

***TEACHING  
THE  
WORD***

***REACHING  
THE  
WORLD***



**South Santiago  
Lutheran Church**

**2023 Annual Report**

January 28, 2024

## 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

### Attendance:

1. Call to Order- SSLC Council President David Darsow with Council Members present called the meeting to order at approximately 9:10 AM.
2. Opening Devotions were led Pastor Allison.
3. Adoption of Agenda- A motion was made to adopt the agenda and seconded. Motion passed.
4. Adoption of minutes-Motion was made to adopt the minutes from the January 2022 Annual Meeting and seconded. Motion passed.
5. Election of Council Members-Thank you to Janelle Uecker, Michelle Prokott, and Bill Rogers for their time serving on the SSLC Council. Nominations were received prior to the meeting and no additional nominations from the floor.
  - A. Three 3-year positions (nominations from floor)- Ann Kooiker, Kristin Forner, Mark Swanson
  - B. Two 2-year positions (nominations from floor)-Barb Marsh, Walt Munsterman
  - C. One 1-year position (nominations from floor)-Merrill Binnall, Pauline Temple
6. Treasurer's Report- A motion was made to adopt the agenda and seconded. Motion passed.
7. Delegates to Synod Assembly (3 people split male/female) on June 9-10, 2023. Walt Munsterman and Denise Fowler volunteer to be delegates at the Synod Assembly. Motion made to send Walt and Denise as delegates, second received. Motion passed.
8. 2023 Budget-Review giving, step chart, anticipated expenses for the year. Motion made to accept the 2023 budget. Second received. Motion passed.
9. New Business:
  - A: Election results for council members- Congregation voted for the one-year position. Nomination made and seconded for these six members serve on council including Ann, Kristin, Mark, Barb, Walt, and Merrill.
  - B: Other business-None
10. Adjournment-Motion made to adjourn the meeting, second received.  
Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:35 AM.
11. Close with the Lord's Prayer.



## 2024 Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Devotions-Pastor Allison
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of minutes
5. Election of Council Members
  - A. Three 3-year positions (nominations from floor)
  - B. Youth/Young Adult position
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Delegates to Synod Assembly (3 people split male/female) in June
8. 2024 Budget
9. New Business: A: Election results for council members  
B: Other business
10. Adjournment
11. Close with the Lord's Prayer.

### **1 Corinthians 12: 4-11**

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.  
There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways,  
but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.*

*A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.*

## Pastor's Report

*“However, that may be, let each of you lead the life that the Lord has assigned, to which God called you. This is my rule in all the churches” 1 Corinthians 7:17*

Throughout this past year, I have realized that the members of SSLC live into their calls from God. From those who have stepped up and into leadership roles on council, to our Sunday School teachers, our staff to our volunteers, all have answered God's call by using the gifts God has blessed them with. I deeply appreciate all who have answered God's call, you have not only made my job much more manageable, but your dedication to our church has made SSLC the warm, inviting, loving community that it is.

### Confirmation:

This past Spring, we finished our studies in The Old Testament, the youth helped during Lent with soup suppers, worship assisting, ushering, and greeting as well as meeting with their mentors prior to worship service. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, we confirmed nine youth. When we came back in the Fall, we started learning about the life of Jesus as we are now studying The New Testament. Confirmation took the 30<sup>th</sup> of September and the 1<sup>st</sup> of October to go on retreat at Camp Onomia. Everyone had a blast. We studied The Lord's Prayer and joined in team building activities. As confirmation looks forward to this coming year, we will continue to study The New Testament and worship assist again during Lent. In the Fall we will study a variety of topics relating faith to the life's youth live today. Please join us at the 10:00 am worship service on April 21<sup>st</sup> as we confirm our current ninth grade class.

### Mission Trip:

In July, I was privileged to go on the Mission Trip to Nashville with our youth. We spent a week helping at various sites around the city with our focus being food insecurity. We spent time at a multi-acre garden which supplies fresh vegetables to organizations around Nashville who then feed those without access to fresh food. We spent time helping feed the homeless in downtown Nashville, as well as working at Second Harvest and other sites. This is a life and faith changing experience. I hope anyone who is able will offer to chaperone and experience it for themselves.

### Worship:

This year we began exploring our new cranberry hymnals, the ELW. We have settled on a liturgy we feel comfortable with and Heidi Lecy has been helping us learn new hymns, including hymns from the new supplemental hymnal All Creation Sings. This past fall we began including more youth in our services as ushers, acolytes, readers, Altar Guild helpers, and we were even blessed in September to have Hunter Graaftas step up and volunteer as worship assistant.

### Synod/Conference:

In June, the Southwest Synod of the ELCA met for Synod Assembly at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. This was the first time in four years that the synod was able to meet in person. It was a wonderful two days of worship, learning, business, and fellowship. I strongly encourage members of our congregation to attend next year's assembly.

This past October found me at Fall Theological conference in Sioux Falls, SD. I spent two days learning about ways to incorporate online worship and in person worship for the congregation.

I attend monthly meetings of our conference, hosted at various churches in the conference. In February we will be hosting and I am looking forward to having the opportunity to showing off our beautiful building.

This year has flown by so quickly, it seems hard to imagine I have been here for over a year now. I am astounded by the warmth and grace with which you have welcomed me into SSLC. I feel blessed to be part of your faith journey, the touchstone moments of your lives. I am humbled by your acceptance of me and by your generous hearts. I pray you all continue in good health and that you continue to grow and prosper in the love, peace, and grace of our Lord.

All God's blessings,  
Pastor Allison

## Pastoral Care in 2023

### Baptisms:

Wyatt James Tough – Son of Adam Tough & Payton Kipka

Morgan Lee Stang – Daughter of Matthew & Mallory Stang

Lauren Ava Rathlisberger – Daughter of Matthew & Sarah Rathlisberger

Lincoln Gerald du'Monceaux – Son of Brady and Kayla du'Monceaux

Sophie Lynn Engdahl – Daughter of Jarid & Ashley Engdahl

Lucille Abigail Bouma – Daughter of Taylor & Paige Bouma

### Funerals:

Ginny Lysdal

### Memorial Services

4

### Lange Home Services

10

### Weddings:

Jordan LaJoie & Brook Zoller



PASTORAL CARE

### Home, Hospital, and other Visits:

Visits made by request of  
member or their family

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## Church Library

The mission of the SSLC Library is to support the faith growth of SSLC members and visitors by providing print and media resources that reflect a Lutheran understanding of the Bible.

During 2023, the library committee continued to sort through the library collection to remove out of date and unused materials and add new resources.

Members and visitors are invited to borrow materials for as long as they choose and then either return them or share them with someone else who could benefit from them.

Need a quiet and comfortable place to relax, work, or converse while you wait for your Sunday School or confirmation student? Consider our library!

Questions? Ruth Thom, church librarian



## Council President

Greetings SSLC family!

God's Blessings to everyone as 2023 has drawn to a close and have started working into 2024. We are grateful for everything from the last year and look forward to moving forward. Having just come through the first full year with Pastor Allison leading us, we are hopeful for the continued growth of our shared ministry.



During last year, we were able to complete the major project of making the transition from the green hymnals to current red ones that now grace the pews in the sanctuary. Thanks to Pastor Allison for bringing those from her previous congregation and the contributions that completed that project. At the annual meeting, we will vote on future project priorities for the next year and beyond. We hope you will help us set those priorities. Please let us know if you have any questions.

In 2023 we also started the process to reset our committee structure. This flowed from the responses to the stewardship surveys that we started last spring. A few committees have started meeting with plans for more. The committees we have outlined are: (1) Children, Youth & Family (CYF), (2) Music & Worship, (3) Stewardship, (4) Building & Grounds, (5) Long Range Planning and (6) Outreach. These committees will continue to strengthen our ministry alongside the council and staff. We hope each of you will consider serving on a committee to use your talents in service.

Last year, David outlined that the 2023 budget was the largest in our history and with the current economy, we will see additional increases for 2024. With this, there is no doubt that there are things ahead in 2024 that will challenge us, but our faith will bring us through. We pray for each and every one of you and hope to see each of you throughout the year. God Bless!

Mark Swanson 2023 Council President

## Building and Grounds Group

### PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2023

New landscaping in the front of the church  
Maintenance and repairs on one of the furnaces  
Repair of the canopy before re-shingling  
Sidewalk sealing  
Re-Painting the siding on the church  
Street sign lighting upgraded

### UPCOMING PROJECTS FOR 2024

Repairs on log church  
Repair cracks in blacktop in parking lot  
Prayer Garden updating  
Bottle Station/Water fountain upgrade  
Audio/Visual systems updating  
Classrooms carpeting replacement  
Sanctuary carpeting replacement  
Organ repair

A special thanks to all of the volunteers for doing tasks such as lawn mowing, changing light bulbs, snow plowing and sidewalk shoveling, prayer garden upkeep, repair work, plus many other tasks.



God's Blessings,  
Ralph Johnson, Building and Grounds Chairperson

Group Members: Rich Alickson, Bill Rogers, Walt Munsterman, David Darsow, Les Krei,  
Mark Bistodeau, Ben Leddy, Chuck Busch.

## Children's and Youth Ministry Coordinator

2023 was a strong year in our Sunday School and Breakfast Club. We have grown these children in their faith in God by learning many Bible stories from our amazing teachers. We have a group of teachers and substitute teachers that go above and beyond to teach their lessons to the children.

This year our Sunday School & Breakfast Club has:

- Continued using the Simply Loved & Connect curriculum. Teachers and children love it as it shows short videos and great lessons.
- Bible Bucks continue. Children have learned many Bible verses and earned some fun toys & treats.
- We held our two annual Parents Night outs. One in February & one in December. Children had fun making crafts, playing games, eating pizza, making gingerbread houses, and sledding.
- A few children helped in one of our Lent services by performing the Bible story the Woman at the Well. We hosted one soup supper as well.
- We held a Spring Carnival in May. Many families participated, helped, brought a pot luck dish, and had a fabulous time. Kids enjoyed playing games, eating cotton candy, winning prizes, and having lunch. Money was raised for more raised vegetable garden beds.
- We planted a garden in our raised beds, & families took care of it over the summer. Vegetables went to the Becker food shelf.
- VBS week was OUT OF THIS WORLD! We did the VBS curriculum "Stellar" and learned some awesome stories while learning science, games & crafts. We had approximately 50 kids participate.
- We started off the school year with all the same Sunday School teachers as last year. Approximately 35 kids enrolled to this year.
- Fall Festival was a huge come back! Children had fun playing games, painting pumpkins, and trunk or treating. Freewill donation was exceeded.
- We packed 115 boxes for Operation Christmas Child.
- Children had fun participating in our annual Advent craft. 6 stations were set up and approximately 20 kids attended.

Our Christmas program was well attended and the children did so well working on their lines & songs.

As 2023 came to a close we thank God for all the children who came to Sunday school, Breakfast club, VBS , PNO, and the carnivals & festivals. We also thank the parents, grandparents & caregivers in their lives who brought them here. We pray for health and happiness for 2024.



## High School Ministry Coordinator

2023 was a year of growing the senior high/youth group. We grew from 1-2 high school kids coming every week to 5-6.

We continue to support, encourage and pray for our high school youth. This year we have incorporated several new and God serving events for the youth.

- Participated in 5 successful fundraisers.
- Random acts of Kindness was a fun rewarding evening gifting our friends in Becker.
- Several youth helped out with a very active week of VBS.
- We partnered with Faith in Action several times throughout the year.
- Participated in Rake the Town and raked 2 yards.
- Confirmation & senior high participated in our annual food scavenger hunt.
- We helped in both Parents night outs.
- We helped at the Spring Carnival & Fall Festival for Sunday School.
- We brought 19 kids to Nashville for a very memorable and eye opening experience serving God.
- We went to a St. Cloud Rox game.
- We helped make meals for SSLC meal ministry twice.
- We made dozens of cookies for fellowship time 3 times this year.
- We went Christmas caroling and blessed 6 of our congregation members along with residents at Shepherd of Grace.



As we closed up 2023 I felt very confident that we had enriched their lives and made them feel loved and valuable in our church congregation.





## Adult Ministry Coordinator

The accomplishments below are just a glimpse of the vibrancy and dedication of our adult ministries here at SSLC. Thank you to each member, leader, and participant for making the last year truly remarkable. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of individuals and families, reflecting the light of Jesus in our community and beyond.

\*Adult Bible Study continues with the men's group meeting on a weekly basis and our women's group meeting monthly.

\*Senior Resource Day was a new this year and designed to provide resources to our seniors and seniors in our community. The goal is to match seniors with resources that help them stay in their homes longer.

\*Ash Wednesday Worship Kits were prepared and distributed to those not able to attend Ash Wednesday Worship. This was well received and a great outreach to our members.

\*Preparation of the ashes for Ash Wednesday (preserving, burning and preparing the palm leaves).

\*Women's ministry prepared and delivered fruit baskets to those getting out less in the winter months.

\*Men's Ministry constructed a large batch of Faith Chests to be gifted to children at the time of their Baptism at SSLC.

\*It's a Girl Thing Event was a great event for our women and very welcoming to the community.

\*SSLC Blood Drive was held in June and we met our goal for donations.

\*The Sunshine Group meets monthly and continues to reach out to members during eventful times in their lives via cards, calls, visits and prayer.

\*The "Out to Lunch" quarterly gathering brought together SSLC family of all ages for fellowship and lunch out each quarter.

\*Our Women's Ministry continues to graciously provide and serve meals at funerals as needed.

\*Meal Ministry continues to provide meals and connect with members as needed. This ministry is growing in members and in need.

\*The Annual Craft & Bake Sale was a success with record attendance and participation.

\*The Quilting Ministry continues to make beautiful quilts for our graduating high school seniors and this year made many quilts that were donated to our Veterans through the VA in St. Cloud.

\*The Altar Guild prepares communion and maintains our sanctuary for use by God's family. In addition prepares for Lent, Easter, Christmas, Baptism, wedding and funeral services.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment, love and faithfulness.  
I can't wait to see where God leads us this year.

Dee Punton



## 2023 Proposed Budget

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
General Fund Income	\$225,000	\$211,405	\$225,000
Building Fund Income	\$52,860	\$28,917	\$52,860
Other Fund Income	\$29,000	\$39,913	\$30,200
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$306,860</b>	<b>\$280,235</b>	<b>\$308,060</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Total Pastor Expense	\$79,536	\$76,395	\$82,045
Total Salary	\$81,383	\$73,397	\$85,140
Total Payroll Taxes	\$7,749	\$7,664	\$8,026
Total Lay Expense	\$1,250	\$0	\$1,250
Total Music Expense	\$8,535	\$7,721	\$10,910
Total Utility Expense	\$12,159	\$11,701	\$12,992
Total Building Maintenance	\$31,872	\$24,335	\$20,836
Total Administration	\$10,760	\$9,918	\$11,354
Total Youth Expense*	\$24,740	\$28,740	\$29,940
Total Education	\$1,540	\$704	\$990
Total Worship Expense	\$12,017	\$9,310	\$10,355
Total Outreach Expense	\$21,900	\$23,782	\$28,825
Total Loan Expense	\$52,860	\$52,852	\$52,860
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$346,301</b>	<b>\$326,519</b>	<b>\$355,523</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>(\$39,441)</b>	<b>(\$46,284)</b>	<b>(\$47,463)</b>

\*Youth expense changed to calculate in mission trips in 2023



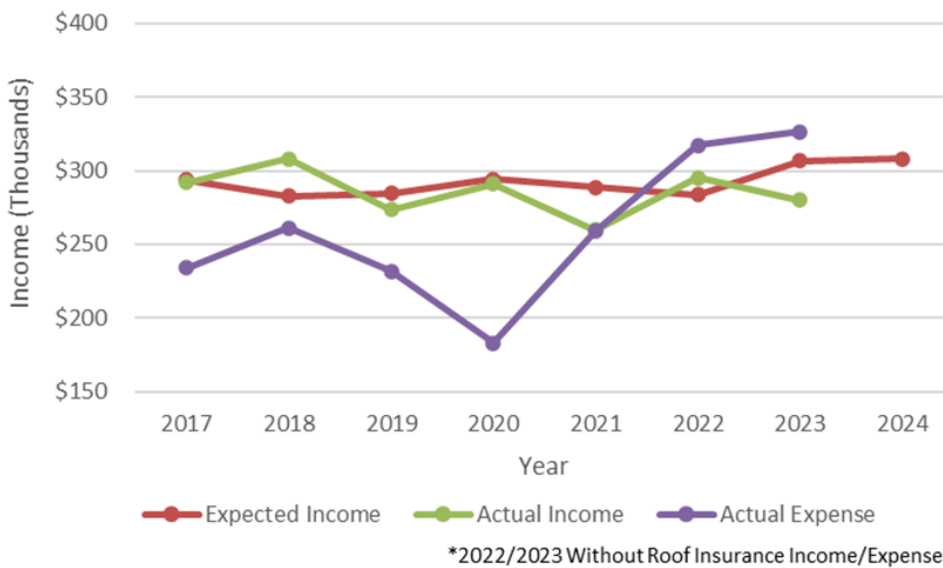
# A REVEALING BREAKDOWN OF OUR CONGREGATION'S GIVING PATTERNS

FIND WHERE YOU ARE ON THE CHART  
(your weekly giving)



WILL YOU GROW ONE STEP THIS YEAR?

2017-2024 SSLC Income & Expense



Ways identified to reduce expenses:

\*If members do not want offering envelopes, notify the church office. Consider setting up Simply Giving.

\*If members do not want to receive a paper newsletter, notify the church office. This saves money on printing and postage.

\*Purchasing a water bottle filling station. Saves on purchasing water bottles over time.

\*Getting committees up and running. This could assist staff by having congregation members to bounce ideas off of, generate new ideas, delegate tasks, and dividing up the workload.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report	1/1/2023	12/31/2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Checking-Frandsen Bank	\$53,787	\$23,832
Money Market –Frandsen Bank	\$126,225	\$76,489
Mission Investment Money Market	\$11,652	\$12,912
Buildings & Grounds	\$1,646,643	\$1,646,643
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$1,838,307	\$1,759,876
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Mission Investment Fund Mortgage	\$479,299	\$449,026
Accrued Expenses	\$11	\$11
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	\$479,311	\$449,037
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
General Fund	\$159,998	\$115,399
Building Fund	\$0	-\$20,302
Local Benevolence Fund	\$1,055	-\$54
Net Fixed Assets/Equity Fund	\$1,167,069	\$1,197,342
Jr & Sr High Youth Fund	\$27,221	\$13,796
Mission Scholarship Fund	\$3,460	\$4,372
Altar Guild Fund	\$192	\$180
BackPack Buddies Fund	\$0	\$105
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	\$1,358,997	\$1,310,838
<b>TOTAL LIABILITES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>	\$1,838,307	\$1,759,876

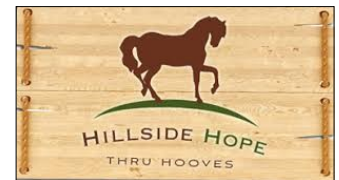
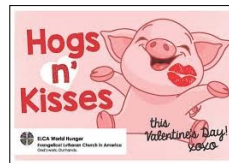
## Noisy Offerings for 2023

Every fourth Sunday we collect a Noisy Offering (loose coin, bills thrown into a metal pot to make noise) for a specific area of need. With the check that we send, we send a letter with the following statement explaining our donation.

“We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. An important part of our mission is following Christ's call to witness to the whole world. Part of our outreach includes receiving a "noisy" offering of coins on the fourth Sunday of every month which is then designated for a mission/outreach beyond the walls of our own church.

Many years ago, our church was lost to a horrible arson fire. In the aftermath of that event, we received a shower of blessings of churches and individuals that helped us regain our ministry. From that day, we determined that generosity, outreach and hospitality would be first priorities for our congregation.”

January	C.R.O.S.S. Center Food shelf, Becker food shelf, Clearwater food shelf	\$1,045.96
February	ELCA Hogs N Kisses	\$164.87
March	Hillside Hope Through Hooves, Ramsey	\$181.91
April	Christian Aid Ministries, Atwater chapter	\$163.55
May	Remark Canon —Children International sponsor child	\$106.94
June	Foley C.A.R.E.	\$117.70
July	Quiet Oaks Hospice house, St. Augusta	\$399.13
August	Farm Friends, Clear Lake	\$105.82
September	People Loving Nashville	\$238.90
October	Operation Christmas Child	\$251.21
November	Eagle's Healing Nest, Sauk Centre	\$231.16
December	Can Do Canines, New Hope	\$365.61



## Women of the ELCA 2023

Balance Forward	01/01/2023	\$5,213.41
Income		
Funeral donations	\$100.00	
Fall Offerings	\$1,190.00	
Craft & Bake Sale	\$3,671.05	
It's a Girl Thing	\$829.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,003.46</b>	
Expenses		
Quilting Supplies	\$465.26	
Gifts	\$550.00	
Donations	\$2,200.00	
Craft & Bake Sale supplies	\$1,317.22	
It's a Girl Thing	\$1,121.46	
Bank Charge	\$29.95	
Lange Home donation	\$10.99	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,694.88</b>	
Ending Balance	12/31/2023	\$5,308.58

## Cemetery Board 2023

Opening Balance	01/01/2023	\$7,552.53
Deposits		
Interest	\$19.94	
Cemetery lots	\$2,000.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,019.94</b>	
Expenses		
Youth Mission Trip	\$400.00	
Flag & Light replacement	\$55.24	
Transfer to CD	\$5,000.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,455.24</b>	
Ending Balance	12/31/2023	\$4,117.23

## Committees/Groups for 2023

All are welcome to be part of any group.

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

David Darsow  
Denise Fowler  
Ralph Johnson  
Mark Swanson  
Walt Munsterman  
Barb Marsh  
Ann Kooiker  
Kristin Forner

Ralph Johnson  
Sarah Rathlisberger  
Holly Klinker  
Lyn Peterson  
Jakki Fidelman  
Walt Munsterman  
Nita Lerdahl  
Sandra Cox

### SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Dee Punton  
Barb Marsh  
Marilyn Humble  
Lonnie Christopherson  
Carla Suckert

### CEMETERY BOARD

Sexton: Bill Rogers  
Treasurer: Jeanette Harshman  
Members: Rich Alickson  
Richard Harshman  
Sandy Empting  
Bill Empting  
Danny Jergenson

### SHARING MEALS MINISTRY

Roberta Bistodeau  
Dee Punton

### WOMEN OF SSLC

Nancy Alickson  
Jeanette Harshman  
Barb Marsh  
Marilyn Humble  
Roberta Bistodeau  
Sandra Cox

### SW MN SYNOD CONFERENCE

\*\*Delegates Needed

LANGE HOME LIASON—Dee Punton

### BUILDING & GROUNDS

Walt Munsterman  
Rich Alickson  
Ralph Johnson  
Bill Rogers  
David Darsow  
Mark Bistodeau  
Les Krei  
Ben Leddy  
Chuck Busch

LIBRARIAN—Ruth Thom

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Brad Thom, Mark Swanson

### LIBRARY GROUP

Ruth Thom  
Denise Fowler  
Ann Kooiker  
Shelley Peterson  
Teresa Zehnder  
Jakki Kydd Fidelman  
Sheri Haus  
Jordan Mateyka  
Kaylee Waters

HISTORIAN—Holly Klinker

ALTAR GUILD—Ann Kooiker

### HEAD USHERS

Ryan Johnson  
Richard Harshman  
Rich Alickson  
Mark Swanson  
Danny Jergenson  
Tom Hanzlik  
Eric Graftaas

### FUNERAL COORDINATOR

Dee Punton & Church Office

### PRAYER GARDEN

Tammy Miller-Hess

### GRADUATE QUILTERS

Shelly Bluhm

### FAITH CHEST GROUP

David Darsow  
Mark Bistodeau  
Scott Bursch  
Ralph Johnson  
Mike Punton  
Greg Prokott  
Ben Leddy  
Roger Anderson

### MISSION QUILTERS

Shelly Bluhm

### MONEY COUNTERS

Nancy Alickson  
Barb Marsh  
Mark Swanson  
Tammy Miller-Hess

CHOIR DIRECTOR—Heidi Lecy

### RELAY FOR LIFE CANCER WALK

Donna Pozorski

# MEMORIES OF 2023





## Thank you to all those who served this year:

- \*Dee Punton for donating and putting together the evergreen pots near the entry;
- \*Bill Empting for making and installing banner hangar posts;
- \*Rich Alickson, Jeff Bluhm, Ralph Johnson, David Darsow and his crew for snow removal;
- \*Roberta Bistodeau and her helpers for putting together the Christmas gathering for the Women's Ministry group;
- \*Karla Zerwas for organizing Parents Night Out;
- \*Richard Harshman and Mark Swanson for moving the sanctuary tree;
- \*All families who donated gifts of food for the Campbell funeral;
- \*All families who helped for the Campbell funeral;
- \*All families who shared gifts with the Lange Home residents;
- \*All who helped celebrate with the residents of the Lange Home;
- \*Corey Winkelman for making mouse traps for the Children's program;
- \*Kristina Winkelman and Melissa Binnell for making kids costumes for the Children's Program;
- \*Heidi Lecy and all choir members for a great Christmas Cantata;
- \*Mark Bistodeau, Ralph Johnson, David Darsow, Kaleb Waters, Dennis Stang, Rich Alickson, Jeff Bluhm, Buster Graning and many others for snow removal (several times!);
- \*Donna Pozorski and her Relay for Life team for all the awesome cookies;
- \*Karla Zerwas and all her helpers for a great Children's Christmas program;
- \*Buster Graning, Justin Houle, Scott and Ross Ulsby, Ralph Johnson, Dennis Stang, David Darsow, Jeff Mateyka, Kaleb Waters. Jeff Bluhm, Brandon Blommel for snow removal;
- \*Sandy Empting and Sandra Cox for cleaning up the Christmas candles and changing out the pew hymnals;
- \*Mike and Dee Punton for hanging the nativity star;
- \*Scott and Ross Ulsby, David Darsow, Rich Alickson, Jeff Bluhm, Ralph Johnson, Dennis Stang for snow removal;
- \*David Darsow, Kaleb Waters, Noah Mielke, Dylan Rauch for snow shoveling;
- \*Marvel Paulson and Alberta Brown for making a prayer blanket;
- \*Sandra Cox, Sandy Empting, Nita Lerdahl, and Carla Suckert for taking down Christmas decorations;
- \*Mike and Dee Punton for taking down the cross and star in the narthex;
- \*Ralph Johnson and David Darsow for snow removal;
- \*Bill Rogers, Janelle Uecker, Michelle Prokott and Sandra Cox for their service on council;
- \*Rich Alickson, Buster Graning, Ralph Johnson, Dennis Stang, Jeff Bluhm, David Darsow and Kaleb Waters for snow removal.
- Altar Guild members for serving Soup Supper;
- \*Youth Group members for serving Soup Supper;
- \*Sam Mekeland for making pillow stuffing.
- \*Rich Alickson, Buster Graning, Ralph Johnson, Dennis Stang, Jeff Bluhm, Scott Ulsby, Bill Empting for snow removal;
- \*Nancy Alickson and Berta Bistodeau for making sandwiches for Soup Supper;
- \*Natalie Pozorski and Helen Swanson for leading Lenten worship.
- Julie Johnson for making a prayer shawl;
- Sunday School families for service Soup Supper;
- \*Bill Empting for closet repairs;
- \*Relay for Life team for service Soup Supper.
- \*Scott Ulsby, Justin Houle, Rich Alickson, Jeff Bluhm and mystery shovelers for snow removal;
- \*Ben Leddy, Rich Alickson, Ralph Johnson, and Jeff Bluhm for building maintenance;
- \*Al Fish and Mark Swanson for reading during the Easter Cantata;
- \*Heidi Lecy and all choir members for an awesome Easter Cantata;
- \*Jeanette Harshman, Lisa Miner, and Margie Macauley for helping with palms for Palm Sunday;
- \*All families who supported the Youth Group with donations of baskets for the raffle;
- \*All families who purchased tickets for the Youth raffle;
- \*All families who helped with Holy Week services;
- \*All Council members who donated snacks for fellowship time;
- \*Karla and Thomas Zerwas for the Easter Egg hunt;
- \*Ralph Johnson for snow removal;
- \*Danny Jergenson for making and installing emblems on the Baptism chests;
- \*Marcia Benson for filling in on Sunday for music;

## Thank you to all those who served this year:

- \*Mark Bistodeau, Mike Punton, Ralph Johnson, Les Krei, and Scott Bursch for assembling Baptism chests
- \*Dee Punton, Sandy Cox, Marilyn Humble and Karla Zerwas for assembling and delivering Fruit Baskets;
- \*Bill Rogers and Ralph Johnson for supervising building maintenance;
- \*Rich Alickson, Ralph Johnson and his brother-in-law, Dennis Stang, Jeff Bluhm, for snow removal;
- \*Gus Baldry, Hunter Graftaas, Brady Haus, Thatcher Jurek, Ryan Werner, Ralph Johnson, Bill Rogers, and Mark Bistodeau for work on the outdoor worship area;
- \*Isabel Elvester, Maddie Harkin, Kelsey Janisch, Carey Janisch, Shelley Peterson and Stacey Baldry for cutting batting for pillow stuffing;
- \*Merrill, Melissa, Tristan and Genevieve Binnall for making bookmarks for the hymnals;
- \*Dee Punton, Roberta Bistodeau, Barb Marsh and all helpers to make the "It's a Girl Thing" event happen;
- \*Walt Munsterman for grounds maintenance;
- \*Students in 7th-12th grades and their Small Group Leaders for making hotdishes for Meals Ministry and baking cookies for SSLC fellowship and Meals Ministry;
- \*Danny Jergenson, Bill Rogers, Ralph Johnson and Rich Alickson for moving the outdoor worship area crosses;
- \*Mark Bistodeau for delivering the baptism chests;
- \*Karla Zerwas, Kayla du'Monceaux for sorting and organizing the Flower Fundraiser items;
- \*All families who supported the students in the Flower Fundraisers;
- \*Nancy Alickson, Alberta Brown, Sandy Empting, Shelly Bluhm, Marilyn Humble, Jeanette Harshman, Nita Lerdahl, Sandra Cox, and Joy Hurd for their gifts of time to make the Graduate Quilts;
- \*Kayla du'Monceaux for making the Graduate slide presentation for worship;
- \*Les Krei for setting out the picnic tables for the season;
- \*Mark Bistodeau for lawn mowing all season;
- \*Ralph Johnson and Danny Jergenson for working on the outdoor worship area;
- \*Sandy Empting for planting flowers in the street sign flowerbed;
- \*Randy Bader for sprinkler system maintenance;
- \*Karla and Thomas Zerwas, Les Krei for working on the Sunday School garden;
- \*Karla Zerwas and all Sunday School teachers and helpers for their work on a very successful Carnival;
- \*Ralph Johnson for moving the cross out to the garage;
- \*Don Erickson for donating carnival food;
- \*Karla Zerwas, Dee Punton, Les Krei and Jordan Mateyka for carnival cleanup;
- \*Doc Bateson and Alberta Brown for cutting pillow stuffing;
- \*Dee Punton for donating and planting flowers in the entry pots;
- \*Mark Bistodeau and Les Krei for repairs on the street sign flowerbed sprinklers;
- \*All families who donated gifts of food for the Lysdal funeral;
- \*Mike Punton, Brad Thom, Ralph Johnson, David Darsow, Sandy Empting, Nita Lerdahl, Tammy Miller-Hess, Lyn Peterson, Nancy Alickson, Rich Alickson, Richard Harshman and Les Krei for setting up, serving and taking down for the Lysdal funeral;
- \*Danny Jergenson for putting medallions on the Faith Chests;
- \*Dee Punton and her helpers for organizing the Blood Drive;
- \*All families who donated blood for the drive;
- \*The Binnall family for bringing cake for fellowship hour;
- \*Brad and Ruth Thom for leading music on Sunday;
- \*All who helped with setup and take down for outdoor worship;
- \*Bill Empting, Rich Alickson, Ralph Johnson, Les Krei for building maintenance;
- \*Pat Krei for making new kids "busy bags";
- \*Sue Anderson for donating teeter-totters, and kids books and puzzles;
- \*Ralph Johnson, Dennis Stang, and Les Krei for sidewalk sealing;
- \*Rich Alickson, Ralph Johnson and Ben Leddy for building maintenance;
- \*Karla Zerwas and Dee Punton for updating the bulletin boards;
- \*Amanda Miner for filling in for the projection booth;
- \*Rich Alickson and Ralph Johnson for building maintenance;
- \*Logan Hanzlik, Cooper Peterson, Mackenzie Peterson, Lorelei Swanson, Alivia Mlenek, Shelley Peterson, and Karla Zerwas for flamingo bathing;
- \*Mark Bistodeau, Ralph Johnson and Les Krei for sprinkler system maintenance;

## Thank you to all those who served this year:

\*Roberta Bistodeau, Pat Krei, Sandy Cox, Lonnie Christopherson, Carla Sucker and friend, Mary, Ann Kooiker, Dee Punton, Barb Marsh, Shelly Bluhm for donating ingredients and baking cookies for the Mission Trip group.

\*Mark Bistodeau for tree trimming;

\*Walt Munsterman for lawn maintenance;

\*Walt and Adele Munsterman for donating a microwave;

\*Ralph Johnson and Chuck Busch for emptying the recycling trailer;

\*Buster Graning for mowing at the Cemetery;

\*Chuck Busch for lawn trimming;

\*Karen Wipper for delivering the school supplies;

\*Berta Bistodeau for signage for the school supplies;

\*Les Krei for posting the Craft Sale signs;

\*Deb & Brian Swanson, Becky Heitkamp, and Karla Zerwas for their work on the Mum fundraiser;

\*All Mission Trip students for their help at worship;

\*All families who supported the Mission Trip group in any way;

\*Sammie Mekeland for cutting pillow stuffing;

\* Brad Thom for lawn maintenance;

\*Karla Zerwas for delivering the Food Drive donations;

\*Ruth Thom, Barb Marsh, Teresa Zehnder, Karla Zerwas, Deb Swanson, Margie Macaulay,

\*Dee & Mike Punton for lefse ingredient donations;

\*Mark & Berta Bistodeau, Carla Suckert, Rich & Nancy Alickson, Paul Fors, Norm Olson, Ted Lysdal, Al Fish, Bill Rogers, and Ralph Johnson for lefse potato peeling and prep;

\*Barb Marsh, Berta Bistodeau, Nancy Alickson, Dee Punton, Shelly Bluhm for Craft Sale organizing and preparation;

\*All families who donated crafts and baked goods for the Craft Sale;

\*Julie Johnson for donating apples for the Craft Sale;

\*All High School and Confirmation students for help setting up for the Craft Sale;

\*All families who cooked and bagged lefse;

\*All families who volunteered at the Craft Sale;

\*Karla Zerwas for making up Pet Blessing bags.;

\*Brad Thom and Les Krei for collecting the Craft Sale signs and putting the picnic tables in storage;

\*Randy Bader for winterizing the sprinkler system;

\*Ralph Johnson and Chuck Busch for moving the teteer totters and the OCC display;

\*Dee Punton for organizing a very successful Senior Resource Day;

\*All families who donated gifts of food for the potluck lunch for Fall Festival;

\*All families who volunteered to help at the Fall Festival;

\*Ralph Johnson and Rich Alickson for disassembling the playset;

\*Rosalie Klinker for making a prayer shawl;

\*Kaleb & Kaylee Waters, Aaron & Mitchell Miner, Dylan & Colton Rauch, Hunter Graftaas, Layla Fowler, Cooper & Ben Pany, Stella & Lincoln Prokott, Thomas Zerwas, Dee, Mike & Tom Punton, Jim & Alivia Mlenek, Jenny & Colton Koenig for helping with “Rake the Town”;

\*Karla Zerwas for organizing the Operation Christmas Child boxes;

\*All families who donated items for or a full box for Operation Christmas Child;

\*Rich Alickson for wood cleanup at the cemetery;

\*Danyell Pozorski for donating Dum-Dums candy;

\*Alberta Brown for making a prayer shawl;

\*Stacy Swedal, Kristina Winkelman and Sarah Rathlisberger for leading the packing of the Operation Christmas Child boxes;

\*Karla Zerwas for delivering the Operation Christmas Child boxes;

\* Paul Fors for candy donation;

\*All High School students for assembling boxes and cards for our military members;

\*Rich Alickson and Danny Jergenson for picking up the wreath fundraiser items;

\*Karla Zerwas and Lana Bolton and family for sorting the wreath fundraiser.



**To all un-named helpers for 2023, thank you for all your faithful service, it is very appreciated!**



South Santiago Lutheran Church  
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Pastor Allison Peterson

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Sunday at 8 & 10 a.m.  
Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday Youth Activities**

Youth 7- 12th Grade at 6:30 p.m.

*Looking forward to a great year in 2024!  
We look forward to new opportunities  
to step out in faith, service to our  
neighbor, and a renewed mission  
for the year.*