



CHRIST OUR SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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

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,

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).

Table of Contents

Agenda	2
Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting	4
Minutes of 2022 Congregational Meetings	8
Staff Reports	11
Senior Pastor	12
Associate Pastor	16
Minister of Music	16
Director of Children and Family Ministry	17
Director of Youth and Family Ministry	18
Facility Management	21
Office Administrator	22
Director of Communications	23
Director of Connecting Ministry	25
Director of Worship Technology	27
Church Council and Standing Committee Reports	28
Congregational Council President	29
Book Club	32
CANVAS	32
Camping Ministry	33
Columbarium Ministry	35
Disaster Ministry	36
Senior Connections	36
Social Service Ministry	37
Stewardship	39
Finance Reports	41
Finance Committee	42

Agenda

Agenda – 12:15 pm to 1:30 pm

- | | | |
|---|----------------|---------|
| • Zoom Meeting Opens up; People Sign in & Gather | | 12:00pm |
| • Opening Prayer & A Welcoming Word from Wiese | Pastor Wiese | 12:15pm |
| • Quorum/Voting Req/ Video Mtg Etiquette | Rick Burnett | 12:25am |
| • <u>Vote #1 to approve</u> 6/12/2022 Congregational Mtg Minutes | Rick Burnett | 12:30pm |
| • <u>Vote #2 to approve</u> CY 2022 Annual Report | Rick Burnett | 12:35pm |
| • FY 2022-23 First 6 month Financial Snapshot | Mark Bunker | 12:40pm |
| • Elections | Scott Bosecker | 12:55pm |
| • 3 new Church Council Members - <u>Vote #3 to approve</u> | | |
| • Election of Synod Assembly - <u>Vote #4 to approve</u> | | |
| • Update on Council and Year in Recap | Rick Burnett | 1:05pm |
| • Staffing – Optimizing for Changing Ministry Needs | | |
| • Council Focus for 2023 | Scott Bosecker | |
| • Mission Endowment President Annual Update | Minka Fulton | |
| • Closing Prayer | Pastor Beecher | 1:30pm |

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting

Annual Congregational Meeting

January 23, 2022

Presenters:

Pastor Wiese

Rick Burnett

Mark Bunker

Minka Fulton

Pastor Beecher

Rick Burnett began the meeting at 12:30. Rick presented a brief outline of the meeting. A quorum was acknowledged with 44 members in attendance in the sanctuary and another 28 joining via Zoom.

Pastor Fritz began the meeting with a prayer. Following the prayer, Pastor Fritz acknowledged outgoing Council members Mike Oliver, Eric Jakubowski, and Robbi. He also acknowledged the hard work of staff members.

Rick reviewed the Quorum Requirements and Voting Requirements. In addition, we will follow the Robert's Rules of Order and Video Meeting etiquette.

Rick presented a motion to approve the June 6, 2021 Congregational Meeting minutes as were submitted. Motion was seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved in person and online.

Rick thanked the Staff, Council members, and various people who all gave their time to make our church so great. Highlights from the annual report:

Facilities Management Team made numerous contributions to our building.

Stewardship – the Abundant Water campaign was a success.

Technology Team is making numerous improvements to our worship experience.

Rick made a motion to Approve the January 2022 Annual Report. The motion was seconded. The motion was unanimously approved in person and online.

Mark Bunker gave a synopsis of the first six months of our finances. Mark highlighted the members of the Finance Team and the various roles they fill. Reference his report for specifics. Mark highlighted:

We are 7% below income budget. Expenses are 13% below budget due to savings in most categories with the largest being personnel and maintenance.

Net income is slightly below positive year to date. We have not recognized capital gains on investment income year to date.

Don Livingston asked a question regarding the PPP loan which was forgiven during the last fiscal year. The loan forgiveness allowed us to be positive at the end of last year.

Income has been quite variable but very strong in Q4 at 6% over budget, making up for some of the very weak Q3 (20% below)

Balance sheet continues to be strong.

Overall, our finances are good.

Rick Burnett made a motion to approve new Council Members.

Shelly Jones is a teacher at Peachtree City Elementary School and a member of COS since 2002. She's a member of Logos and Stephens Ministry.

Patrick Bauer joined COS in 2016 and quite active with Youth and Family Ministries.

Stephen Gundersen works at Deloitte and Touché. He's was raised and confirmed within the ministries of Christ Our Shepherd and he and his family have recently returned

Sydney Watton is a junior at Macintosh and is our first Youth member in quite some time.

Rick moved that the congregation elect Stephen, Patrick and Shelly to serve three-year terms as members of the COS Congregational Council and Sydney Watton to serve a one year term as the Youth Representative on the 2022 COS Church Council. The motion was seconded. Motion was unanimously approved in person and online.

Motion #4 - Move that the congregation elect two members to serve as Synod Assembly reps for Christ Our Shepherd was tabled as representatives from COS to this year's Synod Assembly have yet to be identified. A number of individuals had been asked but for the most part due to the dates of the event in early June, already planned vacations resulted in the folks asked having to decline.

Back to Worship Survey conducted January 3, 2022. Rick thanked the team of Barb Anderson, Scott Bosecker, Mike Oliver, Karl Dietmeyer, Eric Jakubowski, Lisa Manthley, Sue Byers and Carol Jensen their work in putting together with survey. Discussed were the following:

135 Respondents as of 1/20/2022 an increase of 40% over the 2021 survey. Not all responded to all questions.

About ¼ of voting congregation responded to survey.

76% of those who responded to the survey and are vaccinated (to include booster) are back to attending services.

Over 100 written “free format” responses to the questions in the survey were recorded and those responses will be reviewed and appropriate action taken where the Council and staff believe something positive can be accomplished

Rick then took the time to highlight some of the goals that the 2022 Council would focus on. Those included:

Sanctuary improvement project continued momentum

Return to a fully staffed Church office

- Follow-up on weaknesses identified in the audit
Document Management & Record Retention

Continue to monitor and proactively react to virus in an effort to create a safe environment for our congregation and guests

Continue to find ways to always be improving our communication activities

Keep the stewardship theme of “Abundant Waters” alive throughout the year

Stay on top of our financial position

- Continue to work closely with our COS Staff and ministry leaders to make certain they have everything they need to be successful

Rick then took a few minutes to highlight the additions to the COS staff and open positions that need to be filled in 2022.

Finally, Minka Fulton presented the annual report for the Mission Endowment. The principal balance is \$64,000 with approximately \$5,150 available for distribution. Suggested distribution was \$2,050 to the COS Pre-school, \$773 to the Midwest Food Bank and \$773 to Novus Way (Scholarships for Lutheran Camps), \$773 to the Haitian Timoun Project and \$773 to Lutheran Partners in Global Ministries. A motion was put forward and seconded to approve this distribution of funds and unanimously approved.

Pastor Miriam brought the meeting to a close with a final prayer and Rick adjourned the meeting at 1:30pm.

Minutes of the 2022 Congregational Meeting

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting
June 12, 2022

Presenters:

Pastor Beecher
Scott Bosecker
Mark Bunker
Karl Dietmeyer
Pastor Wiese

A few minutes before 12:30 pm, and prior to achieving a quorum, Pastor Wiese gave an opening prayer.

Personnel Committee Chairman, Karl Dietmeyer gave a review of the progress that has been made in dealing with the two positions that are needing to be filled in the coming months. Those positions being the Director of Youth & Family Ministry (currently being filled by Interim Director Shelly Jakubowski) and Music Minister, held by the retiring David Beecher.

Karl indicated that David Beecher had provided “a comprehensive list of what he does” to the Personnel Committee and that list was under review by the committee. Karl stated that he had joined a couple of professional groups and that allowed him to study current job offerings. This research was giving Karl a feel for other organization’s thoughts on duties, salaries & benefits. In the near future there would be a meeting with the Contemporary Worship Team and Traditional Worship Team to fine tune what the job description in the advertisement would look like.

A question was asked by a member about the current status of the Interim Director of Communications. Pastor Beecher responded that the current holder of the Interim position, Laura Hawkins, and Pastor Wiese have an ongoing conversation regarding Laura’s comfort in continuing to serve in that position. The implication was that Laura is currently willing to continue as the Interim Director of Communications.

Karl now being finished with his presentation; Pastor Beecher took the floor. Pastor Beecher first complemented Laura Hawkins on the job she was doing as the Interim Director of Communications.

Pastor Beecher then gave background on the Director of Youth & Family Ministry position and how that would progress in the near future. Shelly Jakubowski was complemented on the outstanding job she was doing as Interim Director of Youth & Family Ministry.

At this point in the presentation, Vice President Scott Bosecker appealed to the those in the sanctuary to call members and request they sign in to the virtual Zoom meeting. Scott explained we needed at least one more person to attend the meeting to have a quorum.

A short time later we verified that we had 46 in person attendees and 6 on-line via Zoom. This gave us 52 members present and the meeting was officially called to order. A few more members signed into the meeting via Zoom as the meeting progressed.

Scott ran through some ground rules for how the meeting would be conducted.

Scott then presented the first Item on the agenda; a motion to approve the January 23, 2022 Congregational Meeting Minutes.

Bob Spruck seconded that motion.

There was no discussion and a vote was taken. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous by those in person as well by those attending via Zoom.

Treasurer Mark Bunker was now given the floor to provide background on the financial process at Christ Our Shepherd and the proposed budget.

Mark described how the Finance Team works and mentioned all the members of the Finance Team.

Mark then gave a presentation of previous years financials vs. the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mark pointed out that Facility, Personnel & Benevolence account for 93+% of the congregation's expenditures. Mark indicated that recent improvements in giving had allowed the finance team to anticipate a break-even or slightly positive net income for this fiscal year.

Mark presented a review of Christ Our Shepherd's Balance Sheet.

Projections for the coming year's budget were presented: A budget with a projected deficit of about \$90,000 was described in considerable detail.

Mark indicated the Finance Team would take a profit of \$32,000 from investments this coming year. A question was asked by a member if this was feasible based on current market conditions. Mark indicated there had been about \$100,000 of unrealized gain prior to current downturn and that taking a \$32,000 seemed doable even with the downturn.

A question was asked why we had budgeted a crossing guard when the parking lot wasn't yet full. Mark responded that we wouldn't hire a crossing guard until we needed one but it was in the budget so that we could hire one when needed.

A member made an appeal to the congregation to support mental health and Mark Bunker indicated that there were restricted funds that could probably be used to support that sort of ministry.

Mark concluded his presentation and the following motion was put forward by Scott:

"The Council moves that the Fiscal Year 2022 budget be approved as presented"

Paul Talbot seconded the motion.

There was no discussion.

The members attending in person and via Zoom voted unanimously to approve.

Mark Bunker and the Finance Committee were recognized for the hard work they do.

It was noted that Personnel Committee had already made their report out of the order in the agenda.

Scott then stated, "If there is no other business, is there a move to adjourn?"

A member stated, "So Moved" and that was followed by a second.

The motion to adjourn passed.

Pastor Beecher then took the floor and indicated that she and the Personnel Committee were willing to answer any questions regarding personnel issues and asked for prayers to support this committee.

Pastor Beecher then stated, for the record, that Shelly Jakubowski was present for the interim ministry she was doing now but she was not to be considered a candidate for the future Director of Youth & Family Ministry.

Pastor Beecher then gave a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Bosecker

Staff Reports

Senior Pastor's Report 2022

A conversation with my Grandpa Wiese. I would love to compare notes with my Grandpa Wiese about what life was like 100 years apart. In 1922 he married my grandma, a farm girl from Frankenmuth, Michigan. He was also starting off as a Lutheran pastor right after a world-wide pandemic. 100 years later, I, his grandson, am also a Lutheran pastor with a bride (I still think of as my newlywed J) serving a Lutheran church coming out of a world-wide pandemic.

How fascinating it would be to exchange stories about our congregations, cultural trends, and family life. Since my Grandpa Wiese has enjoyed heaven since 1981, maybe that's one of the cool conversations God grants me in the fullness of time. I hope so. So, to prepare, I thought I'd make a few notes about our 2022 year at COS. And come to think of it, these highlights might just serve as a quick, creative "Senior Pastor's Report" as well! J In a fun walk down memory lane, here's what a staff conversation bubbled up for not the 12 Days of Christmas we just celebrated, but the 12 Months of COS Faith Life in 2022. God showed up at COS in big ways and we are grateful!



January. We were stumbling out of 2021. Covid rates were in the dangerous red zone, requiring more demoralizing mask and distance restrictions. Both Beechers and other key musicians contracted the virus and we needed to postpone/cancel the Moravian Love Feast. We also were still shocked but supportive of Melissa Jacobson's decision to leave our Youth & Family position to serve full-time kids with autism. While we celebrated UGA's first championship in over 40 years, we dug into the new realities of post-covid church life and world-wide declines in church attendance and participation with discussions like, "Rejoicing as Remnant." But core ministries never wavered and stalwart serving opportunities like blood drives, small groups, bread runs, Joshua's Gift, and Bible studies continued.



February. COS demonstrates hallmark creativity in trying to connect folks with our very first "Sunday Fun Day" at Bus Barn in Fayetteville, along with our very first "Pass the Peace," fostering deserts, meals, surprise gifts, and connections throughout the congregation in this era when many are still leery of joining large groups. Many at COS continue life-long reflection on social issues, such as "Christians Against Christian Nationalism." We host mission groups from Wittenberg University and others. By year's end, Linda

Volckmann and the FMT will have COS sharing our facility with community groups at unprecedented levels! Amazing! COS also celebrates at the Two Sparrows Village home ribbon-cutting dedication at Christian City. While zoning didn't work out for us to share our Palmetto Road property with a home for young adults with autism, we're thrilled that our engagement served as a huge stepping stone leading to the opening of this fantastic home for some of God's super special children.





March. Our “Drive-In Ashes” for Ash Wednesday is a huge hit and a terrific start for our Lenten Journey, “A 5 G Connected Life” in which we explore the discipleship value of Groups, Gifts, Growth, Grace, and Gathering. Our Men’s Retreat at Scott Bosecker’s barn and Palmetto Road is one of the largest ever. A huge blessing is that Shelly Jakubowski starts as Interim Director of Youth & Family and Laura Hawkins continues as Interim Communications

Coordinator. Our kids rock it at DNow and continue their faith upbringing through Sunday and Wednesday sessions.

April—As always, we enjoy a profoundly meaningful Holy Week, with the “Rolling Stones” Easter sermon and worship. One neat feature in 2022 is the beautiful Pysanky eggs decorated in special support of Ukrainians enduring the Russian invasion. Thank you, new disciple, Jayce Lester! Thousands are raised for our global mission partner in (March Madness concluding in April) Hoops for Haiti. New members are welcomed, marriages are celebrated, funerals are conducted. As always, we take time to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice, (Romans 12.15) through cards written, visits made, receptions offered, counseling administered, phone calls shared and in so many small but significant ways that rarely make the highlight reel. Also, LuAnne and I get to spend a day with Alberto and Magdala Portela, the liturgical design consultant that David Beecher helps us secure as part of the Sanctuary Renewal Project, a key time and energy commitment for 2022.



May—11 youth celebrate their confirmation and the Fellowship Hall celebration is packed. Our mothers are honored at a beautiful Palmetto Road worship service. Kids teach us about “A Sailor’s Bible” in their spring worship musical. I continue to lead monthly gatherings of area ELCA clergy as one of our synod’s deans and participate in our annual ELCA Senior Pastors of Larger Congregations Gatherings. Core worship services are augmented with special events like Senior Sunday and an enthusiastic return of Hops and Hymns Outreach at Line Creek Brewery.

June—Staff feature a creative “Homecoming Service of Return” June 5 to keep helping break the habit of disconnection so rampant because of Covid. Congregational care calls of connection continue. Our FH bustles like a beehive again each Monday morning as we prepare hundreds of lunches for under-resourced kids in the Summer Sack Lunch Program. 20 kids and 4 adults grow in faith at Lutherock, an ELCA camp in the NC mountains. Meanwhile, 5 dynamic college counselors bring camp to COS with Lutherock, empowering the lives of 24 kids. Our VBS “Summer with Sun” is a beach and Bible party for a very large crew. We connect with the larger church as our pastors and reps attend the Southeastern Synod Assembly. We delve into social justice issues through a special showing of the movie Emmanuel, a powerful exploration of forgiveness while remembering the shooting at this Charleston, SC congregation.





July—Proud that my daughter Morgan graduated magna cum laude from UGA, I’m also proud she continued a 9-year streak of COS young adults serving on staff at ELCA church camps, with Morgan serving her final year at Camp Luther. Closer to home we invest in future leadership by offering for the first time three youth internships, two in children’s ministry and one in worship technology. Supplementing the core commitment to worship, we also experience Jesus’ joy and life through seeing God’s creative beauty first hand in our first Yard & Garden Tour and another Sunday Fun Day.

August—Along with a sermon helping us consider the power we place in personal possessions, “Gimme My Stuff,” leaders did the great COS facility clean-up in preparation for the COS Give-Away. Youth appreciated God’s creation by tubing in Ellijay. We continued to worship the Lord creatively with our Beatles Liturgy. A Leadership Summit thanked, connected, and empowered our countless COS lay leaders who drive the engine of congregational ministry. We prayed for the ELCA’s triannual gathering and watched “The American Church is Re-Organizing” as we continued to ask how we best function in these post-pandemic days.



September—A variety of small groups dedicate service hours in the ELCA-wide, God’s Work Our Hands Sunday. Multiple meetings explore where God is calling COS in our Sanctuary Renewal Project, pushing our understanding of how we worship with baptismal font, communion table, and preaching pulpit. We rally programs and leaders to build faith in our children. We reach out to the community with ongoing initiatives like Hops and Hymns, ROMEOS, CANVAS, book clubs, cross ministry, and blood drives. Thanks to all of leaders who gather and shepherd us through this

plethora of options.

October—We’re thrilled to enjoy our first post-pandemic Oktoberfest. The bands, beer, food, kids jumpables, and artisans are ready to go until the hurricane was projected to rip through the south on target for Atlanta. Prudently, leaders cancelled the long-awaited Oktoberfest and then cried when the hurricane never showed up. So, we can’t wait for 2023! J COS disciples participate in the Atlanta Pride Parade, embodying again our belief that Jesus’ arms are opened wide to all people. All means all. Kid and parents thrill at fun days at our 33-acre Palmetto Road property through “S’more Slides” and more. We’re graced with beautiful weather for worship there too. Several families head west to the family weekend at Lutheranch (the first ELCA camp in our synod and state, which COS helped launch). For their semi-annual camping trip, many COS families again gather at West Point Lake.



November. “Feed My Sheep” is the title of our 2022 stewardship series, as we joyfully consider how God entrusts us to accept Jesus’ challenge to Peter and us today to show him our love by supporting those around us. Ten dynamic families are welcomed into COS membership and

we pause with gratitude to note that while our ethnic composition does not yet reflect our community, we are gratefully headed in the right direction. Things get hot at our first Thanksgiving Eve chili supper in 3 years. Globally, over 120 Haitians are fed for two months in our 80 for Haiti Thanksgiving drive, and locally over 30 families are provided turkey



dinners. On November 13, we celebrate with incredible fanfare and meaning the 24+ years of faithful service by David Beecher, our retiring Minister of Music, about which so much more could be said (and is in later pages).



December. Once again crowds throng COS hallways for our super-creative Advent Family Night as we kick off Advent. Our children's play, "Chimes in the Night," touched our hearts. Holiday Hops and Hymns and staff Christmas caroling at a nursing home supplement the opportunities to sing "Glory to God in the highest" through incredible generosity via the Angel and Star Tree gift-giving program. Our Moravian Love Feast

could have shined as one of our very best.

Well, what do you think my Grandpa Wiese would say to all that? How would this 2022 list compare to a description of his Lutheran church in 1922? He probably couldn't fathom that I get to craft a "Word from Wiese" that magically appears on people's computers or phones each Wednesday with a faith encouragement or that we enjoy two amazing campuses locally or so much more. But I bet we both would express deep gratitude for the staff and council folks, modern-day magi, with whom we're blessed to serve. I bet we both would speak deeply of how a ministry of Word and Sacrament, centered around the Triune God, indeed brings joy and life to our pandemic-plagued world. I bet we both could write annual reports for days and yet it would be impossible to describe all the amazing ways the Holy Spirit uses our Lutheran Christian colleagues to share Jesus. I imagine that we would want to have folks reading such reports or hearing our conversation **"THANK YOU" for their dynamic partnership and impact** in this awesome faith adventure that connects us through centuries and continents as God's people.

But I'm glad I've had a chance to start the conversation! Thanks be to God.

Gratefully serving with you in 2022 and beyond,

Pastor Fritz

Associate Pastor Report and Minister of Music Report

"We rejoice that Pastor Miriam and David Beecher joined the synod's trip to the Holy Land in early January. Therefore, their annual reports are forthcoming."

Children and Family Ministry

We had a wonderful year with the children and families of Christ our Shepherd Lutheran Church! Starting in September, we continued school for ages preschool-5th grade. We met each week in the Sanctuary at 9:45 am for opening music, offering, and prayers. We then moved to another location, often outside, to listen to our story, complete a craft, and have a snack/fellowship together! This program was made possible only by a wonderful group of volunteers who helped plan and facilitate Sunday School each week!

SKIDdles also continued this year as well! SKIDdles is a musical group for children who are 4 and 5 years old. This group was hosted by our wonderful and talented Barb Anderson. We sang, played, and had fun fellowship together each week. This group of children also participated in our Christmas Pageant this year.



Children's Ministry also called for some fun! In

April, we hosted an Egg-stravaganza! The Saturday before Easter, we hosted an event in the parking lot where families could come together and collect candy-filled Easter eggs as well as complete lots of beautiful Easter-inspired crafts. The event concluded with a wonderful outdoor Easter vigil service. We definitely plan to continue this event in 2023!

Summer was a busy time for the children and families for Christ our Shepherd as well, including adding 2 high school summer interns! Sydney Watton and Livvy Zimmerman brought so much excitement and fun! We began the summer hosting Vacation Bible School the first week of June. We had over 30 children in attendance and over 20 volunteers. It was a beach themed VBS with lots of fun music, Bible stories, crafts, games, and snacks! Soon after VBS, families were

invited to attend Family Camp at LuthRanch in Tallapoosa, Georgia. It was a fantastic week with families from all over Georgia and beyond! Children and families spent the days in Bible study, crafting, swimming, hiking, and horseback riding. We ended summer fun with LuthRoad Day Camp. This included 4 NovusWay camp counselors coming to our church. They led 32 children in daily Bible lessons, music, games, and even a water day complete with 18-foot water slide! It was a great week and one I know many families are looking forward to in 2023!

The summer also included a new children's chapel format for children to complete Bible stories during worship for the 9:45 and 11:00 services! This was a great way to bridge the time of the year when Sunday School does not meet. We had a great turn-out and lots of fun every Sunday!



In December, we were able to host our third breakfast with Santa! Children and families enjoyed a morning in the Fellowship Hall with breakfast, Christmas crafts, and, of course, a visit with Santa! It was a wonderful event for children and adults alike! I look forward to another fantastic year and am so very thankful for the families, volunteers, staff, and precious children of our church and community!

Respectfully submitted,

Ingrid Hudson

Youth and Family Ministry 2022

January 2022 brought about tremendous changes to the Youth program with the Youth Director position vacancy. Pastor Miriam was able to find 2 new small group leaders, Andrea Fisher & Brian Robinson to work with our high school (LOFT) kids. The existing small group leaders, Jennifer Catlett, Buddy Troy, Clara Zimmerman & I agreed to continue to work with the middle school (LOGOS) kids. We decided to bring back a version of the pre-Covid Wednesday Night Dinners. For now, we do take-out meals for youth families. Even with all the changes in leadership, we were able to keep the Youth program going and did not see a drop in attendance. Over the next couple of months, we all settled into a new normal. Pastor Fritz & Pastor Miriam both share in the responsibility of teaching the weekly Confirmation lessons as well as having some guest teachers. I decided to “go back to work” as the part-time Interim Youth Director until we can fill the position. Instead of a New Year’s resolution, I picked a focus word: FUN! Little did I know how that word would play out in 2022!

COS has a great Youth program! We did our best to continue with some traditional activities that the kids look forward to each year, as well as some new things to add to the FUN! Have you ever gone bowling or ax throwing with your pastor? No? Well, COS Youth have done both! Every March, the youth in Fayette County get together with other church youth groups for a big weekend called Disciple-Now (D-Now). The weekend has a little bit of everything packed into one weekend... great speaker, praise music, mission work, games, food, friends & FUN! COS sent 18 youth to D-Now in 2022.

Moms’ Dinner Out was a fantastic addition. Each month the youth moms are invited to get together for dinner at different restaurants. We consistently have 8-12 ladies & I have really enjoyed that fellowship time. We also started a “Between Services” meet-up, so the youth would have a Sunday opportunity to see their church friends, especially those who may have a conflict with our normal Wednesday night schedule.

The COS youth program is strongly supported by the congregation & staff. The time & talents of so many individuals are what makes each event, lesson & relationship great. In April, COS confirmed 11 Youth. Cheryl Dietmeyer, Carol Jensen-Linton, Kathie Manes, Eric McDowell, Christie Pedersen & Kris Schmitz were a huge help with everything that led up to and went into that day: photography, gowns, stoles, personalized gifts, ceremony & reception. We also recognized 8 graduating youth on Senior Sunday with well wishes on their next chapter. Special thanks to Ron Bowman & Wayne Martens for making their crosses & stands.

This summer we spent a good bit of time enjoying the outdoors. In June, COS sent 20 youth to Lutherock summer camp, chaperoned by Dave & Sue Byers, Buddy Troy & me. It was wonderful seeing the kids in a different environment & trying new activities such as zip-lining, rock sliding, and ropes course. The high school group even went white water rafting. At the end of summer, we were able to go tubing in Ellijay! A huge thank you to Don Livingston for opening his home & giving the youth such a FUN experience

In the fall, we kicked off another school year & welcomed Allison McCumber, another great small group leader for our high school kids. Youth Fan Club has been a fun addition to Constant Contact, a way to highlight & promote our youth in their extracurricular activities. The Youth enjoyed the Career Fair in September, where they talked with 39 different members of our congregation about their jobs. It was an exciting time to watch the youth interact & make connections with other adults. The turnout was amazing & really shows that COS loves their youth!

We continued some of the traditional activities that they look forward to each year like spending time at Palmetto. We were able to go out there once in spring & once in the fall to cook hot dogs & s'mores by campfire, take a walk around the lake, play Ga-Ga Ball & enjoy the view. The high school kids packed care packages to send to 20 of our college kids in October. The youth always look forward to the Halloween Party & Advent Family Night. We carved some huge pumpkins & played some games. We had over 20 volunteers help with Advent Family Night this year.

We look forward to continuing the FUN in 2023 & hope the congregation is just as excited as we are to bring back the Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser in January, which helps the youth attend summer camp as well as other activities throughout the year. We also look forward to finding a permanent Youth Director in 2023!

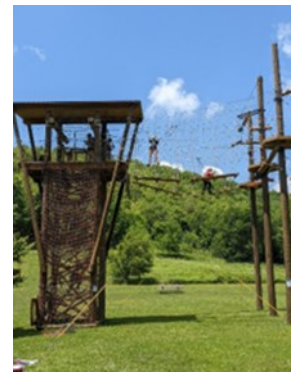
Thank you for the opportunity & the support! I love COS Youth & I had a FUN 2022!

Respectfully submitted and

God Bless,

Shelly Jakubowski





Facilities Management Team Report for 2022

This year has been another busy one for the Facilities Management team and all of its dedicated, hardworking volunteers. Our congregation truly benefits from the endless energy proved in the creative projects as well as repair work at the main campus and Palmetto Road properties. A myriad of projects has been completed this year and we have a long list for the future.

The staff toured the church building for a Fire Safety/Maintenance walkthrough. A list of Fire Safety and Maintenance issues at the main campus are noted on a regular basis.

An incredible amount of work by a tireless group of employees and volunteers has been done to repair, refurbish, replace, recycle, and clean the Peachtree Parkway building this year. A major closet-cleaning event took place over the summer resulting in the elimination of outdated and unwanted items. Walkthroughs will continue to ensure our building looks and functions at its best. Thank you to Dennis Hefflefinger and his son for mowing the grass at 101 Peachtree Parkway every week and to the Jakubowski family for donating weed service.

We have two groups, who pay a small fee, committed to using the building during the upcoming school year. They are Tamil Language School, and Classical Conversations.

After many years of research and lots of starts and stops the Sanctuary lighting project was successfully completed. The Sanctuary ceiling has been painted as well. One of the HVAC systems had aged out and was replaced. A tremendous amount of work continues at the Palmetto Road property. Heaters were purchased that can be used at the pavilion, inside the campstore or on Nora's Porch. The Barbour family donated rocking chairs for use on Nora's Porch. The Boy Scout troop who shares our properties for their meetings made 2 additional picnic tables. Lots of mowing, trimming, and clearing by volunteers as well as contracted landscapers happens daily, weekly and seasonally. A Cut Above Lawn service has been contracted for the year. They will maintain the front and around the campstore at Palmetto Rd. This service is in addition to a group of volunteers who spend an endless number of hours maintaining and beautifying the grounds at Palmetto Rd. A dedicated project brought the completion of new paths on the property providing a beautiful walkway not only near the creek but around the exterior of the property as well. The existing diving platform has been removed. After multiple water checks over a 3-year time our pond was deemed healthy. An automatic fish feeder was installed and, in June, bream, bass and catfish came to live in our pond. We are still investigating a floating dock to be used for fishing. We are in the process of posting signs stating the catch and release policy as well as signs on some of the walking paths. Per our insurance policy swimming is not allowed in the pond; however, the use of kayaks, canoes, and trolling motorized fishing boats is permitted. Plans for 2023 include a Father's Day Fishing Derby for COS members and hopefully some of the community as well.

Palmetto Road has perked and been deemed viable for a septic system. The ultimate goal is for some type of upgraded rest room facilities. Conversations between our committee and Fayette County continue as we seek what we hope will be a favorable outcome. .

I am thankful for the opportunity to work with such a dedicated group of Christians who give selflessly each and every day for the glory of God and the benefit of everyone around them.

Respectfully Submitted by Lisa Manthe

Office Administrator's Report

As Lisa has written in her report, both the main property on 101 No. Peachtree Parkway, and our 33-acre property on Palmetto Road have kept the Operations side of Christ Our Shepherd along with the amazing people who serve on the Facility Management Team, and so many other volunteers that help keep Christ Our Shepherd in good shape.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank those who help at the front desk Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays when the office is open. Without their assistance in greeting people, answering the phone, doing mail and other projects I ask them to do, I wouldn't be able to get the work I need to do at my desk. So, thank you to Kim Mashburn, Dannee Barko, Judy Owen and Kathie Manes. Your volunteering at the front desk allows me to do all the other work I need to get done. And I couldn't get a lot of that other work done if it weren't for Jean Dohany. Jean comes in Tuesdays and Thursdays. She is my life saver with all things ACS and Realm, along with a whole slew of other day-to-day work. My 30-hour job would never be doable if it weren't for the work Jean does for me. She is my volunteer Administrative Assistant, my right arm. I also want to thank Joni Siepert for the times she has filled in for me when I need to take off for vacation or appointments. Thank you, Joni. I also filled one other volunteer position this past year that has taken a lot of time and effort off my desk, COS's Fire Marshall. Paul Talbot stepped up to this position and has done an amazing job of putting together the requirements that need to be kept track of and scheduled. He and Lisa Manthey have worked together to make sure our building is kept up to shape and up to code.

Wes Saunders, our Part time Sexton, has been my other right-hand person. COS used to employ 2 PT Sextons, but now we have only Wes. I can always count on Wes to respond when issues aside from his normal weekly work arise. Even though he works two other jobs, I don't have to wait very long before he is in the building working on priority items that come up. Thank you, Wes!

The members of the Facility Management Team are Tom and Eileen Conrad, Mark Barbour, Eric Jakubowski, Paul Talbot, Lisa Manthey, Kathy Manes, Kurt O'Clair, and Wes Saunders. Taking care of two properties is an awesome responsibility that these volunteers take seriously.

As Lisa mentioned, we are so very grateful to the Heffelfinger family who stepped up and took care of all the mowing at the main building this summer. This was a huge help since we had to ask for volunteers for every week from April through October in past years. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Finally, I want to thank the staff and members of Christ Our Shepherd for your help and patience. Sometimes things don't get done quite as quickly as we all would like, but I promise to react as fast as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Volckmann, Office Administrator

Communications

The main responsibility has been to lead and improve all communication efforts internal and external for COS and if necessary “pulling” information from the worship teams, social service teams and stewardship team to keep the congregation and the community informed.

COS Website

New features and updates continued to be added to the COS Website this year as we strived to make communications to our Congregation and visitors easily accessible and up to date. We continued to work with ReachRight Studios, our website host, with all the website projects.

In 2022 ReachRight continued to maintain our Google Ad grant and we meet every other month with ReachRight to go over data. Recommendations for online content, website updates/pages and ad directions are discussed at these bimonthly Zoom meetings. ReachRight’s tweaking of Google Ads continues to drive traffic to specific pages on the website. The Home Page, Prayer Page, Live Page, Serve Page, Christmas Page, etc. all benefited from these efforts.

In 2022, COS received \$26,438 worth of free Google ads through this grant. These ads delivered 55,369 impressions and resulted in 4,287 clicks to our website. We had a conversion rate of 44.06%, which is high for churches. (In our case, conversions is a metric measuring initial clicks from ads that resulted in additional exploration of our website.) The monthly report that ReachRight sends us also includes the top search terms that resulted in ads for our church so that we can continue to tailor our website to respond to the words being used for searches.

At the end of 2022, we upgraded our website listing service with ReachRight to include more active management of listing services and suggestions to improve our website. ReachRight immediately took a more active role in managing our Google Business account and made changes to the website footer to better meet Google search requirements.

Streaming & Video

Begun in response to COVID closures, we continue to live stream both Contemporary and Traditional services on Facebook and YouTube, and the high-resolution video is maintained on Vimeo. Links to the videos are distributed to our email list each week. The audience level varies from week to week, but traveling COS members, homebound COS members, and additional people from around the country continue to watch our services via video.

Constant Contact Emails

We continue to use Constant Contact to manage church wide email communications. This year, we switched to an annual payment plan to take advantage of an annual discount as well as a non-profit organization discount. The combination resulted in a 30% discount on these fees.

The emails sent through Constant Contact include:

- The weekly update sent each Thursday
- Word from Wiese, a weekly email from Pastor Wiese sent each Wednesday

- COS Congregational Worship email, containing links to the videos of services and worship guides, sent each Sunday
- Lenten and Advent Devotions
- Memorial announcements
- Various other announcements as needed.

Social Media

COS services stream on both Facebook and YouTube. We also maintain a presence on Facebook and Instagram with announcements and photos from events. We continue to look at ways to engage both our membership and others in the community through social media.

Realm

In July of 2022, COS upgraded our ACS management system to Realm, which offers some ways for communications to engage with the congregation. By posting events in Realm, members can just look in the app to see what is coming up at the church. There has been a learning curve associated with this new platform, but we continue to explore how we can use Realm Events to better communicate with our membership.

Printed Materials

In coordination with Barbara Anderson, Director of Connecting Ministry, we updated or created several printed materials this year, including:

- Calendar flyers to be distributed at the Homecoming and Christmas Eve services
- Opportunities to Connect Flyer
- Advent Event postcard
- Hops and Hymns lyrics books.

*****Once again, a big thank you to our volunteer, Jean Dohany, for editing and scheduling our Constant Contact emails each week after they have been created and formatted. Jean was also instrumental in publishing the Lenten and Advent Devotions. She is truly a blessing to COS.***

Respectfully submitted,
 Laura Hawkins
 Communications Coordinator

Connecting Ministries

As we continue to thrive as we strive to put the pandemic behind us, we are finding lots of ways, old and new, to “connect to Jesus’ pathway of joy and life” at Christ Our Shepherd. Following is a month-by-month listing of just the highlights of the great goings-on we had at COS during the calendar year.

January

- continued to work with Shirley Brown to establish a vital corps of volunteers to act as Service Coordinators for the Contemporary Worship service. This has been an on-going effort as we shore up volunteers for that service.
- conducted small call campaign of missing folks; this is also an on-going, intermittent effort.

February

- hosted first Sunday Funday at the Line Creek Bus Barn Brewery. Excellent attendance.
- coordinated 5-G Lenten devotionals.
- planned and executed a congregation-wide Pass the Peace. Congregants were paired up with other participants and encouraged to get together to form or strengthen friendships. Feedback after the event was very, very positive. The folks who took part found it very meaningful.
- conducted another, larger, call campaign of missing folks.

March

- assisted with Ash Wednesday services. Large numbers for the “drive-by” and the family service had a large attendance including many pre-school families.
- communicated and helped manage Lenten groups.
- did a big push for “groups” including producing a video that was shown at all services and manning an information booth to field questions at all services. This was very successful, with many queries and volunteers.
- assisted Pastor Fritz in hosting the Bishop’s renewal of vows service.

April

- with Pastor Fritz, hosted a new member class. Welcomed 4 family units.

May

- re-booted Hops & Hymns at Line Creek Brewery. This event was very popular pre-covid and the turnout was good. A fun time was had by all.

June

- facilitated and helped plan large Service of Return at all 3 services, manned an information booth to field questions from congregants.
- screened the movie EMANUEL at a mid-week daytime showing. Over 20 folks attended.

July

- hosted a second Sunday Funday.
- planned and organized the first ever COS Garden Tour. All participants worked very hard in preparation and the gardens were fun and beautiful.

August

- investigated and planned an adult daytrip to Lutheranch.
- with Pastor Fritz, hosted a Leadership Summit and Luncheon. Very well attended by leaders and volunteers.

September

- participated in Realm training.
- hosted Hops & Hymns at Line Creek Brewing.
- communicated God's Work Our Hands push.

October

- planned and hosted a new member class via Zoom with Pastor Fritz, for those who could not attend in person. Welcomed 2 families.
- after months of planning, the Octoberfest celebration was cancelled due to the forecast of a hurricane-force weather event.
- hosted a night-time screening of the movie EMANUEL.

November

- worked with HTF on their \$80 for Haiti Thanksgiving campaign.
- planned and coordinated Advent devotionals to run every day during the season; these were in the form of writings, videos, and music.
- hosted a Saturday morning, in-person New Member Class with Pastor Fritz. Provided breakfast snacks and babysitting. Welcomed 8 new families

December

- assisted with planning of Christmas services. Worked with ushers, greeters, and extra volunteers as needed.
- developed and put in place a corps of volunteers to serve as official greeters posted in the downstairs Narthex for the Contemporary worship service. This is an important role, vital to making visitors to the Contemporary service feel welcome (and ensure that they can find the service).

In 2022, we continued to CONNECT even more and better. We welcomed 14 new families into the fold. Many of these have already become very invested and involved. I look forward to working with Pastor Fritz and the rest of the staff in this next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Anderson, Director of Connecting Ministries

Technology for Worship & Presentations Ministries

2022 brought my first full year on staff with COS. Though most of the wrinkles have been ironed out by this point, the progress of technology accompanied by the natural degradation of equipment has kept us busy. A plan to overhaul the streaming equipment in the Sanctuary was created and approved. All the new equipment has been purchased and we look forward to its installation in early 2023.

This fall we were thrown for a loop when hurricane Ian threatened to wash out Oktoberfest forcing us to cancel. Luckily, we had just experienced a wonderful outdoor worship service the prior week, so our team has no qualms about putting the speakers up again next spring for our semi-annual Palmetto service. Cooperation with the praise band and the hard work of a quality sound engineer like Mark Bunker make these challenging “road shows” a breeze.



The Advent season gave us the opportunity to say “goodbye” to David Beecher in style. Not only did the Love Feast return in full force, but we added a special tribute concert on November 13th. The COS Tech team also released the Second Annual COS Yule Log – a compilation of great music created right here at COS during the Advent season set to the hearths of members of the COS congregation.

We look forward to an exciting year in 2023!

Respectfully submitted,
Brad Milburn



Church Council and Standing Committee Reports

Christ Our Shepherd Church Council President 2022 Annual Report

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of gratitude that I submit this annual report. It has been nothing but a pleasure working with this year's Council as we have together tackled the challenges that we as a congregation have faced in 2022. I am also full of gratitude that you as a congregation have trusted me to provide the leadership that you expect from your Council President.

We as a Council focused on eleven (11) priorities this year, priorities that were presented to the Congregation at last year's January 23, 2022, meeting. Because we were also blessed with an incredibly strong and dedicated staff and lay leadership, we took the approach to team a Council member with a staff and/or lay person representing a specific COS ministry or focus area and it is along these lines that I will provide this report.

We committed to continue to find ways to always be improving our communication activities. Thanks to Council VP Scott Bosecker and Laura Hawkins, our Interim Director of Communication, for all the work they did to a) continue improving our website, b) draw people's attention to Christ Our Shepherd through Google Ads and the work they did with our webmaster ReachRight, and c) produce the multiple weekly communication "blasts" through Constant Contact. This Communications team meets bi-monthly with our ReachRight representative to make certain that we are always improving when it comes to keeping our congregation informed. We have recently signed up for enhanced Listing Management Consulting on a month-to-month trial basis to see if we can find ways to direct even more traffic to our website.

We committed to continue to work closely with our COS staff and ministry leaders to make certain they had everything they needed to succeed. We stayed in contact with our Church Family members of all ages, thanks to Council member Carol Jensen-Linton working so closely with Barb Anderson and Connecting Ministries. As we have emerged from COVID-related limitations, getting folks back to attending group events has been a priority and I believe we were able to do that. It was also very important to this year's Church Council to make certain that our children got back into the swing of things and thanks to Council member Patrick Bauer for working to see that Ingrid Hudson had all the support from Council that she needed to effectively run the Children & Family Ministries. We send a huge thanks to Shelly Jakubowski for stepping into the Interim role for our Director of Youth & Family Ministries, working with Pastor Miriam and so many dedicated volunteers to make certain that our middle school and high schoolers were properly challenged and educated in their Christian faith, and, oh, by the way, had a ton of fun along the way. As you have heard me say on many occasions, my soft spot will always be helping those who are in need. Along these lines, the work that Jayne Troy and her Social Service and Outreach Ministry, with support from Council member Shelly Jones, have done this year should pull at everyone's heart strings. Her ministries of the months (MOM) as always have brought needed services to many in our community from the Summer Lunch Program, to working with the Real-Life Food Bank, to providing Thanksgiving dinners for the needy and much, much more. All are great examples of God's work, our hands. Finally, we must call out the support we provide to the children of Haiti through the Timoun Foundation.

We committed to continue to make improvements at the Palmetto property to enhance all worship experiences. The work that Council Member Lisa Manthey, Office Administrator Linda Volckmann, the Facilities Management Team (FMT) and so many other volunteers did this year to improve the Palmetto Road property and, along with these improvements, enhance worship and fellowship events at that location

need to be held up as a job well done. Visually, you can see many of these enhancements from Nora's Rocking Chair Porch to the new sidewalks making it easier for handicapped individuals to access the property and more easily participate in the fun, to adding walking and hiking paths, to grooming the lake's surroundings and so much more. Look for more to come in 2023.

We committed to support the Sanctuary Improvement Project helping them gain momentum over the year. The team that has been assembled by David Beecher has made significant strides this year with momentum now being carried forward into 2023. Thanks to Dave Byers, Buddy Troy, and their team for finishing the project to paint the ceiling, replace all the ceiling lights and, while doing this, protecting the organ from any damage and all on budget. Our work with Portela and Associates is moving forward with discussions to include but not limited to a) new floor/nave covering, b) the Chancel-focused team discussing options and, c) seating arrangement(s). Council member Brad Harris will continue to run point on this as a member of this Sanctuary Improvement Team in an effort to keep Council informed.

Returning to a fully staffed Church office I believe has been our biggest challenge. We send a shout out to the Personnel Committee and the Pastors for addressing these challenges head on and working to keep everything running as we work to fill these positions. On a positive note, we have successfully dealt with some turnover on the Contemporary Music Team to the point that the music only gets better. We have also reopened the nursery and have staffed it with a supervisor. The Personnel Team and the Search Team continue to work "the plan" to find David Beecher's replacement. While the position is still not filled, a candidate has been identified and we are working hard to lock this person down. Our biggest challenge has been finding a new, permanent Director of Youth & Family Ministries. As mentioned earlier, we are eternally grateful for the work that Shelly Jakubowski has done in an interim role with the help of so many dedicated volunteers, but we must have more of a focus on filling this position in 2023.

Additionally, although more administrative in nature, there were a number of items that were highlighted during the Audit that was conducted in 2021 and Council committed to follow-up on the 26 weaknesses identified and to address each one. I am happy to report that, with the help of our Accountant Steve Profeta, our Treasurer Mark Bunker, our Office Administrator Linda Volckmann, the Pastors, and members of Council, we have satisfactorily addressed each of these weaknesses identified. A number of our weaknesses had to do with our poor, or lack thereof, Document Management and Record Retention. Thanks to Council Member Lisa Manthey working with Office Administrator Linda Volckmann for making giant strides in this area. Following guidelines set forth by the ELCA and modified to be more specific to Christ Our Shepherd, we were able to put a Document Management and Record Retention foundation in place. Also working with Tech Team Lead, Richard King and Council member Steve Gundersen, we implemented a new technology called Shared Point that will eventually bring us into the 21st Century with our technology in this area as well.

With the very successful 2021 Stewardship Campaign "Abundant Waters", Council committed to work with the Stewardship Team, which remained intact during 2022, to keep the theme alive throughout the year. A special thanks to Kevin Hawkins and Andrea Fischer for staying involved in their stewardship leadership roles and lending continuity to the 2022 Campaign "Feed my Sheep".

Thanks to John Musil and the Finance team for keeping us financially responsible, and to Mark Bunker and Steve Profeta for their work as Council Treasurer and our Accountant, respectively. Council stayed on top of our financial positions throughout the year as one of either or both Pastor Miriam and Council President Rick Burnett attended each monthly Finance Committee meeting to make certain there were no financial surprises going in either direction, i.e., Finance Committee to Council and visa versa.

As we came back to in-person worship, it was clear that many of our members remained more comfortable worshipping from home via our live-stream capabilities. To this point, a huge thank you needs to go out to Eric Jakubowski, Richard King, Brad Milburn and the Technology Team for the continuous improvements that we have made over the year in our use of technology. Not only has their work brought worship to our members here in the greater Peachtree City area, but they have helped bring Christ Our Shepherd into the homes of people all over the country and maybe even around the world. As it relates to dealing with COVID in 2022, we were very fortunate to have Congregation members who work in the Georgia Healthcare system. Using this expertise, Council tried to make recommendations, some stronger than others, related to our behavior when attending indoor events in an effort to create a safe, healthy environment for our members and guests. We knew that we could never please everyone, but we did use the results of last year's shorter Congregation survey, very specific to how we should deal with COVID in 2022, to try to reach happy mediums. I was pleased to work with Mary Brunso to update our Emergency Plans for both the Palmetto Property and 101 Peachtree Property that included adding a chapter on how to deal with a Pandemic and lessons learned from the COVID Pandemic. These Emergency Plans had not been updated since 2014, and these new updated plans have been successfully filed with the Synod.

I want to report that, per the Constitution, the Executive Committee met every month this past year. A special thanks to Scott Bosecker, our Council Vice-President, Sue Byers, Council Vice-President Emeritus and to Pastor Fritz for always being available for this important monthly meeting that always precedes the monthly Council Meeting and helps to set direction for the meeting's agenda.

Finally, I want to thank Pastor Fritz and Pastor Miriam for their leadership, guidance and friendship that they provided to me and to the Council over this past year. They were always there for us when we needed them and words cannot express our gratitude for this.

So, my three (3) years on Council and the last two (2) years as your Council President has come to an end. Simply put, it has been a real pleasure working with the Council members with whom I have served over those years. Each year we have become a family focused on doing the work that the Congregation expected from us. I also want to thank you, the Congregation, for putting your faith in me to lead this great group of people over these last two years and to always be working on your behalf to make this Church, your Church, everything that you want and need Christ Our Shepherd to be.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Burnett

Christ Our Shepherd Book Club

The Christ Our Shepherd Book Club has been meeting continuously since 1999 with the exception of breaks during the summer months. We meet the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Church's first floor conference room. Our group has over 25 members who receive the monthly email with details regarding our meetings. All members are invited to join our group and there are several church members who drop in occasionally to participate in our discussions. Information about our meetings and books we are reading are published monthly in the communications outlet. The books we read include a variety of genres, including history, biographies and current bestsellers. We have had guest authors attend and speak to our group, including a COS member and author, Earl Williams, who delighted us with a piano concert! In March, COS member and author, Linda Barbour will join us to share her recent publication, *510 Candles: The Illuminations of Nora Lorraine*. All members will be invited to attend this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leslie Klein

CANVAS

CANVAS is a creative expression ministry~ Art and so many forms of creative immersion can be wonderfully rejuvenating. CANVAS is structured to be unstructured - it can be creatively daring and creatively quiet simultaneously. It is a place and time for each person to own as theirs. CANVAS is a place to enjoy one another, whether we are creatively daring or creatively quiet.

The beauty of creativity is that it is limitless - painting, writing, knitting, composing, jewelry making, woodworking, coloring or falling into the heart of a really good book.

It's a fun, non-judgmental safe space...an evening of connecting creatively and spiritually.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracee Daniel and Lisa Manthey

Camping Ministry

The Christ Our Shepherd Camping Ministry gathered twice this year (Spring & Fall) for fun and fellowship in the beautiful outdoors! We met up at a gathering campsite Saturday and Sunday morning for breakfast. Saturday afternoon included worship followed by games, crafts and, later that evening, a themed potluck dinner.

Our group is made up of newlyweds, young families, empty nesters, retirees, and everyone in between. Our members camp in a variety of ways including tents, pop-ups, trailers, and motorhomes.

In the Spring of 2022 we had 20 campers, who enjoyed a Saturday afternoon worship and an “unbirthday” (Alice in Wonderland)-themed potluck dinner.

The Fall 2022 camping trip had 16 campers. We had fun completing a fun fall craft courtesy of Linda Volckmann, worshiped by the lake in the afternoon, and enjoyed a BBQ Hoedown Shindig themed potluck dinner.

The COS Camping Ministry first timers get “one night of free camping” (reimbursement) courtesy of the COS Camping Ministry. For more information or questions, contact Sara Turk at sarakahley@gmail.com

Spring 2023 Camping Details

April 28-April 30, 2023, at [R. Shaefer Heard](#)

Gathering site 85

Saturday worship (time TBD)

Hawaiian

Fall 2023 Camping Details

October 13-15, 2023, at [R. Shaefer Heard](#)

reservation window will open April 13th, 2023

Gathering site 89

Saturday worship (time TBD)

Oktoberfest

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Kahley Turk



COLUMBARIUM MINISTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Christ Our Shepherd Columbarium provides a peaceful and reverent location for the inurned cremains of Church members and their extended families. The Columbarium is located just off the Narthex and provides a private and tasteful environment with numerous Vault and Niche configurations for the preservation of cremains in a convenient and secure location. Numerous opportunities for annual, periodic, or permanent memorialization of a deceased loved one can be designated for use in the Columbarium, other locations in our main facility, or at our Palmetto Road location.

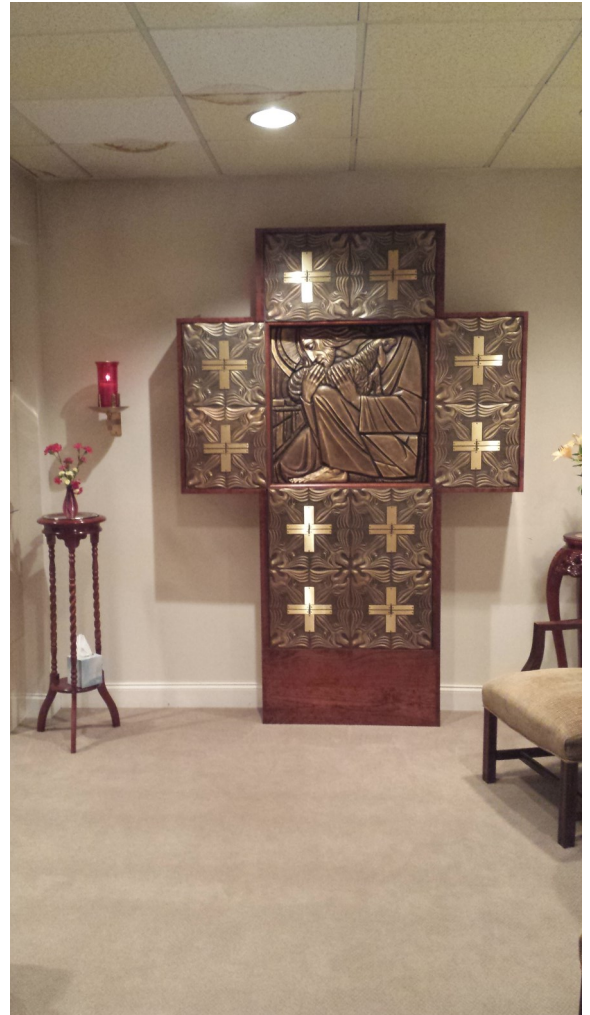
The Columbarium contains a total of 210 Niches in two Bronze Vaults and three Marble Vaults. Rights of Inurnment for 141 of the Niches have been purchased leaving 69 niches still available. Five Rights of Inurnment were purchased and three Committal (interment) Services were conducted in 2022.

Consider purchasing a niche for yourself and/or a family member as part of your estate planning or when the need arises.

Application Packets are available in the Church Office. You may also contact Bob Spruck, Chairman of the Columbarium Board of Directors, for an Application Packet or for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Spruck



Disaster Ministry

During January, the Disaster Ministry Team continued working in Newnan. By the end of February, all the work that COS had been tasked to work on was completed until the non-profit completed work on the electricity, plumbing and HVAC work.

COS told the non-profit that we would come back and finish the touch-up work once they had the professional trade work completed, so that it would be ready to be occupied.

From September 2021 – February 2022, over twenty people worked on the house. We had participation from youth to our more seasoned members. Our congregation had many donations from people who were unable to physically participate. Over 500 volunteer hours were donated in addition to the in-kind donations. Work included drywall work, wood paneling work, installation of kitchen cabinets, stripping paint from inside doors, painting, hanging a new front door, replacing the staircase to the front porch, building a kitchen pantry, and other tasks.

In May, it was apparent that the non-profit had not been able to complete the trade work and had moved in a different direction. The efforts that COS completed will allow the non-profit to continue work when they have that opportunity.

The COS Disaster team will be supporting the Synod's Martin Luther King Mission Trip in January 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Brunso, Volunteer Disaster Coordinator

Senior Connections

Currently Senior Connections is a group of 7 members of the congregation who contact 12 elderly members of the congregation by visitation, phone calls or cards. The key parts of Senior Connections are the relationships that are built and the respect of confidentiality between them. For questions or information, please contact Pr. Miriam or Jaycine Lester (congregation leader).

Respectfully submitted,

Jaycine Lester

Social Services Ministry

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS: This IS the Social Services Ministry at COS. Detailed below, you will find an overview of the many programs that have touched lives. A sincere and genuine thank you to Christ Our Shepherd for making a difference!

January/February — Gloves and Socks

The Bread Run team sees the homeless waiting patiently outside Redeemer Lutheran Church, in downtown Atlanta. Knowing that January and February are colder weather months, COS members helped provide 175 pairs of gloves and 371 pairs of socks to help keep hands and feet warm.

March/April— Easter/Children's Village at Christian City

The Children's Village, part of the Christian City community, is built on the Biblical foundation of family. These children, in crisis, come to live here and work on building trusting relationships with their house parents and peers. The Children's Village is centered around HOPE for the future! Easter is very special for these children! Thirty-four beautiful Easter Bags were delivered to children of all ages (4-18) living at the Children's Village. Every child was given a \$10 Amazon and Chick Fil A gift card. \$ 10 Starbuck Gift Cards were given to teenagers as well.

May, June, and July - Summer Lunch Program

The Summer Lunch Program was about reconnecting; hugs, smiles, constant chatter, and prayer, yet our purpose was never forgotten. .to make sure all our families received their lunches. An average of 215 children were fed every Monday, 1504 lunches were made, 1870 sandwiches were provided (high school children receive two sandwiches) and 13 drivers with 20 assistants drove ten routes for seven weeks. Many groups to thank: 40-45 volunteers showed up Monday mornings to make, pack and deliver lunches, church members who donated food items or money, kitchen cookie bakers who provided 2,840 delicious chocolate chip cookies, Thrivent and Publix who donated \$250 gift cards to help purchase turkey, cheese and bread and Pearson Farms who gave us fresh peaches weekly. In addition, our neighbors and friends, The Church of Latter-Day Saints and St. Andrews in the Pines Episcopal Church brought chips, drinks and energy working alongside COS members every Monday!

August/September — Christ Our Shepherd Preschool

Conversations with the teachers helped provide items that were wanted and needed! Such a variety: educational toys and games that enhanced fine motor skills, washable markers, large glue sticks, Dot paints, 16 and 24 count Crayola Crayons and a few cleaning supplies. The congregation's response was overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

October/November - Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Bags were assembled for Summer Lunch Program families as well as families served by the Real Life Center. Thanks to the generous support from our church family, thirty-nine bags were filled with groceries and a \$15.00 Publix or Kroger gift card. Nineteen bags went to families supported by the Summer Lunch Program and twenty to the Real Life Center.

December - STARTREE

This marvelous ministry is undertaken with a sincere, genuine caring for human hurt, need and Hope! The STAR TREE supported six families/thirteen children with \$3,825 worth of gift cards this Christmas Season.

Other Projects

Joshua's Gift is an ongoing ministry at COS that exists to feed under resourced school children by providing bags/backpacks filled with food for the weekend. This is our ninth year working with three Fayette County Elementary Schools: Crabapple, Fayetteville, and Huddleston. Presently we are serving 35 children.

The Bread Run Team (Buddy Troy, Heidi Byerly, Judy Owen and Bill and Jim Volckmann), and substitute drivers deliver day old bread and pastries to Redeemer Soup Kitchen and My Sister's House four days a week. Publix at Starr's Mill and Publix in Tyrone donate the items. This team has been vigilant in making sure this food gets to where it needs to go!!! Never a week missed!

Redeemer Soup Kitchen — Christ Our Shepherd has sixteen active volunteers who take turns serving lunches once a month to the homeless population at Redeemer Lutheran Church in downtown Atlanta.

Respectively submitted,

Jayne Troy, Social Services Coordinator

Stewardship Team Report

“Feed My Sheep”

The 2022 COS Stewardship Team had momentum with Kevin Hawkins, Andrea Fisher and Pastor Fritz Wiese returning from 2021. We were grateful to have Tom Smith join our team to provide new insights and energy.

Last year in 2021, we participated in the synod-sponsored BCG (Building a Culture of Generosity) process with Lutherans around country interested in “best practices” of stewardship. It was a remarkable success, as we invited the congregation to “Follow Jesus to Abundant Waters.” More than 140 families responded with faith intents, meeting our shared challenge goal.

Encouraged by that success, we undertook a new program this year called Large Church Stewardship for All Seasons, led by professional coach Nathan Swenson-Reinhold, and including six other large ELCA churches around the country. The focus was on identifying specific ministry initiatives that require concrete levels of financial support and asking faith givers to step up to the next level of giving to enable those initiatives.

We established our theme for the 2022 campaign, “**Feed My Sheep**,” based on Luke 21:15-17. Key Sundays were October 31, November 6, November 13. Sermons and testimonies focused on the fact that feeding Jesus’ flock in 2023 includes five key ministry initiatives aligned with COS congregational priorities. \$47,200 in new offerings next year will allow more of God’s work through our hands. Below are highlights of the initiatives:



1. MUSIC FOR THE FUTURE – \$20,000

As we celebrate the ministry of good and faithful servant, David Beecher, upon his retirement, we commit to attracting a new top-notch Minister of Music to join us at COS. Offering a competitive compensation package to incentivize a dynamic leader to move is essential for decades of vibrant worship ahead.

2. MAXIMIZING THE MEADOW – \$7,500

Did you know our two beautiful campuses serve not only as home to COS ministries, but are shared with 30+ community groups in a tangible spirit of “loving our neighbor”? HVAC updates, inflation, freshened spaces, and required technology licenses are costs we embrace to provide “ministry pasture” for the Shepherd’s sheep in COS and well beyond.

3. LIVE-FEED FOR THE FLOCK – \$10,000

The Covid pandemic inspired COS to stream our services. Testimonies of appreciation poured in. Now, those traveling, at-home, sick, working, or seeking to join us from different states or nations plead that we continue to invest in the technology and staff to offer high-quality, reliable streaming of the worship services that offer joy and life.

4. LOVE FOR THE LAMBS – \$5,000

COS offers so much to families fulfilling the baptismal promises they make to build the faith in their children. We want to expand our investments of re-opening the nursery with paid staff, turbocharging leadership development in the number of youth internships we offer, and increase the number of kids delighting in church camp.

5. PAYING IT FORWARD – \$4,700

COS is one of the top congregational givers to our Southeastern Synod & ELCA. We will tithe the increase in our giving so that we might continue pressing Jesus' agenda regionally, nationally, and globally through our Lutheran faith family.

Despite shifting our focus from maximizing participation measured by the number of responses, at last count we had received 98% of the faith-giving intents as last year, and we may not be finished yet. The COS congregation responded to our message by increasing their intended giving by 6% on average, with increases outpacing decreases by a ratio of 5 to 1!

We received positive feedback on the campaign from many of our fellow worshipers, including several veterans of past Stewardship Committees. Everyone had fun with the images and videos of sheep inspired by our theme, and the generous response of the congregation will fund the key ministry initiatives in 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Hawkins, Andrea Fisher, Tom Smith, and Pastor Fritz Wiese

Finance Reports

Finance Committee Report for 2022

The Finance Committee (FC) continues the important function of analyzing and managing the financial health of the church and to provide a monthly snapshot of COS's financial status to the Church Council. To keep the congregation informed, financial information appears in the online weekly update. COS continues to have a great group of people on the FC who dedicate their time and talents to assure the financial strength of COS.

The fiscal year end for 2022 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022), was under the 2022 actual budget, meaning there would have been a loss based on the budget. Due to under-spending on Personnel and the Facility, we ended the actual fiscal year plus \$32,500.

The first six months of fiscal year for 2023 (July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023), is again under the fiscal budget but is on the plus side due to good management on expenses. An audit of the financials for COS has been conducted and finished.

Many significant projects have been completed in 2022 or are still being worked on by the Facility Management Team. The lighting in the Sanctuary has been redone and improved. Also, plans and drawing are being worked on for more improvements for the Sanctuary.

A new HVAC system been installed. The Facility Management Team and Brad Milburn have made improvements to our ability to stream services and improve the sound in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

The improvements have brought COS up to a first-class ability to improve the on-line viewing of our church services.

Personnel expenses are the largest line item in the budget. The successful operation of the church for the satisfaction of our members and service to God relies on a hard working and dedicated staff. The Personnel Committee is working hard to fill open positions at COS. This year is the retirement of David Beecher. As much as David will be missed, the search is on to fill the position: Ministry of Music is ongoing.

Members of the Finance Committee are:

John Musil – Chairman,

Bob Spruck - Recording Secretary,

Mark Bunker - Treasurer,

Rick Burnett – Council Rep,

Bill Volckmann – Finance Secretary

Members: Buddy Troy, Pam Gould, Kevin Hawkins, Bob Blackburn,

Steve Profeta - COS Accountant, Pastor Fritz, Pastor Miriam.

Respectfully submitted,

John Musil – Chairman, Finance Committee

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies;
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay;
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling,
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

Text and music are in the public domain. Reproduced from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, hymn #800. May be reproduced without restriction.

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