



## Congregational Meeting

January 23, 2023

## 2022 Annual Report

**St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
2695 Luther Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17202  
717-261-1213 [www.saintlukechambersburg.org](http://www.saintlukechambersburg.org)

## ***“SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”***

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>2</b>
Pastor’s Report	3
Director of Education & Outreach	6
Council Report and Highlights	12
Committee Reports	
Communications	13
Family & Youth Education	13
Fellowship	14
Finance	15
Mission Outreach	16
Personnel	19
Property	19
Social Ministry	20
Worship & Music	21
Choir	22
Group Reports	
Adopt-a-Highway	24
Sam’s Program at the Chambersburg YMCA	25
SpiriT Trust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary	26

## **Annual Report of Pastor Frye January 2022**

*For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.*

Romans 12:4-5

### **Stephen Ministry**

Because there is great need for one-on-one, Christ-centered care-giving in our congregation and local community, we have become involved in Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Currently, Cheryl Vorhauer, Carol Angstadt, and I have undergone and continue to undergo training and formation for this ministry. In December 2022, we were commissioned as Stephen Leaders and will initiate recruitment and instruction of Stephen Ministers during the first half of 2023. (The initial costs of the Stephen Ministry, including Stephen Leader training, enrollment, and association fees were underwritten by a generous gift in memory of Jennie Mao by her sister, Emily McCarty.)

### **Vitality and Sustainability**

Last year I reported that two-thirds of the ELCA congregations in the Chambersburg Conference (Franklin County) were then without called pastors. The situation continues to be a concern. We are surrounded by others that are in periods of transition and/or are facing very uncertain futures. These conditions continue to underscore the need for churches and congregations to cooperate and coordinate. Therefore, please see the next paragraph.

### **Exploring Intentional Collaboration**

Our relationship with our neighboring congregation, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fayetteville, continues to develop and become more intentional. I continue to serve as Oversight Pastor for St. Paul. This involves being present for the meetings of their Executive Committee, Church Council, and Congregation. I also provide emergency pastoral care and coverage for hospital calls and funerals. There are plans in the works for the church councils from both congregations to get together for a joint meeting to discuss possible

next steps in our life together as neighbors, ministry partners, and co-laborers in Christ's mission that is the Church.

### **SpiriTrust Lutheran**

My term of service as a member of the Board of Directors of SpiriTrust Lutheran has ended. While I no longer am involved in leadership, we continue to be good stewards of our relationship with the agency. We can look forward to the further development of the Luther Ridge Campus and the new residents moving into the community.

### **Integration**

Incorporating new members and activating current members remains a significant challenge for us moving forward. We enjoy very generous and faithful financial support from many and various sources. What is increasingly difficult is identifying those with the spiritual gifts, time, and willingness to serve in the many and various capacities and positions in the life of our congregation. More and more, fewer people are “doing the things” that need to be done. May we all prayerfully consider how the Holy Spirit is activating our God-given gifts in service with the Body of Christ.

### **Stewardship Team**

Following an extended period of inactivity in the area of intentional stewardship ministry, the congregational council approved the formation of a Stewardship Team. The team currently consists of the following members: Tom Eifert, Kathryn Gauthier, Ellen Kroepil, Karl Schreiner, Heidi Frye, Bob Huss, and Pastor Frye. The team has been meeting consistently for several months and has done so in consultation with Craig Loscalzo, Ph.D. of CAL Assoc. LLC. (Craig was our consultant for the 2020 Vision Capital Campaign when he worked with Generis Consulting.)

The Stewardship Team is currently working on developing a Giving Impact Report for the congregation. In addition, a major emphasis of this team will be to reinvasion what it means for the congregation to use the word “Stewardship” without the assumption that it only refers to financial resources. A comprehensive and coordinated Stewardship Strategy will be developed and implemented this year. This will be a major emphasis of the Annual Leadership Retreat on January 28, 2023.

### **Memorials and Bequests Task Force**

Upon recommendation of the Church Council President, the Church Council appointed the following members to serve on the Memorials and Bequests Task Force: Tom Eifert, Kathryn Gauthier, Tina Sanders, Roger Vorhauer, Richard

Foster, and Pastor Frye. This Task Force has met two times and will continue to meet on a regular basis until its task is completed (likely Spring of 2023).

The major task is the development and refinement of an official policy on Memorial and Bequest Gifts to the congregation. The new policy will outline clear procedures and responsibilities related to the receipt, recording, reporting, acknowledgement, and utilization of funds. The revision of our Memorial Garden and Columbarium policies and fee schedule is also being proposed by this group. This task force reports directly to the Church Council and works collaboratively with the Pastor of the Congregation.

### **Thank You**

I remain grateful for all of your support and faithfulness as a congregation. It is a pleasure to serve as your pastor. Many thanks to you for the recognition of my ordination anniversary and the generosity and thoughtfulness of the gift to spend a week at the Chatauqua Institution. I continue to covet your prayers for me as I am keenly aware of my reliance on strength and grace afforded me through God's love. You are part of that! I need your help and your prayers. Serving with a dedicated staff is also a blessing. Christine, Shelly, Sherry, James, Vanessa, Brian, and Dick are committed to doing whatever is necessary to fulfill their responsibilities. Each of them goes above and beyond the specifics of their job descriptions. We can all be grateful for a complete staff that works well together. In fact, they keep me in line! Meanwhile, I pray for you, your families, and our life together. May God continues to equip us with what we need to be effective witnesses in the years to come.

Peace and all Good!

Pastor Frye

## Director of Education & Outreach –Shelly Davies

This year has been a year of continuing/ maintaining, but with some growth as well. I've been employed at St. Luke for 3.5 years now (the majority of that since the COVID outbreak) and now have several programs up and running that have proven to be effective – PowerPacks, local food bank donations, St. Seraphim, combined efforts with 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran and the Lutheran Homeless Connection to affect the homeless in our community to name a few. The Outreach committee and I have also worked hard to come up with new ideas and have been implementing those as well. Below is a detailed look at both Outreach and Education, plus my other areas of responsibility including website, AV & social media. I enjoy all these areas of work and am blessed to be part of this community!

### Education

#### Faith Formation

- *Adult*

We've continued classes throughout the year – both via Zoom and in-person. We've had classes covering the book of Isaiah, Jonah, the Hidden Hand of God (stories from Ruth, Daniel & Esther), the Basics of Luther's Catechism part I & II, the Impact of Deuteronomy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Isaiah & Daniel on the Gospels, as well as studies during Lent and Advent.

- *Kid's Bible Time*

Throughout the year, I continued to provide weekly emails to parents with links to *Sparkhouse Digital*. This platform allows parents to log in from home and access all the curriculum for children (Preschool-Grade 6) each week, following the lectionary. We've been meeting in-person all year.

- *All Saint's Confirmation Camp*

Summer Confirmation camp was held at Camp Nawakwa for a week in June. Pastor Frye and I both attended, and we part of teaching teams on specific days.

I have been asked to be part of the Curriculum Planning Team for next year.

- *Vacation Bible School*

July 25-29, we held an outdoor, Vacation Bible School called '*The Jesus Way*.' It was attended by 12 children from St. Luke, St. Paul and two that found out through Facebook. We had 9 volunteers including 2 youth.

- *Alive! Middle School Retreat*

One youth and I attended the Lower Susquehanna Synod sponsored Middle School Retreat at Camp Nawakwa during the month of September.

- *Winterfest High School Retreat*

This Lower Susquehanna Synod high school youth event actually took place on the first weekend in January 2023. I took one high school youth from our church.

## Family & Youth

- *Student Activities*

During each major season of the church calendar, a package of activities have been delivered to the home of all the children, through grade 5. Youth (grades 6-12) have received letters of encouragement and gift cards. The college-aged student's exam care packages during the spring and fall semesters.

- *Family Activities*

- *School's Out – Drive-In Party* – ages Preschool-Grade 6, we made cars out of cardboard boxes and sat in them eating dinner and watching a movie, just like the drive-in!

- *Easter Egg Hunt* – We advertised on social media, had enough candy donated to feed an army, had volunteers from St. Paul and St. Luke, and hosted over 45 kids + adults for a story reading, crafts and an egg hunt. In conjunction with the Outreach Committee.

- *Kid's Drive Thru Christmas Party* – We went for a drive to see Christmas light and nativity displays around the area, followed by cocoa and ice cream with their parents back at the church

- *Sponsored Initiatives*

- *Souperbowl of Caring*

In February each year we asked people to bring their loose change on Super Bowl Sunday to donate to a local food bank. We were able to raise \$590.

- *ELCA Good Gifts*

In conjunction with the Social Ministry committee, the Family & Youth committee sponsored the *ELCA Good Gifts* tree this Advent. Our goal was to 'clear the tree' of all the ornaments we had, representing gifts to needy people around the world.

## Outreach *(same as Outreach Committee Annual Report)*

### Continuing Initiatives

- *Conference Homeless Ministry Furniture Collection*

Collection of furniture to be donated to homeless moving into an apartment. This is coordinated through Floss Turner at Trinity Lutheran, but churches from the whole conference participate by collecting donations and bringing them to the sheds.

- *St. Seraphim Center*

Three volunteers go monthly to serve at *St. Seraphim Center Soup Kitchen* in downtown. During the year we have served approximately 480 people, twice the number of 2021.

- *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Reach Out & Fellowship*

We've continued to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Fellowship time each month. We encourage members to invite people at any time but will have fellowship & food following worship each 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. Each committee at the church has been responsible for food for one month.

- *Visitations*

Visitations to a few members of our congregation continued through the first half of the year.

- Stephen Ministry will be continuing this ministry in the future.

- *God's Garden*

We did not grow anything this year, but we did continue to coordinate and deliver fresh produce donated from church members' gardens to local food bank.

- *PowerPacks*

We prepped weekend meals for local food insecure students at three schools. In 2021 we packed and delivered approximately 400 meals in total, during the months of February, April, September & November.

- *CAREring* –birthday, anniversary, new babies, and bereavement cards have been sent to church members throughout the year.

- *Giving Box at St. Paul Lutheran*

We continue to collect donations to help stock a box filled with individual food servings for the hungry to access 24/7 located at St. Paul

- *Back to School Collection*

We participated in 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran's Back-to-School event by providing items for them to include in a backpack full of supplies for needy children in the local Chambersburg area. This year we collected socks through June/July.

- *Spring Fling Clothing Collection*

- We collected clothing for a give-a-way at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran. Two members of St. Luke helped with the give-a-way day.

- *MEGA Event - Winter Clothing Collection*

We collected clothing for 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran's MEGA Event in November, giving away winter clothing to any in need. Four members of St. Luke helped during the give-a-way day at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran.

- *Conococheague Mission Cooperative Easter, Thanksgiving & Christmas Food Collection*

We participated in purchasing food and raising money to purchase turkeys and hams to provide holiday meals for our local school children in need.

- *Luther Ridge Birds & Bees Project*

We continued this program, planting more perennials in the spring, and feeding the birds year-round. On-going upkeep will continue each year.

- *Egg Cartons for St. Paul's Foodbank*

We've started partnering with St. Paul's foodbank by collecting egg cartons for their use. When they purchase eggs for their program they arrive in flats, so the only way to get them safely home in smaller quantities is by having a carton. A small program with a great impact!

- *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dips for Dad's*

We encouraged members to invite the men in their lives for ice cream following our worship in the park service, in honor of Father's Day. We also provided snacks for each of the services in the park through the summer.

- *Christmas Caroling*

We caroled around the Luther Ridge cottages and followed up with cocoa and cookies.

- *Weekly Prayer and Share*

I've been leading this meeting. We meet via Zoom on Wednesdays.

- *New Members*

The Outreach committee has continued helping with the organization behind receiving new members – updating of New Member information, communication, and mentorship.

- *Zoom Prayer & Share*

Has continued meeting weekly since the beginning of the pandemic. It's a great way to connect mid-week without having to travel anywhere at night. We continue to lift up the prayers of the church as well as pray for each other.

## **New Initiatives**

- *Committee Fair*

A fair to raise awareness of the different committees and service groups within the church was held in March following Worship.

- *God's Work. Our Hands. Project*

Our project this year included partnering with *Fruitbelt Farmworker's Christian Ministry*, reaching out to the migrant workers on the farms around town. Between St. Paul and St. Luke, we provided 112 personal care packs with shampoo, razors, soap, gum, shaving cream, towels, etc. Almost exactly the number of new workers they had received the week before – God is in the details!

- *Sweet Grace Ministries*

This was the organization we partnered with in 2021 for God's Work. Our Hands. We have since volunteered two more times, helping to make over 800 Mother's Day and Christmas cards for distribution in 2022.

- *Refugee Resettlement Project*

We have continued raising funds for this project, as well as helping with furniture and houseware needs of two more Syrian refugee families in 2022. We also gave a heads up to the committee that the St. Paul parsonage was empty and one of the families is now renting that!

- *Overcomer, Movie Night*

We presented the movie Overcomer in early 2022, at the St. Paul Fellowship Hall. Advertising was done through the Conference and Social Media. We also recognized the need for a curtain for their window, which is being installed now, meaning we can have more movie nights!

- *Art Nights*

These nights are a great way to draw in people who aren't members of our congregation, and they are fun too! Artistic projects are a great way to share time and conversation with others, as well as let them know they are welcome. These are all provided at no cost to the participant.

- Gnome Paint Night

At this event we painted a canvas.

- Spring Paint Night

At this paint night, people were invited to paint a canvas bag or a clay pot.

- Fall Card Crafting

At this event we created cards by water coloring fall leaves.

- *Virtual School*

One of PA's many online schools uses our building each spring for standardized testing. This year we were able to provide a hospitality station for parents, allowing them to wait inside and have snacks and drinks while doing so. Many comments on our generosity were received.

- *Chambersburg Pride Festival*

- St. Luke hosted a table representing the Lutheran Churches of the Chambersburg Conference and handed out stickers and information on services at St. Luke and Trinity Lutheran.

- *The Christmas Project*

- We adopted two families and blessed them with two presents for each child, a \$25 gift card for Christmas dinner and a box of cleaning and personal care supplies.

- We also served as a pickup center for 15 families that received gifts.

Throughout the year we were also invited to participate with St. Paul in a few events that they planned, including a Jewelry afternoon, an Advent by Candlelight event and a fall picnic.

Several events were planned throughout the year, with no engagement, and therefore were cancelled. These included a Youth (Junior High and High School) End of Year Progressive dinner, Walk Around Wilson college and campfire, Fall Foliage trip to Camp Nawakwa, etc.

## Communications

- *Media*

Maintain all AV equipment for St. Luke. I work together with the volunteers I recruit to provide quality services to watch on Sunday mornings as well as to communicate announcements in an effective and colorful way before services. I help train congregation members with online platforms such as Zoom, YouTube and our website.

- *St. Luke Website*

Update our website weekly.

- *Social Media and Visual Media*

This year I, Shelly Davies, took on all the social media for the church as well as the creating of all visual media. This is a job that we had contracted out until this year.

- *Social Ministry Pentecost Projects*

Helped with communication and announcements for the Pentecost Projects.

## Other Duties

- *Chambersburg Conference of Lutheran Churches Meetings*

I've attended these monthly meetings, and this has proven to be a good time to learn about other churches' programs and work to network with them, affecting the community of Chambersburg. I am also the Chambersburg Conference representative to the Nominating Committee for the LSS Council and Susquehanna school board.

- *All Saint's Confirmation Camp*

I'm a member of the curriculum planning committee for the yearly confirmation camp at Camp Nawakwa.

- *Lower Susquehanna Synod*

I serve on the nominating committee for the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

- *LSS Winterfest*

I'm teaching one of the workshops scheduled for Saturday afternoon at this year's event, based on art and faith.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you all through St. Luke Lutheran.

Shelly Davies

## **St Luke Church Council**

The January meeting, as in past January's, welcomed new members to the council. They were Brad Bolinger, Charles Davies, Jodi Forrester, Sue Purnell (second term) and Donna Hocker (filling a one-year unexpired term for 2022). Departing members were Pat Shriner, Anita Walter, and Linda Miller. They were thanked for their service. Officers elected for 2022 were as follows: President, Bob Huss; Vice President, Brad Bolinger; Secretary, JoAnn Wildeson and Treasurer, Brian Corwell.

- Highlights and major items of business for 2022 were:
  - Synod assembly voting members for 2022 were Karl & Pat Shreiner.
  - The sign along route 997 was converted from digital to new back lit solid faced panels. The cost of repairing and upgrading the digital sign became prohibitive. Also, the sign at the entrance to the parking lot was upgraded.
  - In January, a retreat for church council, committee and other church leaders was led by Pastor Frye.
  - On behalf of the congregation, the church council approved a trip to the Chautauqua Institute in New York for Heidi & Pastor Frye as a gift for the anniversary of his ordination.
  - In March we also celebrated the ordination anniversary of Pastor Frye with retired Bishop Penrose Hoover as guest pastor.
  - A new cement walkway was installed between the front door of the Nave and the Memorial Garden.
  - In April, the Council joined with the Council of St. Paul, Fayetteville for a "get to know each other" breakfast.
  - Scholarships in the amount of \$45,000.00 were awarded to five recipients.
  - St. Luke website was upgraded in October.

- The Personnel committee, after an extensive search, announced the hiring of James Martin as our new choir director.
- A Task Force was appointed to set new definitive direction for acceptance and use of funds from bequests and memorial donations.
- Committee chair to approve all committee spending.
- New wireless mic for the choir approved for purchase.
- Pastor Frye, Carol Angstadt and Cheryl Vorhauer commissioned as Stephens Leaders.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Communication Committee**

Members: Lisa Horton (chair), Michael Peters (Council liaison), Staci Grimes (consultant), Shelly Davies, Christine Cressler, Pastor Frye

Highlights:

- Communications Procedures document created/shared with Council
- Redesigned website to date was presented by Staci to the committee in early August as she continued to work on it
- Congregation engaging with social media and MailChimp (67-70% Sep 22)
- Redesigned website published October with announced training to be held October 23 after worship
- Creating “Year in Review” video to be presented at January’s congregational meeting

### **Family and Youth Committee**

Members: Tiffani Frazier, Lisa Horton, Sue Purnell, Susie Snowberger, Shelly Davies (Director of Education and Outreach), and Anita Walter (Chairperson)

Summary of 2022 Activities

Most activities were held with the coordination and under the leadership of Shelly Davies, Director of Family and Youth Education and Outreach; others were conducted in coordination with other Church Committees. See Shelly’s Report for additional details and information.

- Faith Formation classes for the adult class with the leadership of several teachers/leaders through ZOOM and in person sessions. The Shining Stars did not resume meeting.

- Faith Formation classes were also held for pre-school and elementary age students. No older age students attended in spite of our attempts at outreach to them.
- Provided care packs to college students
- Recognized 2 high school students for their graduation
- Conducted Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 13 and collected over \$590 from the congregation
- Participated in March 13<sup>th</sup> Community Fair with other Committees
- Helped sponsor palms on Palm Sunday
- Conducted a well-attended Easter activity for children on April 9<sup>th</sup>
- Provided carnations for mothers, girls, and women on Mothers' Day
- Children made cards at Faith Formation to accompany palms and for Palm Sunday
- Camp brochures were provided for children and youth
- Used "The Jesus Way" curriculum for a successful Vacation Church School theme and activities
- Gave anchor key chain to dads, men, and boys on Fathers' Day
- Worked with Social Ministry Committee on Citizen Celebration for "Vee" and her daughters
- Backpack Blessing was held on August 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 1 Youth participated in Camp Nawakwa "Alive" weekend
- Used "You Shall Have a Song" for Advent Faith Formation curriculum
- Maintained same budget request as 2022

ELCA Good Gifts was used as an Advent project with the cooperation of the Social Ministry Committee

## **Fellowship Committee**

Members: Linda Miller (Chair), Brenda Edwards, Sandy McGehee, Anne Corwell, Marge Kane, Sandy Foster, Donna Hocker, Pat Shreiner, Norma Huss (Secretary), Shelly Davies

The primary function of the Fellowship Committee is to provide activities for the membership of St Luke. During this past year our activities included our traditional activities: Soup, Sandwich and a Sweet lunch after church, Shrove Tuesday pancake and sausage dinner, Easter Breakfast and Begin "The Blessed Season" dinner. In addition, this year the committee collaborated with committees for Pastor Frye's Ordination Anniversary, organized snacks for 2nd Sunday fellowship, Meet and Greet for James Martin and LSS All Saints Memorial Service. The committee also served funeral luncheons.

Linda Miller

## Finance Committee

Members: Brian Corwell (Treasurer), Jodi Forrester (Secretary), Toby Forrester, Donna Hocker, Rick Lawver (Council Liaison), Anita Walter, Dick Foster, Chair; Pastor Frye

### Activities:

- Reviewed and managed St. Luke's finances monthly.
- Reviewed monthly Financial Secretary's Report.
- Reviewed monthly Treasurer's report for income and expenses and forwarded to Congregation Council for approval.
- Reduced the church mortgage by about \$78,000 in the last year primarily by making extra principal payments from the building fund revenues. The current balance is about \$177,000.
- Monitored and managed St. Luke's financial assets including interest bearing accounts.
- Reviewed, modified, and sent to Congregation Council for approval various special requests for funding, including gift for Pastor Frye's 25th anniversary of Ordination.
- Recommended an Audit Committee of Joy Shinn, Toby Forrester, and Karl Shreiner (Chair) to the Congregation Council to review St. Luke's fiscal reporting, accountability of giving, spending methods, and transactions for 2022.
- Reviewed Audit Report and its recommendations and forwarded to Congregation Council for review and filing. Evaluated recommendations and implemented as deemed appropriate.
- Monitored current income and expenses monthly as compared to the 2022 Spending Plan (Budget).
- Prepared multiple drafts of the 2023 Spending Plan (Budget) for review by the Committee, Congregation Council, and for presentation at the January 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting.
- Reviewed, consolidated some accounts, and made changes to the Financial Statements to make reviews and approvals less complicated.
- Continued to apply Thrivent Choice dividends to Building Fund.
- Worked with Property Committee to identify funding for projects for a variety of projects.
- Reviewed St Luke's insurance needs and made changes as required.
- Donna Hocker will become the Chair on January 1, 2023.

## Outreach Committee

Members: Shelly Davies (chair), JoAnn Wildeson (council liaison), Donna Ocker, Cheryl Vorhauer, Dudley Gayman, Dolly Oyler, Sean Davies, Gail Cox, Nancy Carson

Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to reach outward to the community and inward to the congregation by recognizing and responding to people's individual needs in a caring and personal way.

### Continuing Initiatives

- *Conference Homeless Ministry Furniture Collection*

Collection of furniture to be donated to homeless moving into an apartment. This is coordinated through Floss Turner at Trinity Lutheran, but churches from the whole conference participate by collecting donations and bringing them to the sheds.

- *St. Seraphim Center*

Three volunteers go monthly to serve at *St. Seraphim Center Soup Kitchen* in downtown. During the year we have served approximately 480 people, twice the number of 2021.

- *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Reach Out & Fellowship*

We've continued to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Fellowship time each month. We encourage members to invite people at any time but will have fellowship & food following worship each 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. Each committee at the church has been responsible for food for one month.

- *Visitations*

Visitations to a few members of our congregation continued through the first half of the year.

- Stephen Ministry will be continuing this ministry in the future.

- *God's Garden*

We did not grow anything this year, but we did continue to coordinate and deliver fresh produce donated from church members' gardens to local food bank.

- *PowerPacks*

We prepped weekend meals for local food insecure students at three schools. In 2021 we packed and delivered approximately 400 meals in total, during the months of February, April, September & November.

- *CAREring* –birthday, anniversary, new babies and bereavement cards have been sent to church members throughout the year.

- *Giving Box at St. Paul Lutheran*

We continue to collect donations to help stock a box filled with Individual food servings for the hungry to access 24/7 located at St. Paul

- *Back to School Collection*

We participated in 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran's Back-to-School event by providing items for them to include in a backpack full of supplies for needy children in the local Chambersburg area. This year we collected socks through June/July.

- *Spring Fling Clothing Collection*

We collected clothing for a give-a-way at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran. Two members of St. Luke helped with the give-a-way day.

- *MEGA Event - Winter Clothing Collection*

We collected clothing for 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran's MEGA Event in November, giving away winter clothing to any in need. Four members of St. Luke helped during the give-a-way day at 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran.

- *Conococheague Mission Cooperative Easter, Thanksgiving & Christmas Food Collection*

We participated in purchasing food and raising money to purchase turkeys and hams to provide holiday meals for our local school children in need.

- *Luther Ridge Birds & Bees Project*

We continued this program, planting more perennials in the spring, and feeding the birds year-round. On-going upkeep will continue each year.

- *Egg Cartons for St. Paul's Foodbank*

We've started partnering with St. Paul's foodbank by collecting egg cartons for their use. When they purchase eggs for their program they arrive in flats, so the only way to get them safely home in smaller quantities is by having a carton. A small program with a great impact!

- *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dips for Dad's*

We encouraged members to invite the men in their lives for ice cream following our worship in the park service, in honor of Father's Day. We also provided snacks for each of the services in the park through the summer.

- *Christmas Caroling*

We caroled around the Luther Ridge cottages and followed up with cocoa and cookies.

- *Weekly Prayer and Share*

I've been leading this meeting. We meet via Zoom on Wednesdays.

- *New Members*

The Outreach committee has continued helping with the organization behind receiving new members – updating of New Member information, communication, and mentorship.

- *Zoom Prayer & Share*

Has continued weekly since the beginning of the pandemic. It's a great way to connect mid-week without having to travel anywhere at night. We continue to lift up the prayers of the church as well as pray for each other.

## New Initiatives

- *Committee Fair*

A fair to raise awareness of the different committees and service groups within the church was held in March following Worship.

- *God's Work. Our Hands. Project*

Our project this year included partnering with *Fruitbelt Farmworker's Christian Ministry*, reaching out to the migrant workers on the farms around town. Between St. Paul and St. Luke, we provided 112 personal care packs with shampoo, razors, soap, gum, shaving cream, towels, etc. Almost exactly the number of new workers they had received the week before – God is in the details!

- *Sweet Grace Ministries*

This was the organization we partnered with in 2021 for God's Work. Our Hands. We have since volunteered two more times, helping to make over 800 Mother's Day and Christmas cards for distribution in 2022.

- *Refugee Resettlement Project*

We have continued raising funds for this project, as well as helping with furniture and houseware needs of two more Syrian refugee families in 2022. We also gave a heads up to the committee that the St. Paul parsonage was empty and one of the families is now renting that!

- *Overcomer, Movie Night*

We presented the movie *Overcomer* in early 2022, at the St. Paul Fellowship Hall. Advertising was done through the Conference and Social Media. We also recognized the need for a curtain for their window, which is being installed now, meaning we can have more movie nights!

- *Art Nights*

These nights are a great way to draw in people who aren't members of our congregation, and they are fun too! Artistic projects are a great way to share time and conversation with others, as well as let them know they are welcome. These are all provided at no cost to the participant.

- Gnome Paint Night

At this event we painted a canvas.

- Spring Paint Night

At this paint night, people were invited to paint a canvas bag or a clay pot.

- Fall Card Crafting

At this event we created cards by water coloring fall leaves.

- *Virtual School*

One of PA's many online schools uses our building each spring for standardized testing. This year we were able to provide a hospitality station for

parents, allowing them to wait inside and have snacks and drinks while doing so. Many comments on our generosity were received.

- *Chambersburg Pride Festival*
  - St. Luke hosted a table representing the Lutheran Churches of the Chambersburg Conference and handed out stickers and information on services at St. Luke and Trinity Lutheran.
- *The Christmas Project*
  - We adopted two families and blessed them with two presents for each child, a \$25 gift card for Christmas dinner and a box of cleaning and personal care supplies.
  - We also served as a pickup center for 15 families that received gifts.

## **Personnel Committee**

Members: Toby Forrester, Anne Corwell, Brad Bolinger, Pastor Frye

1. Advertised for and interviewed a number of candidates for the open Choir Director position. We approved the hiring of James Martin for the Choir Director position in August of 2022. James started in late August.
2. The Personnel Committee prepared and sent out annual staff evaluations to all staff members.
3. Met with Shelly Davies on numerous occasions in order to prepare and finalize an official job description. We also negotiated and finalized a fixed salary for Shelly in regard to her many responsibilities with the church.

## **Property Committee**

Members: Jodi Forrester, Chair Mark Keener, Dave Purnell, Brian Corwell, Dick Foster, Ernie Wilson, Rodger Vorhauer, Pastor Frye

The Property Committee provided a few property updates for 2022. A few of the items addressed were:

- Coordinated new outdoor lighting (parking lot and up lighting)
- Coordinated new signage at parking lot entrance and along 997
- Repaired Pastor's Library and Sacristy due to water damage
- Sprinkler inspection completed and sprinkler head replacement was completed
  
- Coordinated new sidewalk from nave emergency exit to memorial garden
- Completed family bathroom designation located off nursery
- Replaced office manager's computer

- Oversaw 1 custodian and stocked cleaning supplies
- Coordinated all needed property inspections and needed repairs
- Coordinated all mowing and landscaping. Special thanks to Rodger Vorhauer and his mowing team.
- Compiled a 2023 spending plan.

## **Social Ministry Committee**

**Members:** Jeannie Madden, Donna Ocker, Anita Walter, Marty Brendle (Chair), Cathy Goodhart (Sam's Program Coordinator), Charles Davies (council liaison), and Shelly Davies (Director of Education and Outreach)

**Programs** lifted to the congregation by Social Ministry to address needs of people in our community and our world beyond the fundamental programs of St. Luke included:

**Lent:** The work of ELCA World Hunger was publicized during Lent and 40 Days of Giving Lenten devotional materials were made available. A total of \$9,981.68 was given to ELCA World Hunger during the first eleven months of 2022.

**Easter:** Joining with the Easter Flower project, Social Ministry appealed to congregation to donate cleaning supplies and/or money to Women In Need towards equipping victims of abuse in establishing their own place of residence. Four grocery bags of cleaning supplies were delivered to the WIN shelter. \$810 was donated to WIN.

**Pentecost:** Three projects offered to the congregation: (1) Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief—49 assembled and \$470 donated to Lutheran World Relief, (2) Ukrainian Refugees via Lutheran Disaster Response— \$13,986.41 and (3) Swings for the Kandete Parish's outreach to neighborhood children—\$660.

**Citizenship Celebration:** Social Ministry in collaboration with Fellowship and Children and Youth Committees held a picnic on July 24 to celebrate the attainment of citizenship in December 2021 by Velegai Beyan and daughters Lorpu and Christina.

**God's Work. Our Hands.** Social Ministry and Outreach Committees organized the collection of items and/or money to make Personal Care Kits for the Fruitbelt Farmworker Christian Ministry (FFCM) to be distributed to migrant farmworkers in Franklin County. 112 kits were assembled from the items collected and monetary donations on Sunday, September 11 after worship. The kits and some left-over items were picked up by the FFCM Chaplain and distributed to 110 newly arrived workers.

***Sam's Program*** at the YMCA has fewer kids in attendance due to pandemic concerns. Financial donations from previous years are adequate to purchase snacks for the current attendees. Therefore, there was no appeal for funds this fall.

***Advent Tree for ELCA World Hunger.*** Social Ministry worked with Family and Youth to decorate a tree with ornaments featuring gifts from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog which were “purchased” as gifts for family members or friends. The donations go to ELCA World Hunger.

***Chambersburg Refugee Resettlement Committee:*** A fourth Syrian family has been resettled in Chambersburg. The Homeless Connection provided some of their household furnishings.

***Spending Plan Disbursements:*** The Social Ministry Committee has the responsibility for vetting and making recommendations to council for designating recipients of up to \$3500 of undesignated benevolence funds in the spending plan. The committee recommended that benevolence funds be directed to the organizations listed below.

- United Churches Clearing House - \$1250
- BOPIC (Building Our Pride in Chambersburg) - \$500
- Lutheran Disaster Response - \$750
- South Mountain Restoration Center -\$200
- Benevolent Care Fund at Luther Ridge -\$500
- God's Work. Our Hands. -\$300
- St. Seraphim Center -\$100

**Thank You and Invitation:** Social Ministry Committee thanks the members of St. Luke for their generosity in supporting those in need and invites anyone interested in the work we do to join us. For more information about the work of the committee, contact Marty Brendle

Respectfully submitted,  
Marty Brendle, Chair

## **Worship & Music Committee**

Members: Melanie Bays, Becky Helman, Joy Shinn, Sherry Fahnestock, and Bob Huss

This committee met at various times this past year and the following major items were either discussed or finalized.

Pastor Frye informed the committee that The Conococheague Mission Cooperative is very active. A Lenten service was held at the various member churches as well as a Thanksgiving service, an Advent service and a Blue service to be held at St. Luke right before Christmas.

Pastor Frye also held in the summer Vesper services on three respective Saturdays during the summer at Greene Township Park.

Fresh flowers were ordered from Royer's for Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas.

The worship committee directed that the Alb's that were used during the service were to be laundered as well as the cloths used by the Pastor. Also, they directed that the Paraments were to be fixed so that they could be used for the services starting with Easter. The pastor purchased new linens to match the liturgical seasons and pouring chalices. He also purchased Lectionary Books to be used during the service.

Finally, the water heater used in the sacristy to wash chalices and items used during the service was fixed. This was a major problem for the members of the altar guild.

The Covid task force lifted all covid restrictions in April. And with the lifting of restrictions a call was sent out for new members for the altar guild, Assisting Members, Lectors, etc. A training session was held for all. Bread is now baked for our Sunday service.

James Martin was hired as our Choir Director in September. It took a long time to find a choir director but finally we now have one and under his direction the Worship committee hopes that the membership in the choir will grow.

Finally, Sherry Fahnestock updated all the licenses used by us including those used by the brass ensemble that played at Easter.

Respectively submitted Melanie Bays, chair

## **Choir**

### **August 21**

James Martin appointed to position of choir director

### **CHOIR ROSTER**

#### **Sopranos**

Kathy Kroepil  
Carol Grove  
Linda Walker

#### **Altos**

Becky Grove  
Tina Sanders

#### **Bass**

Karl Schreiner  
Alan Grove

**Sopranos**

Connie Schneider  
Heidi Frye

**Tenor**

Matt Jones  
Kenny Sanders  
Pastor Christopher Frye

**Choir Mascot**

Jayden

**Activities:**

Sunday morning worship services – provided anthems throughout the fall Choir, James Martin and Sherry Fahnstock rotate special music when the choir does not sing.

Prayer Vigil at Menno Haven on November 17, 2022

Christmas Caroling, December 16, 2022

**Budget:**

Original balance: \$6000.00 for Worship & Music Committee

Printed Choir Music for library: \$452.99

Support personnel for Christmas Eve [1 rehearsal + 1 Performance]: \$925.00

Madison Eppley - \$225

Josiah Vieland - \$225

Jasmyn Williams - \$225

Elizabeth Shoenfelt - \$250 [standard service + coordination]

Total spent: \$1377.99

Total remaining: \$4,622.01

**Narrative:**

The choir at St. Luke is back in full swing. Personnel is pretty consistent with prior numbers and attendance is regular with Choir Rehearsal on Wednesday nights @ 6:30 pm. The choir has performed anthems on Sunday mornings fairly intermittently throughout the fall with Sherry and James providing special music when they do not sing. They seem to enjoy being able to be in the pews with family on the Sundays they do not have to sing.

Members of the choir volunteered to go caroling during advent around the neighborhood. For Christmas Eve, the choir presented a thirty-minute choral prelude to the service. Four “ringers” (professional musicians) were brought in to help bolster the choir’s abilities. The soloists also provided special music during the worship service. Two members of the congregation, Anita Walter and Christina Beyan also provided musical offerings on the piano.

Now that my pre-standing engagements are settled, I will be more regular in attendance to where choir rehearsals will be consistent each week. I do think there is

something to be learned from not overstressing the choir's commitment. A healthy balance seems to be in order.

The budget is being used. I say that in all seriousness because it has not been used during COVID and does not seem to have been used very much in some of the years prior. As a result, the library of music is extremely dated and needs some new blood. This is for the interest of both the choir and the congregation. Although the initial purchase may have seemed large, it included Advent and Christmas anthems as well as music for the fall. I anticipate using a slightly larger figure for the spring which includes music for Easter and Pentecost, as well as hiring musicians for Easter service.

Shelly Davies and I are in communication about ramping up things for Vacation Bible School this summer and we are considering a children's choir or other activities to engage the creativity of the youth we currently serve and those yet to come. I am looking into Lutheran music conferences and retreats to see if there is a session I might attend. I am still new to this tradition, so a little continuing education would be helpful.

I am very thankful to this congregation for the warm, open and accepting fellowship. I have truly felt welcomed and appreciated.

In Christ,

James C. Martin

## **GROUP REPORTS**

### **Adopt-a-Highway**

**Volunteers:** Kathy Kroepil, Jodi Forrester, Ellen Kroepil, Barry Singley, Pastor Frye, Rick Lawver, Kenny Sanders, Anne and Brian Corwell

### **Summary of Activities:**

The Adopt-a-Highway program for 2022 included four pickup events throughout the year. The activities took place on Saturday mornings to clean up litter and trash on PA Rt. 997 from St. Luke from Smokehouse Road to Mountain Road – 2.5 miles. Each crew cleans approximately ½ mile of the road during each pickup event.

There were nearly 50-60 bags of litter and trash collected during those four Saturdays in April, June, August, October. Thanks to everyone who helped with these clean-ups this year - and in all the prior years - who worked to keep our little part of the world a little nicer. Our neighbors appreciate the effort, as well.

## **Program History:**

The Pennsylvania Adopt-a-Highway program starts its 33<sup>rd</sup> year in 2023 and St. Luke will start its 31<sup>st</sup> year this year. Vonnie and Blaine Barnhart initiated and ran the program starting at St. Luke in 1993 and then handed off the responsibility to Brenda Hefner after about five years. Brenda led the charge for about another five years before the current program leader took over nearly 20 years ago.

**This program really needs new people to be involved so that we can continue this worthy program into the future.** Please watch the bulletin and newsletter for the announcement of next year's dates and come join us as we take to the highway to continue in the Adopt-a-Highway cleanup program for the 31st year at St. Luke. Please consider getting involved next year.

Rick Lawver Chairperson, Adopt-a-Highway Program

## **Sam's Program at the Chambersburg YMCA**

**Volunteers:** Cathy Goodhart, Derek Goodhart

### **Summary of activities in 2022:**

- The Congregation provided monetary donations which has allowed for the purchasing of ALL snacks and drinks. Due to the low number in attendance, we did not reach out to the congregation in October for monetary donations. At the current time there were sufficient funds in the Sam's account to be able to purchase items as needed.
- Volunteers assisted with the Thanksgiving Dinner (Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>) at Central Presbyterian Church and the Christmas Party (Dec 20th) which was held at the Chambersburg YMCA.
- Volunteers listed above helped on a regular basis (Tuesday nights) with snack time, gym time, and swim time (from January – April 2022 and October – December 2022).
- Volunteers assisted with the end of the year party (April 26th) at Nellie Fox Bowling Alley

Cathy Goodhart, Sam's Program Volunteer

## **SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary**

The St. Luke congregation supported the SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary through participation in the Membership Drive, Gift Card Fundraiser, and 2 Chicken Dinner Fundraisers. Funds from these events are used to support the work of SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care and Hospice, Community Ministries, and the Village at Luther Ridge Retirement Community. The Membership Drive was supported in 2022 by a few members of St. Luke.

We look forward to a healthier and more productive 2022, and for St. Luke's continued support of our mission.

Pat Furry, SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary Key Person