

Christ the King Lutheran Church

New Ulm, Minnesota



2022 Annual Report



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

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

1515 North Garden
New Ulm, Minnesota 56073
(507) 354-4672

office@christtheking-nu.org
www.christtheking-newulm.org

Ministers

All the baptized members of Christ the King

Pastor

Timothy Anderson
507-766-3190
tanderson@christtheking-nu.org

Finance Manager

Jennifer Kapolczynski
507-217-1044
ctkingfinance@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Mary Lammers
720-261-1471
office@christtheking-nu.org

Music Coordinator

Connie Jacobs
507-276-1710
jacobs@newulmtel.net

Custodian

Wendy Bertrang
507-404-0204

Education/Youth Coordinator

Geri Groebner
507-439-6998
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Visitation Ministry Coordinator

Helen Christenson
507-354-2755
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Choir Director

Nita Gilbert
651-367-9968
hifromng@gmail.com

2023 Council Members

President–Kurt Johnson **Vice President**– **Secretary**–Patrice Luker

Treasurer – Beth Zambino,

Teri Arnoldt, Pat Novak, Lauren Buckentine, Amy Johnson, Elmer Rettig, Ron Fleischmann,
Bill Steinke

2022 Membership Summary

Members Received:

By Baptism - 10
By Transfer - 1
Affirmation - 10

Members Removed:

By Transfer - 10
By Other - 5

Members Confirmed in 2022 – 16

Total Membership December 31, 2022 – 985

Annual Meeting Agenda
January 29, 2023
10:15 a.m.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2022 Annual Meeting
3. Elections
 Church Council
 3 year terms:

 Lauren Buckentine
 Pat Novak
 Bill Steinke

 Pastor's Report
4. Staff Reports (printed)
5. Committee Reports (printed)
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjourn and Lord's Prayer

**Minutes from January 23, 2022
Congregational Meeting
Christ the King Lutheran Church
10:15 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes from the January 2022 Annual Meeting

Quorum for the meeting (25): 35 people in attendance

Meeting Called to order by President Kurt Johnson at 10:15 a.m.

Opening Prayer by Pastor Tim Anderson

Minutes of the January 31, 2021 Meeting were approved

Election for Council

Patrice Luker and Nicole Jorgenson were up for re-election

Nomination of Ron Fleischmann for empty seat was made by Denny Carlson

Carl Zeidler moved the approval of the slate of candidates, Beth Zambino seconded,

Vote was unanimous

Pastor Tim gave report, encouraged people to reach out more to one another and also offer advice on outreach as we continue to feel the effects of COVID on ministry

Other staff reports were offered as written, approved

Committee reports were offered as presented in the annual report, approved

Nancy Blankenhagen gave the Treasurer's report

Nancy Blankenhagen presented the Budget along with the Sound System bid and refinancing of our church loan. Ron Fleischmann moved approval and Beth Zambino seconded, approved unanimously.

Old Business: none

New Business: DuWayne Witt opened a conversation on including a good video component to the sound system.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

2022 Staff Reports



Pastor Anderson's 2022 Report to the Congregation

¹⁹ *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,* ²⁰ *where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.* Hebrews 6:19 -20

I am writing this report in recovery. At least I am no longer taking pain meds or who knows what might end up here. This will be short because I can't sit still for too long.

The past year was a little like a recovery period. The COVID disruptions have lessened and we are slowly learning to function within what some call the new normal. Geri Groebner has stepped into her larger role as youth and education director well and is striving to increase and improve youth activity and ministry in our congregation. I am pleased to have the new emphasis and staff directed toward these needs.

We said goodbye to office staff with the retirement of Laura Patterson and Nita Gilbert moving to serve only as choir director. We then added staff over the summer, with Mary Lammers moving into the full-time position of office administrator and Jennifer Kopolczynski as our financial secretary. We are beginning to find our rhythm and learning the gifts of our new staff members. Please get to know them as you are able and make sure you introduce yourselves to them, since they do not know everyone.

Helen Christensen has let you all know of her diagnosis of cancer and the beginning of treatment, but she will continue to function in her role as visitation person. She has, as usual, had a busy year and wears many hats in keeping Christ the King a welcoming place. We ask for your prayers and encouragement for her and her family.

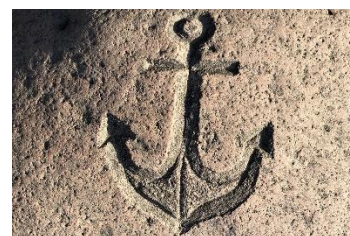
We have seen continued updates and changes to our building, including a sound system, a new entry door near the office and some changes to make the building more accessible.

I see that we have many challenges ahead, as we learn how best to deal with a congregation that is not as ready to gather as we once were. We will continue streaming as we have been and I hope that in the coming year that will improve.

The world is a chaotic place now, with many forces striving to bring order, not all of them helpful. Church is a place that offers not so much order as a place for grace and mercy. It ought to be a place for people who disagree about what seem to be fundamental things, who are struggling with the disorder and pain of life and are searching for hope to come together and encounter Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one with whom we must find our life, our hope, our peace and our joy. If the church ceases to be this place, none of these things will be found. Jesus is God's way to us, through his death and resurrection we have a solid point from which to navigate life.

Christ the King is a people who can connect others to a firm anchor in the storms of this world. The singer Bono, says that "surrender means stillness and [his] songs are his prayers: 'Someone has likened prayer to being on a rough sea in a small boat with no oars. All you have is a rope that, somewhere in the distance, is attached to the port. With that rope you can pull yourself closer to God. Songs are my prayers.'" (<https://mbird.com/year-in-review/the-top-literature-and-culture-books-of-2022/>) I am grateful for all those who volunteer and make the life of this place possible.

May we be a place where others can be anchored in faith and prayer.



Helen Christenson

Visitation Ministry Coordinator

Thank you to the staff, church council, and you as members and friends of Christ the King for all your support and prayers throughout the year. Your prayers have provided strength for all those who have lost loved ones, are dealing with cancer, Covid 19, and other illnesses. Those who are unemployed, those dealing with mental illness and chemical dependency, and the many needs our members and friends and their families may experience. ***"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 2 Corinthians 1: 3 & 4***

God continues to guide us in the contacts that are made with you as members and friends of Christ the King for various reasons during the year. Thank you for the privilege to be able to rejoice with you and also share in your sorrow in the ministry of Christ. The prayer shawls continue to be an instrument inspired through prayer that has given strength to over 300 people in the last fifteen years. Twelve were given out this past year and five were blessed in worship last spring. The pocket prayer squares have been a blessing to those who receive them. If you would like a prayer pocket, just stop at the church office or they are in a basket on the welcome table. The prayer shawls and squares are blessed in the worship services when there is a fifth weekend of the month, and we also have a Healing Service at that time. We especially thank the women who so faithfully meet twice a month at the church, and those who knit or crochet the prayer shawls and squares in their homes. If you know of someone who would be blessed to receive a prayer shawl or prayer pocket just let us know and you can pick one out or have us deliver it.

We aren't able to purchase the memory or inspirational coin which was another instrument of strength to people with the loss of a loved one or had other specific needs this past year. We are very grateful to you who inform us of any needs and hospitalizations. We also appreciate the prayer requests for the prayer chain and worship services. We have one member, Darrel Wilson residing at Oak Hills Living Center along with Lorna Weedman, a non-member whom we visit and Gardell Kuelbs at the Ast. Living in Oak Hills. Doris Bratsch is at Ridgeway on Twenty Third, Ruby Dettman at Ridgeway on German, Charlotte Klocke resides at Woodstone Living Center, Carla Roberts at Olivia Restorative Therapy and Nursing Home, and Vernone Wylie, also a non-member is residing at the Sleepy Eye Care Center. Maxine Sabataka entered her eternal home in October. Lisa Turbes is the only one to receive visits at a group home living facility, as well as those who are home bound. Every one of these members receive a personal visit with Holy Communion each month. Many phone calls were made and greeting cards sent for the special occasions also the past year. We thank the many members who sent greeting cards and made phone calls during the holidays again this year. This was appreciated by all those on the care list.

Many of my responsibilities involve the Outreach Ministry which includes Hearthstone meals, New Member Orientation, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the many projects the Project Group has completed this past year. You can read about these ministries in more detail in the Outreach Ministry Annual Report. We thank everyone who donated food to our local food pantry and also for the seven Holiday meals we could prepare for members and non-members in need. The contributions to the Helping Hand Funds are very much appreciated in the Outreach Ministry of Christ the King Lutheran Church.

The ministry of sending a series of four booklets throughout the year to one hundred and forty grieving families has also been well received the past nine years. Twenty-one cards were also sent at Christmas this year to these families to let them know we are praying for them at this time. If you have any questions or suggestions about any of these areas, please let me know.

May God continue to guide us, bless us with His strength, peace, and love as we abide in Him.

Helen Christenson

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

Connie Jacobs

Music Coordinator

To provide a plan to fill the need for worship accompanists, the general rotation of accompanists is as follows: the first weekend of the month, Connie Jacobs accompanies; the second weekend was accompanied by Roger Lindholm, then starting in November Jon Thoreson played the second weekend; the third weekend Connie Jacobs or another pianist accompanies; and the fourth Saturday, Bob Eveslage with other musicians accompanies. Connie Jacobs accompanies the 4th Sunday service. When there is a fifth weekend, Connie Jacobs, Pam Anderson and Beth Zambino and other musicians accompany a healing service. If anyone is interested in joining any of the groups either as an accompanist or singer, they may contact any person listed here or the church office at 507-354-4672. We invite and welcome everyone to be a part of providing music for our worship services.

During the Sunday School hour, we have a Music Time for two different age groups: 3 year olds, Preschool and Kindergarten classes and then a time for the older students, 1st through 6th grade. Our Sunday School children sang in worship on October 9 and November 20. On Sunday December 18, the Sunday School presented a musical Christmas program – “The Holy Family is Here.”

The Senior Choir rehearses and sings under the direction of Nita Gilbert and is accompanied by Connie Jacobs. The choir generally sings in worship on the first and fourth Sundays of each month. Anyone interested in becoming a choir member is invited to join and are welcome to attend rehearsals which are usually Wednesday evenings at 6:45 PM and 8:30 AM on the Sunday mornings when anthems are sung or at other times as needed.

At Christ the King, there are many varied styles of worship music provided by our musicians and it is our prayer that our music will always give glory and honor to our Lord and provide meaningful worship experiences for our members and visitors.

Connie Jacobs
Music Coordinator

Geri Groebner

Education/Youth Coordinator

Sunday School is going well. We have been having a consistent 50-60 kids that are attending Sunday School. Preschoolers through grade 5 are attending on Sunday and 6th graders are attending on Wednesdays. Wednesday continues to work well with 6th graders, so we will continue with this.

This fall we started doing Club 1515 again for kids 3rd-5th grade. We have had a consistent group of 6 that have attended each week. During our time together we have snacks, a lesson or have been doing some outreach with others. We have put together Blizzard Meal Bags for LSS Meals of Brown County and we went caroling at Oak Hills. We will continue to offer this and will continue to try to get more kids involved.

During the summer we offered Vacation Bible School and there were a good number of kids that went to camp. We had about 20 kids that participated in Vacation Bible School this summer. Numbers were down a bit, but we were able to still have a good program and kids enjoyed it. There were about 12 kids that went to camp and we were able to offer scholarships to 10 kids that requested them.

I continue to work on offering different activities here at church. In early December, we had an Intergenerational Christmas Event that was very well received. We had about 50 people that were there and made lefse, krumkaka, ornaments and a wooden nativity scene. Those that attended enjoyed it and there have been requests for more activities like this. On December 16th, I offered a movie night for kids and had a very good response. There were almost 25 kids that attended. The Christmas program went well.

Geri Groebner
Education & Youth Coordinator

2022 Committee Reports



Worship

2022 Worship Committee Report

Worship Committee met this year on January 29, May 14 and September 10.

Worship Committee members are Jon Thoreson, Elmer Rettig, Bonnie Lantz, Nita Gilbert, Margaret Louters and Connie Jacobs.

These are some of the highlights for 2022:

- Our Lenten series was based on Eugene Peterson's book, [A Long Journey in the Same Direction](#). The Lenten meals began at 5:15 with the Lenten Service beginning at 6:30 and choir rehearsal following at approximately 7:10 PM.
- Ash Wednesday was March 2 and we had our own service this year since the UCC church closed at the end of 2021. Nita Gilbert contacted and invited the UCC choir members to join our choir in presenting the Ash Wednesday anthem.
- For Good Friday services, we hosted a joint service with Our Savior's Lutheran Church and the combined choir presented an anthem.
- April 3 was the First Communion service for our third graders.
- May 22 was the last day of Sunday School and Graduation Sunday for our high school graduates.
- Starting September 11, we started using the Narrative Lectionary for our worship services.
- Since the organ has not been functioning and is not repairable since it is outdated, getting new parts was impossible so we arranged for Tyler Dylla to pick it up for the parts.
- October 2, the 3 year olds received their Bibles.
- October 16, the third graders received their Bibles.
- Our Confirmation service was October 30.
- November 5/6, we had a reception of new members.
- A joint service of Thanksgiving was held at OSLC on a Sunday, this year, November 20. The combined choirs had prepared an anthem, but due to illness it was cancelled.
- For Christmas Eve worship, we had three services at 2:00, 4:00 and 8:00. And a Sunday, Christmas Day service at 9:00 AM.
- The new audio/video/recording system was installed in December.

This Worship Committee Report was prepared by Connie Jacobs.

Outreach

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever Amen." 1 Peter 4:10-11

Thanks go to the members of our Outreach Ministry for their support guidance and dedication over the past year. The members of the Outreach Ministry team include Lanis Curtis, Pat Booker, Jen Dauer, David Sellnow, Helen Christenson,

council representative Ron Fleischmann, Pastor Tim Anderson, as well as the hearts and hands of those serving our Lord through the following programs:

New member orientation and reception: We have been blessed to receive seven new families last spring, and five this fall into the fellowship of Christ the King. Please check the bulletin board in the fellowship Hall for pictures and names. Welcome them and introduce yourself to them to make them feel welcome. Invite them to serve our Lord and our congregation in some of the committees or activities you serve.

Hearthstone Ministries: Only one Meal was delivered this year, which is a good thing in that there wasn't a great need this past year. Meals are provided for members recovering from surgery, who may have been ill or hospitalized, or families with a new baby. Thank you to members who have so willingly delivered these meals the past nineteen years! If you know of someone who would benefit from this ministry, please contact the church office at (507)354-4672. Our church is not notified when a member is hospitalized or in need. Please make sure to reach out to the church office so we can continue to serve them.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Thanks to the loving people who meet the first and third Mondays at 1:30pm at the church to knit or crochet the prayer shawls. This important ministry is a beautiful expression of loving Christian concern for the recipients. Other than receiving a prayer shawl, there are pocket prayer squares that people can carry with them as a symbol of loving support from our congregation members. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, this is a great, supportive opportunity to learn. Other ways you can support this ministry is through donation of yarn, supplies and most importantly through your prayers.

Welcome Table: The welcome table is set up to provide information for members and visitors under the welcome sign next to the water fountain in the narthex. We are always open to suggestions and ideas that we could use in this area. There is also a bulletin board in the fellowship hall with pictures under the theme of "LOVE IN ACTION". Make sure to check out the pictures to see if you are in them. If your picture is not there, consider participating in the many programs going on in our church so others can see your love in action and be encouraged in their faith!

Baked Bread in a Jar: Christ the King began a new ministry in 2019 offering baked bread in a jar for those visiting our church. Were you aware of this wonderful welcoming gift? If you notice someone in church that you had not seen here before, introduce yourself, see if they are visiting and check with Helen, ushers, pastor, or others serving in the service so we can get the bread to the new visitors. Banana, banana nut, and zucchini nut breads have been appreciated by over 30 people worshipping or seeking a new church home in the past years. If you are interested in helping bake bread, please contact the church office at (507)354-4672. The mission of the church is to reach others through the gospel, and we are so blessed to have others visit so we can share this saving gospel!

Holiday Baskets: Seven holiday baskets were prepared for members in need during the holidays and was greatly appreciated by all of them. Thank you to everyone who has donated to this project and to the church food pantry throughout the year. When needs arise, lists are posted in the church bulletins and on our webpage for items that are needed in this important ministry. **"When did I see you hungry and feed you...?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."**

Special Projects Group: Thanks to the scores of volunteers who served at different times to help complete the many special projects during the year. This year, there was an Easter Egg hunt, Christ the King mugs with gift cards for the eleven graduating seniors rather than the college care packages, decorating the church, upkeep for the Bible Story Quiet Bags for worship service use by little ones. Thanks to Laurie Austvold, Pat and Shari Novak, Barb Davelder, and Kathie Born for creating the new table decorations in the Fellowship Hall. If you yearn to serve the Lord but have difficulty fitting a longer-term commitment into your schedule, consider serving for one of the many Special Projects in our church. It is a great way to serve our members as well as get to know the souls sitting in the pews around you each week!

Grieving Booklets: “Journeying through Grief” is a set of four short books we provide for people who are grieving during the first year after the loss of a loved one. These expressions of loving support have been welcomed by the over 140 families that have received these books in the past nine years.

Advertisement: The Outreach Ministry is responsible to update the church brochures that are placed at the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce. We provide ads in the yellow pages and place special ads at Christmas and Easter in the New Ulm Journal. If you have other suggestions to expand this ministry and would like to help, please contact the church office at (507)354-4672.

At the end of the calendar year, the Outreach Ministry has developed a short Time and Talents survey that is in each bulletin and on our Church webpage. We ask that each family unit fill this out. After the challenges of COVID, we have lost ways to stay in contact. Please put all your email contacts in the survey so we can stay in contact and actively serving our Lord.

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

Submitted by Ron Fleishmann and Helen Christenson

Scholarship

Committee Members: Laura Gaylord, Anne-Lise Johnson, Nicole Jorgensen, Dawn Kloos, Brian Kloos, Gayle O’Connor, Julie Petersen, Mark Petersen

We continue to be grateful to the congregation for your continued support of the Douglas G. Larsen Scholarship Fund through your offerings and by attending our fundraisers and donating items for our fundraisers. Thank you! Because of your generosity, we were able to grant \$500 Scholarships to Ethan Domeier, Paige Dreckman, Kennedy Jorgensen, Logan Kletscher, Vincent Leske, and Sydney Owens.

We look forward to your continued support of the young people of our congregation. We welcome new members to our Committee! No monthly meetings, just an occasional activity! Our next event is the Palm Sunday Breakfast on April 2nd.

Submitted by Anne-Lise Johnson

Finance

Members: Vince Bourgault and Bob Wise, Jennifer Kapolczynski – staff member and Beth Zambino – church treasurer.

Laura Patterson and Nancy Blankenhagen have both retired. We would like to thank them for all their hard work over the years. Church Council representative, Peg Drugan has moved, we would also like to thank her for her time.

We would also like to thank the congregation for their continued giving during the transition.

The Finance committee meets monthly to review and audit the church financial summary of accounts, account balances, and transactions. It also tracks our church giving in comparison to budget projections and historical trends, as well as assisting in preparation of the annual budget. As treasurer, Beth audits all monthly expenditures, attends church council meetings to present monthly financial reports and attends the annual meeting to review annual financial reports and present the annual proposed budget. The finance committee meets prior to the church council meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. New members are welcome and should contact the church office if interested in participating.

Submitted by Beth Zambino, Treasurer

Personnel

The Personnel Committee is comprised of members Teri Arnoldt (Church Council representative), Pastor Tim Anderson, Dennis Carlson, Carl Zeidler, and JoAnn Schmidt.

The Personnel Committee supports the needs of the church staff, participates in the recruitment of personnel when necessary to fill vacancies, develops, maintains, and updates personnel policies and staff job descriptions as required, makes recommendations regarding hiring, discipline, and staff development activities, and makes recommendations to the Church Council regarding compensation and benefits.

In 2022 the Personnel Committee:

Held interviews and made recommendations to the Church Council to hire both the current Administrative Assistant and the Financial Manager and made compensation and benefit recommendations to the Church Council per the CPI.

The Personnel Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month as needed.

Submitted by Teri Arnoldt

Property

2022 was a busy and productive year for the property committee. With the refinancing of the mortgage, we were able to accomplish several much needed and overdue projects. The following is a list of the major projects completed in 2022.

1. Major parking lot maintenance, including crack filling, sealing, chipping, fogging and striping.
2. Removed pine trees and re-landscaped along the Sunday School wing. Edging remains to be completed in 2023.
3. Repaired and replaced deteriorated exterior trim on office windows and sanctuary rose window. There is a lot of additional trim replacement/repair work planned for 2023.
4. Office entry doors were replaced, and handicap operators installed. The curb was also cut out and replaced with an accessible sloped entry to the sidewalk by the office.
5. Replaced the furnace serving the Sunday School wing. This is one of 7 furnaces that provide heat for the church. 1 is 37 years old and 4 are 27 years old.

We will have a limited budget for 2023 projects, but our plans include:

1. Repair the ceiling drywall below the skylight in the sanctuary.
2. Continue repairing/replacing deteriorated exterior window trim
3. Finish the landscape edging on the Sunday School wing.
4. Adjust/balance the heat distribution in the office area.
5. Carpet Cleaning

The committee members are: DuWayne Witt, Denny Schmidt, Elmer Rettig, Dennis Carlson, Avery Wills, Arden Olson, and Bill Steinke. Sadly, we lost one of our best property committee members this past year in Stan Sheie. Stan's many handy talents along with his wit and humor are missed. We are fortunate to have an active and dedicated committee and we welcome and encourage additional members who have an interest in the care and maintenance of the church property. We meet every other month on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm.

Submitted by Bill Steinke
Property Committee Chair