



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).

# BISHOP ANN SVENNUNGENSEN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGREGATIONS 2023



God's grace, peace, and hope be with you through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Like rain after an endless drought, the gift of gathering in person this year has quenched a deep thirst. The pandemic revealed anew the depth of our thirst for community; Scripture also articulates this profound human need. Advances in technologies like live-streaming are indeed gifts to our church and world. Still, our hearts sing when we can rub shoulders around the communion table, embrace those who grieve, and raise our voices together in resounding song.

The mission of the synod is to support communities who share the thirst-quenching love of God – forming disciples, building beloved community, and working for just and healthy neighborhoods. I am deeply grateful for the many ways that we walk together in our journey of faith.

The synod staff walks closely in partnership with congregations, especially in times of transition, planning, or conflict. Last year, we accompanied congregations in 58 call processes. We offer skills trainings for lay members through the annual Tool Kit, and for church staff through peer groups and communicators gatherings. And, our Faith Practices & Neighborhood Practices program strengthens congregations in faith formation and engaging their neighborhoods.

Synod staff also work closely with our deacons and pastors. We experience great joy when we gather with congregations for ordinations, installations, and Ministry Site Profile reviews, as well as in preaching, presiding, and offering adult forums. We support our interim pastors who provide wise leadership in times of transition and our chaplains who provide critical care in a variety of settings. And, currently, we support 50 seminary students preparing to become pastors and deacons.

Our congregations worship in Spanish, Swahili, ASL, Oromo, Hmong, Lao, Norwegian, and Amharic. As we celebrate our diversity, we also recognize inequities affecting our congregations. Using a “racial equity lens,” the synod council launched an in-depth process to evaluate and strengthen partnerships with our “strategic ministries,” addressing historical realities of disconnection and resource inequities.

As a synod together, we will gather again April 28-29 for Synod Assembly. All are welcome at the opening worship Friday night; voting members will carry out the business of the synod on Saturday. We are blessed with the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III as our keynote speaker.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Lutherans in our synod and in the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, the ground-breaking for the first ever Lutheran University in Nigeria occurred this December. We celebrate God's provision and look forward to the blessings this university will bring.

During my sabbatical, I have been studying “the church in the U.S. – hopes and challenges.” I would like to present some of my learnings as well as facilitate conversations in as many congregations as possible during the coming months. For more information about these visits or news about what's happening around the synod, please visit the synod website and sign up for our weekly e-news.

In Christ,  
Bishop Ann Svennungsen



# CONTENTS

Annual Meeting Agenda	4
Council President's Letter	5-6
Pastor's Letter	7-8
Worship, Music, & Arts Report	9
Property Report	10
Evangelism & Outreach Report	11-12
Youth Report	13-14
Moyo Kwa Moyo (Heart to Heart) Kenya Report	15-16
Treasurer's Report & 2023 Approved Budget	16-18



# MEETING AGENDA

**January 29, 2023**

**11:30 am**

**In-Person & Zoom**

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89983395756>

Dial-in: +1 301-715-8592

meeting ID: 899 8339 5756

Passcode: Redeemer

**WELCOME**

**ESTABLISH A QUORUM**

**DEVOTION**

**ANNUAL REPORTS**

President

*Mike Tarras*

Treasurer

*Kelly Schumacher Fuller*

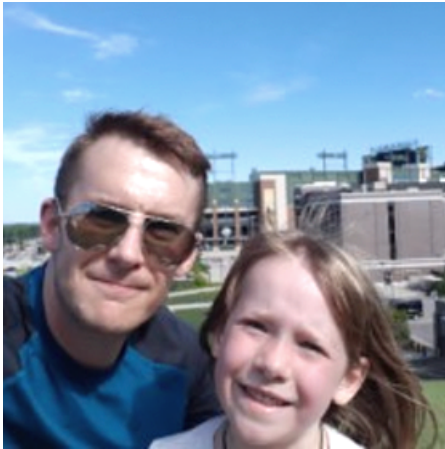
Additional Leader Reports

**QUESTION**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**ADJOURN**





# COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mike Tarras

By any measure I can think of, Redeemer is in a better place today in 2023 than it was at this same time a year ago. We are blessed to share a history, a mission, and a faith which have brought us to this point, along with a lot of generosity. So, before I start recapping 2022 and laying down a vision for 2023 I have to say thank you.

Thank you to all the call committee members; both of them. We had every intention of calling the pastor in our first process and the rejection was tough on everyone involved. Thank you for carrying out the important job of moving on, continuing our search in a season of waning energy, and ultimately bringing us home.

Thank you to Pastor Peter Samuelson, Dawn Johnson, RCFL, and the staff of the Dispute Resolution Center for the restorative conversations. Our council and staff learned a lot of great information and the process uncovered exactly how we can and are currently working together.

Thank you to the Northside Parish and our inspiring collaborations throughout the year. Pastor Eric and Pastor Deanna and the amazing leadership at both Salem and Christ the River of Life have created worship experiences and welcoming fellowship experiences that I continue to be nourished by.

Thank you to Fairview and the Health Commons interns, Bertha & Angela, who work in our community to educate Harrison residents about health care resources and interact with our neighborhood in a very hands-on way.

Thank you to Center for Leadership and Neighborhood Engagement (CLNE), staff, interns and volunteers. Our summer cookout series wouldn't have been able to happen without your leadership. I personally really enjoyed this time together with my family and friends at Redeemer. I really hope we can continue this work next summer. It brings so much life into our church and into the neighborhood. It's a beautiful way to connect.

Redeemer is blessed with so much talent. Thank you to our brave and independent council members. Sharon, thank you for pointing out so many flaws in our methods and helping us work to correct them. Randy, you have taken leadership of the Worship, Music and Arts ministry in ways that I hadn't imagined. The results have provided a new and revitalized worship experience that very much builds on our past and points a way to the future. Christine has been a selfless giver of her time and energies in our fellowship ministry, constantly coming up with new ways to create a welcoming presence for our gathering. Dave has been vigilant and attentive to all of our property needs, coordinating with an ever changing field of volunteers, contractors, and staff to make sure our home meets and exceeds the expectations of our community. Sally is a faithful vanguard for Redeemer in all of our outreach efforts and has created and nurtured several new and vitally important relationships, along with carefully helping us steward many long term partnerships. Thank you to all of these ministers.

# COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S LETTER, CONT.

A special thanks to Lonna, our minister of Youth, and our bookkeeper. Who has stayed in our service long after she had asked to be replaced. We tried to find a replacement and it didn't work out, so she stayed and is still helping us get our new bookkeeping service up and running. I can't express enough gratitude for the work you have done and continue to do.

The Executive Committee - Kristen, Kelly, Gloria and Carolyn -- have endured my endless meetings and frivolous tangents and disorganized scheduling and thoughtless priorities for a year. They have earned a thank you, and much much more.

Our worship team: Alyssa, Traiveon, Will, Emmander, Curtis, Kent, Steven! The music at Redeemer is as much a part of our identity as the building or the worship space itself. I think the last few years have shown us this. Whether we gather virtually, outdoors, in a basement, or in our sanctuary - the constant - the inspiration - the holy spirit - you bring it!  
Thank you.

Lastly I want to thank Mike, Jaxdyn and Faora. We get to work with Pastor Jen and experience her pastoral leadership. And I know that it is often a job that takes away from their time. We are so blessed to have Pastor Jen. Personally, I can say that my family saw the change in me after September rolled around. As far as Redeemer is concerned, I see the vision for the future in the work that Pastor Jen is doing today. It is with eyes on the horizon and a hand on the plow.

I pray each day that God reveals His will to me, and that I have the energy to pursue that will. I pray that I am remade through the forge of life's daily trials into a version of myself that is more useful to God, my family and my community.

What I would pray for Redeemer today, is that we have the time and the vision to start really striving to discern God's will for this church and our community. As you can see from my list of thank you's - we have enough power. We have been through the trials and we are in the process of being remade into a dynamic and vital agent in God's new kingdom. Now, finally, I hope we have some time to take a breath, celebrate where we have arrived, and start looking to the future. We have been tossed about by the challenges of the past few years, and I would love to see us realign our stance to be more visibly in the ever flowing current of God's justice, wisdom, and love.

Thank you!





# PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Jen Collins

*The Lord is my light and salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
(Psalm 27: 1)*



Grace and peace to you, Redeemer community, as we reflect this past year (4 months for me), in such a short time we have encountered A LOT! I want to acknowledge that in our journey through 2022 there was a tremendous amount of resiliency within this community. As we crossed the threshold of a new year, I offer up words from a young prophetic leader:

*"For there is always light.  
If only we're brave enough to see it.  
If only we're brave enough to be it." -Amanda Gorman*

I have been so deeply honored to be called to serve as your Pastor. I am so inspired by the ways we've been brave enough to see the Light and to BE Light in the world. Redeemer is in a season of discovery and welcoming back things that once were put on hold or halted, Redeemer is also reimagining ways to practice our faith and live it out.

- We are navigating the changes to our rituals as people of faith. We are a hybrid community, still striving to grow, learn and deepen our relationship with God from our homes and in-person as best we can. Knowing we must discover how we connect with those who still have not been able to join back due to illness, mobility, access to internet or technology.
- There are groups that have continued from their inception dates; there are groups who have been able to welcome each other back. I've appreciated the creative, patient, and sacred spaces we are developing. It has been a joy to know that in small ways we are reconnecting and hopefully more will blossom...
- We still carry heartaches and grief as well as glistening moments of healing and transformation. We have been able to finally, although not fully as once was, to honor and remember Redeemer friends during special worship services (Soul Food Sunday, All Saints, Children's Christmas Program, Christmas, MLK Weekend) Celebrate these milestones!!
- Overflowing with grace that I and others were able to meet, in-person for visitations and receive communion. We made appointments to sit with one another, those in need, lonely, hurting, yearning for companionship. We have been so glad to tend and care to one another, we are on our way together. Keep loving each other! Keep reaching out to people!
- Confirmation and Sunday School, our faith forming opportunities for our young people to learn and discover who God is and what God is doing in their lives is exploring varied approaches to help walk with families, meeting them where they are at. It is a blessing to have Lonna Fields, Leslie & Josh Olson rekindling ways to come together.

# PASTOR'S REPORT, CONT.

Discerning what are our next most faithful steps, is an important question for us to be asking in this time. Redeemer folks, you have also been answering God's call to live out the love and justice of Jesus Christ. I am grateful for the time and energy offered up, as Leadership and Staff continually participate in learning ways to help guide one another and this community, in hopes of opening opportunities for Redeemer to be a healthier, more grounded, sustained, and empowered community ready to confront any challenges that may lie ahead. It is an intrinsic part of who we were created to be, to keep striving "to be a beacon of hope" as we seek to be inclusive, welcoming and celebrate people exactly as they are. I believe Redeemer has been changed for the better by restarting this path.

What will 2023 hold?

"For there is always light.  
If only we're brave enough to see it.  
If only we're brave enough to be it."

We've been changed from what was experienced in 2022. Change is a constant, the way we are church is different, and we've experienced new ways to be Christian community that are life-giving. Our staff and leaders are focusing on cultivating meaningful and faithful steps, following Jesus, Light of the World and seeing where we go next! WE hope you will continue to join us, show up and support this community. Let us be brave enough to see what lies ahead in 2023!



-Pastor Jen Collin (she/her)

---

## 2022 Pastoral Records:

*Baptisms: 1*

Miriam Rae Gilbert Hoyles

*Funerals: 1*

Moses Dolo

*Redeemer Visitations & Pastoral Care*

145 hours (+/- September through December)

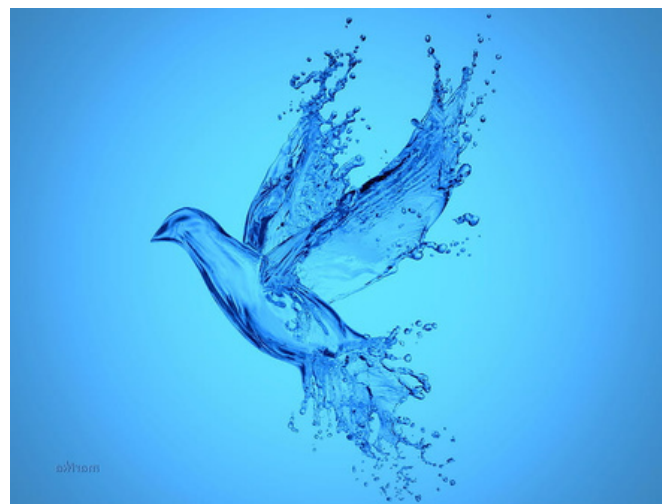
*Continued learning: 16 Hours*

Bishop's Theological Conference (2 days)

Community Asset workshop (1 hour)

Children, Youth & Family workshops

(joint synod events, 3 hours)







# WORSHIP, ARTS & MUSIC REPORT

Randy Romsdahl

Our congregation navigated through many transitions during 2022, embracing renewal and growth as we move from life during the pandemic to a new future.

The most consequential change was our congregation's call to Pastor Jen Collins to serve as our new pastor. We are grateful for the leadership, wisdom, courage and giftedness she brings to lead Redeemer, including her preaching and worship leadership.

Other changes, large and small:

- Our church council approved, and we have implemented the practice of sharing in Holy Communion at every Sunday worship service.
- We began to share real bread instead of wafers during communion.
- We purchased new communion pouring chalices and plates to better facilitate communion.
- After four listening sessions, and council conversations, the Property ministry and our ministry teamed to renew the front portion of the sanctuary by removing the unused pulpit, stationary lectern and unused kneeling rails. We also leveled the floor space created to enhance utilization of this space and reduce tripping hazards.
- Our Holy Communion table was moved to the sanctuary floor level because the space now existed to do so, allowing those with mobility challenges to more readily assist with serving Holy Communion, bringing the table and meal to the same level as the congregation, and visually demonstrating the presence of Christ among us.
- The disparate and dim light bulbs in the sanctuary were replaced with consistent, brighter LED bulbs, thereby significantly improving sanctuary lighting.
- A new refrigerator was purchased and installed in the sacristy, replacing a dysfunctional unit.
- Additional communion linens were sewn and contributed.
- A new lectern light was installed to enhance the lector's ability to read scripture for worship.
- Communion servers were actively recruited to reflect the many gifts and strengths of our congregation.
- Worship art has been utilized, including new art produced at Redeemer's family camp.

# PROPERTY REPORT

Dave Scharnhorst



## 2022: What a year!

The Property group was quite busy this year. I suspect next will be just a bit slower, but with a building this old, you never know for sure! So, here is a list of highlights from 2022, and a list of hopes for the 2023 calendar year.

### 2022 Highlights:

- We Retrofitted the entire building for LED lighting, which should provide a savings of \$3000 per year, starting in 2024.
- We remodeled the Sanctuary area! We removed the Pulpit, Lectern and Communion Rail, and added Seasonal display placards
- We replaced the church phone system with IP phones, saving us \$50 dollars per month.
- Upgraded the church internet service. which is an added expense, but worth it ~ Just ask our admin team!

### 2023 Plans:

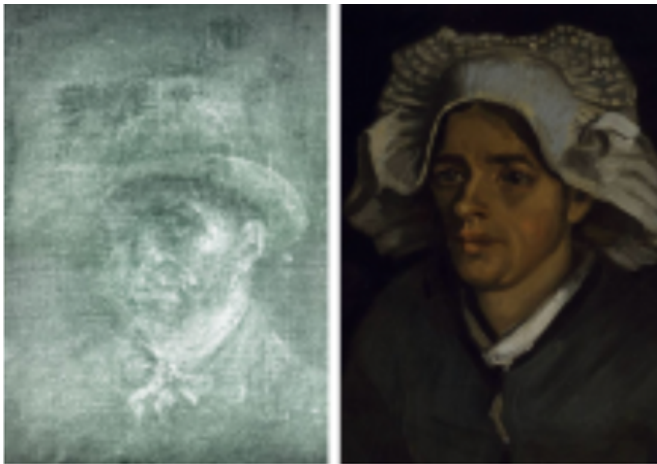
- Finish Sanctuary remodel by adding carpet
- Provide upgrades to some of the features at the Glenwood house across the street
- Update the boiler system so it functions better and more efficiently
- Upgrade Sanctuary streaming services so those who cannot join us in person but watch services live have the best experience possible
- Upgrade Sanctuary lighting
- Upgrade Sanctuary sound system with a new iPad for streaming





# EVANGELISM & OUTREACH REPORT

Sally Ankerfelt



Did you hear that a new Van Gogh painting was discovered under another painting? The hidden work of Van Gogh was a self-portrait. If one were to look at the finished painting, Van Gogh's portrait would not be visible. Yet, it is there, behind the scenes. This discovery has caused incredible excitement in the art world. Van Gogh has been behind the painting all along and no one knew!

When I heard this news, my mind traveled to our ministry as a congregation and the important work of evangelism and outreach. Evangelism, at its

core, is telling the good news of the love of Christ in word or deed. Outreach intersects with evangelism when we meet the needs of others because of Christ's love. Sometimes, Christ presence in our actions can be hidden, like the self-portrait of Van Gogh, especially when we have a hard time noticing or speaking about what is behind what we do, the reason for our actions.

Yet, there are times when the news gets out. There are times when the Christ behind the work is revealed. I recall such an intersection this past year. Redeemer and RCFL co-hosted an event for the RCFL tenants where we shared a meal and had conversation with one another. During the meal time, two tenants and I quickly discovered that we knew each other, but we momentarily could not pinpoint how. We all, simultaneously, said, "Oh, the food distribution!" They had not known that I was from Redeemer and that I was volunteering because of my faith. I did not know that they were tenants at the apartments. Our relationship took on new meaning. Since then, I have had a chance to know more about them and they have been able to know more about me. The love of Christ within our exchanges is evident. And it's exciting!

Sometimes, Lutherans of our type can find it challenging to reveal the Christ behind our actions. We can be hesitant to say, "Because of Christ's love, I am doing this." We may even actively try to hide the fact that our actions are because of our faith, because of Christ. Yet, when people get a glimpse of what is behind Redeemer's acts of outreach and service, it can be quite exciting. New relationships can be forged and old relationships strengthened.

Likewise, when Redeemer sees the Christ-foundation of other people's actions, the wonder and joy of it can be equally amazing. For instance, some Redeemer members and I have had the privilege of serving alongside members of Minneapolis Central Church of Christ at their food distribution.

# EVANGELISM & OUTREACH REPORT, CONT.

I have witnessed volunteers praying with people in their cars, offering “so great to see you again” with the person’s name attached, or gentle loving humor and patience.

One day, a MCCC church member and volunteer said that someone had just asked him, “Why do you do this week in and week out? Why do you stand in the rain or cold, or the heat of a humid day?” The volunteer said, “Because of our love of Christ and because of His love for you.” The man was stunned. He had suddenly seen the Christ behind the actions. He has since become an active part of their congregation.

In what new ways can we who are Redeemer speak of Christ's love behind our actions? I look forward to supporting the on-coming evangelism and outreach minister(s) as they bring their own spirit-led energy and ideas to the effort. I will work hard-and I invite you to join me-in standing with them as they learn the ropes while creating new ways of sharing the love of Christ and engaging in actions that celebrate Christ's love for others. The more people encounter our collective efforts, the more we can reveal the reason for our work and service. The more we can say, “because of Christ, we are here for you,” the more people will encounter His powerful love.

I have thoroughly enjoyed sitting on the council these past two years as your evangelism and outreach minister. Being rather new to the congregation, the position allowed me to meet many of you faithful Redeemer servants of Christ. It also has allowed me to meet many others in the Harrison community. Before I close, here is a list of activities that Redeemer’s evangelism and outreach accomplished in 2022:

- Assisted with the six summer Redeemer cook-outs
  - Supported conversations between the former RCFL tenants and Redeemer leadership
  - Co-planned the RCFL tenant meet-and-greet and offered welcome bags to the tenants with an invitation to engage with Redeemer and an offer of future support
  - Communicated with five of Redeemer’s ministry partners, offering thanks for their partnership and inviting them into joint ministry opportunities such as the diaper distribution and Christmas store
  - Joined in the planning, communication, set up, and implementation of the Christmas Store
  - Began discussions, along with Redeemer’s property minister, of a joint safety plan with MCCC
  - Coordinated the diaper donations for the food distribution (thank you to ministry partners and to Redeemer members for their continued donations) • Participated almost weekly in the food distribution.
- Did you know that in 2022, the MCCC Saturday food distribution served 15,828 children, 14,349 adults, and 978 seniors? All-in-all, 6822 families were served in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God!**

With gratitude to all of you and to Christ who sustains us,  
Sally Ankerfelt







# YOUTH REPORT

Lonna Field

Dear Redeemer,

Praise God for this beautiful, multi-generational community where children and youth are valued and help us all learn and grow together in Christ. And through our ever-changing ministry this year, and special shout outs to volunteers such

as Anna Kottkamp, Leslie & Josh Olson, Jovita Palacio, Heather Hussong, Jason Hoard, Marcell & Tasheante Locust, William Jones, Kent Goodroad, Alyssa Schwitzer, Traiveon Dunlap, Mike Simmons, Sharon Gabriel, Kelly Schumacher Fuller, Sally Ankerfelt and others I'm sure I'm forgetting :) for their time and energy. Here're a few highlights from 2022:

**Children's Ministry** - This past year we've gathered with children for Sunday School at various times before and after church with stories, games, crafts, snacks, and relationship building. Thanks to parents for providing snacks, supporting the time, and leading Thrivent Action teams for projects such as the Redeemer Kids activity bags used in the sanctuary. Children and youth helped lead Easter and Christmas worship, and it's been a joy to have Pr. Jen's ideas and energy for appreciating and integrating our children even more into worship.

**The Northside Confirmation Collaboration** continued with our Northside Parish partner Congregations: Salem Lutheran Church and Christ the River of Life. We held in-person events throughout the year with middle and high school youth. We focused on faith formation through the lens of the Apostle's Creed - with games, food, and community-building added in. Additionally, the group participated in JUMP Remix events led by CLNE Triumphant Changemakers, and were invited into the Holy Hoops Basketball team. Overall we've faced some challenges gaining momentum with scheduling and look forward to continuing to build community in the new year!

**Family Camp!** Based on feedback from listening sessions with parents, we organized and held our first ever family camp retreat weekend July 29-31 at Luther Park in Danbury, Wisconsin! In total 26 people participated, and the weekend included things like campfire worship, devotion Bible study and crafts, time in nature and on the lake, relationship-building, and dreaming for the future for Redeemer's children, youth, and education ministry. It was so energizing to see all the connections and energy created from this time together. The children painted the stained-glass cross canvas that's placed on the altar in the Sanctuary. There's excitement about children and youth being reflected in images around the building! Special thanks for the prayers and financial support from the mission foundation at Christ the King Lutheran Church in New Brighton and the Minneapolis Area Synod.

**Other Camp Opportunities** - Redeemer children and youth were invited to participate in summer day camps such as Camp Noah, Justice Arts Music (JAM) Camp with ECLC and Christ the River of Life and the MNIPL/RCFL Youth N' Power Summer Day camp Co-led by Traiveon and Analyah. The last day of the camp was an environmental fair in the backyard of the church and the youth led different presentations/stations about environmental topics. We've already started planning for this summer's collaborative JAM Camp the week of June 26-29 with ECLC, CroL, and St. Paul's/San Pablo's.





## YOUTH REPORT, CONT.

**Summer Cookout Engagement Opportunities** - Thanks for all the support for the summer cookouts! It was fun to engage with neighbors of many ages and backgrounds and with mission partners such as CLNE, Mt. Olivet youth group, Christ the King, ECLC, MCCC, Immanuel, and Westwood. Many of the cookouts had special themes or collaborations, so hopefully we can continue to partner on these moving forward!

**Christmas Store** - Similarly, thanks for all the support from Redeemer and our partners to make the first in-person Christmas Store happen since pre-pandemic on December 10! So many people contributed in different ways to help spread the joy of generosity! It was especially wonderful to experience leadership of young adults and youth from our community. Special thanks to our planning team members Anna Kottkamp, Kelly Schumacher Fuller, Sally Ankerfelt, and Pastor Jen.

**Looking ahead to 2023!** - There's so much to look forward to for faith formation and youth ministry leadership for the new year. Let's all keep praying for, listening to, and imaging with the multitude of children and youth in our midst. It'll be especially helpful to revive a team of volunteers to keep visioning and journeying together into the future.

With great hope and love,  
Lonna







# MOYO KWA MOYO KENYA REPORT

Stuart, Beth, & Beatrice Munk

Moyo Kwa Moyo, Swahili for “Heart to Heart” is a project launched by Beatrice Munk, Beth Heinly-Munk and Stuart Munk. They serve as co-directors along with husband and wife, Fame Wambua and Meshak Ole Sabari. The project seeks to promote a nurturing life of hope and stability for orphans of Kenya, Beatrice’s birthplace. Currently the project houses and assists

children, aged 7-16, and one developmentally challenged young woman. Most of the children came to the project after their families asked us to take them in or they were found abandoned and in dire need.

Due to continuing concerns involving covid we were again unable to return to Kenya in 2022. When we do return Fame, Beatrice and Beth will again offer another Days for Girls gathering. Such gatherings have always been well attended as the co-directors share information concerning “menstrual health management as a matter of human rights, and a critical component to achieving gender equity.” The last gathering in 2019 had over 100 women and young girls attend in the rural Kenyan setting. Kits were dispersed that contained soap, a washcloth, three underpants and reusable sanitary pads, pads that were made by the women of Mt Calvary Lutheran Church in Egan. Studies conducted in Kenya and other sub-Saharan countries have identified challenges girls face in managing their menstruation, including lack of access to menstrual products and lack of accurate information about menstruation.

Due to the lack of hygiene products and knowledge, girls miss school due to increased anxiety and lack of concentration on schoolwork. Another grave reality now surrounds the ubiquitous boda bodas (motorcycle taxi) that service such remote, rural settings. Most rural Kenyans are subsistence farmers. Cars and bicycles are rare. Walks of 10-20 miles to the “local” shop are commonplace. The threat of abuse by boda boda drivers upon these vulnerable girls walking to the store for personal products is recognized, identified and of epidemic proportions. The support, information and materials shared by the Moyo Kwa Moyo directors is an effort to empower this younger generation of women, to enable them to move beyond the ideology of hopelessness or mere submission to the inevitable tragedy or tragedies that await them. A supply of reusable sanitary pads holds great value to our young Kenyan sisters. A simple gesture that holds vital, monumental value.

Supporting Moyo Kwa Moyo can be as simple as sharing your aluminum cans with us. Every year we recycle those cans and send the money along to Kenya, benefited by the strong exchange rate. We have supported our Kenyan brothers and sisters for 20 years and have been changed by the impact. Witnessing the growth and leadership of the children has inspired us.

# MOYO KWA MOYO REPORT, CONT.



Children that were neglected and in some cases literally thrown away are blossoming under the care and example of Fame and Meshack. We thank our church family for including Heart to Heart Kenya in its mission and, as always, remind you that our wish to be a beacon of hope reaches far beyond our neighborhood, to another, that prays for us daily. Asante sana! If you'd like to contribute your cans or in any way feel free to contact Stuart: [munkhead1960@gmail.com](mailto:munkhead1960@gmail.com) | 651-249-1753

God's universal peace and blessings,

Meshak, Fame, Beth, Beatrice and Stuart.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

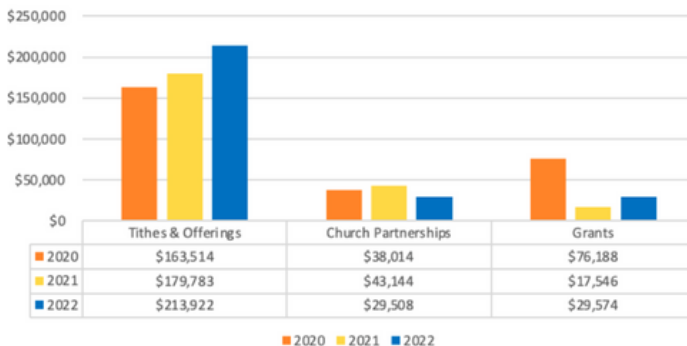
Kelly Schumacher-Fuller



As we wrap up 2022 financials, I am filled with gratitude and awe of the Redeemer community and the ways you continue to show up – for each other, for our community, for Redeemer. During an ongoing pandemic, continued

congregational healing, and a pastoral transition – you continue to bring your questions, deeply-held values, gifts and a spirit of generosity to this community. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation & community members, **Tithes & Offerings were up in 2022 at nearly \$214,000. Our church partners also stepped up in 2022**, many giving earlier in the year than they planned to accompany us when our cashflow got tight. Thank you for sharing your treasures with Redeemer; you've shown that you are generous and committed to Redeemer's ministry.

Revenue Source Comparison  
2020-2022

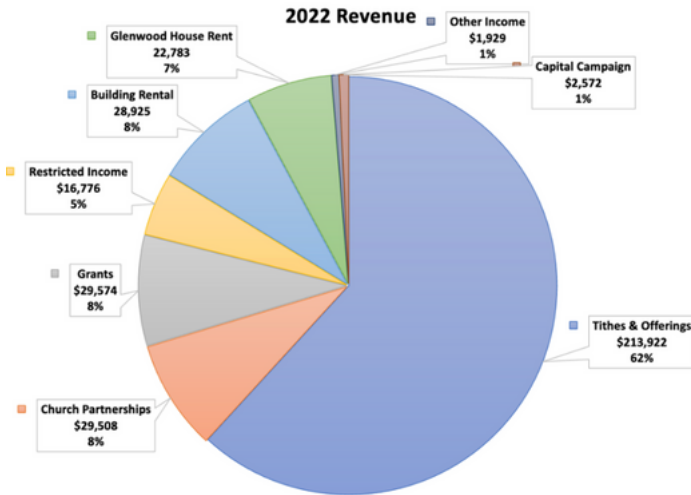


As you can see from the Revenue Source Comparison chart to the left, **congregational generosity remains the backbone of Redeemer.** Also illustrated is the reality that grants received in 2022 were still significantly lower than 2020, and partnership investment was also lower than it has been the previous two years. Our partner congregations have also been experiencing the ongoing pandemic and many have also been going through pastoral transitions, which may have impacted these numbers. The numbers offer an invitation to



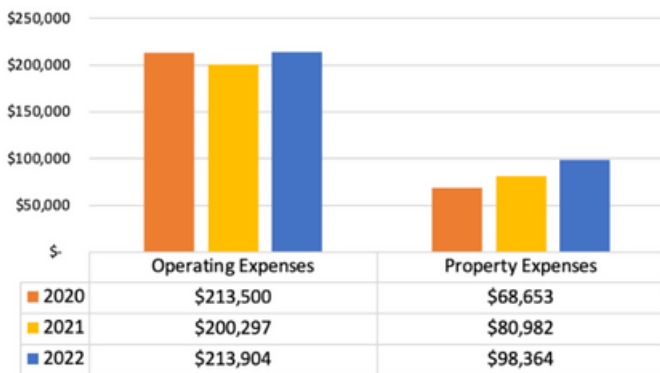
# TREASURER'S REPORT, CONT.

consider reinvigorating our partnerships in 2023. A further breakdown of our revenue numbers can be found in the pie chart below (2022 Revenue), which highlights the additional revenue Redeemer received this year from our property partners.



We were able to offset some of this revenue with lower spending than budgeted in many areas. However, as you can see in the *Expenditure Comparison Chart* at center left, our property expenses continue to go up due to rising utility costs and an unfortunate (now eradicated) racoon infestation in the Glenwood House attic. Likewise, despite operating without a full-time pastor or administrative/ office coordinator for most of the summer, our operating expenses were also above 2020 and 2021. A more complete breakdown of expenditures can be found in the pie chart below (2022 Expenses).

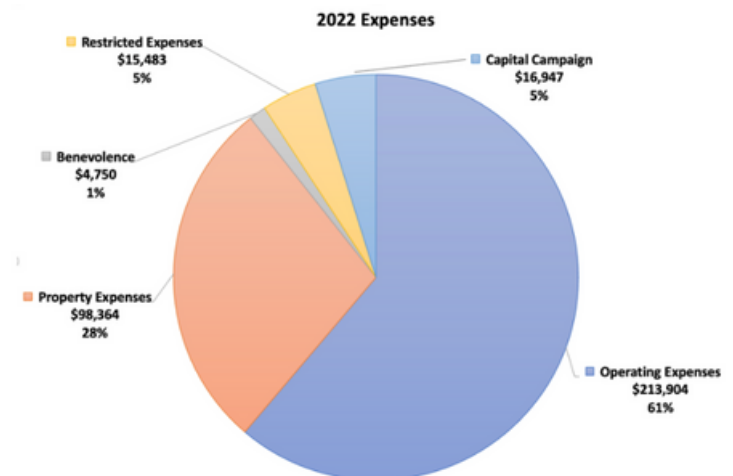
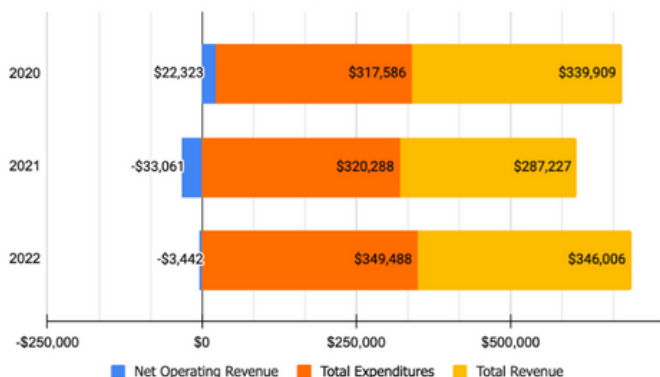
Expenditure Comparison 2020-2022



All in all, we did end 2022 with negative net revenue of about \$3400 for the year, as you can see in the *Revenue & Expenses* graph at bottom left. We believe there is an abundance of resources in our community and beyond – more than enough for everyone to thrive. 2023 is an exciting year of rebuilding, renewing, and strategizing, and I have great hope that this generous community will continue to show up!

If you have any questions about our 2022 financials or this report, please reach out to me at [kelly.schumacher@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.schumacher@gmail.com) or 630-656-8762. Please also reach out to me if you have an interest or skill set around finances, grants, congregational partnerships, or would like to join our Finance Committee which meets quarterly.

Revenue & Expenses: 2020-2022



# 2022 AUDIT SUMMARY

Written by Mike Tarras

**Audit Completed by: Mike Tarras (Church Council President), Kelly Schumacher Fuller (Church Council Treasurer), Lonna Field (Redeemer Staff Bookkeeper & Church Council Member)**

Below are the findings from our 2022 annual audit performed by three members of the finance committee. This audit took place on January 8, 2023 and was focused on our records from the previous fiscal year of 2021. We took a two month sample of the 2021 financial records, July and December, and the following information is the findings from this audit.

Redeemer Lutheran Church has an excellent practice of bookkeeping and accounting which works well to store records for all receipts and payments. These systems provide nearly complete visibility into our financial situation without requiring extensive context.

The Glenwood House utilities and online payment could be tracked more effectively. It is confusing to have to reconcile multiple payments to the same vendor out of the same account, which are in different amounts for different properties.

The bookkeeper and the financial secretary and the treasurer likely should not be the one's doing the audit of their own work, although the financial secretary participating in this audit was not treasurer in 2021.

We were missing one receipt for a \$81.29 payment to the USPS. There was an email trail indicating that it was postage for the budget meeting, but no receipt. Likewise, there was a Google payment for \$19.99 on 12/16/21 for which there was email record from the pastor indicating payment was made but there was no receipt. This indicates that we need to make sure we keep electronic records of every payment we send out, especially when utilizing the Redeemer debit card.

After reviewing all of the counting records from both July and December we found one missing check number from a donation that was received and deposited. Otherwise, there were no errors.

We will soon be transitioning to a third-party bookkeeping service (Jitasa), and we would like to make sure we keep tracking the receipts and electronic payment records with the same level of accuracy, or improved accuracy, during and after our transition. Keeping documentation for electronic payments does seem to be our biggest weakness, as both of the missing payment records we found in this audit were documented improperly via emails which only referenced the transaction, and didn't serve as a receipt.



## Approved 2023 Budget Redeemer Lutheran Church

Revenue	
41110 Member Contributions	\$182,750
41120 Friends of Redeemer	\$38,000
41130 Loose Offering	\$3,000
41170 Memorials	\$500
<b>Total 41100 Tithes &amp; Offerings</b>	<b>\$224,250</b>
<b>Total 41200 Church Partnerships</b>	<b>\$43,250</b>
41310 ELCA Outreach Support	\$5,000
41315 Other ELCA grants	\$5,000
41340 Synod Grants	\$5,000
41350 New Grants	\$18,000
<b>Total 41300 Grants</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>
41514 Youth Fund	\$5,000
41516 Kenya Fund	\$7,200
41518 Other Restricted Gifts	\$2,000
<b>Total 41500 Restricted Income</b>	<b>\$14,200</b>
41710 Building Rental	\$40,000
41711 Glenwood House Rent	\$23,730
41720 Miscellaneous	\$500
<b>Total 41700 Other Income</b>	<b>\$64,230</b>
41810 Capital Contributions	\$5,000
<b>Total 41800 Capital Campaign</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Total 41900 Redeemer Ministry</b>	<b>\$300</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$384,230</b>

<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,499</b>
--------------------	----------------

Expenditures	
<b>Total 51110 Payroll &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$194,250</b>
51121 Travel & Mileage	\$600
51122 Meetings/Meals	\$1,200
<b>Total 51120 Travel &amp; Entertainment</b>	<b>\$1,800</b>
51132 Payroll Processing	\$660
51139 Other Purchased Services	\$28,680
<b>Total 51130 Purchased Services</b>	<b>\$29,340</b>
51141 Seminars & Conferences	\$3,000
51142 Books & Materials	\$1,000
<b>Total 51140 Training &amp; Education</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
51151 Community Events	\$500
51154 Office Supplies	\$400
51159 Other Supplies	\$100
<b>Total 51150 Supplies &amp; Materials</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
51161 Copier	\$2,400
51163 Postage	\$730
51164 Telephone	\$1,500
51165 Internet	\$1,500
51166 Bank Fees	\$2,700
51168 Technology	\$600
51169 Miscellaneous Office	\$100
<b>Total 51160 Office Expenses</b>	<b>\$9,530</b>
<b>51167 Depreciation Expense</b>	<b>\$33,781</b>

51171 Worship, Music & Arts	\$4,000
51172 Fellowship	\$750
51173 Education	\$250
51174 Stewardship	\$250
51175 Youth	\$250
51176 Service and Advocacy	\$250
51177 Evangelism/Outreach	\$250
51178 Racial Justice Committee	\$250
<b>Total 51170 Ministry Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,250</b>
51211 Gas	\$14,800
51212 Electricity	\$8,400
51213 Water	\$5,500
51214 Rubbish	\$2,880
<b>Total 51210 Utilities</b>	<b>\$31,580</b>
51221 Property & Liability Insurance	\$12,800
51222 Repairs & Maintenance	\$10,500
51223 Pest Control	\$1,500
51224 Maintenance Supplies	\$1,000
51225 Property Tax & Assessments	\$7,000
51229 Miscellaneous Property	\$1,000
<b>Total 51220 Other Property Expenses</b>	<b>\$33,800</b>
51310 Minneapolis Area Synod	\$5,000
<b>Total 51300 Benevolence</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
51408 Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$1,200
51414 Youth	\$5,000
51417 Kenya Fund Disbursements	\$7,200
51419 Other Restricted Expenses	\$2,000
<b>Total 51400 Restricted Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,400</b>
51700 Cap Campaign interest expense	\$17,000
<b>Total 51600 Capital Campaign</b>	<b>\$17,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$382,731</b>





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](http://ELCA.org/SOFIA).



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America