



Christ the King Lutheran Church

New Brighton, MN



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

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- AGENDA -

2023 Annual Congregational Meeting

Christ the King Lutheran Church
New Brighton, Minnesota
February 11, 2024, 10:40 a.m.

- 1) Move into Fireside Room and Log on to Zoom
- 2) Call to Order – Diane Shallue, President
 - a. Call for Quorum (active members 1045 – 5% of that is 53)
- 3) President’s remarks – Diane Shallue
- 4) Report of the Nominating Committee – Scott Black
 - a. Additional Nominations from the floor
 - b. VOTE
- 5) Financial review 2023 – Tracy Harstad, Treasurer, and Diane Shallue, President
- 6) 2024 Budget for Ministry (operating budget) – Tracy Harstad, Treasurer, and Diane Shallue, President.
 - a. Presentation
 - b. Q & A / Clarifications
 - c. VOTE (motion to approve)
- 7) Remarks from Lead Pastor – Sonja Hagander
- 8) Approve slate of candidates for the Call Committee for Associate Pastor – Diane Shallue
- 9) Closing Prayer/Benediction – Pastor Sonja Hagander
- 10) Sending Hymn
- 11) Adjournment

- CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT -

The Church Council consists of these at large members: Roger Bloomquist (term ends Feb 2026); Karen Erickson (term ends Feb 2024); Gary Floss (term ends Feb 2024); Zachary Johnson (term ends Feb 2026); Konah Naimah (term ends Feb 2025); John Vanderwerf (term ends Feb 2026); and Don Zatroch (term ends Feb 2025).



The Executive Committee meets monthly in addition to Church council meetings, and consists of the officers and the lead pastor: Diane Shallue, President; Jill Loegering, President-elect; Tracy Harstad, Treasurer; Paul Wilde L'Heureux, Secretary; and Pastor Sonja Hagander. Officers serve one-year terms and can be elected for a second term. Pastor Sonja Hagander and Pastor Sarah Anderson both have voice and vote at Church Council meetings. Pastor Ana Becera is a frequent non-voting visitor.

In 2023 the church council was very busy with various financial matters. We worked to increase income and control spending with committees/teams and the staff. The Council worked with Pastor Sonja on updating procedures and policies to give the congregation a solid foundation to move forward.

In 2023, the church council discussed and approved these items:

- Revisions to the Personnel Manual.
- A contract with Kingwood Security Consulting to do a risk/security assessment of the CtK property.
- Replacement of Sanctuary lights and lights in the lower level with LED's.
- A contract with Essence Real Estate Services to find tenants to lease space in our building – this has led to a lease agreement with Home Planning Associates to use space in our building for their business.
- Switching to Breeze, a new data base for our membership and tracking of donations.
- A new CtK Guest Wireless Access Acceptable Use Policy.
- A revised Financial Policy with a new cash management policy section.
- Hiring an in-house accountant and phasing out our contract with CLA for financial reports and paying of bills.
- A letter of call as lead pastor to Sonja Hagander and a special congregational meeting to approve this call.

In addition, the Church Council hosted a meeting of all leaders of committees/teams on November 28 to create budgets for each committee/team and discuss financial status of the congregation. We hosted a Ministry Fair in October for groups to highlight their ministries at CtK and helped establish a CtK-Cristo Rey Coordination Team that will meet quarterly. Don Zatroch will be the Church Council liaison to this new team.

We have worked to share church council minutes and financial reports with the congregation in a timely manner.

We thank the congregational members for their trust, financial support for our ministries at CtK, and for their encouragement and respectful dialogue. Church members are always welcome to attend Church Council meetings.

Submitted by Diane Shallue, Church Council President

- 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR MINISTRY -

		2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget		
				As of 12/31/2023 *Unofficial	Ministry Fund	Restricted Fund
REVENUE						
	Loose Offerings	3,987.01	2,000.00	3,000.00		3,000.00
	Initial Envelope Offering	226.00	200.00	200.00		200.00
	Other Income	3,458.13	1,000.00	3,000.00		3,000.00
	Interest Income	4,081.23	200.00	20,500.00		20,500.00
	Seasonal Offerings	9,827.75	10,000.00	10,000.00		10,000.00
	Thrivent Choice Income	3,354.00	3,400.00	3,000.00		3,000.00
	Envelope Offerings Pledged	645,675.38	653,003.00	712,558.00		712,558.00
	Envelope Offerings Non-Pledged	206,927.44	130,000.00	130,000.00		130,000.00
	Activity/Event Fees & Misc Sale	15.00	1,500.00	2,000.00		2,000.00
	Facility Use	7,073.12	3,000.00	12,000.00		12,000.00
	Confirmation Fees	630.45	750.00	750.00		750.00
	Youth Fees		3,000.00	7,200.00		7,200.00
	Offerings Prepaid Future Released	20,000.00		16,000.00		16,000.00
	Restricted Funds Used for Op	80,805.98	63,604.00	61,941.00		61,941.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 986,061.49	\$ 871,657.00	\$ 982,149.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 982,149.00
EXPENSES						
	Accompaniment Ministries	1,487.90	3,750.00	3,750.00		3,750.00
	Admin	90,096.06	89,716.00	65,450.00	1,600.00	67,050.00
	Adult Education	2,166.55	7,000.00	5,000.00		5,000.00
	Benevolences	91,077.66	82,750.00	67,250.00	6,500.00	73,750.00
	Childrens Ministry	5,028.59	7,350.00	6,000.00	550.00	6,550.00
	Church Property	121,019.73	129,543.00	114,510.00	5,960.00	120,470.00
	Congregational Care	533.17	1,250.00	1,365.00	735.00	2,100.00
	Congregation Council	184.07	750.00	600.00		600.00
	Creation Care	613.23	250.00	100.00	874.00	974.00
	Evangelism	3,349.99	1,550.00	1,650.00	1,500.00	3,150.00
	Fellowship	532.75	2,900.00	7,521.00		7,521.00
	Kitchen	4,969.46	7,500.00	4,975.00	1,500.00	6,475.00
	Payroll Expenses	653,440.53	636,618.00	685,228.40		685,228.40
	Stewardship	5,240.19	4,600.00	5,500.00		5,500.00
	Worship Worship & Music	12,653.39	11,300.00	18,200.00	582.00	18,782.00
	Youth	11,076.46	19,250.00	7,950.00	18,140.00	26,090.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 1,003,469.73	\$ 1,006,077.00	\$ 995,049.40	\$ 37,941.00	\$ 1,032,990.40
	Net Operating Income	\$ (17,408.24)	\$ (134,420.00)	\$ (12,900.40)	\$ (37,941.00)	\$ (50,841.40)
	Other Income/loss	(70.86)				
	Net Other Income	(70.86)				
NET INCOME		\$ (17,479.10)	\$ (134,420.00)	\$ (12,900.40)	\$ (37,941.00)	\$ (50,841.40)

Lead Pastor's Report

My annual report is an opportunity to **remember** and **give thanks**. Giving thanks is integral to following Jesus. As a church, we participate often in giving thanks. Our meal together at Holy Communion is an invitation into Jesus' thanksgiving. In the Gospel of Luke, we read, "And



Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them." "He gave thanks" in Greek is "Eucharisteo," – a word of grace. The presider at the table often raises her hands in thanksgiving. Our hands raise in thanksgiving, don't they? They raise at athletic games in celebration, in times of grief in overwhelming sadness; and raise, too, exasperated or when filled with joy.

Today, my hands raise in thankfulness as I remember this last year and say, "Thank you!" "Yes, thanks be to God for moving among this faith community!" because:

- *I remember* the generosity of this community and the work of the **Generosity Team** (Fred Bergsrud, Kristi Chace, Erling Eibs, Sonja Hagander, Tim Moore, Emily Turner). CtK went from 143 intent cards returned in 2023 to 181 intent cards for 2024! In dollars this grew from \$634,563.00 (2023) to \$712,558.55 (2024) pledged!
- *I remember* the focus on several **Foundational Areas**. Please follow the link ([Here](#)) or scan the QR code; a hard copy is available at the Welcome Desk. This represents significant growth and improvement led by many individuals at CtK.
- *I remember* the commitment to **Risk Management** and the generosity of the CtK Foundation to begin to fund this work. A risk management task force is being formed and an initial assessment is complete.
- *I remember* the ministry of the **Call Committee** and their endurance and faithfulness and give thanks to each of them: Nathan Lemke, Cyndi Leshner, Zoe Miller, Gordie Olson, Caleb Ward, Jennifer Wilprecht Walczak. I give thanks to CtK and am joy-filled for being called by you to serve as one of your pastors! My installation is Sunday, February 25th during worship with brunch to follow.
- *I remember* the planning of the **Welcome the Pastor Task Force** (Meredith Bearden, Priscilla Berg, Mark Edwards, Liz Michog, Paulette Olsen, Karen Peterson) and look forward to the cottage meetings where we will not only get to know each other further, but dream together about mission and vision and how God is pulling us into the future to love God and neighbor. I am thrilled to enter into this next season with you.
- *I remember* the multitude of gifts and talents and time shared over the course of this last year in many areas of ministry and leadership. My hands are raised in thanksgiving!



Foundational Document

Peace & Joy,
Pastor Sonja Hagander, Lead Pastor

Associate Pastor's Report

In this Time after Epiphany, we continue to look for and experience the many ways God is revealed in our midst. Throughout the last year I have witnessed many times among you where God's presence is moving and stirring. As the magi were guided by the light of the star, may we continue to be guided by the light of Christ.

A fundamental privilege of being a pastor is the chance to walk with families at different stages of life from birth to death. This year we welcomed new co-workers with us in the kingdom of God through the sacrament of baptism and as we did, we also said good-bye to many saints in the faith, walking with grieving families during memorial and funeral services. These holy events and all those in-between give witness to God's faithfulness to each of us.

At the church council's retreat in February, several foundational items across ministry areas were identified. One of those foundational items is congregational care, and I, along with two church council members, Karen Erickson and Gary Floss, spent several months taking a closer look. Together we visited four area faith communities to listen and learn about their model and programs of congregational care. We learned that CtK has similar programs as those we talked to, but all of them have one thing CtK does not... a care team. In the fall, a congregational forum was held to hear about our findings as well as our proposal that a care team be formed at CtK. One goal of 2024 is to initiate a care team which will begin to coordinate and communicate the caring ministries which currently exist. Some existing caring ministries include the prayer chain, prayer shawl, faith community nurses and Lay Shepherds (a visiting ministry).

Toward the end of 2023, many people applied for Thrivent Action Team money to offset some of the expenses related to Wednesday evening meals, and Sunday donuts and coffee. I would like to see the use of Thrivent Action teams increase in 2024 as a way to support the ministry of CtK. I welcome your questions about action teams, and you can also find out more at: <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams> or scan the code.



Thrivent
Action Teams

In Christ,
Pastor Sarah Anderson, Associate Pastor-Interim

Cristo Rey Pastor's Report

Cristo Rey is the only Spanish speaking mission /church in the Saint Paul Area Synod for which we are blessed to serve siblings within the Twin Cities and as far as Burnsville all the way to Elk River. Our blessings include helping newcomers to find jobs, to enroll in school, find transportation, and navigate the health system.

During 2023 Cristo Rey provided interpreters and fully funded 27 families to receive furniture and household items through Bridging. This ministry was able to connect with several families and help to direct them to other resources.



Cristo Rey members' attendance is more consistent and responded very well to activities outside of the building. I am very glad to see that we are doing our best to interconnect with people from other backgrounds.

I pray that our relationship with Christ the King continues to grow and to see each other's gifts as a blessing to all.

Your sister in Christ,
Pastora Ana Becerra

- MINISTRY AREA REPORTS -

Director of Worship and Music's Report

Worship and music at Christ the King / Cristo Rey continues to be a vibrant experience that is essential to the faith of those gathered by God on Sunday mornings both in-person and online. In 2023, we saw consistent worship attendance throughout the year which reflects the steadfastness of folks who find our worship life meaningful, challenging, comforting, and encouraging. Averages for weekly attendance include in-person: 148, YouTube: 99, and Facebook: 9, with an overall average of 251 worshippers per week in 2023. These numbers do not include Cristo Rey, funerals or seasonal mid-week worship services.



As of late, it's been exciting to notice new faces and families in the pews who are looking for a church home and immediately find CtK to be a place of warmth and welcome. This isn't just a result of the quality worship music and preaching (though those certainly help) but is a result of committed CtK folks who go out of their way to seek a new face and introduce themselves.

It's also been exciting to hear from our music ensembles on a regular basis during the school year. Our singers, ringers, and instrumentalists are frequently heard on Sunday mornings, adding artistic depth to an already rich worship experience. Thank you to all our musicians who show up practically every week to share their gifts to glorify God. We owe a very special thank you to Ron Olsen, who freely gives of his time to direct Glory Sound and Christ's Kingsmen and to accompany the choir from the piano. Thank you, Ron – you are truly a gift to this place!



We also have an incredible core group of volunteers who are always eager to find new folks to help serve as ushers, worship coordinators, greeters, brew crew, on the altar team, and at the welcome desk. Thank you to you who volunteer -- for showing up and taking good care to make certain CtK is ready to welcome everyone who walks through the door. Special shout out to Don Zatroch who volunteers his time almost every week to run the live stream camera for online worship.

2024 will be a year of deepening congregational involvement in our worship life through the establishment of a new Worship Task Force. This group will be led by Jen Miller and we will work together to establish points of meaningful intersection and collaboration with committees and teams throughout the church. Certainly, on the top of our to-do list will be to prepare the entire congregation for a major renovation



needed to keep our organ sounding beautiful. Keep an eye out for ways you can connect with the Worship Task Force soon.

Highlights from 2023:

- Guest worship leaders, The Many, held up residency at CtK and led worship in October with the generous support from the CtK Music & Arts Series fund.
- In partnership with the CtK Property Committee and with the generous support from the congregation, the lights in the Sanctuary were updated to LED fixtures in April.
- In the summer, the entire CtK music wing was cleaned up and reorganized to make room for outside rental space.
- Community choir, Kantorei, continues to hold up rehearsal residency at CtK with members from the choir being featured in worship on select Sundays throughout the year.
- Meaningful and ongoing collaboration with the Racial Justice Team, Global Mission Team, Local Mission Partners, and Care for Creation continue to deepen our worship life.



Looking forward to 2024:



- Formation of the Worship Task Force, led by Jen Miller.
- Preparation for organ repair work tentatively set for summer of 2025.
- Director of Worship, Nate Crary, upcoming sabbatical from June to July of 2024.
- Continued improvement and updating of Sanctuary A/V software and equipment to improve both the in-person and online worship experience.
- Continued partnership with CtK Property committee to improve ease of accessibility in the Sanctuary.

Submitted by Nate Crary, Director of Worship

Director of Children and Family Ministry Report

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpassed knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3: 17-19

WOW! How awesome would it be to have our children start to grasp and understand the words in Ephesians and how powerful God's love is. I truly believe there is not better gift to our children than to help them understand the power of God's love and to have that love living in their hearts. With the help of many volunteers, I believe this is happening. We have so much to be

thankful for. God has used so many people in so many ways in showing our children God's amazing love. I thank God every day for all of you.



It is so exciting to see the growth of young families and other generations at Christ the King. This is a testament to all of you and how you welcome people to Christ the King. It takes all of us working together to welcome others into the family of Christ the King. I encourage all of you to continue to keep your eyes open to someone who might be new and introduce yourself and welcome them. I would also like to challenge you to talk to someone new each Sunday. Sometimes, even being a member of CtK, we might not feel totally connected. Reach out, be aware, see and listen.

Highlights from 2023:

- BAM (Bible and Me) – BAM is during the worship service. Kids come to worship with their parents, come up for the children's message, and then follow me out of worship for a lesson based on one of the lessons in worship. We come back into worship to help with bringing forth communion and the offering. We have increased attendance numbers as the year went on. Because of the growth, we have split into two groups during BAM. Because of the growth, we have split into two groups during BAM.
- Worship Involvement – Throughout the year, there are many ways for children and their families to be involved in worship. We have had children and families help with the readings during worship. I have also started doing a few Children's sermons. We also do a Bible and First Communion Faith Step. We've even had kids help with communion.
- Fellowship and Fun – Wednesday evenings – Fellowship and Fun time is a time for families to come together and have fun/learn/create. We have had guests come and share their passions, we've created art and we've done some service projects.
- Rummage Sale – We partnered up with CPY this year to raise money for both CPY and for summer camps. We made over \$10,000.
- Vacation Bible School – This past summer we were able to have VBS inside. This allowed us to do a little more decorating to provide more of an atmosphere for the kids. Spreading VBS out throughout 5 weeks continues to be a great fit for us.
- Camp Wapo and Appalachia – We had a total of 6 kids at Wapo this past summer which doubled our numbers from the year before. Hoping to increase them again this summer. We also made it back to the Appalachian Mountains again for a service trip. There were 5 of us and it was so good to be back. Hoping to bring at least one crew back this summer (maybe 2).



- Children’s Christmas Pageant – The pageant was a wonderful opportunity for kids to come together and tell the story of Jesus’ birth. This year we brought in the Superheroes. Our kids are so talented!! They worked so hard and were amazing.
- We had our 2nd annual Gingerbread house challenge. It is so fun to see families coming together to create. Some come with plans. Some just wing it.
- Monthly intergenerational event – We started having intergenerational events to try to start bringing generations together. It has mostly been young families that have attended but we’ll keep at it and hopefully it will catch on☺. We did one of the SALT on “giving”. We had a service opportunity on care packages for those in the Armed Forces, Gingerbread Challenge. Keep a look out for more to come.
- This past year I was able to put together a Children’s Ministry team and we have been meeting monthly. This has been a huge help and a wonderful partnership.
- Other – Children’s outings (outdoor) –Easter Egg hunt, Gingerbread Challenge, Baptism Sunday, Blogs, Vlogs, S.A.L.T., Extravaganza (a children and youth conference through the ELCA -all on-line this year), and attending many games, plays, concerts and dances.
- I am also on the CPY board and help with their fundraising. I have also helped occasionally downstairs with the kids.



There are so many things to be thankful for here at Christ the King. Thank you for trusting me in working with the children at Christ the King. I love working with them and learning from them as well as working alongside the parents and all of you.

Submitted by Deb Wolterstorff, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Youth and Family Report

Let these pictures share the story of youth and household ministry this year.

Once again, ninth graders affirmed their faith in the spring. Affirming one’s faith during worship is a profound public witness.



Confirmation programming met most weeks during the spring and the summer. In the spring, we explored what it means to live out our faith in daily life and we took a closer look at the book of Revelation. This fall, we dug into the



stories of our ancestors in the faith, exploring Jacob, Joseph, Moses and the themes of God’s promise and faithfulness to each of us.

During the seasons of Advent and Lent, caring adults committed to serving as mentors for our confirmation youth. Together they explore topics of faith while getting to know one another. Relationships are a pillar of Christian faith and life together, and I am grateful for the intergenerational relationships forming.



In the summer, children, youth, and young adults engaged their faith in outdoor ministry settings like Camp Wapo and Appalachia Service Project. At Summer Stretch, a collaborative partnership with north suburban congregations, the week was spent in service learning, worship, and fellowship.



Submitted by Pastor Sarah Anderson, Associate Pastor-Interim

- COMMITTEE REPORTS -

Finance Committee

Finance Committee Highlights for 2023:

- Oversaw the role of the Clifton Larson Allen (CLA) (accounting service for non-profits) in analyzing the financials for Christ the King for needed adjustments to our financial information, in addition to improving the financial system and processes.
- Oversaw the transition of reducing CLA role to oversight and hiring a part-time accountant who started in January 2024, this will reduce overall expense.
- Reviewed monthly and annual financial statements and recommended approval by the Congregational Council.
- Supported the planning of budget processes for 2023 and 2024.
- Supported efforts to improve financial results, including investment of cash reserves in higher yielding certificates of deposits and savings account.



2023 Finance Policy Committee members: Sheryl Stone, Tracy Harstad, (Treasurer), Dale Erickson, Eunice Helgeson, Steve Zenz (Chair), and Senior Pastor Sonja Hagander

Submitted by Steve Zenz, Committee Chair

Personnel Committee

Meeting Frequency: At least quarterly, or more often as needed or requested by the Staff or the CtK Council

Committee Description: [CtK Personnel Committee Description](#)



Scan for Committee Description



Scan for Personnel Manual

CtK Personnel Manual: [Personnel Manual 2023-Aug Revision](#)

This past year:

- Safe Boundaries Policy Maintenance & Training with the Associate Pastor; Continuing Benefits and Staffing questions, etc.
- Personnel Manual updates including: Continuing Education for Staff additions to the Manual, Sabbatical Leave clarification, and updating the CtK Social Media use by Staff.

2023 Personnel Committee members: Mark Chace (Chair), Pastor Sonja Hagander, Joann Knuth, Jill Loegering (Secretary), Jen Miller, Gordie Olson, Diane Shallue (Chair-elect), Linda Stenstadvold

Submitted by Mark Chace, Committee Chair

Property Committee

The following are the main accomplishments of the Property Committee 2023:

- Getting the solar panels producing electricity and connected to the “Grid” was as time consuming and difficult as the actual installation. Diane Shallue did tons of paperwork and wrangled the power company and contractors into cooperating with each other. Dick Ashland and Bob Shallue spent many hours getting the system tested, certified, and operational and properly connected to the Grid. Many other individuals helped in the process and all their work is greatly appreciated. Currently about 50% of our yearly electricity needs are produced by our solar panels.
- This last May we replaced all the Sanctuary incandescent lights with LED lights. That improvement has reduced our power consumption of Sanctuary lights by 90%. The actual lumens (measured light output) has increased while the power consumption has gone down.
- A new emergency exit door and hardware was installed in the lower level to replace the old door which would not open properly. The old door had rendered the emergency exit as “Not Code Compliant.” The new door is Code Compliant.
- Some funds remained from the Sanctuary LED lighting project so that money was augmented so additional lower level lights could be converted to LED. This project will continue to also money on lighting going forward.
- This summer the city of New Brighton marked our 8 Ash trees on our property for removal. Because this directive had to be acted upon within 30-days, Property took quick action to have the trees removed. By getting multiple bids we were able to save several thousand dollars.



2023 Property Committee members: Dick Ashland, Erling Eibs, Bob Fickle, John Foell (Chair), Dave Christensen, Joanne Zenz

Submitted by John Foell, Committee Chair

- TEAM, WORKING GROUP AND OTHER REPORTS -

Care for Creation Team

The C4C Team is a group with the following mission: *To promote understanding of the wonder of God's creation and educate people on the ways to care for that creation.*

In 2023 we saw our vision of the perennial pollinator plot ("PPP") become a reality, located around the CtK sign next to the entrance drive. Through the early spring we started various native species of prairie flowers from seed, gathered some plants by donation, and used funding from the CtK Foundation grant to purchase additional seed and plants. The plot was installed by early summer and tended throughout the rest of it for weeding, watering and the addition of a display sign showcasing the effort. Looking ahead to 2024, we may supplement with additional plantings to expand the footprint but otherwise look forward to witnessing this marvel of self-sustaining habitat for pollinators, other insects, birds and wildlife.

[We] look forward to witnessing this marvel of self-sustaining habitat for pollinators, other insects, birds and wildlife.



The Care for Creation team also participated in a lively and active Creation Care Sunday panel discussion. Moderated by Vern Rice, the panel of team members (Ralph Berg, Catherine Harrison, and Jenny Wilde L'Heureux) responded to questions of what creation and creation care mean to each of them and how our whole community can engage in creation care.

In 2024, the team is looking forward to a big focus on reducing waste at CtK. Through a grant opportunity from Ramsey and Washington Counties, we have the opportunity to purchase resources and receive training support on things like composting, replacing disposable products with reusable or compostable materials, and making waste reduction investments with CPY.

Team members: Alex Bearden, Ralph Berg, Dale Erickson, Marilyn Erickson, Betty Funk, Karen Grivna, Catherine Harrison, Karen Hillerman, Zach Johnson, Les Kuivanen, Andy Michog, Vern Rice, Jenny Wilde L'Heureux

Submitted by Catherine Harrison, Team Chair

Elders in Action

Elders in Action invites all members of Christ the King who are 55 and older to join us in fellowship, entertainment, information, and action. We meet at 4 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month for planning and host a coffee at 10 a.m. on the last Wednesday of each month.

While many of our coffees have been well attended, some of the coffees included Rich and Diane Arvidson telling of their trip to Vietnam, a program on the Healthy Brain by the Lyngblomsten staff and Nate Crary speaking about the year he and his wife spent in Palestine with Young Adults in Global Mission. We also jointly hosted the highly successful Christmas luncheon with the Lutheran Church Women of CtK. We participated in the autumn Ministry Fair and worked with Pastor Becerra to present Christmas baskets through our Cristo Rey ministry. We led trip adventures to the planetarium at Bell Museum in St Paul and to the Historic Trolley Tour in Stillwater.



In 2024, we anticipate a January coffee program with Marian Eisenmann telling Scandinavian Stories. In February, a member panel will tell of their experiences with the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5) and how that relates to all of us.

[J]oin us in fellowship, entertainment, information, and action.

Members of our planning team include Gary Carlson, Erling Eibs, Dale and Karen Erickson, Georgie Johnson, Alice Kalkwarf, Les and Margo Kuivanen, Shelley Lausche, Bob Meyer and Vern Rice. We have successfully implemented a shared leadership model with a different leader every three months.

Submitted by leaders Vern Rice, Georgie Johnson and Alice Kalkwarf

Global Mission Team

The Christ the King Global Mission Team has been formally in existence since the mid 1980s. We participate in the Companion Congregation program (BegaKwaBega) through the St. Paul Area Synod and the Iringa Diocese, with the Nduli Parish as our partner. In the northern Tanzania Arusha area, we work through Operation Bootstrap Africa to support students from the MaaSAE Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS), Moringe Sokoine Secondary School (MSSS), School of Nursing (SON), Madagascar Schools, and many special needs schools/projects. Support may come in the form of scholarships, school lunches and supplies, buildings, teacher's salaries, a well, etc.

In 2023, CtK members generously donated \$4,842 for Global Mission Sunday and \$6,095 for Alternative Christmas Gifts.

Throughout these 24 years, members of Christ the King have supported the Global Mission Team ministries through Global Mission Sunday donations for scholarships and Alternative Christmas gift purchases. In 2023, CtK members generously donated \$4,842 for Global Mission Sunday and \$6,095 for Alternative Christmas Gifts. This past year, we wrote for and received two grants from the Christ the King Foundation. The first grant for \$5,000 went to the MGLSS for a scholarship for one student in honor of Dr. Seth Msinjili (Retired Director). The second grant for \$7,000 went to Madagascar Schools for hiring of an additional teacher at each of the five schools. Prior to this grant the teacher at each of the five Malagasy schools often worked with several hundred students and therefore hiring an additional teacher reduced the ratio of students in half.

Gifts from CtK members provide for a range of activities for people in Tanzania, Madagascar, and Uganda. They primarily include: scholarships for students, agricultural products and animals, medical supplies and training, and construction and maintenance of churches and schools. The Global Mission Team deeply appreciates your generous support in all these areas - making a big difference and creating wonderful opportunities for the lives of our African friends.



Since many of our Global Mission Team members retired this past year, it is our hope that there will be renewed interest by CtK members in joining our team so that we can continue our global mission work. In the process, our team developed a hybrid plan for downsizing the team's work and made the difficult decision to make this the last year to sell Alternative Christmas Gifts. We are grateful for your support of that activity for the past 18 years.

2023 Global Mission Team Members: Linda Aronson, Chris Floss, Gary Floss, Mary Hanson, Deb Kuehl, Marlys Melius, Jean Spong

Submitted by Marlys Melius, Team Chair

Local Mission Partners Team

After missing our traditional November LMP Sunday, we had two of them in 2023: February and November. Pastor Thomas Tsen of Minnesota Faith Chinese LC was guest pastor in February, and Pastor Jen Collins of Redeemer LC in November. Both congregations face the type of challenges that led them to become mission partners with CtK: changing circumstances; lingering financial issues from the COVID pandemic; and for Faith Chinese, international tensions. We committed to backstop egg roll sales at Faith in case they did not sell out and we have not had to.

Our mission is to be friends with our partners, an emergency resource for small financial needs... and to become closer to other groups and services at Christ the King.

Member Vern Rice was presented the top award from partner Daily Work for his strong personal and organizational backing of their mission to get jobs, then better ones through training, for their clients. Daily Work is spending lots of time bringing Afghan refugees into the culture and businesses of their new home this year.

We had Pastor William Siong of Eternal Flame Hmong LC at our May meeting; they have retained an associate pastor, Jua Jay Her as of April. Pastor William noted there are several clans in the Hmong community, and they are slow to pledge. In the second half of the year, Pastor started a YouTube channel, and has garnered as high as 30,000 unique views of his sermons, including as far away as Vietnam.

LMP served a pizza dinner to Cristo Rey in June burning through two dozen pizzas, as well as watermelon and all the fixings. There was little left for take-



home for members who wanted more, but we cleared the table. We maintain ties with Cristo Rey, with several visits from Pastor Ana.

As I write this a half-dozen LMP members are preparing to go to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, for a week of assisting our partners with Families of Hope in a day center with neighborhood kids. LMP pioneered paying for 10 of the children to go to school, straight through high school, to escape the dump neighborhood served by Families of Hope.

One of the initial LMP partners at foundation, Redeemer LC in Minneapolis, is seeing the neighborhood facing gentrification. The history of the Harrison neighborhood has been one of a life start for new and disadvantaged families. This is a true local church of community service, from daycare, to training seminarians in serving the inner city, to providing a block party and Christmas Store.



Our mission is to be friends with our partners, an emergency resource for small financial needs as funds allow, and to become closer to other groups and services at Christ the King. We started the year providing the donuts for fellowship after church, in hopes of pulling more groups to that service. We participated in the October Mission Fair, and were surprised to see the breadth of service among lay groups.

Current members include Vern Rice; Betty Funk; Karin Larson; Ralph Berg; Dick Schultz; Dale Erickson; Karen Erickson; Cheryl Schrader; Scott Schrader, Chair. Anne Van Bruggen and Roger Bloomquist joined at our January 8th meeting.

Submitted by Scott Schrader, Team Chair

Racial Justice Team

We continue to live into our mission of combating systemic racism in our congregation and community through the strategies of learning, relationships and advocacy. In doing so we dream of becoming the beloved community with increased racial understanding, deeper relationships and effective actions towards racial justice. This is how we enacted our mission and values in 2023:

- Became the Racial Justice Team (claiming our commitment to long-term work and advocacy).
- Sponsored SALT presentation on Martin Luther King, Jr on January 15, 2023 and did the Children’s Message in worship that Sunday.
- During Black History Month, presented a Wednesday evening forum on Racial Covenants in the Twin Cities metro, showing a clip from “Jim Crow of the North Stories.” Participants had the opportunity to discover if their homes had a history of a racial covenant on their mortgage.
- Presented a four-part SALT series on “White Church Truths” organized by Don Zatroch.
- Participated in a Table Event at the New Brighton Summer Concert Series on June 8, 2023.



- Encouraged congregational participation in various learning opportunities including zoom learning through the ELCA Truth and Healing Movement and a city of New Brighton offering on Racial Covenants through Just Deeds.
- Held a half day retreat for team members and interested individuals, reviewing where we have been and where we hope to go in the future.
- Publicized and highlighted National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools.
- Participated in Christ the King’s Ministry Fair.
- Sponsored a field trip to Bethel University to see the documentary “Border of Dreams”, focusing on stories from southern border crossings. This was a joint documentary by students from Bethel and a university from Guatemala.
- Offered an October 4 week book discussion on the book “US-the Resurrection of American Terror” by the Rev. Kenneth Wheeler. About 14 people purchased books while between 8 and 10 participated in the weekly book discussion.
- Sponsored a SALT forum by Rebecca Thompson on Diversity and Children’s Literature. From that event, came “Becca’s Top Ten Books” for people to use as a guide for buying diversity books for children/grandchildren
- Coordinated a field trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Art to see the photography exhibit “In Our Hands: Native Photography, 1890-Now” on January 9, 2024.



Some of our goals for 2024 include developing a Land Acknowledgement for Christ the King, sponsoring a spring field trip to one of the many historical sites here in MN with racial and indigenous significance, holding a forum to explore how to respond when one hears racist remarks and how to sift through racial/discriminatory rhetoric to understand what is really being said, working to strengthen relationships and partnerships in and around New Brighton and the surrounding communities, and being

a resource within the congregation and community for racial justice matters.

we dream of becoming the beloved community with increased racial understanding, deeper relationships and effective actions towards racial justice.

Our team members include: Priscilla Berg, John Hanson, Don Zatroch, Nathan Lemke, Karen Peterson, Chris Floss, Gary Floss, Paulette Olson and Kisten Thompson. Several more follow our minutes and

activities and participate as they are able. If you would like to be involved with this valuable ministry, please be in touch with one of the above team members.

Submitted by Kisten Thompson

Social Ministry Team

Social Ministry is a team centered on actions to support our neighbors in need, inspired by Matthew 25:34-40.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTER: *A local non-profit working to prevent homelessness by preventing evictions and working with participants toward financial security.*

- Twenty CtK members attended the annual CSC fundraising luncheon.
- A group of CtK/Cristo Rey members participated in the CSC's annual fund-raising walk. 41 walkers walked 50 miles.
- CtK made an annual donation to the CSC from the Benevolence budget.



RALPH REEDER FOOD SHELF: *The local food shelf of the Mounds View School district alleviating food insecurity, serving over 26,000 of our neighbors annually.*

- CtK held a food drive during March (Food Share Month), collecting food donations and encouraging direct financial contributions to Ralph Reeder.
- CtK promoted a donation drive for direct contributions to Ralph Reeder to help meet a matching grant of \$100,000 from Bell Lumber and Pole.

SCHOOL TOOLS: *Supporting education locally and in Liberia.*

- CtK collected school supplies for our two closest public schools, Bel Air and Highview.
- Members purchased supplies with Benevolence funds.
- CtK sent a Benevolence donation to Believer Bible School in Monrovia, Liberia, for the purchase of school supplies.

COAT DRIVE: *An annual event (2023 was year 24) sponsored by eleven churches, New Brighton Public Safety volunteers and the Lions Club.*

- Coordinated the event with the sponsors.
- Collected coats at CtK and recruited volunteers.
- Hosted the event in the CtK gym on October 21, 2003. (Thanks to our custodians!)
- Distributed 302 coats at the one-day event.
- Every child who attended the event found coat thanks to generous contributions!

LIBERIAN PARTNERS

- Sent a Benevolence contribution to Believer Bible School to purchase rice to feed students.
- Monitored progress on construction of a well, funded by a CtK Foundation grant.

Social Ministry Team members: Priscilla Berg, Meredith Bearden, Karen Hillerman, Victor Nyekan

Social Ministry is a team centered on actions to support our neighbors in need[.]

Submitted by Priscilla Berg

Tech Team

The Tech Team at CtK exists to review, and establish protocol and procedures for overall technology in areas surrounding:

- Current technology needs.
- Maintenance and retirement of technical hardware and software.
- Long-range planning and purchasing (Streamline technology, synchronize technology goals with overall goals of CtK, create criteria for and make recommendations of projects and future technology expenditures, intentional planning).
- Technical infrastructure.
- Advocacy for technology and technical funding (Establish a voice among other groups to advocate and discuss, voice technical narratives of needs and limitations, work with Property Committee and other relevant committees, report back to council).



Much of the work being done in 2023 and 2024 centers on modernization and addressing past delinquency in maintaining the technical environment at CtK.

Main projects completed in 2023 include:

- Establishment of Tech Team.
- Creation of 2024 technical budget.
- Team assessment of current equipment.
- Sound loft cleanup and equipment removal.
- Creation of two Audio Visual carts.
- Creation of guest internet use policy document.
- Transition to Breeze ChMS.

The Tech Team at CtK exists to review, and establish protocol and procedures for overall technology...

Primary tech projects in 2024 include:

- Recruiting 1-2 additional members to the Tech Team.
- Cataloging an inventory of all CtK technology hardware, software and technical services.
- Adoption of CtK Technical User Guide.
- Adoption of CtK Technology Policy.
- Mapping the CtK network.
- Purchase of upgraded sanctuary camera and improving livestream capabilities.
- Implementing funding and purchase plans for upgraded sanctuary projector.
- Eliminating redundant or otherwise unnecessary technology.

Decisions/recommendations of the CtK Tech Team are referred to the church council/executive committee for approval and adoption.

Current Team members: Caleb Anderson, Nick Bannon, Nate Crary, Ron Nolby, John Vanderwerf, Paul Wilde L'Heureux

Submitted by Nick Bannon

- CTK FOUNDATION REPORT -

A Year in Review – 2023

The mission of the Foundation is to receive charitable donations, invest the funds, and provide financial support for non-budgeted religious, educational and charitable programs that further the ministry of Christ the King Lutheran Church. We lived out our mission in 2023 in the following ways:

- Officers were elected in February, 2023. They are: Freya Hanson, President; Trish Blomquist, Vice President; Chris Popp, Secretary; and Steve Zenz, Treasurer.
- Grants totaling **\$88,400** were awarded under the categories of Church, Community and Global for the year. See attached for details and the good work the grants support.
- One grant to highlight, the \$7,000 for sanctuary LED lights matched by the congregation, made a huge difference in the brightening up of our worship.
- Grant application deadlines were announced for April 1 and October 1.
- The Publicity group supported one of the Pizza Nights to connect with members of CTK. The group helped with set-up and clean-up; prepared and baked pizzas in the pizza oven (in sweltering heat!), provided vegetables, fruit and dessert to complete the menu. Retired members of the Foundation were also recruited to help with the event and we had a great turn-out. Successful evening enjoyed by all!
- The Foundation provided financial support for the Ministry Fair on October 1. Many people visited the informational tables set up by various committees and also the Boy Scouts. It was festive with a fall theme and lunch which included egg rolls, sandwiches, fruit and vegetables, chips, and cookies and brownies. CTK had not had a ministry fair in several years so it was deemed informational and successful and suggested that it returns to being an annual affair.



Focusing on 2024:

- With strong contributions (THANK YOU) and good investment performance, the Foundation will be able to grant up to **\$104,000** in 2024, the highest amount in its history. Contributions received included appreciated stock, qualified charitable distributions (QCD) from IRAs, donor advised funds, Thrivent dollars and bequests through wills. Many ways to give, some tax advantaged.
- The Publicity Committee plans to work with Nick on updating the website – for more visibility and pizzaz; and look for our new display board in the narthex near the Welcoming Desk!
- We plan to keep you informed about Foundation activities and updates as they will appear in the Herald and Sunday blogs as well as on the screen on Sunday mornings.
- We will celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Foundation, which is in February, throughout the year, by acknowledging the founders and those who have followed in their footsteps in addition to highlighting a variety of successful grant awards.

We are thankful for all that we were able to accomplish this year and again look forward to a successful year supporting the mission of the church in 2024.

If you have questions for the Foundation members, feel free to contact them. And, if you are interested in potentially serving on the Foundation Board, contact one of the officers and they will be happy to answer any of your questions, etc.

The Final Reflection in *Those Who Dream Advent Devotional* suggests that we take time to reflect on the past year, honoring its hardships and giving thanks for its gifts. This seems so appropriate as we end the year with so much to be thankful for in the Christ the King family.

2023 CtK Foundation Board Members: Rich Arvidson; Dawn Beling; Scott Black; Trish Blomquist, Vice President; Freya Hanson, President; Joann Knuth; Chris Popp, Secretary; Tim Van Rooy; Steve Zenz, Treasurer.

Submitted by Freya Hanson, Trish Blomquist and Rich Arvidson

Christ the King Foundation 2022 Grants

Recipient	Amount	Purpose
<u>CTK Congregational Needs</u>		
Elders in Action	1,500	Christmas luncheon
Ministry Fair	1,500	Sponsored successful Rally Day ministry fair
Sanctuary LED lighting	7,000	Let there be light! Matched by congregation
Cristo Rey Translate	5,000	Funds to bring Cristo Rey and CtK closer together
Church Facility Security	10,000	Security review and actions, including for tenants
Organ Renovation	20,000	Initial funding for renovation campaign (to be matched)
Subtotal	<u>45,000</u>	
<u>Community Needs</u>		
Community Support Center	5,000	Prevent homelessness
Lutheran Campus Ministry	2,500	Students work on bridging divisions
Center for Addiction and Faith	2,500	Faith-based treatment for growing addiction challenges
Community Partners with Youth	6,000	Provide meal and snack during summer school
Daily Work-Refugees	1,500	Assist in finding employment
Subtotal	<u>17,500</u>	
<u>Global Missions</u>		
Well for Liberian School	2,390	Provide clean water, reduce disease
Meal Packing	2,500	Provide 8,600 meals
Well for DRC School	6,000	Provide clean water, reduce disease
Massai Scholarship	5,000	Provide secondary school tuition
Madagascar Teachers	7,000	Improve teacher/student ratio
Subtotal	<u>22,890</u>	
Total Grants	<u>\$ 85,390</u>	

Christ the King Foundation Statements

Statement of Activity

	2022	2023
Donations	111,548	116,535
Grants	94,900	85,390
Grants Returned	(10,000)	(3,400)
Expenses	346	457
Change in Investment Valuation	(337,601)	294,954
Net Change for Year	<u>(311,299)</u>	<u>329,042</u>
Balance at Beginning of Year	2,072,545	1,761,246
Balance at End of Year	<u><u>1,761,246</u></u>	<u><u>2,090,288</u></u>

Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2023

Cash	15,387
Investments	2,078,901
Total Assets	<u>2,094,288</u>
Grants Payable	4,000
Net Assets	<u><u>2,090,288</u></u>

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America