



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

January at

JOY

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP
ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.



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

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

Beginning Prayer

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.

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Joy Lutheran Church Congregational Annual Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date:	January 28 th , 2024		
Joy Congregational Core Values	† Ensure that Joy provides a <i>feeling of community</i> and environment of support to its members and visitors † Focus on growth, both spiritual and individual, of our <i>Youth</i> , from small children through Young Adult † <i>Community Outreach</i> † <i>Worship & Music</i> † <i>Care for Creation</i>	Mission Statement	To Joyfully Celebrate and Share the Love of Jesus Christ

Item No.	Description of Agenda Item	Person(s) Responsible	Note(s)
1.	Call to Order	Lynn Jacobsen	
2.	Opening Prayer	Pr. Olson	See ELCA Annual report
3.	Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	Lynn Jacobsen	Approval of meeting minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting
	Old Business		
4.	Council President's Report	Lynn Jacobsen	see Annual Report
5.	2023 Committee Reports		see Annual Report
6.	Mission Endowment Fund Report		see Annual Report
7.	Staff Reports	Lynn J.	
	New Business		
8.	2024 Spending Plan Presentation	Mike Mueller	see Annual Report
9.	2024 Ballot		See Ballot
10.	Adjourn with The Lord's Prayer	ALL	

Joy Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes January 29, 2023

President David Humphrey called the meeting to order at 10:40 am followed by opening prayer offered by Pastor Jon Myers.

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2022 meeting was made by Ron Peters, seconded by Bill Allen. Motion carried.

Council President's Report

President David Humphrey highlighted major items of the year. Resignation of long-time organist/choir director and hiring a replacement. Discontinued lawn service and mowing to be done by members with Joy's riding mower. On Sunday afternoon and Friday evening Calvary Cross, a Hmong Christian Church, has been and will continue to worship in our sanctuary. Repairs to our building included sealing windows, repairing squirrel damage and paint to the exterior. Motion made by Lila Martini to accept the President's report, seconded by Sara Richers. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

No question or discussion on reports, motion made by Ione Allison to accept reports as printed, seconded by Ron Peters. Motion carried.

Mission Endowment Fund Report

The fund balance as of September 30, 2022 was \$434,278. Distributions for the year totaled \$26,300. Distributions over the life of the fund total \$314,700 in support of mission and ministry projects locally, throughout the nation and world. Motion to accept the report made by Sara Richers, seconded by Lynn Jacobsen. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

After a short discussion by the Pastor a motion was made to accept the report as printed. Motion to accept report made by Linda Waytula seconded by Eleanore Beymer. Motion carried.

Staff Report With no discussion or questions on these reports, David Humphrey called for a vote to accept. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Michael Mueller presented the financial information. Beginning account balances for 2023 total \$119,230 down \$71,990 from 2022. Actual expenditures for 2022 totaled \$231,919 creating deficit spending in the amount of \$29,953. A spending plan of \$254,409 was presented.

Motion made to accept by Linda Waytula, seconded by Eleanore Beymer.

Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Council-Nancy Seis and Sara Richers

Endowment Committee-Three-year term-Roger Meyer and Carol Rowe

Synod Assembly-Lila Martini and Ione Allison

Nominating Committee-Susan Humphrey, Ione Allison and Carol Bird

Financial Secretary-Ione Allison

Treasurer-David Humphreys

Motion made to accept ballot as presented by Roger Meyers, seconded by Ed Snyder. Motion carried.

Ratification of changes to the Constitution and Bylaws

At a congregational meeting held on January 22, 2023, changes were approved to amend:

C12.02 changing council elected term from 3 years to 2 years.

Bylaw14 a.i.2d changing term of Mission Endowment Board member from 2 years to 3 years.
Motion made to accept by Kathy Lokes, Seconded by Carol Bird. Motion Carried.

With no new business, David Humphrey called for a vote to end the meeting, seconded by Ione Allison.
Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord’s Prayer at 11:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted
Ann Lee

Joy Baptized membership at the end of 2022:149
Baptisms (15 years and younger): 0
Baptisms (16 years and older): 0
Members received by affirmation of baptism in 2023: 0
Total members received this year: 8
Deaths in 2023: 6
Members removed by transfer in 2023: 4
Members were removed for other reasons in 2023: 24
Total members removed this year: 34
Baptized members at the end of 2023: 123
Number of baptized youths confirmed in 2023: 1
Average weekly worship attendance (Sundays only) in 2023: 36-40

President's Report

When I was named Council President in February 2023, I will admit the last thing on my mind was losing our minister.

But wallowing in self-pity is not the Lutheran way.

No, this group got down to business – whether planning functions to keep the congregation engaged or the upkeep of the property or simply filling roles on any given Sunday.

This congregation is the epitome of the Lutheran Way. The first order of business for the 2023 Council - Brenda Baker, Eleanore Beymer , Nancy Sies secretary Sara Richers, treasurer David Humphrey and myself – was to find a supply pastor.

In March, the council sat down with outgoing Bishop Mike Girlinghouse and our current Bishop Becca Middeke-Conlin to discuss our options.

We were provided with a multi-step process to begin our search for a new pastor. It is a daunting task but our Call Committee consisting of Susan Humphrey, Dan Norford, Ione Allison, Kathryn Daniels, Debbie Lovelace, Bonnie Peters, and Nick Conger has embraced the task.

As the committee began its work, so did the Council. I tapped an old friend that I had used during Ascension's finals months. I was relieved that Rev. Bob Lawrence not only had his same phone number but that he answered my call and graciously agreed to step in and fill a vital role here at Joy as Supply Pastor.

We have continued to go about the day-to-day business. David Humphrey oversaw our property issues from broken sprinkler heads to a new air conditioner for the sanctuary. In short, we have no option but to be good stewards of this magnificent property and facility.

In closing, I wish to thank the council for answering my impromptu calls and motions when issues couldn't wait for a regular meeting, our staff – Music Director Catherine Conger, Secretary Sarah Smith, and supply pastor Bob Lawrence and this congregation. You are the real heroes in this scenario. The endless selfless acts of kindness, relentless volunteering, and willingness to do whatever needs to be done are heartwarming.

Thank you for your trust and for allowing me to be your Council President.

God Bless.

- Lynn Jacobsen

Call Committee Report

Joy Call Committee Report for Annual Meeting

Call Committee Members: Ione Allison, Nick Conger, Kathryn Daniel, Susan Humphrey ,Deb Lovelace, Daniel Norford, Bonnie Peters

Joy's Call Committee has been diligently at work learning both the ELCA Call Process and determining the desires and needs of Joy Lutheran Church. We have solicited information from current, past and non-worshipping members. We have been looking at past annual reports, current neighborhood statistics and Joy's constitution.

We are first tasked with preparing a Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which will be approved by the congregation and then distributed to potential Pastoral Candidates. The MSP is taking shape with several sections complete and several more in process. Information which includes; Joy's Purpose, Giftedness, Mission and Vision are all part of the MSP. One section asks us to describe both the gifts for ministry and the style of leadership that we require in a leader. The congregation will be polled for this section both in a Temple Talk and by phone. The new Joy Council will be preparing the financial package portion of the MSP. The congregations' input and approval for the completed MSP will be forthcoming after Easter. When all is complete the MSP goes to the Bishop for final approval and distribution. The next step for the Call Committee includes Candidate interviews and selection. The candidate will then be presented to the congregation for acceptance.

Your input, observations and thoughts are valuable. Feel free to contact any member of the CC with information or questions. And please continue to hold the members of this committee and the discernment of this process in your prayers.

The Joy Call Committee

2023 Committee Reports

Altar Guild

The members of the Altar Guild continue to prepare the sanctuary for services and assist with communion. We continue to offer sealed individual communion cups for those who wish to have them. Altar flowers are purchased only if someone has signed up to buy them. The peace lily is used when there are no flowers. If you wish to supply flowers sign the chart in the hallway leading to the fellowship hall. The cost is still \$45. Palms were purchased from Eco Palms for Palm Sunday, and Easter lilies were ordered from Trader Joe's. Christmas was a bit of a challenge this year with both the 4th Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve being on the same Sunday. However, thanks to the Altar Guild team and several non-members, the change from blue to red was flawless. I can't thank everyone enough for all the help. We are always looking for new members to join our group. If you are interested, please call the church office, or let someone on Altar Guild know. Men are also welcome!

Present members include Connie Allen, Carol Bird, Kristen Bird, Debbie Lovelace, Janice Lovelace, Lila Martini, Carol Rowe, and Michelle Staedeli.

Blessings and Peace,

Ione Allison

Caregivers Report

Thank you to all caregiving volunteers for helping/praying and showing your care for one another this past year, our combined efforts add up to a big difference to those receiving our thought and prayers, in addition to other items like visits, helping hands, and driving hands.

Please let us know if you would be interested in joining one or more of our caregiving groups, which include:

--Driving Hands

--Helping hands Meals

--Hospital/Homebound visits

If you or someone you know who needs some extra care and would appreciate a home visit, a home-cooked meal, or help getting to church please call the church office.

2023 Property Committee Report

The property committee is made up of three individuals, Janice Lovelace and dual Chairpersons Lynn Jacobsen and David Humphrey. We had a very active year in 2023. The following is a list of items that we worked on during the last year:

- We fired our cleaning contractor of 20 years and between Joy Members and Calvary Church we did just fine for the whole year. We saved \$3,000.
- We fired our mowing contractor and two members Bill Allen and David Humphrey did our mowing. We filled in with Total Lawn and Landscape for our fertilizing and weed killing, some touch-up mowing and we had to do some maintenance on the mower. After expenses, we saved the church over \$4,000.
- We had two members clean up days during the last year.
- Our East Sanctuary HVAC unit was replaced and upgraded to gas for \$11,600 and the congregation donated \$5,905.
- 80% of the Narthex lights are burned out and need to be replaced. The bulbs are inserted from the side, therefore they cannot be replaced using a long stick. We asked for bids from various light and electrical contractors and had 6 interested parties.
- Three parties could not do the job since we were commercial, not residential, two parties did not have tall enough ladders and one party quoted the job of replacing the halogen bulbs with LEDs for \$6,000.
- We can do the job ourselves, but it will require a lift, twice for \$400 each time plus 24 light bulbs for \$240 to \$480. Then we discovered that our HVAC contractor has a lift we can borrow for about \$100, but we need to get it to and from the church. We hope to have this solved in the near future.

Witness and Outreach Report

2023 offered many new challenges!

Joy's Food Chest for the Jenks Community Food Bank

Operation Hope

Items for families and individuals coming out of prison and getting back into the community

Coat and warm clothing drive

Day Center for the Homeless and Jenks Public Schools

Three Art painting classes...for some of us it was the first time we tried to paint!!
Ceramic class on painting crosses which some took home or donated for the celebration of baptism, confirmation, and new members.

Esther Circle Bible Study

They met on the 2nd Saturday of the month. With the new year starting they will be meeting the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00 am-11:30 am. We will be using Gather Magazine for the monthly study.

Lydia's Quilt/Craft Group

This group meets every Wednesday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
39 lap quilts to Grace Hospice
40 baby quilts to Oklahoma Crisis Nursery
12 Tulsa Quilt for Kids
34 pet beds to the Humane Society of Tulsa

During Advent this past year we collected funds for the ELCA Good Gifts. We are proud to say we bought a cow, 2 flocks of chickens, and 2 roosters for God's Global Barnyard! Thank you to all who donated!

Submitted by the Witness Team

Worship & Music Report

We are starting off 2024 with 7:00 Wednesday evening rehearsals for Joy Choir. All are welcome and we would love to add voices to our mix. We will be singing once or twice a month during Sunday worship and rehearsal tracks are provided in the event you cannot attend every rehearsal. Please consider joining us!

A 2024 worship and music committee is currently being formed to aid in selecting hymns and liturgy. This group will meet as needed and no musical background is required to do so, only a passion for the music at Joy!

Young voices and solo talent are encouraged to join us for Sunday morning worship. If you know a young singer or musician who would enjoy the opportunity to sing or play a solo on Sunday morning, they are welcome! Catherine Conger will assist in music selection and offer coaching and direction if requested. Catherine excels at bringing talent to the forefront with her students and would love to help individuals at Joy do the same!

Please contact Catherine Conger about any of the above opportunities.

May God continue to bless us and bring peace, love and JOY in 2024!

Hospitality Report

We started having our coffee and light goodies after the church service in the narthex. Even though the sign-up sheet isn't full the goodies just appear! What a blessing and thank you to all!

These are a few of our fellowship gatherings:

- Easter Brunch
- Ice Cream Social
- Octoberfest
- Ladies Christmas Brunch

During the year we served 4 funeral meals to our members who passed this past year.

Submitted by the Hospitality Team

Joy Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund Report

The MEF balance on 12/31/2022 was \$464,832. The MEF balance on 12/31/2023 was 522,719.49. The MEF Committee met 2/05/23, 5/06/23, 8/06/23, and 11/04/23. Due to the MEF fund balance being below \$500,000 for most of the year, the MEF Board decided that it was not prudent to make disbursements during 2023.

If the market continues to rebound we hope to make disbursements during 2024. If the market does not rebound we will most likely issue no disbursements again during 2024. The MEF rules state that the board may only make disbursement of fund earnings, not the principal – unless the principal exceeds \$500,000.

During the year we discovered that the board was 1 member short and that the church's council should be asked to appoint someone to the board. In October Ron Peters agreed to serve on the board for the remainder of 2023 with his replacement to be voted on by the congregation at the 2024 Congregational meeting.

Roger Meyer – MEF Board Recording Secretary
Approved by the rest of the MEF board.