



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

4161 Cypress Road • St. Ann, Missouri 63074

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Pastor Kristen Koch

Fifty-Seventh Annual Meeting and 2022 Annual Report

Call to Order: Sunday — January 29, 2023

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A message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton



Dear friends in Christ, We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

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.

56th ANNUAL MEETING Minutes
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 30, 2022 via Zoom

Church Council Attendees:

A Quorum of 20 members is needed. Over 30 members of Shepherd of the Hills attended this meeting via Zoom, so a quorum was met.

Call Meeting to order

Motion to approve January 30, 2022 Annual Meeting Agenda:

Moved by Kim Surratt and seconded by Judy Conoyer. Agenda Approved by all in attendance.
The Annual Meeting Agenda for January 30, 2022 is passed.

Letter from the Bishop and Devotions.

Motion to approve:

**2020 Annual Meeting minutes of Jan 31, 2021 and
2021 Annual Budget Meeting minutes of Nov. 21, 2021:**

Moved by Bill Keyes and seconded by Jim Urnes. Approved by all in attendance.
The Minutes of both meetings are passed.

Election- Slate of Candidates for Church Council. The Newly Elected Church Council members will be installed during Worship on February 7, 2021.

Bill Keyes and Kim Surratt - January 2022 to January 2025.

Suah Gweama - January 2022 to January 2024.

Kylie Surratt January 2022 to January 2023.

Slate of candidates moved by Karen Scherer, seconded by Bill Keyes.

Approved by all in attendance.

Daryl Hogbin, Candy Travis, Jim Sanderson, Jim Urnes, and Karen Scherer will be the 2023 Nominating Committee.

Vote – Ratify Constitutional Changes

Moved by Karen Scherer to ratify proposed Constitutional changes, seconded by Judy Conoyer.

Approved by all in attendance.

Reports.

Pastor's Report submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch.

New Flooring Project photos submitted by Lauri Anderson.

President Report submitted by the President of Church Council, Sam Johnson.

Membership Statistical Report submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch.

Financial Report submitted by treasurer Daryl Hogbin

Account Balances and Description of Funds Report submitted by treasurer by Daryl Hogbin

Social Concerns Ministry Committee Report was submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch.

Policy Team Reported they did not meet this year.

Special Events Committee Report was submitted by Ann Smith, the chairperson of the committee.

Committee Reports.

Care and Evangelism Committee Report. The Care and Evangelism Committee is led by Jeanne Keirle. The committee members are Jeanne Keirle, Margaret Keyes, Barb Daab, Lisa Hogbin, Pat Amick, and Sydney Meyer. Jim Sanderson is the Church Council Representative to the Care and Evangelism Committee.

Education and Youth Committee Report was submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch.

Social Concerns Ministry Committee Report was submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch.

Policy Team Reported they did not meet this year.

Special Events Committee Report was submitted by Ann Smith, the chairperson of the committee.

Mutual Ministry Team Reported that they did not meet in 2021 due to the pandemic.

Stewardship Committee Report was submitted by Pastor.

Facilities Committee Report was submitted by Lauri Anderson.

Technology and Communications Team Report was submitted by Lauri Anderson and Pastor Kristen Koch. The Team Members are Mike Toohey, Abbi Telander, Bill Keyes, Lauri Anderson and Pastor Kristen Koch.

Worship Committee Report was submitted by Candy Travis. The team members are Pastor Kristen, Julie Hutson, Jim Urnes, Bill Keyes, Margaret Keyes, Rachel Helton and Candy Travis.

Altar Guild Report was submitted by Barb Daab. The Altar Guild members are Nancy Ambacher, Rhonda Bird, Sharon Elder, Lisa, Hogbin, Julie Hutson, Carol Krull, Ann Smith, Lois Urnes, and Barb Daab, the coordinator.

Women's Group Report was submitted by Linda Ritter, WELCA President. Carol Krull handles the treasury aspect of ELCA.

Organization Reports.

Men's Group Report was submitted by Lauri Anderson. At this time, the Men's Group doesn't have a chairperson.

The Garden of Eatin' Report was submitted by Martha Johnson. Sharon Elder is the Garden's Treasurer.

Shepherd of the Hills Endowment Fund Report was submitted by the chairman George Marvin. The Endowment members are Jeanne Keirle, Sophia Koch-Holdsworth, Ann Smith and Daryl Hogbin treasurer. Margaret Keyes is the Church Council Representative.

Little Free Pantry Report was submitted by Martha Johnson.

Adjournment. Bill Keyes made a motion to adjourn this meeting, and Lisa Hogbin seconded it. Adjournment approved by all in attendance. Meeting is adjourned.

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING Minutes
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Sunday + November 20, 2022

Congregational Budget Meeting – Fiscal Year 2023

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Kim Surratt at 10:21 am. The meeting was in person and also live streamed. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Agenda: Bill Keyes made a motion to accept the agenda, second by Tom Ritter. Motion approved by congregation.

Opening Prayer: Led by Pastor Kristen

Presentation of 2023 Budget: Daryl Hogbin presented the proposed 2023 budget. During the presentation Daryl highlighted the Mortgage fund projection and the current cash on hand. Approximately 59% of the congregation returned pledges and giving patterns were reviewed for those that give regularly but did not return a pledge. It was noted that there is a shortfall in this budget that is similar to what the projected shortfall was for last years budget. It was also noted that we have had increased giving and decreased expenses for this year to make up some of the difference. Discussion from the congregation included a suggestion to look into different building insurance to see if we could get a better rate and also looking at phone and internet providers to determine if we could decrease the expense.

Congregational Vote on Budget: A motion was made by Karen Sherer to accept the proposed budget, second by Bill Keyes. Voting was conducted by paper ballot for in person and via text message for online participants. After count of the ballots the proposed 2023 budget was approved.

Adjournment/Close in Prayer: Motion to adjourn by Tom Ritter, seconded by Sydney Meyer. Motion approved by voice vote. Pastor Kristen closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Travis, Council Secretary

Election – Slate of 2023 Candidates



Special thanks to the 2022 Church Council:

*Candy Travis - S	Kim Surratt - P
*Daryl Hogbin - T	Bill Keyes - VP
*Jim Sanderson	*Kylie Surratt
Suah Gweama	

* indicates members who are completing their term this year

Our sincere gratitude is extended to:

George Marvin, financial secretary, and
Daryl Hogbin, treasurer.

The 2023 Nominations Committee:

Daryl Hogbin, Candy Travis, Jim Sanderson, Karen Scherer, and Jim Urnes
They are pleased to present the following candidates...

Jim Sanderson & Barb Daab

Council term running from January 2023 to January 2026 (three year term)

Daryl Hogbin, Pat Amick

Council term running from January 2023 to January 2024 (one year term)

Kylie Surratt

Youth representative (from January 2023 to January 2024)

The newly-elected Church Council for 2023 will be installed during worship on Feb. 5.
The Church Council presents the following candidates for the 2024 nominating committee:
Daryl Hogbin, Suah Gweama, Pat Amick, and two more to be nominated at this meeting or appointed by Council.

Representative Positions...

Linda Ritter and Bill Keyes, Community Helping Ministry Board

2023 Synod Assembly



Central States Synod Assembly 2023 will be held on June 3 online via Zoom. The adjustment to an online assembly will allow us to conduct the necessary business of the synod while being considerate of the voting members' time and travel as well as the congregations' finances. This also allows us as a synod to reduce our green house gas emissions in line with SA 22.05 which was passed at our 2022 assembly.

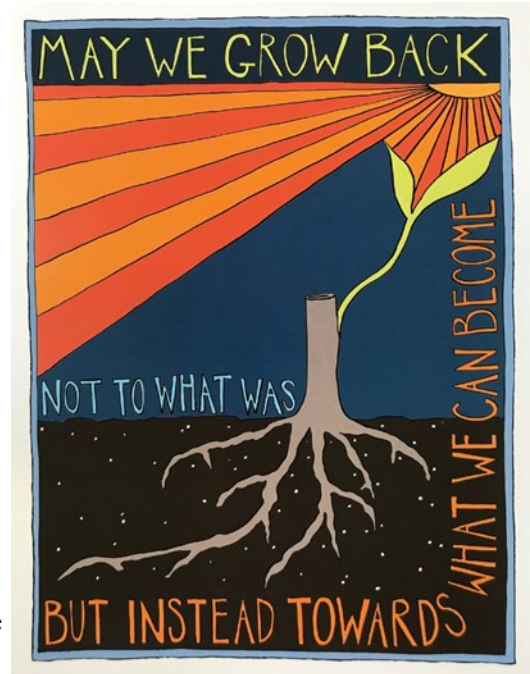
Shepherd of the Hills can "send" two lay voting members, one man and one woman. We can also send additional voting members who are youth, under the age of 18 and/or a person of color or whose primary language is other than English. Contact Pastor if you would like to be a voting member this year.

Pastor Kristen's Report...

Early on in the COVID-19 pandemic I ordered a print by Jennifer Bloomer that became a guiding theme for me, as so much of life was being turned upside down. The image is a shoot coming up out of a tree trunk that has been cut down. You can see the roots of the tree beneath the soil. And you can also see how the shoot is reaching out towards the sun. The words that go with this image are: *May we grow back, not to what was, but instead towards what we can become.*

I feel like the year 2022 was the beginning of our growing *towards* what Shepherd of the Hills can become, post pandemic. It was our first full year of in-person worship since the pandemic began (with only a brief hiccup in January). We stepped out in faith with the budget. And thanks to an especially generous year-end gift, we ended up very close to budget. And we continued the generous support of community ministries. We also reached beyond our four walls to collaborate with others.

I believe that collaboration is the key to the church's new reality. During the heart of the pandemic we found new ways to connect across boundaries of place. We learned that not every congregation has to do everything, all by themselves. We worked smarter, not harder.



Several congregations in the Eastern Missouri Conference made an effort to continue to collaborate in ministry, even after going back to our sanctuaries. In the Fall of 2022, Pastor Mellissa Woepple and I decided to try leading a Bible Study on Zoom for the churches in the Conference. We met online for seven weeks for conversation and study on the book of Genesis, together with five different congregations in the conference.

The Eastern Missouri Conference also put together a great collection of resources for the Advent and Christmas Season called, "Great Expectations". I was one of the leaders on that planning team. And I can tell you that those resources were used by congregations throughout the country...and by us and Shepherd of the Hills. One of the resources was a daily devotion, which included devotions by our own Lisa Hogbin and Julie Hutson.



Pastor Kristen's Report ...

Sparked by a single phone conversation, we partnered with St. Mark Lutheran in Clayton to host the first Lutheran World Relief in-gathering of kits in several years. We loaded up 422 boxes of kits that were brought in by 16 congregations in the St. Louis Metro area, as well as kits collected from Central Missouri congregations.



Shepherd of the Hills found new partners in the community in 2022, as well as maintained our support of our “usual” benevolence partners. In the fall we began sharing the sanctuary on Sunday afternoons with the Promusica chorus. Directed by Henry Hwang, and accompanied by Alphie Kiu, this community choir has appreciated the use of the sanctuary for their practices. Hopefully they will sing for worship sometime next year!

The church council also took time this year to explore the possibility of hosting a childcare center. We learned a lot through those conversations. And while that particular partnership did not come to fruition, it opened our minds to the possibilities of hosting other ministries or organizations from the community.

As we continue to grow towards what we are becoming through God's leading, I pray that we may continue to look for more ways to collaborate. May we look for partners, both in the wider church and in the community, with whom we can make a positive difference in the lives of others. And in doing so, may we take a shared step into God's future.

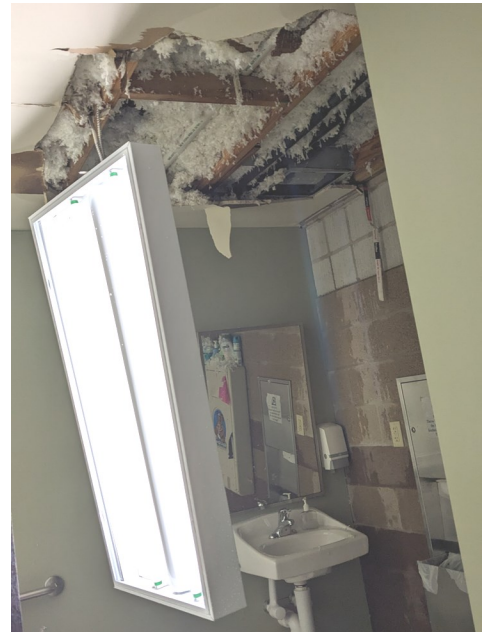
May God's peace go with us into 2023!

-Pastor Kristen Koch



**Christmas Eve
“Surprise”:
Thanks to all who
pitched in to help!**

Family Restroom – pipe
froze and burst in the
ceiling



Main Hall & Offices

Fellowship Hall



President's Report:

Dear Congregational Members of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church:

As I sit here looking at this blank piece of paper, I am struggling with 'how in the world do I summarize 2022?' As a member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Council, there are many remembrances to highlight, while also looking forward to what we want to cultivate in 2023.

Earlier in the year, we revised COVID protocols which included going mask optional for worship, (although the Communion Servers still wore masks). The Choir and Special Music resumed, as well as Fellowship time for our members with coffee and snacks.

During the Spring of 2022 Confirmation met once a month on Sundays with a focus on Lutheran Living. Students Nowah Tokpa and Sam Martin prepared for their Affirmation of Baptism.

We made improvements to our equipment which included a new office computer replacement and a new projector in the sanctuary.

We can't forget our Little Free Pantries! We had the front doors replaced on the LFP (Little Free Pantry), as well as added the Little Free Library to the Hygiene pantry.

Through the memorial of Gloria Holdsworth, we received handbells and established the Handbell Choir.

Throughout the year, our congregation continued with our generous giving in support of other local, national, and international organizations and ministries. In 2022 we collected a total of \$1968.06 to donate to LuMin St. Louis, Lutheran Disaster Response (Ukraine), ELCA World Hunger, Global Farm Challenge and Bridge Bread. We also continue to donate to CHM, Community Helping Ministries.

We opened up our church facility for the Promusica group to use the church for practice, and will continue to review how we can use our church to support our communities. We also partnered with St. Mark's in Clayton to be a collection site for Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

I am looking forward to 2023, and partnering with this congregation to focus our resources to grow Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.

Respectfully,

Kim Surratt

Council President

Membership Statistical Report for 2022

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership, end of 2021	104	96
<i>Members received during 2022...</i>		
By Infant Baptism	2	
By Adult Baptism	0	0
By Affirmation of Baptism	1	0
By Transfer	0	0
TOTAL MEMBERS RECEIVED.....	3	0
<i>Members removed during 2022...</i>		
By death	1	1
By transfer	0	0
By other	0	0
To inactive/responsibilities list	0	0
Statistical Adjustment.....	0	0
TOTAL MEMBERS REMOVED	1	1
Members Confirmed		2
MEMBERSHIP, END OF 2022.....	106	97

**Average
Sunday
Worship
Attendance
in 2022 was
34-in-person
25-online**

Members Baptized: Ben Mott, Riley Mott

Members Confirmed: Sam Martin, Nowah Tokpa

Members who died: Ann Sanderson



Financial Report

Income	2022 Budget	2022 Year End Actual
Total-All Income Sources	145,817.00	175,910.27
Member Offerings	144,817.00	161,454.09
Non-Member/Other Offerings	1,000.00	5,570.71
Transfers in from dedicated ac- counts for non-funded expences	-	8,885.47

Expenses	2022 Budget	2022 Year End Actual
Office and Administration	23,339.00	24,874.89
Computer Hardware/Software		348.74
Copier	1,704.00	1,776.50
Council Retreat (not funded)		-
Employer Payroll Tax (SSN Match)	1,425.00	1,422.92
Fees & Licenses	160.00	284.32
Miscellaneous (not funded)		-
Office Supplies	150.00	197.85
Phone and Internet	1,200.00	2,039.64
Postage	100.00	55.00
Staff Salary - Net	14,027.24	14,027.16
Staff Salary - Withholding	4,572.76	4,722.76

Care & Evangelism	-	-
ELCA Central States Synod	2,170.00	2,170.00
Faith Formation	300.00	267.47
Facilities	43,463.00	50,489.74
Building Supplies	-	337.72
Insurance	5,014.00	5,669.70
Lawn Service	3,600.00	6,200.00
Maintenance	-	3,330.00
Mortgage Contribution	27,480.00	27,480.00
Security Monitoring	960.00	1,015.00
Technical Equipment (not funded)		-
Utilities (Electric, Gas, Sewer, Trash, Water)	5,500.00	5,826.72
Workmans Compensation	909.00	630.60

	2022 Budget	2022 Year End Actual
Pastoral Compensaton	86,189.00	86,090.28
Auto Allowance	250.00	250.00
Continuing Education	1,000.00	881.55
Housing Allowance	30,000.00	30,000.00
Portico Benefits	20,589.00	20,589.00
Professional Expenses	350.00	269.20
Salary	28,522.99	28,523.04
Social Security Offset	4,477.01	4,476.96
Synod Required Events	1,000.00	1,100.53
Worship	9,200.00	12,862.49
Accompanist Salary	7,200.00	4,140.00
Guest Musicians (not funded)	-	345.00
Licensing & Subscription Fees	750.00	1,099.46
Physical Worship Supplies	500.00	461.55
Piano Tuning	150.00	110.00
Pulpit Supply	600.00	300.00
Technology Updates (not funded)	-	6,406.48
Expense Totals	164,661.00	176,754.87
Cash Flow	(18,844.00)	(844.60)

Designated Giving for Benevolences and Special Initiatives	
2022 Actuals	
Bridge Bread	156.46
Butterfly Haven	744.00
Community Pantry	100.00
ELCA World Hunger	135.80
Handbells	955.00
LuMin	90.80
Lutheran Disaster Relief	1,584.87
Oaks Indian Mission	543.00
Total Benevolences and Special Initiatives	4,309.93

Account Balances as of 31 December 2022		Change from 2021 Closing Balances
St. John's Bank Regular Checking (General Operating Fund)	28,498.24	(1,153.90)
St. John's Bank Money Market (Dedicated Funds)	10,513.26	(5,713.31)
Thrivent Annuity Account (Dedicated Funds)	17,801.99	608.50
ELCA MIF Mortgage Fund (Mortgage Reserve)	7,108.28	(578.91)
Thrivent Endowment Fund	104,747.09	(18,127.09)
Account Totals	168,668.86	(24,964.71)

Mortgage Balance as of 12/31/22	312,034.69	(22,159.96)
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Dedicated Funds Balances as of 12/31/2022

Fund Name / Institution Held At	Administered by	Description	Year End Balance
Alter Enhancements Fund (Thrivent Financial)	Altar Guild	For improvement & addition of worship banners, altar cloths, paraments and worship enhancements not in the annual operating budget.	1,235.20
Ambacher Memorial (St. Johns Bank)	Ambacher Family	Memorium in honor of Robert Ambacher	50.02
Mortgage Reserve (ELCA Mission Investment Fund)	Church Council	Dedicated account established to deposit funds used to make monthly mortgage payments.	7,108.28
Building Maintenance Fund (Thrivent Financial and St. Johns Bank)	Church Council & Facilities Committee	To assist in the funding of building maintenance needs not provided for in the regular budget.	7,328.04
Care Giving Ministry Fund (Thrivent Financial)	Care and Evangelism Committee	Memorial fund given in honor of Dennis Fiske for opportunities in care giving.	919.89
Community Pantry (Thrivent Financial and St. Johns Bank)	Various	Fund for the maintenance and purchase of supplies for the community pantry	1,930.86
Endowment Fund (Thrivent Financial)	Endowment Fund Committee	Endowment fund with proceeds dedicated to support Children and Youth, Community and Older Age Ministries	104,747.09
Handbell Fund (St. Johns Bank)	Worship Team	Established from proceeds of Gloria Holdsworth memorial to provide non-budgeted funding of expenses related to the Handbell Choir.	311.54
James M Urnes Jr. Memorial (St. Johns Bank)	Urnes Family	Memorial fund to be used for a project to be dedicated in memory of James Urnes Jr.	540.38
Member Assistance Fund (St. Johns Bank)	Care and Evangelism Committee	To provide financial assistance for members in times of need.	8,161.29
Men's Group Fund (Thrivent Financial)	Men's Group	To assist in funding of items not in the annual operating budget.	1,513.91
WELCA (Community Credit Union)	WELCA	To support members with meals and services during times of need.	3,300.00
Youth Arts Fund (Thrivent Financial)	Youth Leader	To supplement private lessons and/or purchase materials for the youth of the congregations.	270.23
Youth Fund (Thrivent Financial)	Youth Leader	Established to provided additional funding for Youth programs and activities not in the annual operating budget.	5,382.83
Total Dedicated Funds			142,799.56

Care Team



*in 2021, the Care & Evangelism Committees were formally combined into the Care Team. Going forward this team will coordinate both out-reach and in-reach efforts of the congregation.

Care Team members : Jeanne Keirle, Barb Daab, Lisa Hogbin, Pat Amick, Sydney Meyer, and Margaret Keyes. Council Representative: Jim Sanderson

Things we were able to accomplish in 2022:

- Gave rides to church for members in need of transportation
- Printed Certificate of Appreciation and made books marks for the “retiring” Church Council Members as a token of appreciation for their service to the congregation
- Collected Donations for **Butterfly House**: 52 winter coats, gloves, hats, children’s clothes, shoes, toys, food items, and cash
- Installed a Little Free Library in half of the Hygiene Pantry (*see Little Free Pantry report on page 28*)
- 2023 calendars and planners were delivered to St. Patrick’s Center.
- Collected donations for Fisher House: Cash, gift cards, puzzle books, snacks and other items
- **Margaret Keyes**, in her card ministry, sent out 1,392 sermons/church updates to members unable to attend services in person. She mailed out 892 cards for prayer requests and special occasions. Margaret also maintains the email prayer chain.

Activities Planned for 2023:

- A Book Fair (and Bake Sale) is being planned for July/August, pending approval by Council
- Bridge Bread sales, twice during Lent
- More Senior activities as opportunities arise
- Continued support of Little Free Pantry & Library, CHM, Butterfly Haven, Fisher House...

Caring for the congregation and the community is a ministry we all share through our baptism. Therefore the Care Team invites your participation in and support of both the In-reach and Out-reach of Shepherd of the Hills. You can choose different levels of commitment: weekly, monthly, quarterly, or a single event. And a variety of skills are needed: administrative planning, practical problem solving, long-range planning, creative communication, financial support, and community networking to name a few. There are opportunities for both introverts and extroverts, men and women, members and guests. So please consider where you best fit into the ministries that currently happen OR share your ideas for new ways of caring for the congregation and community!

In-Reach

Call Members/Visit Homebound
Administer the aid fund
Arrange emergency care
Thanking Volunteers
Coordinating rides to Worship
Providing rides to Worship
Mini Service weekly mailings

Out-Reach

Schedule Penny Power beneficiaries
Advertise organizations, telling stories of ministry
Celebrate Generosity—sending cards of thanks
Attend Pattonville Community Action Team meetings via Zoom
Plan events: God’s Work Our Hands, Souper Bowl of Caring, etc.

Faith Formation

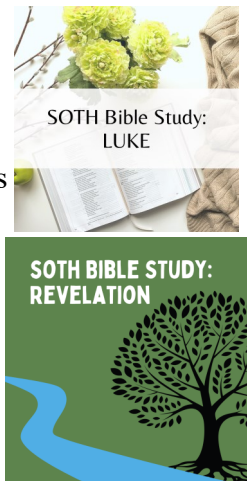
Confirmation

During the Spring of 2022 Confirmation met once a month on Sundays with a focus on Lutheran Living. Students, Nowah Tokpa and Sam Martin prepared for their Affirmation of Baptism which took place on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022.



Wednesday Bible Study

The Wednesday Bible Study taught by Karen Scherer met weekly on Zoom throughout this past year. They finished their study of the Gospel of Luke in May and then took a break for a few months. Beginning in August the group began to delve into the “book” of Revelation attributed to John of Patmos. Everyone was quite surprised that though this is an apocalyptic letter not easy to understand and filled with difficult, prophetic and coded imagery, nevertheless it was one that, in the end, filled them with hope and strengthened them in faith. In December, Sydney Meyer arranged for the group to view original prints of various artists related to Revelation. Beginning in January, the group will be reading and studying the Gospel of Matthew. Attendance averaged 8 people.



Fall Conference Bible Study

Pastor Kristen and Pr. Melissa Woepfel from Living Christ co-led the Fall Conference Bible Study. They used a study called: **Old & New: A Church Anew Study** on Genesis, that met Tuesdays nights on Zoom for seven weeks.

Submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch

Policy Team



The Policy Team is a committee who’s purpose is to create and revise policies related to the many activities that go on at Shepherd of the Hills.

In 2022, the Policy Team did not meet or create any new policies.

The Policy Team needs to be reorganized for 2023. If you would be interested in being on the Policy Team, please see Pastor Kristen or Lauri Anderson. This committee only meets on an as-needed basis. We are in search of two new members.

Special Events Committee



This committee is setup to facilitate with special gatherings of the congregation which include food, table service, set-up, and clean-up. This is not a budgeted item and therefore is dependent on you, the generous congregation. You always respond with willingness and enthusiasm making this an easy task!

This year we had no official events that fell under our committee's duties.

Respectfully submitted by, Ann Smith, *chair*

Mutual Ministry Team



The Mutual Ministry team meets with the following goals:

- ◆ a confidential “listening post” for the pastor, lay professional and congregation members when there are concerns, constructive ideas to share, or appreciation for positive ministry practices
- ◆ a place where the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the pastor and lay professional are tended to

Equally important is our role in encouraging and recognizing the positive impact their work and ministry has on our congregation. We are grateful when concerns are brought to us in the spirit of Christian love and care for all members of SOTH. While the Mutual Ministry Team is unable to solve every problem, we always seek God's guidance in helping us respond with Christian wisdom and love as we seek to mutually minister to each other.

In 2022, the team did not meet with either Pastor Kristen or Lauri Anderson.

Going forward into 2023 this team needs to be reorganized. If you would be interested in being a member of this team, please speak with a member of Church Council. Confidentiality is an extremely important factor to these meetings.

Three to four new members are needed. This team typically meets a few times a year on an as-needed basis.

Stewardship Committee



The Fall stewardship theme was "**Go Tell the World: 4 Traits of a Life of Stewardship.**" This resource offered a glimpse into just what it takes to steward a whole life of faith by examining four aspects of discipleship as it relates to life, money, and community.

Based on the Revised Common Lectionary texts for the month of October, we explored **faith, gratitude, persistence, and humility** in worship, all while naming and claiming the baptismal call to tell the world of God's love in Jesus Christ.

In addition to supporting the ministry of Shepherd of the Hills, this congregation was also generous in its support of other local, national, and international organizations and ministries.

Quarterly we collect coins (our "noisy offering") for four different organizations. In 2022 we collected:

- φ **\$90.80** [for](#) LuMin St. Louis
- φ **\$1,585.00** for Lutheran Disaster Response (Ukraine)
- φ **\$135.80** for ELCA World Hunger, Global Farm Challenge, and
- φ **\$156.46** for Bridge Bread.

Which is a total of:
\$1,968.06

Seasonally we have events that include a collection of money as well as in-kind offerings. This year,

- φ The Souper Bowl of Caring collected **191 items** and **\$172.00 for Butterfly Haven**, and
- φ For God's Work Our Hands we collected and packed items for **23 Personal Care Kits** for Lutheran World Relief.
- φ We hosted the St. Louis LWR Ingathering with St. Mark in Clayton when we gathered and shipped:
- φ **422 boxes of LWR Kits** that included 1,335 quilts, 670 Personal Care Kits, 635 School Kits, 167 Baby Care Kits, and 45 Fabric Kits.

Special offerings are collected during the seasons of Advent/Christmas Eve, and Lent. In 2022 we collected:

- φ **\$543** during Lent for **Oaks Indian Mission** and
- φ **\$622** during Advent/Christmas Eve for **Butterfly Haven**, as well as
- φ **Winter coats, hats, gloves, and other items.**

All in all, Shepherd of the Hills supported **7** organizations with **\$3,305** in cash as well as nearly the same amount in in-kind items. What a wonderful witness of God's work in the world!

Thank you for your Generosity!

Submitted by Pastor Kristen Koch





Facilities Committee

◆ Our biggest issue this year was on Christmas Eve when a water pipe in the family restroom froze and broke due to extreme temperatures. An insurance claim was made and justified. Service Master handled the remediation and John Noll Construction (c/o Mike Surratt) will handle the finish work.

◆ Natural Lawn and Landscape mowed for us in 2022 and did a wonderful job. They will continue for the 2023 season. We also had a few people from

the garden club who volunteered to help with some extra landscaping projects around the church.

- ◆ Mike Surratt replaced some exterior light bulbs, even converting some to LED.
- ◆ The on-going groundhog issue will be addressed in the Spring of 2023.

Special thanks to all who faithfully pitch in as needed with various tasks that are necessary to keep the building running. All help is greatly appreciated!

Submitted by Lauri Anderson

Technology & Communications Team

The Technology and Communications Team provides expertise for using and maintaining technology resources at SOTH, and supports channels of communication between ministry teams, administration, and the congregation.



In 2022:

- φ Updated office laptop to better support office staff
- φ Updated Monitor on Altar and replaced projector in the sanctuary
- φ Published the e-newsletter, "This Week at SOTH", on a weekly basis
- φ Assisted with writing and revising letters and advertisements as needed
- φ Continued using the YouTube channel for posting worship recordings
- φ Mailed printouts of weekly worship service to those unable to join online or in-person

In 2023:

- φ We will continue to publish "This Week at SOTH" and to consider additional opportunities to widen our social media presence.
- φ We will look into updating/switching our phone and internet provider and/or equipment to better suit our needs.

You can reach us at communications@sothstl.org

Special thanks to team members for their weekly efforts: Pastor Kristen, Lauri Anderson, Bill Keyes, Dale Travis, and to those who serve in other ways.





Worship Committee

There are many things to lift up in regards to worship in 2022. We have continued to have in-person and livestream worship experiences during the year. 2022 saw the return of the choir, the start of the Bell Choir, Lenten and Easter in-person services and the return of fellowship with coffee and food.

We would like to thank all of the people who help make our worship services happen. Special thanks to Pastor Kristen for bringing us the word and for all of the behind the scenes things she does to allow us to experience worship together as a community. Thank you to the Tech Team for all your hard work making sure that the service is recorded and livestreamed. Thanks to the Assistant Ministers, Readers and Communion Assistants, and Altar Guild that help make worship come together each week. Thank you to Alphie Kiu, the Choir, the Bell Choir and all who offer their musical talents. Thank you to Joan Carnaghi for scheduling all of our worship assistants. We appreciate all of your gifts.

Some of the highlights from worship in 2022 included:

- In-person mid-week Lenten services
- In-person Holy Week and Easter services
- Return of the choir and continued special music from the Men's Quartet and others
- Formation of the Bell Choir, led by Daryn Holdsworth
- Advent Mid-week in-person service – Great Expectations which also included daily devotions written by members of the Synod, including Lisa Hogbin and Julie Hutson
- Lessons and Carols offered on Christmas Day

As always, we are grateful to the congregation for their continued support and willingness to change and adapt. We welcome your input and suggestions to make worship meaningful to all. We are looking forward to 2023!

2022 Worship Team members: Pastor Kristen Koch, Julie Hutson, Jim Urnes, Bill Keyes, Margaret Keyes, Karen Scherer and Candy Travis

Respectfully submitted by Candy Travis, on behalf of the Worship Team



The Altar Guild was back full time this year. I would like to extend a special thank you to the wonderful ladies who were willing to serve: Nancy Ambacher, Rhonda Bird, Lisa Hogbin, Julie Hutson, Jeanne Keirle, Carol Krull, Sydney Meyer, Ann Smith and Lois Urnes, along with myself.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested, speak to any of these ladies or myself to find out how easy and rewarding it is to serve. We would love to have you.

Respectfully submitted by,
Barb Daab, coordinator

Women's Group

WELCA had a very quiet year in 2022. We were once again unable to host our annual craft and bake sale in the fall.



Special thanks to Margaret Keyes for her faithful service of receiving and sending information out on the prayer chain. This is such a blessing. Special thanks to the Keyes Family for their wonderful, caring card ministry they continue to support.

We assisted with Ann Sanderson's memorial reception in July and hosted a baby shower for Jackie (Vick) Smith in August.

Special thanks to all of the women who so willingly help throughout normal times preparing meals and assisting with special events. We all continue to do God's work with all of our hands.

Special thanks to Carol Krull for handling the treasury aspect of WELCA,

WELCA is very blessed to have such wonderful support from all of the members.

Respectfully submitted by,
Linda Ritter, WELCA President

Men's Group

The men's group in 2022 was unable to host the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, but we did host the annual Easter egg hunt, with Josh Koch-Holdsworth operating the egg cannon for the kids after being trained by Bill Johnson.



Submitted by Lauri Anderson

The Garden of Eatin'



We had 11 gardeners and had 2 drop out during the year.

Here are some of the highlights of 2022:

- We used the elevated bed as a dedicated food bank garden to be donated to CHM.
- We improved two of the beds by replacing fencing with PVC tubing and chicken wire..
- We installed a lock on the trash enclosure for the safety of our gardeners and their equipment.

Plans for the 2023 Garden Season:

- Continue to recruit for new gardeners. We will advertise earlier in the year in the Localite. Please let the church members know there are garden beds available.
- The space where the compost bins had been will be used as a flower garden, which may draw a few more pollinators for our crops.

Gateway Greening is now known as Seed St. Louis, website is www.seedstl.org.

Respectfully submitted, *Bob and Marilyn Nenninger*, Garden of Eatin' leaders

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was not successful during 2022. It decreased from \$122,874 on January 1, 2022 to \$104,747. It was the Committee's plan to spend \$6,000 of the earnings from 2021, but that would have driven the Fund value below the \$101,111 contribution ceiling. The Committee would like to reserve the \$3,636 above our ceiling for use during 2023 when the market has improved. The Fund will continue to be monitored for growth potential.

The money we spend will be split between the local Charities, Youth, and Older Age ministries.

Each will be getting at least 10% of the money.

Respectfully submitted,

George Marvin (chair)

Endowment Team members: George Marvin, Jeanne Keirle, Joshua Koch-Holdsworth, Kim Surratt, Ann Smith, Margaret Keyes, Kristen Koch-Pastor ex-officio and Daryl Hogbin-treasurer ex-officio.

Little Free Pantry

Inspired by an article in The Lutheran Magazine and patterned after Little Free Libraries, in 2017 Shepherd of the Hills installed a Little Free Pantry on our property.



Mike Surratt replaced the doors on the original food pantry and they seem to be holding up well so far (they get a lot of use/abuse).

In the fall, Pat & Lauren Amick took on the project of dedicating half of the hygiene pantry to be used as a Little Free Library and had new inspirational signs made to hang on both pantries. To date over 100 books (children’s books seem to be the most popular) have been placed in the library for the neighbors to take and enjoy.

Both pantries continue to be used and stocked by members of the community as well as supported by members of Shepherd of the Hills. Thanks to all for your generosity.



In recognition of Faithful Service:

- To Candy Travis, “retiring” Council member
- To Daryl Hogbin for continuing as church treasurer and his great attention to detail, and to George Marvin for continuing as financial secretary during yet another difficult year
- To Mike Toohey, Abbi Telander (for the first six months of 2022) & Bill Keyes for editing and publishing our new weekly e-newsletter.
- And to those of you who help out “behind the scenes” on a regular basis to help keep things running smoothly, inside and outside of the building

Special thanks: to Lauri Anderson for the extra work preparing this document. We are also grateful to all the team /committee members for submitting their reports in a timely manner.