



Central Lutheran Church

Annual
Report
for 2023

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – Provost, Alberta
ANNUAL MEETING – January 21st, 2024

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Devotion
3. Consideration of Agenda
4. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting (p. 2)
5. Old Business
 - A.
 - B.
6. Correspondence
 - A. Bishop's Letter (p. 4)
 - B.
7. Reports – the following reports to be adopted in one motion
 - A. Committees
 - i. Mission and Outreach (p. 7)
 - ii. Worship (p. 8)
 - a) Attendance Record for 2023 (p. 9)
 - b) Servants List (p. 10)
 - iii. Education and Youth (p. 12)
 - iv. Property (p. 13)
 - v. Cemeteries (p. 14)
 - a) Skyline Historical Society (p. 15)
 - B. Treasurer's
 - i. Financial Statement (p. 16)
 - ii. Fund Report (p. 18)
 - C. Chairperson's (p. 19)
 - D. Pastor's (p. 20)
8. 2024 Proposed Budget (p. 21)
9. Nominations and Elections (p. 22)
 - A. Church Council (1x2 year term and 4x3 year terms available)
 - B. Synod Convention 2024
 - C. National Convention 2025
10. New Business
 - A. Date of 2025 Annual Meeting
 - B.
 - C.
11. Closing Devotion
12. Lord's Prayer
13. Adjournment

Central Lutheran Church
Annual General Meeting – January 15, 2023

In attendance:

1. Kim Larson called the meeting called to order at 10:57 a.m. Attending were:

Ed Masson	Connie Masson	Elaine Brouwer
Norma Paulgaard	Cheryl Bouma	Linda Aker Paulgaard
Elton Paulgaard	Deb Larson	Kim Larson
Gerry Motta	Diana Kroetsch	Susan McElhinney
Floyd Johnston	Carol Johnston	Wenona McCormick
Sherrilyn Spencer	Pastor Paul McCormick	

2. **Opening Devotion** – Pastor Paul led the congregation in a devotion from the book of Revelations, the 22nd Chapter.

3. Consideration of Agenda

Susan McElhinney moved to adopt the agenda as printed. Seconded by Ed Masson.

All in Favour. Carried.

4. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting

The minutes from the Annual Meeting dated January 16, 2022 meeting were distributed. Kim Larson asked if there was any discussion regarding these minutes.

Elton Paulgaard moved that the minutes be adopted as read. Seconded by Floyd Johnston.

All in Favour. Carried.

5. **Old Business** – No old business.

6. Reports

a. Committees –

Mission & Outreach – p.4

Worship & Music – p.5

a) Attendance Record 2022 – p. 6

Education & Youth –

a) Sunday School Superintendent – p. 7

Finance & Property – p. 8

Cemeteries – p. 9

a) Skyline – p. 10

b. Treasures Report – p. 11 & 12

Financials ending December 31, 2022 were reviewed.

c. Chairperson's – p. 13

d. Pastor Report- p. 14

All reports have been printed and distributed prior to the annual meeting. Kim Larson asked if there were any questions or comments on the reports.

Cheryl Bouma moved to adopt all reports as printed. Seconded by Dianna Kroetsch.

All in Favour. Carried.

7. 2023 Proposed Budget

Kim Larson presented the proposed budget for 2023 and reviewed the actual budget from 2021 giving explanation on the maintenance, which was considerably over budget due to some major projects such as the new furnace and air conditioning unit.

Jerry Motta moved that we accept the budget proposed for 2023. Seconded by Susan McElhinney.

All in Favour. Carried.

8. Nominations and Elections

a) Church Council.

Council members whose terms are expiring this year are: Kim Larson, Norris Pahlke, Brad Pylpow, Blair Whidden.

As we were short council members last year, there is 1 – 1 year term and 4 – 3-year terms available to be filled.

Linda Aker-Paulgaard, Donna Johnston, and Ed Masson have agreed to let their names stand for council positions.

Kim Larson asked for further nominations from the floor, then a second time, and a third time.

There were no nominations from the floor.

Kim called for nomination to cease.

We will install these new council members and try to fill the vacant positions in the next couple of months.

9. New business

- a) Date of 2024 Annual meeting – January 21, 2024 following Church service.

10. Closing Devotion

12. Lord's Prayer

13. Adjournment @ 11:14 a.m.

Ed Masson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Sherrilyn Spencer

All in Favour. Carried.

January 2024

Beloved of God,



May grace and peace be yours in abundance (1 Peter 1:2a).

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling (Ephesians 4:4).

I send you greetings in the Name of the One who is the light of the world, Jesus our Lord, as you gather for your Annual General Congregational Meeting. When you gather, know that I am filled with gratitude to God for you; that I am thankful for our partnership in the gospel and that you continue to be in my prayers as I know I remain in yours.

When you gather, you will be making decisions about your priorities for ministry. You will be adopting budgets that enable ministry that joins in God's mission of reconciliation in the world. You will be supporting your partners in ministry – the rostered ministers of this Synod, and especially those who serve among you as they, first and foremost, seek to equip you for the work of ministry: the building up of the Body of Christ.

Joining God's mission means that your ministry is among the people with whom you live and move and have your being. Your ministry is done each day in the living out of your baptismal identity as God's beloved children through your service in word and deed.

Ministry continues beyond the neighborhood and congregation through the many faces of the church and many facets of its ministries: our Synod and its staff, our National Church expression, the Lutheran World Federation, and our Companion Synod – The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

As you gather, you will also be electing lay and youth delegates to participate in our Synod Convention, and nominating delegates to the National Convention in 2025 who will be elected at our Synod Convention.

We will gather June 6-8, 2024, at the University of Alberta – Augustana Campus in Camrose for the 19th Convention of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories under the theme: One Body, One Spirit, One Hope (Ephesians 4).

This convention marks the end of my current term as Bishop and concludes my ministry as Bishop. Although I am concluding my term as Bishop, I will not be retiring. I am open to the Spirit's leading and to the Spirit's call and am looking forward to new ministry opportunities and possibilities either within Canada or globally, following our Synod Convention and a time of transition with the bishop-elect.

When I was first elected to serve as Bishop, I committed to doing so (you will remember if you were present) only if you...the Synod...would commit to walking with me by affirming our baptism together; to continue in the covenant God made with us in holy baptism:

*to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.*

Beloved of God, you have continued in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism in times of challenge and wonder, as you have in times of opportunity and possibility. Thank you for your example to me. I have sought to continue in this covenant, and I ask your forgiveness and blessing where I have failed to do so.

Continue to be humble and gentle with one another. Honour each other. Make space for lament. Welcome moments of joy. Help each other live into hope. Learn from this journey we are walking and let the learning lead us forward. Trust that God is at work in this time and look for the new things God is doing even now.

As you gather, be sure to join others across the Synod as you:

Receive and share the 2024 Synod Narrative Budget.

Review the Synod Council Meeting Highlights. <https://albertasynod.ca/synod-council-highlights/>

Together participate in the 3-session Discerning the Call of a Synod Bishop prepared for us by Deacon Dr. Fatih Nostbakken and Rev. Davide Saude.
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:fe748948-7eed-4a71-92a1-da75624a668d>

Subscribe to our Synod's e-mail newsletter: Wednesday's Word. Subscribing is easy on our Synod's website. www.albertasynod.ca

Participate in learning and conversation for the Rostered Leaders Zoom Gathering the first Wednesday of each month, and/or the Lay Members Zoom Gathering the first Tuesday evening of each month.

Perhaps at this year's Annual General Meeting you might reflect, name and give thanks for the gifts and mission into which God has invited you and your congregation. Consider taking a few moments in small groups to listen to each other and then share with all, your gathered reflections on the following:

Share about a time or situation when you or your congregation recently experienced God's love.

What have we learned about what is important in our life together as the body of Christ?

We do not know the future, but we have what we need. Jesus is feeding us. The Spirit is guiding us. We have the Scriptures. We have water. We have bread and wine. We have each other. Jesus is with us.

Know that I continue to be inspired and excited by the creative ways in which you have proclaimed the Gospel, offered pastoral care, knit together the body of Christ, and served the neighbor.

Know that you are held in prayer.

Most importantly, know that God is with you and even now is planning and nourishing seeds of resurrection life. God is again doing a new thing.

My support, prayers, and thanks accompany you. May God bless us and strengthen us to be the church we are called to be.

By God's grace, we still have several months to walk together in this work. I look forward to journeying with you and trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead, sustain, and guide us all.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

In Christ Jesus-

Shalom,

+The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop

Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

**Spirit-Led Leadership Hope-Filled Discipleship
Innovative Tradition Collaborative Partnerships**

Central Lutheran Church
Mission & Outreach
2023

World Day of Prayer was held March 3

Soup and Sandwich, followed by Lent Services was held - March 1 through March 29

Great Give Away Garage Sale:

On September 8, 2023 we held our Great Giveaway & Community Garage Sale. We had a great day, thanks to the support of our church members and community. Participation and attendance as always was very good. All left over items were packed and delivered to Interval Home in Lloyd, thank you to the Lavigne Family. Also, thank you to Pastor Paul and to all who donated, organized, and helped the day of the sale.

We are planning a **Spring & Fall** Great Giveaway for 2024, tentative date for the Spring Giveaway is set for May 3- and Fall Giveaway September 6, 2024.

We had, and will continue with, a "Cookie Outreach", baking and delivering cookies to show our appreciation for hard work and community services

- 1) Medical & Hospital Staff - August 2023
- 2) Public School in September - 2023
- 3) RCMP & First Responders - February 2024
- 4) STA School - June 2024

Silent Auction & Potluck was held on November 26th, money raised went to Central Lutheran or CLWR.

We are looking forward to Confirmation on May 26, 2024, with 7 being confirmed.

We continue to be grateful to the return of Church Potlucks & Fellowship.

Respectfully submitted

Susan McElhinney
Antoinette Erasmus

Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you are working for the Lord rather than for people.

Worship Committee Report 2024

Special thanks to our Church Family. We are so grateful for the many volunteers that help keep our church running smoothly. Many hands make light work and any help given whether it be during our worship service, in outreach to the community or behind the scenes is very much appreciated.

Our special thanks to Pastor Paul. He goes above and beyond for our congregation and community. We value his dedication and attention to detail which help make our worship services special. We are Blessed to have him. He willingly preforms weddings and funerals for others in our community, runs Bible studies and is an active participant in VBS. He uses these opportunities to share Gods word with others.

Please continue to pray for our congregation as we serve the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:12 “ The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one body. So it is with the body of Christ.”

Church Attendance 2023

(website service usage in brackets)

<u>Sundays</u>	* - pastor's vacation or illness		X – council choice, no in-person	
Jan 1 – X (4)	Jan 8 – 66 (3)	Jan 15 – 27 (4)	Jan 22 – 25 (5)	Jan 29 – 40 (11)
Feb 5 – 20 (6)	Feb 12 – 43 (4)	Feb 19 – 29 (3)	Feb 26 – 43 (7)	
Mar 5 – 31 (7)	Mar 12 – 30 (8)	Mar 19 – 42 (5)	Mar 26 – 42 (6)	
Apr 2 – 48 (3)	Apr 9 – 93 (0)	Apr 16 – 45 (8)	Apr 23 – 30 (7)	Apr 30 – 44 (5)
May 7 – 36 (19)	May 14 – 33 (4)	May 21 – 33 (3)	May 28 – 53 (5)	
Jun 4* - no svc.	Jun 11 – 49 (2)	Jun 18 – 35 (4)	Jun 25 – 28 (4)	
Jul 2* – (10)	Jul 9* – (12)	Jul 16 – 22 (5)	Jul 23 – 34 (0)	Jul 30 – 22 (0)
Aug 6 – 19 (2)	Aug 13 – 38 (2)	Aug 20* – (8)	Aug 27 – 46 (1)	
Sep 3 – 25 (1)	Sep 10 – 37 (4)	Sep 17 – 38 (5)	Sep 24 – 49 (2)	
Oct 1 – 42 (3)	Oct 8 – 50 (2)	Oct 15 – 42 (2)	Oct 22 – 57 (4)	Oct 29 – 33 (0)
Nov 5 – 64 (5)	Nov 12 – 73 (4)	Nov 19 – 35 (9)	Nov 26 – 51 (2)	
Dec 3 – 57 (3)	Dec 10 – 50 (2)	Dec 17 – 60 (2)	Dec 24 – X	Dec 31 – 31 (1)
In-person:	47 services		Virtual:	50 services
Attendance	2023 avg. - 41	2022 avg. - 36	2021 avg. - 31	2020 avg. - 36
	Virtual avg. - 5	2022 V.avg. - 6	2021 V.avg. - 8	2020 V.avg. - 7
<u>Midweek - Lent</u>				
Mar 1 – 19 (4)	Mar 8 – 27 (1)	Mar 15 – 24 (1)	Mar 22 – 25 (0)	Mar 29 – 27 (2)
	2023 avg. - 24	2022 avg. - 19	2021 avg. - 11	2020 avg. - 22
	Virtual avg. - 2	Virtual avg. - 0	Virtual avg. - 1	
<u>Midweek Festival</u>				
Ash Wednesday	Good Friday	Easter Vigil Sat.	C-mas Eve (Sun)	
Feb 22 – 19	Apr 7 – 63 (0)	X	Dec 24 – 125	
<u>Christmas/Easter</u>	2023	2022	2021	2020
Easter Sunday	93	76	40	No svc.
Christmas Eve	125	110	109	70

Servants List 2024

Date	Servants	Reader
Jan 28	Kris & Tara Mills	Kris Mills
Feb 4*	Brad & Cindy Pylypow	Brad Pylypow
Feb 11	Whidden Family	Spencer Family
Feb 18*	Tom & Diana Kroetsch	Diana Kroetsch
Feb 25	Trevor & ML Provick	Vivian Baier
Mar 3*	Gary & Donna Johnston	Donna Johnston
Mar 10	Ed & Connie Mason	Ed Mason
Mar 17*	Darlene Downing & Rab Family	Darlene Downing
Mar 24	Dirk & Elaine Brouwer	Dirk Brouwer
Mar 31*	Kim & Deb Larson	Stacy Lloyd
Apr 7*	Norris & Ruth Pahlke	Ruth Pahlke
Apr 14	Melanie McGowan & Val Paulgaard	Val Paulgaard
Apr 21*	Elton & Linda Paulgaard	Linda Paulgaard
Apr 28	Kris & Tara Mills	Kris Mills
May 5*	Susan McElhinney & Nicole Gregory	Susan McElhinney
May 12	Brent & Carrie Olson	Spencer Family
May 19*	John & Brenda Sullivan	Brenda Sullivan
May 26	Deon & Antoinette Erasmus	Deon Erasmus
June 2*	Tom & Diana Kroetsch	Diana Kroetsch
June 9	Levi & Joelle Paulgaard	Stacy Lloyd
June 16*	Ken & Diane Berg	Diane Berg
June 23	Gary & Donna Johnston	Donna Johnston
June 30*	Vivian & David Baier	Vivian Baier
July 7	Virtual Service	
July 14	Virtual Service	
July 21	Virtual Service	
July 28*	Ken & Diane Berg	Ken Berg
Aug 4*	Dirk & Elaine Brouwer	Dirk Brouwer
Aug 11*	Lorne & Julie Olson	Lorne Olson
Aug 18*	Norris & Ruth Pahlke	Ruth Pahlke
Aug 25*	Susan McElhinney & Nicole Gregory	Susan McElhinney
Sept 1*	John & Brenda Sullivan	Brenda Sullivan

Sept 8	Darlene Downing & Rab Family	Darlene Downing
Sept 15*	Brent & Carrie Olson	Stacy Lloyd
Sept 22	Whidden Family	Spencer Family
Sept 29*	Norris & Ruth Pahlke	Ruth Pahlke
Oct 6*	Kim & Deb Larson	Stacy Lloyd
Oct 13	Trevor & ML Provick	Susan McElhinney
Oct 20*	Darlene Downing & Rab Family	Darlene Downing
Oct 27	Brad & Cindy Pylypow	Brad Pylypow
Nov 3*	Susan McElhinney & Nicole Gregory	Susan McElhinney
Nov 10	Melanie McGowan & Val Paulgaard	Val Paulgaard
Nov 17*	Ed & Connie Mason	Ed Mason
Nov 24	Rod & Joanne Paulgaard	Diana Kroetsch
Dec 1*	Elton & Linda Paulgaard	Linda Paulgaard
Dec 8	Whidden Family	Spencer Family
Dec 15*	Vivian & David Baier	Vivian Baier
Dec 22	Lorne & Julie Olson	Lorne Olson
Dec 24	Deon & Antoinette Erasmus	Deon Erasmus
Dec 29*	Tom & Diana Kroetsch	Diana Kroetsch
Jan 5*	Gary & Donna Johnston	Donna Johnston
Jan 12	Trevor & ML Provick	Vivian Baier
Jan 19*	Kim & Deb Larson	Stacy Lloyd
Jan 26	Rod & Joanne Paulgaard	Brad Pylypow

* Indicates Communion Sunday

Please trade if date doesn't work with your schedule. If possible, please notify church office of trades Thursday before so bulletin can be updated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT / EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT 2023

Sunday School resumed in January and we are continuing to use the curriculum “Holy Moly” along with craft Sundays. It is great to see the enthusiasm of the children as they engage in the Bible stories and the wonderful crafts. Wrap up for the year was June 4th with kids and families enjoying the Provost Pool.

On Easter Sunday the congregation enjoyed a wonderful breakfast prepared by the confirmation students and their families. Sharing breakfast and fellowship on Easter Sunday is a decades-old tradition in our church that is highly anticipated and enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who keep making this possible.

The only way to describe VBS for 2023 is “**STELLAR**”!!!! Once again, the awesome VBS committee, along with many, many volunteers made this community outreach a wonderful success. From August 21st to August 25th our church was transformed to an amazing space station. It is such a blessing that we have dedicated people in our congregation and our community that put the time, energy and love into this program that excites and engages so many of our community youth.

Sunday school classes started up again in September with 13 children ranging from ages 4 to 11 participating in the class with congregational members leading the lessons and crafts.

Stacy Lloyd continues to bless us with her talent and energy as she organized the Christmas pageant that we enjoyed on December 17th during the church service. Our youth shine under her direction as they perform for us, and relay the wonderful message of Christmas. A potluck followed the pageant.

Thank you to everyone who makes our Sunday School and VBS so successful. It’s the dedication of our students, parents, volunteer teachers, congregation and Pastor Paul that ensures that the teaching of God and the love of Jesus, continue to be a priority in our church.

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it”.

Respectfully submitted,

Education Committee

Sherrilyn Spencer – Sunday School Superintendent

Linda Aker Paulgaard

Property Report 2023

Below is a general listing of items that were accomplished by the property committee, along with help from individuals who gave their time and talent to the church.

March- snow removal from the church roof that accumulated in the valleys. Thanks to Gary Johnson who provided picker truck and help.
Fire extinguishers were inspected and certified.

April- tap repaired on the kitchen sink. Hot water tank for the sink was cleaned and repaired.

Spring clean up- thanks to all who showed up to help. With all the help, it was done in a couple of hours.

May- new eavestrough attached to the south side of the church. Trevor Provick special thanks.

Hired a new lawn maintenance person.

Sewage back up at a funeral that required both the town of Provost and Brad Carter to clean lines. There is a tree root problem that will require maintenance each year.

June- contacted Cherry insurance to ask for quotes from other underwriters for our insurance.

August- informed by Cherry insurance that three companies refused to offer any bids for church insurance. Continued with existing policy.

September- hired Travis Watt to do snow removal.

October- repaired parsonage dishwasher, circulating pump.

November- complete upstairs bathroom renovation at parsonage due to leak. Special thanks to Trevor Provick for providing his expertise.

December- repaired furnace cage around outside furnace. The damage was caused by snow sliding off the roof last January.

As our church and parsonage continue to age, there probably will be some more issues that will need to be addressed. Hopefully our diligence will keep these situations from becoming large problems.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Berg
Ed Masson

January 11, 2024

2023 Cemeteries Report

Skyline and Our Saviors Cemeteries some changes in 2023.

Andy Paulgaard & Kim Larson spent considerable time maintaining Our Savior's cemetery using donations specified for this purpose. The resulting changes saw the removal of broken grave covers and grave markers. New headstones were ordered to replace the broken ones. Landscaping was completed and trenches dug to prepare for the formation of new concrete footings upon which all headstones will eventually rest. One footing was poured, with the remainder to be completed in 2024.

The Skyline Church Historical Society requested the renewal of their lease with the CLC. They would like an amendment to the contract which would include an option to renew every five years, which has been our de facto arrangement in all but writing. The Society asked for council's blessing in their application for a government grant which they hope to use to re-side the church.

Report prepared by Trevor Provick

Skyline Church Historical Society Annual Report – 2023

Skyline Church Historical Society (SCHS) recommended Stacey Lakevold be hired to mow the grass and maintain the cemetery grounds at the Skyline Cemetery for 2023. He has submitted an invoice for his maintenance hours directly to the Provost Central Lutheran Church.

There were two burials at Skyline Cemetery during 2023: Ove Aasen (May), Carl Aasen (October). In accordance with the Provost Central Lutheran Church Cemeteries Bylaw #7 all record keeping and plot purchases were handled by the Provost Central Lutheran Church and Gregory's Funeral Home.

Siding supplies for the Skyline Church building have been purchased with the proceeds from the January 2022 Casino. However, the cost of installation has delayed the project and further fundraising will be necessary.

Thanks to the continuing work and dedication of Iris Larson and Janet Paulgaard all known burials at Skyline Cemetery are recorded on the website findagrave.com and most headstones have been photographed. A short history of Skyline Cemetery is also on this website. Janet Paulgaard has updated the burial list to include the 2023 burials.

SCHS is a registered Alberta Society and is governed by a four person executive. Current executive members are:

Chairperson	Blaine Lakevold
Vice – Chair	Darwin Berg
Treasurer	Joan Olson
Secretary	Jody Paulgaard

Submitted by:
Jody Paulgaard
Secretary
Skyline Church Historical Society (SCHS)

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Financial Statement
January 1 – December 31, 2023

Income

Current Envelopes			\$ 144,727.00
Synod Benevolence			
Benevolence/Alberta	\$ 3,445.00		
CLWR	13,476.00		
CLWR/Emergency Relief	<u>2,975.00</u>		19,896.00
Loose Offerings			3,094.00
SS & VBS Offering			1,425.00
Other:			
Interest	\$ 8.84		
Funeral Lunches	1,200.00		
Choir Income	465.00		
Janitor Reimburse	200.00		
Lent	858.00		
Silent Auction	1,178.00		
Girl Guides	1,000.00		
Sewer Refund	100.00		
Skyline Plot Sale	<u>1,000.00</u>		6,009.84
Donations to:			
Our Saviour's	\$ 10,080.00		
Carpet	2,930.00		
Furnace	400.00		
Food Bank	<u>75.00</u>		13,485.00
Honorariums			550.00
BMO: Skyline Yard/Our Savior's Yard/Maintenance			7,539.00
Memorials:			
V. Larson	\$ 2,330.00		
V. McElhinney	75.00		
O. Aasen	985.00		
C. Aasen	160.00		
L. McNalley	275.00		
R. Golding	<u>25.00</u>		<u>3,850.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME			<u>\$ 200,575.84</u>

Expenses

Salary/Receiver General			\$ 70,696.37
Health & Dental			5,448.00
Pension, Group Benefits, CEP, & Book Allowance			10,706.97
Car Expense			0.00
Parsonage Repair & Maintenance			12,757.68
Parsonage Utilities:	EPCOR	\$ 4,050.69	
	DERS	1,467.74	
	Telus	1,836.15	
	Water	<u>923.65</u>	8,278.23
Synod: Benevolence/AB	\$ 3,445.00		
CLWR	13,476.00		
CLWR-Emergency Rel.	<u>2,975.00</u>		19,896.00
Janitor/Yard			2,495.00
Sunday School			689.15
Vacation Bible School			3,193.09
Church Utilities:	Telus	\$ 776.67	
	EPCOR	7,365.31	
	DERS	4,016.31	
	Water/Garbage	<u>1,508.75</u>	13,667.04
GST Paid			2,274.85
Repair & Maintenance			3,253.07
Office Supplies			2,261.65
Other:	Kitchen Supplies	\$ 659.08	
	Envelopes	280.50	
	Choir Music	1,234.54	
	Advertising	1,035.50	
	Convention Fee	1,665.82	
	Miscellaneous	<u>340.00</u>	5,215.44
Insurance			7,173.00
Our Saviour's Yard Maintenance/Site Prep/Monuments			15,138.82
Skyline Yard Maintenance			880.00
Invest in BMO/Worship Enhancement			9,930.00
Donations to: Ministerial Food Bank			<u>75.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES			<u>\$ 194,029.36</u>

BANK RECONCILIATION – 2023

December 31, 2022 Balance Forward	\$ 20,518.09
Plus: 2023 Income	<u>200,575.84</u>
	221,093.93
Less: 2023 Expenses	<u>194,029.36</u>
Balance at December 31, 2023	<u>\$ 27,064.57</u>

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Paulgaard-Johnston, Treasurer

BMO Funds

December 31, 2023

BMO FUNDS (Worship Enhancement)

2022 Balance Forward	\$ 35,568.88
2023 Interest	2,590.74
Carpet/Building	2,930.00
2023 Honorariums	550.00
2023 Skyline Plot	1,000.00
2023 Skyline Memorials	1,065.00
2023 Skyline Yard	(880.00)
2023 Memorials	445.00
O/S Monuments	(3,990.00)
O/S Site Prep	(10,149.00)
O/S Yard	(1,000.00)
2023 OS Donations	10,090.00
2023 OS Memorials	<u>2,330.00</u>

BMO Fund Balance at December 31, 2023

\$40,550.62

** These Funds are included in the total BMO Fund Balance above:

Skyline Cemetery Fund

2022 Balance Forward	\$ 5,443.00
2023 Memorials	1,065.00
2023 Yard	(880.00)
2023 Plots	<u>1,000.00</u>
	\$ 6,628.00

Our Saviour's Cemetery Fund

2022 Balance Forward	\$ 8,238.53
Monuments	(3,990.00)
Site Prep	(10,149.00)
2023 Yard	(1,000.00)
2023 Donations	10,090.00
2023 Memorials	<u>2,330.00</u>
	\$5,519.53

Carpet Fund

2022 Balance Forward	\$ 6,560.00
2023 Donations	<u>2,930.00</u>
	\$ 9,490.00

Annual Report 2023

I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow council members, whether their terms are concluding or continuing, and to the congregation for the support extended throughout the past year. I also want to thank Pastor Paul for his service that extends beyond the call of duty, including his outstanding efforts in community outreach. A heartfelt appreciation for his exceptional commitment to connecting with and serving the community. His dedication to organizing impactful events, fostering relationships, and actively engaging with the needs of our neighbors has significantly strengthened the bonds within our community. We are truly grateful for his tireless endeavors, exemplifying the true essence of compassionate leadership and the love of Christ.

The Sunday School Program volunteer teachers, the Vacation Bible School volunteers and teachers, the Choir members, the Cemeteries Committee, the Ladies serving groups, the congregation volunteers at special events, Donna our treasurer and the different committee members all contribute tremendously to the service of our congregation and our broader community.

Thank you for sharing your gifts with the entire people of God.

Respectfully submitted.



Antoinette Erasmus
Chairperson. Provost Central Lutheran Church

Pastor's Report for 2023

"But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'" (Matthew 11:16-17)

With armed conflict in the world, and increasing random violence in the cities, what a blessing it is to live and work in a setting like ours! Here are the highlights of our year together in ministry:

Outreach:

Our premier event for outreach was Vacation Bible School in August, and the response by the community was encouraging, with attendance approaching 100 children and many volunteers from outside the congregation. We held our eighth Free Garage Sale outdoors on Friday September 8, and we have plans for both a spring and fall free garage sales in 2024. And we continued to offer the use of our building to the Girl Guides and the Music Festival Association.

Wider Church:

National Convention, including with the Anglican Church of Canada, occurred in Calgary in June, no highlights to speak of. Synod Convention will be held in 2024.

Education:

Thanks to our Sunday School superintendent, teachers, parents, and volunteers for their efforts in continuing to make Sunday School possible, this is a critical ministry! Confirmation class currently has 7 students working on the final year of our two-year curriculum, and they will be confirmed in May of 2024. Bible study resumed at the nursing home, and we are currently using a format of study followed by a time of singing hymns. Bible study on Wednesday evenings started in October with a focus on tying in the bible with current events.

Worship:

Average Sunday morning worship attendance for 2023 rose slightly to 41 from the previous year's average of 36, which is still down from our 2019 pre-pandemic average of 55. Pre-recorded services were provided every week on the website (including Sundays where there was no in-person service due to vacation), and on average they were accessed by 5 devices before Sunday noon. Our Lenten sermon series was on Jesus' report card for the churches in the book of Revelation, and attendance at the midweek Lenten soup suppers and services averaged 24. We mourned the loss of two congregation members in 2023, Violet Larson and Ove Aasen, and I presided at nine other funerals and interments in the community. We celebrated the weddings of Kyle Paulgaard to Jillian Van Basten, Pierce McGowan to Chloe Gessner, Lauren Kroetsch to Nathan Heck, Levi Hunter to Shae Wasyliv, Robyne Hottot to Jon Power, and John Hoberg to Corine Pidruchney, and I presided at two other weddings not attached to our congregation. We also rejoiced to add Ole Paulgaard, Charlotte Rab, Kathy, Brett, Cameron, and Hannah Botting, Chloe McGowan, Maeve Long, Gunar Hunter, and Eloise Paulgaard to our family of faith through baptism.

Property:

Several issues were addressed at the church this year, including a back-up of the sewer system, which involved the removal of carpet under the stairs. At the parsonage, the upstairs bathroom was renovated beautifully, the hot water heater was replaced, and the dishwasher was repaired with a new pump.

Personal:

Thank you for your support of my work with the Provost Ministerial Food Bank, and with services for the wider community!_And thank you for your prayers and support during my recovery from angioplasty and stent installation!

Outlook:

As Jesus said to Peter, "the gates of Hades will not prevail against the church," - we always have cause for optimism! As the wider world becomes stranger, and the contrast between the darkness of the world and the light of Christ increases, we are hopeful that the Gospel message will have even greater impact on our wider community. May God guide us in 2024, such that His love, grace, and truth are obvious in everything we do, and to everyone we encounter...

Yours in Christ,



Pastor Paul McCormick

Central Lutheran Church

Proposed 2024 Budget

Expenses

	<u>Actual '23</u>	<u>Budget '23</u>	<u>Proposed '24</u>
Salary			
Car Expense	\$ 65,538.50	\$ 65,538.50	\$66,793.50
Receiver General	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
ELCIC Pension & Benefits	5,157.87	5,160.00	5,340.00
CEP	9,606.97	9,800.00	10,860.00
Book Allowance	600.00	600.00	600.00
Pulpit Supply	500.00	500.00	500.00
Conferences & Convention	0.00	400.00	400.00
Parsonage	0.00	500.00	500.00
Parsonage Utilities	9,997.68	5,000.00	7,500.00
Dental & Medical	8,278.23	7,000.00	8,500.00
	<u>5,448.00</u>	<u>5,448.00</u>	<u>6,000.00</u>
	\$ 105,127.25	\$ 100,946.50	\$ 107,993.50
Janitor/Yard Maintenance			
Telephone	\$ 2,495.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Office Supplies	776.67	1,000.00	1,000.00
SS & VBS	2,261.21	2,000.00	2,000.00
DERS	3,882.24	6,000.00	5,000.00
EPCOR	4,016.31	5,000.00	5,000.00
Water, Sewer, Garbage	7,365.31	8,000.00	8,000.00
Canada Lutheran	1,508.75	1,500.00	1,600.00
Repair & Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Conferences & Convention	3,253.07	6,000.00	6,000.00
Church Envelopes	1,665.82	500.00	500.00
Insurance	280.50	300.00	300.00
Advertising	7,173.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
Choir Music	1,035.50	1,000.00	1,000.00
GST	1,234.54	1,500.00	1,000.00
Conference Dues	2,274.85	1,500.00	1,500.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	500.00	500.00
Educational Supplies	340.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Mission/Outreach	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Kitchen Supplies	0.00	500.00	500.00
	<u>659.08</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
	<u>\$40,222.29</u>	<u>\$ 51,300.00</u>	<u>\$ 48,900.00</u>
	<u>\$ 145,349.54</u>	<u>\$ 152,246.50</u>	<u>\$ 156,893.50</u>

Nomination Report 2023

Church Council

Terms expiring at this meeting (all ineligible for re-election):

Cheryl Bouma
Susan McElhinney
Carol Paulgaard

Terms expiring in January 2025:

Ken Berg
Antoinette Erasmus
Trevor Provick
Sherrilyn Spencer

Terms expiring in January 2026:

Donna Paulgaard-Johnston
Linda Paulgaard
Ed Masson
1 vacancy

Thanks to our departing and ongoing Church Council members for all their work in the challenging year that was 2023!

Nominations to council will be solicited during the Annual Meeting, for either the vacancy with term expiring in 2 years, or for the four vacancies with standard 3 year terms. Unless sufficient members are identified at the meeting, we will begin the new council year with vacancies. Please make sure when nominating that you have the permission of the person nominated, thanks!

Synod Convention will be held June 6-8 in Camrose. Our congregation is encouraged to send a lay delegate and a youth delegate (under 25) to this convention. Nominations to Synod Convention will be solicited during the Annual Meeting.

Also, at the Synod Convention in 2024, delegates from the synod will be elected to attend National Convention in 2025. Congregations can nominate delegates - lay delegates, rostered delegates, and youth delegates - for this election at their annual general meeting. In the event that both a lay delegate and a rostered delegate are elected at Synod Convention, the congregation would then choose which delegate would attend, as only one lay or rostered delegate per congregation is allowed.

Nominations to National Convention from council:

Paul McCormick (rostered)

Nominations to National Convention will also be solicited during the Annual Meeting.

Compiled by Paul McCormick

Opening Devotion for Annual General Meeting

Reading – Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

Opening Prayer

Gracious Lord, we thank you that you have gathered this congregation around your Holy Word and Sacraments. Bless our ministry in this place and time. Help us to weep with those who suffer, and rejoice with those who are glad. Keep our testimony to your love effective in all that we say and do in your name. Direct us now, and make your presence known to us as we make decisions for the year ahead, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Closing Devotion for Annual General Meeting

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the vast array of gifts and talents that you have provided for this congregation through your Holy Spirit. We thank you for this time of deliberation and discussion on our shared ministry. Send us out re-energized for service in your name, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Table Grace for Potluck Lunch