



ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM 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,

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

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

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16)



A MESSAGE FROM
ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*



Minneapolis Area Synod
of the ELCA

God's grace, peace, and hope be with you through our Savior, Jesus Christ .

Like rain after an endless drought, the gift of gathering in person this year has quenched a deep thirst. The pandemic revealed anew the depth of our thirst for community; Scripture also articulates this profound human need. Advances in technologies like livestreaming are indeed gifts to our church and world. Still, our hearts sing when we can rub shoulders around the communion table, embrace those who grieve, and raise our voices together in resounding song.

The mission of the synod is to support communities who share the thirst-quenching love of God – forming disciples, building beloved community, and working for just and healthy neighborhoods. I am deeply grateful for the many ways that we walk together in our journey of faith.

The synod staff walks closely in partnership with congregations, especially in times of transition, planning, or conflict. Last year, we accompanied congregations in 58 call processes. We offer skills trainings for lay members through the annual Tool Kit, and for church staff through peer groups and communicators gatherings. And, our Faith Practices & Neighborhood Practices program strengthens congregations in faith formation and engaging their neighborhoods.

Synod staff also work closely with our deacons and pastors. We experience great joy when we gather with congregations for ordinations, installations, and Ministry Site Profile reviews, as well as in preaching, presiding, and offering adult forums. We support our interim pastors who provide wise leadership in times of transition and our chaplains who provide critical care in a variety of settings. And, currently, we support 50 seminary students preparing to become pastors and deacons.

Our congregations worship in Spanish, Swahili, ASL, Oromo, Hmong, Lao, Norwegian, and Amharic. As we celebrate our diversity, we also recognize inequities affecting our congregations. Using a “racial equity lens,” the synod council launched an in-depth process to evaluate and strengthen partnerships with our “strategic ministries,” addressing historical realities of disconnection and resource inequities.

As a synod together, we will gather again April 28-29 for Synod Assembly. All are welcome at the opening worship Friday night; voting members will carry out the business of the synod on Saturday. We are blessed with the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III as our keynote speaker.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Lutherans in our synod and in the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, the ground-breaking for the first ever Lutheran University in Nigeria occurred this December. We celebrate God's provision and look forward to the blessings this university will bring.

During my sabbatical, I have been studying “the church in the U.S. – hopes and challenges.” I would like to present some of my learnings as well as facilitate conversations in as many congregations as possible during the coming months. For more information about these visits or news about what's happening around the synod, please visit the synod website and sign up for our weekly enews.

In Christ,
Bishop Ann Svennungsen

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

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.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 Spir - it of God, do - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies;
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

was it from earth, through all its pul - es move,
 no sad - den real - ing of the soil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

sleep to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel sin - i - tate, no up - ring shoo;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling,
 the hap - piness of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove.

and make me love you as I ought to love,
 but take the dirt - ness of my soul a - way;
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find
 my heart an al - tat, and your love be there.

Text: George Crilly, 1780-1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Adinor, 1840-1897

Text and music are in the public domain. Reproduced from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, hymn #900. May be reproduced without restriction.

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Our Father’s Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Agenda

Sunday, January 29th 2023, 10:00am

Call to Order.....Pam Hoekstra
 Opening Prayer.....Pastor Aaron Fuller
 Reading of minutes from 2022..... Chandler Drummond
 Council President’s Message..... Pam Hoekstra
 Council Vice President’s Message..... Wendy Gustafson
 Pastor’s Message.....Pastor Aaron Fuller
 Treasurer’s Recap from 2022.....Amy Krcil

OFLC Ministry Reports

NourishingHope..... Pastor Aaron Fuller
 OFL Foundation Report.....Becky Miller
 Building & Grounds.....John Gilb

OFLC Voting Items

Constitution/Bylaws..... Pam Hoekstra
 OFLC Council Members..... Pam Hoekstra
 President Appointment – Wendy Gustafson
 Vice President – Shannon Sand
 Secretary – Chandler Drummond (2nd Term)
 At Large Positions – Dan Schiller (2nd Term) and Lauren Johnson
 Nominations for Treasurer
 OFLC Foundation Board Members..... Pam Hoekstra
 Becky Miller
 Wendy Biorn

Budget Options Information..... Amy Krcil

Option 1 – Keep the lights on

Option 2 – Carry out our mission

Option 3 – Dream big

Closing prayer..... Pastor Aaron Fuller

Our Father's Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 30th 2022, 10:00AM
Attendance In-Person: 34
Attendance Online: 26

Call to Order: Pam Hoekstra (10:15am)

Opening Prayer: Pastor Aaron

Reading of Minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting: Pam Hoekstra

Motion to Accept:

Motion to amend Secretary for 2 year term. Jim Lupino made a motion. Mark Nelson seconded the motion. Motion passed online and in person.

Motion to accept 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes: Anthony Wold made a motion, Jim Lupino seconded, Motion passed online and in person.

OFLC Ministry Reports:

OFLC Foundation Report: Donated to RiverWorks Food Shelf, Trunk or Treat, Rockford Auxillary, Grace Place, Current Account Balance around \$201,000.

Developed a Mission Statement in 2021. Goals in 2022 scholarships for OFLC families, membership drive, and modernize OFLC Foundation Brochure

Reminded people to set up their account with Amazon Smile to donate to OFLC Foundation. Every little bit helps and they received roughly \$80 on 2021 from those who ordered through Amazon Smile.

Building and Grounds Report: Gas leak in Spring 2021 in Sanctuary, Furnace from 1988 that almost caused a fire in December 2021, 3 new furnaces installed in January 2022 through High Road for a total of around \$15,000, cleanup day in Spring 2021 had about 30 people with a BBQ afterward and hope to do again in spring 2022, Sanctuary roof was replace in fall of 2021, waiting on air conditioner quotes for installation in late spring 2022.

2022 Projects: replace lighting that is out in sanctuary, paint the sanctuary, re-surface parking lot

Council President's Message: Thanked Julie Vergin and Kim Haagen for their help with Nourishing Hope and Brittini's continued work on this mission, Service Coordinators, Tiffany and David with Engage and Confirm, Lindsey Bervig with Sunday School, Quilting Ministry, Amy Krcil for financials, amazing staff that include Pastor Aaron, Melissa, and Brittini.

2022 More ways to welcome new people to join us at OFLC, celebrate 50 year Anniversary and plan for the future (next 50 years and beyond).

Treasurers Report: Amy Krcil

2021 Giving and Expenses Report. \$22,955 loss in 2021. Largely due to the cost of labor, utilities, and other expenses going up as well as the furnace installation expense

2022 and Beyond Goals: Went over the road map of expense goals, fix/replace lighting in sanctuary and John to get quotes, re-surface parking lot by using Crow River Christmas funds of \$4,000.

Motion to Accept Proposed Budget: Wayne motioned, Denise second. Motion passed in person and online.

Election of Leadership:

Council President: Anthony Wold made a motion to allow Pam Hoekstra to run for President for a 2nd term, Barb seconded it. Motion passed in person and online.

Council Vice President: Pam Hoekstra asked for a motion to nominate a Vice President. No one online and in person nominated or stepped forward. Pam brought up the idea of allowing 2 new council members. David made a motion to add 2 council members, motion was seconded. Motion passed in person and online.

At Large Council Members: Jody Bryant agreed to run as a candidate, Erin Smith was nominated as at large council member by Shannon Sand.

Motions to accept nominations: Motions made for Jody Bryant and Erin Smith to become 2022 at Large Council Members that will be 2 year terms. Motion passed for Jody Bryant and Erin Smith as the new council members at large.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Aaron

Motion to adjourn meeting Anthony makes a motion, Renee seconds. Meeting adjourned at 11:07am.

STAFF REPORTS
PASTOR REPORT From PASTOR AARON

Greetings People of OFLC!

When I look back on 2022, I cannot help but think of all the ways people have invested in the life and ministry of the congregation as we emerge out of the pandemic. You have invested in Crow River Christmas, the Fall Festival, and Spring Expo. You've also invested as a worship service coordinator, Sunday School teacher, Confirmation mentor, and member of the choir. You've invested in the community through NourishingHOPE and serving Senior Meals. Even more people have invested by updating our Constitution and helping make us more financially sustainable as a congregation! In the end, all of these things have been important to sharing and living God's love with each other and in the community. For that, and for all of you who are too numerous to list in this report, I say THANKS BE TO GOD!

At the same time, 2022 was also not without its challenges. As we continue to emerge out of the last two years of the pandemic, many of us are challenged to create new patterns of life that include nurturing our faith in community with one another. Others still are challenged by the many struggles we and others in our community have due to our nation's current economy. We were even challenged financially and had to make some difficult decisions as a faith community. From my standpoint, I saw those challenges as blessings. Through them, God was leading and nudging us (sometimes not so gently!) to consider new things. Because of those challenges, we learned and I believe, are presented with new opportunities to grow spiritually in 2023.

As many of you know, I've been a wrestling coach for over 16 years. I've had the privilege to experience a number of different teams and learn from other coaches. What I have learned over time is the number one thing that matters when trying to build something worthwhile is the belief that **everyone has something to contribute**. That belief builds a culture where people are invested in each other and everything that is done is for the building up and well-being of people. I think believing everyone has something to contribute is especially relevant to our congregation, and ultimately, to how we understand who God is in Jesus Christ.

As people created, loved, and called by Christ, we all have something to contribute. What will your contribution be in 2023? We all have something to offer because we all have been blessed by God with different and often many resources. Yet, when it comes to growing in faith, contributing to others' well-being through a faith community is a necessary thing! *Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. ~ Hebrews 13:15-16*

I'm so excited in the ways God will call us to contribute to serving God and our neighbors in 2023!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT From PAM HOEKSTRA

For there is nothing that God cannot do. Luke 1:37

When I reflect upon our experience in 2022 the verse above resonates with me. We started the year excited to celebrate our 50th anniversary as a congregation and with visions of what we may become. Then we hit a bump in the road in the summer when our finances were a bit precarious. However, God had a plan for each of us to contribute and I am so thankful for all the energy and optimism so many brought forward.

I hope you enjoyed the many fellowship opportunities we had during the past year. It was also fun to start new traditions such as serving breakfast at Rockford River Days and Crow River Christmas.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as president for the past two years. The experience taught me a lot about our church and developing my own faith, for which I am very grateful. I hope the work we put into updating our constitution this year will better support us in being the church we are today and into the future.

As I look forward to 2023, I am excited to see where our new council leadership will take us. Please remember they cannot do all of God's work alone. I ask every member of our congregation to continue to help us live in Christ's love in 2023. How will each of us help invite all to worship, learn, disciple, and serve? Remember, with God and each other there is nothing we can't do.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH From BRITTNI BRONCZYK

What an amazing, lifegiving year we've had. I've been with OFLC for a little over a year now, and everyone has made me feel like I have been here all along, I love this opportunity to get to know and work alongside OFLC members.

The biggest part of my role here at OFLC is NourishingHOPE. NourishingHOPE is a beautiful ministry, blessing many people each month. It's more than food, it's being there, being a constant. I like to say, "The box is the vehicle to spread God's love." No matter where someone is in their life, they know they can come to our door, they will be greeted with a warm smile, treated with dignity, and truly cared for as a person. In 2022, we served an average of 1,312 people per month. Each month we have seen the number steadily grow. As grocery prices continue to rise, it is getting harder and harder for families to keep their budgets in balance. This is where NourishingHOPE steps in, the thing that sets us apart from other food insecurity programs is there is no need to qualify financially or give any identifying information. Receiving a box of produce can ease some of the financial burden, freeing up funds to apply elsewhere.

As part of NourishingHOPE, we also believe in retail rescue. Retail rescue is saving food that is close to expiration, but still safe to eat. Cub Foods in Buffalo and Whole Foods in Minnetonka generously donate their outdated foods and day-old breads to NourishingHOPE. 40% of food in America is wasted! We are trying to help keep some of that food out of the garbage, and put it into the hands of people who need it. A large portion of the food we rescue can be frozen and handed out at our distributions. Anything that cannot be frozen, is turned over to the local food shelf.

“Senior Meals” was a program that was started by Wright County Community Action in response to Covid. WCCA received funding to make commercially prepared meals that would be frozen for later distribution. These meals were then delivered to local seniors. The program ran out of funding and the supply of meals ended at the end of 2021. I felt the need to replace program as these seniors have become accustomed to having easy to prepare meals being delivered every two weeks. Without any dedicated funds to this mission, I needed to get creative. I put the word out to anyone who would listen what my mission was. A connection was made and we received a large donation of frozen meals from the Monticello Help Center that lasted us a few months. After that, I was able to utilize items that were recovered from retail rescue. Also, NourishingHOPE can secure some easy to prepare meals at no to low cost from Second Harvest. We are currently serving about 12 households. The deliveries to seniors are inconsistent due to not having a steady source of receiving meals and the boxes are always full of random surprises, but the seniors are extremely grateful for the extra resource. It’s not only about ensuring they have physical sustenance, but these deliveries also give us the opportunity to visit and check in on our seniors. We are looking for more drivers to help deliver; if this is something you are interested in, please reach out to Brittni.

In October, OFLC hosted a community wide Fall Fest. We had an amazing turnout! If I had to guess, I’d say at least 500 people, maybe more, joined in on the fun and a great time was had by all! There was a little something for everyone. Little trick-or-treaters visited 21 decorated trunks for a special treat. Area non-profits were invited to host a booth with a game and to share what they have been up to. OFLC internal ministries hosted various games and craft stations. We had crafts, yard games, a hay maze, corn pit, and a photo booth. There was even a horse drawn carriage. The confirmation students and their families served up a warm, comfort, fall meal and Riverwood Worship band graced us with their musical talents. This event was only successful because of the many hands that helped pull it off. I am so thankful for all the amazing volunteers!

This fall, we held a winter gear drive. We received many donations of coats, gloves, hats, and snow pants from the congregation and community members. Volunteers beautifully organized all the donations in the hallway. Families were able to come in and “shop” for anything that they needed. We were met with so much joy and gratitude! The leftover children gear was donated to Rockford Elementary, and the adult items were donated to Riverworks Thrift Store.

This winter I was able to assist the Confirmation Students with a service project. For Christmas, the students completed a reverse advent calendar. A traditional advent calendar consists of removing an item each day from a box. A reverse advent calendar is where an item is placed into a box instead. The students felt passionate about addressing food insecurity in our local community. So, we did a reverse advent calendar where each confirmation student placed one food item a day into a box which was then donated to Riverworks Food Shelf. Collectively, they made a huge impact!

In 2023 I was voted in as Secretary on the Rockford/Greenfield Chamber of Commerce Board. This will be my second year on this board. I also serve on the Rockford Community Education Advisory Council and will be serving on the Thousand Hearts Committee this year. These community leadership roles give me the opportunity to share OFLC ministries to many community members, business owners and local organizations. This puts me in front of many different people from different walks of life, which blesses me with a unique opportunity to observe firsthand the needs in our community.

I am in complete awe of the amazing people this position has allowed me to meet. I am surrounded by some of the most caring and selfless people. It is the most rewarding part for me, seeing how joyful people are serving one another. This is what it means to be God's hands and feet.

For 2023, I am hoping we can continue to grow the connection between OFLC and the community and OFLC's impact on our community. I hope to magnify NourishingHOPE's impact, especially as things in the economy are getting more difficult for many families. I would also love to get to know each of you a little better, if we haven't had the chance to meet yet, please reach out, I'd love to sit down and chat with you. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to serve you as your Community Outreach Coordinator!

Blessings,

Brittini Bronczyk

Brittini@ourfatherschurch.org

INTERNAL MINISTRY & ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT From MELISSA UNGARO
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The Coordinator of Internal Ministries and Administration is a long title that can be lost on some as to what does she really do all day? Besides answering phones, sorting the mail, making copies and answering emails. So what do I do? I am the first line of contact many make with the church; I organize and retain records, both internal and statistical; make sure any operating system OFLC uses is up to date (Breeze, Website, Facebook, Copier, Phones, Zoom, Ordering supplies, etc); I organize what happens within the church walls and outside of them, I help organize, implement and support the Pastor and all internal ministries within Our Father's Church. I help keep the church organized and running smoothly, to the best of my abilities. I am additional support for NH when needed. I help with Building and Maintenance when scheduling is needed. I have helped with security of the building. At times, my job is "By the Numbers":

STATISTICAL ATTENDANCE REPORT

Number of Baptisms – 3

Number of Memorials/Funerals – 4

Number of Weddings – 0

Number of Groups the use the Building – 40

Number of Times Groups meet: Weekly: 11 Bi-Weekly: 7 Monthly: 12 One Time: 10

Members Transferred out: 3

Students Confirmed: 6

Sundays Worship (Sept 2021 – May 2022): In person Average: 54; Virtual Average: 9
(June – Aug 2022): In person Average: 45; Virtual Average: 8

Wednesdays Worship (Lent 2022) In person Average: 50; Virtual Average: 4

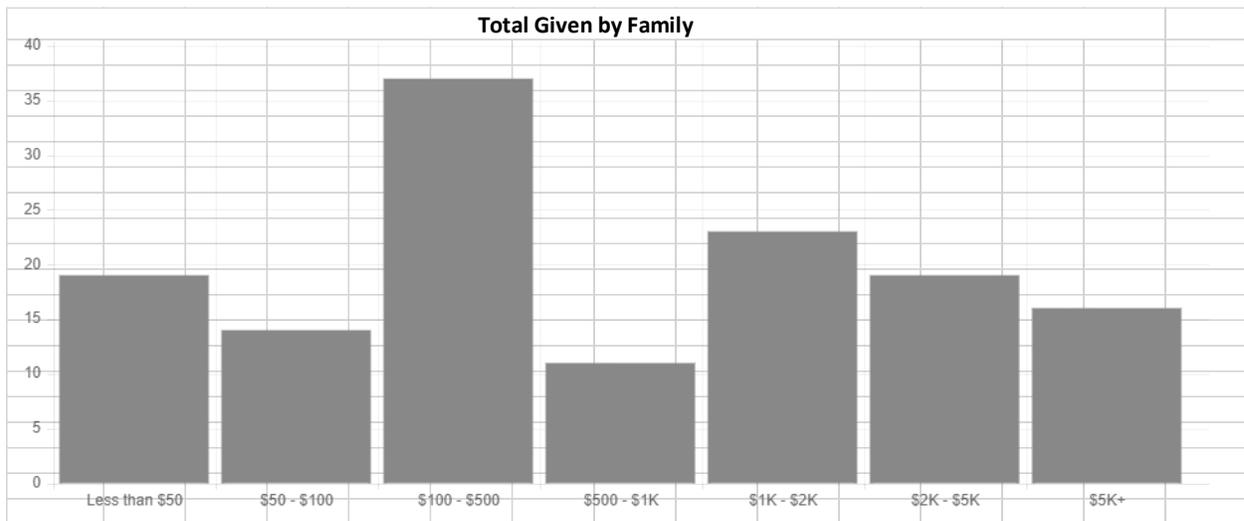
2022 in Review:

Therefore I say to you, whatever you desire, when you pray, believe that you shall receive it and you shall have it. Mark 11:24.

I ended my report last year with the above verse. I find it remarkable that truer words have never been spoken. I stood in front of all of you at the congregational meeting last year nervous that you would kick me out as treasurer for proposing a loss to our budget. Alas, neither happened. Maybe that was just poor budgeting, but I prefer to think of it as a congregational team pulling together and manifesting everything we needed to make our church and its ministry successful!

The generosity, talent and prayers of our congregants is truly something to be thankful for. Each one of you has a gift and you brought it forward.

Now onto official business. Since I've been sharing contributions per family needed to sustain our church's budget, I thought I'd share the breakdown over the last year by the number of families.



This represents the number of families and their annual giving. We have 70 families who gave less than \$500 for the year and 69 families who gave more than \$500 for the year. On an average, this is almost \$200 per family.

I won't get into the nuts and bolts of our financial statements for the year, but here is a snapshot of how we ended up for the year:

	General	Nourishing	Other
	Fund	Hope	Designated
	Fund	Hope	Funds
Contributions	\$ 225,507	\$ 32,799	\$ 94,061
Expenses	193,866	5,541	85,003
Net Result	\$ 31,641	\$ 27,258	\$ 9,057

Finally, below is a snapshot of our current cash position by fund:

	December		
	2021	December	Inc/(Dec)
Total Unrestricted (General) Cash			
General Fund	\$ 17,911	\$ 6,073	\$ (11,838)
Give to the Max		22,399	22,399
Employer Retention Credit	-	21,080	21,080
Total General Fund Cash Balance	\$ 17,911	\$ 49,552	\$ 31,641
Total Restricted (Designated) Cash			
Nourishing Hope	21,647	48,905	27,258
Building Improvements	20,733	10,369	(10,364)
Mortgage Reserve	7,126	2,610	(4,516)
Ministry	17,859	22,408	4,550
Technology	9,606	9,606	-
Other	14,189	15,635	1,446
Total Designated Cash	\$ 91,159	\$ 109,533	\$ 18,374

The proceeds from both the Employer Retention Credit (ERC) and the Give to the Max (GM) campaign was a large contributor to the success of our finances. While our general fund is lower than desired (excluding the ERC and GM), we have the ability to potentially invest and grow our money to provide additional cushion should we need it. It also provides us an opportunity to save for any future needs for ministries and/or our building.

One thing I would like everyone to consider. Our mortgage fund is at \$2,610. This is only 1 month of reserve because not enough contributions go to this fund. When considering your 2023 giving, give careful thought to how you would like it distributed. On average, about \$2,200 gets contributed to this fund. When the payment is \$2,640, we fall short each month. An 80/20 split (general/mortgage) should do it!

INTERNAL MINISTRIES

ENGAGE & CONFIRM From TIFFANY DISTAD

Confirmation 2021

Engage & Confirm meets on Wednesday nights at 6p through the school year for those in 5th-9th grade. This season we have 20 kids active in the program. Snacks and drinks are served along with 1 meal a month. Food has been provided through donations from E&C families & OFLC congregation members. Lessons for 7-9th are written & provided by Pastor Aaron while 5th-6th use Sparkhouse lessons and meet with Tiffany & Jody. In 2022/2023 season we began monthly community service projects. Brittni Bronczyk has been helping to coordinate these service projects for all kids in E&C. This year they helped to set up for Fall Fest, put together food boxes, and collected donations for our local Riverworks Food Shelf. The kids also made ornaments for OFLC's Christmas tree and participated in our annual Gingerbread House Competition. We hope you had a chance to vote for your favorite! In Oct we celebrated a Baptism and Confirmation with 10th graders and in Nov the 5th graders received 1st Communion. A big thank you to those who regularly volunteer at E&C - Jim Lupino, Brian Walton, Lisa Barden, Jody Bryant, and Lauren Johnson.

SUNDAY SCHOOL From LINDSAY BERVIG

Winter/Spring 2022:

- Introduced “Kidz Choir” for students interested in singing opportunities above and beyond Sunday School
- Service Project: Made “no sew” fleece blankets for Project Linus
- Celebrated our “graduating” fourth graders moving on to Engage and Confirm
- Recognized Rachel Reed’s last year as the preschool/kindergarten room assistant teacher

Summer 2022:

- Food Truck Party VBS
 - Held August 8-11th at OFLC from 9-11:30 AM
 - 56 registered students in attendance
 - Mixture of Adult/Parent and Confirmation Student volunteers

- Format:
 - Large Group Assembly
 - Crafts
 - Snack/Bible Story
 - Science
 - Recreation
 - Music
- Ended VBS with Family Party that included a food truck, bounce house, and outdoor games/activities

Fall/Winter 2022:

- Resumed Sunday School classes on September 11th, 2022
 - 27 students registered
- Continued weekly lessons using the Sparkhouse Classroom Curriculum
- Food Shelf Service Project:
 - Packaged 133 pounds of snacks/toiletry items to be given to local families via the Riverworks Food Shelf
- Christmas Program: “Twas the Night Before Christmas” was held during the church service on 12/11/22.

Plans for 2023:

- Continue with Sparkhouse Classroom Curriculum
- Sunday School students to help with a Children-Lead Worship on 2/26/22
- Service Project: Making Cards for Seniors (www.giftsforseniors.org)
- Reintroduce Kidz Choir after hiatus during Fall

Summer 2023 VBS: Pets Unleashed: Where Jesus Cares “Fur” You!

MUSIC MINISTRY From TAMMY JARVI

Following a year like 2021 in which we saw a return of in-person music and worship, it has been great to have 2022 be a year of growth and new ventures.

We are so pleased to have been able to have Kirty Coder join us as our accompanist. Her talent, experience and energy have been a real blessing and we are looking forward to her continued contributions to our music ministry!

This past year also saw a growth in choir participation of both adults and youth. It has been wonderful to be able to expand from two-part music to four-part once again and have a great variety of voices of adults and youth! We are hopeful that people of all ages will continue to join us and help us to continue to grow in number as we expand our music varieties as well. One of the most exciting and encouraging things this past year has been people seeking to participate in small groups or do solos on their own. It is indeed a blessing when people share their gifts and enjoy doing it! I pray we continue to see more of this in the coming year too.

The bell choir has been blessed by the addition of one youth and one adult in the past year. Although we are still low in number, our bell choir is blessed to have such talented members who are able to cover several bells and interchange parts the way they do. Although this is extremely challenging, I have very much appreciated their continued participation and dedication to our bell choir and our music ministry. They not only do an outstanding job but make it extremely fun too! We also look forward to continuing our mentoring practices during the summer months to help encourage those who are interested in learning how to play to have the opportunity to do so.

Our new venture in 2022 was the opportunity we provided for people to learn how to play the Ukulele. Our group started out small and saw a little growth as we continued throughout the summer. We have found it to be a little more difficult to continue during the fall season, but I would like to get this group going again during the winter/spring schedule and hopefully participate in a few services too. I am encouraged by the continued interest expressed by people throughout the year.

The youth bells have been a great way for the kids to be able to easily participate in music during services. The 2nd Sunday of each month will continue to be designated as the day they will play. Hoping to expand our youth bell music library this coming year too!

We have continued to be connected with the Presbyterian Church in Rockford with some of their members joining us to sing for the Community Thanksgiving and River Days services as well as the Advent and Lenten services. It has been wonderful to continue to have this opportunity to come together in worship of our amazing God!

It is important to continue to provide all youth and adults the opportunity to participate in various forms of music ministry. I continue to seek out new ways we can continue to do that as music will always be an essential part of our worship and life. I am grateful for the many ways that all of you continue to participate in and support our music ministry and afford us the opportunity to share the musical gifts that God has given us to be a blessing to God and one another!

In Christ's love and grace,

Tammy Jarvi
763-732-8920
tjarvi@cbiz.com

WORSHIP From SUZANNE OTTEN

What was done in 2022?

- We are a small but mighty group of Service Coordinators! We come alongside the members of OFLC and celebrate with you, grieve with you, and worship with you. We're there for the baptisms, the funerals, as well as all of the everyday Worship services, and it warms my heart to be able to worship and commune with you, all my OFLC friends!! The Service Coordinators have one job and one job only – our job is to make sure that every worship service flows smoothly. And if we do our job effectively, that in turn results in meaningful and heart-warming worship being had by all!!

Areas of focus for 2023?

- Like I mentioned above, we are currently a small group. Our focus for 2023 is to recruit additional members to our Service Coordinator family!! Now don't worry – this doesn't need to be a scary thing, we're not asking for a big commitment (in fact, the more of us there are, the lesser the commitment!), and we're not going to just recruit you and then leave you on your own J. I'm envisioning that the first step would be shadowing one of us for a couple of Sunday's just to see what it's all about before making a commitment. And if you do decide to give it a try, we'd make sure that a "seasoned" coordinator is there your first couple of services – just in case you need someone to fall back on!! If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, please reach out to one of us – but don't be surprised if one of us approaches you first J!!

What you celebrate about this ministry and how it has contributed to one or more of the four areas of OFLC's mission: Worship, Learn, Serve, Disciple?

- I celebrate each and every one of the Service Coordinators! We "Serve", that's what we do!! And by doing that, hopefully we're "Discipling" as well (is that even a word J). When tasked with a call, every one of us will raise our hands and say "I'll do it!". I never cease to be amazed by how quickly our signups get filled, how quickly each of us is to step up if a "switch" is needed, and by how flexible we all are. We never know what

we'll be called upon to do when we sign up for a service, but I have no doubt that every one of us will step up and answer the call!!

Any Impact on the larger Rockford-Greenfield community?

- Although Service Coordinating may not impact the larger community directly, whenever there is a community event going on, you can be assured that you'll see some of us Service Coordinators there! We love being able to connect with the greater community and being able to make an impact! Whether it's Trunk or Treat, Crow River Christmas, Community Thanksgiving worship, or any of the other many community events that OFCL hosts or participates in, we're there volunteering and/or participating at them!

BUILDING & MAINTENANCE From JOHN GILB
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2022 was a busy year for our group. We had some major projects that needed attention. The lighting was switched out to LED with all lights now being available. A huge Thank You to Aaron Hunter for getting this done! He saved the church around \$10,000 when compared to quotes I received. 3 furnaces were replaced due to age and safety. Air conditioning was installed to supply the education wing and the large meeting room. The flat roof had some patching done where there were leaks. This may get us by for a few years but we are running out time. All other maintenance was routine. We had a nice turnout for our spring cleaning. We will be doing that again in May. Thanks again to Laurie Jensen for the flower arrangements she has done! We added a tab on our home page for the congregation to use for building issues and suggestions. Check it out.

Now for 2023

There are a lot of things we need to look at. North end decisions must get discussed. At the very least a plan has to be established. There may be some small esthetics we can do to get us through. We would like to spruce up the entry on the north end, and getting quotes for sealing and marking the parking lot.

2023 will be a year of moving ahead. I see great things for OFLC. Amen

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

NOURISHING HOPE STATS From DIANE DORREL

LOCATION	DATE	TOTAL LBS	LBS/PERSON	CARS	NEW	RETURN	TOTAL	0-17	18-64	65+
ROCKFORD	01/10/22			Cancelled						
	02/14/22	9,092	9.7	77	6	71	233	47	109	77
	03/14/22	11,673	11.3	93	7	86	290	74	117	99
	04/11/22	9,362	8.5	108	15	93	349	97	134	118
	05/09/22	15,793	12.2	102	21	81	292	51	115	126
	06/13/22	16,807	14.4	94	16	78	310	84	134	92
	07/11/22	17,198	12.3	116	29	87	393	99	164	130
	08/08/22	22,913	15.1	120	24	96	397	116	154	127
	09/12/22	26,487	19.6	99	11	88	358	95	143	120
	10/10/22	19,593	12.9	127	18	109	421	110	185	126
	11/14/22	16,679	10.8	150	17	133	468	134	196	138
	12/12/22	12,976	8.3	125	10	115	378	108	167	103
TOTALS		178,573	135.1	1,211	174	1,037	3,889	1,015	1,618	1,256

FOUNDATION From BECKY MILLER

The OFLC Foundation went through several changes during the year 2022. Most of them positive! We have a great mix of Directors, coming from multiple experiences, and we are not at a loss of ideas for what we'd like to see accomplished.

We are working on ways to promote the OFLC Foundation and we now have an informative website that includes who we are, what we have done (in terms of disbursements of funds) and an online Grant Application. We encourage you to check it out! We've created a new, colorful brochure providing information on different ways to make donations to the Foundation. We've attended Community Expos, and we provided signage at events we've helped to sponsor. You will be seeing and hearing more about the OFLC Foundation in the coming months.

With sincere appreciation, the Directors want to thank those that made donations to the OFLC Foundation this last year. With the economy being what it is, we took a hit on our

investments, but are encouraged by the generosity of many of you to help the funds grow back.

And last, a huge thank you to some “pillars” of the OFLC Foundation, Mark J. Nelson (12 years and former President), Tom Lemmage (16 years and former treasurer), and Kathy Lunderby (4 + years and former Secretary – please consider this position!). New Directors are welcome!

Submitted by,

Becky Miller

OFLC Foundation President

Directors

Becky Miller – President

Wendy Biorn – Treasurer

Kathy Lunderby – Former Secretary (but we’re looking for a replacement)

Ken Lunderby

Kelly Kinnan

Kelly Roelofs

Kelly Shumacher-Fuller

Lynne Greseth

Kristen Hoyles

Pastor Aaron Fuller – Ex Officio Director/Advisor

FOUNDATION END OF YEAR REPORT:

Our Father's Lutheran Church Foundation		2022 Annual Report
Sum of Checking and Investments 12 31 2021		\$201,068.15
Checking account activity:		
01/01/2022	Balance	\$1,107.95
	Receipts:	
	Membership	\$50.00
	Memorials	\$220.00
	Amazon Smile	\$69.05
	Donations	\$2,295.00
	Transfers from Prudential	\$28,785.18
	Disbursements:	
	Safe Deposit Box	-\$35.00
	Masonic RiverWorks Fund Raiser	-\$2000.00
	OFLC Air Conditioning	-\$25,185.18
	OFLC 50th Anniversary	-\$3,500.00
	Rockford Fire Relief Association	<u>-\$500.00</u>
12/31/2022	Balance	\$1327.00

Prudential:		
01/01/2022	Nancy Varner Fund	\$94,977.30
	Interest Nancy Varner Fund	-\$17,628.05
01/01/2022	Fund #2	\$33,335.82
	Transfers from Fund #2	-\$3,600.00
	Interest Fund #2	-\$6,198.10
01/01/2022	Fund #3 Air Conditioning	\$27,256.90
	Transfers from Fund #3	-\$25,185.18
	Interest Fund #3	<u>-\$2071.72</u>
12/31/2022	Balance	\$100,886.97

Thrivent:		
01/01/2022	Moderate Allocation Fund	\$33,662.24
	Interest Moderate Allocation Fund	-\$5,528.13
	Diverse Income Plus Fund	\$9858.31
	Interest Diverse Income Plus Fund	<u>-\$1,246.10</u>
12/31/2022	Balance	\$36,746.32

Sum of Checking and Investments 12/31/2022 **\$138,960.29**

2010	\$33,031.55	2011	\$34,966.00	2012	\$41,451.64	2013	\$48,034.62
2014	\$51,392.59	2015	\$52,407.33	2016	\$57,324.38	2017	\$65,803.65
2018	\$83,085.67	2019	\$78,184.60	2020	\$170,583.39		

Tom Lemmage Treasurer Our Father's Lutheran Church Foundation

BEDDING MINISTRY From LAURIE HANSON

2022 Love INC Heartland Bedding and Linens

We made 5 visits for bedding requests in 2022. Our requests, in general, have decreased during and since the pandemic. Those 5 families were very appreciative of the connection! We continue to pick up selected bedding donations from Love INC in Delano. Thank you to all who have lovingly donated bedding and linens!

Fresh Start classes at Love INC are held at West Pointe Church in Delano, with neighbors learning about navigating life and faith. We have begun providing simple meals for the group. I'd like to thank Brittni, Lynne Greseth, Korki and John Blodgett and Gail Swanson, as well as those who offered food items, for their involvement. We plan and provide the meal for about 35 people, and serve it on a few Monday late afternoons before class. We participated three times this year and plan to continue this. You will see a sign up genius for this, both for food items and to help serve, and if you can help we would very much love to have you!

We celebrate being in an area network of 28 partner churches. We love when we can connect or reconnect with a neighbor and help with their needs, providing a little love! Love INC Bedding ministry contributes to our OFLC mission to Serve.

The Love INC Thrift stores in Delano and Howard Lake also help in our communities with needed items as well as provide a loving place to connect. Love INC Heartland met 1736 needs in our community in 2022, and recorded 4894 volunteer hours! Love INC is committed to coming alongside our neighbors in need and helping them live their God-given potential.

Yours in Christ,
Laurie Hanson

MEN'S GROUP From DAN REED

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11: 28-30

It often feels easier to go through life just relying on our own strength, our own knowledge, our own resources. Jesus did not travel alone, but gathered with his disciples. As Christian men, we are also called to share our burdens and our gifts. We may not have answers, but there is wisdom from sharing our questions, and strength from working together.

Each of us comes to the men's group with a different perspective, a different set of concerns, and a different place in life. This past year seemed like a return to the normal flow of the men's group, but carrying forward parts of what we learned from the past years. We have been meeting in person with coffee and donuts, but also keeping the online zoom option for those unable to make it in person. We meet on the first and third Saturday of the month, from 7:30am-9:00am with a time for conversation and a time for discussion of God's word in the weekly scripture readings. We may have many differences of opinions, but we all work to support each other and share the conviction that we all need to share the love of Jesus in this world. As men, it can be difficult to faithfully navigate our place in the world. We recognize that people of all ages need to see examples of faithful, male role models.

A few highlights of this year's events:

Retreat at Koronis Ministries on Lake Koronis - Paynesville, MN

March 25-26, 2022

Pastor Aaron led us in a discussion of faith and belief, how these are the same and how they can be very different. We also had time for fellowship and rest, to reconnect with friends and dwell with God.

Service – helping Crow River Breakfast preparations

Saturday, December 3

We helped make pancakes, eggs, and sausage to serve for the community breakfast at Our Father's.

As we look forward to 2023, we invite all to join us for conversation, fellowship, and service.

EVENTS from SHANNON SAND

2022 Events and Looking into 2023:

This past year was an active year of fellowship and reuniting together again post Covid. It was fun to bring back some normalcy, especially on OFLC's 50th Year! The 50th Anniversary Committee was very busy helping plan multiple events throughout the year including a birthday themed brunch in April, a trivia themed brunch in May, and our large Anniversary BBQ event in August with 175 people attending that included former Pastors attending to celebrate. A big thank you to the OFLC Foundation for helping sponsor the August Anniversary event, which allowed us to cater in some amazing food from Big Bore.

In 2023, we hope to continue planning different events that brings both the congregation and community together. Trunk or Treat and Crow River Christmas Market have become signature events we plan and intend for all to attend and enjoy. Many community members have provided feedback that they look forward to these events. In addition, an OFLC Women's Group has been created on Facebook. The page is private and the intent is to share motivational posts, prayer request, God Sightings, and a Book Club has also been created. This is just another way for women at both OFLC and the community can get to know each other and use the opportunity to host something for everyone at home or invite each other to women's retreats or other events they may want to share with the group.

We are also looking at other event opportunities this year that include a parent's night out and a movie night. If you have other ideas for get togethers in our church community, please send me ideas and your planning talents with me at: shannonmsand@yahoo.com

May God Bless you all abundantly in 2023!

-Shannon Sand

GIVE TO THE MAX From AMY FIELD

Match funds earned and goal shattered: Thanks for giving to the MAX!

We asked and you answered...in a BIG way! This year's Give to the Max campaign was an overwhelming success, raising \$21,899. Thank you—sincerely—for making Our Father's a beneficiary of your charitable giving during this exciting state-wide fundraiser.

Just days ago, our goal was to raise \$10k with the help of \$4k in matching funds. When an additional donor stepped up, that number rose to \$6k in matching funds, encouraging us to

increase our overall goal to \$15k, which included the goal of earning all matching funds plus a stretch goal of \$3k. But you had other ideas...generosity overflowed and the donations rolled in, resulting in our most successful Give to the Max fundraiser ever!

This outpouring of financial support means that friends like you believe in Our Fathers' mission to show Christ's love and light to one another. It means you see the positive impact our church has on the surrounding communities. Most importantly, it invigorates all of us to share our joy by inviting others to worship, learn, disciple and serve together in a thriving church that we love. Thanks be to God!

QUILTING/SEWING From GAIL SWANSON

The Quilting/Sewing group had a productive year again.

We completed 7 quilts for Vinland in 2021. Vinland is a drug and alcohol treatment center located in Loretto, and specializing in treating individuals with both addiction and mental health concerns. Each residential client receives a handmade quilt during his/her stay, and these quilts are given to the clients when leaving the program. Vinland's need for quilts is ongoing.

In addition to quilts, our group crafted prayer pillows for each of our youngest Sunday school learners. Each pillow hides a small book of thanks to God to encourage a practice of bedtime prayers.

As with the church as a whole, we each bring our gifts to the table. Some enjoy planning and cutting; others do machine stitching. Some get the quilts sandwiched and tied, and others do the binding. The results are beautiful and useful expressions of warmth and caring. Have an unfinished quilt top lying around? We'll do our best to turn it into a completed item for Vinland. The suggested completed size is 68" X 90" (Xtra long twin). We are also accepting cotton fabric you may have. Most of our quilts are made entirely of donated fabrics.

Come join us if you have an interest in learning or sharing your sewing gifts. All skill levels are welcome.

RIVERWORKS THRIFT STORE VOLUNTEERS From GAIL SWANSON

There's a great opportunity for local volunteer work right in our community. The Riverworks Thrift Store receives mounds of good, usable items. Proceeds from the resale of these items goes to support the Riverworks Food Shelf and other Riverworks programming to strengthen our community. However, it takes lots of hands to sort, tag and hang, or display all of these donated items. And that's where we come in. We work under the direction of in-the-know staff, so it's easy to feel useful almost immediately. Join us for some active conversation and a chance to see how our donated items are used to benefit local and not-so-local (think Haiti) individuals.

To coordinate our volunteer times, you may contact Gail at dgswan00@msn.com. Or communicate directly with Riverworks by calling 763.477.5480.

RIVERWORKS FOOD SHELF From GAIL SWANSON

OFLC has committed to staffing the Riverworks Food Shelf on the 5th Monday of the month. While this does not occur regularly, it does happen several times per year. With just a little training it's easy to assist shoppers as they navigate aisles and choose from the canned goods, fresh produce, baked good, frozen meat, and dairy cases.

In 2022 clients were again able to come in and shop the food aisles as we assisted with the bagging. It's amazing to see the amount and quality of food and hygiene items that are available due to the generosity of our community.

Let me know if you are interested in helping out a few hours on an occasional Monday evening. It's a great way to become involved in your community. Call Gail at 763.242.0351.