

2023-2024

ANNUAL YEARBOOK

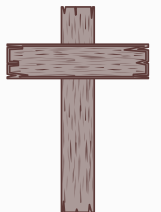
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - HAYWARD, WI



*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

I have been in church leadership since my teens, virtually 75% of my life, been doing this a while and I find myself musing on what makes a good church. And by good I mean the moral use of the word, not the use that means tasty or well played, but good in that it is as God would want it.

A good church has good worship. Through worship, through proclamation and sacraments and music and prayer, we meet God's steadfast love and constant challenge.

A good church knows it is a church and not the Church. It knows it is a small c church in the midst of the big C Church and that every church everywhere is called upon to bloom where it is planted and be effective in its time and place within God's world.

A good church learns the Bible. A good church knows the Bible well enough that it can recognize heresies and vanities.

A good church seeks to empower rather than have power. A good church teaches people to tie their own shoes rather than insisting that people come here to get their shoes tied whilst insisting that certain others remain barefoot.

A good church does good things. Just like school has lecture and lab and lecture makes no sense what-so-ever until you experience it in action during lab, so the church's good talk is strange and useless until it is put into action. The good actions reinforce and solidify the good words.

A church grows because it does good.

I think First Lutheran in Hayward is a good church. So many aspects of First are heading in the right direction. Good worship. Good study. Good works. Love. Acceptance. Joy. Outreach. Four generations finding meaning and purpose in the same place.

A good church has good people humbling themselves to God's way while confidently using and finding all the gifts and talents we have in each other.

Good things are happening here. This is my eighth summer annual meeting with you. I am proud to call First Lutheran in Hayward the church I serve.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Joe". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Cultivating deeper faith experiences that positively impact and sustain for a lifetime.

This remains the mission statement for Children, Youth & Family at First Lutheran. Let me share some examples of how I have witnessed faith being formed this past year:

- The picture sent from a mom of her daughter asleep with an open Bible in her hand.
- Dads share they have come to the communion instruction session because their kids wanted them to.
- Our kindergarten boys teaching others at one-day Bible Camp their "God Hug."
- H.S. youth sharing their faith with younger kids as they help at Terrific Tuesdays.
- Listening to a 4th grader volunteer and confidently lead a closing prayer.
- Kids giving their hearts to Baby Jesus during the Christmas Pageant.
- Being asked by kids if they can help with worship service support roles.
- Watching bonds grow between mentors and mentees.
- Receiving notes/emails from college students who were touched by care packages.
- Tears in a mom's eyes as she leaves her child at camp for the first time.
- Seniors and their parents wanting to connect with their church at the milestone of graduation.
- Observing kids supporting and encouraging one another on a weekly basis
- AND they are inviting and welcoming their peers into Terrific Tuesday, Confirmation and Youth Group.

Sincere gratitude for the CYF Sub-Team that last summer researched best practices and rolled out a new plan for Confirmation. The new plan, together with the leaders from the sub-team engaging in leading it throughout the year, was awesome! We continue to evaluate and make little changes, but feel confident we are on an engaging, mission-focused path that will send youth out equipped and eager to use God-given talents and character in the world for Jesus' sake.

Thank you to everyone who financially and prayerfully supported 29 kids going to Bible Camp this summer. (Kids ranged from kindergarten to 9th grade) The impact Bible Camp experience has on kid's faith formation is incredible! We will notice this impact throughout the year and years as we continue to fan these flames. Some of our kids are already talking about being camp counselors when they are old enough.

People of First Lutheran, you are safe, inclusive, welcoming and nurturing for children, youth and families. Thank you for all the big and small ways you individually and collaboratively stepped forward to help this important ministry. Please keep it coming in 2024-25!

Let all we do be done in love!

Julie Jolivette

Financial Report

	1/1/2024 Thru 6/30/2024	1/1/2023 Thru 12/31/2023	1/1/2022 Thru 12/31/2022	1/1/2021 Thru 12/31/2021
INCOME				
General Offerings	\$ 203,958	\$ 414,480	\$ 407,191	\$ 413,308
Special gifts and offerings	\$ 40,999	\$ 78,488	\$ 190,641	\$ 73,100
	\$ 244,957	\$ 492,968	\$ 597,832	\$ 486,408
EXPENSES				
General mission support	\$ 22,895	\$ 48,705	\$ 47,900	\$ 47,875
Salaries & benefits & Call Process	\$ 141,842	\$ 267,875	\$ 234,107	\$ 234,584
Administrative expenses	\$ 11,522	\$ 21,869	\$ 23,211	\$ 24,730
Education	\$ 4,260	\$ 11,431	\$ 12,461	\$ 11,872
Property and Vehicles	\$ 23,559	\$ 50,404	\$ 48,233	\$ 46,024
Outreach	\$ 4,739	\$ 10,349	\$ 6,498	\$ 9,030
Worship and music	\$ 3,195	\$ 8,082	\$ 7,411	\$ 6,187
Designated gifts & offerings	\$ 64,360	\$ 157,792	\$ 113,982	\$ 131,211
	\$ 276,372	\$ 576,508	\$ 493,803	\$ 511,513
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (31,415)	\$ (83,539)	\$ 104,029	\$ (25,105)

First Lutheran Church
Preliminary Unaudited Balance Sheet
2021,2022,2023 and January 1-June 30, 2024

	6/30/2024	2023	2022	2021
ASSETS				
Cash	\$ 26,519	\$ 56,632	\$ 37,120	\$ 45,428
Designated accounts	\$ 191,081	\$ 197,964	\$ 321,105	\$ 168,595
Property and equipment	\$ 1,289,438	\$ 1,289,438	\$ 1,289,438	\$ 1,289,439
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,507,038	\$ 1,544,034	\$ 1,647,663	\$ 1,503,462
LIABILITIES				
Accrued expenses	\$ 3,779	\$ 6,573	\$ 7,234	\$ 7,063
Note payable	\$ 17,787	\$ 20,574	\$ 40,000	\$ -
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 21,566	\$ 27,147	\$ 47,234	\$ 7,063
EQUITY				
Church previous equity	\$ 1,496,398	\$ 1,496,398	\$ 1,496,398	\$ 1,521,679
Church current year equity	\$ (10,927)	\$ 20,489	\$ 104,029	\$ (25,281)
TOTAL EQUITY	\$ 1,485,472	\$ 1,516,887	\$ 1,600,427	\$ 1,496,398
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 1,507,038	\$ 1,544,034	\$ 1,647,661	\$ 1,503,461

Congregational Changes & Statistics

Baptisms:

2023:
 Judson Walter Danczyk--August 26, 2023
 Thomas & Molly Danczyk
 Allen John LeBlanc--September 16, 2023
 Matthew & Caitlyn LeBlanc
 Aero Wilfred Sieh--December 24, 2023
 Eric & Chelsea Sieh
 2024:
 Lyla Elise Brewer--January 7, 2024
 Tyler & Lara (Bacon) Brewer

Youth Attended Bible Camp:

Isla Johnson	Tanner Treland	Noah Kennell
Kimmarie Montroy	Aiden Domagala	Eloise Lietzan
Eva Ogren	Adya Eckes	Rosie Lietzan
Ayden Dahlke	Adriana Flintrop	Izzy Menk
Addison Domagala	Elijah Flintrop	Luci Menk
James Lietzan	Porter Goette	Jace Murdock
Gavin Montroy	Finley Sportel	Jenna Murdock
Emersyn Shaw	Sullivan Sportel	Olivia Strottman
Beckett Treland	Avery Stevenson	Oliva Swift
	Gabby Stevenson	Evelyn Yankowiak

Confirmed Youth:

2023:
 Sam Berquist, Tara Eckes, Jack Marks,
 and Trevor Poppe.

Communion Instruction:

2024:
 Isla Johnson, Eva Ogren, Madison Wade,
 Jace Murdock, and Jenna Murdock.

High School Graduates:

Micah Bacon, Madi Bergschnieder,
 Kallen Clifford, Mackenzie Forrester,
 Cassidy Judy, Emma Kuczynski,
 Miles McCallum, Alyson Reier, Macey Reier,
 Jace Schlapper, and Lauren Sisco.

New Members:

2023:	2024:
Rod & Linda Wieneri	Eric & Mary Johannesen
Phil & Kathy Pierce	Jay & Kathy Johns
Kenneth & Colleen Vollmers	Roger & Peg Martin
Jeffrey & Susan Schneeman	Sherry Parmeter
Douglas Chase	Anthony Anderson
Greg & Mary Just	Rick & Gretchen Herdrich
Thomas, Molly, and Judson Danczyk	
Allen LeBlanc	
Kyle & Vicki Anderson	
Edward & Barbara Drier	
Rusty & Angie Kiser	
Michael & Dori McCastland	
Randy, Lorna, Ayden, and Elliott Dahlke	

NOMINEES FOR JULY 2024:

Paula Gaida	Jeff Reiche
Deb Meier	Bob Ubbelohde
Eric Neff	

Deaths:

2023:	2024:
Carol Cornell	Ralph Cornell
Richard "Dick" Robbins	Shirley Tiffany
Arthur "Art" Saxum III	Colin "Joe" Laberee
Fern McCoy	Samantha Shaw
	Maris Freiman
	Christine Somerville

Statistics

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

Members received	
Baptism	1
Transfer/Instruction	16
Members Removed	
Death	8
Transfer/remove	7
Total Membership	
July 2022-2023	636
July 2023-2024	654

Committee Reports

Memorial & Endowment Committee

As my second, 3-year term is wrapping up, I would like to extend a warm thank you to last year's committee and all the work that we have accomplished together. This is a wonderful committee that really has a passion for researching, discussing, and distributing funds to many gracious organizations and people. Lori Clifford will join the committee for the next 3 years taking over my membership.

Gifts given to the Memorial Fund are used to fund church-related programs and projects. During the current 2023-2024 fiscal period, we were able to purchase a xylophone for the music and youth, support the cover girls quilting projects, landscape at the front of the church for the memorial garden, purchase of hymn books for lay ministry, help cover costs for the beautification of the labyrinth area, and purchase virus protection for church computers.

Gifts given to the Endowment Fund remain in the Fund. In 2024 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 earnings from gifts given to the fund in the past. Gifts to this fund enable perpetual funding year after year for 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 scholarships for students furthering their education. We gave out 13-\$500 scholarships this year.

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, the ALS Association, the 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 ELCA fund for Leaders.

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. World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief were our choices this year.

5.) Committee Discretion -10 %: The Salvation Army had a new program that we funded this year.

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.

2024-2025 funding requests and forms can be found at fchaywardwi.org. Click on giving and select Memorial and Endowment. You can either fill the form out online and submit it or download, print, and turn in to the office. 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 Schield
Outgoing: Kris Treland-Neumann, Incoming: Lori Clifford.



Plant your seeds now and trust in the Lord that these seeds will bear fruit even when you are gone.

Committee Reports

Outreach Committee

Our Outreach Committee consists of Carol Nelson, Nancy Woodbeck, Bonnie Larsen, Linda Swanson, Linda Beck, Pastor Joel, and myself. We met in August and decided to keep Cash for Cans as a year-round project. This is to assist the Hayward Food Shelf. They can use cash much more efficiently to purchase food than we can purchase it at the grocery store. We have envelopes in each pew stamped CASH FOR CANS. Donations can be placed in the envelope and put directly in the collection plate.

We had a clothing drive for the elementary school in August and September. Socks, underwear, and sweats were requested.

In September, we set up a table in the narthex to advertise and sell our coffee and try to get new members to Outreach. Our coffee is now priced at \$10 a bag.

We made a circular advertising our Wednesday night dinner and delivered it to all apartment areas in Hayward. We met again in February to continue making plans.

During Christmas, there was a NOISY CAN offering. That assisted with Bible Camp.

The Congregation was asked to give Personal Hygiene and Paper items in March-May which were given to the Hayward Food Shelf since they cannot purchase items that are not food.

We also collect funds by setting out the Well for Malawi and the airplane for the Missionary Aviation Fund.

Many thanks to the congregation for supporting Outreach.

Pat Olson, Chair

Opertation Christmas

First Lutheran Church along with United Methodist Church and Ascension Episcopal Church and the Community at large worked together to help make a blessed Christmas for 210 families last year. Each family received the following: a tote/basket filled with nonperishable food items like peanut butter, cereal, etc.; a holiday pie, fudge, a ham, a bag of potatoes and carrots, frozen hamburger, coupons for milk and eggs, and fresh fruit (apples, oranges, and bananas.). In addition, we provided 465 gifts to the families' children. This is truly a blessed Christmas for those who receive these baskets.

We continued the tradition of providing Cookies for 60 plus shut-ins.

Planning is underway for 2024. The committee's goal is to expand as much as possible (we had over 25 families on the waitlist in 2023). Hopefully with your help we can increase the number served to 240 families in 2024.

Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday November 6th @ 3:00 p.m. at 1st Lutheran. All are welcome.

Thank you for your continued support of this very important mission.

Kathy McCoy

Visitation Committee

Chairperson: Terri Lundeen. The Visitation Ministry team consists of 11 members who enjoy connecting with folks in their homes or care facilities. We are currently visiting 17 members. We send greeting cards, and offer visits and communion. It is our privilege to be a part of this ministry as it blesses us as much or more than those of whom we serve.

Pastor Bacon visits and leads Communion worship at several care facilities on the first Thursday of the month.

This ministry welcomes anyone who is interested in connecting socially and spiritually with members who would enjoy a visit or are unable to attend functions at First Lutheran. It is a vital and rewarding way to serve.

Contact Terri Lundeen with questions or interest at 715.462.4377.

Committee Reports

Property Committee

Once again, it was a busy and productive year for the property committee. Our church building is now over 60 years old, so a number of maintenance items need to be addressed every year. We had contracted to have two entrance doors replaced during the last fiscal year, but they arrived and were installed this year. The metal door in the fellowship hall was quite rusted, and the handle no longer worked properly. The entrance door from the Narthex towards Main Street had been fogged for years due to a poor seal, and the locking mechanism was cumbersome. Both of those doors were replaced by Market and Johnson in the summer of 2023. We finished installing new exterior light fixtures with LED bulbs. The parking lot was crack-sealed. We also completed some major painting projects. The entire sanctuary was repainted, through a combination of a contract (for the high-end walls) and volunteers. The walls and ceiling of the office wing hallway were next; that was done completely by volunteers.

Some repair work in the bathrooms turned into a major remodeling. We needed to tear up a portion of the men's bathroom floor in order to fix a plugged and corroded drain line. Our beautification committee suggested that it would be a great time to consider remodeling both bathrooms since not much had been done with them for many years. That committee came up with a game plan and design of work, which would include new fixtures and partitions, a new floor, and painting the walls. We had hoped to have all the work done in the spring, but the realities of the supply chain and busy contractors have extended the project longer than we would have liked. Hopefully, they should be complete about the time of the summer annual meeting.

Another ongoing project has been the repurposing of several rooms. Our very active youth and family ministry group wanted a larger space and suggested combining the old business management office with Pastor Joel's study; Pastor Joel was happy with moving across the hall into the old nursery for his room since it is much more soundproof. The library was not being used as designed anymore, so it is being turned into a general lounge area. After the books were donated, some of the shelves were used for Pastor Joel's new room. A smart TV was donated and can be used to access programming for study groups. At this point, Pastor Joel's room is complete, but work is continuing with the lounge and the youth and family rooms.

And finally, at the parsonage, volunteers spread several yards of topsoil to fill in low spots in the lawn, including next to the newly blacktopped driveway. Two trees were taken down and cut up by a tree service; they were both infringing on the power line to the house.

Fellowship

Koinonia

Koinonia (which means Christian fellowship) is a women's Bible study group that meets every Tuesday at 8 am in the church lounge. After sharing coffee, treats and fellowship, we watch a DVD series entitled "The History of Christianity – From Reformation to Modern Megachurch." All are welcome to join us any Tuesday morning for fellowship and discussion!

Task Force Reports

Columbarium/Memorial Wall Task Force

On June 2, 2024 the dedication of the Memorial Garden and Columbarium marked the culmination of three years of planning and work by the task force of the same name.

Since last year at this time the columbarium as well as the brickwork was completed. In late May, Nature's Design planted three beds of annuals, perennials, shrubs and four crabapple trees. A beautiful sculpture designed by Sara Balbin and benches designed and built by Jerry and Arden Rasmussen were installed over the old flower bed area. The finishing touch was the placement of the arbor designed by Bob Badal.

As of now, 15 niches have been sold, and with the dedication, inurnment can now be scheduled at any time. A total of 13 memory wall plaques have been installed on the memory wall, and a total of 23 have been sold. Some more will be produced and installed by the end of August.

More information can be found on the church website. Now that we have completed the installation phase we will continue to educate and inform families about the importance of end-of-life planning.

Social Media Task Force

First Lutheran's online presence continues to increase with postings on Facebook and Instagram along with our website, www.flchaywardwi.org There are plans to continue to develop our online presence and add YouTube as another communication media.

Facebook - We currently have 704 Facebook followers (up 15% 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 30,000 Facebook visits, up 66% over the prior year.

Website - In January 2023 we migrated to a new domain name; our website and email addresses now use www.flchaywardwi.org Our website had almost 4,300 users in the last 12 months viewing 21,000 pages with archived worship videos being the most popular webpage. A reformatted website will be launched in August 2024 providing improved navigation. Contact Sue Reinardy at sreinardy74@gmail.com or 715.699.3451 if you are interested in being a part of this ministry connecting with our growing church community.

Coordinator: Sue Reinardy

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 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

The women of Peace Circle meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the church lounge at 10 am. We use the Bible study found in the monthly "Gather" magazine of Women of the ELCA. Copies of the Bible study are available for those who attend. All are welcome to join us for coffee, treats, fellowship and Bible study!

Altar Guild

Chairperson: Sue Reinardy

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 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

Cover girls was started in April 1972 and has been going on ever since (52 Years). It is a small group of women who meet twice a month the 2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month in the morning to make quilts. These quilts are not fancy but easy to make tie quilts, which will go all over the world to those in need. Thank you to the many people who have donated washable material, sheets, curtains (no white) and crocheting yarn. Anyone can tie a quilt. You just have to know how to tie a knot.

If you can join us, these are some of the things that we do; sort, cut, lay out, and iron material, tie quilts and baby blankets, sew (on a sewing machine) the tops of quilts, and cut up scrapes, that are used to stuff bed pads for dogs and cats, which are given to Northwood's Animal Shelter.

There is something to do for anyone who comes to help or learn. Our quilts go to graduating seniors, some stay here to help our families, and most go to Lutheran World Relief, which then sends them all over the world. We made 86 quilts this year.

We also made 27 baby quilts and 34 nursing covers which go to the hospital or family clinic for expecting parents.

Come join us for an all-morning adventure and learn another way we (our church) reaches out to the world.

Ministries & Mission

Jubilee Circle

Jubilee Circle meets September through May on the third Tuesday at church from 6:00-7:00 pm. Women partner with one another choosing a month to host a meeting. A variety of topics and resources are utilized with each host choosing what the group will discuss.

During the summer, Jubilee gathers for a potluck social. December brings a service outreach project and social gathering. Jubilee coordinates the monthly volunteers for Saturday and Sunday worship services.

Decorating the tree at Christmas is also a Jubilee favorite.

All are welcome to join us. Call or email for more information, Paula Gaida, 715-634-0269 or gaidapaula@gmail.com

Community Supper

Wednesday Night Community Supper has never missed a meal (except 4 months when we were shut down because of COVID).

Mission Statement: To show God's love in action by providing a free meal to anyone in the community.

Started 27 years ago (1997)

- Congregation gave us \$500 to start
- Free meal to anyone in the community
- Volunteers from our church and other community organizations, prepare the meals.
- No need for preparers to pay for the food prepared (Community Supper Funds will cover if needed)
- Free will offering
- First Lutheran pays all utilities and provides the kitchen
- Monies collected are placed in a special fund for Community Dinner:
 - Helps cover cost of food
 - As funds grow it will be used to help replace items in the kitchen (Refrigerator, Freezer)
 - All extra money to be given to food pantries in the area and ELCA World Hunger.

The Wednesday Night Community Supper has been self-sufficient since starting in March 1997.

We need to especially thank the following people: Patty Treland, Cheryl Treland, Maxine Poppe, Linda Beck, Carol Schmidt, Paula Gaida, Kathy McCoy, JoEllyn Mulligan, Pat Olson, Patty Nier and Maureen Schreiber. These people take the responsibility of seeing there is a meal every Wednesday during the month they are in charge. It may be that they call people to serve or chose to serve themselves. We are looking for a monthly leader for February.

Anyone interested in helping with the meal, or serving please contact one of our monthly leaders or Betty Beckman, Coordinator.

Women of First Lutheran

The mission statement of the Women of the ELCA is to "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, Faith Hope, and Love and Jubilee.

All three circles meet monthly for fellowship and study. We also have Koinonia (meaning Christian fellowship and communion)

Several other opportunities for women to serve are: Purls of Prayer, Card Ladies, Cover Girls, and Altar Guild.

Recipients of the quilts made by the Cover Girls this year included graduating high school seniors, families within the community, and Lutheran World Relief.

The Purls of Prayer ladies use their knitting talents to create prayer shawls, prayer patches hats, and mittens for Operation Christmas. Our Card Ladies use recycled cards to create new cards for any occasion which are displayed for purchase in the narthex. Altar Guild is a group of dedicated ladies who prepare the church for worship, funerals, weddings, and baptisms.

Six ladies from First Lutheran attended the Heart of the North Conference - Day of Renewal in October 2023 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake.

The theme of October's conference was "Falling Boldly in Love with Jesus".

On November 3, 2023, the annual Scandinavian Dinner was held under the dedicated leadership of Kris Treland-Neumann and members of First Lutheran.

November also brought the Thankoffering Church Service, held on the weekend of November 18th and 19th led by women of First Lutheran. This church service tradition sets aside offerings in thankfulness for the blessings received. The Saturday and Sunday services raised \$732.00 which was in addition to the weekly offering, to assist the many ways the women of First Lutheran support those around them.

The annual meeting of the FLCW was held on January 20, 2024. The theme of the annual meeting was Tea (...and coffee), Treats, and Treasures.

The following officers were elected:

President - Patti Nier, Vice President - Gwen Mickelson, Secretary - Connie Shield, and Treasurer - Maxine Poppe.

The Love Gifts, proceeds from the Scandinavian dinner and Bake Sale, were voted on and given to several local, church, and worldwide nonprofits. The proceeds from the 2023 Scandinavian Dinner and Bake Sale totaled \$6658.55.

Two ladies from First Lutheran attended day one in June of the 2024 WELCA Retreat, "Wonderful Worth of a Woman ~ The Joys, Challenges, and Influences".

We give thanks to the many women of First Lutheran who volunteer their time and talents for their neighbors and those in need worldwide. The women of First Lutheran look forward to opportunities for faith and fellowship during the remainder of this summer and into the fall. May we continue to grow in faith and fellowship together.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Nier, Gwen Mickelson, Connie Shield, and Maxine Poppe

2023 FUNDS - LOVE GIFTS DISBURSED 2024

Net Proceeds from the Scandinavian Dinner	\$6,658.55
First Lutheran	
Youth	\$1,000.00
Cover Girls	\$158.55
Purls of Prayer ~ Prayer Shawls (Yarn)	\$200.00
Memorial Garden	\$500.00
	\$1858.55
Hayward/Sawyer County	
Greater Hayward Ministerial/Men's Shelter	\$250.00
New Reflections Pathway to Hope	\$250.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$150.00
Regional Hospice - Hayward	\$200.00
Senior Resource Center (Horne delivered meals)	\$200.00
Hayward School Character Education Fund	\$100.00
	\$1,150.00
Northwest Synod	
NW Synod WI Endowment Fund	\$100.00
	\$100.00
The World	
ChildVoice	\$300.00
ELCA Send a Girl to School (4)	\$160.00
ELCA School Supplies (4)	\$40.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$200.00
Katie's Fund	\$100.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	\$500.00
LSS-Immigration and Refugees	\$500.00
LWR Project Comfort (Shipping Quilts)	\$250.00
Malawi Clean Water Fund	\$500.00
Malawi Food Security	\$500.00
Malawi Literacy (I want to read my bible)	\$500.00
	\$3550.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$6,658.55