

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we

find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

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

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation - in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations - to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other

to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression of this church - your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization - you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

The Rev. Elizabeth
A. Eaton Presiding
Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

St. Paul's 2023 Annual Meeting Agenda

February 4, 2024

Attendance sheet

Opening Devotions - Pastor

-Trust Fund Report – Kathy Forbrook

-Treasurer's Report – Laura via Zoom

-President's Comments - Chuck

-Secretary's Report - Tonia

Approval of 2022 Minutes

-Pastor's Report /Statistics

-Committee Reports – Any Questions?

-Old Business:

-New Business: - Council members

-Council members

-2024 Budget – Council passed 1/17

-Siding on block below brick on South and East side

estimate = \$8,324.71. The council recommends using reserve funds.

-Adjournment, The Lord's Prayer

A message from your Council President, Chuck Forsgren

Here we are again, another year has passed. In thinking about writing this letter It was fun for me to look back over 2023 and remember some of the things we accomplished. Because for me the year can become a blur and I don't appreciate the fun we've had. In last year's letter I included most of the things St Paul's did in 2022. But because those things are all documented in the monthly meeting reports-I'm not doing that this year.

I would rather share that I continue to believe that St Paul's experience, strength and hope are unshakable. I have to admit sometimes I worry about how we will continue to be a thriving congregation. But then I see this congregation continue to perform all our traditional activities with joy. Go to any committee meeting and you will see the comradery and hear the laughter. Those are signs that this congregation is blessed with confidence. That will always be an attraction for new members!

But we cannot rest on our laurels! In 2024 the council is planning to give us a couple more activities.

1. I know everyone loves to fill out surveys, so we are going to send one out to get your thoughts on things you would like to see St Paul's do in the future.
2. It's been many years since we've had a photo directory, so we are going to do a photo directory this spring. More information to come.

I am retired and have my phone on all the time, so even though I am in Nebraska during the winter-If you have a question or concern don't hesitate to give me a call. 402-525-1127 I thank God for each of you and the wonderful blessings God has given us all and will continue to give us. I thank God for St. Paul's!

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

February 05, 2023

Subject to the Approval of St. Paul's Lutheran Church Congregation

The annual meeting was called to order by President Chuck Forsgren at 10:16 a.m. with 39 members attending: 32 in person and 7 by Zoom.

Opening Devotions were led by Pastor Espeland

President Chuck Forsgren turned over the meeting to the Trust Fund. President Kathy Forbrook convened the trust fund meeting at 10:20. Russ Torkelson provided a report on assets and expenditures (report printed in Annual Report booklet). MSP to cast a unanimous ballot for Dave Kahler to replace Dick Ristow whose term has expired on the Trust Fund Committee. MSP to close trust fund meeting at 10:29.

President's Comments - are in the *Annual Report* Booklet.

MSP to approve meeting agenda.

Minutes of the previous annual meeting - MSP to accept minutes as printed.

Treasurer's Report - Complete report located in *Annual Report* booklet - MSP to accept treasurer's report.

Pastor's Report/Statistics - A complete report located in *Annual Report* booklet.

Committee Reports - MSP to accept reports as printed in *Annual Report* booklet.

Old Business - there was no old or on-going business.

New Business:

1. **Budget** - MSP to accept the proposed budget as printed.
2. **Nominations and Election** - MSP to cast unanimous ballot as follows: Alice Knowles for At Large Council Member
3. **Proposal for Outdoor Specialties to fill cracks and seal the parking lot** - MSP to accept bid of \$3,472.50.
4. **C.11.03.04g Duties of the Treasurer** - MSP to update the constitution to state that the treasurer (is not required to be bonded, however the church shall include the treasurer in the church's general liability policy to cover any losses).
5. **C12.05c The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation** - MSP to update the constitution to the Congregation Council may enter into contracts up to (\$5,000) for items not included in the budget.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonia Kahler Council Secretary

St Paul's Council Members 2023

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Term</u>	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Ends</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
President	Chuck Forsgren	1 st	2022	2023	
Vice President	Ron Wedin	1 st	2022	2023	
Treasurer	Laura Ristow	1 st	2022	2023	
Secretary	Tonia Kahler	1 st	2022	2023	

C11.02. *The congregation shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of this congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for two years or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.*

Congregation Council Members

<u>Members</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Ends</u>	<u>Candidate</u>
Steve Hoopman	2 nd	2023	2025	
Russ Torkelson	1 st	2021	2023	
Dorothy Harrington	2 nd	2021	2023	
Note: Shirley Johnson completed Dorothy Harrington's second term				
Alice Knowles	1 st	2022	2025	

C12.02. *The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s), and the deacon(s), shall be elected by written ballot to serve for 3 years or until their successors are elected. Such members shall be eligible to serve no more than two full terms consecutively. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. Terms shall be staggered.*

Effective Date: 12/21/2023

Pastor's Report

Dear Friends,

It is with great gratitude that I reflect upon 2023 even though was a difficult year for many. There have been times of loss and poor health; we lost treasured people that God gave us to know and love. Even with these difficulties, there is mutual consolation to be found when living together under the care and grace and healing power of our Lord Jesus.

Jo Gregory sent condolences to me from Arizona using a quote from Emily Dickinson:

The bustle in a house
The morning after death
Is the solemnest of industries
Enacted upon Earth -
The sweeping up the heart
And putting love away
We shall not want to use again
Until eternity

From your pastor's perspective, I have

- Led or participated in weekly worship services (three Sundays away on vacation)
- Drove 1226+ miles apart from commuting to church in support of visitation ministry
- Led adult education to include classes on John 3:16, Romans, and "Thirty Days to Understanding the Bible." The Wednesday Women's Bible study continued with the major prophets, and the joint Lent and Advent services had a devotional titled "Lighted Windows."
- Continued the collaboration with Union Congregational Church holding Advent and Lent worship
- Delivered a Memorial Day message with American Legion Post 202 at Hillcrest Cemetery
- Welcomed seven new members
- Presided at three funerals

The past year had memorable events. We hosted a blood drive in January, commemorated the Four Chaplains in February, ran the Country Fair, made lefse and supported the children's fishing contest. It is a great honor to participate in the life of St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Leif Espeland

EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The following are committee members: Kathy Forbrook, Barb Wirz, Diane Zaske, Pastor Espeland.

Committee meetings are held on a needs basis. Any new ideas from the congregation regarding further education events are welcome. We also welcome any new members to our committee.

Our church library is located in the conference room. There is a large selection of books for adults and children. Borrowing is on the honor system. Simply borrow a book and return when finished.

Our committee periodically restocks the children's activity bags that are made available to all visiting children while attending church services. Please ask an usher if you would like to use one.

Women's bible study meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:45 am. The group has been working their way through the Old Testament and is currently studying the major prophets. Any women are welcome to attend in person or on zoom.

Adult education meets on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm by zoom. During 2023 the following book/video series were used:

Two Max Lucado studies - "3:16 the Numbers of Hope," and "Romans, In the Grip of Grace"

"Thirty Days to Understanding the Bible" by Max Anders

"by Heart": Luther's Small Catechism

The one hour class watches and then discusses the video of the week. St. Paul's will send a tech person to your home to set you up with the free zoom connection if you wish to participate in the classes.

During Advent there was a joint study with UCC using the book "Lighted Windows" by Margaret Silf.

FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Committee Members: Garen Hebeisen, Roger Jaycox, Alice Knowles, Lewis Schrupp, Bev Wignes, Shirley Johnson, and Laura Ristow

Audit Committee: Carol and Ron Wedin, Sylvia Peterson, and Char Bergstrom

Committee Responsibilities:

Count offering and deposit in First National Bank North. Committee members assist “lead” counter in counting offering and preparing bank deposit.

Prepare a proposed annual budget to be presented to church council for approval

Oversee monthly budget/income report and present to the congregation and council on financial matters.

Arrange annual audit with members of the audit committee.

Meet as needed prior to the monthly council meeting.

Report of finance committee action items:

This was a quiet year for the Finance Committee.

In January the finance committee met to discuss and approve the proposed budget for 2023, The budget was presented to the Church Council for their approval and then presented to the congregation for a vote at the annual meeting held February 23, 2023. The budget was passed with corrections to the interest income projections and streaming wage increases.

The finance committee met in May. After a review of the April Bookkeepers report, we discussed ways that we could reduce wasted resources regarding offering envelopes. It was determined that Laura would order envelopes as usual for the coming year and the topic would be discussed again at the May Council Retreat. After researching options and pricing, it was determined not to make a change at this time.

On September 27 the church books were audited by Carol Wedin, assisted by Shirley Johnson. All was in order and no changes were suggested.

At the October finance meeting, we reviewed areas for change regarding the preparation for the 2024 budget. The budget will be prepared and presented to the finance committee for approval at the January 2024 finance meeting. Garen also noted that the Outreach Committee can pay for advertising in the papers for the Easter, Summer and Christmas Ads.

As treasurer, I want to express my thanks to the loyal members of the finance committee who help with the counting each Monday and provide me with the value of their experience. Thank You!

I also want to share my thankfulness and admiration to our members for their generosity of spirit in the giving of their time, talent, and treasure. We are blessed to be able to be a benevolent entity in our community and beyond.

Thank You!

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Ristow

Annual Columbarium Report

2023

The Columbarium Committee was formed in 2008 out of the Property committee's interest in a columbarium becoming a part of St. Paul's memorial garden. Much research and planning was done for this self-supporting, privately funded project. Approval to move forward with this project was voted in at the 2009 Annual meeting. The base unit was installed in the fall of 2009.

Currently this Columbarium has a total of 50 Niches, 19 of them have been sold, leaving 31 niches available. Anyone with an interest in a niche may contact any member of the committee or the office to receive information.

For the last couple of years, the American Legion Riders has honored the 5 Veterans interned in our columbarium by laying wreaths at Christmas, like they do for the veterans at the local cemeteries.

Recently the columbarium has started to meet again to update policies and bylaws. Most importantly because the loan we had obtained 2009 is now paid off. We are determining what to do with the extra money in our account. Our checking account balance is 1,817.25.

We have recently lost several members to our committee and need to replace them. We have lost our Treasurer/Secretary. We have temporary replacements; Treasure is Shirley Johnson and Secretary Tammy Harding. We are actively trying to recruit new members currently. Minutes for these meetings will be posted on the bulletin board in the conference room.

Submitted

Tammy Harding

Temporary Secretary

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The following are committee members: Steve Hoopman, Florence Kargel and Diane Zaske.

The sale of frozen Butter Braids and frozen Caramel Rolls is an ongoing project of this committee. They may be purchased during Monday through Friday office hours and Sunday mornings. Our church council has the profits available to use when a financial need arises.

Please contact Steve Hoopman if you have any suggestions for future fundraisers or if you'd like to join this committee.

Fellowship and Lefse report 2023

The lefse makers met the last 2 Tuesdays and Wednesdays in October and the first Tuesday and Wednesday in November. One hundred+ dozen lefse were made.

The Fellowship Committee met and approved expenditures of \$500.00 to each of the Hackensack, Pine River, and Walker Food Shelves. The committee also approved \$1,000.00 to Faith in Action. (The lefse project contributes to the Fellowship Committee.)

There was a balance of over \$5,000.00 in the Fellowship Fund before the lefse project. The lefse project generated approximately \$1,500.00. The gifted expenditures were \$2,500.00. There is still a balance of over \$4,000.00 in the Fellowship account.

All expenses for the lefse project were paid for with the Thrivent Action Team card.



OUTREACH/SOCIAL MINISTRY 2023 REPORT

We ordered new cups this past year. That are one sided, maroon handle and rim, rooted in the gospel and cross.

We ordered frogs to give out at the sweetheart's day parade. WE paid for the materials to decorate the float.

We paid for the fishing contest.

We sponsored a blood drive in Aug.

We updated the picture board in the fellowship hall with new pictures.

In November we held our wreath sales fundraiser. We made around \$600. Thank you to everyone who bought and helped us unload the truck and delivered.

We an always use new members as we are a small comm.

Garen Hebeisen, Recorder

PERSONNEL/NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The following are members of the Personnel Committee: Rick Zaske, Kathy Forbrook, Shirley Frederick and Jeanette Jacobsen.

All employee reviews were completed as needed by December 31, 2023. St. Paul's employees are:

Leif Espeland, Pastor

Tammy Harding, Church Secretary

Suzann Knicely, Bookkeeper/Financial Secretary

Deen Swart, Keyboardist and Choir Director

Mona Wolff, Choir Accompanist and Organist

Dan Knicely, Custodian

Tim Forbrook, Video Streaming Technician

Chad Elliott, Video Streaming Technician

We are pleased that all have done a great job working at St. Paul's.

The Personnel Committee is recommending to the Finance Committee and the Church Council that each employee receives a 3% salary increase for 2024.

Pastor Leif has now been serving as our pastor since October 1, 2021. We are pleased to have his leadership. We are recommending reimbursing Pastor Leif for his wife's health insurance for 2024.

As per state law, employers are instructed to notify employees of the earned sick and safe time (ESST) law. We told the employees that the law goes into effect January 1, 2024. One hour of paid sick and safe time is earned for every 30 hours worked up to at least 48 hours of accrued ESST a year. Employees must work 80 hours in a year to earn ESST for that year.

Submitted by Rick Zaske, Personnel Committee Chair

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN 2023 PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Members Terry Bergstrom, Chuck Forsgren, Jim (Jake) Jacobsen, Shirley Johnson, Dave Kahler, Dan Knicely, Jim Madland, Dick Ristow, Deloris Ressen, Lewis Schrupp, Russ Torkelson, Pastor Leif Espeland

PURPOSE OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- Arrange for proper maintenance and protection of St. Paul's properties.
- Review and put in place proper insurance protection.
- Ensure that changes to Church Properties, not budgeted, be approved by the Property Committee before being passed on to the Church Council for approval.
- Maintain Current Memorial List.

ACTION ITEMS

- Solar Panels: Lewie Schrupp, Dave Taylor and Pastor Espeland removed snow from the Solar Panels when necessary.
- Steve Hoopman repaired the Narthex Door,
- Boiler Updates: Samuelson Laney has been very responsive to solving issues when they arise. Yearly performance per contract was performed,
- security Cameras: Two more were added to the basement.
- Sealcoating Parking Lot. Outdoor Specialties, Pine River completed the project. Striping completed by Outdoor Specialties.
- Organized Spring & Fall Clean-up. 20-25 Members volunteered. THANK YOU!!!
- Crushed Concrete was applied and leveled on the Solar Panel Parking Lot by Mikes Sand and Gravel.
- Landscaping: Property Committee and church members volunteered to prune shrubs, add mulch when necessary. Replaced two shrubs that died due to winterkill.
- Replaced speakers in Fellowship Hall and the Streaming Room.
- Water Softener purchased and installed by Property Committee Members.
- Negotiated St, Paul's Ferrellgas Propane Contract of \$1.599 per gallon.
- Purchased and Replaced the TV Monitor in the Fellowship Hall with an 85" Samsung TV.
- Dick Ristow cleaned South Narthex Wall due to water damage and installed air conditioner directional baffles in Sanctuary.
- Purchased and installed Identification plaques for property.
- Snow Removal: Tony Green will plow the parking lot per agreement. Brian Schultz will shovel sidewalks per agreement,

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Repair Foundation on East and South Side of Sanctuary.
- Replace Fellowship Hall chair cushions.

Respectfully Submitted, Shirley Johnson

TECH TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2023

2023 has been quite a year for the Tech Team the streaming of Sunday services has had its problems. But I do want to share some of our accomplishments this year. We review Services each week during the staff meeting and try to have solutions for the next week. Char has done a wonderful job of operating the sign all year. Please thank her when you see her! If you have questions or concerns never hesitate to give me a call. 402-525-1127 Chuck

1. We had to purchase a new "Director" computer for streaming.
2. We worked with the Tech Team and council to create a video retention policy.
3. We have been experimenting with using a cell phone to bring video into the service. The idea is to use a cell phone during funerals for the graveside service, Military honors, or services at our columbarium. This allows us to combine those services into the recorded funeral service, and we can play the graveside services in the Fellowship Hall for people who stay at the church.
4. We replaced the pew camera with an IP camera.
5. The Nest security camera in the Conference room failed, replaced it with a new camera.
6. We purchased materials and installed a Nest doorbell camera at the front door.
7. We brought Chad Elliot on as a Streaming Tech.
8. The Solar panel Nest camera had the power cord gnawed off by a critter. Replaced the camera.
9. We purchased an omni directional microphone for use during Zoom meetings.
10. The old TV in the Fellowship Hall picture quality deteriorated suddenly after Oct 1 Sunday service. We purchased a new Samsung 85" Smart TV,
11. We replaced the sound system speakers in the Fellowship Hall.
12. We replaced the laptop computer that runs the Zoom meetings in the Fellowship Hall with a used one.
13. You will see that Tammy is experimenting with still pictures to show the manger and angel scenes in the streamed service.

WELCA ANNUAL REPORT 2023

St. Paul's Women of the ELCA (WELCA) meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:30 am. All women members of St. Paul's are considered a part of WELCA and are invited to attend meetings and activities.

Officers are: President – Laura Ristow, Vice President – Garen Hebeisen, Secretary – Diane Zaske, Treasurer – Shirley Johnson.

New women members of St. Paul's are given personal invitations to join us and a one-year subscription to the "Gather" magazine put out by the ELCA, which is used for our monthly bible studies and also has articles relating to social ministry and spirituality. Meetings begin with coffee and a treat, followed by Bible study and business meeting. The May meeting is our "Spring Fling" brunch and usually includes a fun activity. August is a potluck salad luncheon. For our December meeting we have a potluck lunch with a game or activity.

This last spring, the Living Waters Spring Gathering was held at Grand Rapids. In June, several members attended the 3 day spring synod convention at Zion Lutheran in Grand Rapids.

On the third Wednesday of July, we held our annual Country Fair fundraiser. We had many donations of crafts, baked goods, plants and items for sale. It was well staffed by many friends and members of St. Paul's and well attended by the public. The majority of the over \$5000 raised is donated to charities.

The Living Waters Synod Fall Gathering was held at St. Paul's. Several attendees from St. Paul's helped with registration. Pastor Leif led our worship service, and Teresa Eclov from Faith in Action was our guest speaker. A portion of our offering was given to Faith in Action. We had a silent auction and a "buy it now" area. Funds raised will help defray costs of the delegates at the national ELCA women's triennial convention in 2026. Several of our members prepared lunch for all attendees and several men volunteered to serve and clean up.

September found us spearheading the God's Work Our Hands Sunday event. About 40 attendees helped assemble 60 school kits and rolled bandages. Many members donated items for the kits. The kits and bandages will be taken to the NEMN Synod convention in June. Due to a donation of dill pickles, we were also able to make 2 dozen pints of St. Paul's special spicy garlic dill pickles to sell. Following the work session, a lunch was served to all.

In October we gave Pastor Leif a gift card in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month. On the lefse sale days, we also sold Christmas crafts and new items that we had saved from our Country Fair.

In November we received the names of 3 families from Family Safety Network who needed donations for the holidays. Our congregation stepped up to donate financially. Several WELCA members then shopped and wrapped all the gifts. There was a blessing of the gifts during church in December.

At our December WELCA meeting we prepared cookie containers for several members and staff. We also assembled treat bags for children who attend our Christmas Eve service.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Treasurers Report

December 31, 2023

- Bookkeepers Report as of Dec. 31, 2023
- Listing of balances in Designated Fund as of Dec. 31, 2023
- Listing of benevolence paid as of Dec. 31, 2023
- 2024 Proposed Budget

St. Paul's finished the year with all obligations satisfied and a positive net income. The budget projected for 2023 showed a net loss of -\$817.85, but with a strong finish in December we ended the year with a positive net income of \$1933.81. The checking account balance at year's end was \$12,299.71, the operating reserve balance \$36,170.45 and the funds held with Cetera Advisor Network total \$88,674.82 for a total of \$150,522.16. We are fortunate to have monies in reserve to handle major expenses. There are several members who choose to donate to St. Paul's from their Required Minimum Distribution of their investment funds. This is a tax savings to them and a great way to give to nonprofit organizations with pre-tax dollars. I have learned much this year and will continue to grow in the job so well done by our previous Treasurer Shirley Johnson.

My thanks to all our members who make St. Paul's the special church home it is, through gifts of talent, treasure, and time. You are all a great inspiration to me.

Respectfully Submitted.

Laura Ristow, Treasurer

Bookkeepers Report

December 2023

Attached you will find the following report:

1. Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual
2. General Ledger - Designated Funds Checking & Operating Reserve - MM Savings

General Fund Checking - Register Balance	as of December 1, 2023	\$	3,113.41
Income for the month		\$	24,108.64
Expenses for the month		\$	(14,443.16)
Quarterly Payroll Taxes - To Be Paid		\$	(479.18)
Transfer to/from Operating Reserve - MM Savings			
General Fund Checking - Register Ending Balance	as of December 31, 2023	\$	12,299.71
<hr/>			
Designated Funds Checking - Register Balance	as of December 1, 2023	\$	16,084.50
Income for the month		\$	10,743.42
Expenses for the month		\$	(13,927.64)
Designated Funds Checking - Register Ending Balance	as of December 31, 2023	\$	13,377.38
<hr/>			
Operating Reserve MM Savings - Register Balance	as of December 1, 2023	\$	36,158.17
Income for the month		\$	12.28
Transferred to/from General Fund			
Expenses for the month			
Operating Reserve MM Savings - Register Ending Balance	as of December 31, 2023	\$	36,170.45
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Cash, Money Funds and Bank Deposits	as of December 31, 2023	\$	1,147.76
UBS BK USA SALT LAKE CITY UT CTF DEP (CD)	as of December 31, 2023	\$	39,871.60
Cetera First National North - Franklin Income Fund (FCISX)	as of December 31, 2023	\$	47,655.26
Cetera Advisor Networks LLC - Ending Balance	as of December 31, 2023	\$	88,674.62
Grand Total		\$	150,522.16

Submitted by:

Suzanne M. Krivichy

Bookkeeper

* 6/1/23 Voided Check #5224 \$477.10

St Paul's Lutheran Church ELCA

December 31, 2021

BALANCE IN DESIGNATED FUNDS

Operating Reserve	\$41,130.78
Cetera – Franklin Income Funds	\$85,830.58

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Bev Madland memorial	\$85.00
Bob Wolff memorial	\$200.00
Childrens' Ministry	\$116.98
Choir	\$304.66
Christmas Families Fund	\$344.85
Compassion	\$66.42
Espeland memorial	\$50.00
Fellowship	\$4964.40
Fundraising	\$685.56
Funeral Care	\$250.00
Woodruff Memorial	\$200.00
Memorial Garden	\$713.54
Naree Weaver Memorial	\$575.00
Outreach	\$1685.39
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$212.28
Prayer Shawl Ministry	\$246.19
Ray Wirz Memorial	\$420.00
Rick Allison Memorial	\$400.00
Technology Account	\$1825.07
Misc.- Gods Work Our Hands Supplies	\$34.45
TOTAL	\$13,379.79

ST PAUL'S BUDGETED BENEVOLENCE

ELCA Synod	\$6000.00
NE MN Synod Offerings	\$200.00
World Hunger (noisy offering)	\$667.36
TOTAL	\$6,867.36

WELCA BENEVOLENCE

Churchwide Offering	\$200.00
ARCC Emergency Shelter	\$500.00
Faith in Action	\$500.00
Family Safety Network	\$500.00
Hackensack Area Food Shelf	\$1,000.00
Hackensack Fire and Rescue	\$800.00
Second Harvest Heartland	\$500.00
Lutheran Social Service	\$500.00
NE MN Synod Convention Offering	\$200.00
TOTAL	\$4700.00

ST PAUL'S BENEVOLENCE DIRECT TO RECIPIENT

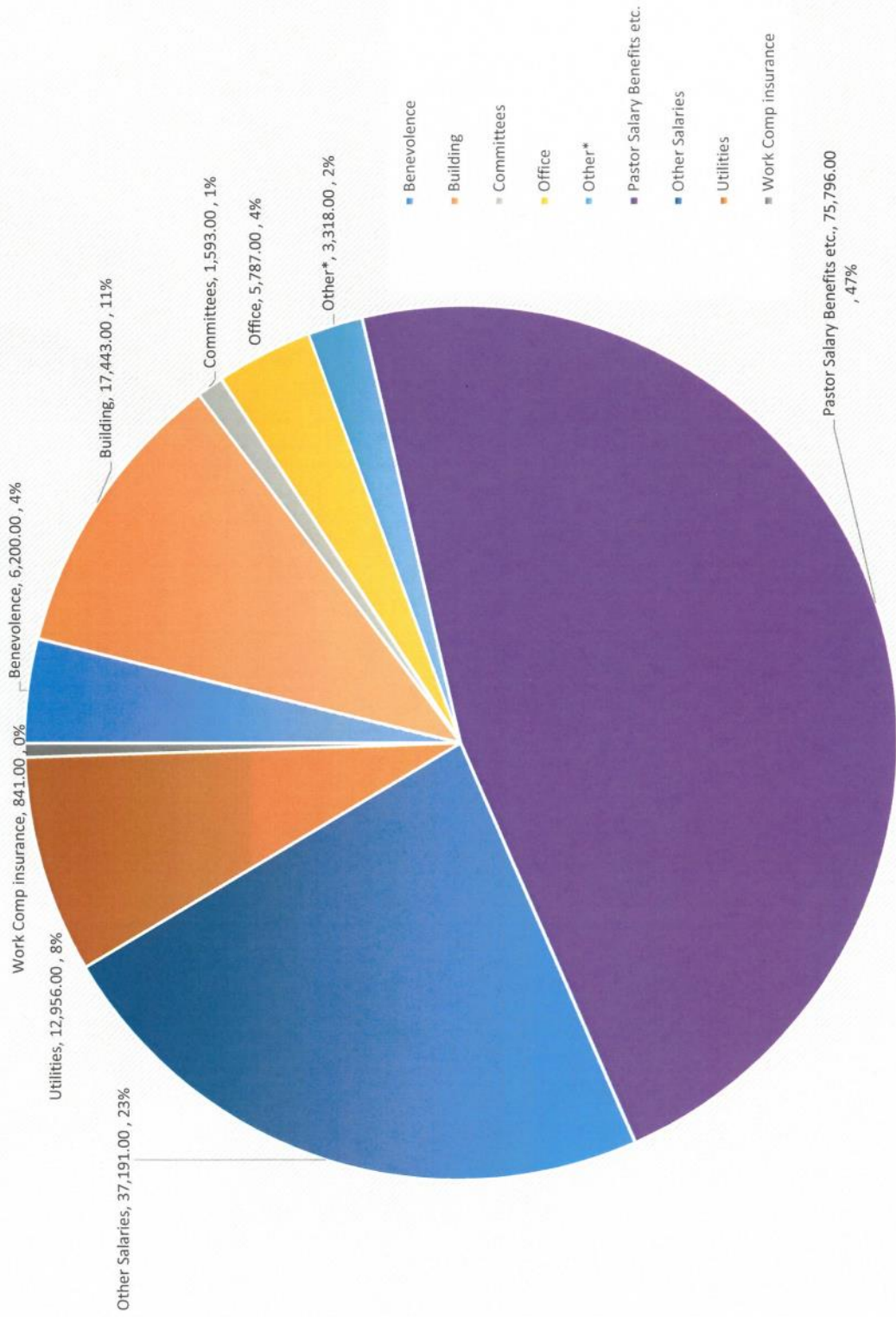
Hackensack Food Shelf – Lent	1320.00
Children's Fishing Contest	\$200.00
Faith in Action	\$977.11
Hackensack Food Shelf	\$3,048.10
Hope Lutheran – Kid to Camp Drive	\$1,331.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief – Maui Wildfires	\$3,590.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$100.00
Pine River Food Shelf	\$500.00
Walker Food Shelf	\$500.00
Lutheran Social Services	\$2,000.00
Center for Changing Lives	\$1,000.00
Second Harvest Heartland	\$1,000.00
Family Safety Network	\$2,000.00
ARCC Emergency Shelter	\$2,000.00
WELCA -Gods Work Our Hands	\$341.63
TOTAL	\$19,907.84

BENEVOLENCE GRAND TOTAL \$31,475.20

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Proposed Budget 2024				
	Budget	Budget	Actual	Proposed Budget
	Jan - Dec 22	Jan 23 - Dec 23	Total	2024
	Jan - Dec 22	Jan 23 - Dec 23	Jan 23-Dec. 23	Jan-Dec 24
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
General				
Facility Rental Fee & Donation	1,000.00	1,000.00	975.00	1,000.00
Loose Plate Cash	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,206.00	4,000.00
Member Giving	136,600.00	146,600.00	150,354.63	150,300.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	-	0.00	0.00
Nonmember Giving	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,990.00	4,000.00
Other Income		-	0.00	0.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	100.00	250.00	137.00	250.00
Total General	143,700.00	153,850.00	159,662.63	159,550.00
Interest Income	10.00	3,600.00	3,202.39	3,200.00
Total Income	143,710.00	157,450.00	162,865.02	162,750.00
Expense				
Benevolences				
Synod	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	7200.00
Synod Offerings	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Total Benevolences	6,200.00	6,200.00	6,200.00	7400.00
Building				
Building Repair & Maint.	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,767.03	2,500.00
Custodial Supplies	400.00	500.00	940.70	600.00
Equipment	500.00	500.00	212.54	300.00
Equipment Repair & Maint.	500.00	1,500.00	1,348.90	1,500.00
Insurance Expense	4,400.00	4,650.00	5,578.04	5,600.00
Property Improvements	0.00	4,000.00	3,472.50	3,000.00
Lawn Care & Landscaping	1,250.00	1,200.00	2,623.24	3,000.00
Snow Removal	900.00	1,200.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total Building	10,450.00	16,050.00	17,442.95	18,000.00
Committees				
Education	100.00	150.00	207.14	200.00
Worship/Stewardship	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,386.32	1,500.00
Total Committees	1,600.00	1,650.00	1,593.46	1,700.00
Office				
Annual license - copyright	0.00	450.00	516.00	\$500.00
Copier Serv Contract	2,150.00	2,150.00	2,246.56	\$2,300.00
Equipment & Software	4,200.00	3,500.00	1,032.98	\$2,000.00
Office Equipment Repair	200.00	200.00	131.25	\$200.00
Photo Copies	0.00	100.00	0.00	\$0.00
Postage	400.00	300.00	192.24	\$300.00
Supplies	500.00	700.00	579.69	\$600.00
Technology		3,000.00	1,088.11	\$2,500.00
Total Office	7,450.00	10,400.00	5,786.83	\$8,400.00
Other Expense				
Annual Dues & Advertising	150.00	350.00	488.99	\$500.00
Annual Permits/Rentals	800.00	800.00	1,394.96	\$1,300.00
Employee Christmas Gift	700.00	800.00	900.00	\$900.00
Meetings & Conventions	500.00	500.00	0.00	\$200.00
Miscellaneous	256.79	250.00	534.26	\$500.00
Total Other Expense	2,406.79	2,700.00	3,318.21	\$3,400.00
Pastor Base Salary				

		Jan - Dec 22	Jan 23 - Dec 23	Total Jan 23-Dec. 23	2024 Jan-Dec 24
	Base Salary	43,683.75	44,994.26	39,744.97	\$40,937.32
	Housing Allowance	12,375.00	13,498.28	18,747.57	\$19,310.00
	SS Allowance	4,288.49	4,474.68	4,474.68	4,608.92
	Total Pastor Base Salary	60,347.24	62,967.22	62,967.22	\$64,856.24
	Pastor Benefits				
	Basic Group Life	393.12	461.75	486.88	\$488.00
	Disability Insurance	567.84	519.60	547.68	\$564.00
	Retirement	4,805.21	6,434.18	6,898.13	\$7,229.62
	Supplemental Term Life	570.00	570.00	570.00	\$570.00
	Total Pastor Benefits	6,336.17	7,985.53	8,502.69	\$8,851.62
	Pastoral Other Expenses				
	Continuing Ed. 2 wks/yr	500.00	500.00	0.00	\$500.00
	Spouse health ins		-		\$340.00
	Mileage	1,200.00	1,200.00	774.45	\$1,000.00
	Professional Expenses	200.00	200.00	0.00	\$200.00
	Total Pastoral Other Expenses	1,900.00	1,900.00	774.45	\$2,040.00
	Payroll Taxes - Church Share	2,507.00	2,507.00	2,851.00	\$2,851.00
	Pulpit Supply \$135 + Mileage	650.00	650.00	700.65	\$700.00
	Reconciliation Discrepancies			0.00	
	Salaries				
	Bookkeeper/Financial Sec.	6,614.00	6,812.42	6,812.42	7,016.90
	Choir Accompanist/Practice	1,007.00	1,037.21	1,419.60	1,462.19
	Choir Director	1,332.00	1,371.96	1,780.80	1,834.22
	Custodial	3,660.00	3,769.80	4,047.77	4,169.20
	Secretarial	15,860.00	17,119.00	16,647.77	17,147.20
	Streaming/zoom Technician	0.00	500.00	1,377.00	1,459.62
	Worship - Keyboard/Organist	4,295.20	4,424.06	5,106.00	5,259.18
	Total Salaries	32,768.20	35,034.45	37,191.36	38,348.51
	Utilities				
	Electric	3,300.00	2,000.00	2,208.61	2,200.00
	Propane	5,343.00	5,500.00	6,767.61	6,000.00
	Sewer & Water	900.00	950.00	1,358.72	1,300.00
	Telephone & Internet	2,000.00	2,200.00	2,135.52	2,200.00
	Trash Removal	405.00	350.00	485.79	450.00
	Total Utilities	11,948.00	11,000.00	12,956.25	12,150.00
	Work Comp Insurance	500.00	700.00	841.22	900.00
	Total Expense	145,063.40	159,844.00	161,126.29	169,597.37
	Net Ordinary Income	-1,353.40	-894.00	1,738.73	-6,847.37
	Net Income	-1,353.40	-894.00	1,738.73	(\$6,847)

2023 EXPENSE BY CATEGORY



Trust Fund Board Members

The Trust Fund consist of 5 members. Four elected by the church membership and one appointed by the church council. The current members are:

Kathy Forbrook.....2022-2024 2nd term

Dave Kahler.....2023-2025 1st term

Russ Torkelson.....2013 appointed Treas.by
Council (no term limit)

Linda Olson.....2021-2023 2nd term

Ron Brauer.....2021-2023 2nd term

Gail DeBoer.....2021-2023 1st term

Linda Olson's and Ron Brauer's 2nd term have expired. Gail DeBoer has agreed to run for a 2nd 3 year term as a board member. Deen Swart and Steve Hoopman have agreed to have their names be put in nomination for a three year term as board members.

Trust Fund Benevolence, expenditures and balance sheet
01/01/2023-12/31/23

Family safety network (Walker).....	\$500.00
Luth Campus Ministry of Bemidji State U.....	\$250.00
L.C.M.Of U of M Duluth.....	\$250.00
L.C.M.of St. Cloud State.....	\$250.00
Voyaguers church canp.....	\$250.00
Twin Ports Ministry.....	\$250.00
L.S.S. Center for Changing lives.....	\$250.00
Hackensack Food Shelf.....	\$1,000.00
SPL Send a kid to camp.....	\$750.00
Walker Food Shelf.....	\$1,000.00
Pine River Food Shelf.....	\$1,000.00
St. Joseph Foundation.....	\$250.00
Rreal assistance program.....	\$500.00
Am. Legion Foundation Fund (Freedom Riders).....	\$1,000.00
ELCA Disaster relief Fund (Maui wild fires).....	\$1,000.00
AARC (Aekley family safety network).....	\$500.00
The Door (Laport family safety network).....	\$500.00
Total benevolence.....	\$ 9,500.00
 Additional expenditures	
St. Paul's Lutheran (Christ in our home devotionals).....	\$215.20
Women of the ELCA (convention registration).....	\$160.00
SPL Educational Materials.....	\$111.92
USPS.....	\$26.40
Total Expenditures.....	\$ 10,013.52
Balance 01/01/2023.....	\$ 5,828.71
Income 01/01/23-12/31/23	\$ 7,972.62
Balance 12/31/23.....	\$ 3,787.81

St. Paul Trust Fund Asset*

Mission investment Fund	\$ 5,000.00
C.O.D Pershings investments	\$ 7,000.00
American Funds	\$90,440.69
Franklin Templeton Income Fund (class A shares)	\$52,269.77
Franklin Templeton Income Fund (class C shares)	\$ 1,429.37
Templeton Global Bond Fund (A shares)	\$14,649.22
Total value of all investments	\$170,789.05
Amount gifted to the Trust Fund	\$161,398.25
Appreciation Amount	<u>\$ 9,390.80</u>

*** All figures are as of Dec. 31,2023**

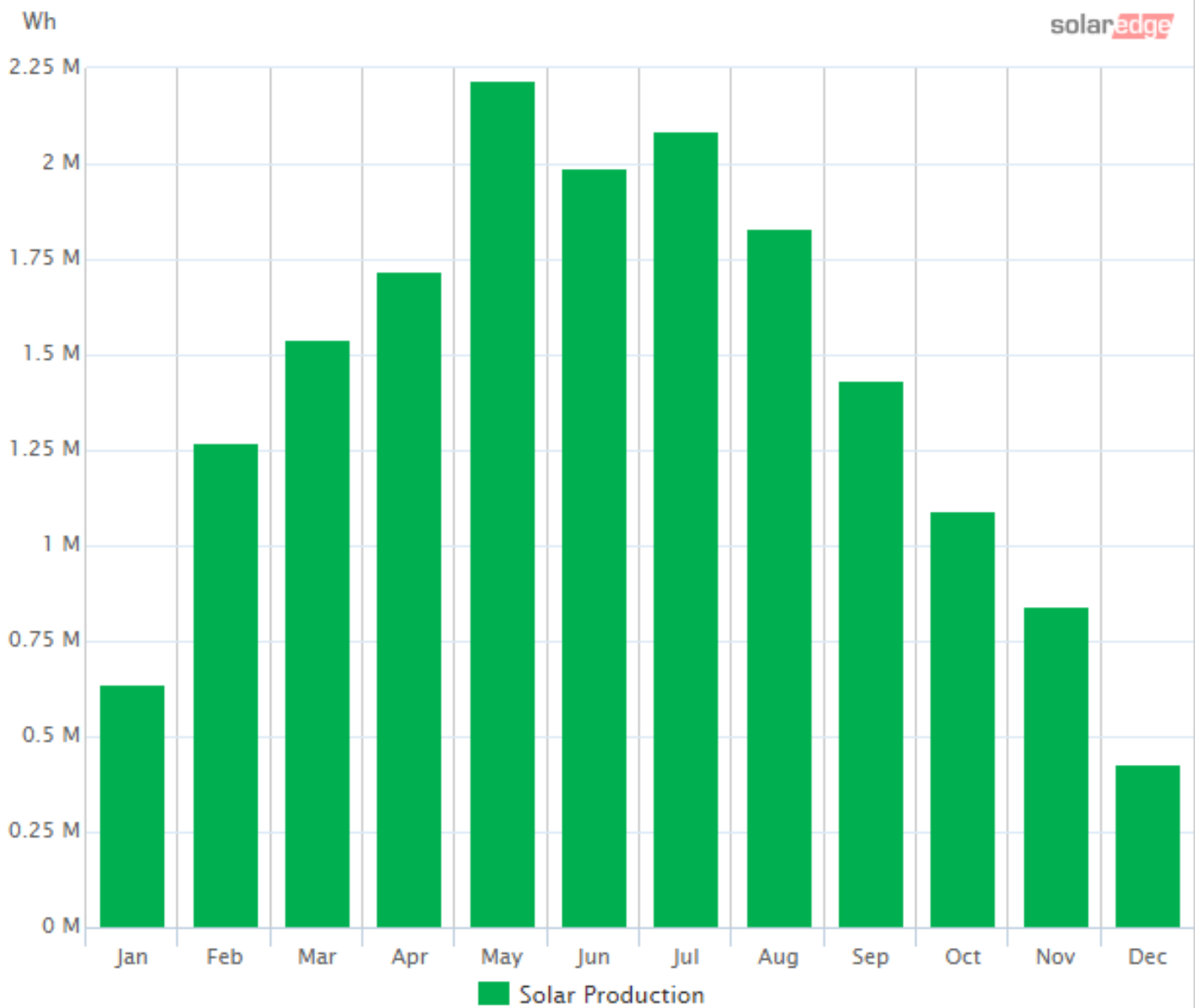
Power and Energy



Day Week Month Billing Cycle Year

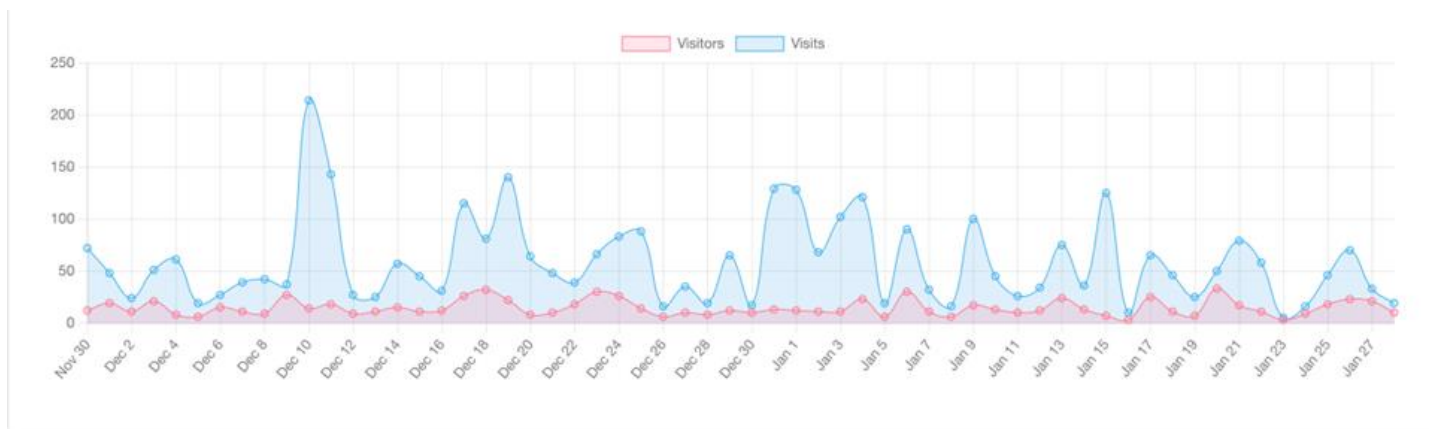
01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023

System Production: **17.09 MWh**



Website Stats

Last 60 Days



2022 Year end totals

Visits 23,576

Visitors 5,972

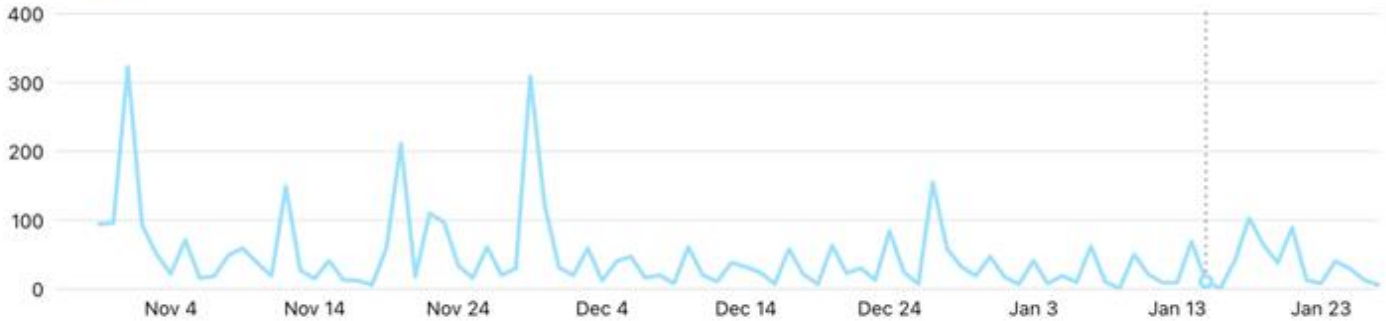
	Visits	Visitors
Chart Total:	3,506	871
All Time Total:	88,745	22,639

Face Book Stats

Last 90 Days

Facebook reach ①

966 ↓ 16%

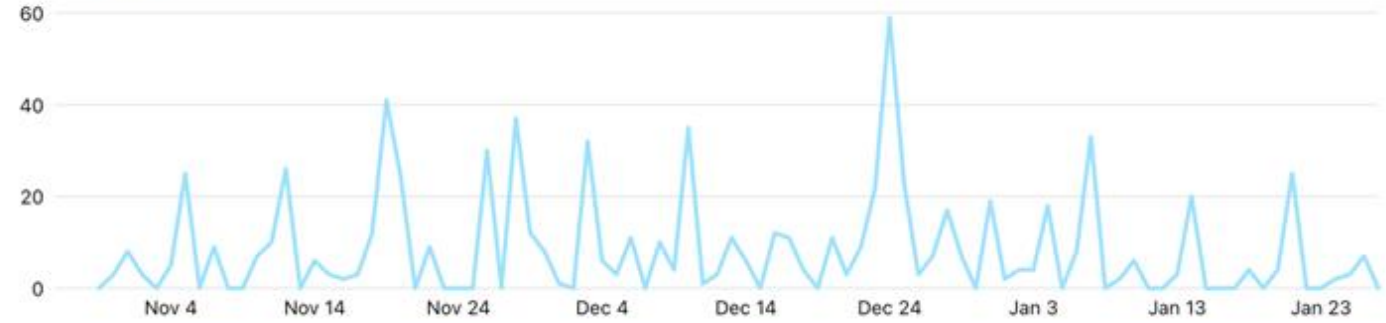


Visits

Export ▼

Facebook visits ①

758 ↑ 18.3%



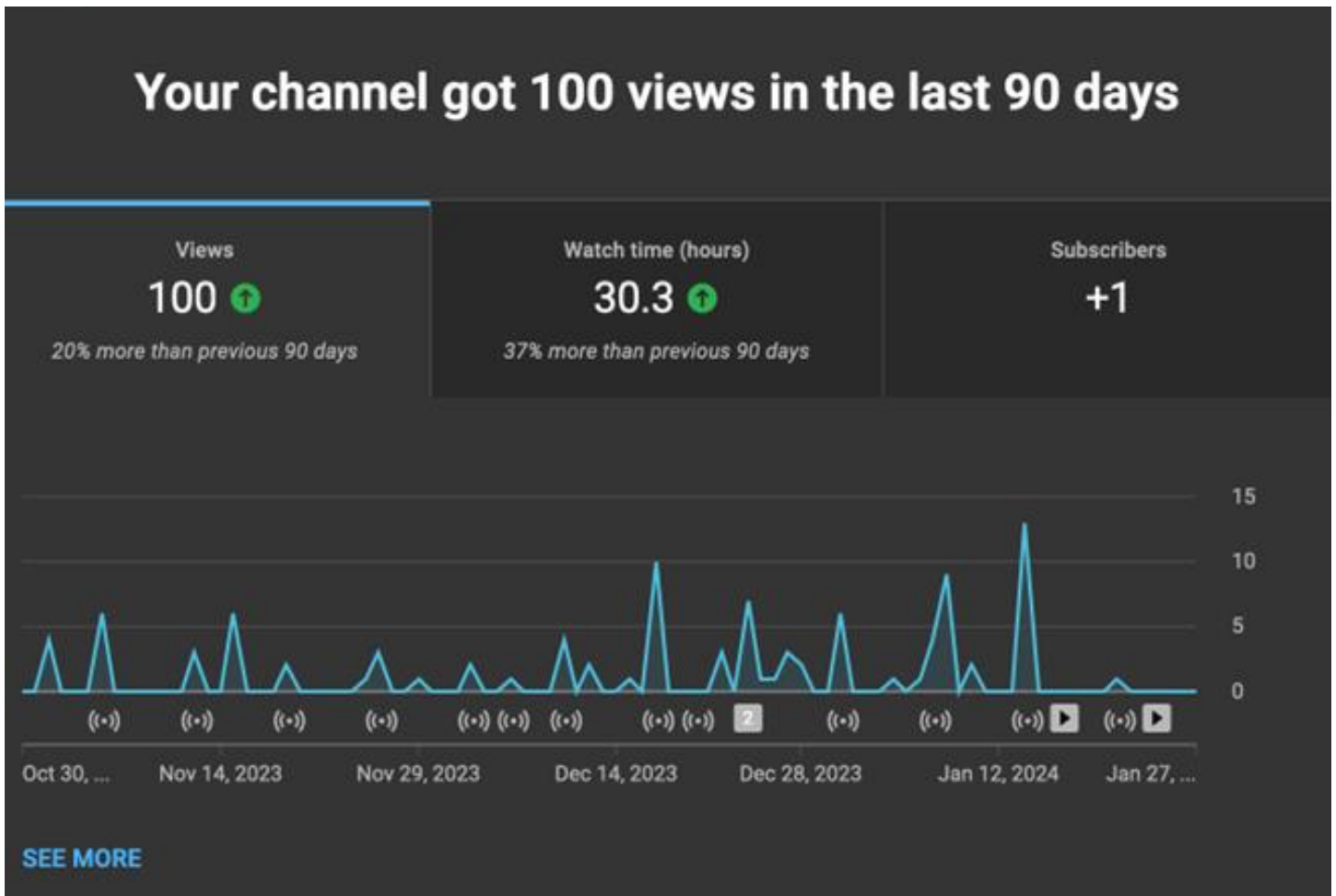
2022 Year end total

Visits 14,867

Re Visits 1,227

You Tube Stats

Last 90 Days



NOTES

NOTES

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

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

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

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

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

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

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

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

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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 655
 Text: Somerset C. Lowry
 Music: IN BABYLONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710;
 arr. Julius Röntgen
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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America