

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

JANUARY 28,2024

Lebanon Lutheran Church

1101 South Mears Church

Whitehall, Michigan 49461

231-893-5745

www.lebanonlutheranchurch.com

YouTube: Lebanon Lutheran Church

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LebanonLutheranChurch/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/251594500110/?ref=share>

Lebanon Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 2024

Welcome, establishment of Quorum

Opening Prayer

Approval of minutes from Annual Minutes 2023

Ballot for Elected positions distributed

Review of 2023

Amendments to Church Constitution (page 45)

2023 Financial Reports

2024 Proposed Budget

Looking Forward – Ministry Reports reviewed and approved

Prayer

Closing

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise him all creatures here below

Praise him above you heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen.

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Regularly Scheduled Events

Finance Committee..... 2nd Tuesday @ 6pm
Executive Board..... 2nd Tuesday @ 7pm
Church Council..... 3rd Tuesday @ 6pm
Adult Life Thursdays via Zoom @ 6:30pm /9pm
Food Pantry..... Every Wednesday@ 9:30am-10:30a
(drive-thru only until further notice)

PASTOR

STAFF REPORTS

This past year saw the return and the redesign of many of our ministries, including worship itself. The shut down around COVID changed things. Here at Lebanon we used the time as much as possible as an opportunity.

The streaming video on YouTube might be the most obvious, thanks to Mike Schmalz, who might well have the best attendance record of anybody. We purchased some new equipment, and redesigned worship to make it more participatory for those at home, and that included making more opportunities for participation in person.

Summer programs returned in a new dress – a “small kids” VBS met our needs more than a large daycamp, and made better use of the skills of our volunteers, especially Amy Swope’s talents with kids. We hope to do this again in July 2024

Swim lessons returned, with some difficulty in locating an instructor. The Boys and Girls Club in Muskegon is still shut down due to the arson last year and the remodeling the year before. That was our main source of instructors. But we have made more contacts and have more locations in mind for 2024.

Smorgasbord made a rare October appearance with a target of June 27, in 2024, thanks to Flo King, Minnie Estlund, Irene and John Parks, Terry and Mary Beekman, and the excellent crew they assembled. While summer residents weren’t here in October, we had many new people who loved it and had never come before.

Zoom Bible study continues at 7 pm on Thursday nights. Thanks to Kathy Keller, we have the right zoom link for it, and for occasional council members to zoom into council meetings.

Remember when zooming into a meeting meant you were late?

We welcomed Slovak Seminarian Leah Bereniova, our twentieth. It was a very successful event that included ESL sessions at MCC through Read Muskegon. She brought a lot of joy to the summer. Thanks to John for organizing housing each year. Flo and Jim arrange for the photos in the lounge – hers is coming.

By the end of 2023 we reconnected with Ardy and Carol, to have occasional organ accompaniment in worship. Ardy played December 24. Aeden is a full-time student at WMU, and is not employed by a congregation there, but was home for New Years and played for us December 31. The White Lake Chorale makes its home with us, and performs twice a year at Montague High School. We do their accounting, they rehearse here during school breaks, and several Lebanon members sing with them.

In January 2024 we’ve had a new members class, and may be receiving new members the morning of our annual meeting. We honored Pastor Larry Foster, who died in 2023, and planted and dedicated a weeping cherry in his honor.

Scouting continues. We are the chartered organization for Pack 4048, and Troop 1048 and have been since 1950. We are the chartered organization for Venture Crew 2048 too, and now are home for Girl Scout Troop 8377. Scouting is smaller than it once was, with increased competition and expenses. We thank our leaders, youth and congregation for continued support.

Samaritas health kits – 100 of them! We plan to make one hundred more in Lent 2024. Quilts, coats, eyeglasses – we collected them for needy

individuals. In October Color Tour came back, welcoming Samaritas senior living from Grand Rapids and Legacy of Caring from Whitehall. Look for it again in October 2024. And we raised \$1000 for ELCA World Hunger to commemorate our 151th anniversary.

Food Pantry has grown to about 100 families per week. Groceries are harder to come by now, and some donations are down. But we did receive three large donations from Battelle (Columbus, Ohio), White Lake Women Who Care, and Wesco. Our volunteers have been dedicated, caring and effective. We still have plans for a separate facility. We have about half the money we need. We operate in snow, rain, and whatever comes.

The most important thing is we represent a style of Christianity that is more and more becoming a minority view. Too much of Christianity has become judgmental, disapproving, harsh and unwelcoming. We embody a grace-filled, arms-wide-open, arrows-down welcome enthusiasm for God's work in the world -- in the widow, the orphan, the stranger who sojourns in our land (Deuteronomy 14), the oppressed, the brokenhearted, the captives, and those who mourn (Isaiah 61), the neighbor. It's everywhere, and most especially here.

Welcome to Lebanon
Pastor Ogden



OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS

We are seeing new groups meeting at Lebanon and the changes we began after re-opening Lebanon continue.

Each group is responsible for making sure the areas they meet are cleaned up and lights off, doors locked. They are asked to text Pastor when they leave the building and all tasks are done. We continue to stock public areas with hand sanitizer and masks. The use of hand sanitizer, spray disinfectant and masks have kept the congregation and volunteers as healthy as possible.

While this has become the "new normal" it still entails effort on those who enter the church on a daily basis. Masking remains optional at this time.

Sue continues to make her calls from home and keeps me posted on any member changes or concerns. I appreciate her assistance in whatever tasks I require help with.

Donations or church business can be done during normal business hours.

Pastor Ogden and Mike Schmalz continue to record our worship for those who wish to stay home yet.

We have members and non-members viewing across the globe!

The weekly yellow bulletin is printed and available on Sundays and via our website. Meg Eaton continues to send our weekly news updates and the yellow pages are included.

If you are not receiving this weekly update, please contact the church office and let us know your email address so that we may add you to the list.

Please also, keep us updated on address changes, as well as phone numbers. The number of members switching to mobile numbers is growing daily.

I continue to keep Food Pantry records and assist with any Food Pantry needs with Sandy Robbins.

Submitted by Margaret Everling

NIGHT OFFICE STAFF

I am privileged to work from my home on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30 to 9:30 pm. due to the Covid virus.

I continue to call our homebound members letting them know we are thinking of them, checking on their well-being as well as keeping them in our prayers and preparing notes for Pastor so he knows how they are doing. They appreciate the calls and the online worship to keep them connected to Lebanon.

I also check on members who are ill or having surgery. I enjoy calling on birthdays, too.

We were able to pack and deliver 23 Christmas baskets this year to our homebound members. Thank you to John & Irene Parks, Mary & Terry Beekman, Barb Aardema, Deb Peabody, Mary Koenen, Carol Norwick and Wayne Roesler for bring the “goodies” for the baskets and packing and delivering them. A special thank you to Scott and Kathy Keller for making the jam and to everyone who brought donations for the baskets.

Thank you to Margaret who manages the office so efficiently. But most of all, thank all of you and Pastor Ogden who make my job so enjoyable.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Roesler

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORT

Financial Compliance Review

**Annual audit of church books, 9:00 AM,
December 2, 2023**

Present: Curt and Cheri Crouch, Tony DeNicolo, Terry Beekman, Terri Vanderleest, Don Nelson and Alan Hinks (Chair)

What we did: Reviewed the finances for the months of March 2023 and August 2023. Lots of questions were asked and resolved with the help of Curt, Cheri and Terri.

Conclusion: Everything added up and was approved. Adjourned at 10:20 AM.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Alan Hinks, Chair**

MEMORIALS

Six memorials were established in 2023 in honor of the following:

Jon Blyth	Donald Carrier
Helen Estlund	Larry Foster
Erma Hinze	Dick Statz

Memorial disbursements were applied to the following needs in 2023:

Frames for certificates by Klinefelters – Peter Damm

Microwave for kitchen – Ethel Anne Cavis

Tree in honor of Larry Foster

Technology account for the online worship – Dick Statz

Church Ad in Beacon – Frank & Greg Smith

Lebanon Lutheran Church's Memorial Fund account balance at 12-31-23 is **\$15,241.06.**

**Respectfully submitted,
Sue Roesler, Memorial Secretary**

CHOIR

I have enjoyed directing the choir very much this year, even more than usual. They continue to surprise and inspire me. When I pull out new music or dig deep in our files, they are game for whatever I challenge them with. I do wish we could sing more often, but this is a volunteer choir and we all have lives and family to fit around. There are a few new ideas rolling around in my head for next year, and one or two old ones I want to revisit.

All are welcome in the choir. The only requirement is that you want to sing. As the Psalmist says: "Make a joyful noise" which we can all do.

I would like to add a quote attributed to St. Augustine: "(He) who sings prays twice. So let's all get together and pray! Thank you very much.

**Respectfully submitted, Diane Eastman
Choir Director**

KITCHEN COMMITTEE

The Kitchen Committee has been dormant since the COVID days of 2020. Flo King suggested meeting in the new year to evaluate what items in the kitchen and pantry are truly necessary and which items we have in overabundance. WE could also develop a policy regarding donations of supplies and utensils. Anyone who's interested in helping make such decisions is welcome to join in the discussion.

Then we would decide how to declutter, where to donate extraneous items, and finally clean the rooms and appliances, probably over several weeks. Please stay tuned to the Friday and monthly newsletters for dates the committee will meet to accomplish these tasks. Suggestions and new volunteers are welcome!

**Respectfully submitted by Barb Aardema,
Chairperson**

FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR

Our faith ministry of the food pantry at Lebanon Lutheran is a very worthy and rewarding cause.

We distribute between 85 – 100 boxes to our clients each Wednesday morning.

We get to have one-on-one with our patrons which so nice. They get to know us, and we get to know them.

Tuesday mornings we fill 100 boxes with food that is bought from Feeding America West Michigan with monetary donations from the community and area churches and

businesses. We also apply for grants to help with food pantry costs.

We continue to have a Tuesday pick-up from Country Dairy, for approximately 96 gallons of milk. We do a food pick up either at a convenient near-by location or from Grand Rapids every 2 to 3 weeks. It is usually about 5,000 pounds of food items.

It takes a lot of time and physical work to do this every week. There are always tasks that are needing to be done and volunteers are welcomed and encouraged.

I have an amazing group of volunteers that are so dedicated and this mission would not be possible without them:

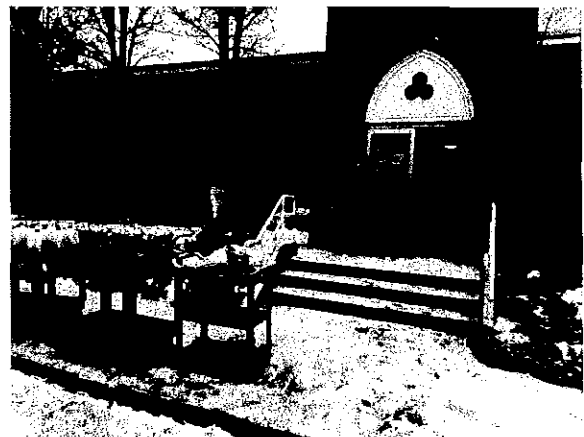
Kathy Walsh, Sue Sikkenga, Diana Delgado, Cindy Lipka, Paul Collins, Susan Newhof, Tom Pawlowski, Jenna Brown, Holly & Larry VanderPlaats, Al & Michele Wheeler, Barb Reese, Mary Koenen, Wietse Schaafsma, Rob Montgomery, Bill DeMumbertum, Margaret Everling and Pastor Ogden.

This mission would not be possible without our volunteers.

Thank you all for your dedication.

It is our honor to serve our community.

Submitted by Sandy Robbins, Coordinator



FOOD PANTRY

MISSION STATEMENT

The White Lake Area Food Pantry at Lebanon Lutheran Church serves to help a wide variety of hungry people representing the unemployed, the working poor, senior citizens, at-risk children, pregnant teens, and domestic violence victims and more. We offer them a warm breakfast*, fellowship and food and other household items that are donated by members of the community and Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank.

***During the pandemic, our breakfast program as well as in-person shopping has been stopped. The pantry is currently operating at a Drive-Thru only.**

The Pantry served 4368 families in 2023, (up from 3784 in '22) or approximately 9711 individuals, (503 more than '22). The breakdown is as follows: 2522 children and 3924 senior citizens, and 363 Veterans.

Over 70% of the food is purchased through Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank, in Comstock Park at a minimal cost of 16 cents per pound. The balance of our food is donated at no cost to us by area businesses, schools and churches or through local stores at full cost. It has been difficult to source common items from Feeding America such as peanut butter, flavored rice, soups and cereals, and spaghetti sauce. The Pantry welcomes food donations from area food drives, local farmers and summer visitors.

Because the Food Pantry is not a budgeted program of the church, it is entirely dependent upon the generosity of Lebanon

Lutheran members, and other churches in the White Lake Community. Community organizations, philanthropic businesses and individuals are very important to enable the Food Pantry to continue to provide nutritious food for hungry families in our area. We receive a discounted rate for our U Haul rental from Twin Cities. The Food Pantry has received generous grants from Thrivent Financial, private matching grants, Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce (Dancing with the Local Stars), White Lake Women and annual food contributions from Quilted Memories, Wesco, I-Move HarborLight Credit Union, Shoreline and Ealy Elementary students and staff, Realtors Who Care, as well as numerous anonymous donations.

The pantry served White Lake Families approximately 50 weeks, through heat and humidity, snow and sleet, rain, thunder and lightning, we have delivered food to our community.

We continue as a Drive-thru only each Wednesday from 9:30am to 10:30am. We have heard many clients wish we could continue with our breakfast format, but that is not likely, due to continued covid breakouts.

Record keeping is still mandatory and we report our information to Feeding America monthly.

We are still utilizing boxes which are generously donated by La Fiesta in Montague. We do get some clients returning the boxes and bringing others that they obtained.

Thank you to Pastor Ogden, Sandy Robbins, Kathy Walsh, Susan Newhof, Sue Sikkenga, Paul Collins, Larry and Holly Vanderplaats, Cindy Lipka, Rob Montgomery, Diana Delgado, Bill DeMumbrum and Tom Pawlowski, as well as many additional volunteers throughout the year from various groups and schools.

Also, a huge thank you to Al and Michele Wheeler for their dedicated service in going to New Era and picking up milk weekly from Country Dairy as well as Wietse Schaafsma, Mary Koenen, Barb Reese, Larry Vanderplaats. Without all of our volunteers working together, our pantry would not run so smoothly.

Submitted by Margaret Everling

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild fulfills a very important role for the Church. The tasks of the Altar Guild include:

- Setting the wine and juice into the serving trays
- Keeping the candles filled from week to week
- Setting the altar table before service
- Changing the parament colors with the change of season
- After service cleanup of washing the wine cups and storing trays and linens in the closet
- Washing and ironing of church linens as needed.

Many thanks to those volunteers who have participated with setup and/or cleanup this past year, including Al Wheeler, Meg and Glenn Eaton, Barb and Dave Dusenberry, and of course, Sheila Fretty for her contribution of delicious communion bread. It is truly wonderful to have

these volunteers to help keep the altar beautiful for Sundays.

Additional volunteers are always needed and welcomed. A volunteer can help in any way that they feel comfortable, and as often, or seldom as they wish. Michele and Al Wheeler are very happy to provide one-on-one training. The job is not difficult, but is integral to Sunday morning service occurring seamlessly.

Sign-up sheets for Altar Guild 2024 are located on the table in the entry way near the front double doors. Will you consider helping with this important job?

In addition to the Altar Guild, there are opportunities to serve, including the reading of lessons (Lector) or assisting in Holy Eucharist (Communion Assistant). Those sign-up sheets are also located in the entry way.

**Respectfully submitted
by Michele Wheeler, Altar Guild Chair**

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

This year's backpack giveaway on August 17 was a great success thanks to many volunteers from Lebanon as well as Shoreline Elementary PTO and Shoreline Principal Beth Whaley.

We gave away 98 backpacks to a total of 43 families/groups.

We also had stations for school supplies. The Book-Bike from White Lake Community Library made an appearance and kids could pick out a new book to take home. The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts provided information on how to join. The Muskegon County Sheriff provided ice cream, White Lake Fire Authority brought along their new fire truck for kids to explore. HealthWest provided information about Mental Health treatment and support for people of all ages.

Thank you to all the volunteers who grilled hot dogs, served popcorn and drinks. The spray-painted t-shirts were the most popular station! Thanks to Ariel Moss for all her hard work painting over 100 shirts.

Some other statistics from the event:

*27 of the families/groups attend school in the Whitehall district (approx.. 62% of attendees)

*7 attend Montague

*4 attend Reeths-Puffer

*6 attend other districts: Furthest away being Detroit and Texas (visiting family for the summer here in both cases).

23 kids attend Middle or High School (6-12)
75 kids attend Elementary school or below (Pre-school – 5th grade).

29 families signed up for our mailing list to be notified about other events at Lebanon, including Kids Church, Day Camp, Swim Lessons, and next year's Backpack Giveaway.

We are going to start planning the August 2024 Backpack Giveaway early next year.

Submitted by Jenna Brown



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The committee members are Becky Wahr, Tony DeNicolo, Sarah Stacy-Schmalz and Terry Beekman.

We started this year with a balance of \$60,895 and ended it with a balance of \$107,075 at Fidelity Investments. This included a deposit of \$16,685.33 from the sale of the Mears Street house in June 2023. There was a gain on investments of \$46,180.

The current sub-fund balances are -

General Building Fund – This is a restricted fund in which the gains can be used to maintain, remodel and repair the original Sanctuary built in 1877. The balance in this Sub-Fund as of December 31, 2023 is \$44,045 with \$4,045 available for use.

Outreach Fund – This is a Non-Restricted Fund in which the gains can be used to support our Christian Mission. The balance in this Sub-Fund as of December 31, 2023 is \$63,030 with \$27,925 available for use.

Please consider investing some of your gifting to the Endowment Fund and including it in your estate planning. Further information is available from the Committee Secretary, Tony DeNicolo or myself, including methods of giving, The Mission Statement for use of the Funds and the application forms and the procedure to request a grant from the Fund.

**Respectfully submitted, Terry Beekman
Chairperson**

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Lebanon's Historical Committee met through the winter of 2022 and spring of 2023, with plans to reconvene in November 2023. We will continue to catalogue newspaper and magazine articles related to Lebanon and its members, and to identify and organize photographs with the help of the congregation.

We organized a photo of members and guests who attended worship on June 4, 2023 – to complete the 150th year of celebration. Greg Johnson, who had long photographed our confirmation classes, selected the front steps as the best place to shoot the picture, due to lighting and available space. Sixty-six people are in the photograph. For posterity, a key to who's who is attached to the back of the framed photo, and a copy of the key is located nearby on the sign-up table in the front entrance.

Paul Klinefelter framed the enlarged group photo, as well as several historical documents found throughout the past year. Several members asked for and received a digital file to make their own copies of the 2023 group image, with Greg's permission. Greg didn't charge Lebanon for the photography session.

We ask that anyone who donates photos to Lebanon to indicate who's in the photos, the year and activity represented. We have archival pens we will use to put the information on the backs of the photos.

The Historical Committee consists of Marie Hendrixon, Zoe Fretty, Frank Hollister, Barb Aardema and Irene Parks. Anyone interested in helping catalog Lebanon's history is welcome to join us. Meetings have been held on Friday afternoons at 1 p.m. Call Barb or Irene to confirm.

Report submitted by Barb Aardema



KIDS KLUB

A half-hour meeting targeted for children aged 4-6 years met 9 times in 2023. "Kids' Klub" is currently scheduled for monthly meetings from 9:30-10:00, although additional times may be added in 2024. We have a designated space downstairs in the former library --- thanks to the Property Committee for the makeover!



Notifications are sent to families via email. 2023 meetings featured a craft, music, Bible story, and prayer. We finished out the year with a rousing rendition of "Go Tell it on the Mountain", in which we were joined by the entire congregation. Our assistant is Ms. Lynzie, and we were joined by Ms. Toni later in the year. We appreciate all the families who participate in Kids' Klub, and we welcome any and everyone. If you wish to volunteer, if you know of a family who might like to join us, or if you have any questions, please contact Amy Swope at (517) 589-9974 or amyvan85@yahoo.com.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Swope

SLOVAK INTERN PROGRAM

After a four year drought of not having a Slovak Intern, Lebanon Lutheran Church received one in 2023. Leah Bereniova is a Seminarian in Bratislava, Slovakia.

I would like to thank the Host Families: The Ogden Family, the Schaafsma Family, the Keller Family, Mary Koenen, the Eaton Family, and my wife for all the work that you did to make Leah's stay in the White Lake Area a great experience. We feel that this program has been a great success, and we are looking forward to hosting another intern in the summer of 2024.

Please consider supporting the program, either financially or host family.

Submitted by: John Parks, Coordinator

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

I continue in my efforts to keep our children, and those scattered around the country and abroad, connected to our church, supplied with materials, like a Sparks Family Magazine for kids aged 3 to 12, or a Splash Newsletter for parents of kids 1 to 36 months. Please see the descriptions of Splash and the Sparks Magazine in the 2021 report as they have not changed. Sometimes they receive additional materials, like coloring pages of Bible Stories or other fun stuff.

We keep our sights on the goals we set initially, which are to let them know that:

- 1) God loves them and wants to be their best friend of all
- 2) Lebanon Church cares about them and loves them, too
- 3) Lebanon Church cares about their parents and we are there for the entire family
- 4) Bible stories are really cool

In order to accomplish these goals, we mail out materials to parents and children.

We must be doing some good, because I keep hearing reports from parents about how their kids love receiving Sparks Magazine and seeing their own name on the envelope, knowing that it was sent just to them, personally! Grandparents have told me about sitting down with their grandchildren and reading the Sparks Magazine and how much they enjoy the conversations that spring from there. I also know that these mailings

are the only Word from God that some of these families may be getting. The child may be coming to church with a grandparent but the parents haven't been to our church yet. This little magazine we send may be the message of love that not only speaks to the child, but to the parent who is reading it, as well. How many people pick up one of these magazines and read them? WE can't know how far-reaching the messages of acceptance, grace, and hope are.

As children "age-out" of our program, when they turn 18 and graduate from high school, new babies are being born and other children are coming into our church and added to my list! So, as a whole, we are keeping our numbers steady.

One of the things I am working on is to find or create materials for pre-teens and teens for mailings. There is a real dearth of materials with the message we wish to send of arrows down love, acceptance, and grace for this group that isn't connected an in-class protocol, making them unworkable for mailings. We are still working on this challenge and have some ideas percolating.

I remain grateful for the support the church has given this ministry. It has made it possible to do so much for the children and their parents! Please keep the children (especially the tweens and teens) and this ministry in your prayers.

Submitted by: Melanie Schaafsma

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Committee members: Doug Aardema, Terry Beekman, Glenn Eaton, Alan Hinks, Scott Keller, and Wiestse Schaafsma

Work Completed in 2023:

Performed routine building and grounds maintenance
Conducted annual inspection of emergency lighting system and addressed deficiencies.
Repaired picnic tables.
Cleaned roof drains numerous times and sealed gap around exhaust pipe.
Replaced worn drive belt on roof fan for first floor restrooms.
Hauled away numerous trailer loads of leaves, yard waste, and tree limbs.
Restriped the parking lot and painted the curbs.
Took down and disposed of the damaged fence on the South edge of the parking lot.
Replaced the broken tail light unit and worn tires on the trailer.
Painted the new exterior door on the South side of the church.
Planted and cared for Pastor Foster's memorial tree.
Cut down mulberry tree in the southeast corner parking lot and removed large lilac bush.
Moved leaves and fallen tree limbs to curb for city pick up.
Removed unnecessary furnishings, installed a large bulletin board, and patched and painted a wall in the Kids Klub space.
Cleaned and re-organized the old Sunday School area in the basement.
Replaced damaged screen in the exterior door in the lounge and removed and replaced a broken window pane in the basement.

Repaired the countertop in the upper hall and repaired faucets and stall locking mechanism in women's restroom.

Removed old floor tiling from landing adjacent to new South door.

Cleaned the sanctuary exterior on the Mears St. side of the church.

Cleaned and repaired gas grills for use at the backpack event.

Coordinated/facilitated Completion in 2023

Facilitated replacement of the concrete walkway to the Mears St. church entrance.

Coordinated repair of the roof air-conditioning unit by Boardwell Mechanical at great savings.

Facilitated development of a new air-conditioning and heating service contract.

Coordinated the replacement of a urinal flush unit at significant savings.

Oversaw the repair of a damaged kitchen faucet bringing it into compliance with health department standards.

Projects for 2024

Install a new tile floor on the landing adjacent to the South entrance.

Replace old emergency ceiling light in the food pantry

Address issues where paint has peeled and blistered on the outside of the sanctuary.

Explore options for improving drainage of the South parking lot.

Submitted by Glenn Eaton, Property Chair

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

MEMBERS

Chris Claus
David Dusenberry
Barbara Dusenberry

MARRIAGES

DEATHS

Jon Blyth – 8/16/38 – 3/7/23
Jeannette Otto – 6/30/43 – 7/16/23
Norma Simon * 8/15/43 – 9/17/23
*denotes non-members

TRANSFERS

BAPTISMS

Finn DeMumbrum

ATTENDANCE AVERAGES:

Total Attendance for 2023 was: 2445

*some attendance numbers were not included due to no usher notations. **Only 44 weeks were noted on the usher chart.

Average weekly attendance: 56

MEMBER STATISTICS:

Total Membership – 320

Confirmed – 274

If we inadvertently missed anyone, we apologize. Please call the church office (893-5745), so that we may correct our records. Thank you.

**Lebanon Lutheran Church
Minutes of Congregational Meeting**



Office Lebanon <lebanonlutheranoffice22@gmail.com>

Annual Meeting Minutes

1 message

Barbara Aardema <barb.aardema@gmail.com>
To: Margaret Everling <lebanonlutheranoffice22@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 25, 2023 at 3:37 PM

Here they are!

I wasn't absolutely positive of Mike Schmalz's signature on the sign-in sheet. Please have someone else look at the handwritten sign-in sheet. A copy was made for the office, but I have the original if you can't find it.
Barb

Annual Meeting of Lebanon Lutheran Church

January 22, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Council president Cheri Crouch called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. as a quorum was present and members were finishing the potluck dinner.

Tim DeMumbrum made a motion to accept minutes of the January 30, 2022, annual meeting. Motion supported by Wietse Schaafsma. Carried.

BALLOT

Cheri thanked outgoing council member Scott Keller for his service, especially for his inspiring devotions that opened the meetings.

Cheri opened nominations from the floor. As all vacant positions had nominees listed, there were no further nominations. Kathy Keller moved to accept the ballot by acclamation. Tim DeMumbrum supported the motion. Carried unanimously. The following people were elected:

Don Nelson - Financial Compliance Review Committee

Jim King, John Parks, Terry Beekman - Usher Team

Jon Blyth - Endowment Committee

Michele Wheeler - Altar Guild Chair

Cheri Crouch, Meg Eaton, Brian Jaekel and Al Wheeler - Church Council

Wietse and Melanie Schaafsma - Synod Assembly Delegates

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial Secretary Curt Crouch shared these highlights from 2022:

- As we came out of COVID-19 years, we did "amazingly well" for attaining income over what was budgeted in 2022.
- In 2023 the Faith Formation line item increases from \$100 to \$600 as we overspent in 2022 to follow needs.
- Pastor noted that Stony Lake Camp is now asking campers to "pay what you like." The camp sought to reduce camp tuition to zero through donations; this is a compromise. Lebanon met its targeted donation to the camp.
- Lebanon has about 10 accounts at Shelby State Bank so as not to commingle specific funds, like the White Lake Chorale's monies, into Lebanon program funds.
- We spent about \$61,000 in 2022 for Food Pantry, and took in about \$54,000 in donations. Feeding America grants helped cover the costs.
- The bill for the new carpeting finally arrived, just when shares in the Endowment Fund were trending downward. Instead of selling the shares, the Finance Committee opted to use income from the land contract on a house Lebanon owns to pay for the carpeting. Once a closing on the land contract is completed, the Endowment Fund will pay back the carpeting loan to the Food Pantry.

Pastor noted Curt has been the financial secretary for 30 years. Curt said it won't be 30 years until August, 2023. Alice Gevin had been financial secretary for many years, assisted by Gert Peterson. The two women produced meticulously handwritten reports weekly. Alice died in early 1993, and Gert opted to turn over the job to Curt in August 1993 because records were to be computerized. Curt's longevity met with applause.

Mike Snell moved to accept the financial reports. Kathy Keller supported the motion. Carried unanimously.

BUDGET FOR 2023

Treasurer Terry Beekman, via ZOOM from Florida, said budgeted expenses increased by approximately \$12,000 through 2022 due to inflation. The proposed 2023 budget therefore is \$208,731. Most increases are due to office supplies, an 8% cost-of-living increase for the office administrator's salary and to cover more of Margaret Everling's hours in the office. No other staff member had increases in salary. Pastor said his goal is to return benevolence for Synod to 10% over time.

Pastor's family health insurance continues to be covered by the County of Muskegon, even though Monica Ogden retired from the county in 2022. That's a savings of \$16,605 from what Lebanon would have been paying into the ELCA's insurance plan in 2023.

Frank Hollister moved the Evangelism and Stewardship line items in the budget be changed from \$0 each to \$250 each. Marie Hendrixon supported the motion.

Terry and Cheryl explained that although those categories are important, there are other sources outside the budget that cover them. The budget currently is organized so that 8.5% of each line item goes to Synod Benevolence. By using other sources, such as Thrivent Financial, that percentage isn't tacked onto each line item. Meg Eaton noted Thrivent Choice Dollars have brought in \$3,000 - \$5,000 over the last two years.

Pastor said a new committee dubbed the Generosity Committee rather than Stewardship Committee, has begun to meet to acknowledge changes in what we do now, compared to what we've done in the past as we move forward in 2023.

Kara Jaekel said Evangelism is a broad topic. She noted Lebanon does Evangelism well through Pastor's engagement with the community and via Healthwest, with its LGBTQIA, Alcohol Anonymous and Suicide Prevention programs.

Frank's motion failed, 17-8.

Frank Hollister made a motion to move "Health through Monica" and "Portico" to the Pastoral category as that would contribute more to Synod Benevolence—a positive statement—rather than saying we're saving \$2,200 by posting it under Service and Mission. The motion died for lack of support.

Melanie Schaafsma thanked Pastor for not allowing us to give him a raise in 2022.

Michele Wheeler moved to accept the 2023 budget of \$208,731. Kay Snell supported the motion. Carried unanimously.

Terry closed by saying he's been treasurer for 10-14 years, and "is getting old." He encouraged someone new to step forward to take over the position, but members present indicated they hope he'll continue his ministry as our treasurer awhile longer.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Mike Snell moved to accept all the reports listed at the beginning of the annual report. Jane Blyth supported the motion. Carried.

Pastor noted the thickness of the reports this year, as compared to the 2021 year. In 2022 we were beginning to reconvene committees as COVID precautions were slacking off. "We're doing stuff again!" Pastor said.

Meg Eaton moved to adjourn at 1:10 p.m. Motion supported by Wietse Schaafsma. Carried. We closed by singing the Doxology.

Present at the meeting:

Al Wheeler

Michele Wheeler

Marie Hendrixon

Shawn Erwin

Sue Plewka

Wietse Schaafsma

Melanie Schaafsma

Jane Blyth

Jon Blyth

Alice Hollister

Frank Hollister

Cindy Albert

Timothy W. DeMumbrum

Virginia DeMumbrum

Sue Roesler

Doug Aardema

Barb Aardema (meeting secretary)

Jenna Brown

Christie Phillips

Stephen Ogden
Michael Schmalz
Amy Swope
Kathy G. Keller
Kay Snell
Mike Snell
Cheri Crouch
Curt Crouch
Meg Eaton
Brian Jaekel
Kara Jaekel
Sarah Schmalz
Ethan Reynolds

Via Zoom – Terry Beekman

I don't check email daily. For prompt reply, please call the number beneath my name. Thanks.

Barb Aardema
231-894-9378

THE DEDICATION OF A WEEPING CHERRY IN MEMORY OF PASTOR LARRY FOSTER

LEADER: God's goodness is revealed in creation. "And God saw that it was good (Gen. 1:10). We join the whole creation in praising God as we bear witness to God's promise that "the creation itself will be set free" (Romans 8:21)

Let us pray: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of those in heaven and those on earth, of things seen and unseen. You divided the day from the night; you appointed times and seasons for work and for rest, planting and gathering. The trees of the forest and field all clap their hands in praise of their maker, sustainer, redeemer. And so you have blessed your people throughout all generations, and you guide us through life and through death. With Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Isaiah and all the prophets, Mary the mother of our Lord, and Mary in the garden, and all the apostles, with Pastor Larry Foster and all the witnesses through whom your spirit moved and spoke, we give you thanks, O God, especially for the labors of Pastor Foster in this place, as we dedicate this tree to your glory and praise. AMEN

A BLESSING FOR US ALL

Blessed are you, Lord of all hopefulness. Through you:

Blessed are we when we are pulled between needing to let go, and wanting to hang on.

Blessed are we when we yearn for love and touch

Blessed are we by the beauty of life itself and the people who fill our lives to the fullest.

Blessed are we as we take this time to look over our shoulder at all we have learned from one another in times past, the people we became, the people who loved us, the peace of time spent with good friends.

We come before you today in humility and meekness seeking your blessing on the life of this tree which is planted to remember Larry, the one we loved, our Pastor and friend, our companion on the way

May this tree take root in this soil, drawing from it water and nutrients, so it may grow and blossom bringing beauty in flower and leaf, offering shelter to birds and insects, enriching this place with life.

Blessed are we as we turn our eyes ahead toward a path not yet mapped

Blessed are we by a life brimming with beauty, in the growing things of summer, and gratitude for life itself.

A Reading from Psalm 19

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament [a] proclaims his handiwork.

2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

3 When there is no speech, nor when there are no words; their voice is not heard;

4 yet their voice [b] goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens [c] God has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong woman who runs her course with joy.

7 The word of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, rejoicing the heart; the Ways of the Lord are clear, enlightening the eyes;

10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and the honeycomb.

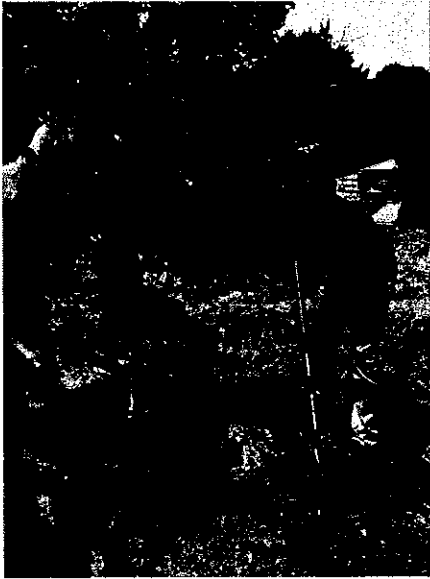
12 But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

A CLOSING PRAYER

Merciful God, in the stillness of our souls we listen to your voice to know again that you are God. Quiet our restless hearts with the knowledge that you stand with us

in the shadows of life, keeping watch over your own. Rekindle our faith and light the lamp of hope within us. Then deal with us as seems best to you, for where you lead we can confidently go, through Jesus Christ our lord.
AMEN



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Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. - Hebrews 12:1

Lebanon Lutheran Church - Whitehall
Pr. Douglas M. Ogden
1101 S Mears Ave
Whitehall, MI 49461-1730

October 4, 2023

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$50.00 received on October 2, 2023. In addition to supporting C.J. Clark and our 2023 Run the Race campaign, your donation helps provide necessary resources to make our programs financially accessible to all of God's children as we develop and provide innovative programs each summer.

Annually, Living Water Ministries serves children in foster care, families experiencing homelessness, adults with developmental disabilities, and children attending with church groups. We also provide faith-based leadership programs that train young leaders with a raised awareness of the ills of racism and increase their cross-cultural competency through immersive experiences. This work is life-changing and your gift allows us to build the capacity to continue reaching far and wide to gather all of God's children for experiences of faith formation, service, leadership, and community.

Friends, on behalf of all those who participated in Run the Race 2023, **thank you** for your gift and for being part of our team. We are definitely better together!

Peace,

C.J. Clark
Executive Director of Living Water Ministries

We certify receipt of your gift of \$50.00 and rendered no products, services, or programming in return for this gift. Living Water Ministries is a 501c3 organization. Our Tax-Exempt Federal ID number is 38-2771634.

Bringing together all of God's children to experience Christian community, grow in faith, develop leadership skills, and serve others.

7898 W. Stony Lake Rd. | New Era, MI 49446 | (231) 861-4138 | office@elcallyingwater.com | www.elcallyingwater.com

World Hunger Team
North/West Lower Michigan Synod

c/o Immanuel Lutheran Church
1505 W. Michigan Avenue
Jackson, MI 49202



July 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your faithful, generous support of ELCA World Hunger. Your congregation was one of the top 10 per capita giving congregations to ELCA World Hunger in our Synod. Thank you.

"According to the United Nations World Food Programme, food insecurity has reached an unprecedented high, affecting a record of 349 million people, up from 135 million in 2019." * Your donations are so important as we address these hunger issues. Life changing solutions grow from your donations and help families beat hunger.

Thank you for caring and sharing. Together we can make a difference.

Eric Johnson
Donja Kohlmeier
Lisa Reeves
Cheri Johnson
Nancy Hartzford
Michael Anderson

In Christ,
N/W Lower Michigan Synod
Hunger Team

*June 23, 2023, email from The Rev. Daniel Rift,
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund

World Hunger Team
North/West Lower Michigan Synod

c/o Immanuel Lutheran Church
1505 W. Michigan Avenue
Jackson, MI 49202



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In Christ,

N/W Lower Michigan Synod
Hunger Team

Erick Johnson
Zonja Kohlmeier
Lidia Neves
Cheri Johnson
Nancy Hartford
Michael Anderson

*June 23, 2023, email from The Rev. Daniel Rift,
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

January 10, 2023

Thank You

Lebanon Lutheran Church
1101 S Mears Ave
Whitehall, MI 49461-1730

Dear Lebanon Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift(s) given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in November 2022.

*This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
("What Child Is This," ELW 296)*

This season we remember a time before Christ's birth, when humanity waited to be delivered from fear and sin. But we also remember the day the waiting ended. Our Savior arrived, and now we live in a world transformed by God's grace. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you share the everlasting joy of that transformation with our neighbors around the world.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

Jesus was born to reign in us forever. Now you are inviting countless others into his gracious kingdom. Thank you.

In Christ,

Amanda White

Amanda White
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for gift detail.

NORTH/WEST LOWER MICHIGAN SYNOD - ELCA

North/West Lower Michigan Synod - ELCA
PO Box 517, Dewitt MI 48820-0517
517-321-5066 | www.miltensynod.org
The Rev. Craig A. Satterlee Ph.D, Bishop
Assistants: Rev. Rosanne Anderson and Rev. David E. Sprang



February 2023

Many of us have delighted in Dr. Wally Taylor's journey through the Corinthian correspondence this January and February. Paul has some of the greatest greetings in his letters. He is always thankful for partnership in the Gospel and the work of the Spirit that is happening. Even when he is about to scold one of the churches in his letters, still he thanks God for them, their work and their generosity.

1 Corinthians 1:4-6 "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus, for every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind..."

In the style of Paul, we as a synod, God's people together, give thanks for the grace of God within you. As we have closed the books on the year 2022 and entered 2023, with all its ups and downs, we give thanks for your partnership and generosity. As we hear of other synods with deep deficits, our synod council and its leaders have managed funds well.

It was a year of unknowns. Many congregations received Covid Funds in some way or another in 2020 and 2021, none of which were available in 2022. Congregations are back to worshipping in person but very few have attendance anywhere near what numbers were like a few years ago. The world has changed, the church is changing, but the Word of God stands fast. Through it all you, the congregations of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, have remained faithful and generous. Some are still struggling, while others were able to step up and give generously. We are the people of God together.

Through your generosity we have been able to make Lutheran Disaster Response gifts, we have supported new outreach ideas, we have cared for congregations in the call process, supported the all encompassing work of the ELCA, and assisted congregations in holy closure.

Paul also wrote to the Corinthians: *II Corinthians 9: 6 "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ...God loves a cheerful giver."*

Partners in Ministry,

Rev. David E. Sprang

Rev. David E. Sprang
Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

Enclosure: 2022Q4 (Nov 2022 – Jan 2023) Contribution Statement

Proclaiming Christ and prayerfully participating in Jesus' own work of reconciling the world to God's very self!



January 4, 2024

The Reverend Douglas M. Ogden
Lebanon Lutheran Church-Whitehall
1101 S Mears Ave
Whitehall, MI 49461-1730

Dear Pastor Douglas:

We are so grateful to you and our friends at Lebanon Lutheran Church-Whitehall for your continuing partnership with us - including the most recent gift of \$1,295.00 on 12/28/2023. We appreciate your members' commitment to serving people through faith, as an expression of the love of Christ.

For 89 years, and because of the support of your congregation, Samaritas has been an advocate for so many children and families across Michigan. Your support helps Samaritas to empower the people we serve, enabling them to overcome the challenges of trauma, hopelessness, poverty, and social isolation.

Through your, partnership, the work of transforming lives in our community through that empowerment and connection can happen. Again, we say thank you! Should you have any questions at all, please contact DeeDee McVety, Director of Faith-Centered Engagement at deedee.mcvety@samaritas.org or (248) 953-1944.

Gratefully,

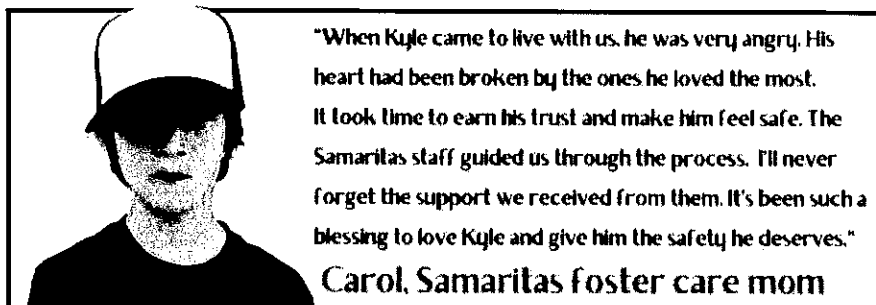
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Morin".

David Morin
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kelli".

Kelli Dobner
Chief Advancement & Strategy Officer

Please note: Samaritas is a 501(c)3 private, non-profit organization: EIN 38-1360553. We are pleased to certify that neither Samaritas nor the Samaritas Foundation have provided you with any goods or services in exchange for your gift that would reduce the tax deductibility of your gift under IRS guidelines. We are grateful for your partnership with us in meeting the needs of those who are most vulnerable.





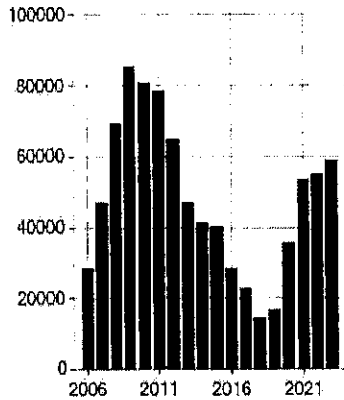
[Home](#) [Orders](#) [Grants](#) [Statistics](#) [Other Agency Info](#) [My Docs](#)

[Order Entry](#)

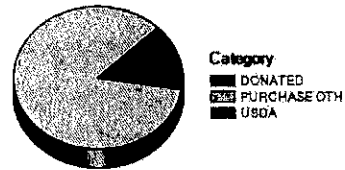
Lebanon Lutheran Church/White Lake Area Food Pantry

[Agency Info](#) [Locations](#) [Contacts](#) [Hours](#) [Open AR](#) [Service Info](#) [PIN Code Maintenance](#)

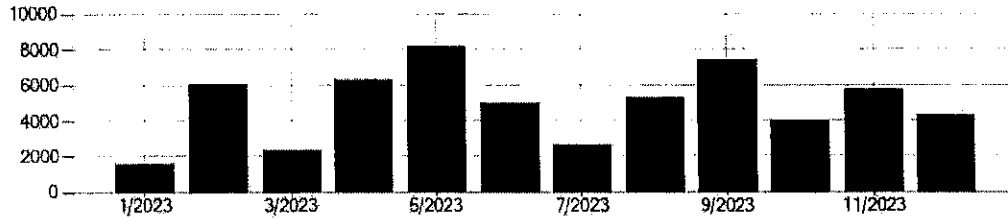
Total Pounds Distributed



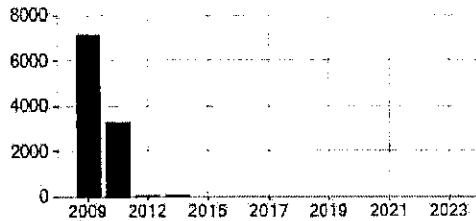
Pounds Distributed by Category (YTD)



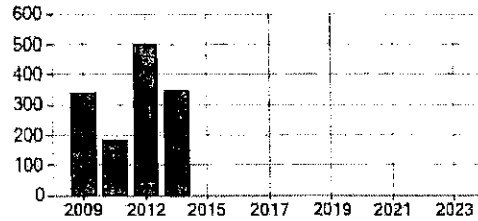
Pounds Distributed



Total Meals Served Per Year



Total People Helped Per Year



Muskegon County Cooperating Churches

*"Moved by the love of Christ, we seek reconciliation and justice for all,
reaching across barriers that divide to alleviate poverty, both spiritual and physical."*

120 W. Apple Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49440 Phone: 231-727-6000

Date: 29 December 2023
Dear Lebanon Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$ 50.00 which we received on
27 Dec 2023.

YOU make the work of Muskegon County Cooperating Churches possible. In these very difficult times, your support is a vital blessing which allows us to continue meeting the needs of our neighbors. We very much appreciate your kindness and generosity.

With your help, we

- Coordinated the delivery of the mobile food pantries from the Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank in Muskegon County.
- Provide oversight for the Muskegon Deport Delivery Program, which helps 44 local pantries by bringing food from the food bank to a central Muskegon location, saving time and gas.
- Hold annual events, such as worship services, and peace and justice initiatives.
- Publish six issues of BRANCHES.
- Maintain the Directory of Churches of Muskegon County (available free to all members).
- Provide fiduciary oversight for the Muskegon Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.
- Help coordinate the Muskegon Area CROP Hunger Walk and work with other groups to meet community needs as they arise.
- Send out information in email blasts to inform the public, the churches and local organizations about upcoming events in the community.

You help us continue to be the connection between our various congregations, the faith community, and our larger population.

Please continue to pray for our programs as we work together to express the love of Christ here in our community.

Grace and Peace,

Bro T. W.

*PL Thanks so much for your
most faithful support!*

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Muskegon County Cooperating Churches

Total Gift \$ 50.00 Tax Deductible Amount \$ 50.00

Unless otherwise stated, no goods or services were provided in exchange for you tax deductible gifts. Please save this receipt for your tax records.

2024 Ballot

1. **The Financial Compliance Review Committee:** Meets once a year to review our financial receipts and records. Terms are three years; the most senior member acts as convener. Please vote for one person.

☐ Bill Baxter

2. **Usher Team:** Ensures worship materials such as bulletins are in place and assists folks during the service. Please vote for one team.

☐ Jim King, John Parks, Terry Beekman

3. **Endowment Committees:** This group of five meets at least once each year to oversee long-term investment funds. Terms is for three years. Please vote for two people.

☐ Jenna Brown
☐ Becky Wahr

4. **Altar Guild Chair:** Arranges for members to assist Pastor and ready and put away communion elements for worship. Please vote for one person.

☐ Michele Wheeler

5. **Church Council:** Seven elected church members serve on Council. Terms are for two years and members are eligible to run for 3 terms. With the Pastor the Council leads and oversees church life and finances and meets approximately once each month. **Current voting members*:** President Cheri Crouch (2025); Vice-President Wietse Schaafsma (2024); Secretary Meg Eaton (2025); Brian Jaekel (2025); Sarah Schmalz (2024); Laura Hollister (2024); and Al Wheeler (2025).

Non-voting members appointed annually by the Council: Terry Beekman (Treasurer) and Curt Crouch (Financial Secretary).

*All Council terms end in January of the year listed in parentheses

Please vote for three people:

- ☐ Laura Hollister (second of three possible 2-year terms)
- ☐ Sarah Schmalz (third of three possible 2-year terms)
- ☐ Wietse Schaafsma (third of three possible 2-year terms)

6. **Synod Assembly Delegates:** Represent Lebanon Lutheran at the Synod Assembly to be held via Zoom on May 11, 2024. Please vote for two people or one couple.

☐ Frank and Alice Hollister

Financial Secretary's Report

	Annual Report		Annual Report	
Budget Income	2023 YTD	2023 YTD w/ Transfers	2022 YTD	2022 YTD w/ Transfers
Envelopes: Benevolence	1,599.00	1,599.00	1,894.00	1,894.00
Envelopes: General	173,377.00	180,038.59	183,130.98	183,980.98
Evangelism	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Faith Formation	778.00	778.00	235.00	235.00
Generosity:	102.00	102.00	0.00	0.00
Good Gifts	1,347.00	1,347.00	1,219.00	1,219.00
Lenten Self-Denial	194.00	194.00	160.50	160.50
Living Lutheran Mag.	438.00	438.00	390.00	390.00
Loose	2,593.30	2,593.30	3,996.27	3,996.27
Miscellaneous	5,996.10	5,996.10	5,846.00	5,846.00
Samaritanas	1,295.00	1,295.00	300.00	300.00
Social Justice	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stewardship Education	60.00	60.00	241.00	241.00
Worship & Music	152.00	152.00	130.00	130.00
Youth	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Budget Total	187,951.40	194,612.99	197,542.75	198,392.75
Non-Budget Total	134,930.80	176,190.43	40,388.32	43,118.53
Total Income	322,882.20	370,803.42	237,931.07	241,511.28

Financial Secretary's Report

	Annual Report		Annual Report	
Non-Budget Income:	2023 YTD	2023 YTD	2022 YTD	2022 YTD
		w/ Transfers		w/ Transfers
150TH Anniversary	0.00	0.00	1,036.00	1,036.00
Backpacks	615.00	615.00	1,504.00	1,504.00
Baptism/ GME Fund	648.53	648.53	(669.76)	(669.76)
Camp Scholarships	145.27	145.27	2,659.98	2,659.98
Food Pantry	71,290.97	71,290.97	54,672.41	54,672.41
Gain(Loss) on Endow.	29,494.79	29,494.79	(29,178.63)	(29,178.63)
Gain/(Loss) on Invest.	16,625.50	16,625.50	(15,696.98)	(15,696.98)
Grace Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Historical Pres. Comm.	125.40	125.40	0.00	0.00
Land Contract Interest	1,283.51	(5,343.08)	3,269.70	3,269.70
Land Contract Principal	0.00	47,921.22	0.00	2,730.21
Lutheran Disaster Response	690.00	690.00	100.00	100.00
Lutheran World Relief	3,060.00	3,060.00	13,050.00	13,050.00
Memorial	1,725.00	2,725.00	3,170.00	3,170.00
Paint Maintenance	468.00	468.00	615.00	615.00
Pastor's Discret Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Quilting	821.83	676.83	400.60	400.60
Slovak Intern	1,820.00	1,820.00	2,443.00	2,443.00
Smorgasbord	890.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swim Lessons	780.00	780.00	0.00	0.00
Thrivent Choice Income	3,631.00	3,631.00	2,867.00	2,867.00
VBS	325.00	325.00	0.00	0.00
World Hunger	491.00	491.00	146.00	146.00
Non-Budget Totals	134,930.80	176,190.43	40,388.32	43,118.53
Budget Totals	187,951.40	194,612.99	197,542.75	198,392.75
Total Income	322,882.20	370,803.42	237,931.07	241,511.28

Financial Secretary's Report

Annual Report

Annual Report

In & Outs:	2023 YTD	2022 YTD
Adult Forum	0.00	63.95
Bishop's Disc. Fund	50.00	0.00
Christmas Flowers	239.00	525.00
Crop Walk	0.00	0.00
Debit Card	125.29	5.00
Easter Flowers	0.00	216.00
Hymnals	0.00	67.27
Members Fund	0.00	100.00
Ragnor Relay	50.00	0.00
Scholarships	0.00	100.00
Scout House	0.00	0.00
Sleigh Ride	30.00	0.00
White Lake Chorale	6,614.32	1,335.00
Winter Sports Complex	0.00	100.00
In & Out Totals	7,108.61	2,512.22

11:48 AM

01/15/24

Cash Basis

Lebanon Lutheran Church
Profit/Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Budgeted Income	187,951.40			
Non Budget Income	134,930.80			
Total Income	322,882.20			
Expense				
Budgeted Expenses				
Administration				
Advertising	134.60			
Wages	23,231.84	25,101.00	-1,869.16	92.6%
Accounting & Payroll Services	2,482.60	2,850.00	-367.50	87.1%
Check Writer Stipend	1,486.00	1,900.00	-414.00	78.2%
Financial Secretary	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Social Security & Medicare	1,890.91	2,066.00	-175.09	91.5%
Copier Maint/Contracts	1,975.29	3,000.00	-1,024.71	65.8%
Office Supply	1,592.16	2,300.00	-707.84	69.2%
Postage	1,194.40	1,100.00	94.40	108.6%
Web Presence	4,225.60	3,050.00	1,175.50	138.5%
Worker Compensation Insurance	415.00	425.00	-10.00	97.6%
Fees- MI Annual/Vanco/Bank/Paypal	269.74	350.00	-80.26	77.1%
Total Administration	40,897.94	44,142.00	-3,244.06	92.7%
Congregational Life				
The Living Lutheran Magazine	721.35	700.00	21.35	103.1%
Faith Formation	633.76	600.00	33.76	105.6%
Total Congregational Life	1,355.11	1,300.00	55.11	104.2%
Pastoral				
Wages	59,719.90	59,720.00	-0.10	100.0%
Housing	16,600.12	16,500.00	0.12	100.0%
Auto Reimbursement	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	100.0%
Fica Reimbursement	5,831.02	5,831.00	0.02	100.0%
Total Pastoral	88,051.04	88,051.00	0.04	100.0%
Property				
Cleaning Services	7,309.00	7,000.00	309.00	104.4%
Electricity	6,180.72	6,000.00	180.72	103.0%
Gas	4,691.83	5,500.00	-908.37	83.5%
Insurance	5,980.80	6,200.00	-219.20	96.5%
Kitchen	987.00	700.00	287.00	141.0%
Maintenance	11,998.76	6,000.00	5,998.76	200.0%
Snow Removal/Lawn care	3,118.30	3,500.00	-381.70	89.1%
Supplies	598.58	450.00	148.58	133.0%
Telephone & Internet	1,499.76	1,548.00	-48.24	96.9%
Water-Garbage	1,795.67	1,800.00	-4.43	99.8%
Food Pantry-Leb. cost alloc.	-7,200.00	-7,200.00	0.00	100.0%
Total Property	36,860.12	31,498.00	5,362.12	117.0%
Worship				
Envelopes	241.49	200.00	41.49	120.7%
Musicians	5,282.50	4,030.00	1,252.50	131.1%
Piano/Organ Maintenance	0.00	400.00	-400.00	0.0%
Supply Pastor	0.00	750.00	-750.00	0.0%
Worship Aids	659.49	500.00	159.49	131.9%
Total Worship	6,183.48	5,880.00	303.48	105.2%

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01/15/24
Cash Basis

Lebanon Lutheran Church
Profit/Loss Budget vs. Actual
January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Service and Mission				
Delegate Exp	1,164.70	1,410.00	-245.30	82.6%
Good Gifts	1,350.00			
Health thru Monica	14,849.81	14,247.00	602.81	104.2%
Portico	9,680.16	9,600.00	80.16	100.8%
Samaritas (Fund of the Month)	1,295.00			
Synod	12,604.00	12,604.00	0.00	100.0%
Total Service and Mission	40,943.67	37,861.00	3,082.67	108.1%
Total Budgeted Expenses	214,291.36	208,732.00	5,559.36	102.7%
Non-Budget Expenses				
Backpacks	1,007.74			
Food Pantry	79,570.63			
Historical Preservation	66.35			
Lutheran Disaster Response	690.00			
Lutheran World Relief	3,020.00			
Memorial	891.32			
Pastor's Professional Expenses				
Continuing Education	50.00			
Pastor's Professional Expenses - Ot...	445.47			
Total Pastor's Professional Expenses	495.47			
Quilting	314.00			
Slovak Intern	3,025.17			
Smorgasbord	174.00			
Swimming Lessons	840.00			
Thrivent Choice Funds Utilized				
Summer Programs	258.00			
MCCC	50.00			
Thrivent Choice Funds Utilized - Ot...	2.49			
Total Thrivent Choice Funds Utilized	310.49			
VBS	82.47			
World Hunger	453.00			
Total Non-Budget Expenses	90,940.64			
Total Expense	305,232.00	208,732.00	96,500.00	146.2%
Net Ordinary Income	17,650.20	-208,732.00	226,382.20	-8.5%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Expense				
Depreciation Expense	4,669.32			
Total Other Expense	4,669.32			
Net Other Income	-4,669.32			
Net Income	12,980.88	-208,732.00	221,712.88	-6.2%

01/15/24
Cash Basis

Lebanon Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of December 31, 2023

	<u>Dec 31, 23</u>	<u>Dec 31, 22</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1001 · Shelby Bank General 5307	33,168.81	43,637.73
1002 · Shelby Bank Food Pantry 5315	62,724.27	66,575.80
1003 · Shelby Bank Slovak 5323	5,920.41	7,225.57
1004 · Shelby Bank Paint Maint 5331		
1004.1 · Paint Maintenance	0.00	1,209.76
1004.2 · Capital Campaign	0.00	48.65
1004 · Shelby Bank Paint Maint 5331 - Other	1,716.41	0.00
Total 1004 · Shelby Bank Paint Maint 5331	<u>1,716.41</u>	<u>1,258.41</u>
1005 · Shelby Bank WL Chorale 5349	1,578.43	2,153.00
1006 · Shelby Bank Youth 5356	1,446.89	1,426.89
1007 · Shelby Bank Quilting 5364	1,190.40	9,791.63
1008 · Shelby Bank Memorial 5372	15,241.06	13,421.98
1009 · Shelby Bank Thrivent Choice 5380	10,293.14	8,521.93
1010 · Shelby Bank Backpacks 5398	2,109.78	2,502.52
1030 · Scout House Acct at HarborLight	88,178.83	67,053.05
Scout Crew 2048 combined checking savings and investment balances	3,833.19	4,132.80
Scout Pack 4048 Combined checking and savings account	5,281.93	7,176.79
Scout Troop 1048 checking and savings combined balance	18,339.81	12,120.21
Petty Cash	3.58	3.58
Total Checking/Savings	<u>251,024.94</u>	<u>247,001.89</u>
Accounts Receivable		
Land Contracts		
1121 Mears	0.00	48,435.03
Total Land Contracts	<u>0.00</u>	<u>48,435.03</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>0.00</u>	<u>48,435.03</u>
Other Current Assets		
Thrivent Investment Mgmt		
Baptism Fund	6,738.64	6,090.11
Camp Scholarship Fund	1,040.25	894.98
Quilting	0.00	381.83
Total Thrivent Investment Mgmt	<u>7,778.89</u>	<u>7,366.92</u>
Fidelity Investments Brokerage		
Fidelity Endowment FNCMX	107,075.18	60,895.06
Fidelity Balanced Fund	103,931.43	70,620.60
Total Fidelity Investments Brokerage	<u>211,006.61</u>	<u>131,515.66</u>
Total Other Current Assets	<u>218,785.50</u>	<u>138,882.58</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>469,810.44</u>	<u>434,319.50</u>
Fixed Assets		
Building Improvements		
South Door 2023	4,786.00	0.00
Sanctuary Roof 2019	23,950.00	23,950.00
Doors 2020	5,662.00	5,662.00
Flooring 2022	21,567.50	21,567.50
Total Building Improvements	<u>55,965.50</u>	<u>51,179.50</u>
Playground lot	3,500.00	3,500.00
Johanna St. Lot	3,000.00	3,000.00
Parking Lot (South)	3,000.00	3,000.00
Church Land	10,000.00	10,000.00
Church Phase II	538,551.78	538,551.78
Church Bldg	65,000.00	65,000.00
116 Market-Scout House	7,000.00	7,000.00
Equipment	4,051.81	4,051.81

01/15/24
Cash Basis

Lebanon Lutheran Church **Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison**

As of December 31, 2023

	<u>Dec 31, 23</u>	<u>Dec 31, 22</u>
accumulated depreciation	-11,139.99	-6,470.67
Total Fixed Assets	678,929.10	678,812.42
TOTAL ASSETS	1,148,739.54	1,113,131.92
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards		
ending 7261	0.00	433.12
Total Credit Cards	0.00	433.12
Other Current Liabilities		
2100 - Payroll Liabilities	945.31	1,439.47
Total Other Current Liabilities	945.31	1,439.47
Total Current Liabilities	945.31	1,872.59
Total Liabilities	945.31	1,872.59
Equity		
Funds in general checking account that are designated for specific purposes		
150th Anniversary	0.00	-1,324.44
Baptism Fund	203.00	203.00
Camp Living Waters Scholarships	143.00	143.00
Family Promise	0.00	523.73
Food Pantry		
Loan for Capital Campaign	0.00	8,764.11
Food Pantry - Other	3,712.00	-599.84
Total Food Pantry	3,712.00	8,164.27
Grace Fund	655.00	655.00
Historical Preservation Committ	59.05	0.00
In and Out, clearing acct	169.12	662.63
Land Contract Pmts	0.00	6,492.13
Lutheran World Relief	40.00	0.00
Memorial Fund	-985.40	0.00
Paint Maintenance Fund	35.00	25.00
Pastor Professional	0.00	262.63
Playground	453.69	453.69
Quilting	0.00	300.00
Slovak Intern	99.99	0.00
Swim Lessons	130.58	190.58
Thrivent Choice Fund Balance	0.05	0.05
VBS	904.77	662.24
World Hunger	48.00	10.00
Total Funds in general checking account that are designated for specific purposes	5,667.85	17,413.51
Undesignated funds available in general checking account	26,553.65	24,351.63
Restricted Assets		
Fidelity Investments	211,006.61	131,515.66
Restricted checking, savings & investment funds	215,340.30	202,205.57
Restricted Land Contract Receivables	0.00	48,435.03
Total Restricted Assets	426,346.91	382,156.26
Unrestricted Current Assets	10,296.72	8,525.51
Investment in fixed assets	678,929.10	678,812.42
Total Equity	1,147,794.23	1,111,259.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,148,739.54	1,113,131.92

2024 Proposed Budget -Lebanon

	ACTUAL EXPENSES		Proposed
	2023	2023 budget	2024 budget
Administration			
Advertising	135	0	120
Accounting Services	2,483	2,850	2,850
Social Security/Medicare(.0765)	1,891	2,066	2,132
Work comp insurance	415	425	425
Copier Maint/Contracts	1,975	3,000	2,000
Office Supply	1,561	2,300	2,000
Fees-MI Annual Info Report/ Vanco/Paypal	270	350	350
Postage	1,194	1,100	1,200
Web Presence	4,226	3,050	3,800
Wages/Stipends			
Bulletins	32	0	50
Financial Secretary	2,000	2,000	2,000
Check Writer	1,486	1,900	1,900
Wages-Office	23,232	25,101	25,919
Total Wages/Stipends	26,750	29,001	29,869
Total Administration	40,898	44,141	44,746

Notes

(1)

Congregational Life

Evangelism	14	0	0
Living Lutheran	721	700	0
Social Justice	0	0	0
Stewardship	0	0	0
Faith Formation	620	600	600
Youth	0	0	0

use action team.
discontinued
use action team
use action teams
use youth account

Total Congregational Life 1,355 1,300 600

Pastoral

Auto Reimbursement	6,000	6,000	6,000
Health Ins (Monica's) HSA, Dental, Vision	0	0	0
Fica Reimbursement	5,831	5,831	5,831
Housing	16,500	16,500	16,500
Wages	59,720	59,720	59,720
Professional Growth	0	0	0

(3)

Total Pastoral 88,051 88,051 88,051

Property

Food Pantry Costs Allocation	-7,200	-7,200	-7,200
Kitchen	987	700	800
Electricity	6,181	6,000	6,000
Gas	4,592	5,500	6,500
Snow Plow/LAWN CARE	3,118	3,500	3,500
Insurance	5,981	6,200	6,200

(2)

Maintenance	11,999	6,000	8,000
Supplies	599	450	584
Spectrum	1,500	1,548	1,548
Cleaning Service	7,309	7,000	7,000
Water-Garbage	1,796	1,800	1,800
Total Property	36,862	31,498	34,732
Worship			
Envelopes	241	200	250
Musicians	5283	4,030	4,500
Piano/Organ Maintenance	0	400	400
Supply Pastor	0	750	750
Worship Aids	659	500	600
Total Worship	6,183	5,880	6,500
subtotal	173,349	164,870	168,629
Delegate Exp	1,165	1,410	0
MCCC	0	0	0
Good Gifts	1350	0	0
Woman of ELCA	0	0	0
Family Promise	0	0	0
Luther Village/Maple Creek	0	0	0
Samaritas	1295	0	0
Health thru Monica	14850	14,247	15,438

zoom assembly

anniversary event

use action team.

Portico - Pension & DISABILITY	9680	9,600	9,600
Total Service & Mission	28,340	25,257	25,038
Synod	12,604	12,604	14,333
	214,293	208,731	214,000
		Increase	2.52%
	EXPENSES	INCOME	'23 BUDGET
2023 EXP & 2023 INCOME	\$214,293	\$194,613	\$208,731

Notes:

- (1) Margret - 3.2% increase plus addotional hours
- (2) No Increase at Pastors request
- (3) Pastor's health insurance cost on spouse's plan is moved to Service and Missi
Monica's health plan save \$16,675 over PORTICO.

August 15, 2023

In the June meeting, Lebanon Council appointed a committee to review changes to be made our existing constitution as required by Synod. Committee members are Terry Beckmann, Meg Eaton and Al Wheeler. The Council requested that the committee complete their work and report back at the August meeting. That report is as follows:

Changes to our constitution were required by Synod on two separate documents, as approved by the Churchwide Assembly in 2019 and in 2022. Our committee has reviewed each change on each document and has compiled a draft revised constitution including only those changes that are, to the best of our knowledge, applicable. Each member of the committee has proofread the draft revised constitution for accuracy. Copies of the draft are available to Council members electronically upon request.

The vast majority of the changes were made to provisions prefixed by a an asterisk (*). Since * denotes required provisions, all of those changes were made. One provision that had been optional added an asterisk, now making it required. Since it had been in our original constitution as an optional provision, we will experience no real effect from that change. Our committee found that the changes made to optional provisions will not alter the original intent.

The committee proposes adding two optional provisions:

- C10.08** This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication or its equivalent. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.
- C10.09** "Ex officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.

Council approval of the draft revised constitution is required before it can be submitted for Synod approval. Only after the Synod has approved can the Congregation vote on its acceptance. The 2024 Congregation Meeting would be the desired date of that vote.

Respectively,

Terry Beekman
Meg Eaton
Al Wheeler