

SPRING 2023 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING



COUNCIL ELECTION PROGRAM SUMMARIES Of OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

**825 Golf Ave SW
Pine City, MN 55063**

**Meeting to be held on
April 23, 2023
Immediately following the service.**

AGENDA
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Spring Semi-Annual Meeting
Sunday, April 23, 2023

Opening prayer

1. Call to Order

- **Confirm a quorum is present**

2. Nominating Committee –

- Slate of candidates for council seats: Eric Wicktor, Arissa Rydberg, Eric Olson, _____
- Nominations from the floor

3. Elections

- Four council seats are open for election. Terms expiring: Greg Lea, Gail Mattison, Eric Wicktor, Kyle Nacene

4. Reports

- a. Pastor(s) and other called staff
- b. President and other Members of Congregation Council
- c. Financial income and expense reports
- d. Other committees, task forces, and small group reports

5. Proposed Resolutions

Resolution: Amendment to the ORLC Constitution to raise the Council authorization limit for unbudgeted items in Section C12.05 items c & d to \$10,000 from \$5000.

Resolution: That the church council be given the authority to approve the minutes of the 2023 Spring Semi-Annual Meeting.

Resolution: That we recognize our church staff: Leigha Lange, Todd Cummings, Rebecca Groe, Glenna Reiersen, Steve Schmidt, Nathaniel Gross and Pastor John.

Resolution: That we recognize our worship leaders, committee volunteers and all who graciously give of their time to serve Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in a variety of ways.

Resolution: That we recognize outgoing Church Council members, whose terms have expired, for their service on Council.

6. Election results

7. Adjournment

8. Closing prayer

Church Council Members

President: Greg Lea / Vice President: Eric Wicktor
Treasurer: Kyle Nascene / Secretary: Diane Lombard
Worship & Music: Diane Lombard, Doug Bergland
Administration & Facility: Wayne Hansmann, Eric Wicktor
Faith Formation & Education: Rich Elliot, Ashley Espeseth
Congregational Life: Lynne Zack, William Woulfe
Mission & Outreach: Erin Anderson

ORLC 2022 FALL MEETING MINUTES
SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, November 13, 2022

The ORLC Fall Congregational meeting was called to order by President, Greg Lea at 9:55am with prayer.

Rich Elliot counted 71 members present. President Greg Lea announced we had a quorum.

A copy of the approved 2022 Spring Semi-Annual congregational meeting minutes is found in the 2022 Fall Semi-Annual booklet for review. A copy of the 2022 special congregational meeting minutes is found in the 2022 Fall Semi-Annual booklet for review. Motion to approve the 2022 special congregational meeting minutes made by Carolyn Tuckner and seconded by William Woulfe. Motion carried.

Lois Bengston reported on the nomination committee and explained that Don Lund has accepted nomination to be an alternate for Synod Assembly, and to add his name to the blank space listed on the agenda/ballot.

Endowment Committee one open position for three year term

Chelsie Troth

Nominating Committee four open slots

Lois Bengston, Lyndon Hagestuen, John Oare, Kris Gross

Synod Assembly: Voting Member

Mary Lange and Lynne Zack

Alternates:

Bonnie Menigo and Don Lund

President Greg Lea opened up motions from the floor for the Endowment Committee, Nominating Committee, and for the Synod Assembly - no additional nominations. Motion to accept the unanimous ballot was made by Lynn Drewa and seconded by Penny Hudlow. Motion carried.

President Greg Lea explained the most recent staff reports can be found in the newsletter and he wanted to take this time to thank everyone for all that they do. The parking lot is complete, the concrete work has been finished and the stucco will be cleaned. This coming year focus will be internal and looking at ways to incorporate family and youth more in programs.

Financial Reports:

Steve Schmidt reviewed ORLC finances for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022. Reports found in the 2022 Semi-Annual Fall Meeting Booklet; the Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss and the Key Financial Statistics Comparison report and opened up for any questions.

President Greg Lea and Steve Schmidt present the budget:

Question/Request: To explain the new line item "Endowment-Emergency Fund". This new line item was created to pay back the money that was granted for use by the Endowment Committee for the emergency fixing of the air conditioning unit.

President Greg Lea reported if the budget is approved that council will monitor and review in spring if needed. October (this first month of the fiscal year) has started out strong. Motion to approve the budget was made by Dave Mettler and seconded by Brent Jahnz. Motion carried.

Resolutions:

President Greg Lea read the first resolution: Instruct the ORLC Church Council to prepare a draft of an amendment to the ORLC Church Constitution raising the authorization limit for the Church Council from \$5000 to \$10,000 for unbudgeted items (section C12.05 items c & d) that come up during the Church year. This amendment will then be voted on by the Church Congregation in the Spring 2023 Semi Annual Meeting. Motion to accept the first resolution as read was made by Mary Jo Mettler and seconded by John Oare. Motion carried.

President Greg Lea read the remaining three resolutions:

That the church council be given the authority to approve the minutes of the 2022 Fall Semi-Annual Meeting.

That we recognize our church staff, Leigha Lange, Todd Cummings, Rebecca Groe, Glenna Reiersen, Steve Schmidt, Nathaniel Gross and Pastor John.

That we recognize our worship leaders, committee volunteers and all who graciously give of their time to serve Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in a variety of ways.

Motion to accept the three resolutions as read was made by John Oare and seconded by Del Gross. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Brent Jahnz and seconded by John Oare. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 10:20.

Submitted by

Diane Lombard, Secretary

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Pastor John Stiles

There is so much to give thanks for this past year of 2022! I'll list a handful of highlights that come to mind for me, which I also shared with our synod bishop, Amy Odgren. None of these opportunities would even be possible without YOUR generous giving of time, talent and treasure. THANK YOU!

~ The congregation completed a complete re-pavement of our parking lot in 2022. It was sorely in need of repair and we raised enough money to pay off about half of the costs so far. So we are in a good situation. There are plans to sell a small piece of land to the north of the parking lot (vacant lot). If we can get \$30,000 for that, we can pay off the rest of the parking lot and turn our attention to leaks in the roof! (There is always something, right?) Again, THANK YOU one and all, for your generous support and pulling together to face the challenges we meet as a community of faith!

~ At church we ended our 1 ½ year streak of weekly puppet shows for the children's sermons, which were a staple during Covid for the kids watching at home. I was sad to bring to an end that little bit of "Sesame Street" that came to our congregation. I very much enjoyed writing scripts and getting people involved to create children's sermons on Zoom with puppets, tied to the weekly readings in worship. There's always picnic church! A huge THANK YOU to Kate Lombard and William Woulfe for lending their creative energy!

~ In February, I was elected Dean of the Kettle River Conference and I will continue my participation on the Synod Council, so I will stay active and involved in leadership in the northeastern Minnesota Synod, representing our portion of the synod to the best of my abilities.

~ This winter, I participated in the formation of an ISAIAH chapter in Pine County, to focus on mental health awareness, addiction and recovery resources, and affordable housing. This is a community-wide effort and non-partisan through ISAIAH, based out of the twin cities. I'm hopeful it will bring positive change to the fentanyl crisis we are facing in Pine City (6 fentanyl deaths in the first 10 weeks of 2023!) as well as caring for people experiencing homelessness in our community.

~ I attended an "EV Expo" (for Electric Vehicles) in Detroit Lakes, MN in October with Pastor Jake Dyrhaug. He and I led the band with some Eco-Faith songs we wrote and I enjoyed hearing from WCCO Meteorologist, Paul Douglas as keynote speaker.

~ I am excited that Our Redeemer is starting a pollinator garden and has begun recycling plastic "Walmart" bags in our entryways. Two recycled park benches (made with said bags) now sit outside our entryway! Let's keep it going!

~ The Introduction to the Christian Faith adult forums on Sunday mornings have been well-received. It's refreshing to get "back-to-the-basics" of the faith once again to remember the rich heritage and biblical foundation we have grown from and continue to lean into as we live out our mission as disciples of Christ.

~ What can I say about the leadership of this church that you don't already know? Every day I am blown away by the grace, determination, and perseverance of the people who lead at Our Redeemer, both paid staff and lay leaders! Your work is well known in the community (and throughout the synod) as a force for good and change for the better. From helping the poor to serving our home-bound to meeting the needs of our youth and families... From assisting the grieving and serving in at funerals to pumping out dozens of quilts to send halfway around the world... THANK YOU!! I am honored to be a part of a movement that just wouldn't be possible without each and every one of YOU participating. How cool is that! A special thanks to our outgoing council members, especially Greg Lea, for his wise counsel as Congregational President during the pandemic and toward the completion of our new parking lot.

Continuing Education I took part in this past year

~ Bishop's Fall Theological Conference / Sep 18-20 / Sugar Lake Lodge. It moved me to purchase the book: "Saving Paradise" by Brock and Parker. I am learning how the earliest church sanctuaries were not, in fact,

adorned with crosses... but images of paradise! (tree-of-life from Revelation and mosaics of the Garden of Eden) Who knew? It wasn't until 900 years later that the crucifix became more prominent in Christian worship spaces. Fascinating read (I especially loved the image of *dolphins* as more germane to mariners of the early Christian church, than sheep and shepherds!). Still reading this slowly to digest it in small pieces.

~ Parker Palmer webinar / Nov 5 / "Old maps no longer work: Finding our way in an unmapped world" Sage advice from a veteran mystic and contemplative. I was blessed to participate in this online forum that raised more questions than answers and helped me reflect on my role as a pilgrim on this earth. This was good preparation for our Lenten theme centered on "asking good questions."

~ Kathy Escobar webinar / Dec 4 / "When Christmas is Blue" Kathy wrote a book with that title. Find it on Amazon. I read her other book: "Down We Go" and it was a compelling call to small-acts-of-kindness in an upwardly-mobile world. I really needed a place to share my "blues" last Christmas and Kathy is a leading voice in the emerging church movement, keeping it real.

~ Equine Therapy at Changing Gait Ranch in Brooke Park, MN. I just started to go out to the ranch this winter to go horseback riding. All the wranglers on site are in recovery, so it is a win-win as I find an outlet to be close to nature and these magnificent mustangs and be inspired by faith stories of recovery from our guides.

~ Reading Kate Ott's book: "Sex, Tech & Faith: Ethics for a Digital Age" has been an eye-opener as I navigate the technical advances that shape online dating, matchmaking, sexting, and how humans will interact with artificial intelligence in the future. The church should have something to say in terms of what values we bring to these exponential growths in technology we and our children are living through. Toward that end, I have been in conversation with Eugenia Kuyda, founder and CEO of Replika, to seek further advice on how ethics should shape future decisions about human interactions with machines, particularly AI companions.

On a personal note

~The most significant event in the past year was my divorce from my wife, Sandy, after 34 years of marriage. You already know about this so I won't repeat it, except to say that we did our best to save the marriage, putting in a year and a half of therapy prior to mutually agreeing to separate. I have been focusing on self-care and grieving since I moved to Pine City. I am grateful for all the love and support YOU have shown me this winter. I also covet the advice of my mentor and friend, Pastor Larry Johnson. He has encouraged, supported and helped me navigate self-care as I grieve and continue to tend to the flock in Pine City. On a positive note: I recently put an offer on a house and it was accepted! So, I will be moving to Chisago City the first week in May (which is about half the commuting distance that I had when living in the Twin Cities). I will maintain my commitment to be present here in town five days a week. You are welcome to visit my new home any time!

~ One of our members who has been divorced said to me, "You're going to be alone, but if you're 'lonely' it's up to you to reach out. We're here." I have taken his advice and meet regularly with our men's group and women's groups, as well as playing guitar at Northern Pines Care Center and singing at the Wednesday night "Open Mic" at Froggy's Bar. There is a whole community of talented musicians who are dispensing the "medicine of music" in a way that is healing, in its own right. It's good food for my soul, to make connections outside of church as well.

~ Another significant development in my life was surviving prostate cancer. I had surgery a year ago in February. As of a few weeks ago, I am cancer free, and the blood tests are continuing to come back favorable. Again, your support and time off for medical leave meant the world to me! Hallelujah!

That's it for now. As always, keep the faith, and God bless and keep you all.



Pastor John

2022 Statistics: baptisms (7), weddings (1), funerals (8 Members, 7 Nonmembers), confirmed (5), new members received (7), Avg. weekly worship attendance, including online (147).

ORLC COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Letter to the congregation.

To the ORLC Congregation,

As we move into the Spring and Summer of 2023, I look back on the last year and what we have accomplished as a Congregation. From emerging out of the lock down during the Covid environment and restoring more normal operations of ORLC, to the start of improving/repairing our Church home through many projects (i.e. air conditioning update, parking lot resurfacing, etc.), it has been an exciting time for our Church family. What makes ORLC special is the commitment from the Congregation to step forward with participation and contributions to all the activities we have going on. Whether it with the youth programs, worship programs, church repairs or support of outreach to the community at large, members are always willing to step forward.

I am writing this note to you as one of my last activities as Church Council President. As of the Spring Semi Annual meeting, my term on the Church Council ends. It has been an honor over the past three years to serve as Council Secretary, then Council Treasurer, and then Council President. It is time to turn the leadership of the Council over to the next team and I plan to work in transition to the new Council members and leadership.

It is an exciting time to be part of the ORLC Family as we have many activities going on in the months to come. There are too many for me to mention, so check out the Committee reports, the Council minutes, and the Church Monthly newsletter.

I want to personally thank the Church Council for their support and leadership. It is great to have such dedicated leaders charting the direction of ORLC. I have had the privilege of working closely with our Church staff and marvel at their dedication to the ORLC Church family. I especially want to thank Pastor Stiles for his patience and thoughtful support of the Council. We are truly blessed with staff at ORLC.

Yours in Christ,

Greg Lea, Church Council President

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
2023 Budget Comparison
March 31, 2023

	Actual	Budget	Budget
	YTD March '23	YTD 2023	Total 2023
Budgetary Expenses			
Compensation Expenses			
5000-10 · Pastoral Compensation			
5001-10 · Pastoral Salary	41,977	41,750	83,500
5030-00 · Pension & Benefits	6,841	4,850	9,700
Total 5000-10 · Pastoral Compensation(SEE FOOTNOTE)	48,818	46,600	93,200
5004-00 · Faith Formation Director	24,587	24,600	49,200
5010-05 · Staff Replacement/Coverage Expense	250	500	1,000
5010-10 · Office Administrator	19,293	19,800	39,600
5020-00 · Payroll Taxes & FICA	3,822	3,950	7,900
5025-00 · Custodian	6,083	6,084	12,168
Salary Adjustment Contingency 2023			-
Total 5000-00 · Compensation Expense	102,853	101,534	203,068
Debt Service-Interest(to be paid from parking donations)			-
5014-01 · Property Improvement Reserve	7,000	6,000	12,000
1000-07 Endowment-Emergency Fund	1,800		3,600
5110-00 · Accompanist	3,065	3,250	6,500
5850-10 Sound Tech. Assistant	580	500	1,000
Mission Support			
5220-00 · Synod Missions			
5220-05 · NE MN Synod Support	4,260	4,100	8,200
5221-00 · Lutheran Social Services	315	300	600
5221-10 · Lutheran World Relief	946	900	1,800
5221-20 · Lutheran World Hunger	946	900	1,800
5221-30 · Pioneer's Missionary	650	600	1,200
5221-75 · Together Here Team	273	300	600
Total 5220-00 · Synod Missions	7,390	7,100	14,200

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
2023 Budget Comparison
March 31, 2023

	Actual	Budget	Budget
	YTD March '23	YTD 2023	Total 2023
5223-00 · Luther Point Bible Camp	2,366	2,250	4,500
5224-00 · Local Missions			
7000-15 Children of Joy Preschool	631	600	1,200
5224-01 · A Place For You	946	900	1,800
5224-02 · Pine County Veteran's Council	1,066	900	1,800
5220-11 · Dragon Food Shelf	946	900	1,800
5224-10 · Toys for Tots Expense	-	-	-
5224-15 · Pine City Food Shelf	935	1,100	2,200
5224-15 · Pregnancy Center	946	900	1,800
5224-25 Rainy Day Fund	2,156	1,850	3,700
5224-20 · Prison Ministry	158	150	300
5224-00 · Local Missions	7,784	7,300	14,600
5219-00 · Missions Support	17,540	16,650	33,300
5229-00 · Accounting Fees	7,650	7,750	15,500
5240-00 · Conference/Workshop	1,647	750	1,500
5240-50 · Healing Team Expenses		25	50
5701-10 Congregational Life Expense	147	150	300
5241-00 · Special Event Expense	30	150	300
Total	9,474	8,825	17,650
Insurance			
Total 5247-00 · Insurance	4,306	4,250	8,500
5250-00 · Continuing Education-Support Staff	967	600	1,200
5273-00 · Adult Ministry	97	75	150
5224-06 · Life Blood Re-entry Meetings			-
5371-01 · Flowers Expense		-	
5371-02 · Flower Reimbursement		-	
Total 5371-00 · Flower Expenditures	(878)	50	100
Church Operating Expenses			
5440-00 · Kitchen & Cleaning Supplies	2,130	875	1,750

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
2023 Budget Comparison
March 31, 2023

	Actual	Budget	Budget
	YTD March '23	YTD 2023	Total 2023
Office Expense			
5410-01 • Print Supplies and Expense	2,058	2,125	4,250
5410-02 • Software Maintenance	-	125	250
5450-00 • Office Expense - Other	1,118	1,750	3,500
Total 5450-00 • Office Expense	3,176	4,000	8,000
5450-10 Furniture and Equipment		100	200
5450-20 • Postage Expense	807	750	1,500
5600-00 • Repairs/Maintenance	1,578	3,250	6,500
5600-10 History/Archivist Expense	197		-
5600-12 • Environmental Arts	88	750	1,500
5724-00 • Grounds Maintenance	5,030	2,250	4,500
5730-00 • Church Automobile Expense	80	250	500
5750-00 • Utilities Expense	9,472	8,800	17,600
Total 5410-00 • Church Operating Expenses	22,558	21,025	42,050
5700-00 • Stewardship/Finance	54	50	100
5850-00 • Worship/Music Expense	934	1,500	3,000
5850-09 Altar Guild	430	650	1,300
5850-20 Radio/Livestream Expense	(130)	750	1,500
5850-10 Sound Supervisor	-	-	-
Total	1,234	2,900	5,800
Youth Expenses			
5275-00 • Ministry with Children	377	1,525	3,050
5276-00 • Sunday School Exp.	645	750	1,500
5910-00 • Youth Budgeted Expenses	841	438	875
5920-00 • Youth Trips & Activities Exp.		-	
4020-20 • Youth Fundraising-Restricted		-	
5920-20 • Wilderness Camping Trips		-	

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
2023 Budget Comparison
March 31, 2023

	Actual	Budget	Budget
	YTD March '23	YTD 2023	Total 2023
5920-00 · Youth Trips & Activities Exp. - Other	(6,244)	988	1,975
Total 5920-00 · Youth Trips & Activities Exp.	(6,244)	988	1,975
5930-00 · Confirmation	767	1100	2200
5930-10 · Confirmation Camp Exp.	-		-
4020-35 · Confirmation Deposits	-		-
Total 5930-10 · Confirmation Camp Exp.(Net)	-	350	700
Total 5900-00 · Youth Exp.	(3,614)	5,150	10,300
Total Budgetary Expenses	164,656	172,809	345,618
Operating Income Needed to Cover Budget Expenses	177,850	172,809	345,618

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Key Financial Statistics Comparison Report
Year-to-date
March 31, 2023

	YTD 2023	YTD 2022	% Change
Income and Expenses **			
General Offering Income	165,683	167,683	-1.2%
Other General Operating Income	12,167	8,653	26.0%
Total Available for Expense Payment(General Operating)	177,850	177,336	0.3%
Compensation Expenses	102,852	96,255	6.9%
Missions Support Expense	22,701	18,284	24.2%
Other General Operating Expenses	45,640	44,001	3.7%
Total Expenses Supported by General Giving	171,193	158,540	8.0%
Excess/Shortfall from General Offerings	6,657	18,796	-64.6%
Other Income and Expenses			
Restricted Offerings Income	17,179	3,260	427.0%
Youth Expense Net of Fundraising	(6,244)	(2,892)	115.9%
Assets and Debts **			
Checking & Savings			
General Operating Funds	38,336	80,687	-52.5%
Endowment Fund	97,700	125,735	-22.3%
Restricted Funds	34,045	46,057	-26.1%
Property Improvement Fund	5,000	8,680	-48.3%
Total Cash and Savings	175,081	262,159	-33.2%
Building, Furniture, etc	2,130,113	1,986,227	7.2%
Building Loan	36,431	-	

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of March 31, 2023

	<u>Mar 31, 23</u>	<u>Mar 31, 22</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1000 · Cash Accounts		
999-00 · Frandsen Bank and Trust		
1000-00 · General Operating Account	38,336	80,687
1000-96 · Restricted Funds		
1000-01 · Grant Availability Fund	0	8,104
1000-22 · Designated Heritage Fund	3,674	2,388
1000-25 · Faith Boxes Fund	247	247
1000-46 · Norm Opheim Scholarship Fund	2,139	2,139
1000-50 · Music Fund	389	389
1000-53 · Designated Property & Grounds		
1000-54 · Designated Sound System Fund	52	52
1000-55 · Property & Grounds Projects	4	390
1000-57 · Designated Carpet Fund	1,375	1,375
1000-59 · Designated Garden/Flower Fund	2,200	2,200
1000-61 · Designated Youth Room Updates	354	354
1000-66 · Flag Expense Fund	374	374
1100-91 · Property Improve. Reserve Fund	5,000	9,680
Total 1000-53 · Designated Property & Grounds	<u>9,359</u>	<u>14,425</u>
1000-70 · Undesignated Memorial/Gift Fund	0	8,034
1000-74 · Rainy Day Missions Fund	13,057	11,403
1000-75 · Designated Youth Fund	1,541	1,541
1000-76 · Campership Award Fund	3,971	3,599
1000-77 · Lutherpoint Campership Fund	2,568	3,468
1000-95 · Emergency Fund Reimbursement	2,100	0
Total 1000-96 · Restricted Funds	<u>39,045</u>	<u>55,737</u>
Total 999-00 · Frandsen Bank and Trust	<u>77,381</u>	<u>136,424</u>
Total 1000 · Cash Accounts	<u>77,381</u>	<u>136,424</u>
1100-14 · Our Redeemer Lutheran Endowment		
1100-12 · Endowment Investment Fund	97,700	125,735
Total 1100-14 · Our Redeemer Lutheran Endowment	<u>97,700</u>	<u>125,735</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>175,081</u>	<u>262,159</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>175,081</u>	<u>262,159</u>
Fixed Assets	2,130,114	1,986,227
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>2,305,195</u></u>	<u><u>2,248,386</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	4,333	3,277
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>36,431</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>40,764</u>	<u>3,277</u>
Equity	2,264,431	2,245,109
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>2,305,195</u></u>	<u><u>2,248,386</u></u>

ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

Spring 2023

When you see Dan Blake, please thank him for his willingness to serve over the last 3 years as the **first** ORLC Endowment Committee Chairperson. Dan's served on other Endowment Committees and was instrumental in setting guidelines; we appreciate his intellect and many contributions to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Please welcome our new chairperson Chelsie Troth! ORLC is so fortunate to have many talented members stepping up to lead.

The ORELC Endowment Fund is managed and held with and in good standing with the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust-Fund A and utilizes the ELCA Fund's professional and outside investment services.

Endowment Fund Application Form are available in the church office. The application must be completed by June 30, 2023. The endowment committee will review and notify each applicant their decision.

The initial investment to the Fund occurred on May 19, 2019, and valued as follows:

Beginning Principal Balance ***\$ 44,000***

Additional Principal

Investments \$ 59,796

Change in Market Value \$ 10,103

Grant Distribution \$ 16,200

Current Fund Value March 2023: \$ 97,700

*Respectfully submitted,
Chelsie Troth, President
Penny Hudlow, Secretary
Mary Jo Mettler Treasurer*

RAINY DAY FUND REPORT

Spring 2023

The ORELC congregation is a vital link to the Rainy Day Fund (RDF); again the members of this congregation make financial assistance possible through their continued support and generous donations.

Each year as we write this report; it may seem to the reader that the same information is reported to the congregation each year. Please know the need is great and collectively we (ORLC) have made a difference in so many lives within our community. Doesn't matter if it is a gas and/or food voucher or a request for rent and heating fuel. Each time many things are taken into consideration; many times the committee contacts other agencies, such as Salvation Army to assist or perhaps take on the entire request if it's outside our policy guidelines.

Whatever happens, one thing you can be sure of the people we help are *so very appreciative*...no one plans to be in a desperate situation, we don't judge choices made in the past...***our (ORLC) mission is to shine light on their future!***

If it wasn't for the charitable organizations throughout the county, especially our community and congregation it would be impossible to fund the requests. We must remember each request is coming from a ***person or family in need.***

Our main policy stays the same. All requests for; shut off notices, rent, car repairs, etc. are sent to the RDF committee for consideration. The RDF committee takes each request for help very seriously and please know each **request is confidential**. Just a friendly reminder; there is criteria that must be met prior to each and every request for assistance to be funded. This ensures the future sustainability of the RDF.

*Please also ponder if Pine County designated SA funds are not issued in the calendar year, the remaining balance is returned to the central SA office in a general fund. Thus, **a missed opportunity** to extend community help.*

Questions and/or concerns regarding the RDF may be directed to a RDF committee member or church accountant.

The period of Oct 1, 2022 thru March 28, 2023

Beginning Balance	\$13,426
Mission Tithes	\$ 1,860
Congregational donations	\$ 2,996
Total tithes & donations this period:	\$ 4,855

Funds Disseminated

Rainy Day Assistance	\$5,520
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Current Fund Balance	\$12,761
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*Respectfully submitted,
Lyndon Hagestuen
Penny Hudlow
Mary Jo Mettler
Pastor John Stiles*

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRIES

It has been a wild year for the CYF Programming. From Graduation Sunday, summer programming, and kicking off the 22-23 school year.

Last summer we had 4 major events the mission trip, vacation Bible School, Synod Journey, and the Boundary Waters trip. Each one of these experiences created an experience of a lifetime.

The 2022 Mission Trip was to Elliot County, Kentucky. We journeyed to this rural community excited to learn and grow as a group, in our faith, and as individuals. This trip was an experience we won't forget. Our group of 15 students and adults made connections with other churches that will last a life time. We enjoyed digging deeper in what it means to serve the greater community.

Synod Journey is a synod event that coordinates with the ELCA Youth Gathering. Although this gathering was canceled the decision was made to continue on with the Synod Journey. The Synod Journey was a weekend event where we gathered, served, played, and grew with congregations around the NE MN Synod. We explored what it meant to be children of God and God's boundless love. Our Redeemer sent myself and two youth to this great event!

Vacation Bible School is another fabulous week at Our Redeemer. We welcomed the McAvoy's back and went on an adventure through the Kingdom of God. We enjoyed stories, snacks, games, crafts and bible time! We averaged 60 kids for the week with 20 volunteers!

Boundary Waters is always an experience we never forget. Last summer we had 5 from Our Redeemer make the paddling journey doing a more difficult loop. Each day we paddled and paddled, set up camp, made dinner, relaxed and tried to recover before another long day of paddling. While the weather was great we did hit a few days of wind which made the paddling hard and exhausting. We are excited to be heading back this summer for a relaxing and great week!

While the summer might have been over our year long programming was gearing up to kick off in September! This programming takes a number of volunteers to make it run smoothly and these programs also take a lot of snacks. Thank you to everyone who has donated snacks!

Sunday School continues on Sunday mornings with all kids ages 3-6th grade. These kids focus on bible stories that are also happening in worship.

Thank you to Kathy, Lori, and Ashley for leading these kids each week!

Busy Bags - Thank you Joyce Benson for faithfully checking and refreshing the busy bags for kids! We appreciate your thoughtfulness and dedication to this ministry.

Kids of the Kingdom is our Wednesday after school program and we currently have 30-35 kids coming each week. Throughout our time together we have been focusing on the Lord's Prayer, Lent and Holy Week, games, and fellowship.

Thank you to all who have brought in snacks. Thank you to Lauryn, Jocelyn, Lily, Taylor T, Ashley, Grace, DeDe, Kaylee, Taylor H, Pastor John, Mary, and Lori for helping out each week by with games, lesson, or driving!

Sunday Night Worship is a new ministry program that began in December. It is a contemporary style worship that we began to help meet the needs of students and families. We have enjoyed our time each month and please feel free to join us!

Thank you to Eric, Janae, Pastor John, and Jen for helping with this service!

Confirmation has focused on a few different topics this year. We started off with the Lord's Prayer and then moved into talking about communion, baptism, the apostles creed before finishing off with the Ask series are used during Lent. Confirmation is for grades 7-9 and we currently have 13 students attending!

Thank you to our small group leaders Eric, Kathy, and Cindy!

Sr. High Youth Group continues on Wednesday nights at 7:30. This year we have been reading our way through the book of Matthew and having great discussions regarding what the text means to us in our daily lives.

Thank you Janae for coming every week and devoting your time to the Senior High Students!

Lutheran Youth Organization Board – This year Ashley Peters and I served on the LYO board that serves as leadership for the All Youth Gathering and Cardia Deo retreats hosting by the synod. These events are a blast and help form the faith of our youth.

Thank you for your continued support of the children and youth ministries at Our Redeemer. It takes a village to continue this work!

Leigha



PROPERTY REPORT

Fall 2022/Winter 2023

November

- ✓ Back entry painted by the Osterdyk's.

December

- ✓ Multiple trees removed on the property line by many congregational members and nonmembers.
- ✓ Kitchen oven inspected and repaired by Bob Hickey.

January

- ✓ Multiple snow removal's from the roof by Jeff's outdoor service.
- ✓ New cordless vacuum ordered per custodian Todd Cummings's request.
- ✓ The west loft was painted by the Osterdyk's.
- ✓ The bell tower sign was worked on by Mark Madison.

February

- ✓ Railings installed on the altar steps by Dave Mettler.
- ✓ Leaking kitchen drains repaired by Todd Cummings.
- ✓ Kitchen lights replaced by John Oare and Mark Madison.
- ✓ WELCA closet door repaired by Lyndon Hagestuen and John Oare.

A HUGE THANK YOU to all those people who contribute to the upkeep of our building and grounds.
Your dedication in assisting when things need to get done does not go unnoticed.

Wayne Hansmann, Eric Wicktor and the property committee

MISSION & OUTREACH

Spring 2023

Mission/Outreach areas include Food Shelf, AA, Rainy Day Fund, Thanksgiving Community Dinner, Backpack Program, Tim & Maria and other missionary support, Mustard Seed, Toys for Tots, and any other outside groups using the building.

Projects completed:

Food Shelf – Thrivent 500-piece challenge achieved. Eight hundred (800) items collected and \$1,000 donation made to our local food shelf from Thrivent Northland Network. Ongoing collection in bin near Becca's office.

Rainy Day – Volunteer committee that meets to approve gas and food vouchers for community members. Occasional help with rent and bills using additional community resources. Ongoing donations are welcome to this fund.

Thanksgiving Community Dinner – Caron Peters and her group of volunteers put together a successful event where many were served a home cooked Thanksgiving meal. Delivery and pick-up meal options were also offered.

Backpack Program – Jenah Newman is the lead for this program. She is collecting donations and distributing 31 bags of food weekly. Donations of food items are welcome.

Tim & Maria missionary support – Giving to these missionaries is done by the church. We get occasional updates on their work, watch the newsletter for the latest update.

Mustard Seed – This men's group crafts the beautiful baptism boxes given at baptism. They also step up when called upon for additional community projects.

Toys for Tots – ORLC continues to be a host site for this community group. Mid-November to mid-December, donations are stored at the church. We are a hub location for the pick up event once the toys have been sorted and packaged for families. Many of our members participate in helping with this event.

Other groups that meet outside of the church are Caregivers Support Group, Senior Respite Group, SAIL.

If you are involved in any of these mission/outreach areas and have questions or would like to pass along updates for council, please reach out to me. I can give a program update at our monthly Council meeting.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Submitted by Erin Anderson

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Thank you to all the worship committee members! This group includes Lois Bengtson, Doug Berglund, Glenna Rierson, Jen Krinke, Caron Peters, Pastor John, Leigha, Diane Lombard (council rep), Lynda Woulfe and Becky Berglund (altar guild).

Committee is open to all congregational members, please join if you would like. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Since the Fall meeting, we have been blessed with Heritage Sunday, Blessing of the Orange, All Saints remembrance, and then of course, the beautiful Advent and Christmas services. We are thankful to all praise teams and our great choir! January included the very moving Teen Challenge Sunday. We are now into Lenten fellowship, and by the time we have our semi-annual meeting, Easter will be over, too! Our next ministry venture will be summer Picnic church. Hopefully, you will be able to be part of some of this. *We need people for music, message, and the food table.*

We are waiting on a person who is interested in working with our sound technology and broadcasts. The team is also researching upgrade to our system.

How blessed we are, Father, that You are our God, and that because of Jesus we belong to You. We are Your people, the sheep of Your pasture, and the flock under Your care. We are grateful, and we worship You! Psalm 100

Submitted by Lois Bengtson

Committee Co-Chair

ENVIRONMENTAL ARTS AND WORSHIP TEAM

OCT 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

Collaborated with Altar Guild, Congregational Life, Preschool, Healing Team, Property Committee and Staff to:

October - Decorate for Fall

Preschool - Paint Hallways

Move bulletin boards

SW Entry - Paint Walls & ceiling

Install Decorative Psalm 91 Wall word + 3 angel wing Decals

Youth Room - Clean fridge, cabinets, furniture, windows

Remove old TV & Stand

Move Piano

Sand & repaint floor registers

Move piano to fellowship room

Christmas - November 29 - Christmas decorating

Dec 9 - assembled & delivered Christmas packets – 350

West Loft - Walls & stairway painted

Light fixture repaired

March 27 - assemble Easter Packets to be delivered by April 2

Future plans - Easter Decorating

Music Room

Womens Bathroom

Preschool Mural for Hallway

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers on our team and the enthusiasm and ideas and volunteer hours given to continue to make our beautiful church comfortable and welcoming and a blessing to all who enter to worship, learn & SERVE GOD TOGETHER.

Submitted by Sue Osterdyk

HEALING PRAYER TEAM

Spring Semi-Annual Report 2022-23

Mission: Helping others experience God's power through praying and teaching.

Activities sponsored by the HPT:

- Five finger prayer guide
- The Hard Good day retreat, April 9
- Fifth Sunday of May was Memorial and Baccalaureates so no healing service.
- Growing In Christ, John 15. Weekly Devotional written by ORLC members, pots and seeds given out at Picnic Church.
- The Hard Good book study, June through October.
- Support picnic Church
- Good's Work Our Hands – Prayer walk at the gates of the city.
- Love to Pray book study
- Article on Intercession
- Focus study on Week Four, Love to Pray, week four Praying for others
- Advent Prayer Initiative – Interceding for others, person of influence, acquaintance of concern but little influence, concerns beyond our influence. Weekly prayer guide provided.
- Blue Christmas service, postponed one week because of weather.
- Christmas packet Prayer Cross sheet and Prayers of Petitions from Love to Pray book.
- Lenten planning with Leigha
- Healing Service focus on the Beatitudes. Wayne Hansmann faith story.
- Article on Soaking Prayer.
- Prayer Partners available after Lenten services.

Ongoing ministry offered to any and all upon request:

- Written prayer requests gathered from the prayer cross weekly, Sunday morning.
- Texting prayer chain – any may text 651-236-0511 with an immediate prayer request. This will be passed on to 18 others who will offer a petition regarding this need upon receipt.
- Altar ministry – prayer partners offered after Lenten Services for personal concerns.
- Soaking prayer sessions – upon request individuals (general facing life altering circumstances) may participate in an extended prayer sessions with 3 or more Prayer Team members. The person will talk about the situation and the team will pray with the individual. The goal is to know “Emmanuel, God with us” meaning how will Christ join with the individual to face the life circumstance in the Power of God. There may be repeated prayer sessions as needed.
- Weekly prayer for ORLC – Sunday morning one hour prior to worship service. Any are welcome to join in prayer in the Family Room. This is a time to prayer for concerns in the ORLC community and beyond.

submitted by

Lynn Walz and other team members

HERITAGE COMMITTEE
Semi-Annual Report
October 2022-March 2023

Members: Diane Teich, Jennifer Krinke, Lyndon Hagestuen, Ilene Haavisto, Kris Gross, Barbara Christensen, Marilyn Caza, Ella Caroon, Jane Carlson

- Below are tasks we have completed or are working on:
 - Planned Heritage Sunday Service, October 2022. Included were:
 - A message from our Synod Bishop.
 - Memories of former ORLC pastors.
 - Medley of traditional hymns by the ORLC choir.
 - Traditional hymns sung by the congregation.
 - Sunday School students teaching the congregation a new song.
 - Fellowship time after the service provided by W/ELCA.
 - Displays of historical/archival materials.
- Continued documenting and filing archival information as it became known and available from members, newspaper and church activities.
- Wrote articles for Our Redeemer's monthly newsletter.
- Searched files and documented information regarding the transition from the Sixth Ave church to our current location.
- Continued sorting and filing photos of ORLC activities.
- Continued working on ORLC History Booklet.
- Changed and/or added items to Heritage Room in consultation with the Environmental Arts Committee, including a lithograph of *Jesus Knocking At The Door*.
- Designed a photographic display of ORLC pastors for the Heritage Room.
- Purchased three cabinets for filing archival materials.
- Reviewed and updated the *Heritage Committee Job Description, Policies and Procedures*. Submitted to Church Council for approval.
- Monies available include: \$-----budgeted for 2023; \$1,000 without expiration date; \$1,686 gift/donations and \$2,500 endowment fund (booklet) totaling \$-----

Futures tasks and needs:

- New committee members are always welcome!
- Designing a display to honor the many years of work and service provided by the women of Pine Grove, Milburn and Our Redeemer Churches.
- Acquiring church members' memories of Our Redeemer.
- Acquiring information, photos, and items from Pine Grove, Milburn and Our Redeemer Churches.
- Scanning archival information.
- Researching early editions of the Pine City Pioneer at the Public Library for information on Pine Grove, Milburn and Our redeemer.
- Translating early Swedish writings in Pine Grove Church's Meeting Minutes into English.
- Finding information on the wooden altar in the Fellowship Hall.

Prepared by Barbara Christensen, Committee Chair



Pine City Backpack Food Program

Feed a child, grow a community

April 2023

This is the NINTH year that the Backpack Food Program has been providing food to Pine City students who don't have enough food to eat over the weekend. From September 2022 through March 2023, a total of 686 food bags were delivered: 296 to the elementary, 224 to the high school, 166 to Vision and 4 to ALC.

Cash donations and food donations remain fairly stable. As a result, the state of the Backpack Food Program continues to be financially strong. Because of the support from Our Redeemer members as well as the Catholic church and various Pine City businesses and organizations, we were able to send extra food home during extended time off at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and our mini-spring break this year.

We continue to utilize our Facebook page to keep the community informed. The program tries to post monthly food items that are most needed. We used the surveys from the children and their families submitted last year, to adjust some of our options, and include new items. Please follow us on Facebook. Our page is, Pine City Backpack Program.

THANK YOU to everyone who made this program year possible. Whether you volunteer your time to fill bags, collect food items, deliver food, or pray for the program, your support is greatly appreciated. We are living up to our mission to feed a child and grow a community!

Please reach out with any questions you may have, or to hear about volunteer opportunities available by emailing, pinecitybackpackprogram@gmail.com.

Submitted by Jenah Newman

CHILDREN OF JOY PRESCHOOL

Thank you for your continued support of Children of Joy Preschool! We have been able to offer a full scholarship to a student in need this year in addition to the other 19 students enrolled.



We recently had our 100th day of school celebration. Students celebrated with various things totaling 100. In March, students also had some Leprechaun and St. Patrick's day fun as well as a family event which was a scavenger/treasure hunt. I was able to get some free 6 inch pizza vouchers for the kids from Pizza Pub as a prize. They also did a snack and craft. The end of March included talking about rainbows and color mixing.

We have had several students who have been very successful in writing and spelling their names. We have one student in particular who has been growing by leaps and bounds as he came to us barely 3 years old and can now spell and write most of his name and gets himself ready to go outside. This is more than I can say for most of the 4 year olds! This time of the year we definitely have gotten into a pretty good groove and the students are thriving.

We have our annual Butter Braid fundraiser going on as well until March 28th with a delivery date of Wednesday, April 5th. We will most likely be gearing up to have an Open House soon in April or May along with conferences and graduation at the end of the year.

We are planning on having summer camps again. They will probably be our normal 3 mornings a month for June, July, and August. Dates are yet to be determined. We try and schedule with summer rec programs so that families have options for all ages. Summer camp is a perfect chance to try out preschool if you're wondering how your child or grandchild would like it. It's also a chance for preschoolers to retain their skills over the summer and have time with their friends. It is for any child who is potty trained and age 3 or older.



We remain abundantly blessed with Casey Tyberg as our Lead Teacher and Rosalie Aschemann as co-teacher as well as Carolyn Tuckner continuing to volunteer as our director. We've been trying to find subs and assistant teachers without much success. Leigha Lange arranged to be able to sub for us which has been a wonderful blessing.

The board for Children of Joy has been putting fundraising money aside in order to do improvements to the playground and outside area. We stay in touch with church leadership on all planning. We have also applied for two grant opportunities to assist.

Please pray for our students, their families, our staff and board. Pass the word about our preschool to your friends and neighbors. We are currently signing up students for next year. Share a hobby or interest in our classroom. Continue to support our fundraisers. Thank you for walking with us as we serve our community!

Patty Keyport
Children of Joy Board Member
COJ: 320-629-2985 or orlckidz@gmail.com
Facebook @ CreatingJoyInLearning

Creating Joy in Learning!