

St. Luke's United Church of Christ 2023 Annual Report



2023 Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 28, 2024 Agenda

Call to Order, Cindy Maxey-Droege, President

Opening Prayer, Rev. E. Paul Emily, Pastor

Approval of Minutes

Election

Report of Nominating Committee

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

Reports included in this booklet:

Pastor's Report

Church Council President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Living Memorial Funds Report

Audit Committee Report

Investment Committee Report

Personnel Committee Report

Christian Education Report

Buildings and Grounds Report

Communications Committee Report

Music Committee Report

St. Luke's In Pictures

St. Luke's By the Numbers

In Memory of Our Loved Ones

St. Luke's Church Council 2023

Elders

Cindy Maxey-Droege (2024)
Kim Self (2024)
John McKinney (2025)
Carlos Ramon (2026)

Deacons

Jane Morman (2024)
Jane Earnhart (2025)
Paul Rochowiak (2025)
Jeff Ruoff (2026)
Julie Sehrt (2026)

Treasurer: Karen Zuiderhof
Memorial Fund Advisor: Marita Ray

St. Luke's Board of Christian Education 2023

Sarah Odell (2024)
Paula McKinney (2025)
Katelynn Emily (2026)

Crystal Todd (2024)
Jodie Puhr (2025)
Erin Reese (2026)

Living Memorial Committee 2023

Sharon Franciskato (2024) Bill Kuenne (2024)
Karen Maxey-Droege (2025) Ginger Ruoff (2025)

The Nominating Committee submits the following
nominees for positions open January 2023

Church Council

(Three Year Terms)

Tami Dickerson—Term begins in April (Elder, 2027);
Karen Zuiderhof (Deacon, 2027);
Barry Harris—Term begins in April (Elder, 2027)

Board of Christian Education

(Three Year Terms)

Jessica Lavigne (2027) Kathy Lowry (2027)

Living Memorial Committee

(Two Year Terms)

Dan O'Neill (2026) Teresa Harris (2026)

Elected Positions with Term Limits

Treasurer

(5 Year Term and may be re-elected per Bylaws Article IV, Section 3, Part B)
Karen Zuiderhof (2025)

Memorial Fund Advisor

(5 Year Term and may be re-elected per Bylaws Article IV, Section 3, Part C)
Marita Ray (2025)

Council Appointed Committees **with Term Limits 2023**

The person goes off at the beginning of the year listed.

Investment Committee

(4 People, including Treasurer)

(5 Year Term, May be reappointed per Bylaws Article IV, Section 4., 2b)

Jeff Ray (2025)

Chris Bernard (2025)

Mel Sehrt (2025)

Karen Zuiderhof, Treasurer

Nominating Committee

(5 People, Pastor, ex-officio)

(5 Year Term, Staggered per Bylaws Article IX, Section 2, Part A)

Julie Bernard (2025)

Julie Sehrt (2026)

John McKinney (2027)

Pastoral Relations Committee

(3 Year Term, Staggered per Job Description)

Anita Weida (2024)

Linda Sehrt (2025)

Karen Zuiderhof (2026)

Safe Church Committee

(3 People including 1 staff, Pastor, ex-officio)

(4 Year Term, Staggered per Bylaws Article IV Section B)

Bruce Lyon (2025)

Paula McKinney (2027)

Nanette Moore, Director of Christian Education

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 29, 2023

President Cindy Maxey-Droege called the meeting to order at 11:42 a.m. The meeting was held in-person and over Zoom.

Dan O'Neill moved to approve the minutes from the previous meetings. Julie Sehrt seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor Paul Emily started the meeting with prayer.

Annual Review:

- **Nominating Committee**

- o Nominations were submitted by the nominating committee.
- o Mike Lowry made the motion to approve:
 - nominees Carlos Ramon, Jeff Ruoff, and Julie Sehrt for church council. Three-year terms ending 2026.
 - nominees Katelynn Emily, Erin Reese for Christian Education. Three-year terms ending 2026.
 - nominees Fayan Rochowiak, Ginger Ruoff for Living Memorial Committee. Two-year terms ending 2025

Jane Morman seconded. Motion passed.

- **Unfinished Business:**

- o None

- **New Business**

- o Changes to the Bylaws (primarily typographical items) – Approved by a show of hands.
- o Budget – Cindy discussed the budget deficit briefly to explain that a shortfall at the end of the fiscal year will be offset with the use of funds from the Multhaupt Fund. However, this depletes the total within the Multhaupt Fund and it will produce less revenue over time.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Lowry and seconded by John McKinney. The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Jane Earnhart, Council Secretary

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

ST. LUKE'S CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING JUNE 25, 2023

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Cindy Maxey-Droege.

Council President's Report: Cindy Maxey-Droege

- She welcomed all, and noted this was her third year on the Church Council and second year as the Council President. She indicated the Council has had many good conversations, and that she appreciates the multi-generational membership including new members. Each person has shared stories (experiences) that help all the Council members when making decisions.
- She gave a very big thank you to Marita and Karen who spend hours each month monitoring our budget and providing monthly reports to the church council, as well as for their help in explaining these items to the Council, especially those new to Council.
- She thanked the council members that prepared the budget.
- She explained that the Church Council feels the budget respects our congregation being as responsible as we can for our talented staff, and that we have hope for our future.
- As mentioned during the recent discussions on the revenue and expenses that were held in May:
 - o The current revenue hasn't fully covered the current expenses. Therefore, funds were transferred from the Multhaupt fund to cover the deficit.
 - o The proposed expenses for next year are 6% less than the current year. The decrease is \$14,000 due to the change in Paul's insurance package (instead of private insurance, Paul will be reimbursed for utilizing the insurance provided through Diane's work).
 - o We will still likely have a deficit (for the upcoming fiscal year) that will be paid out of the Multhaupt fund.
 - o We are projecting a modest increase in the Memorial Funds.
- She also explained that the shaded areas of the budget are paid out of the Memorial Funds (MF) (interest) and the non-shaded areas are paid by Current Expense funds (CE) (offering).
- She highlighted the following budget changes:

Other than salaries, the largest anticipated changes are utilities, pest control, and building insurance.

 - o The budget includes changing the expenses for maintenance to be covered by the memorial fund instead of the current expense funds.
 - o The proposed budget includes a 5% increase for Pastor Paul (the State conference recommended 8%, but we agreed 5% was appropriate). It also includes a 3% increase for music and Christian education staff.
 - o Pastor Paul's continuing education is proposed to come from the Memorial Fund (instead of Current Expense funds).
- **MOTION** – Mike Lowry made a motion to approve the budget as presented, Jane Morman seconded. The motion was approved by a show of hands.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned.

Jane Earnhart, Council Secretary

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Several weeks ago, I participated in a survey focused on the state of “Post-Covid” congregations across several denominations. Everyone seems to be wondering how congregations weathered the pandemic and where they find themselves now. How would the survey be perceived and what kind of results might be expected? Would it be “an autopsy” to determine congregational casualties among the many losses suffered during Covid? Or would it be “a damage assessment” to determine the injury suffered by struggles of quarantine and unexpected challenges of re-gathering? Would it perhaps provide an

opportunity to discover that congregations experienced increased vitality even in the throes of the pandemic?

The survey was supposed to take about half an hour to complete, but I spent a couple hours on it, looking up “Pre-Covid” statistics and trying to gather accurate data on where we are now. It was an opportunity to evaluate more than statistics. It was an opportunity to assess who we are and where we are as a “Post-Covid” congregation.

Some changes are obvious. Others are not so clear. We all see the offering box by the sanctuary doors, but a closer look at “giving methods” reveals an increase in electronic giving. Even some who haven’t adopted electronic giving are giving monthly or even annually instead of weekly. What also needs to be noticed is that overall support of the general fund is stronger now than it was “Pre-Covid”. That is partly attributable to different methods of giving but also a result of an increase in both the level of giving by members and an increase in the number of members who are now giving. (This is a direct result of the Council providing the Financial Information sessions this past year.)

Emerging from Covid as a “hybrid congregation” initially appeared to suggest lower attendance in worship. Fewer people in the sanctuary was a noticeable change. It has taken a while, but we are becoming more aware of those who worship virtually. Through the efforts taken to provide an engaged and connected worship encounter for virtual worshippers, attendance is no longer limited to those who might be in the sanctuary.

Speaking of the number of people in the sanctuary, let’s look at that a little more closely. The current in-person average attendance has surpassed the “Pre-Covid” average worship attendance. The virtual participation in worship results in “bonus attendance and engagement”. Or growth!

When we look even closer, we notice that a significant percentage of those who are in the sanctuary have come to St. Luke’s during or since Covid. The same is true for those who worship virtually. Again, growth! Growth that brought eleven new members to the congregation this year.

One of the things that the survey evaluated was the “engagement” of those who regularly attend worship services. In other words, do those attending worship do more than come and sit in pews? The level of engagement at St. Luke’s continues to be amazing! There are very few people whose connection is limited to their attendance. Council participation, committee involvement, liturgists, choirs, fellowship hosts, online hosts and a variety of other vital work is being done as more people become engaged in the life and ministry of the congregation.

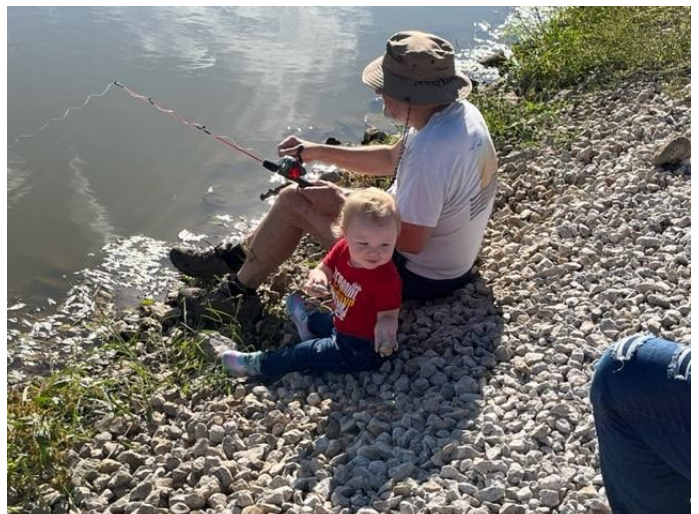
This engagement has shown up in unexpected situations. One particular service, no less than half a dozen different people (at least half of whom are “Post-Covid” additions) were involved in ministering to the needs of a Sunday morning guest during a worship service. This is nothing less than a vital, compassionate congregation doing the work of making God’s love known!

What might explain how St. Luke’s emerged from the pandemic stronger than ever? I think it is due to the way the congregation responded during Covid. There was a decisive commitment to be the kind of congregation who offered a message of God’s hope and comfort. It was what people needed and it is what we offered.

The particular “Post-Covid” needs of people might have changed. Our “Post-Covid” congregation may have changed. But as long as we remain committed to the mission *of knowing and making known the hope and comfort of God*, we will continue to grow stronger as a congregation.

This year we celebrated St. Luke’s One Hundred and Forty-Fifth anniversary. That is a great legacy! Those who come after us will look back and wonder how the Covid Pandemic shaped the legacy of this congregation. The careful observer will undoubtedly see that the “Post-Covid”, hybrid, growing, vital congregation, was strengthened by a faithful membership, committed to God and devoted to caring for the needs of others, regardless of what those needs might have been.

Blessings, Pastor Paul



CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Another year goes by and St. Luke's continues to meet the challenges of a post-covid church in many positive ways. Our membership continues to grow. We frequently have visitors in person and online. People chat on Facebook and participate in the livestream services on Sunday mornings. We've seen an increase in activities as

church life has become more normal. St. Luke's remains committed to its mission of inclusion. This has encouraged many people to call this their church home. Fellowship hour started back up and Sunday School is alive and well, especially our adult classes. Pastor Paul has led us through the seasons with thoughtful conversations and livestreaming in the mornings in the Windows Facebook group. Financially, the Council came out with a budget that was below last year and we strived to keep transparent with meeting our financial goals and shortcomings. This was my last year to serve on Council and I appreciate the support and leadership of all council members. Our new year looks vibrant and there are many new faces to welcome into the fold of our church community. As always, we thank Pastor Paul, Nanette, Matt and Margie for their dedication, leadership and love that they bring our entire community.

Respectfully,

Cindy Maxey-Droege, President



TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2023

The Financial Reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 can be found within this annual report. We were over budget on utilities and building insurance and had savings on Pastor Paul's health insurance for two months when we changed coverage to Dianne's group insurance. We continue to see increases in various services (as do most of us) – utilities, insurance, supplies, etc.

Our Memorial Fund Investments continue to draw the highest interest we can find and still follow the church's investment policy. For fiscal year 2023, our investments earned a little over 4.5%. Please refer to the Investment Report, located within this annual report, for investment details.

For FY-2023, Current Expense Revenue (the amount received from offerings) was less than the amount required to cover expenses. The Multhaupt Fund (the fund that has been designated to be used to cover Current Expense deficits) earned \$15,112.55; however, we had to spend \$ to cover the deficit. In FY-2024, Multhaupt earnings are anticipated to be around \$16,000. A summary of the Multhaupt Fund investments is contained within this annual report.

Since July, the start of the 2024 fiscal year, revenue received has again not met our current expense needs even though actual expenses have been within budget. Current expense offerings received through December 2023 are about \$7,300 more than last year. The budget is about \$5,150 less. Our deficit at the end of December was \$. With six months remaining in the fiscal year, there is still time for the congregation to make up a large portion of this deficit so that Multhaupt Fund principal will not have to be used.

Please do not hesitate to ask questions regarding any of these items.

Karen Zuiderhof, Treasurer

The rest of the Treasurer's report can be obtained from the church office

**LIVING
MEMORIAL
FUNDS
COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2023**

**ST. LUKE'S
LIVING
MEMORIAL FUNDS
COMMITTEE**

Sharon Franciskato, Bill Kuenne, Karen Maxey-Droege, Ginger Ruoff, and Marita Ray served on the Memorial Committee in 2022. Our memorial funds were used in many ways at St. Luke's this year.

The six funds into which our memorial monies are divided are as follows:

1. **Scholarship Fund for Church Related Vocations** - for graduate studies in the field of Christian ministry.
2. **Local Congregation Scholarship Fund** - for members of our local congregation attending college or vocational school.
3. **Church Program Fund** - for Christian Education, library and media, youth, music and the performing arts, and van rental.
4. **Church Improvement Fund** - for equipment and emergency building needs.
5. **Church Mission Fund** - for community and world mission projects.
6. **Knapheide-Twiehaus Fund** – for current expenses.

The principal amount in each of these funds is invested. As our by-laws stipulate, only earnings accrued by these funds may be spent. Thus, the memorial funds provide an ongoing source of revenue to help our church each year.

During this calendar year, \$43,387.76 was spent from memorial fund earnings. The following programs and projects were made possible by the Living Memorial Funds this year:

The rest of the Living Memorial Funds report can be obtained from the church office

**AUDIT
COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2023**

Jeff Ray, Chris Bernard and Mel Sehrt met with Treasurer Karen Zuiderhof on Wednesday November 22, 2023 to audit the fiscal year 2022-23 (July 2022 - June 2023) financial statements. The monthly reports were found to be accurate and consistent with bank records. The expenses are well documented with receipts and bills. All bank statements and investment statements were organized and available.

Thanks to Karen for all your hard work and time with keeping the financial side of St. Luke's in order.

Submitted by the Audit Committee,
Chris Bernard
Jeff Ray
Mel Sehrt
Karen Zuiderhof, Treasurer

**INVESTMENT
COMMITTEE
REPORT
FISCAL YEAR
2023**

The investment committee strives to meet the goal to "maximize investment income while maintaining the security of the principal" for both the Living Memorial Funds and the Multhaupt Fund.

For fiscal year 2022-23 we have realized earnings a little more than 4.0% in the Memorial and Multhaupt Funds. We have been moving some investments into Insured CD's since rates on these have rebounded recently. The Committee conferred with our advisor at Edward Jones on several occasions by telephone and Zoom conference.

Submitted by the Investment Committee,
Chris Bernard
Jeff Ray
Mel Sehrt
Karen Zuiderhof, Treasurer

PERSONNEL ANNUAL REPORT 2023

St. Luke's continued to be blessed in 2023 with amazing staff that care deeply about our congregation. Pastor Paul Emily has delivered exciting in person services and embraced starring in the virtual versions across Facebook Live and YouTube. Ongoing hosting of the daily live "Window's Into St. Luke's" remains a favorite amongst the congregation and has attracted many new members alike. Pastor Emily remains committed to connecting with our members in need and

strives to visit those that cannot attend in person. Summer Bible studies, Lenten movies, baptisms, installation of new members.... We are lucky to continue to grow in faith with Pastor Emily!

Supporting Pastor Emily, is Nanette Moore, our Administrative Assistant/Director of Christian Education. She coordinates Sunday school classes including managing multiple Zoom calls and various in person classrooms and activities for kids during service. She is also managing the day to day of the church and working on new documentation to support how work gets done such as operating manuals and methods and procedures. Nanette also helps drive the livestream content and is actively training and recruiting helpers so that backups are in place. Nanette continues to demonstrate her commitment to our members, our children and our family.

Music at St. Luke's is a joy that touches the soul of many. Conductor Matthew Bennett and Organist/ Pianist Margie Foley are instrumental in the success we have had with our services. Matthew and Margie partnered together to bring joyful music to every service and the growth of our choir and handbell players is exciting to see. During the summer, Matthew performed a beautiful and moving concert with his quartet. Together Matthew and Margie delivered a beautiful Christmas Eve service continuing the long-standing tradition of this moving candlelight service. Their commitment and beautiful music continue to help us flourish and grow!

The contributions of our staff are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Sehr, Personnel Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT 2023

I want to start by thanking the Board Members for 2023. We did have better attendance at meetings and all that attended were invested in what we are doing and worked hard to do things that were important. We are thankful that Jodie Puhr, returned as President and Paula McKinney returned as Secretary. A big thank you to Katelynn Emily and Erin Reese who also participated in meetings and activities.

This year has been full of positive changes that have included discussions of possibly adding a second elementary age Sunday School class. While that most likely won't happen this year, it is definitely something to consider for the next Sunday School year.

The 2023/2024 Sunday School year has seen an increase in attendance and we have had several new people/families of all ages attending, both in person and virtually. Both the Dreamers' class and the Prophets' class meet in person and online. The Prophets' class uses Zoom for those attending online and the Dreamers' class uses Google Meets. An email is sent each Sunday morning with the login information for the class. If you would like to receive the email, please contact the church office.

The Sunday School teachers for the 2023/24 Sunday School year are: Dan O'Neill, Linda Sehrt, Jodie Puhr, and Dianne Emily. They all do a wonderful job.

The theme for the Sunday School year is "Love Grows Here". Marita Ray continues to warmly welcome those that come to Sunday School and gives out flower stickers to put on the board. The beautiful desert scene was lovingly created by Lisa Jaberg. We are thankful that Lisa uses her time and talents to bless St. Luke's in several ways. Take a moment to look at all the individuals that have come to St. Luke's since September.

The younger kids start Sunday School in the Library with an activity, usually a color sheet, that goes along with the lesson for the day. After coloring, a lesson preview, and a prayer they go to their class. This year they are learning the Lord's Prayer. The youth and adults go directly to their classes.

This year we have continued the "Kids' Table". There are tables set up in the Narthex that the kids can join after Moments with Minnie. There are activities that either go along with the lesson they learned in Sunday School or what Pastor Paul's sermon or just fun things to do. It allows the kids to move around during worship but still be able to take in the sight and sounds of worship. Jodie Puhr and Paula McKinney help with the kids during this time.

The Board of Christian Education sponsored or supported many activities throughout the year. Some of the highlights from the year include (You can find pictures of some of these activities on the picture page elsewhere in this report):

- * New Year's Breakfast
- * Dinner & White Elephant Bingo
- * Lenten Study
- * Palm Sunday Parade around the church
- * Stations of the Cross
- * Easter Breakfast
- * Stations of the Egg
- * Sunday School Teacher Recognition
- * End of the Year Sunday School Party
- * 145th Anniversary Dinner, Games & Celebration
- * Sacred Music Sunday Picnic Lunch
- * Summer Kids' Club
- * Independence Pride Parade in Cooperation with SLIC
- * Rally Sunday and Lunch
- * Fishing Derby and Burning of the Palms Service led by the Dreamer's Class
- * Halloween Party
- * Tea Events with Cindy Maxey-Droege
- * Advent Lunch & Movie
- * Christmas Pageant
- * Library Activities
- * Kids' Table

I'm sure there are more things that I haven't included but the above list just touches on the liveliness at St. Luke's. There are opportunities for anyone of any age to participate. Thank you to all those that made these events/activities possible and to those that participated. They wouldn't have happened without YOU!

I am happy with what we have accomplished but know that there is a lot more work to be done and can't wait to see what is next at St. Luke's. I am honored to be a part of such an amazing church family. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the congregation for their support, the Council and Board of Christian Education for their guidance and Pastor Paul for his leadership, care and inspiring messages. I can't imagine doing either of my jobs with anyone else as a pastor, leader and a friend.

And, now for a personal note—I was honored to have my 25 years as Administrative Assistant acknowledged. I started that position in June of 1998 and followed with becoming the Director of Christian Education on July 1, 2001. After much prayer I have decided to retire from only the Director of Christian Education position as of June 30, 2024. I will continue as Administrative Assistant. I have been working with the Council to come up with a basic procedural manual and from there, they will decide with how the position should evolve. Being the CE Director has been an honor and a blessing. Thank you ALL for the love and support you have given. I know that you will embrace, love and show as much support to whoever comes next.

God Bless, Nanette Moore,
Administrative Assistant and Director of Christian Education

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS ANNUAL REPORT 2023

BUILDING AND GROUNDS ANNUAL REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2023

Memorial Fund for Church Improvement (MFCI) monies were used to cover the cost of several maintenance expenditures during the year including:

- Mulch installation around the building
- Cross lighting conversion to LED lamps and dimmer system

The Fund also paid for budgeted items including, lawn care, snow removal, security system, routine HVAC system maintenance, and copier service contract.

There were no expenditures from the Major Repair portion of this fund this year. The biggest future concern for the physical plant is the AC compressors (4 units) for the sanctuary. These units are nearly 70 years old. Two of them have been taken out of service due to freon leaks that cannot be found, one is having intermittent running problems, and one is operating normally. The plan is to limp along with the current system for as long as possible. Discussions on how to upgrade/replace the units down the road have begun (nothing to report yet).

I would like to thank Paul and Anita Weida who came by regularly during the first half year to trim bushes, rake leaves, and pick up around the property. They moved to Colorado in May and will be missed. Thanks to the many who jumped in and helped with these and other maintenance activities on several occasions throughout the year. Submitted by: Jeff Ray, Building and Grounds Coordinator



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Our hybrid connections have become increasingly important to the life of our congregation. We now have members and relationships with people in Springfield, MO, Illinois, Colorado and several other states and countries. We are constantly trying to find ways to build relationships with members and friends near and far. There are people

everywhere who are looking for a church just like ours. We are trying to find ways to help them find us!

The livestreamed worship services on Facebook are important to members and visitors alike. Watching a service online is usually the first connection our congregation makes with people new to St. Luke's. Relationships with those watching are built through comments. Participating in the comments is an easy way to welcome guests and help them become comfortable and feel like they are engaged rather than on the outside looking in. Our service is also uploaded to our You Tube Channel every week.

First time in-person visitors are given a small gift (Book of Psalms and a welcome note from Pastor Paul). Be sure to welcome visitors. It's not easy coming to a church for the first time. We want everyone to feel welcomed and included when they visit. Online visitors are invited to participate in the service through comments. When you are worshipping online, be sure to participate in the comments and like and share the service. Sharing the service to your Facebook page is a great evangelism tool. That is how our service gets found by others on Facebook.

Windows Into St. Luke's is our private Facebook Group that has now grown to 155 members. Pastor Paul goes live in Windows almost every weekday. We post announcements, quotes from Pastor Paul, events, prayer requests, games and activities in Windows. Please participate in these posts by liking and commenting on them. Not only is it fun, but it builds relationships and helps us get to know each other better. Feel free to invite friends who might enjoy the posts to join Windows. Since it is a private group, only people who join the group can see the posts.

Instagram is another way we try to reach members and friends. If you are on Instagram, please follow us. Sermons, quotes, and pictures are posted weekly.

We have a very low budget for advertising but have found Facebook Ads to be effective. Our Christmas Eve Ad cost less than \$100 and reached over 2,900 people. 130 of them clicked on the Ad and went to our website to find out more about the service. We believe we had 15 or 20 visitors at our service on Christmas Eve as a result of this advertising campaign. You helped make this ad effective if you liked, commented and shared it with others.

We provide photo booths at events and during holidays. Make sure you have your picture taken when you see that a booth is set up. Then, when your pictures are posted on the Facebook page, make sure you share them and tag the church.

We can use your help! Post pictures of great times at our church. When you post them, please identify our church by “tagging” it. Use the complete name of our church (St. Luke’s United Church of Christ) Don’t abbreviate with UCC. People not familiar with us don’t know what UCC stands for and won’t be able to find our church. When you start to type the complete name of the church, it will probably pop up so you can click on it and make it a hot link to our page in your post. For help with this, just ask Marita or Nanette.

Another area where we could use your help is by leaving a 5-star review for St. Luke’s on Google. Visit <https://stlukesuccindep.org/love/> for information on how to do this. Great current reviews attract visitors!

These simple things make a HUGE difference in our ability to grow our church.

Marita Ray

Nanette Moore



Paula McKinney doing comments during a livestream while Jodie Puhr is working with the kids at the Kids’ Table.

MUSIC COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Music Committee Annual Report 2023

Matt Bennett, Conductor and Violinist and Margie Foley, Organist and Pianist, continue to provide wonderful music for the services. The congregation thoroughly enjoys the music they add to each service. We are thankful to have Carol Lyon accompany the hymns on the piano. We are also thankful for John Kritos who stepped in at the last minute to fill in for Margie when she was injured. He continued to accompany the hymns on the organ while Margie's knee was healing..

The chancel choir and handbell choir continue to perform at some of the services. The practices for the choirs are on Wednesday evenings. Chancel choir practices at 6:00pm and the handbell choir practices at 7:00pm. All are encouraged to join the choirs. The most recent service both choirs performed at was the Christmas Eve service. Both did a fantastic job.

We were lucky to be able host Josh Ramon and his Jazz Band, The Signature 5/4 in May. It was a wonderful performance. The Fellowship Hall was set up with comfortable chairs and snacks.

Matt's group, The Fountain City String Quartet, provided 2 free concerts in the sanctuary for the congregation and community. The second concert was also livestreamed and people watched from near and far. The concerts were well received and we look forward to more performances in the future.

The Music Committee appreciates Matt, Margie and all the musicians for the beautiful music they provide for each service.

John McKinney



**ST. LUKE'S IN
PICTURES
2023**

SUNDAY SCHOOL



**MOMENTS WITH MINNIE AND
KIDS' TABLE**



SERVICE TO OTHERS



SACRED MUSIC SUNDAY & PICNIC



HANDBELL CHOIR



CONCERTS



FOUNTAIN CITY STRING QUARTET

SPECIAL SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY



STATIONS OF THE EGGS



SONRISE



EASTER



WATCHING
VIRTUALLY



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE



ADVENT LUNCH &
MOVIE





RALLY SUNDAY LUNCH

LUNCH & WHITE ELEPHANT BINGO



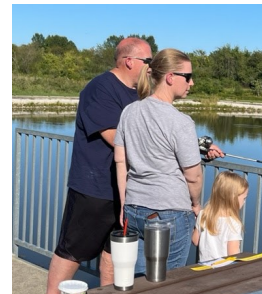
TEA WITH CINDY MAXEY-DROEGE



PALM BURNING & FISHING DERBY



QUILTING





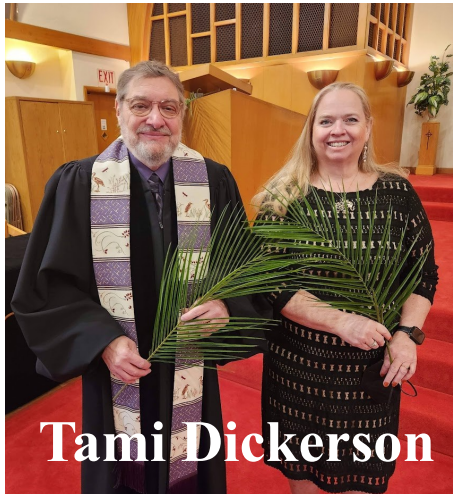
HALLOWEEN



PAGEANT



**ELEVEN
NEW MEMBERS
2023**



Tami Dickerson



**Barry & Teresa
Harris**



**Pete, Lisa
& Lilly Jaberg**



Hootie Trussell



John Kritos



Josiah Baker



Natalie Spangler



**Penny
Johnson**

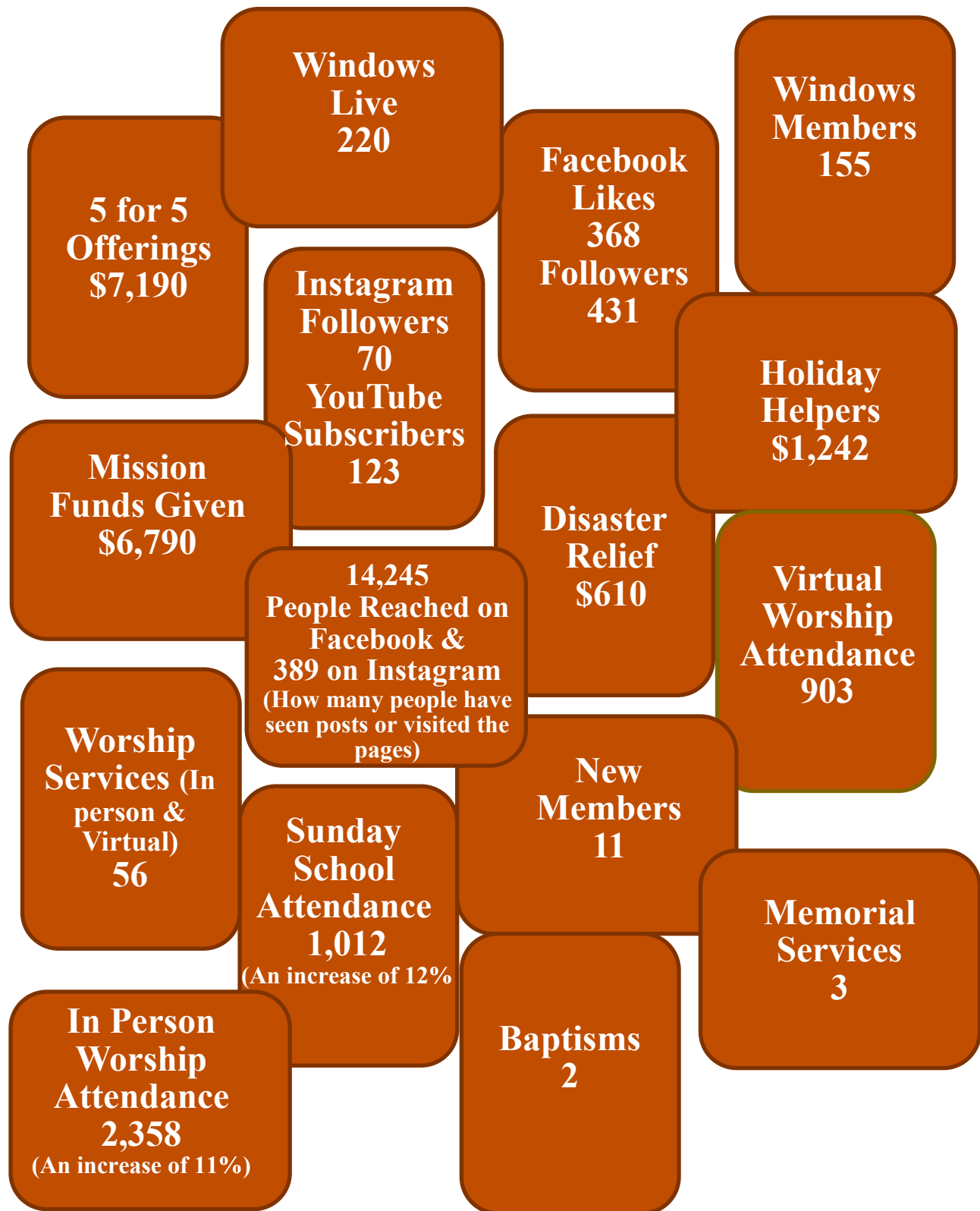
145TH ANNIVERSARY JUNE 9, 2023

“On June 9, 1878, sixteen men and five women signed a constitution and with the Rev. Edward Klimpke preaching the young congregation was born.”

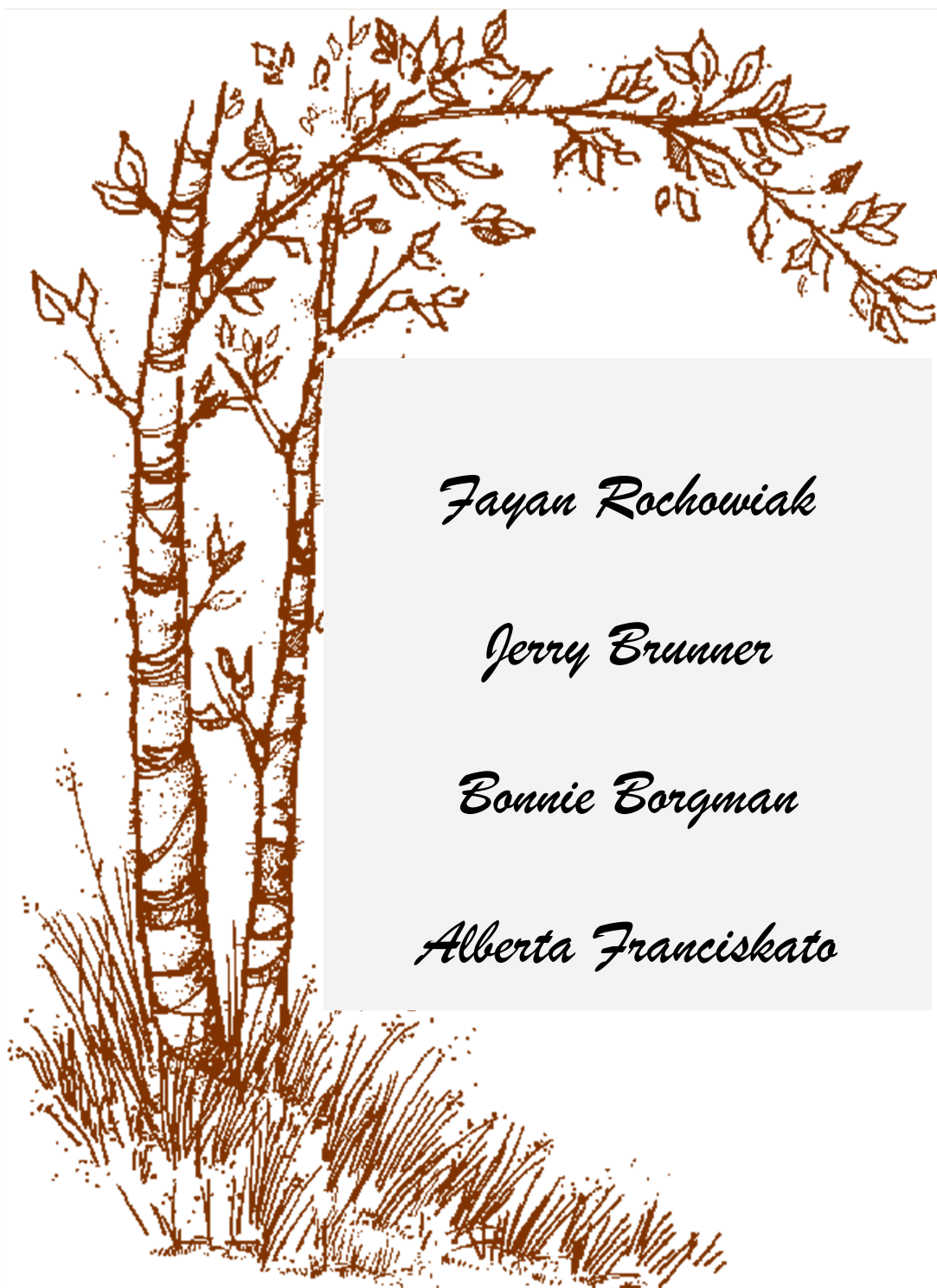
St. Luke's United Church of Christ celebrated the 145th Anniversary of this occasion on June 11, 2023 with a meal, outdoor games and an outside worship service. A star was named in St. Luke's honor.



St. Luke's By the Numbers



In Memory Of Our Loved Ones



Fayan Rochowiak

Jerry Brunner

Bonnie Borgman

Alberta Franciskato