

EDISON LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



14201 Church Road
Bow, Washington 98232

January 28, 2024

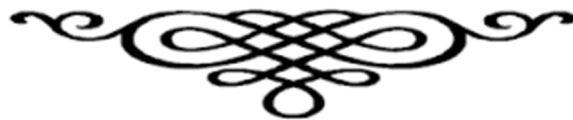
www.edisonlutheranchurch.org

EdisonLutheran@live.com

360-766-6920

Edison Lutheran Church Council Members (September 2023 - August 2024)

Member	Committee Assignment	Term
Linda Johnson, President	Parish Life	2020-2023
Patsy Martin, Vice President	Stewardship	2023-2026
Linda Tyler, Secretary	Parish Life	2023-2026
Steven Dahl	Finance	2021-2024
Inger Conner	Social Concerns	2021-2024
Chris Omdal	Christian Education & Youth	2021-2024
Judy Bendtsen	Evangelism	2022-2025
Cheryl Conner	Social Concerns	2022-2025
Jean Miller	Worship & Music	2022-2025
Christie Peterson	Property & Management	2022-2025
Laura Engebretsen	Property & Management	2023-2026
AnnaLaurie Wattson-Lamb	Worship & Music	2023-2026



Edison Lutheran Church

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2024

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Devotions or Opening Prayer
- III. Reading and Acceptance of 2023 Congregational Meeting Minutes and Reports
 - A. 2023 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes, June 25, 2023 ----- p. 13
 - B. 2023 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes, December 31, 2023 ----- p. 15
- IV. Messages and Reports
 - A. Message from Pastor John Guthridge ----- p. 5
 - B. Proposed Change to Bylaws----- p. 27
 - C. Property & Management Committee Report ----- p. 22
 - D. Button Peterson Committee Update
- V. New Business
 - A. Synod Assembly Delegates (5 total: two male, one female, one young adult, one youth)
 - B. Nomination of Nominating Committee
 - C. Nomination of Josephine Caring Community Annual Meeting Delegates
(held in April, two needed plus one alternate)
 - D. Nomination of Lutherwood Representatives (two needed plus one alternate)
- VI. Dan Craig Pre & Primary English Medium School Update
- VII. 2024 Spending Plan and Explanation ----- p. 33
- VIII. Closing
- IX. Adjournment

Edison Lutheran Church

Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A.	Message from Pastor John Guthridge	p. 5
B.	Message from the ELCA Presiding Bishop	p. 7
C.	Message from the NW Synod Bishop	p. 8
D.	Message from Church Council President	p. 9
E.	Church Council Goals for 2024	p. 10
F.	2023 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes, January 29, 2023	p. 11
G.	2023 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes, June 25, 2023	p. 13
H.	2023 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes, December 31, 2023	p. 15
I.	Committee Contact List	p. 17
J.	Altar Guild Report	p. 18
K.	Care Team Report	p. 19
L.	Prayer Shawl Report	p. 19
M.	Christian Education Report	p. 20
N.	Christian Youth Report	p. 21
O.	Property & Management Committee Report	P. 22
P.	Josephine Caring Community	p. 23
Q.	Parish Life Report	p. 24
R.	Social Concerns Report	p. 25
S.	Stewardship & Finance Report	p. 27
T.	Proposed Stewardship Committee By-Laws	p. 27
U.	Proposed Finance Committee By-Laws	p. 27
V.	Worship & Music Report	p. 30
W.	Evangelism Report	p. 31
X.	Congregational Statistical Report	p. 32
Y.	Annual Financial Reports	
	1. Proposed 2024 Spending Plan	p. 33
	2. Summary 2024 Proposed Budget	p. 37
	3. 2023 Account Balances	p. 37



Message from our Pastor 2023 Annual Report



*The eyes of all wait for you, and you give them their food in its time,
opening your hand and satisfying the longing of every living thing.
(Psalm 145:15-16)*

Dear People of God,

When I think about all the facility projects that we have completed in the four years since I started here, I am amazed both at God's faithfulness and at the financial generosity of this congregation.

Since I started here in February of 2020, we have:

- Replaced three different heating systems (2020, 2021, 2024)
- Replaced half of the sanctuary roof (2021)
- Painted and sided two buildings (2022, 2023)
- Replaced the doors and windows on the parish house (2023)
- Installed a brand new up-to-code septic system serving both buildings (2023)

And while that list may make it seem like all our resources were directed towards our property, that couldn't be further from the truth!

During that same period of time, we have:

- Purchased a grand piano (2021)
- Installed live-streaming capabilities in the sanctuary (2021)
- Hosted an Intern Pastor (2022-2023)
- Established a partnership with the DanCraig school in Tanzania (2022-present)
- More than doubled our budgeted charitable giving (\$20k in 2020, \$49k in 2023)
- Given additional time, talents, and treasure to our community partners (Lutherwood, Family Promise, Friendship House, Helping Hands Food Bank, etc.)

All this was done without us having to borrow any money or shirk on any obligations, and all while we continued to carry out our first calling of delivering the love of God in Jesus Christ to people of many different ages and circumstances. God has truly blessed us!

As I reflect on the remarkable outpouring of activity over the past few years, I am also reminded of the need for times of rest in which we can catch our breath. We have been faithfully exhaling God's abundance for the last few years, and my prayer for this year is that it is an opportunity for us to also inhale, to breathe deeply of the goodness of our God. God is faithful to give us what we need in its time, whether that is a time of exuberant activity or a time of restful receiving.

A few highlights from 2023:

A renewed focus on youth: One of Pastor Lori's greatest gifts to us was in establishing our Tuesday evening youth and young adult group. This group, now led by Jenny Sheahan, continues to meet every week for food and fellowship, and strives to be a welcoming and safe "third place" for young people to gather. I plan to join them once a month for play, discussion, and Bible study. In addition, the renewed Children, Youth, and Family committee is working to plan events for all ages throughout the year.

Community Bible Experience: Much of my time and energy these past few months has gone into our 40-week journey through scripture using *The Books of the Bible* from Zondervan publishing. We continue to have 15-25 people attend the 9am Sunday morning class where we discuss the week's at-home readings, and our Sunday morning readings continue to help us appreciate the grand story of the Bible.

New Confirmation Format: This past Fall, I started a confirmation curriculum with four seventh graders and their parents based on *Free to Be* by Gerhard Forde and Jim Nestingen. I am thoroughly enjoying our time together and the insights that come from both parents and children together.

Goals and Areas of Focus: At our congregational meeting in June, we approved six areas of focus to guide our efforts through 2025, and in December the council set some specific goals for 2024 informed by those areas of focus.

New Lutherwood Executive Director: I was honored to be part of the interview team for the hiring of Lutherwood's new Executive Director who started this month. He'll hit the ground running with lots to do as they prepare for camp this Summer. Please pray for their success!

Your brother in Christ,

-Pastor John

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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

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



Dear Beloveds in Christ,

This last year has been both wonderful and difficult. It has been filled with joys and sorrows, laughter and tears, connections and disruptions. It has been a time of starting new ministries and, sadly, working with five congregations as they closed. This last year has been both life-affirming and exhausting.

As I reflect on this last year and look to 2024, I hold close one of my favorite scriptures: *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 8:38-39

Sometimes when we are anxious or concerned, we forget to trust that God is present and active. That God is here with us – through all things – and that nothing will separate us from this. We might forget this when we are busy figuring out budgets and salaries, church maintenance and worship attendance. We might have arguments and exhaustion might creep in.

But these verses help us remember that the focus is always on Jesus and God's love for us through Jesus. After all, the church was not created in order to "be church." We don't exist just for ourselves or to keep a business running. Instead, the church exists in this world because we have encountered Jesus. And knowing Jesus, trusting Jesus, loving Jesus, nothing is ever the same. As authors Root and Bertrand write in *When Church Stops Working*, "The church is the gathered people who are in the world, like Paul, and who have experienced the acts of God through an encounter with Jesus Christ." (p. 74)

Root and Bertrand further write:

Paul starts churches not for the sake of churches, not to stave off decline or accelerate growth, but for the sake of forming communities that serve the world by witnessing to God's acts in the world ... It is the community that rehearses and narrates the story of God's acts for the world, waiting together for God's coming again in the return of Jesus. (p. 75)

In other words, the church is a community formed because of an encounter with Jesus and who gather to practice and share what God is doing in this world through the Holy Spirit.

As you gather for your Annual Meetings, I encourage you to have conversation about what it means to be church today:

1. What is God doing in your community today?
2. What does an encounter with Jesus look like for you?
3. How are you practicing what God is calling you to do and to be?
4. What does Romans 8:38-39 mean in your life and your congregation's life?
5. How are we waiting together in the mystery of God's presence now and into the future?

I am grateful for all of you and I thank you for the honor of being your Bishop. May we trust that through all things God is with us through Jesus and God's love shines through all.

God's abundant blessings on your annual meeting and throughout 2024.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

Message from the Church Council President 2023 Annual Report

Dear Edison Lutheran Church members,

Edison Lutheran Church has continued in the year 2023 to be a very healthy congregation. Our worship numbers are good each Sunday morning as are the number of people active in the many activities that go on during the week. We continue to be lead by Pastor John Guthridge on Sunday mornings as well as during the week. Pastor John continues to challenge us, lead us, guide and help us.

Sunday mornings the children have Sunday School classes lead by many great teachers; and this fall the adults also have a chance to learn with the new program Community Bible Experience Classes taught by Pastor John. He is also using the same experience in Sunday morning sermons. We are reading through the Old Testament and will continue through the Bible the remainder of the year. Members also have a chance to study the Bible with Pastor John's Monday evening Bible Study and the Women's Bible Study once a month.

Aiding Sunday morning worship is our choir which adds so much to worship and also the Altar Guild which keeps all parts of worship running smoothly. Many members of our congregation volunteer to serve coffee hour after worship each week, giving our members a chance to visit and catch up over a cup of coffee and a snack.

Edison has many committees that take care of our church, our congregation and our community. Taking care of our buildings is the Property & Management Committee who has been very busy this year. Just recently they worked to put in a new furnace in the Fellowship Hall and Sunday School unit. They work regularly to keep big and little things working properly.

Taking care of our congregation is the Parish Life Committee. This year they put on the Harvest Dinner and Pie Auction and a Christmas Brunch after the Sunday School program. Under the umbrella of Parish Life is the Care Team which visits our home bound members and those in nursing homes; and the Prayer Shawl Ministry which makes shawls to give as a physical sign of Edison's caring to those who need comfort.

The Social Concerns Committee helps take care of our community. They organize us in giving to Friendship House, Family Promise, Josephine Caring Community, running a blood drive and giving to local food banks. They also set up a giving tree at Christmas.

Another group who works on outreach is our Evangelism Committee. The bags for children that are ready each week, bags for new members are put together by this group and bags for visitors.

Our Christian Education and Youth Committee has been reorganizing this year and working to continue the work begun by our 2022-23 Intern Lori. They recently hosted a game day for all members of our church family. We look forward to hearing more from this group.

A few things that continue to make our congregation healthy is live-streaming our Sunday morning worship services, the continued giving financially by our membership and Carrie in the office to oversee the finances, the many members who give of their talents and time every month and the 12 people who serve as our Church Council. These members meet each month and make decisions to make sure Edison Lutheran stays the wonderful healthy congregation it is. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as president of this dedicated group. We all look forward to serving in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Johnson

Edison Lutheran Church Council Goals 2024

Provide more social opportunities for our youth and families.

- Provide four quarterly *church* family activities (all ages) during 2024

Increase knowledge and fluency in reading the Bible among congregation members.

- Continue our Community Bible Experience through June 2024
- Beginning Fall 2024: Incorporate fun and playful ways to interact with the bible on a monthly basis

Maintain, support, and grow youth group through regular meetings and social outings.

- Recruit 1-2 more regular adult leaders by February 2024
- Have at least six active members on the Youth committee by June 2024
- Have 3-4 youth outings planned by June 2024

Continue and expand support for local and global community organizations.

- Develop service partnership with one additional organization during 2024
- Intentionally recruit 10 new volunteers across our community partnerships

Continue to hold worship in high regard, supporting our Worship & Music Committee.

- Begin soliciting hymn suggestions from congregants by March 2024
- Investigate need for more quiet prior to Sunday service by February 2024

Involve many different people of all ages in all the roles of worship, including holding 1-2 youth Sunday services per year.

- Have two youth-led services during 2024
- Develop a list of members not currently involved in church volunteer activities by August 2024

Edison Lutheran Church

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Call to Order: Linda Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

John read 1 Corinthians 12:12 and led the congregation in an opening prayer.

Roll was taken via sign-in sheet.

Scott Connor moved and Mike Miller seconded approval of the minutes from the last annual meeting. Approved unanimously.

Larry Olsen moved and Jean Miller seconded approval of the minutes from the last semi-annual meeting. Approved unanimously.

Joanne Berentson moved and Kris Merritt seconded approval of the annual reports as printed. Approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report

Pastor John stressed that visitation will be a focus item for him this year, and thanked Jane Fraser who has offered to assist scheduling this for him. He then shared a video presentation from the Dancraig School in Tanzania, showing the construction progress on the dormitory they are building.

Intern Report

Pastor Lori continues to focus on the youth of the church and her project to train lay members on serving communion to the homebound. She will be performing all pastoral duties from June through August.

Property and Management Committee Report

Brad Wyman presented for the committee. The committee considers re-siding and replacing the windows in the parish house to be the next top priority and has received a bid for \$60,000. The congregation was asked to authorize spending up to \$64,000 for this project, since there could be unknown additional work. Patsy Martin moved, and Bud Bowers seconded this be approved. Approved unanimously.

Additional discussion topics for the committee were repair and replacement of the septic system and the likely demolition of the Scout Building, which is in poor condition.

Finance and Stewardship Committee Report

Jerry Sells discussed the Time and Talent Survey for the Stewardship portion of the committee. It will be sent out again in an improved format to better capture congregational interests.

Steven Dahl presented the 2023 spending plan and discussed the major changes for the year. The major increases were in personnel costs and benevolences. Larry Olsen brought up several points on the \$500 benevolences planned for several campus ministry programs. He recommended making a change from one school to another, initiating a significant discussion amongst the congregation. This was resolved when Kristen Caldwell moved to accept the spend plan as published. This was seconded by Cheryl Conner and approved unanimously by the congregation. Carrie Omdal made a motion to not send money to any colleges that was not approved.

Nominating Committee Report

RuthAnne moved to include Jerry Sells, Karen Fisher, Jane Fraser, Linda Johnson, Judy Sheahan, and Sara Dahl for the nominating committee. Joanne Berentson seconded the names for the nominating committee. Jerry Sells nominated Keith and Christie Peterson to represent the church to the Josephine Caring Community. Judy seconded the Josephine nominees. Bonnie Bowers nominated David Benson and Peter Blau-Ormsby to represent the church to Lutherwood with Chris Omdal as an alternate for Lutherwood. Patsy Martin seconded the Lutherwood nominees.

All nominees were approved unanimously.

At 1:10 Tom Sheahan moved to adjourn; AnnaLaurie Wattson Lamb seconded. Approved unanimously.

Meeting Attendance: 45 members present.

Joanne Berentson	RuthAnne Pocock	Patsy Martin	Gerald Bowers
Bonnie Bowers	Brad Wyman Sr	Mark Johnson	Larry Forsythe
Steven Dahl	Thomas Wake	Anne Kuntz	Bob Kuntz
Tom Sheahan	Kristin Caldwell	Jenifer Troxel	Gary Troxel
Kris Merritt	Mike Miller	Jean Miller	Judy Bendtsen
Linda Larson	Jerry Sells	Cheryl Conner	Joline Lomsdalen
Carrie Omdal	Laura Guthridge	Larry Olsen	Dannielle Galbraith
Allan Fredrickson	Barb Fredrickson	Judy Jensen	Vic Jensen
Peter Ormsby	Scott Conner	Inger Conner	Linda L. Nilsen
Christa Guthridge	Karen Fisher	Bryan Galbraith	Carol Dahl
Janet Wyman	Linda Johnson	Chris Omdal	Jennifer Sheahan
AnnaLaurie Wattson Lamb			

Edison Lutheran Church

Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes

25 June 2023

Call to Order: Council President Linda Johnson called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

Pastor John led the congregation in an opening prayer.

Roll was taken via sign-in sheet.

Approval of the minutes of the January 2023 Annual Meeting. Christie Peterson moved, Joann Berentson seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Button Peterson Committee Report Kris Merritt

The committee has decided to use half of the generous donation, \$50,000 to build a larger play area behind the church. That half of the funds will pay for equipment and the installation. The remainder of the funds, \$50,000 will provide benches and a small shelter for folks to watch their children. She reminded the congregation that this money was a gift and not part of the annual budget. They hope to have the first phase of the project completed by winter. They plan to work closely with the Property and Management committee in relation to the new septic plan for the church and parish house.

Fall Church Dinner Linda Johnson

There will be a fall church dinner on October 19 sponsored by church council. It will be a fund raiser with the money donated to pay for the tear down of the Scout building and work on the outdoor space. It has yet to be determined if it will be salmon or meatloaf.

Financial/Giving Update Steven Dahl

The council planned an aggressive budget process for 2023-2024. They estimated a 5% increase in giving, but were expecting a shortfall. The additional giving didn't happen but council has approved spending from various sources where money is available. The church has seen a 5% increase in giving recently.

A few budget items are over on spending. March and May benevolence payments were substantial, the majority being paid then.

Nominating Committee Report Linda Johnson

Candidates for Council were nominated for three year terms. They are; Patsy Martin, Laura Engebretsen, AnnaLaurie Wattson Lamb and Linda Tyler. Judy Sheahan moved, Luanne Knutzen seconded and the motion carried unanimously to accept this slate of candidates for council.

Property and Management Committee Report Keith Peterson

The septic system for the church was put in when his grandfather was a member. The system has failed and they have a temporary patch in place but the whole system needs replacing. The idea is to also tie in the parish house for when that system fails, which will be soon. This will require use of the building fund and donations to facilitate the replacement of the septic system. Mike Miller moved, Inger Conner seconded to approve this project and it was approved unanimously.

Goals (areas of focus) for church for next three years (2023-2025) Pastor John

Pastor John reviewed for the congregation the process that the council used to determine the goals to be worked toward in the next three years. The council did this three years ago in order to complete the master plan for the call process, and thought it a good idea to continue to look forward at where we are headed as a congregation. The council picked six areas of focus. And the council will drill down on those goals at their August meeting. The broad range goals are:

- Provide more social opportunities for our youth and families
- Increase knowledge and fluency in reading the bible among congregation members
- Maintain, support and grow youth group through regular meetings and social outings
- Continue and expand support for local and global community organizations
- Continue to hold worship in high regard, supporting our Worship and Music Committee
- Involve many different people of all ages in all the roles of worship, including holding one to two youth Sunday services per year.

2022-2023 Intern Report Pastor Lori

Pastor Lori reported that the youth group has grown from six to 16 members, outgrowing the Parish house as a place to meet. Jenny Sheahan and Darla Jensen will be the group leaders when her internship is over the end of August. The group has gone to Holden, had deep bible studies, bonded very well and prepared and executed a youth Sunday that is still being talked about as a wonderful experience for all. They also volunteered to work at whatever was needed at the Shrove Tuesday dinner last February. They are bringing friends, engaging each other and making dinner together. Hopefully this will continue to be a priority at Edison. Help them grow in their faith. Her last Sunday is August 27 which will be another youth Sunday. She thanked everyone for being so welcoming to her husband and Tater.

Service Member List Linda Johnson

When cleaning out the Scout building, a poster with names of service members from Edison was found. It is in good shape and should be updated and hung in the fellowship hall. If you know of members who should be on the poster, please let Linda know.

Special Meeting Minutes
Edison Lutheran Church
December 31, 2023

Topic: Heating System

Attendance: separate sheets

11:37am Linda Johnson welcomes congregation and calls meeting to order.

Project Information sheets were distributed, and sign-in sheets circulated for attendance.

Pastor Linda Larson leads us in prayer.

Linda J introduces Keith Peterson and Brad Wyman to explain the situation, and Steven Dahl to answer any financial questions.

Thank you to the congregation for already supporting two major projects that were completed this year: sewer system and Parish House re-siding.

Keith explained that the current heating system has failed, and the Sunday School downstairs area will now require a ductless system.

The bid received from Foss Heating is \$37,621. This repair is necessary, not optional.

Question from the congregation: Did we only receive one bid? Yes, we only received the one bid from Foss Heating; the last work done was from the lowest bid and led to these problems. Foss is a reputable company and does all the work on our current system, so it makes sense to stay with them. Very happy with their work and service.

Joanne Berentson moved to approve the purchase of the heat pump system as described.

Jon Aarstad seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by the congregation unanimously.

Linda J thanked the Property & Management committee for their hard work.

Linda J asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Kris Merritt made a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned.

1 Attachment: Attendance

Minutes by Linda Tyler

Special Meeting Attendance -- 31 December 2023

Linda Johnson	Candy Johnson	Allan Fredrickson
Jon Aarstad	Nels Lagerlund	David Benson
Anne Kutnz	Laura Engebretsen	Barbara Fredrickson
Kris Merritt	Jason Tyler	AnnaLuarie Wattson-Lamb
Judy Sheahan	Linda Tyler	Crickett Knutzen
Sarah Dahl	Brad Wyman	Inger Conner
Susan Aarstad	Stephanie Knutzen	Scott Conner
Christie Peterson	Jeff Knutzen	Judy Bendtsen
Joanne Berentsen	Greg Nelson	Mike Miller
Arnold Woll	Barbara Nelson	Jean Miller
Maureen Ratfield	Gerald (Bud) Bowers	Carol Dahl
Bill Knutzen	Bonnie Bowers	Gordy Dahl
Linda Larson	Patsy Martin	Dan Witten
Mark Johnson	Dan Martin	
Steven Dahl	Larry Forsythe	
Kaith Peterson	Susan Forsythe	
Tom Wake	Janet Wyman	
Katy Olson	Jennifer Sheahan	
Sue Simonseth	Carrie Omdal	
Laura Guthridge	Chris Omdal	
Craig Guthridge	Cathy Smith	

Committee Reports

As you read through the committee/ministry reports, if you have questions or are interested in joining, feel free to contact the person listed below or the church office.

We endeavor to be open to new ideas and new people.

Contact people for Edison Lutheran Opportunities

Church Office: edisonlutheran@live.com 360.766.6920

Task/committee	Key Contact	Phone Number	E-mail
Altar Guild	Debbie Conijn Kathy Shoop	360.770.3595 360.421.4534	debraconijn@gmail.com kshoop1@icloud.com
Assisting Minister	Linda Johnson	360.708.2481	lindajohnson47@hotmail.com
Care Team	Jolene Lomsdalen	360.766.6567	
Choir	Peter Blau Ormsby	360.982.6513	peterormsby@gmail.com
Christian Education/ Youth	Chris Omdal Carrie Omdal	360.540.1005 719-322-7764	carrienchris@msn.com omdalc@comcast.net
Coffee Hour Serving	Linda Johnson	360.708.2481	lindajohnson47@hotmail.com
Evangelism	Sarah Dahl	360.333.8141	sarah_k_dahl@hotmail.com
Finance	Steven Dahl	360.420.6309	stevend.dahl@hotmail.com
Greeters	Linda Johnson	360.708.2481	lindajohnson47@hotmail.com
Lector	Linda Johnson	360.708.2481	lindajohnson47@hotmail.com
Parish Life Committee	Kris Merritt	360.420.0261	2granddaughtergrandma@gmail.com
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Linda Johnson Cheryl Conner	360.708.2481 360.391.2743	lindajohnson47@hotmail.com cherylconner45@gmail.com
Property & Management	Christie Peterson Keith Peterson	360.202.7476 360.202.3395	5petes@comcast.net kpete53@gmail.com
Social Concerns	Cheryl Conner Katy Olson	360.391.2743 360.766.6138	cherylconner45@gmail.com katymolson@gmail.com
Stewardship	Patsy Martin	360-724-5030	patsymartin61@gmail.com
Ushers	Linda Johnson	360.708.2481	lindajohnson47@hotmail.com
Worship & Music	Jane Fraser	360.739.8303	janewfraser@frontier.com



Edison Lutheran Church Altar Guild 2023 Annual Report

Committee Members: RuthAnne Pocock (President), Debbie Conijn, Susie Forsythe, Jane Fraser (Vice-President), Janet Wyman, Marie Nelsen, Nancy Nygren, Terri Olsen (Secretary), Karen Schutte, Judy Sheahan, Kathy Shoop, Julie Rousseau, Dottie Murray, and Pastor John Guthridge.

Altar Guild meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00am, in the Parish House. We do not meet in June or July. The Altar Guild is responsible for care of worship linens, paraments, as well as preparation for communion, funerals, baptisms, confirmations and weddings at Edison Lutheran Church. Members also bake bread served at communion. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for all seasons of the church year: Pentecost, All Saints Sunday, Harvest Sunday, Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas. For our Sunday services, members prepare the altar for communion, and assist with serving communion as needed.

Communion is usually served at the communion rail for those who wish to come forward. If you are baptized you are invited to receive communion or receive a blessing at the rail. All are welcome. Communion is served from one of two pouring chalices into individual cups brought to the rail by the congregation, along with the homemade bread. Wine is offered from the blue pouring chalice and grape juice from the white pouring chalice. There is also a gluten free option as needed. If you wish to receive communion at your seat, there are pre-packaged elements, you can pick up from the greeters or ushers as you enter, and Pastor will direct you when it's time.

Altar Guild and the Worship and Music Committee work together for Shrove Tuesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services held at Edison Lutheran. On Palm Sunday, palms are distributed in the Fellowship Hall for the congregation to parade into the sanctuary carrying their palms and laying them at the front of the altar. On Easter Sunday, worship begins with the children carrying vases of tulips to the altar at the beginning of the service where they are placed on or near the rail, in celebration of the resurrection.

We encourage not only women, but also men and youth, especially confirmation students to consider joining this committee. It is most rewarding.

Submitted by Terri Olsen, Secretary

**Edison Lutheran Church
Care Team
2023 Annual Report**

Care Team Members: Joline Lomsdalen, Linda Johnson, RuthAnne Pocock, Katy Olson, Arnold Woll, Marianne Spoelstra, Joanne Berentsen, Christa Guthridge

The Care Team continues visiting the sick and homebound as well as sending cards on special occasions. We meet once a month for lunch providing transportation as needed to those wanting to join for a time of socializing.

In December we packed and delivered 24 delicious Christmas food trays.

I would like to encourage your participation with our group. We meet the second Thursday of each month at 10:30.

Submitted by Joline Lomsdalen

**Edison Lutheran Church
Prayer Shawl Ministry
2023 Annual Report**

Committee members: Cheryl Conner, Linda Johnson, Laurel Black, Christa Guthridge, Laura Guthridge, Jenifer Troxel, Shirley Brick, Jane Fraser

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of Edison Lutheran meets the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 am. We knit and crochet and have fellowship as we work on shawls to be given to members of Edison and their families and friends who are in need of a physical sign of comfort and caring. We give shawls to someone who has been in the hospital, has lost a loved one or has another reason to need support from their Edison family.

The Confirmation students receive a special white shawl on their Confirmation Day, anyone who is baptized is given a shawl in honor of their Baptism Day, we give one of the smaller shawls to new members when they join Edison Lutheran.

If anyone in the congregation enjoys knitting and/or crocheting, or would like to learn how, we welcome you to join us each month.

We also continue to count on the members of our congregation to let us know if there is someone who could use this sign of comfort. You can call the church office or Linda Johnson (360-708-2481). Or you can pick out a shawl from the center room between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.

Submitted by Linda Johnson

Edison Lutheran Church Christian Education Committee 2023 Annual Report

This committee is responsible for providing Christian Education for all ages. Although, adult and youth Christian education has been increasing, the committee is not active. We are working to make this an active committee in 2024.

Our Sunday School program is going very well. The teachers for the 2022-2023 school year were: Janet Wyman, Mandy Englund, Brenda Geary, Ashlynn Coward, and Rebecca Geary. Pastor John, Intern Pastor Lori, and Carrie Omdal taught the confirmation class for the 2022-2023 school year. For the 2023-2024 school year, the Sunday School teachers are: Brenda and Becca Geary team teaching the pre-school children; Janet Wyman and Stephanie Knutzen team teaching grades 1-3; and Sarah Dahl and Kali Howard team teaching grades 4-6. There were an average of 20 Sunday School students weekly. Peter Blau Ormsby and David Benson began each Sunday with music and prayer with the whole group and then the students went to their grade appropriate classes. The Confirmation class changes dramatically in the Fall of 2023. The class has four 7th graders. Pastor John, the students, and their parents have class using the curriculum, *Free to Be* by Gerhard Forde and Jim Nestingen.

Service projects are a key developmental activity in Youth Christian development. The Sunday School has been involved with a coat drive and worked with the Confirmation students to organize, advertise, and run a food drive, and deliver a full van of food to Helping Hands Food Bank. The Confirmation students were involved in several activities in 2023. They served as acolytes for worship. They made dozens of cookies and bagged them for Family Promise and Friendship House. They maintained a food pantry in a shelf outside the church where people can help themselves to the food and cleaning items.

Our adult Christian education includes Bible studies and our new Bible Experience Class. We continue to have weekly bible study with Pastor John via Zoom each week and Women's Bible Study led by Linda Larson on the 3rd Wednesday of every month in the Fellowship Hall. In addition, this Fall Pastor John is having a Bible Experience Class on Sunday mornings, which has been attended by 25-30 people each week. The class is using the *Community Bible Experience* and reading the Bible throughout the year. Please see Pastor John's letter for more details.

Edison Lutheran Church scholarships were awarded in May. The recipients were: Eleanor Ormsby, Lisa Omdal, Alexia Englund, and Hadley Knutzen. Lisa Omdal, Eleanor Ormsby, and Alexia Englund also received \$1,000 scholarships from the Einer & Ruby Knutzen Scholarship that we share with Burlington Lutheran Church.

Submitted By Carrie Omdal

Edison Lutheran Church Youth Committee 2023 Annual Report

Committee Members: Chris Omdal, Carrie Omdal, Jennifer Sheahan, Brenda Geary, David Benson, and Intern Pastor Lori Cavender

The Youth committee operated concurrently with the Christian Education committee through 2023. Establishing independent committees for the two areas is a goal for 2024.

Pastor Lori pushed the church to build a Youth program to keep high school aged people engaged in the church. Accordingly, the Youth gathered weekly and met for lessons, games, and fellowship. Attendance started with only 3 youth, but quickly grew to an average of 6-10 high school aged youth each week. We encouraged the youth to bring friends. For a few of the kids, this has been their first exposure to religion of any sort. Jennifer Sheahan took the lead after Pastor Lori left for her call to Salem Lutheran.

During the year, we had two Youth Sundays, where the students and children led the entire service. Becca Geary delivered an excellent sermon at the first, but Pastor Lori gave the sermon for the second service. The committee is sponsoring two of these services every year.

The committee sponsored a BBQ and movie night for families, including church family. We had many families attend and a few adults from our church family. We are planning more events like this for 2024.

The Youth group has been actively supporting the church. They have hosted coffee hour several times, they supported a food drive, and they cleaned up after the pie auction. They also served and cleaned up for the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner as a fundraiser to support their Holden Village trip.

The Youth group went to Holden Village for Memorial Day weekend, which was a success. This was a very positive experience for all involved, and plans are in place to go again in 2024.

The committee also sponsored a 'Give Parents a Break' afternoon during December. The kids (and parents) had a great afternoon!

Submitted by Chris Omdal, Council Liaison

Edison Lutheran Church

Property and Management Committee

2023 Annual Report

Committee Members: Keith Peterson, Larry Forsythe, Christie Peterson, Brad Wyman Sr., Tom Wake, Nancy Nygren, Jerry Nelson, Evan Swanson, Shirley Brick, Randy Geary, Laura Engebretsen

The Property and Management Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month as needed. The committee is responsible for general maintenance, maintaining and improving church property and planning upgrades to the property. There are always regular maintenance items to be accomplished. Lawn and flower bed care along with trimming and pruning are always on the top of that list.

We also plan and undertake many other projects. Examples of this year's list are the following:

- Outdoor lights were cleaned, replaced and in some cases painted.
- The septic tank inspection was completed and passed.
- The county fire and safety inspections were completed and passed.
- We helped with the design of the new playground, and we will help with the groundwork for the area.
- The old library was transformed into a prayer shawl room for the church.
- The ELCW's storage room was remodeled with new shelves into a more efficient area.
- The committee led an inside and outside spring clean-up day.
- An inspection of the sewer pipes to the septic tank was completed to determine the reason for the sewer plugging.
- The outside surface of the Narthex doors were cleaned, primed, and painted for better weather protection.
- An additional freezer was purchased for more storage.
- A decision was made to demolish the Scout building in 2024.

We had some very large projects completed this year. It started with the decision to replace an old and outdated septic and sewer system. This project entailed putting in a new system for the church and Parish House. The approved project cost approximately \$27,000.

The second large project was the remodel for the Parish house. Coming in at roughly \$59,000 the congregation gave approval for new siding, new windows, and complete painting.

We continue to be amazed at the support our congregation gives to the needed repairs of this church. THANK-YOU!

Submitted by Christie Peterson

Edison Lutheran Church Josephine Caring Community 2023 Annual Report

Edison Lutheran delegates, Keith and Christie Peterson have attended quarterly Josephine Caring Community (JCC) delegate meetings. All meetings this year were in person at JCC in the church. It was recently reported that they are slowly coming back from the damage caused by COVID. There are positive signs everywhere that this is happening.

JCC is still very much involved in the development and building of Josephine Smokey Point Independent Living (Cascade Village), and the Stanwood Independent Living Apartments. These communities are slated to open late in 2024. They are currently involved in a sales drive. As of September, there have been 16 depositors for Cascade Village with a goal of 30 this year. The Stanwood Independent Living units will have presentable plans by the end of the year.

Josephine at Home is a two-pronged branch of JCC. The Home Care branch provides hourly caregivers to assist in the home. This program is building with their loss down considerably from previous months. They are actively involved in building their caseloads.

The Suites Senior Living have had their best financial performance ever. The suites are private apartments with assisted living and individualized amenities.

There are opportunities to become Board members at JCC. If you are interested in a chance to serve in this capacity, please contact them.

JCC provides a Speaker's Bureau. Current and recent JCC board members are now available to speak at churches and civic organizations about what JCC has to offer to residents and employees.

Submitted by Christie Peterson

Edison Lutheran Church Parish Life Committee 2023 Annual Report

Committee Members: Sarah Dahl, Bobbi Ahrenius, Kristin Caldwell, Linda Tyler, Linda Johnson, Janet Wyman, Debbie Conijn, Kris Merritt

Edison Lutheran's Parish Life Committee encompasses a variety of groups within our congregation, each one working to live out our mission to welcome, nurture and serve. The Parish Life Committee is a group of enthusiastic members who organize and support events which enhance the life of the congregation through recognition and celebration. Activities often center around food. A recurring responsibility for a member of the committee is assigning coffee hour fellowship hosts who serve the congregation following nearly all Sunday morning services. This provides members and guests an opportunity to connect and share important life events.

In April, the committee hosted an amazing Easter Brunch with over 90 people attending. Then in August, we hosted the farewell brunch for Intern Pastor Lori Cavender. The plated meal was prepared by our committee and served by our youth. Early in November, Parish Life members and others, gathered to prepare a celebration dinner, honoring the ordination and installation of our very own Intern Pastor Lori. The meal was served at Salem Lutheran, with 100+ in attendance.

On November 19th, the Parish Life Committee organized the Harvest Potluck and Pie Auction, realizing \$3,518.00 toward the costs of renovating the parish house. Three weeks later, on December 10th, Parish Life members served a Christmas Brunch to over 100 people, many of whom stayed and visited until early afternoon.

Affiliated with this committee are the Prayer Shawl Group and Care Team Members, each with their specific areas of service to the congregation and community as we reach out to serve others. Parish Life meetings are typically held following the Sunday morning service during coffee hour, ideally on a monthly basis. Discussion centers around upcoming events and responsibilities for specific aspects of the event are taken on by committee members. We also review and discuss the previous event and suggest changes that might make it more successful in the future.

Our committee looks forward to 2024 and continuing many of the events from past years, while being open to try new ideas that will help welcome, nurture, and serve our congregation and community.

Submitted by Kris Merritt

Edison Lutheran Church

Social Concerns Ministry Committee

2023 Annual Report

Committee members: Cheryl Conner, Inger Conner, Anne Kuntz, Katy Olson, Gailynn Ploeg,
Janet Wyman

The Social Concerns Committee has continued to meet on the first Monday of the month to plan and facilitate ministries beyond the walls of the church. New committee members or drop in visits to our committee are welcome. Here is a summary of what we did in 2023.

We have purchased, prepared, and served food for 100-120 people at Friendship House and the Burlington First Step village on the last Monday of every month of the year.

We hosted residents of the Family Promise shelter for 3-4 day stretches on a quarterly basis. The host site changed this fall from being at Burlington Lutheran Church to being at Bethlehem Lutheran in Sedro Woolley.

This year the church council, with our committee input, made the decision to change our support from the Alger Food Bank to Helping Hands Food Bank where our donations can have a greater impact. The grocery cart in the narthex is the collection point for nonperishable food and household goods that are taken to Helping Hands.

We facilitated the use of ELC as a blood draw site for Bloodworks Northwest every other month this year. They report that at our site they registered 343 donors, collected 314 units of blood, and signed up 16 first time donors in 2023 because we opened our doors to this life saving work.

We did a special project this year in helping to furnish Martha's Place, a new 70 unit apartment building to enable people to move from homelessness into stable housing. We fully furnished 10 bathrooms, provided 25 brooms and dustpans, and donated other items such as mugs, pillows, sheets, and kitchen dish racks. The building, run by Catholic Community Services, opened to residents in May.

ELC members filled 96 drawstring back packs with school supplies to create School Kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Our committee prepared the bags, organized a packing event, and saw that the boxed up Kits made it to the LWR Ingathering in Seattle.

We collected fabric and sewing notions by the tub full for the Farmworkers Support Center sewing group. They were thrilled by this and have started sending us photos of their hard work.

We were once again amazed at the generosity of ELC as we made the appeal for gift cards for Family Promise Shelter residents and recent graduates to be able to Christmas shop for their children. 42 of these \$25 gift cards were donated as part of our "Early Angel" Advent project.

The Advent Giving Tree produced a massive box overflowing with staple items for the Family Promise shelter. Several carloads of items needed to meet the day to day needs of the residents were delivered to the Family Promise site at Bethlehem Lutheran.

The Social Concerns Committee coordinated Thrivent member use of their Action Team benefit. Eight Thrivent members each procured two \$250 grants to support our Friendship House meals, the Martha's Place project, to buy the School Kit bags, and to augment our Advent giving to Family Promise. We also work to remind Thrivent members of their benefit of directing Choice Dollars to not for profits such as ELC. If you are a Thrivent member and not accessing these benefits please contact any one of our committee members for assistance in being a part of ELC's ministry in this way.

The committee is well aware that it takes all of ELC to be a part of every one of these ministries, from driving School Kits to Seattle, delivering goods to Helping Hands, taking down and setting up for blood drives, serving shelter meals, spending nights at Family Promise, baking cookies (and parting with Halloween candy) for Friendship House, shopping for special projects, giving blood, all the way to the generous donations whenever a need is presented. We are blessed to have such a generous congregation.

There are many places to volunteer in the social concerns of ELC without committing to monthly meetings. Please contact any of the committee members listed if you would like to get involved in any of these ministries.

Submitted by Anne Kuntz

Edison Lutheran Church Stewardship & Finance Committee 2023 Annual Report

Committee Members: Jerry Sells, Bryan Galbraith, Patsy Martin, Pastor John Guthridge,
Steven Dahl

Stewardship Sub-Committee:

The Stewardship Sub-Committee is currently combined with the Finance Sub-Committee. It has been recommended the sub-committees be separated as they serve different functions. The Stewardship Sub-Committee generally works on communicating the church's need for Time, Talent and Treasure and the ways members can participate. The Finance Sub-Committee generally works on analyzing and communicating the church's financial condition. The separation will be presented to the congregation as a bylaws change (two separate bylaws) at the Congregational Meeting in January 2024.

In 2023, the Stewardship Committee provided an online option for the Time & Talents Survey for the first time. We used a Google Form and it worked very well. We received 88 responses, the highest response rate in years. The Stewardship Committee meets on an ad-hoc basis and typically via Zoom.

Submitted by Patsy Martin

Finance Sub-Committee:

This past year the Finance Sub-Committee has been focusing on ensuring we use our money appropriately and effectively. We have streamlined bill paying and used online banking to ensure bills are paid on-time. We have a 100% on-time rate for paying bills this year, which means no penalties or unnecessary interest. We have also worked closely with the IRS, the Department of Labor & Industry, and the Department of Revenue to verify payroll taxes have been paid correctly and we are being charged the correct tax rates. Finally, we have moved our money to SaviBank, a local bank with excellent customer service, a great website for online bill pay and managing accounts, and now we have interest bearing accounts for all funds.

Finally, we have gone through the budget with a fine toothed comb to ensure we have an accurate budget to work with in 2024. This coming year we will be working on an audit of the financials. If you have any special talents that can assist us in this process it would be appreciated. Please contact Steven Dahl or the office for further information.

Submitted by Steven Dahl

Edison Lutheran Church

By-Laws

Stewardship Committee

There will be a Committee on Stewardship, composed of at least three (3) members one of whom shall be a member of the Church Council. The Committee on Stewardship shall:

- a. Elect from its own membership a chairperson and secretary.
- b. Conduct regular meetings at such time and place as the committee may determine.
- c. Submit committee meeting updates to the church council via the stewardship committee council member.
- d. Prepare and submit a summarized report of the annual committee activities to be included in the church annual report for the annual meeting.
- e. Develop an annual committee budget and submit to the church council for consideration.
- f. Encourage liberal, thankful, loving and worshipful giving on the part of church members.
- g. Study stewardship literature and use God focused means to promote a strong stewardship consciousness.
- h. Keep time and talent forms of individual church members in order to enlist as many people as possible in the work of the church.
- i. Sponsor stewardship talks, discussions and forums.
- j. Inform the congregation of the stewardship challenges of the synod, national and international church body.
- k. Plan and execute programs in which the church members systematically, regularly and adequately cover both the church's financial needs and enlarge the proportional giving beyond the congregation.
- l. Serve as the church's link to the synod, national and international committees on stewardship.

Edison Lutheran Church

By-Laws

Finance Committee

There will be a Committee on Finance, composed of at least three (3) members one of whom shall be a member of the Church Council. The Committee on Finance shall:

- a. Elect from its own membership a chairperson and secretary.
- b. Conduct regular meetings at such time and place as the committee may determine.
- c. Submit committee meeting updates to the church council via the finance committee council member.
- d. Prepare and submit a summarized report of the annual committee activities to be included in the church annual report for the annual meeting.
- e. Develop an annual committee budget and submit to the church council for consideration.
- f. Develop a strong and achievable church budget and present to church council for their review, consideration and recommendation to the congregation. Amend the budget as directed by council. Present the budget to the congregation at the annual church meeting.
- g. Study prudent financial practices and tools and recommend their use by the church secretary, finance committee and council.
- h. Regularly review and evaluate the church's financial health and report the condition to council.
- i. Schedule two people to count offerings each week at a time convenient to both parties. Council member of the day and one other person are responsible for securing the offering in the safe after worship services.
- j. Inform the congregation of the financial challenges of the synod, national and international church body.
- k. Serve as the church's link to the synod, national and international committees on finance.

Edison Lutheran Church Worship and Music Committee 2023 Annual Report

Committee Members: Jane Fraser, Pr. John, Intern Pr. Lori, Jenifer Troxel, Barb Fredrickson,
Peter Blau Ormsby, Jean Miller, and Cathy Smith

The Worship and Music Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month in the fellowship hall. The committee assists in planning the Sunday as well as the Advent and Lenten mid-week worship services, works with Altar guild to plan the Shrove Tuesday event and assists Council as requested.

The pre-Lent Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed was a huge success, with the Young Adult group serving and cleaning up afterwards. The Mudflat Ramblers Dixieland Band played for about two hours and was great entertainment. Thank you Peter!

Lent began with Ash Wednesday and an evening service with imposition of ashes. Pastor Lori delivered the sermon that evening. There will be mid-week services on the Wednesdays of Lent with a soup and bread supper at 5:30 and the Joyous Light Service by Ray Mckeever at 6:15 pm. There was an average of 40 people in attendance for the service, a few less for supper.

Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter went well. Good Friday was a joint service with Salem. We had good attendance for all services and received good comments from attendees.

Easter was nice and bright. There was a string sextet playing for part of the service. There were lots of visitors and a good energy level. It was a very joyful service.

On May 21, we had the piano dedication using the Lutheran "Blessing of Musical Instruments" document in Pastor John's Book of All Things. It was part of the choir's end of the year musical blowout, where the best anthem from every season was sung again. It was a lovely service and great dedication.

For Pentecost, we had guest minister, Pastor Al Berg preaching and presiding. The liturgy was simplified for the day. The color of the day was red and the sanctuary looked magnificent.

Some of the committee members visited the Benson Property on the Nooksack River on June 7 to see if it would be a good venue for an outdoor worship service. It is a beautiful location and would be a great venue for a summer out door service. The committee will need to reserve a date in 2024 for that service as most dates have already been reserved. David Benson will assist with that task.

The church was fortunate to have as our Pastoral Intern, Lori Cavender, who learned what it was like to be a minister of Word and Sacrament at Edison. We all assisted with her training. Her last sermon was August 27, and it was a memorable one.

Reformation Sunday this year was also Confirmation Sunday. There were four confirmands: Jerry Benson, Matt Benson, Skyler Wyman and Georgia Wyman.

All Saints Sunday was as beautiful as ever. The candle lighting is always so moving and the musicians' choice of music very poignant.

For Advent this year, Worship and Music again sponsored the Wednesday Mid-week Soup Suppers and the Holden Evening Prayer worship Service. Instead of a homily, Pastor John chose to use silence for meditation and reflection in between scripture readings. It was very effective and soothing.

On December 20, there was a Service of Comfort and Prayer: Rest for the Weary. This service is for people for whom Christmas is not a fun time, and who would like to meditate and find rest in simple music. There are also stations to visit to make an effort to do something positive at that time. There were about 40 in attendance.

Christmas Eve this year fell on a Sunday, so there were three services that day; one in the morning at 10:30, and the usual Christmas Eve services at 5 pm and 9 pm. They were all well attended, with the 5 pm having the most attendees. The music was all done vocally, and with the churches instruments, no extra instrument musicians were utilized this year.

Submitted by Jane Fraser

**Edison Lutheran Church
Evangelism Committee
2023 Annual Report**

Evangelism Committee Members: Karen Fisher, Sarah Dahl, Joanne Berentson, Judy Bendtsen, Bonnie Bowers, and Cathy Smith.

We welcomed new members with gift bags and prayer shawls. We've also prepared visitor gift bags that are available for the greeters to pass out to our guests. We also created a method of corresponding with guests who leave either a physical address or email address to ensure they feel welcome to visit us again.

Like always, we continued to provide *Christ in our Homes* booklets and *Living Lutheran Magazine*, and to advertise our worship services in the newspaper, on the internet, and through mass mailings as needed.

Congregational Statistical Report
Edison Lutheran Church
2023

Baptisms

January 15, 2023	Eleanor Wasilewski
November 26, 2023	Callum Conijn

Confirmations

October 29, 2023	Jerry Benson
	Matt Benson
	Skylar Wyman

New Members

By Affirmation of Baptism *None in 2023*

Transfers to other parishes *None in 2023*

Marriages *None in 2023*

By Transfer

Shirly & David Brick
Eric & Nancy Anderson
Bryan, Ines, Jerry ,and Julia Benson
Terry & Julie Rousseau

Burials/Memorial Services

January 9, 2023	Nels Peterson
February 24, 2023	Betty Loy
March 11, 2023	Norm Dahlstedt*
March 17, 2023	Arlene Omdal*
July 7, 2023	Darlene Wright
July 8, 2023	Glen Loy
August 25, 2023	Wanda Peterson*
September 29, 2023	Jim Brisbin*

Total membership

2023	314 Baptized Members	207 Confirmed
2022	307 Baptized Members	209 Confirmed

Worship Statistics

Average weekly attendance	=
In-person	97/Service
On-line	35/Service

(52 Sunday services, averages do not include midweek services for Lent, Holy week & Advent)

Christmas Eve attendance	In-person	270
	Online	32

* Edison Lutheran Church Members

2024 Proposed Spending Plan Edison Lutheran Church

*A Christ-centered community of faith, committed to being a Welcoming,
Nurturing and Serving Church for its community and the world.*

This is the presentation of the Church Council’s Proposed Congregational Spending Plan for the year 2024. It reflects the mission we hope to accomplish in Jesus’ name. Where possible and appropriate, we will attempt to explain changes and any increased proposed dollar amounts.

Sunday, January 28, 2024 is the annual congregational meeting to adopt the spending plan. Please read the proposed plan and make notes of your questions and concerns where possible, so they may be voiced at the meeting. We remind you that the Church’s constitution defines a “Voting Member” as “Confirmed members who have worshipped and communed during the current or preceding year and have given a contribution of record.”

Please meditate on this plan. It is PROPOSED by the Council as a tool to make Edison Lutheran Church’s mission possible, effective, and efficient. ELC continues to fulfill its mission with the time, talent, and monies that are so graciously given by its members. The Church Council submits this proposed spending plan to the congregation after much thought and prayer, and feels that it is attainable through the offerings, building use fees and other miscellaneous receipts each week.

Respectfully Submitted, Edison Lutheran Church Council

2024 Proposed Spending Plan

Pastor's Salary/Benefits	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
Salary	\$ 45,740.04	\$ 45,740.00	\$ 47,569.00	\$1,829
Housing Allowance	\$ 38,220.00	\$ 38,220.00	\$ 39,748.00	\$1,528
Pension/Health	\$ 36,723.96	\$ 36,724.00	\$ 39,044.00	\$2,320
Social Security Offset	\$ 6,552.96	\$ 6,553.00	\$ 6,815.00	\$262
Subtotal	\$ 127,236.96	\$ 127,237.00	\$ 133,176.00	\$5,939

Pastor's Other Expenses	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
Mileage	\$ 1,999.99	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$0
Continuing Education	\$ 1,089.42	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$0
Resource Materials	\$ 130.24	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$0
Bishop's Convocation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$400
Intern Pastor Expenses	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$0
Subtotal	\$ 4,583.70	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$400

2024 Proposed Spending Plan Continued

Staff	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
Intern Pastor	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	-\$20,000
Choir Director	\$ 10,674.96	\$ 10,675.00	\$ 11,102.00	\$427
Youth Choir Director	\$ 1,620.00	\$ 1,620.00	\$ 1,685.00	\$65
Choir Accompanist	\$ 2,049.96	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 2,132.00	\$82
Worship Accomp	\$ 14,364.96	\$ 14,365.00	\$ 14,940.00	\$575
Office Secretary	\$ 28,062.93	\$ 29,244.00	\$ 30,414.00	\$1,170
Supply Pastor	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$0
Mileage - Supply Pastor	\$ 230.77	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00	\$200
Employer FICA/Medicare	\$ 5,899.20	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$0
Employer L & I	\$ 1,662.97	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$300
WA Paid Family Leave	\$ 912.19	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$300
Subtotal	\$ 85,977.94	\$ 87,254.00	\$ 70,373.00	-\$16,881

Office/Administration	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
Computer Equipment	\$ 2,399.20	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$0
Computer Fees: ISP/software	\$ 1,050.80	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$450
Equipment Lease	\$ 5,057.73	\$ 5,678.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$322
Mileage reimbursement	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	-\$100
Nonprofit Corporation Licensing	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	\$0
Taxes and Licenses	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ -	-\$50
Office Supplies (including paper)	\$ 1,904.50	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$600
Postage	\$ 612.84	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$0
Property Tax	\$ 192.44	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$0
Telephone/Internet	\$ 3,384.12	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$0
Subtotal	\$ 14,621.63	\$ 18,348.00	\$ 19,570.00	\$1,222

Benevolence	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
NW WA Synod/ELCA	\$ 14,499.90	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 14,500.00	\$0
Danraig Medium English School	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$0
Helping Hands Food Bank	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	-\$1,000
Family Promise	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	-\$1,000
El Camino de Emaus	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	-\$1,000
Friendship House	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	-\$1,000
Josephine Home	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	-\$1,000
Lutherwood	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	-\$1,000
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	-\$1,000
Lutheran Campus Ministry WWU	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$0
UW Campus Ministry	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$0
PLU - Campus Ministry	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$0
Wycliff Bible Translators	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$0
Pastor's Benevolence Fund	\$ 1000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$0
Subtotal	\$ 49,499.90	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 43,500.00	-\$7,000

2023 Proposed Spending Plan Continued

Church Council	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
Synod Assembly	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 420.00	\$420
Council Activities	\$ 907.97	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$0
Conferences/Retreats	\$ 630.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$0
Subtotal	\$ 1,537.97	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 2,020.00	\$420

Property & Management	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
Building Maintenance/Repair	\$ 2,811.68	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$1,500
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 286.96	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$0
Parish House Maintenance/ Cleaning Services	\$ 601.17	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$500
Electricity	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$0
Garbage	\$ 9,634.49	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$1,000
Insurance: General & Umbrella	\$ 618.24	\$ 650.00	\$ 650.00	\$0
Maintenance/Cleaning Supplies	\$ 7,703.00	\$ 7,703.00	\$ 8,391.00	\$688
Water	\$ 187.59	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00	\$300
Subtotal	\$ 647.08	\$ 700.00	\$ 800.00	\$100
Subtotal	\$ 25,240.21	\$ 25,753.00	\$ 29,841.00	\$4,088

Worship & Music	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
Altar Guild/Worship supplies	\$ 1,849.76	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 3,800.00	\$0
Piano/Organ Maintenance Repair	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$0
Guest Musician	\$ 650.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$300
Music Supplies & License Fees	\$ 1,554.47	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$300
Subtotal	\$ 4,054.23	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$600

Christian Education	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
Adult Education	\$ 222.44	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00	\$0
Confirmation Retreat	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$0
Sunday School Books/supplies	\$ 1,112.95	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$0
VBS	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 100.00	\$75
Subtotal	\$ 1,360.39	\$ 3,275.00	\$ 3,350.00	\$75

Youth	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
ELC Scholarship	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$0
Youth Campership for Lutherwood	\$ 7,399.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$0
Youth Group	\$ 1,733.48	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$0
Family Events	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$1,000
Subtotal	\$ 11,132.48	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$1,000

2024 Proposed Spending Plan Continued

Parish Life	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
Committee Activities	\$ 290.48	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00	\$200
Fellowship Kitchen/Food Supplies	\$ 1,082.41	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$1,500
Subtotal	\$ 1,372.89	\$ 800.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$1,700

Evangelism	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
Devotional Booklets	\$ 235.68	\$ 240.00	\$ 240.00	\$0
Lutheran Magazine	\$ 255.75	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$0
Gift Bags	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$0
Brochures/Mass Mailings/Flyers	\$ 851.27	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$400
Advertising	\$ 797.36	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$0
Subtotal	\$ 2,140.06	\$ 3,390.00	\$ 3,790.00	\$400

Social Concerns	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
Committee Activities	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$0
Friendship House Dinners	\$ 534.87	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$0
Family Promise	\$ 329.21	\$ 950.00	\$ 950.00	\$0
Subtotal	\$ 864.08	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$0

Stewardship & Finance	YTD	Budget	Proposed 2024	Change from 2023
Banking Expenses (bill pay + Checks)	\$ 144.09	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$0
Bookkeeping Services	\$ 927.44	\$ 950.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$550
Offering Envelopes	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$0
Subtotal	\$ 1,071.53	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$550

Total Expenses	\$ 330,693.97	\$ 341,807.00	\$ 333,820.00	-\$7,487
-----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	-----------------

Summary - 2024 Proposed Budget

	2023 Spend	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed
Subtotal Pastor	\$127,236.96	\$127,237	\$133,176
Subtotal Pastor's Other Expenses	\$3,619.65	\$4,000	\$4,400
Subtotal Staff	\$87,254.00	\$87,254	\$70,373
Subtotal Office Admin	\$14,621.63	\$18,348	\$19,570
Subtotal Benevolence	\$49,499.90	\$50,500	\$43,500
Subtotal Church Council	\$1,537.97	\$1,600	\$2,020
Subtotal Property & Management	\$25,240.21	\$25,753	\$29,841
Subtotal Worship & Music	\$4,054.23	\$6,800	\$7,400
Subtotal Christian Education	\$1,360.39	\$3,275	\$3,350
Subtotal Youth	\$11,132.48	\$8,500	\$9,500
Subtotal Fellowship & Parish Life	\$1,372.89	\$800	\$2,500
Subtotal Evangelism	\$2,140.06	\$3,390	\$3,790
Subtotal Social Concerns	\$864.08	\$2,500	\$2,500
Subtotal Stewardship & Finance	\$1,071.53	\$1,350	\$1,900
TOTAL BUDGET	\$331,005.98	\$341,307	\$333,820
\$ Needed per Sunday (2024 Proposed)		\$6,563	\$6,420

2023 Account Balances

Account Balances	
	December 31
Primary Checking	\$ 27,736.39
Primary Savings (includes Building Fund)	\$ 16,236.66
Button Peterson Savings	\$ 56,425.30
Gundersen/Omdal Scholarship CD	\$ 40,525.05
Theresa Walter Scholarship CD	\$ 2,809.05
Thelma Woll Jones Scholarship CD	\$ 40,988.73
Lucille Peterson Scholarship CD	\$ 1,032.69
Benevolence CD	\$ 1,065.00

Edison Lutheran Church - Welcoming.....Nurturing.....Serving



Edison Lutheran Church, 14201 Church Road, Bow, WA 98232
edisonlutheran@live.com (360) 766-6920 www.edisonlutheranchurch.org

Pastor John Guthridge