Any recount must be ordered by a majority vote before the end of the assembly at which the voting result was announced. *(In the case of a recount request, it should be submitted during the Annual Meeting itself)*

Baptized Members: 595 in 275 households
Confirmed Members: 486 in 266 households
Voting Members: 370 in 201 households

Quorum: 37 voting members

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annual Meeting
November 15, 2021

The 2021 Annual Meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Cindy McGuire

Pastor Tim led us in the opening prayer

There were 65 voting members in person and online for the meeting.

Cindy McGuire reviewed the Agenda and Meeting Overview.

Approval of the 2020 Annual meeting and Special Called meeting minutes:

Motion to accept 2020 Annual meeting and Special Called meeting minutes, seconded, no discussion, motion passed.

What goes on at CLC?

Building Ministry Excellence Slide Show

Thank you, Heather Budnik for putting the slide show together!

Overview of slides:

- Our Location: Pictures of the building through the years
- Our Ministry: Various places worship took place over the years in the gym and current worship space.
- Our Faith and Formation Hour: Sunday School and Adult presentations
- Our Preschool: Pictures of Little Lamb Preschool. The preschool is the church's largest ministry. It serves 142 children.
- Our Ministries: How we service and support the Valparaiso, Northwest Indiana. Indiana and Kentucky Synod, United States and Worldwide missions and ministries. Braile, Quilts, New Creations Men Shelter, Stephen Ministers, Costa Rica trip.
- Our Staff: Pastor Tim Knauff, Pastor Erica Gibson-Even, Clint Mullet, Jen Gottlieb, Brian Bartusch, Jen Bias, Heather Budnik, Milan Coburn

What does it take to build ministry excellence?

Financial/budget discussion:

- Slides on the 2020 Income and 2020 Expenses for the Church (Income \$814,736 including the \$67,340 Payroll Protection Program money and Expenses \$804,823.)
- Slide on 2020 Income and Expenses for Little Lamb Preschool (Income \$252,091 including \$25,560 Payroll Protection Plan and Expenses \$209,566)
- Slides on the 2021 Income and 2021 Expenses for the Church (Income \$596,232 including the \$92,900 Payroll Protection Program and 2021 Expenses \$596,232)
- Slides on 2021 Income and Expenses for Little Lamb Preschool (Income \$131,529 and Expenses \$130,898)

Thanks to outgoing council members for their service:

Ellen Swayne Secretary
Ben Crill Christian Education
Becky Fry Christian Education
Phyllis Schroeder Worship and Music
Tim Sutherland Stewardship
Tim Kratz Property
Faith Noe Financial Secretary

2022 Church Council slate:

- Vice President: Ellen Swayne
- Treasurer: Scott Steinwart
- Financial Secretary: Faith Noe
- Secretary: Sara Long
- Christian Education: Christine Bull
- Christian Growth: Kathy Stefans
- Stewardship: Crystal Ridley
- Youth: Kris Albers
- Youth Representative:
- Worship and Music:
- Stewardship: Crystal Ridley
- Auditing Committee: Amy Boedeker, Karen Seykowski, and Scott Casbon
- Nominating Committee: Cindy McGuire, Dave Gottlieb, Irene Adams, Tim Sutherland, Beth Coburn, Ed J. Seykowski
- Synod Assembly Voting Cindy McGuire, Sue McPherson, Tony & Sue Reinhold, Marla Niksch, Phyllis Schroeder

Approval of the 2022 Church Council nominees:

Motion to accept 2022 Church Council nominees and, seconded, no discussion, motion carried.

Sustaining Ministry Excellence

We are changing from a calendar year to a fiscal year.

Little Preschool operates on a school year.

Church programming follows the school year.

Fundraising follows a school year.

Our last calendar year for financial reporting was 2020.

The period from January 1, 2021- July 31, 2021 is a seven-month stub year.

Our first fiscal year will cover the period of August 1, 2021- July 31, 2021.

Financial discussion

What is changing in 2021-2022	Impact
Increase in Property Manager \$2/ hour	\$2,000
Increase in Custodial Staff \$1/ hour	\$1,080
Increase Director of Music Ministries to full time	\$21,118
Increase of Director of Little Lamb Preschool to Market rate	\$6,278
Increase of Staff Salaries 3%	\$10,056
Total of Impact Changes	\$40,532

What will it take to sustain Ministry Excellence?

2021-2022 Financial Plan for the Church \$969,359.

2021-2022 Financial Plan for Little Lamb Preschool (Income Plan \$253,860 and Expense Plan \$256,262)

Little Lamb Preschool received Build Learn Grow Program Grant. The amount was \$95,240. This program helps families connect to the care and education support their children need- building reliable child care infrastructure creating new learning opportunities for young students and helping our communities grow. The funds can be used for personnel costs, facility fees, maintenance and improvements. It also can provide COVID-19 safety related needs, good and services necessary to resume and strengthen operations, mental health supports for children and employees, and Health and safety training.

2022-2023 Financial Plan for the Church \$947,181.

2022-2023 Financial Plan for Little Lamb Preschool (Income Plan \$266,240 and Expense Plan \$288,821)

Approval to Accept the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Plan

Motion to accept 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Plan, seconded, no discussion, motion carried.

Approval to Accept the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Plan

Motion to accept 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Plan, seconded, no discussion, motion carried.

Pastor Erica led us in a closing prayer.

Cindy McGuire adjourned the meeting at 1:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Swayne, Council Secretary, 1/1/2022

Special Congregational Meeting
August 21, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:25 a.m.

Attendance: ONLINE: 5 people IN PERSON: 63 people

Luke explained why we were holding this special meeting.

Luke introduced the proposed amendment. ([See attached](#))

The amendment was filed March 8, 2022.

The notification of the congregation of the proposal to change the constitution happened May of 2022.

The constitutional amendment will be ratified at the November congregational meeting on November 13, 2022.

There were 2 questions asked.

1. What sparked the desire to make the change?

- a. In terms of dollars spent, LLP is the largest ministry of the church. It thus came as a great surprise to the church council at the end of 2021 to learn that the LLP Board Chair was not a voting member of the council. Most of the council, including the pastors, just assumed that the LLP Board Chair was a voting member. This revelation is what prompted the 2022 council to propose amending the constitution to make the LLP Board Chair a voting member. The council, the executive committee, and the LLP Board unanimously agreed that there is no downside to making the LLP Board Chair a voting member of the council.

2. Are the Little Lamb Board and the chair of the board members of Christ Lutheran Church?

- a. Yes, LLP Board members are required to be members of the Christ Lutheran Church. I elaborated on this answer and also noted that the incoming LLP Board Chair identified during the summer will be included on the slate of nominees for church leadership voted on at the annual meeting in November. Thus, when the incoming Board Chair assumes the role of the Board Chair in the following summer, they have already been voted in by the congregation.

Phil Hahn made the motion to vote on the amendment. Kathy Lundstrom 2nd the motion.

Phil's motion was "I move to approve the proposed amendments to Sec. C12.01 and C12.02 of the Constitution of Christ Lutheran Church as described in the memo submitted to the Council of the congregation on March 8, 2022."

The call to vote had the motion pass unanimously.

Phil Hahn moved to adjourn the meeting, and Ellen Swayne 2nd the motion.

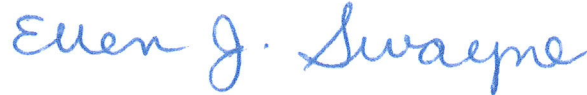
The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

To: Council of the Congregation of Christ Lutheran Church Valparaiso, IN

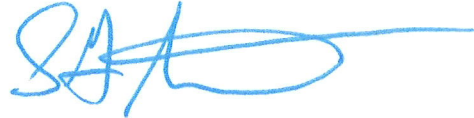
From: Luke J. Venstrom, Council President



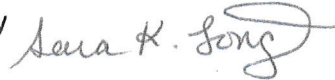
Ellen Swayne, Council Vice-president



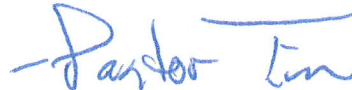
Scott Steinwart, Council Treasurer



Sara Long, Council Secretary



Reverend Timothy Knauff, Senior Pastor



Reverend Erica Gibson-Even, Pastor



Date: 3/8/2022

RE: Proposal to Amend the Constitution and Bylaws of Christ Lutheran Church Valparaiso

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the Congregation Council (hereafter referred to as "the council"), pursuant to section *C16.01 of the Congregational Constitution, of a proposal to amend the Constitution and Bylaws of Christ Lutheran Church of Valparaiso, IN (hereafter referred to as "the church"). This memo details the proposed amendments and briefly explains why the amendments are being proposed.

Proposed Amendments

The sections of the constitution that we propose to amend are C12.01 and C12.02. These sections pertain to the voting membership of the council and to the term of office of certain voting members of the council. In the current form, these sections of the constitution and bylaws state:

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), those elected as representatives to the standing committees, a youth or young adult, and the officers of the congregation. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from two successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state of Indiana, the

Congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot at the annual meeting of the congregation. Their term of office shall be for two (2) years with the term of office beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at a time appointed by the Congregation Council.

We propose to amend these sections of the constitution to add the Chairperson of the Little Lamb Preschool (hereafter referred to as "LLP") to the voting membership of the council. The amended versions of these two sections are as follows (additions and deletions are marked in red):

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), those elected as representatives to the standing committees, a youth or young adult, **the Little Lamb Preschool Board Chairperson**, and the officers of the congregation. Any voting member of the congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from two successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state of Indiana, the Congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot at the annual meeting of the congregation. **The** term of office of **such** members of the Congregation Council shall be for two (2) years with the term of office beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31, **except the youth or young adult and the Little Lamb Preschool Board Chairperson. The term of office of the youth or young adult and Little Lamb Preschool Board Chairperson may be for less than two years and begin and end on dates other than January 1 and December 31. Such** Members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at a time appointed by the Congregation Council.

In addition to the above amendments, we also propose adding a new bylaw C12.02.04 to clarify the term of office of the Little Lamb Preschool Board Chairperson and the start and end dates of the term of office of this voting member of the council, much like bylaw C12.02.03 clarifies the term of office of the youth or young adult voting member of the council. The proposed bylaw is as follows:

C12.02.04. The Little Lamb Preschool Board Chairperson will be elected each year to serve a one-year term with the term of office beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30.

Reasons for the Amendments and New ByLaw

The LLP Director and the LLP Board Chair are required by the LLP Constitution to attend council meetings even though they have no voting rights. As a church staff member, it makes sense that the LLP Director is not a voting member of the council because this person has a conflict of interest in directing staff compensation. The LLP Board Chairperson, however, is typically a lay leader of the church with no such conflict of interest. The LLP Board Chair advocates for the interests of LLP much like a standing committee chair advocates for the interest of their committee (in directing the funds, resources, and policies of the congregation). The proposed amendments would allow for LLP to better represent the interests of the ministry, the largest ministry of the congregation, in the official governing body of the church.

Both the Executive Committee of the council and the LLP Board have discussed the proposed amendments to the constitution to convert the LLP Board Chairperson to a voting member of the council. The result of those discussions is that neither group sees a downside to the change. It is likely that the LLP Board Chairperson was not added as a voting member of the council because LLP is recognized as an "Organization within the Congregation" rather than a standing committee. Under this label, LLP is subject to the church's oversight and direction. The congregation approves LLP's policies, guides their activity, and receives reports concerning their membership, work, and finances. LLP is governed by a Board of Directors "as authorized by and responsible to the Congregation Council". Consequently the LLP Board Chair was not recognized as a voting member of the council when the ministry began.

Process to Amend the Constitution

- Proposing and Voting on the Amendment
 - Section *C16.01 is applicable in this case assuming because the Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA does not have language guiding how congregations relate to preschools that they support.
 - ✓ **FIVE:** Five voting members of the council are required to propose an amendment. The five voting members proposing the amendment are the signatories on this memo.
 - ✓ **SIXTY:** The proposal for the amendment must be filed in writing with the council 60 days before a meeting of the congregation to consider the proposal. This memo represents the official filing of the proposal for the amendment.
 - **THIRTY:** The council must notify the congregation of the proposal along with the recommendation of the council with regards to the proposal 30 days in advance of the congregation meeting at which the proposal is considered. This is a future step.
 - **APPROVED:** A majority of voting members present and voting (i.e., not abstaining) at a legally called meeting of the congregation is required to "approve" the amendment.

- **RATIFIED:** A second meeting is required to ratify the amendments. The second meeting must be the next regular meeting of the congregation. Two-thirds of voting members present and voting must vote in favor of the amendments to ratify them.
- **SYNOD APPROVAL:** The ratified amendment must be approved by the synod.

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERS
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Valparaiso, Indiana

President	LUKE VENSTROM luke.venstrom@valpo.edu	815-997-6714
Vice President	ELLEN SWAYNE ellenjswayne@aol.com	219-299-8699
Treasurer	SCOTT STEINWART SSteinwart@firstmerchants.com	219-464-1282
Financial Secretary	FAITH NOE faith_noe@yahoo.com	219-462-8202
Secretary	SARA LONG jslong1758@comcast.net	219-465-6324
Christian Education	CHRISTINE BULL christinemwitt@gmail.com	219-246-9073
Christian Growth	KATHY STEFANS kathy.stefans@gmail.com	847-612-3025
Worship and the Arts	LOIS FELTEN lfeltencl@gmail.com	219-241-3816
Property	KARL SCHMITT pelonza@gmail.com	443-904-7154
Social Ministry	LISA OWEN jlo46383@msn.com	219-477-9240
Stewardship	CRYSTAL RIDLEY Teamridley03@gmail.com	219-242-5030
Little Lamb Board Rep	RACHEL LIESKE Rachel.v.roberts@gmail.com	219-242-1492
Youth	KRIS ALBERS aakrisa@gmail.com	219-309-9563
Youth Representative	DANA ABBRING Dabb3001@gmail.com	219-464-1678

Nominating Committee

CINDY McGUIRE	priusv10@gmail.com
DAVE GOTTLIEB	dave.gottlieb@aol.com
IRENE ADAMS	iadams102@gmail.com
TIM SUTHERLAND	sutherla@iun.edu
BETH COBURN	bethmarie.coburn@gmail.com
ED J. SEYKOWSKI	eseykow@iun.edu

Audit Committee

AMY BOEDEKER	boedekerfamily@yahoo.com
KAREN SEYKOWSKI	kjseykow@frontier.com
SCOTT CASBON	sccasbo@msn.com

Synod Assembly Voting Members

SUE MCPHERSON	suemcpherson626@hotmail.com
PHYLLIS SCHROEDER	Phyllis.Schroeder@valpo.edu
TONY REINHOLD	tonyrein@aol.com
SUE REINHOLD	swreinhold@aol.com

Budget Committee**STAFF**

Senior Pastor	TIM KNAUFF, JR. pastortim@clcvalpo.org	219-242-7308
Pastor	ERICA GIBSON-EVEN pastorerica@clcvalpo.org	219-309-1754
Director of Youth Ministries	CLINT MULLET clint.mullet@clcvalpo.org	219-386-6809
Director of LLP	JEN GOTTLIEB jen.gottlieb@clcvalpo.org	219-309-6019
Director of Music Ministries	BRIAN BARTUSCH brian.bartusch@clcvalpo.org	219-307-9864
Parish Administrator	JENNY BIAS jen.bias@clcvalpo.org	219-228-0573
Business Manager	HEATHER BUDNIK heather.budnik@clcvalpo.org	219-707-7295
Parish Nurse	JULI VERKLER forever20154@att.net	619-518-8599
Property Manager	MILAN COBURN milan.coburn@clcvalpo.org	219-510-2421

MEMBERSHIP STATISTIC FOR 2022

Members received

Baptisms: 6

Adult Baptism: 0

Affirmation of Faith/Transfers: 12

Members removed

By death: 7

Moved/Transfers: 28

Pastoral Acts

Funerals: 6

Students confirmed: 10

To: Church Council

Re: Financial Audit for the fiscal period 8/1/21 through 7/31/22

Audit Committee reviewed the financial records for the fiscal year 21-22 for Little Lamb Preschool and Christ Lutheran Church and completed the following:

1. Verified the bank balance and financial transaction for all bank accounts for CLC and LLP.
2. Reviewed various payments for accuracy.
3. Verified recurring transactions for timely payment.
4. Reviewed Petty cash totals.
5. Salaried and hourly staff payments compared to budget.
6. Verified payroll taxes and payments to IRS and Indiana.
7. Reviewed counter sheets and compared amounts to bank deposits
8. Reviewed the balance sheet for accuracy.
9. Verified procedures for authorized signatures.
10. Procedures are sufficient.

In conclusion of our review, we found no material discrepancies and the financial statements appear accurate. The fixed assets were not reviewed as there were no changes to fixed assets and there is not a detail of furniture and equipment.

We do not have any recommendations to Council.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Boedeker

Karen Seykowski

Scott Casbon

Report of the Senior Pastor 2022
Rev. Tim Knauff

If there is to be a theme for this year, I nominate “Hesitantly Normal-ish.” This fall we’ve been slowly restarting our “usual” programs, worship, formation hour, meetings, gatherings. We’ve been adding back many of the activities, service opportunities, ensembles, choirs, and classes we’ve been used to in the pre-pandemic past. We’ve been returning communion bread, formation hour goodies, potlucks, and more.

What’s surprised me is the continuing reminders how short a time ago we weren’t able to do any of this. Less than a year ago we were not singing in worship. We had re-configured our space to provide more space and fewer seats. No choirs, no singing, no fellowship time, no classes, we even tried caroling at the fire pit in December because we weren’t able to sing them indoors. That was such a very short time ago!

It’s a reminder of how much we’ve been through, how fast, and how short a time ago. At the start of the pandemic we talked about how we will know when we’re back to “normal.” But normal has changed, evolved, it is different than what it was. *We* are changed, *we* are different than we were.

Change means change -- we have lost something to gain what we are now. Many of the books and conferences talking about church life today are centering around trauma: we’ve been through a traumatic time, together. That has changed us. That change is still ongoing, we are still discovering who we are, and what that new life has lost.

It’s providing a remarkable opportunity for us to ask deep questions: who are we? What is most important in our ministry life together? Where are we being called to new life? Who are we being called toward? What do we mean when we say we “welcome?” These questions matter, because they grow out of our certainty that God is shaping us into something, some new life and living that is making us new.

Throughout this report you will find signs of that new life and living: baptisms and confirmation, funerals and celebrations, **Live Bold** and a birthday, new members and farewells, worship and formation and LWR ingathering and care kits and shelter meals and quilts and Braille books and choirs and handbells and youth orchestras and... The life God brings out of us is remarkable, even as it feels “normal,” “ordinary,” “regular” for us.

As always, God is making all things new, even -- especially -- us. We are not the same as we were. But that is blessing, even as it contains grief, trauma, change: God is shaping, sculpting, molding us, together, into something new.

In God’s amazing grace,

-Pastor Tim

Pastor Erica Gibson-Even
Annual Report 2022

It's never easy to assess or sum up a year in the life of a congregation - what do we measure? The hours cumulatively spent in prayer? Tangible blessings we're able to share? Dear ones lovingly entrusted to God in baptisms and funerals? New ventures we've had the courage to try and fail at? The call to faithful discipleship isn't easily boxed up! Maybe the promises we make when we bring our loved ones to baptism, and when we affirm our own baptism are as good a measure as any - a snapshot of some important anchors in a life of following Jesus, individually and as church.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

Over the last year we've moved to gathering without restriction, working to make good decisions about what adaptations are needed on an ongoing basis, and working to make sure we're hospitable to folks still facing challenges. We're gathering in person and online, for worship, meetings, and study, in some really creative and helpful ways. (A lot easier for some committees to get their folks gathered and work done over zoom!) But this promise, to live among GOD's faithful people, is also a greater challenge post-pandemic. Whether it's worship, fellowship, participation in ministries, or taking leadership roles - the pandemic knocked our habits loose. The challenge in this coming year for our congregation is around building and rebuilding connection. Throughout our culture, our attachments to institutions are looser - so how do we as the people of God, who NEED one another in order to hear about God's grace and grow in faith, grow deeper in our connections to one another, and in our commitment to gathering together? (Our youth tell us that one thing we need is more pot-lucks, and they're probably right!)

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

In this last year our worship life has been a year of re-learning some of our habits and patterns. The Altar Guild has continued to adapt to health measures, the Worship Arts team has put work into finding and equipping enough worship assistants, etc. As staff plan worship, we've asked ourselves repeatedly, what was "the way we've always done it," again? We've celebrated the return of the Sunday School Christmas Program, Wednesday Lenten worship, and our typical Holy Week worship. We've got a new appreciation for outdoor summer worship, with its beautiful place to gather and gentle music. We were surprised by how our hearts were moved as we said goodbye to pandemic wafers and again receive real bread at holy communion. For the first time we marked the Season of Creation, and I'm keen to see how this emphasis will shape our discipleship over time.

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

So many of our education/formation ministries have returned to their typical practices, while creatively adapting to changes brought by the pandemic. Thanks to great leaders, a good crowd of kids returned to in-person VBS this summer! A variety of adult faith formation options are back in our Formation Hour, including a new parents' Sunday morning group. God gave us enough Sunday School teachers this year, and great helpers, as we continue with the new structure we tried last year. Confirmation and youth ministry are back on their regular schedule, we Pastors are back to leading LLP chapel from time to time, and a team is starting to do some visioning around planning a congregational retreat. Our tech team and new website work are allowing us to share the Good News with folks near and far - most visitors to in-person worship these days have joined us online first.

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

We are blessed to be training a great new group of Stephen Ministers to join our already faithful and dedicated team. This “quiet” ministry is such an important way that God is at work in our lives, as Stephen Ministers come alongside us with the love of Jesus. The Caring Meals ministry keeps busy, pastors are visiting members in hospitals and care facilities near and far, and the Traveling Tea Party is visiting members who are unable to get to CLC in person. Our faithful Lutheran World Relief advocates have organized, encouraged, and equipped us into a huge collection of boxes filled with quilts, care kits, school kits, and layettes for neighbors across the globe. The Men’s Overnight Shelter returned to CLC and churches throughout town this year, and I’m so proud of the leaders in our congregation who championed this ministry through the chaos of a pandemic and post-pandemic adjustment. This year our deepened partnership with Bethel Lutheran has also helped shape us to better love and serve our neighbors together.

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

This is one baptismal promise where the Holy Spirit has really been at work in our congregation in the last year! The Sacred Ground program has been equipping us for truth-telling, repentance, and reconciliation as we learn about the ways racism has impacted our society. So many of our members have participated, and are now working on next steps. Our leadership team is so called and gifted that they’ve been asked to lead a Synod-wide Sacred Ground program this Spring! Our Deepening Our Welcome group, and our ongoing partnership with Casa Adobe and its creation care theme (and an actual, real, in person learning trip planned for Summer 2023!) are all ways that we are growing in work for justice and peace. Thanks be to God!

I’m so grateful that we have this community, that I don’t, and you don’t, follow Jesus by myself but in connection with one another. I see your courage in leadership, your persistence in prayer, your faithfulness in loving your neighbor, your joy in God’s grace, and that is a vision of the Holy Spirit at work amongst us and for the sake of the world. Thanks be to God! I’m especially grateful for our congregation’s generosity in granting me sabbatical time for this summer - time to lean into the prayer and growth that nourishes ministry, time to take my nose out of the furrow and regain a sense of the big picture of God at work. I’m especially joyful to share that our application for a Clergy Renewal Grant to the Lily Foundation was funded! Because of this generosity, this coming summer, I’ll be able to explore “Dislocation as a Spiritual Practice” - with time abroad and at Holden Village, and with time for CLC to concurrently explore what times of dislocation (like a pandemic) have meant for our discipleship, both as a community and individually.

President's Report

Luke Venstrom

October 19, 2022

With the pandemic transitioning to an endemic, we are adjusting to a new normal less dominated by COVID-19. We have been able to bring back many of the practices and traditions that we hold dear as a community, including singing together in worship, gathering in person to learn during the faith formation hour, and hosting men experiencing homelessness at our church. With the return of these practices, it is easy to forget that we also continued to experience disruptions in 2022. Many of us contracted COVID-19 and were forced to isolate from family, friends, and our neighbors. Some experienced mild symptoms; others experienced and may still be experiencing long COVID. We grappled with broken supply chains, the war in Ukraine, political turmoil, and an economy that is confounding the experts. Through these ups and downs, God remained present and our church remained steadfast in its mission, continuing to change lives as it trumpets the Good News of a resurrected Jesus in whom we can know hope, joy, and a love that knows no boundaries.

Our congregation enables Christ Lutheran Church (CLC) to be a force in the community because we are generous. We are generous in the giving of our talents, prayers, time, and money. These gifts are the life blood of our ministries, the clay that the potter crafts into life-changing outcomes for our families, friends, and all who our church touches. For this generous support, I say thank you. Your faithfulness makes a difference.

This year, the church council adopted three words to guide our efforts: *stewardship*, *bold*, and *identity*. We adopted *stewardship* and *bold* to help us **live boldly** with our new stewardship program called “Stewardship for All Seasons”, and we adopted *identity* to remind us of our 2022 goal to discern who we are as a church and who we want to be as a church.

Bold in Stewardship, Service, and Song

In February, the stewardship committee asked us all to “**Live Bold**”, to look ahead and wonder what God is preparing us for and how we can best be part of it. We responded wonderfully. Two out of every three giving units responded with pledges, and of those responses, four out of every five indicated their intention to increase their regular giving to the church's general fund. The impact was immediate. The church saw a measureable increase in giving to the operating fund after the campaign as a result of a projected weekly increase in giving of \$1,860.

The generosity realized in “**Live Bold**” allowed us to sustain the ministry excellence that we enjoy at CLC and expand the music ministries led by our Director of Music Ministries Brian Bartusch. Here are some of the ways that I noticed our commitments to “**Live Bold**” yielding returns in big and little ways.

- Using funds obtained in a grant by the Little Lamb Preschool, the church staff led a rebranding effort. The effort culminated in new logos for the church, the preschool, and the youth program; a new and improved church website; and a new CLC app. Our new brand better reflects our identity and our website is more helpful to visitors.

- In addition to his normal duties, Pr. Tim accompanied the Sanctuary Choir on the piano in May.
- Also in May when Pr. Tim became sick, Pr. Erica served as both the homilist and minister of the sacraments in worship. She also taught Sunday School that morning.
- In addition to her normal duties, our business manager Heather Budnik has been carefully documenting the accounting processes that she follows to keep our books so that future business managers are able to more quickly get up to speed.
- Jen Gottlieb, Director of Little Lamb Preschool, led an effort to obtain a Build, Learn, Grow grant for the preschool that will ensure that it continues to be one of the most coveted preschools in the Valparaiso and surrounding communities.
- Milan Coburn, the church's Property Manager, completed the new Teacher Preparation Room for the Little Lamb Preschool ahead of schedule and found ways to save at least \$5000 dollars on the work by soliciting volunteers. Construction of the new room was funded by grants obtained by the Little Lamb Preschool Board of Directors.
- Youth Director Clint Mullet expertly stewarded the funds for the youth program. When the camp that the youth travel to for a summer retreat raised their rates, Clint found ways to have CLC absorb those costs so that they were not passed on to the families of our youth. Clint also directs several successful fund raising activities with the youth each year to defer costs of participating in life-changing events such as the ELCA National Youth Gathering and Quake.
- Our Parish Secretary Jenny Bias continues to be present for all visitors. My kids love to come to church during the week and visit Jenny. They receive the warmest smile and a small sucker.
- Under the direction of Brian Bartusch, three new musical offerings have become a regular part of our worship: cantors leading our musical reflections of the psalms, the youth handbell choir, and special music offered by our youth on the piano, cello, viola, and violin. We also enjoyed talented guest musicians at Easter forming a brass ensemble to enhance our celebration.

You will encounter more examples and/or more details of the outcomes of our generosity in the rest of the annual report. I encourage you to keep reading!

In support of our stewardship efforts and because it is so inspiring, the church council and I adopted a new practice in our monthly meetings. In each meeting, a member of the council or the staff shared a story of how a ministry of the church has had an impact on someone's life. Over the course of the year we heard about the impact of our youth program on our youth at Camp Lutherwald, we heard about how attending summer services at CLC reconnected the son of one of our council members to his faith, we heard about how the hospitality of our church to a visitor planted a seed that grew to become the church's Steiner Fund, and so many more. These stories are the result of our generosity, and we endeavored as a council to share the joy in these stories with the congregation. Consequently, we wrote notes to tell the stories and say thank you.

Identity

In January, the church council met for the annual council retreat. We focused our time on strategic planning. We reflected on what makes our church unique and we listened for how

God may be calling our church to move forward in new ways. Through our conversations we identified five values as either being an important part of our identity as a church or an important part of our church's future direction. These values were *Ministry Across Generations*, *Service and Social Ministry*, *Welcome and Community*, *Worship and Music*, and *Faith Formation*. The retreat became the foundation for an on-going strategic planning process.

Strategic planning continued in the spring during Lent. The congregation responded to a series of surveys administered during Sunday services in which the congregation was asked to reflect on the five values identified by the council at the council retreat. The Lenten survey results confirmed that the council had correctly identified these five values as an important of the church's current or future identity. All five values scored greater than a 9 out of 10 for either "sounding like CLC" or "shaping our future direction". The Lenten surveys also provided a number of creative suggestions for new initiatives to help us lean into values already ingrained in our church or to venture forth in values to which God is calling us to more fully adopt.

In June, members of the congregation gathered during a special forum to reflect on the results of the Lenten surveys and select the three core values to include in the strategic plan. A recording of the forum is available on the CLC app. The three values selected for the strategic plan are *Welcome and Community*, *Worship and Music* (including other forms of art), and *Faith Formation*.

The next steps in the strategic planning process are to develop a set of goals for each value and initiatives to achieve those goals. This work will continue through the end of 2022.

While we continue to develop the plan, some initiatives are already underway. In the area of *Welcome and Community*, many of us have participated in the Sacred Ground series curated by the Episcopal church. Many thanks to Lisa Owen, Kathy Sutherland, and the Social Ministry Committee for their efforts in organizing these opportunities to learn and grow deeper in our faith. In the series, participants walked through chapters of America's history of race and racism through the lens of faith, including the history of our city of Valparaiso. The series has helped us to think about how we respond as a church to be a community for the marginalized in our city and society.

In addition to Sacred Ground, some of our members formed the "Deepening our Welcome" group. This group has been active all year and is leading an effort to make CLC a "Reconciled in Christ" congregation. The Deepening our Welcome group has engaged church leaders in conversations about how we welcome at CLC people that identify as LGBTQIA+, recognizing that God has called us all as God's children—no strings attached. The group also organized the three-week series led by Dr. Fred Niedner in October on the topic of sexuality in the Bible.

Other Notables

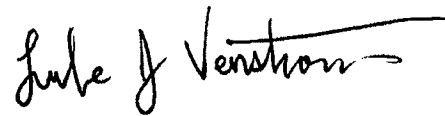
In addition to the above, this year at CLC we have also accomplished the following:

- We celebrated and continue to celebrate our 52nd birthday as a church. We had cake, we learned more about ourselves during the ministry fair, and we sang along during the world premiere of an anthem written by our own Walt Wangerin, Jr. and John Bernthal for our 50th anniversary. We also gave CLC birthday gifts. Council leaders were so enthusiastic about giving a birthday gift that they provided matching funds for the first 10% of the gifts, turning every \$50 gift into \$100. So far over \$8000 has been pledged. In addition to providing funds for matching gifts, the Council committed to giving an additional \$200 per week for our shared ministry. We invite you to join us in our celebration by making a gift! You can do so at <https://clcvalpo.org/birthday>.

- We have approved the inclusion on our annual meeting ballot an amendment to our constitution to make the Chair of the Little Lamb Preschool Board a voting member of the church council.
- We passed a resolution to waive fees for use of our building by non-profit organizations that partner with us through our standing committees.

In closing I would like to thank my fellow members on the church council and the church staff for their service, friendship, and leadership. It has been a rewarding experience serving with such an incredibly faithful group of fellow Lutherans. I appreciate their support and prayers.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Luke J. Venstrom" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Luke J. Venstrom
President of the Congregation

2022 Little Lamb Preschool Annual Report

CHRISTIAN MISSION STATEMENT

Little Lamb Preschool, in union with Christ Lutheran Church, serves God by shepherding God's children as we nurture the whole child in partnership with families.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

We are a Christian preschool whose goal is to provide excellence in education and a loving, safe learning environment for every child. Based on the philosophy that young children learn best through play, we provide developmentally appropriate opportunities for them to explore, make discoveries, and learn respect for themselves and others. We firmly believe that all children are wonderful gifts from God to be cherished and nurtured. In collaboration with families, we encourage and support children to learn and grow socially, emotionally, academically, physically, and spiritually.

BOARD MEMBERS

Our hardworking, committed LLP Board members include, Rachel Lieske, Chairperson; Lis Tracht, Vice Chair; Shana Provenzano, Secretary; Heather Budnik, Treasurer; Traci Coil, Kerstin Koch, and Samuel Graber.

LITTLE LAMB STAFF

Our excellent, dedicated staff includes Mary Comstock, Sharon Castellanos, Teri Coplan, Ashley Kimmel, Susan Shingler, Laura Venstrom (teachers), Dani Dziedzinski, Cheryl Mulder, Mallory Raab, Susan Shingler, Jenn Jones (teaching assistants), and Jen Gottlieb (Director).

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We completed our 2020-2021 school year with Graduation, Beginner picnics and Mother Day celebrations in person. It was an extremely meaningful time for us as we were able to share the school and students with our families. Fall of 2021 has begun with reduced COVID precautions. God (as always) has blessed us with an unbelievably dedicated and hardworking team and wonderful families. We have currently have 10 energetic and joyous classes. Each age level is busy learning, growing, and forming relationships. The children and each and every LLP team member brings joy into the school day. **LLP has 143 students attending the ten different classes** within four classrooms. We offer two 5-sessions per week, five 3-sessions per week, and three 2-sessions per week classes. This year we are bringing back our Extended Day program -Lunch Bunch. It begins in January and runs through May. The students will experience lunch at school, provided by Valpo Schools Nutrition. Our developmentally appropriate curriculum is updated on an ongoing basis following guidelines from Indiana's Foundations for Early Learning Standards, Creative Curriculum, ELEM and NAEYC Accreditation Standards, and input from community Kindergarten teachers. Children attend Chapel Time weekly and participate in daily classroom devotions. We plan to offer a week-long STEAM camp during the summer. We are employing a family engagement tool **Bloomz**. It is an app to increase communication between school/teacher/parent. LLP continues its role on the VBS planning committee and volunteering during the VBS week. **LLP is an ELEM accredited preschool and is currently a Level 3 Paths to QUALITY school** (Indiana's rating system for Early Childhood Centers).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We appreciate the CLC Staff supporting us through music experiences (Brian), Chapel and Program Openings (Pastors Tim and Erica), scheduling (Jenny & Clint), finances (Heather) and continual property maintenance (Milan). We thank congregation members who helped our LLP ministry and those who support us in prayer and encouragement. We especially thank all that have financially donated to our school by providing equipment, memorial gifts, scholarships, monetary gifts, and educational materials. Your help reaffirms our church and school's commitment to providing an excellent Christian early childhood education.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

We continually strive to improve the quality of our program, while maintaining its respected reputation, by meeting the educational, social and spiritual needs of our students, their families, our congregation, and community. **LLP is working towards becoming Level 4 Paths to QUALITY school and becoming accredited by NAEYC during the 2022-2023 school year.**

Little Lamb Preschool is very thankful to be a ministry of CLC and an outreach to the Valparaiso Community.

Christian Education Annual Report 2022

Christian Education had an exciting year. We were happy to bring back so many opportunities for in-person Christian education.

- We had in-person Sunday School for our children PreK-4th grade. The children were split between 2 groups: PreK- Kindergarten and 1st-4th grades.
- We were able to have a Sunday School Christmas Program during the Faith Formation hour in December 2021.
- We brought back adult Faith Formation opportunities.
- We started a “CLC Coffee Klatch,” which is intended for parents of Sunday schoolers. We welcome any and all parents to attend for coffee and conversation.
- VBS was up and running this past June 2022.
- We hosted a “Sunday School Kick-off Picnic” in early September 2022.

Christian Growth Committee

Annual Report 2022

This congregation is so blessed by the dedicated members who serve as part of the Christian Growth Committee! The mandate of the Christian Growth Committee is ***“implementing programs and activities to increase the spiritual growth of the members of the congregation***

Bread Breakers, led by Amy Knauff

Three adult groups and three family groups have been formed for this year and are starting to meet. It's good to be back!

Caring Meals, led by Amy Knauff

The Caring Meals ministry uses www.takethemameal.com to line up meal providers with the meal receivers. There are 42 people on the caring meals mailing list. Meals are provided to families due to illness, death of a loved one, birth of a baby, or some other difficult time.

Since the last annual report, we have provided 6 meal schedules for congregational members. Referrals can be made through the church office or one of the pastors. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this ministry, contact Amy Knauff @ 219-242-7448 or amyknauff@gmail.com.

Faith Formation Hour, led by Kathy Stefans

Our Faith Formation Hour is up and running again at 9:20 am on Sunday mornings. An ongoing Bible study continues with Dave Keammerer in room 120.

A Sunday School Parent Coffee Klatch has started in room 119.

A variety of presentations about different ministries we support, issues of interest, and Bible studies are scheduled in the sanctuary each week. Details are in the weekly eNews and on the website. If you have ideas for programs or studies you would enjoy, please contact Kathy Stefans @ 847-612-3025, Kathy.stefans@gmail.com or Pastor Erica through the church office.

Grief Group, led by Pr. Jane Aicher

At this time, the Grief Group is meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 10am in the CLC library.

Funeral Dinners, led by Marilyn McGawn

The purpose of Funeral Meals/Receptions is to offer church families a time of fellowship and sharing with a meal or light refreshments following the funeral or memorial service of their loved one. Two funeral luncheons were provided in the last year.

We would certainly welcome more volunteers who would like to be involved in this ministry, to provide food and/or to help serve at the event.

Contact: Marilyn McGawn at memcgawn@comcast.net or 219-242-8615 (home).

Stephen Ministry, led by Dr. Tim Knauff

At the end of this ministry year, Stephen Ministry has 11 active ministers and five in training. Yes, five new Stephen Ministers will join us early winter! Our emphasis for this coming year is raising the vision. Surely you have seen our road sign? It will appear again! We want people to know that we are available for more than grief situations. As always, if you are facing one of life's difficulties, a Stephen Minister is waiting to walk with you and offer support. Getting to us is easy and highly confidential: contact one of our Pastors or any Stephen Minister. We wear those blue name tags.

Traveling Tea Parties, led by Holly Knauff and Beth Coburn

We continue to remind all of the CLC members who are in assisted living that they are still members of the Family of God at Christ Lutheran Church. The Traveling Tea parties continue to deliver a card with a tea bag and an individually wrapped cookie to our eight members at The Pines, Aviva, Story Point, Valpo Care, and Coffee Creek every three months.

We will keep this format until we are not a threat to our Tea Party Guests.

-- Submitted by Kathy Stefans, Chair

Property Committee Report – Aug 1st, 2021 – July 31st 2022

Major Activities:

- Lots of annual painting (windows, doors, LLP annex, hallways, and more!)
- Lots of annual fixing (HVAC repairs, window cracks, drywall issues, and more!)
- Conducted lead testing of water system (voluntary, externally funded, for early Educ. Centers)
 - No issues were found!
- Repaired check-valves on backflow preventers of fire alarm/sprinkler
- Bioswale revamp with grant funding (and an award!)
- Back parking lot resealing
- LLP Teacher Preparation Annex built and prepared (to much happiness)
- LLP Water Heater and HVAC systems replaced
- Extension of fire alarm/sprinkler system to Fellowship Hall, Activity Center, and outside shed
- More than \$1000 received in energy saving rebates from NIPSCO (thanks Tony!)
- Supported neighbor in cleaning up south property line.

As in every year, property committee (spearheaded in work by Milan) completed a huge variety of projects of new, maintenance, and repair. Originally unplanned, but in order to make better use of our budget we extended our fire protection system into all parts of the building. Also unanticipated was the building of a teacher preparation annex for Little Lamb Preschool. That project was funded by a grant received by LLP. However, the work was done by a variety of helpers beyond Milan including Scott Schnabel, Ken (a friend of Scott) and others. Another notable event was the revamping of our parking-lot bioswales. This was led by Betty Luckett and supported by a grant from NIPSCO. We also had many donations of materials, and more importantly, time by others including our local boy scout and girl scout troops.

For the coming year (Fiscal anyway) Property Committee is carefully evaluating the ongoing maintenance needs for the church and grounds. We recognize that the budget is tight, and therefore choices must be evaluated in light of that challenge. We also recognize that ignoring issues, or only doing temporary fixes may results in more significant costs in the future. Concerns that we are wrestling with include further HVAC replacements (some are running long past their life-expectancy), recarpeting in the Activity Center and offices and additional parking lot resealing. As always, we'll continue to fix, beautify, and upkeep the spaces we encounter and experience God in that we have stewardship of.

Respectfully submitted by your Brother in Christ,

Karl Schmitt

Social Ministry and Mission Committee Annual Report 2022

Committee Members: Diana and Bill Iltzsche; Lisa Owen; Irene Adams; Tim Sutherland; Kathy Lundstrom; Kathy Page (secretary); Tony Reinhold; Ed and Karen Seykowski; Becky Fry; Eileen Piehl; Phyllis Schroeder; Faith Noe, Adam Gibson, Linda Hazelton, Wanda Rodgers, Kathy Sutherland, Pastor Tim Knauff

The work of the committee continued to focus on hunger, housing, homelessness and mission, with an added focus on social justice around diversity. Monthly emphases fall under these areas and provide giving and in many cases volunteer opportunities. Each of these organizations is a line item in the Social Ministry and Mission budget, as well as receiving designated giving from members.

Opportunities to gather together to serve have gradually increased; in particular, the return to hosting the men's shelter program in partnership with other area churches and New Creations drew many CLC volunteers who made meals, did laundry, and supervised overnight shifts. The list below describes for each month the ministries to which we invite the CLC family's attention, to increase awareness of opportunities to serve with our time and resources.

The Emphasis calendar involves Financial Giving and Volunteer Opportunities for congregation members (incl. confirmation youth service projects) - within the community, in NWI, with our IK/ELCA Synod, & internationally - with yearly Goals of 300 Volunteers/1500 Vol. Hours – and giving of \$25,000 from Congregational Budget & Over/Above Offerings.

- **January** = *Hunger/Housing*: First Contact Christian Resources & Mike Steiner Fund
 - Volunteer Opportunities: CLC members welcome to volunteer 12mo. at First Contact & Meals on Wheels
 - Volunteer Opportunities: Advocacy/Writing letters 12mo. via BFW, ELCA, IAN, ProjNeighb, and LIRS
- **February** = *Hunger/Poverty*: Hilltop Neighborhood House/Childcare/Food Pantry
 - Volunteer Opportunities: CLC takes leadership/provides volunteers for Hilltop Soups Fundraiser
- **March** = *Homeless*: New Creation Men's Center/Day-Overnight Shelter/Resale Shop
 - Sat. overnight shelter at CLC April-Oct./provide food items-meals 12mo. for Men's Shelter
- **April** = *Homeless/Housing*: Housing Opportunities incl. Food Pantry
 - Volunteer Opportunities: CLC members vol. at H.O. (incl. 2 serve on H.O. Board/1 on staff)
- **May** = *Mission/Diversity*: CLC Mission Trip to Costa Rica (Summ. 2023) - international, intergenerational
 - Volunteer Opportunities: CLC 2023 Costa Rican Mission Trip and River Monitoring Conservation project
- **June** = *Hunger/Housing*: Food Banks of Northwest Indiana & Project Neighbors
 - Volunteer Opportunities: CLC food donations 12mo. to P.C. Food Pantries & vols. for Project Neigh.
- **July** = *Mission/Diversity*: ELCA G.M./Selian Hosp.-Tanzania & AMOS Med. Mission Trip-Guatemala
 - Volunteer Opportunities: CLC provide supplies for AMOS Mission Trip & ARC Blood Donations 12mo.

- **August** = *Mission/Diversity*: Luth. Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) & Lutheran Braille Ministries
 - Volunteer Opportunities: CLC host vols. to create Braille Bibles & CLC Community Garden harvest
- **September** = *Mission/Diversity*: Gloria Dei Compass Educ. Program & #66 Synod Endowment
 - Volunteer Opportunities: Pack Away Hunger event in Crown Point & Compass volunteers 12mo.
 - Volunteer Opportunities: God's Work Our Hands with Trinity Luth. - Proj. Neighbors/Allies Against Racism
- **October** = *Hunger/Poverty*: ELCA World Hunger/Luth. Disaster Response & Lutheran World Relief
 - Volunteer Opportunities: CLC is LWR Truckload Pickup Site (incl. CLC 12 mo. Quilts/Care Kits/School kits)
- **November** = *Mission/Diversity*: Lutheran Diaconal Association
 - Volunteer Opportunities: CLC hosts LDA Diaconal Sunday and Alternative Giving Fair Sundays in Nov.
- **December** = *Mission/Diversity*: Bethel Lutheran Gary (ELCA Urban Ministry) incl. Bethel/CLC Partnership
 - Volunteer Opportunities: Interfaith Action Network 12mo., Sojourner Truth House, Lake Mich. Worship

In addition, the committee has been working in these other areas:

- Exploring ways to grow in hospitality via the work of the "Deepening Our Welcome" committee, using conversations, movies, forums and guest speakers
- Our second annual worship and picnic with Bethel Lutheran Church at the lakeshore in August, which saw over 100 participants despite rainy weather
- Once again Christ Lutheran hosted a Sacred Ground discussion circle, an Episcopal church program teaching racial reconciliation and awareness. Participants joined via Zoom from several states and denominations.
- Efforts to support diversity and justice in our communities include working with the Interfaith Action Network and Northwest Indiana African American Alliance.
- CLC continues to host the Lutheran World Relief in-gathering each October, welcoming and receiving donations from over 30 congregations.
- Our campus is also used by Lutheran Braille Workers, who compile Braille Bibles here.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa Owen, Church Council representative

Stewardship 2022

- Beginning in January we asked our congregation to Live Bold!
- On commitment Sunday over 49% of our congregation pledged to Live Bold with us! This has been our best response yet!
- Continued sharing of mission moments in different avenues- during church, cards, as well as email videos!
- Celebrated 52 years of amazing ministry!
- Looking forward: How might we continue to support God's ministry in our community and world? Our church is far reaching in our ministries. It is because of you. Each contribution makes it possible to share God's love with the world.
- As we look forward to next year, including the budget- remember the budget is the floor. That is our base for what we need to continue on the path God has made for us. There is so much more work to be done, let's all ask- how can I help? It's God's plan, but our hands. Thank you for helping to change lives. It is all because of you and your faithfulness.

Worship and the Arts 2022 Annual Report

Highlights

- Music ensembles returned to participate in worship services
 - Sanctuary choir with approximately 22 members
 - Celebration Ringers (adult bell choir) with approximately 10 members
 - Treble Ringers (youth bell choir) with approximately 10 members
- Singing returns to in-person worship! Hymns, liturgy and psalms are being sung.
- Midweek lenten services held in-person and live-streamed
- Easter Services with full festival music and musicians
- 10 youth presented musical pieces during spring worship services
- Outdoor, midweek summer service well attended (as many as 50+ participants)
- In-person attendance continues to grow and there is consistent participation in Live-Stream services
- Worship at the Beach with Bethel Lutheran 8/7/22
- Fresh baked communion bread returned!
- Celebration of CLC's 50th Birthday (2 years late) with the premier of "A Call to Creative Adventure" composed by John Bernthal, lyrics by Walt Wangerin
- Handmade and donated Chasables are being worn by the Pastor serving communion
- 15+ new members welcomed (and more to come!)
- Fall sermon series focusing on creation with a "Blessing of the Animals" outdoor worship (15+ pets)
- Extended Advent worship begins 11/13/22 with midweek services in-person and Live Streamed
- New handmade and donated Advent Banner and paraments will be used this season
- Thanksgiving Eve service returns with pie fellowship!
- Christmas Eve worship services: 4:00 (family focus), 7:00 (festival worship), 10:00 (Taize style)
- Christmas Day (Sunday) worship: 10:00 - Lessons and Carols

Looking to 2023

- Concert series celebrating 5th anniversary of the pipe organ!
- Recruiting worship assistants
- Highlighting CLC Artisans

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Felten

Christ Lutheran Church

Youth Ministry Annual Report

October 2022

The youth ministry of Christ Lutheran Church continues to provide a strong, safe, and welcoming community of young people in our high school and middle school groups. We have seen excitement and enthusiasm for our programs over the last twelve months. Our kids and teens have grown through our programs, including service projects, trips, and events. We remain a strong part of Christ Lutheran Church's mission to change lives!

Programming Updates for October 2020-2021

Circle (High School group)

Circle has met continuously through the past year. Our consistent meeting schedule provided a supportive and safe community where kids can build relationships! Our meetings typically consist of meals shared together, games, conversation, and bible studies. The group's welcoming culture is built on a strong foundation of friendship and inclusion.

The Covid pandemic led to multiple trip disruptions for our high school ministry. We were unable to do several planned off-campus events, which was disappointing for our teens, but necessary to ensure the safety of our group. The ELCA cancelled the 2022 National Youth Gathering, which was an immensely disappointing decision. The late cancellation left us unable to plan a replacement trip.

Our high schoolers were still able to participate in trips and service projects! Four of our high schoolers enjoyed our trip to Quake in Chicago! We greatly missed this event in 2021, so being able to attend in February 2022 was a blessing. An additional two high schoolers participated in Servant Leader Week at Camp Lutherwald.

Fusion (Middle School Group)

Fusion has provided a consistent and engaging experience for our middle school kids through the last 12 months. Our middle schoolers, in addition to weekly meetings, participated in service projects and two trips! They continue to grow as a community!

We have resumed meeting on Sunday mornings, during the Faith Formation hour. Our return to this meeting time has produced strong engagement results! Kids and families appreciate the convenience and rhythm of Fusion meetings between our services. However, attendance proved to be a mixed result, as attendance averages fluctuated due to a winter Covid surge.

We were able to go on two overnight trips. In February, 10 middle school kids attended Quake in Chicago. They had a great experience learning about God, making friends, and having lots of fun! This summer, 12 middle schoolers participated in Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherwald in Howe, Indiana. We had a great time in the

midst of strong storms and a heat wave! It was wonderful to see the kids make new friends and form deeper bonds with the people they knew. Lutherwald continues to provide life-changing experiences for our young people.

Confirmation

We confirmed 8 of our young people in the 2021 Confirmation class. These magnificent, hard-working, and fun-loving kids chose to affirm their baptism and explore their faith during one of the most stressful times of their lives. It was a joy to experience their laughter, curiosity, and friendship through the 2021-2022 school year. We couldn't have accomplished it without the support and encouragement of their mentors and their families.

Our current 2023 Confirmation class has 9 kids preparing to affirm their baptisms next year. Pastor Tim and I are excited to walk alongside these middle schoolers during this time in their lives. The confirmands are currently studying the Reformation and Church History. They will examine the Catechism after Christmas Break!

Fundraiser Updates

We returned to our regular slate of fundraising activities in 2021-2022. We had hoped to attend the 2022 National Youth Gathering, but it was cancelled. Our youth board and I decided to split the raised money in two ways. First, we were able to offer extra scholarships for kids to attend Confirmation Camp. Second, we set aside money for the 2024 National Youth Gathering. Including the 2022 Popcorn Festival profits, we currently have over \$12,000 in our fundraiser account. Our 2024 Gathering budget will be around \$30,000 to \$40,000; we will need more than what we've raised so far! Our kids greatly appreciate your financial support.

Looking Ahead

Volunteer Vacancies

We remain in the troubling situation of doing youth ministry without a volunteer team for nearly a year and a half. It has been extremely difficult to find folks willing to volunteer over the past year. We have seen all of our volunteers step away due to the pandemic, family needs, or changing workloads/schedules. We need other adults in this church to commit their time to the faith formation of our young people. They are fantastic kids and deserve our church's full support.

Future Events

- 2023 Camp Week (middle and high school) will be June 11-16, 2023
- 2023 Missions Trip will tentatively be June 21-July 1, 2023
- 2024 National Youth Gathering will be July 16-20, 2024

Attendance Averages

Monthly averages are the mean attendance of all meetings from every month. Please note that our weekly programming takes a summer break for June and July. Fusion does not meet in August. Additionally, you will not attendance drops in December – February due to the Covid Omicron surge!

