

2022



Good
Shepherd
Lutheran
Church



Annual Report



ELCA



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Pastor's Report

by Pastor Mark

A year of lows and of highs, of fears and of hopes, of struggles and of celebrations – this has been the year 2022 for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Early in the year, we were a bit concerned about our financial position – perhaps we had underestimated the effect of two years of Paycheck Protection Program loans that had helped us weather the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Your leaders assembled some faithful members and laid out the facts of our income vs. expenses and, following the lead of the council, asked them to consider a generous one-time gift to start off a generosity appeal to the congregation. These faithful folks were very generous in their support and served God's Work in this place well. The response of the rest of congregation was heart-warming to say the least. Thanks go to *Dan Skodacek* and the council in spearheading the initiative and to all who so generously responded. And it appears the generosity of our congregation continues, as pledges for 2023 are up significantly.

Our worship life has been the one constant over the turmoil of the past couple of years. It could not have been accomplished with the breadth and depth we've come to expect without the efforts above and beyond our expectations by **Music Director: Bonnie MacHenry**, the Bell Choir and two vocal choirs, the assisting ministers, lectors and ushers as well as the incrediblly dedicated **AV team (Mike Tervo, Gary Antolik, Christina Sporlede, Rownan Coolbaugh and Bryan Steeger)**.

A surprise gift, designated for replacing the organ, was given by *Kathy Moore* in memory of her son *Steve* who died in 2021. Planning had already begun to look at what would be the wise course to replace our organ (it's lifespan of 30+ years exceeded, it was no longer serviceable) and the piano (also unable to be repaired). We were able to purchase a digital keyboard that not only sounds fantastic and has a wide range of instruments, but also is able to connect to our AV systems for broadcasting worship. Thank you, *Kathy*.

Coming out of the “Covid doldrums,” we re-launched Sunday School late in the spring and had a few children as regular attendees – thank you, *Bonnie MacHenry*, for taking this on. *Angela Skodacek and Tracey Edwards* wanted to see a concerted Children and Youth ministry restart and began planning for a return to summer Vacation Bible School. With the help of *Coralee Tervo and Sara Coolbaugh*, we had a very fruitful week-long VBS, with 20 children participating, most were not from the congregation! Tracey and Angela continued planning for Sunday School in the fall



and the turnout has increased to up to fifteen children each week. They are always on the lookout for others who would like to help teach our young people in the faith – lessons are prepared and supplies laid out in advance, so it is rather easy to help out once in a while.

As the year drew towards the end, signs of invigoration and rebirth appeared by the grace of God. Our Trunk or Treat night in the parking lot drew so many families from the area that the cars and trucks decorated for Halloween ran out of candy not once but TWICE!

A significant milestone this year was the “retirement” of **Business Manager and Congregation Treasurer** *Bertha McCarty*, who served with great dedication for many years in these essential roles. While *Bertha* will continue for the near-term as **Director of the Good Shepherd Playschool**, she has earned a well-deserved break and our great debt of gratitude.

Speaking of great debt of gratitude, such is deservedly owed to our capable and collegial staff here at GSLC. It is a blessing to have such good people and creative minds working here: *Bonnie MacHenry: Director of Music and Worship, Kim Hughes: Office Manager and Treasurer, Deidre Howard: Communications Manager and Paddy Skodacek: Care and Altar Coordinator*. Throughout these unusual months, they have continued to get things done, find new ways around problems and at the same time keep me sane. We are all the better for their efforts on our behalf.

I’d like to also raise up those congregation leaders who served this congregation with devotion and commitment this past year, especially during times of struggle and concern. Thank you to *Greta Steger, Sean MacHenry, Mike Tervo, Shelly Vera Cruz, Gregory Blakely, Rownan Coolbaugh and especially Dan Skodacek*, who lead the council and the congregation with vision, hope, and joy. Well done, good and faithful servants.

As we return to a more-engaging method of community, I hope our fellowship, care for others, and joy in the abundance of life God provides will sustain us in growing in faith, hope and love.

God is good!



Outgoing Congregational Council President's Message

by Dan Skokadeck

Good Shepherd began 2022 in the dormancy of the pandemic. In the Spring, with pandemic protocols in place, we cautiously and gradually resumed in-person activities. By fall, COVID cases in the community had plummeted to low levels and we sought to re-ignite Good Shepherd's ministry and look toward future goals. This year, the council made substantial progress in meeting the goals it set at the beginning of the year.

- **Goal: Promote knowledge sharing and openness**

The most significant artifact was the redesign and enhancement of the church's website, which continues into 2023.

- **Goal: Reinvigorate ministry**

The Fruitful Mini-Tree served as a tracking tool and motivator to jumpstart ministry activity both within the church and toward our neighbors in the community

- **Goal: Reduce operating expenses**

The most significant achievement toward this objective was the refinancing of our mortgage which reduced our annual budgeted expenses by \$24k

- **Goal: Increase giving**

Pledged giving from our members for 2023 increased \$28k over the amount we pledged for 2022, an increase of 12%. Also of note is that Good Shepherd is now a part of the Amazon Smiles program. If anyone chooses to designate Good Shepherd as the beneficiary then a percentage of their Amazon purchases will be donated to our church.

The council recognized the challenges faced by our congregation (and congregations around the world) brought about by the pandemic. Challenges relating to finances and to executing Good Shepherd's ministry and mission. Together we engaged in problem solving, and we discussed the concerns that arose in our conversations with all our members. We strove to devise ways to overcome the obstacles before our church.



In February, the council held a discussion of the book ***The Unstuck Church*** by ***Tony Morgan***. The council discussed strategies used by churches to achieve sustained health. In April, the council discussed the book ***From Surviving to Thriving: A Practical Guide to Revitalize Your Church*** by ***Dr. John H. Krahn***, a book also read by the 2017 council. The council followed its guidance to identify problems and employ strategies to invigorate worship life. In May, the council discussed the book ***Not Your Parents' Offering Plate: A New vision for Financial Stewardship*** by ***J. Clif Christopher*** which dealt with ways God's people can be better stewards of their resources.

The council closed 2022 with less uncertainty and more optimism that Good Shepherd will grow and thrive than it held at the outset. It feels as though there is the potential for Good Shepherd to come roaring back, to reach new heights of ministry in our community, and reach ever more lofty goals. I invite all to engage with Good Shepherd's ministry and mission, share your thoughts and ideas for our future with each other, and with our council and ministry leaders. Together we will build' God's kingdom on earth one day at a time.



Minis-Tree



In July, **The Fruitful Minis-Tree project** was launched. Its leaves were a collection of ministry projects that our congregation members desire to see Good Shepherd accomplish and events they would like to see us participate in. The Minis-Tree was a tangible reminder of our goals and a space where we could see the status of our objectives as they moved from To-Do, to In-Progress, and ultimately Completed. In a year in which we all were working together at a “return to normal”, these activities helped kickstart our ministry inside and outside of the church. Good Shepherd is thankful for your participation.

Between July and December, our members collaborated to complete thirteen of our objectives. Below are pictures of our events.



Children's hospital Gift Bags

Led By *Therese Brown*, our children prepared fourteen gift bags containing games, toys, books, and activities which were given to pediatric patients at Sentara hospital in Woodbridge.



Family Movie Night

Led by *Lindsay Davis*, our family movie night feature presentation, *Lightyear*, included dinner, popcorn, and a cardboard spaceship for kids to explore infinity and beyond in their imaginations!



Little Library

Led by *Nicole Nelson*, a little library was constructed using GSLC member donated new and upcycled materials. The library was built by *Mike Nelson*, installed by *Dan Scodacek*, and filled with books donated by our congregation members. Good Shepherd joins over 150,000 little libraries in over 100 countries in providing greater, more equitable book access to books for our community.



IWalk for ACTS

Led by *Amanda Proch*, our families walked for ACTS at the Stonebridge Town Center event in October. In addition to a day of fun and exercise, the event raised \$123,530 from all participants to support ACTS programs to provide services to those in need included emergency shelter and permanent housing, hunger preventions center, thrift store, and crisis helpline.



Trunk or Treat

Hundreds of people from our community came out to enjoy Trunk or Treat at Good Shepherd. Our neighbors were treated to our spooky decorated trunks and music, food and drink, games, a moon bounce, and of course lots and lots of candy





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Boardwalk event

Led by *Dan Skodadeck* in December, we offered free cocoa, cider, and sweets to our neighbors as they came to visit the Holiday Walk of Lights events at the Neabsco Regional Park boardwalk





Communications

by Deidre Howard

Social Media Outreach 2022



Facebook

1,199 Pages Reached

131 Page likes

Most Popular Posts

Sunday School	80
Lenten	35
Preschool	127
Coffee	22

Blessing Backpack	27
Trunk or Treat	702
Christmas Eve	82
Family Game Night	71



Google My Business

575 interactions

45% Direct Search

31 calls

196 website visits



Website

2,400 page views



Worship

You Tube - 37 average online viewing

In Person - 76 average per month



Constant Contact

169 Contacts

54% open rate

1% growth



Education

by Tracey Edwards

The goal of the **Education Ministry** team is to provide learning opportunities for all ages, both for members of our congregation and for others who want to learn more about the love of God. Our motto is “All God’s children learn and grow”. We have certainly lived up to that motto this past year! We are growing in students, in volunteers and in opportunities



As we ended **Children’s Sunday School** last year, we were teaching a group lesson each week, with 4-7 students, spread from pre-Kindergarten to 4th grade. This fall we have three separate classes across that age group, with an average of 12 students a week. There are eight students in our bi-monthly Confirmation class, who will be confirmed on Pentecost of 2024. The Adult Sunday School class averages ten participants who do weekly Bible studies, review social statements of the ELCA, and discuss how faith intersects with our daily lives.

Our list of volunteer teachers has grown, too. From two teachers in the elementary class last spring, we have grown to five teachers in three classes who take turns presenting lessons each week. Lesson plans are prepared in advance, and classroom supplies are available on a cart in the Sunday School hallway. Each lesson also comes with an Activity Bag of supplies for games and special projects. We are always looking for more teachers, and would love to have you join us in the classroom.



Last summer, we held our first **Vacation Bible School** in over five years! We spent a week learning how to love and serve God by protecting the beautiful world we've been given. We learned, shared, played and grew with twenty elementary school students from our congregation and the surrounding community. Last November we held an intergenerational Advent Event. Eighteen families worked together on projects to prepare their homes for the coming of the Christ child. Students are also participating in the worship services. Confirmation students are serving as acolytes, lectors and ushers. The elementary students provided music during the Advent services. We plan to continue these activities in the coming year, as well as look for new opportunities to learn about and share the love of God.

Our team (*Sara Coolbaugh, Angela Skodacek, Cora Lee Tervo and I*) is excited by the growth we have shown this year. We are grateful for those who volunteer their time to teach and connect with our younger members. We're also grateful for the encouragement and financial support from the congregation. We ask that you keep us in your prayers as we continue to learn about and grow in God's love.



Financials

by *Stuart Doner*

Official financial transactions conducted during 2022 are listed in the Treasurer's Annual Report. This report contains unofficial data for informational purposes only.

1. During 2022 there were 72 envelope assignments.

a) Envelope assignments with contributions of record	
b) No recorded contributions	56
c) Pledges	16
d) Non-pledges	42
	30

2. During 2022 there was 1 pledge discontinued as a result of relocations or for personal reasons. Of the 41 pledges still in effect:

a) Met or exceeded	38
b) In arrears	3

3. Breakdown of individuals/families exceeding 2022 pledges:

a) Current – 18 exceeded pledge for a total of:	\$38,630
b) Synod – 1 exceeded pledge for a total of:	\$60

4. Breakdown of arrears:

a) Current: 3 were in arrears for a total of:	\$4,310
b) Synod: 0 were in arrears for a total of:	\$0

5. Recorded donations toward special benevolence and other funds in 2022.

Totals do not include apportionments from Lenten, Thanksgiving Eve and Advent offerings.

a) ACTS	\$ 1,941
b) GS Housing Foundation	\$ 1,158
c) ELCA Ministries	\$ 635
d) Samaritan Fund	\$ 60
e) Playschool	\$ 1,680
f) CIP	\$ 6,928
g) Parking Lindsay	\$18,957
h) Building Use	\$ 3,735
i) Memorial	\$15,550



IT

by *Mike Tervo*

The **IT Ministry** supports Information Technology, Audio/Video, live-stream recording/publishing, and Website Design and Maintenance. Our efforts typically include: acquiring, installing and maintaining Information Technology equipment and software in supporting Audio/visual equipment, computer equipment, the church website and internal communications networks.

Other IT-related functions include maintaining the Internet Wi-Fi connectivity throughout the church, providing visual learning equipment (such as mobile TVs or projectors) for the Sunday education hour together with other weekly or monthly meetings, setting up and running the slides, videos, and live-stream activities during worship services every Sunday and maintaining the church website. We are also on hand for troubleshooting matters when IT problems arise.

For the Ministry to be more efficient through distributing the workload, we are organized into four areas of effort:

- **IT Coordinator:** *Mike Tervo*
- **A/V Coordinator:** *Gary Antolik*
- **Website and YouTube Channel Maintenance Coordinators:** *Christina Sporleder and Dan Skodacek*
- **Live-Stream Coordinator:** *Rownan Coolbaugh*





Completed in 2022:

- Revised our web-host provider to better support automatic formatting of our web-pages to support the various user devices of those who will be viewing our web-site and associated live-streaming.
- Installed the Yamaha Clavinova together with new speakers in the Narthex. Also hard-wired the Clavinova sound to the A/V livestreaming computer in the Narthex



Planned for 2023:

- Locate affordable Wi-Fi transmitters and receivers to permit the Clavinova to transmit wirelessly, thereby enabling freedom to relocate the Clavinova at will. (Note this won't happen until the supply chain loosens.)
- Include a member-specific Web-portal having separate login-credentials for each user.
- Continue to streamline our A/V operating procedures to enable recruiting additional operators from within the Congregation.
- Create a kiosk-like capability permitting Congregants and Visitors to obtain relevant information about the church.
- Incorporate multiple cameras into the Sanctuary to permit varying camera angles for the Bell Choir, Choir, and Musician(s) when live-streaming.



Local and Global

by Marit Majeske

The **Local and Global Outreach Ministry Team** supported the Good Shepherd Housing Foundation children's Christmas wish lists by donating full gifts bags for 13 Prince William children in need.

Members of our team led and supported special Minis-Tree projects of outreach as well.



Local and Global is seeking to rekindle more regular outreach with our Prince William community such as Project Hope which supports children in the Prince William County foster system and the world at large in 2023

Christian Fellowship

by Leslie Meija

The Christian Fellowship Committee had three events in 2022: Game Night, Bingo and Coffee Fundraiser

2022 was a slow start to the CFC. We were trying to get the congregation back into the swing of events. We took it slow as the pandemic continued to make people nervous about joining in activities. We had Game Night in May which was a lot of fun. We got a lot of people involved in Bingo during the summer and we

ended with a Coffee Fundraiser in September to try and raise money for the church.



Our goal this year is to try and get more people involved in serving on this committee and bringing more events back into the church. We also hope to have another fundraising activity for the year.



Worship and Ministry

by Lynne Johnson

This year we slowly inched toward the “new normal”. Thanking God for the waning of COVID numbers, we very gradually moved toward fewer people in masks, more people in attendance, bell and vocal choirs participating in worship. We still offered online worship (Thank you, **IT** people!) both at the time of the 11:00 service and recorded to watch anytime. We still mostly wave at each other as we Share the Peace rather than using handshakes and hugs, and we still receive communion by walking up individually rather than kneeling together at the rail.

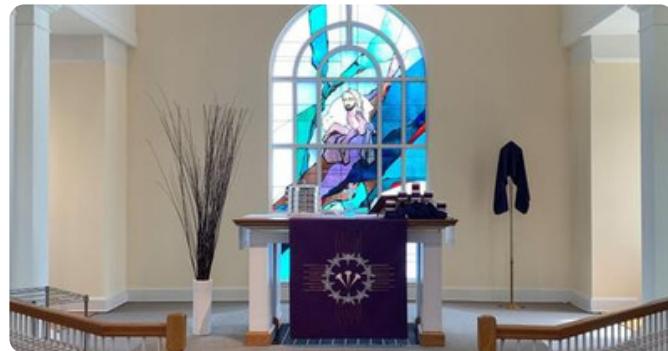
While the numbers of people at services (especially children) increased over 2022, they have never yet recovered to the 2019 pre-COVID numbers. This is a wider trend everywhere and not just in churches.

Having spent so much time at home, it can be difficult even for the most outgoing among us to get together in groups, or just get off the couch and dressed! But those of us who have made the effort have been so richly rewarded by the joys of congregating and receiving the Lord’s Supper together.

Despite the lower numbers, in Fall we returned to offering two Sunday morning services at 8:30 and 11:00. The early service is more traditional, and the late service (with Children’s Sermon) is...livelier.

Instead of the traditional service, **Ash Wednesday** was a time of silent contemplation. The sanctuary was mostly bare. *Pastor Mark* was available in the sanctuary for two 3-hour blocks. Worshippers attended whenever they could, stayed as long as they chose, and came forward to receive ashes on their foreheads whenever it seemed right.

On **Palm Sunday** the weather cooperated for outdoor readings and procession into the sanctuary. Larger palms were brought in and laid on the altar.



On **Good Friday** we used the black window coverings. Pastor Mark read John's version of the Gospel. Both the 1:00 and 7:30 services were livestreamed.



We celebrated the **Resurrection of Our Lord** with a 6:30AM Sunrise Service in the parking lot and a broadcast 10:00AM service inside. Some people attended both!

Our **annual outdoor worship service** was scheduled to be held at Indian Pipe site in Locust Shade Park. Unfortunately, major storm warnings caused us to relocate to our own sanctuary. As you may recall, the sun shone brightly while we worshipped inside. We'll try again in 2023.



In October, after a rainout, Pastor Mark held a **Pet Blessing** in our parking lot. We plan to continue this and invite the whole neighborhood.



During **Advent**, *Lindsey Davis* introduced Sunday School kids to our hand chimes, which are easier to ring than handbells. **Music Director Bonnie MacHenry** taught them a song to sing while some of the older kids rang chimes. This was a fun, un-stressful way to start training new ringers!

Our two **Christmas Eve** Communion services -- 4:00 PM Family Service and the 8:00 PM Candlelight Service with Choir and Bells – were joyous celebrations. A special shoutout to *Lindsey Davis* for her splendid bell solo *Mary, Did You Know?* Since it fell on a Sunday, we had a Christmas Day service at 9:00AM with more





Greening and De-Greening the Church for Advent and Christmas under *Christina Sporleder*'s direction went smoothly as usual. Thanks to all who came to help and enjoy some fellowship over lunch and decorating.

We thank our now Past President of Council *Dan Skodacek* for attending some of our meetings. His perspectives and challenges were fresh and persuasive. We hope he will meet with us in 2023 as a "civilian". We invite you and your ideas, too!



We spent a lot of time and thought on **paraments** – the colorful cloths for the altar and pulpit/lectern that change color with the liturgical season. [Fun Fact: The Bible readings we hear each Sunday are likely the same ones you would hear read in most mainline Protestant or Roman Catholic church. We all follow similar 3-year lectionary cycles. Likewise, the color of paraments will probably be the same except during Lent.] In the end, our member *Nancy Michaels* proved to be our best source for designing, sewing, embellishing, and repairing paraments and banners.

We are so blessed by *Nancy's* offering of both time and talent. We will enjoy her artwork for many years.

We received a very generous memorial gift designated for the purchase of an electronic keyboard. Both our sanctuary piano and organ were past their useful lifespans. After much research and discussion by **W&M** and our wonderful **IT** committee, we finally decided on an instrument that will suit our needs.



Music Director *Bonnie MacHenry* is thrilled to have a piano that will match the pitches of the Bell Choir and an organ that can belt out *A Mighty Fortress* all in one amazing, complex keyboard. She realizes there will be a steep learning curve but looks forward to gradually adding the bells and whistles, so to speak.

Now that both **Choirs, Bell Choir and two worship services** on Sundays have resumed, *Bonnie* has bowed out of the altar preparations she had assumed since Covid curtailed everything. We have had several people step up to do parts of the preparation before the 8:30 service, between services and/or after the 11:00 service so we have wine and wafers for communion each week. If you would like to help in this way, we offer training for free! Just let *Pastor Mark or Lynne Johnson* know.

Thanks to **W&M** members *Pastor Mark, Bonnie MacHenry, Paddy Sutherlin, Nancy Michaels, Marion Mohl and Chair Lynne Johnson*. We welcome you to join us!



Staff and Leadership

STAFF

Pastor
Mark Edwards

Office Manager
Kim Hughes

Assistant Office Manager
Paddy Sutherlin

Communications Manager
Deidre Howard

Music Director
Bonnie MacHenry

Pre School Director
Bertha McCarty

MINISTRIES

Christian Fellowship
Leslie Meija

Education
Tracy Edwards

Information Technology
Mike Tervo

COUNCIL

President
Dan Skodacek

Vice President
Sean MacHenry

Secretary
Rownan Coolbaugh

Treasurer
Business Manager
Bertha McCarty

Financial Secretary
Stuart Doner

Members at Large
Greg Blakely, Greta Steger, Mike Tervo
and Shelly Vera Cruz

Local & Global Outreach

Marit Majeske and Nikki Nelson

Property
John Davis

Worship & Music
Lynne Johnson



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