

# 2023 Annual Report

Edina Community Lutheran Church • February 4th, 2024

4113 W. 54th St. Edina, MN 55424

Phone: 952-926-3808

[ecclc.org](http://ecclc.org)



This Annual Report represents the joyful, challenging, and inspiring ministry we share at Edina Community Lutheran Church. There is no way to capture everything that transpired. In fact, some of the most powerful moments you experienced might not be found in these reports, written by so many staff, leaders, and volunteers. Important ministries and moments have may have left out. Critical contributions have likely been overlooked. This glimpse into the life of our church is just that, a snapshot of an organic, growing, and mystical communion of people, living out their faith in Christ together. May the story told in these pages inspire you, and it is our prayer that you see yourself in it, because we are the Body of Christ, together. For this, and for all of you, we give thanks!

-- Pastor Anna and Pastor Jeff

We give witness to love and justice  
at God's welcome table and in the world

# Land Acknowledgement

**We acknowledge that Edina Community Lutheran Church is located on the traditional, ancestral and contemporary lands of the Dakhóta Oyáte\*, the Dakota nation. Treaties developed through exploitation and violence were broken. Tribes were forced to exist on ever smaller amounts of land.**

**Acknowledging this painful history, we as a congregation confess our complicity in the theft of Native land and acknowledge that we have not yet honored our treaties. We further confess that Christians and Christian churches have benefited from this land theft. We commit to being active advocates for justice for Native People and to truth telling that leads to healing.**

## Meeting Agenda

### **1. Call Meeting to Order**

*Council President Peter Horstman*

### **2. Opening Prayer**

*Pastor Jeff Sartain*

### **3. Review of Rules of Procedure**

### **4. Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes**

### **5. President's Report**

*Peter Horstman*

### **6. Pastor's Report**

*Pastor Jeff Sartain*

### **7. Deacon's Report**

*Deacon Lauren Morse-Wendt*

### **8. Financial Report**

*Whitney Hansen and John Anthony*

### **9. 2024 Proposed Budget**

*John Anthony*

### **10. Capital Campaign Update**

*Loren Hansen*

### **11. Nominations and Elections**

*Peter Horstman*

### **12. Recognition of Outgoing Leaders**

*Carrie Henning-Smith*

### **13. Closing Prayer**

*Pastor Jeff Sartain*



# 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

**Call meeting to order** – Council President, Liz Peterson - Meeting was called to order by Liz Peterson at 2:02pm.

**Opening Prayer** – Pastor Anna - Pastor Anna Helgen opened the annual meeting with a prayer.

**Land Acknowledgement Statement** - read by Luis Martinez

## **Explanation of procedures for this meeting**

The required quorum of 50 voting members was met to proceed with the annual meeting.

### **A. Floor Procedures**

1. Voting members with a question, issue, or wishing to speak to an item of business, may seek to be recognized using the chat function of the meeting platform. A volunteer monitoring the chat function will keep a list for the chair.
2. The chair will regularly check on those joining by phone to ascertain if they have a question or issue.

### **B. Voting**

1. Voting shall be by hand (by raising a hand). In determining the outcome of a vote, only the yes and no votes shall be counted in determining the total number of votes required for adoption. Abstentions may be recorded, but do not count in the vote total.
2. Those members who are attending by phone will let their representative know what their vote is. The representative will indicate this vote in a private chat to the chair.
3. Those holding proxy votes will indicate in a private chat to the chair, how those votes are being cast. [Note: all the chat comments will be saved, and thus they can be reviewed if there is any question.]

### **C. Miscellaneous**

1. The chair, at any time, may declare a recess of the assembly for purposes of addressing technical issues.
2. All matters not governed by rules of this assembly or by specific assembly action shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, in its most current edition.

**Motion** - Motion made to adopt rules of procedure. Motion seconded and approved.

**Approval of 2022 annual meeting minutes** - There were no amendments to the 2022 annual meeting minutes.

**Motion** – Motion made to approve the meeting minutes from the February 2022 annual meeting. Motion seconded and approved

**Approval of 2022 special congregational meeting minutes (Legacy Fund)** - There were no amendments to the 2022 special congregational meeting minutes.

**Motion** – Motion made to approve the meeting minutes from the November 2022 special congregational meeting for the Legacy Fund. Motion seconded and approved.

The following reports are available within the annual report. Each speaker (below) shared highlights from their report.

- President's Report – Liz Peterson
- Pastor's Report – Pastor Anna Helgen
- Financial Report – Whitney Hansen & Kienan Mick

# 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

## **2023 Proposed Budget – Kienan Mick and Whitney Hansen**

Kienan and Whitney spoke briefly as the financial report was shared online electronically. Highlights from 2022 include: the Capital Campaign, our partnership with Lake Harriet Community Child Care, and the creation of our Legacy Foundation. There were expected cash flow issues which led to the council taking action to stabilize finances. Good news for 2023 is that thanks to annual giving, we have a balanced budget for 2023. Kienan went through the specifics of the budget - see the annual report for more details.

### **Income Highlights:**

- \$50,000 income expected from LHCCC and member pledges up \$50,000 from last year, these both helped much to present a balanced budget.
- 95% of the budget comes from giving and pledges, 4% from LHCCC.

### **Expenses Highlights:**

- Inflation driven \$15,000 increase in expenses for 2023 (supplies, utilities, etc)
- \$300,000 pay down on our mortgage principal from the Capital Campaign has lowered our mortgage and saved us quite a bit

### **Questions and discussion included:**

- decrease/modifications in the Shepherding and Faith Formation Budgets
- building wear and tear expenses from the Childcare Center
- 4% fundraising expense
- Personnel/COLA increase

**Motion** - Motion to approve the proposed 2022 ECLC budget. Motion was seconded and approved

**Capital Campaign** - Kathy Magnus & Loren Hansen

**General Recap:** 1.15 million pledged from 125 households. In the next year, the goal is to reach 1.6 million, with at least 160 households participating. Specific information can be found in the Annual Report.

### **Campaign Components Updates:**

- Debt Reduction - As seen by Kienan's financial report, paying down our mortgage is already having economic benefits for the 2023 budget.
- 10% Tithe - 4 selected non-profit groups have been selected and approved. These groups have already received their first payments.
- Outdoors Space - We have moved forward with buckthorn removal and retaining wall plans. Spring will bring new plantings and ground-breaking for the retaining wall.

## **Nominations and Elections – Liz Peterson**

***\*Names that are bolded & italicized indicate a new nominee for position***

# 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

## 2023 Council of Ministers

**Peter Horstman, President (2023)**

**Carrie Henning-Smith, Vice President (2023)**

Whitney Hansen, Treasurer (2025)

Kathy Krypel, Secretary (2024)

**Chris Johnson, Minister of Adult Faith Formation (2025)**

Sarah Irwin, Minister of Children, Youth, and Families (2025)

## Nominating Committee

(all members serve a one-year term)

**Peter Horstman, Council President**

**Janet Thompson, At-Large Member**

**Rynda Carlis, At-Large Member**

\_\_\_\_\_, Council Member (to be elected by the Council of Ministers)

## Finance Committee

Whitney Hansen, Treasurer (2025)

John Anthony, At-Large Member (2024)

Travis Atkinson, At-Large Member (2024)

**Anna Reding, At-Large Member (2026)**

**Corey Haaland, At-Large Member (2026)**

**Lorraine Hart, At-Large Member (2026)**

**Sarah Broich, Minister of Mission (2026)**

Jonathan Flak, Minister of Properties (2024)

**Rich Weaver, Minister of Shepherding (2024)**

**Linnea Huinker, Minister of Stewardship (2026)**

Meredith Olson, Minister of Welcoming (2024)

Luis Martinez, Minister of Worship, Art, and Music (2025)

Liz Peterson, President Emeritus

## Personnel Committee

**Carrie Henning-Smith, Vice President (2024)**

Rolf Fiebiger, At-Large Member (2024)

Jen Skavnak, At-Large Member (2025)

Stephanie Moscetti, At-Large Member (2025)

**Karen Graham, At-Large Member (2026)**

**Sara Mize, At-Large Member (2026)**

## Legacy Fund Advisory Committee

**John Byom (2027)**

**Jen Thompson (2026)**

**Mark Woell (2028)**

## 2023 Synod Assembly: April 28-29

**Ellen Eliason, At-Large Member**

**Jen Esser, At-Large Member**

**Sarah Danielson, At-Large Member**

**Zach Danielson, Youth Member**

Motion to approve moving Peter Horstman from vice president to president as well as approving the proposed 2023 nominations. Motion was seconded and approved.

**Recognition of Outgoing Leaders** – Peter Horstman, incoming president

Newly elected president Peter Horstman gave thanks to the outgoing council members including:

- Dave Englestand, Carla Carlson, Mary Breen, Sarah Martin

**Closing Prayer** – Pastor Anna

**Adjourn**

**Motion** – Motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:03pm.



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# Minneapolis Area Synod

Bishop Ann Svennungsen

***“Day by day ... they ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the good will of all the people.”***

Acts 2:46-47

Grace, peace, and hope through our Savior, Jesus Christ. In May, we meet for our 2024 Synod Assembly under the theme “With Glad and Generous Hearts.” The phrase describes the early church as they gathered on Pentecost. It is also an appropriate description of the past year of our life and ministry together.

In 2023, our hearts were gladdened by:

- Your congregation, along with the other 136 congregations in our synod, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, nurturing community, and loving neighbors and neighborhoods.
- The privilege of accompanying congregations in 72 Call Processes; presiding at 14 Ordinations and 30 Installations; and walking with 34 people preparing to become pastors or deacons.
- 142 lay leaders and 28 clergy from 31 congregations learning to be church in the 21st century through our Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices intensive learning communities.
- 6,500 people receiving our weekly enews. (Sign up at [mpls-synod.org/sign-up](https://mpls-synod.org/sign-up) to feel more connected.)
- 100s of rostered and lay leaders involved in synod sponsored peer groups, conferences, and retreats.
- 100s of leaders from synod congregations helping pass the state’s “100% Clean Energy By 2040” and “Restore The Vote” legislation that advance both climate justice and racial justice.
- 100s of leaders faithfully serving as Deans, on Synod Council, and Candidacy, Audit, Program Committees.
- 15 gifted and devoted synod staff members: 10 funded by Mission Support from you and other congregations, and 5 funded by Lilly Endowment and other external grants.



We praise God for the congregational generosity that makes all this happen. At the same time, we recognize that mission support from congregations has declined 16% over the past 10 years, resulting in a reduction in synod staff hours. Especially as we prepare to elect a new bishop this spring, we invite you to consider strengthening your support for the future of the synod’s work.

# Minneapolis Area Synod

Bishop Ann Svennungsen

Conference Assemblies are just around the corner: Saturday, February 10, 9:30 a.m. – Noon. Of particular importance will be conference nominations for bishop as well as for voting members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, July 28 - August 2, 2025. We encourage congregations to send the same voting members to both the Conference and Synod Assemblies.

As we look at declining mission support or grieve the closing of a congregation, we can become discouraged. In such moments, I encourage you to listen to a remarkable conversation from our 2023 Synod Assembly. Our keynote speaker, the Rev. Otis Moss III, was asked: “what do you say to those who think the church is dying?” Filled with courage and hope, Moss responded, “the church is not dying, it is being born, refashioned, and remade. The early church was an alternative community. Today we use the metrics of the market to evaluate the church – buildings, budgets, numbers. But, the early church looked at impact: were people hearing the good news of Jesus who lived and died for our salvation? Was suffering being relieved? Were people being welcomed and healed?” ([mpls-synod.org/our-synod/synod-assembly2/2023-synod-assembly-archives](https://mpls-synod.org/our-synod/synod-assembly2/2023-synod-assembly-archives) 4:57:27 of the second day)

Rev. Moss reminds us that we are called to be alternative communities. What might it take to measure our churches by impact? The work of synod leadership is to support the 137 communities and the thousands of leaders who are making an impactful difference in the 21st century: sharing the good news of Jesus, extending radical welcome into beloved community, engaging their neighborhoods in love with justice.

I am filled with both gratitude and sadness as I write this, my final annual report to congregations. I have loved serving as your bishop and am profoundly grateful for this calling. We pray for the year ahead, trusting in the goodness and faithfulness of our God, made known in Jesus Christ.

Bishop Ann Svennungsen





# President's Report

Peter Horstman

This annual report is a celebration of all the things we accomplished together in 2023 and the hard work that went into that by so many of the members of our community. I encourage you to read each section. I have always been impressed by the ability of this community to accomplish so much. It has been my privilege as Council President this year to be a witness to this community's commitment to justice, its generosity, and its optimism for the future. I am reminded of the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand - our "five loaves and two fish" have once again produced an overflowing abundance.

In many ways, 2023 was about building on things that we started in 2022.

- In 2022 we established a Legacy Fund. Now that fund is up and running with invested assets that will support our community's priorities for years to come.
- In 2022, we welcomed Lake Harriet Community Child Care into our space. In 2023, that relationship has continued to grow as LHCCC invested in an outdoor playground for us to share
- Most importantly, in 2022 we started a Capital Campaign to invest in our future by reducing our mortgage debt burden and improving our outdoor space. That campaign is now at its halfway point. In 2023, we used campaign funds to:
  - build a retaining wall that will allow us to complete our vision of a scatter garden and usable outdoor space facing the creek;
  - pay off the smaller of our two mortgages which will reduce our expenses by \$10,000 in 2024; and
  - donate over \$25,000 to our Capital Campaign tithe recipients.

Our work on racial justice in 2023 continues to grow and evolve. Several things stand out for me:

Our committee leaders met in quarterly racial justice forums to develop a framework of how we can build a racial justice mindset into the fabric of who we are as a community.

- JAM camp was a resounding success thanks in no small part to the tremendous efforts of Pastor Anna and Katie Hendrikson. It is hard but fruitful work to collaborate with other congregations from different communities with different racial and economic backgrounds. Our diverse communities worked together to expand and enhance what we accomplished at the first JAM camp in 2022. Not only did the camp bring our communities' children together in fellowship, but thanks to a financial grant from our synod, we have an opportunity for it to grow even more in the future.
- We used our 75th Anniversary, a testament of the longevity and resilience of our community, as opportunity to show our gratitude to the indigenous people who were here long before us and to acknowledge with humility the fact that the ground our church stands on was sacred long before our congregation was a caretaker of it.

# President's Report

Peter Horstman

I am so grateful for the wise and thoughtful leadership of our Council members. Throughout this year, the Council met monthly on the third Tuesday of every month. We worked together to navigate the details of many issues, including cash flow concerns, staffing changes, and the proposed artwork for our outdoor space.

As the memory of the depths of the pandemic starts to fade, I am grateful for a “new normal” as the joyful noises of worship and fellowship and Sunday School have returned to our church on the creek.

I offer my thanks to the congregation, the Council and Executive Committee, and our staff for your efforts in 2023. It has been my honor to serve as the Council President this year.



# Treasurer's Report

Whitney Hansen

At the 2023 Annual Meeting, the congregation approved a balanced budget of \$1,160,000. The Capital Campaign continued in the second year and funded the payoff of one mortgage, continued buckthorn removal on the property, construction of the retaining wall on the south side of the church building, and tithe payments. The Legacy Fund continues to grow and a withdrawal will be used to help fund the annual budget for the first time in 2024. The annual stewardship campaign, the Capital Campaign, and the Legacy Fund provide a solid base for the funding for ECLC in 2024 and beyond.

In the spring of 2023, Clifton Larson Allen LLP performed a detailed corporate and financial audit for ECLC's fiscal years 2021 and 2022. The audit identified the overall good structure and record keeping for the church with a couple minor recommendations for improvement.

Similar to the last few years, cash flow was a concern throughout 2023, but members responded by pre-paying pledges. Monthly finance updates were provided to the congregation in the e-news. At the conclusion of 2023, overall income was slightly more than budget (\$1,169,341 vs \$1,160,000) and expenses were also slightly more than budget (\$1,179,590 vs \$1,160,000). Thanks to the generosity of members, the 2023 budget deficit was \$10,249.

## Leadership Reports

# Treasurer's Report

Whitney Hansen

The Investment Advisory Committee members - John Byom, Jen Thompson, and Mark Woell - recommended the Legacy Fund money be invested in the ELCA Foundation. This recommendation was approved by council and funds were moved into the ELCA Foundation in 2023. As of December 31, 2023, the total fund balance was \$230,182. Four percent of the funds as of September 30, 2023 will be withdrawn for the operating budget in 2024. This \$7600 will help fund many good things in 2024. The Investment Advisory Committee also provided quarterly updates to the council on the fund progress throughout 2023.



The Capital Campaign resulted in significant cash gifts in 2022. In December, \$155,368.51 was used to pay off the principal of the smaller of two mortgages. This will reduce the mortgage payments in 2024 by \$10,000. Additional funds were used to build the retaining wall in on the south side of the church building, continue buckthorn removal on the church property, and pay tithes. Gifts from 2023 will fund the completion of the scatter garden project planned for spring 2024.



Looking towards 2024, the annual pledge campaign was hugely successful and helps ECLC plan for the year with an understanding of anticipated funding. I understand this is a privilege few churches have when planning for the coming year and am grateful for each dollar pledged and given to the church. The 2024 budget is balanced, due to the generosity of members.



A big thank you to the Finance Committee members (Travis Atkinson, Corey Haaland, Lorraine Hart, and Anna Reding). This committee is a joy to work with and provides detailed, thoughtful insights related to the budget and finances of the ECLC community. Also thank you to Kienan Mick, for his service to ECLC and to John Anthony for his quick onboarding to the Director of Finance and Administration role. He has been tireless in learning this role and is diligent in everything he does, from finding ways to save money, to making sure the property is safe for members, to negotiating new insurance for the church. This is a big role and one that John has filled in naturally. We are so lucky to have his leadership. It has been a joy to serve as ECLC's treasurer in 2023.

## Leadership Reports



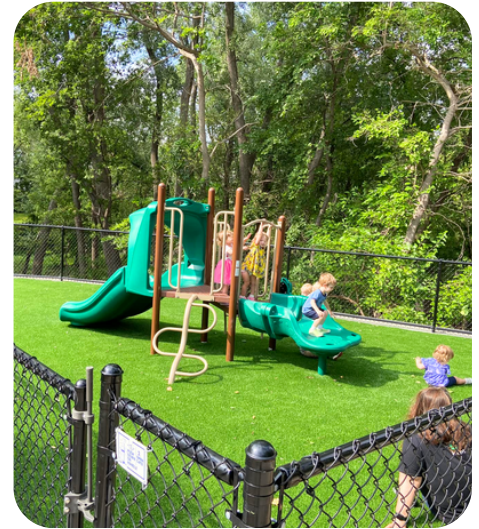
# Secretary's Report

Kathy Krypel

It has been a privilege to act as council secretary and record the Council of Ministers decisions and actions over the last 3 eventful years. Thank you to my colleagues on the council, it has been an honor to serve with you. Here are some notable discussion and decision points from the 2023 ECLC Council of Ministers:

## **Under the strategic plan pillar *Justice*:**

- At the request of the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, we sent a letter in support of the Indian Recovery Act
- Continued the tithe commitment to the four non-profit organizations identified by the Capital Campaign tithe committee:
  - Avenues for Youth
  - Indian Land Tenure Foundation
  - LIRS - Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
  - PPL (Project for Pride in Living)
- Weathered the 'sparkle' controversy with transparent communication with the congregation, and a positive, welcoming response to anyone who reached out.



## **Under the strategic pillar *Capacity and Financial Vitality*:**

- Continued the Capital Campaign with its three areas of focus:
  - Love of God's creation (outdoor space)
  - Mission
  - Decrease mortgage debt – and were able to pay off the smaller mortgage at the end of December 2023
- Approved the investment recommendation of the Legacy Fund Advisory Committee.

## **Under the strategic pillar *Relationships*:**

- Continued our Commitment to our relationship with Lake Harriet Community Child Care by approving and contributing to the building of a playground.
- Reinvigorated our commitment to Children, Youth and Families by endorsing, JAM camp, BWCA trip, and other programs.
- Furthered our commitment to Children, Youth and Families by increasing that leadership role to a full time FTE.
- Recommended and approved the formation of the Creekside Task Force to facilitate the completion of our outdoor space to include an art installation created by Angela Two Stars, a local indigenous artist.

## **Under the strategic pillar *Spirituality*:**

- Continued 'House Church', bible study, and other ways to bring people together outside of worship.
- Approved an Anniversary task force to help create, lead and celebrate ECLC's 75th Anniversary in ways that were true to our core values under the theme 'Sacred Ground'.

# Rostered Leaders

Pastor Anna Helgen & Pastor Jeff Sartain

As we begin a new year of ministry together with you, we are filled with gratitude. The “vital signs” of our church body are strong and indicate good health! Worship attendance is growing. Our giving is strong. Engagement in programs is robust. Volunteerism is increasing. New members are joining. Sunday School is vibrant. Youth programming is expanding.

In addition to the numbers, we see other signs that our commitment to the faith of Jesus is growing. The profound faith reflections from members at our mid-week services demonstrated this, as well as the ongoing, faithful justice ministries that engage so many members, and the individual stories we hear of people going deep in faith and faithful action—both at church and in their daily lives.

As we move into this new year, many of you express your worry and even despair about the state of our country and the world. We know we will need to address this growing concern both with meaningful action and deep reflection. One way we will meet you in this difficult time is to expand our mid-week services. Watch for details about a midweek series of worship services similar to what we do in Advent and Lent but happening around the time of the Presidential election. We want to offer space to root ourselves in eternal promises.

## Sabbatical

The year began with Pastor Jeff’s three-month sabbatical, and the spiritual and joyful ministry of Pastor Mary Pechauer joining Pastor Anna and Deacon Lauren and the rest of the ministry team at ECLC.

## Capital Campaign

As the second year of the Capital Campaign unfolded, we completed the retaining wall and Step One of the outdoor space project and the effort to “decolonize” our property by removing invasive plant species and seeding the ground with native plants. Also, one of our two mortgages was paid off, thanks to God’s abundance and the generosity we share!

## Staff Transitions

In April, we said goodbye to Kienan Mick, ECLC’s former Director of Finance and Administration. We then welcomed ECLC member John Anthony into the role of Business Administrator. In September, Katie Hendrikson increased her time with us to full-time as our Interim Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. We give thanks to the ECLC staff for another wonderful year of shared ministry!



# Rostered Leaders

Pastor Anna Helgen & Pastor Jeff Sartain

## Viral Social Media Attacks

In late June and in the months following, we were thrust into the national news and into the cross hairs of a vitriolic barrage of harassment directed particularly at Pastor Anna but at both of us, Deacon Lauren, the entire staff, and our church in general. Our one-time use of statement of faith that voiced the experience of LGBTQ+ Christians (The Sparkle Creed) unleashed hateful messages toward the LGBTQ community and toward our church because of our commitment to inclusion. The FBI, the Minneapolis Area Synod, leadership of the United Church of Christ, our local police, volunteer “De-escalators”, and the steady support of our Council of Ministers, especially President Peter Horstman and the Executive Committee moved us through hundreds of thousands of attacks via social media, phone, and email. While we were prepared to address it, no actual physical violence occurred despite the threats. Hate emails and phone messages continue, but for the most part this has settled to a “normal” level.



## 75th Anniversary Season

In the fall we celebrated our 75th Anniversary! We remembered the saints who have gone before us—the Native people who first stewarded the land where our church building sits, the charter members who had the courage to start a new congregation, and the countless others who have been inspired by this community of faith through the years. We also looked to the future with imagination and hope for all the ways God will call us to do justice, love kindness, and shape a world where all belong.

The creativity and inspiration held in the theme, Sacred Ground, allowed us an opportunity to page through the history of our church while also looking beyond ourselves. The depth of care, passion, love, concern, lament, and joy woven throughout this season was amazing. We continue to give thanks to Karen Boyum and Dick Patterson and all the volunteers who made this season meaningful.

## Growing Relationships and Community

It is an honor and privilege to walk with you through the joys and sorrows of your lives. To baptize, to bless, to share communion, to preside at weddings and funerals, to lead worship—this is the sacred ground we share as your pastors week after week. Thank you for the ways you support us and support one another—you are the body of Christ!

***“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”***

1 Corinthians 12:12



# Rostered Leaders

Deacon Lauren Morse-Wendt

As I reflect on the joys and challenges of 2023, I am reminded again and again of one thing: God's Calling to community. Both the calling to build relationship between ECLC members and the calling to relationship and justice in the broader neighborhood, region, and world. This intersection of Church and world, of faith and justice, of love and action, are a reflection of God's own relationship with creation. Some of the ways that I saw God through community this year included:

- The joyful PRIDE photos you took as well as the outpouring of love, including showing up in worship, following the hateful attacks directed towards our congregation after our PRIDE celebrations.
- The delight of children honking horns in electric cars while bemused ECLC owners offered tips to adults on eco-friendly transportation options.
- The important adjustment of renaming our sibling congregations Ministry Partners and adding the role of liaison to the Minneapolis Area Synod to accurately reflect that unique relationship, while continuing to celebrate our non-profit Mission Partners.
- The 8 House Churches that gather, including some new "affinity group" House Churches in similar stages of life.
- The creation of Racial Justice Quarterly Forums to increase collaboration and communication between ECLC committees through the lens of anti-racism.
- The community built as a group of readers met over the span of an entire year, reflecting together on the book *Sanctuary: Being Christian in the Wake of Trump* by The Rev. Heidi Neumark.
- The commitment throughout our 75th Anniversary to exploring our relationship with the land and the Native American community who have stewarded it throughout time.
- Building connections through Redeemer's summer parties and St. Paul's-San Pablo's special worship services.
- Our Pre-Trial Fairness Team making Court Watch training available through Minnesota Freedom Fund to show up in support of neighbors in the judicial process.



# Rostered Leaders

Deacon Lauren Morse-Wendt



- Our first border immersion immersed in the challenges and beauty of the community at the U.S.-Mexico border and the work of the Lutheran Church there.
- Your support of my own work on the leadership team of the Assembly of the Diaconia of The Americas and the Caribbean, my continuing education as part of the Leadership on the Way Cohort, and my travel to the Holy Land with the Embodied Women tour.

And, above all, the small ways that each of you follows God's gentle nudge to build community in your neighborhoods and across the world. What an inspiration you all are; thank you for continuing to show me how God is working through you and through the relationships you build!



## ***Thank You, ECLC Staff!***

Paul Andress  
Music Leader

Anna Helgen  
Co-Pastor

John Anthony  
Business Administrator

Katie Hendrikson  
Children, Youth, and Family

Melissa Bergstrom  
Music Leader  
Choir Director

Lisa Macklem  
Office Manager

Isaac Harris  
Custodian

Lauren Morse-Wendt  
Deacon

Jeff Sartain  
Co-Pastor

## Leadership Reports



# Business Administrator

John Anthony

2023 has been a learning experience for me. It takes a lot of behind-the-scenes action to keep a church running.

## Professional Growth

I started my time at ECLC trying to keep my head above water. There was a lot to learn about how the church runs and how its finances work. I also had to relearn some things that I had not done for quite a while. I feel that I have come a very long way and I know that there will also be new learning along the way.

## Property

2023 saw exciting changes to our property with the completion of the outdoor retaining wall project and the addition of the playground. The buckthorn control program along Minnehaha Creek continues. Plans were also started for the completion of the outdoor space including a yet to be determined piece of art by Angela Two Stars.

## Finances

Although there were times throughout the year when finances were tight overall, our financial picture has been quite healthy. I am overwhelmed by the generosity of the members of the congregation. The highlight of the year was the fundraising efforts of the Capital Campaign; those funds allowed ECLC to achieve one of the Capital Campaign goals - paying off one of our mortgages with Thrivent.

My hope for 2024 is we will see continued giving to the Capital Campaign and achieve another goal of paying down the existing mortgage with Thrivent. Additionally, it will be beneficial for the financial health of ECLC to grow the Legacy Fund.



# Membership

Lisa Macklem

## Baptisms

Natalie Klee.....January 22, 2023  
Cora Janney.....April 30, 2023  
Isaac Koslig.....May 21, 2023  
Harrison Dahlgren.....September 17, 2023

## Received into membership:

Katie & Renzo Amaya (Melia, Carina)  
Steve Andersen & Maggie Pastarr  
Shelby Address  
Faith Bloomquist  
Aron & Natalie Dahlgren (Sam, Harry\*)  
Alicia & Chris Goodloe (Gwyneth, Rosalie)  
Daniel Griep & Briana Serjeant  
Karen Hartz  
Amy Hemstad  
Bill & Dianne Holte  
Andrea Janney (Cora\*)  
Becky & Karl Kittelson (Joey, Evelyn)  
Daniel & Ellen LaFontaine (Henry, Jack)  
Bob & Pam Larson  
Elayne Lipp  
Judie Mattison  
Christine Moench  
Amanda Mulfinger & Joshua Shirreffs (Campbell)  
Sandra Nekola  
Ardis & Mark Nelson  
Janet & Mark Okey  
Mary Pechauer & Tom Undlin  
Karl Quilling  
Lisa Slepica  
Teresa Tate  
Lee & John Thomas  
Jeanne & Joe Tongson  
Karen & Philip Wilson  
Kayla Zopfi

\* Received by baptism in 2023

## Deaths

Judy Pett.....February 5, 2023  
Lorraine Bloomquist.....April 16, 2023  
Robbyn Shiell.....June 8, 2023  
Joy Mobarry.....October 2, 2023

## Membership (Active & Inactive)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
2023	892	637
2022	861	623
2021	847	613
2020	869	621
2019	832	613
2018	792	576
2017**	770	556
2016	905	637
2015	879	623
2014	823	590

\*\*Adjustment from periodic review of Inactive Rolls.

## Attendance

The average is based on in-person attendance at Sunday, Holy Week and Christmas services. Online viewings not included. For 2021 the average is estimated based on in-person and viewings of streamed services (which is a difficult number to capture). For 2020 the average is based on attendance from services January 5 – March 8 held at ECLC and March 15-Dec 27 services held online-Facebook and YouTube views.

## Year Average attendance

<b>2023**</b>	210	<b>2018</b>	279
<b>2022*</b>	153	<b>2017**</b>	272
<b>2021</b>	181	<b>2016*</b>	257
<b>2020</b>	282	<b>2015</b>	252
<b>2019</b>	293	<b>2014</b>	266

\* Christmas = Sunday

\*\* Christmas Eve = Sunday

## Leadership Reports



# 75th Anniversary

Karen Boyum and Dick Patterson

***With both celebration and humility ECLC recognizes the 75th Anniversary of the founding of our congregation. In these years as a congregation, we have experienced joy and sorrow, we have supported one another through life's transitions, and we have engaged in acts of social justice that have shaped our congregation and served the needs of the community. We continue to learn how the gospel calls us to follow a radical Jesus and to a faith that both comforts and challenges. We have begun to learn about the land on which we have built our church building, and as part of our 75th Anniversary, we desire to honor this land and its original inhabitants, encourage conversation within the community, and deepen understanding across time and space.***

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the many people who brought Sacred Ground to life. It was a truly collaborative effort by a host of individuals who have graciously shared their time, ideas, and experience to create such a meaningful way to remember and reflect on our congregation's history. Our gratitude extends to the congregation, without whose support these events and experiences would not have been possible. We hope that this milestone will help us appreciate the passion for justice of our forebears and will serve as the inspiration for us all to commit ourselves to the justice work that lies ahead.

The beautiful logo for the 75th Anniversary was created by ECLC member, Luis Martinez. Here is his creative statement that explains his inspiration.



## Sacred Ground

ECLC's 75th Anniversary

“After hearing the Communications Committee's vision for what messages the 75th Anniversary logo design should convey, I decided to explore Minnehaha Creek near the church. I walked by the water on a beautiful sunny day, and it made me realize, once again, how much natural beauty surrounds our church. Like the waters that flow nearby, there's an energy that runs throughout this purposefully abstract design so as to give people the opportunity to assign meaning to the various parts. My interpretation is that the colors are intended to be soft, warm, and welcoming, the swirls at the bottom represent the moving waters with the sun sharing the same motion. Nature connects both parts and crosses over into the sky to show growth. Some people have said they see an egg in the design, which could represent new life, hope and purity. I invite you to find your own meaning, and hope the design captures the significant movement, growth, and connections that ECLC and the community have experienced and achieved over the past 75 years.”

# 75th Anniversary

Karen Boyum and Dick Patterson

## Highlights from the 75th Anniversary Celebration:

We were honored to welcome several Native women who shared messages of truth and healing.

- Brenda Blackhawk, Ho-Chunk, Winnebago (Nebraska)
- Dr. Kelly Sherman Conroy, Oglala Lakota Nation
- Angela Two Stars, Dakota, Sisseton Wahpeton
- Noya Woodrich, Athabascan (Alaska)



Sunday, September 17th kicked off the Anniversary season with an outdoor meal, featuring an Indigenous menu, catered by Chef Andrew from the Mdewakanton Sioux Community. About 250 people enjoyed a beautiful fall day in our transforming outdoor space.

The dream of commissioning a piece of public outdoor art was realized as the leadership committee shepherded a proposal from Angela Two Stars through the Executive Committee and Council for presentation to the congregation. This interactive process will be developed through the first months of 2024 with an anticipated installation during the Fall.

A full schedule of learning, activities, and experiences was provided throughout the Anniversary season. From a Sacred Sites Tour, led by Jim Bear Jacobs, to several hybrid (in person/zoom) learning sessions. Our focus was on the Truth and Healing Movement (ELCA) and conversations with local activists. We came with curiosity and left with more challenges and learning to do.

Two videos and an interactive timeline were produced:

### History Slideshow:

[youtu.be/NPNEG8Db8FU?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/NPNEG8Db8FU?feature=shared)

### ECLC 75th Anniversary Video:

[youtube.com/watch?v=8iu4khRQ7fk](https://youtube.com/watch?v=8iu4khRQ7fk)

# 75th Anniversary

Karen Boyum and Dick Patterson



Research was conducted to determine the status of the church's deed and if there was a racial covenant on the property. We learned that a racial covenant did originally exist on our property and that it had expired. The fact that there is no racial covenant on our property does not erase the harm they caused. Facing our history, which includes the fact that racial covenants existed at one time on the deed for the property we now own, is one step in helping us address the adverse effects on communities of color. This includes stifling

access to wealth, education, policing, safety, neighborhood parks and public transportation – which other communities take for granted.

Our Children, Youth, and Families ministry lifted up Indigenous history and culture through story, song, activities, and discussion.

Our quilters crafted a quilt in honor of the Anniversary. It is made from Native fabric with a Native pattern. It will be gifted to one of our Mission Partners sometime in 2024.

We concluded our Anniversary season with a Festival Worship Service on November 19th, honoring our past and working towards a just and equitable future anchored in the justice Gospel.

As we had done each Sunday, we sang our Anniversary Liturgy:

***“As we stand in the presence of God, we stand on sacred ground.***

***Standing on the shoulders of those who’ve gone before***

***With our future vast and wide, and justice as our guide,***

***how will we honor this sacred ground today and forever more?”***



# 75th Anniversary

Karen Boyum and Dick Patterson

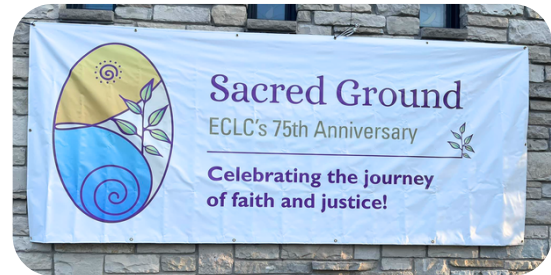
## Committees

\*denotes staff

\*\*denotes Committee Chair

### Leadership Team and Gifts

John Anthony\*      Pastor Jeff Sartain\*  
Karen Boyum\*\*      Dick Patterson\*\*  
Pastor Anna Helgen\*



### Children, Youth and Family

Margot Andress\*\*      Lora Joshi  
Paul Andress      Gretchen Lieving  
Sue Crabtree      Kelsey Rodhe  
Katie Hendrikson\*      Leslie Swiggum  
Sarah Irwin      Meggie Trendera\*\*  
Deb James

*Honoring our land, Indigenous Peoples and ECLC's 75th Anniversary, the Children, Youth, and Family committee engaged our kids in a variety of experiences. Books by Indigenous authors were read. Songs and activities about our sacred water were shared with younger students. Middle and high school youth shared conversations with Mary and Catherine about Indigenous Rights, activism and the original inhabitants of this land. With Sandy they learned more about the history of ECLC using the timeline created for the Anniversary. Of course, we celebrated with cupcakes and sang Happy Birthday to ECLC! Check out the beautiful new books by Indigenous authors in our library.*

*On April 7th, 2024 we are grateful to host an Indigenous Storyteller, Katrina Phillips, a professor at Macalester College.*

### Communications

Dana Easley\*\*      Karl Olson\*\*  
Rita Laker-Ojok      Cate Sullivan, *photography*  
Luis Martinez, *design*

*The Communications Committee created new content as well as disseminated content on behalf of other committees to inform and educate the congregation about scheduled events and activities for the 75th Anniversary celebration. Our season-long calendar was published and a banner was produced for the front of our church building. We are especially grateful for the beautiful and meaningful logo created by Luis Martinez.*





# 75th Anniversary

Karen Boyum and Dick Patterson

## Hospitality

Judy Andersen    Kathy Palmer  
Pat Beaver       Elaine Strom  
Bev Dokken       Jim Strom  
Kay Larsen       Leslie Swiggum  
Liz Liming\*\*      Rich Weaver\*\*  
Meredith Olson

*A special thanks to the host of members who showed up to help with logistics for our September 17th Kick Off Outdoor Meal. An "All are Welcome" event in our outdoor space was enjoyed on a beautiful fall day with over 250 guests partaking in an Indigenous menu provided by Chef Andrew, Mdewakanton Sioux Community caterer. Kay and Judy researched and wrote the stories about Indigenous food showcased on the tables during the event.*

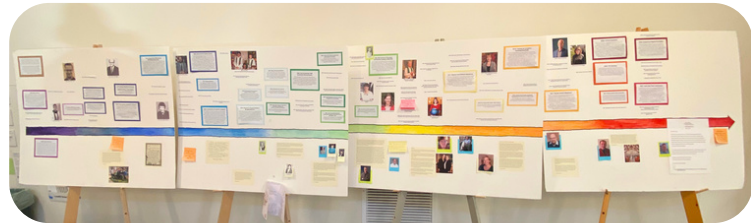
*A reception was held in between worship services on November 19th and signaled the culmination of our Sacred Ground season, a festive service and a celebration of community.*



## Study and Story

Bernie Beaver       Dick Magnus\*\*  
Mary Breen       Catherine Malotky  
Rynda Carlis       Lauren Morse-Wendt\*  
Tom Dokken       Jerry Ritter  
Sandy Heidemann    Eileen Supple\*\*  
Chris Johnson       Mark Swiggum  
Sarah Karlgaard

*The Study group provided seven sessions on different aspects of better getting to know the reality of Native Americans today. Much of the content of those sessions came from the ELCA Truth and Healing website and featured Vance Blackfox, ELCA Director for Indigenous Ministry and Tribal Relations. Catherine coordinated efforts with our Indigenous Rights group. Mark and Chris coordinated our study events with Community Enrichment planning.*



*The Story group included a few projects:*

*ECLC 75th Anniversary timeline (in Fellowship Hall): Written by Sandy with support of the ECLC Archive team (Rynda Carlis, Joan Graham, Kay Larsen), designed by Jerry, and implemented by Jerry, Sandy and Mary.*

*History Slideshow [youtu.be/NPNEG8Db8FU?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/NPNEG8Db8FU?feature=shared)*

*Photo gathering by Tom Dokken, with help of the Archive team, and slide show development by Luke Brandt.*

*ECLC 75th Anniversary video [youtube.com/watch?v=8iu4khRQ7fk](https://youtube.com/watch?v=8iu4khRQ7fk) and the Short Intro video for Community Enrichment [youtube.com/watch?v=sE4bfPtjKKA](https://youtube.com/watch?v=sE4bfPtjKKA)*

*Interviews and story development by Eileen Supple; video editing by Nate Maydole.*

# Adult Faith Formation

Chris Johnson

One way to envision the ministry of Adult Faith Formation is as the multidimensional shape called the Mobius strip. You can make your own easily enough: take a strip of paper, bring the two ends toward each other until the strip nearly forms a circle or loop, give one end a half-twist, and then join the two ends. Holding the strip together with the fingers of one hand (or securing them with a bit of tape), with one finger of the other hand begin to trace what seems to be the outside surface of that strip; as your fingers move suddenly you find yourself on what seems to be the inside surface of the strip. Continue to slide along that “inside” surface and suddenly you’re on the “outside” of the strip. When the author and educator Parker J. Palmer writes about the Mobius strip (in his book *A Hidden Wholeness*) he notes that he has to “keep repeating ‘what seems to be’ because there is no ‘inside’ and ‘outside’ on the Mobius strip – the two apparent sides keep cocreating each other. The mechanics of the Mobius strip are mysterious, but its message is clear: whatever is inside us continually flows outward to help form, or deform, the world – and whatever is outside us continually flows inward to help form, or deform, our lives” (p. 47).

This inner-outer “mobius strip” quality of AFF’s work, in the various sessions offered throughout the year, reflects the continual interplay in our shared and individual lives of, for example:

- spiritual growth and justice-seeking
- learning, reflection, and action
- faith and daily life
- suffering and wonder, ache and awe, brokenness and beauty
- law and gospel, sinner and saint
- where we’ve been and where we’re called to go / who we’ve been and who we’re becoming
- personal, relational, organizational, and systemic realities
- racial justice and gender justice and economic justice and ecological justice.



This shape also represents the mixture of presenters from within the congregation and voices and perspectives from outside ECLC, whether in Sunday morning Community Enrichment sessions between worship services, or at other times during the week. 2023 continued to be a year of “rebooting” as we emerge from the pandemic, as we rediscover what it means to be together onsite and with the kinds of flexibility (and limitations) of Zoom.

Huge thanks go to the members of the Adult Faith Formation planning team: Mary Breen, Jeff Henning-Smith, Jim Olson, Ellie Roscher, Pastor Jeff Sartain, and Susan Weaver. We are deeply grateful for collaborations with others at ECLC, including (but not limited to) the Indigenous Rights and 75th Anniversary committees; several Mission and Ministry Partner liaisons and Deacon Lauren; Children, Youth and Family; EcoFaith; and Worship, Arts, and Music. We always welcome suggestions around topics, presenters, and format – whether Sunday morning Community Enrichment, individual sessions or series, book or film or podcast discussions, experiential learning (field trips, retreats), and the like. And we encourage you to consider becoming part of the team; we’d love to have you with us as together we help to shape the inner-outer flow of life at, and as, ECLC.



# Children, Youth and Family

Sarah Irwin

2023 was a year of steady growth and energy for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry (CYF) at ECLC. We continue to be grateful for the creative and thoughtful leadership of our interim Director of CYF, Katie Hendrikson. She brought new ideas and events in 2023 to our children and youth – 3rd-5th grade Pizza Nights, a Spring Sacrament Saturday focused on Baptism and Communion education, summer opportunities for the elementary grades at Camp Wapo in Amery, WI, a Sunday morning Youth Forum for grades 6-12 youth, and a December Parents-Night-Out – and she also played a huge role in the organization and planning of events like the Advent and Palm Sunday Festivals, Sunday-School led services, and the second annual JAM Camp on June 26th-29th.

JAM Camp was a highlight of the CYF program in 2023, planned and executed in partnership with Redeemer, St Paul's/San Pablo, and Christ the River of Life Churches. We had an even larger number of participants than in 2022, as well as more youth and adult volunteers throughout the week. In addition, ECLC received a Ministry Imagination Grant from the Minneapolis Area Synod to support the continuation of JAM Camp in the coming years!



Summer Programming was also a CYF strength in 2023, with two groups of 1st - 5th graders attending different summer camp programs at Camp Wapo in Amery, WI for the first time. In July, four confirmation age youth and one adult chaperone spent a week together in the Boundary Waters and ECLC members welcomed them back to Wilderness Canoe Base for the 2nd Intergenerational ECLC weekend spent together in the beauty of the North Woods.

In the summer and fall, the 75th Anniversary CYF Committee, led by Margot Andress and Meggie Trendera, worked hard to plan songs, stories, speakers, and activities (through Sunday School programming and Youth Forums) to bring awareness, teach, and connect all ages to the theme of "Sacred Ground".



# Children, Youth and Family

Sarah Irwin



PreK-5th grade Sunday School has been very well-attended throughout the year and led by a committed group of volunteer teachers and leaders. Confirmation meets weekly on Wednesday evenings, and includes a solid group of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, led by Pastor Anna and Katie.

We have been happy to welcome more youth leadership in worship throughout the year, with our young people serving as musicians, readers, assisting ministers, and even occasionally as acolytes!

The 2023 CYF Ministry Team included Megan and Luke Brandt, Jen Esser, Sandy Heidemann, Pastor Anna Helgen, Katie Hendrikson, Jeff Henning-Smith, and Sarah Irwin. The team meets quarterly to review, discuss, and dream about how CYF Ministry is and could be manifested now and into the future at ECLC. In 2023, the group requested that the Council of Ministers increase the Director of CYF position from part-time to full-time, and this change was approved and began Sept 1st, 2023. The team is open to all! If you have interest in joining in 2024, please contact Sarah Irwin, Minister of Children, Youth, and Family.



## Ministry Reports



# Connection and Care (Shepherding)

Rich Weaver

*\*Connection and Care is formerly known as “Shepherding.” This new name will become official at a future congregational meeting when the bylaws are updated.*

We are continuing to get back to normal after COVID. We had so many ECLCers help provide connection and care this year that to offer thanks to people risks leaving someone out, and I wish to apologize in advance to anyone who is not named here.

During Lent and Advent, we had simple soup suppers prior to Wednesday services – the soups were commercially prepared that we heated and served thanks to MANY volunteers. We were especially happy to have the energy of youth in the kitchen – kitchen volunteering is a wonderful multi-generational activity! Funeral receptions were attractively presented thanks to Karen Boyum’s leadership and her team of helpers.

In June, we had Neighborhood Parties hosted by Bernie & Pat Beaver, John Byom & Eileen Supple, Larry & DeeDee Edlund, Phil & Ruth Edstrom, Anne & Joe Lindell, Susan & Rich Weaver, and Steph Rollag Yoon & Pat Yoon. In August, we had an Ice Cream Social in collaboration with the Welcoming Committee and EcoFaith groups. This was on one of the hottest days, so ice cream moved indoors and we give thanks to all who displayed their electric cars in the east parking lot along with an opportunity to make stepping stones for the pollinator garden.



The ECLC 75th Anniversary provided an opportunity for hospitality with a congregational meal and a special Sunday celebration with cake and coffee – special thanks to Liz Liming for her leadership and dozens of volunteers who helped with this event. The fellowship of Bible Study lunches also returned thanks to Ruth Edstrom and her team.



This past year we had so MANY people helping that the list of names would go on forever – but special thanks go to Karen Boyum for her leadership, Johnny Bosiacki for writing Soup Supper procedures, and people who were always ready to step in and help (Judy Andersen, Rynda Carlis, Bev and Tom Dokken, Erika LaDousa, Kay Larsen, Kathy Palmer, and MANY, MANY MORE). It has been wonderful to be surrounded by all the volunteers that make these events possible!

# Creekside Task Force

Bernie Beaver and Cheryl Persigehl



Earlier in 2023 we received a proposal to complete the installation of brick pavers from the contractor who built the retaining wall. The proposal was for \$45,000. The Creekside Task Force has met to discuss some minor design changes but have not finalized the design as we wait for Angela Two Stars to provide a plan for her art piece which we expect in February. We then can submit a final design to the contractor for a final bid. We are in the process of finding another contractor for a competitive bid.

We are working with a plan to spend up to \$45,000 for the completion and understand that those funds will be available. This amount is in addition to the cost of the Two Stars art piece.

**Jan 21st** - Hosted community engagement experience

**Feb/Mar** - Present initial design to task force for input and approval

**Apr/May** - Secure cost estimates and present final design to task force for approval

**Jun/July** - Fabricate public art

**Aug/Sep** - Install public art



# EcoFaith

Larry Edlund

The EcoFaith team had another busy year. In January we hosted a solar house party during community enrichment. Buff Grace from Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (a climate justice organization and an ECLC mission partner) gave a presentation on the benefits of solar panels and solar energy.

April 22nd, in conjunction with Earth Day, we hosted an e-cycling event in our parking lot. We partnered with an electronics recycling company to collect unwanted electronics – from stereos to vacuum cleaners – mostly cell phones, tablets and computers. We filled three large bins with the large items and small items went into the representatives car. For some items there was no cost but some there was a nominal cost. The partner company ran charge cards for \$285.00 and donated back to ECLC \$142.50. Look for this recycling opportunity this year too.



Earth Day community enrichment on April 23rd was a presentation by Elaine Strom on native plants and their benefits to the environment.

May 21st was the ECLC adopt-a-park clean-up day. Again it was a big success led by Jeff Henning-Smith. Thanks to all who participated this year.

EcoFaith team members also coordinated the watering, weeding and landscaping of the gardens and the landscape areas around the church.



In partnership with the Ice Cream Social August 23rd, we hosted an EV and EV hybrid car show. We had 10 congregation members show their cars and were available to answer questions. We also had a station for making cement stepping stones for the bee garden in front of the church – 7 artistic stepping stones were made.

# EcoFaith

Larry Edlund



During community enrichment for our October 1st green Sunday, we had portable easel listing 4 simple climate justice actions and asked families to indicate which ones they did. A) turning off the water while brushing teeth B) turning off lights when leaving a room C) composting food scraps D) participate in an adopt-a-drain program. Wow – 32 households did the first three and 30 households participated in the fourth.

We promoted composting and using the church compost bin in the e-news and on Facebook.

We continued to work on our goals for MNIPL Climate Justice Congregation certification. Our big program this spring will be Rise and Repair. Watch for information coming out soon. The program will lead up to a rally at the state capitol on March 12th.

If you have a passion for climate justice, we would love to have you join us. We are looking for team members of all ages (junior high school, high school, college, working adults and retired adults). Contact Larry Edlund at [lwedlund@comcast.net](mailto:lwedlund@comcast.net).



# Indigenous Rights

Catherine Malotky

The Indigenous Rights group had a busy year in 2023, hoping to build on what we learned in 2022. There were four opportunities “off campus” for ECLC members to deepen their commitment to our Land Acknowledgment:

- June 17th: Nearly 30 people car pooled to Morton, in Southwestern Minnesota, to spend the day at the Lower Sioux Agency (pivotal location for understanding the U.S. Dakota War of 1862) and learn from Rev. John Robertson, the Site Manager. The Lower Sioux Community co-manages the site with the Minnesota Historical Society.
- August 19th: 34 people signed up to go to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community’s Wacipi in Shakopee, a feast of contemporary Dakota culture.
- October 7th: Just under 30 people participated in a Sacred Sites Tour, led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs. He told stories that inhabit Pilot Knob (a traditional Dakota burial ground), and Fort Snelling State Park, especially the site of the concentration camp where Dakota women, children, and elders were held over the winter of ’62-63 until they could be shipped out of Minnesota following the federal Dakota Expulsion Act of March 1863.
- December 19th: Two groups of ECLC members toured the “In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890 to Now” exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts with docent and ECLC member Pat Beaver. We really did get to look through Native eyes!



# Indigenous Rights

Catherine Malotky

Internally, our 75th Anniversary fall season was flavored by Indigenous issues, sometimes literally (how about that Dakota Bowl at the kickoff dinner?!). Nearly 270 chairs were filled in the course of those two months, members including youth learning about Indigenous history and contemporary culture, and thinking about how we might respond meaningfully to the deeply damaged relationship we have inherited. A generous response (over \$2000) to the 2023 Thanksgiving Offering will support a MIGIZI program that sponsors urban native youth for wilderness immersion, specifically, canoe trips out of Wilderness Canoe Base at the end of the Gunflint Trail. In addition, a portion of our Capital Campaign Tithe was sent to the Indian Land Tenure Foundation last January and will be again in 2024.



We are deeply grateful for ECLC's openness to living into our Land Acknowledgement. Our team continues to learn and grow, and we hope our work is doing the same for you!



# Mission

Sarah Broich

This was my first year as chair of the mission committee and it has been an honor to take on this role and be part of such a dedicated, thoughtful group with a strong commitment to justice. We welcomed two new members to the committee this year, Karen Boyum and Sarah Iverson, and we were grateful for the continued service of Luke Brandt, Adele Mehta, Doris Pagelkopf, and Chad Reding.

This year we added a liaison for the Minneapolis Area Synod and made a small but meaningful wording change in how we talk about our partners. Instead of Mission Partners, we now have Mission & Ministry Partners! Mission Partners are non-profit partners; Ministry Partners are sibling congregations and the Minneapolis Area Synod. We recognized the difference in relationship with our sibling congregations and synod office from our non-profit partners. We felt a distinct name would help honor that difference.

The mission committee met monthly throughout the year and appreciated several of the liaisons joining our meetings to share updates and information about the mission/ministry partner they were working with. We also implemented a practice of spending some time at each meeting reflecting on the white supremacy culture characteristics, choosing one characteristic to focus on each meeting and sharing thoughts and reflections with each other.

We were able to host two trainings for our mission and ministry partner liaisons this year. In February, our mid-year training that we had hoped to hold in person pivoted to zoom due to weather but we were still able to engage in productive conversations and share ideas both in a large group and in zoom breakout rooms. We were thrilled to host our fall liaison training in person at ECLC in October. There was a fantastic turnout with nearly all the new liaisons able to attend. The training allowed space for learning, idea sharing, planning, and reflection. It was a fun and energizing time together!

A total of \$135,355.81 was distributed to mission and ministry partners in 2023. Decisions were made based on critical need, special requests, opportunities to deepen partner relationships, and alignment with the ECLC mission and vision statements. The chart on page 28 shows more information about how the funds were distributed.

We are incredibly grateful for all the efforts of our Mission and Ministry Partner liaisons over the past year. See mission partner details at <https://www.eclc.org/mission-partners>. The liaisons have found many ways to deepen the relationships we have with each partner, and we are also thankful to everyone in our ECLC community who contributed to these relationships through prayer, advocacy, service, learning, and giving.



## Ministry Reports

# Mission

Mission Partners	2023 Payment (\$)
Avenues for Youth <sup>^</sup>	1,750
Beacon Interfaith Housing	2,500
Bright Star of Bethlehem	2,500
Community Emergency Services+	4,624.95
Every Meal	3,350
Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries	1,500
Loaves and Fishes - Minneapolis+	7,628.01
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services <sup>^</sup>	1,500
Lutheran World Relief*	4,213.80
Meals on Wheels	2,500
Minnesota Freedom Fund	2,500
Minnesota Interfaith Coalition on Immigration	2,500
Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light	2,500
Miscellaneous Giving%	2,596.35
Mission Expenses	1,513.21
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Minnesota	2,500
Protect Minnesota	1,500
Reconciling Works	2,500
Redeemer Center for Life	3,500
Senior Community Services	1,500
Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP)	1,500

<sup>^</sup> Will also receive Capital Campaign Tithe

\* Includes Special Offering - Lent

# Includes Special Offering - Easter

+ Includes Special Offering - Christmas

% Includes MIGIZI and Edina Coalition of Grief

Ministry Partners	2023 Payment (\$)
Cristo de Paz	4,800
Cristo de Paz - Scholarships	20,451
Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA	35,633.73
Redeemer Lutheran Church	7,000
St. Paul's Lutheran Church#	10,794.76

**Total Payments to Mission and Ministry Partners**

**\$135,355.81**

## Ministry Reports



# Pretrial Fairness

Camilla Madson

As people of faith, compelled by the liberating message of the gospel, we feel called to respond to the breach in God's community created by the cash bail system. The goal of the Pretrial Fairness Team (formerly known as Cash Bail) is to further the justice work of ECLC by addressing the systemic inequities of pretrial detention. We frequently partner with ECLC's Mission Partner, Minnesota Freedom Fund (MFF).

Our primary activities involve education and advocacy, which in 2023 included:

- “Cash Bail” educational sessions – Hosted a two-part series via Zoom about the harms of cash bail, with an update on reform efforts in Minnesota and beyond.
- Expanded Pretrial Fairness page on ECLC website to include articles, videos, and links that explain how cash bail works, who it harms, who it benefits, the need for public safety, and alternatives to money bail. See <https://www.eclc.org/pretrial-fairness>
- Court Watch Training and Participation – Hosted Court Watch training by MFF and participated in Court Watch at Hennepin and Ramsey County courts
- Initiated “Legislative Advocacy 101” session with LSS scheduled for January 25th, 2024 at ECLC
- Clothing drive – Collected mittens, hats, and gloves for people being bailed out.
- Jewelry sale fundraiser – Sold jewelry made by the late Robyn Shiell whose wish was to have her jewelry sold as a fundraiser for MFF.
- Community Enrichment Session – Team members shared why we care about the issue of money bail
- Hosted ECLC vigils with speakers on cash bail
- Attended screening of “The Courtroom” hosted by MFF, a film about an actual court case of a woman at risk of deportation.



## Ministry Reports

# Quilting

Rynda N. Carlis

ECLC's quilting ministry joyfully continues its textile-related work to support Lutheran World Relief (LWR) as well as local concerns. Group members met 26 times during the year to pin and tie quilt tops sewn at home. Attendance ranged from 10 to 19 with an average of 13.1 quilters, up from 10.7 last year. Fellowship time was always included and enjoyed.

Highlights from 2023 include:

- Blessing of 46 quilts in worship on January 8th. Thirty-six quilts were donated to LWR. One quilt was given to an asylum-seeking family sponsored by ACT-TC.
- Donation of hats, mittens, and scarves to Minnesota Freedom Fund in January.
- Meeting with Emma Wagner, LWR Congregational Engagement Coordinator, in January.
- Celebrating National Quilting Day in March. Quilting games and pizza lunch were included.
- Donation of two quilts in June to an asylum-seeking family sponsored by ACT-TC.
- Blessing of 42 quilts in worship on June 11th. The quilts were donated to LWR.
- Compilation of a photo book about the 20+ year history of the ECLC quilting ministry. (Copy available in ECLC Library).



- Sewing of 26 holiday stockings for 66 West. Hot chocolate packets, hand-warmers, journals, pens, socks, and Target gift cards were put in the stockings.
- Donation of hats, market bags, bowl cozies, and more by quilters to the December 17th Alternate Giving Market. \$1,204 was raised that day with some of the funds used to cover items purchased for the holiday stockings. The remainder will be used for future 66 West projects.

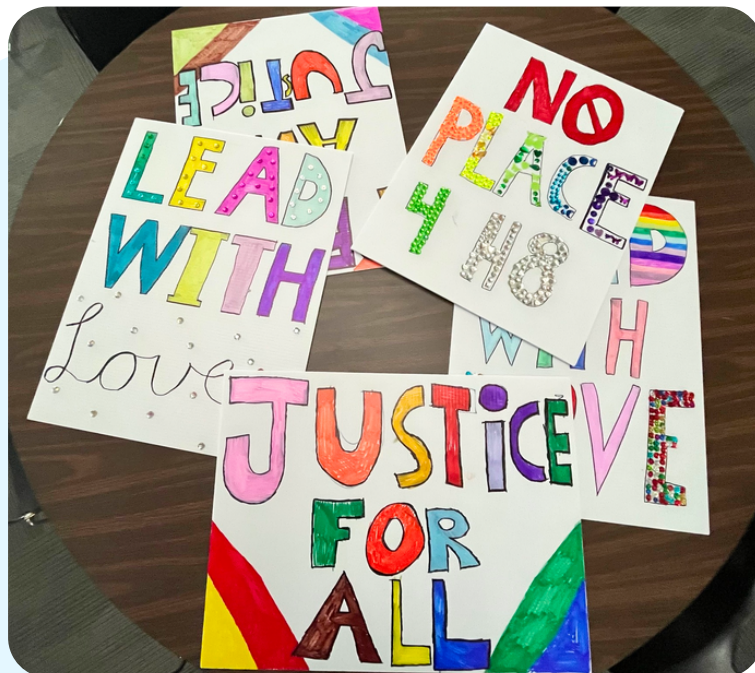
Hands-on work is fulfilling. Making something to help others supplies a purpose, doing so in a group builds community. ECLC quilters value all aspects of this ministry.



# Racial Justice

Mark Woell

ECLC continues to have a strong commitment to racial justice. 2023 marked a return to more normal operations for the Racial Justice Vision Committee (RJVC). The 2023 edition of the RJVC included members Carla Carlson, Sarah Danielson, Adam Dehnel, Kirsten Horstman, Meggie Trendera, and Mark Woell as well as staff liaison Lauren Morse-Wendt. This year we hosted quarterly racial justice forums where we gathered representatives from ECLC's committees and small groups focused on racial justice and equity initiatives as well as staff and council members. The idea was to build upon the work of past years, which was focused more on education, awareness, and advocacy, and create a collaborative body to promote anti-racist systems and structures within our Church and community.



Each quarter we brought these representatives together over a meal prepared by a BIPOC business. At the meetings, we learned about the many ways each group was engaging and interacting as teams and in their communities to promote racial equity and inclusion. In our final forum we celebrated the many activities our racial justice groups hosted and came up with a list of at least 52 unique events, highlighting the many opportunities members of ECLC have to live out their commitment to racial justice through vigils, JAM Camp, justice-focused field trips, support of partner congregations and Mission Partners to name just a few.



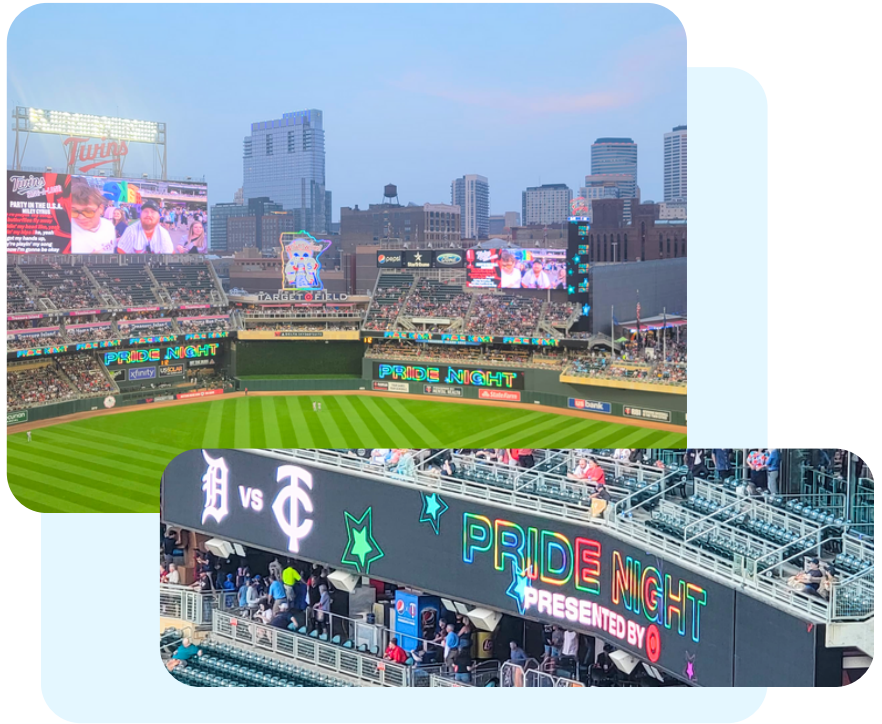
As a community of faith, our commitment to racial justice remains strong. It was refreshing to be actively using our building to host meetings and to be back out in the community on a regular basis. We look forward exploring new ways to make a difference as we welcome new members to the RJVC and the quarterly forums in 2024.



# Reconciling in Christ

Deacon Lauren Morse-Wendt

As a long term Reconciling in Christ congregation committed to affirming and celebrating persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities, we recognize it is important to continue to lift up this value and to recognize our own growing edges. Especially given the hateful responses we received following the use of the queer-written Sparkle Creed in a worship service, it is evident how essential celebrating God's diverse creation remains...and the importance of accompanying the queer community within ECLC.



This year, our team (founded in 2022)'s ministry included:

- Hosting a Community Enrichment with a panel of members discussing their own experience of gender and reflecting on the broader topic of gender fluidity
- Organizing a PRIDE photo wall during PRIDE month and taking dozens of joyful, celebratory photos of ECLCers (featured on the back page)
- Distributed pronoun stickers to worshippers as we commemorated National Coming Out Day
- Inviting "What Pride Means to Me" reflections from members
- Gathering ECLC's LGBT & Friends for soup suppers

# Stewardship

Linnea Huinker

This year for our annual Stewardship Campaign, we built upon the strength of the theme which was utilized for our congregation's 75th Anniversary: Sacred Ground. We honor the past and current members who have formed our congregation to be the vibrant place it is today, and we give thanks to those commitments made for the upcoming year, so we can continue to be a vibrant and mission driven church.

Our Stewardship campaign began after the 75th Anniversary celebrations and lasted roughly 6 weeks from the beginning of November through mid-December. We planned brief Stewardship moments during both Sunday worship services to hear from long-standing and new members sharing why they choose to make commitments of giving to ECLC. Many of these Stewardship moments were linked in the Wednesday e-news for broader distribution in an effort to encourage response of the commitment forms.

We set a goal of hearing from 250 households during our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, which is about 90% of our congregation. We ended the year with 145 commitments, which totaled \$704,166 which was an increase of \$58,932 over their 2023 commitments. There is an additional \$212,000 from 75 households on automated giving. We continue to receive pledges as the 2024 year begins. ECLC is grateful for all gifts, no matter the size, as they have a collective impact. These commitments in advance of the upcoming year, allow our finance committee to be able to plan our budget for a successful 2024. Thank you to these individuals who helped support the Stewardship Committee: John Anthony, Joe Lindell, Catherine Malotky, Judie Mattison, and Pastor Jeff Sartain.

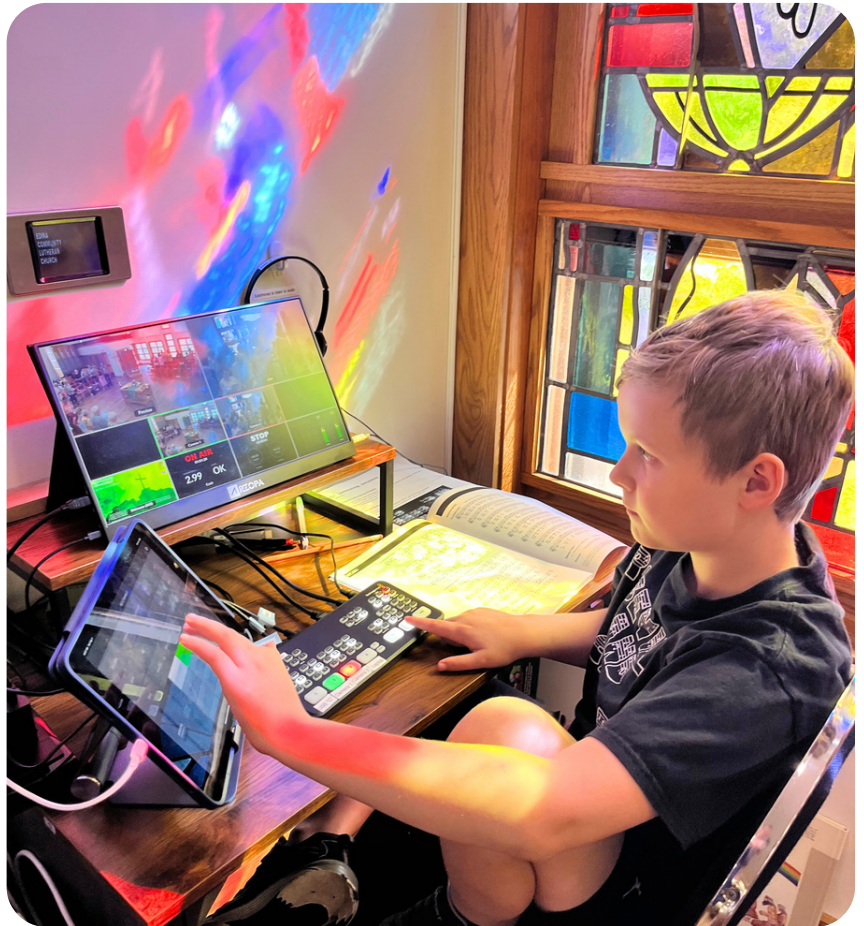




# Web Presence

Ryan Peterson

In the wake of the attention received following the Sparkle Creed, the pastors convened a task force of members, including Claire and Todd Harper, Luis Martinez, Ryan Peterson, and Eileen Supple to examine and intentionally consider the manner in which ECLC represents itself and broadcasts its message through its website and social media channels. What began nominally as the “Web-Presence Task Force” has blossomed into thoughtful discussion of the church’s need for audio/video technical assistance during Sunday worship and other events, more formal decision making for content and style decisions around the website, and technical support for the pastors and other personnel on an on-going basis.



The task force hopes to make concrete recommendations to the Council no later than this spring to address those issues. Some of the solutions may include better defining job descriptions to assume duties that had previously been handled informally and creating an informal group of members with technical know-how to consider church requirements for hardware and/or software issue. There is also conversation around contracting an A/V specialist with the responsibility for dealing with audio/video issues that arise during worship.



# Welcoming

Meredith Olson



The Welcoming Committee at ECLC exists to welcome new and prospective members into the life of the congregation.

We started off 2023 with a social afternoon at Wooden Hill Brewery for all new and newer members who have joined over the past couple of years. This casual afternoon gathering was well attended with new members of all ages and backgrounds!

Our committee partnered again this year with the Shepherding Committee to host an ice cream social at the end of summer. The EcoFaith team arranged for multiple EVs to be on display at this event as well; which was a hit with attendees, adults and kids alike.

We have enjoyed many opportunities to get to know prospective members at ECLC 101 gatherings online and in person throughout the year; including at a recent soup supper gathering so well attended that we ran out of chairs!

New members were most recently welcomed into the congregation in December. It's energizing to continue to see new faces at worship and meet new friends as our church community grows.



## Ministry Reports

# Worship, Arts and Music

Luis Martinez

2023 was an exciting year for the Worship, Arts and Music Committee. We continued to focus on improving parishioner's experiences, touchpoints and enhancing engagement where possible through the aspects of music, art and worship. Our goal for the committee is to see each of these important components become more intertwined to both encourage curiosity and interest in our fellow members in small ways that combine to make a larger impact within the ECLC community. Our efforts have resulted in new discussions, interaction and increased membership in church groups. Some of the highlights we assisted with and completed this year were:

- **A Day in the Life of...**

- Led by Naomi Wren and Pastor Anna, this was a very successful project with 11 groups being highlighted in ECLC enews. At least four groups had new members join after being featured. We hope to revisit this in the spring with a slightly different updated format.

- **Creation Glass Etchings**

- The glass etchings were reintroduced during the children's message in October and Jim Strom finished crafting a custom wooden holder for flyers that further detail the artwork. Dan Mason assisted with writing the explanations of the art.



- **Bless/Recognize Committees**

- Throughout the 75th Anniversary year, we made an effort to formally recognize a variety of groups during worship service such as rostered leaders, presidents, council members and children, youth and family volunteers. Additionally, several other groups were recognized as well- quilters, new council members, and more.

- **Claire and Jerry Ritter Art Show**

- Led by Dan Mason, the Claire and Jerry Ritter art show was on display from late March until mid-June 2023. The 16 pieces throughout the church prompted discussion and livened up many different areas of the church.





# Worship, Art, and Music

Luis Martinez



- **Active recruiting of Choir members**

- Cindi Quehl worked directly with Melissa Bergstrom to encourage church members to join the choir and recruited several new singers.

- **Communion Distribution**

- In March, we reverted back to communion distribution as we had pre-pandemic. In addition, there were slight changes to directional wording and volunteer instructions to better include people who may be watching via livestream.

## 2024 Planned Projects

- Communion Tray Replacement
- ECLC Bulletin Redesign
- Bless/Recognize Committees (part 2)
- Community Art Show
- A Day in the Life of... (part 2)

All of our projects would not have been possible without the WAM group members - Pastor Anna Helgen, Dan Mason, Steve Obaid, Cindi Quehl, and Naomi Wren. All of their feedback was essential in these projects and they continually provided helpful ideas and led many of the efforts. We hope that the WAM committee has been able to enhance parishioners' experience in different ways throughout the year, and look forward to next year!

Thank you!





# Capital Campaign

Loren Hansen and Kathy Magnus

See What Yes Can Do! - our three-year Capital Campaign, is now in its second year. We've made good progress toward our goals.

- We dedicated and celebrated our new Creekside outdoor gathering space on Sunday, June 11th.
- In May and June, we highlighted the ministries of our four mission tithe recipients during worship. For 2023, we will be able to tithe at least \$25,860 to those organizations.
- Our monthly mortgage payments have been reduced by \$2,404 per month since December of 2022, and will be reduced even further when the loan is re-amortized as allowed once each year.



As we are now in the second year of our three-year campaign, we invite you to join with the 134 ECLC households who are supporting this effort, in addition to their annual ministry contributions. Together, they have pledged \$1,146,969 toward our Foundational Goal of \$1.6M and a participation goal of at least 160 households by the end of 2025. And we are happy to report that so far, our actual receipts have exceeded the pledged amounts! Your participation matters still matters! Pledges range from \$10 per week to \$100,000 over three years.

We pray that you will seriously consider joining the Capital Campaign as we strive to ensure the long term financial health of ECLC.

- A weekly pledge for the next 104 weeks (over the next 2 years)
- A monthly pledge for the next 24 months
- An annual pledge for the next 2 years
- A one-time gift

To learn more please reach out to Loren Hansen, Kathy Magnus, or the pastors.

# Budget

## EDINA COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2024 Budget

	2023 Budget	Actuals 2023	2024 Budget	Change %
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,160,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,169,341.20</b>	<b>\$ 1,181,796.00</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
DEFERRED REVENUE	\$ 113,338.00	\$ 112,137.82	\$ 32,294.00	-71.5%
Prior Year Income	\$ 113,338.00	\$ 112,137.82	\$ 32,294.00	-71.5%
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 62,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,728.36</b>	<b>\$ 66,151.00</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
LHCCC	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 47,479.01	\$ 52,000.00	4.0%
Space Rental	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,220.00	\$ 1,500.00	0.0%
Legacy Fund Income	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ 7,651.00	-4.4%
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,029.35	\$ 5,000.00	66.7%
<b>OFFERINGS</b>	<b>\$ 984,162.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,004,475.02</b>	<b>\$ 1,083,351.00</b>	<b>10.1%</b>
Member Offerings	\$ 956,662.00	\$ 992,958.12	\$ 1,067,851.00	11.6%
Non-Member Offerings	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 11,263.22	\$ 15,000.00	-40.0%
Miscellaneous Giving	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 253.68	\$ 500.00	-80.0%
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$ 1,160,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,179,590.10</b>	<b>\$ 1,181,796.00</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
<b>PHYSICAL PLANT</b>	<b>\$ 226,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 237,705.36</b>	<b>\$ 225,175.00</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>
<b>PROPERTIES</b>	<b>\$ 92,440.00</b>	<b>\$ 103,153.86</b>	<b>\$ 97,940.00</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
Building Maintenance	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 43,675.28	\$ 43,000.00	4.9%
Utilities	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 41,904.99	\$ 42,000.00	12.0%
Outdoor Maintenance	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 12,631.76	\$ 8,000.00	-11.1%
Special Assessment	\$ 4,940.00	\$ 4,941.83	\$ 4,940.00	0.0%
<b>MORTGAGE / INSURANCE</b>	<b>\$ 133,560.00</b>	<b>\$ 134,551.50</b>	<b>\$ 127,235.00</b>	<b>-4.7%</b>
Insurance: WC/Liability/Property	\$ 15,120.00	\$ 16,111.50	\$ 18,815.00	24.4%
Mortgage & Interest	\$ 118,440.00	\$ 118,440.00	\$ 108,420.00	-8.5%
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	<b>\$ 737,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 726,381.02</b>	<b>\$ 746,971.00</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<b>OUTREACH</b>	<b>\$ 103,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 98,218.49</b>	<b>\$ 106,100.00</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>MISSION: SMALL GROUPS</b>	<b>\$ 2,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 917.58</b>	<b>\$ 2,100.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Quilting	\$ 800.00	\$ 653.68	\$ 800.00	0.0%
EcoFaith	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	0.0%
Racial Justice	\$ 500.00	\$ 254.10	\$ 500.00	0.0%
Reconciling in Christ	\$ 100.00	\$ 9.80	\$ 100.00	0.0%
Immigration Task Force	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	0.0%
<b>MISSION</b>	<b>\$ 65,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 62,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 67,000.00</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
Mission Committee	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 57,000.00	3.6%
Sibling Congregations	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	0.0%
<b>SYNOD SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$ 35,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 35,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,000.00</b>	<b>2.9%</b>
Mpls. Area Synod	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 36,000.00	2.9%
<b>NEW MEMBERS</b>	<b>\$ 1,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 300.91</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>-28.6%</b>
Welcoming	\$ 800.00	\$ 300.91	\$ 500.00	-37.5%
New Member Support	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	-16.7%
<b>CONG. LIFE</b>	<b>\$ 35,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 22,412.71</b>	<b>\$ 28,600.00</b>	<b>-18.3%</b>
<b>FAITH FORMATION - YOUTH</b>	<b>\$ 11,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,334.87</b>	<b>\$ 11,250.00</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Nursery & Event Care	\$ 500.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 500.00	0.0%
Faith Milestones	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 10.73	\$ 500.00	-58.3%
Intergenerational	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,006.00	\$ 1,000.00	-50.0%

# Budget

Confirmation (6-8)	\$	2,000.00	\$	893.34	\$	2,000.00	0.0%
Sunday School (P-5)	\$	3,000.00	\$	1,933.19	\$	4,000.00	33.3%
High School Ministry	\$	1,200.00	\$	226.20	\$	2,000.00	66.7%
0-3 Yrs Curriculum	\$	500.00	\$	347.41	\$	500.00	0.0%
CYF Volunteer Expenses	\$	600.00	\$	753.00	\$	750.00	25.0%
<b>WORSHIP, ART &amp; MUSIC</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>16,800.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,268.79</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>11,700.00</b>	<b>-30.4%</b>
Flowers	\$	200.00	\$	-	\$	200.00	0.0%
Guest Preacher	\$	3,500.00	\$	5,950.00	\$	3,000.00	-14.3%
Music: Supplies & Guest Musicians	\$	600.00	\$	1,689.58	\$	1,000.00	66.7%
Instruments & Maintenance	\$	3,000.00	\$	2,282.14	\$	2,500.00	-16.7%
Worship Supplies	\$	5,000.00	\$	2,347.07	\$	2,500.00	-50.0%
Artwork	\$	500.00	\$	-	\$	500.00	0.0%
Children's Music	\$	4,000.00	\$	-	\$	2,000.00	-50.0%
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,100.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>815.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>-33.3%</b>
Stewardship	\$	1,500.00	\$	815.00	\$	1,000.00	-33.3%
Legacy Fund	\$	600.00	\$	-	\$	400.00	-33.3%
<b>SHEPHERDING</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,098.56</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Fellowship	\$	1,750.00	\$	2,098.56	\$	1,750.00	0.0%
Elder Clusters	\$	250.00	\$	-	\$	250.00	0.0%
Young Adult Activities	\$	250.00	\$	-	\$	250.00	0.0%
LGBTQ & Friends	\$	250.00	\$	-	\$	250.00	0.0%
<b>FAITH FORMATION - ADULTS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,600.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,895.49</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,750.00</b>	<b>-32.7%</b>
Living Lutheran	\$	600.00	\$	-	\$	-	-100.0%
Educational Forums	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,019.90	\$	1,000.00	-33.3%
Library	\$	250.00	\$	54.93	\$	250.00	0.0%
Education & Devotional Materials	\$	250.00	\$	820.66	\$	500.00	100.0%
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>58,500.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>94,872.52</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>74,950.00</b>	<b>28.1%</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>-60.0%</b>
Communications	\$	5,000.00	\$	4,500.00	\$	2,000.00	-60.0%
<b>OFFICE &amp; OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>53,500.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>90,372.52</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>72,950.00</b>	<b>36.4%</b>
Conventions & Council Expenses	\$	750.00	\$	1,041.58	\$	1,000.00	33.3%
Postage	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,471.80	\$	1,200.00	-20.0%
Office Supplies	\$	1,200.00	\$	2,271.95	\$	2,500.00	108.3%
Telephone & Internet	\$	8,700.00	\$	9,071.31	\$	8,700.00	0.0%
Bank & Credit Card Fees	\$	2,400.00	\$	8,550.19	\$	5,000.00	108.3%
Travel Expenses	\$	300.00	\$	83.25	\$	300.00	0.0%
IT Support & Hardware	\$	22,000.00	\$	41,797.88	\$	32,000.00	45.5%
Software & Memberships	\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,000.00	#DIV/0!
Copier & Print Supplies	\$	6,400.00	\$	4,886.21	\$	5,000.00	-21.9%
Hospitality	\$	750.00	\$	676.21	\$	750.00	0.0%
Payroll & Audit Fees	\$	7,000.00	\$	12,323.97	\$	5,000.00	-28.6%
Legal Fees	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	#DIV/0!
Kitchen Supplies	\$	600.00	\$	1,630.31	\$	1,500.00	150.0%
Janitorial Supplies	\$	1,900.00	\$	4,900.15	\$	4,000.00	110.5%
Security & Alarm	\$	-	\$	1,667.71	\$	4,000.00	
<b>Income less Expense</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(10,248.90)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>	

## Finance Reports



# Budget

## 2024 Budget Narrative

2023 was the first balanced budget in many years! The Capital Campaign continued and help pay off a small mortgage. Partnership with the childcare center continued and Legacy Funds were invested in the ELCA Foundation.

2023 also had some challenges related to cash flow. However, regular budget updates seemed to help and anytime funds were projected to drop extremely low, cash gifts materialized. The Council took action to help with cash flow by delaying ELCA Synod donations until Q3/Q4 and the option to borrow from the Capital Campaign reserves. The Capital Campaign was not borrowed against in 2023.

The 2024 budget is a balanced budget fully funded through giving, Legacy Funds, and earned income. This budget does not rely on restricted fund transfers or use of Capital Campaign funds to balance.

Thank you to all members and non-members, who give financially or in other ways, you make the budget happen through your generosity!

## Other Significant Expenses: Mission & Ministry

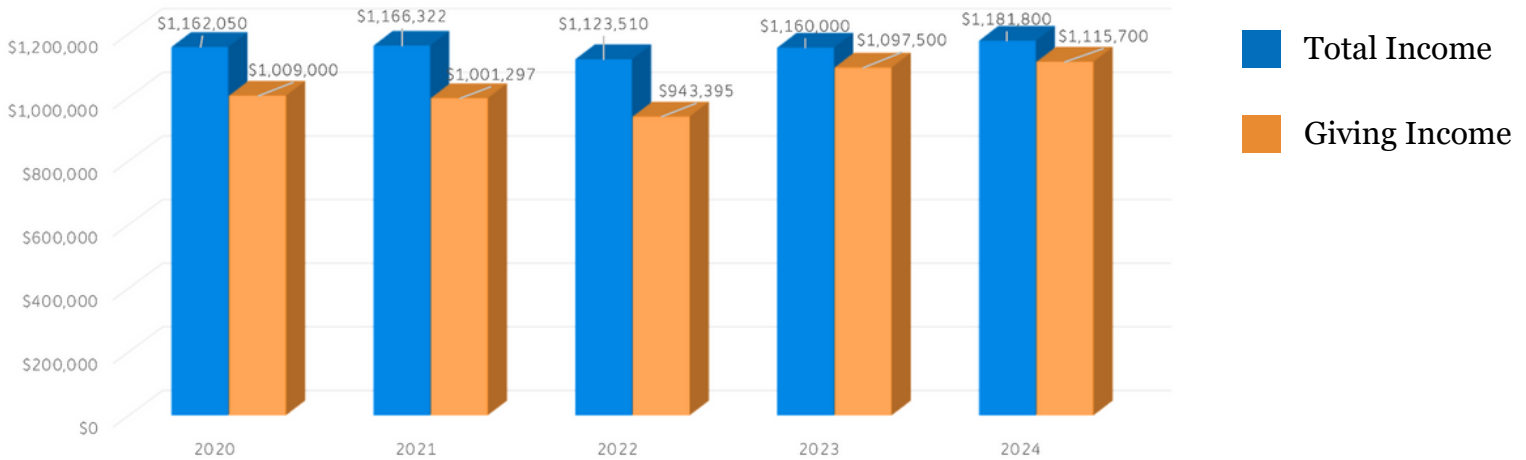
Total administration costs are set to increase by 28% from 2023 budget. However, in 2023 the administration actual costs exceeded budget by \$36,000, mostly due to many new staff computers and an HVAC computer, but also increased IT support and inflation fees for office, kitchen, and janitorial supplies. .

We continue to dedicate 10% of unrestricted giving income to direct payments to our mission partners. However, our mission impact is much larger than that! If we included special offerings and resources dedicated to mission work, the total as a percent of our budget would rise to nearly 20%. We also donate space use within our building and our members contribute generously directly to mission partner fundraisers.

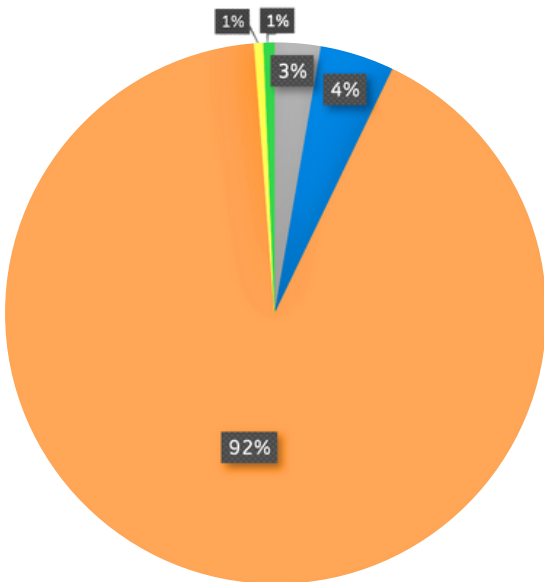
Property maintenance and utilities are also expected to rise by nearly 6% next year. Due to increased use of the building and regular building maintenance items.

# Budget

## Total Income vs. Giving Income, 2020-2024

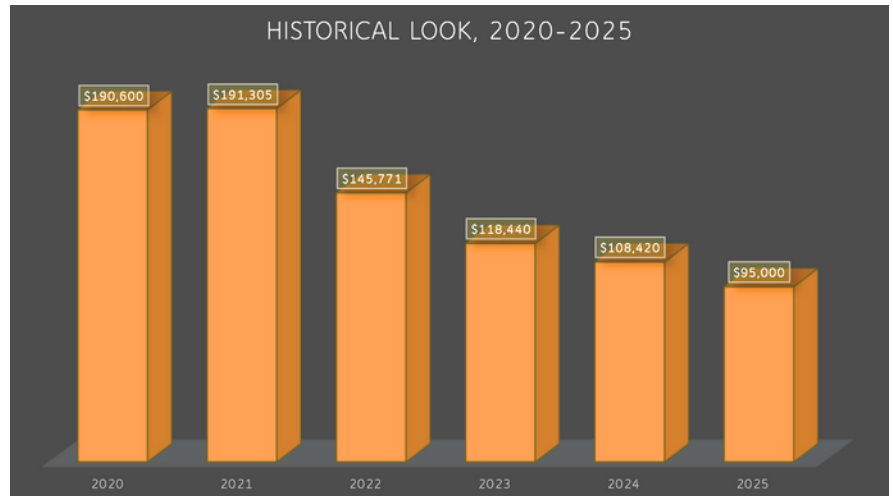


## Sources of Revenue in 2024



- Pre-Paid Pledges (3%)
- LHCCC Rent & Expenses (4%)
- Member and Non-Member Giving (92%)
- Misc. Income (1%)
- Legacy Fund (1%)

## Mortgage Expense for 2024



**2020:** \$190,600

**2021:** \$191,305

**2022:** \$145,771

**2023:** \$118,440

**2024:** \$108,420

**2025:** \$95,000

# Council

***We give thanks to the 2022-2023 Church Council for their dedication, time, and energy to serve Edina Community Lutheran Church over the past year.***

***“Well done, good and faithful servant!”***

Matthew 25:23

## 2022-2023 Council Members

Peter Horstman  
**President**

Chris Johnson  
**Adult Faith Formation**

Rich Weaver  
**Shepherding**

Carrie Henning-Smith  
**Vice President**

Sarah Irwin  
**Children, Youth & Family**

Linnea Huinker  
**Stewardship**

Whitney Hansen  
**Treasurer**

Sarah Broich  
**Mission**

Meredith Olson  
**Welcoming**

Kathy Krypkel  
**Secretary**

Jonathan Flak  
**Properties**

Luis Martinez  
**Worship, Art, & Music**

Liz Peterson  
**President Ex-Officio**

Other



# 2024 Nominations

*\*Names that are bolded & italicized indicate a new nominee for position*

## Council of Ministers

***Carrie Henning-Smith, President (2025)***

***Dick Patterson, Vice President (2025)***

Whitney Hansen, Treasurer (2025)

***Eileen Supple, Secretary (2027)***

Chris Johnson, Minister of Adult Faith Formation (2025)

Sarah Irwin, Minister of Children, Youth, and Families (2025)

Sarah Broich, Minister of Mission (2026)

***Dave Engelstad, Minister of Properties (2027)***

***Leslie Swiggum, Minister of Connection and Care (Shepherding) (2027)***

Linnea Huinker, Minister of Stewardship (2026)

***Todd Harper, Minister of Welcoming (2027)***

Luis Martinez, Minister of Worship, Art, and Music (2025)

## Nominating Committee

(all members serve a one-year term)

***Carrie Henning-Smith, Council President***

***Rynda Carlis, At-Large Member***

***Meredith Olson, At-Large Member***

Two Council Members (to be elected by the Council of Ministers)

## Finance Committee

Anna Reding, At-Large Member (2026)

Lorraine Hart, At-Large Member, (2026)

Corey Haaland, At-Large Member (2026)

***Mike Daman, At-Large Member (2027)***

***Andrew Liming, At-Large Member (2027)***

## Personnel Committee

***Dick Patterson, Vice President (2025)***

***Kathy Krypel, At-Large Member (2027)***

***Lisa Novotny, At-Large Member (2025)***

Stephanie Moscetti, At-Large Member (2025)

Karen Graham, At-Large Member (2026)

Sara Mize, At-Large Member (2026)

## Legacy Fund Advisory Committee

John Byom (2027)

Jen Thompson (2026)

Mark Woell (2028)

2024 Synod Assembly: May 2-4, 2024

***Madelyn Wren, At-Large Member***

***Naomi Wren, At-Large Member***

***Carrie Henning-Smith, At-Large Member***

***Erik Lindell, Youth Member***

## Other

# New to Council



## **Properties - Dave Engelstad**

I'm looking forward to focusing attention on our beautiful building and grounds, and joining those who have the skills and time to maintain and improve them.



## **Welcoming - Todd Harper**

I may be a quiet introvert, but I'm so excited to uphold ECLC's incredible reputation for welcoming in this role. My hope is to sustain the many integral ways our congregation's welcoming spirit is already felt in our community while exploring new approaches to widen our welcoming embrace.



## **Vice President - Dick Patterson**

I'm looking forward to the next few years of service with both excitement and a deep sense of gratitude for the church community that has so warmly welcomed us and provided us opportunities to do God's work in the world.



## **Secretary - Eileen Supple**

I look forward to getting to know members as Council colleagues and helping ECLC steer its way into the future. This is my fourth time serving on the Council in my 43 years here.



## **Connection and Care - Leslie Swiggum**

I look forward to helping build community connections at ECLC in a variety of ways. With all of our newer members it will be fun to plan events to allow everyone to develop relationships.

