

**THE EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR  
HADDONFIELD, NJ**

**2023 ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL REPORT  
AND MEETING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024  
AGENDA**

**The Annual Meeting will begin by Zoom at 10:30 AM  
Refer to Website for ID and Passcode**

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## 2023 Pastor Annual Report

Like so many people in the world the church, including our congregation, continues to suffer from the effects of “long Covid.” In some ways we have had difficulty “catching our wind” with respect to a return to in-person worship and youth ministry. However, those are probably the two areas where Our Savior ministry has not “bounced back” to pre-Covid vitality. The following are several high notes of mission and ministry I would emphasize as they fall under the various promises we make in our confirmation Affirmation of Baptism rite.

### **We will live among God’s faithful people**

- Ruth Fisher has assembled an incredible fellowship ministry team that hosted an outstanding Oktoberfest event at Eclipse Brewery in Merchantville with over 65 participants and authentic German food. It was a great intergenerational event that is sure to be a fall favorite.
- Sabrina LaBelle may have reduced her role from Youth and Family to Children and Family Ministry but it did not diminish her impact on revitalizing ministry with elementary school age children and their families. The Easter Eggstravaganza Event, Vacation Bible Camp, and Advent Intergenerational Event were all big hits with many families participating and getting to know one another even better.
- Sisters-In-Spirit continues to be a thriving women’s ministry in the congregation for women of all ages that keeps women connected to each other and their lives both through church events and personal social activities.

### **We will hear God’s word and share in the Lord’s meal**

- The decision to move the late worship time to 9:30 continues to be the right decision in providing an opportunity for more families with Sunday school age children to attend more frequently. This is evidenced by an increase of in-person worshippers per Sunday, going from 116 last year to 130 in 2023. This is still fifty less than Our Savior was in 2019 but remains one of the largest in the synod.
- The choir and music ministry of LCOS continues to be a strength with nearly 30 singers in the Adult Choir on Christ the King Sunday and over 12 children singing in the Cherub Choir the same day. Advent Lessons & Carols continues to be a highlight each year with the quality and caliber of musicianship and singing increasing yearly.

### **We will proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed**

- Kristine Monsen has done a phenomenal job of recruiting an Outreach ministry team to begin the process of reaching out to congregants we haven’t seen since the Covid quarantine as well as develop a new practice for welcoming first time visitors.
- Lutherans aren’t known for talking about our faith in Christ, even with people we know well. Yet, I’ve heard more stories from parishioners this year of how they have shared their faith stories and what they have heard and learned in worship, Bible discussions, and adult forums with their neighbors, coworkers, and friends than ever before.

### **We will serve the needs of all people following the example of Jesus**

- The Pantry continues to provide food and support for household needs to those who are food insecure in our community. Under the leadership of Lynn Block the volunteers continue to pack the donations generously provided by the congregation as well as grocery gift cards that create a sense of dignity for those receiving assistance.
- The Memorial Gift Board’s scholarship support for students graduating out of Urban Promise Academy and the Lifting Up Camden Youth after-school programs enables as many as eight young people each year to receive between \$1,000 to \$2,000 in scholarships in a given year and continues to be a source of hope for higher education to those for whom economic hardship is a daily reality.

### **We will strive for justice and peace**

- The Justice and Peace ministry continues to be a thriving new facet of Our Savior’s ministry foci. In 2023 we were blessed with having Jaime Bruesehoff, a nationally known advocate and speaker on behalf of transgender and non-binary children, be our keynote speaker during Pride Month in January. Their mission to provide the congregation and community with greater awareness of the injustices of our society and how Christians can respond continues to develop after only being in existence as a stated ministry at Our Savior in the last three years.

These were the highlights I gleaned from last year, despite the lingering effects of the pandemic. We are living in a different world post-Covid; world that longs for the good news and hope that the gospel of a risen Savior offers. I pray that in 2024 I am up for the challenge of the new ways in which that message of the gospel can be conveyed effectively in the culture of our day and you will join me in that endeavor. *In Christ’s service, Pastor Wayne Zschech*

## **2023 Changes in the Parish Register- Members Received (20)**

### **By Infant/Adult\* Baptism (11)**

James Baldwin, Elizabeth Cinalli, Sophia DeBeradinis, Amelia Downs, Scarlett Dye, Daniel Jones, Dean Millard, August Oakes, Giovanni Rivera, Morgan Shay, Hannah Warrington

### **By Transfer, Profession of Faith, Reactivation, Clerical Adjustment (9)**

By Transfer: Angel & Gabrielle Berrios, Rudy Clark, Kathryn James, John & Margaret Leach, Kristen Leach, Stanley & Sarah (LeFleur) Saeger

### **Voting Members Removed (60)**

### **By Death (6) (by date, *italics indicates out-of-state*)**

Janis Rice, Jaime Fallon, Jean Schroeder, Richard Wilson, Evelyn Boyle, Louise Bader

## By Transfer or Other (5)

Brigitte Novak (Zschech), James & Christine Ewing, Grace Ewing, Ryan Ewing

## By Member Request (4), Move Out of Area, or Due to Inactivity (45)

By Request: Steve & Deborah Cain, Ethan Quanci & Marisa Watanabe,

By Inactivity: Brett & Susan Ainsworth, Patrick Ainsworth, Alison Jason & Alison Angelone, Jason Angelone Jr., Henry Angelone, Thomas & Karie Angstadt, Erin Angstadt, Ryan Angstadt, Peter & Jennifer Asselin, Emily Asselin, Caroline Asselin, Charlie Asselin, Grace Asselin, Kristen Barry, Abigail Barry, Lindsay Burtcel, Paul Demers, Luke & Susan Hodges, Emma Hodges, Paige Hodges, Ted & Carole Howley, Olivia Howley, Laura Howley, Carolyn Johnson, Michael & Darcy Newton, Claire Newton, Brendan Newton, Bill & Susan Remphrey, Hayden Remphrey, Savannah Remphrey, Ava Remphrey, James & Kimberly Vassallo, Elizabeth Wallace, Katherine Wallace

## Pastoral Acts

### Confirmations (11) *Italics indicates completion of program but no Affirmation of Baptism*

Chase Adams, Juliana DeNinno, Robert DeNinno, Ryan Ewing, Jack Fetter, Addison Gebhart, Alianna Miller, Sophia Pineiro, Sarah Simpkins, Evan Turner, Aiden Visconti

**Weddings (3) (*italics indicates non-member, by date*)** *Shannon Visconti & Zachary Seither, Allison DeFelice & Marc Tomasi-  
ni, Sarah LeFleur & Stanley Saeger*

**Non-Member Funerals (16)** *Ronald McCann, Irma Mullen, Rita Bott, Dorothy Pontonio, Johnnie Hinshillwood, Erma Yetter, John Nunsgeser, William Tessing III, Philip Cranmer, Charles Gross, Paul Withers, Rodney Bart, Sr., Frank Stiefel III, Susan Mattis, Charlotte Beurer, Ralph Buerer*

**Memorial Garden Interments (3)** Jaime Fallon, Tracey & Frank Stiefel

## Director of Music

One of my favorite hymns is “O Come All Ye Faithful” and that is what the theme of the year has been for me when I reflect on our music ministry in 2023. All our choirs had a sense of commitment and faithfulness, from little ones to adults. Our Cherub Choir has grown in size and at our largest had 16 kids singing in worship, the biggest size we have seen in years and years! I have Linda Powell to thank for her help and enthusiasm, as well as Sabrina LaBelle for her work to grow our family ministry. They sang almost every month during the main season, presented a medley of their songs after the Sunday School Christmas Pageant, and sang at our 3pm Christmas Eve service.

Our Tween Choir (the renamed Children Choir) has also had faithful attendants and despite several kids now attending Middle School, we had almost every one return in the fall. We choose a different rehearsal time every few months to accommodate everyone’s busy schedule. The repertoire they have been working on has become more advanced as they now frequently sing in parts, and still often ring and sing at the same time. Due to illness, they were not able to participate in Lessons & Carols this year, but did sing two songs at Christmas Eve and rang and even played percussion.

Our youth choir is still non-existent, but I am both hoping that as our Tween Choir gets older, they will eventually become the new Youth Choir, and also that our new Youth Group Developer Jess Arnold’s efforts will lead to the return of some of our current youth. I am thankful for Emerson Riley, who beautifully sang a solo rendition of “O Holy Night” at the 8pm Christmas Eve service.

Our Adult Bell Choir has really stepped up their game in the last year, ringing music at harder difficulty levels than previously! Especially our Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve piece “Joy to the World” (one of the hardest we’re rung to date!) received much praise from parishioners.

Our Adult Choir is as always the backbone of the music ministry, singing most Sundays during the main season. Our average Sunday is usually 20-25 singers, while events like Lessons & Carols and Christmas was closer to 30+. I am thankful for their hard work and humor, their dedication to pieces both beloved and familiar, and challenging and new, and their flexibility.

Our year began with a new event called “Songs and Sweets” during which the Adult Choir sang songs and medleys from beloved musical theater shows, several members sang solos, and our audience got to participate in several of the numbers while also enjoying some coffee and sweets! The turnout was so good that we have decided to make it an annual event and are already working on the 2024 event.

Instead of using brass at Easter as we had previously done, we used strings, and received really good feedback and will be using them from now on.

I was on maternity leave for 12 weeks following Easter and am very thankful to Jess Arnold for leading and executing all my planned music and to the Adult Choir for singing in my absence, and several participating in the annual June Choir. The remainder of the summer we had soloists and a smaller group of our bell choir (Summer Bells) for offertory music.

The highlight of the year was as usual our Lessons & Carols, for which I hired strings, two singers, and a harpist. Despite it being our probably biggest “production” to date, everything went smoothly and the music was beautiful!

I have too many people to thank for the smooth flow of this past musical year, but my biggest thanks are to Jess Arnold for subbing for me during maternity leave and any Sunday I am away, Linda Powell for all her help with our Cherub Choir, our staff for being such a supportive and well oiled machine, Jeannette Jelonek and Beth Hill for always being willing to help with bell set up, the Riley, Bare, and Woltz families for hosting our choir parties, and our Adult Choirs for their hard work!

*Respectfully submitted, Pauline Worusski*

## **Director of Children and Family Ministry Report- 2023**

In the first half of 2023, I continued with my role as Director of Youth and Family Ministry, but in July of 2023, I cut back my hours and transitioned to a smaller role as Director of Children and Family Ministry (with a focus on birth – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families). I am so thankful the staff team at LCOS and for Jess, the new Youth Ministry Developer and the work that we are able to do together. The year 2023 was a great year of stability in Sunday School, children's fellowship activities, Faith Stepping Stones, and Vacation Bible Camp. Parents have expressed appreciation for the activities their children have been involved in. **Highlights from 2023:**

### **January 2023**

MLK Day of Service – intergenerational service project, making snack bags for Ronald McDonald House and putting together hygiene kits for Ronald McDonald House. Good attendance and feedback.

### **February 2023**

Sunday School pretzel-making to start the season of Lent. Pretzels have a theological connection. Take home activity and ingredients to make pretzels with families.

Shrove Tuesday pancake making contest (at home – sent in pictures)

### **March 2023**

First Communion Classes for 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders (and older kids who didn't have instruction previously) – classes were held on 3 consecutive Sundays with youth and parent participation. Children and parents met at All Fired Up in Collingswood on one Saturday in March to make their own chalices.

Parents of Young Children Fellowship Group – casual fellowship meeting after church in March one Sunday at a park.

### **April 2023**

Eight children had their First Communion on Palm Sunday.

Easter Eggstravaganza – April 8 from 9:30 – 11:30am for all children ages 1 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade at the church. There were stations for crafts, games, stories, and timed egg hunts by age group. Each child received a passport to collect stamps at the various stations in order to get a prize at the end.

April 30 – Mission Sunday. Sunday School lessons, crafts, snacks, and activities centered around the missionary that LCOS supports in Zambia.

### **May 2023**

May 21 – Intergenerational Event: Linus Blanket Making. Project Linus provides handmade blankets to children 0-18 in the United States who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. LCOS held an intergenerational event sponsored by Youth and Family Ministries, Mission Quilting Group, and Sisters in Spirit to make Linus blankets on Sunday, May 21 at 10:45 am. Brunch was provided. Well attended intergenerational event.

Registration for Vacation Bible Camp opened.

### **June 2023**

Outdoor family worship on June 11 with picnic. After worship there were games, food trucks, and more at the John Adler Memorial Park at Challenge Grove in Cherry Hill. Great turnout and great feedback. Will be an annual event.

### **July 2023**

Vacation Bible Camp (VBC) - We held VBC the third week of July at the church with a registered attendance of 33 children. There were 4 adult volunteers who led the four groups of children, split up by age, as well as volunteers and staff leading different rotations: crafts, games, snack time, music, and storytelling. The theme was "Hero Hotline". The closing program on Thursday evening and the reception afterwards was well attended by parents.

### **September 2023**

Rally Sunday, September 10, marked the beginning of the Sunday School 2023/2024 year. Sunday School started up again during the 9:30 service with children returning to the church in time to go to communion with their families. On Rally Sunday there were 33 children who registered and attended Sunday School - a record number! Mr. Softee was present after the service to give treats to kids and families (and adults and anyone else who wanted ice cream)!

### **October - Intergenerational Event: Oktoberfest**

Oktoberfest, an all-church intergenerational event, including families, took place on October 22 at Eclipse Brewing in Merchantville. There were crafts, a polka band, dance lessons, and great food provided by Pastor Wayne and Kate.

3rd graders at LCOS were invited to participate in the next Faith Stepping Stone - Stepping into the Bible, which involved an Introduction to the Bible class and a gift of a new age-appropriate Bible for them. They were recognized and the Bibles were blessed on Reformation Sunday, which was October 30, during the 9:30 service. We had five students who took part.

### **November - Start of the Parents Fellowship Group**

An Intergenerational Advent Event was held on Sunday, November 19 after church. There were stations for cookie decorating, Advent wreath making, and ornament making, as well as a light lunch.

### **December - Christmas Pageant and Family Christmas Craft Night**

Christmas Pageant - The story of Jesus' Birth was narrated by 3 6<sup>th</sup> grade-high school students and acted out by 23 of our Sunday school children. The children also sang several hymns during the service. The pageant was a success with the help from our teachers, parents, and other volunteers.

## Hopes for the future - Looking ahead to 2024

- We are planning more intergenerational events that may involve high school students with younger youth or with Fellowship or other committees.
- We are also planning more service events for children to participate in with their families.
- First Communion is the next Faith Stepping Stone which will take place during Lent for our 2nd graders.
- With Jess on staff now, we are thinking ahead to how to get children to stay involved and engaged through middle school and into high school.

Considering ways to get parents more involved with one another so they also stay engaged with the church after their children are confirmed. *Respectfully submitted, Sabrina LaBelle*

## Vice President and Personnel Report

Despite ending the year below budget, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior had a successful 2023. This was the first full year with Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:30 am. The time-change had the intended impact of helping young families with scheduling issues attend more frequently. As a result, Sunday School has had strong attendance and been revitalized thanks to our Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Sabrina LaBelle. As detailed in this Annual Report, LCOS performed much important ministry in 2023 thanks to the support and dedication of the Congregation and the LCOS staff. Also this year, with Council's approval, Evoke Engagement Experts performed a secret visit to LCOS and confirmed that while the LCOS online presence needs some updating, our Congregation is one that is welcoming and vibrant.

In the area of Personnel, 2023 saw certain limited changes. Due to other professional commitments, Sabrina LaBelle has reduced her weekly hours with LCOS. Luckily for LCOS, she will continue to work with the Sunday School and Vacation Bible School programs. LCOS thus needed a new staff member to assist with revitalizing the Youth Ministry Program. Jess Arnold has taken on that role, and we are excited to see what she brings to the program in 2024.

*Respectfully submitted, Ann Querns*

## Financial Secretary Report

Month	3 Year rolling average %	Total Revenue per Budget \$451,250 x Rolling Avg % = 2023 Plan Giving	Actual Monthly Giving 2023	Actual Giving vs Plan Difference Over (Under)	Actual Monthly Giving 2022	Actual Monthly \$ Difference 2023 vs 2022 Over (Under)	2023 Challenge by the month \$5,004/12 = \$417	Actual Challenge Money Received 2023	Actual Money Received 2023 vs. Challenge Over (Under)	Total Actual Giving for the Month 2023
Jan	9.70%	\$ 43,766	\$ 63,591	\$ 19,825	\$ 43,142	\$ 20,449	\$ 417	32	\$ (385)	\$ 63,623
Feb	6.88%	31,065	24,644	(6,421)	28,049	(3,405)	417	390	(27)	25,034
March	8.14%	36,720	33,533	(3,187)	30,196	3,337	417	57	(360)	33,590
April	8.65%	39,015	39,663	648	41,313	(1,650)	417	0	(417)	39,663
May	7.35%	33,156	25,612	(7,544)	30,380	(4,768)	417	34	(383)	25,646
June	6.32%	28,535	30,060	1,525	27,030	3,030	417	14	(403)	30,074
July	6.70%	30,254	26,480	(3,774)	31,585	(5,105)	417	100	(317)	26,580
August	6.94%	31,304	41,613	10,309	26,326	15,287	417	0	(417)	41,613
Sept	7.14%	32,214	28,132	(4,082)	34,514	(6,382)	417	365	(52)	28,497
Oct	7.88%	35,570	26,598	(8,972)	35,345	(8,747)	417	0	(417)	26,598
Nov	8.37%	37,779	32,510	(5,269)	28,966	3,544	417	21	(396)	32,531
Dec	15.93%	71,873	66,565	(5,308)	72,920	(6,355)	417	715	298	67,280
YTD Total		\$ 451,250	\$ 439,001	\$ (12,249)	\$ 429,766	\$ 9,235	\$ 5,004	\$ 1,728	\$ (3,276)	440,729

Average Weekly Worship Attendance - AWWA									
Month	In Person (IP) Attendance 2023	Virtual (V) 2023	Monthly Total	Number of Sundays in the Month	AWWA-IP = IP Attendance/ Number of Sundays in the Month	AWWA-V = V Attendance/ Number of Sundays in the Month	2023 Total AWWA - IP and V	2022 Total AWWA - IP and V	AW-WA - Monthly % Diff. 2023 vs
January	550	262	812	5	110	52	162	174	-7%
February	508	232	740	4	127	58	185	175	6%
March	506	274	780	4	127	69	195	180	8%
April	979	412	1,391	5	196	82	278	277	0%
May	425	138	563	4	106	35	141	143	-2%
June	451	98	549	4	113	25	137	120	14%
July	416	250	666	5	83	50	133	133	0%
August	277	182	459	4	69	46	115	131	-12%
September	416	124	540	4	104	31	135	163	-17%
October	508	296	804	5	102	59	161	183	-12%
November	505	256	761	4	126	64	190	198	-4%
December	518	312	830	5	104	62	166	177	-6%
<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>6,059</b>	<b>2,836</b>	<b>8,895</b>	<b>53</b>					

### Mustard Seed Community Childcare at Our Savior

In 2023 MSCCOS operated a Summer Camp, the Kindergarten Extended Day Program (KED), and Fall Camp. We ended the 2022-2023 school year with 80 children. Currently for the 2023-2024 school year we have 54 children in the KED program.

Our 2023 Summer Camp ran for 8 weeks, with a total of 19 children in grade K – 4<sup>th</sup> registered. The campers participated in daily activities, walks through town, a field trip to Story Book Land.

Our 2023-2024 KED (Kindergarten Extend Day) Program is operating with 19 children in the morning session and 35 in the afternoon session for a total of 54 children. We currently have 3 classrooms opened with 3 full-time teachers, 4 part-time teacher assistants, and 2 Haddonfield High School juniors in the aftercare program.

2022 Fall Camp saw 17 campers throughout the first week of November. This camp is for children in grades K – 5<sup>th</sup>. The camp operated three days this year. Parents express great appreciation for this camp and the children have a week of fun!

Registration for Summer Camp and our 2024-2025 KED Program will officially begin on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Committee and Sub-Committee Reports

#### Adult Education

Lutherans recognize the need for discipline of lifelong study of Scripture and the Christian faith. To that end there were several opportunities for adults in the congregation to deepen their understanding of Scripture and the theology and practices of the Christian faith. They included.

**Pastor's Bible Discussion for Daily Living:** Pastor Wayne Zschech leads the same session on Monday nights and Wednesday mornings for various four-to-eight-week discussions on an entire book of the Bible or season of the church year. Each group is a hybrid of in person and by Zoom and typically has 5-7 people in attendance on Monday nights and 12-17 on Wednesday mornings. In 2023 the groups used the *Book of Faith* materials created by Augsburg that included participant books and studied both the books of Romans and Genesis, as well as a four-week discussion of “*Church in Waiting: Studies for Advent, Year B.*” In addition to these discussions groups also engaged in a discussion of Scott Gustafson’s book *Evil and the Followers of Jesus* that focuses on how the existence of sin and evil in a world created by a loving and all powerful God is more of an ethical problem than it is an intellectual problem, and that Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection gives His followers the power to acknowledge and confess their sins, and, thereby fight the death dealing power of evil in the world.

**Lenten Midweek Seminars:** Given that prayer is one of the disciplines of Lent as well as a mark of discipleship, and there are some who struggle with just how one engages in a practice of prayer Pastor Wayne Zschech led a discussion group on the book *Prayer: a primer* by Henry F. French over the five Wednesdays of Lent. Participants learned a variety of ways in which to create a prayer life and in which one might use different methods of prayer to be in relationship with God and the communion of saints.

**Book Studies:** During Our Savior's observance of June Pride Month approximately 15 people participated in a discussion of the book, *"Melissa"* that shares the story of a fourth-grader who "when people look at Melissa, they think they see a boy named George. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she is a girl." The story reveals the struggle experienced by transgender children between how they understand their sexual identity to be and how the world continues to treat them as they appear. It served as an excellent book to read prior to the seminar provided by Jaime Bruesehoff a week later on the topic of raising transgender children.

**Seminars:** Also during June Pride Month the Justice and Peace Ministry Team provided the opportunity for the congregation and community to attend a seminar led by nationally known speaker Jaime Bruesehoff on the topic of transgender children. She is the author of *Raising Kids Beyond the Binary: Celebrating God's Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children* and is the mother of a transgender daughter. The seminar was enlightening to all who attended. *In Christ's service, Pastor Wayne Zschech*

### Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is made up of a dedicated group of ladies that oversee the care of the sanctuary. We decorate with flowers, plants or other festive decor, change paraments, set/clean up weekly communion, replace pew cards, sharpen the pencils and prepare for Baptisms. A special thanks to all of you who support Altar Guild and the work that we do. Betsy Kuehn the corresponding Secretary and Communion Chair and Sue Tharp for her continued dedication in beautifying the sanctuary with festive decor that warms us for the seasons. The Altar Guild is responsible for purchasing the communion wafers & wine, oil for the candles, scribble cards for the children, the weekly altar flowers, baptismal candles & napkins, the Christmas candles, and the Christmas Poinsettias and Easter Lilies. A big thank you to all the church members that support the Altar Guild by putting Altar Flowers, Poinsettias and Easter Lilies in honor of or in memory of a loved one. We have added 2 new members to the Altar Guild, Nancy Dempsey and Paula Horner. I would like to thank the members of the congregation that help after communion at the rail with washing the communion cups. We can always use more volunteers to step up and help us throughout the year. You would be assigned to work with a team for one month a year to fulfill the duties as stated above. If you are interested please contact myself or Stacey Shaw my co-chair. We would be more than glad to speak with you Thank you!

*Respectfully submitted by Co-Chairpersons, Eva and Stacey Shaw.*

### Altar Guild Treasurers Report

The balance as of 12-31-22 was \$12,832.09. The Altar Guild, along with money given in memory of Arlene Stolarick, purchased a new Processional Cross. The Altar Guild is responsible for purchasing the weekly Altar Flowers, the Easter Lilies, Christmas Poinsettias, Geraniums, scribble cards, oil for the candles, communion wafers, wine, and baptismal candles and napkins. This year we began emailing the monthly flower memorial letters to save on cost. If anyone would like to submit a flower memorial in memory or honor of a loved one, please let Sandy know: [lcossandy@gmail.com](mailto:lcossandy@gmail.com), 856-429-5122 *Respectively Submitted, Stacey Shaw, Treasurer*

### Audit Committee

No audit required.

### Confirmation Annual Report 2023

The confirmation ministry adapted to changes in both curriculum and how the program was taught in 2023. Without parents to serve as Small Group Guides to facilitate conversation, Pastor Wayne Zschech led the Learn Events in the traditional style of single instructor leading the class of fourteen seventh and eighth grade youth in the discussion questions. With the Faith5 Journals no longer available from Faith Inkubators Pastor Zschech discussed changing curricula with Sabrina LaBelle, Director of Children and Youth Ministry, who used the Colaborate curricula by Sparkhouse when she served as the pastor overseeing confirmation at her congregation in California. Pastor Zschech began using Colaborate in the fall and hopes the new curricula will be an engaging and effective way of teaching not only Luther's Small Catechism, but also deepening the participants knowledge of key Bible stories, the Lutheran perspective of the Christian faith, as well as key theological principles of faith.

On the first Sunday of June the following eleven confirmands participated in the Affirmation of Baptism rite, thereby becoming a "confirmed" member of the congregation: **Chase Adams, Juliana DeNinno, Robert DeNinno, Ryan Ewing, Jack Fetter, Addison Gebhart, Alianna Miller, Sophia Pineiro, Sarah Simpkins, Evan Turner, and Aiden Visconti.**

**Program Overview:** Confirmation ministry is really a life-long process that begins in baptism and continues throughout one's life. However, the catechetical instruction that is typically referred to as "confirmation" typically occurs during a youth's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th grade years and the ultimate goal is for participants to discover and discern how they will live their lives as Christian disciples in the context of their unique lives.

The Learn Events typically occur ever two weeks focusing on the five topics of Luther's Small Catechism, as well as key Bible stories and Christian theological principles. Service events typically include helping decorate the church for Christmas, making health kits for Ronald McDonald House or Lutheran World Relief on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, and helping with the Easter Egg Hunt. In 2023 the service and social aspects of confirmation ministry were offered through the Junior High Ministry that is the midst of being restructured to also include sixth grade youth.

*Faithfully submitted, Pastor Wayne Zschech*

### **Congregational Resources**

This year's stewardship campaign was Stewards of God's Gifts focusing on the five spiritual gifts God bestows on us through our baptism and again whenever we reaffirm our faith.

Our 2023 General offerings were \$440,729 which fell below the \$451,250 budgeted amount we anticipated based on the 2023 pledges. Thus far, 88 pledges have been received for 2024 for a total of \$291,670.

In June, a Time and Talent survey was distributed to the congregation with 26 returned. The responses were shared with Council members for follow up with the responders.

To demonstrate our appreciation of the congregation, the committee sent out thank you notes and hosted the coffee hour in October.

The financial members of our committee produced Congregation Support Statements throughout the year displaying attendance and giving figures which were shared monthly in the Messenger.

Giving statements were distributed in January 2024 for YTD 2023 and in June and October 2023. Offering envelopes were organized and labeled for the congregation to pick up in the Narthex.

A special thanks to our committee members Jeanne Coleman-Jones, Shannon Foskett, Carol Maniaci, Linda Nelson and Laura Oakes for all their support and inspiration this year and to Pastor Wayne for his guidance.

*Submitted in gratitude, Millie King*

### **Fellowship**

**Mission Statement for Fellowship Ministry:** The Fellowship Ministry at LCOS creates and nurtures friendships within and beyond our faith community. Jesus desires all to feel loved and experience joy as we share our lives with one another in fellowship through fun times, meals, projects and events.

**2023 Goal for Fellowship Ministry:** To create and support opportunities for fellowship by expressing the love of Jesus with one another through fun and food.

**Fellowship Ministry Committee Members** – Pastor Wayne, Sandy DeDonatis, Jeannette Jelonek, Angel & Gabby Berrios, Kate, Zschech, Stacey Shaw, Nancy Dempsey, Jeanne Coleman-Jones

**Fellowship Ministry Helpers** – Sabrina LaBelle, Nancy Gulick, Linda Powell, Betsy Kuehn, Jane Evans, Jeanne Coleman-Jones, Laura Oakes, Kristine Monsen and Eva Shaw.

**Fellowship Sub Committees:** **SIS** - lead by Linda Nelson, **Book Study** led by Laura Oakes and **Senior Game Day** – led by Judy Caravelli

**Thank you** to the Fellowship Ministry Committee Members, Fellowship Helpers and Sub Committee leaders who brought forward success to Fellowship Ministry activities and events for members and friends of LCOS.

#### **Highlights of the Fellowship Ministry in 2023:**

- Created a Fellowship Committee, Mission Statement and Goal Statement
- Returned to Coffee Time - Fellowship sets up and cleans up refreshments weekly that are brought by committees. Fellowship makes coffee/tea and sets up the juices.
- April 8, 2023 – Supported centers set up by Sabrina LaBelle for Egg-stravaganza.
- May 14, 2023 – Muffins for Mothers Coffee Time
- May 21, 2023 – Teacher Appreciation and Mustard Seed Appreciation at Coffee Time
- June 11, 2023 – Outdoor Worship Service at Challenge Park/John Adler Park, lunch from Food Trucks and Mr. Softee
- October 22, 2023 – Oktoberfest - Eclipse Brewery with food prepared by Pastor, Kate and the Berrios. Desserts were provided by those in attendance.
- November 12, 2023 - Veterans' Day Recognition – Coffee Time recognition of our Veterans, Outdoor Flag Display for Flag Retirement Ceremony.
- November 19, 2023 – Advent Intergenerational Workshop with centers for children and adults. Lunch was served and enjoyed by all.

Thank you to the efforts and donations of the Fellowship Committee Members to make the several events occur to support fellowship. *Respectfully submitted, Ruth Fisher, Chair*



## Justice & Peace Committee

The Justice and Peace Committee mission is “to live out our baptismal commitment to strive for peace and justice in all the earth.” We have continued our three-fold approach to advocacy issues:

- **Awareness** through discussion of advocacy issues at the committee level, sharing information with the congregation through the *Messenger*, *Sunday Bulletin*, LCOS Website, committee members attending advocacy programs, and sponsoring programs at LCOS with guest speakers.
- **Connecting** with local advocacy organizations, learning about their group activities, and supporting their mission. These groups include PFLAG (Supporting, educating, and advocating for the LBGTQIA community and their families), Mom’s Demand Action (Gun violence prevention), and Delaware Water Keepers. This year we have added LEAM-NJ (Lutherans Engaging in Advocacy Ministry) Justice Groups, NJISJ (New Jersey Institute for Social Justice), Embracing Race-the Conversation, and LWV (League of Women Voters),
- **Active Involvement** in advocacy issues, see below.

### **Highlights of our work in 2023 include:**

Monthly *Messenger* articles.

Conducting a Communication Survey with the congregation to measure if our communication methods are being utilized and to what degree.

Racial Justice: Conducting the NJ Synod’s workshop “Transforming White Privilege”. NOTE: We are the first church to hold this seminar for a congregation.

LBGTQIA Acceptance: Actively participating in the Haddon Township Pride Parade; sponsoring Pastor Jamie Bruesehoff, a nationally recognized speaker on transgender acceptance; conducting a book discussion *Melissa* (a Transgender autobiography); pursuing RIC (Reconciliation in Christ) recognition; adding inclusive language to the LCOS Space Request Agreement.

Environmental Justice: Recognizing Earth Day with a month-long Tri-fold display regarding recycling in the Narthex; establishing a LCOS building-wide recycle program with green re-cycle bins; adding recycle language to the LCOS Space Request Agreement.

Gun Violence Prevention: Hosting a presentation by Mom’s Demand Action titled *Be Smart*, regarding child safety measures; sponsoring a table in the Narthex with Mom’s Demand Action information.

Thank you to committee members for their passion, insight, and dedication to advocacy: Cathe & Mark Bare, Jeanne Coleman-Jones, Bob & Nancy Dempsey, John Drozdal, Nancy Gulick, Linda Harrington, Linda Nelson, Alaine & Bob Williams, Pauline Worusski and Pastor Wayne Zschech. *Respectfully submitted, Lynn Block*

## Mission Quilts

2023 was a very productive year for Mission quilts. We continue to grow in numbers and lucky enough to have some very dedicated sewers from home. In the fall, we received the blessing of 40 beautiful quilts that will make the trip to Lutheran World Relief in Maryland and then be distributed around the world. We are thankful for all the many hands that make Mission Quilts successful. *Respectfully submitted, Millie King & Cheryl Hastings*

## Outreach

The Outreach Committee had its inaugural meeting in September with a great group of committed members meeting every month ever since. Its first task was to establish its Mission Statement since the committee was originally known as the Evangelism Committee whose Mission Statement was extremely outdated. New Mission Statement:

**Outreach Committee’s Mission is to invite and welcome all people to experience God’s love for all people.**

The committee’s intention is to reach out to our members, visitors (first time and recurring), neighboring communities, and area organizations - inquiring about their well-being, needs, etc.

The committee’s initial focus has been to:

- Contact existing Church Members who are homebound, sick, and / or who have become inactive (or with little attendance within the church, especially since Covid) and let them know that they are thought of, missed, and in our prayers.
- Look for ways to welcome and engage New Members so they quickly feel like an integral part of our congregation.
- Establish Live Stream Worship Assistants to help members and visitors who attend the Live Stream 9:30 AM church service feel welcomed and a part of the worship service.
- Re-institute the Greeter program for the lower Main Entrance doors before the start of each worship service.

In essence, it comes down to making **all people** feel **loved** when entering, attending, and joining our church and also by our actions and outreach outside of the church! Thank you to all of the committee members for their dedication, support and hard work in reaching out to our members and visitors. *Respectfully submitted: Kristine Monsen*

## Pantry

On a monthly basis we are continuing to give our Pantry Families both grocery gift cards and groceries on their preference list. The amount of the gift cards and groceries are dependent on donations from the congregation, organizations that utilize the church for their meetings/events, and food and monetary donations through the Holiday Food Drive and the Advent Giving Tree. The Pantry Families are very appreciative of both; the gift card allows them to buy items such as fresh produce and other perishables.

On an annual basis we ask the families to re-apply and update their preference lists. This enables us to identify any changes in the number and age of their family members, changes in their dietary or allergy needs, changes in their preferences, and changes in their employment status.

During 2023, 414 bags of groceries, \$6,355 of grocery gift cards and \$1,850 of Advent Gift Cards were distributed.

Pantry Family Profiles:

- We had a turn-over of 1 Family. We acquired 1 new family through the Haddon Heights School Nurse.
- We are currently serving 12 Families totaling 37 people: 23 Adults, 10 Teens and 4 Children.
- Our Families live in Audubon, Bellmawr, Blackwood, Camden, Cherry Hill, Collingswood, Haddonfield, Merchantville, and Woodlynne.

Pantry Volunteers: We are grateful for our volunteers who shop, pack, and deliver groceries: Marianne Aponte; Jill, Lena & Jacob Heilman; Sandy Hoffman & Bobby Bridges; Stacy & Eva Shaw; and Connie Wolf. A special thank you to Sandy Hoffman for grocery shopping, dating and stocking the shelves.

We receive calls, texts, and letters from the Pantry Families thanking the congregation for their generous donations and time. We are told that many times our support is the difference between paying an electric bill and feeding their children. The LCOS Food Pantry is a vital Social Ministry Service to our community.

*Respectfully submitted, Lynn Block, Pantry Coordinator*

## Property Report

We had several large expenses that weren't budgeted for and were paid for out of our operating budget in 2023.

We had to paint most of the exterior wood on the church as the paint was peeling. The Fix-It Team saved us a substantial amount of money by painting the fire escape and AC exchanger pads themselves. We contracted with Guegel Painting.

Total of Two Bills from Guegel Painting – high lift rebate

= \$3,900 + \$11,950 - \$1,100 = \$14,750.

Total taken from church operating expenses

= net Guegel bill – Memorial Gifts contribution

= \$14,750 - \$6000 = 8,750

Expected Lifetime of paint job is 10 years or greater.

We had a minor flood in the Parish Hall after a storm that dumped 4 inches of rain in an hour. No one can recall a past flood. Several residences in Haddonfield experience water in basements. Some pine needle debris was also found in outside stair well drain grate. There are a bunch of pine trees around the stairwell that shed needles.

ServicPro Clean up bill = \$2000

We contracted with AppleTree Landscaping starting in the fall to do our landscaping. They do a great job, but their fee is high. They did extensive remedial individual branch trimming of bushes at a cost of \$2500. We are in process of determining if this will be an ongoing large expense. Total Appletree Bill for 2023 = 6047.45

Water bill was higher this year. We suspect problem may be with sprinkler pipe which were disturbed when new sidewalk was put in. Sprinkler system is turned off for winter.

2024 Projection- Shouldn't need to paint exterior of church that was painted this year for another ten years. Flood in the Parish Hall may have been a one off but are looking into down spout situation near fire escape and will keep drain clear which may have contributed. We will evaluate AppleTree Landscaping cost effectiveness going forward.

*Respectfully Submitted by Wendell Gulick - LCOS Property chair / Peaches Liaison*

## Sisters~In~Spirit

Sisters in Spirit (SIS) is a loosely structured group open to all LCOS women and their friends, and our emailing list reaches 60 women. Our goal is to offer a supportive community in which to grow our faith, connect with other women and serve God. We have no officers or organizational structure, just a core group of about 12 women who keep things moving. There are no requirements to be a member and no commitments to be on our email list. Please contact Linda Nelson at lnelson824@gmail.com or 908-400-2413 for more information or to be included in our emails. We'd love to have you join us! Here's what kept us busy in 2023:

**January:** Twenty LCOS women gathered for dinner at Tre Famiglia to kick off the new year.

**February:** For the third consecutive year Sisters in Spirit led the congregation in a food drive to help with the ever-growing need to fill the food pantries at Bridge of Peace Church in Camden and at Our Savior. The two churches benefited from almost 70 bags of food!

At the end of February we got an early start on making our Easter craft for LCOS shut-ins and seniors who can't make it to church. The group painted 30 glass jars with spring designs and filled them with Easter Candy.

**March:** After a two-year pandemic pause, Sisters in Spirit again went to lunch at Oriental Pearl and then a Sunday matinee of the Haddonfield Memorial High School spring musical. Later in the month volunteers delivered the Easter candy jars.

**April:** Sisters-in-Spirit delivered a pizza and salad dinner, plus Easter baskets of candy to the participants in the drug rehabilitation program at My Father's House.

Thunderstorms canceled the April 30 highly anticipated Philly Mural Arts Tour, which was rescheduled for the fall.

**May:** Along with Mission Quilts and Youth & Family Ministry, SIS sponsored an intergenerational Sunday brunch and the making of Linus blankets to benefit Ronald McDonald House.

**September:** Over 20 people finally were able to complete the Philly Mural Arts walking tour of Center City, to much acclaim.

**October:** We gathered in Parish Hall for a Pot-Luck Luncheon and continued our tradition of making Christmas ornaments to offer to the congregation. The proceeds from this year's paint-swirled glass balls were designated for Lutheran Disaster Response.

**November:** For the second year we collected approximately 200 varied items as stocking stuffers for the children and youth at Bridge of Peace Church. Each family received gift bags personally filled for them.

**December:** The congregation generously responded to our glass Christmas balls by donating over \$1,000! *Thank you to all who gave!*

**Thank you** to all who planned, led and took part in these activities throughout 2023 and to all who supported us with donations. *Respectfully submitted, Linda Nelson*

## **Social Ministry**

In 2023, the members of the Social Ministry Committee were: Betsy Kuehn, Jane Evans, Eva Shaw, Stacey Shaw, Jeannette Jelonek, Lynn Block, Connie Wolf, Pastor Wayne Zschech, Nancy Dempsey, and Gabby Berrios. We welcomed Gabby Berrios to the committee in February. Beginning in January 2023, Social Ministry Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7pm via zoom except for July and August.

**Advent Giving Tree (Betsy Kuehn):** We provide gifts to families in need. Church members select a tag from the Advent Giving Tree in mid-November to early December, purchase, wrap and return requested gifts. In 2023, church members were able to take tags in-person on 3 Sundays. An Advent Giving Online Registry was also available for members not able to be in church, or not comfortable in returning to church following the coronavirus pandemic. In 2023, the congregation generously provided and delivered 175 gifts to children, teenagers, adults, and families through the following organizations: Urban Promise, My Father's House, Caring Hearts Ministries, and the LCOS Pantry families. Thank you to all who took an Advent Giving Tree tag and bought the gift or donated money to buy gifts for tags that were not taken. A total of 140 tags were taken by LCOS members. In addition to the \$500.00 budgeted for the Giving Tree, \$1461.01 was contributed to the Advent Giving Tree fund to purchase gifts for the 35 leftover tags. Thank you from the Social Ministry Committee to everyone who signed up to purchase the gift cards or donated money to purchase gift cards that were not taken. In

2010, the Advent Giving Tree was dedicated in Dianne Reinhardt's memory to remember her many contributions to this ministry. Betsy Kuehn has been coordinating the Advent Giving Tree since 2018.

**Holiday Food Drive (Betsy Kuehn):** Thank you to all who donated holiday food bags or made monetary donations. Donations benefited the Peace Center at Bridge of Peace Church in Camden (a ministry to the poor and homeless in Camden) and the LCOS Pantry families. In 2023, 9 food bags were delivered to LCOS Pantry families, and 41 food bags to Bridge of Peace. A total of \$1424.20 in monetary donations was received, divided between the Peace Center and the LCOS Pantry.

**Caring Hearts Ministry (Betsy Kuehn, Eva Shaw):** **CARING HEARTS MINISTRY is a non-profit organization that provides emergency assistance and support to children and families struggling with HIV/AIDS in southern New Jersey.** Social Ministry Committee assists Caring Hearts families that are seen by Cooper Hospital's Pediatric Infectious Disease Practice. We usually support the seasonal holiday parties by providing baked goods and refreshments as well as a collected item (men's and women's deodorant, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, and gifts from Advent Giving Tree) and provide assistance at these parties. We also support Caring Hearts with a monetary donation in March and a special Christmas donation. Continued on page 11

No in-person events such as The Spring Give-A-Way usually held in April, and the Holiday Party in December, have been held for several years due to the pandemic. We collected deodorant and soap in the Spring to be included in tote bags filled with personal care items to be given to families at their appointments at Cooper. In-person events resumed in Summer 2023.

A Back-to-School event was held at Armitage Pavilion at Cooper River Park. Social Ministry collected toothpaste and toothbrushes to be included in tote bags to be given to families at the event. We collected Shampoo for our Fall collection. The Holiday Party resumed in-person in December at Millenium Skate World in Camden. We provided gift cards for adults and wrapped gifts for children from the Advent Giving Tree.

**My Father's House (Gabby Berrios):** We previously made and delivered dinner to 16 of the teens and adults who go to My Father's House for substance abuse counseling every Tuesday. At the February 2023 meeting, the Social Ministry Committee decided to transition from sending weekly meals to MFH to providing them with snacks and beverages. We are asking the congregation to donate boxes of individually wrapped, non-perishable snacks along with cases of individual bottled or canned drinks. Donations can be left on the shelves outside of Parish Hall. Contact Gabby Berrios (mrsbee8123@outlook.com) with questions. Kathy & Amelia Wright stepped down in June 2023 from coordinating MFH meals. Gabby Berrios took over. Thank you to Kathy and Amelia for their service, and welcome to Gabby. We also provided gift cards from the Advent Giving Tree.

Several members of the LCOS congregation have expressed interest in continuing to provide meals for Tuesday meetings at My Father's House. To support this initiative, a sign-up genius has been created to track meals to be provided on a volunteer basis. Those providing meals will need to prepare and **deliver the meal directly to MFH** by 3:00 on scheduled day. And, meals should **feed about 12 people**.

**Donations:** We supported the following programs and services through annual monetary donations: My Father's House, Caring Hearts Ministries, Haddonfield Community Caseworker, Crossroads Outdoor Ministry, Interfaith Caregivers, and the Peace Center at Bridge of Peace Lutheran Church in Camden. We also supported Bridge of Peace Church with quarterly payments from Mission Partner Support line item. Thank you for your offerings which make these donations possible.

*Respectfully submitted, Betsy Kuehn*

### **Worship and Music Committee**

Worship and Music Committee meets on the first Sunday of every month immediately following the 9:30 service. We do not meet during the summer months. The committee is an umbrella for all parts of worship: Music, Altar Guild, Acolytes, Ushers, and Communications. We work toward creating a meaningful experience to inspire regular attendance. We also welcome anyone who would like to learn more to join us!

This year continues to be a challenging one for everyone. I am heartened to see our congregation expanding with young families and a growing Sunday School. I commend everyone on my team for working diligently to continue to provide meaningful weekly services. I appreciate their ability to be flexible to change as needed.

I am so glad to welcome Bob Dempsey on the committee! We appreciate the time and talent you add to such a vital part of LCOS! Also, I would like to thank Sandy DeDonatis for her continued help and support in the office.

To all the members of the committee, Sue Windle, Eva Shaw, Stacey Shaw, Dave Wyche, Bob Dempsey, Pauline Worusski, and Pastor Zschech, thank you for your effort all year long. As I leave Council, I want to say I appreciate you all! I welcome Bill Cowan to the committee 2024 to be our Church Council representative!

*Respectfully submitted, Catherine Bare*

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR: YEAR END 2023 & 2024 BUDGET

## 2023 YEAR END NARRATIVE

2023 was very challenging as we end the year with a \$15,341 Net Loss. Revenue was \$13,457 below Plan as a result of weak Total Envelope Offering in the fourth quarter. Expenses were near Plan as higher than anticipated Property Expenses, as a result of storm damage and support of the exterior church painting, were offset by lower Salary & Benefit Expenses due to the change in the Director of Youth & Family Ministry position.

## 2024 BUDGET NARRATIVE

Based on the mixed Annual Appeal pledge results, we are estimating that our Total Envelope Offering will be the same as 2023. With Partch Fund Income going down and some of our expenses going up, we had to find other income sources as well as fund some of our expenses through Dedicated Accounts. To balance our 2024 Budget, we made the following adjustments: (1) increased our Davis Trust Other Income support from \$8,000 to \$12,000 (2) transferred \$3,500 of Dedicated Account Interest Income to Other Income (3) funded a portion of guest instrumentalists from our Special Music Program Dedicated Account (4) funded our vacation bible school program from our Vacation Bible School Dedicated Account. Hopefully our envelope offerings will increase in the future so we can support our ministries going forward.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2022 <u>YEAR END</u>	2023 <u>BUDGET</u>	YEAR END <u>2023</u>	2024 <u>BUDGET</u>	YE 2023 VS <u>2024 BUDGET</u>
<u>REVENUE</u>					
Total Envelopes	429,766	456,250	440,729	440,729	0
<u>Other Income</u>	<u>59,633</u>	<u>59,700</u>	<u>61,764</u>	<u>62,808</u>	<u>1,044</u>
Total Revenue	489,399	515,950	502,493	503,537	1,044
<u>EXPENSE</u>					
Salary & Benefits	313,702	343,515	331,956	327,216	(4,740)
Property	55,172	66,625	78,413	67,985	(10,428)
Administration	45,056	48,297	50,971	50,900	(71)
<u>Program Ministries</u>	<u>75,469</u>	<u>57,513</u>	<u>56,494</u>	<u>57,436</u>	<u>942</u>
Total Expense	489,399	515,950	517,834	503,537	(14,297)
NET LOSS	0	0	(15,341)	0	15,341

## REVENUE & EXPENSE DETAILS

	2022 <u>YEAR END</u>	2023 <u>BUDGET</u>	YEAR END <u>2023</u>	2024 <u>BUDGET</u>	YE 2023 VS <u>2024 BUDGET</u>
<u>REVENUE</u>					
<u>44200 · ENVELOPES</u>					
1501-01 through 16: Envelope Offering	429,766	451,250	439,001	440,729	1,728
<u>1501-17- Congregational Challenge</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>1,728</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,728)</u>
Total 44200 · ENVELOPES	429,766	456,250	440,729	440,729	0
<u>44300 · OTHER INCOME</u>					
1502-02 · Donations for Use of BLDG (ex M S)	4,960	5,000	6,000	6,000	0
1502-03 · Thrivent Matching Grants	131	200	292	300	8
1502-04 · Partch Fund Income	0	22,500	22,500	18,808	(3,692)
1502-04 - Davis Fund Income	0	8,000	8,000	12,000	4,000
1502-04 · Non-Budgeted Income	29,289	0	2,772	3,500	728
1502-04 · Mustard Seed Rent/Utilities	12,013	16,000	19,200	19,200	0
1502-05 · Matching Funds	8,513	7,000	3,000	3,000	0
1502-08 - Anonymous Gift	1,000	1,000	0	0	0
1502-09 - Special Musical Functions	0	0	0	0	0
1502-99 · Pastor Discretionary Fund	0	0	0	0	0
<u>Past Income</u>	<u>3,727</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total 44300 · OTHER INCOME	59,633	59,700	61,764	62,808	1,044
TOTAL REVENUE	489,399	515,950	502,493	503,537	1,044

<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>YEAR END</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2024 BUDGET</u>
<u>65000 · STAFF SALARIES</u>					
1601-01 · Pastor -Base Salary	67,955	69,314	69,314	70,700	1,386
1601-02 · Pastor - Portico	41,687	44,655	42,256	45,366	3,110
1601-03 · Pastor- Soc. Sec.	5,629	5,742	5,742	5,857	115
1601-04 · Pastor-Housing Equity	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0
1601-05 · Pastor-Auto	542	750	617	800	183
1601-06 · Pastor-Cont. Ed. (1601-17)	0	0	0	0	0
<u>1601-07 · Pastor-Prof. Exp &amp; Asso Pastor</u>	<u>659</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>387</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>363</u>
Total 65000 · STAFF SALARIES	118,972	123,711	120,816	125,973	5,157
<u>66000 · STAFF BENEFITS</u>					
1602-01 · Parish Administrator	40,044	40,845	40,845	41,662	817
1602-02 · Parish Admin.-Portico	4,886	4,779	4,779	4,583	(196)
1602-03 Administrator FSA	1,083	1,121	1,113	1,400	287
1602-04 · Director of Music	57,683	56,800	56,800	57,936	1,136
1602-05 · Director of Music- Portico	17,038	15,368	18,231	14,910	(3,321)
1602-06 · Dir of Music - Cont. Ed	3,204	200	0	0	0
1602-07 · Bookkeeper	5,754	6,000	5,778	6,430	652
1602-08 Director Youth & Family	27,273	48,727	39,246	24,851	(14,395)
1602-09 Director Youth & Family- Portico	3,315	5,559	3,801	0	(3,801)
1602-10 Director Youth & Family- Cont. Ed	0	500	0	0	0
1602-10 · Youth Ministry	0	0	0	10,400	10,400
1602-11 · Supply Pastors/ Org.	1,750	4,400	4,751	2,000	(2,751)
1602-12 · Youth Ministry Cont. Ed	0	0	0	0	0
1602-40 · Custodian	11,594	11,826	11,826	12,063	237
1602-42 · Night Lock-up	2,398	2,446	2,446	2,495	49
1602-50 · Child Care	2,478	3,733	4,915	5,013	98
1602-52 Communication Tech (Partch)	5,450	5,500	5,500	5,500	0
<u>1602-70 · F.I.C.A.</u>	<u>10,780</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>11,109</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>891</u>
Total 66000 · STAFF BENEFITS	194,730	219,804	211,140	201,243	(9,897)
<u>66100 · ADMINISTRATION</u>					
1603-01 · Office Expenses	3,979	4,500	4,194	4,300	106
1603-02 · Telephone	7,200	8,000	7,751	7,500	(251)
1603-03 · Conferences/Assembly	180	250	390	300	(90)
1603-04 · Office Equipment Maint.	5,724	6,000	7,706	8,500	794
1603-05 · Postage	3,342	3,700	4,141	2,700	(1,441)
1603-07 · Paper, Printing Supplies	6,669	7,000	6,259	6,500	241
1603-09 · Congregational Mtg	57	200	106	200	94
1605-01 · Workers Compensation	2,352	2,500	2,444	2,200	(244)
1605-02 · Insurance	12,965	13,500	14,877	15,500	623
<u>1603-10 · Bank Charges/VANCO</u>	<u>2,588</u>	<u>2,647</u>	<u>3,103</u>	<u>3,200</u>	<u>97</u>
Total 66100 · ADMINISTRATION	45,056	48,297	50,971	50,900	(71)
<u>66200 · CHRISTIAN ED</u>					
1604-01 · Sunday School	1,711	1,750	1,172	1,500	328
1604-03 · Vacation Bible School	1,452	1,500	1,155	0	(1,155)
1604-04 · Faith Formation	2,683	3,000	2,125	2,500	375
1604-05 · Youth Ministry	133	250	561	500	(61)
1604-08 · Adult Education	722	1,000	1,034	1,000	(34)
<u>1604-10 · Lenten Soup Dinners</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total 66200 · CHRISTIAN ED	6,701	7,500	6,047	5,500	(547)

	<u>2022 YEAR</u> <u>END</u>	2023 BUDGET	YEAR END 2023	2024 BUDGET	YE 2023 VS 2024 BUDGET
<u>66300 · CONG. RESOURCES</u>					
1605-03 · Offering Envelopes/ Financial Review	775	800	1,061	1,400	339
<u>1605-04 · Stewardship</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(40)</u>
Total 66300 · CONG. RESOURCES	775	900	1,101	1,400	299
<u>66325 · EVANGELISM</u>					
1606-01 - New Member Classes	89	500	187	250	63
1606-03 · Publicity/Communications	3,205	3,250	4,208	4,000	(208)
1606-05 · Outreach	0	0	0	800	800
<u>1606-06 Mission Support</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total 66325 · EVANGELISM	3,294	3,750	4,395	5,050	655
<u>66350 · FELLOWSHIP DEV.</u>					
1607-01 · Fellowship Together	196	250	4,095	2,250	(1,845)
1604-09 · Fellowship/Coffee Hours	1,113	1,250	1,808	1,200	(608)
<u>1607-03 · Seniors - Luncheons</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
Total 66350 · FELLOWSHIP DEV.	1,429	1,750	5,903	3,650	(2,253)
<u>68200 · PROPERTY</u>					
					0
1608-01 · PSE&G - Church	25,115	28,000	25,977	27,000	1,023
1608-03 · Water & Sewage- Church	3,678	3,875	4,443	4,300	(143)
1608-04 · Maintenance- Church	3,230	3,500	18,912	6,000	(12,912)
1608-05 · PSE&G -Parsonage	4,214	5,000	3,897	4,200	303
1608-07 · Water & Sewage- Pars.	1,940	2,250	1,530	1,600	70
1608-08 · Maintenance-Parsonage	4,580	2,500	2,210	2,500	290
1608-10 · Lawn & Maintenance/Snow Rem	5,027	5,500	8,774	8,000	(774)
1608-11 · Service Contracts	6,110	6,500	6,633	7,500	867
1608-12 · Janitorial Supplies & Planting	1,453	1,500	1,394	1,500	106
1608-14 - Elevator Expense (Partch)	0	6,000	2,605	2,500	(105)
1608-15 - Large Repair Fund (Ded Account)	0	0	0	2,885	2,885
<u>1608-13 Major Repair Fund Support</u>	<u>(175)</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,038</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,038)</u>
Total 68200 · PROPERTY	55,172	66,625	78,413	67,985	(10,428)
<u>68300 · SOCIAL MINISTRY</u>					
1609-01 · Benevolence Projects	7,500	7,500	7,000	7,500	500
1609-06 · IHOC	0	0	0	0	0
1609-05 Mission Quilts	278	300	261	300	39
1609-08 · Advent Giving Tree	625	500	0	500	500
1609-09 Mission Partner Support	3,125	2,500	<u>2,400</u>	2,500	100
<u>1609-10 - Justice &amp; Peace</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Total 68300 · SOCIAL MINISTRY	11,528	10,800	9,661	11,800	2,139
<u>68400 · WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</u>					
1610-02 · Vocal/ Instrumental Music	630	1,000	785	1,000	215
1610-06 · Guest Instrumentals	4,075	4,500	5,125	4,000	(1,125)
1610-07 · Worship Materials	826	1,000	118	500	382
1610-08 · Instrument Maint.	2,637	2,500	720	2,000	1,280
1610-09 · Music Program Development	0	0	325	0	(325)
<u>1610-10 · Small Print Devotionals</u>	<u>597</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>485</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>15</u>
Total 68400 · WORSHIP & MUSIC	8,765	10,000	7,558	8,000	442

	<u>2022 YEAR</u> <u>END</u>	2023 BUDGET	YEAR END 2023	2024 BUDGET	YE 2023 VS 2024 BUDG-
<b>68425 · BENEVOLENCE</b>					
<u>1611-01 · NJ Synod Mission Support</u>	<u>42,977</u>	<u>22,813</u>	<u>21,829</u>	<u>22,036</u>	<u>207</u>
Total 68425 · BENEVOLENCE	42,977	22,813	21,829	22,036	207
 TOTAL EXPENSE	 494,412	 515,950	 517,834	 503,537	 (14,297)

**DEDICATED ACCOUNT SUMMARY**

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>12/31/2022</u> <u>BALANCE</u>	INCOME 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023	EXPENSE 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2023	INCOME/ EXP YTD	12/31/2023 BALANCE
1700-04 Local Special Benevolence	1776	\$691	(\$950)	(\$259)	1,517
1701-01 Benevolences	1118	\$291	\$0	\$291	1,409
1701-05 Social Ministry	4,034	\$3,131	(\$575)	\$2,556	6,590
1701-07 Pantry	2,268	\$8,758	(\$8,871)	(\$113)	2,155
1701-08 World Hunger	375	\$961	(\$1,336)	(\$375)	0
1701-09 World Missionary	55	\$375	(\$555)	(\$180)	(125)
1701-12 Justice & Peace	231	\$2,795	(\$2,721)	\$74	305
1701-13 Library	296	\$0	\$0	\$0	296
1701-14 National Youth Gathering	1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	1,000
1701-15 Video Fund	25	\$0	\$0	\$0	25
1701-16 Van Fund/Davis (limited res)	20,071	\$8,700	(\$8,767)	(\$67)	20,004
1701-26 Youth Mission Trip	1,257	\$0	(\$845)	(\$845)	412
1701-27 Youth Ministry Activities	17,403	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500	19,903
1701-28 Elevator Expenses/Partch (gospel access)	3,288	\$0	(\$3,288)	(\$3,288)	0
1701-30 Special Music Programs	12,114	\$4,692	(\$200)	\$4,492	16,606
1701-34 Vacation Bible School	4,081	\$480	(\$441)	\$39	4,120
1701-45 Refugee Relief	4,502	\$4,100	(\$8,627)	(\$4,527)	(25)
1701-46 Disaster Relief	0	\$3,271	(\$3,271)	\$0	0
1701-47 Altar Guild	12,830	\$4,055	(\$4,716)	(\$661)	12,169
1701-48 ELCA Campaign	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
1701-50 Mission Partners	620	\$0	\$0	\$0	620
1701-90 Pastor Discretionary Fund	3,528	\$0	(\$1,022)	(\$1,022)	2,506
<u>1701-99 Interest Income</u>	<u>3,608</u>	<u>\$1,455</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,455</u>	<u>5,063</u>
TOTAL	98,116	\$46,255	(\$46,185)	\$70	98,186



## 2023 MEMORIAL GIFTS FUND REPORT

**The ELCA mission and vision statement provides guidance to us regarding what is faithful stewardship –** “As a church together, faithful stewardship is about holding to God’s purpose and ensuring the responsibilities and resources that God has entrusted to us are used with great care and with accountability to God, to each other and those served by this church.” The Board of Trustees of the Memorial Gifts Fund is responsible for 1) the faithful management of the gifts given to the church, 2) spending the income of the funds in a meaningful way and in a manner consistent with our purpose and the donor’s intent, and 3) encouraging generosity. The Congregation approved the amendment to By Law Article VI, Section 6 Dissolution of Church at the 2022 Annual Meeting. A revision to the Patterson-Plotzke Scholarship was also made then.

**Faithful Management:** The funds managed totaled \$1,178,677 at the end of 2023, an increase of \$89,887 over year end 2022 due to the rebound in the stock and bond markets. The net return of the funds in 2023 was +12.05%. These funds were held in diversified investments with 60.6% in U.S. and international stocks, 28.6% in fixed income investments, and 10.8% in cash. We provided \$48,899 in 2023 to support LCOS’s various ministries and \$460,768 over the past five years.

**Our Impact:** The Memorial Gifts Fund continued to directly assist the ministry of LCOS. Pastor Wayne received \$1,530 to attend a conference. With Church Council, the MGF supported programs that are beyond the ability of the General Fund: Bridge of Peace - \$2,500, Justice and Peace - \$295, Feed My Starving Children - \$2,000, and church painting - \$5,950. The Bott Major Repair Fund subsidized the repair of the church hydraulic boiler circulating pump - \$3,666. The remaining \$26,793 from the Endowment’s 2022 Spendable Income was transferred to Bott Major Repair Fund to ensure sufficient funds for future significant repairs. We continued our sponsorship and maintenance of the Memorial Garden - \$859.

In our local community, we provided support to the Haddonfield Caseworker - \$5,000 who assists residents with respect to food, utilities, and other emergency needs, and to Interfaith Caregivers of Haddonfield and Haddon Heights - \$5,000 which facilitates independent living for residents who are 65+ or disabled.

Through the Patterson-Plotzke Fund we offered college scholarships through LUCY (Lifting Up Camden Youth) and Urban Promise. Each organization selected graduates who participated with distinction and was awarded \$10,000, a decrease of \$2,000 from 2022. Through the Clark-Hartmann Ministerial Educational Scholarship Fund we supported Jason Reed (\$1,000), a seminarian at Wartburg Seminary.

**Encouraging Generosity:** We are thankful for our members who remember the Church in life and death. During the past year, we received gifts of \$2,038, given in memory of Janis Rice, Jean Schroeder, Jaime Fallon, and Evelyn Boyle. Teak chairs were purchased with monies donated in memory of loved ones.

We continue to seek improvement in our stewardship. Rich Windle acquaints parishioners with our activities through the Memorial Gifts Fund Corner which is published frequently in the Messenger. He has highlighted the Lou Dunkle Endowment fund and Patterson - Plotzke scholarship recipients.

All Church members are encouraged to continue their faithful stewardship through their tax and estate planning knowing that the funds will be used well. Donating appreciated securities, designating a portion of a required minimum distribution from an IRA or other retirement account directly to the church, or providing for the church as a beneficiary of a retirement account, an annuity, or an insurance policy is an excellent way to take advantage of the tax laws and help provide for perpetual funding of the church.

In conclusion, we remain faithful Christian stewards and this year welcomed the additional challenge of shepherding the investments to provide financial stability to the church. All members of the board –Danielle Deery, John Drozdal, Deb Hartigan, Jeannette Jones, and Rich Windle are thankful for the privilege to sustain the rich heritage of our members’ generosity through faithful management of these gifts. Faithfully Submitted, *Nancy V. Gulick, President, and Karin LaBarge, Financial Secretary*

<u>Accounts</u>	<u>12/31/2019</u>	<u>12/31/2020</u>	<u>12/31/2021</u>	<u>12/31/2022</u>	<u>12/31/2023</u>
Dunkle Endowment	\$857,296	\$863,734	\$908,305	\$759,465	\$801,234
Unrestricted	16,952	19,852	33,711	28,743	27,387
Restricted	9,838	6,871	7,872	7,994	8,401
Clark-Hartmann	39,896	42,922	39,263	31,993	33,849
Patterson Plotzke	229,571	250,570	264,329	201,345	213,569
Bott Major Repair	18,495	8,658	21,788	20,613	51,034
Christie Organ	23,959	27,887	31,852	26,470	31,122
Memorial Garden	<u>7,282</u>	<u>7,641</u>	<u>12,178</u>	<u>12,165</u>	<u>12,079</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$1,203,289	\$1,228,135	\$1,319,298	\$1,088,789	\$1,178,677
Disbursements	\$107,202	\$108,383	\$92,639	\$103,645	\$48,899
Generous gifts & memorials	\$5,729	\$975	\$9,175	\$7,860	\$2,038



## **Church Council Nominees**

Bill Cowan has been a member of LCOS since 1983, Bill recently retired from PNC Bank and also recently moved to Bellmawr from Cherry Hill. He has been a member of the Adult Choir for the past six years and is looking forward to serving on Church Council and the Worship and Music Committee. In past years Bill has served the congregation as a Sunday School Teacher, on the Video team, as the chair of the Call Committee in 2005 when Pastor Zschech was called to our congregation and has served on council multiple times. Bill is married to Pam and their children Casey, Spencer and their families attend worship regularly.

## **Annual Minutes of 2023 Remote Annual Congregational Report Sunday January 29, 2023**

**Call to Order:** Pastor Zschech called the meeting to order.

**Opening Devotions:** Pastor Zschech led the assembly in Devotions provided in the Annual Report

**Attendance:** A quorum of baptized/confirmed members were in attendance with 54 having attended in-person and 6 having attend virtually by Zoom.

**Minutes from 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting:** No additions or corrections.

**Motion to accept the minutes** (Kayann Laughlin, Cathe Bare)

**Passed unanimously**

### **Reports of Officers:**

**Pastor Wayne Zschech** – See Report. Pastor Wayne expressed how this year we lived out our baptism. He apologized for not asking before volunteering to house seven Ukrainian refugees because it has increased the utility bills at the parsonage. He expressed his continued thanks for helping the refugees in various ways. Particular thanks to Pauline for her translating help. He also expressed thanks for the congregation allowing him to serve the Synod. No questions.

**Vice President/Personnel** – See Report. John Drozdal expressed excitement about being able to have this Annual Meeting in person. He is stepping down from Council and expressed his thanks for being able to serve the last eight years.

**Financial Secretary** – See Report. Shannon Foskett presented her report orally and expressed an extra thanks for all the counters. No questions related to the report.

**Audit** – Pastor Wayne noted there is currently no audit underway.

**Treasurer** - Paul Knauer explained how he put together the budget for 2022. In 2022, we had to ask MGB for money to balance the budget. But offerings were higher than expected and we were able to give money back to MGB and did not have to use as much money from the Davis and Partch Trusts. We had a good year in 2022, thanks to MGB.

**Motion to accept and approve Reports of Officers** (Eva Shaw; Betsey Kuehn).

**Passed unanimously**

### **Reports of Staff Members:**

**Pauline Worusski** – Director of Music and Organist. See Report. 2022 highlight was Lessons and Carols. She is expecting a child and plans to go out after Easter and return in July.

**Sabrina LaBelle** - Director of Youth and Family Ministry. See Report. Expressed thanks for all the support. She thinks the changes have gone well. Sunday School numbers are up. She will continue to try and instill “sticky faith” in the children of our congregation.

**Sandy DeDonatis** – Pastor Wayne noted how integral her work is to the congregation.

**Motion to approve Reports of Staff Members** (John Drozdal; Spike Riley)

**Passed unanimously**

**Report of Memorial Gift Board** – See Report. Noted that the fund went down 10% from last year. Lowest year over the past five years. Have been able to give out about \$500,000 over the past five years to organizations. It is used wisely. MGB has a column in the Messenger to keep the Congregation updated. She thanked the members of the MGB for their contributions. Bobbi Newsham is stepping down after years of service. No questions.

**Motion to approve Report of MGB** (Jeanne Coleman-Jones; Jack Berrigan)

**Passed unanimously**

**Reports of Committees and Sub-committees** – See Reports.

**Motion to approve Reports as submitted** (Jane Braccio; Bob Dempsey)

**Passed unanimously**

**Report of Mustard Seed Childcare** – See Report. Thanked the congregation for the support and noted that it has grown exponentially. No questions.

**Motion to approve Mustard Seed Report** (Barb Standke; Kristine Monsen)

**Passed unanimously**

### **Unfinished Business:**

#### **1. Revision to MGB Bylaws, as discussed at the 2022 Annual Meeting.**

First Change: Details of proposed change is in the insert in the written materials. Change would be to Article VI, Section 6. Dissolution of Church.

New proposed language has been approved by the MGB and Council.

**Motion to pass revision to bylaws** – (Kate Zschech; Linda Nelson)

**Motion passes unanimously.**

Second Change: Patterson/Plotzke Scholarship Fund – Want to extend ability to provide scholarships to youth that have needs and work with organizations based in Camden, although the youth live in cities other than Camden. The term “scholarship” also will be clarified that it does not have to be limited to tuition, but can extend to other expenses related to supporting the recipient’s applications.

**Motion to pass revisions** - (Linda Powell; Bobbi Newsham)

**Motion passes unanimously.**

### **New Business:**

#### **1. Nominees of Council and Memorial Gift Board Members:**

John Drozdal is nominated to serve on MGB.

Deb Hartigan is nominated to serve on MGB.

Lynn Block is nominated to serve on Council for Justice and Peace.

Ann Querns is nominated to serve on Council for Vice President.

Wendell Gulick is nominated to serve on Council for Property Chair.

Debby Madiraca is nominated to serve on Council for Secretary.

Ruth Fisher is nominated to serve on Council for the unexpired term of Fellowship Together.

Kristine Monsen is nominated to serve on Council for the unexpired term of Outreach.

**Motion to Close Nominations:** (Nancy Gulick; Cathe Bare).

**Approved unanimously**

#### **3. 2023 Financial Plan** - Explained by Paul Knauer. The plan is laid out in detail in the written materials.

Paul explained that we are hoping to have a balanced budget without support from MGB. By the end of the year, had the most pledges for the most amount of money, ever! Estimating about \$415,000 in offerings.

Noted Congregational Challenge. Noted other funds that come in. Using some funds from the Parrrtch Fund and Davis Fund. To balance budget, needed to decrease offering to the Synod, with the hope that any surplus will increase.

**Motion to approve 2023 Financial Plan** - (Nancy Gulick; Eric Woltz)

**Approved unanimously**

**Motion to Adjourn:** (Barb Standke; Deb Hartigan)

**Approved unanimously**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Savior  
204 Wayne Avenue  
Corner of Wood Lane and Wayne Avenue  
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

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Permit No. 164

*Annual Meeting - January 28, 2024*

*Time Sensitive Material Enclosed - Mailed January 18, 2024*

*Address Service Requested*

Annual Meeting - January 28, 2024

**DATED MATERIAL**

### **Devotions**

Responsive Prayer 2 (*from LBW 164*)

Pastor: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

**Congregation: have mercy and hear us.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P: Show us your mercy, O Lord, **C: and grant us your salvation.**

P: Clothe your ministers with righteousness. **C: Let your people sing with joy.**

P: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world; **C: for only in you can we live in safety.**

P: Lord, keep this nation under your care, **C: and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

P: Let your way be known upon the earth. **C: your saving health among all nations.**

P: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten, **C: nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

P: Create in us clean hearts, O God, **C: and sustain us with your Holy Spirit**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Lord God, you taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit. Grant that we, by your Spirit may have a right judgement in all things and evermore rejoice in his holy counsel; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen** P: Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: we humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but remember that we are ever walking in your sight; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

P: Let us bless the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting Life. **C: Amen**