

2022-2023

# ANNUAL YEARBOOK

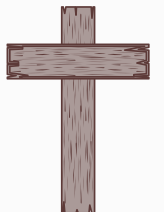
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - HAYWARD, WI



*Let all that we do be done in love.  
1 Corinthians 16:14*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
*God's work. Our hands.*



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# Pastor's Report

When I arrived in March of 2017 we had four clerical workers, one property manager, a part-time youth director, and two musicians. Now we have ONE clerical worker, one property manager, one part-time Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator, and two musicians. And we are without a doubt doing more today than we were six and a half years ago.

Since I asked the simple question, "If it is the 21st century how come we don't have a door opener?" a lot has happened. The flooring project was already in process. But we went to a lighting project. Pew cushions and kneelers followed. As did a kitchen project. And a parking lot and winterizing the garage. A Holy Spirit mobile was added. And then there is a playground, the Audio/Visual project, and the Columbarium/Memory Wall. Let's not forget new chairs and sidewalk. And I am forgetting some stuff. And in the middle of that adapting to a pandemic and developing a long-range plan.

We will easily, by this coming Christmas, have spent well over \$500,000 over the years. And we have built wells in Malawi, supported Missionaries in MAF, supported pantries, and increased our benevolence to the ELCA. This summer we sent a couple van loads of kids to camp. And Operation Christmas – that is just a continuous 'Wow!'

The amazing thing about this is that it happened without a capital campaign.

And all the social aspects have complemented this investment as well.

The key is pride. When members are proud they make improvements and invest in welcoming and future and growth. Pride is a good thing. Hubris is problematic, but pride makes us want to do good things and pride makes us want to share it with others. Hubris makes us want to circle the wagons, form an echo chamber, make our world small.

In my neighborhood growing up, whenever someone built a garage, they hosted the neighborhood over. Built a deck, same thing. It was because they were proud.

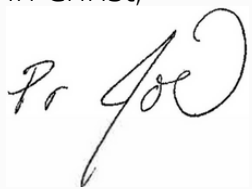
The core of the Church is the invitation from the Gospel of John "Come and see." When we are proud of a place the "Come and see" comes easier. The social expressions of the Church, fellowship, evangelism, outreach, worship, music, and education, embody "Come and see" in their planning, in their speaking, and in their doing.

Pride is contagious. "Come and see" gets easier and easier and becomes more natural. The generosity of time, spirit, and property becomes normal.

First Lutheran is full of people and is drawing people, who want to experience grace and be useful for God's world. As we continue to tweak and improve what we do, and as we say "Yes" to new things, and say goodbye to some dinosaurs that no longer serve us, the important thing is to never take it for granted, never rest on our laurels. Positive energy needs to be lovingly maintained so that we are always moving in the right direction. Never take for granted that our place is set, we can relax now - ask Sears and Kodak how that hubris worked out for them.

Let's keep things going in a good direction. And it is OK to be proud.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Joe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the page number.

## WHEW!

### **Stewardship Message**

Paving our parking lot, new sidewalks, construction of the Columbarium and memorial area, removal of the old and well-used playground equipment and placement of new and safer models, as well as fitness equipment for adult use, re-landscaping and grounds beautification, upgrading our audio-visual systems, parsonage upgrades, and a renewed focus on our Youth program.... And it's only July!

Many thanks to our entire congregation for your continuing support of our growth and efforts to serve the Lord and our neighbors, helping to make First Lutheran Church a place where all are welcome and may feel good in God's presence. God's work, our hands indeed.

In Christ, Your Stewardship Committee,

Submitted by, Jeff Hubbard

### **Children, Youth, and Family Ministries**

At the Summer Annual Meeting one year ago, you voted to hire me as your part-time Children, Youth & Family (CYF) Coordinator. The year that followed has been full and fun!

Behind all good ministry is a team of people working together to reach set goals. I am most grateful for the First Lutheran Children, Youth & Family Leadership Team. The main goal set by this team last fall wasn't about "programs" for our children, youth, and families, but rather figuring out ways to cultivate deeper faith experiences that positively impact and sustain for a lifetime. The team endorsed a "Vibrant Faith Framework" (posted on First Lutheran Website Youth Page) to guide their work.

The "CYF Vibrant Faith Framework" states three characteristics of Christian Disciples: Authentic, Available, and Affirming. WOW - First Lutheran is populated by amazing Authentic, Available, and Affirming followers of Jesus! Sincere thank you to all who said yes when asked to participate in big and small ways with Terrific Tuesday, Confirmation, and Youth Group. You have positively impacted the faith formation of our next generations by bringing deeper faith experiences through your involvement. You are role models with "sticky faith"!

These are the four keys for practicing faith from our "Vibrant Faith Framework" that we have been encouraging with our families this year and will continue to do so:

1. Caring Conversations – When we recognize love, we see God.
2. Devotions/Scripture – We all have a story we find ourselves in. And all our stories are connected with God's larger story.
3. Service/Outreach – The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and the ministry of the home.
4. Rituals/Traditions – Family and church rituals and traditions help give people of all ages a sense of security, identity, and belonging.

We have observed from our young families that being accepted and loved "as is" is far more important to them than being on our official membership roster.

We have also discerned that the past ways we have been approaching Confirmation and Youth Group is not the best model for cultivating deeper faith experiences that positively impact and sustain for a lifetime. A CYF Sub-Team has been formed to research best practices and roll out a new plan to begin this fall. Please support this work with your prayers and praise God for the skilled people who have been "called" to this important task for such a time as this.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on staff at First Lutheran. Let all we do be done in love!

Julie Jolivette

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# Congregational Changes & Statistics

## Baptisms:

2022:

Patrick Michael Puszcz--July 11, 2022

Sawyer Niilo Franz--July 28, 2022

Kristopher & Caroline (Dewick) Franz

Soleah Barbara Jerome--July 30, 2022

Alanna & Rodney Jerome

Conner Brandon Judy--October 30, 2022

Brandon & Shannon Judy

2023:

Lucca Michael Curtiss Giovannetti--June 11, 2023

Rebecca Lein & Michael Giovannetti

## Confirmed Youth:

2022:

Liam Aldoff, Emma Blinkwolt, Axel Clifford,

Kent Hand, Connor Judy, and Cade

Schlapper.

## Communion Instruction:

2023:

Gabby Stevenson, Eloise Lietzan,

Olivia Strottman, and Aiden Domagala.

## NOMINEES FOR JULY 2023:

Rhonda Passolt Janet Rivard

Randy Neumann Jeff Reiche

Dan Bergschnieder

## High School Graduates:

Tanner Poppe

Logan Abric

## Youth Attended Bible Camp:

Aiden Domagala Ruby Arnett

Eloise Lietzen Ayda Eckes

Avery Stevenson Adriana Flintrop

Gabby Stevenson Eliah Flintrop

Olivia Strottman Rosie Lietzan

Evelyn Yankowiak Izzy Menk

Olivia Swift

## New Members:

2022:

Al & Diane Utzig

Jeff & Jill Reiche

Regina & Pete Cianci

Janet Rivard

Mike & Ginger Hulbert

Paul & Lois Keeney

Craig & Kristi Voight

Ben & Alison Menk

Family

Grant & Amanda

Stevenson Family

Maris & Jan Freiman

2023:

Tammy & Andy Vergeront

Madelaine & Jerry Bernard

Charlotte Higgins

Jan Nienow

Ted & Jeanne Urban

Jennifer, Olivia, and Tim

Swift

Bob & Miriam Ubbelohde

Mary & Steve Menk

Jim & Barbara Bolitho

Ann & Brian Harless

Ed Anderson

Debra & Elroy Roedel

## Deaths:

2022:

Irene Ahrenkiel

Joyce Zaspel

James Meier

John Poppe

Irene Byerly

Deanna Jaeckel

2023:

Palmer McCoy

Delores Lein

## Statistics

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

Members received	
Baptism	5
Transfer/Instruction	35
Members Removed	
Death	5
Transfer/remove	2
Total Membership	
July 2020-2022	608
July 2022-2023	636

# Committee Reports

## **Memorial & Endowment Committee**

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Jim Schreiber for his 5 years of continued dedication and service to our committee. We supported and funded many projects and organizations with his help and guidance. Newly appointed as of July 6, 2022, to fill his position is Connie Shield.

Gifts given to the Memorial Fund are used to fund church-related programs and projects. During the current fiscal period, we were able to give to the memorial garden, music, and the First Lutheran Church playground and community park. We were also able to disperse money to the Scandinavian Dinner committee and several college scholarships, which were specifically designated.

Gifts given to the Endowment Fund remain in the Fund. In 2023 the committee was able to allocate \$10,000 for giving. The amount that we were able to give/or remain to be given is not reflective of any new giving but of the earning from gifts given to the fund in the past. Gifts to this fund enable perpetual funding, year after year, of God's missions, church, and societal needs. The annual earnings from the Fund are used each year to fund in five categories as outlined in the bylaws:

- 1.) Scholarships-10%: College, University, or Seminary scholarships. Church-related camping or leadership conferences, such as training enable persons to grow in the Lutheran faith and service to God's people. Monies were used to provide matching scholarships for students attending Colleges.
- 2.) Social Concerns-10%: Social service agencies and institutions and/or programs in our community for people who are in spiritual or economic need and to fund youth ministries in community service. Monies have been used to support Hayward area food shelves, ALS Association, LCO Emergency Shelter, and our own Operation Christmas.
- 3.) Educational Institutions-10% ELCA schools, colleges, seminaries, and campus ministries of public universities and/ or ELCA church-related camping ministries. This year we supported the Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library and Winter Library.
- 4.) Greater church-10%: Grants to our greater church through the NW Synod of Wisconsin and/or educational partnership ministries and/or through the ELCA.
- 5.) Committee Discretion-10%: Monies used entirely to support the memorial garden brick work.
- 6.) Allocation A-D 50%: To be used for any of the items outlined in 1-4 above. Monies were used to support the fund items listed in the above categories.

We are truly blessed with the ability to provide financial support to so many worthy groups, projects, and individuals through both the Endowment and Memorial Funds.

2023-2024 funding requests and forms can be directed to the committee through the church office or website via an easy online form. Requests should be turned in 10 days before the quarterly meeting so the committee can review and understand them. We meet in February, May, August, and November.

In God's name, Kris Treland-Neumann, Chairperson

Members: Sherry Beckman, Terri Lundeen, Trisha Brassill, Laurie Jacobs, Dave Napieralski, Connie Shield. Outgoing: Jim Schreiber

# Committee Reports

## **Outreach Committee**

During the last year, the Outreach Committee has received a lot of support from our congregation by buying and donating many items. We had a clothing drive for elementary students for underwear, socks, and shoes. Later in the fall, we had a winter clothing drive and received many new and used coats, snow pants, hats, and gloves. These were distributed to the Hayward Schools and the Free Store on Cty E/K. After that, we asked for paper and hygiene products for the food shelf and received nearly a pickup load of everything from toilet paper to laundry soap. The food shelf is prohibited from spending monetary donations on anything that is not food. During Lent, we asked for money for Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF) which is mission work in Indonesia where roads are not available and everything needs to be flown in. Currently, we are asking for money for our food shelf because they are able to buy through distribution sources that are so much more reasonable than we can purchase food and donate. They can purchase a dollar's worth of food for approximately 7 cents. Occasionally we sell Fair Trade Coffee on Sundays in the narthex which is not a "money maker" for us. It is to help small coffee farmers get their produce to market. The coffee is available to purchase when the church is open. Outreach welcomes anyone interested in this ministry. Our meeting dates will be posted on the church calendar.

Other groups within our church do Outreach through their groups, which is still a big part of our outreach to the community. They are: Scandinavian Dinner, Operation Christmas, Card Ladies, Wednesday Night Dinner, Koininea's German Dinner, Cover Girls, Men at Work, Malawi Well funding, Relay for Life Luminaries, Community Playground, Purls of Prayer, and allowing Regional Hospice, Yoga, AA, and NA to use the church for their meetings.

Thank you for supporting each project.

## **Personnel Committee**

Committee members: Ronald Kirchdoerfer (Chairperson), Erinn Bratley, Thomas Matthiae Maxine Poppe, Maureen Schreiber, and Pastor Joel Bacon. Currently, we are looking for a member of the congregation to contribute their time to this committee.

The personnel committee did have a busy year. At the July 2022 Annual Meeting, the congregation approved the hiring of a Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator. On the recommendation of the Youth and Family Committee and after interviewing her, Julie Jolivette was hired for this position.

Sadly, in early 2023 our long-time organist, Becky Iverson, announced her retirement. After interviewing, and with the recommendation of the Music and Worship committee, Scott Gordon was hired to fill the position of organist.

## **Finance Committee**

Committee members: Erin Bratley (Treasurer), Rhonda Passolt, Ronald Kirchdoerfer, Kris Treland-Neumann, and Pastor Joel Bacon. We are currently seeking two additional members from the congregation to also serve on the committee.

The Finance Committee has various responsibilities regarding the finances of the church. We count the offerings collected on Sundays, review the expenses, and sign the checks prepared each week. Annually we prepare and present the budget of the church for congregation approval. The committee is also responsible for the financial records to be reviewed annually.



# Committee Reports

## Property Committee

The Property Committee had a very busy and productive year. In addition to projects completed by committee members, we had help from a wide variety of other volunteers and task forces. Three task forces were busy throughout the year: the Playground Task Force completed fundraising and installation of the new playground in an amazingly short time; the Columbarium Task Force completed most of the site work for their project, with the first columbarium scheduled to arrive later this summer; and the Audio-Visual Task Force completed the design of a major upgrade, with the installation of equipment planned for July.

Many of our projects were completed through the monthly Many Hands Day. Project ideas were initiated by Ray Austin, Pastor Joel, church members, and through our long-term plan. We also had many volunteers step forward as needed, such as trimming trees and clearing debris left after the very long winter. Rocky Mulligan took care of much of the weekly mowing and lawn care needs. In the future, we look forward to working with the new Beautification Committee to complete both indoor and outdoor improvement projects.

A number of projects we worked on were initiated the prior year but completed this year. We had the parking lot and entrance roads resurfaced this past summer and striped part of the lot for two pickleball courts. That project also included new blacktop for the parsonage driveway. We completed an upgrade of the wiring in the garage, followed by insulating the ceiling and walls. A security camera was installed at the front entrance. At the parsonage, a new patio door was installed.

Several other new projects were completed this year. We responded to a request from members that use the parking area along Main Street, by having a sidewalk constructed along the length of the parking area. Work was done in the boiler room to replace the floor drain, which is needed for the newly installed washing machine, and drainage from the boiler system. A new deck was built at the parsonage, with Pastor Joel and Micah completing most of the work. The committee worked with the Women's group to purchase new padded chairs for the fellowship hall.

We have wonderful assets in our church property and the parsonage; many thanks to the property committee members who worked to maintain and improve these assets, and to the volunteers and generous members of the congregation who made it all possible!

Submitted by Tom Matthiae  
Chair, Property Committee

## Fellowship

### Koinonia

Koinonia (meaning Christian fellowship and communion). Is a Bible study that meets every Tuesday at 8:00 am in the church library. All women are welcome. The studies use DVDs on various religious topics with time for discussion.

They will again be sponsoring the German Dinner on Thursday, September 7th at 5:30 pm. Profits will go towards purchasing a well in Malawi. They will serve beef roulade, red cabbage, spatzle, dark bread, and dessert.

# Task Force Reports

## Playground Task Force

At the Church's Annual Meeting on July 24, 2022, a motion to set up a Task Force to fundraise, source, and install a new playground was approved. Kris Treland-Neumann took this motion forward and put a call out for Task Force members, conducted follow-up outreach to potential playground companies, and identified initial fundraising ideas. In September, a formal Task Force was launched with seven core members - Kris Treland-Neumann, Sari Torstenson, Cheryl Treland, Jeff Reiche, Linda Treland, Trisha Brassill, and Victoria Treland.

During the following months, the Task Team conducted additional research into playground options and selected equipment from Playground Boss. Playground Boss provided a set-up that was almost double the amount of equipment initially sourced and at a price that was comparable. A summary of the project was developed including images and pricing for the equipment, ground cover, new fencing, signage, and exercise equipment. The summary was shared with potential donors, partners, and supporters.

Fundraising commenced late summer of 2022 and continued through to early summer of 2023. During this time, the Task Team reached out to individuals – church members and community members, businesses – local and non-local, foundations, clubs and community organizations, the Church board, and the wider community through social media platforms.

By November, the team secured enough funds to purchase the main pieces of equipment which provided a 50 percent savings on the equipment and free shipping. By the time of writing, a total of \$125,126.11 has been secured. In addition to funding, several local businesses and individuals donated time and in-kind resources and services during the takedown of the old playground and installation of the new equipment. The total expenses for the revitalized “First Lutheran Community Park” total \$113,970.58 to date. The remaining funds are being used to finalize signage, additional work identified by the Task Team, and “final touches”. Once completed, the remaining funds will be secured into a separate account and support the future needs of the Community Park.

The new Community Park includes a new fence, new ground cover, a full set of playground equipment, exercise equipment, benches, a picnic table, signage, and exercise equipment. The installation of the park was completed in May 2023 and a dedication was held on Sunday, June 4, 2023.



## Columbarium/Memorial Wall Task Force

The cement work is completed for the sidewalk, patio area, pad, and bases for the columbariums. Memory Wall plaques that were ordered have been mounted, and stump removal has been done. So far, 13 Columbarium niches have been sold, and 13 plaques have been mounted. The Columbarium is scheduled to arrive in late summer or early fall. Sara Balbin is designing an art piece that will also be included in this area. A second Columbarium was included in the plans, but will not be ordered until it is needed.

# Task Force Reports

## **Social Media Task Force**

Coordinator: Sue Reinardy

First Lutheran's online presence continues to increase with postings on Facebook and Instagram along with our website, [www.flchaywardwi.org](http://www.flchaywardwi.org)

- Facebook - We currently have 612 Facebook followers (up 20% over the previous year) who regularly enjoy daily devotions by Pastor Joel, our weekly worship service, special programs, and posts showing the various ministries and activities of our church. In the last 12 months, we had over 18,000 Facebook visits, up 160% over the prior 12 months. In the last six months, we averaged 190 weekly views of the Sunday worship (both live and later) and anywhere from 120-200 followers for daily devotions (both live and later) on our Facebook page.
- Instagram – First Lutheran has 65 followers who view photos of church activities. This is a social media that will grow with more posts.
- Website - In January 2023 we migrated to a new domain name; our website and email addresses now use [www.flchaywardwi.org](http://www.flchaywardwi.org). Our website had almost 4,500 users (up 5% over the previous year) in the last 12 months viewing 42,000 webpages (down 2% from the previous year) with archived worship videos being the most popular webpage viewed. New material was added for the Children, Youth & Family (CYF) ministry along with the special projects for the Columbarium & Memorial Garden and FLC Community Park. There are new online forms for CYF registration, contacts, prayer requests, online giving, columbarium information, new member applications, and Memorial Fund scholarships & general requests. A new volunteer page is being developed along with a form to express interest in the many volunteer opportunities of our church community.

There are plans to continue to develop our online presence and add YouTube as another communication media. Contact Sue Reinardy at [sreinardy74@gmail.com](mailto:sreinardy74@gmail.com) or 715.699.3451 if you are interested in being a part of this ministry connecting with our growing church community.

## **Audio/Video Task Force**

At the Summer 2022 Annual meeting, the congregation voted to authorize the AV Task Force to go ahead with researching our needs to upgrade the Facebook Live broadcast capabilities for our church services and special events such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms. We were also looking to upgrade our in-sanctuary audio and video. The AV Taskforce was authorized by that vote to spend up to \$80,000 toward these improvements. After much research and consulting with First Lutheran committees and stakeholders, a plan was decided upon. Working with our AV consultants, Audio Architects of Chippewa Falls, Wi., we devised a plan that had a total cost of \$61,296.

Funding for this project comes from a combination of direct gifts and contributions from many congregation members, online contributions (some from people who have never visited us in person but are regulars online), and endowment. A big Thank You to all who have contributed! The project is now fully funded through generous gifts which are still being received. Any amounts over the total will be available for system maintenance or future church projects.

Installation is scheduled for the week of July 10, 2023, so it should be finished for today's summer meeting. After five years of work, the AV Task Force will now become a standing subcommittee under the Music and Worship Committee.

AV Task Force

Eric Neff, Randy Schwartzhoff, Sue Reinardy, Ray Austin, and Pastor Joel

# Ministries & Mission

## **Purls of Prayer-Shawl Ministry**

Chairperson: Sue Reinardy.

Members of the Purls of Prayer create dozens of prayer shawls each year. In addition to prayer shawls, several group members also created hats and mittens for Operation Christmas and prayer patches available for anyone to pick up in the Narthex. The prayer shawl ministry meets on the third Saturday of the month at 9:30 am at the church. Everyone is welcome to join us for fellowship, devotions, and snacks. The pastor blesses the shawls that have been created over the year before being presented to someone who may be celebrating a happy occasion or who may need comfort for any reason. If you know of anyone who may appreciate a shawl, contact the church office. Please consider joining this important ministry. Instruction and supplies can be provided.

## **Peace Circle**

Peace Circle meets in the church on the second Tuesday of each month at 10 am. We usually meet from September through June on that schedule. July and August dates may vary. We have a leader and a hostess. The plan for the study is in "Gather" magazine. The "Gather" magazine is a subscription but there are copies of the study for visitors or those without a subscription. Our group welcomes visitors so please join us.

## **Altar Guild**

Chairpersons: Sue Reinardy and Liz Dokkestul

The Altar Guild is a lay ministry serving God by preparing the Sanctuary for worship, as well as maintaining and caring for the sacred vessels. We change the paraments and set up the altar for worship, funerals, weddings, and baptisms. On Saturday mornings we get ready for the worship services by checking the candles for oil, lightly dusting, vacuuming around the altar, and getting the communion vessels set up.

Depending on the liturgical calendar, the paraments may need to be changed, also. Prior to, and immediately following each service, we have a few duties to complete, none of which takes very much time, especially since there are usually other Altar Guild members to help with this. Every month an email is sent out asking for volunteers. At least one person for the weekly set-up and one for each service is needed. We welcome you to join Altar Guild by contacting Sue Reinardy at [sreinardy74@gmail.com](mailto:sreinardy74@gmail.com). You can volunteer for whichever task(s) you are interested in doing throughout the year, and as often or as little as you want to help.

## **Cover Girls**

Our quilts are nothing fancy, but they are tied in faith, sent in hope, and wrapped in love for the person receiving them. The quilts represent what a group of First Lutheran women are doing. Where do these quilts go? Two quilts have been given to our high school graduating seniors, three quilts were given to Luther Park for their auction, one was given to a local family and the rest are given to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to Dave Jacobsen who delivers our quilts to the storage building in St. Paul, and Nels Beckman who delivered them to Rice Lake in the fall. Lutheran World Relief sends these quilts all over the world. Many of the quilts were being sent to Ukraine, or countries where the refugees are being received. This year we made 92 quilts. We made forty baby blankets which were given to the hospital and Northlake clinic for newborn babies, and two were given to Luther Park to sell. We also made 38 nursing covers for mothers of new babies.

We meet on Thursdays (2nd and 3rd) of the month at 9-11 AM. Come join us one morning a month and help make the quilts. There is a variety of things one can do. You don't have to be a sewer to make these quilts. Give it a try, join the fellowship, and feel good when you have completed a quilt.

We want to thank all the people who have donated washable material, sheets, curtains, and crocheting thread.

# Ministries & Mission

## Community Supper

Coordinator: Betty Beckman.

First Lutheran Church has been doing the ministry of Wednesday Night Supper for the last 26 years. We now serve everything from the fellowship window. Some for those who want to eat in-house and some who still ask for carry-outs. The reason this has continued for so long is the support and volunteering of First Lutheran members. We need to especially thank the following people: Patty Treland, Cheryl Treland, Rhonda Passolt, Maxine Poppe, Linda Beck, Carol Schmidt, Paula Gaida, Kathy McCoy, JoEllyn Mulligan, Pat Olson, and Maureen Schreiber. These people take the responsibility of seeing there is a meal every Wednesday during the month/s they are in charge of. It may be that they call people to serve or chose to serve themselves.

Pat Olson stepped forward and is now overseeing October. We are still looking for someone to cover the month of April.

Also, we want to thank Sherry Beckman who puts up the monthly signup sheets and writes thank-you notes to all who have served a meal.

The other area of thanks needs to go to the community groups who have stepped up and served meals.

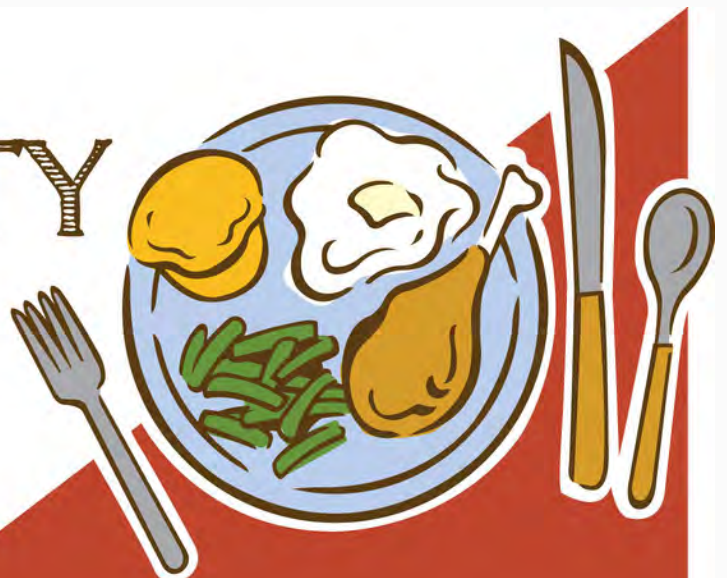
The following do more than two meals a year – Hayward Lions, Chequamegon Lions, First Lutheran Church, Frandsen Bank Midwest, St Joseph's Catholic Church, Ascension Episcopal Church, Beehive Botanicals, Hayward Area Memorial Hospital, Ventures Unlimited, Loris Card and Gift Shop, and individual families and friends.

If you are interested, take time to talk with our monthly leaders or myself. We can always use more hands. "And then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and fed you,. . . and the King will reply, 'Truly I tell you whenever you did this for the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.'"

Come and join the team by helping serve, cooking a meal, or heading up a month. If interested contact Betty Beckman. Where else can you meet once a year and oversee one month?

Thank you members of First Lutheran Church.

COMMUNITY  
DINNER



# Women of First Lutheran

The mission statement of the Women of the ELCA is “mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ”. As women of First Lutheran, we continue to grow in our faith through opportunities for worship, Bible study, volunteering, and missions.

First Lutheran Women have three circles: Peace, Jubilee, and Faith Hope and Love which all meet monthly for Bible study using the "Gather" magazine Bible study and other resources. Koinonia (meaning Christian fellowship and communion) meets weekly on Tuesday mornings and uses DVDs on religious topics. Other women's groups are Cover Girls (LWR quilts, nursing covers, and baby blankets), Purls of Prayer ((prayer shawls), and Card Ladies (recycled and new cards). All of these groups welcome ladies to join them for faith enrichment and fellowship. Check the First Word each month for dates and times.

The Annual Meeting of the FLCW was held on January 21, 2023. There was the election of officers – President - Carol Schmidt, Vice President - Gwen Mickelson, Secretary - Connie Schield, Treasurer - Maxine Poppe. The theme for the meeting was Cookies & Crafts. Many brought a sample of their hobby or craft. The Love Gifts were also designated at this meeting. Love Gifts are the proceeds from the 2022 Scandinavian Dinner and Bake Sale which totaled \$5782.90. A list of Love Gifts follows this report. The FLCW also voted to donate from their General Fund towards padded chairs in the Fellowship Hall, Audio-Visual Fund, and Mission Aviation Fellowship (annually).

On Tuesday, July 18th at 5:30 pm First Lutheran Church Women scheduled a Salad Supper with a presentation by Betty Beckman “Walking in Martin Luther’s Footsteps”. In August Pastor Joel will lead the Bible study for the Noon luncheon on Tuesday, August 8th.

The Women’s Thank Offering Service will be held on the weekend of November 18-19th.

Thank you so much to the women of First Lutheran who volunteer their gifts and time. May we continue to grow in faith and fellowship together.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Schmidt, Gwen Mickelson, Connie Schield, Maxine Poppe



# FLCW - Love Gifts

## 2022 FUNDS - LOVE GIFTS DISBURSED IN 2023

<b>Net Proceeds from Scandinavian Dinner</b>	<b>\$ 5,782.90</b>
(Includes \$250 not disbursed from last year)	
	<b>2023</b>
First Lutheran	
Youth Campers	\$ 400.00
Cover Girls	\$ 132.90
Prayer Shawls (yam)	\$ 100.00
Community Park	\$ 500.00
Memorial Garden	\$ 500.00
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	\$ 1,632.90
Hayward/Sawyer County	
Northwoods New Life Center	\$ 150.00
Greater Hayward Ministerial/Men's Shelter	\$ 250.00
New Reflections Pathway to Hope, Inc	\$ 150.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 150.00
Regional Hospice - Hayward	\$ 200.00
Senior Resource Center (Home delivered meals)	\$ 150.00
Hayward School Character Education Fund	\$ 100.00
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	\$ 1,150.00
Northwest Synod	
NW Synod Fund for Leaders	\$ 100.00
Luther Park	\$ 450.00
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	\$ 550.00
The World	
ChildVoice	\$ 300.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 200.00
ELCA Send a girl to school (4)	\$ 160.00
ELCA School supplies (4)	\$ 40.00
Katie's Fund	\$ 100.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	\$ 500.00
LSS-Immigration and Refugees	\$ 100.00
LWR Project Comfort (Shipping quilts)	\$ 250.00
Well Project funds at First Lutheran Church	\$ 400.00
Malawi Food Security	\$ 200.00
Malawi Literacy (I want to read my bible)	\$ 100.00
Malawi Pastors Academy	\$ 100.00
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	\$ 2,450.00
 GRAND TOTAL	 \$ 5,782.90