

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
of Carlisle, Pennsylvania



We worship, welcome, witness, teach and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE CONGREGATION**

DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING
November 20, 2022

Approximately 63 members attended the meeting. The meeting was held following the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Council President Michelle Fisher called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. Michelle indicated that a quorum has been met. She also asked if there were any additional business items to add to the meeting agenda. With none offered, the agenda was accepted as presented. Pastor Leber offered a prayer.

Approval of the 2021 Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes. A motion was made with a second to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2021, Congregation Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of the July 31, 2022, Special Congregation Meeting Minutes. A motion was made with a second to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2022, Special Congregation Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Election of the 2023 Congregation Council Members. The Nominating Committee nominated Caryn Carr, Kirby Gutshall, Paul Kraus, Linda Martin and Richard Wood for three-year terms ending December 2025. President Fisher asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to close the nominations. There was a motion with a second to close the nominations. Motion carried.

Election of the 2023 Nominating Committee Members: The Nominating Committee nominated Michelle Fisher, Rob McDaniel and Taylor Miller to serve on the 2023 Nominating Committee. President Fisher asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to close the nominations. There was a motion with a second to close the nominations. Motion carried.

Paper ballots were handed out to congregation members to vote for the 2023 nominees for Congregation Council and the Nominating Committee. Pastor Leber and Sarah Neibler served as tellers. Elected to three-year terms on council were Caryn Carr, Kirby Gutshall, Paul Kraus, Linda Martin and Richard Wood. Elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2023 were Michelle Fisher, Rob McDaniel and Taylor Miller. All terms commence on January 1, 2023. There were 61 valid ballots.

Reports of Officers and Committees: President Fisher mentioned the reports submitted by the church committees for review in the 2022 Annual Report of the Congregation. There were no questions or concerns from the reports submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Hope Miller, Financial Secretary, reviewed the financial statements included in the 2022 Annual Report. The General Checking, Capital Projects, Trust Money Market Account and Treasurer's Annual reports were as of September 30, 2022.

General Checking (page 18)

Income

- As of the end of September, Weekly and Special Offerings are 85.6% of budgeted amounts.
- Transfers from the Money Market account for operating expenses are 85.4% of the budgeted amount.
- Benevolence Offering continues to be well ahead of budgeted amounts (over 124.7%).

Expense

- Personnel expenses were up in September due to bi-weekly payments made to Pastor Lorenz while Pastor Leber is on sabbatical.
- The Property line item remained higher than usual in September due to electrical work needed to tie in the parking lot pole light to the main meter and installation of new telephone lines. In addition, more plumbing work was needed to fix leaks found inside and outside the building. The charges for the new telephone system was inadvertently paid from this line item and will be reimbursed by the Capital Projects account in October.

Capital Projects (top of page 19)

Income

- Weekly Offering is almost 105% of budgeted amounts.

Expense

- Nothing notable to report.

Money Market (middle of page 19)

Income

- Income from Wilmington Trust was up in September from the quarterly distribution from the P.K. Miller Trust.
- A \$5,000 contribution was made in September to the Capital Campaign for “principal only”.

Expense

- The \$5,000 contribution to “principal only” was transferred to debt service in September.

Monies Earmarked in Money Market and CDs plus Debt Service Information (bottom of page 19) Balances shown as of September 30, 2022.

There was a question about the monies in the Fine Arts at First Offering line item. Hope indicated that this reflects only monies that congregation members give through offering and does not reflect monies received at Fine Arts concerts.

The Treasurer’s Report was received subject to review.

Presentation of the 2023 Proposed Mission Spending Plan: Hope Miller presented the 2023 Mission Spending Plan as recommended by the Congregation Council and included as a summary in the 2022 Annual Report (page 22).

Hope thanked the congregation for its continued faithful giving during an unprecedented time. Offerings have stayed strong, a great indicator of the commitment members have to our community of faith.

Hope noted the following regarding the proposed 2023 Mission Spending Plan:

It reflects an overall 8.7% increase over the current budget year, of \$41,250. Based on projected actuals for 2022, overall offerings are budgeted slightly lower (-3.5%) for 2023. Benevolence Offerings are budgeted to increase reflecting the trend of the past few years.

In expenses, committee budgets remain fairly flat overall, with two exceptions: \$2,000 was budgeted for 2023 for the Audit Committee for an outside audit (done every two years) and the Property Committee budget has been increased over 21% due to the major increases in utilities (gas and electric) and increase in our insurance costs with Liberty Mutual Insurance.

In the area of Personnel, the budget reflects a 6.5% increase for all payroll staff (including the vacant Cantor position) as recommended by the Personnel Committee. There were some minor increases and decreases in Health Care & Other Benefits. The Supplemental Organist line item was increased to account for the Cantor vacancy. Overall, there is a 6.7% increase in Personnel costs.

In the area of Benevolence, one minor adjustment was made to reflect a request from the Social Ministry and Global Outreach Committee for an additional \$250.

Hope asked if there were any questions. There was a question about the increase of \$50,000 in the Trust Income Transfer from Trusts line item. Hope explained that this is a projected increase of money expected to be received from our trust funds. This money is only the interest that is received from our trusts.

Presentation of the 2023 Proposed Capital Projects Budget. Hope Miller presented the 2023 proposed Capital Projects Budget as recommended by the Congregation Council and included as a summary in the 2022 Annual Report (page 23).

Income: Due to an increase in weekly giving last year to Capital Projects, the income line was slightly adjusted. To balance the funds needed for 2023 Capital Projects, \$6,000 is needed from unused Capital Projects reserves sitting in the account.

Expenses: We are budgeting for work on sanctuary/office lighting.

Hope asked if there were any questions on the 2023 Proposed Capital Projects Budget. There was a question about the main parking lot. Pastor Leber and Rich Wood, chair of the Property Committee, shared that proposals to rehabilitate the lot were solicited in 2016 before the Atrium project, with bids coming in between \$35,000 and \$50,000. The project was put on hold during construction of the Atrium. We would prefer that the renovation of 132 East High Street by Safe Harbour be done before we invest in a new lot. We will need to re-bid with contractors.

Council President Fisher noted that the proposed 2023 Mission Spending Plan and 2023 Capital Projects Budget were coming to the congregation as a recommendation from Congregation Council. The proposed 2023 Mission Spending Plan of \$602,650 and the proposed 2023 Capital Projects Budget of \$25,000 were adopted by voice vote.

New Business. None.

With no further business, Pastor Leber thanked outgoing council members Michelle Fisher, Karen Hollen, Steven King, Michael Luther and Sam Orner, noting that they served almost their entire three-year term during a global pandemic and had to participate in many challenging conversations and make many difficult decisions.

12:03 p.m. Motion made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting with a benediction from Pastor Leber.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sam Orner, Secretary

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear First Lutheran Family;

Over the past year, I have discovered that a year can be both long and go by way too fast! I have also been a first person witness to the extraordinary leadership, vision and focus that Pastor Leber brings to our church family, with the invaluable support of Pastor Lorenz, Robin Orner and Hope Miller, along with the council members, and those who serve on church committees. And I have to mention our own Sam Orner, who although he has “retired” [again], was at every volunteer event I attended, and many more that I did not.

This year we celebrated Pastor Leber’s tenth anniversary as our Pastor, and, as is her way, she asked that we do so by focusing on fellowship and togetherness of our congregation, so recently emerging from the rigors of a pandemic.

Over this past year Congregation Council has continued planning and implementing a vision for First Lutheran in a world that has changed so much and holds so many challenges [read: “opportunities”] to *worship, welcome, witness, teach and serve in the name of Jesus Christ* as a congregation.

During this year we have worked closely with Safe Harbour to obtain planning and permitting approvals to finalize the transfer of the property at *132 East High*, which we hope to have finally completed via deed transfer by the time of our Annual Meeting.



This fall, Congregation Council went on retreat at Camp Nawakwa to plan and envision the Future for First. Despite some initial trepidation, all who participated agreed that the overnight adventure provided an invaluable opportunity to bond and to establish a foundation for exciting opportunities for service in the years to come.

Council retreat at Camp Nawakwa

David Erickson has once again stepped forward to lead our dedicated choir members in worship celebrations through the year, as we continue in our search for minister of music who is right for us. I am lucky to be part of the background and am amazed by the abilities of David, the real singers, and the musicians who are only too glad to work with him.

Each committee has worked towards a goal of envisioning and serving the future needs of First Lutheran and our community. We continue to care for our neighbors through ministries such as serving quarterly meals at My Brother’s Table and welcoming support groups such as AA and Overeater’s Anonymous to gather weekly in our building. Witnessing the return of Head Start children and their families to in person attendance brought a smile to my face every time I stopped by to see Robin. 😊

The list of items I did not get to during this year is long, and any omissions are mine, but going forward, the future looks very strong for First Lutheran, and I hope any of you who think you might not be able to

make a difference will rethink that, and join in our efforts to *worship, welcome, witness, teach and serve in the name of Jesus Christ* in the coming year[s].

Sincerely,
David A. Fitzsimons
Congregation Council President, 2023

CONGREGATION COUNCIL 2023

Term ending 12/31/23

Stephanie Doherty
David Fitzsimons
Janelle Hoch
Don Osborne
Alecia Staley

Term ending 12/31/24

Connie Alexander
Kathleen Hall
Ron Jumper
Karen Longenecker
- - - -

Term ending 12/31/25

Caryn Carr
Kirby Gutshall
Paul Kraus
Linda Martin
Richard Wood

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PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As hard as it is for me to believe, it has been almost exactly one full year since I returned from my three-month sabbatical! I was so grateful for the break from daily parish ministry to rest, study, and be refreshed and renewed. Thank you for that wonderful gift of time away!

The past twelve months since my return have been busy. Even though Covid-19 is still around (and apparently will remain so!), it feels as if we are finally “post-pandemic” - able to plan and carry out our ministries of *worshipping, welcoming, witnessing, teaching and serving in Christ's name* without the constraints of social distancing and other limitations.

The pages that follow tell of all sorts of exciting events, programs and activities. I hope you will be both grateful for, and inspired by, the many ways God has used the time, talents and treasures of our congregation to touch people's lives, here in Carlisle and around the world.

A few items from the past year deserve highlighting:

- + We were rather surprised (and alarmed!) to learn in mid-May that our long-time insurer, Liberty Mutual, did not intend to renew our various policies on August 1. After spending quite a bit of time and effort exploring options and pursuing the underwriting process, the Insurance Task Force (David Fitzsimons, Ron Jumper, Richard Wood, Ashley Zink and me) recommended that Congregation Council accept the proposal from Brotherhood Mutual (through The Stewardship Group) for property, liability, excess and workers' compensation coverage. Brotherhood Mutual specializes in insuring communities of faith and other faith-based organizations; we now have better/more comprehensive coverage at a significant cost savings! (And, in case you are curious - our building and contents are valued at \$22.4 million!) We have been gifted with incredible tools for ministry - the 1901, 1966 and 2018 buildings, our people, gorgeous stained glass windows, a wonderful organ, and everything else that occupies this corner of East High and South Bedford streets - having the right insurance is one of the ways we are good stewards of these resources.

+ You don't always know how something new is going to go...but the monthly gathering we kicked off in March for 55+ members and friends of First has been a resounding success! 30-35 folks have been gathering on the 2nd Friday of each month for a potluck lunch followed by a speaker. We also travelled to the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg in October. The energy of this group has been a good reminder of how much people are longing for community and fellowship after the pandemic.



+ I was very touched by the October 1st celebration in honor of my ten year anniversary at First Lutheran. It has been a joy and privilege to be your pastor over the past decade - we have done a lot of hard and good work together, and I am grateful for our partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am particularly grateful for the wonderful people with whom I serve: Robin Orner, Hope Miller, Pastor Richard Lorenz, David Erickson, and David Binkley. As I look to the past year with thanksgiving, I look to the year ahead with hope and confidence!

In Christ,
Pastor Leber

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MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS (October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023)

Membership as of December 31, 2022:

Baptized: 430

Confirmed: 376

Contributing/Communing: 235

Affirmations of Faith: 8

Transfers In: 5

Transfer Out: 1

Removed Per Request: 1

Baptisms: 1

Allain, Perrin Matthew – son of Christopher Allain and Corrinne Miller

Deaths: 7

Spiese, Kaye Louise – December 13, 2022

Souders, C. William – June 6, 2023

Egolf, Kenneth Lee – December 30, 2022

Shenk, Lawrence Lee – June 7, 2023

Green, Thomas Jeffrey – March 2, 2023

Quigley, Lois Jane Bell – July 1, 2023

Sheaffer, Evelyn T. – March 2, 2023

Average Sunday Worship Attendance	
Month	Oct. 1, 2022 – Sept. 30, 2023
October	106
November	112
December	92
January	108
February	118
March	123
April	128
May	119
June	115
July	109
August	109
September	112

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AUDIT COMMITTEE

MEMBERS: Roger Giffin, Ron Jumper, John Ward

Boyer & Ritter was engaged by the congregation to conduct an outside financial review, currently conducted every two years (alternating with internal reviews by the Audit Committee). On May 23, 2023, the committee received Boyer & Ritter’s Independent Account’s Report for 2022 which reflected that our internal controls and financial accounting and reporting processes are working well. One item of concern was identified: though Fine Arts at First is a ministry of the congregation, it has not historically reported to Congregation Council and participated in the annual budget process.

The committee recommended to Congregation Council that this item be addressed. At its June meeting, Congregation Council reviewed and accepted the accountant’s Agreed Upon Procedures Report for the year ended December 31, 2022, and adopted a new continuing resolution establishing a Fine Arts at First Committee. The Fine Arts at First annual budget will now be reviewed and voted upon by the congregation at its annual meeting.

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EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON: Kathy Hall

MEMBERS: Caryn Carr, Leann Erickson, Kathy Hall, Pastor Leber, Taylor Miller, Don Osborne, Ruth Osborne

The Evangelism Committee seeks both to invite, welcome and integrate new members into our congregation and to offer fellowship opportunities for all. We hosted the second annual Fellowship Sunday event in June, with one combined communion service followed by a potluck breakfast. Most of the 104 folks who attended worship that morning stayed for the meal, and fun and good food was enjoyed by all!

Pastor Leber continues to maintain and update the content on our website (www.firstlutherancarlisle.org), an important marketing tool for our congregation in this day and age. As there is currently no one to administer it, our Facebook page was temporarily disabled. Following discussion among church staff and the committee and the results of a congregational survey, we are moving to a quarterly publication schedule for the newsletter (*First Edition*) with additional seasonal mailings in mid-December and pre-Holy Week advertising Christmas and Holy Week/Easter worship.

We welcomed twelve new members to First Lutheran in June (eight households). The committee follows up with new members three months after they are received to ensure they are feeling connected to our congregation.

We hosted the cookie reception after Lessons and Carols in December, assisted with Easter Sunday breakfast between services, and coordinated “Afters in the Atrium” (f/k/a Lemonade on the Plaza) during the summer.

We also check in with our homebound members by delivering flowers to them three times a year: poinsettias at Christmas, lilies at Easter, and mums in October.

Finally, we continue to participate in downtown Carlisle’s Spooky Saturday in October, opening up our High Street doors to welcome trick-or-treaters into the nave where they receive candy and information about our congregation.



Spooky Saturday 2023

Still on the horizon is a review of our membership roll which will occur in early 2024.

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FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON: Hope Miller

MEMBERS: Kathy Brunie, Caryn Carr, Stephanie Doherty, Pastor Leber, Cindy Markle, Robin Orner, Alecia Staley

The Faith Formation Committee plans and oversees faith formation for all ages, organizes service and fellowship opportunities for our youth, encourages and facilitates youth participation in the ministries of the congregation and of the larger church, and provides books, devotional materials, and other educational resources for all ages.

Highlights from this past year include the following:

November 2022 – January 2023

- A multi-age youth faith formation class was held, facilitated by teams of leaders from the Committee.
- Youth service projects included decorating Thanksgiving placemats for Meals on Wheels recipients (November), making Christmas cards for our homebound members (December), stuffing 79 pairs of socks with snacks for the clients of Community CARES (January), and providing cookies and valentines for the clients of My Brother's Table (February).
- During Advent, Pastor Leber presented a series on Wednesday evenings focused on the *Magnificat* from Luke's gospel.

February – April 2023

- Souper Bowl of Caring was held on February 12. A total of 212 food items and \$700 were collected for Project SHARE.
- In late March, five care packages for our college students were assembled and mailed.
- Due to sporadic attendance on Sunday mornings, the multi-age youth Faith Formation class was suspended in March.
- During Lent, Pastor Leber presented a series on Wednesday evenings - "To Dust We Shall Return" - based on her sabbatical learnings. Each evening ended with a brief worship/prayer service. An average of 22 people attended each week.
- On March 31, First Lutheran's first 55+ Potluck Luncheon was held, followed by a brainstorming discussion for future meeting presentations. The group has continued to meet each month.



- An Easter Fellowship, including brunch and an egg hunt and kid's craft, was held on April 9 between worship services.

Ella and Lyla Stone with their Easter morning crafts

May – July 2023

- Amazon gift cards were sent to our three graduating high school seniors.
- The decision was made not to offer Bible Camp this year. We hope to be able to resume Bible Camp next year.
- On Sunday, May 7, Emma Wagner, Lutheran World Relief representative, gave a presentation on LWR's work around the world. Emma also preached at worship.
- Summer Faith Formation – Thursday evenings in June and July, Pastor Leber led a viewing and discussion of season one of *The Chosen* followed by a brief worship service. The series was well attended.

August – October 2023

- Adult Faith Formation classes restarted on September 10. Classes for adults are planned through spring 2024.
- 22 people participated in the outing for 55+ members and friends to the Seminary Ridge Museum in Gettysburg on October 27.
- In late October/early November, care packages for our college students will be assembled and mailed.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON: John Steffee

MEMBERS: Caryn Carr, Jered Hock, Roger Giffin, Lisa Kratzer, Pastor Leber, Beverly Mancke, Hope Miller, John Ward, Rich Wood

2023 Budget

A balanced Mission Spending Plan of \$602,650 and a Capital Budget of \$25,000 for sanctuary and office lighting were submitted to and approved by the congregation at its Annual Meeting in November 2022. The Mission Spending Plan reflected anticipated increases in electric, natural gas and insurance costs.

Proposed 2024 Budget

In August 2023, work began on the 2024 budgets. Budget requests were submitted by committees and staff during August and September. A draft mission spending plan, capital projects budget, and Fine Arts at First budget were reviewed by the Finance Committee in September and approved for recommendation to the congregation by Congregation Council in October (see pages 21-22).

Endowment Assets

The total value of our trust funds on September 30, 2023, was \$5,715,203.97. This is an increase of \$70,172.13 (1.24%) since January 1, 2023. While the equity markets provided positive gains in the first two quarters, the third quarter proved to be volatile.

The Finance Committee meets with our investment managers from Wilmington Trust and Bryn Mawr Trust during the first quarter of each year to review the previous year's performance of our portfolios.

Debt Service

The initial mortgage from our renovations was \$1,518,389. The outstanding balance on our loan as of September 30, 2023, was \$552,132.

FINE ARTS AT FIRST

CHAIRPERSON: David Erickson

MEMBERS: Caryn Carr, Donna Chestnut, Linda Fargus, Monica Frederick, Kathy Hall, Karen Hollen, Nancy Ingram, Lee Leidigh, Beverly Mancke, Sarah Miller, Annette Nickey

The Fine Arts at First 2022-23 Series was the 28th season of free concerts presented in the nave of First Lutheran Church for the artistic enrichment and enjoyment of Carlisle and its surrounding communities.

Due to COVID-19, we did not offer any concerts in the 2020-21 season or the 2021-22 season. The committee decided that for the 2022-23 season, two concerts were appropriate to restart our series, being unsure how the community would support larger gatherings post-COVID.

On September 11, 2022, we presented “Baroque Banquet”, a program of the music of Bach, Handel, Rameau and Vivaldi performed by a chamber orchestra comprised of Central Pennsylvania musicians. Attendance: 142; freewill offering: \$1325.

On March 26, 2023, we presented the Creswell Club, a traditional jazz ensemble based in New York City. Attendance: 80; freewill offering: \$352.

Overall, we had 41 donors for a total of \$10,845, which exceeded the cost of the concerts presented. The artist series is entirely self-sustaining; it receives no funding from the general budget of the church.

In the spring of 2023, the Congregation Council reviewed and discussed the past, present and future role of Fine Arts at First and adopted a continuing resolution formally establishing the committee.

The 29th season of the Fine Arts at First 2023-24 Series will offer three concerts: September 17, 2023, Daniel Aune, concert organist; February 25, 2024, Cormorant’s Fancy; and April 20, 2024, Lebanon Valley College Choir. Proudly returning to our tradition of supporting local non-profit organizations, the February concert will benefit Project SHARE, Carlisle’s food pantry.

A note of thanks to Janelle Hoch for her lovely design work on our brochures each season since the 2016-17 series.

The committee wishes to express its profound appreciation for the many years of service of Donna Chestnut. She retired from the position of chair, and she continues her work as a member of the committee. This artist series would not have been possible without her tireless work and commitment. Thank you, Donna!

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PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON: David Fitzsimons

MEMBERS: Ron Jumper, Pastor Leber, Ashley Zink

The Personnel Committee pursued interviews of prospective ministers of music. An offer was made to one candidate but was ultimately withdrawn after concerns about the candidate’s commitment to the congregation and transparency arose. The search continues.

The Personnel Committee recommended renewing the contract of David Binkley to serve as our interim organist and contracting with David Erickson to direct the Chancel Choir.

The Committee [without participation of Pastor Leber] researched and provided recommendations of indexed staff cost-of-living increases for the 2024 Personnel budget.

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PROPERTY COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON: Rich Wood

MEMBERS: Jim Brantner, Jeff Caton, David Fitzsimons, Ron Jumper, Paul Kraus, Pastor Leber, Mike Luther, Sam Orner, Don Osborne, Ann Roeder, David Stum, Ashley Zink, plus non-member “friends” who have helped in our work

The Property Committee's function is to care for First Lutheran's physical plant. A number of notable things were undertaken/monitored or accomplished in the past year.

In mid-May, First Lutheran was notified that our long-time property and liability insurer, Liberty Mutual, was not going to renew our policies in August. After an extensive interview and underwriting process with several insurers, new policies were obtained through Brotherhood Mutual. These policies offer more comprehensive coverage than First has had with Liberty Mutual at a significant cost savings. To simplify things, our workers' compensation policy is also now with Brotherhood Mutual.

The deeding processes for the transfer of our property at 132 East High to Safe Harbour continued through the summer and fall of 2023. Approval has been obtained from the Zoning Office, the Borough, the Solicitor and the Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB).

Car curbs were ordered and installed to prevent damage to the new Head Start playground fence.

The High Street ramp lighting was updated and replaced.

A contract was signed to clean the Bedford Street bell tower of bird waste and reinstall the anti-bird netting which has deteriorated and come loose over the years.

Plans were developed for landscape improvements on the east side of the building. Planting was done in October. Periodic grounds cleanup continues, and stairwell drains are cleaned and maintained to prevent water accumulation.

The apse lights in the chancel were replaced (requiring scaffolding to be built) but we continue to have issues with random bulb flickering. Our nave lighting system is now over 20 years old. Components of it have been updated over the years, but the whole system will soon need to be replaced.

Decades-old window air conditioning units were removed from the education wing rooms and recycled. They will be replaced with newer and more efficient ones as needed.

The atrium windows were cleaned in the spring.



Christian Ed hallway ceiling - lower level - after demo!

Preventative maintenance and required inspections occurred throughout the year on our HVAC systems, emergency lighting, elevator, tower bells, sprinkler system, and fire/smoke detection system.

The capital budget project to replace the ceiling and lights in the lower level hallway of the Christian Education wing (outside the offices and meeting rooms) was completed in October and has improved the space considerably.

Coordination continues with Head Start staff in the management of periodic area moisture issues.

Preliminary planning began for the long anticipated (and needed) main parking lot rehabilitation/replacement, the principal capital project request in the 2024 budget.

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SOCIAL MINISTRY AND WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON: Robin Orner

MEMBERS: Patty Gillingham, Janelle Hoch, Ron Jumper, Pastor Leber, Karen Longenecker, Mike Luther, Taylor Miller, Sam Simmons, Sue Simmons

During the past year, the Social Ministry & World Outreach committee carried out the following ministries in support of First Lutheran’s mission:

The Salvation Army: Last November members and guests purchased Christmas gifts for 50 children in need through the Angel Tree project. Volunteers prepared and served meals at My Brother’s Table Soup Kitchen during the months of January, April, July and October. We were able to serve meals inside (rather than as “to go” meals) for the first time since COVID-19.

Domestic Violence Services and Carlisle Area Family Life Center: Through our 2022 Advent Fill-a-Box project, 37 boxes of much-needed items were collected for these two organizations.

Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry and Cumberland County Prison: Members baked and packaged Christmas cookies for the Truck Stop Ministry to distribute to travelers during the holidays and for the prisoners.

MLK Commemoration Service: The committee sponsored an ad in the MLK Commemoration Service program booklet for \$80 with the proceeds going to the MLK Scholarship Fund.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR):

- Personal Care Kits: During Lent, congregation members donated supplies and monetary gifts to purchase supplies for the assembling of 258 personal care kits, which were blessed on Sunday, May 7, and delivered the following week to the LWR warehouse for distribution around the world.
- LWR Quilts: On Sunday, October 8, 105 quilts were blessed before being sent to LWR for distribution. Thank you quilters! In addition, approximately \$200 was collected for LWR's Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.

Community CARES: Our Christmas in July initiative of stuffing socks with snack and personal care items for CARES was very successful! In addition to the many items collected, we received \$160.00, which was given directly to CARES.

Union Fire Company: We sent a \$100 donation to Union Fire Company, our first responders, which included monies collected from soda cans this past year plus additional funds from the Social Ministry Benevolence budget.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR): In August, we collected \$2,300 in donations for LDR's relief efforts in areas devastated by the Hawaiian wildfires.



Sam Simmons in the midst of a "Power Red" donation!

Blood Drives: Our spring 2023 blood drive was cancelled due to lack of donor registration. However, our fall drive on October 28, 2023, in honor of Isabel Schuster, produced 40 pints!

A huge thank you to all! Our ability to help provide for those in need in our community and around the world could not happen without YOU!

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TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 – September 30, 2023

GENERAL CHECKING ACCOUNT 2023

	1st QTR	2nd QTR	JULY	AUG	SEPT	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Beginning Balance	11,343	20,884	10,122	15,856	13,903		
CURRENT INCOME							
Offerings (Envelopes, Plate, Special)	74,809	56,128	19,752	17,179	15,919	183,787	190,725
Other Receipts	1,679	492	354	105	1,130	3,760	2,625
MM Transfer - Operating	35,000	50,000	15,000	30,000	25,000	155,000	189,750
MM Transfer - Debt Service	13,559	13,559	4,520	4,520	4,520	40,677	37,875
MM Transfer - Debt Serv-Principal Only	5,000	0	500	0	0	5,500	0
MM Transfer - Memorials	4,760	0	0	0	0	4,760	0
Benevolence Offering	6,911	7,001	2,128	2,443	1,493	19,976	22,500
Rental Income	3,908	2,966	1,022	882	882	9,660	8,513
TOTAL INCOME:	145,625	130,146	43,276	55,129	48,944	423,120	451,988

CURRENT EXPENSES

Personnel	49,178	53,399	16,701	15,773	21,738	156,789	175,950
Worship/Music	812	816	16	732	289	2,665	2,850
Evangelism	411	221	76	0	0	708	2,550
Stewardship	405	0	0	0	0	405	675
Faith Formation	304	225	0	122	425	1,076	3,638
Social Ministry/World Outreach Adm.	0	30	20	0	0	50	38
Administrative	7,660	8,719	2,058	3,144	2,339	23,921	28,125
Property	38,044	36,891	4,454	27,203	13,401	119,994	116,475
Music Department	1,175	470	363	51	1,511	3,570	9,225
Miscellaneous	203	1,265	16	163	2,186	3,833	2,100
Audit Committee	0	2,500	0	0	0	2,500	2,000
Debt Service Interest Expense	6,450	6,478	2,095	2,154	2,144	19,321	20,100
Memorials	4,760	0	0	0	0	4,760	0
Benevolence-Synod/Local/Grace Fund	11,248	22,472	5,374	5,374	5,374	49,842	58,275
Social Ministry/World Outreach Benev.	0	342	119	0	0	461	1,500
Sister Parish	3,325	0	3,325	0	0	6,650	4,988
TOTAL EXPENSES:	123,976	133,827	34,616	54,716	49,408	396,544	428,488

CAPITAL PROJECTS 2023

	1st QTR	2nd QTR	JULY	AUG	SEPT	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
CURRENT INCOME							
Weekly Offering	6,071	3,997	1,485	1,825	990	14,368	12,667
Interest	18	30	21	11	0	81	0
TOTAL INCOME:	6,089	4,027	1,506	1,836	990	14,449	12,667
CURRENT EXPENSES							
Office/Sanctuary Lighting	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,000
TOTAL EXPENSES:	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,000

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 – September 30, 2023

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT 2023

	1st QTR	2nd QTR	JULY	AUG	SEPT	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
CURRENT INCOME							
Income from Wilmington Trust	41,835	36,196	9,649	6,274	20,274	114,228	108,995
Income from Bryn Mawr Trust	32,705	32,523	10,841	10,841	10,841	97,750	97,705
Interest	405	758	643	351	0	2,157	0
Special Gifts - Restricted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Income - Memorial Monies	1,875	850	685	325	0	3,735	0
Capital Campaign Offering	10,135	6,390	2,180	1,650	1,750	22,105	0
TOTAL INCOME	86,955	76,717	23,998	19,440	32,865	239,975	206,700

CURRENT EXPENSES/TRANSFERS

Transfer to Current - Operating	35,000	50,000	15,000	30,000	25,000	155,000	189,750
Transfer to Current - Principal Payment	5,000	0	500	0	0	5,500	0
Transfer to Current - Debt Service	13,559	13,559	4,520	4,520	4,520	40,677	37,875
Transfer to Minter CD	5,000	0	0	0	0	5,000	0
Transfer to Current - Special/Memorials	28,760	0	0	0	0	28,760	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	87,319	63,559	20,020	34,520	29,520	234,937	227,625

Ending Balance 257,181 270,339 274,317 259,238 262,583

Monies Earmarked in Money Market

Capital Campaign Offering Reserves:	14,615
Maintenance Reserve Fund:	134,217
Memorials:	4,400
Paraments Fund:	1,000
Youth:	2,456
TOTAL:	156,688

CD at Orrstown Bank (MLR Renovations): 29,068 as of 9/30/23
 CD at Orrstown Bank (Minter Bequest): 418,214 as of 9/30/23

Debt Service

Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2023	578,989
YTD Principal payments:	(26,856)
Remaining Principal Balance:	552,132
Monthly Payment:	4,520
Interest Paid YTD:	19,321

FINE ARTS AT FIRST CHECKING ACCOUNT 2023

	1st QTR	2nd QTR	JULY	AUG	SEPT	YTD ACTUAL
Beginning Balance	20,436	18,271	18,564	18,647	20,063	20,436
CURRENT INCOME						
Plate Offerings	352	0	0	0	680	1,032
Donations	425	400	75	1,485	1,025	3,410
Miscellaneous Income	0	0	0	0	1,521	0
Interest	8	12	8	4	0	32
TOTAL INCOME:	785	412	83	1,489	3,226	4,474
CURRENT EXPENSES						
Reception Expenses	0	119	0	72	0	191
Special Musicians	2,950	0	0	0	1,000	3,950
TOTAL EXPENSES:	2,950	119	0	72	1,000	4,141
Ending Balance	18,271	18,564	18,647	20,063	22,290	20,768

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON: Donna Chestnut

MEMBERS: Jay Chestnut, David Erickson, Kirby Gutshall, Jered Hock, Karen Hollen, Pastor Leber, Lee Leidigh, Linda Martin, Debra Reeder, Rich Wood

On Reformation Sunday 2022, we celebrated a full festival service with our first gospel procession since before Covid-19.

Advent and Christmas highlights:

- Mid-week study and evening prayer was held on Wednesdays in Advent, focused on the musical settings of Mary's *Magnificat* from the Gospel of Luke.
- A Lessons and Carols service was held on Sunday, December 18. David Erickson directed the Chancel Choir and guest musicians. A cookie reception followed in the Atrium.
- Attendance was low at the three Christmas Eve services held at 4, 7, and 9 p.m., in part due to frigid temperatures. Attendance on Christmas Eve has not rebounded since the Covid-19 pandemic; people seem to have created new traditions for the holiday that do not include attending in-person worship.

Lent highlights:

- Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 22, with two holy communion services and the imposition of ashes. Communion at the rail, suspended since March 2020, resumed.
- During the Lenten mid-week study and evening prayer series, "To Dust We Shall Return," Pastor Leber shared her 2022 sabbatical learnings.
- The lengthy gospel readings for Lent III, IV and V (Year A) were offered as dramatic readings.
- Quarterly healing services resumed on March 19 with Pastor Lorenz assisting at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Week/Easter highlights:

- Maundy Thursday, April 6: Service of Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar at 7 p.m. David Binkley directed the Chancel Choir anthem.
- Good Friday, April 7: Adoration of the Cross at 7 p.m. An ensemble of four singers, directed by David O'Donnell, helped to lead worship and offered special music.
- Easter Vigil, April 8: A joint vigil was held at St. John's Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. with First Lutheran, St. Paul Lutheran, and St. John's participating.
- Easter Sunday, April 9, was very festive with special music and the Chancel Choir singing at both services. David Binkley assisted David Erickson with the choir anthems.



Chancel Choir - Easter Sunday 2023

Spring highlights:

- On Pentecost Sunday, May 28, the chancel was decorated with 60 red geraniums, which were then planted in the church's front yard.
- On Sunday, June 11, the second quarterly healing services of the year were offered. New members were received.
- One combined communion service was held Fellowship Sunday, June 25, at 9:15 a.m. followed by a continental breakfast.

Throughout 2023, First has been blessed to have retired organist, David Binkley, play for worship. David Erickson, a member of First, substitutes on occasion and has been contracted to direct the Chancel Choir, which sings approximately twice a month in worship. First is also very grateful to have Timothy Braband, minister of music emeritus from St. James Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, substitute as well as accompany Lessons & Carols.



Palm/Passion Sunday 2023

+ + + + +

2024 PROPOSED MISSION SPENDING PLAN GENERAL FUND

2024 Proposed Mission Spending Plan General Fund

	<u>2023</u> <u>Approved Plan</u>	<u>2024</u> <u>Proposed Plan</u>	<u>Inc/(Dec)</u> <u>Change</u>
Income:			
Weekly Offerings	\$ 254,300	\$ 264,100	\$ 9,800
Benevolence	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -
Rental Income	\$ 11,350	\$ 11,750	\$ 400
Other Receipts	\$ 3,500	\$ 28,000	\$ 24,500
Capital Campaign Offering (restricted)	\$ 50,500	\$ 10,000	\$ (40,500)
Trust Income:			
Transfer from Trusts	\$ 253,000	\$ 276,050	\$ 23,050
Total Income	<u>\$ 602,650</u>	<u>\$ 619,900</u>	<u>\$ 17,250</u>
Expenses:			
Personnel	\$ 234,600	\$ 257,925	\$ 23,325
Worship & Music	\$ 3,800	\$ 3,800	\$ -
Music Department	\$ 12,300	\$ 10,000	\$ (2,300)
Evangelism	\$ 3,400	\$ 2,800	\$ (600)
Stewardship	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ -
Faith Formation	\$ 4,850	\$ 4,850	\$ -
Social Ministry & Global Outreach Oper.	\$ 50	\$ 75	\$ 25
Audit Committee	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ (2,000)
Property	\$ 155,300	\$ 147,950	\$ (7,350)
Administrative	\$ 37,500	\$ 36,300	\$ (1,200)
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,250	\$ (550)
Debt Service	\$ 58,800	\$ 66,700	\$ 7,900
Benevolence	\$ 86,350	\$ 86,350	\$ -
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 602,650</u>	<u>\$ 619,900</u>	<u>\$ 17,250</u>
Net	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

2024 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS AND FINE ARTS AT FIRST OPERATING BUDGETS

2024 Proposed Capital Projects Operating Budget

	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget	Inc/(Dec) Change
Income:			
Weekly Offerings	\$ 19,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,000
Unused Capital Projects Monies	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ (6,000)
Special Appeal	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ -
Total Income (for Capital Projects only)	\$ 25,000	\$ 80,000	\$ (5,000)
Expenses:			
Capital Projects	\$ 30,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 50,000
Total Expenses	\$ 30,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 50,000
Net	\$ (5,000)	\$ -	\$ (55,000)
2023 Approved Capital Projects:			
Sanctuary/Office Lighting	\$ 25,000		
2024 Proposed Capital Projects:			
Main Parking Lot Reconstruction	\$ 80,000		

2024 Proposed Fine Arts at First Operating Budget

	2023 Actual thru 8/31/23	2024 Proposed Budget
Income:		
Plate	\$ 352	\$ 800
Donations	\$ 2,385	\$ 4,000
Interest/Miscellaneous	\$ 32	\$ 50
Total Income (for Capital Projects only)	\$ 2,769	\$ 4,850
Expenses:		
Publicity	\$ -	\$ 800
Reception Expenses	\$ 191	\$ 300
Special Musicians	\$ 2,950	\$ 3,000 *
Total Expenses	\$ 3,141	\$ 4,100
Net	\$ (372)	\$ 750

*likely 3 events; 2 Spring '24, 1 Fall '24



Advent Fill-a-Box boxes on Christmas Eve



A tree along the parking lot downed in high winds on Christmas Eve Eve!



2023 Souper Bowl of Caring (February)



Personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief - blessed during worship in May

First Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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www.firstlutherancarlisle.org

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