

SUNNE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Interim Pastor: Dan Paulson
Office Phone: 734-6485
Cell Phone: 240-2681
Pastor's email: djpaulzon@gmail.com
Church e-mail: sunne@bektel.com
www.sunnelutheran.org

SUNNE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

SUANN OLSON.....	258-3887.....	2024
LYNDSEY CLEVELAND.....	734-6558.....	2024
KRIS ELL.....	734-6742.....	2025
LESTER VOLLAN.....	223-1182.....	2025
TIM SMALLBECK.....	734-6628.....	2025
CARYN HEDSTROM.....	734-6822.....	2026
MARCUS HALL.....	734-6029.....	2026

SUNNE LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP 2023

TOTAL BAPTIZED.....	463
TOTAL CONFIRMED.....	351
AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE.....	In person 64 Livestream 37 BEK...unknown

2024 Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Establishment of Quorum
2. Opening Prayer
3. 2023 Annual Meeting minutes/ 2023 Budget and Election Meeting minutes
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Audit Committee Report
6. Call Committee Report
7. Endowment Fund Report
8. Other Committee Reports
9. Old Business:
10. New Business:
11. Closing prayer

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

(January 29, 2023)

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by President Marcus Hall.

Pastor Dale offered a prayer.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the 2022 Budget & Election Meeting minutes.

The 2022 Treasurer's Report was presented by SuAnn Olson.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the 2022 Treasurer's Report.

The Audit Committee report was given. All books are in order. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Audit Committee report.

A Call Committee report was printed in the Annual Report.

Endowment Fund report was given by Emma Berg and Todd Schulz. Todd Schulz was reelected to a three year term. We still need another member appointed in place of Bernadine Martin, as she is coming off the committee.

Other committee reports-No other reports were offered.

Old Business-No old business to discuss.

New Business-Question was asked about acolyte stoles being cleaned and used in the near future. Marcus stated that the council is looking into this.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyndsey Cleveland, secretary

2023 Budget and Election Meeting Minutes

(December 3, 2023)

- A quorum was established with 50 voting members present.
- The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Dan.
- The 2024 proposed budget was presented by SuAnn Olson. There was discussion of adding the SLY chaperone line item back into the budget. Lyndsey Cleveland described the need for this to be added back due to needing a chaperone for the 2024 ELCA youth gathering. It was moved, seconded, and carried to add the line-item, SLY chaperone, back into the budget at \$1500. There was also discussion on the special events line item. It was moved, seconded and carried to remove the budgeted \$1500 for that line item, with the hope that we can raise funds for the Paul Family Bluegrass band to perform for the church next summer. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the 2024 budget with amendments.
- Endowment Fund Election-A unanimous ballot was cast for Betty Schill, Todd Schulz, & Jeanine Helm to serve on the committee.
- Church Council Election-A unanimous ballot was cast for Caryn Hedstrom and Marcus Hall to serve on the church council.
- The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyndsey Cleveland, secretary

OFFICIAL CHURCH ACTS

BAPTISMS

NAME	DATE	PARENTS
Scarlett June Kinnischtzke	04-02-23	Dustin and Kalea Kinnischtzke

FIRST COMMUNION

Lincoln Murrey
London Murrey
Blake Speten
Jaycee Staloch

CONFIRMATION

Trayton Bauer	Jarrick Kassian
Kennady Cleveland	Seth Morlock
Parker Hruby	Kevin Schill
Malia Tooke	

WEDDINGS

Daniel Scheepers & Rebecca Perkerewicz	March 17, 2023
Nickalaus Kassian & Paige Kline	September 23, 2023

FUNERALS AND COMMITALS

NAME	DATE	PLACE OF BURIAL
Shirley Gillig	06-01-2023	Regan Cemetery, Regan, ND
Kathleen Cooper	06-27-2023	Regan Cemetery, Regan, ND
Bernard Falkenstein	07-22-2023	Sunne Lutheran Cemetery
Maynard Tosseth	08-17-2023	Sunne Lutheran Cemetery
Jody Valentine Vollan	10-25-2023	Cremated
Anton Nicholas Krush	11-11-2023	Cremated

TRANSFERS IN

NAME	DATE	FROM
Jenni Kramer	04-24-2023	Good Shepherd, Bismarck, ND

TRANSFERS OUT

NAME	DATE	TO
Claudia Ewine	01-10-2023	Sacred Heart, Wilton, ND
Grant Novak	05-03-2023	First Lutheran, Mandan, ND
Reese Novak	05-03-2023	First Lutheran, Mandan, ND
Lydia Novak	05-03-2023	First Lutheran, Mandan, ND

MEMORIALS

Bernard Falkenstein
Tony Krush

2024 ALTAR GUILD

JANUARY	Daphne Hall
FEBRUARY	Sue Szczur
MARCH	Daphne Hall
APRIL	Lyndsey Cleveland
MAY	Sue Szczur
JUNE	Sandy Peterson
JULY	Sandy Peterson
AUGUST	Daphne Hall
SEPTEMBER	Jeanine Helm
OCTOBER	Jeanine Helm
NOVEMBER	Daphne Hall
DECEMBER	June Neumiller

2024 Ministry Teams

Worship Team

Emma Berg
Shelley Porter
Sue Szczur
Debbie Jans
Michele Vietz

Church Property Team

Mike Berg
Arlan Helm

Parsonage Property Team

Harvest Festival Team

Mike and Emma Berg
Eric and Betty Schill & Family
Lester and Sylvia Vollan
Dwane and Roberta Noon
Barney Strand
Myrna Hochhalter
Jan Schauer

Education Team

Anne Earsley
Denise Leapaldt-Johnson
Caryn Hedstrom

Cemetery Committee

Larry and Betty Falkenstein
David and Tammie Falkenstein
Bob and Kris Ell

INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT

I cannot express to you, people of Sunne Lutheran, how much of a privilege it has been to serve you as your Pastor. You are a wonderful congregation with so much going on for a Rural Church in America. Your missions are well done and your enthusiasm(faith) is front and center in the things you do in the name of Jesus our Lord.

I have been with you now for 17 months.. actually 14 and Pastor Dale covered for me for 3 months. Frankly, I would have thought that you would have a Call out for a Pastor by now, however the truth is there are not a lot of folks to cover all the openings within the whole church. Not just Western North Dakota but nationally as well. The shortages are not just ELCA Pastors but all denominations are experiencing these realities. So, we move ahead, trusting that the Holy Spirit will be sending us a Child of God in the capacity of a Pastor. I know you look forward to that.

The pastoral acts I have been doing over the last many months involve worship, teaching confirmation, visiting folks, baptizing and presiding at funerals. I also attend most every council meeting and am aware of the depth of commitment for Sunne by those who serve you on the council. My thanks to them, they make my calling easier and very fulfilling as I do the pastoral acts required of my position.

As we move forward in 2024: May the Lord Bless you and keep you.. all of your days...

Peace

Pastor Dan

PARSONAGE REPORT

We completed a great remodeling project at the parsonage. The Kitchen and the Laundry room both received much-needed updates and the rest of the house has been spruced up with painting and added touches. I want to thank all that helped in pulling that together and especially Kris and Bob Ell, they did a great job coordinating the project and doing much of the work. We also took a couple of days and cleaned up the surrounding grounds. With all that said and done the parsonage now looks GREAT!

CHURCH PROPERTY REPORT

We would like to thank Jeanine Helm for doing a great job as custodian this past year and we really appreciate the help that Arlan Helm and Lester Vollan have given to keep things operational. Thank you also to Mike Berg for keeping the parking lot clear and Tim Smallbeck for the work done on the front railing. In addition, we want to thank the entire Council and many others for their work on both large and small projects in and around the church that keep Sunne in good running order.

SUNNE LUTHERAN YOUTH

Sunne Lutheran Youth is the part of Sunne's ministry that includes youth in grades 7-12. SLY exists to help youth strengthen and grow in their faith. Some youth are members and some are not. Everyone is welcome.

In April we said "goodbye" to our high school seniors. We thank the quilters for the quilts!

In 2023 we did not have a youth trip, due to our ongoing Pastor search. We will have five youth traveling to New Orleans in July 2024 for the ELCA Youth Gathering. They have been busy fundraising for this event.

The youth did participate in Brave the Shave, by attending that event, after a pizza party with Pastor's Dale & Dan. They also had two fundraising meals for the brave the shave event.

SUNNE LUTHERAN YOUTH 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning (1/1/23) \$1017.95

Ending (12/31/23) \$1645.95

SUNNE GATHERING FUND FINANCIAL REPORT

Checking

Beginning Balance (1/1/23) \$1526.26

Ending Balance (12/31/23) \$5493.03

Savings

Beginning (1/1/23) 2160.23

Ending (12/31/23) \$2160.93

EDUCATION REPORT

Sunne Sunday School has had another great year. We have not had to cancel ONCE due to weather ;) This summer we had a two evening VBS called Hero Hotline that involved more than 20 children. We even had an appearance by special guest SPIDERMAN! A highlight video is posted on our Sunne Sunday School Facebook page.

We started off our year with Pastor Dan blessing our backpacks and making tags for our backpacks to remind us that Jesus is always with us AND to remember to take a minute to think about WWJD (what would Jesus do). We continued our fall with our Hero theme learning that heroes are called to follow Jesus, work together, help others, listen to God & to show grace.

Our children's Christmas program theme was about remembering Jesus is the true light of Christmas and we should shine the light of Jesus wherever we go!

We have an amazing group of parents and teens that are committed to teaching our children to love and follow Jesus!

WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

The worship team, comprised of Shelley Porter, Sue Szczur, Debbie Jans, Michele Vietz, and Emma Berg, met quarterly during 2023 to select hymns for worship services and provide worship planning guidance.

Some of the note-worthy worship moments of 2023 include:

- Hosted a bluegrass band for Midsummer Picnic in June
- Hosted a bluegrass band as part of a Brave the Shave fundraiser this fall

We want to extend our thanks to Interim Pastor Dan Paulson who continues to lead us during this time of transition between full-time pastors. We also want to thank Sue Szczur and Shelley Porter for leading worship several times throughout the past year. The team is also grateful for the musical talents of the regular Sunday pianists, Emma Berg and Michele Vietz.

HARVEST FESTIVAL REPORT

Harvest Festival was held on Sunday, September 24. We served approximately 165 people and made 34 pounds of meatballs, 46 pounds of ham, 60 pounds of mashed potatoes, corn, homemade coleslaw, and homemade pies and cheesecakes. Thank you to the Harvest Festival committee members Eric, Betty, Danielle, Kevin, and Aaron Schill, Lester and Sylvia Vollan, Emma and Mike Berg, Sandy Peterson, and honorary committee member Barney Strand. Thank you to everyone who volunteered throughout the weekend to make the meal a success! Thank you to Thrivent for providing a \$250 Action Team Grant for the event. Approximately \$4,500 was raised and was used towards the church's general fund expenses.

CEMETERY REPORT

Beginning Balance (1/1/23)		3924.88
<i>Income</i>		
Memorials & Sunday Offerings	1315.00	
<i>Expenses</i>		
Mowing (7 times)	2200.00	
Checks ordered	27.53	
Ending Balance (12/31/23)		3012.35
CD Balance		19262.34

Thank you Todd Weisenburger for volunteering to mow the cemetery and doing a wonderful job!

Betty Falkenstein, Treasurer

ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

2023 was quite an active year for the endowment fund board. The endowment fund board took action to invest in two short term Certificates of Deposit at a local bank to take advantage of rising interest rates. Mid-year, the board received a sizable donation from a long-time member which allowed us to meet the minimum amount of \$25,000 required to open an investment account with the ELCA Foundation's Ministry Growth Fund. As the Certificates of Deposit with the local bank come due, the board's intention is to move those funds into the Ministry Growth Fund. The board does still have one Certificate of Deposit with the Mission Investment Fund which will come due next year and the board has the intention of moving that into the larger investment account as well. Moving forward, the earnings (but never the initial principal investments) can be requested annually by the council for various purposes laid out in the endowment fund bylaws.

Here's a little background on the ELCA Foundation's Ministry Growth Fund. The Ministry Growth Fund is the only endowment fund following the ELCA guidelines for socially responsible investing, which discourages investments in companies that profit from the production of goods and services that don't align with our Lutheran values. They also provide guidance in advocating for positive social and environmental changes in public companies. Our investment in the Ministry Growth Fund is more than just a financial transaction. In alignment with our Lutheran theology, our investment goes to work across the ELCA, in our own congregation and throughout the world — providing a steady funding source for the Lutheran ministries that matter most to us, now and well into the future.

The endowment fund board is excited and energized by the faith and generosity of the members of Sunne and the local community. If you are interested in supporting this branch of Sunne's ministry, please speak to one of the board members.

SUNNE WOMEN OF THE ELCA REPORT

Sunne WELCA members gather at 9 AM on the second Sunday of most months for Bible study lessons from the Gather magazine. Fellowship, reflection and spiritual growth are part of this with all Sunne members invited to attend.

During 2023, the women of Sunne have served a variety of ways carrying out our mission. The funeral committee, with many volunteers, provides bars, refreshments and paper goods to those services held at Sunne as requested by family. These individuals set-up, serve and clean-up after each funeral.

The quilting group met often (although weather played a factor several times) during the year to make quilts for local and LWR (Lutheran World Relief) use. We are grateful for all the fabric donations we have received, along with other supplies. Five graduating seniors received special quilts made by the group. Sandy Peterson continues to make a special blanket for each baptized person. A quilt was donated to Camp of the Cross for their auction in June. Kuchen was baked for the Camp of the Cross auction and a special group of helpers pitched in to get it done....Jan Schauer, Sylvia Vollan, Emma Berg, Sue Szczur, Betty Schill and Shelley Porter. (I apologize if I left anyone out.) Around 140 were made and many were sold locally prior to the actual Prairie Quilt Festival.

WELCA joined with the Paul Family Bluegrass band weekend to host the Mid-Summer Picnic following the service. Sunne provided the main course, with Randy and SuAnn O, Betty and Larry F, and Pat R spearheading it. The meal was followed with the auction held in the basement. It was a very successful event with \$2218.00 raised. \$2000.00 was donated to the church treasury to fund camp scholarships.

High school graduates were recognized with a reception at the back of the church after receiving their special quilt following worship.

WELCA voted to donate \$1000 to the Wilton Area Food Pantry to aid in getting a grant from the Inspiritus (formerly known as Twice Blessed) foundation.

The fall of 2023 had 165 baby layettes, 210 school kits and 29 quilts go to Lutheran World Relief. Sixteen quilts were donated to Community Action, 20 to Ministry on the Margins, abused adult resource center, Heart River and Manchester house and 10 to the Dream Center. Pastor Paul Schauer and LeeAnn assembled an additional 150 school kits and at least 155 personal care kits. In the spring drive at least 160 baby layettes and several quilts were sent.

Soup/sandwiches were served at Lenten service but the weather impeded many of the services.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Porter, President/Sunne WELCA

SUNNE WOMEN OF THE ELCA FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Balance (1/1/2023)	\$6,753.26
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INCOME

Offerings	\$235.00	
Funerals	\$1,250.00	
Memorials (Quilters)	\$ -	
Memorials (W.ELCA)	\$-	
Donation (Quilters) Tie Quilt	\$-	
Hwy 36 Lunch	\$ -	
Advent Supper Offering	\$ -	
Auction Income	\$2,218.00	
Auction Donation	<u>\$-</u>	
Total	\$3,703.00	\$10,456.26

EXPENSES

Sunne General Fund	\$2,000.00	
Great Plains Food Bank	\$1,000.00	
Sam's Club	\$79.93	
Senior Sunday	\$64.75	
School Kit Backpacks	\$-	
Shelley Porter Tie Quilt	\$-	
Quilters	\$538.06	
W. ELCA Spring Cluster Dues	\$25.00	
W. ELCA Spring Cluster Offer	\$25.00	
W. ELCA Fall Cluster Offer	\$25.00	
W. ELCA Conv Offering	\$25.00	
W. ELCA Conv Expense	\$25.00	
W. ELCA Quarterly Dues	\$400.00	
Shelley Porter Supplies	\$114.81	
Checkblank Order	\$25.16	
Debit Card Purchases	\$34.22	
Stamps	<u>\$-</u>	
Total	\$4,381.93	

Outstanding Check #1981	\$25.00	Checkbook Balance	\$6,074.33
Ending Statement Balance (12/31/23)			\$6,099.33

BISHOP'S REFLECTION

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace in the name of our Savior Jesus the Christ!

In this season of Annual Reports, Annual Meetings, and elections of new congregational leadership, I pray that the Spirit walks with you and guides you along the way.

Jesus says, "You are witnesses of these things." (Luke 24:48)

As part of the Western North Dakota synod, you and your congregation are called to be witnesses of the good news of Jesus, the savior of the world.

As the western North Dakota synod, here are a few small examples of the ways we witnessed to good news of Jesus in 2023 ...

... by supporting seminarians, pastors, deacons, and synod authorized ministers who serve alongside us in mission and ministry.

... on college, university, elementary, middle, and high school campuses and bible camp ministries that provided thousands of opportunities for worship, prayer, service, and fellowship.

... joining our sisters and brothers in Christ in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic in joyous centennial celebrations in Minneapolis/St. Paul and across the countryside of Central Africa Republic.

... through new partnerships that are building new ministry opportunities within congregations and parishes across our synod.

... in church basements with gifted leaders who are carefully listening to the Spirit's voice as we give thanks for all that God has done through our congregations and wonder what God might be calling us into next.

Thank you for being a witness to the good news of Jesus! Simply stated, none of the work God calls us to do as church is possible without you. You are a gift for which I am incredibly thankful. May you and your congregation be filled with all joy and peace in believing throughout 2024!

Serving in Christ together,

The Rev. Craig A. Schweitzer
Bishop, Western North Dakota Synod – ELCA

CAMP OF THE CROSS REPORT

Greetings to you from Camp of the Cross Ministries!

We are so thankful and blessed at CCM by the many people who pray for us, participate in, and support our ministries. We are honored to provide a ministry to all ages that helps each person "Live out their Lives of Faith!". Thank you as a constituent congregation for your support in our success!

CCM, during the year 2023, even though we continued to be challenged by the pandemic, had a profound influence in the lives of children, youth, young adults, and adults who were touched by our ministry. This could not have been done without our mission partner congregations like yourselves!

In March, we welcomed our new Executive Director, Deacon Janie Hague, and we are so excited for all that she has to bring to camp.

During the summer months, we welcomed campers, new and past attendees, to our site. The joy and excitement they brought this summer was extremely rewarding. Our camper numbers were up this summer! We had 100 new

campers this summer, for a total of 323 campers. For the first time in two years, we were able to host a full summer of camp and not shut down early due to COVID.

We are already planning for the summer of 2024 with a similar program, and we are hopeful because of the success we had this past summer. Registration for Summer 2024 is open now!

The year-round retreat ministry for children, youth and adults began in January. We are now fully booked through January of 2025, which we are really excited about as we continue to move forward in ministry.

We were excited to celebrate and host many “friendraisers” and fundraisers this year. We had our work project weekends, Prairie Lake Festival, Scandinavian Supper, we held a booth during the Dickens Festival, and visited many congregations as you put on meals for us or hosted us in worship. We thank you all for partnering with us and continuing to share in our ministry together.

**Thank you for praying for us and supporting us!
Your mission in Christ is especially important to us!**

MISSOURI SLOPE REPORT

The Lord has been so good to all of us at Missouri Slope this year. We are thankful for the many prayers, donations, and volunteers from all our member churches and throughout the community who helped us grow our mission to Enrich Lives. Providing care and services 24 hours a day requires a tremendous effort. We are blessed to have so many talented individuals who come together each day to form our team. Our focus throughout the past year has been on growing our workforce to meet the increasing needs of our community.

Our services remain in high demand as we are at full occupancy most weeks at our Washington nursing facility. Our Hillview facility re-opened one of the nursing units in October and has a community nursing facility contract with the VA. This has been received very well among our veteran community members who are now able to stay in Bismarck and receive the care they need. Our Assisted Living Facility maintains over 86% occupancy. We launched Missouri Slope at Home this year which is a new service line to help people remain in their homes.

All our member churches are represented on our governing board at Missouri Slope. In working closely with our leadership team, we continue thinking about the future needs and opportunities for our community. In 2022, our foundation board was authorized to be separate from the governing board and we have filled most positions. We continue recruiting individuals to fill open positions or committee assignments on both the governing and foundation boards.

Our Capital Campaign remains a high priority for us to bring additional building projects and phases to fruition. The campaign has been successful in raising funds this year to purchase and install stained glass windows in the chapel, building the Missouri Slope Bistro and Coffee Shop, and a new deck for our residents to enjoy the outdoors. Additional funding is needed to bring the finishing touches to our chapel and other great projects that will enhance the care and services provided at Missouri Slope.

Finally, our Chaplain/Director of Pastor Care retired this year. Our Call Committee worked swiftly and prayerfully considered multiple candidates. We are thrilled to announce that Angela Kutzer has joined us in the role of Chaplain/Director of Pastoral Care. We are excited to have her guidance and leadership for the spiritual care for our organization!

Please feel free to reach out to Reier Thompson, President/CEO regarding any of the many accomplishments, opportunities, and priorities mentioned herein.

Respectfully,

Reier Thompson, President/CEO