

# West Linn Lutheran Church



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

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

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

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

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

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

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

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Oregon Synod



### A Word from Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar

One of the great joys of my call is to visit the faith communities across this synod. Our territory includes rocky coastlines, massive mountains, rich soil, quiet lakes, and powerful rivers. Our 115 diverse camps, campus ministries and congregations have been planted in cities, suburbs, open farmland, and small towns. We are very different from each other; yet in Jesus Christ, we all are one. As we've journeyed together this year, we have been united by focusing on the promises Christ has given us, particularly John 15:15 - "I no longer call you servants but I have called you friends." Be present in this way to the world, Jesus invites us.

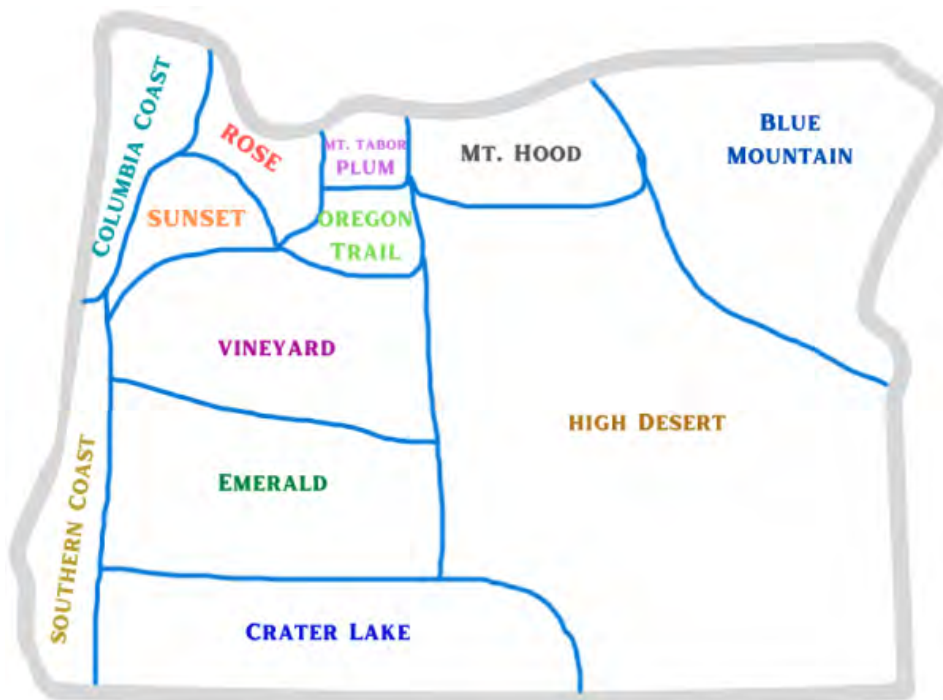
Thank you for the way you, as beloved of God, embody the living Word in your congregations, communities and daily callings. You are engaging in ministry every day that is vital to the life of the world. Although many of us are still exhausted from pandemic adaptations, congregations are emerging from these difficult years with a clearer sense of who we are and what God is calling us to be and do today. May we be brave for the sake of Love! The dedication of our church leaders to ministries of word, sacrament and accompaniment in Christ's name has never been greater.

Thank you, for your ministry and your faithful gifts to the ministry of the Oregon Synod. Though you are facing your own financial challenges, most of you continue to give generously to our shared work as synod and a larger national church. Your partnership has made possible our ministry with those facing hunger, the houseless, young leaders growing in their calling, our interfaith companions, new creative ministries, ecumenical journeys of racism, disaster and climate resilience, innovation with youth and international leaders and so much more.

If you have not yet sent in a Mission Support contribution for this year, will you please consider a gift yet in January? Every gift counts! And if you have not yet returned a Mission Support Intent form for 2024, please do so. We are deep in planning the 2025 budget that will be presented at the 2024 Synod Assembly, and your planning will help us do our best planning, as well. Thank you! Blessings on your annual meeting, your key decisions and discernment, and your ongoing ministry on the Way of Jesus for the sake of the life of the world. And do not forget to elect your voting members for our June 1 Synod Assembly.

Holy God, we praise you for calling diverse people into your church and its ministries. Uphold all leaders with your strong and loving arms. Empower ministers to serve your people with the word of scripture, the water of life, the meal of grace, and deeds of love and mercy and justice. Equip them with both beloved traditions and fresh ideas; grant them joy in their tasks; and renew them daily by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Word among us, now and forever. Amen. (adapted from ACS, p. 46).

With grace, peace, and love,  
Reverend Laurie L. Caesar  
Bishop, Oregon Synod, ELCA



Oregon Synod

*Walking Together Into Courageous Love*

# Call Committee

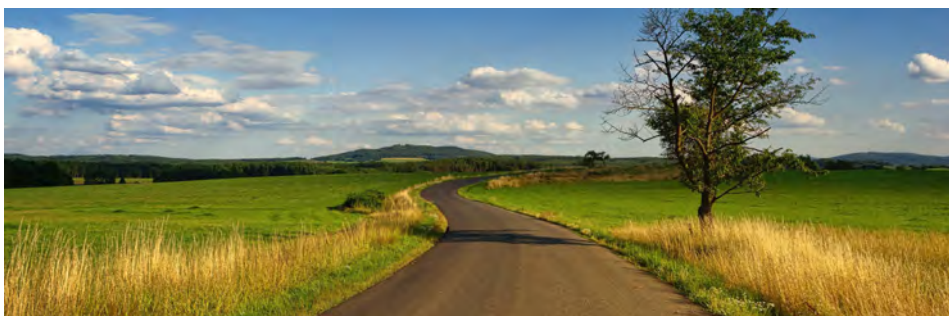
By the time you read this, WLLC will have pretty much completed our pastoral transition! The Call Process was Phase 3 of this transition. Thank you for selecting and commissioning an incredible team of faithful, prayerful, and dedicated children of God for this important work. Adding our hours together, from late April until mid November (and still on-going!), we spent many days in conversation with each other and with candidates. Not to mention the hours spent individually in preparation, review, and prayer. Through this whole process, we employed Eric Law's RESPECT guidelines. Most importantly, we listened to each other, to council, to members of the congregation, to staff, to the MSP, to our candidates, and to ourselves.

We firmly believe that the Holy Spirit, moving through all of us, led us to Pastor John Barton, and Pastor John has been led to us. We look forward to the completion of this transition with the joyful celebration of Pastor John's installation at WLLC on Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 3:00 pm. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on this committee. Blessings and peace, Gretchen Dumestre on behalf of the entire Call Committee (Terry Bottemiller, Brad Horton, Donna King, Bethany Lenihan, David Webster, Paul Williamson). P.S. I do want to add that our candidate interviews gave us all great hope in the future. Each person we interviewed is passionate, caring, gifted, and so energetic to serve their community guided by their faith. Keep your eyes and ears open for other local church communities being re-energized to be hands for God's work with the leadership, support, and guidance from a newly called pastor!

# Transition Team

## Transition Team

The Team comprised of Terry Bottemiller, Suzie Budeau, Dianne Eller, Gary Eppelsheimer, Scott Hatley, Neal King (Chairman), June Lenihan, Terry O'Donel, Michele Schmidt, and consulting Pastors Christine and Scott. Most of the groundwork and many of the meetings occurred in 2022, with the culmination of those efforts rolled up into the Ministry Site Profile. The electronic document was eighteen pages in length covering demographics, budgets, congregational surveys, and ministerial needs and preferences. In early February 2023 the Team submitted the document to the Church Council for their review / approval, and submitted the final version on March 30, 2023 to the Call Process Administrator, Bishop Laurie, via the ELCA MSP web portal.



# Council Letter

Who answered the call?

We, the WLLC community, answered the call!

During the year of 2023:

- We increased our giving which allowed us to continue our mission and prepared us to extend a call
- We increased our in-person attendance while continuing to provide our live stream service every Sunday
- We have seen our membership grow throughout all generations.
- We continued to improve our online streaming which allows us to share our mission beyond the walls of our Church building.
- We have supported each other in times of loss, adversities, and celebrations.
- We were able to extend a call with the hard work and dedication of our transition team and call committee.

Pastor John Barton answered the call!

We are so happy to welcome Pastor John and his family to the WLLC family and community. What an exciting time as we look to what the future holds for WLLC. Pastors Christine and Scott continued to answer the call!

They have continued to lead us through a 2-year transition with their incredible leadership, guidance, and teaching. With their assistance we not only maintained but increased our membership as we came out of the pandemic. They have prepared us for this new chapter in the life of WLLC, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their dedication and support!

Personally, I would like to thank all of you for your attendance, volunteering, support of each other and stepping up when it is needed! All these things make WLLC the inviting and welcoming community that makes me proud every time I tell people where I attend church.

Thank you,

Jeff Young, Council President



# Comms/Care/Operations

It's been a pleasure to serve in my role as Care and Operations Coordinator!. After a couple of years of transition and change, it has felt more "normal" than others. This year we have focused on consistency with communications. What has been published on social media platforms has also been present on our website, thanks to Steve Carr. Our tools that we utilize to communicate information related to our congregation are well in-hand! Our biggest change in 2023 was the introduction of Sign-Up Genius, which allows for individuals to select when and how they want to be involved at WLLC, it's been a great organizing tool!

A majority of this work would not have been possible without the able hands of Suzie Robins who has faithfully sent out hard copies of our worship attendants and newsletter. Thank you Suzie! Thanks also goes to Karl Wright who is always willing to step in to assist with computer projects and almost anything you ask him to do! Thank You Karl. Finally, thanks to Chris Lord for her "can do" attitude as she files, colates, and creates bulletin boards, just to name a few. Thank You Chris!

On the operations side of the house, we continue to investigate possibilities to ensure that our building is our focus. We will give this more attention in the year to come. We also continue to welcome new building partners which only enriches our community and our presence in West Linn. You will be hearing more about them in the coming year. There is so much to share but I will simply say "thanks" for allowing me to serve in all these many capacities at WLLC. I look forward to more engagement with you in the year to come!

-Jack Mandeville,  
Communications, Care and Operations Coordinator

# Communications Committee

In 2022 the communications committee did a complete evaluation of the website content and did some streamlining. We also set a goal to move the site from the old platform (Weebly) to a new platform. In 2023 we looked at the alternatives and selected WordPress as the platform of choice. A new layout and graphic design was developed along with an outline of the site content. The old content was then migrated and updated as needed. The new site was launched in mid-2023.

-- Steve Carr



# Worship

In approximately a year's time, West Linn Lutheran Church has embarked - and still is embarking - on quite an amazing journey through worship, specifically in its music ministry. At first glance of the worship/music experience, it was very apparent that the congregation was very much in lock-step with many Lutheran liturgies, traditions, and idealizations; however, in several Worship Committee Meetings some of the same topics continue to arise: community, inclusiveness, newness, legacy, and longevity.

Questions such as, "How do we reach a younger demographic and even a more diverse demographic to come be a part of our church?" With hard questions and topics, comes harder and uncomfortable actions that must be demonstrated. For example, affording the opportunity to the church, as a whole, that one can sing praises to God WITHOUT visibly looking at lyrics to a song; it is quite an okay thing to learn a song on the spot - together - loud and proud and even strong and wrong. Imperfection, in often times, IS Perfection when praising God ("Well done, my good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things." Matthew 25:21)! Another example is the ability to sing songs that may not ever having been sung in the Lutheran church: gospel, inspirational, rock, R&B, and more. When we preach, teach, and evangelize that God is infinite, we all demonstrate that through finding God in all styles of music (which means, even outside of church people can be reminded of God while listening to some of their favorite songs).

These examples, alone, have shown just how POWERFUL God is and has brought this congregation even closer together (if that's even possible since they were already so close knit). In the year 2024, plans are already being set in place to implement an annual Black History Concert Series, which will connect WLLC to an even greater diverse community and promote MORE of God's inclusive Love for others. We are also starting to plan a post Easter Sunday Service entitled, "So Amazing - An Easter After Party Service" where the whole service will be music driven to celebrate ALL that Jesus did for us at Calvary and beyond the cross! We will also be implementing some new choir ideas, such as a men's choir and bringing back a youth choir. WLLC's current Choir also continues to minister out into the community with/for other organizations within the Metropolitan area.

All-in-all, West Linn Lutheran Church is thriving in so many ways in its worship experience and music ministry. We definitely have more work to be done in some areas; however, I am confident with the help of God (who has been leading and guiding us thus far) we will continue elevating. As a famous gospel song says, "With Jesus on our side, things will work out fine; we're gonna make it!"

God's Love and Blessings,

Joshua Sommerville



# Choir

It has been a big blessing to direct the WLLC Choir this year! The choir and I worked hard with a lot of passion and enthusiasm to enrich our church services. We recruited a few new choir members during the year and we are so grateful for them to be with us! The choir was able to create both wonderful services this year - Easter and Christmas that will never be forgotten. Both of these services went very well and the congregation received the choir pieces with joy.

I brought to the choir a couple of very challenging classical pieces this year. The choir was working very hard on details, on each note and phrase of these pieces. It turned out so well and I believe that the choir really enjoyed every moment of this process.

I feel that the choir follows my directions with mutual respect and understanding. I am, with the choir, looking forward to creating music with with Joshua for the upcoming year.

The choir is doing its best, and we feel that both the church team and the congregation are enjoying the choir presentation and enrichment to the services.

-Helen Pevzner, Choir Director



# Advent Breakfast

The 40th annual Ladies Advent Breakfast was held on Saturday, December 3, 2023. There were over 80 guests this year and the room was filled with laughter, joyous voices, and singing. The speaker was Pastor Mary Petersen. This event is much anticipated and a wonderful way to start the Advent Season. There is a need for a coordinator and committee to organize the event for 2024. Please contact the church office if interested.

--Linda Kolstad



# Confirmation

The confirmation ministry team of Darleen Deasee and Carole White continued our partnership with Zion Lutheran and Prince of Life this year. In June two students made their affirmation at Prince of Life. This school year we have 10 students in the program. Social activities included an evening of bowling and an afternoon roller skating at Oaks Park. Pastor Christine accompanied the youth from this group to confirmation camp this summer.

In 2024 both West Linn Lutheran and Prince of Life are calling new pastors, so we express our gratitude to the interims at both churches for their support. As always parental support is the key to the program. There would be no program if the parents were not committed to traveling between the different venues and helping with the social events. "Confirmation kids were at Camp Lutherwood Confirmation Camp with Pastor Christine last June. -Carole White



# A/V and Tech

We have had an exciting year in the behind-the-scenes world of broadcasting our services through our live-streaming system!

Since October of 2022, when Josh Dolar left WLLC for other opportunities, Gary Eppelsheimer assumed the role of AV Ministries Coordinator. Realizing this was a temporary assignment, we recruited and trained some additional volunteers, to increase the reliability of staffing the AV production console for our services.

The production console is fully staffed when there are three people seated: The Video Operator switches between cameras and monitors the stream; the Graphics Operator makes sure the slides for the song lyrics and liturgy are presented for the congregation; the Audio Operator adjusts the microphone levels for the Sanctuary and the live-stream. In a pinch, we can run a service with only two—or even one—operator, but it becomes increasingly more difficult the fewer operators we have.

As you can see, we really do rely on our volunteers to present a worship service reliably and smoothly—so we continue to try to build up our volunteer staff! With more volunteers, individuals can take fewer shifts, and we will always have replacements when people are ill or on vacation. It really is a fun thing to do, and we will always provide plenty of training! Please consider volunteering!

An approaching seven-week vacation for Jan and Gary hastened our efforts to recruit a new, permanent Audiovisual Ministries Coordinator. In early August, we interviewed—and hired—Kirk Fryrear for the position. Through the remainder of August and September, Kirk shadowed Gary, and gradually took over the various responsibilities. Special thanks also to Dianne Eller, who stepped up to also learn the various systems, and help with Kirk's training. Dianne also helped reduce Kirk's initial workload by creating some of the slides and graphics for our presentation system.

We now have an excellent system, tying together three cameras, a video switcher, a soundboard, a graphics presentation system, and a small group of dedicated volunteers. We have the capability to bring worship participants into a service from their home, if necessary (for weather or illness), and—as recently demonstrated—to run a live-streamed service completely remotely, should weather make it unsafe for anyone to get to the church building.

Our current list of staff and volunteers who help at the production console include Kirk Fryrear, Jeff Young, Gabe Lenihan, Greg Lenihan, Tom Lenihan, Dianne Eller, and Gary Eppelsheimer. Please consider adding your name to the list! Special thanks also to Karl Wright, who helps keep our IT (and therefore our live-streaming capabilities) running smoothly, and also works hand-in-hand with Kirk and the pastors in creating the weekly worship guide, which helps the services to run smoothly... and also to Jack Mandeville, who helps coordinate everyone's efforts, and also contributes graphics for special events and announcements.

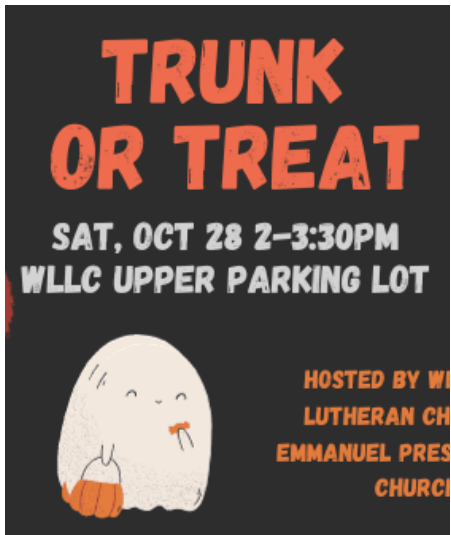
Our goals for the immediate future include: upgrading the operating system for our soundboard; improving the sound coverage within the Sanctuary; adding a video monitor to the back wall near the projector, so the worship leaders don't need to look at the screen behind them to see what is being projected; and, once again, adding to our distinguished list of volunteers!

Respectively Submitted,  
Gary Eppelsheimer,  
Former Audiovisual Ministries Coordinator



# Family Ministry

A huge thanks to: Pastor Christine, Gail O'Donell, Carole White, Gayle Aten, Jan Sickert, Michelle Calcagno, Michelle Schmidt, and Bethany Lenihan. This group of dedicated volunteers has worked as a team to provide opportunities for the families of our church to laugh together, to bond with one another, and to share in teaching our kids the stories of our faith. We helped plan two intergenerational events this year: Our spring talent show and fundraiser, which raised the needed funds to cover the cost of the tree work we needed done, and our Christmas Trim-a-tree party. Both were well attended and everyone in attendance had a great time. We also had a pizza and movie night this fall. We are hoping to plan more events to connect our families in the coming year.



# Sunday School

It was a special year with children ages 3 to 9 attending together. By April it was apparent that by the start of the fall of 2023, the formation of two age groups of classes would need to happen. The Easter egg hunt was a huge success and the downstairs was filled with eggs and children in most every room. Our top attendance was on May 7th, when twelve children arrived in the classroom! We celebrated the end of the school year the beginning of June, with 10 children attending “Pancake & Pajama Day”.

This Summer we held two afternoons of a “Fun in the Sun” days. The theme was “What Love Is”, based on 1st Corinthians 13. The July date had twelve children in attendance, and the August date was attended by 8 children. At these mini camps we practiced ways to show God’s love. Activities included: creating blankets for “underserved” dogs of the community, planting seeds, cheering each other on at relays using megaphones, and learning kind ways to ask others to “stop bugging” us! We even had a special puppet show about sharing.

Our Fall began with two classrooms. Michelle Calcagno is teaching grades 3 through 5th, and Gayle Aten and Gail O’Donel are teaching ages 4 through 2nd grade, with Dede Carr substituting whenever needed. We open with checking in with our classes, having music together, then continuing with teachers sharing a Bible story, often referring to the Illustrated Ministry Curriculum story cards. We are able to have meaningful discussions with these young ones, and often meet together for active games in the Discipleship Room.

The second weekend in November had two main events. The first was the “Meet & Greet” gathering to get to know and welcome Pastor John and his delightful family. Our singing was followed by a “Super-Hero” party downstairs, complete with an obstacle course, specially designed by teacher Michelle. There were two class sessions offering stories and crafts, and an advent family night. Prince of Life Lutheran Church invited our children to participate in their Christmas play, and four from our church gave enthusiastic participation. There was a large number of adults from our congregation that attended and cheered everyone on.

Our young ones also got another chance at the Christmas Eve family service to participate in another version of the wondrous story of Christmas. A special thank you to Pastor Christine and Pastor Scott who always prepared fun and meaningful ways for all of the children, big and small, to participate in the everyday happenings of our congregation. We look forward to more adventures with the nine active families participating in the Sunday School program for age 3 through 5th grade. Thank you for your support of these beautiful young children of God.

Submitted by Gail O’Donel



# HO.P.E. 2023

During 2023 the Oregon Food Bank's variety and amount of inventory available to HOPE was greatly diminished. As a result we spent over \$13,000 on additional food items from the OFB that are not free. However, we have received over 130,000 pounds of food from the Oregon Food Bank (OFB) with an average cost of \$0.10 per pound. Most of it is free! We also received another 70,000 lbs. donated from local businesses. Yet, we spent over another \$20,000 on food and supplies.

The number of hungry families receiving food increased 27% during 2023 from 49 to 61 each Friday. Since October, that # has continued to grow to 75 families each Friday. The need for our hungry families has continued to grow.

Since SNAP money only pays for FOOD, HOPE is also offering a choice of dignity items such as deoderant, shampoo, diapers, feminine products, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Can WLLC take on this project?

As with ALL programs serving others, the need for support has increased. We average 18 volunteers each week, but also need YOU on a Friday. Can you spare 2 hours? 8:30- 10:30 or 11:45 -2 or 2 – 4?

Thanks to ALL who have volunteered, or donated, or prayed for those less fortunate than ourselves. God Bless YOU!

Questions? Contact Bob and Janet Raes @ 503-459-9350.

An invitation: One goal each outreach program has is to invite each of us to think about what makes up a meaningful life for you, because there is only one of you, and we only have one life. What can you do to make this world a better place? What do you plan to do to get involved in making the world beautiful and meaningful?

May we trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.  
Here I am Lord!

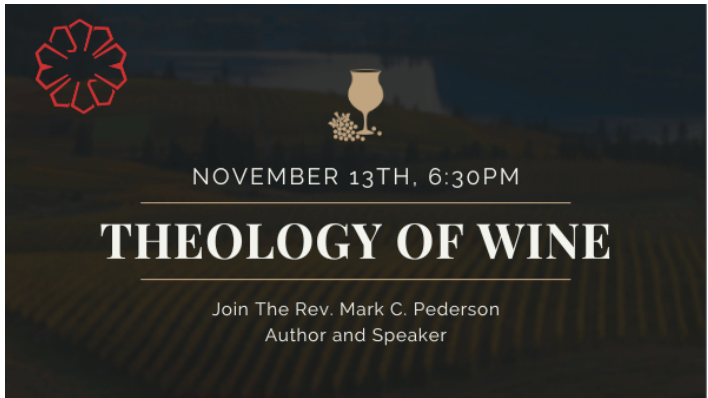


# Men's Group

We have a very active Men's Group at WLLC. We have multiple activities over the year. We have for the last several years met for Monday Night Football, at which time we watch a little football, but also do Bible study. We have in recent years studied Galatians, Ephesians, and this last year studied "The Theology of Wine". Along with that we did some very fun field trips.

We have assembled small food packs for those in need. We plan to continue the tradition of hosting Shrove Tuesday, Easter breakfast, and other activities through the year. We look forward to a full and meaningful year ahead

Jon Winjum- Men's group leader





# Library

During 2023, shelves in the library (near the door on the right) have been designated as a “Little Free Library”. Please take any of these books to enjoy. You can return, or keep, them. This was done as a “patch” for all the books that were stacked up (donated) waiting review for inclusion in our collection.

We also decluttered the library to allow for more comfortable space for groups meeting in this cozy room

We hear there may be a new-to-us computer available to upgrade our technology. Our goal for 2024 will be to enable this to be set up! Perhaps we'll get our collection back online for you to search our titles at home.

Meanwhile, thank you for using the honor system in checking out and returning books. We hope you are finding resources for study and entertainment. Thank you for your ongoing support. Please reach out if you'd like to help in 2024.

Gretchen Dumestre, JGDumestre@msn.com, 503-504-6921

# Women's Bible Study

Women's Ministry: WLLC Women's Bible Study  
2023

Women's ministry is significant to the spiritual life and health of West Linn Lutheran Church. The joy of connection, listening with your heart, exploring new theological thought processes, and praying for each other are central to this ministry.

A consistent opportunity offered to women of the community is Women's Bible Study, meeting mid-day the second and fourth Wednesday of each month (summer months off). Facilitated by Pastor Christine Core, this calendar year provided a deep dive into a better understanding of the Lord's Prayer; how it came to be, interpretation of the prayer, and how we think about the prayer in our world...past and present. Robust and engaging discussions with mindful takeaways framed each study session. Our heartfelt appreciation to Pastor Christine for her wealth of theological knowledge, inquisitiveness, and friendship.

Women's Bible Study engaged over 25 women this past year. Organically, other women's ministry opportunities grew from participation in Women's Bible Study. 2024 planning includes the continuation of Women's Bible Study. All women are welcome!

Respectfully Submitted by-  
Donna C King



# Groundskeeping

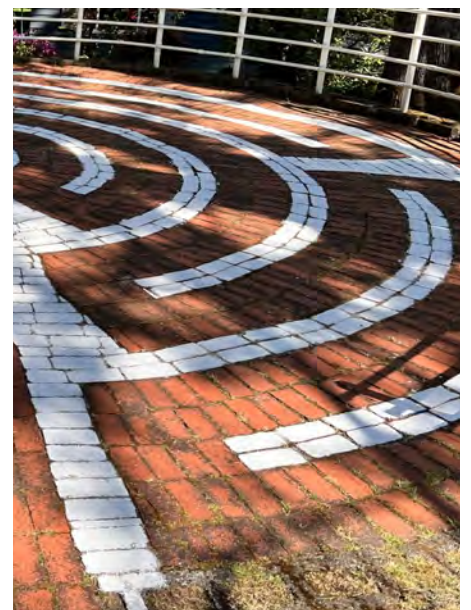
The Grounds Ministry continues to care for the church grounds with individuals who are into their 70's and one occasional member who is 80 plus! We are needing to have younger individuals join this ministry to assist us in the upkeep our wonderful church grounds.

A few examples of the work involve cleaning of the church roof and gutters, This past year our congregation graciously raised the monies needed to complete the cleanup from the past ice damage to many trees with the clearing of widow makers and taking down trees that were dead and in danger of falling. These hazards were addressed to prevent any potential injury to individuals or groups that enjoy the park like setting of our church grounds. Thank you for your generous giving to complete this work.

In the coming year we hope to plan work days where your help is needed. You can also talk to one of the members of this ministry if you have an interest to become involved.

Graciously in Christ,

Chuck Davis  
Ward Lewis  
Fred Sickert  
Suzie Budeau  
Kerry Broadhurst



# Building Committee

This was another busy year for the building committee as we continued our work to ensure that our building lasts many more years. More about this in the year to come. In addition to this we added cameras that keep watch on both of our main entrances and our pride flag which has routinely been torn down by vandals. We hope this extra measure of security will allow us to appropriately address any concerns that might arise. We also repaired our doors after having not been in operation for a few years. In addition to this, thanks to generous donors, our parking lots have been re-stripped and our cross sanded and repainted! There is more work to be done, but we are on the right track!

Many thanks to Kerry Broadhurst, Suzie Budeau, David Shaffer and Pastor Christine for serving on the committee!

-Jack Mandeville



# RIC Ministry

Our RIC Ministry continues to meet monthly and has been uniquely involved in advocacy and education for our congregation. Our most engaging activity was our presence at Portland Pride where we coordinated with our fellow ELCA Congregations and Episcopal Parishes to march in the parade. It was a powerful experience to march together as one! We also hosted our annual RIC Sunday, this has become a yearly tradition! In addition to this, the RIC Racial Equity webpage was updated. We also hosted the ELCA Civic Life & Faith Study, which was a denomination wide conversation regarding civic engagement. In the coming months we will host conversations that expand our welcome to all. Please let Jack know if you would like to be a part of this dynamic ministry! -Jack Mandeville



# Palestinian Farmers

Again this year I am honored to be able to support the Palestinian farming community by bringing Palestinian oils, spices and food items into West Linn Lutheran Church. WLLC members have generously supported this ministry year after year. This year WLLC purchased almost \$1800 worth of Palestinian goods. This year Palestinian olive oil has sold out from several different sell sites, as support for Palistinians has increased around the world. Your continued support for this vital ministry goes way beyond purchasing olive oil; it is life-giving during these increasingly violent times for Palestinians. As we move forward, and as you use your oils or other goods, please say a prayer for these farmers and their families. May God's peace abound! And Thank You!!! -Dianne Eller



# WLLC Quilters

WLLC Quilters and Blanket Makers were busy this 2023 year. We made many quilts, fidget quilts and fleece blankets. We would like to remind our congregation that they are available for you to give to a friend or family member that is in crisis of any kind. People with memory care concerns really enjoy our fidget quilts that we donate to the Hospice Program. We donate regularly to the Chaplain Department at Legacy Emanuel who passes them out when working with patients. We donate them to Randall's Children Hospital also. We give these quilts and blankets with our prayers of comfort and peace.



# Creative Spirits

Creative Spirits Gallery continues to be a vital and successful part of West Linn Lutheran Church. Our committee includes Doanne Brown, Heidi Carr, Kathy Kriesel, Mitzi Kugler, Nancy Hawkins, Jack Mandeville and Kathy Sandell. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

\*\*\* We will miss Pastor Christine Core on our committee... she was a vital part of our planning and implementing projects that included our congregation; Hearts with loving thoughts in February, Back to School tags for our youth in September, and memories of loved ones no longer with us in November.

Presently three artists are sharing their work... Kim Nickens, Jean Gale, and Ilse Coffman. We will welcome Barbara Weiss, Roberta Mathews, and Lily Crowder in February, 2024. It's always exciting to see what our artists bring to share! 2024 looks to be yet another positive year for our gallery. We have artists confirmed through November.

We are continuing to pursue ways to connect Creative Spirits with our community. We successfully hosted receptions for our artists in March, and again in May, and again in September. In October we held our first Walk Around with Jan Rimerman... this is when we invite an artist to share thoughts, inspiration, materials, secrets about their process, struggles... and answer questions the group may want to ask. In November Kim Nickens and Ilse Coffman hosted their Walk Around, and on January 11, 2024 Jean Gale will be our host. For all of these activities we invite artists, congregation members, friends, family, and anyone who may be interested interviewing one of our artists sharing in the gallery.

Our Little Art House continues to be visited... located just outside our front doors. We have started to advertise it more often in our church newsletter and with announcements at church services. We encourage participation in stocking it with art as well as taking something to enjoy.

Creative Spirits would like:

1. a permanent sign created and hung in the main hall.
2. to expand our wire hanging system on more of our walls.
3. to expand our committee membership.
4. to have a publicist to take responsibility for advertising our gallery.
5. to have a paid position to oversee all the activities of Creative Spirits.
6. to continue to brainstorm activities that involves our congregation as well as our community.

We appreciate the support we have received from Church Council.

Sincerely, kathy sandell



# Altar Guild

Thank you to a dedicated, gracious, and joyful Altar Guild Team! In 2023, we improved our accessibility by switching to completely gluten free bread, including the bread broken during the words of institution (what I call the “show bread”). The Altar Guild Team has also started meeting for coffee and fellowship about every other month. Since we work, hidden (in the sacristy), in small groups, we were only communicating through emails. By meeting, we can discuss any ideas and issues as they come up. Plus, it’s been great to chat over coffee. Did you know that many of the supplies for Altar Guild are donated? Bread, grape juice, and more stainless steel cups appeared throughout 2023 without any visible impact on the church budget. (NOTE to Altar Guild: you can submit your receipts to Debbie with a note that this is an In Kind Donation.

This way, we would have a record for the actual expenses of Altar Guild). For the start of 2024, we’re going to try rotating on 2 week intervals rather than one month. We’d love to expand our team! Please consider joining us! Detailed training is available! Contact Gretchen Dumestre (JGDumestre@msn.com, 503-504-6921), Lynn McKown (Lynn.McKown@gmail.com), or the church office if you are interested.

# Prayer Chain

We are thankful for the many prayers raised up by so many in the previous year, the Prayer Chain has effectively communicated them in 2023. We are fortunate to have so many active members! For many, this is the primary method of staying in touch with specific concerns, sadnesses, and celebrations from the church. There are more than 50 households on the prayer chain, receiving by email the Sunday morning prayers, those that come through the website or into the church office, and those shared with one another.

The importance of staying in communication has never been more important and the prayer chain does just that. We offer many thanks to this dedicated community of prayer partners and all the actions of support, love, and caring that were offered in 2023. We look forward to more opportunities to further engage with and from each other in the coming year!

-Jack Mandeville



# Treasurer's Report

What a year 2023 was for WLLC! First and foremost I want to thank the LORD above for all he has done, and what he is about to do here at WLLC!

While 2022 began as a year of transition, WLLC made great strides in 2023! Under the continued guidance of Pastor Christine and Pastor Scott, we completed many of our financial goals.

All of those who returned their pledge cards helped set us up for an amazing year. Many envelope givers became pledgers! Thank you! Our congregation was able to honor our 10% benevolence commitment to the Oregon ELCA. The Synod has extended its thanks to us for having done so. The ERC monies refunded to us, helped pay off the PPP Loan. The remainder is being held in reserve. Several generous special gifts were given to pay down the mortgage, line the parking lot, and clean up the trees—our mortgage will be paid off in April! We were also able to fund some new equipment and software to help navigate our bookkeeping needs. And all our outreaches received their designated funds for the year. Our congregational giving and support for our ministries was on track all year, as well.

This fall our successful Courageous Stewardship paved the way for an exciting 2024. Congregational support is up 4%—and again we had an increase in pledgers! We are fully budgeted for all our programs and any potential positions—including the addition of our AV Coordinator. We will be continuing our 10% benevolence giving to the Oregon ELCA.

Many thanks for their input and support goes to our Finance team: Nancy Horton, Jim Dumestre, and Terry O'Donel; Our Bookkeeper: Debbie Smith, and our Council. Our deepest thanks to you, the congregation, for your attendance, participation, and your financial support. None of these goals could be accomplished without each one of you! Thank you!

--Chris Lord, Treasurer



**West Linn Lutheran Church**

**2024 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET - FOR CONGREGATIONAL VOTE**

<u>Budget Line</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Proposed Budget</u>	<u>2024 Budget vs. 2023 Actual</u>	
<b>4001 - Congregational Support</b>				
4005 - Estimates of Giving (Pledges)	\$337,636	\$368,755	\$31,119	9%
4010 - Envelope Giving	31,570	18,000	(13,570)	-43%
4020 - Loose Offerings	3,671	3,000	(671)	-18%
<b>A. TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT</b>	<b>372,877</b>	<b>389,755</b>	<b>16,878</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>4060 - Building Ad Hoc Income</b>				
4060 - Building Ad Hoc Income	750	1,200	450	60%
<b>4061 - Building Partners Recurring Income</b>				
4061 - Building Partners Recurring Income	15,473	18,000	2,527	16%
<b>4062 - Cottage Rental</b>				
4062 - Cottage Rental	9,600	9,600	0	0%
<b>4554 - Grants Income</b>				
4554 - Grants Income	0	0	0	0%
<b>4551 - Thrivent Choice Dollars</b>				
4551 - Thrivent Choice Dollars	792	792	0	0%
<b>4560 - Coffee House</b>				
4560 - Coffee House	787	600	(187)	-24%
<b>4552 - Amazon Smile</b>				
4552 - Amazon Smile	0	0	0	0%
<b>4553 - Kroger Rewards</b>				
4553 - Kroger Rewards	0	0	0	0%
<b>4540 - Misc Non Budget</b>				
4540 - Misc Non Budget	26	0	(26)	-100%
<b>B. TOTAL OTHER RESOURCES</b>	<b>27,428</b>	<b>30,192</b>	<b>\$2,764</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>C. TOTAL RESOURCES (A+B)</b>	<b>\$400,305</b>	<b>\$419,947</b>	<b>\$19,642</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>D. EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Total 6050 - BENEVOLENCES TO ELCA OREGON SYNOD - 10% of Congregational Giving, Paid Monthly</b>				
	\$37,286	\$38,976	\$1,690	5%
<b>Total 6402 - PASTORS' SALARY &amp; BENEFITS</b>				
	113,428	115,406	1,978	2%
<b>Total 6401 - LAY MINISTRY STAFF COMP &amp; BENEFITS</b>				
	150,183	198,718	48,535	32%
<b>6400 - FAITH FORMATION</b>				
6246 - Intergenerational Faith Formation	477	900	423	89%
6420 - Middle School Faith Formation	631	1,200	569	90%
6426 - Children/Family Faith Formation	415	1,200	785	189%
6440 - High School Faith Formation	71	360	289	407%
6450 - Adult Faith Formation	366	240	(126)	-34%
6451 - RIC - Social Justice	0	500	500	n/a
<b>Total 6400 - FAITH FORMATION</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>2,440</b>	<b>124%</b>
<b>6500 - PROCLAMATION</b>				
6580 - Guest Pastor	0	1,350	1,350	n/a
6590 - Worship & Altar Supplies	2,262	2,250	(12)	-1%
6625 - Guest Musician	825	600	(225)	-27%
6630 - Sr Choir Music	0	480	480	n/a
6640 - Worship Team/Licensing	989	1,800	811	82%
<b>Total 6500 - PROCLAMATION</b>	<b>4,076</b>	<b>6,480</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>59%</b>



**West Linn Lutheran Church**

**2024 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET - FOR CONGREGATIONAL VOTE**

<u>Budget Line</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Proposed Budget</u>	<u>2024 Budget vs. 2023 Actual</u>	
<b>6200 · COMMUNITY GROUPS</b>				
6240 · Library	357	420	63	18%
6275 · Community & Hospitality	(495)	1,200	1,695	n/a
<b>Total 6200 · COMMUNITY GROUPS</b>	<b>(138)</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>6300 · BUILDING &amp; PROPERTY</b>				
6310 · Custodial Supplies	846	1,000	154	18%
6315 · Janitorial Services	7,538	8,000	462	6%
6320 · Bldg & Equip Reserve Contributions from this Operating Budget	4,800	4,800	0	0%
6321 · Repair & Maintenance	458	1,200	742	162%
6322 · Maintenance Contracts	560	720	160	29%
(new) - Landscaping Supplies	0	1,200	1,200	n/a
6330 · Mortgage Payment	20,184	5,546	(14,638)	-73%
<i>Note: Mortgage balance at 12/31/23 of \$5.5k pays off Apr'24</i>				
6340 · Property Insurance	8,318	9,000	682	8%
6350.10 · Electric	5,540	6,000	460	8%
6350.20 · Gas	4,545	4,545	0	0%
6350.30 · Water, Sewer	3,699	3,900	201	5%
6350.40 · Garbage	2,772	2,700	(72)	-3%
6350.50 · Telephone	3,610	3,610	0	0%
<b>Total 6300 · BUILDING &amp; PROPERTY</b>	<b>62,870</b>	<b>52,221</b>	<b>(10,649)</b>	<b>-17%</b>
<b>6800 · ADMINISTRATION</b>				
6570 · Synod Assembly + Bishop's Convocation	525	1,000	475	90%
Pastoral Call Expenses, including Moving Allowance	3,377	9,500	6,123	181%
6700 · Stewardship	415	480	65	16%
6870 · Office Supplies	2,594	2,400	(194)	-7%
6880 · Postage	909	1,500	591	65%
6890 · Office Equip Lease & Maint	3,723	3,840	117	3%
6890.11 · Communications	1,051	1,051	0	0%
6890.15 · Computer Maintenance	1,117	600	(517)	-46%
6891 · Computer Equipment	995	1,000	5	1%
6892 · Software Subscriptions	1,304	1,737	433	33%
6895 · Payroll Fees	1,573	1,888	315	20%
6930 · Misc Expense	1,511	171	(1,340)	-89%
6940 · Bank Charges	2,718	2,718	0	0%
<b>Total 6800 · ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>21,812</b>	<b>27,885</b>	<b>6,073</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>D. TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$391,477</b>	<b>\$445,705</b>	<b>\$54,228</b>	<b>14%</b>

West Linn Lutheran Church			
2024 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET - FOR CONGREGATIONAL VOTE			
Budget Line	2023 Actual	2024 Proposed Budget	2024 Budget vs. 2023 Actual
<b>E. TOTALS - 2023 ACTUAL SURPLUS vs. 2023 PROJECTED DEFICIT (C+D)</b>			
	\$8,828	(\$25,758)	
<i>Note: The 2023 Budget anticipated a Deficit, therefore \$33k below was approved by the Congregation last year to use as needed. 2023 ended up a Surplus of \$8.8k as seen above.</i>			
<b>F. SURPLUS CARRYOVERS - 2023 AND PROPOSED 2024</b>			
Portion of 2022 Surplus Assigned to 2023 Budget	\$33,166		
Portion of Cumulative 2023 \$41,994 Surplus Proposed to be Allocated to 2024 Budget, used as needed		\$25,758	
<b>G. 2023 AND PROPOSED 2024 OPERATING TOTALS (E+F)</b>			
	\$41,994	\$0	
<b>H. CUMULATIVE OPERATING SURPLUS SUMMARY (EXCLUDES \$48K ERC RESERVES)</b>			
2022 and Prior Surpluses	\$51,078		
2023 Surplus Above	\$8,828	2% of Total 2023 Spending	
Cumulative Surplus Available at 12/31/23	\$59,906		
Proposed Allocation to 2024 Planned Deficit Above	(\$25,758)	7% of Total Proposed 2024 Spending Above	
Forecasted Surplus at 12/31/24, going into 2025	\$34,148	Indicates that at least 7% of Likely 2025 Budget is Covered, as Needed	

2024 COURAGEOUS STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE		
<u>Estimates of Giving (EOG) Results &amp; Forecast</u>	<u># Households</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2024 Stewardship Responses		
Increased compared to last year	25	\$145,000
The same compared to last year	27	\$127,820
Decreased compared to last year	16	\$39,870
New 2024 pledgers - new givers, conversions from Envelope giving last year	11	\$35,223
EOG Response Subtotal	79	\$347,913
Other EOG Forecast, including 2023 EOGs not responding and estimated future new EOGs	11	\$20,842
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>\$368,755</b>
<b><u>Envelope "Will Give As Able" Forecast</u></b>		
2023 Historical (excludes 2023 givers who converted to EOG above)	30	\$13,387
Forecasted New Giving	10	\$4,613
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>\$18,000</b>
<b><u>Loose Offerings - Estimate</u></b>		<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>2024 Congregational Giving Forecast</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>\$389,755</b>

OUTREACH PROGRAMS - 2023 SUMMARY						
Charity	12/31/22 Balance Held for Charity	2023 Activity				12/31/23 Balance Held for Charity
		Donations	Donor Requested Transfers	Transfer from Council Discretionary Fund	Paid to Charity	
Camp Lutherwood	\$0	\$1,275			(\$965)	\$310
CASA	\$0	\$1,195	\$100		(\$1,295)	\$0
ELCA Program - Diaster Relief	\$0	\$955			(\$955)	\$0
ELCA Program - Microloans	\$11	\$1,288	\$100		(\$1,399)	\$0
ELCA Program - World Hunger	\$1,175	\$1,825	\$20		(\$2,820)	\$0
ELCA Program - Other	\$0	\$50			(\$50)	\$0
Going Home II	\$250	\$1,035	\$120		(\$1,405)	\$0
HOPE Local Hunger	\$770	\$4,590	\$420		(\$5,780)	\$0
House of Zion	\$0		(\$1,655)		\$0	\$0
Incight	\$0	\$1,925			(\$1,925)	\$0
Libyan Family Scholarship	\$150	\$300			(\$450)	\$0
Quilts for Empowerment	\$800	\$1,020			(\$1,820)	\$0
Reconciling Works	\$0	\$645			(\$645)	\$0
Sacele / Romania	\$140	\$1,765	\$895	\$2,150	(\$4,500)	\$450
St. Joseph's Shelter & Mission	\$0	\$600			(\$600)	\$0
The Father's Heart	\$200	\$1,470			(\$1,670)	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,496</b>	<b>\$19,738</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,150</b>	<b>(\$26,279)</b>	<b>\$760</b>

Special Contributions - 2023 Summary					
Description	Mortgage Paydowns	Trees Project	Parking Lot Projects	Other	Total
Fund Balance 12/31/22	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Donations	\$15,000	\$7,765	\$2,200	\$350	\$25,315
Expenditures to Projects	(\$15,000)	(\$5,775)	(\$1,784)	(\$350)	(\$22,909)
<b>Fund Balance 12/31/23</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,990</b>	<b>\$416</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,406</b>

Council's Discretionary Fund - 2023 Summary	
Fund Balance 12/31/22	\$4,004
Coffee Challenge & Other Donations	\$430
Expenditures:	
Sacele Outreach Support - see Outreach Summary	(\$2,150)
Council Annual Retreat	(\$381)
Hospitality & Other	(\$225)
<b>Fund Balance 12/31/23</b>	<b>\$1,677</b>

<b>MEMORIAL FUND - 2023 SUMMARY</b>	
Fund Balance 12/31/22	\$7,316
Gifts in Memory of Loved Ones	\$5,550
Expenditures for Memorials	(\$143)
<b>Fund Balance 12/31/23</b>	<b>\$12,723</b>

<b>BUILDING &amp; EQUIPMENT RESERVES - 2023 SUMMARY</b>	
Fund Balance 12/31/22	\$9,463
<b>Additions:</b>	
Donations	\$1,720
Transfers from the Operating Budget	\$4,800
<b>Spending:</b>	
<b>Recurring:</b>	
Security Systems	(\$2,035)
Heating & Cooling Systems Maintenance	(\$2,374)
Entrance Doors	(\$7,200)
Other	(\$272)
<b>Future Capital Campaign:</b>	
Inspection / Analysis - by Forensic Building Consultants	(\$7,588)
<b>Fund Balance 12/31/23</b>	<b>(\$3,486)</b>

**West Linn Lutheran Church**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31, 2023

**ASSETS**

#1100 - B of A Checking	\$62,750
#1155 - B of A Savings	\$82,143
#1180 - InFaith Scholarship Endowment - 12/31/23 FMV (must be minimum of \$25k to distribute excess)	\$24,967
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>\$169,859</b>
#4067 - Other Receivables	\$607
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$170,466</b>

**LIABILITIES AND EQUITY**

#2050 - Donations for 2024 made December 2023	\$1,200
#2100 - Payroll Liabilities	\$85
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$1,285</b>

**FUND BALANCES:**

#2040 Unallocated ERC Funds	\$48,686
#3415 Pastors' Discretionary Fund	\$919
#3300 Memorial Funds - See Supplemental Schedule	\$12,723
#3425 College Scholarships - Endowment	\$24,967
<b>#3420 WLLC Church Ministries Programs - See Program Reports</b>	
3420.02 Celtic Spirits NW	(\$96)
3420.05 Youth Fund	\$1,101
3420.10 Youth Gatherings	\$1,925
3420.16 Health & Wellness Grant	\$250
3420.51 Holy Listening	\$0
3420.52 Women's Ministry	\$682
3420.53 Men's Ministry	(\$34)
3420.54 Creating Sacred Space	\$3,484
3420.55 Creative Spirits	\$110
3420.65 Labyrinth	\$313
3420.66 Internship Program	\$2,512
3420.70 Advent Breakfast	\$1,379

**West Linn Lutheran Church  
Balance Sheet  
As of December 31, 2023**

3420.77 Music Ministry Fund	\$565
3420.80 Women's Retreat	\$698
3430.66 Youth Homeless Outreach	\$134
3430.68 SON Network	\$3,566
3430.90 WLLC Quilters	\$2,889
3430.92 Flowers-Holiday/Special Events	\$1,145
3430.95 Special Contributions	\$2,406
3430.99 Council's Discretionary Fund	\$1,677
<b>Total 3420 WLLC Church Ministries Programs</b>	<b>\$24,707</b>
<b>#3430 WLLC Outreach Programs - See Supplemental Schedule</b>	
3430.36 Camp Lutherwood	\$310
3430.40 Sacele/Romania Funds	\$450
<b>Total 3430 WLLC Outreach Programs</b>	<b>\$760</b>
<b>#3571 Bldg &amp; Equip Maint. Reserves - See Supplemental Schedule</b>	
3571.0 Opening Balance 1/1/2023	\$9,463
3571.1 Donations to Reserves	\$6,520
3571.2 Recurring Maintenance & Repairs Expense	(\$11,881)
3571.5 Capital Campaign 2025 Expenses	(\$7,588)
<b>Total 3571 Bldg &amp; Equip Maint. Reserves, Ending Balance</b>	<b>(\$3,486)</b>
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$109,275</b>
2022 & Prior Operating Surplus Retained	\$17,912
2023 Operating Surplus Retained	\$16,236
<b>Subtotal - Operating Surplus Retained</b>	<b>\$34,148</b>
2023 Operating Surplus Allocated to 2024 Budget	\$25,758
<b>TOTAL OPERATING FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$59,906</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$170,466</b>

## Operating Fund - Actual vs Budget - Year ended December 31, 2023

	Actual	Budget	Difference	% of Budget
4005 Estimates of Giving	\$337,634	\$334,430	\$3,204	1%
4010 Envelope Giving	31,570	15,000	16,570	110%
4020 Loose Offerings	3,672	3,000	672	22%
<b>Total 4001 Congregational Support</b>	<b>372,876</b>	<b>352,430</b>	<b>20,446</b>	<b>6%</b>
4045 Other Resources				
4060 Building Use	750	1,200	(450)	-38%
4061 Building Partners	15,473	18,000	(2,527)	-14%
4062 Cottage Rental	9,600	9,600	0	0%
4070 Interest Income	26	0	26	0%
4551 Thrivent Choice Dollars	792	3,600	(2,808)	-78%
4560 Coffee House	788	600	188	31%
<b>Total 4045 Misc Income</b>	<b>27,429</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>(5,571)</b>	<b>-17%</b>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>\$400,304</b>	<b>\$385,430</b>	<b>\$14,874</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>1-6050 BENEVOLENCES</b>				
6050.05 ELCA/Oregon Synod	37,286	35,243	2,043	6%
<b>Total 2-6402 PASTORS' SALARY &amp; BENEFITS</b>	<b>113,428</b>	<b>116,537</b>	<b>(3,109)</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>Total 3-6401 LAY MINISTRY COMP &amp; BENEFITS</b>	<b>150,180</b>	<b>160,631</b>	<b>(10,451)</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<b>4-6400 FAITH FORMATION</b>				
6246 Intergenerational Faith Formation	477	900	(423)	-47%
6420 Middle School Faith Formation	631	1,200	(569)	-47%
6426 Children/Family Faith Formation	415	1,200	(785)	-65%
6440 High School Faith Formation	71	360	(289)	-80%
6450 Adult Faith Formation	366	240	126	53%
6451 RIC-Social Justice	0	500	(500)	-100%
<b>Total 4-6400 FAITH FORMATION</b>	<b>1,961</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>(2,439)</b>	<b>-55%</b>
<b>5-6500 PROCLAMATION</b>				
6580 Guest Pastor	0	1,200	(1,200)	-100%
6590 Worship & Altar Supplies	2,261	2,250	11	1%
6625 Guest Musician	825	600	225	38%
6630 Sr. Choir Music	0	480	(480)	-100%
6640 Worship Team/Licensing	989	1,800	(811)	-45%
<b>Total 5-6500 PROCLAMATION</b>	<b>4,075</b>	<b>6,330</b>	<b>(2,255)</b>	<b>-36%</b>

**West Linn Lutheran Church**  
**Operating Fund - Actual vs Budget - Year ended December 31, 2023**

	Actual	Budget	Difference	% of Budget
<b>6-6200 COMMUNITY GROUPS</b>				
6240 Library	357	420	(63)	-15%
6275 Community & Hospitality	(494)	900	(1,394)	-155%
<b>Total 6-6200 COMMUNITY GROUPS</b>	<b>(137)</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>(1,457)</b>	<b>-110%</b>
<b>7-6300 BUILDING &amp; PROPERTY</b>				
6310 Custodial Supplies	845	300	545	182%
6315 Janitorial Services	7,538	7,200	338	5%
6320 Bldg & Equip to Reserve	4,800	4,800	0	0%
6321 Repair & Maintenance	457	1,200	(743)	-62%
6322 Maintenance Contracts	560	720	(160)	-22%
6330 Mortgage Payment	20,184	20,184	0	0%
<i>Note: Mortgage balance is approximately \$5.5k at Dec'23 and will be paid off Apr'24</i>				
6340 Property Insurance	8,318	7,560	758	10%
6350 Utilities				
6350.10 Electric	5,540	6,000	(460)	-8%
6350.20 Gas	4,546	3,600	946	26%
6350.30 Water, Sewer	3,700	3,900	(200)	-5%
6350.40 Garbage	2,773	2,700	73	3%
6350.50 Telephone	3,609	3,360	249	7%
<b>Total 6350 Utilities</b>	<b>20,169</b>	<b>19,560</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Total 7-6300 BUILDING &amp; PROPERTY</b>	<b>62,871</b>	<b>61,524</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>8-6800 ADMINISTRATION</b>				
6570 Synod Meetings & Bishops Convocations	525	2,400	(1,875)	-78%
6571 Pastoral Call Expenses	3,377	15,000	(11,623)	-77%
6700 Stewardship	415	480	(65)	-13%
6870 Office Supplies	2,594	2,400	194	8%
6880 Postage	908	1,500	(592)	-39%
6890 Office Equip Lease & Maint	3,722	3,840	(118)	-3%
6890.11 Communications	1,051	480	571	119%
6890.15 Computer Maintenance	1,117	2,220	(1,103)	-50%
6891 Computer Equipment	994	360	634	176%
6892 Accounting Software	1,304	1,660	(356)	-21%
6895 Payroll Fees	1,572	0	1,572	0%
6930 Misc Expense	650	171	479	280%
6330.30 PPP - Loan Interest	865	0	865	0%
6940 Bank Merchant Charges	2,719	2,100	619	29%
<b>Total 8-6800 ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>21,813</b>	<b>32,611</b>	<b>(10,798)</b>	<b>-33%</b>



**West Linn Lutheran Church**  
**Operating Fund - Actual vs Budget - Year ended December 31, 2023**

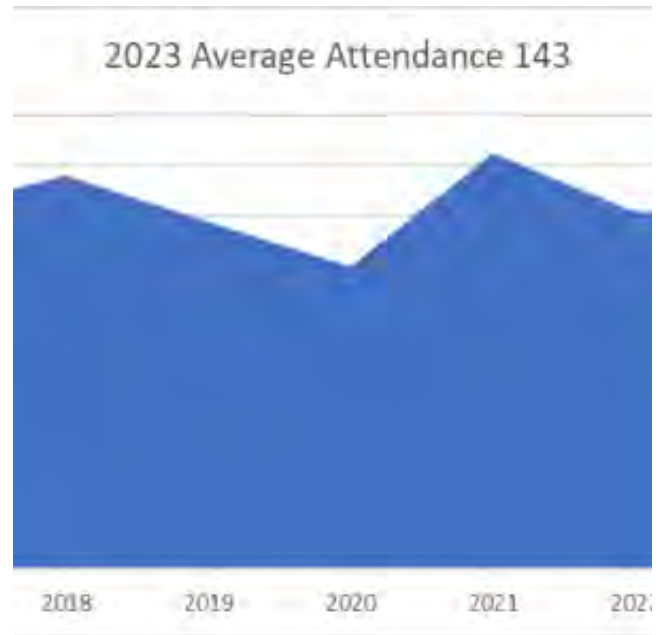
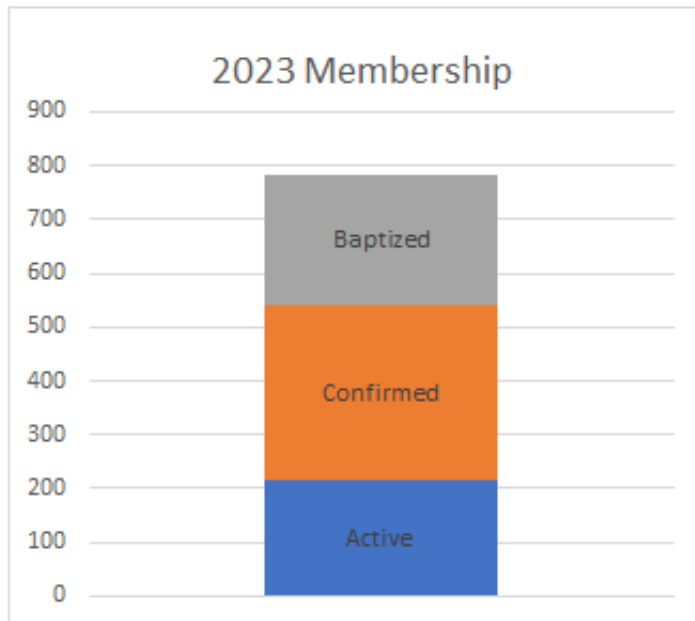
	Actual	Budget	Difference	% of Budget
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$391,477	\$418,596	(\$27,119)	-6%
<b>2023 OPERATING RESULTS BEFORE PRIOR SURPLUSES</b>	\$8,828	(\$33,166)	\$41,994	
<b>ALLOCATED 2022 SURPLUS TO 2023 BUDGET</b>	\$33,166	\$33,166		
<b>CUMULATIVE OPERATING BUDGET SURPLUS AT 12/31/23</b>	\$41,994	\$0		

# Pastoral Report

5 Deaths in 2023



Al Baillif, Pat Gettel, Greg Rice, Thomas Davis & Stan Schwabauer



210  
Active Members

779  
Baptized  
Members

550 Confirmed  
Members

# 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

## **Opening Devotion - Bethany Lenihan**

## **Quorum is Established**

Meeting Minutes Approved by majority vote

## **Transition Team Report**

Ministry Site Profile completed and sent to council

## **Pastors Report**

Discussed requirements for forming Call Committee

## **Budget Report -**

2022 Budget reviewed

Terry O'Donel moved to accept 2022

Budget as presented

Bethany Lenihan seconds

Motion passes

2023 Budget reviewed

Thrivent Dollars

Building Inspection soon to be completed

Suggestion about raising rent on the cottage residents

Suggestion about working with Love Inc

Suggestion about Landscaping the area near the cottage

Budget Proposal vote passes

## **Elections**

2023 Council Members

Candidates Nominated: Kevin Lenihan, Bethany Lenihan, Jeff Young, Karl Wright, Nancy Hawkins, Pat McDougal, Terry O'Donel

David Webster moves to accept All council member candidates to council Tara seconds, motion passes

2023 Camp Lutherwood Representatives

Nancy Horton nominates Brad Horton. Neil Robbins seconds

Brad Horton Elected

2023 Oregon Synod Assembly Delegates (Virtual: May 20th, 2023) No candidates nominated

Postponed until Nominations are made

## **Open Question Period Closing Prayer - Greg Lord Adjournment**

# Mission Statement

WE INVITE ALL PEOPLE INTO A TRUSTING  
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

# Welcoming Statement

West Linn Lutheran Church is a community of faith that welcomes all regardless of race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, family status, national origin, age, disability, medical history, political affiliation, financial situation, mistakes made, successes achieved or any other category that you or the world have determined you belong. Our hope and prayer is that our congregation loves all as Jesus loves the world.

**No exceptions.**

This welcome extends throughout the life of our congregation.



West Linn Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ congregation and part of the ELCA, Oregon Synod.

23090 Willamette Drive, West Linn, OR 97068

503.656.0110

wllc.org

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